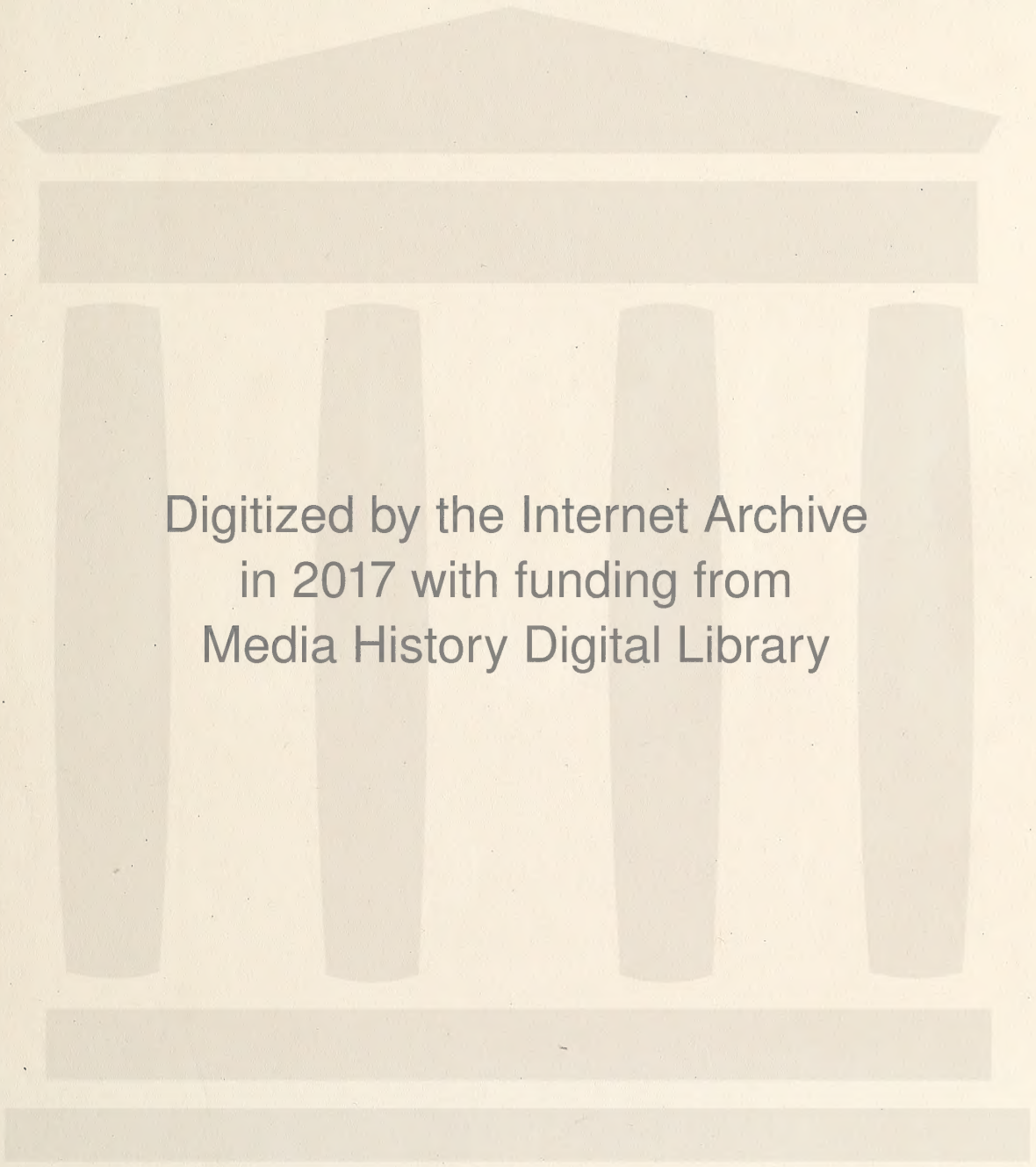


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The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

OCTOBER 7, 1939 25c Per Copy. Per Year $7.50 in U. S. and Canada. Foreign $10. NATIONAL EDITION



In This Issue:

MAJORS SEEKING SELF-SUFFICIENCY



WHEN YOU SEE M-G-M's "NINOTCHKA" you too will pronounce it SENSATIONAL!



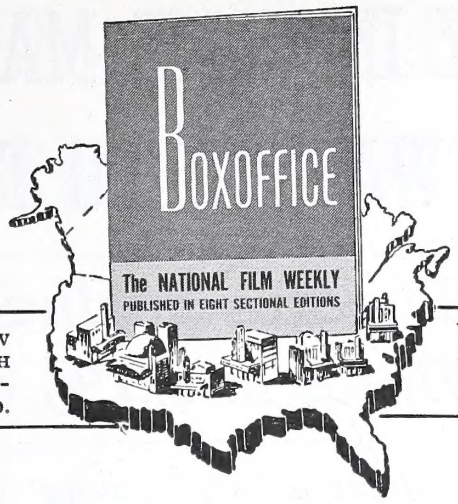
GARBO blushes!



GARBO goes gay!

Long live the Lubitsch touch! It has brought your box-office a new Garbo, sly as a wink! A gorgeous Garbo they've never seen before! A champagne lady, lively, lovable! This comedy of a flirtatious secret affair in Paris will positively captivate the nation! It makes Garbo a bigger star than she ever was before! One of the year's IMPORTANT pictures! See it at one of the Trade Screenings in your territory and prepare for another M-G-M triumph!

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ALL-AMERICAN CHIPS

THE wish fulfillment running around in this industry until now has defied all understanding.

Year after year, it has seen important foreign markets drop entirely away or dry up. In Italy and Japan, totalitarian interference would not be brooked by the American producer; and so, he is out. A score or more nations have imposed various forms of money embargoes. Great Britain has enacted two quota laws. The German field long since has been discounted, although three companies persist in sticking it out. Austria and Czechoslovakia have been destroyed in the Nazi inferno. Spain has been wracked by civil war. The "China incident" still flourishes.

It defies rationalization, with these storm signals flapping all over the map, to figure how this industry could, or would, proceed in the blithe and uninterrupted tenor of its foolhardy ways without once seriously halting to analyze, or seeking to analyze, what might be done while time still allowed. It may defy reason, but it is the fact.

It was the fact, that is, until September 1. Until then the golden stream poured out from England with no interruption. All was well as long as the British market flourished. The rest of the dark and darkening spots apparently were incidental.

Now, of course, the tale is vastly different. Theatre business in Great Britain is improving, but money is hard to get and worse is expected. Millions, representing much of the cushion and working capital, are in serious jeopardy now and conferences on what to do steadily grow apace.

A great deal has been said, more hopefully than factually, that South America and those still "good" foreign territories will yield more revenue than they currently do. There is around the hope wartime business will lead into an exhibition boom here. Maybe.

In the meantime, what? Is the industry to hitch its future to another distant star, hoping and hoping hard that everything will be all right soon again? Or is it to make up its mind that the future carrying the most assurance is the future drawn from the possibilities and the limitations, whatever they may be, in the domestic market?

Drawing upon past and current happenings in other lands, it appears about time for the industry to accept the realization it is right here at home and betting with all-American chips that the gambling ought to be done.

If market potentialities here allow for a plentiful supply of $1,000,000 productions, as reliable and conservative distribution opinion already has declared, what else need Hollywood be told? If, at that cost, the product places a return and a profit within comfortable attainment, as these same distribution experts agree, the objective becomes entirely clear.

Nothing in a program of this nature precludes or narrows proper enterprise directed toward foreign grosses. Not at all. Let that continue. Let it intensify, but let no dependence on these markets, with all of their demonstrated and unpredictable uncertainties, rule the fate of the industry within its own continental borders.

Disagreement with this argument will be inevitable. It will be argued it cannot be done. We maintain it can. That there will be great difficulties in the readjustment period is apparent, at once. But those difficulties, as represented by expensive negatives already finished and now deprived of their anticipated overseas returns, no longer have to be anticipated. They are at hand, large and formidable.

As a marker of the times, read what the head of a large studio thinks. He is a man responsible for a program which will run into eight figures this season:

> "Under conditions existing today, due to the war and other conditions which I believe will exist after the war to a certain degree, it seems to me every producing organization must work out its plans to produce pictures based upon the domestic market. Any income from the foreign can then be applied to the net profit of the ledger.
>
> "Certainly, it should not be an impossible task to make good motion pictures at a cost that should return profits to the producers. When I make this statement, 'at a cost,' I mean at a cost with quality maintained. Quality should not be sacrificed, but every effort should be made not only to preserve it but to improve it. Extravagance and waste must be eliminated and the money spent in making the pictures must be reflected on the screen. If this is done, quality can be maintained and certain costs reduced."

The overwhelmingly significant argument, and this one executive at least realizes it, is that the opportunity to reach out in the all-vital direction of self-sufficiency is at hand.

It must not be kicked around, ignored or muffed.

Kann

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN HOME MARKET NOW AN OBJECTIVE; A WAY TO DO IT BEING SOUGHT

Ever-Tightening Situation Abroad Reason; Count Out Foreign Income

NEW YORK—Confronted by an ever-tightening situation abroad and more or less resigned to a lower freezing point on remittances from Great Britain, serious thought is being turned toward a self-sufficiency program for the industry.

At least one major company, BOXOFFICE learns authoritatively, now is re-shaping its entire structure in reaching for a goal two months off when it proposes conducting its operations on the basis of domestic income. This organization, it is understood, is thoroughly aware of the difficult course it has charted for itself and realizes the huge task of readjustment which it has undertaken. Nevertheless, it is proceeding towards its objective on the theory its economic future rests most solidly on self-sufficiency in the home market.

No Sales Effort Letup

The plan does not provide for any abatement of sales efforts in foreign markets. This still important end of the enterprise will continue and, in fact, will be stepped up in those overseas areas not affected by the European war. While there is nothing in the calculations to indicate foreign returns will be reduced to anything approximating a vanishing point, the plan is to view such returns as contributors toward whatever gravy train may come out.

Several domestic sales managers, voicing their opinions privately, reflect an identical point of view. They are, at the same time, aware of the added problem this would wrap around their shoulders, but appear confident self-containment is possible provided Hollywood does its share by delivering attractions of outstanding merit turned out at a cost which would make possible a return of the negative charge, plus a profit, from the United States and Canada.

$1,000,000 Budgets Termed Safe

A re-check by BOXOFFICE substantiates again the conviction on the part of responsible distribution executives that pictures up to $1,000,000 are safe and comfortable investments for Hollywood to undertake. Anything above that figure is regarded as an out-and-out gamble which they, as the men in charge of sales, are loathe to underwrite.

A current concern which mars any movement toward self-sufficiency in the domestic market is Canada. Executives here are frankly worried by two factors. One is the future status of theatre business in the Dominion as the war grows older. Second, is the ever-present problem presented by embargoes on money and fluctuating exchange.

Theatre Business in England Holds to 70% of Normal

NEW YORK—Theatre business in England maintained a 70 per cent of normal level at the close of the fourth week of the war, home office foreign executives, in constant contact with conditions abroad, report. Outstanding pictures show above average takes in the theatres, it is stated, and there is very little likelihood of British grosses returning to complete normalcy during the fracas.

Efforts are being continued to stagger West End closings. Eventually, it is hoped, all theatres in the zone will be permitted to close at 10 p. m. Tension among pedestrians at night is easing up with blackouts, while still taken seriously, are regarded generally as routine. Theatres are fairly well patronized at night but afternoon attendance still lags.

Home office executives are growing more optimistic, but with fingers crossed, as the weeks pass, about conditions in England and France. Shipments are continuing on American vessels and there have been no broad currency restrictions. However, it is expected there may be limitations imposed on monetary shipments in the near future. Delays in film and remittances from the other side at this time are expected in view of the general conditions prevailing.

Optimism is tinged with more than a slight apprehension should something occur to disrupt the comparatively normal flow of operations, it appears. This stems from the observation that theatres are being permitted to remain open, under restrictions, in England and France on the presumption that as long as there are no air raids from enemy bombers there is no reason to deprive patrons of film entertainment.

"However," one foreign sales head points out, "the whole situation can be disrupted overnight and we stand a good chance of being thrown for a substantial loss if England should suddenly experience an air raid. Even a few false alarms in widely scattered regions can do much to wipe out the confidence that exists there at present. Theatres will close and then take plenty of time before reopening."

Universal Cultivating Domestic Mart

New York—In view of shriveling returns from foreign markets, Universal has decided to base future operations within the income of the domestic market, William A. Scully, general sales manager, informed division and district managers at a weekend meeting here. Waste is to be eliminated and economies are to be made without impairing salaries or disturbing present personnel.

With 8,500 accounts sold last season, division and district heads are now after a goal of 10,000 for the new season. The sales force will stress added playing time and getting the most out of each picture.

Univ. Breaks Away From Saenger Chain

NEW YORK—Universal has broken with the Saenger circuit in New Orleans and is selling away to independents. Reports of the break are confirmed by William A. Scully, general sales manager, who stated "we could not get the money we wanted for our product." Frank J. A. McCarthy, who has been in Dallas closing the Griffith circuit deal, has returned to New York. William Heineman, western division manager, also is back from a western trip.

Both division heads attended a weekend session here with A. J. O'Keefe, Los Angeles; E. T. Gomersall, Chicago; Pete Dana, Kansas City; Harry D. Graham, Atlanta; Dave Miller, Cleveland, and A. J. Herman, New York, district managers, who saw the new uncensored version of "The Road Back."

Scully, presiding, pointed out new product and discussed conditions as they are in various parts of the country. Preliminary reports from San Francisco and Portland, Ore., on "All Quiet on the Western Front" show very good results, according to Scully.

Frank Thomas Murray, home office statistician, has been promoted to manager of branch operations, and O. C. Binder is now manager of exchange maintenance.

Scully planned to leave over the weekend for Dallas.

May Teach French Women To Operate Projectors

PARIS—Shortage of projectionists is a major concern among French exhibitors. All theatres in France are open with the exception of those which find it difficult to secure operators. The dearth is bringing about a move to open a school and teach women the art of the projection machine and to fill in where men have been called to arms.

PRODUCE FEATURES OF SINGLE-BILL CALIBRE, THE FIELD'S ANSWER TO EXTENDED-RUN PLEA

Contend Approach and Responsibility Are Upon Hollywood

NEW YORK—Hollywood should produce films of a calibre that will justify national audience acceptance of single bill programs in order to realize sufficient rentals to permit studios to operate in face of the European crisis.

This sentiment looms significantly in a nationwide survey conducted by BOXOFFICE following the comment of Joseph M. Schenck placing responsibility for overcoming the loss of revenue from Europe largely upon exhibitors. Schenck urged extended playing time "whenever public patronage justifies" to insure a "return to the producer that will compensate for decreased revenues elsewhere."

"Make fewer pictures, but make them better" is the oboe note accompanying the majority reactions. "This would permit higher rentals and longer runs" is a companion observation.

Uppermost in the minds of showmen, the survey indicates, is the necessity of an uninterrupted flow of "quality product." While this is the very peg on which Schenck hangs his plea for extended runs the approach and responsibility for pursuance of the quality process would be Hollywood's, not the exhibitor's, majority reactions show. Typical of such opinion is that of a southern California exhibitor: "If the producer was to make better pictures, so we could run single bills, exhibitors would have an opportunity to exploit them. There is no chance to exert showmanship under the dual-bill system." It is significant that the bulk of such expressions come from subsequent run operators, the same group Schenck's statement is interpreted as being aimed at.

It is the contention of late-run operators that to extend playing time beyond the normal traffic films will bear is of no benefit to production or exhibition, in the large sense of their respective operations. Virtually universal is the observation that existing clearance is badly out of proportion; that extension of playdates at prior runs would be ruinous to subsequents. In this connection there are specific pointings to situations where subsequents are forced to wait "months" before films become available.

Suggestion Gets a Cold Quaker City Reception

PHILADELPHIA—Joseph M. Schenck's plea to exhibitors for more extended runs gets a cold reception by representative exhibitors here.

Some of them fire his request back at him and assert the remedy for decreasing revenue lies with the distributors.

Figures It Out By Calendars

New York—Fred Schwartz, film buyer for Century circuit, thinks he has the answer to Joseph M. Schenck's plea for extended playing time figured out to a day.

"There's so much playing time now that, in order to extend the dates on some pictures, we would have to cut down on others. How can that help anyway? After all there are 52 weeks in a year and seven days a week and we book pictures for each day. I can't see where extended playing time will help."

Typical comments follow:

Dave Milgram, president of the Affiliated Circuit of 15 theatres, thinks the matter of extended runs is solely one for the first-run circuit to consider—which in Philadelphia means Stanley-Warner.

"In the last two years our circuit, which has only second runs, hasn't extended a single picture," Milgram points out. "A second-run house cannot profitably extend runs, no matter how good the pictures may be. Of the 15,000 theatres in the United States, 12,000 are second-run, and they are unable to prolong runs. On the other hand, we would be glad to see Stanley-Warner extend its runs, because the circuit will thereby use less product and ease up the tight product situation."

Melvin Koff, Darby, declares, "We're willing to extend playing time if we get a better break from distributors. If they were really sincere in their search for increased revenue, they would encourage the independents. Instead, several exchanges have actually refused to sell me product. One exchange manager gave as his reason that he was getting all the revenue he wanted from my territory. Schenck's statement doesn't sound logical following that."

Charles Stiefel, owner of a chain of four, states: "The cause of lower revenue for distributors and exhibitors alike can be summed up, as far as this territory is concerned, in one word: Clearance.

"We're in favor of extended runs. But how can we put it into practice, when every good picture is played all over the Warner circuit and milked dry before any independent has a chance to get it, even if he charges higher prices than some Warner houses? And not only that. After it has played the last Warner house, we still have to wait 28 to 45 days before we're allowed to play it. Why don't the distributors cut down the clearance to a week? They don't make a cent while the film is lying on the shelf; and when we

(Continued on page 6)

See Existing Clearance As Territorial Snag To Wide Adoption

Some Chicagoans Agree; Others See Deluxers Sole Gainers

CHICAGO—Divergent opinions continue to come from Chicago exhibitors on Joseph M. Schenck's recent contention for extended runs.

In agreement was Allied's Jack Kirsch, who said, "I have always been for longer runs and less changes per week for pictures. If we practice that more now, we'll stay in business, and it will help everyone."

Some exhibitors, like Edwin Silverman of Essaness Theatres, thought that while it is true exhibitors always try to get as long runs as possible, it is not the position of the producers to advise the theatre operators what to do.

Said John Balaban of B&K, "If it is true that Hollywood will spend that much money still on pictures, it is the obligation of every exhibitor to do all he can to produce maximum revenue for producers."

Said John Jones of Jones, Linick and Schaefer: "Such action will not be for the little theatre operator mainly, but rather for the operator of the de luxe first-run and subsequent-run houses. It is from these large houses that run on percentage that the producers will get the large additional revenue through added playing time. The little operator cannot stand to pay any more or run longer."

Max Sachs of the Lexington Theatre said that one way for more revenue would be to return to single features, which would permit the exhibitor to pay more per picture and run them longer, and in the final analysis there would not be need for so many pictures. Thus those that would be made could have more production value and would be better.

Harry Balaban, of H. and E. Balaban Theatres, added that "much more can be done to exploit pictures, but we'll have to return to a single feature policy before this is done."

"MAKE FEWER PICTURES, MAKE THEM BETTER," IS OBOE NOTE IN REACTIONS FROM MAJORITY

Point to Necessity for Uninterrupted Flow Of Quality Fare

(Continued from page 5)

do play it, our grosses are cut down to a fifth or a tenth, which means a correspondingly smaller return for the distributor.

New Orleans Likes Idea, But Worries About Investments

NEW ORLEANS—Speaking as individuals, but practically as a unit, New Orleans exhibitors heartily endorse the idea of extended playing time, but ask "What of our investments? We have many thousands of dollars invested in leases and property. Why should we run a film two or three weeks when the patronage will not stand up under the strain? It is a noticeable fact that, in many cases, a seven day run from 10:45 a. m. till 10:30 p. m. shows a decrease in attendance in the last two days except on extraordinary occasions. When a film demands a two week run, it is held."

Boiled down to a single sentence the angle here is: "Why cut our business for someone else? We are using all the product we can. If we let someone else not familiar with the local situation dictate the length of time a film will run—when we know that the public will not patronize—then we might as well make application to the WPA, close our doors and turn the theatre into a drive-in parking lot. We are willing to cooperate to the fullest extent with producers, but charity begins at home."

Some Need Extensions; Some Can't Handle, Says Albany

ALBANY—Joseph M. Schenck's statement, as president of the Motion Picture Producers' Ass'n, on an extension of playing time and for the display of greater showmanship by exhibitors to insure a return to producers that will compensate them for decreased revenue in war-affected foreign markets, meets with a varying reaction here.

There are some first runs outside Albany where playing time could be extended, in the opinion of competent observers. This is also stated to be true of certain second runs. However, the proviso is added that the pictures held must be potent boxoffice. Informants declare that a general extension of runs, small towns included, must be predicated upon the release of more "big" features. Better exploitation would help, but it is claimed the picture-going public is often smart enough to detect the forcing of a run.

Independents in cities like Albany, Schenectady and Troy would be hardest hit by extension of runs, it is said. Even under present conditions, they are weeks —independents say months—behind the first runs.

"Sound, Constructive," But Not Practicable, Says Columbus

COLUMBUS, OHIO—It won't work. Not as Joseph M. Schenck and his plan for extended playing time would have it, at any rate. This is what local exhibitors think.

Generally, the idea is viewed as sound and constructive, but not practicable. P. J. Wood, secretary of the Ohio ITO, for instance, believes this:

"I am in full afford with the comment of Joe Schenck that good pictures should be given extra playing time, but how can this be done when the average exhibitor has made commitments to play or pay for a considerable number of inferior pictures that he is forced to buy under the block booking system that now prevails in the industry?

"The solution, it seems to me, is for the producers to turn out fewer acknowledged 'B' pictures and spend the time and money wasted in producing such features on those pictures of quality which it is believed will warrant additional playing time.

"Just as long as Hollywood turns out product to meet quotas of 40 or 50 or 60 features per annum, just so long will the better pictures suffer by not being given the playing time they deserve."

Sharp Difference Registered In Los Angeles Area

LOS ANGELES — Following their usual bent, southern California showmen registered a sharp difference of opinion as to the soundness of the recent and widely-publicized opinion of Joseph M. Schenck, 20th Century-Fox executive, to the effect that much of the burden of war-imposed industry problems must of necessity fall on the shoulders of exhibitors.

The majority, however, apparently were inclined to agree with the Schenck suggestion. Spokesmen for Charles P. Skouras, Fox West Coast president, pointed out that the circuit's view on the question had been expressed several days prior to the announcement of Schenck's theory in a letter which Skouras had addressed to Darryl F. Zanuck and in which he stressed in reference to a recently released Fox picture, the advisability of extended playing time "because our entire organization has a full realization of the problem confronting the production end of the industry through the loss of substantial European revenue."

Continuing, Skouras stated in part, "I am sure every intelligent and far-sighted exhibitor appreciates the problem, and it behooves all of us to lend cooperation to the studios upon whom we in turn depend for success . . . Such pictures are the very backbone of our business, and through the proper treatment of them—whether yours or any other producer's—we are automatically helping the studios to offset the loss of their European business by obtaining additional revenue in this country. Our good common sense tells us that 'big pictures' can only be produced if we exhibitors return sufficient revenue to the studios to make them possible."

Opposition Voiced

Coming out in opposition were:

Seth Perkins, president of Allied States, local chapter, and operator of the San-Val Drive-In Theatre in Burbank:

"If the producer were to make better pictures, so we theatremen could run single bills, exhibitors would have an opportunity to exploit them. There is no chance to exert showmanship under the dual-bill system."

Al Galston, member of the executive committee, Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., and operator of the Center and Marcal theatres:

"I agree with Schenck that we must exert more effort in exploitation. However, I feel that the producers should, in turn, support the exhibitors by concentrating on making better pictures for public consumption. Exhibitors will then be able to concentrate on exploiting these films to their best advantage. The theatre operator wants a chance to exploit his pictures, but with the type of product being turned out today, extended runs are just about impossible."

Up to the Film, He Says

New York—A buyer-booker for an independent circuit of 10 theatres in these parts, in answer to Joseph M. Schenck's plea for extended playing time, says: "It all depends on the picture. An exhibitor would be a damned fool if he didn't hold the big pictures as long as the grosses keep up."

OCTOBER 19th



Is the Most Important Release Date of 1939

NOT THAT YOU WERE IN DOUBT

(The following is a confidential report of a sneak preview of Frank Capra's MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON in a California theatre from the theatre manager to the president of one of the most important theatre circuits in the country.)

"A triumph of masterly direction by Frank Capra, containing every element of successful motion picture entertainment . . . human interest, rich humor, pathos, romance and a story with a sock.

This picture is fully up to the high standard set by Capra.

James Stewart is superb.

Jean Arthur is perfect.

A large and impressive supporting cast deliver one hundred percent performances.

The picture emerges as grand entertainment.

but just to reassure you

The deft Capra touch has made the most out of every situation and the picture will be understood and enjoyed by people of all ages and in all walks of life.

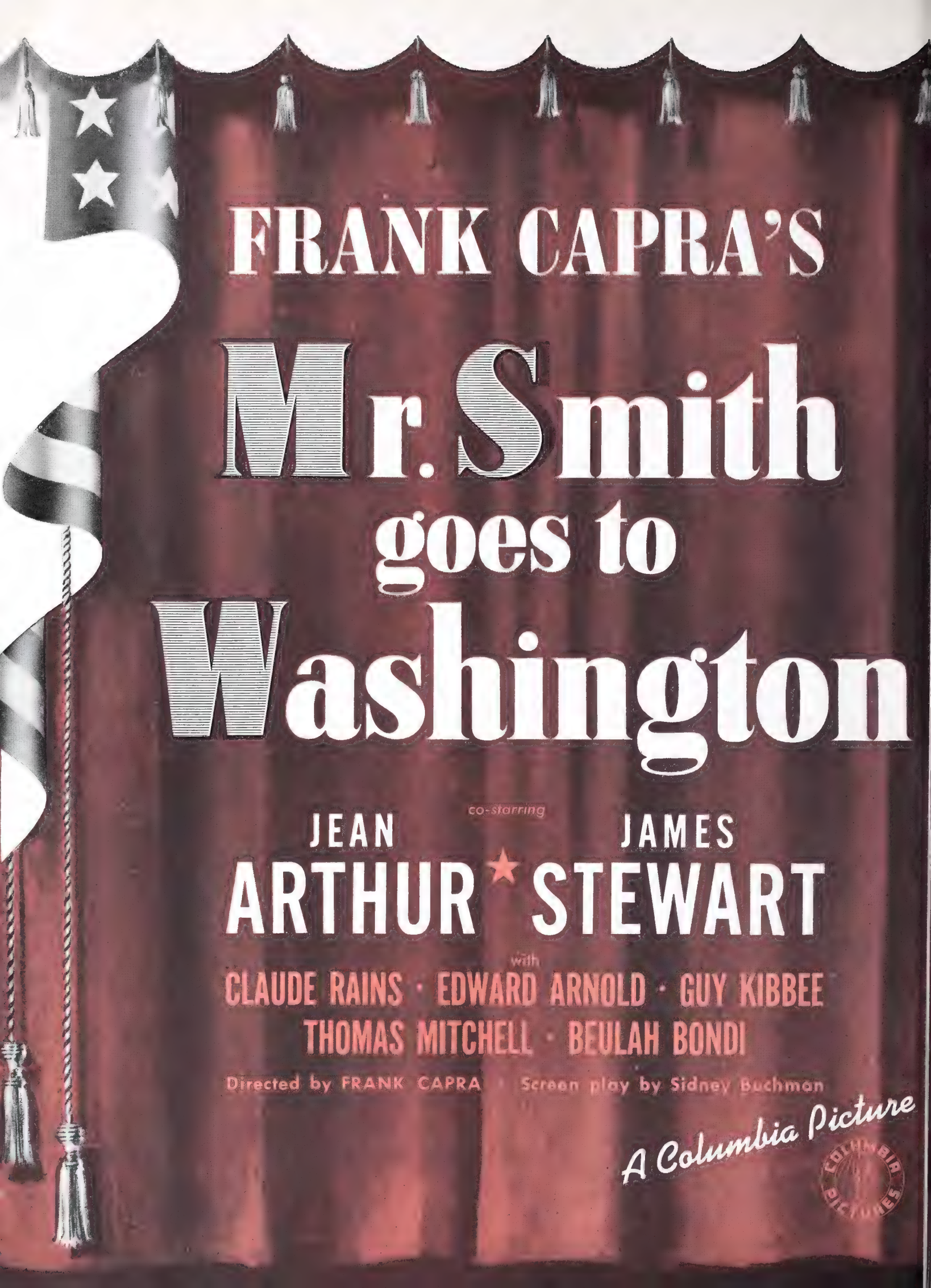
Audience reaction:—a packed house received the picture warmly, laughed heartily at the humorous sequences, were highly interested in the development of the story, applauded passages of dialogue and at the finish gave the picture an ovation.

Our supply of comment cards was exhausted and we were forced to make up some, as people insisted on writing their praise of the picture. The cards were 100% raves.

With the Capra name, the all-round excellence of the cast, the timeliness of the story and the magnificent production, it cannot fail to be a a top-grosser.

Rating—from any and all angles—double AA plus."

PRINTED IN U.S.A.


FRANK CAPRA'S
Mr. Smith goes to Washington
co-starring
JEAN ARTHUR ★ JAMES STEWART
with
CLAUDE RAINS · EDWARD ARNOLD · GUY KIBBEE
THOMAS MITCHELL · BEULAH BONDI
Directed by FRANK CAPRA · Screen play by Sidney Buchman
A Columbia Picture
COLUMBIA PICTURES

INTENSITY GOV'T SCHINE SUIT BOMBARDMENT INDICATES IT NUMBER ONE TRADE ACTION

Four in East Ask New Trust Suits

New York—Four independent exhibitors in this territory have approached Paul Williams, assistant to the attorney general, asking him to start criminal action against the majors, according to department of justice sources. Williams is stalling all of them until the Schine case upstate is disposed of in the near future.

Berkley W. Henderson, formerly in charge of the anti-trust department here and transferred to Washington about two weeks ago, has been assigned the prosecution of the Schine case.

No Endeavors to Settle Goldwyn Release Move

NEW YORK—No effort is being made to settle the action by Samuel Goldwyn against UA for a termination of his contract, Charles Schwartz of Schwartz & Frohlich, law firm representing a number of UA owners, states. He adds, "We want to determine the issue once and for all."

Questioned about Goldwyn releasing "Raffles" through UA, Schwartz commented the producer still has a contract with the company and the picture naturally goes through UA.

Murray Silverstone, UA head, prior to his departure for the coast, stated his trip had nothing to do with the Goldwyn action.

Says Wartime Conditions Won't Relax Trust Reins

GEARHART, ORE.—Reiterating his previously announced stand that the government does not intend to relax on anti-trust prosecutions, Thurman W. Arnold, in charge of the anti-trust division under Attorney General Frank Murphy, told members of the Oregon Bar Ass'n, at a meeting here, that "wartime trade conditions are no excuse for ignoring the anti-trust laws, but present a challenge intensifying need for their enforcement."

May See Better Chance To Prove Investment Of Public Interest

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—Shifting its line of attack, the department of justice is directing all its guns and fire on the Schine case in Buffalo, having reportedly moved this anti-trust suit up to the number one bracket, insofar as the industry is concerned.

Because of the wealth of material gathered by Seymour Krieger, FBI investigator, who spent many weeks in the upstate territory interviewing independent and Allied exhibitors, the general feeling in department of justice headquarters is that the Schine case looms as the best in which to test the department's theories concerning public interest.

It is believed in distributor quarters the department is basing its various film cases on the Munn vs. Illinois (the state) case decided in 1860 by the supreme court, which held granaries were affected by public interest. There are some attorneys who hold the government is comparing the industry with railroads which have allied interests in the colliery region. In this instance, and despite their ownership of coal mines, railroads must buy fuel from lowest bidders.

In refuting the department, film counsel turns back to the Tyson case decided about three years ago by the supreme court. The ruling stated the theatre business is not affected by public interests and therefore not subject to regulation by the state, according to attorneys.

That the "Big Stick" is seeking to have film companies sell their products to highest competitive bidders in each community is not denied by film counsel. In the event the department wins this point in the Schine case, theatre divorcement will automatically follow, it is believed in department offices here. If this objective is not achieved in the upstate New York suit, the government will next concentrate on the Griffith case in Oklahoma City, according to reports.

Meanwhile, Frederick H. Wood of Cravath, de Gersdorff, Swaine & Wood, is representing the Schines. About four years ago, he was chief counsel for Warner in the St. Louis anti-trust suit. He also represented the plaintiff in the famous Schechter poultry case challenging the constitutionality of NRA, which subsequently resulted in its demise. He likewise represented the oil industry in a famous law case some years ago.

Although he had a cold, Wood spoke for two and a half hours opposing Krieger's motion for a temporary injunction earlier in the week. Krieger had the floor for about an hour. The array of counsel at the hearing included Robert W. Perkins, general counsel, and his assistant, Howard I. Levinson, of Warner; John Caskey and Willis Newcomb of Dwight, Harris, Caskey & Koegel, for 20th-Fox; Louis Phillips, Paramount home office counsel; Willard S. McKay, New York counsel for Schine; Irving Moross, Columbia home office attorney; Edward C. Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery for UA; John Lord O'Brian, representing five major distributors; John Howley of Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Lumbard for RKO. Christian Borgland came on from Washington to assist Krieger.

After the Buffalo arguments, Raftery left for Chicago and from there headed for the coast for preliminary hearings on the government charges against FWC for alleged

(Continued on page 14)

"Minority" Lawyer May Join Gov't Forces

New York—Latest reports from informed sources indicate that a certain attorney, who has been active of late in filing minority stockholders actions against at least three major companies and now working on another, may join the department of justice for the prosecution of the all-industry suit. The lawyer is NOT Emil K. Ellis, but one of the men who worked with him during the Loew minority stockholders' suit. The counselor is understood to have made a number of trips to Washington in an effort to clinch the job. So far it is no dice.

Part of Griffith Counsel Retires From Trust Suit

OKLAHOMA CITY — Keaton, Wills and Johnston have withdrawn as counsel for the Griffith circuit in the "Big Stick" anti-trust suit pending in federal court. Henry Griffing, formerly of the legal firm mentioned, now is handling the case for the circuit defendants. However, Keaton, Wills and Johnston continue to represent other interests identified as defendants.

After the Hearing Was Over

Buffalo—The relief distributor attorneys felt after the preliminary Schine hearings was very much apparent in their answers to inquiring reporters.

One newsman asked what happens now?

A lawyer answered: "The government has a week in which to file briefs and we have a week after that in which to answer."

Then what? the lawyer was asked.

"Then the government prays."

And to another reporter inquiring about the affidavits filed, a lawyer said: "The affidavits give the distributors a legal opportunity to swear."

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

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PORTLAND, ORE.—2235 Stark St., S. E., D. W. Polivka.
ST. LOUIS—5149 Rosa Ave., David F. Barrett. Telephone Flanders 3727.
SALT LAKE CITY—605 Utah Savings & Trust Bldg., Viola B. Hutton. Telephone Hyland 4359.
SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Nathan Cohn. Telephone Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2321 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Telephone MAin 7716.
WASHINGTON—1426 G. St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY, ALTA.—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Telephone Walnut 5519.
REGINA, SASK.—The Star, Andy McDermott.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—161 Princess St., D. Fetherston.
TORONTO, ONTARIO—242 Millwood Road, Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER, B. C.—615 Hastings, C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St. Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

THE practice, or perhaps it is the habit, of unconsciously drawing comparisons between a player's current film and his or her last, or several lasts, does not always turn out to be a consistent course to follow. There is the type of story and there is the type of part which must be taken into the accounting, for both leave an understandable impress on whatever conclusions finally may be drawn.

Now, this department again finds itself on that brink, this time in seeking to evaluate the relative merits and shadings of Bette Davis as "Queen Elizabeth" in "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" as against Bette Davis in "Dark Victory" or "The Old Maid." Maybe this develops into a warrantless task because all three, different as they are, are superlative performances; all three deeply emotional and full-bodied expositions of the great talent which this young woman has unfolded and continues to reveal in her each succeeding film.

Taking this new occasion on its own footing, as it should, Miss Davis is the queen, in love with Essex and tragically and inextricably enmeshed in a conflict between Elizabeth, the woman, and Elizabeth, the ruler of England. There is built up an identical issue in Essex, who wants the queen, but also the crown. On this irreconcilable shore, they must inevitably part. Essex bows before the headman's axe and Elizabeth, her royal heritage safe, remains to face her final years and whatever of emotional comfort her memories of Essex may bring.

The film is superb in trappings. It is in exquisite Technicolor. It is strongly intrenched in either cast or acting values, its leading players including Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Donald Crisp, Vincent Price, Henry Stephenson, Robert Warwick and Alan Hale. It has the assurance of a well-moulded and adult script from the workshop of Norman Reilly Raine and the finely attenuated direction of Michael Curtiz.

"The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" is a magnificent offering for the boxoffice. But, far and away, it has Miss Davis. Again the depth of her acting and its dramatic vibrancy compel all others and all things surrounding her to recede into the background. She dominates completely, easily and at all times.

A Chance Lost

Ali Gaga thinks Paramount misses a genuine opportunity in not casting Simone Simon in "Typhoon" to wear that "Lava Lava." He adds, "Then they could have held the world premiere in Walla Walla with Mr. Phelps Phelps as guest of honor."

Ordinary Whitewash

Alfred Hitchcock, in one of those yarns and this time about "Jamaica Inn:"

> "In the book, we found pervading grimness. So, although the interior of Jamaica Inn would, perhaps, have been a forbidding gray in actuality, we show it as white. This had its effect on Charles Laughton. It lightened his interpretation at the same time that it facilitated the work of the cameramen. I would go as far as to say that the batch of whitewash used by the set painters has made a notable, if subtle, contribution to the mood of the entire photoplay."

That's what the business needs. More and heavier coats of whitewash and there's nothing subtle about this.

Authoritative

The backlog file has just now turned up a Louella Parsons column in which the Hearst writer, recently submitted to treatment in the "Saturday Evening Post" goes into a defense of Hollywood performers. She was commenting on the few weeks old blast of Harry Brandt of the New York ITOA, the one in which he urged stars to wake up and dust off their ideas for the general good. Now to Louella:

> "If Spencer Tracy walked into Louis B. Mayer's office and told him how to run his business, you'd hear an explosion that would go round the world. If Tyrone Power should attempt to dictate policy to Darryl Zanuck, there would be an aftermath that would make the San Francisco earthquake seem tame. Errol Flynn's advice on picture-making wouldn't be welcome in the Warner studio and I may say that of every other Hollywood picture-making plant."

You sure said it, Louella.



A Pommer-Laughton "Mayflower" Production of Daphne du Maurier's best seller . . .

"JAMAICA INN"

starring

CHARLES LAUGHTON

with Maureen O'Hara • Leslie Banks • Emlyn Williams

Robert Newton • Directed by Alfred Hitchcock • Produced by Erich Pommer • A Paramount Release

Schine Suit Moving Into Top Spot

(Continued from page 11)

violation of a 1930 consent decree. Murray Silverstone's departure for Hollywood over the weekend is said to be in connection with the action in view of the personal contempt proceedings in which he and a number of UA and other individual defendants are involved. Raftery will stay in Los Angeles for the October 16 hearing, while Silverstone is expected back in a week or so.

With October 17 as the new date for answering the department's A to Z quiz on the all-industry suit, distributor attorneys have 10 days extra time to prepare motions to limit the interrogatories to essential and necessary facts. Objections will be heard before a motion judge with briefs expected to be filed later.

Wood Argues "Big Stick" Not Entitled to Stay

BUFFALO — Consuming more than two and one half hours in his argument as attorney for the defendant Schine circuit, Frederick H. Wood contended the department of justice is not entitled to a preliminary injunction in the anti-trust action against Schine and major distributors where the facts are in dispute and doubt exists on a question of law.

The injunction sought by the department, which was represented by Seymour Krieger, was designed to enjoin the Schines from acquiring theatres or opening closed houses during pendency of the suit. The hearing was before Judge John T. Knight in federal court.

A "New Interpretation"

Wood argued that the government's position in prosecuting the action was a new and revolutionary interpretation of the anti-trust laws which have not been accepted by the courts to date. It was his opinion that the "Big Stick's" affidavits do not indicate a conspiracy exists and therefore is not entitled to relief. He pressed the point that where the theories of prosecution are new, determination of the case should rest entirely on its merits. For that reason primarily, Wood declared. the government is not entitled to injunctive relief.

Krieger, opposing Wood, declared the "Big Stick" has found evidences of violations of the anti-trust laws and was entitled to a portion of relief, in that the department is limiting its motion for an injunction to but two items, for the protection of the public. The status quo of the case should be preserved, therefore, he contended.

The youthful attorney made much of the allegation that, as set forth in the "Big Stick's" affidavits, pressure of the Schines' unusual buying power has been instrumental in acquiring theatres, a factor he declared has been abused to the detriment of the public.

Following the arguments of Wood and Krieger, Judge Knight heard John Lord O'Brian, representing Paramount, Loew's and Warner, who contended his clients were innocent third parties.

Warner Concessions For Canadians

Toronto—Warner's policy of making concessions of the code available to domestic exhibitors also is applicable to Canada, it is revealed here. Notice to this effect has gone out to theatre owners over the signature of Gradwell L. Sears, president of Vitagraph.

No official statement regarding M-G-M's plans here could be obtained. A representative of Regal Films, which distributes M-G-M in the Dominions, when queried, dismissed the subject with "I don't know."

Canadian Concessions Are Up to Nathanson

NEW YORK—Concessions on M-G-M pictures in Canada are up to N. L. Nathanson, head of Regal Films. According to William F. Rodgers, general sales manager for M-G-M and who has offered numerous advantages of the code to domestic exhibitors, "the policies of distribution affecting M-G-M is governed by Regal Films in Canada."

Rodgers hopes to have the new distribution contract ready in a few days. It has been in the hands of lawyers since he announced the concessions. Only certain clauses will be added such as those dealing with cancellations and voluntary arbitration. "The other advantages will be given exhibitors without being in the contract and in conformance with our announced policy," he states.

He returned from a week in Chicago after cleaning up several routine matters.

Says Allied Killed "Bill of Rights"

NEW YORK—By "shortsightedness and their refusal to continue negotiations" on the distributors' proposed trade practice code, Col. H. A. Cole and Abram F. Myers "have swept aside any and all possibility of the independent exhibitor receiving a 'bill of rights'," Max A. Cohen, head of Allied of New York charges.

Cohen enters the battle arena precipitated by an alleged effort of one of his former lieutenants to split the ranks in the Cohen organization with the assertion that the "cause of the independent exhibitor looks as dismal and black as ever it did in the history of exhibition, and we can lay the blame squarely on the doorstep of Colonel Cole and Commissioner Myers."

Cole and Myers, Cohen adds, "have filibustered and badgered about, completely disregarding the one all-important fact: Namely, that the independent exhibitor is looking for relief now, not a decade hence."

The Allied of New York president charges national Allied, which expelled the local unit on charges of being out of step with its policies, with attempting to "raid" its membership in a factional dispute sponsored by E. Thornton Kelly, former executive secretary, who is leading a movement to form another New York organization, from within the ranks of Cohen's group, to affiliate with the national body.

"New York Allied suddenly has become the immediate concern of National Allied," Cohen states, "and we wonder whether the work of New York Allied has been so great and progressive that the national organization fears New York Allied overshadows it in national importance."



--Metropolitan Photos

Smiles and Congratulations—

One of the important things George J. Schaefer, RKO president, on the left, did before entraining for the coast, was to give Ned E. Depinet, vice-president in charge of distribution, a new long-term contract. Depinet holds the signed agreement in his hand. He is a veteran of more than 30 years in the industry.



"Is this the love I've been searching for? Or is it just an **INTERMEZZO?"**



"I'll remember this moment as long as I live, though it's just an **INTERMEZZO!"**



"Have I lost my husband's love forever? Or is this affair just an **INTERMEZZO?"**

Leslie HOWARD



Directed by GREGORY RATOFF ★ Associate Producer

An interlude of brief enchantment . . .
drawn not from yesterday's story books
but from the living world of today.

SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL *presents*

INTERMEZZO

A Love Story



INTRODUCING

Ingrid BERGMAN

LESLIE HOWARD ★ Produced by DAVID O. SELZNICK

To one woman
he gave his memories...
to another
he gave his dreams—
wild longings—
fierce desires
he dared not name...
for an interlude of
stolen love!
Could any woman
be content with
half a love?
Could any man
summon enough
for both?...
A vivid portrayal by

LESLIE HOWARD

star player extraordinary in

INTERMEZZO
A Love Story

SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL'S
great production introducing
the glamorous new Swedish star

INGRID BERGMAN



Released thru
UNITED ARTISTS
September 15th

Produced by DAVID O. SELZNICK
Leslie Howard, Associate Producer

INDUSTRY, FACED BY 720 ADVERSE BILLS IN 44 STATES, GETS BY VIRTUALLY UNSCATHED

War Film Ban Plan Interest Waning

WASHINGTON—Practically abandoned by its proponent, Senator Thomas' proposal for a prohibition on the exhibition of any motion pictures dealing with war in any of its phases appears destined to remain just a proposal and nothing more.

Apparently convinced, upon further study, that the United States is not ripe for censorship of any sort, the Oklahoma Senator who last month expressed the belief that war pictures should be banned if the United States is to maintain an attitude of neutrality in the European war, now says that the subject was broached merely as a suggestion and no consideration had been given to the practical working out of its details.

As originally presented, the "proposal" would have barred the exhibition of any war picture—news or feature, the presentation of any radio program dealing with war or the importation of any foreign propaganda films. How this was to be worked out, Senator Thomas never disclosed, although he did say that before any definite action was taken hearings would be held at which the whole subject would be explored intensively.

News reports of Senator Thomas' suggestion caused considerable interest, not only in the affected film and broadcasting industries, but among newspaper proprietors, as well, who foresaw possible extension of censorship to war news.

Nine Divorcement Bills And Ten Censorship Proposals Included

WASHINGTON—Faced with 720 bills in 44 states, the industry again emerges virtually unscathed in the annual rush to the legislative hoppers.

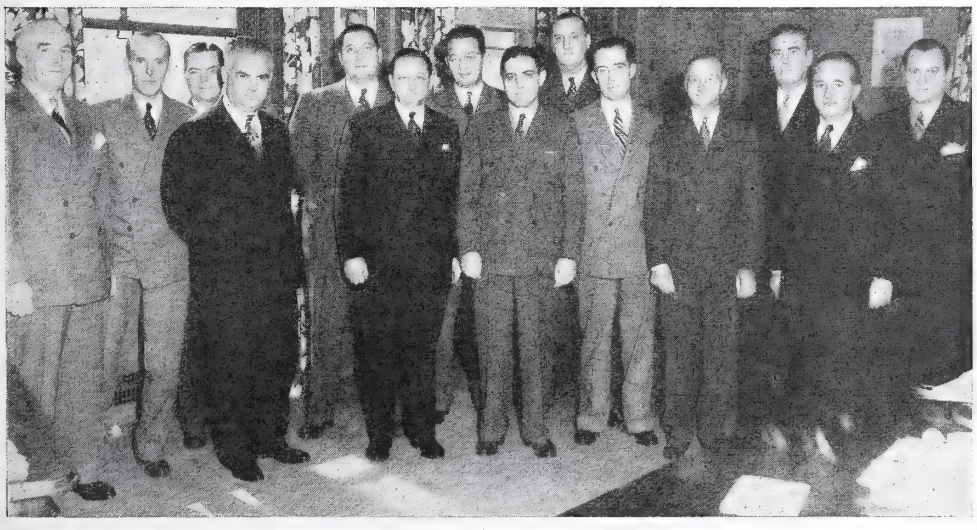
Regarded as the most signal victory is the defeat of nine theatre divorcement proposals in eight states and ten bills to establish censorship boards.

It is held unlikely that unfavorable legislation will be passed in the three states that have not adjourned. They are Wisconsin, Alabama, which is due to close its session September 15, and New Jersey, which convenes in special session September 25.

Bills that went against the industry include the prohibition of Sunday shows in Yadkin and Northampton counties in North Carolina; creation of a licensing authority in North Dakota providing for the body to pass on new theatres where one or more presently exist; continuation of dog racing in Florida for 12 months and the licensing of projectionists in Maine.

As against these, favorable legislation marks the legalizing of Sunday shows in Maine, Arkansas and Vermont.

Censorship bills, the bulk of which were in the form of municipal proposals, were defeated in Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and West Virginia. A censorship bill is up in New Jersey.



They Talk Over Sales Plans—

At a special meeting of Universal home office executives and district managers in New York. Left to right are: F. J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager; H. D. Graham, Atlanta; James Jordan, home office; Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president; Pete Dana, Kansas City; A. J. Herman, New York; Dave Miller, Cleveland; Leo Abrams, short subjects sales manager; E. T. Gomersall, Chicago; A. J. O'Keefe, Los Angeles; Dave Levy, New York; William A. Scully, general sales manager; Joseph H. Seidelman, foreign sales manager, and William J. Heineman, western sales manager.

Blames Picketing on Lawyer Factions

NEW YORK—Picketing activities at six F&M St. Louis houses, the Lafayette, Granada, Dakota, Maffitt, Pagaent and Shady Oak are described as "ridiculous and stupid" by Harry C. Arthur jr., head of the circuit, on his arrival Monday from the Mound City.

Arthur blames the whole trouble on lawyers. To quote the F&M head, "the actual story is that there are two groups of lawyers stirring up the factions. We are in the middle of the inter-factional fight. One group of lawyers," Arthur adds, "has an agreement with 66 operators who are to give him $250 each now and another $250 if they win. These lawyers want the union. That's all the trouble amounts to."

The F&M head pointed out that one man, Fred Flier, who worked at the Lafayette, didn't want to take either side and quit his job.

Arthur will leave for St. Louis in the next few days.

Likelihood F&M Picketing May Extend to 19 More

ST. LOUIS—Robert A. Roessel, attorney for Local 143, IATSE unit, states there is a strong possibility of the picketing of six F&M houses may be extended to 19 others. He claims the picketing began as a result of a dispute over the employment of nine John P. Nick adherents. The lawyer holds the nine men had been suspended from the operators' union although not dropped from membership, and had been given jobs without the knowledge or consent of the union.

Handbills distributed near the six theatres, the Dakota, Granada, Lafayette, Maffitt, Pageant and Shady Oak, state the theatres are "unfair" and "we are opposed to gangsters and racketeers. These theatres refuse to bargain collectively" with the local, the throwaways add. Violation of senority rights is also charged.

Five-Man Committee to Mull 306's Demand

NEW YORK—A five-man committee will determine the fairness of Local 306's demand for a 25 per cent increase upon major circuits in this territory. Although both sides have been unable for weeks to get together on an arbitrator to sit in with two representatives from the union and as many from the circuits, latest indications are the selection of a fifth man may not go to the appellate court after all. Representing the circuits are C. C. Moskowitz of Loew's and Leslie E. Thompson of RKO. Joseph D. Basson, president of Local 306, will be among the two union delegates.

Now, more than ever before, it's only pictures that count!

These are some of the productions, delivered already this season, that have increased the lead of 20th Century-Fox as the No. 1 Company:

STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE

Started the new season with a smash.

THE RAINS CAME

Beating "Jesse James" from coast to coast.

HERE I AM A STRANGER

Proving the boxoffice wisdom of starring Richard Greene, as the public wanted.

HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE

(In Technicolor)

Exhibitor previews have shown you what you have here.

●

By the first of the year, you will receive these other outstanding productions:

20,000 MEN A YEAR

Stirring, timely drama of America's college youth taking to the air. With Cosmopolitan advertising.

DAY-TIME WIFE

Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell, Binnie Barnes
Warren William, Wendy Barrie, Joan Davis

DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK

(In Technicolor)

Claudette Colbert, Henry Fonda

HE MARRIED HIS WIFE

Joel McCrea, Nancy Kelly, Mary Boland
Roland Young

THE BLUEBIRD

(In Technicolor)

For Christmas release. Starring Shirley Temple. From Maeterlinck's world-famed book and play.

SWANEE RIVER

(In Technicolor)

Don Ameche, Andrea Leeds, Al Jolson

No other company can equal that record!

●

Now . . . when the whole world is worried about tomorrow . . . 20th Century-Fox insures your theatre with the greatest pictures in its history!

British Production Status Clouded

NEW YORK—Future status of British production becomes easier to assay, but difficult to predict, following a sampling of opinion from returning American executives. Two things do stand out. Any resumption of activity must consider the problem of (1) finances and (2) manpower.

All this, however, is contingent on what the government will do about the quota. It may enlist production facilities as a reserve industry for propaganda purposes or allow production on a reduced scale.

Director Tim Whelan, who recently finished "Thief of Bagdad" for Alexander Korda, returned on the *Manhattan* and said it all depends on the government's ruling.

"The government has been very sympathetic to the industry," he stated. "If the quota law is suspended, British producers will probably make small films for home consumption."

He pointed out the lack of actors would do more than anything to cripple future production. "I was all set to make a film for Columbia starring Ralph Richardson. But he signed with the Naval air force. I spoke to Richardson before he left and he said he might get a six-week leave. If he does, I'll return to London and do the picture."

Whelan said Alexander Korda's future plans were uncertain. Korda recently finished "The Lion Has Wings," a propaganda film for the British government, and future assignments have not been made.

Ben Goetz, in charge of British production for M-G-M, and Sam Sax, who holds a similar post for Warner, docked on the *Nieuw Amsterdam* in Hoboken the night before.

Goetz went into an immediate huddle with Nicholas M. Schenck over the production setup and left for the coast later.

He said, on the pier, nothing had been decided and it was hard to predict what would take place. M-G-M had planned to make three films, two of which would have starred Robert Montgomery. The studio has shut down completely, Goetz added.

Seeks Stay and Damages From Disney, Technicolor

NEW YORK — Vincent I. Whitman has filed suit in federal court against Walt Disney Productions, Technicolor, Technicolor M. P. Corp., and RKO, seeking an injunction and triple damages for the "willful and unjust infringement" of his patented invention covering color photography in "Snow White" and "Pinnochio."

The plaintiff asserts he invented and patented prior to 1935 "improvements in composite system of motion picture photography wherein a portion of a still background scene pictorially recorded is photographed in superimposed relation on visual actions which occur in the foreground."

He declares he notified Disney of the infringement in 1937, but the latter refused to change his process. Reference to a special master for an accounting is also sought.

Paramount Lawyer Sheds No Light on Odeon Deal

NEW YORK—Returning from England where he spent several months on the deal whereby Odeon was to take over Paramount's group of theatres in that country, Roger Clement, legal representative for Paramount, shed no light on the situation and held that negotiations had reached an impasse due to the war and there is no telling when a deal, if any, will be concluded. He returned on the *Manhattan*, following Stanton Griffis, chairman of the company's executive committee, by two weeks.

No RKO-Tri-States Des Moines Pool Deadline

NEW YORK—No termination date has been set on the buying and booking pool between RKO and Tri-States' Orpheum in Des Moines, according to John J. O'Connor, head of RKO circuit operations. Although the five year agreement has two years to run, it was said both interests were in favor of dropping it. For that purpose A. H. Blank and Ralph Branton, executive heads of Tri-States, have been here for discussions with O'Connor.

"Reflects Mastery of Capra Touch"

Hollywood—A preachment in patriotism is the predominant note of Frank Capra's Columbia production, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," which stars Jean Arthur and James Stewart, whose respectively splendid performances are backed by a large and unusually impressive supporting cast. The film reflects sufficient of the mastery of the Capra touch to win it above average rating in popularity.—SPEAR.

New York—Approximately 1,500 surprised patrons of Loew's Dyckman Theatre here Tuesday night sat without a trace of restlessness through two hours of unexpected entertainment and applauded wildly as a sneak preview of Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" unwound. Throughout the performance the audience was carried away with emotion as James Stewart exemplified the American spirit of freedom and democracy; pondered over the courage of the bold revelation decrying the political spoils system, and howled at the searing humor.

Pre-occupied with Frank Capra's deft injection of the patriotism theme, the audience filed out into a din of newspaper hawkies blaring war bulletins and concluded that Capra and Columbia have a smash hit on tap with all hands performing a workmanlike job.—L. W.

LETTERS
FROM OUR READERS

Sept. 27, 1939

SOME SHOWMANSHIP IDEAS

My Dear Mr. Shlyen:

I have just finished reading your "Plain Talk" editorial in the current issue of BOXOFFICE.

It is timely, and direct, but I think you stopped a little short of the mark.

In the paragraph, "Good pictures and good showmanship. Producers must be looked to to supply the former and exhibitors to apply the latter. Good showmanship means more than just exploitation. It calls for judicious booking and playing of pictures. And then selling them for all they are worth. The results will be commensurate with the effort."

I go with you as far as you go, but I think showmanship stands for far more than booking and playing pictures. I think showmanship also requires selling the theatre, the staff and the ownership, and far beyond this selling the patron the idea that his attendance is as much appreciated as his money. I think that should be given as much attention as the booking and showing of pictures. Much is said and written about pictures, Hollywood and women's legs, but very little ever gets into print about the interests of the lowly patron.

Without the patron of the boxoffice there would be no theatres, no Hollywood, no BOXOFFICE so for a while let us view things from the patrons' eyes.

Nineteen hundred and thirty-nine marks the 40th year since I first exhibited a motion picture, and if 40 years' observation have shown me anything it has shown me theatres that are, and have been for years doing a consistently good business, and they are the theatres that have given the patron a break, and have emphasized that they at all times book the very best features available, and do not get out a band once a year to advertise a star and the rest of the year impersonate a mole.

Last year when the national drive saying "Motion pictures are your best entertainment" started I wrote a letter to BOXOFFICE which was printed predicting it would be a flop. As it turned out I was correct.

Every campaign initiated so far has been initiated with the idea that a big ballyhoo that would get business for a week or so would start the pendulum swinging, and it would keep up indefinitely, no matter if it was money, dishes, bushes or guano that was made the inducement for them to start.

No one ever thinks of the patron as a human being with problems of his own, all he is is the guy that they must drain the money from for million dollar features, swimming pools and race horses.

There is a trite old slogan that tells the story, "Business goes where it is wanted, and stays where is is well treated."

There is nothing mysterious about getting business for a theatre, that is the trouble, it is too easy, the exhibitors can't see the timber for the trees.

Yours very truly,
H. E. WHITE,
Arrow Theatre,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Republic Extending Latin American Sales Activity

NEW YORK—Republic is extending its Latin American sales activity. Paul Wir, formerly with UA in Panama, takes over as divisional sales manager for Central America. He replaces Harry Davis who moves on to South America where he will open a main office in Santiago, Chile, with a branch at Valparaiso.

Wir is en route to Colon, Panama, aboard the *Quiriqua* and arrives there about October 15.

Hummel Succeeds Morris; Schless European Head

NEW YORK—Joseph S. Hummel, assistant to Sam E. Morris for 15 years, has been named successor to Morris as head of all Warner foreign activities with the exclusion of Continental Europe, which continues under Robert Schless. Morris has retired from the company due to illness.

You've seen it (3,411 of you) now you know

"HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE" IS THE MOST SENSATIONAL BOX-OFFICE ATTRACTION THAT EVER HIT THIS INDUSTRY!



THE KEYSTONE
OF YOUR FUTURE

"THE WOMEN" AND "RAINS CAME" RUN CLOSE

BOSTON

Fenway—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para); **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox)..... 85
Memorial—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ); **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 70
Metropolitan—**The Old Maid** (FN); **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (WB) 70
Orpheum—**The Women** (M-G-M); **The Man They Could Not Hang** (Col), 2nd wk..... 90
Paramount—Same as Fenway 80
State—Same as Orpheum 85

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**It Could Happen to You** (20th-Fox). 90
Carolina—**In Name Only** (RKO) 100
Imperial—**The Under-Pup** (Univ) 100
Imperial—**Golden Boy** (Col) 110
State—**Rookie Cop** (RKO) 90
State—**In Old Monterey** (Rep).....110

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Beau Geste** (Para), 3rd loop wk..... 80
Chicago—**The Old Maid** (FN), plus stage show, held 2nd wk. 90
Garrick—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ), 3rd loop wk. 85
Oriental—**Good Girls Go to Paris** (Col), 2nd loop wk., plus stage show..... 85
Palace—**In Name Only** (RKO), plus stage show, held 2nd wk. 90
Roosevelt—**Blackmail** (M-G-M) 80
State-Lake—**Frontier Marshal** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 80
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M), held 3rd wk. 95

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para).....130
Capitol—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., held 120
Keith—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M), held 130
Lyric—**Beau Geste** (Para), 2nd wk.....120
Palace—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), held over..130
Shubert—**Magnificent Fraud** (Para), plus stage show 130

CLEVELAND

Allen—**The Old Maid** (FN), 3rd wk.....125
Hippodrome—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox)....195
Palace—**Blondie Takes a Vacation** (Col). Stage: Louis Armstrong and his Sepia Orchestra 110
State—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 120
Stillman—**The Women** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.....175

DALLAS

Capitol—**Trapped in the Sky** (Col), 1st half...100
Capitol—**Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox), 2nd half 80
Majestic—**Beau Geste** (Para) 125
Palace—**The Old Maid** (FN) 125
Rialto—**Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox), 2nd half 100
Rialto—**Hotel Imperial** (Para), 1st half..... 90
Tower—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk...100

DENVER

Aladdin—**The Man in the Iron Mask** (UA), after a wk. at the Denver 120
Broadway—**The Women** (M-G-M); **The Spellbinder** (RKO), after a wk. at the Orpheum..130
Denham—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para) 110
Denver—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox) 135
Orpheum—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **These Glamour Girls** (M-G-M) 105
Paramount—**Coast Guard** (Col); **Chicken Wagon Family** (20th-Fox) 115
Rialto—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin, and **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (Col) 105

DETROIT

Adams—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ); **Quick Millions** (20th-Fox)..... 95
Fox—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.... 85
Michigan—**Lady of the Tropics** (M-G-M); **Our Leading Citizen** (Para)..... 90
Palms State—**Beau Geste** (Para), after 2 wks. at United Artists; **Everybody's Hobby** (FN).. 90
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M).....110

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Wall Street Cowboy** (Rep); **Irish Luck** (Mono), 1st half of wk..... 75
Apollo—**In Name Only** (RKO); **Spellbinder** (RKO), 2nd wk., moveover 75
Circle—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO) 90
Indiana—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox); **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox).....110
Loew's—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Five Little Peppers** (Col) 100
Lyric—**Cowboy Quarterback** (FN), plus Ben Bernie stage show 120

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), holdover 80
Midland—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Five Little Peppers** (Col) 100
Newman—**Indianapolis Speedway** (WB); **Magnificent Fraud** (Para) 85
Orpheum—**In Name Only** (RKO); **Five Came Back** (RKO), holdover 80
Tower—**Mutiny on the Blackhawk** (Univ), plus stage show 120
Uptown—Same as Esquire 90

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Beau Geste** (Para); **Night Work** (Para) 150
Riverside—**Hawaiian Nights** (Univ), plus stage show 115
Strand—**The Old Maid** (FN); **Golden Boy** (Col) 110
Warner—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN); **Winter Carnival** (UA) 125
Wisconsin—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox); **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox)..... 90

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Quick Millions** (20th-Fox); **Hidden Power** (Col) 90
Century—**Beau Geste** (Para), 2nd wk.....100
Gopher—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN).....100
Minnesota—**Irish Luck** (Mono), plus stage show.110
Orpheum—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO) 90
State—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox).....150
Time—**Lucrezia Borgia** (Foreign).....200
World—**Four Feathers** (UA), 4th wk..... 90

NEW HAVEN

College—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox); **Jones Family in Hollywood** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk....120
Loew-Poli—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Stronger Than Desire** (M-G-M), moved to College for 2nd wk. 120
Paramount—**Beau Geste** (Para); **Chicken Wagon Family** (20th-Fox), 5 days 2nd wk... 65
Roger Sherman—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **The Saint in London** (RKO) 125

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

THE RAINS CAME—Pittsburgh.....220

THE WOMEN—New York.....200

THE RAINS CAME—Cleveland.....195

HONEYMOON IN BALI—New York..180

THE WOMEN—Cleveland.....175

BEAU GESTE (dual)—Milwaukee 150

GOLDEN BOY (dual)—Omaha.....150

THE OLD MAID—Philadelphia.....150

THE RAINS CAME—Minneapolis, Oklahoma City 150

THUNDER AFLOAT—New Orleans....150

BACHELOR MOTHER—Oklahoma City 140

THE WOMEN—Portland, Ore.....140

EXTENDED RUNS

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, 20th wk., New York City.

Four Feathers, 4th wk., Minneapolis.

The Old Maid, 4th wk., Seattle; 3rd wk., Cleveland.

Beau Geste, 3rd loop wk., Chicago.

The Rains Came, 3rd wk., New York City, Seattle.

Stanley and Livingstone, 3rd wk., Salt Lake City.

The Women, 3rd wk., Chicago, Cleveland.

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Clouds Over Europe** (Col) 100
Globe—**Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever** (M-G-M) 90
Liberty—**Golden Boy** (Col), 2nd wk..... 95
Orpheum—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO).....100
Saenger—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox).....125
State—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 150
Tudor—**Man in the Iron Mask** (UA), 2nd run.. 90

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M), 19th wk., held 100
Capitol—**The Women** (M-G-M) 200
Criterion—**Man They Could Not Hang** (Col)...110
Globe—**Torpedoed** (Film Alliance) 115
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), plus stage show 180
Radio City Music Hall—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO), plus stage show 120
Rivoli—**Real Glory** (UA), 2nd wk., held.....150
Roxy—**Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk., plus stage show 110
Strand—**Espionage Agent** (FN), plus stage show 125

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox).....150
Liberty—**The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO); **Mutiny on the Blackhawk** (Univ) 135
Midwest—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 120
Plaza—**Bachelor Mother** (RKO), moveover....140
State—**Gow** (SR); **Mr. Wong in Chinatown** (Mono), 3 days 100
State—**Those High Grey Walls** (Col); **Fighting Thoroughbreds** (Rep), 4 days.....105
Tower—**Two Bright Boys** (Univ), 2 days 25
Tower—**San Francisco** (M-G-M), reissue, 5 days 30

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Golden Boy** (Col); **The Man They Could Not Hang** (Col) 150
Omaha—**They Shall Have Music** (UA); **The Magnificent Fraud** (Para) 120
Orpheum—**Frontier Marshal** (20th-Fox); **Winter Carnival** (UA) 110

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox)..... 80
Boyd—**The Women** (M-G-M) 125
Earle—**The Star Maker** (Para), plus Wally Vernon and Mal Hallett's orch. on stage....100
Fox—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), 2nd wk., 5 days 100
Karlton—**The Old Maid** (FN), 2nd run.....150
Palace—**The Wizard of Oz** (M-G-M), 3rd run..100
Stanley—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..100
Stanton—**Coast Guard** (Col) 95

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox).....220
Barry—**Mickey the Kid** (Rep); **Exile Express** (GN) 80
Fulton—**Stanley and Livingstone** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 110
Penn—**The Star Maker** (Para) 130
Senator—**Chicken Wagon Family** (20th-Fox); **Road to Glory** (20th-Fox), reissue..... 50
Stanley—**The Old Maid** (FN), 2nd wk..... 70
Warner—**Our Leading Citizen** (Para); **Magnificent Fraud** (Para) 65

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **Hawaiian Nights** (Univ) 130
Liberty—**Golden Boy** (Col); **Five Little Peppers** (Col) 90
Mayfair—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ); **Hero for a Day** (Univ) 120
Orpheum—**Bulldog Drummond's Bride** (Para); **Should Husbands Work?** (Rep), plus Will Rock Magic Show and Jackie Souders' Band..100
Paramount—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox); **Stop Look and Love** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.....100
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M) 140

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**These Glamour Girls** (M-G-M); **Zenobia** (UA) 105
Centre—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para).....115
Paramount—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), held over 115
Studio—**Stanley and Livingstone** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk. 115
Utah—**The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox); **Quick Millions** (20th-Fox).....115

SEATTLE

Fifth Avenue—**The Women** (M-G-M) 100
Liberty—**They Shall Have Music** (UA) 90
Music Box—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk. 110
Orpheum—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN); **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox) 90
Palomar—**Flight at Midnight** (Rep); **No Place to Go** (FN), plus stage show 90
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **House of Fear** (Univ) 90
Roosevelt—**The Old Maid** (FN), 4th wk..... 90



Who isn't?

They've previewed 'ON YOUR TOES' and mama!—that Zorina! If 'The Old Maid' made you happy this'll make you turn handsprings! It's a Warner biggie—looks like THE biggest! More about it later...*a lot more!*

ZORINA

in

"ON YOUR TOES"

with

EDDIE ALBERT

ALAN HALE · FRANK McHUGH

Directed by RAY ENRIGHT

Screen Play by Jerry Wald and Richard Macaulay
Adaptation by Sig Herzig and Lawrence Riley • Based
on the Musical Play by RICHARD RODGERS,
LORENZ HART and GEORGE ABBOTT

A First National Picture



"Wizard of Oz" Blue Ribbon Award Winner for September

"The Wizard of Oz," M-G-M's spectacular presentation in Technicolor of L. Frank Baum's legendary fantasy, the story of which is accompanied throughout by lilting, catchy music, has been selected by the National Screen Council as the outstanding release in September, and winner of the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for that month.

Produced by Mervyn LeRoy, directorial responsibility for "The Wizard of Oz" goes to Victor Fleming, who won a BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for his direction of "Captains Courageous" in June, 1937. The cast of the winning film is headed by Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr and Jack Haley.

"The Wizard of Oz" is a lavish and colorful fairy-tale of a little Kansas girl swept to the Emerald City of Oz by a cyclone, and the strange experiences she encounters there through such quaint characters as the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Woodman, the Good Fairy and the Wicked Witch.

Cast of Characters

Dorothy.....JUDY GARLAND
Professor Marvel....FRANK MORGAN
"Hunk".....RAY BOLGER
"Zeke" .....BERT LAHR
"Hickory" .....JACK HALEY
Glinda.....BILLIE BURKE
Miss Gulch....MARGARET HAMILTON
Uncle Henry....CHARLEY GRAPEWIN
Nikko.....PAT WALSHE
Auntie Em.....CLARA BLANDICK
Toto .....TOTO

The Singer Midgets as the MUNCHKINS

Production Staff

Executive Producer .....LOUIS B. MAYER
Producer.....MERVYN LEROY
Director.....VICTOR FLEMING
Screenplay.....NOEL LANGLEY, FLORENCE RYERSON, EDGAR ALLAN WOOLF.
Adaptation.....NOEL LANGLEY
From the book by .....L. FRANK BAUM
Musical Adaptation .....HERBERT STOTHART
Lyrics.....E. Y. HARBURG
Music.....HAROLD ARLEN
Associate Conductor GEORGE STOLL
Orchestra and Vocal Arrangements.....GEORGE BASSMAN, MURRAY CUTTER, PAUL MARQUARDT, KEN DARBY
Musical Numbers Staged by .....BOBBY CONNOLLY
Photography in Technicolor.....HAROLD ROSSON, A.S.C.
Associate.....ALLEN DAVEY, A.S.C.
Technicolor Director .....NATALIE KALMUS
Associate.....HENRI JAFFA
Recording Director .....DOUGLAS SHEARER
Art Director.....CEDRIC GIBBONS
Associate.....WILLIAM A. HORNING
Set Decorations....EDWIN B. WILLIS
Special Effects....ARNOLD GILLESPIE
Costumes .....ADRIAN
Make-Up Creations.....JACK DAWN
Film Editor.....BLANCHE SEWELL



This Award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 200 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

DESPITE DEP'T OF JUSTICE CODE RAP, TWO EXHIBITOR UNITS MAKING REVIVAL EFFORTS

Series Delays Two Meetings

New York—The first game in the World Series was held Wednesday. On the same day, Loew's monthly meeting of the board was scheduled. Directors of the Hays organization also had a session slated to discuss new developments in the foreign situation.

The net result: The Yankees beat the Cincinnati Reds by a score of two to one. Loew's meeting will be held October 18, and the Hays directors put off their conclave until Friday.

Michigan Allied and N. Y. Ousted Group Holding Out for Document

By B. O. TELLER

NEW YORK—Although Thurman Arnold has outlawed the distributors' proposed fair trade practices, two exhibitor units are making individual efforts to revive the code in one form or another.

Early in the week, Allied of Michigan, of which Ray Branch is president and which is still an official member of the national organization, passed a resolution in convention advocating renewed efforts for the code. The consensus of opinion among Allied members was that immediate relief is necessary for the independent exhibitor who otherwise will have to wait until the government's all-industry suit is decided by the courts.

On the other hand, Max A. Cohen, president of Allied of New York, recently disowned by the national body, is working secretly on a plan for a code for all independent exhibitors in the state. He is optimistic and at the same time will not divulge the names with whom he is negotiating. When he is ready, he says, a statewide meeting of Allied members in New York will be called and details presented.

"We still want a code to live," he states. "I am making every effort humanly possible to get a code for the independent exhibitors of the state. We want an instrument that will cement the relationship between the exhibitor and distributor."

Cohen adds he has never stopped working for the code, despite Arnold's recent edict.

Distributor opinion toward reviving the code is negative for the time being.

"Our hands our tied because of Arnold's threat to 'further prosecute'," a spokesman declares. "We have done everything we could and it is not up to us any more."

Reaction in national Allied ranks to the position taken by the Michigan unit is being awaited with considerable interest. Allied of New York was expelled from the national body for its consistent stand in favor of the code, among other things, Abram F. Myers, general counsel of Allied, was scheduled to attend the convention of the Michigan organization, but failed to appear. Arbitration was regarded vitally necessary for conducting the business of the independent operator in Michigan and it was decided to press this point.

Cohen also looks upon arbitration as a necessary factor and benefit to the independent. He has already been informed by Gradwell L. Sears, Vitagraph president, that he will sit down and make every effort to iron out disputes through this

(Continued on page 26-H)

Code Committee Still Intact

New York—Although the personnel has been inactive since Thurman Arnold handed down an ultimatum early in autumn, the distributors' code committee has not been abandoned. Members of the committee worked unstintingly for more than a year drafting the various proposals of the fair trade practices. The feeling among distributors is nothing further can be done about the code unless Arnold rescinds his decision "to further prosecute."

Await Hopkins Word On Industry Report

NEW YORK—Distributors are awaiting word from Harry Hopkins, department of commerce secretary, on the industry report submitted to him several months ago in connection with the all-inclusive suit. Hopkins has not been well lately and his committee is understood still studying the various exhibitor and distributor reports. Not until a final analysis is made will distributor heads be called to Washington again for another session with Hopkins, or possibly the President.

Pinanski Continues as MPTOA Unit Head

BOSTON — Sam Pinanski, Paramount theatre partner, continues as head of Allied Theatres of Massachusetts for another year. Jack Delvin of Loew's was re-elected vice-president; Stanley Sumner, treasurer, and Joseph Brennan, secretary and business manager. Despite the name of Allied, the unit is an MPTOA affiliate.

A B&K Deal With UA Is Not Yet Consummated

NEW YORK—"Still working on the deal" is the way Walter Immerman, chief booker and film buyer for B&K, described the pending arrangement with UA. He said the circuit is now playing a few UA pictures and the deal, when consummated, will be for one year. Leaving for Chicago Friday night, Immerman was accompanied by John Balaban, Jules Rubens and Morrie Leonard.

Pay on Technicolor Common

NEW YORK—Technicolor has declared a quarterly dividend of 25 cents a share on common, payable October 18 to holders of record, October 13.

Sidney Kent Back After Vacation

NEW YORK—Sidney R. Kent, president of 20th-Fox, returned to his office late this week after a summer vacation at Thousand Islands. Larry Kent, brother and chief booker for National Theatres, left Thursday for Los Angeles after spending the greater part of the summer here with William T. Powers, Edward Zabel, Milton Hossfeld and Irving Barry on new film deals and clearances. Jack J. Sullivan, FWC film buyer, arrived two weeks ago and plans to remain indefinitely.

Joseph M. Schenck flew in from Mexico City for conferences with Kent.

Mull 'Wind' on Roadshow Basis at Flat Dollar

NEW YORK—M-G-M sales executives are pondering the advisability of releasing "Gone With the Wind" on a roadshow basis that would call for a flat $1, run of the house evening scale, 75 cents matinee tariff, in place of the customary $2.20 top scale for two-a-day showings.

There also is some debate as to the time the film will be put in circulation. As matters stand, it may have a world premiere in Atlanta between November 15 to 30. Also under analysis is the proffer of the Rockefeller interests for housing "Wind" at the Center for its New York run. M-G-M usually roadshows at the Astor, which is currently showing "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" at popular prices. There is no desire to move "Chips" at the rate it is holding up, according to Loew spokesmen.

"Ninotchka" and "Babes" To Trade Over Country

NEW YORK—With the exception of New York, M-G-M is holding double-barreled trade showings in all key cities of "Ninotchka," starring Greta Garbo, and "Babes in Arms."

Majors See Victory In Schine Suit

BUFFALO—With the first round in the legal battle between the government against Schine and the majors over, attorneys for the defendants are anticipating sure victory on the basis of the arguments presented earlier in the week before Judge Knight.

Heaps of confidence are being placed in Frederick H. Wood, representing Schine, whose two-and-a-half-hour argument for a stay in the government's application for an injunction is said to have been in the "usual fine Wood style." Seymour Krieger, according to distributor counsel, is said to have confined most of his argument on the affidavits secured from independent exhibitors.

Various other members of counsel spoke, but the general consensus among attorneys is that Wood was "tops." The application for dismissal of the anti-trust suit was played down, according to film counsel, because it is believed the government has a "weak" case and tried on its merits will mean certain victory for the defendants.

However, Krieger is to be replaced by Berkeley W. Henderson when the actual trial gets under way. Henderson has considerably more experience than young Krieger, it is held.

According to major attorneys, the opinion is that an injunction will be denied. The reason for this, it is said, is that in other cases pending throughout the country the government has not yet been granted an injunction "and until we are found guilty we cannot be enjoined from doing business in the ordinary way."

UA's Counsel, Raftery, Maps Territory Calls

LOS ANGELES — Edward C. Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, counsel for UA, has arrived from New York, after a stopover in Chicago, for conferences with Murray Silverstone, general manager of the distributing company, in connection with the "Big Stick" suit against FWC and major company executives for alleged violation of the 1930 consent decree.

While in Chicago, Raftery met with local counsel on the consent decree proceedings pending there. From here he will head for Oklahoma City for a session with former Judge Charles Cochran on the Griffith suit. He will then head for Kansas City for palavers with UA's district and branch managers. UA does not have an exchange in Oklahoma City, the territory being served out of Kansas City. Indianapolis will be the last stop before Raftery returns to New York. An anti-trust suit against the majors is pending there and the UA attorney will check on developments in the case before winding up a three-week trip.

To Build in Buffalo

BUFFALO—Shea will build a new theatre with stores in the North Fillmore section here.

Mum on Reports Levy, Richey RKO Exit

Hollywood—George J. Schaefer, RKO president, Friday refused to deny or confirm reports that Jules Levy, general sales manager, and H. M. Richey, exhibitor contact, are out of the company. He said a statement must come from Levy and Richey in New York. He also refused to confirm reports that Andy Smith is joining RKO as eastern division manager, referring the matter to Ned Depinet in New York.

Arrival of Investigator Is Not Unexpected

MEMPHIS—Presence here last week of John S. Claggett, special assistant to the attorney general, checking independent theatre complaints, is not at all surprising. According to one important major theatre partner, "we are not surprised at anything the government does today."

There have been reports of a government investigation into large circuit practices for some time. Claggett is among the top line investigators and attorneys, having been associated with Russell Hardy in the prosecution of the anti-trust suit in St. Louis a few years ago.

One of the chief complaints is said to involve the Orpheum, former RKO unit, which has been meeting with little success in obtaining product.

Reports Current on Impending Suit of Southern Chain

NEW YORK—For the past few months there have been reports of a southern suit to be filed by the department of justice against a large independent circuit. At no time would members of the department reveal the name of the possible defendant or defendants being investigated. There also have been reports from Dallas of an intensive investigation, but again nothing could be learned from official sources. However, a department spokesman did admit three more suits, and not six or seven, are yet to be filed before the government is ready to proceed with the trials of actions now pending in New York, Buffalo, Oklahoma City and Nashville.

When M. A. Lightman, head of Malco, was in New York recently, he told BOXOFFICE "there is no telling what the government will do," when informed department of justice men were investigating southern circuits. He was of the opinion there was no immunity from the government's program of anti-trust suits for the larger independent circuits.

Karski Product Complaint Against RKO Forwarded

LOS ANGELES—Abe Karski's complaint against RKO for allegedly refusing to sell the Laurel, Oakdale, has been forwarded to Washington by Albert Law and Harold Collins, assistants to the attorney-general investigating local conditions here.

Karski holds he had no trouble getting product until the new Hopkins opened in the neighborhood of his theatre. Before, Laurel's only opposition was the Allendale.

Damage to Industry Seen as Slighter

NEW YORK—"The damage" to the industry after a month of European war "will not be as bad as was feared at first," is the consensus of the *Wall St. Journal.*

"Roughly speaking," the article states, "companies dependent mainly on film income consider that Great Britain's gross is about equal to their profit. Loss of this would mean breaking even on operations with little or no net income. Correspondingly a decline of 20 to 30 per cent in income from Britain will mean a drop of about that amount in net earnings.

"But film executives point out," the view continues, "that in war time people crave amusement more than ever, and that all European production has been abandoned, leaving all world markets, both in America and in Europe, open to Hollywood films."

Stating there is room for economies if "Hollywood watches the pennies," the article observes "annual production budgets of $30,000,000 to $40,000,000 offer plenty of room for cutting down. It has never been easy for New York to persuade Hollywood to economize and consequently New York financial managements feel that the war may eventually prove a blessing in disguise, since the need for economizing is so obvious and stringent."

Economies are expected to take the form of lower executive salaries and fewer major films costing in the $1,500,000 to $2,000,000 range, it adds. "Films in the upper cost brackets are generally aimed at foreign rather than domestic markets and the curtailment of the export field will mean cutting down on this type of film."

Summing up, the article says: "Great Britain and its situation in war time is, of course, the key to the problem of current profits and obviously estimates of earnings at the moment can only be conjectures. It is regarded as probable that when things settle down, income from Great Britain will show a decline of 20 to 30 per cent. This is, of course, assuming that Britain is not demoralized by destructive air raids."

Institute Economies to Pare Operating Costs

NEW YORK — Strict economy measures have been instituted by all major and independent companies, both in the home office and the field, in an effort to pare operating costs in view of declining revenues from foreign markets.

Letters going out to the field stress the importance of eliminating waste and unnecessary expenses and encourage greater selling activity as a means of overcoming the temporary crisis resulting from the Second World War.

In some companies, top bracket executives have taken reductions in salaries. In another company the cuts were extended to other employes earning $90 a week.

Dismissals have been few and far between, the general feeling being to retain staffs so as not to impair the efficiency of the organizations.

More Attend Theatres In Germany

New York—Theatre business in Germany has picked up considerably since the inauguration of nightly blackouts, a New York Times dispatch from Berlin reveals. The UFA circuit for the week of September 12 to 18 reported an attendance of 1,152,000 against 973,000 for the same period last year. In Berlin 160,000 were reported to have gone to the theatres, compared with 126,000 last year.

$78,773 Monogram Net For Eight Months

NEW YORK—Monogram chalked up a net operating profit of $78,773.89 for the eight months ended July 1. For the 26-week period ended July 1, profit amounted to $41,541.21, according to W. Ray Johnston, president, who informed stockholders of the financial status of the company at the annual meeting. All officers were re-elected by the new board which now includes Steve Broidy, Boston franchise holder, and William B. Jaffe of the law firm of Rosenblatt and Jaffe, counsel for the company.

Budgets will be increased on all future pictures, Johnston added, and "we look forward with optimism to the coming season as one which should do much to advance Monogram's name in the industry."

No new financing plans are contemplated, it was stated, and the company is going after the South American market. Because Monogram is guaranteed a certain advance on each picture delivered against percentage, instead of operating on a strictly percentage basis, "the war will probably react less definitely on the company" in England, Johnston said.

The treasurership is still vacant. Leon Fromkess resigned the post some time ago.

Ben Goetz Due on Coast After Leaving Hospital

NEW YORK—Ben Goetz is expected to leave Doctor's Hospital in about a week or ten days. He underwent an operation last Thursday for gallstones. The M-G-M British production head had been forced to delay his return from England because of the illness. He recently arrived on the *Nieuw Amsterdam* and has been under a doctor's care since. His son, Hayes, has gone to the coast and will remain there until his father and mother arrive.

Shortly after Goetz leaves Doctor's Hospital, he will take a short vacation and then go to Hollywood to confer with Louis B. Mayer on future plans in England. Two pictures for Bob Montgomery, slated for production in London, have been switched to the coast. Fred Pelton, studio manager at Denham for Goetz, is now on the coast, as are Montgomery, Maureen O'Sullivan and Richard Thorpe, the latter the director.

Haggle Over Percentage Snag In Play Financing Huddles

NEW YORK—Present cropper in the negotiations for play financing between the representatives of the major companies and the Dramatists Guild is the amount of percentage for plays that run anywhere from five to 20 weeks.

Almost all points in the new plan, which would mark the resumption of Broadway financing by film companies, are agreed upon, with exception of those dealing with the amount of advance payment for the rights to a play and the percentage of weekly gross which producers would also pay for the rights.

Meetings are being held more frequently between both sides and indications are the argumentive issues will be ironed out before many weeks pass.

In the meantime, Warner is the only company actively participating in backing stage plays as a result of its financial interest in George Abbott productions.

Kent May Sue Metro and 20th-Fox for Product

FRENCHTOWN, N. J.—Hugh Kent, operator of the Barn, is considering legal action to force M-G-M and 20th-Fox to sell him product second run.

Kent, who also operates the Clinton Point, Clinton, N. J., opened the Barn in May, 1939, as a modern house at a cost of approximately $50,000. The house seats 440. He claims the Gem, which is booked by William Stern, was first seated as a theatre in 1933 and has first run, was built about 40 years ago. It has 300 seats. There is 14 days' clearance between the two houses.

Kent claims to have made representation to M-G-M and 20th-Fox representatives and says they continue to refuse him product on the ground the community's population of 1,350 does not warrant such deals. Kent refutes this with his contention that the second run films he shows from other majors outgross first runs from the same companies at the Gem.

Herman Feld Threatens Suit Over Clearance

NEWARK—Attorneys for Herman Feld, operator of the Treat, threaten to commence anti-trust proceedings against major distributors unless satisfaction is realized over Feld's demand for restoration of his run.

Feld bought the Treat in October, 1934, and for some time played 14 days after Warner's Regent. However, he claims, when the Broad, former legitimate house, was taken over and converted to films by David Weinstock, who books through Harry Brandt in New York, the Treat's clearance was pushed back to seven days after the Broad.

According to Feld's lawyers, attempts have been made to conciliate the matter, but exchange executives are said to claim the Treat's clearance has been vitiated because they have been unable to agree on terms for product with Feld.

Associated British Will Make Three in London

LONDON—Some sign of activity in production circles here is indicated by the announcement of John Maxwell, chairman of Associated British Productions, that the company will produce three for national release.

Response to Arbitration Followed Up by ITOA

NEW YORK—Members of the ITOA, at a regular meeting at the Hotel Astor, were told the organization is proceeding to determine the respective positions of the majority of local circuits who were asked to join in a move to set up an arbitration system encompassing the metropolitan area.

Although Harry Brandt, president, solicited commitments on his proposal more than two weeks ago, replies have been received from but three circuits, Prudential, Skouras and Cocalis, each of which are said to have asked for a clearer interpretation of the plan Brandt proposes. Laurence Bolognino and Leon Rosenblatt, with David Weinstock and Edward Peskay as alternates, comprise the committee that will seek to clarify Brandt's plan to those who declare an interest.

The session was devoted largely to new film buying, especially as to terms distributors are asking, but no conclusions were reached, it is said. A committee reported "progress" on labor negotiations with Local 306, projectionists' union, involving new terms for the ensuing year.

Vaude Is Begun in Five Feiber and Shea Units

NEW YORK—Feiber & Shea has adopted vaudeville in five theatres on a single day basis. The shows each consist of five acts booked from Lou Goldberg on a 10-week guarantee. The Schine, Comerford and Warner circuits have also reinstated the policy along the same lines.

F&S theatres playing the one-day stands are the Lyric, Lancaster; Auditorium, Newark, and Union, New Philadelphia, all in Ohio. The Weller, Zanesville, Ohio, plays one midnight show every other week.

Peace Plea for End of New "Road Back"

New York—Universal executives, after viewing a first print of the revised version of "The Road Back," have sent it back to the coast for a number of changes. Among the changes will be a new ending. It will be a plea for world peace.

BROADWAY

E C. GRAINGER, Frank J. A. McCarthy and Nat Fellman and Harry Kaplowitz, the latter two representing the Warner circuit, were among the sneak previewers at Loew's Dyckman for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" . . . Ben Roman, who has been a salesman with M-G-M and an exhibitor after that, is back in the selling end with Arthur Greenblatt at Alliance Films . . . Jimmy Durante opens next week at the Paramount for personal appearances . . . Cab Calloway and his colored band are bowling 'em over at the Windsor in the Bronx . . . Ralph Rolan has resigned from RKO . . . Arthur Willi, RKO talent scout, is in Chicago in the interests of new personalities . . . Ted O'Shea has finally shaken off that cold . . . Norman H. Moray, Warner short subject manager, has deferred his coast trip until January.

Bill White of the Skouras circuit is on a one-cigar-a-day diet, doctor's orders being what they are; so he now satisfies the urge by smoking Belinda Fancy Tales at 50 cents a throw . . . William LeBaron flew back to the coast Friday after a short vacation during which he saw a few shows and the first two World Series games . . . S. Charles Einfeld is expected from the coast within a fortnight . . . Bob Gillham made a quick trip to Detroit on the advance campaign for "Disputed Passage," which will be premiered there . . . Barney Balaban, Spyros Skouras, Joseph Bernhard, C. C. Moskowitz, Leon Netter, John O'Connor, W. G. Van Schmus, Irving Lesser, John C. Wright, Harry Brandt, George Skouras, Si Fabian, J. R. Springer, Fred Schwartz, Walter Vincent, Sam Rinzler, Walter Trumbull, Harry H. Buxbaum, Henry Walters, Harold Rodner, and others represented the industry at a luncheon tendered by the Will Rogers Memorial Commission. Checks totaling $50,000 *were disbursed to institutions specializing in the care of handicapped children. General Hugh S. Johnson, chairman of the Infantile Paralysis Campaign for New York, received a check for* $14,595.

Clothes Make the Man, Says Exhibitor

New York—Arthur S. Abeles, former local branch manager for Warner and now head of the company's Brazil office, is the owner of a thick black mustache since his last trip here. An exhibitor friend met him the other day on Filmrow and said: "Arthur, you're the Latin from Manhattan, if ever there was one."

Joe Hazen and Hi Levinson of the Warner legation, lunching at the Lobster the other day, called it slumming, no less . . . Harry Moskowitz, brother Arthur and a contingent from the Loew construction department, congregated at their table. Halsey Raines of the M-G-M publicity department chinned and chewed with an old newspaper friend at still another table . . . Jack L. Warner is in town on a very secretive trip, but he's not forgetting the various shows and sights . . . Ernst Lubitsch flew back to Hollywood to begin direction of "The Shop Around the Corner" for M-G-M, now that his wife and baby are back home safe from the other side . . . Marvin Schenck is another of the film executives who played hookey to see the opener in the World Series.

Bob Lynch, M-G-M district manager in Philadelphia, insists his visit Wednesday was strictly business and had nothing to do with the inaugural of the Series . . . Marie Wilson, who finished a week at Loew's State, is touring RKO houses here and in Cleveland . . . Ed Raftery has gone to the coast for a few weeks and will confer with Richard E. Dwight and other distributor counsel on answers in connection with the "Big Stick's" alleged contempt charges against FWC and majors . . . George West is all het up over his recent coast trip and says Monogram will put more money into future productions than ever before. He ridicules reports of the company's inactivity on the coast . . . Franklyn Warner has come on from the coast to discuss future production plans with E. W. Hammons and RKO home office attorneys . . . Paul Williams was due in from Washington but never showed up . . . Gracie Rosenfield, Hal Roach eastern talent scout and publicity head, has moved into smaller living quarters. About six months ago she lost her mother and was left with a large apartment on her hands. But now that is among past memories.

Neil F. Agnew, J. J. Unger, C. C. Moskowitz and Gene Picker made a rare foursome together the other day at Bob Goldstein's Tavern with Agnew in fine fettle and up to snuff on his gags . . . James R. Grainger has closed with Si Fabian and Sam Rosen for Republic product in the Fabian string of houses . . . William Yoost is interested with Randforce in the new 1,650-seat house, the Clinton, being constructed in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn. Louis Frisch says the house will be opened the end of November. And while on the subject of Frisch, his daughter Sylvia became Mrs. Theodore Barnett, he be-



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo



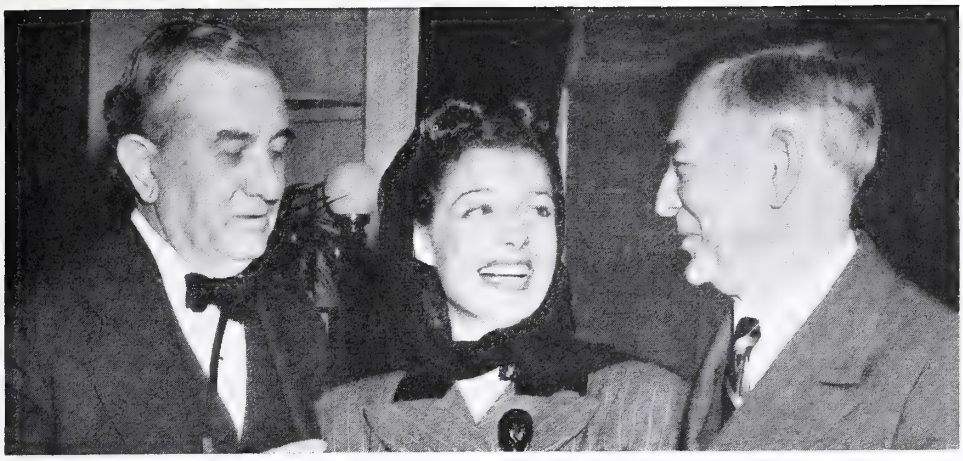
—Metropolitan Photo



—Metropolitan Photo

Back From Abroad and Glad of It—

Smiles reflect the pleasure of these three couples being together again on home soil when the Nieuw Amsterdam *brought back from England Sam and Mrs. Sax (left), Mrs. Ernst Lubitsch, who was met at the pier by her director-husband, who journeyed all the way from Hollywood for the event (center), and Ben and Mrs. Goetz. Sax has been in charge of British production for Warner. Mrs. Lubitsch had been vacationing abroad, while Goetz has been M-G-M production chieftain in England. The Lubitsch baby, it will be remembered, was among the survivors of the ill-fated* Athenia. *Goetz has been ill for some time and had delayed his homecoming. He is now being treated by doctors here.*



"Oomph" to the Senate—

And checkmate to neutrality legislation were achieved simultaneously when Ann Sheridan visited the capitol. Her escorts: Senator Tom Connally of Texas, left, and Senator Key Pittman of Nevada.

ing a doctor of medicine, Sunday at the Eighth Ave. Temple in Brooklyn, with 500 attending the ceremonies . . . Manny Reiner has gone to Scranton to exploit Monogram's "Mutiny in the Big House" and from there heads for Reading. He'll be gone three weeks . . . It is Joel Levy's son who is the photographer and not Ben Joel, who maintains he's still in the bachelor category.

Sig Witman advises the Metro, Bronx, will open Wednesday, and the former Congress, now the Ace, a week later . . . Elizabeth Hoffman, the local M-G-M booking clerk, has a double thrill coming to her when she leaves for the coast Thursday to attend the World's Fair and visit the M-G-M studio as guest of the company. She hasn't seen her brother, who resides in Los Angeles, for 15 years . . . Arthur Hirsch, the Canadian exhibitor, is in town on one of his periodic visits. Arthur hasn't been around these parts for some time . . . Milton Weiss, genial M-G-M publicist, has been down with la grippe . . . Buddy Markus, librarian for M-G-M, is bubbling with joy over the success of her cousin, Don Richards, who is appearing at El Patio Supper Club, in the swanky Chase Hotel in St. Louis. He also is set for an important role in the Grand Opera Co. show there . . . George Daws, former World-Telegram *columnist and more recently publicist for Samuel Goldwyn and Warner, passed away at the age of 38 . . . Moe Grassgreen, 20th-Fox Albany manager, has been in town on business and is now back at his headquarters.*

Jack Cohn, Ned Depinet, John J. O'Connor, Larry Kent, Abe Schneider, Eddie Zabel, Aubrey Schenck, John Benas, Leon Rosenblatt, Marvin Schenck, Ernie Emerling, Fred Schwartz, Joe Miller, Gene, Leonard and Arnold Picker, Abe Montague, Louis Weinberg, Louis Astor, Max Weisfeldt, Leo Abrams, Louis Weber, Jay Wren, Hortense Schorr, Hank Kaufman, Joe McConville, Nat Cohn and Jack Hattem among those who managed to get into Loew's Dyckman for a sneak preview of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Joe Feldhun, manager of Loew's Premier, Brooklyn, is suffering from a nervous breakdown . . . Cresson E. Smith, RKO's southern and western sales manager, is on a tour of exchanges . . . Nat Wachsberger, general manager of Film Alliance; Norman Elson and Nat Sanders made a swing of key cities in connection with openings of "Torpedoed" . . . Angie Ratto, manager of Loew's Palace, Washington, celebrated his 24th year with the circuit . . . Believe it or not—Bill Ripley, theatre operator of Kelso and Longview, Wash., which is about 3,200 miles no matter how straight the crow flies, was one of the first arrivals, with Mrs. R., for the World's Series . . . H. M. Richey, exhibitor relations contact for RKO, has returned from the Allied convention in Kalamazoo . . . Gertrude Gelbin, editor of Loew's Weekly, *is convalescing from a serious operation and is almost well enough to return to her desk.*

John Balaban, Morris Leonard, Walter Immerman and J. J. Rubens from Chicago; Vincent McFaul, Buffalo; Earl Hudson, Detroit, among Paramount theatre partner executives in town for home office conferences . . . R. E. Griffith is still about . . . Ben Amdur of the Garden, Pittsburgh, a visitor with Edgar Wallace Aaron at M-G-M . . . David O. Selznick is setting up an itinerary that will take him through numerous key cities for a national survey designed to tabulate audience reaction to Ingrid Bergman, starred in "Intermezzo, a Love Story." Selznick calls the junket a vacation . . . Gary Cooper has returned to the coast to assume the lead role in "The Outlaw" . . . Pathe News Cameraman Neil Sullivan took the Clipper for France, where he is on a roving assignment for war material . . . Jane Withers, Bruce Cabot, Spencer Tracy, Groucho Marx among Hollywoodians gracing the local scene.

Len Daly, leading golf fiend of Arthur W. Kelly's foreign squadron at UA, on Saturday played in what could and should be the first and last intercontinental golf match between two opponents playing simultaneously in Buenos Aires and New York. Last August, Daly arranged with Guy P. Morgan, UA manager for Argentina, who was then in town, to play a match on October 7, the date Morgan would be back at his headquarters. The agreement was that each would submit his score for an 18-hole round to the other, so that comparisons could be made and the winner of the match determined. Daly posted an 88 at the Bayside Country Club, Saturday, with eight pars and a birdie. His opponent, and witness, was C. W. Baldock. Morgan's opponent was expected to be Clemente Lococo, Buenos Aires circuit owner. Daly mailed his card to Morgan and is awaiting the latter's score to determine the winner of the first "hands-across-the-sea" golf match.

Jack Cohn and Hal Hode laughed out loud at the Ziegfeld during the preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade" when screen mention was made of Dave Spingold. Nate Spingold wasn't around to hear the names called the film actor and the betting is five to one he'll make a rush for the first Roxy screening . . . Mary Martin is back on the Main Stem rehearsing for a Broadway show . . . Marc Lachman, formerly with Universal and 20th-Fox, has gone back to his first love, publicity for Broadway shows. He's handling two Buddy G. DeSylva musicals . . . John Balaban has

(Continued on page 26-H)



—Metropolitan Photo

The Americas Meet—

Two Venezuelan exhibitors, Gustavo Murillo, Barcelona, and Miss Judith Alvarado, Barquisimeto, who operate jointly 14 theatres, photographed (at the left) with R. K. Hawkinson (center), Latin American division manager, Miss Gluck, a friend of the exhibitors who will accompany them on their motor tour to Hollywood, and Ben Y. Cammack, assistant general export manager for RKO. The camera focusing was done in the RKO World's Fair lounge.

Minority Stockholders Suit Faces 20th-Fox

NEW YORK—Joseph Nemerov, who was one of the legal battery representing minority stockholders in the Loew suit and now has a similar action pending against Paramount, has instituted a third film suit, this time on behalf of Millie Zimm and Annie Kopple, with the defendant 20th Century-Fox.

Nemerov attacks the deal made for the acquisition of Pictures, Inc., which was better known as 20th Century Productions, and owned by Joseph M. Schenck, Darryl F. Zanuck and William Goetz; Sidney R. Kent's contract and stock options; the GB deal by which 20th-Fox sold half its interest to Loew's for $3,500,000; various other transactions by executives of the company and, finally, the deal for purchase of William Fox's holdings.

Metro Counsel Rebuked In Plagiarism Hearing

NEW YORK—"You people talk about expense and yet spend millions on all sorts of fancy things," Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard told M-G-M counsel at a hearing for an application by the producer to dismiss a $1,000,000 plagiarism action by Dolores Lacy Collins, author of "Test Pilot," which she claims was plagiarized. The action was tossed out several months ago by Federal Judge Coxe, but the latter was reversed by the circuit court of appeals which remanded the suit to federal court for a new hearing. The case is number 23 on the reserve list and despite pleas by M-G-M and Loew counsel that they are not prepared at this time, the judge declined to listen to arguments for a delay.

Tax Assessment Excessive Is Paramount's Charge

NEW YORK—Paramount has filed suit in supreme court against William Stanley Miller, president of the tax commission here and six members of the board, charging they were over-assessed $30,000 on two pieces of property.

The property consists of a film exchange on West 44th St., which was assessed at $135,000 unimproved, and $220,000 improved, and a film laboratory on West 43rd St., assessed at $65,000 unimproved, and $135,000 improved. Hearing on Paramount's applications for a reduction was set for November 6 by Judge Aaron Levy.

Allied of N. Y. Internal Dispute May Be Topic

BUFFALO—The internal dispute raging within the ranks of Allied of New York will probably be a topic of discussion at the meeting of the MPTO, which President A. C. Hayman has called for October 9 at the Variety Club. National President Ed Kuykendall will be the principal speaker.



For Eastern Holiday—

Having finished a number of pictures, Mervyn LeRoy is in town on his first vacation since joining M-G-M. With him is his wife, the former Doris Warner.

A Consolidated Bill In Schine Action

NEW YORK—Defense attorneys in the anti-trust action brought by the "Big Stick" against the Schine circuit and major distributors will present a consolidated motion for bills of particulars which distributors are seeking when the hearing before Judge John T. Knight gets under way in Buffalo, October 10. The lawyers decided on this approach rather than present individual motions for each company.

Decision Soon on Fields Demand for Better Run

NEW YORK—A decision is expected to be made Monday by distributors and George Skouras of the Skouras circuit on the complaint by Jack Fields of the Cameo, Jersey City, N. J., for a better run. The independent exhibitor has threatened an anti-trust action unless clearances on his theatre are altered and moved up to a reasonable playing period after Skouras and Warner houses. Tom Connors, eastern M-G-M division head; Henderson M. Richey, RKO exhibitor contact; Skouras and other distributors are understood to have met during the past few days to change the setup as it affects the Cameo.

Orange Anti-Trust Suit Starts in Two Weeks

NEW YORK—Trial in the Orange county anti-trust suit, instituted in Newburgh July, 1937, is expected to get under way in district court here in about two weeks. The action seeks damages of $75,000, charging violation of the Sherman Act as it involves plaintiff's Academy.

S-W to Set Double Bills in Philly

PHILADELPHIA—Inauguration of double features in some Stanley-Warner neighborhood houses appears to be definitely decided.

Opening date of the policy hasn't been set yet, a Warner spokesman said. The policy will be confined to those spots where "competition from theatres presenting duals is so keen as to force us to follow suit," he said.

At the same time he denied a report in one of the trade journals that the center-city house, the Capitol, which has been running three-hour shows, would now go in for double features. No theatre in the center-city zone will adopt the policy, he asserted.

Prospect of the new policy has independent theatre owners worried. Although there have been moves to discontinue duallers here, the exhibitors who used them defended the practice by saying it was their only way of making up for the "age" of their pictures because of the clearance advantages of the S-W houses. Now this last palliative will be taken from them, they complain.

S-W houses in this territory have never played duals. Indeed, Philadelphia was not considered double-feature territory until a recent increase in the practice, attributed in part to the outlawing of Bingo games.

Seymour Bagatelle Named D. M. by Walter Reade

NEW YORK—With the resignation of E. Reisler to go into the hotel supply business in Florida, Seymour Bagatelle, former booker and district manager for the Morse & Rothenberg circuit in Boston, has been named district manager for the Walter Reade circuit in New York with headquarters at the City. Reisler is a son-in-law of Moe Streimer, UA home office representative, located at the local exchange.

H. Van Vorst, manager of the St. James in Asbury Park, has been transferred to the Savoy, New York, with the resignation of Glendon Redden. Malcolm Marshall, Paramount manager, is now at the St. James. R. Mooney, Lyric manager, has taken over Marshall's former duties. M. Kennedy, assistant manager of the Community, Morristown, N. J., has been switched to the Lyric, Asbury Park.

Examination Substitute For Particulars Bill

NEW YORK—Taking the place of a bill of particulars by agreement, S. Robert Putterman and Benjamin Green, officers of Lenrose Amusement Co., which operated a Newark theatre, have been examined by Louis Phillips, Paramount attorney, in his offices. All distributors are defendants in the action which seeks damages totaling $150,000 for alleged violation of the anti-trust laws. The plaintiffs claim they were forced out of business because of failure to obtain product.

Buenos Aires Ahead On Its "Reforms"

BUENOS AIRES — Representatives of American companies report "some progress" toward the solution of the multiple feature programs which characterizes exhibition in subsequent situations in this territory.

The problem and others, including failure of exhibitors to play features on a consecutive day policy and on a percentage basis, received a thorough airing at a recent session here. Walter Gould, UA's Latin American supervisor, who is on his way to the States, presided over the meeting.

Complete accord, it is understood, is still lacking. M-G-M's Dave Lewis is now in New York, where he will probably seek approval of the plan evolved to meet the situation. Twentieth-Fox also is awaiting word from the home office.

No Active Building in Argentine, Is Report

NEW YORK—There is no active theatre building going on in the Argentine and the country can stand more construction, Arthur S. Abeles, head of the Brazil office for Warner, states. He estimates from 1,000 to 1,200 theatres are in Brazil and not all of them are open. Abeles, who formerly was local branch manager for the same company in this territory, has been spending about a month here renewing acquaintances and sails October 20 on the *Argentine* for Rio de Janeiro, where he headquarters.



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Past and Present—

Sam E. Morris, left, retiring Warner foreign head, shakes hands with Joseph S. Hummel, his successor. This picture was taken early in August when Morris sailed for Brazil. He returned recently in ill health, the reason for his resignation.



—Metropolitan Photo

Here and Away—

Merle Oberon, greeted by Mannie Silverstone, American representative for Alexander Korda, as she arrived from England aboard the Nieuw Amsterdam. *She left immediately for the coast and a role in a film for Samuel Goldwyn.*

Sol Sachs Is Expecting Upturn in Southwest

NEW YORK—Theatre grosses are normal but an upturn is expected, states Sol Sachs, southwestern RKO district manager, on his arrival here after a visit to Dallas and other key cities. He added patrons in the southwest are action-minded and there is a tone of optimism prevailing among theatremen in his territory.

Heineman Reports Business In the West Mounting

NEW YORK—Theatre business is picking up, states William Heineman, western division sales head, who has returned from an extensive trip through the west on behalf of Universal. He adds other industries also are perking up and cites as an example the difficulty in trying to book passage on planes which now are carrying extensive air express shipments making it necessary, in many cases, to line up plane bookings days in advance of departure.

Bunn Quits Erpi; G. M. For Wire Broadcasting

NEW YORK—C. W. Bunn has been appointed general manager of Wire Broadcasting Corp. of America. He was formerly general sales manager for Erpi and was identified with some of the earliest talking films while with Warner.

Herman Lewis Rites

NEW YORK—Funeral services preparatory to final interment were held for Herman Lewis, father of M-G-M's manager for Argentine, at Schwartz's funeral parlor. The death occurred in South America with the burial taking place here.

New Japanese Import Permits Discussed

NEW YORK—Question of new import permits for the American companies in Japan is still under discussion there, reports Del Goodman, 20th-Fox's Far Eastern manager.

Goodman, who was here for a few days for home office talks, left over the weekend for the coast where he sails for the Orient aboard the *President Coolidge*, October 17.

It is difficult to predict how the government will act in the extension of permits, Goodman feels. He points out details of the new motion picture law, which was passed by the Diet, have yet to be revealed.

Despite revenue restrictions and censorship in the Far East, Goodman estimates 20th-Fox's business in the Far East is ahead of last year. At present, Japan is leading the company's overseas sales drive with other countries in Goodman's territory showing up favorably.

Manila, a city of approximately 600,000 population has been hard hit by municipal taxation, Goodman states. Levies on first-run houses amount to 2,360 pesos (peso equals approximately 50 cents), 1,640 on second-run houses and 308 on third-run situations, plus a 10 per cent insular tax.

Other countries in Goodman's territory reflect changing world conditions. Censorship has been strictly applied in Hong Kong and Singapore. The Japanese have increased duties on imports to Shanghai by 50 per cent. Serious flood conditions in the Tientsin area have just about crippled operations there, he concludes.



—Metropolitan Photo

Dodges the Subs—

Here for a major role in RKO Radio's "Vigil in the Night," Julien Mitchell, English actor, got to these shores abroad the S. S. Manhattan *which warily ploughed the Atlantic lane.*

Two Exhibitor Units Contend for Code

(Continued from page 26-A)

method. Other majors, however, are limiting arbitration to the contracts themselves with the general understanding clearances and overbuying do not come within the sphere of arbitration under the contracts.

Majors Invited to Dallas

DALLAS—Invitations to general sales managers of all companies will be extended by Allied of Texas for the 20th annual convention to be held here at the Baker Hotel. Leading circuit executives also will be asked to attend, as well as Allied leaders. Col. H. A. Cole is president of the local as well as the national organization.

Claims That Syracuse Meet Foreshadowed Dissension

NEW YORK—That dissension within the ranks of Allied of New York was foreshadowed in July, 1938, in Syracuse is claimed by a member who declares sentiment has been growing steadily since that time and may "come to a showdown" over establishment of a unit to affiliate with national Allied.

Meanwhile, charges and counter charges are being hurled between the regular membership lined up behind Max Cohen, president, and a minority group seeking ties with national Allied as the entire New York state organization is preparing to convene in Syracuse, October 17, to settle the issues.

E. Thornton Kelly, who has been released from his duties as executive secretary of Allied of New York, and who is spokesman for the minority group, claims that a meeting he was requested to call at Syracuse, October 3, at the instance of the board of directors, showed a strong willingness to align with the national organization, from which Allied of New York was expelled for being unsympathetic toward its policies. At the session were Sidney Samuelson, Frank Lydon, Lee Newbury and Arthur Howard, among others. The four named are members of national Allied.

Cohen contends the general membership is out of tune with the minority group's views and is not disposed to dominance by an "inner circle," the reference being to Col. H. A. Cole, president, and Abram F. Myers, board chairman. He is of the opinion that "Colonel Cole was afraid New York Allied was becoming too important and would overshadow national Allied," which led to the expulsion proceedings. "The inference is plain," says Cohen, "in that a stupid parent attempts to spank a smart child because the parent is stymied."

Kelly says statements being issued by Cohen are coming from a "poisoned mind." Beyond that he disclaims any desire to be drawn into a personal controversy. He insists, however, that neither he nor the members he has spoken to regard his dismissal from New York Allied as "official." Kelly declares it "is not for one man," meaning Cohen, to expel an officer. "Allied of New York always had clean hands," he asserts, "and I don't want to dirty mine now."

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 26-E)

been around town during the week, presumably on the UA deal, among others.

Larry Waterman, Nate Blumberg's secretary, has been spending weekends touring New England . . . Joe Seidelman is over his hay fever . . . Leo Pillot has been exploiting for RKO and recently returned from Scranton where he worked on the opening of "Nurse Edith Cavell" . . . Eleanor M. Paradeis of the Pam-O-Film Exchange in Buffalo has been in town on independent product deals and conferring with Joe Malcolm, Louis Geller's partner . . . Louis K. Sidney is due to return to these parts in the next few weeks, having produced a few musicals for M-G-M following the windup of the "Good News"-M-G-M tieup . . . Louis Irwin wants it known he has moved his offices from the Paramount Bldg. to 522 Fifth Ave.

J. J. Milstein, eastern representative for Edward Small, returns from coast conferences with the producer Monday . . . Leonard Picker, Columbia attorney, had a cist in his left ear removed . . . Harry Kosch, Allied of New York attorney, is minus 22 pounds since he was hit with a protracted siege of illness . . . Frank Helton has resigned from Loew's home ofice advertising department to return to the department store field . . . Isabel Austin, secretary to Homer Harmon at the Roxy, is looking up southern resort time table schedules . . . Ditto Fay Rothman, "Uncle" Lou Weinberg's secretary . . . Ralph Nelson, Paramount business manager, is en route from the coast for a vacation. He's making stops at Washington and Charlottesville, Va., where he will join his wife, Virginia Van Upp, Paramount writer.

Carl Leserman, Warner's assistant sales manager, was in Los Angeles on a business trip . . . Myer Beck has established his office in the Selznick-International headquarters now that Russell Birdwell is again publicizing SI product . . . Mindful of the proverbial paper hanger with the itch is Al Selig, who is covering a heap of territory in connection with his timely "Maginot Line" film . . . Bernie Kranze, RKO's Albany manager, delayed his return until Wednesday . . . Ray Bell was in town from Washington making plans for dedication of the first Pullman car to be named after a theatrical celebrity—the "Marcus Loew" —honoring the late founder of Loew's . . . The Mervyn LeRoys are in town from the coast. Ditto Irving Brecher, scenarist of the forthcoming Marx Bros. opus.

H. A. and C. B. Ross of Ross Federal Service are touring the middle west on an examination of economic situations in various branch cities as far as Omaha . . . Louis Azrael, Baltimore *Post* columnist, lunching with Oscar Doob, Art Schmidt and Ernie Emerling . . . Lionel Toll, editor of the IOTA's *The Independent*, is doubling as publicist for William Brandt's new vaudeville shows . . . Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara, who are starred in "Jamaica Inn," are scheduled to make personal appearances a few days following the film's premiere at the Rivoli . . . Eddie Cantor and his radio revue are booked for a week at Loew's Metropolitan, Brooklyn, beginning October 19 . . . Marge Hendrickson, Stanton Griffis' secretary, is now Mrs. John Clarke. The knotting took place on the coast, during Griffis' honeymoon in Europe.

Spyros Skouras is becoming quite a wit these days, taking reporters by surprise, but not Jack Sullivan, Bill Powers, Aubrey Schenck, Milt Hossfeld and Eddie Zabel, who probably encourage the National Theatres head . . . Pete Dana, Universal district manager with headquarters in Kansas City, says he's been playing golf with Ben Shlyen, publisher of BOXOFFICE, *but he refuses to comment on the score . . . Al O'Keefe, coast district manager for the same outfit, on his way back to Los Angeles, stopped off at Denver for a checkup . . . Lou Golding, Albany district manager for Fabian, was in town early in the week and was seen lunching with Si Fabian and Sam Rosen about three p. m. The reason was that Fabian's father, making a periodical trip from Paterson, where he resides, entertained the boys with historical background on the business.*

Max Cohen of the Paras-Court, Brooklyn, not to be confused with the Allied of New York of the same name, made an appearance around Filmrow the other day without his side kick, Louis Goidel. Cohen looked forlorn and, asked the reason, explained Goidel couldn't be with him that day because of a complaint by a patron. As Cohen tells it, the complaining patron objected to sitting alone in the theatre so Goidel was keeping him company. Anythink to keep the patrons happy . . . Bill Rodgers spent the week in Chicago on routine business.

Up early the following morn to meet the Manhattan *crowded with anxious Americans . . . Roger Clement of the Paramount legal staff, perspiring and still somewhat nervous over the trip . . . Director Tim Whelan, who recently completed "The Thief of Bagdad" for Korda. He also made "Clouds Over Europe" and "Divorce of Lady X." His wife was there to meet him and the pair left for a short trip to Washington. Somewhat unnoticed in the general excitement was Julien Mitchell, noted English character, who left for the coast immediately to appear in RKO's "Vigil in the Night." Joe Hepner performed double duty as photographer and official greeter in place of the RKO lads . . . Surprise passenger was 10-month-old Liza Buckley Dietz, Howard Dietz's daughter. Little Liza, guarded by her governess, watched the proceedings with admirable composure . . . Milton Weiss was on hand to supervise custom's inspection for the youngest passenger of them all.*

Surprise pair of arrivals on the 20th Century were Jules Rubens of the Great Lakes circuit of Chicago and L. J. Schlaifer of UA . . . William J. Kupper will be in Denver for another week while W. C. Gehring is visiting Toronto . . . William Sussman moved into a new home in Yonkers on Thursday . . . Bageles are Thomas

(Continued on page 26-L)

PHILADELPHIA

SWIVEL-CHAIR athletes of the theatre world had a chance to feel like real stars at the Variety Club's golf tournament at the Lulu Country Club. There were 80 contestants, 60 prizes. It was hard to lose. E. M. Hartley, National Theatres, made the lowest net score, followed by Harry Ball, E. O. Wilske, Altec, and Donald Seaholtz of Chambersburg. Lowest gross score turned in by Eddie Dunn, censor board, with James Pratt, Warner, Washington, second. Fred Kogod, Washington, carried off honors as the worst on the links. Even ladies came in for prizes—door prizes, to Mrs. Sid Samuelson, Margo Merrill and Mrs. Sam Stiefel. The Horlacher contingent came off with three trophies, captured by Oscar Neufeld, Larry Dailey and Bill Clark.

Vine Streeters are worried at the report City Controller Robert C. White is cooking up a tax on existing film contracts which either the exchange or the exhibitor would have to pay . . . May Borden, pretty 20th-Fox miss, is showing off a four-carat diamond ring, engagement token from Herb Effinger, formerly of the Chamberlain circuit . . . Al Goodwin, Quality Premiums, will be married next June, rumor-mongers say . . . Murray Diamond, Metro Premiums, is a baby member of the Variety Club . . . Stanley-Warner is putting new marquees on many of its houses.

Joseph W. Stokvis, National Screen representative here, jumped into his car the other day, and headed for New York in answer to a wire that his wife had just presented him with an heir. Half way there he was pinched for speeding . . . Special screenings for exhibitors are being revived. Twentieth-Fox screened "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Commodore, and now Columbia will show "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at the Uptown . . . The rodeo pulled out of town after a disastrous five days' stay which consisted mostly of rain and caused a reported $8,000 loss. Exhibitors didn't grieve about this end of competition. Publicity man for the hapless show was George Fishman, Republic.

International Pictures, Inc., operated by Wilson Turner, brother of John Turner, Warner, will open an office with Clark Films, and will release through them . . . Another new outfit to release through Clark is Vedis Films and Select Attractions of New York . . . Sid Samuelson, Allied, and George P. Aarons, UMPTO, sat on the same rostrum to address the Women's Clubs Cinema Group at a luncheon . . . Sam Rosen and Bill Porter, Monogram, are getting a pat on the back for their striking window photomontage for "Mutiny in the Big House" . . . John McGee, Lion, Red Lion, attracted a lot of attention—and patrons—with a hair style contest for "The Women." Girls paraded across the stage for prizes.

Bob Lynch, Metro chief, went off to New York for a home office confab . . . His Girl Friday, Florence Averell, celebrated acquisition of a new hair-do and a visit from her Florida aunt, by taking aunt and hair-do to the World's Fair. They got rained out . . . Joe Morrow is out of the hospital and has gone home to recuperate . . . Eddie Aarons, Metro home office, was in town for the golf tournament . . . Ada Norvick, secretary to Ben Hayney, is mourning the death of a brother in New York . . . The Metroites say they're all Garbo rooters again after a screening of "Ninotchka."

Dick Raesly, Imperial-Second, and Dominic Lucente, Alhambra, are trying to outscare each other with "spook shows," which are made up of a combination of hair-raising features, teeth-chattering shorts and ghostly stage effects . . . Roy Robbins, Karlton, got window and counter displays placed all along Chestnut street for "The Wizard of Oz" . . . Iz Wiernik, Strand, had a top-hatted gent push a baby carriage around town to ballyhoo "Bachelor Mother." A local gossip columnist pointed out that the gentleman was an unemployed bachelor himself, who didn't know any more about handling babies than did Ginger Rogers in the picture.

Al Reh, Stanley, arranged book displays in 13 United Cigar stores for "Stanley and Livingstone" . . . Bill Lafferty's popsicle giveaway at the Liberty, Tacony, during a kiddie matinee brought a record-breaking attendance . . . Max Kuperstein, S-W manager, has been named member of the Felton Parent-Teachers Ass'n . . . Lou Davidoff's S-W district has started formation of kiddie clubs in every theatre . . . The Prince, Ambridge, invited 18 safety patrolmen from a nearby school for a special preview of a Gene Autry film. The word-of-mouth brought a big turnout.

Max Miller, William Goldman's bally talker at the News, has been named to the same job for the whole eastern Pennsylvania Goldman circuit . . . Dick Mayers, Studio, is proud to work there after the renovations . . . 20th-Fox exchange held a rally, attended by exhibitors, in connection with the selling drive. Talks were made by M. A. Levy, William Sussman, Al Davis, Sam Gross and Edgar Moss . . . The Variety Clubbers elect officers this week . . . Herman Comer, Capitol, boosted "Million Dollar Legs" with a silk stocking prize contest.

"Intermezzo" Opens To Huge Gross

New York—The opening day at the Music Hall of "Intermezzo" grossed $14,501, the highest for any opening Selznick picture with the exception of "Nothing Sacred," which had a Thanksgiving Day premiere, according to United Artists, which adds that the picture's opening was the highest gross of this year at the Music Hall.

Pommer East October 16 With Production Plans

NEW YORK—Erich Pommer returns from the coast October 16 at which time it is expected he will announce his plans for a production deal with one of the major companies. Pommer, whose Mayflower pictures are being released here by Paramount, has also been dickering with RKO.

Philly Allied Plans Rental Hike Probe

PHILADELPHIA—A committee has been appointed by the local Allied unit to quiz all exchanges on the why of the increases in film rentals this season and also why local exhibitors allegedly are being charged higher rates than exhibitors in other territories. It consists of Dave Barrist, chairman; Michael Lessy, Sid Samuelson, Dave Milgram, Milton Rogasner and Al Fischer.

Observers report what almost amounts to a "buying strike" among Philadelphia exhibitors, who hope thereby to force a decrease in rentals. The delay in signing contracts has not been organized by an organization or group, as far as is known. But it is a fact that exhibitors are going in heavily for pictures from small exchanges and for revivals. Many also are taking advantage of their rights to pictures they rejected under last year's contracts and are now calling for those pictures.

At an Allied meeting, Sid Samuelson commented on the widespread hopes for a business boom as a result of the war and expressed the belief theatres will see no such revival as occurred at the start of World War I.

Ban on "Emergency Seals" Brings Philly Protests

PHILADELPHIA—Exchange managers are up in arms over a new ruling by the state censor board which will cost them plenty of dollars.

The ruling abolishes the "emergency seal" privilege whereby an exchange could get O. K.-seals for prints to be used in only one booking for 25 cents each. The regular price for the seal of approval is $2 a reel; an eight-reel picture costs $16. Now if an eight-reeler should be shipped temporarily from New York to fill out some booking, the full price would be charged instead of a quarter.

A protest meeting will be held by all exchange managers this week at the Vitagraph office.

E. C. Grainger Chain Pact Is Extended

NEW YORK—E. C. Grainger, who resigned as eastern district manager of 20th-Fox in 1936 to join the Feiber & Shea circuit as general manager under a ten-year contract, has signed an additional agreement extending this pact five years.

Chicago's Mayor Kelly Declares a Film Week

CHICAGO—In celebration of the industry's golden jubilee, Mayor Edward J. Kelly dedicated the week of October 6 as film week in this city.

New Front and Marquee

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.—A new front and marquee have been installed on the Rialto Theatre here, according to Manager C. Garbarino.

Spot Pickup Signs In Albany Area

By M. BERRIGAN

ALBANY—Encouraging signs of a box-office lift in the local territory are seen by salesmen and other exchange representatives, although they concede that many exhibitors still are complaining. It is obvious to them, however, that some situations are picking up.

Two cities near Albany where employment rolls have been swelled as a result of the government's expanded armament program are Watervliet and Schenectady. The Watervliet arsenal, where work is done mainly on large guns, has been taking on men for months. The number added is reported to be around 1,000. Arsenal employes are well paid, their jobs calling for a high degree of skill. The three theatres in Watervliet, those in Troy (across the river) and several in other neighboring towns should benefit from the surge at the arsenal. At the height of the last war it had a payroll of $100,000 weekly.

Schenectady, home of the General Electric Co., already has received sizeable government contracts. The latest to GE are two for $1,171,355 worth of airplane and artillery parts. The GE has for some time been doing national defense contract work, especially on turbines for the navy. It has the facilities to handle many types of orders and could employ thousands more to meet both war and regular business demands. Schenectady's second largest concern is the American Locomotive Co., which has not operated on a full time basis in recent years. It might, with a war boom.

Factory Payrolls Boom

Factory employment and payroll increases have been noted since late July in the Utica district and in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area, according to the state labor department. Utica was second only to New York City, and the tri-city area followed Utica, with an employment jump of four per cent and a payroll hike of 4.6 per cent, in August over July. Underwear factories in Cohoes have been beneficiaries of government orders. Moreover, there are many others of various kinds within a 100-mile radius of Albany which could profit from orders directly or indirectly due to war conditions. Utica is the site of a Savage Arms Co. plant, and Ilion, also in the Mohawk Valley, of a Remington Arms factory. The state labor department reports employment in construction industries advanced 7.2 per cent from July 15 to August 15, with an even larger increase in payrolls. Barge canal traffic also has been on the upbeat.

Near the Canadian border, but within territory served by Albany exchanges, three spots which have been or could be affected by a heavy industry boom are Massena, Port Henry-Mineville, and Lyon Mountain. The Aluminum Co. of America plant at Massena is now said to be working three shifts daily. Lyon Mountain, where ore is extracted, has been working a large force recently. It has no theatre, but the iron company books pictures for Sunday night in an auditorium. Port Henry and nearby Mineville have deposits of the highest grade ore. The Republic Steel Co. now operates there. There are theatres in both communities.

ALBANY

HARVEY NEWLAND has reduced operating time at Firemen's Hall in Windham, Catskill Mountain town, to two days, or one change weekly . . . Mrs. L. J. Van Buren has cut the playing days at the Van Buren Theatre, Cairo, also in the Catskills. Both changes are seasonal.

Welden Waters is undisputed champion cigar smoker on Filmrow. The Paramount salesman regularly consumes 25 heaters a day and on occasion has puffed at 35 . . . Ben Smith, Albany territory salesman for Hollywood Exchange of Buffalo, suffered the miseries from an "all over" cold.

Charley Smakwitz, Warner Theatre district manager, hopped to Washington to see Nate Sauber. That former Universal manager in Albany and more recently Universal boss in the nation's capital, was very ill in a hospital . . . Clarence Goodemote, who operates the Cozy in Broadalbin, also is tax collector in that Mohawk Valley village.

Rossi Brothers, of Strand Theatre, Schroon Lake, were on Filmrow. Another Adirondack Mountain operator visiting local exchanges was Phil Baroudi of North Creek and Indian Lake . . Mrs A. Becker's Strand, Long Lake, is reported to be operating Friday and Saturday, under a fall-winter schedule.

Bill Clark, of Fort Covington and Waddington, on Filmrow and telling of exchange—m o n e y, not film—difficulties along the Canadian border . . . Johnny Milligan presented Jake and Carl, WGY entertainers, as an added attraction at the Broadway, Schuylerville . . . Arthur J. Newman, Republic manager, has been in New York on a Fabian deal.

William E. Smalley, head of the Smalley circuit, and Steve Tarbell were on Filmrow. Smalley comes to Albany from Cooperstown several times a year, principally to arrange bookings . . . Seth Fields, Schine booker, and Allen Jones, Connery booker, visited Filmrow exchanges. Fields has been a frequent caller here since he succeeded Bill Kraemer, now in charge of the Schine Washington office.

Stanley Goldberg, Columbia booker, birthdayed. Friends enjoyed merry moments at a party in his Watervliet home . . . Lew Weinberg, Columbia home office representative, was here with Branch Boss Joe Miller on a sales mission.

Clarence Dopp, operator of theatres in Johnstown and other Mohawk Valley towns, was a Filmrow visitor. Ditto Morris Shulman of the Club, Clarks Mills, and the Vernon, Vernon. Also District Manager Stowell of Morse circuit, Boston. Stowell's headquarters are in Poughkeepsie. He supervises the Colonial and Utica in the Albany territory; a Pittsfield, Mass. house, and Elizabeth, N. J., among spots away from his base.

Bernard H. Mills, formerly associated with Jack Berkowitz of Buffalo, as Republic upstate franchise holder, is reported negotiating for another connection. He is said to have received several offers from outside the state—one in a Cincinnati-Kansas City independent-company franchise partnership tieup—but prefers remaining in the Albany territory.

George Seed resigned as manager of the Colonial, Morse circuit theatre in Utica. Seed's successor is a one-time Albany Paramount salesman.

Lamont Extending Interests Upstate

ALBANY—Harry Lamont, who operates the Vandervilt Theatre in Greenville, Catskill Mountain town, and who shows pictures one night a week in I.O.O.F. Hall at Berlin, back of Troy, has moved into two other communities, Athens and Philmont. He opened Grange Hall in Athens, after installing new seats and sound equipment. He also took over the Strand in Philmont from Fred Herbs. Lamont refurbished that house, too, and lengthened the operating time. Heretofore running about four nights weekly, it is now reported to be open the full week.

Albany Exchange Union Formulates New Pact

ALBANY—Local B-43, IATSE, composed of backroom employes in Albany exchanges, will seek a new contract with producing and distributing companies, effective December 1. The agreement, which will be basically the same for all employers, takes the place of the present one.

It has not been officially revealed what changes will be requested. Salary increases were one result of last year's unionization.

Preliminary negotiations for the new contract are said to be under way. Union officials are expected to go to New York for the finals.

Big Usher, Doormen Roster Claimed by N. Y. Union

NEW YORK—More than 1,600 members were claimed for the ushers and doormans' locals in the metropolitan area during the installation of chapters to two new locals, B-171, Manhattan, and B-172, Bronx, at ceremonies Friday night.

The IATSE affiliates immediately negotiated for wage increases and improved conditions with a major circuit.

REVIEW FLASHES

FAST AND FURIOUS (M-G-M)—Not so speedy as the title implies, but still a diverting blend of chills and chuckles in Leo's best program pattern sure to give general satisfaction. Franchot Tone and Ann Sothern are a pleasing combination in the leads. Frederick Stephani produced; Busby Berkeley directed.

FLYING DEUCES (RKO)—Laurel and Hardy employ every reliable gag in their bag of slapstick tricks in this, the initial Boris Morros production, and add a few new ones besides. The moderately entertaining result would be vastly more amusing with elimination of several draggy sequences. Picture's best market will be with kids and confirmed comedy fans. Edward Sutherland directed.

GREAT COMMANDMENT, THE (Cathedral)—Although not in the category with accepted film entertainment, this is thoroughly commendable as religious document treating of Judea during Roman oppression and the rise of Christ, meriting the support of every sect and creed for the lesson in tolerance it delivers. Invested with good production values, it nevertheless will require different handling from the usual run of pictures. John T. Coyle produced with the Rev. James K. Friedrich as associate; Irving Pichel directed.

ON YOUR TOES (WB)—Slow-moving and lacks the pace Warner is known for setting in musical comedies. With Alan Hale as the egotistical Russian impresario, Zorina the ballerina and Eddie Albert the vaudeville hoofer out for bigger and better things, this story of the plight of the Russian ballet troupe will have to be sold for all it is worth. The success of the picture is entirely up to the exhibitor. Ray Enright directed as best he could with a so-so script.

SABOTAGE (Rep)—Republic's effort at ringing the tocsin for Americanism rebounds as a dull and unconvincing drama. Charley Grapewin and Gordon Oliver are wasted on a confused script that has army veterans smashing a spy ring when the forces of the law move too slowly. Arleen Whelan and Lucien Littlefield are also featured. Herman Schlom produced; Harold Young directed.

TELEVISION SPY (Para)—The lack of drawing power in its cast plus an extremely obvious story of espionage activities for control of mythical super telecasting invention relegate this melodrama to the category of unimportant program offerings. William Henry and Judith Barrett head cast. Edward T. Lowe produced; Edward Dmytryk directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

BALTIMORE

MAX COHEN will take over the Clover from Barney Livingston when the lease expires on December 1. His brother, Moe, will handle the house, upon which extensive improvements are planned. Straight pictures will be the new policy.

Frank Hornig jr., Horn, was married Saturday, September 30 . . . Tom Goldberg, Walbrook; Eddie Sherwood, Ascap, and Joe Grant, Dunbar, all to New York for world series.

Regular Saturday night dances are being held by the Variety Club. An election of officers will take place Monday, October 9 . . . Barry Goldman, United theatres executive, and wife, are in New York attending the world series.

F. Iula, Hippodrome conductor, is spending a two weeks' vacation in New York. He is being replaced by Phil Lampkin, who has just completed an eight-year successful job as musical director at Loew's Capitol in Washington . . . Cliff Jarrett is in Florida after motoring down with his grandfather.

I. M. Rappaport, Hippodrome, is confined to his home with a cold . . . Mrs. Moe Cohen, Lexway, is off to New York to visit her mother, who is ill . . . Leo Homand, Lord Calvert, has installed new sound . . . Harry Leventhal, Essex operator, is on the sick list.

Lawrence Schanberger, Keith's, has opened his Keith's Roof atop the Keith's Theatre with a new policy. Fred Schanberger will take charge . . . Frances Clark, Lexway usherette, is on the sick list and is being replaced by Harriet Haslup . . . Duke Lowenberg's picture, "The Fight for Peace," opened the Times Newsreel Theatre last week.

Walter "Pop" Silverberg, Park, has just returned from Atlantic City and has recovered from his recent illness . . . 20th Century-Fox held a screening at the Circle in Washington on last Monday afternoon at 2 p. m. of "Hollywood Cavalcade."

Richard Shamos, Realart, has installed new seats . . . Ed Wyatt of Preferred Cinema Service has been taking lessons in pinochle for the last four years and is still where he started, says Al Vogelstein, who taught him . . . Jack Dawes, International Seat representative, and Lawrence O'Hara are going to open a school for operators in an old closed theatre, it is reported. Meyer Leventhal please take note.

Winners of weekly contests for managers of Rome theatres are: Ed Wyatt, Preston, and Walter Cohen, Leader.

RICHMOND

THE big news of the week was the formation of the fall and winter Duckpin League, which is composed of teams from Park, Colonial, State, Grand, Loew's, Lee, Carillon and Brookland-Bellevue. The first week found Lee Smoot's Park team rolling Conrad McRee's State boys; Charlie Yerby's Loew's boys met Floyd Stawys' Carillon; Keith Caudle's Colonial and Pete Southward's Brook-Vue boys, and Charlie Hulbert's Lee team rolled the Grand. The season will run for 28 weeks. George Jones was elected president of the league, and Stewart Tucker, manager of the State, secretary.

E. J. Doolittle, Philadelphia Altec engineer, was down here for several days while Mervin Ullman vacationed . . . Word has been passed around that the Lincoln Theatre Corp. of Marion, is going to build another theatre in Narrows . . . Mary Jane Taylor, popular cashier of the State for several years, has been visited by the stork, who left a baby boy on September 20 . . . Ann Donati, member of the staff of the Neighborhood Theatres home office, has returned from a vacation in New York City . . . Allen Brown, manager of the Brookland, showed us those wonderful films that he took of the World's Fair.

Charlie Mathews, member of the Park service staff, has entered Randolph Macon College and Roger Gentry, also a member of the Park staff, has re-entered his classes at Virginia Polytechnic . . . Harry Roth, manager of the Pitts-Roth Theatres in Suffolk, is very proud of the fact that his entry in the Atlantic City Bathing Beauty Contest won first place in Virginia and copped fourth place at Atlantic City, and when the newsreel pictures of the event were shown in Suffolk, he featured her name on the marquee of the Chadwick. Incidentally, Ed Sinnott, local architect, is drawing up plans for another house for the circuit in Suffolk.

New RCA sound sold in this territory as reported by James Owens, salesman: Spraker's Victory, Saltville; Levine's Colony, Portsmouth and Lucas' New Theatre, Pearisburg. He has also sold service contracts to R. F. Plank for the Lyric in Blacksburg and Donald Kelsey's Mount Theatre, Rocky Mount.

Andrew McLaglen, who is the son of Victor McLaglen, Hollywood player, has entered the University of Virginia at Charlottesville . . . Prospero Arcaro, manager of the Star in Fulton, is vacationing in New York, visiting the Fair and the World Series . . . Henry Hawkins, usher at the Capitol, has entered the University of Richmond, and Leroy Hutzler III, also at the Capitol, is attending classes at the V. P. I. . . . Cecil Crew, who is on Earl MacDonald's staff at the Censor Board, has returned from vacationing in South Carolina.

Eleventh Anniversary

SYRACUSE, N. Y.—Its eleventh anniversary will be celebrated in November by the Riviera Theatre here, according to Albert Gilbert, manager since its opening.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 26-H)

Patrick Mulrooney's favorite breakfast dish . . . Ringsiders at the Apostoli-Garcia fight were Leslie F. Whelan, Del Goodman and Harry Buxbaum. The 20th-Fox trio cheered for the Philippine lad, who at one time was a chauffeur for a 20th-Fox manager in Manila . . . After trips to various sections of the country, Altec executives, L. W. Conrow, G. L. Carrington and Stanley Hand are back at their desks . . . Walter Gould, UA's Latin-American supervisor, docks on the *Argentina*, Monday.

For the benefit of impressionable newspaper critics and sundry others, a Loew's publicist, temporarily to be known as O. A. D., prepared and distributed the following bulletin, mimeographed on a single sheet, with appropriate art, and titled: "Projection Room Flash." The copy reads: "Loew Projection Penthouse, Atop 1540 *Broadway. (Uncensored)—We just fell hard for an adorable Bolshevik! A Bolshevik who prefers champagne to vodka; a beautiful Moscow maid who likes the feel of silk lingerie rather than harsh homespun; a pouting pearl of the proletariat who learns that a kiss is not just a stage-regulated biological urge! Wow, what a girl! She wants to form a new political party—the Internationale of Lovers; salute with a kiss instead of a fist! And—horrible atrocity—her teacher is a capitalist! But a handsome capitalist she met in Paris in Spring!*

" 'Ninotchka' is a surprise hit. It's cinematic champagne; it's sparkling satire; it's rollicking romance; it's bubbling burlesque! *

"It is the first movie dealing with contemporary events that is definitely right down the groove. Lightly, gayly, it tackles a current issue, lambasts the hell out of it, kids it, ridicules it, tosses it around like a bubble-dancer's balloon. And never forgets that movies are made to amuse and entertain.

"BUT—watch for the Lubitsch touch! You'll feel it in your funny-bone and around your blush-glands! (The Communists will feel it in the seat of their pants!)

"Comrade, viva la notchka!

Otchka Doobka."

(Note: *All adjectives used above are intentional and used strictly in accordance with Webster's definitions of them).

Carey Wilson, M-G-M screen commentator and scenarist who dramatically told the story of his mother over the radio some months ago, now has the yarn in print. It's entitled "Yesterday! A Story of Two Margarets" and appears in Liberty *for October 7. What Wilson did not mention was that his father, a white-haired gentleman of the old school, for years was a familiar figure at the M-G-M home office, dating back to the days when Dick Rowland headed the company in the old Longacre Bldg. . . . Eddie Cantor and his troupe will appear at Loew's Metropolitan, Brooklyn, the latter part of October.*

PAPAS OF THE WEEK: Sid Blumenstock of 20th-Fox is the father of a girl born at Women's Hospital. The name is Coraliann. Glenn Allivine, formerly of that company and now a playwright, has an eight-pound girl doing nicely at Lenox Hill Hospital . . . Max Fellerman is having his teeth removed to keep on the healthy side of the ledger . . . Joe Vogel was down with the weather for a couple of days and is now back on the job happy as ever . . . Ned Sparks is looking over the Broadway sights again . . . Ray Bolger has gone back to the coast to continue his picture assignments . . . O. Henry Briggs has gone west for a short trip on behalf of Pathe Film . . . Ted Schlanger and Moe Silver were in town during the week . . . Roger Ferri, editor of the 20th-Fox *Dynamo*, managed to get in a World Series game before putting the weekly to bed . . . Harry Brandt's son is coming along nicely, after a serious illness . . . Dave Blum, Bill Fitelson and Gil Golden have closed their summer homes in New Jersey.

GANGPLANK NOTES: *Over to Hoboken to await the arrival of the* Nieuw Amsterdam, *pride of the Holland-American line . . . The boat is a beauty with trim lines and so is Merle Oberon who comes down the gangplank flanked by Morris Helprin and Manny Silverstone. She carried her gas mask packed daintily in a red leather box. She leaves shortly for the coast to do a picture for Samuel Goldwyn. "I hope it won't take too long," she says "because I would like to return to London. Reason: Hubby Alexander Korda is remaining there to do propaganda films for the government. Herman Bernie also comes over to help take charge of things . . . Production Executives Ben Goetz, M-G-M, and Sam Sax, Warner, both glad to be back. Also William Levy, managing director for Walt Disney-Mickey Mouse, Ltd. . . . Then to Max Schulman's Central Hofbrau house for some of that special Kingsbury beer, pride of Manitowoc, Wis. . . . The ferry boat ride and Manhattan at night; one of the city's nicer sights.*

INTER-OFFICE BOXOFFICE COMMUNICATION

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

To: Red **Written At: New York**
From: Len **Date: Thursday**

Many years ago, during an algebra examination in school, I remember the teacher admonishing us not to copy anything unless we could improve upon it. I've tried my best to remember that, but now I'm beginning to lose some faith in human nature. The point: Recently I told you about an incident that occurred in the Catskill Mountains, where a hotel proprietor, after seeing a band number featuring "Swing and Sway With Sammy Kaye" inspired to post a sign reading: "Ess and Fress With Mortimer Hess."

Well, just look what the columnist in the Long Island Star Journal, writing under "Goin' to Town," has done with it. I quote: "Last week a Bronx movie theatre, featuring a Sammy Kaye short, three-sheeted the neighborhood with posters bearing the slogan, 'Sing and Sway With Sammy Kaye.' And they'd have us believe that this inspired the delicatessen across the street to post a placard reading: 'Ess and Fress With Mortimer Hess!' Next, we can expect Noble Sissle's engagement in the Bronx heralded with 'Tants A Bissel With Noble Sissle!' "

P. S. Do you think I should sue?

WASHINGTON

THE Variety Club of Washington will hold its outdoor carnival, "Cavalcade of Thrills," at Griffith Stadium, October 13-14. Cowboys and cowgirls will give exhibitions of riding and bronco-busting with motorcycle and automobile stunt riding added features. The receipts go into the organization's welfare fund.

Universal here is roosting on top in the eastern division of the exhibitor-sponsored testimonal to New Universal which ends October 28 . . . Metro's Frances Naftal visited with relatives in Philly . . . RKO's Pat Burns has been recalled to the home office for a few weeks . . . Bernie Depkin, Salem, is back at his desk . . . The Metro office staff will hold a farewell party and buffet supper at the home of Mrs. Harriet Kenworthy for Mrs. Esther Blendman, who will leave soon for the Frisco fair, she having won the trip in a recent office drawing. She will be gifted with a fitted traveling case.

Metro's Pete Prince accompanied the news camera staff to the William & Mary-Navy game . . . Dick Eason, familiar along the Row, has been appointed manager of the new Abingdon Theatre, Abingdon, Va. . . . Carlton Duffus, Metro exploiteer, entertained Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn LeRoy at White Sulphur Springs . . . Metro's Murray Greenfield has returned from his vacation, while Irene Zweigenhaft has set sail for New York to spend hers.

Ann Sheridan, who made a personal appearance at the Earle, was favored by the Potomac Rose Society in having a rose designated as the "Sheridan Rose" . . . Mary Horner, secretary to Dan Tirrell, Warner theatres, has returned following a recent illness . . . Marion Butler, NSS, has returned from her vacation . . . Stanley Barr of the Colonial, Norfolk, and Mrs. Barr stopped off to witness the Redskins-Giants game while en route to New York.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER

(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

'Hollywood Cavalcade' Premiere Attracts

Spurred by the knowledge that the entire proceeds from the event went to the Motion Picture Relief Fund, Hollywood of today mingled with Hollywood of yesterday to add a dash of nostalgia to another in the unending series of star-studded premieres when 20th Century-Fox presented the first showing of "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Four Star Theatre.

The studio left no stone unturned in its efforts to make the affair as lavish, spectacular and colorful as any seen in the film capital this season. Grandstands were erected for autograph hunters; the original "Keystone Kops" arrived in pomp in a "break-a-way" automobile; the lobby and theatre front were illuminated by 22,000-watt lamps; a public address system announced the arrival of notables and permitted them to speak to fans over a nation-wide hookup; and the affair was preceded and followed by numerous dinner and after-theatre parties.

Schenck Hosts Singer

Joseph Schenck returned from his Latin-American tour to host Rosa Ponselle, Mr. and Mrs. James Roosevelt, the Charles Feldmans, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Wertheimer, Grace Poggi, Lynne Carver and Nicholas Nayfack. Jean Hersholt, president of the MPRF, and Mrs. Hersholt, appeared with their son and daughter-in-law, Allan Hersholt and Osa Massen, and Mr. and Mrs. John M. Stahl. Other first-nighters and party-goers included:

Alice Faye—who co-starred in the picture—and Tony Martin; Director Irving Cummings; Mr. and Mrs William Goetz; the David O. Selznicks; Jack Benny and Mary Livingstone, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Edgar Bergen, Sally Eilers and Harry Joe Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Casey Robinson, Darryl and Mrs. Zanuck, Shirley Temple, her parents and brother Jack, Don Ameche, Joan Crawford and Cesar Romero, Annabella and Tyrone Power, Hedy Lamarr and Gene Markey, Buster and Mrs. Keaton, Mack Sennett, Claudette Colbert and Dr. Joel Pressman, Director Henry King, Sonja Henie, Jane Withers, Mr. and Mrs. Jules Brulatour, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Engel, Herbert I. Leeds, Col. and Mrs. Jason Joy, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Roach, the Sol Wurtzels, John Stone, Walter Wanger, Raymond Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Del Ruth, the Kenneth Macgowans, the Bill Koenigs, Mr and Mrs. Robert Z. Leonard, the Lucien Hubbards, the Harry M. Warners, Natalie M. Kalmus, Malcolm St. Clair and hundreds of others.

Next on schedule in the current cycle of lavish screenings will be Metro's world premiere of the Mickey Rooney-Judy Garland co-starrer, "Babes in Arms," set for Grauman's Chinese Theatre October 10. Studio exploiteers are concentrating on the youthful element in their preparation for the event, with Rooney, Miss Garland and other adolescent members of the cast scheduled to turn out. The customary floodlights, lobby ballyhoo and other exploitation stunts will attend the showing.

Federal Interest in Industry's Affairs Continues Unabated

Federal government interest in motion picture industry affairs continues unflagging on two separate fronts. The grand jury investigation into labor racketeering charges, possible income tax evasions and other corporate affairs is still underway with a long parade of witnesses from labor, production and financial ranks yet to be called, under the direction of Charles H. Carr, assistant U. S. attorney-general. Furthermore, government attorneys completed service on the 13 theatre and film corporations and the 54 individual defendants in its contempt of court charges filed in U. S. district court some time ago, and for which the preliminary hearing is set for October 16.

The grand jury hearing reopened after a short recess with subpoenas issued for such witnesses as Steve Newman, IATSE representative; Ed Heim and Lew Blix, of IA Local 37; J. B. Codd, 20th Century-Fox accountant; Victor Clarke and Pat Casey, of the labor contact division in the Hays office, and Harry M. Warner and Harry Cohn. Testimony had been given earlier by Louis B. Mayer, William Goetz, William Dover, Sid Rogell, Joseph Carpenter, Guy Cooper, Herbert Sorrell, Robert Montgomery, Aubrey Blair, Kenneth Thomson, Harland Holmden and Arthur Stebbins.

Whether William Bioff, former IATSE supervisor on the west coast, will be called as a witness, has not definitely been revealed by Carr. The government attorney disclosed, however, that he expects to wind up the hearing within ten days. At that time the grand jury may see fit to return indictments against one or more individuals on any of the charges being investigated.

The legal staff of Fox West Coast, one of the defendants in the government's anti-trust action, steadfastly refuses to comment on the nature of the defense planned. Elsewhere it has been reported, however, that FWC and the other defendants will enter pleas of not guilty at the preliminary hearing, at which time date for the trial will be set.

Production Volume Being Maintained

Maintaining its record pace, Hollywood production stands, for the second successive week, at a 45-picture total, with 11 others set for immediate starts.

Columbia has four in work, none new starts. Also idling is M-G-M, which is filming five. Monogram gunned "Overland Mail" and "Mr. Wong at Headquarters" after a brief breathing spell.

At Paramount, "Triumph Over Pain" went into production to fill the gap left by completion of "The Farmer's Daughter." Five are in production. RKO Radio reached a peak of nine when The Play's the Thing Productions started "Swiss Family Robinson." Republic's total climbed to four with "Cowboy From Texas" and "The Saga of Death Valley" going into work.

Twentieth Century-Fox has begun filming "The Grapes of Wrath." Both "The City" and '20,000 Men a Year" hit the finish wire, however, to bring its production total down to nine. United Artists records a total of four, Hal Roach having completed "Of Mice and Men." "No Power on Earth" shoved off at Universal, where "Test Driver" and "The Little Accident" were completed. Five are in production. Warner launched "Brother Rat and the Baby" to raise its total to five.

Griffith Producing Own Story

Edward H. Griffith has been set to produce and direct "In Old Virginia," his own story which he recently sold to Paramount.



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Out to Pay Homage to New Screen Queen—

Random shots of the Hollywood premiere at the Beverly Hills Theatre of Warner's "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex." (1) Harry M. Warner and Charles Skouras (left), head of Fox West Coast Theatres. (2) Jack L. Warner gives a few quick pre-premiere instructions to a policeman. (3) Bess Meredith, Director Michael Curtiz, Louise Fazenda and Hal B. Wallis, Warner executive producer. (4) Mark and Mrs. Hellinger (Gladys Glad). (5) Edward G. and Mrs. Robinson. (6) Donald and Mrs. Crisp. (7) Gloria Dickson and Perc Westmore, head of Warner's makeup department. (8) Lya Lys and Owen Crump. (9) Doris Carson and Jeffrey Lynn.

Anti-Nazi League Enters Third Year of Crusade

Quietly observing its third anniversary, the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League has momentarily relaxed in its fight against Fascism in America. Taking the HANL's cue, most other progressive organizations are also enoying a brief breathing spell.

The League will get into full swing again October 13, however, when it sponsors a series of lectures by Prof. Norman Byrne, new member of the executive committee, who will outline America's position in the present world crisis.

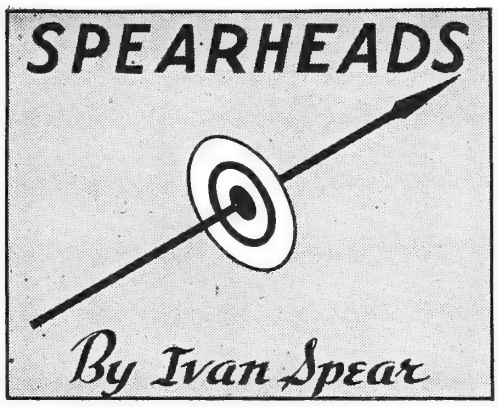
A Hollywood branch of the Committee of Catholics for Human Rights, organization to combat bigotry in every form, is in the process of formation. Handling details are Director John Ford, Bing Crosby and Irene Dunne, who are members of the national committee.

The newly-formed Hollywood Committee for Polish Relief, which lists Director W. S. VanDyke and Melvyn Douglas among its founders, is sponsoring a special concert at Philharmonic Auditorium October 19 to raise funds for Polish refugees. Arrangements are being made to have Nelson Eddy and Josef Hoffman, noted pianist, appear. Leopold Stokowski will conduct the symphony orchestra.

Army's Film Endeavors Outlined Before SMPE

Activities of the photographic section of the U. S. Army signal corps were explained to members of the Pacific Coast section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers at a meeting at 20th Century-Fox. Chief speaker was Capt. C. S. Stodter, of March Field, formerly army contact in Hollywood. Films illustrating the army's motion picture endeavors and examples of special training films were unreeled under his direction.

Gordon Chambers, of the SMPFE, was chairman.



WHILE rank-and-file Hollywood continues to accept with definite doubts the producers' bromidic position that necessary war-time economies will be effected largely through the elimination of waste and non-essential expenses —a policy which has been refuted through every specific gesture that has been made thus far—a perfunctory perusal of the records, current and past, reveals that never a week goes by that many instances of such waste come to the attention of film capital observers.

If the studio generalissimos are sincere in their desire to delete unnecessary expenditures, in preference to the dismissal of additional stenographers, janitors, publicists and other underlings, they should be able to recognize them even more quickly than do the railbirds.

A listing of only the more obvious of the apparently ridiculous outlays of important moneys during recent months would be too space-consuming. A few recent—and decidedly typical—cases illustrate the point:

Carl Esmond, talented Austrian actor who had been a Gaumont-British star abroad, specializing in dramatic roles, was seen on the London stage by a Metro bigwig, who promptly signed him to a term contract and brought him to Hollywood at $1,000 or more weekly. Esmond kicked around at M-G-M for nine months without donning greasepaint. He had been in line for a lead in "The Great Waltz" but when Mervyn LeRoy moved over to Metro and produced the picture he substituted Fernand Gravet, whom he had under personal contract. Esmond was then released, grabbed a part in Warner's "Dawn Patrol," and was brought back to Metro—on a free-lance basis—and, again, probably at better than $1,000 a week—to portray the role of the villainous and be-bearded submarine commander in "Thunder Afloat."

Producer David O. Selznick re-assembles the cast and crew of "Gone With the Wind" for a highly expensive week of shooting additional scenes a few days after it was reliably reported that he was wracking his brains for a way to cut some 45,000 feet out of the original and comparably expensive footage.

Paramount undertakes to exploit "Rulers of the Sea" with a traveling caravan comprising two quarter-scale vessels and a group of starlets, for which an extensive itinerary covering several states was mapped out—then calls off the stunt after a journey of less than a week when it is found that, through a slipup somewhere along the line, someone neglected to obtain highway permits in certain states without which it was impossible to navigate the flotilla.

Columbia, touting the vehicle as one of the leaders on its 1939-40 schedule, spends a substantial amount constructing a Hopi Indian village on location in Arizona to be used in filming "Arizona." Then, with that amount already invested, the studio decides that in view of the war-torn foreign situation, it would be wiser to cancel the picture entirely. Currently there is some talk that the film may be placed back on schedule, to be shot in black-and-white instead of the Technicolor originally planned.

Yes, there is no gainsaying the "waste" is existent. But how much of it will be eliminated to meet the exigencies of Hollywood at war is a question.

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Brave exploiteers, those Warner space-wranglers, who dare the darts of the wise-acres by proudly announcing they have just completed a tieup with Kraft Cheese for the exploiting of four big forthcoming releases.

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There is something retributive in the news from Metro that Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn LeRoy, stranded in Needles by bridge washouts, found the only picture showing in town was "Wizard of Oz," which the producer saw for an alleged 1928th time. Which slight exaggeration comes from Leo's tom-tom beaters who seemingly failed to calculate that it would have been necessary for Wizard LeRoy to have seen the picture five times a day for 385 days. Even Mervyn doesn't think it's that good—or does he?

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RKO Radio signs Dr. Cecil Reynolds, brain specialist, as technical advisor on "Vigil in the Night."

But too late to do anything about the salary slashes under which the $4,500-a-year-and-over executives are smarting.

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Director Edward H. Griffith is keeping in shape for the start of "Safari" by boxing in his home gymnasium daily.

Many of Hollywood's directors have been shadow-boxing for years—with the result that the exhibitors are punch-drunk.

Tints, Titanic and Trite

Technicolor was the star of the week's preview list, that color process having been employed to enhance the mountings of the two pictures which vied for top honors in the lineup for the period—Warner's "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" and 20th Century-Fox's "Hollywood Cavalcade." In both offerings, furthermore, it was used to lustrous effect.

Because of their widespread differences in theme and motivation, however, the two films are difficult to rate on their comparative merits.

Warner's opulent biographical piece succeeds, if nothing else, in establishing beyond serious doubt that Bette Davis has firmly implanted herself in the uppermost niche as a screen actress. Her performance as the famous English queen rivals—and perhaps exceeds—anything heretofore etched on celluloid, overshadowing the work of the other cast members who, nevertheless, are first-rate. The production itself must be heralded as one of the most distinguished to be made in many years, successfully capturing the pomp, pageantry, intrigue, majesty and romance of Elizabethan England in a manner which must invoke paeans of praise for Producer Robert Lord, Michael Curtiz for his masterful direction, and Scenarists Norman Reilly Raine and Aeneas MacKenzie, who so skillfully adapted the play by Maxwell Anderson.

The Westwood studio's fictionized history of motion pictures from the days of slapstick, custard pies and Keystone Kops through the birth of sound is an engrossing, ably produced piece of work, successfully tracing Hollywood's growth into the fabulous and fanciful entertainment center it is today. With dozens of past films —every one of them a hit—contributing their best entertainment elements, the story is translated into terms of the lives of its characters—each a skillfully-blended, legendary composite of many of those easily-recognized celebrities who skyrocketed to fame in filmdom's early days. Harry Joe Brown's production guidance was lavish but in good taste throughout; Irving Cummings chalks up another big-scale success to his long list of directorial achievements, and Ernest Pascal rates unalleviated compliments for his script, which he built from a story by Hilary Lynn and Brown Holmes and an original idea by Lou Breslow.

* * *

Next in importance because of their budgetary considerations, although ranking below the two leaders in entertainment content, were Selznick International's "Intermezzo," for United Artists release, and Paramount's release of an English-made production, "Jamaica Inn."

The revenue-attracting potentialities of the latest David O. Selznick offering will depend largely upon the percentage of artistic and romantic theatregoers which can be enlisted in its support from among the normal patronage of those houses in which it is shown. This is not to gainsay the extraordinarily tasteful manner in which the slender love story is presented; the performances, topped by that of Leslie Howard; Gregory Ratoff's sensitive direction, and the photography, in itself a superb achievement for Cinematographer Gregg Toland. George O'Neil, too, is en-

(Continued on page 32)

Painters' Local in Demand For a 15% Wage Increase

Efforts to stabilize Hollywood's producer-labor relationship, buffeted a-plenty in the past and an even more desirable goal than ever before because of the serious foreign situation, have been further complicated through the action of the motion picture painters, Local 644, which has presented a demand for a wage increase of 15 per cent retroactive to last August.

The painters' decision to ask for the wage boost came as the result of a general membership meeting at which it was agreed to set a deadline of October 16 for producers to reply. Action came right on the heels of the producers' capitulation to the powerful IATSE through the granting of a 10 per cent salary increase to some 12,000 studio workers. Demands filed by Herbert Sorrell, business manager for the painters, point out that the craft has received no wage increase since 1937. Membership stands at nearly 1,000.

In the same meeting t.he painters voted unanimously to maintain local autonomy and not to hand over management of their affairs to the international body.

Meantime, as an outgrowth of the recent IATSE-United Studio Technicians Guild collective bargaining election, in which the IA emerged victorious, the USTG filed a complaint with the national labor relations board charging producers with violating the Wagner Act by giving financial aid to the IA during the election. The matter was taken under advisement by the NLRB and referred to Washington for further study.

The IA, officially certified as sole bargaining agent and now working out details of its new pact with the producers, is enforcing its closed shop clause and will not permit workers to report for duty at the studios without paid-up membership cards. John Gatelee and Frank Strickling, IA representatives, have returned east, their work in connection with straightening out the international's local affairs now completed.

Next major issue for the IA is settlement of the jurisdictional question between its photographers' local, 659, and the American Society of Cinematographers. The latter holds a five-year closed-shop contract for first cameramen with the studios, but has indicated its willingness to come in under the IA banner if its own identity can be preserved.

Annual election of officers of the Screen Writers Guild has been set to take place November 8, and a nominating committee, headed by David Hartz, has been appointed. Re-election of the Screen Actors Guild's present officers was postponed when the annual membership meeting and balloting session was set back for five weeks. Postponement was ordered when a quorum failed to appear for the scheduled vote. The SAG's licensing agreement with agent members of the Artists Managers Guild will also be submitted for membership approval at the forthcoming session.

Other labor developments:

American Federation of Labor studio crafts are planning to organize a studio labor council with William Bioff, ex-IATSE executive, as its head.

The Studio Utility Employes, certified as bargaining agent for 1,000 studio workers, is seeking to open negotiations with producers for a working agreement. Albert Smith, international representative of the SUE, checked in from Oakland to carry out the work.

Screen Set Designers has begun a series of conferences with producers relative to obtaining wage increases and revisions in its closed shop contract. Screen Cartoonists Guild scheduled a mass meeting to vote on a proposal to apply for a charter from the International Brotherhood of Painters. The Screen Publicists Guild has secured concessions on wage scales for location work and called a general membership meeting to approve the long-delayed producer contract, which goes into effect October 9.

Studio managers met to give further study to the Screen Readers Guild's demand for a closed shop contract. The Society of Motion Picture Artists and Illustrators is conducting a survey of working conditions preparatory to filing a demand with producers for a new studio contract.

Urge Pay Cut "No" Pending Probe

The Screen Actors Guild officials have advised the membership to reject the percentage salary cuts suggested by producers as "wartime necessity" until an "exhaustive" investigation of the war situation's effect is completed.

Pathe Lab Incorporation Is Little Publicized

With only meager information accompanying the action, incorporation papers for Pathe Laboratory, Inc., of California, have been filed with the county clerk's office here and with the commissioner of corporations in Sacramento by Attorney Herbert T. Silverberg.

Silverberg declared he is acting under instructions from Pathe's laboratory headquarters in New York. He could not or would not reveal where the new plant will be located, number or identity of its personnel or the date when work will start.

Goldsmith Has $250,000 for "Invisible Man Returns"

Universal has assigned Ken Goldsmith to produce "The Invisible Man Returns" and has given him a $250,000 budget. Director Joe May guns the picture with Vincent Price in the title role and Sir Cedric Hardwicke and Nan Grey in the supporting cast.

Silverstone Arrives For Talks at UA

On the same mission which has brought other executives to the coast during recent weeks—the European war situation—Murray Silverstone, chairman of the United Artists executive committee, came in from New York for conferences with the various UA producers. Spokesmen for him declared Silverstone probably would stay here about ten days and indicated that in all probability he would have no official comment to make on general industry conditions while on the coast.

Parleys were scheduled with Walter Wanger, Richard Rowland, Edward Small, David O. Selznick, Hal Roach and Samuel Goldwyn, during which Silverstone will survey films now in production or recently completed and check over the line-up of vehicles now in preparatory stages.

President George Schaefer of RKO finally reached Hollywood after several times delaying his projected visit. He was accompanied west by Erich Pommer, producer of two English-made pictures starring Charles Laughton, who will confer with Laughton concerning forthcoming production plans. The latter is currently appearing in RKO Radio's "Hunchback of Notre Dame." Also accompanying the RKO Radio chieftain here was Herbert Wilcox, whose next Anna Neagle starrer for the company, "Marie Lloyd," is to be made in Hollywood shortly after the first of the year. His original intention, discarded because of the war, was to film it in London.

Schaefer immediately began a series of huddles with Joseph Nolan and J. R. McDonough, studio executives, concerning production matters and Schaefer's order for salary reductions for all employes earning more than $4,500 yearly.

Carl Leserman, aide to Gradwell L. Sears, Warner sales head, checked in at the Burbank studio from New York to confer with Hal Wallis and S. Charles Einfeld concerning campaigns for handling three forthcoming Warner releases.

Another arrival was J. J. Milstein, New York representative for Edward Small. He recently returned from an European tour and is conferring wtih Small concerning future production and distribution plans.

"Drums" Longest Color Film

"Drums Along the Mohawk," the Claudette Colbert-Henry Fonda co-starrer, will be released in its present length, 14 reels, as the longest film ever distributed in Technicolor. Decision to do so was reached after a telephone conversation among Darryl Zanuck, 20th Century-Fox production head; Herman Wobber, sales chief, in New York, and Joseph M. Schenck, now in Mexico.

Executives agreed that further cutting would destroy valuable entertainment elements.

Payroll Purges Die; War Jitters Hold

While the hue and cry of vast and sweeping payroll purges which arose in many of the major studios as an offshoot of the industry's reaction to the outbreak of the European hostilities has died down to a great extent, more than the usual number of personnel changes is being recorded, much of it undoubtedly due to the war jitters.

Large-scale axe swinging instituted at Republic found approximately 115 names being stricken from the payrolls, with widespread re-allocation of duties following. The purge, ordered by Herbert J. Yates, carried through to every department from production down to the clerical staff. Producer Robert Beche leaves the lot October 13. Al Wilson, production manager, will add to his duties by supervising the purchasing department, with Al Altschuler, who has been in charge, returning to the stock room. Charles Lootens replaces Dan Blumberg as head of the sound department. Deep cuts were made also in the music and publicity departments.

Russell Birdwell, publicity and advertising counselor for Selznick International, has appointed Don Roberts publicity director for the company. He will have charge of all publicity activities on the lot, subject to supervision by Birdwell. Roberts was at one time photo editor at S-I, and recently joined the staff of Birdwell's publicity organization. Shortly after the Roberts appointment, Neville Reay, who had been assistant publicity director for Selznick for more than three years, turned in his resignation.

Max Golden has returned to 20th Century-Fox as a production associate in the Sol Wurtzel unit. He resigned recently as a Universal producer, and previous to that had held a production post with the Westwood plant.

Lou Smith has been given a post in Paramount's publicity department. He resigned his position as an associate on Edward Small's production staff. Paramount has dropped Evelyn Keyes, featured stock player, from its contract list.

George Yohalem has resigned as an associate producer at Universal. He made one picture during his stay on the lot, "One Hour to Live." Yohalem plans to head for New York on a combination business-pleasure trip.

Twentieth Century-Fox has added six writers to its staff, while Howard Emmett Rogers, W. R. Burnett and Steve Fisher, completing their respective assignments, checked off Samuel Goldwyn's payroll.

Continuing as the targets of layoff orders, three more publicists have been released. Warner dropped Jack Holmes, while Charles Goss and Jean Pettibone checked out of Columbia.

Walter Seltzer, who recently left his position in Metro's publicity department, has joined the Warner staff.

Sol Lesser has elevated Barney Briskin, production manager for Principal Pictures, to the position of associate producer. He will receive credit in that category for his work on "Escape to Paradise," the current Bobby Breen starrer for RKO Radio release.

Industry's War-Fed Upheaval Shows Signs of Settling

Hollywood's picture-making operations, revision of which as a result of the European war have caused such a widespread turmoil, seem gradually to be settling down to a stabilized, war-time basis with studio and home office executives continuing to clarify, point by point, their production schedules, budgets and projected economies to cope with the situation.

President George Schaefer arrived at RKO Radio and went into immediate huddles with studio executives concerning his order for salary reductions for all employes earning $4,500 or more annually. He was accompanied by Producer Herbert Wilcox, who is to do his next Anna Neagle starrer, "Marie Lloyd," here instead of abroad. Wilcox predicted that British actors and studio technicians will not be called to the colors unless the present situation becomes much more serious. He declared, however, that citizens of England henceforth will probably work on a picture-to-picture basis so as to expedite their departures if called. The producer, commenting on the exhibition outlook in England, declared he expected grosses on his latest film, "Nurse Edith Cavell," to drop off sharply.

Another arrival was Murray Silverstone, chairman of United Artists' executive committee, who is discussing production schedules and budgets with the UA producer group. One of them, David O. Selznick, has already announced a four-month cessation of production activities beginning early in December, during which he will take a long-planned vacation. Only an executive staff will remain on the payroll. In contrast to this decision, however, other UA producers—notably Samuel Goldwyn, Hal Roach and Walter Wanger—have an unbroken schedule carrying through for the next several months.

On the production front, Paramount has set seven pictures to start within the next two weeks, including such top-budgeters as "Safari" and "The Road to Singapore." Republic, aiming to have ten new pictures ready for release by January, 1940, is launching a new production drive. Among the features slotted for early starts is "Wagons Westward," a $750,000 outdoor production. Metro has decided to film both "Busman's Honeymoon" and "The Earl of Chicago" at its Culver city plant. They were set to be made at the Denham, England, studio, both to star Robert Montgomery. Columbia studio attaches confirm reports that "Arizona," one of the leaders on its 1939-40 program, which was shelved because of fears its cost would be excessive, will be returned to the schedule. However, plans to film it in Technicolor have been discarded.

In the matter of economy moves:

Reductions in pay and personnel have been ordered for the staff of the producers association, the pay cuts to affect those receiving more than $50 weekly. Personnel of Central Casting Corp. also is being trimmed in line with the general studio retrenchment policy. As a sidelight, extra player placements for the month of September, according to a Central Casting report, dropped to a new low for the year, with an approximate 20,000 calls.

Swinging of the economy axe at Republic, under orders from Herbert J. Yates, has resulted in the curtailment of approximately 115 workers thus far. Pruning has been general in every department from production to clerical and maintenance workers. Minor shakeups and parings occurred also at Universal, headlined by the departure of Producer George Yohalem and two members of the publicity staff.

In order to keep a closer watch on the activities of the Burbank studio, Jack Warner has canceled plans for a New York vacation and will, instead, remain on the coast.

Retrenchment Plans No Activity Curb

Impending reductions in pay and curtailment of personnel at the producers association, to be carried out under orders from a special economy committee, have had no effect thus far on the busy schedule confronting executives of that organization, particularly the labor contact division headed by Pat Casey and his staff.

Beginning with a long membership meeting called to discuss the industry's remaining labor problems, the association in general and Casey in particular had a full calendar marked out for the week. Conferences were scheduled with William Bioff, chief negotiator for the IATSE, concerning details of the new producer contract giving that union a 10 per cent wage increase. Casey and a committee of studio managers also reviewed the status of negotiations with the Screen Publicists and Screen Readers Guilds.

Staff members at the Hays office were notified of the economy measures to be adopted by Fred W. Beetson, vice-president and secretary, who explained the move has been necessitated by the drop in foreign revenues because of the European war. Pay cuts will affect those receiving $50 or more weekly.

Tom Pettey, public relations representative at the Hays office, pulled out for Texas on his annual two-week vacation.

"Jubilo" in Alfred Green's Hands

Twentieth Century-Fox's "Jubilo," in which Jane Withers and Gene Autry will be co-starred, will be directed by Alfred Green. Due for start in mid-October.

Cinémarks

Harold Lloyd was officially honored in his post as potentate of Al Malaikah Temple when two commanderies of Knights Templar met in joint session and gave a dinner for the Shrine leader . . . George Brent has been bedded by a severe cold, necessitating readjustment of shooting schedules on his current Warner acting assignment.

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Paramount's studio club will hold its annual dance October 14 at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Music will be supplied by Victor Young and his orchestra, with Peggy Schwartz in charge of arrangements . . . Mary Martin, Paramount singing star, planed to New York to begin stage and radio engagements. She returns here in June, 1940 *. . . Ralph Nelson, business manager at Paramount, headed out for Charlottesville, Va., to join his wife, Scenarist Virginia Van Upp, for a week's holiday.*

*

Judith Barrett, Paramount player, is holidaying for ten days in New York . . . Groucho Marx has planed to New York for a vacation, his first aerial trip east . . . Florence Ryerson, Metro scenarist, won five blue ribbons at the Pomona Fair for fruit grown on her Canoga Park ranch.

*

John Ford has returned from a trip east . . . Gus Schroeder, Samuel Goldwyn's location manager, and Rudy Mate, cinematographer, returned from a location jaunt to Arizona and New Mexico in connection with Goldwyn's next production.

*

Claude Rains is planning a holiday on his Pennsylvania farm when his current Warner acting assignment is completed . . . A guest of the Warner lot was Thomas J. Watson, of New York, president of the International Chamber of Commerce.

*

Paul Malvern, Monogram producer, off to Mexico for hunting and fishing . . . Joe Barry of the Warner location department back from scouting around Flagstaff, Virginia City and Reno . . . Director Theodore Reed and his assistant, George Hippard, train out for Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., where scenes for Paramount's "At Good Old Siwash" will be filmed . . . John Beal in from New York for two day's business.

*

Director Michael Curtiz, Cameraman Sol Polito and a technical crew are scouting locations in several western states for Curtiz' next Warner assignment . . . Warner honored Kate Cameron, motion picture editor of an eastern newspaper, at a cocktail party in the studio's private dining room . . . Gale Page has returned from a Lake Arrowhead vacation.

*

Louis K. Sidney returns to his post in the theatre department of Loew's, Inc., in New York next week after spending two years in Hollywood handling the Metro "Good News" airshow . . . Dave Lipton, assistant publicity director, has pulled out for a vacation.

Spearheads

(Continued from page 29)

titled to credit for the screenplay which he manufactured from an original by Gosta Stevens and Gustav Molander. Nonetheless, the picture is not of the type to warrant either widespread acclaim or the support of the great mass of film fans.

Theatrical, heavily British and probably too sanguinary for the American palate. "Jamaica Inn" likewise cannot be pegged as a big money-earner. Chief among its assets are a typically lusty and expansive performance by Charles Laughton and its adventurous atmosphere and locale—concerning a group of bloodthirsty smugglers along the coast of Cornwall. Alfred Hitchcock directed.

* * *

Three other films fall into the category of less important program material.

"Heaven With a Barber Wire Fence," from the 20th Century-Fox hopper, fails largely to capitalize on the germ of a commendably novel story idea and, additionally, boasts no cast names which could be construed as marquee magnets. Script, too, sags sadly. Faced with these handicaps, Director Ricardo Cortez did as well as could be expected, working directly under the production supervision of Sol M. Wurtzel.

Universal's "Tropic Fury," one of a series co-starring Richard Arlen and Andy Devine, is standard action melodrama, produced in familiar pattern by Ben Pivar and competently directed by Christy Cabanne.

Albeit the script by Jack Lait jr. was somewhat on the rubber-stamp side, RKO Radio has another satisfactory package of sagebrush entertainment in its latest George O'Brien vehicle, "The Marshal of Mesa City." Juveniles and other confirmed O'Brien fans should have no fault to find with the generous supply of ridin' and shootin' heroics. Bert Gilroy's production and David Howard's direction are both well up to the mark.

* * *

Hardly classifying in the same niche with accepted film fare, but worthy of commendation nonetheless, is Cathedral Films' "The Great Commandment." Requiring different showmanship handling, it is, basically, a religious document depicting life in Judea during Roman oppression and the rise of Christ. Its lesson in tolerance and brotherly love merits the support of every sect and creed and the picture, from the technical viewpoint, is well handled throughout. Dana Burnet fashioned the screenplay and John T. Coyle produced with the Rev. James K. Friedrich as associate.

Hedy Lamarr Would Sever Metro Pact

Alleging Metro has violated terms of the agreement by failing to observe certain of its clauses—particularly in regard to layoff periods and overtime—Hedy Lamarr has served notice on the studio that she is no longer under contract to the Culver City plant.

The studio was formally notified by her attorney in a complaint pointing out that the actress is being paid but $750 weekly on a 40-week basis—the same scale on which she has been paid for the past two years. During that time Miss Lamarr has appeared in but one picture for Metro, "Lady of the Tropics." Another, "I Take This Woman," was shelved before completion. It was announced recently, however, that the latter will be salvaged and finished.

Crew to Illinois School For "Siwash" Filming

Paramount has dispatched a technical crew to Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., to join Director Ted Reed preparatory to launching production of "At Good Old Siwash," first in a series of college pictures based on stories by George Fitch. Eugene Hornbostel, business manager, is guiding the troupe, consisting of cameramen, hairdressers, technicians and others.

Paramount Ties Trailer And Advertising Units

Paramount's studio advertising and trailer departments have been combined by Cliff Lewis, supervising director of the company's west coast advertising and publicity staffs, and the trailer department will move from its present headquarters into the advertising bungalow. Lewis made the move to insure closer cooperation on all picture campaigns.

"Earl of Chicago" Into Work at Culver City

Originally scheduled for production in England, "The Earl of Chicago" goes into work next week at Metro's Culver City plant with Robert Montgomery as the star and Richard Thorpe directing. Production abroad was abandoned on the outbreak of war.

Assign James Hogan

Paramount has assigned James Hogan to direct "A Night at Earl Carroll's" as his next chore. He just completed the Martha Raye starrer, "The Farmer's Daughter."

OPTIONS

—Metro

HAROLD S. BUCQUET, currently piloting "Secret of Dr. Kildare," signs new directorial contract.

MARTHA DRISCOLL, actress, placed under contract.

JOHN CARROLL, former contractee at Monogram, gets long termer and goes into "20 Little Working Girls."

—Monogram

TRISTON COFFIN, erstwhile radio announcer, gets one picture deal.

—Paramount

BOB HOPE inks new acting pact.

—Republic

TOMMY RYAN, juvenile actor, handed new contract.

—Universal

FORD BEEBE, director, held for another year. He is currently piloting "The Green Hornet," a serial.

RICHARD WALLACE given new directorial contract.

Paramount Delegation On Midwestern Tour

Highlighted by their scheduled appearances as guests of the city of Minneapolis during the Minnesota Centennial Celebration, a delegation of Paramount players including Susan Hayward, Olympe Bradna, Patricia Morison and J. Carol Naish has been dispatched on a midwestern personal appearance tour. During a two-week itinerary, the troupers will make appearances in Detroit, Omaha, Salt Lake City, Chicago and Sioux City. Bob Hussey, of the studio advertising staff, is accompanying them.

Covering 26 cities, Tito Guizar will open a personal concert tour at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Auditorium October 28. His schedule calls for appearances in San Francisco, San Antonio, Pittsburgh, Chicago, New York and other key spots.

Martha Raye opens a 10-week p.a. trek in Philadelphia October 13. Stopovers are planned in Akron, Youngstown, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland and Buffalo. Another lengthy tour is planned by Kathryn (Sugar) Kane, Universal player, who begins a 20-week stint in Chicago November 1.

Upon completion of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" for RKO Radio, Raymond Massey is set for an eastern and midwestern jaunt on which he will do a "Lincoln" sketch. Tour will start about October 15 and continue for ten weeks.

Joe E. Brown begins a p.a. tour in Dayton October 13, continuing on to Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Cleveland and Chicago for a week's stop in each spot.

Northern California will lure Gene Autry for a two-week engagement when he has completed his current Republic picture, "Washington Cowboy." The studio has called Donald Barry in from his Texas p.a.'s for a role in a Roy Rogers western.

Constance Bennett is making personal appearances in Seattle and Portland.

Two Historical Shorts Added to WB List

Two historical featurettes have been added to the short subjects division of the Warner 1939-40 lineup. With Gordon Hollingshead supervising, "The Discovery of America" and "Daniel Boone" will start in January, augmenting the original schedule of six. "Old Hickory," next in the schedule, a Technicolor offering with Vincent Sherman directing, starts October 16.

Others to be made in the next three months: "Clara Barton and the Red Cross," "Fremont, the Pathfinder," "Robert E. Lee," and "Teddy Roosevelt and His Rough Riders."

Dr. Kalmus Announces Technicolor Dividend

Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, president and general manager of Technicolor, Inc., announced that at a meeting of the company's board of directors in New York a dividend of 25 cents per share was declared. It is payable October 18 to shareholders of record as of October 13.

Fleischer Due to Finish "Gulliver's Travels"

To dub and score the first feature-length Max Fleischer Technicolor cartoon, "Gulliver's Travels," Director Dave Fleischer will check in at Paramount within two weeks. The picture was produced at the Fleischer plant in Miami, Fla., for Paramount release.

Sherman Signs Selander

Harry Sherman has signed Lesley Selander to direct "The Light of Western Stars," rolling for Paramount release immediately, and to pilot the next "Hopalong Cassidy" western starring William Boyd.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

FAST AND FURIOUS (M-G-M)—Not so speedy as the title implies, but still a diverting blend of chills and chuckles in Leo's best program pattern sure to give general satisfaction. Franchot Tone and Ann Sothern are a pleasing combination in the leads. Frederick Stephani produced; Busby Berkeley directed.

GREAT COMMANDMENT, THE (Cathedral)—Although not in the category with accepted film entertainment, this is thoroughly commendable as religious document treating of Judea during Roman oppression and the rise of Christ, meriting the support of every sect and creed for the lesson in tolerance it delivers. Invested with good production values, it nevertheless will require different handling from the usual run of pictures. John T. Coyle produced with the Rev. James K. Friedrich as associate; Irving Pichel directed.

ON YOUR TOES (WB)—Slow-moving and lacks the pace Warner is known for setting in musical comedies. With Alan Hale as the egotistical Russian impresario, Zorina the ballerina and Eddie Albert the vaudeville hoofer out for bigger and better things, this story of the plight of the Russian ballet troupe will have to be sold for all it is worth. The success of the picture is entirely up to the exhibitor. Ray Enright directed as best he could with a so-so script.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

SCRIPTERS

—Metro

JACK JEVNE to "Strange Honeymoon."

JOSEPH FIELDS and JEROME CHODOROV to an untitled story based on the real-life discovery of Helen Gilbert, member of the studio's orchestra, who made her film debut in "Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever." Bernard Hyman will supervise production.

—Paramount

DON HARTMAN and FRANK BUTLER, having completed script on "Road to Singapore," Hartman goes on "At Good Old Siwash," while Butler is assigned an untitled production for an early fall start.

LEONARD LEE to "Battalion of Death," from an original by John Monk Saunders. Arthur Hornblow jr. will produce.

EVERETT FREEMAN to "Buck Benny Rides Again," next Jack Benny starrer.

DELMAR DAVES to "Safari."

DWIGHT TAYLOR to "F. O. B. Detroit," from a story of the automobile industry by Wessel Smitter.

AGNES CHRISTINE JOHNSON to "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

—The Play's the Thing Productions

FRANK CAVETT to "The Deer Slayer," to be made by Gene Towne and Graham Baker for RKO Radio release.

—RKO Radio

DALTON TRUMBO to "Curtain Call," first production chore for Howard Benedict.

—20th Century-Fox

BEN MARKSON to "Charlie Chan's Oriental Cruise," fourth in the 1939-40 series.

—United Artists

SARAH Y. MASON and VICTOR HEERMAN to screenplay of "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," initial Richard A. Roland picture which will star Barbara Stanwyck.

—Universal

WILLIAM HURLBUT to "No Power on Earth," Jackie Cooper-Victor McLaglen co-starrer, slated to go into work immediately with Arthur Lubin directing.

—Walter Wanger

TAYLOR CALDWELL teamed with SHERIDAN GIBNEY on "Dynasty of Death." Miss Caldwell wrote the original, a behind-the-scenes expose of munitions manufacturers and war barons.

—Warner Bros.

JAMES HILTON to "Caesar's Wife," from a W. Somerset Maugham story.

MICHAEL FESSIER to "The Patent Leather Kid," forthcoming George Raft starrer.

LEONARD HOFFMAN and ROBERT KENT to "Destination Unknown." Treating of life in a concentration camp during wartime, it will be produced by William Jacobs for the Bryan Foy unit.

HOWARD KOCH to "We Shall Meet Again." Bette Davis and George Brent will co-star.

Wanger Signs Hitchcock For "Personal History"

Walter Wanger has signed Alfred Hitchcock to direct "Personal History," from the best-seller by Vincent Sheean, which will go into production November 15 for United Artists release. Wanger will first produce "House Across the Bay," starring Joan Bennett, which is scheduled to hit the cameras October 9.

Plan Early Starts on Two New Ritter Starrers

With Tex Ritter back from an extended personal appearance tour, Producer Edward Finney is planning early starts for two Monogram releases starring the cowboy-crooner. The first, "Roll Wagons Roll," will be directed by Al Herman, to be followed by "Under Western Stars."

A Second "Aldrich"

Second in the "Aldrich Family" features at Paramount, which got underway with "What a Life," will be "Life Goes On." The same cast of characters, headed by Jackie Cooper, will be written into the script by Don Hartman. Jay Theodore Reed will produce and direct.

In The Making

	STARTING	WELL ALONG	COMPLETED
COL.		**THE STREET OF MISSING WOMEN** — Preston Foster, Ann Dvorak, Douglas Fowley, Lorna Grey, Veda Ann Borg. Producer: Jack Fier. Director: Sidney Salkow.	
GN			
M-G-M		**NICK CARTER**—Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Donald Meek, Addison Richards, Sterling Holloway, Andrew Tombes, Henry Hull, Henry Victor. Producer: Joe Cohn. Director: Jacques Tourneur. **JUDGE HARDY AND SON**—Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Ann Rutherford, Sara Haden, Fay Holden. Producer: Lou Ostrow. Director: Geo. Seitz. Screenplay: Kay Van Riper.	
MONO.	**MR. WONG AT HEADQUARTERS**—Boris Karloff. Producer: William Lackey. Director: William Nigh. Original: Hugh Wiley. Screenplay: Scott Darling.	**HEROES IN BLUE** — Dick Purcell, Bernadene Hayes, Charles Quigley, Lillian Elliott. Producer: Ted Williams. (Sherwill Productions). Director: William Watson. Original: Charles Williams, Charles Curran. Screenplay: Charles Williams.	**OVERLAND MAIL** — Jack Randall. Producer: Robert Tansey. Director: Robert Hill. Screenplay: Robert Emmett.
PARA.		**OPENED BY MISTAKE**—Charles Ruggles, Robert Paige, Janice Logan, William Frawley. Producer: Harold Hurley. Director: George Archainbaud. Original: Hal Hudson, Kenneth Earl. Screenplay: Garnett Weston. **THE ROAD TO SINGAPORE**—Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour, Bob Hope, Jerry Colonna, Anthony Quinn. Producer: Harlan Thompson. Director: Victor Schertzinger. Screenplay: Don Hartman, Frank Butler.	
RKO	**SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON**—Thomas Mitchell, Freddie Bartholomew, Edna Best, Tim Holt. Producer: Gene Towne and Graham Baker. Director: Edward Ludwig. Original: Jean Wyss. Screenplay: Walter Ferris.	**THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG**—Kay Kyser and Orchestra, Adolphe Menjou, Lucille Ball. Producer: David Butler. Director: David Butler. Screenplay: William Conselman, James V. Kern. **SUNSET**—Jimmy Lydon, Joan Brodel, Marjorie Main. Producer: Cliff Reid. Director: Jack Hively. Original: Joseph Fields. Screenplay: Joseph Fields, Arthur Caesar.	**LEGION OF THE LAWLESS**—George O'Brien, Virginia Vale, Chill Wills, Norman Willis. Producer: Bert Gilroy. Director: David Howard.
REP.		**SAGA OF DEATH VALLEY**—Roy Rogers, George (Gabby) Hayes. Producer-Director: Joe Kane. Screenplay: Stuart Anthony.	
20TH-FOX		**HE MARRIED HIS WIFE**—Joel McCrea, Nancy Kelly, Mary Boland, Roland Young, Lyle Talbot. Producer: Raymond Griffith. Director: Roy Del Ruth. **THE GRAPES OF WRATH**—Henry Fonda, John Carradine, Jane Darwell, Eddie Quillan, Dorre Bowden, Charley Grapewin, Frank Darlen. Producer: Nunnally Johnson. Director: John Ford. Original: John Steinbeck. Screenplay: Nunnally Johnson.	**20,000 MEN A YEAR**—Randolph Scott, Mary Healy, Margaret Lindsay, Preston Foster, Kane Richmond. Producer: Sol Wurtzel. Director: Al Green.
UA		**REBECCA**—Laurence Olivier, Joan Fontaine, Judith Anderson, George Sanders, Reginald Denny. Producer: David O. Selznick. Director: Alfred Hitchcock. Original: Daphne DuMaurier.	
UNIV.	**NO POWER ON EARTH**—Victor McLaglen, Jackie Cooper. Producer: Burt Kelly. Director: Arthur Lubin. **THE INVISIBLE MAN RETURNS**—Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Nan Grey, Vincent Price. Producer: Ken Goldsmith. Director: Joe May. Screenplay: Kurt Siodmak, Joe May.	**TOWER OF LONDON** — Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff, George Sanders, Barbara O'Neil, Nan Grey, John Sutton. Producer: Rowland V. Lee. Director: Rowland V. Lee. **TEST DRIVER** — Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Peggy Moran, Jack Arnold, Sandra King. Producer: Ben Pivar. Director: Christy Cabanne	
WB-FN	**VIRGINIA CITY**—Errol Flynn, Brenda Marshall, Frank McHugh. Producer: Henry Blanke. Director: Michael Curtiz.	**INVISIBLE STRIPES** — George Raft, Humphrey Bogart, Jane Bryan, Paul Kelly, William Holden. Producer: Lou Edelman. Director: Lloyd Bacon. Original: Warden Lewis E. Lawes. Screenplay: Warren Duff, Earl Baldwin, Jonathan Finn.	

FWC to Resume Big Gifts Temporarily

LOS ANGELES—After shoving them into the discard for more than two years, Fox West Coast is planning a temporary resumption of large-scale merchandising giveaways, comprising 1940 model automobiles, in an effort to overcome the anticipated slump in attendance during the month preceding Christmas.

Decision came shortly after the announcement of a two-car giveaway set for FWC's subsequent-run houses in the Los Angeles district October 13.

The pre-Christmas stimulator will comprise eight cars. Twelve theatres in five cities in the Pomona Valley—Pomona, Ontario, Redlands, Riverside and San Bernardino—will participate. Two cars will be given away weekly, beginning November 29. Circuit executives have not yet decided whether to expand the automobile giveaway to include other districts.

San Francisco Theatre Activity Well-Paced

SAN FRANCISCO—Activity on the theatre front continues high here, the following developments reported in the area:

B. Lustig opened his Tower Theatre in Santa Rosa on Thursday.

The Port Chicago in the town of that name has opened under the management of F. Bilyew.

Alan Douglass is managing the newly opened Lake Theatre at Lower Lake.

Paul Gatt is taking over the Bayview from Otto Rhoda in San Francisco.

S. Nakatani of the Nippon in Sacramento is said to be planning another house there.

Sam Levin will open the Kingsbury Theatre in Kingsbury October 13.

Lou Stone is the new manager of the Crystal Theatre in Salinas. He formerly was with the Roxie in Santa Rosa.

Volcano La Marre says he is a partner, not the manager, of the remodeled Roosevelt in Oakland, as previously reported here.

M. L. Markowitz's Davies Theatre in San Francisco has undergone a generous application of paint and brush.

FWC Transfers Gibbons To Redwood City Unit

LOS ANGELES—Russell Gibbons, assistant manager of Fox West Coast's Apollo Theatre, has been transferred to the circuit's Sequoia Theatre in Redwood City. He has been replaced at the Apollo by George Biederman, of the Melrose, whose place has been taken by Harry Kalefeld, former usher.

To Hike Prices

BELL, CAL.—Frank Valuskis is completely remodeling his Bell Theatre and will advance admission prices from 10 cents to 25 cents when the house reopens.

The Industry in Los Angeles Is Unscathed by Economy Wave

LOS ANGELES—The war scare which is spreading an epidemic of personnel and wage slashes through Hollywood's motion picture plants and in the various companies' homeoffices has, so far, barely caused a ripple in the distribution and exhibition end of the industry locally. Unscathed to date are the personnel and pay checks of the territory's largest circuit, Fox West Coast; no layoffs or other signs of retrenchment are visible in the smaller chains or individual independent houses; and at only one exchange, RKO Radio, have salary cuts been made—that in accordance with the economy order issued by President George Schaefer and affecting every employe earning $4,500 or more annually.

Exchangemen in general, as well as spokesmen for FWC, hold to the feeling that reduction of the working forces is hardly likely in view of their feeling that none of the staffs are over-manned at present. In one instance, Universal, it was pointed out that, far from retaining any "deadwood" on the payroll, the staff is so trimmed already that a considerable amount is being paid out weekly in overtime in order to complete the required amount of work. Other exchanges, notably United Artists, reported the existence of similar conditions.

Smaller independent exchanges, such as Majestic, Coast Pictures and Tri-National, are already being operated with so little leeway that any curtailment would be nearly impossible.

FWC and exchange employes are likewise sanguine concerning the possibility of docked paychecks, basing their attitude on the fact that, to date, there has been no indication, official or otherwise, that such a step may be taken—at least for the present—and, again, with the exception of RKO Radio. N. P. (Red) Jacobs, manager, and his assistant, Frank Schindler, are both affected, being in the $4,500-or-over bracket at that office.

In contrast to the studios, where clerical and maintenance help have been hardest hit, the FWC office staff, numbering more than 100 clerks, stenographers and other white-collar workers, has been untouched.

Only manifestation of economy in the exchanges so far has been the general trend toward instructing workers in one department to familiarize themselves with the routine of other units—motivated, one exchangeman explained, by the desire to cut down overtime through a more equable distribution of work.



Heads Film Club—

J. T. Sheffield, head of Republic Pictures of the Northwest, who last week was named president of the Northwest Film Club in Seattle.

Coast Independents Outline Conference

LOS ANGELES—A meeting of the board of trustees of the newly-formed Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will be called in the near future to clarify organizational details and amplify the internal structure of the body, which comprises members of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., the ITO of No. Calif. and Nevada, and the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the Pacific Northwest.

Plans for the meeting are being worked out by Robert Poole, executive director of the ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz., who was appointed temporary executive secretary of the conference. Trustees include Hugh Y. Bruen and Jack Y. Berman for the southern group; and L. O. Lukan and William Ripley of the MPTOA. The northern California-Nevada contingent has not named its trustees yet.

Work in connection with the new conference, according to Poole, has sidetracked temporarily other activities of the ITO. The inter-organizational group, according to the announcement at the time of its formation, was established to "create a more harmonious relationship among independent theatre operators, producers and distributors."

Fourth Chan to Markson

HOLLYWOOD—"Charlie Chan's Oriental Cruise," fourth in the new season series by 20th-Fox, will be scripted by Ben Markson.

Graff at Savoy

LOS ANGELES—Jim Graff, former manager of Al Snadow's Hub Theatre, has resigned to become manager of the Savoy, recently purchased by Harry Hollander.

Avalon to Sam Decker

LOS ANGELES—Sam Decker has purchased the Avalon from Manny Hoffman.

SEATTLE

FOOTBALL is in the air and the gang from the Row, along with various theatre owners, was in the stadium for the initial game of the University of Washington who opposed Pittsburgh . . . This town looked very prosperous with the Bankers of America holding their national convention here. Lawrence Tibbett, noted baritone, sang . . . A new and distinct type of advertising is being used in the local dailies heralding the opening of "A Night in the Moulin Rouge" for the middle of October. The show will play in the Civic Auditorium. All ads are in plain type with lots of copy and with such headings as "France Squares Debt."

Hollywood was represented here with the personal appearance of Constance Bennett at one of the leading department stores. Miss Bennett gave talks to the women on beauty secrets . . The Montlake Theatre, formerly the home of continental films and which has been dark since last June, will reopen in a week or so as a playhouse devoted to revivals of Hollywood works and selected foreign films. Frank Jenkins will operate the theatre . . . The modernized version of "All Quiet on the Western Front" was previewed this week . . . Another reissue brought here is "The Big Drive." Albert L. Rule, who produced, has signed with Lloyd Lamb to handle the film in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Utah.

Show business was saddened by the death of Mrs. John Clemmer, mother of Jim Clemmer, now manager of the Fifth Avenue Theatre. Mrs. Clemmer was 90 years old . . . The Blue Mouse is presenting war news direct from Station KIRO at 5:55 o'clock each evening . . The MPTO of the Northwest has selected a committee to make plans for its annual convention and jamboree. Jim Hone, executive secretary, announces the convention will be held October 27, with the midnight jamboree in the evening at a theatre not yet selected. It is expected many out-of-town exhibitors will be in for the meeting and the Washington-Stanford football game the next day. L. O. Lukan, president, will be in charge of the committee to arrange all details.

The Fifth Avenue Theatre celebrated its 13th birthday this week. In its years of operation, the Fifth Avenue has proved itself adapted to entertainments of all sorts, having at various times staged elaborate stage programs and seasons of grand opera . . . One of the larger downtown stores will feature television within a few days. In the store's auditorium, local talent will perform at one end of the hall while their images will be reflected at the other end, allowing visitors to see both sending and receiving apparatus at the same time . . The Warner Club has reopened its remodeled clubrooms in the exchange. Morton Endert is the president for the ensuing year.

The Paramount exchange has resumed bi-weekly noon screenings. Pictures are shown every other Tuesday . . . Jim Hone, carving turkeys to feed some 500 with many from the Row included among the gathering. Dinner was held in the University Christian Church with the Rev. Doctor Hastings in charge. Among the guests representing the show business were L. J. McGinley, manager of Universal, with his wife and daughters; Bill Bedgisoff of the Green Parrot and Hollywood theatres, with his wife and son and daughter; Paul and Mrs. Aust of the Broadway Theatre and Mr. and Mrs. Les Theuerkauf of Universal . . Mrs. Guy Navarre, on the Row with two cocker spaniels. During lunch, Dutch Trammel became caretaker of the hounds, doing a fine job.

The Northwest Film Club is featuring a cocktail hour in the evening with a selected member in charge. Roy Peacock is easily the largest member to preside over the hour so far . . . Tom O'Donnell, away by plane to New York and the World Series . . . Danny Matin has resigned his spot with Monogram and left for Minneapolis and Chicago. He is making the trip by car and is accompanied by his mother. They will include Yellowstone Park on the trip east where Danny will take over a spot with RKO. Al Harris, booker for Monogram, will now spend some of his time selling, according to Al Goldstein . . . L. J McGinley is back from his round of Universal exchanges by air. He was met in Portland by his family and motored home . . . Edgar and Verna Mercy, back from their trip to New York and staying here for a spell.

Word from San Francisco that Rad Pratch has arrived there safely on his ketch *White Cloud* on the first leg of a voyage to Tahiti . . . Kenny Schultz has moved way out in the country and taken a home. New residence is on Canyon Creek, far from crowds . . . J. T. Sheffield, president of Republic of the Northwest, received word from San Francisco telling of the death of his very close friend, Col Floyd Hatfield . . . Eddie and Marion Walton, host to a gang for Italian dinner . . . J. and Gene von Herberg, hosting a group of guests over the week-end at their Bainbridge Island home . . . Ben Shearer reaching a new low in a golf game with John Hamrick . . . Seen on the Row: Joe Rosenfield and Bill Evans, both from Spokane; Johnny Smythe, Louie Perunko, Mike Barovic and Sid Dean, all from Tacoma; Carol Barney from Arlington; Gus Graf, Shelton; Bill Struppler, Pullman; Norman and Mrs. Clyde of the Clyde Theatre, Langley; Joe Kelly, Aberdeen; Milton Kenworthy, Moscow, Ida.; Rex Thompson, Port Orchard; Charlie White, Concrete.

Murray Peck, formerly manager of the Colonial for Danz Sterling, has rejoined that organization and taken over the Winter Garden . . Harriet Lamb, back to the hospital for another week for observation . . . Rudy Lauckner of Port Angeles making one of his few trips to Seattle . . . Mel Hulling of Monogram here and back again to California. Mel is coast division manager for Monogram . . . Lots of beefing about the Tum's radio program, the "Pot of Gold." If your number is selected from a phone book and you are home when called, you get a check for $1,000. If you are not home when called, you get a check for $100 and the remainder is carried over to the next week. The program is broadcast about the time folks are making up their mind to go to a show. Now they stay home.

J. T Sheffield, new president of the Northwest Film Club, held his first meeting with the trustees. With many new faces around the theatres and on the Row, it was decided to start a drive for new members. Application blanks have been deposited at exchanges. Plans are being made for a lot of activities this fall and special Saturday afternoon football parties on the days the Huskies are away from home . . . Joe Daniels, theatrical booking agent, moving his office from the Palomar to the Orpheum Theatre Bldg. . . . Herndon Edmond, inviting the trade to the forthcoming preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Blue Mouse.

"CAPITALIZING ON YOUR CREATIONS"

In every walk of life, in every kind of business, legitimate or otherwise, this creed is the Mother of Success, except,

"In the Motion Picture Theatre"

where, according to some Exhibitors, this code of ethics doesn't apply. What a sad costly blunder.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

Leichter Will Reissue UA's "She Goes to War"

LOS ANGELES—Mitchell Leichter, independent producer-distributor, has acquired reissue rights to "She Goes to War," a United Artists production featuring Eleanor Boardman and Rupert Hughes, and is re-cutting it as an eight-reeler, to be ready for release within six weeks. At that time, Leichter will cover the nation's key centers selling territorial distribution rights to the picture.

Leichter returned recently after disposing of distribution rights in "Sudan," African adventure picture, in California, Arizona, the Hawaiian Islands, New Mexico, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Washington, D. C., Massachusetts and certain foreign markets.

"They Gave Him a Gun" Is Given Two Revival Tests

LOS ANGELES—Two test revival runs of "They Gave Him a Gun," starring Spencer Tracy and Franchot Tone, were spotted by Metro's distribution department. Jim Schiller handled the campaign in Bakersfield and Harry Loud took charge of the booking in Pomona.

Metro Signs Carroll

HOLLYWOOD—John Carroll, formerly with Monogram, has been signed by Metro and assigned a role in "Twenty Little Working Girls."

PORTLAND

PORTLAND'S first experiment with a newsreel theatre seems okay. With the reopened Blue Mouse in operation a week, executives at Hamrick-Evergreen said officially that the short subject show was "meeting the anticipated response." Off the record, they were pleased, what with good stuff from the war front and the newsboys thus boosting their feature on every corner. Opening ads billed shots of the capture of thousands of Poles, women and children fleeing from bombardments, tanks in action and the French army advancing on the western front. The hour show opens at 11 a. m. and continues once around the clock It includes Fox, RKO and Paramount newsreels and a variety of other shorts.

Zollie Volchok, manager of the New Rivoli, brought the performers on with a puff and off with a pat at the Oriental's first regular Friday amateur stage show. Mike Newman, Oriental boss, borrowed Zollie for his inaugural. Bill Ross, of radio station KGW, has been lined up for regular emcee . . . Mr. and Mrs. Guy Garrison of St. Helens were in town to report a larder well stock with venison. They each bagged a buck.

Doug Polivka, drama ed of the late lamented *News Telegram,* packed his typewriter and new furniture to head for Salem. He'll catch only the matinees there, as he will take over the night desk on the Oregon *Statesman,* Governor Sprague's morning sheet. Filmrow wished Doug lots of luck—all good.

Found the staff at M-G-M expecting daily the return of Auditor Charlie School from Cleveland. His visit was cut short by the sudden illness and death of his mother . . . Awaited also was the return of Mrs Engman, last vacationer, who braved typically colossal weather to visit California and Hollywood, and Joe Warren, salesman, home for a week with a cold. Seems one cold at a time is the office quota with line formed to the right. Present was George Hickey, division supervisor, up from Los Angeles for the first time in some six months.

Vacations were hanging on at Hamrick-Evergreen, too, with Artist Earl Hunt spending his at home and Roy and Madeline Brown motoring to the San Francisco Fair via Boise and Reno. Frank Newman jr., Liberty manager, hosted Al Finkelstein, Mose Mesher, Herb Sobottka and Jimmy Carey of Vancouver at a venison feed before vacating northward. Barbecue was staged at the Oyster Loaf . . . Carey did his hunting the safe and sane way, with a doctor and an undertaker for companions. Just as an added precaution, he cooked while they hunted.

Seen rambling the Row: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Adolph of Salem, with Jill, their great Dane pup; G. W. Gessler, up from Sweet Home; Oscar Phelps and Everett Clauson, his booker, from Hillsboro; Harry Percy, a frequent visitor for White Salmon, Bingen and Clatskanie; Guy Navarre, out of Seattle for United Artists; Dick Fisk of Bandon and Gold Beach; Willie Long, selecting for Oregon City audiences.

Flags and cutouts adorning downtown lamp posts give city festive air and advertise Pacific International livestock exposition . . . Herb Sobottka, lamenting that most of his Paramount Theatre staff were suffering from colds, explained loudly: "The Rains Came." It was his current feature . . . Both the Broadway and Park Ave. marquees of the Paramount glisten in new paint . . . Fall concert season launching this month with Budapest string quartet, Don Cossack choir and Moulin Rouge revue.

Alexa Buhler, at the Hamrick-Evergreen switchboard, had to concentrate on keeping both voice and temper sweet when a lady got wrathy because Alexa couldn't tell her all about a show at a competing house. She's used to it, however . . . Filmrow spread wide welcome mats for Cecil Farnes, formerly with Monogram here and later transferred to Seattle. Now he's back in Portland, replacing Foster Blake of Universal who has gone to Los Angeles.

"Rains Came" Record Breaker

San Francisco—"The Rains Came," in its third week at the St. Francis, broke the house's Sunday record when over 6,000 patrons jammed in on September 24. This is the biggest day's business since "Mutiny on the Bounty." The St. Francis seats 1,800.

Allied States Members Summoned to Meeting

LOS ANGELES—First important meeting of the fall season for the local chapter of Allied States, independent exhibitor organization, was scheduled for October 5 at Allied's Filmrow headquarters, according to an announcement by James C. Quinn, executive secretary. He issued a call for all Allied members in the territory to attend and explained that the organization would map plans for an extended drive for new members among unaffiliated showmen in the area.

Seth Perkins, Allied president, was slated to preside.

Warner Circuit Acquires Wiltern From Lustig

LOS ANGELES — The Warner Theatres chain has taken over the Wiltern Theatre from Bernard Lustig and is boosting admission prices from 35 to 40 cents. The house was built by the Warner interests in 1930 and operated by the circuit for about a year before it was disposed of to an independent operator. It will continue to be run on a subsequent-run policy.

Seiler Opens 400-Seater Oct. 31

BALBOA, CAL.—Mason Seiler will open his new Lido Village Theatre, on Lido Isle, October 31. It is a 400-seat house.

S' FRANCISCO

VISITORS OF THE WEEK: Mr. and Mrs. R. Pollack, Calistoga; Harry Oastler, Winnemucca; Frank Enes, Enean, Pittsburgh; Pete Perry, Granada, Yearington, Nev.; J. C. Lee, Town Hall, Quincy; Bill Tam, Amador, Jackson; Ray Kelsall, Victory and Jose, San Jose. From Sacramento—Lew Marks, Rialto; A. Mauraki, Mission; Manual Estes, Lyric.

Reek A. Feliziana, manager of the local Midtown Theatre, went "Hollywood" during the recent heat wave here. In order to have everyone comfortable, especially the help, Reek had his usherettes work in sun suits and shorts, which went over big with the attending gentry there. Reek and Charles Coovert, his assistant, went for white coats and white shoes in order to add more atmosphere.

The personnel at the Warner exchange is battling with the workers in the Harvey Amusement Co. office—over the ping-pong table. It is a bitterly-fought tournament.

George Hickey, M-G-M district supervisor, left for Salt Lake City after a two-day visit here . . . Don Henning of the Pacific Premium is back at his desk after a trip north . . . Republic reports that Jimmy Myers and Sid Martinstein are checking routes preparing to leave for a prolonged road trip.

George C. Blumenthal is the new manager at the Alexander Pre-Vue office. Harold Schwarz, general manager of the Alexander Co. of Colorado Springs, is in Frisco and brings news of numerous sales in the midwest and south.

The RKO exchange is remodeling a section of its office and replacing the glass wall with a solid one . . . Betty Merritt, chief accountant at the Paramount exchange, is vacationing at Yosemite . . . J. Leslie Jacobs took a short vacation to parts unknown . . . Pat Patterson, local gadabout, was gadding about with Bob Savini of the Astor Pictures, New York, while Savini was here.

Ed Levy of the State Theatre in Dinuba vacationing along the Redwood Highway. Van Van Horn, well known along the local Filmrow, is pinch-hitting for Levy . . . Dick Pollard was in town with the missus. Dick has the Playhouse in Calistoga and reports the weather there slightly warm during the heat wave . . . Ted "Kid" Lewis and his variety show will play a week at the Golden Gate Theatre starting October 11.

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LOS ANGELES

BEN BRONSTEIN, of the Union Theatre, handed out venison steaks to his hungry Filmrow friends after a successful hunting foray . . . "Ecstasy" is in its fourth lucrative week at Louis Berkhoff's Cinema Theatre . . . Andy Krappman returned to his desk as Charles Skouras' aide at Fox West Coast after a few days off.

Lillian Coats has joined the Universal exchange staff as a contract clerk, moving down from the company's San Francisco office. She replaces Mrs. Merrill Shapiro, resigned . . Sam Milner, Universal salesman, has gone to Arizona on a business jaunt, while Jimmy Burton, who sells for Warner, has just checked in from that state . . . Irving Carlin is now managing the Empire, unit in the Carlin-Sinker chain, Ed Cunningham having resigned his managerial spot.

Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, is in Denver, having flown west after attending the company's district managers' parley in New York . . . Louis Berkhoff is promoting a photograph contest among patrons of his Cinema Theatre in connection with "When Germany Surrendered" and is handing out prizes of $25, $15 and $5 for the best photos taken in France during the World War . . . Bookers included Judy Poynter, of San Clemente; Jenne Dodge, Mission Theatre, Ventura; Art Brick, Palace, Las Vegas.

The Brentwood Theatre has retained Western States Theatre Service to handle its bookings . . . Jay Herman Co. grabbed the heating and ventilating contract for Fox West Coast's new Crenshaw Theatre, set to begin construction within a few weeks.

Nat Levine, veteran producer, was a visitor at the 20th Century-Fox exchange . . . George Mitchell, of National Screen Service, has a new secretary—by name Dorothy Gibson . . . J. J. Milstein, New York representative for Producer Edward Small, paid a visit to several of his local Filmrow acquaintances . . . Ben Fish, western district manager for United Artists, left for Seattle on a business trek.

Dave Cantor has reduced admission prices at his York Theatre from 20 to 15 cents, effective on Sundays only . . . Ray Hendricks has resigned as manager of the Carlin-Sinker house, the Oriental . . . M. A. Wally, of the Universal home office, checked in for a business visit . . . Booking visitors included I. Blum, Mecca Theatre, Mojave; Bill Knotts, Covina Theatre, Covina; Bud Gore, of the La Mar Theatre, Manhattan Beach.

Wister M. Elliott, showman from Vandergrift, Pa., was a guest on the Warner lot in Burbank . . . Mrs. E. W. MacLean, wife of United Artists office manager, expects to leave the Queen of Angels Hospital shortly, nearly recovered from a recent illness . . . Enid Button of the UA exchange will handle tickets for the annual Filmrow Christmas Charity Ball, to be held at the Palomar December 4. Those attending will participate in drawings for $500 in cash and nearly $5,000 worth of merchandising awards.

Fred Gage of the UA sales staff came in from Arizona with a bag full of contracts. Incidentally, this marks the beginning of Fred's 33rd year of successful film salesmanship . . . Harry Wallen, manager of the Paramount Theatre downtown, made one of his infrequent appearances along the Row . . . Other visitors: I. Colton, Castle; Kelly Seligman, Dorkel; Tom Tobin, Jewel.

Bertise Banner, Universal biller, is in from a vacation, while Doris Carmichael, secretary to Eddie Cooke, Universal's office manager, checked out for her annual holiday.

R. M. Savini, president of Astor Pictures, pulled out for San Francisco en route east after a two-week stay here . . . Maxie Rosenbloom will function as master of ceremonies for the annual Filmrow dance sponsored by Local B-61, and slated to be held November 10.

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LOS ANGELES

DENVER

TED Z. HALMI, publicity director for the Orpheum, a native of Hungary, who has been in this country since 1925, has received his final papers and is now a full-fledged citizen of the United States . . Larceny charges have been filed against two janitors of the Paramount Theatre, alleging theft of $470 worth of script books which were said to have been later either given away or sold at reduced prices.

Filmrow was saddened when it learned Robert Garlend was forced to submit to amputation of his left arm as the result of an auto accident . . . Fox is modernizing the long-closed Ute at Montrose, Colo. This will give Fox two theatres there.

On November 1, Gibralter Enterprises takes over the Orpheum and Colorado at Glenwood Springs, Colo., from E. J. Allen. The Colorado will be reopened, having been closed several years. About $12,000 will be spent in improving both houses. The purchase gives Gibralter 43 theatres in the Denver territory . . . E. John Greer of Santa Fe and W. H. Ostenberg of Scottsbluff, Neb., partners in Gibralter Enterprises, are spending a month to six weeks in the east with their wives. Mr. and Mrs. Greer also took their son east where he will enter Harvard.

Miss Rachel Salisbury, Scottsbluff, Neb., has succeeded Esther Hood, resigned, as secretary at Grand National . . . J. Al Fischer has bought the Empress, Hugo, Colo., from E. G. Weiselmann, who also operates in Limon and Palisades, Colo. . . . "The Fight for Peace" being distributed through Monogram, is getting a first run at the Aladdin . . Monogram reports new season deals with Fox West Coast and Gibralter Enterprises.

SALT LAKE

BUSINESS is beating up in the Intermountain area. August retail sales in Utah bettered by 3.8 per cent those of the preceding month, according to an official business survey . . . The Paramount reopened for the fall with "The Rains Came," which was moved over from the Centre. Charles Pincus will manage the Paramount, assisted by Lew Sorenson. Succeeding Sorenson as assistant at the Utah, is Dave Thomas, who moves over from the Capitol in Logan.

"Stanley and Livingstone," in its third week at the Studio, is still packing them in . . . Lawrence Tibbett paused here briefly en route to Seattle and an engagemen before a convention of the American Bankers Ass'n . . . "Arizona" will be world premiered in Tucson . . Jack Dempsey and his two daughters spent 10 days at his ranch here on Naylor Lane. His wife, the former Hannah Williams, remained in the east because of illness in her family.

Lily Pons will sing at the Salt Lake Tabernacle November 13 . . . "Birth of an Iceberg," taken by Father Hubbard, the glacier priest, is sharing playing time on a holdover program at the Studio Theatre . . . Projection and sound equipment is being installed in the Pocatello (Ida.) High School by the local branch of National Theatre Supply . . . E. S. Winward, RKO office manager here, is spending his vacation by resting up at home.

H. C. Fuller, local RKO branch manager, is enthusiastic over his company's forthcoming lineup in which he foresees definite "hits." He mentions, among others, "Fifth Avenue Girl," "Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," "Vigil in the Night," "Allegheny Uprising" and "That's Right, You're Wrong," featuring "Professor" Kay Kyser . . . Leo Adler, UA traveling auditor, is still here with his adding machine.

Al O'Keefe, Universal western district manager, was called to New York for a special meeting at the home office . . . Walt G. Hull, exhibitor at Ely, Nev., was in booking . . . Harry Landstrom, Universal salesman, is presently covering western Montana. Eddie Loy is in and around Boise . . . Nina Scott, Sheffield-Republic cashier, is back at her desk after vacationing in southern Utah and Colorado.

George Smith, Paramount district manager, met here with the company's sales staff, including Branch Manager F. H Smith . . . Metro trade-showed "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms" at the Victory, October 3. Both were well received . . . W. W. McKendrick, Monogram biggie in this section, is in from the territory for a few days.

Nielsen Buys Kaplan House

SOLVANG, CAL.—Axel Nielsen has purchased the Mission Theatre from Leo Kaplan. Nielsen now owns two houses in this Danish colony.

Local 143 May Place Pickets Before More F&M Theatres

ST. LOUIS—Possibility that the picketing which began September 30 at six neighborhood theatres of the St. Louis Amusement Co., operated under contract by Fanchon & Marco, may spread to at least three more houses in the 25-house chain is expressed by Robert Thomsen, president of IATSE, Local No. 143. Houses to which the strike order may extend are the Capitol, downtown, Congress and Shaw, in the west end.

According to Thomsen, two operators employed at the Shaw have received special oral guarantees covering wages and employment from F&M. The union made the same charge with reference to nine Nick adherents employed at the Granada, Dakota, Lafayette, Maffitt, Pageant and Shady Oak where picketing began.

Thomsen said at the Capitol and Congress wage cuts of $12.50 and $10 a week for each operator were announced by the management September 22. The wage agreement between the union and the St. Louis Amusement Co. expired September 1 and the wage cuts were made during negotiations for a new contract. Thomsen said the operators at the Capitol and Shaw had refused to accept their pay checks at the lower scale.

Termed "Racketeer No. 1"

Under the caption "Aid and Comfort to John Nick," the *Post-Dispatch*, afternoon paper, said, editorially, "The long public fight to clean out racketeers who so long dominated the Motion Picture Operators' Union in St. Louis is threatened from a new and astounding quarter. This threat takes the form of the choice of executives of the largest theatre chain in St. Louis to lend aid and comfort to the faction of the union dominated by John P. Nick, the city's racketeer No. 1.

"In six of the theatres in his chain, Harry C. Arthur jr., manager of the Fanchon & Marco group, has dismissed operators who were bona fide members of the union, active in the faction which had the courage to throw off Nick's domination, and has replaced them with Nick's stalwarts, who are under suspension from the union.

"The people of St. Louis are hardly interested in the details of the terms of the contract which Mr. Arthur and his associates are negotiating with the union, although Mr. Arthur appears to be caviling at terms to which he agreed for several years when Nick was bossing the union.

"Be that as it may, what the people of St. Louis are interested in is in seeing that nothing is done which will in any way hinder the honest and upstanding men who have taken their jobs and their personal safety in their hands and ousted as loathsome a set of racketeers as ever browbeat their way into control of a union.

"If the union is unreasonable about the terms it asks for the new contract, Mr. Arthur and his associates have ample means of protecting their interests without calling in Nick and his adherents as allies.

"St. Louis is determined to be rid of Nick and all his bribe-hungry, bulldozing labor exploiters of his ilk. The public will not countenance employer tactics which include the use of racketeers as pawns against honest unionists.

"John Nick is under indictment in the St. Louis circuit court for bribery and extortion. His record is notorious . . . Such a man must be shown no quarter, and the movie owners themselves should be the last to give him a new foothold. Fanchon & Marco represents itself as caught in a jurisdictional squabble. Such a plea cannot be sustained. The company's formal statement said, 'We will continue to operate in such fashion that neither faction can honestly accuse us of favoritism.' But this happens to be a situation where every consideration of right and decency demands positive favoritism —for the reform element in the union and against John Nick and his strong-arm squad.

"Behind the Fanchon & Marco Service Corp. is the St. Louis Amusement Co., headed by such men as Thomas N. Dysart and Clarence Turley. The terms of their management contract with Fanchon & Marco have not been made public, but surely they must have an influence sufficient to end such a travesty as this."

Local 143-A Must Show Cause for Picketing

ST. LOUIS—Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley has directed ten members of the Colored Cashier's Society to show cause why they should not be temporarily enjoined from picketing the Criterion Theatre, 2644 Franklin Ave.

The court order was sought by George Pliakos and William Peppes, owners of the theatre. They asserted members of the Negro organization are endeavoring to force the theatre management to employe four Negroes as projectionists.

The plaintiffs pointed out that under a contract with the Motion Picture Machine Operators' Union, Local No. 143, the theatre is to employ two Negroes and two white operators. The Negroes are members of Local No. 143-A, an affiliate of the white operators' union. Local No. 143-A has also agreed to the division of the work between the white and Negro operators, it was pointed out.

Exhibitor Counter-Pickets Projection Union Members

RICHMOND, IND.—Guy Alexander, manager of the Pastime Theatre, responded to a three-week siege of picketing by the local projectionists' union with picketing of his own at the various houses where members of the union were employed.

Alexander personally picketed the Tivoli Theatre here with a sign reading: "The men operating projectors at this theatre from Local 263—unfair to Pastime Theatre." Three other men, employed by Alexander, picketed the Ritz, Indiana and Hudson theatres at the same time.

The dispute arose over the fact that Alexander's son operates the projection machine at the Pastime. Alexander contends that since his son is a partner in the theatre, his action is not in violation of union rules.

Projectionists Gain 5 Per Cent Hike

CHICAGO—After a month's dickering, the exhibitors and operators finally concluded terms for the 1939-40 operators' salary scale, whereby all operators will get a five per cent salary hike over last year.

The deal is retroactive to September 1, when the last year's deal expired.

Illinois Allied Board Approves

CHICAGO—Allied of Illinois board members have approved the new five per cent hike in wages for projectionists for this season.

"Discrimination" Suit Is Filed in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—A suit has been filed in the superior court here by a George Wilson, colored, against the Ritz Theatre, et al., for refusing accommodation.

It is reported that this same person has previously been refused during the last two years admission into the Lyric, Apollo and Alamo theatres and had entered suits in each of these instances but the cases were thrown out of court. It is understood that Wilson's father is an attorney and that these suits are being sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as test cases.

Chicago Business Spotty; Holdovers Set in Loop

CHICAGO—Business was spotty in the suburbs and the loop, but several holdovers were set for the loop.

"The Women," still grinding out at the United Artists, is going into its fourth week; "Dust Be My Destiny" is in the second stanza at the Roosevelt, while "The Old Maid" moved after two weeks at the Chicago to a third week at the Apollo.

Balaban in New York; May Confer on Deal With UA

CHICAGO—John Balaban of B&K is in New York this week. During his visit, it is thought he will confer with United Artists' executives over a 1939-40 product deal, which as BOXOFFICE goes to press, has not yet been closed.

New Wellman Pact

HOLLYWOOD—William Wellman has drawn a new producer-director pact at Paramount, with his next assignment "F. O. B. Detroit," a story dealing with the automobile industry. Dwight Taylor is doing the script.



—All-Event Photo Service

With the Legionnaires—

Balaban & Katz executives pose with Jack Benny and Joe Louis during legion convention activities in Chicago. Left to right: Walter Immerman, Louis Lipstone, Benny, Dave Balaban, Louis, and John Balaban.

Extension of Theatre Games Is Foreseen

CHICAGO—The time is ripe for a rebirth of theatre games, in the opinion of Lee Dibble, general sales manager of Ten-O-Win, San Francisco, who was through here this week en route to the west coast on a country-wide business trip that took him to New York City.

Dibble bases his opinion on the possibility that there will not be so many big pictures in the near future as there have been. He explains it thusly:

"With a large portion of the foreign revenue of the American producers cut off now, due to the war, Hollywood will necessarily have to retrench. And retrenchment in the past has always meant less big pictures. They will have to make more program pictures due to a loss of that foreign revenue.

"Necessarily, then, theatres in the United States will need something besides pictures that are not so big as they used to be, to draw patrons. The logical answer will be theatre games, games that have definite showmanship value and exploitation possibilities that can be tied in with the showing of pictures."

For those reasons, Dibble believes that a cycle will be here shortly that will see most theatres returning to theatre games.

Musical Talent Search Has Paper's Support

MILWAUKEE—Harry MacDonald, manager of the Warner Theatre, in cooperation with the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, staged a musical talent search with children between the ages of 10 and 18 eligible, to plug "They Shall Have Music," playing the house.

Clark Wooddell, director of the Wisconsin College of Music, offered six free scholarships as prizes. Twenty-five runnersup were given guest tickets to the Warner. No charge was assessed entrants and the first two prizes were known as the Jascha Heifetz scholarships.

Turn Over First 'Take' to St. Louis Charity Fund

ST. LOUIS—The first-night "take" of the new Esquire Theatre here will be turned over to the Community Fund of Greater St. Louis, it is announced by officials of Shuchart Investment Co., operators of the $300,000 de luxe neighborhood house on Clayton Road.

This decision was reached at a conference of Harry Greenman, Esquire manager; Mayor Charles Shaw of Clayton, Mo.; Mayor B. W. LaTourette of Richmond Heights, and R. Fullerton Place, an executive of the Community Fund drive.

Over $1,000 is expected to be raised through advance sale of tickets at $1 apiece. The mayors are in charge of ticket sales.



Yes, You're Listed—

Eddie Cantor is assured by Hostess Mary Worley his seat's reserved as he enplanes from Chicago after the American Legion convention. Cantor, who is on a personal appearance tour, emceed Legion activities at Soldiers Field.

A Tribute to Maertz By Milwaukee Row

MILWAUKEE—Filmrow turned out en-masse October 3 for funeral services here for Edward F. Maertz, president of the Independent Theatres Protective Ass'n of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc., who died September 29, at the age of 56.

Maertz suffered a stroke on September 27, the opening day of the two-day session of the ITPA. He had previously been in good health and had been active in forestalling legislation adverse to theatre interests at Madison and in drafting the convention program. His death was a shock to the industry with which he had been associated for the past 26 years.

In addition to serving as president of the ITPA, Maertz in recent months had also served the organization as executive secretary. He had long been active in the affairs of the association and recently had drafted plans for the formation of a buying and booking organization for independent exhibitors. He had also been named by Milwaukee county independent exhibitors to represent them in dealings with the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union, Local 164, in drafting a new contract. The present two-year agreement expires November 1.

Born at Maple Grove, Wis., Maertz came to Milwaukee 26 years ago where he and his father built the Comfort Theatre, one of the first houses on the city's northwest side. Twelve years ago, he built the Zenith and operated it until his death as president of the Northwest Amusement Corp., the theatre's holding company.

Maertz for many years was secretary of the Hopkins Street Building & Loan Ass'n, and at one time operated the Aztec Night Club, located on the site of the former Comfort Theatre. Operation of the Zenith Theatre several months ago was taken over by Fox.

Surviving Maertz are his wife, Ellen; two daughters, Helen and Mrs. Lawrence McMahon, and a son, William.

Because of Maertz's serious illness at the time of the ITPA convention in Milwaukee, the delegates voted to postpone any action for 30 days, at which time it is expected that a successor to Maertz will be named.

Many Suppliers Will Have Exhibits at ATO Meet

INDIANAPOLIS—According to Don Rossiter, executive secretary of the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, display space for exhibits and advertising in their convention issue of the Indiana *Exhibitor*, house organ, has been contracted for by the following companies: National Theatre Supply; Ger-Bar; American Seating Co.; Big Feature Rights; Movie Poster Service, Bradford Film Transit; Filmack Trailer; Burch Mfg. Co.; Earl Penrod; National Screen; RCA Mfg. Co.

The 13th annual convention and trade show will be held Monday and Tuesday, October 23-24, at Indianapolis in the Antlers Hotel.

Higher Quotations a Likely Major Move

By B. O. TELLER

CHICAGO—"He who hesitates is lost" is an old saying, and that phrase may be pretty apt as far as Chicago exhibitors are concerned.

It is learned that several of he major companies are considering withdrawing all quotations they have been giving the independent exhibitors of recent weeks and upping their asking prices. This may or may not be in line with the recent statement of Joseph Schenck, president of 20th Century-Fox, asking exhibitors to attempt longer runs of pictures in order to produce more rentals.

It is understood that 20th Century-Fox itself here now is to seek more rentals from its 48 announced pictures of this coming season than for the 52 produced for 1938-'39. The same is true of United Artists, it is said, where it is understood all quotations given in recent weeks have been superseded by higher asking prices.

No one at either of the exchanges would comment about the new situation this week.

Meanwhile, RKO, Warner and M-G-M still are asking for percentage deals on some pictures in Chicago proper.

However, there is no buying surge on the part of any of the independent exhibitors, with even the principal independent circuit, Essaness, not anywhere near finished on its new season buying.

Essaness Dealings With WB a Guide

CHICAGO—As Essaness will go, so will go all of the other independent exhibitors.

Such is the comment along the Row on Essaness' dickering with Warner here on the 1939-40 product. Warner is sticking to its guns and insisting on percentage on certain top pictures. Watchful waiting is the policy until Essaness finishes its deal.

Meanwhile, there is not much buying on other exchange fronts. As reported here last week, most product will not become available for "C" and first week houses until late this month or early November, and they see no necessity for hurry.

Nevertheless, as in the instance of Warner, many of the exhibitors are starting to feel out the other exchanges. Most of the independents, too, are perusing Essaness deals also with these other exchanges in order to seek out similar or better deals for themselves.

'Movie Week' Starts Oct. 6, Proclaims Mayor Kelly

CHICAGO—Mayor Edward J. Kelly has proclaimed the week of October 6 as "Movie Week" in Chicago celebrating the golden anniversary of the film industry. B&K and other circuits planned special advertisements and copy for newspapers, all of which promised cooperation.

Hal Tate, film commentator on WJJD, had a special broadcast planned on the golden anniversary for one of his morning programs this week.

CHICAGO

ROY CHURCHILL, RKO branch manager in Indianapolis, was here conferring with Jack Osserman, Chicago branch manager . . . Twelve pages of publicity were garnered in the Chicago *Times* by Sam Clark, Warner publicist, on the visit here of Howard Hill, who appears in the Vitaphone short, "Sword Fishing."

Ambrose Conroy, manager of the B&K Southtown Theatre, has his patrons commenting considerably about a collection of some 200 butterflies in the lobby of the theatre.

Friends of Ted Weber, Chez Paree press agent, were to give him a farewell party October 7 at the Congress Hotel, on the occasion of his leaving for New York to assume a post with Columbia Broadcasting System.

The B&K Employes Club is bowling weekly at the Bensinger Alleys. Joe Kearns, in charge of athletics, is supervising the bowling. Miss Joanne Abraham is in charge of the girls' office group, Manuel Fingerhut of the general office group, and Frank Anglund of the theatre personnel.

The theatres have already cut off their cooling plants and due to current economy drives do not plan to turn them on even if occasional hot days are had during October.

The Warner Employes' Club will hold its annual Hallowe'en Party October 27 in a loop hotel.

The ten winners in the M-G-M exploitation drive contest will stop in Chicago October 13 and be entertained as guests of the local office. The group is on its way to the San Francisco Fair.

Warner's Jerry Wald, author of "On Your Toes" and "Roaring Twenties," stopped over on his way to New York.

Bill Bishop, M-G-M's exploitation man here, traveled to Morris, Ill., to address a group of managers from the Anderson circuit. En route home, he stopped at Peoria long enough to complete arrangements for Metro's downstate trade screening to be held Tuesday, October 10.

Carl Leserman, assistant general sales manager for Warner Bros., passed through on his way to the coast.

Clyde Eckhardt, branch manager of the 20th Century-Fox exchange, has returned from his trip to New York.

Bob Montgomery, Essaness publicist, sends this one along from the canopy of the Argmore Theatre the other day: "Unexpected Father," "It Could Happen to You."

Bill Crouch, *Motion Picture Herald* correspondent, has another newspaper man in the family. The name is Jon Napier Crouch.

Chicago Trade Feels Police Censor's Axe

CHICAGO—The trade felt the axe this week as Lt. Harry Costello, police censor, rejected Warner's "A Child Is Born" and single-handedly vacated an injunction against interference with the D. W. Griffith reissue, "Birth of a Nation."

No details were available on the reason for denying a permit to the Warner film, a melodrama featuring Geraldine Fitzgerald, Gladys George and Jeffrey Lynn. It was reviewed by BOXOFFICE in the August 5 issue.

Banned here when originally released in 1915, "Birth of a Nation" had been playing recently under the protection of an injunction issued shortly after the ban. Costello yanked the picture from the Admiral Theatre this week on the ground that the injunction of 1915 did not provide for sound effects and explanatory additions that have been made in the film since that time. Art Telzer is distributing the film locally.

"Submarine D-1" Will Be Reissued by WB

CHICAGO—Now that numerous exhibitors have been seeking submarine pictures, Warner is reissuing "Submarine D-1," for November.

Tom Gilliam, Chicago branch manager, is setting the release date for the week of November 12.

"Submarine D-1" is the picture which Warner planned to reissue last May when the U. S. submarine, the *Squalus*, was lost off the New England coast. However, at that time, it is understood the film was withdrawn out of deference to requests by the Navy Department.

New Pact to Bucquet

HOLLYWOOD—Harold S. Bucquet, currently piloting "Secret of Dr. Kildare," has signed a new directorial contract at Metro.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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INDIANAPOLIS

AL ACKERMAN, operator of the Tacoma, has purchased a new screen, projector and new RCA sound. His improvements in recent weeks include new seats, a new marquee and sign . . . Joe Cantor, who will open the new Esquire, formerly the Garrick, should have one of the best lighted houses of its size in the middle west. Experts on lighting submitted the plan for the auditorium lighting effects.

Larry Reinking of Fort Wayne has joined the Cantor Bros. staff. Reinking was formerly right-hand man to Manny Marcus in the operation of four Ft. Wayne showhouses.

C. D. Alexander, chamber of commerce president in Indianapolis, announces the appointment of a committee of 135 to promote greater civic interest in the support of the legitimate theatre. The English Theatre here has promised full support.

Abe Kaufman, salesman for Universal in Indiana, has resigned to take charge of his Lyceum Theatre in Terre Haute. Kaufman was formerly manager of the local Big Feature Rights exchanges.

The World Fair talent revues in the Olson theatres here will come to a climax next week with the grand finale. Winners of past weeks will be presented in one big unit on the stages of the Ritz, St. Clair, Oriental and Uptown theatres. The winner, General Manager Carl Niesse declares, will be given his or her choice of a week's engagement at the Lyric or a trip to the New York Fair.

Settos circuit announces the appointment of Charles Doads as manager of the Irving Theatre. Doads was formerly assistant at the Ohio.

Forrest Quinn, manager of the Vogue here, announces the theatre's parking lot is being improved with a paved driveway. The rear door boxoffice also is proving a convenience.

Harry Douglass, operator of the Cozy Theatre, Dugger, Ind., is the newest member of the ATOI.

Seen along Filmrow: Anthony Bokas, Argos; Nick Paikos, Tipton; E. R. Crouch, Fairmount; Red Massey, Worthington; Sam Neall, Kokomo; Frank Carroll, Orleans; Mrs. Janet Prewitt, Plainfield; Mr. and Mrs. Long, Sheridan; J. B. Sconce, Edinburg; Max Paige, Brownsburg; Billy Conners and wife, Marion; D. D. Lee, Montezuma; J. E. Whitley, Kokomo; Sam Grimes, Brazil, Harold Neese, Dana; L. T. Moore, Mitchell; Art Clark, Bloomington; Doyle Carter, Bloomington.

Joe Cantor, operator of several Indianapolis neighborhood theatres, announces the new name of his recently acquired Golden Theatre, is to be "The Sheridan." Don Wright, acting manager, suggested the public be consulted in the matter of renaming the theatre, and a contest was arranged with free tickets promised those who picked the name receiving a majority vote. It proved to be quite an ordeal, because 4,208 of the 6,000 who cast ballots voted for Sheridan.

Filmrow was really deserted Saturday afternoon with nearly every one gone to the Indiana-Nebraska football game, homecoming for Indiana University at Bloomington. Among those attending were Marc Wolf, Al Blocher, C. R. Jackson, Harold Marshall, Jerry Adams, Dan Penrod, and many others.

G. L. Heinrich, office manager at RKO, and Herman Morgan, booker for Affiliated Theatres, recently went fishing at Whitelick Creek in southern Indiana and it seems Herman had all the luck this time. Heinrich is hoping that his reputation as a fisherman won't be lost.

Percy Dickson and the Mrs. were visitors along the Row this week. The Dicksons operate the Eagle and Wabash theatres in Wabash, Ind. . . . Roy Churchill, manager at RKO, spent several days this week in Chicago on business.

William Trunick, Indiana representative for RCA, is on a two-week business trip traveling through the territory.

Harry Douglass, operator of the Cozy Theatre in Dugger, Ind., recently became the father of a son, christened Paul David, born at the Sherman Hospital in Sullivan. This is the second son for the Douglasses.

The resident agent for the Clinton Capitol Theatre Corp. has been changed to C. W. Ferguson. The Capitol at Clinton has been closed for some time.

William C. Carpentier, former field representative of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio and more recently connected in the same capacity with the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, has temporarily deserted the show business. Mr. and Mrs. Carpentier are operating a tourist camp and amusement resort just outside the city limits of Indianapolis near Cumberland.

Jerry Weiss of Chicago is at the local RKO office as student booker. Weiss formerly was connected with a chain of theatres in Chicago and recently entered the distribution end of the business. G. L. Heinrich, head booker and office manager of RKO, will show him the ropes.

Chicago Lecture Forum to Hear Roosevelt, Landi

CHICAGO—James Roosevelt and Elissa Landi will represent the film world among the list of speakers to be offered by the Sinai Temple Lecture Forum on the south side of Chicago this fall and winter. This is the 26th annual forum of the series.

Roosevelt will speak the night of November 13 on "Motion Pictures—Entertainment or Propaganda." Miss Landi will be heard on December 11, with her subject. "Making of an Actress."

Sorrow in Oshkosh on Passing of Laemmle

OSHKOSH, WIS.—The passing of Carl Laemmle was the occasion for considerable sorrow here where he spent 12 years as bookkeeper and later manager of The Continental clothing house.

Laemmle's hobby while associated with the Continental was advertising. He wrote all of the firm's copy and issued a miniature catalog each spring and fall which was delivered house-to-house in the country and in villages.

E. T. Cole, friend of Laemmle's for many years, recalled that the producer became interested in pictures after seeing his first film here, "The Great Train Robbery." Cole accompanied Laemmle to the theatre and Laemmle became so enthusiastic over prospects for motion pictures that he informed Cole the next morning that he was going into the business.

Wis. University to Open College Theatre Oct. 9

MADISON, WIS.—The University of Wisconsin opens its modern college theatre here Monday, October 9, with the Lunts presenting their Guild production of "The Taming of the Shrew." Built as an appendage to the Wisconsin Union Bldg., student clubhouse, the new Wisconsin Union Theatre was designed by Lee Simonsen and built with the aid of WPA funds.

A 1,300-seater, built in the most modern functional style, the theatre will be used for concerts, roadshows, lectures and films in addition to the normal campus dramatic program. Film bookings have not yet been decided upon, but should an active policy be inaugurated, local managers will have cause to wince.

Theatre is under the direction of J. Russell Lane, professor of speech at the university whose work is well regarded both in New York and on the coast.

Newsreel Men Converge On Cincinnati for Series

CHICAGO—Practically all of the newsreel men in Chicago were expected to be in Cincinnati to cover the World Series. Some of the boys were expected to remain here, however, for the filming on Friday of scenes of the funeral of George Cardinal Mundelein, who died on Monday.

Stray Bullet Wounds

INDIANAPOLIS—Miss Alice Sparks, stenographer for Big Feature Rights, was wounded in the right leg just above the ankle when a .38 calibre bullet bounced from the pavement and struck her. Miss Sparks was walking across the intersection at Ohio and Illinois St. when Detective Sergeant Willis Thompson fired at a suspected thief who made a breakaway.

Wisconsin Theatres Returning Vaude

MILWAUKEE—A revival of vaudeville in various spots around the state is being evidenced. Standard Theatres' Kenosha Theatre in Kenosha is spotting in flesh on Saturdays and Sundays, while the Hollywood Theatre in La Crosse is playing acts weekly on Thursdays and Fridays.

Other state houses recently spotting in stage attractions include the Van Der Vaart at Sheboygan and the Palace at Superior.

E. R. Brennan, manager of the Kenosha, in connection with the announcement of the new policy, promoted a double spread newspaper advertisement with congratulatory messages from merchants, the chamber of commerce and the city manager.

Indiana, Kentucky Trade Attend M-G-M Screening

INDIANAPOLIS—Theatremen from all parts of Indiana and Kentucky were guests at a luncheon at the Claypool Hotel here last Monday, October 2, given by the local M-G-M office.

A screening of "Ninotchka" was held at 11 a. m. at the St. Clair Theatre, followed by the luncheon with another screening at the theatre of "Babes in Arms" at 3 p. m.

Harold Marshall, Indiana publicity man for M-G-M, had charge of the affair. Among those attending were V. U. Young, Marc Wolf and Al Blocher of Theatrical Managers circuit and their managers in the field: Sam and Harry Switow of Louisville; Fred Dolle of Louisville; Carl Niesse and Sol Greenberg of the Olson Theatres; Tom Baker, general manager of Affiliated Theatres; Roy Harrold, Rushville; Trueman Rembusch, Franklin; John Servaas of Indianapolis, and many others.

20th-Fox and Metro Show Trade Three New Ones

CHICAGO—Two trade screenings were held in the Windy City. On Tuesday, 20th Century-Fox was host to exhibitors at a showing of "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Esquire Theatre.

Thursday, M-G-M showed "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms" at the Cinema, with luncheon sandwiched in between at the Drake Hotel.

M-G-M Invites Illinois Trade to Screening

CHICAGO—Invitations have been sent to outstate Illinois exhibitors to attend the all-day M-G-M trade screening and luncheon next Tuesday, October 10, in Peoria. "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms" will be screened at the Great States' Madison Theatre, while luncheon will be served for exhibitors at the Pere Marquette Hotel.

MILWAUKEE

FOX, in holding over "Beau Geste" at the Palace here for a second week, brought in a new companion feature. First week's bill showed "Night Work." Second week's attraction was "$1,000 a Touchdown" . . . Blanche Sweet and Raymond Hackett appeared at the Pabst in "The Sun Sets in the East."

Karl Krueger, Paramount publicist, has been in town getting the stage set for "Rulers of the Sea."

Two local nabes were robbed last week. A. C. Gutenberg's Grand was relieved of $25 in change and nine admission tickets, and Warner-Saxe's Granada had $93 taken from an unlocked safe, Clarence R. Bosch, manager, reported to police.

A local lad, William Brussat, is on his way to Hollywood to present a special copy of West Side High school's annual book to Spencer Tracy, to whom the issue is dedicated.

Howard A. Stubfors has taken over the Rex in Washburn from Ed Mitchell.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kenyon has taken over the Parkway at Greenwood from W. A. Potter. Lloyd Kenyon, Mrs. Kenyon's son, will manage the house.

Ray Pfeiffer and J. J. Ecker have completed the renovation of their Brillion Theatre at Brillion. New projection machines and sound equipment has been installed.

Deladene Orr, formerly organist at Loew's Temple in Birmingham, Ala., is now appearing at the Marine Club in Madison.

Ray Rogers, who has appeared in many dancing numbers in films, performed at a benefit show for the 128th Infantry band in Wausau.

Edward I. Benjii is back at his post as manager of the Capitol in Madison, following a trip to Hot Springs, Ark., to recuperate from an illness.

Joseph Kaiser, associated with the Mikadow in Manitowoc, was married to Miss Elinor E. Kortens.

Lawrence Kelly, manager of the Majestic, Cudahy, tied up with a local department store in presenting a free film for youngsters.

Uptown in Racine has been modernized with a new front and canopy furnished by Ben P. Poblocki & Sons Co., Milwaukee.

Elmer R. Brennan, manager of the Kenosha in Kenosha, was host to 160 carriers of the Kenosha Evening News *at a theatre party in connection with the local observance of National Newsboys' Week.*

ST. LOUIS

THE Webster Groves (Mo.) Theatre Guild will open its 13th season October 17 at the Monday Club with "The Valiant," by Robert Middlemass, and "A Paternity Case," by Gertrude Allen, both one-act plays. The season will continue through to May 7, 1940. One show will be given each month.

Roger Lee McGee, 11-year-old St. Louis youngster, has an important role in "Stop, Look and Love," the current screen offering at Fanchon & Marco's Missouri Theatre. The lad is under contract to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at $250 a week, according to advices reaching here from Hollywood.

Members of the veteran troupe of star chimpanzee performers of the St. Louis Zoo, who are well known to theatregoers throughout the country, having worked in a number of short subjects, are being retired because of old age. They gave their last performance in the Forest Park Zoo last week. The troupe includes Jackie, who has mastered the unicycle and Lady, the chimp of perfect balance, who performed difficult stunts on the tight rope. Jimmy, Percy and Tommy were other members of the veteran troupe. Only Jimmy has been retained for future shows with a troupe of juveniles now in training. The others have been moved into new quarters in the new Primate House.

The Beverly Theatre in University City, Mo., a local suburb, has started a series of spot announcements via KXOK.

Don Widlund, special representative of Jam Handy Pictures of Detroit, was a visitor . . . Bob Taylor, Monogram manager here, was in Springfield, Ill., on business . . . Eunice Mortensen, Monogram cashier, vacationed in Chicago . . . John Goshorn, representing National Theatre Supply and Irwin Seating Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., visited here a handful of days.

The Little Theatre group of St. Louis opens its fall season November 4. It will present six shows during the season . . . "Tobacco Road" opened the legit season at the American Theatre October 1, making its sixth appearance here for a total of seven weeks . . . James R. Grainger, Republic's president, was a recent visitor.

In from Kansas City for a weekend visit were Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Shreve. He is Kansas City manager for National Theatre Supply Co.

Melba to John Houston

HOUSTON, Mo.—John E. Houston has taken over the Melba Theatre here.

New Actress to Metro

HOLLYWOOD — Martha Driscoll, actress, has been placed under contract by Metro.

Three Tied for Lead in Chicago Bowling Race

CHICAGO—Three teams are tied for the lead in the Filmrow Bowling League. There are eight teams again this year. Jack Kirsch is leading the league individually with Doc Rafalski runner-up.

The standings:

	Won	Lost
Paramount	4	2
Photoplay	4	2
Film Carriers	4	2
Universal	3	3
Warner Bros.	3	3
20th-Fox	2	4
National Screen	2	4
Republic	2	4

St. Louis Grand Opera to Combine Burley & Films

ST. LOUIS—The Grand Opera House, dark for several years, will reopen shortly as "The Grand" with a combination film-burlesque policy. A lease on the property has been taken by a Chicago and Detroit syndicate, which will spend $15,000 on improvements.

Sam Reider, well known locally in theatrical circles, will represent the syndicate as resident manager.

Ray Colvin Reports Three New Equipment Orders

ST. LOUIS—Ray Colvin, head of Exhibitors' Supply Co. here, reports sale of new lamps, rectifier and screen to the Uptown Theatre here; carpets, screen and sound for C. H. Week's new house in Dexter, Mo., and a screen for Frank Barnes' new theatre in Carmi, Ill.

Darrieux En Route to Make Second Film

CHICAGO—Danielle Darrieux should arrive from France within the next week or two to start work on her second American picture, according to Nat Wachsberger, who is handling arrangements for the French star's next American picture. Wachsberger said that while details of the contract had been signed he could not yet announce the company, but said that it will not be Universal.

Darrieux has just finished a French picture, "Heart Battle."

Charles Boyer, with whom Wachsberger has a one-picture a year deal in France, now is in the final shooting stages of "The Pirate." Wachsberger talked by trans-Atlantic telephone with Boyer, who is an officer in the French intelligence service. The star said that the French government had given him leave of absence for two weeks to complete the picture, in which he appears with a new French starlet, Michele Alfa.

Wachsberger, who is Belgian, has applied for U. S. citizenship and has plans to produce three pictures in Hollywood in collaboration with Boris Morros.

He said that it is doubtful if Jean Gabin, France's number one male star, "will ever be lured to Hollywood by American gold." Gabin now is in actual service in the French army as a lieutenant, and has never expressed a desire to leave the Paris film scene.

A Milwaukee Veteran, Louis Plate, Is Dead

MILWAUKEE—Louis Plate, owner of the Climax Theatre, died here at the age of 78. He purchased the theatre about 30 years ago and at one time was vice-president of the Milwaukee Motion Picture Theatre Owners Ass'n. He had been retired for the past ten years. A native of Burlington, Wis., Plate is survived by his wife, three daughters, three sons, a brother and a sister.

Fred W. Goerlitz

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—Fred W. Goerlitz, 65, an employe of the Alexander Film Co. for 17 years, died at his home here. He is survived by his wife, a son and two sisters.

Vienna Refugees Stop in Chicago En Route West

CHICAGO—Visiting here while en route to the west coast were Alexander Shey and his son, George, of Vienna. While here they visited Ed Wolk, who showed them about Filmrow. George Shey said that he and his father, both motion picture engineers, had the Zeiss-Ikon Agency in Vienna before the Nazi regime.

Carbondale, Ill., Contract Awarded Edgar Stephens

CARBONDALE, ILL.—General construction contract for the new 1,100-seater the I. W. Rodgers circuit will build here has been awarded to Edgar Stephens of Cairo, Ill. It is estimated building costs and equipment will run over $100,000.

Plans for the new structure were drawn up by O. W. Stiegemeyer, St. Louis.

A. B. Marcus Revue First In Flesh Series at Fox

ST. LOUIS—Stage shows have resumed at Fanchon & Marco's Fox Theatre here, with "La Vie Paree," an A. B. Marcus revue, the opening bill.

Gene Krupa and his band are booked for the week of October 20.

Miss Hack Reopens

INDIANAPOLIS—Miss Ruby Hack, manager and operator of the Old Trails Theatre, Mickleyville, a suburb of Indianapolis, reopened the theatre last Sunday after a shutdown of nearly two months during which time extensive revamping was done. New carpet, draperies, seats were among the improvement made.

Early Turkey Day

CHICAGO—Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated in Illinois on the same date as that proclaimed by President Roosevelt, according to Gov. Henry Horner. It is November 23.

New Pact to Bob Hope

HOLLYWOOD—Bob Hope has signed a new Paramount pact.

Chicago November Releases

CHICAGO—Releases for November in the Chicago film territory are listed as follows (first figure is production number, last figure running time):

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5

4027—Witness Vanishes (Univ)—66.
4058—Desperate Trails (Univ)—58.
3851—Star Maker (Para)—93.
3865—This Man Is News (Para)—75.
946—Miracles for Sale (M-G-M)—70.
001—Hotel for Women (20th-Fox)—83.
376—Everybody's Hobby (FN)—54.
1025—Hidden Power (Col)—58.
.....—Royal Divorce (Mono)—77.
3857—Overland Mail (Mono)—55.
.....—Fight for Peace (Mono)—65.
847—In Old Monterey (Rep)—72.
.....—Straight Shooter (Sup)—59.
.....—Wild Brian Kent (Sup)—60 reissue.
153—Romance and Riches (GN)—58 reissue.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12

4010—The Under-Pup (Univ)—88.
3847—Magnificent Fraud (Para)—78.
004—Jones Family in Quick Millions (20th-Fox)—67.
.....—Submarine D-1 (FN)—105.
9002—Golden Boy (Col)—97.
9209—Riders of the Black River (Col)—60.
932—Bachelor Mother (RKO)—82.
3803—Mutiny in the Big House (Mono)—83.
.....—The Ringer (Mono)—64.
912—Calling All Marines (Rep)—66.
.....—Mutiny of the Elsinore (Sup)—69.
.....—23½ Hours Leave (GN)—72.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19

3003—When Tomorrow Comes (Univ)—90.
3848—Island of Lost Men (Para)—63.
3859—Renegade Trail (Para)—58.
949—Wizard of Oz (M-G-M)—100.
006—Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox)—73.
367—Angels Wash Their Faces (FN)—98.
9034—Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col)—64.
721—Woman I Love (RKO)—89 reissue.
.....—Danger Flight (Mono)—61.
.....—Riders of Destiny (Mono)—58.
.....—Grand Illusion (Mono)—94 reissue, foreign.
951—Arizona Kid (Rep)—56.
.....—Thunder Mountain (Sup)—60.
.....—Torture Ship (PDC)—65.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26

4017—Two Bright Boys (Univ)—70.
3902—Beau Geste (Para)—113.
948—These Glamour Girls (M-G-M)—78.
005—Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox)—81.
419—Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB)—60.
9017—Five Little Peppers (Col)—58.
946—Everything's on Ice (RKO)—66.
.....—Heroes in Blue (Mono)—65.
.....—Dude Ranger (Mono)—57.
913—Sabotage (Rep)—66.
.....—Secret Valley (Sup)—60 reissue.

Suggests Anti-War Films Be Revived

RACINE, WIS.—The Racine *Journal-Times*, in an editorial, suggests that this is a good time for reviving such flickers as "All Quiet on the Western Front," "The Big Parade" and "Three Comrades," as a means of turning people against war.

The complete editorial follows:

"A Good Time to Revive Pictures That Show War in Its True Light, a Beastly Thing

"When the movie, 'Confessions of a Nazi Spy,' was shown in Racine not so long ago, we commented that it was a pretty obvious piece of propaganda. It put Germany in the role of America's enemy, and portrayed Nazi agents as wholly despicable characters. At the time, we observed it was the kind of thing which would build up active hatreds and prejudices that might help to lead this nation into war.

"But the movies have the power to help promote peace, too, and a recent suggestion by a New York newspaperman seems worth considering by producers who have a sense of responsibility along with knowledge of what their products can do. The proposal is to re-issue the most potent anti-war films of a few years back, such as 'All Quiet on the Western Front,' 'The Big Parade,' and 'Three comrades.'

"Films like that thoroughly 'debunk' war; strip it of any glory in which it might be wrapped; portray it as a beastly thing that destroys everything worth while. Looking at such pictures would serve as a reminder to many who have forgotten what the last war meant, and many others who were not old enough to realize what transpired from 1914 through 1918. It would help to calm many who are even now showing signs of war fever.

"This would be an appropriate time to exhibit those pictures in theatres throughout the land. Once let national enmity reach the boiling point, or let war profits begin rolling into American pockets, and it would be too late for the films to perform their mission of peace. Then no theatre would dare to show them."

Three Buy Seating

ST. LOUIS—Installation of theatre chairs in three houses in this territory is reported by the L. T. Rockenstein Co. The installations were made in Marlow's Theatre, Herrin, Ill.; T. R. DeField's Lyric, East Prairie, Mo.; and Lee Rorer's Dixon, Dixon, Ill.

Rob Film Transit Co.

INDIANAPOLIS—A diamond stickpin valued at $600 and $50 in money were taken from a safe at the Indiana Film Transit Co. Yeggmen had battered the combination from the safe after entering the building through a rear window.

Koplar Opens Rio

ST. LOUIS—The Rio Theatre on Riverview Blvd. has opened. It is operated by Riverview Amusement Co., headed by Nat Koplar.

This Week We Meet . . .

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES DYAS



CHICAGO—Though Charlie Dyas, who operates the Lyric Theatre, Earlville, and the Grand at Plano, has been in the theatre business for 23 years, he is only 33 years old, having started as a handy-about-the-place youngster when he was 10 years old.

Dyas was born in Illinois, on a farm near Quincy, but when he was a boy, his family moved to Sandwich, Ill., where he began as a combination usher-janitor-and-handy boy about theatres.

He remained there for eight years, after which he became connected with the late Gus Huth, in Plano, Ill. It was this house that was operated by Huth, the Grand, which Dyas took over last year himself from the Huth estate.

Dyas met his wife, the former Gloria Duane, in Sandwich. She is a native of Eldernay, France, and is a capable song writer. She also writes considerable poetry, and both her poems and songs have been published extensively.

One of Charlie's pet hobbies is printing, and he has developed this to a point where it has become profitable to him in his theatre business. Some time after he purchased the Lyric at Earlville, in 1935, he decided to put his hobby to use. So in his spare time, he outfitted a printing shop and now prints all his own heralds and theatre programs for both theatres.

Dyas also is unusually interested in photography. As a matter of fact, he spent the period from 1932 to 1935 working with a motion picture advertising film company in Chicago. Having had this advertising experience in the Windy City, plus his printing hobby and love for photography, Dyas is in a good position to turn out exploitation material of worth for his theatres. He has a public address system in his theatres, which he put together himself.

Mrs. Dyas, a nurse by profession, is also interested in photography, and both spend considerable time at this hobby.

The Dyas family consists of "Mr. and Missus" and three children, Gloria Jean, 6; Ronald Duane, 5, and John Stephen, 2½.

Two Pigmy Elephants Get A Metro Screen Test

CHICAGO—M-G-M's exploiteer here, Bill Bishop, has turned talent scout. Anyway, that was his job when he had Ray Cole of Candid Illustrators, go out to take still "screen tests" of Zombe and Congola, two pigmy elephants just arrived at the local Brookfield Zoo. If they pass their tests, Zombe and Congola, the only pigmy elephants in the U. S., will be used in a forthcoming M-G-M picture.

Telenews Progresses

CHICAGO—Work is progressing rapidly on the construction of the new Capitol Bldg., which will house the new Telenews Theatre. The house is tentatively set for opening about December 1.

Reopen at Waterloo

WATERLOO, IND.—Vern Anderson, of nearby Angola, has reopened the Waterloo Theatre here. He purchased it from W. H. Hough.

War May Hurt Hockey

INDIANAPOLIS—The possibility that the war may have an effect on planned ice hockey competition at the new Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum this winter was seen when it was pointed out that the lease made by the state board of agriculture to Chicago promoters for the hockey games provides in the event Canada is engaged in a war the lease may be voided.

Remodel at LaSalle

LASALLE, ILL.—The Alger circuit is remodeling its LaSalle Theatre here at an expenditure of about $12,000. The work includes redistribution of seats, remodeling of the booth and decoration both inside and out.

Roy J. Tyrrell

CHICAGO—Word has been received here of the death recently in Traverse City, Mich., of Roy J. Tyrrell, 54 years old. Tyrrell is understood to have been the operator of the first moving picture theatre in Chicago.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

ADVERTISING

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MT482 Signs, Neon
MT483 Signs, structural glass
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MT485 Attraction boards
MT486 Letters, attraction board
MT487 Letters, changeable silhouette
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MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
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MT499 Ladders, safety
MT500 Moving words projector

AIR CONDITIONING

MT505 Air conditioning plants—complete
MT506 Heating systems
MT507 Refrigeration
MT508 Air washers
MT509 Blowers
MT510 Air circulators
MT511 Fans, exhaust
MT512 Grilles and registers
MT513 Temperature control devices
MT514 Air conditioning accessories
MT515 Motors, multi-speed fan
MT516 Motors, constant speed
MT517 Air filters
MT518 Air diffusers, high velocity
MT519 Cooling coils

DECORATIONS and FURNISHING

MT520 Architectural service
MT521 Decorating service
MT522 Seating service
MT523 Theatre chairs
MT524 Chair covers
MT525 Theatre carpets
MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

MT569 Expansion Bolts
MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
MT584 Fireproofing compounds
MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

PROJECTION

MT591 Projectors, complete with sound
MT592 Projectors, standard
MT593 Projectors, semi-portable
MT594 Projector pedestals
MT595 Projector parts
MT596 Lamps, suprex type
MT597 Lamps, reflector arc
MT598 Lamps, high intensity
MT599 Lamps, incandescent projection
MT600 Arc regulators
MT601 Arc controls
MT602 Control panels
MT603 Rectifiers, copper-oxide
MT604 Rectifiers, tube type
MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

MT641 Cleaning compounds
MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber link matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

SOUND

MT661 Sound systems, complete
MT662 Sound heads
MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT685 Screens, moving picture
MT686 Lighting, stage
MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, viterous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

MISCELLANEOUS

MT715 Accounting systems
MT716 Change makers
MT717 Safes, boxoffice
MT718 Tickets
MT719 Ticket choppers
MT720 Ticket issuing machines
MT721 Ticket registers
MT722 Ticket holders
MT723 Pop corn machines
MT724 Uniforms, staff

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Move to Halt Opening Of State in Omaha

OMAHA—Tri-States Theatres' first move to keep Ralph Goldberg, circuit owner, from reopening the State Theatre here has been made.

The corporation, headed by A. H. Blank, has asked the federal district court here to issue a restraining order against Goldberg and five corporations in which he is believed to be interested. Goldberg has announced the State will open about the middle of October.

Goldberg told BOXOFFICE he did not wish to comment on the suit but said he would "have something very interesting in a few days." Persons on the inside predict Goldberg may file an anti-trust suit.

The State, dark for many years, is located about two blocks from the Omaha and Orpheum theatres in the main business section. Once the Sun Theatre, it was the first theatre acquired by Goldberg interests.

The Tri-States petition states the World Realty Co. (one of the corporations named) holds 99-year leases on both the State and the Omaha. The petition says the realty firm agreed in 1934, when Tri-States sublet the Omaha for ten years, to keep the State dark during that period.

Goldberg told BOXOFFICE some time ago that the State would be owned and operated by Adolph L. Kaplan, former New York and Chicago fur dealer and once a college chum of Goldberg. The Omahan said he had no financial interest in the house, was acting in an advisory capacity.

Mrs. Goodnight Remodels Jefferson at DeSoto

DE SOTO, MO.—A rebuilding contract for the Jefferson Theatre here, one of the landmark houses of the territory, has been awarded by Mrs. Fannie Goodnight, owner.

The remodeling, which will get under way at once, calls for removal of the balcony, reduction of the walls to 25 feet in height, new floor, heating and cooling system and compete modernization.

The building is leased to the Collins Theatres, Inc., operators of the new 800-seat DeSoto here.

Lincoln Varsity Raises Prices for Fall Films

LINCOLN—The Varsity, starting off its fall policy of big pictures, raised prices from a 20-25 cent scale maintained during the summer, to 25-35 cents.

Howard Federer, general manager of the Nebraska Theatres, Inc., of which the Varsity is a part, said it would run pictures a week, and they would then be moved over to the Liberty, 1,000-seater, for a week's holdover.

First picture for the Varsity is "Daughters Courageous," and it also brings the house out of its summer dual feature status.

OMAHA

THE Omaha scribe got so many congrats on a recent column disclosing some of the other occupations followed by exhibitors in the Omaha trade territory, that this week we'll have a little fun revealing a few hobbies.

Henry O. Peterson, Grand Theatre, Genoa, Neb., is a fisherman . . . Ed Kugel, State, Holstein, Ia., spends his spare time making models of ships and such . . . F E. Pace, Empress, Malvern, Ia., favors all kinds of athletics, especially baseball . . . There's only one thing Bob Oliver, Iowa, Onawa, Ia., would rather do than fish and that's to go hunting.

Rosalie Boughn, Sun, Walthill, Neb., likes to play bridge when she's not an exhibitor or a housewife . . . J. Erle Kirk, North Star, Omaha, is a golfer but we haven't been able to find out about his score . . . Since he lives near the Missouri River, Oscar Johnson, Rivoli, Falls City, Neb., likes to hunt or go boating.

Olin Fosse, Community, Ridgeway, Ia., also a student of Ike Walton . . . Mike Roskopf, Odean, Marshalltown, Ia , likes golf and music . . . Tom Brown, Strand, Iowa City, Ia., says he has just one hobby and that's show business . . . Murrel Simpson, Palace, Clearwater, Neb., plays golf in the summer and reads books in the winter.

Harry Shumow, Metro boss, hasn't even a window box in his apartment. Yet he raises fancy hogs and horses and reads all the farm publications. Shumow and Phil Lannon, exhibitor at West Point, Neb., exhibit their prize stock at all the county fairs . . . Marvin Fosse, Grand, Wellman, Ia., is a stamp collector and studies electricity.

Frank Van Husan of Western Theatre Supply collects fancy glassware . . Ted Mendenhall, Paramount chief, is an expert on tobacco and can give you pipe smokers plenty of tips . . . Aubrey Fitzgerald, Princess, Miller, S. D., is crazy about speedboats and fishing.

John Anderson, veteran exhibitor at Plankington and other South Dakota points, is an expert poker player . . . Forret Leggate, Royal, Dayton, Ia., likes to curl up with a good book, as the saying goes . . . George Bergh, Sharon, New Sharon, Ia., enjoys watching horse races of the light harness variety . . . Will Singer, Brandeis, Omaha, also a follower of the sport of kings

J. Morgan Reynolds, Elwood, Neb., is a fisherman . . . Paul G. Held, Strand, Griswold, Ia., goes in for traveling . . . As a former school superintendent, C. E. Werden, Capitol, Hartley, Ia., goes in for the fine arts, especially music . . . Roy Small, Cozy, Wymore, Neb., likes a camping trip, when he can get away.

Football addicts include Dick Lysinger, Paramount, Ansley, Neb.; Ike Rubin, Paramount peddler; Morrie Cohn, Strand, Council Bluffs, Ia ; Bert Beams, Auditorium, Red Cloud, Neb.; Al Hill, Universal peddler . . . Stan McSwain, Auburn, Auburn, Neb., is a tennis player.

Tri-States Theatres in A Shift of Personnel

DES MOINES—Tri-States Theatres Corp. announces the following changes in the organization:

Bruce Shelton, former assistant manager at the Des Moines Theatre, will be manager of the new Ingersoll. Harry Holdsberg, formerly manager of the Paramount, will replace Don Allen at the Des Moines. Allen took over the Omaha Theatre when Forrester resigned. Eddie Dunn from the Strand at Waterloo will manage the Paramount here.

Maurice Crew moves from the Hiland in Des Moines to the Strand in Waterloo, Robert Leonard leaves the Garden for the Hiland. Tony Abromovitch, assistant at the Strand, succeeds Leonard at the Garden.

Other Tri-States managerial changes in Davenport: Dale McFarland, formerly of the Capitol in Davenport, will be city manager, continuing to manage the Capitol and having supervision over the Time and Garden there. Time is the remodeled Columbia, and will have as its manager Richard Stoddard from the Garden at Davenport. Francis Gillon moves from assistant at the Capitol to manager at the Garden.

In Rock Island, Ill., Herbert Grove, the Fort manager, will be city manager and continue as manager of the Fort. He will have jurisdiction over the new Esquire and Spencer theatres. Borge Iversen will move from the Spencer to the Esquire. Carl Noack, former assistant at the Fort, will manage the Spencer

Rebuilt Fox Isis in Kaycee Opens in 'Hoopla' Style

KANSAS CITY—Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., took a bow Friday night, October 6, at 31st St. and Troost Ave. when it opened its new Isis Theatre, one of the most beautiful in the middle west. The house has been almost completely rebuilt following the destructive fire there earlier this year.

Under the managership of Morrill Moore the house opened with a typical Hollywood atmosphere—bands playing, the Isis block roped off from automobile traffic, stores open, the neighborhood and the theatre appropriately decorated, and a No. 1 picture.

Seating 1,400, the new Isis cost $200,000 to rebuild. Of classical modernistic style, it contains a number of new theatre building and furnishing features, including projection machines equipped for television, fluorescent lighting, body-form seats, etc. Most of the equipment was furnished by National Theatre Supply.

Fox in Nora Springs Is Completely Remodeled

NORA SPRINGS, IA.—The Fox Theatre here, owned and operated by Bruce H. Powell, has been remodeled inside and out along modernistic lines.

Multi-colored Neon illuminates the front of the house in which has been built a new boxoffice and two show cases. The color scheme is black, peach and cream.

DES MOINES

WITH G. Ralph Branton and A. H. Blank in New York shouting "nix" in contract arguments, Tri-States seemed to be running smoothly with the handsome Ray filling the slot for A. H. When Dorothy Day showed us around the gorgeous new offices, it wasn't the beautiful draperies and inlaid blond wood which took our eye, but a hastily sketched crayon caricature of the smiling A. H. from the World's Fair. Very typical, cigar n'all . . . As usual, the Irish Madge Ward pulled the best one we heard in connection with the new quarters. Said Boss A. H.: "You didn't expect a private office, did you, Madge?" . . . "Sure, now where's my secretary?" answered the impudent steno, Madge.

"Bernie" Bernfield of United Artists dropped in at Clayton's office with Paramount's new manager, Ed Dunn, formerly of Waterloo. They were plugging "Intermezzo—a Love Story" Bernfield opines that Clayton's getting fat. The Clayton, who'd just returned from selecting a new suit two sizes larger than his last, looks worried. Bernfield says a half glass of buttermilk, same of carbonated water and a little salt several times daily will stave off obesity. This service is free to all pot-bellied filmrowers (if any, ahem!).

How many film hawkers remember the good old days when traveling was done by train and it was possible to get the engineer and conductor to whistle before pulling out so's you could leave town on the same train you rode in on? . . . Irene Conlon took Ruby Stacey's place at National Screen . . . Frank says he's ready for another vacation with a new girl to break in and Grace Simons gallivantin' around the country on hers . . . Mitzi has St. Catherine's Hall agog with the antics of the Mexican Jumping bean Jess Carter gave her . . . We met a lady yesterday who remembers Chuck Iles when he wore half-sox! "He was the dearest little fellow," she said.

Stan Mayer tells about being in charge of all petroleum purchases and dispensations at Camp Dodge during World War I. He says one day they brought in Stuart Mace, then exhibitor and now owner of the Colonial Theatre at Moulton, Iowa, as one of his helpers. "The best chance I ever had to get even with an exhibitor," says Stan.

Ray Copeland says about the worst thing he had to endure while he was in training was the trip from Camp Dodge to Camp Cody in New Mexico. "We picked up some wooden platforms en route to the railroad station We slept on these with just one blanket all the way to Mexico."

We walked in on a party at Phil's Steak House the other evening, and it turns out to be the Central States' gang whooping it up for Dora Middlesworth's birthday. Those singing "Happy Birthday" were Ruth Stafford, Thelma Crittenden, Florine Wieland, Velma Oberg, Wilma Lundgren, Leta Dawson, Maxine Shepard, Iola Lehman and Merle Norton. We also discovered the Steak House's "Phil" is Dora's son, which in itself is enough to make us patronize the jernt, even if he didn't serve the best steaks and fried chicken in town. Dora who has worked for Blank 27 years, is taking her first month off in all that time. She's going to work herself to death trying to loaf that long.

Forgive us Jerry, but we've just got to screen this shot: Metro's Jerry Banta bustling downtown, ranting on the way about the inefficiency of a couple of mothers and grandmothers who'd be so dumb as to burn up about two bucks worth of little Gloria's nipples.

Florine Weiland, who witnessed that touching tie-adjusting scene and asked if she could put it in BOXOFFICE, *will be interested to know that the young gentleman getting his tie straightened gave the young lady who straightened it a black eye before the evening was over.*

With everybody shuddering lest the U. S. decides to polish up its cannon and go to war again, we discover that a number of filmrowers were among those who helped to do the shining for the last killerdiller.

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48 Participants in K. C. Variety Golf Tourney

KANSAS CITY—Participants in Variety Club's annual golf tournament at Ivanhoe Country Club last Monday afternoon numbered 48. The dinner brought a crowd of 87. Charley Knickerbocker of 20th Century-Fox was the winner of the BOXOFFICE trophy. Runnerup was Leon Abraham, last year's winner. MacAfee Robertson and E. C. Rhoden tied for third place. The remaining prize winners for low gross were Homer Ellison, Garden City, Kas.; Spencer, Warrick, Don Woods, Joe Lyskowski and Frank E. Ritter. A drawing among the top players determined the prize winners in order to be fair to those who did not play so often.

Other winners of prizes: Tom Wilhoit, most putts; most 4's, Bob Withers; Bud Truog, nearest lie on 9; Jack Renfro, high and low 9; C. M. "Parky" Parkhurst, high gross on No. 1 hole; R. R. Thompson, most 7's; Tom Baldwin, most 3's; Jack Gregory, Howard Kinser and Roland Thompson, most birdies; O. K. Mason, best dressed; Roy Palmquist, worst dressed; Tom Wilhoit, longest drive on No. 1 hole; Clarence Schultz, shortest drive; Charlie Shafer, most 5's; Walt Talbot, wettest golfer. Highest grosses were made by Is Beiser, R. R. Thompson, Don Davis, Doug Desch and Nat Hechtman. Least putts were made by Howard Kinser.

Prizes were donated by E. C. Rhoden, Clarence Schultz, R. R. Biechele, Ward Scott, Reube Finkelstein, William Truog, Frank Hensler, Nat Hechtman, Max Barewin, Rube Melcher, Alex Schniderman and Pioneer Premium Co.

William Warner and T. R. Thompson were in charge of the tournament.

Featured in "Stripes"

HOLLYWOOD — Margot Stevenson and Paul Kelly have been assigned featured roles in Warner's "Invisible Stripes," in which George Raft will be starred.

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

WE HEAR that our old golf-playing, tennis-playing exhibitor friend, Lee Henry of the Stuart Theatre in Stuart, has gone bucolic and bought himself a farm up in northern Iowa.

Jim Fair tells us he's putting a new oil burner in his Elite at Laurens. Jim's son, Kenneth, has just received his pilot's license. (Jim thought we were a new BOXOFFICE. He says we're a little better-lookin' than he'd thought we were . . . Whoopydoop!).

Lew Lepovitz of the Iowa Theatre in Lee Township, Des Moines, was very very, very bowlegged as a little boy, reports his sister Sylvia.

We're hearing rumors of a series of beauty contests being conducted at various theatres around Iowa. Bob and Zoe Dawson had one at Redfield; Norman Hansen of the Sun in Woodward sponsored one; and there's to be one at the Harlan in Harlan, Iowa . . . Bob, Zoe and Milt Goodman of Columbia judged one of the contests at Exira. Zoe says but for her, Milt and Bob would have come to blows over one of the alleged beauties.

We'd like to know the identity of the "Mr. Farrell, an Iowa Exhibitor" from Rock Rapids, Ia, who sent Ken Clayton a clipping out of Terry DeLapp's Hollywood brainstorms. The item told how a scenarist wrote the climax to a picture while partially under the influence of ether during an operation. Farrell commented, "This makes things a whole lot clearer." Whatsa matter, Mr. Farrell, don't you like the Hollywood idea of a plot?

MINNEAPOLIS

TOMMY Charek and Harold Lyons of Warner and 20th-Fox, respectively, are holding Bank Night in their Francis Drake apartment on Saturday nights again.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Ed Gannon, Lidgerwood, N. D.; Joe Steinke, Eden Valley, Minn.; Walt Lower, Moose Lake, Minn.; L. Jorgenson, Salem, S. D.; Harry Knowlton, Elsworth, Wis.; Wesley Falkner, Plum City, Wis.; Charlie Connaught, Olivia, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn., and Al Inman, Fairfax, Minn.

Two important invitation screenings the past week. M-G-M had invitation previews of "Ninotchka," starring Greta Garbo, and "Babes in Arms," featuring Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, at the Rialto Theatre and also entertained its exhibitor guests at luncheon. Twentieth-Fox gave the trade a peek at "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Brynwood Theatre. Three swell pictures and sure-fire boxoffice.

George Granstrom, prominent St. Paul exhibitor, and W. A. Steffes, Twin City Variety Club chief barker, played their twice-a-year match at the Variety Club tournament at Oak Ridge Country Club last week. The matches consist of two holes and the results are always kept a dark secret . . . W. A. Steffes, Harry Dryer and Fred Ableson at the ringside, as usual, at that dandy Paychek-Anderson fight at the St. Paul Auditorium.

Frank Mantzke, formerly Universal branch manager here and now serving in the same capacity at Milwaukee, here for the Minnesota-Arizona football game and gave his approval to the Gophers.

September 1 to October 14 has been set aside by RKO here as "Goldhammer Appreciation Period" and the boys are plugging hard to get that extra booking.

Sid Gillman, son and brother of Dave and Irving, Twin City independent exhibitors, here from Columbus to scout the Minnesota-Arizona football game. He's assistant coach at Ohio State and the Gophers and Buckeyes tangle later in the season.

Harold B. Johnson, Universal branch manager, laid out for a week with the flu.

Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, here briefly before making another nation-wide jaunt in connection with his duties as S. R. Kent drive leader.

Earl Pomeroy, Tribune *drama editor and critic for a number of years, has taken over the assignment of film reviews.*

Congratulations to W. H. Workman, M-G-M branch manager, and his gang. The local branch finished first in its district and second in the entire United States in the "Victory Drive" for contracts and bookings, recently concluded.

Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, a visitor . . . Jack Dailey, of the Paramount Hollywood studios' publicity staff, here to help put over "Honeymoon in Bali" and "What a Life."

Morrie Abrams, M-G-M's exploitation wizard, cracked the *Star* front page with his "Wizard of Oz" caravan tieup. And talking about tieups, Everett Seibel of the Minnesota Amusement Co. had a nice one with Peggy the Shopper, columnist, that landed a lot of valuable free advertising for that picture in the *Tribune* during its State engagement.

Don Conley, Columbia northern Minnesota salesman, back on the job following his recovery from an appendectomy.

Plenty of Filmrow boys celebrated opening of hunting season the past week and many returned with a full quota of ducks.

Jay Haas, Paramount New York home-office ad sales supervisor, in town . . Ralph LiBeau, Paramount district manager, a visitor.

Seeking Damages in Suit Over Humboldt "Deal"

HUMBOLDT, NEB.—Damages totaling $4,359 are demanded in a suit filed in district court at Falls City by Dorwin L. Frank and L. M. Billings of Humboldt against Oscar W. Hanson in a transaction said to involve the Plaza Theatre here.

The plaintiffs charge they transferred their theatre, the Plaza, to the defendant last spring for $1 on his representation he would buy the Schuler Theatre at Humboldt and transfer the two back to the plaintiffs for $4,500, said to be the sum representing the approximate purchase price for the Schuler.

Frank and Billings allege that Hanson failed to carry out the terms of the "understanding," has closed down the Plaza and has enjoined them from interfering with him in the operation of the property.

Remodels in Mondovie

MONDOVIE, WIS.—Clarence McDonald has remodeled his theatre here at a cost of $13,000. The modernized showhouse has been renamed the Mondovie It formerly was named the Grand.

Screenplay by Hilton

HOLLYWOOD—James Hilton will script "Caesar's Wife," from a W. Somerset Maugham story, for Warner.

Prickett Weds Junction City Girl in Chanute

JUNCTION CITY, KAS.—Ken Prickett, city manager here the past year for Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, was married to Hazel Rush of Junction City at the home of the bride's parents in Chanute, Kas. Before his present connection, Prickett managed theatres for the Schine circuit in Ohio and Kentucky.

To Assist Prickett

KANSAS CITY—J. R. Turner of Independence, Mo., has joined Griffith-Dickinson circuit as assistant to Ken Prickett, city manager at Junction City, Kas.

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KAYCEE

A COMBINATION of good weather and two screenings (Metro and 20th-Fox) on Tuesday brought a number of exhibitors to town and Filmrow early this week. Among them were: Paul Oetting, Concordia, Mo.; George Owens, Lathrop, Mo.; Sam Sosna, Manhattan, Kas.; A. E. Jarboe, Cameron, Mo.; M. A. Otto, Pleasanton, Kas.; George Summers, Unionville, Mo.; Cle Bratton, Council Grove, Kas.; E. E. Tagaden, Mac Theatre, McPherson, Kas.; Glen Newbold, Yates Center, Kas.; Homer F. Strowig, Abilene, Kas.; Art Pugh, Erie, Kas.; H. F. Higgins, St. Marys, Kas.; Bob and Mrs. Robison, Grant City, Mo.; Joe Lenski, Pittsburg, Kas.; George Hayob, Marshall, Mo.; M. B. Presley, Savannah, Mo.; Elmer Bills, Salisbury, Mo.; Hank Doering, Garnett, Kas.; Walt Talbot, Rogers, Ark.; Harry Till, Hamilton, Mo.

At the moment, when ordinarily theatres would be experiencing a seasonal upturn, business actually is off. Reasons assigned include lack of rain, war, general business conditions. Even the big films are not, it is said, taking the money in the smaller cities and towns that was expected of them.

Do you remember the Liberty Theatre at 808 Southwest Blvd.? Neither do we, but there it stands today, "for rent," its stucco front no longer white. Obviously it hasn't been used for a theatre in many a moon.

"'Golden Boy' is one sweet picture. I saw it twice," one exhibitor wrote Ben Marcus, Columbia manager, this week.

John Scott, Republic-Midwest booker, was in Topeka Tuesday for the marriage of his brother, George Scott.

Bill Truog says he's had enough weddings for one month. John and Bill jr. both were married in September.

O. L. Christian has his new house at Blue Mound, Kas., about ready to open.

Louise Burke of Universal is reported engaged this week.

William E. Truog jr., of Grand National, son of W. E. Truog, manager here for United Artists, and Miss Virginia Sylvester were married Saturday night, September 30. Morton Truog, a brother, was one of the attendants The Truogs are in New Orleans for their honeymoon.

Earl Herndon, formerly office manager for Metro in St. Louis, comes to a similar berth in the Kansas City office, succeeding Herbert E. Genter, deceased.

Our sympathy to the Gould Bros. of Dubinsky Theatres on the loss of their sister in Kansas City last week. Herman is manager of the Liberty here, Nathan is stationed at St. Joseph, Mo., Arnold and Abe are in Jefferson City.

LINCOLN

BOSS MAN of the Westland Theatres, Inc., of Colorado, with more than a passing interest in the Nebraska Theatres, Inc., here, is L. L. Dent, who was in town this week watching his two proteges, T. B. Noble jr. and Howard Federer, play each other under the table in dominoes. Noble won one of 15 games, and the prices varied up to several double or nothings . . . Sid Rose, bearing greetings from Sam Clark, who not only lives in but must love Chicago (he spends so much time there), and word that Monroe Rubinger is back at his desk in Kansas City after letting a croaker bayonet his innards during a recent New York vacation, stood by and watched "Daughters Courageous" get away, the leadoff flicker for the new fall policy at the Varsity.

Russ Egner, the RKO man, is a former psychology prof they say, and when he looks at you "that-a-way," he's finding your opposition's easiest place to jimmy . . . The Omaha Siamese twins, Sol Francis and Joe Rosenberg, bound together by a strip of Monogram celluloid, have been dodging the town as if it's quarantined . . . Evert Cummings sent word to Bob Livingston to grab eight seats, as good as he could get, for the Minnesota tussle. Bob's got his party suffed into the gallery, perched plenty high and looking into the sun . . . Orville

A. F. Bull, middle name "Francisco," which he uses to bill his spook show, played to standout business here at the Lincoln, and went immediately to E. C. Rhoden's Fox-Midwest houses for a bunch of one nighters . . . A bellyful of beefsteak was the plight of Vincent DiFiore one night last week. Invited to a steak fry by Charlie Shire, he went to the wrong place, so figured he was "stood up." After eating a hunk of cow in a restaurant, Shire called him and told him the steaks were waiting. So, to be polite, DiFiore took on a second steak with multitudinous groans.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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Motion Picture Advertising
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239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: HIland 2694

Civic Notables Invited to "Mr. Smith" Screening

KANSAS CITY—Columbia will screen "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" Tuesday, October 10, in Edison Hall at the Kansas City Power & Light Bldg., for western Missouri and Kansas exhibitors and a list of notables from the two states.

The exchange is inviting to the preview Governor Payne Ratner of Kansas, Governor Lloyd C. Stark of Missouri; Mayor Bryce C. Smith and City Manager Eugene Zachman of Kansas City; L. B. Reed, police chief of Kansas City; senators from both Kansas and Missouri, and others.

Griffith-Dickinson Takes Over Chillicothe House

KANSAS CITY—Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc., has taken over the Ritz at Chillicothe, Mo., from Commonwealth Theatres, effective October 1. Glen W. Dickinson jr., Chillicothe manager for Griffith-Dickinson, will handle both houses.

Cleveland Wage Scale Deal Marking Time

CLEVELAND—Negotiations between local independent exhibitors and the operators on a new wage scale to succeed the recently expired two-year contract are at a standstill pending the return from Hollywood of Harland Holmden, business manager of Local 160 here, and national vice-president of the IATSE.

Holmden was called to the coast to testify before the federal grand jury investigating charges of labor racketeering and tax evasion in the industry.

Affiliated first runs and Local 160 already have sealed a contract for one year, duplicating last year's pact as to scale and working conditions.

Warner Takes Over Two From the Manos Circuit

PITTSBURGH—Warner Bros. Theatres last week assumed operation of the Palace Theatre, Tarentum, Pa., which was recently purchased at sheriff sale by Michael Manos, the circuit exhibitor, and the two parties have closed a deal whereby the former outfit will take over operation of the new theatre under construction for Manos at Jeannette, Pa.

The large circuit, which operates the Harris and Peoples theatres at Tarentum, moved into the Palace with a new house staff. When Manos purchased the Palace he announced plans for extensive remodeling and the changing of the house name to the Manos. The Greensburg circuit exhibitor sold all his interests to Warner nearly a decade ago, but in recent years has been building a new circuit. He does not operate theatres in opposition to Warner, and the leasing of the Palace to the large circuit was not unexpected.

At Jeannette, Manos is building a new theatre for which he had insufficient product for first-run operation and members of the trade have been puzzled over the situation where O. A. Kihchel and Harris Amusement Co. have the major product under contract. Now, it is understood that the Warner circuit will open the house, when ready, and operate a second-run policy.

Manos is busy remodeling several theatres in his circuit in addition to the building of the new house at Jeannette, and he has plans for the construction of a new theatre at Blairsville, Pa.

Moe Gould Returns

PITTSBURGH—Moe Gould, former film man, is back in harness here as a sales representative for the Louis-Pastor fight pictures, distributed by Irving Dietz and George "B" Josack. Gould had been a patient at the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital, Saranac, for several years, and was discharged from that industry institution only a few weeks ago.

"U" Repacts Wallace

HOLLYWOOD—Director Richard Wallace has signed a new Universal contract.

Allied Unit Wants Code; Urges Arbitration in Meantime

Late October Likely Ohio Meet Date

Cleveland—P. J. Wood, business manager of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, was in town conferring with members of the board of directors as to the date of the annual convention. While nothing definite has been decided at the moment, the convention probably will be held late in October.

KALAMAZOO—Continuation of code negotiations and immediate adoption of an arbitration system to furnish "relief" to the independent exhibitor pending completion of a more general understanding was urged by the Michigan Allied States unit in convention here Wednesday.

The plea was directed to the national Allied group, the distributors' committee and the department of justice to place in early operation the arbitration clauses of the proposed code, or some similar setup.

The Allied unit became a centralized purchasing agency for the first time on specific resolution for purchase of lamps for which quantity discounts are available under this arrangement.

The organization will support a state law and perhaps draft one, to outlaw or restrict free shows, subjecting them to the same regulation and financial requirements as regular theatres in the interest of safety and fair trade practices.

Pointing to plans by more major companies for production of their own trailers, the convention urged distributors to provide free trailers, at least on percentage pictures.

Officers were elected as follows: Ray Branch, Hastings, president; Cass R. Beechler, Charlotte, vice-president, and Edgar E. Kirchner. Detroit, sec.-treas.

Directors are Henry Carley, Holland; William A. Cassidy, Midland; Glenn A. Cross, Battle Creek; Allen Johnson, Grand Rapids; W. James Olson, Clare; Fred E. Pennell, Decatur; J. H. Ross, Lansing; P. C. Schram, Kalamazoo; William Schulte, Detroit; Walter Semelyn, Grand Rapids; J. T. Stocker, Detroit, and W. G. Thick, Marshall.

Charleston Imposes Amusement Gouge

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—The city council has passed an ordinance imposing an amusement and entertainment tax of one cent for each person attending any amusement or entertainment operated here for private profit.

This applies to theatres, circuses, carnivals, fairs, shows of all kinds, wrestling, football, dances, baseball, basketball and all other amusements or entertainments.

The tax applies not only to persons purchasing tickets, but also to passes. Violation of the ordinance calls for a fine of not less than $50 and not more than $100, and violators, at the discretion of the court, may be confined in the city jail for a period not exceeding 30 days.



To Wheeling for First Picture—

Carolyn Lee, four-and-a-half-year-old Paramount starlet, comes to Wheeling, W. Va., for the world premiere of her first picture, "Honeymoon in Bali." All schools were closed and in the picture is part of a crowd of 5,000 children who welcomed her. The shining cape hides her left arm which is in a sling as the result of an automobile accident.

Cleveland Cinema Club Enters 23rd Season

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Cinema Club, under the direction of its president, Mrs. Irma M. Anderson, opens its 23rd season of active work in the motion picture field on Wednesday, October 11, with a meeting of members in the Chamber of Commerce Club.

Scope of the work this year, according to the club bulletin, will include "a greater consideration of the home market and of encouraging more of the truly American films."

"Our club," continues the bulletin, "has always been interested in the quality of the weekend theatre programs in neighborhood houses. The Motion Picture Research Council is making a nationwide survey to ascertain the present theatre-going habits of school children. What are Cleveland conditions? Such subjects as this will be discussed in the club's meetings, open to the public."

Under the supervision of its Youth Adviser, the club continues its work in aiding junior and senior high schools of Greater Cleveland and surrounding territory to form junior motion picture clubs. A speakers' bureau is available to those wanting to further this movement. A "Noon Movie List" comprising films culled from last year's releases has been prepared by the Cinema Club and now is being distributed to PTAs.

Dr. Christian Story

HOLLYWOOD—"Dr. Eustace," a novel by Dr. John Wilste, has been purchased by Stephens-Lang production unit at RKO as the basis for the second in its Dr. Christain series.

PITTSBURGH

JAMES H. NASH, UA sales representative, announced last week as a partner with Charles Anderson and Walter B. Urling in the new Gerard Theatre, West View, is not interested in the capacity as an operator, but is a member of the Gerard Land Co. Nash has resided in West View for many years. The house will be operated by the Alpine circuit, which has taken a long-term lease. The theatre opening will be delayed at least five weeks due to a defective wall which has been removed. Building of a new wall is now occupying the construction crew and the structure will be completed as a strong substantial and modern project. This is the theatre from which Clarence J. Vogel, exhibitor, theatre contractor and manager of the Air-Conditioning and Building Co. of Cleveland, was hurled to his death about a month ago when he fell while inspecting steel decks on the roof.

Edward Everett Horton will be here the week of October 30 at the Nixon where he will be seen in "Springtime for Henry." Horton was the leading man in the stock company which originally opened the old Davis Theatre, now but a memory . . . Max Adkins' new Stanley Theatre orchestra finds only a few familiar faces of past seasons. Mike Cullen, Loew's district manager, was here for the resumption of stage shows at the Stanley . . . In addition to his five and six shows daily, except Sunday, Eddie Cantor appeared at the monthly Variety Post Legion show Wednesday evening, and last Sunday evening he preached a sermon on "Christianity and Democracy" from the pulpit of the First Baptist Church in the Oakland district . . . Owen Cleary, assistant to John Walsh at the Fulton, vacationed in Washington for several days.

Herbert W. Genter, 46, M-G-M salesman and office manager here for a number of years and for the past year office manager for the company at the Kansas City branch, died September 28, local friends were informed. "Herb" Genter was well known in the local territory and word of his sudden passing was a shock . . . Mary Brown of the Paramount exchange has been handed a government job in the treasury department at Washington . . . M. Schmalzbach, 20th-Fox traveling auditor, is on the job here. When we looked in at the general office the other day we found seven other auditors busy on the company records . . . Betty and Rae Miller of 20th-Fox are vacationing in California. Betty and Ira Cohn gather news items for one of the film papers.

The Oliver A. Kihchels of Jeannette and son Oliver jr., were uninjured last week in an auto collision near Philadelphia while en route to the World's Fair. Their car is now sporting a new front . . . Mayor Scully's ordinance increasing the annual license fee on pin-ball machines from $1 to $25 was before city council this week . . . Major Bowes' fifth anniversary show is occupying the Stanley stage . . . Capitol, Wheeling, resumed stage shows last week . . . Herb Greenblatt, RKO manager, has been a good air passenger, with flights to New York, Detroit and Cleveland, all within a few days.

Hundreds of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Jules Lapidus attended a fine reception Sunday afternoon at the Schenley Hotel which they gave in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Lawrence Herbert Lapidus . . . Sally Cairns, of Roscoe, Pa., a junior at Duquesne, was the local winner of the "Gateway to Hollywood" talent contest which Jesse L. Lasky conducted here on the stage of the Senator Theatre. Lasky, who addressed a recent Variety Club dinner, also found interest in Ruth Willock "Miss Pennsylvania."

Art Levy, president of the Filmrow Bowling League, got off to a great start as the new season opened. The Columbia manager rolled the highest individual score and copped the weekly award of $1. All hecklers are invited to attend the regular Friday evening contests which are being rolled this season at the newly opened Triangle Recreation Parlors . . . Art England of Bank Night and Harry Kalmine, B. F. "Dinty" Moore, C. J. Latta and Tony Stern are back on their respective jobs at the Warner circuit office after a Canadian holiday . . . Remember the twister in "The Wizard of Oz"? Well, we were caught in one last week in central West Virginia which nearly duplicated the mechanical one whipped up by M-G-M. Trees were uprooted and tossed about, corn fodder and chicken coops were carried in the air and over the hills. Electric power failed in dozens of communities and a number of theatres were forced to close and refund.

Mills and factories are spouting prosperity smoke along the steel-lined valleys

(Continued on page 54)



And Even on Vacation—

When the film trade vacations, BOXOFFICE *goes along, as witness the above photos of Bob Fisher, Detroit roadshow distributor, and Charles N. Agree, theatrical architect, as they relaxed at St. Clair Flats, Mich. Agree has written several articles for* BOXOFFICE'S *Modern Theatre Section.*

ITO Convention Notes

PITTSBURGH

CHARLES WARNER of Bridgeport, W. Va., who operates at Jane Lew, Brownton, Flemington and Galloway, was very much present at the Clarksburg exhibitor shindig last week.

Ben Welansky had as his guest Ben Stein of Boston. Welansky and Eddie Golden, Monogram Pictures vice-president and honor guest of the ITO convention, are owners of the Pittsburgh franchise for Monogram.

Dave Franz, of Franz Promotional Advertising Service, did himself proud at the West Virginia confab and his room was popular. At the banquet he offered a free fur coat, which was won by James H. Nash, the popular United Artists sales representative. We just know that Mrs. Nash was tickled to receive this gift. Hurray for Jimmy!

R. J. "Riney" Hiehle, retiring president of the ITO of W. Va., was presented with a fine engraved wrist watch by members of the new Allied unit. Richard D. Marks, new president, and Garland West, re-elected treasurer, were handed fine pen and pencil sets and Danny Davis, re-elected secretary, was presented with a set of golf sticks.

George Sallows of Morgantown, newly elected vice-president of the year-old organization, presided at the ITO banquet as toastmaster. George Silver and his band, of Uniontown, furnished music for the motion picture ball which was broadcast by WBLK in the new Robinson Grand Theatre building.

Harry Gantz, former theatre manager at Clarksburg, was present saying hello to all the boys and girls and getting in a good word for "Lucky," which he distributes.

Claude Robinson told us he was spending $200,000 in rebuilding his Grand Theatre, which he expects will be ready for opening the second week in November. The new structure is a great piece of work. We have never seen so many workmen on a theatre job. Robinson is cold to the ITO of W. Va.

No convention hereabouts would be complete, it seems, without the presence of Leo Yassenoff of F&Y Theatre Building Service, Columbus, Ohio. Yassenoff had a fine photo and material display at the convention and he delivered an interesting talk at the business session.

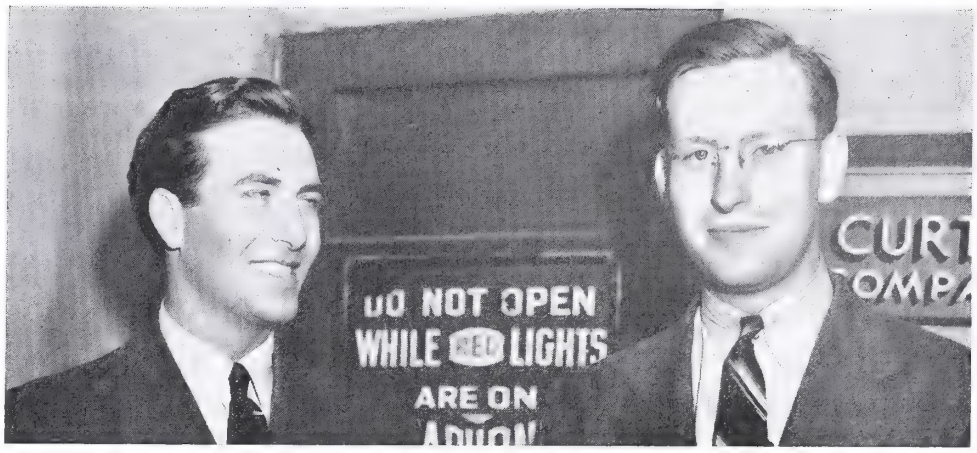
Frank Panoplos, Peter Antonopolos, M. N. Shapiro and Andy Battiston of the local area, together with M. A. Rosenberg, Allied's regional vice-president, represented western Pennsylvania at the Clarksburg affair.

George Nelson, Fairmount exhibitor for a quarter of a century and Miss Lynne B. Monroe, exhibitor at nearby Shinnston for a long period, had never met until introduced by your reporter.

It was nice to have a few minutes with the S. A. Peters family of Sistersville; Mrs. F. Lininger of Piedmont; H. H. Robey of Spencer, B. P. Drey of West Union, C. L. Sutton of Thomas and others we don't get to see very often.

Dr. and Mrs. C. P. Church of Mannington, Bill Heaton of Pennsboro and others are among regular visitors on Filmrow. We were glad to see all the exhibitors at the meeting, banquet and dance and to visit at their rooms.

Sid Jacobs, West Virginia district manager for Warner theatres, circulated in the hotel lobby and then attended the funeral of J. A. McDonald, McKeesport, Pa., manager for the circuit, who was buried in his old home town, Jane Lew.



Circuit Operator in Studio—

Herbert R. Bolshoven (right), partner in the Wiler and Bolshoven circuit of Grand Rapids, Mich., chats with Jeffrey Lynn on the set of "Four Wives" at the Warner studio.

Warner and Metro Policies Approved

PITTSBURGH—Merchandising policies as announced by Warner and M-G-M were approved by the ITO of W. Va. at the organization's first annual convention which was held in Clarksburg last week. Following a discussion of various points of the two company policies the ITO went on record unanimously as thanking Warner and M-G-M for the newly offered exhibitor privileges which were declared to be a good start in the right direction by the conventioneers. Secretary Danny Davis was instructed to communicate with these companies, expressing the gratitude of the new Allied unit.

ITO officers expressed the hope that other film companies would announce similar or more advantageous policies for their customers.

The new officers elected at this convention are Richard D Marks of Clarksburg,, president; George Sallows, Morgantown, vice-president; Garland West, Buckhannon, treasurer; Danny Davis, Lumberport, secretary.

Again Call Klingensmith For MPTO Publicity

PITTSBURGH—For the tenth successive year Bob Klingensmith of BOXOFFICE has been appointed as a member of the publicity committee for the annual convention of the MPTO of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. Chairman of this particular committee is M. N. Shapiro.

Charles S. Philbrook, convention chairman, is making other committee selections this week. The convention will be staged at the Roosevelt Hotel, October 23 and 24.

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CLEVELAND

JOHN RUDELL, manager of the Kaufman and Paramount theatres in Montpelier, steps right into the spotlight as the newest golf champion of his town.

Milt Harris, not to mention his friends and co-workers, conducted a whispering campaign last week. Just a case of laryngitis.

The Hoy Russells haven't yet let a contract for their proposed new theatre in Millersburg, but they expect to do so any day now . . . Miss Shirley Meier, daughter of Fred Meier, of the *News* and sister of M-G-M's Grace, has been appointed dietician at the Georgetown Hospital in Washington, D. C., the former family home town.

Philip Kendis, head of Exhibitors Poster Rental Co., is back from a month at Hot Springs, Ark., with a clean bill of health. He had back trouble before he went for the cure.

Sidney Garfinkle has added a new game called Pay-Me to his present activities as local sales manager for Quality Premiums, and has moved his office to 304 Film Exchange Bldg.

Herb Ochs, Warner branch manager, returned Thursday from a week in New York. He says he enjoyed the Fair a lot but made no report of the business end of the trip.

Jerry Bieber, formerly connected with the Cedar-Lee Theatre in Cleveland, has been appointed assistant Monogram shipper working directly under Charles Kates.

Miss Sylvia Amster, secretary to RKO Branch Manager George Lefko, is back at her desk again after an absence of seven weeks, which included operation and convalescence.

LeRoy Kendis is sporting a brand new 1940 Chrysler sedan . . . Miss Ida Leven was successful in a civil service examination. She is succeeded at RKO by Rose Levine Sattler.

Harry Goldstein, chairman of the entertainment committee of Variety Legion Post 313, *is arranging for a speaker for the Post's next meeting Friday, October* 13, *at which time the newly elected officers will be installed. They are John Himmelein, commander; Dr. A. Bubis, adjutant; L. Rich, first vice-president; Aaron Wayne, second vice-president; Eddie Bergman, finance officer; J. Lavery, historian; Dr. J. Bubis, chaplain; Dr. L. Dembo, judge advocate; Joe Swee, first sergeant-at-arms; A. Kahn, second sergeant-at-arms. The sandlot baseball team that the Post sponsored during the summer will be guest of honor.*

Nate Schultz, local Monogram franchise owner, says he's got a boxoffice hit in the forthcoming "Mutiny in the Big House," with Charles Bickford and Barton McLane.

J. J. Maloney and Frank Drew of M-G-M were hosts to a capacity crowd at the Lake Theatre when "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms" were trade screened.

Bill Dworski, manager of Warner's Ohio in Mansfield, won a "diploma of merit" from M-G-M's Howard Dietz for his campaign on "Mr. Chips" . . . Marvin Samuelson, manager of Warner's Colony Theatre, promoted flowers for the ladies attending the premiere Book Revue Matinee last Wednesday.

Local Variety Club will attend the Army-Notre Dame football game at the Stadium on November 21. *The club bought and already has disposed of* 150 *tickets . . . "The Crisis," opening picture at the Penn Square under its new foreign film policy, is being held a second week.*

Charlie Deardourff, M-G-M exploitation and publicity man, and Mrs. Deardourff have returned from a two weeks' motor trip that sounds like a Technicolor travelogue. Their wanderings took them through the Green Mountains and the White Mountains and included a stay in Quebec.

Bert Botzum, theatre owner of Akron and Canton, and his side-kick, Joe Calla, manager of the Orpheum, Canton, were in town on the usual film shopping expedition.

Nat Wolf, Variety Club president, officially opened the 1939-40 social season with a stag on October 2. Annual election of officers will be held October 9. The ladies' auxiliary of the Variety Club has resumed weekly social functions.

P. R. Toumey of Wauseon is walking on all fours these days—two legs and a pair of crutches. It's all because of a broken ankle.

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Lounging—

Mr. and Mrs. Mills of the Strand and Star theatres, Wadsworth, Ohio, on their visit to the RKO World's Fair lounge, chat with Anna Neagle, star of "Nurse Edith Cavell."

LOUISVILLE

HARRY SWARTZ, who operates a small chain of Kentucky theatres, has sold his Opera House at Lexington to the Schine interests . . . C. O. Humston, who runs the Lyric at Lawrenceburg, Ky., was in town.

W. R. Shafer, who operates theatres at Irvine, Grayson and Morehead, Ky., spent several days here to be near his daughter, who underwent an operation. She is reported coming along nicely.

Settos' new theatre at St. Matthews, Ky., suburban Louisville, is beginning to take shape. The outside work is about finished. This theatre will replace the Ohio in downtown Louisville, which will pass from the scene January 1 to make way for a department store expansion.

Robert Donahue, formerly connected with Settos' Elks Theatre at New Albany, across the river from here, is serving as manager of the Ohio now. He replaced Wilbur Frey, who was transferred to Linton, Ind.

The Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. installed new rectifiers in the Trail Theatre at Morehead, Ky. . . . Cliff Buechel, manager of the Mary Anderson here, has bought a new home.

Bob Harned, formerly with Switow, has added another theatre to his small southern Indiana chain—a house at Charlestown, which he leased last week. His others are at Sellersburg and Milltown.

Robert Keith, formerly assistant manager at the Uptown here, has been moved to the Rialto, succeeding James W. O'Brien as assistant to Manager J. H. Musselman.

John H. Boswell, manager of the Uptown, returned from Chicago where he visited his 85-*year-old mother on her birthday anniversary.*

A gang of the Fourth Avenue Amusement Co. boys, including President Fred J. Dolle, Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Long and Alton McCoy, manager of the Strand, took in the Notre Dame-Purdue football game at Lafayette, Ind.

Lou Hess of Pittsburgh Is Universal Winner

PITTSBURGH—Lou Hess, Universal salesman under Jules Lapidus, branch manager, has been announced as national winner of the recent sales drive. Although unofficial at press time, it is understood that the Pittsburgh branch office placed first in the contest which closed October 1.

CINCINNATI

Paramount in Pittsburgh Offers Exhibitors Comfort

PITTSBURGH—Paramount came forward with something new on Filmrow the other day when modern furniture was installed in the general office for the convenience of exhibitor customers who wish to take a few moments for rest or study of press material or trade papers. Dave Kimelman, manager, hopes that exhibitors will keep the new fine and comfortable chairs occupied. New booking counter is being installed to complete the extensive remodeling of the Paramount exchange building.

Remodeling of the New Universal branch exchange building is contemplated, it is understood. M. Wally of the company's real estate department was here this week in regards to this matter.

Bowling Begins in Pitt; Three Tied for Lead

PITTSBURGH — Republic, Columbia and the new All-Stars took the lead in the season's opener last Friday evening at the new Triangle Alleys. The first scores found much to be desired, but there was much enthusiasm. Results:

	Won	Lost
Republic	3	0
Columbia	3	0
All-Stars	3	0
Universal	2	1
Loew's	1	2
Monogram	0	3
20th-Fox	0	3
RKO	0	3

Barry to Continue

PITTSBURGH—The Barry Theatre, reported ready to fold after a recent reopening, will continue in operation throughout the season, according to William N. Skirball, of Cleveland, operator, and Mannie Greenwald, manager.

FOR the second time, and competing with the company's 32 branches, M-G-M's local office led the country in the 1938-39 sales and billing contest. Awards for the achievement as announced by E. M. Booth, branch manager, include two weeks' salary for salesmen and bookers, including Booth and Office Manager Devaney. All others of the personnel receive one week's salary. In addition, two trips to the San Francisco Fair with all expenses paid were awarded to Miss Estelle Schilferth, secretary to Devaney, and Custodian Henry Corddes. The entire personnel were guests at a Victory dinner October 6, with Pittsburgh and Cleveland offices as hosts, and T. J. Conners, assistant general sales manager of New York, and J. J. Maloney, district manager of Pittsburgh, as guests, among other notables.

Double Feature Screening By Metro in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—M-G-M staged a "double feature" trade screening Sunday evening at the Regent Square Theatre which attracted a capacity audience of members of the industry. Greta Garbo in "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms" with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland were enthusiastically received.

All this week "Hollywood Cavalcade" was screened by 20th-Fox at the exchange preview room. Other recent trade screenings included Universal's "The Under-Pup" and Paramount's "Beau Geste."

Doing Gary Cooper Yarn

HOLLYWOOD—"The Outlaw," historical western to star Gary Cooper, will be coscripted for Producer Sam Goldwyn by Jo Swerling and James Edward Grant.

Universal's Bob Lonneman is the proud father of a son and heir, born September 30 . . . Warner's captured the company's short subject drive and Lenore Schmidt broadcasts her thanks to all exhibitors who made it possible.

Warner's Ralph Kinsler has returned from New York . . . Paramount's John L. Herrmann is here for the World Series . . . Roy Smith of the Palace, Huntington, and George Revelis, Washington, C. H., also are in.

Motion picture operators in independent theatres signed up with the Greater Cincinnati Exhibitors' League on terms agreed upon by the league and Local 324. Weekly salary increases are $5 the first year and $5 the second, figured on the basis of a 36-hour working week. Overtime payment of $3 an hour remains the same. Under the old agreement, weekly wages ranged from $52 to $63 per week. Frank W. Huss jr. is president of the exhibitors' association. The agreement is effective as of September 1 and runs for two years.

Ray Frisz of Cooperative booking offices is president of the newly organized Filmrow Bowling League, which will meet Tuesday nights at the Mergard Bowling Alleys.

Midwest Theatre Supply equipped Robert Tuch and Bill Morrison's new Clovernook Theatre, North College Hill, a 700-seater which enjoyed a successful opening.

Louis Wiethe, owner of two comparatively new houses, the Kentucky, Latonia, and the Bond, Bond Hill, is planning a new 300-seater for Westwood, a suburb of Cincinnati. House will be erected by F&Y Building Service of Columbus.

J. J. Grady, 20th-Fox manager, is confined to his home by illness . . . Metro's Bill Devaney was inadvertently a war victim on a trip to Bermuda. Sailing on a British boat camouflaged a drab gray, he found himself exchanged to an American boat which landed in Florida. He pursued his homeward journey via train.

William Madden and Bob Cummings are new student bookers at Metro . . . Exhibitors from West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky turned out en masse for 20th-Fox's preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the RKO Orpheum. The feature was acclaimed double "A" material.

He's of the Same Opinion, Still

CLEVELAND—"We need more high class one-reel comedies." It is Moe Horwitz talking. Horwitz owns a string of five big theatres in Cleveland, and he says there's a crying need for big stuff condensed to one reel. "Most of the good comedies of the present day are two reels in length," Horwitz says. "Now I find that the average feature of seven reels needs a single reel comedy to relieve the tenseness of the program. We have to have a newsreel and we have to have some light stuff on our program, but with the strength of the average feature production, we find the two-reel comedy makes our shows too long. Patrons get restless when the shows are so long. They want a little change from the feature but they don't want to sit through two reels. If the producers will only make some classy single reelers, they'll find they are filling a big want in motion picture business."

The above statement sounds modern, doesn't it? But it was made by Horwitz just 19 years ago. The strange part of it all is that Horwitz is still of the opinion that a good feature, a newsreel and an outstanding single reel comedy are the ingredients that go into the making of a balanced motion picture program. And he still thinks that the comedy situation is a weak link in the construction of a program.

It was while going through some old files that Horwitz found the above clipping. There have been tremendous changes in the picture business in the past 19 years—changes in production, distribution and exhibition—but even then the exhibitors and the producers failed to agree on picture values.

Finding this clipping induced Horwitz to look over some of his other records of 19 years ago. And what he learned was rather shocking. "I found out to my astonishment," Horwitz says, "that I was then charging five and ten cents for admission and my net take was considerably more than it is today when the admission is 35 cents. It's the increased cost of theatre operation that makes the difference, including film rental and upkeep."

Already Booked by RKO, Publix and Other Circuits

"DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES"

With EMLYN WILLIAMS and HUGH WILLIAMS

Three Stars Given This New "Crime Shocker" by the New York Daily News.

COMING—RAYMOND MASSEY IN "BLACK LIMELIGHT"

Big Feature Rights Exch., Inc.

Cleveland - Indianapolis - Cincinnati

RCA Sound Sales Ahead Of Last Year—Jervis

PITTSBURGH—"Business is extremely good and is far ahead of last year," reports W. C. Jervis, local RCA Photophone sales manager. A deal was recently closed between RCA and Charles Anderson of the Alpine circuit whereby the company secured service and maintenance contracts on 24 theatres.

Some of RCA's recent orders for new sound equipment include: Strand, Zelienople, Pa.; Basle, Washington, Pa.; Girard, West View, Pa.; Central, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rialto, Johnstown, Pa.; State, Library, Pa.; Ligonier, Ligonier, Pa.; Brighton, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Grundy, Grundy, Va.; Star, Richlands, Va.; Marmet, Marmet, W. Va.; Roxy, Benwood, W. Va.; Plaza, Youngstown, Ohio; Ohio, Barnesville, Ohio.

Krieger Distributing Alliance Pictures

PITTSBURGH—Louis Krieger, pioneer film man who recently returned to the field here as manager of International Picture Distributing Co., has acquired the new productions of Alliance Pictures. Among the features now ready for release are "Dead Men Tell No Tales," with Emlyn Williams, "North Sea Patrol," "Just Like a Woman," with Gertrude Michael, "Black Limelight" with Raymond Massey and "Housemaster" with Otto Kruger and Phillip Holmes.

Krieger is offering a preparedness short subject, "The Warning," which pictures aerial warface as a threat to all civilization.

Port to Robinson

LUMBERPORT, W. VA.—Dorwin L. Robinson has acquired the Port from Irving Daniel Davis, secretary of the ITO of West Virginia. Robinson comes here from Grafton. He has had considerable experience in the theatre business with Les Bush at Grafton, with Warner at Morgantown and with the Alpine circuit at Terra Alta.

Planetarium to Open

PITTSBURGH—This city's greatest "show house," the new Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science, will be dedicated October 24, Charles F. Lewis, director of the Buhl Foundation, announces. The $1,000,000 building at Federal and West Ohio Sts., North Side, will be opened to the public October 25.

Remodel in Vandergrift

VANDERGRIFT, PA.—Work has started on remodeling of three theatres here by the Indiana County Theatre Co., managed by Ernie Dock for the Lipse-Manos company. The Casino will feature new interior decorating and a new stage and the Arcadia and Manos theatres are undergoing general repairs and decorating.

In West Virginia

By "SCOTTY" DeVEAUX

IN CHARLESTON, Gene Custer and Floyd Price have operated their new State Theatre almost a month. The house debuted September 13, with many exhibitors and distributor representatives present. The initial showing was followed with a banquet at Daniel Boone Hotel. One speaker was Mayor Boone Dawson.

Two weeks previously, Custer and Price opened their new Lewis at Lewisburg, with Fred Helwig as manager. A banquet also was a part of this opening, with many members of West Virginia's ITO in attendance. The ITO, at the time, was convening at White Sulphur Springs, only 20 miles from Lewisburg.

Bob Drew, with Monogram in Charleston, is rapidly recovering following an operation for acute appendicitis.

Charles Aarons has applied for a permit to build a second theatre in Charleston. He presently operates the Sunset on Washington St.

Gus Comuntzis is managing the Metropolitan in Morgantown, succeeding D. T. Shultz, who now is salesman in this district for Investors Syndicate of Minneapolis.

William W. Birchfield and Oaty H. Elmore, formerly manager and operator of the Best Theatre, Charleston, W. Va., are now manager and operator at the Appalachian Theatre, Appalachia, Va.

Emit Pettrey, manager of the Midland Theatre, Belle, W. Va., and John Simms jr., returned recently from a visit to New York City. They visited the World's Fair and Radio City Music Hall.

Charles Aaron, manager of the Sunset Theatre, Charleston, W. Va., returned recently from a call at the exchanges in Cincinnati.

It's Rape in Any Man's Language

Pittsburgh—Louis Krieger of Filmrow tells an amusing experience with an eastern Ohio exhibitor he approached at the latter's theatre to offer "The Crisis," a graphic study of Nazi aggression.

Handing the exhibitor a herald on the picture which had reading copy regarding "the rape of Czecho-Slovakia," the exhibitor shook his head and said, "Me no play Saxy the Pict."

Krieger denied the subject was a sex picture and was flabbergasted when the exhibitor shot back: "What's the mat—you think I not know the English. Rape, that's sex, and besides I know that Slovaky—she be no good star anyhow. Excuse please."

Tieup With Auto Industry For "Passage" Premiere

DETROIT—Plans of Paramount for its world premiere here October 19 of "Disputed Passage" now include a general tieup with the automotive industry. Tentative arrangements call for a preview of all 1940 model automobiles on the eveing of the premiere.

Carl Krueger, working out of Cliff Lewis' studio publicity department, has effected tieups with the local Chamber of Commerce and other business and civic organizations to work with the industry. The car preview will be held in the form of a downtown parade to culminate at the Michigan Theatre where the premiere will be held.

Jack Essick of Cleveland Is Married in Akron

CLEVELAND—A wedding of interest to the film trade took place in Akron when Shirley Lois McNamara became the bride of Jack Essick, son of P. E. Essick of the Scoville, Essick and Reif circuit. Ray Essick, brother of the groom, was best man, and Mrs. Ray Essick was matron of honor.

The ceremony was performed in the First Presbyterian Church of Akron. After a motor honeymoon trip east, the newlyweds will make their home in Cleveland where Jack is associated with his dad's theatre circuit.

Autry Short for YMCA Drive Gets Bookings

PITTSBURGH—Many local theatres have been playing a special 150-foot subject which Gene Autry made in connection with the annual YMCA membership campaign. The popular singing star of Republic Pictures produced and appeared in the film as a favor to James H. Alexander, chairman of the membership drive for the YMCA.

Urges State Parks

PITTSBURGH—Branding Pennsylvania "a laggard in providing for recreation," Ellwood B. Chapman, president of the Pennsylvania Parks Ass'n in convention here, urged the establishment of state parks near large cities to provide needed weekend recreational facilities.

Theatre for Benwood

PITTSBURGH—A theatre will be opened at Benwood, W. Va., by Mr. Green who is connected with the Colonial Theatre, Wheeling, according to word received here this week. Benwood has been without a theatre for a decade.

Keeps Its Lead

AKRON, OHIO—The Orpheum Theatre here, first local film house to be wired for sound, has installed the newest in theatre sound equipment this week, Manager Al Ploenes reports.

DETROIT

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM is holding up plans for Shamrock Productions, organized as an independent producing company here . . . John Tatu and Victor Petriks are taking turns managing their Casino Theatre, with George A. Ranshaw now managing the Nortown. Tatu, by the way, is back from a trip to Delafield, Wis. His son is now at St. John's Military Academy.

Emil Beck, independent booker, has a namesake in town, we just learned . . . Julius Fischer, partner in the Robinson theatres, is making his headquarters out at the Rogers.

M. Robbins of the Echo is discussing plans for a trip to California . . . Lester Sturm, Fox manager, works his crew so hard they have to go out for eats after a trip with him.

Charlie Garner is losing weight. Says it's to fit his office better . . . Jay Conover, Grand National booker, was married at Zion Lutheran Church to Grace Hoffman, cashier at GN until a year ago. Manager Ralph Peckham and wife contributed a nice gift, and so did the staff, including Helen Brody, Petey North, Esther Ziemer and Jack Early.

Eugene J. Welling has incorporated Detroit Capitol, Inc., as sole stockholder to operate theatres. Officers are in the Fine Arts (Adams Theatre) Bldg. Capitalization is $50,000 . . . Peter A. Simon is working on election trailers now.

Nat Bregstein, who tours eastern territory for BOXOFFICE, *was in town . . . John Dembeck, the booking genius of M-G-M, doubles as assistant cashier and newspaper reader at lunch . . . Harold Robinson, Film Truck Service, still has those 16mm projectors.*

Don Atkinson, the Mickey Rooney of National Theatre Supply, decided to continue as a heart breaker by staying single . . . Edith Schuttenhelm of NTS has offered to marry if the prospect has $1,000,000. No takers yet.

Ralph Peckham, Grand National manager, has a nice apartment at the Whittier overlooking the Detroit River . . . Esther Ziemer of Grand National was a victim of acidity.

Harry Lotz, UA's detective-booker, is the happy papa of his first—a boy, born Thursday—8 pounds, 13 ounces . . . Irving Belinsky is back on the job as chef but still insisting he's in the phonograph business.

Mrs. Edgar Kirchner and Mrs. Mike Chargot were co-hostesses at the first Variety Club Ladies' Day—a bridge matinee benefit for the $50,000 drive . . . Fred DeLodder is completing renovations on the Your Theatre.

William Steffes is remodeling the front of the DeLuxe. May revamp the inside next. Manager William Cuddy thinks the new front is going to help business a lot . . . Carl Krueger, Paramount studio publicist, was a visitor.

Frank J. Downey, M-G-M chief, held a double trade screening at the Regent. Films were "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms."

Butterfield has set back opening dates on three houses, the Garden and Regent at Flint, and the State at Pontiac. All are being remodeled.

Mrs. Bessie Wiler, wife of G. L. Wiler of the Wiler and Bolshoven circuit, Grand Rapids, died following a long illness. Her husband and one daughter survive.

Reports from Richmond, Mich., that the local theatre, owned by Bill Schulte, has an 18-year minimum age attendance requirement due to polio.

Emmett Roche of the Hart, Hart, was in buying and booking. He also manages theatres at Pentwater and Shelby. At the Shelby, he's putting in new seats, projectors and general equipment.

Activities in Ross Federal Service's national bowling league start next week, according to F. S. McKeown, local manager.

Adapts Jack Benny's Next

HOLLYWOOD—Everett Freeman will adapt "Buck Benny Rides Again," Jack Benny's next starrer for Paramount.

Assignment to Jevne

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has signed Jack Jevne to write the script of "Strange Honeymoon."

SRO Ingredients

NEW LONDON—J. O. Guthrie of the Karolyn Theatre has solved the puzzle as to how to play to capacity business. His remedy is to engage, for a personal appearance, a hometown girl who has made good in films.

Dorothy Grainger, who appeared in "Dramatic School," an M-G-M production, and who was born in New London, packed them in when she and her husband, George Lollier, played a limited engagement at the Karolyn. Lollier is Richard Dix's double.

Triangle in Pittsburgh Purchased by Josephs

PITTSBURGH — A. and I. Josephs have purchased the Triangle Theatre property on Frankstown Ave. The house is now operated by Mort and Art England with William D. Davis as manager.

Abe Josephs formerly operated the old Model, Butler St., which they sold to Warner Bros. eight years ago. It is understood the transacation involved $100,000 and that Josephs will take over operation of the Triangle the first of the year.

Billboards by Harris

PITTSBURGH — Twenty-four sheet billboards this week inquired "If you have shared in the $50,000 Bank Night awards" made by the local Harris theatres. Colorful poster listed the theatres participating and featured punch copy.



COLUMBUS

TWO reports of interest are making the local rounds, that the Majestic will join a burlesque wheel and that another university district house is in the offing.

Bill Settos, Liberty Theatre in Springfield, was a business visitor last week, "to buy two carbons from Ted Gardner" . . . Leo Yassenoff has been on the road for past ten days.

Talk of extended runs leads us to observe that RKO has been using extra playing time for past three years. And quite successfully.

Buying for 1939-40 *continues at a snail's pace here. The average is less than two contracts signed per house at the present time.*

Lou Holleb has been named general chairman for the second annual Variety Club "Barn Dance" to be held October 25. C. Harry Schreiber will serve as assistant. The event will be held at the Auditorium.

Seven Years of Amateur Shows at Ohio Theatre

EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO—Seven years of continuous presentations of amateur shows was observed at the American Theatre here with a solid hour of entertainment by simon-pure performers. Francis (Rookie) Wright, assistant to Manager George Ellis, was master of ceremonies.

Schultz Has First of New Renfrew Series Prints

CLEVELAND — Nate Schultz, Monogram franchise owner for northern Ohio, announces that he has received prints of "Crashing Through," first of the six Renfrew of the Mounties series of action pictures, which is available for immediate booking.

New prints of "Hell's Angels," peculiarly timely right now, are also available, Schultz wants the exhibitors to know, as well as "Mutiny in the Big House" with Charles Bickford and Barton MacLane.

Gerson Reports a Demand For "Beast of Berlin"

CLEVELAND—S. A. Gerson, local branch manager for Big Feature Rights Exchanges, Inc., announces that his office is being besieged for bookings of "Hitler —Beast of Berlin," which will be released nationally on October 15. This picture, according to advance notices, is not propaganda of hate, but rather claims to be an unbiased reply to the question of whether the German people are solidly behind Hitler in his policy of arms and threats. Manager Gerson also points out that there is nothing of the newsreel type of reporting in "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," which is an adaptation of Shepard Traube's book, "Goose Step."

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from page 48)

of the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers. Black skies are taking the district out of the red (and nobody's blue). Actually the smokes are of various colors of the rainbow—white, gray, yellow, salmon, blue, black and orange. (We hadn't seen this in so long a time we had forgotten the beautiful colors!) Tens of thousands of men are being reemployed at steel mills, factories, railroads, coke ovens. Steel ingot production this week advanced to 77.5 per cent of capacity as against 38 per cent of capacity a year ago this week. Visiting in West Virginia for several days we were pleased to note that the recovery movement was in evidence wherever we traveled.

Irving Dietz and dozens of local film men and exhibitors attended the Billy Conn-Melio Bettina fight at Forbes Field last week . . . Jesse L. Lasky was here for several days at the Senator Theatre in connection with his talent search.

Jim Alexander had planned to attend the ITO convention at Clarksburg but was unable to do so when informed that members of the family had prepared a birthday party in his honor for that Tuesday evening.

Timely Inspections

PITTSBURGH — In connection with Fire Prevention Week, October 8-15, all theatres will be visited by inspectors.

How to operate motion picture theatres *profitably*



Here is a new book full of HOW TO DO IT information, written by a man who believes that the first objective of theatre management is to make money. In this book he covers motion picture theatre management from A to Z, giving the best results of years of experience as a guide in establishing successful policies, building profitable business, and efficiently operating any size theatre.

The Management of Motion Picture Theatres

By FRANK H. RICKETSON, Jr.

President, Fox Inter-Mountain Theatres, Inc.

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Estimates Independent Releases

Boston—Charles Morse, testifying in the Morse & Rothenberg anti-trust suit, estimated that "an average of between 135 and 155" independent pictures have been released each season during the last eight years in the New England territory. Morse opined that "western productions were about 33 1/3 per cent of this entire yearly total."

Ed Murby Forging Ahead With Wareham Drive-In

Boston—At a time when open-air theatres in New England are closing and preparing to close, Ed Murby is getting underway with the Motor-In Theatre at Wareham. Murby, who put up the house on his own property, was to have opened Thursday. The Theatre Service and Supply Co. equipped the Bay State's newest ozoner.

Labor Troubles and Public Plaints Plague Drive-Ins

Boston—Drive-In Theatres Corp. houses in this territory are having their troubles. There have been recent stench bombings at Weymouth and Saugus. In the latter locality, labor pressure is being brought with the threat that the Drive-In's Sunday permit will not be reissued unless an AFL projectionists contract is forthcoming.

Lawsuits involving all the houses directly and indirectly under the aegis continue in the courts.

Public complaints, alleging disturbance from loud speaker systems are mounting. Thomas DiMaura and James Guarino have been on a strenuous diet of chickens and eggs these past few weeks in an effort to soothe a certain farmer who threatened to be one of the prime objectors.

Smith Plans Several New Drive-Ins

Boston—Philip Smith reaffirmed to Boxoffice this week that he plans to put up several more drive-in theatres for opening next season. Smith, who already operates ozoners in Cleveland and Detroit, declined to reveal the locations of the sites for publication. No date has been set for the darkening of his present outdoor interests.

October 10 Opening Is Slated in Deep River

Deep River, Conn.—Lee Malcarni of Essex Theatre Corp. and operator of the Essex and Clinton theatres, will open his completely renovated 460-seat Deep River Theatre about October 10, instead of October 1, as originally planned.

The house, formerly operated by L. H. Pratt, has been transformed under supervision of William Hutchins of National Theatre Supply Co.

Sound, projection, seats, carpet, front, lobby and lighting were installed by National Theatre Supply.

Expresses Belief Major Product Would Spell 40% Gross Boost

Boston—Charles Morse told Philip Hendrick, U. S. district court master in the $2,100,000 Morse & Rothenberg anti-trust litigation, that in his opinion, the Cameo Theatre in Newburgh, N. Y., would have grossed approximately 40 per cent better than it did during the year of 1935 if he had exhibited Paramount, Metro, Fox, Warner, Universal, Columbia, and RKO pictures which he didn't show that year. The Allied lawsuits are concerned, in part, with the independent circuit's alleged inability to buy major product.

"What is the reason for that opinion?" George S. Ryan, attorney for the plaintiffs, asked the witness.

"In 1935, business was better and on the up-grade. We were better established, and if we had been able to use all of the major product in 1935, we could have eliminated the 245 practically worthless independent pictures which we used."

"It has appeared that during the year 1936, the first 18 weeks, the Cameo Theatre was operated by your company and showed 128 pictures of which 35 were majors and 93 independents. That there were no Paramount, Metro, Fox, Warner, Columbia and only a part of Universal, RKO, and United Artists . . . Have you an opinion as to the reason for the increase in the gross receipts for that period of time as compared to the previous year?" asked Ryan.

Calls Four "Important"

"Again in 1936 we had no Paramount, Metro, Fox, or Warner, which, as before stated by me, are the most important companies, producing the greatest number of boxoffice attractions. We used 93 independent pictures. If we had used major product instead of the 93 independents, we would have been able to give the patrons a much better and far greater entertaining program, and could have pleased the patrons much more than was the case with the independent pictures. The majority of patrons in seeing poor shows, and particularly when the independent pictures are used, become disgusted and they cease to be patrons of the theatre and the theatre gets a very bad name."

"Now, have you an opinion as to the cause of the decrease in the weekly average gross receipts at that theatre in 1934 to 1936?" asked Ryan.

"Yes," said the plaintiff.

"What is your opinion?"

"In 1934, we had 224 major pictures against 90 independents. In 1935, we had 66 major pictures against 245 independents. And during the time we were open in 1936, we had 35 majors against 93 independents. Therefore, during 1933 and '34 we consistently showed programs which were popular and which pleased the majority of our patrons.

"From time to time, even in those years, they might see a production they didn't like because in some cases some people like a certain type of picture and others don't, and in 1933-34 there may have been an occasional major picture which some people didn't like. But, in the main, the programs pleased the patrons. In 1935, we carried over some major pictures and used the majority of our major product during the first few months.

"As we began to use more and more of the independent product, practically all of which was junk and absolutely worthless as far as the boxoffice was concerned, and many of which will drive patrons away from a theatre, it began to become known to patrons the terrible programs we were showing, and the most serious effect was probably realized in this situation the latter part of the summer or early fall of 1935, possibly beginning with the summer and running into the fall of 1935.

"After all, when people came to the theatre during the early months of 1935 and if they happened to see a program with independent features, even though they may have been disgusted with the pictures, they probably did not determine to quit being a patron of the theatre at that time because they had seen, naturally, in the past a number of pictures which also did not please them or with which they were disgusted. But after they came again and again and saw the same kind of junk, they finally were driven elsewhere for entertainment. Also during 1936 this same condition existed and became worse as time went on."

"Now, assuming that during that period of 1936 you had been able to get the product of Paramount, Metro, Fox, Warner, Columbia and the remainder of the product of Universal, RKO, and United Artists, would you have used the independent pictures?"

"No, sir."

Sure of Greater Gross

"Assuming that you had exhibited the product of the major companies which I have mentioned, in place of the independent product, in your opinion would there have been any change in the average weekly gross receipts?"

"Yes, sir."

"In your opinion what would the change have been?"

Charles Morse opined that the theatre would have grossed about 40 per cent more a week.

"What is the reason for your opinion?"

"If we had had the major pictures you mention we would have been able to use same instead of the 93 independents which we used. In addition, Sunday shows were legally licensed in Newburgh beginning March 29, and Sunday is one of the best, if not the best, day in the week in the theatre business as far as gross receipts are concerned, and in some cases it is three or four times as large as a week day—the gross is three or four times as much as a week day."

Edward F. McClennen, defense attorney, asked if that "March" was March 29, 1936.

"Yes, sir," said Morse.

"How were business conditions general-

(Continued on page 58-C)

Pinanski Again Heads Mass. MPTOA Unit

BOSTON—Samuel Pinanski, M&P circuit partner, was re-elected president of Allied Theatres of Massachusettss, Inc., an MPTOA unit, at the annual meeting Tuesday.



SAM PINANSKI

Other officers are: John Devlin, Loew's, vice-president, re-elected; Stanley Sumner, University Theatre, Cambridge, treasurer, re-elected. Joseph H. Brennan continues as executive secretary.

The board was re-elected, except for the replacement of Charles Koerner (now on the coast) by Harry MacDonald, RKO divisional manager, and the selection of Frederick R. Greenway, manager of Loew's State in Boston, to succeed George Jones.

Two Films Are Relieved Of Disapproved Lines

BOSTON—Two out of 35 films incurred censorial trouble in the latest list to be released by the Massachusetts department of public safety under the provisions of Chapter 136, Section 4, of the General Laws.

The dialogue, "Damn fellow," was clipped from Columbia's "U-Boat 29."

"Port of Shadows" was ordered relieved of: "All scenes showing Gene and Nellie in bedroom and dialogue pertaining thereto. Scenes showing Gene and Nellie in embrace, disappearing off scene. Scene showing Gene beating Zabel with brick."

Globe Goes Burlesque In Welansky Move

BOSTON—The Globe Theatre goes off subsequent runs October 6 when Ben Welansky enters the scene to move burlesque into the house. Max Michaels, formerly at the Columbia, will handle the Globe. He also will retain management of the Columbia, where burlesque will be launched on an experimental basis.

Ben Stein, Globe manager during recent years, is understood to have sold his financial interest in the house.

Effects News Exchange With Radio Station

BOSTON—Joseph A. DiPesa, advertising manager for Loew's, Inc., has culminated a tieup with WORL, local radio station. The studio will broadcast the news tracks of Loew's newsreels and, in return, will furnish Loew's State and Loew's Orpheum with latest news bulletins.

Delmar Daves to "Safari"

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has signed Delmar Daves to work on the script of Safari."

PORTLAND

CONGRATULATIONS to Russell Mack of Colonial Theatre on the birth of a son September 24.

The Motor-In Theatre at Scarboro is doing a "landoffice" business with "Ecstasy." From the beginning, this open-air theatre has shown only sex films, advertising them heavily in local sheets and over the air.

Richard W. Gustin, a member of the Bangor Theatrical Stage Employes and Motion Picture Operators' Local, was recently appointed as a special commissioner to make a study of the federal fair labor standards act, by Gov. Lewis O. Barrows. Horace E. Howe, president of the Portland Central Labor Union, was named to the same committee. A result of their study is to be reported with recommendations to the 1940 legislature.

Mrs. Harry Botwick, wife of the State Theatre manager, was unanimously nominated president of Senior Hadassah by its executive board September 25 . . . John M. Lomac, State Theatre usher, has enrolled in Colby College for the fall term.

A. J. Moreau, M&P branch manager, left this week for a two-week vacation to be spent in North Carolina. He was accompanied by Mrs. Moreau and their small son, Al jr.

Mrs. Harry Botwick underwent a tonsillotomy at the Maine General Hospital here September 28. She was released from the hospital the following Saturday afternoon.

"Recess Time," popular juvenile radio program aired from the stage of the State Theatre each Saturday morning, was resumed September 30. The program combines the best features of both the winter program, and "Request Time," the summer program, with Mildred Chambers doing request vocals.

Higgins Is Representing Film Transportation

BOSTON—Herbert Higgins, booker for a number of independent New England theatres, now is Boston representative for Film Transportation Co. The delivery concern is operated by Arthur Barwood of the Magnet Theatre in Hanover, N. H. Its trucks cover Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Higgins is at present handling the firm's local business from his office at 250 Stuart St.

Thomas Russell Wed

BURLINGTON, VT.—Thomas W. Russell, well known in motion picture theatre circles through the state, and Mae Kellar of Kansas City, Kas., were married recently in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Russell is the brother of Fred H. Russell, stage and screen editor of the Bridgeport (Conn.) *Post-Telegram* and correspondent for BOXOFFICE in that city.

Allied of Connecticut Names New Officers

NEW HAVEN—A. M. Schuman was named president of Allied Theatres of Connecticut at the election meeting held Tuesday, October 3, at the Hofbrau Haus.

Other officers are Charles Repass, first vice-president; Joseph Reed, second vice-president; Barney Calechman, treasurer; Lawrence C. Caplan, executive secretary. Chairman of the board of directors is Dr. J. B. Fishman, with Maurice Shulman vice-chairman. Regional directors for public relations and for finance and business relations are Fishman, Schuman and Shulman.

The ten members for the board of directors will be announced at a meeting in the near future.

Report RKO Seeking New Exchange in Boston

BOSTON—RKO is understood to be looking for a new exchange building in Boston. The distributor has been located at the corner of Church and Piedmont Sts. M-G-M formerly occupied the same site.

Possibly in connecton with the contemplated move, negotiations are in effect which may result in the changing in ownership of the film district building at the corner of Arlington and Winchester Sts. Louis Gordon and Arthur Lockwood circuit headquarters and P. Edward Comi's Theatre Service and Supply Co. are among the concerns located here.

10-Year Lease on Devon Theatre to Civitello

DEVON, CONN.—Ralph Civitello, operator of Connecticut Theatre Display Service in New Haven, has leased for ten years the 370-seat Devon Theatre, formerly operated by Barnett Tabackman and now retired. Civitello will open the house October 12 on a full-time, three-change policy after making extensive alterations. Top admission will be 25 cents.

Civitello, who is a graduate of the Yale art school, will paint ten modernistic landscape panels for the walls. He has designed the entire interior decoration. A new marquee will be added next spring.

M&P Acquires Additional Land in Hub Suburb

BOSTON—The M&P Theatres Corp. has acquired additional land in the Cleveland Circle section of the city at the Brookline-Boston line, and has decided to put up their proposed new theatre on the Hub side of the boundary.

Son to C. F. Millett

BOSTON—C. F. Millett, owner of the State Theatre in Bridgeton, and Mrs. Millett have become parents of a boy.

BOSTON

MAJOR PATRICK F. HEALEY, state film head, has been at the American Legion convention in Chicago . . . Al Kenney, junior vice-commander of the Theatrical Post of American Legion, was also in the Windy City . . . William Scully, Universal executive, was in Boston last week.

John Davin of National Screen Service was confined to Corey Hill Hospital last week. Davin was ill earlier with infected tonsils . . . James Sherran of the department of public safety is back but still hobbling, from an attack of arthritis . . . Mary Rushton of Republic lost her mother last week.

William Gaffney reopened the Flamingo Room here last week. Woody Herman is furnishing the music . . . Ben Stein, associated with exhibitor and distributor Ben Welansky, was in Virginia and Pennsylvania last week . . . Al Herman, Universal, was in Boston last week . . . Louis Stern, Barrie exhibitor, was down from Vermont.

Leon Task has opened his Milford Theatre . . . Thomas DiMaura, James Guarino, et al., have set no definite closing date for their drive-in theatres. The houses have been booked through to October 15.

Joseph H. Brennan, executive secretary of the Allied Theatres of Massachusetts, Inc., assembled a meeting of the MPTO unit here Tuesday.

Eddie Cantor has been booked by the RKO city manager, Ben Domingo, for a stage appearance at the RKO Boston the middle of October. Leni Lynn, M-G-M's 13-year-old singing starlet of "Babes in Arms," is scheduled to appear with Cantor . . . Howard Hurdy, publicity man, will be along.

Harry Goldstein of RKO is in charge of arrangements for the forthcoming Motion Picture Salesmen's Club social on November 4.

Harry Segal is handling the distribution of the new three-reel versions of "Monastery," and "Ski Chase." Bill Murphy, exchange manager at Imperial, has several dates set. George Kraska, local exhibitor, supervised the editing of the celluloids.

Frank Lydon and Arthur K. Howard of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., were to have addressed the Allied Theatres of Connecticut at the organization's yearly meeting Tuesday.

William H. McLaughlin, newly elected commander of the Theatrical Post of American Legion, announces that Al Reeves and his New England orchestra has been secured for the organization's annual film district dinner-dance.

Charles W. Koerner, former New England RKO divisional manager now holding a similar executive position on the West Coast, wrote friends last week that when he first came to Boston it was "cold as hell." His first view of California, Koerner inscribed, has been "hot as hell" . . . Although Koerner's new home wasn't ready for occupancy during the recent torrid session, he found the swimming pool a relief.

Sam and Nathan Goldstein have given a third Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., house a vaudeville policy. It is the first time in a decade that the latest convert, the Paramount in North Adams, has had footlights.

Meyer Rosen, New England representative for the Liberman Flag and Valance Co., is now servicing Keith's Memorial in Boston.

Joseph Plunkett of the M&P Theatres Corp. accounting department returned Monday from vacation . . . Germaine Reichman, also of M&P, is back from vacation leave . . . Harry Segal of Imperial was in from New York Saturday.

H. M. Stitham is to open a new theatre in Hartland, Me., shortly. After some 20 years' experience in the film business, he has been away from the industry for approximately the past eight years.

Walter Murphy, former treasurer and assistant manager here for Loew's, Inc., has joined the Graphic Theatre circuit. Up to the end of last week, Murphy had been given no definite assignment.

Virginia Votolato, operator of the Myrtle Theatre in Thornton, R. I., is finding serials a good draw at the house . . . Lowell Frank, formerly with the Capitol Theatre Supply Co., is now with Ford in Detroit.

Al Longo, assistant publicity man for Loew's State and Orpheum, was away last week on the second leg of a vacation . . . Bob Warren of the Boston Globe *substituted . . . C. T. Cooney jr., operator of the Waldo Theatre in Waldoboro, Me., showplace, broke* Life *last week. He gave his own review of "Lady of the Tropics."*

Frank Murphy, former local Loew's assistant now manager of Loew's State in Syracuse, ballyhooed "Lady of the Tropics" by running a newspaper contest with prizes for those finding "a word" describing Hedy Lamarr.

Beatrice Birmbaum is the latest addition to the home office force of the E. M. Loew circuit . . . Thad C. Barrows presided at a meeting of the Moving Picture Operators' Union, Local 182, *Tuesday.*

Gertrude Rittenberg of the E. M. Loew circuit left this week for a scheduled two-week vacation . . . George S. Ryan, anti-trust lawyer, was in Maine most of last week . . . Gertrude Hanlon, secretary to the attorney, spent the second half of a split vacation at New Hampshire last week.

A growing New England circuit is understood to be considering a new indoor theatre in Shrewsbury . . . Bernard Farwell, formerly manager for M&P at Roslindale, has joined the Graphic Theatre circuit and has been assigned to Ellsworth, Me., by Kenneth Kurson.

Max Michaels, manager of the Columbia, has introduced radio amateur contests Friday evenings . . . The Columbia policy moves up to the Globe shortly.

Richard Sears, veteran newsreel man now handling the lens for Universal out of Boston, was elected historian of the Crosscup Pishon (advertising men) Post of American Legion here last week.

Roy E. Heffner screened "Bombs Over London" at 20th-Fox last week. The Specialty Pictures release stars Charles Farrell . . . Edward Cuddy, M&P division manager, called a home office meeting last

(Continued on next page)

Ask **NATHAN YAMINS**

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"You can begin to count real profits when FLUORESCENT LAMPS are placed in sockets!"

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HARTFORD

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Paul Binstock, manager of the Lyric, a Warner unit. Tuesday, October 3, was Paul's birthday, Mrs. Binstock's birthday, and, oddly enough, their wedding anniversary. Commented Walter Winchell: "Quite a coincidence."

George Landers spread it pretty big in the local press when the popular E. M. Loew's manager previewed "U-Boat 29." *George, among other stunts, had an* Athenia *survivor in person at the showing.*

Seen at WTHT the other night: Rudy Frank, State publicity plugger, and comic Parkyakarkus. Parkyakarkus appeared at the State and was interviewed over the air for 15 minutes.

Roger William Strand was in Winsted offering regal burnished gold oven and dinnerware to ladies on Tuesdays and Wednesdays . . . Bingo is advertising quite heavily in the Connecticut press . . . Whitney Theatre Co., New Haven, is putting up a new theatre and store building at the corner of Whitney and Putnam Aves., Hamden . . . Alterations are being made at the Hippodrome, Bridgeport.

Louis Cohen of the Loew-Poli Palace had "Navy Night" at his theatre in connection with the showing of "Thunder Afloat." In celebration of the second week run, Manager Cohen arranged to have the Connecticut Nautical Cadets as his guests. They marched to the theatre in full uniform. Stunt got space in the local press.

New Britain's Capitol Theatre, closed since last spring, is expected to reopen this month . . . George Landers was in Boston last Monday . . . Julian B. Tuthill, Hartford Times, *was in New Haven viewing "Too Many Girls," a musical at the Shubert in the Elm City.*

Bob Crosby appeared at Harris Bros.' State . . . Donald Bell is the new usher at the Rialto, South Norwalk, replacing Daniel Covino, resigned . . . Usher Joseph Tinelli, Bristol Theatre, is back on the job after an operation.

Another newspaper for Springfield, Mass., is the Free Press, *a weekly. Its first issue carried a nice bit of theatrical advertising. The paper makes five for the Massachusetts city . . . Bonnie Jackson is now head usherette at the Loew-Poli, Bridgeport . . . Manager Dennis Rich's Cameo, Bristol, has been redecorated . . . The mother-in-law of Paul Binstock, Lyric manager, was in town and the popular Warner manager showed her the city.*

Lyric, Bridgeport, has reopened after being dark several months . . . Charles H. Niles, juvenile editor and former film critic of the Hartford *Times,* had published an interesting sidelight on theatre patrons, to-wit: "Boys are said to be more keen theatregoers than girls, but the latter lead the boys in reading in bed" . . . Jim McCarthy, manager of the Warner Strand, is enthusiastic over his run of "Espionage Agent."

War Boom Makes Place for Legit Units in Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—The war in Europe is being reflected on the local theatrical scene. For years the city has been without legitimate attractions. Now and suddenly there is a battle raging for control of the two houses available to handle roadshows.

Hartford is the center of munitions and airplane manufacture in New England, and producers, evidently remembering the big boom here during World War days, are fighting for locations.

At present, Jules J. Leventhal of New York seems to have the inside track on the Park Theatre. He plans to open with "Tobacco Road" and then play girl shows when legitimate bookings are unavailable. The house has been a white elephant for 20 years.

Max Rudnick is seeking the Lyric for burlesque, but he has plenty of opposition. One group wants the house for opera and Phil Dunning, Broadway playwright and producer, is considering placing a stock company there.

Hartford is taking a hand in the matter and demands that any promoter opening either theatre must post a bond of $1,500 to cover two weeks' salary of performers, stagehands and other employes. The move is to guard against fly-by-nights who cleaned up here in World War days but failed to pay off.

Weekend Stage Shows Resumed in Manchester

MANCHESTER, N. H.—The Strand Theatre here has resumed its presentation of Friday and Saturday stage shows through the fall, winter and spring months. In addition, there will be full length first-run films and the usual selected short subjects.

In the flesh shows, stage, screen and radio stars will make personal appearances, according to Manager Fenton Scribner.

Relight Bridgeport Lyric For Holdover of 'Women'

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—Dark nearly a year, Loew's Lyric Theatre was relighted to house a three-day holdover of "The Women" from the Loew-Poli.

Business, which is suddenly on the upbeat here, will determine the future policy of the Lyric. Al Domian, former manager, returned for the reopening.

Quiet on Vaudeville for Second Hartford House

HARTFORD—Nothing further as yet has been heard to the effect that the Loew-Poli Palace will offer flesh this fall. Louis Cohen, manager, has remained silent on the matter for unknown reasons. Meanwhile, Harris Bros.' State is the only house in the city offering vaudeville.

BOSTON

(Continued from preceding page)

week of Boston and suburban theatre managers.

Jack Goodwin, resident director of the Metropolitan, is supervising the sandstoning of the building . . . Irma Montague, formerly of the Metropolitan, is with the company of "I Married an Angel." She was in Toronto this week, appearing last week in Montreal.

George Rappulas and Ernest Goldstein of the Bijou in Holyoke were in town last week . . . Martin Tuohy was up from Pawtucket, R. I. . . . Fred Sharby of Keene was in from New Hampshire.

Merton Carr has been rejuvenating the Strand in Randolph, Vt.

Wayne Crankshaw, operator of the Metropolitan Theatre in Middleboro, is renovating the location with the addition of a new lounge room on adjoining property . . . Tony Romano, recently ill, was on Church Street last week . . . William Yager of Leominster was in . . . Joseph Flynn, Lawrence theatre manager, was in town.

Michael Hurney and Roy E. Heffner picked up bad doses of poison ivy while clearing out the latter's estate in Belmont the other day.

Murray Aaronson, dispenser of magic for the film district, was promoted by Joseph A. DiPesa, Loew's publicist to set up a working exhibit at Miller's drug store next door to Loew's State Theatre to exploit "Miracles for Sale."

Sidney Epstein has replaced Bruce Hawthorne, resigned, as the manager of the Pastime Theatre in Northeast Harbor, Me. The Graphic Theatre manager formerly handled the New Star Theatre in Dover, second of the circuit's houses to close this season. The first darkening was at Schroon Lake, N. Y.

Lillian Keegan has been rejuvenating the Gayety Theatre at Van Buren, Me. . . . Louis Gordon and Arthur Lockwood have been refinishing the Lyric in Braintree.

Edward A. Cuddy, M&P divisional manager, announces discontinuance, effective September 25, *of Monday matinees at the State in East Milton.*

Robert Warren is managing the Lubec Theatre in the Maine town of the same name . . . Ernest Links, who this year replaced Howard Shonting as summer manager of the Cape Cinema at Denis, now is managing the State in Stoughton for Edward Ansin and E. Harold Stoneman.

James Cyr, operator of the Roxy Theatre in Mattawaska, Me., has opened the Town Hall in Frenchville. Cyr is managing both houses which are approximately ten miles apart . . . Clarence Lofgren is

now managing the Hyde Park in suburban Boston for the M&P Theatres Corp.

Priscilla Means, daughter of Mrs. Emma Means who operates the Colonial in Machias, Me., is now at Colby Junior College in New Hampshire.

Frank LePage, Millinocket theatre owner, and Charles Fish of Capitol Theatre Supply, recently put in an over-night hunting trip in the vicinity of Mt. Katahdin, Me.

Lou Anger, Connecticut circuit operator, has a new house in Bridgeport . . . Rudy Wetter of the National Theatre Supply Co. has sold stage draperies to the Jonesport High in Jonesport, Me. . . . Ernest Warren, present Universal salesman, has moved to Portland . . . Edward Kleine has New England distribution rights of "Human Wreckage."

Charles Brent plans to darken the Nipmuc Park Theatre in Mendon, October 14. He will reopen the house in the spring.

Clarence Pickard, recently commemorated the ninth anniversary of the Strand Theatre in Ipswich, Philip Smith house, with a clam dinner . . . Phillip Lavine, divisional manager, was one of the guests of honor.

Mark Jeffrey, former owner of the New England Film Exchange, is now canvassing Maine with Charles Brent's "Wages of Sin" . . . Earl Kimball, is now house manager at the Tower in Lowell. Paul Ketchum, now with the Schine circuit, covered the house last year.

Joe Dondis, operating partner with M&P in Rockland and operator of the State Theatre in Calais, canvassed the Maine community in behalf of Sunday shows, available in the Pine Tree state under Sunday option. The vote was against the innovation . . . Holden also put thumbs down on celluloids on the Sabbath.

Dave Perkins, recently publicity manager for the Schine circuit and now theatre manager in Northampton for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., has been having a bad time with asthma.

Ed Carroll of the Stuart Theatre in Boston has a part of the new open-air in Saco, Me., which has closed for the winter.

Louis Kamber of the Colonial in Manchester, Vt., was in the district recently . . . Helen Mysko, secretary to Office Manager Walter Gillis at Cameo, plans to weekend at the World's Fair.

Bernard Stewart, theatre manager in Farmingham, tied in "S. O. S. Tidal Wave" with the local airport, spotting publicity on several planes and then breaking the resulting pictures in the newspapers.

H. E. Smalley has remodeled the house at Bradford, Vt., and moved it from a one-night week to a six-night week. Smalley also operates at Fairlee, Vt. . . . Mary Grey of the E. M. Loew office, reports that her mother, recently hospitalized, is much improved.

Jack Goldstein, former local RKO theatre publicist and later national exploitation manager for United Artists, promoted "This Week in Hyannis," class magazine of Cape Cod, during the summer. Goldstein may move south this winter with a similar publication.

Harry Browning, M&P advertising head, and Representative George Holden Tinkham were recently seen on the street here seriously discussing neutrality.

Samuel Horenstein and J. J. Conroy of the Burch Mfg. Co., have contracted for installation of popcorn machines at the Globe Theatre at Manchester, N. H.

Joseph Longo of the Loew's publicity office found a parallel of the hero of "Golden Boy" in Ray Mondello, 88 Endicott Street, in the North End. The resulting publicity broke most of the local papers in advance of the opening of the Columbia film.

MONOGRAM

NEWS OF THE WEEK



This week we'd like you to meet Harry Blanchette of Central Falls, R. I., who is the business associate of Morris Safner. These men operate the Rialto, Laurier and Olympia Theatres in Woonsocket, R. I., and the Lafayette in Central Falls. Another one of their holdings, the Park Theatre in Woonsocket, is now sub-leased. Harry Blanchette, of the jovial countenance, has known no other means of a livelihood except the entertainment business. He is one of the most popular Rhode Islanders in the exhibitor's branch. Harry has been particularly happy of late since the stock market has started an upward swing. 'Nuff said! He is a darn good fisherman and makes several trips each summer to New Hampshire and Maine lakes.

* * *

Morris Safner, Harry's partner, is the gent at the right. He, too, is an ardent angler and goes up to Long Lake in Maine for two and three weeks at a time, never tiring of sitting in a small boat and casting line after line till the fish bite. "On off days," he told us, "it seems as if the fish must be biting each other." Morris never exaggerates about the big one that got away. If the fish measured 18 inches, then Morris spreads his hands only 18 inches apart. That's honesty for you. He is one of the coolest bookers we have ever watched in action. Morris books the pictures for all four houses and never argues over prices and dates. He is a well-mannered, quiet fellow who gets a lot of fun out of life and puts a lot of life into his work. That seems to be a pretty good philosophy of life, too.



* * *

"Girl From Rio," a new film starring Movita, and "Irish Luck," number four in the popular Frankie Darro series, are two pictures worth a spot on any program. By all means start your fall bookings off with a big bang by going MONOGRAM. If you haven't booked one of the popular Tailspin Tommy series, try the new "Scouts of the Air," fourth of the series, now on its way from the west coast.

Steve Broidy

MONOGRAM PICTURES, INC.

39 CHURCH STREET • BOSTON

NEW HAVEN

BINGO is predicted headed for trouble again, with state police investigation revealing that merchandise due bills are being cashed in at designated stores and promoters are horning in on organization grosses from Bingo. The law passed at the past session of the Legislature provides for merchandise prizes only, with a one-year revocation of permit in case of violation.

Permit for the Whitney Theatre Co. theatre provides for a 60x123-foot theatre and five stores, total cost estimated at $80,000. Jack A. Halpern, Inc., of New Haven is the contractor.

Ralph Civitello of Connecticut Theatre Display Service on Meadow St., is reported to be the new lessee of the 370-seat Devon Theatre, Devon. Barnett Tabackman, who operated the house for the past 5½ years, will enter a new business venture in Bridgeport.

Ben Simon, Earl Wright and Sam Germaine attended the preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade" in Boston, after which exhibitors pledged their support of Joseph M. Schenck's plea for extended playing time, and all possible cooperation in face of loss of European revenue from pictures. Connecticut indes discussed the matter at their Tuesday election meeting.

Trade preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade" at College, New Haven, was well attended and pronounced a sure-fire hit, placed by some above "Alexander's Ragtime Band" . . . Mr. and Mrs. A. L. S. Wood of the Springfield *Union*, Louis Mace of the Springfield *Republican*, Milton Hale of WMAS, Julian Tuthill, Hartford *Times*, A. O. Christoph, Hartford *Courant*, and several Bridgeport correspondents were among the members of the press present.

Leo Ricci of the Capitol, Meriden, made his seventh trip to the World's Fair this week . . . Lucy Flack of the Capitol, Milford, goes Ricci a few better to make it her ninth trip . . . Joe Faith of Terryville was a visitor on Meadow St. en route to New York . . . Sam Rosen of Rosen Film Deliveries and various theatre interests, is making his sixth annual try for moose in the Maine woods, accompanied by a French guide. Sam is due to make a triumphant entry into the film district bearing the game any day now.

Lim Memery, Loew-Poli artist, is on the list of expectant daddies . . . Harry F. Shaw has been in New York on a business conference . . . Bob Carney, College assistant, is back on the job after a month's absence getting over a serious auto accident . . . Catherine Costello, cashier at the house, is out with pneumonia, and Charlie Gaudino, student assistant, has stood by nobly and forgotten about time off.

Charles Tomasino, son of the White Way and Victory exhibitor, will complete his law studies at Hartford instead of Boston when he has recuperated from his recent operation . . . Al Pickus has returned to some sadly-neglected golf now that the Fairmont is rolling along . . . It's a new car at the Dick Cohens' and Sam Meadows' . . . Dechantel Smith of the Paramount exchange office will drive west on her vacation.

Wallace Rosenthal is assisting Mrs. Jack Crawford in the management of Gilbert Josephson's 284-seat Lincoln Theatre, beginning its fourth season. Rosenthal was at the Lincoln prior to its leasing by Joseph Levine, and has had an interlude in radio . . . The house will continue its regular foreign and revival films. Admission top remains 40 cents.

Guests of honor: State's Attorney Arthur M. Brown of Griswold was the speaker at the opening of Torans Amusement State Theatre, Jewett City . . . Park, Playhouse, Thomaston, had a brilliant opening, with the Mayor of Waterbury as one of the special guests.

Holdovers: "Thunder Afloat," the big surprise of the past several months, is believed to owe its success at the box-office to its timeliness and rated a hold-over all down the Loew-Poli circuit . . . Two weeks for "Dust Be My Destiny" at the Regal, Hartford . . . The Elm Street, Worcester, holds over "The Man in the Iron Mask."

The 5,000 student addition to the New Haven population has once more been felt with pleasure at the boxoffice . . . The Plaza, Stamford, is devoting half its newspaper ad space to listing coming product in the "Plaza Parade of Hits" . . . Rivoli, Hartford, has signed for Progressive Premium's china.

New Haven division of 20th-Fox leads in the national drive after five weeks, slipping to second place for only one week . . . Groton's new 400-seater will be finished by the Hesses of Moosup about November 1.

Salesmen's Club Planning Social for November 4

BOSTON—The Motion Picture Salesmen's Club is planning a social for members and escorts Saturday evening, November 4.

The affair will commence with a preview at the Paramount exchange, according to present plans, and will then move to the Latin Quarter, film district night club.

Harry Goldstein of RKO has been appointed head of the committee in charge of arrangements. Maynard Sickles of Capitol Theatre Supply Co., secretary of the fraternity, is handling correspondence.

McLaughlin Calls Film Fraters to Plan Dance

BOSTON—William H. McLaughlin, commander-elect of the Theatrical Post of American Legion, held a meeting of the film district fraternity at the Copley-Plaza Hotel Monday at which plans were furthered for the forthcoming dinner-dance of the organization.

"As your commander-elect," the Stoneham exhibitor said in a message to members, "it is my earnest desire to make our annual dinner-dance October 24 at the Copley-Plaza Hotel the finest, the best, and the biggest affair we have ever held."

Douglass Reports Several Curtain Control Sales

BOSTON—Kenneth R. Douglass of Capitol Theatre Supply Co. reports that the equipment house recently closed contracts for Vallen curtain controls and tracks with the Playhouse in Montpelier, Vt.; Boston University college of business administration; Ed Charboneau of the Concord Theatre in Concord, N. H.; and high schools at Conway, Plymouth, and Tilton, N. H.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

GRANITE STATE farming activities will soon be flashed on screens of the country in a March of Time production, "Us Farmers," which will depict work at the N. H. Experiment Station and the College of Agriculture in Durham. Director George R. Black and his camera crew have been in the college town preparing to get the task under way.

At the Colonial in Laconia, a patron might rub his eyes, thinking he was seeing the same girl seating customers in two different aisles. The answer is twin ushers—Irene and Eilene Clement, who received their high school diplomas last June.

Littleton folk were thrilled recently when Bette Davis, who was vacationing in the White Mountains, came to town in a beachwagon for some shopping. It was reported that Spencer Tracy, another Academy award winner, was also contemplating a sojourn soon in the White Mountains. If so, he won't be too far from his old stamping grounds in Providence, R. I., where the writer remembers him as leading man with the Albee stock company a few years ago.

The Colonial in Laconia stirred up great enthusiasm with a giveaway scheme in which three bicycles were awarded. Merchants of the city cooperated with Manager Ralph Morris in putting over the stunt.

Miss Lydia Turmelle of the Scenic staff in Rochester spent her vacation with friends in Boston.

Louis B. Mayer's "Sweet Patrice" won the annual Col. Arthur J. Pierce Handicap at Rockingham Park in Salem.

Bingo and similar games flourished at the 25th annual Hopkinton Fair in Contoocook, but "steep" games were closed on the management's orders after complaints had been received.

Stress on Necessity Of Major Product

(Continued from page 55)

ly during that period of time?" asked Ryan.

"The theatre business was on the upgrade and better in 1936 than in 1935, and the theatre would have been much better established if we had had major product throughout the years," answered the witness.

Pros and cons arose on the subject of closed towns. Asked by Ryan to define the term, Morse said: "A closed town means that one company or one exhibitor controls the one theatre or the two theatres or the three theatres, whatever number of theatres are in the town."

"Is there any advantage to the exhibitor in having a closed town?"

"Yes, there is quite an advantage."

"What is that advantage?"

Advantages of Closed Town

"Well, in a town where there may be three theatres, if they are all operated by one exhibitor, he can buy films without competition. That would make a tremendous amount of difference in his expenses in buying. Also, there would be no competition so far as various matters of advertising, frequently newspaper advertising, etc., and the operation of the houses themselves would be on a minimum of expense—the operation would be on a minimum basis through one management, rather than through two or three managements. I think those are the most important advantages."

"Is there any advantage to the distributors in a closed town?"

"No, sir."

"Is there any advantage to the public in a closed town?"

"No, sir."

"Is there any advantage to the public in an open town?"

"Yes, sir."

"What is that advantage?"

"As a rule where you have honest, fair competition people usually get better shows and more for their money than if they are in a closed town where the exhibitor can do just as he pleases and there is no other place to go to."

"Why is it people would get more for their money?"

"Well, in a closed town—in an open town where there would be competition between, say two houses where you have a different exhibitor for each house, it would be natural for them to have more cash nights and more premiums and things like that, which competition always results in that general practice of using some special attractions, more special attractions than if a man owned two houses and just let them go."

"Is there any other effect upon admission prices whether a town is open or closed?"

"There very often is."

"What effect is that?"

"In a closed town an exhibitor can charge whatever he wants and people have to go there or else don't go to the movies. In an open town, where there are at least two exhibitors competing, a situation of that kind usually results, practically always in a more popular price, and for that reason the people are greatly benefited as each theatre is trying to outdo the other as a natural course of competition."

"Is there any other effect as between a closed town in the number of pictures shown at the theatres?"

"There may be in many cases."

"In what respect?" asked Ryan.

"Well, in a closed town in certain territories, the exhibitor could use a single feature bill, and he might change twice a week, whereas if he had competition he may have to change more often and may have to use double features. If a competing theatre used double features, the other house naturally would use a double feature," replied Morse.

BRIDGEPORT

MICHAEL CARROLL, American manager, is a year older . . . Charles Obert, assistant manager at the Warner, now has his own office.

Male ushers are flocking to the factories where war orders are booming wages. Theatres are hard hit to keep floor staffs intact.

Bonnie Jackson has succeeded Dorothy Peddle as chief of staff at the Loew Poli. Miss Peddle becomes a cashier.

Seth Hoag, who used to be an assistant manager in a theatre in Brattleboro, Vt., is a new doorman at the Majestic.

Peter Bernard, maintenance superintendent at the Globe, walked to the altar with Amalda Thibault . . . And Frank Morris, assistant to Morris Jacobson at the Hippodrome, is honeymooning.

Harry Rose of the Globe is about the only manager in these parts who hasn't made the World's Fair as yet.

Robert Carney, auto crash victim, won't be back at his desk in the College Theatre for several weeks yet.

A new boiler has been installed in the American Theatre. And the lobby is the first to take on a fall tone with brown, orange and yellow colors set off with big yellow chrysanthemums. Auditorium lights have been changed to red, yellow and orange-amber to correspond.

Nineteen hundred new seats are to be installed in the Globe Theatre . . . The Capitol is reported ready to install 900.

New lamps have been installed in the projection machines at the Rialto.

Loew theatres are now mailing out their passes to the free lists once a month instead of weekly. Big saving in stamps.

The Connecticut Theatrical Corp. has renewed its lease on the Capitol Theatre, Danbury, for another ten years from Violette L. Wheeler. The house is operated as a Warner theatre.

The Progressive Premium Co. of New Haven has sold a new dish deal to the American Theatre.

Mike Jacobson, manager of the Strand-Palace, is organizing a bowling team and Murray Kaufman, Rialto manager, is working on the same idea.

Tony Massella, assistant manager of the Globe, has checked off another birthday. Tony has a sister studying voice in Italy who is returning to this country at the first opportunity due to the war.

Tex Fletcher is back in the state, this time for a personal appearance at the Palace, Torrington.

Chance to Shoot The Works

Boston—Arthur K. Howard, Allied business manager who is going in for target shooting on the side, was wondering aloud if 200 long rifle 22 cartridges wouldn't be too many for one weekend's sport.

"Oh, get the whole 200," a suburban theatreman spoke up. "If you have any left over, I'll use them for giveaways."

What, No Golf?

WOLFEBORO, N. H.—Meet Ansel N. Sanborn, who, the local newspaper claims, is a genuine candidate for the title of "busiest man in Carroll county."

First of all, the newspaper says his homes are in Sanbornville, Wolfeboro, Lovell Lake, Centre Ossipee and Concord, "and Ansel really lives in all these places."

Says the newspaper:

"Ansel Sanborn really has two circuits. There is the Wolfeboro-Sanbornville-Centre Ossipee motion picture circuit. At the theatres in these three towns, Ansel shows the latest movies, playing day and date with New York and Boston. For good measure he hires a vaudeville troupe, a team of dancers or snake eaters or singers, and throws them in as a special added atttraction at no extra cost. Then there is the Wolfeboro Casino. There folks bowl and dance and get a bite to eat and swim.

"And running three motion picture houses isn't any simple proposition. In theory, you order a couple of feature pictures and some short reels, get out the publicity, hire a man to take tickets and another to run the projectors, and then sit back and count the profits. In actual life it's entirely different. Buying pictures is an art. It's a cross between horse trading, auctioneering, acting and pulling a cold holdup. No holds are barred."

Besides being a film exhibitor, Sanborn is speaker of the house of representatives; is reported to be a coming candidate for the governor's council, and is prominent in civic and fraternal organizations.

Picture Responsibility Deemed Producers'

NEW HAVEN—Responsibility of continuing to make highest quality pictures, even increasing their number and "making these efforts successful," lies not "entirely with exhibitors," as Joseph M. Schenck suggests, most theatremen in the New Haven territory feel, but almost entirely with the producers.

Although one circuit manager is with Schenck "100 per cent," feeling more pressure should be put behind advertising and more dollars gotten out of pictures by extended runs, other exhibitors feel the holdover policy could only be dictated by the drawing power of the pictures themselves and the number of B, C and D pictures "forced" by distributors. In this connection, almost every independent insists "everybody wants to cooperate and everybody would like to get the most out of pictures."

However, it is not felt that greater showmanship is the principal means of accomplishing this. As a matter of fact, many believe the public "suspicious of over-advertised pictures," and better informed than ever before on the real merits of coming attractions.

"We would rather play bigger pictures longer," a prominent independent circuit head says, "but we can't do this if we are stuffed with inferior pictures which we must pay for or play."

It was suggested that some of the money used to make the lower class pictures be diverted into making more "A" pictures which would warrant longer playing time. "It was only a few years ago that neighborhoods in this territory undertook the three-day run, two days being the longest run before that," one man points out, "and that seems to be the limit for most pictures, especially if the downtowns have run the picture two or three weeks previously. This is especially true in highly competitive areas, where most neighborhoods are playing the picture simultaneously. There just aren't enough people left to see the picture if the run is extended."

As to the situation of reduced revenue, few here would agree that the loss of European markets should reasonably result in lowering the standard of pictures. "Certainly the way to make up the drop is not by taxing the exhibitors in any way, because they are already taxed to the limit," operators declare. "Exhibitors in the United States cannot make up the difference between the former world-wide and the reduced income of producers in this crisis."

It was suggested in many quarters producers begin by cutting executive and star salaries, although eliminating extras and cutting the lowest group of employes were decried.

Assigned "Miss Bishop"

HOLLYWOOD—Sarah Y. Mason and Victor Heerman will collaborate on the screenplay of "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," initial Richard A. Roland production for UA release to star Barbara Stanwyck.

PROVIDENCE

IT'S FOOTBALL season again and the gridiron spirit has permeated the usher ranks of two of this city's first-run houses. RKO-Albee and Loew's State have organized elevens and the teams met (in the first of what is promised as a series of games) Sunday morning at Merino Park. Result: Albee 25, State 6. Injuries: One State player laid up with possible fractured collar bone, another lame with water on the knee. Dates for future games not announced.

Speaking of football: Ed McBride, manager of Loew's State, is nothing if not seasonal with his ad stunts. Last week he had 15,000 pocket football schedules, showing games in the Providence area.

Al Clarke, manager of Carlton, has been doing big business last few weeks taking Majestic's features for an extended first-run showing.

Associated Theatres neighborhood houses did big business with "Wizard of Oz" though circuit's downtown Empire slumped with the attraction on day-and-date showings.

Anthony Romano, general manager of Associated Theatres, slowly recovering from recent illness which sent him to Newport Naval Hospital. He is now able to get down to the office once or twice weekly.

With two of the acts on Fay's vaude show just back from abroad, greenroom chatter there this week has been pretty much about the war situation. Acts just returned—and glad to be in the U. S. A.—were Carlell and Rosa, rope spinners, and Chester Fredericks and Mary Dowling, dancers.

Back from a short vacation, your correspondent was pleased to find George French had moved in as resident manager of the RKO-Albee last Thursday. French held the reins for this house a couple of years ago, but has since been out of show business and associated with a Massachusetts marine firm. No house staff changes made, nor contemplated, at the Albee at present, says French.

Albee, incidentally, gets orchids for the novelty "Irish Stew Contest" staged in conjunction with showing of "Fifth Avenue Girl." Providence Gas Co. ran a three-column ad on the contest two days prior to opening of film, local club leaders acted as judges and the cooking and tasting of the prize winning recipes on the stage one night during showing proved a good audience attracter and entertainer. Bill Morton, publicist for the house, maneuvered most of the local angles on the stunt.

Albee has four legit attractions booked as one-nighters during season, with Junior League of Providence sponsoring the shows to be brought in by Fortune Gallo and Arthur M. Oberfelder. Providence *Journal* is giving plenty of publicity to the attractions. First show is on October 25, being Eva Le Gallienne in "The Master Builder."

Ed Reed, manager of the Strand, is out to beat the "Snow White" record with "Gulliver's Travels," due at his house Christmas week. His first campaign step was made this week when he put up a two-sheet panel in his lobby on "Gulliver" and on top this a sign reading: "86 Days Before Xmas." Each day the numerals are changed. Next week Reed plans to give every ticket purchaser a lettered card. When patrons have these lettered cards in correct numbers and assortment to spell "Gulliver's Travels," they will get a free ducat for that attraction. Distribution of the cards will run for ten weeks, which brings stunt up to booking date for the cartoon opus.

Ed Keneally, one of the stage crew at Loew's State, is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital here where he has been under treatment for past week.

Park Theatre, Woonsocket, reopened Sunday with vaude and pictures. New scenery and lighting equipment has been installed. Edwin Essex again is directing the orchestra at the house.

Central Theatre, Apponaug, R. I., is being operated this season by Alex Pagliarini of Cranston who is running house Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and Saturday and Sunday matinees. Amateur contests Friday nights being used as added attractions.

Swanky touch marked Manager McBride's contacting of coeds at Pembroke College last week on behalf of "Dancing Co-ed." Engraved calling cards were put out on campus to the gal students calling their attention to fact Artie Shaw's band was playing at Loew's State in the film. Five music shops in downtown section also cooperated with window displays on the picture.

Lydon, Higgins Organize Film Group for Retreat

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, Allied vice-president and Dorchester exhibitor, and Herbert Higgins, independent film booker, are organizing a group of film men for a retreat at Campion Hall in Andover late in November. Both emphasize that although retreats are generally held to be Catholic functions, a number of non-Catholics are planning to attend the November affair. The group is being organized with the intention of making the exodus a regular annual activity.

Interesting to the trade, is the fact that Campion Hall, a Jesuit retreat house for laymen, is under the direction of the Rev. John T. McGuory, whose brother operated theatres in Weymouth a number of years.

Screen "Hollywood Cavalcade"

NEW HAVEN—A preview of 20th Century-Fox's "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Poli-College Tuesday was attended by theatre operators and circuit managers from all over the state, who, in turn, were asked to invite members of their local press to accompany them.

More Interrogatories In Miami Action

MIAMI — Additional interrogatories, directed at the operating companies of Wometco houses, were filed this week by counsel for plaintiffs, the Cameo and Surf theatres, in the pending anti-monopoly suit here.

The companies in question operate the Lincoln, the Biscayne Plaza, the Miami, Mayfair, Capitol, State, Rosetta, Biltmore, Grove, Tower, Lyric, Ritz and Harlem.

Answers are requested of "any officer of the corporations competent to testify in behalf of said corporate defendants" to these four interrogatories:

"Please state the gross boxoffice revenue for the year 1938 and for the first six months of the year 1939, separating said years.

"Please state the amount of film rental paid by said corporation to each and all producing and distributing corporations, commonly known as the 'Big Eight,' and which are defendants herein, for the year 1938, and also for the first six months of the year 1939, separating said years.

"Please state the exact terms; that is, percentage basis or flat rental, under which you have exhibited feature films during 1938 and 1939; and, if you have different arrangements for different films, please set forth in full detail, for each and every feature film exhibited by your corporation during 1938 and 1939 to July 1st thereof.

"Please state the names and addresses of the officers of said corporation."

WB Renews Exchange Lease in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE—Manager John A. Bachman says the Warner exchange here has renewed its lease on the building at 311 South Church St., owned by George E. Wilson, for ten years and that extensive improvements are to be made beginning this week. While the interior of the building is being remodeled, the exchange force will be housed at 300 West Third St.

Bachman said the entire second floor of the building will be changed, the office space modernized and the building soundproofed. The inspection room on the first floor will be enlarged and a lobby installed.

20th-Fox in Oklahoma City No. 1 in Kent Drive

OKLAHOMA CITY—The local 20th-Fox exchange stands number one in the annual Sidney R. Kent drive, according to Booker George Friedel, who also states that it is in the international group.

Metcalf, McSwain to Convention

MORRILTON, ARK.—Sid Metcalf of the Ritz Theatre here, and S. B. McSwain were among those who attended the Tri-State Theatre Owners convention at the Gayoso Hotel in Memphis last week.

Texas Allied Convenes for 20th Annual Meet November 6-7

DALLAS—Allied Theatre Owners of Texas will hold its 20th annual convention in Dallas on November 6-7, it was learned from headquarters of the organization and from Col. H. A. Cole, president of both the state body and the national Allied States Assn.

The sessions and other parts of the convention program will be held as heretofore in the Baker Hotel. While plans are still in the making it is certain that invitations will be extended to general sales managers of all national distributors for talks before this convention.

It is also planned to invite one or more of the higher executives of leading circuits to make a talk. Further progress of these convention plans and their possible conclusion are expected to be announced next week.

It is certain, however, that Colonel Cole, who may journey to Abilene next week, and to Colorado on national affairs a few days later, will give his personal attention to Texas convention plans and to the booking of prominent trade individuals to attract state-wide interest.

Western Star to Be Guest At Arkansas ITO Meet

LITTLE ROCK—Roy Rogers, Republic star, will appear at the semi-annual convention of the Arkansas ITO here October 15 and 16, according to O. G. Wren, president. The list of prominent speakers is being completed, he said.

Completes Plans for ITO Convention Screenings

MEMPHIS—K. K. King, secretary-treasurer of the Independent Theatre Owners of Arkansas, was in Memphis this week making final arrangements for the screenings to be held in conjunction with the semi-annual convention on October 15-16 at the Marion Hotel, Little Rock.

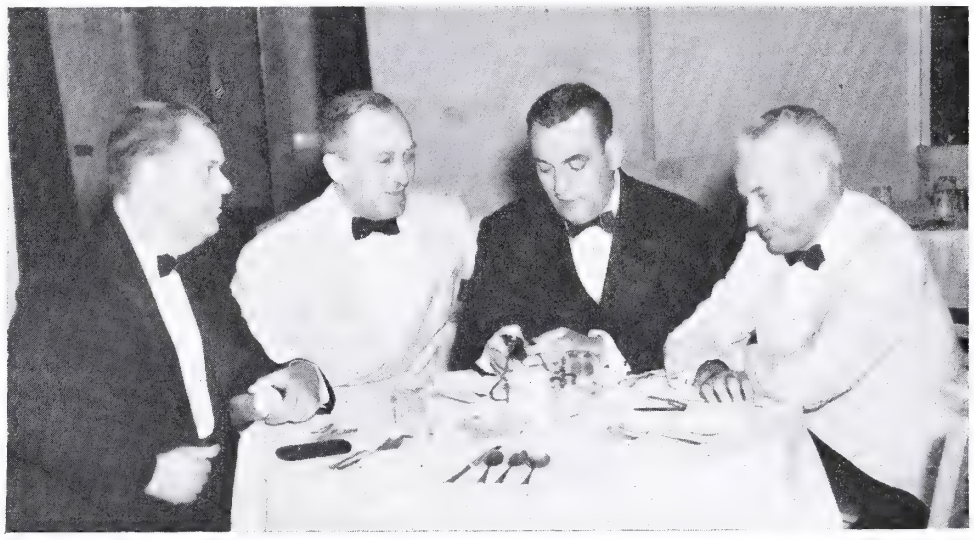
He advised the temporary program includes an address by Senator John E. Miller, who will discuss the Neely Bill. Another thing he said will probably be discussed very thoroughly is the "exorbitant" power rate the exhibitors in Arkansas are forced to pay, and that some action will be taken to get the present rate reduced.

Another special feature of this convention is, he advised, that all who register at the convention, will be admitted to the Rodeo Monday afternoon after the business session, as the guest of Colonel T. L. Robinson, manager of the Rodeo. This Rodeo is being held in conjunction with the Arkansas Live Stock Show which opens on October 16.

The Arkansas Theatre, which has been closed for sometime will be opened Sunday by Ralph Noble, city manager for R&R, especially for the screenings. Beginning at 1:30 p. m., they will screen a number of pictures, among which will be: "The Real Glory," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Day at the Races," "Ninotchka," "Pride of the Blue Grass," 'Seventeen," and "Disputed Passage."

Warner Wartime Film

HOLLYWOOD — "Destination Unknown," treating of life in a concentration camp during wartime, will be co-scripted for Warner by Leonard Hoffman and Robert Kent. William Jacobs will produce for the Bryan Foy unit.



Memphis Barkers Get Their Leaders—

A prelude to the Tri-State exhibitor convention in Memphis was the induction of the Memphis Variety Club, Tent No. 20, into the national Variety Club organization. Left to right: James G. Balmer, national "dough guy," Pittsburgh; M. A. Lightman, chief barker of the Memphis club; John H. Harris, national chief barker, Pittsburgh, and R. J. O'Donnell, chief barker of the Dallas club.

Eleven New, Remodeled Houses Add 5,000 Seats Near Santone

By LESTER KETNER

SAN ANTONIO—Eleven new or remodeled houses have made their appearance in the San Antonio trade territory within the past nine months, according to a survey just completed by BOXOFFICE here.

On the first of January, J. J. Jimenez jr., manager, took over the Ramirez Theatre at Cotulla, Tex. The house seats 300.

The Harlem, Austin, operated by Jack Adams jr. and Frank Lucchese, reopened in June. Seats 300.

Aguirre, Sonora. Operator, Andrew Aguirre. Opened in April. Seats 300.

New Studio, Ingleside. Operator, J. F. Newberry. Opened in May. Seats 250.

Joy, San Antonio. Operator, Tol Tetters. Estimated cost, $25,000. Opened in June. Seats 800.

Broadway, Alamo Heights. Operator, Interstate circuit. Estimated cost price, $25,000. Opened in June. Seats 1,031.

New Austin, South Austin. Operator, Interstate. Opened in August. Seats about 1,000.

Spanish, Bishop. Operator, Griffith-Long. Opened this year. Seats 269.

Zaragoza, Taft. Operator, Johnny Long. Manager, Jack Crow. Opened in 1939. Seats 300.

New, Poth. Operator, C. W. Rzeppa. Reopened in September. Seats 200.

New, Victoria. Operator, Griffith-Long Circuit. Opened in August. Cost, $65,000. Seats 250.

Only Two Closings

On the other hand, only two local theatres have closed their doors and gone out of existence. They are the Ritz, San Antonio, colored house which closed last spring, and the Plaza, San Antonio, now being taken in by Joske Bros. Co. store expansion and remodeling.

5,000 New Seats Added

It is estimated that the new setup gives the San Antonio area an approximate increase of some 5,000 in seating capacity.

Estimated cost price of the new situations here and in surrounding towns was placed at $170,000.

Within the next few weeks, the remodeled El Nacional will reopen its doors. The theatre will seat 2,000.

Threet Lets Contract For College Theatre

DALLAS—L. M. Threet, operating four east Texas theatres, said a contract for the new Campus Theatre at College Station, which he will operate in association with V. A. Walker, was let early in the week. Contract for his new theatre at Port Arthur was to be let the end of this week, or early the next, he said. Work of tearing down necessary parts of a building now on the property has been under way, he said.

The two new houses will make a total of six in the expanding Threet circuit. He now operates in Lufkin, Overton, Jacksonville and Livingston and plans are in the making for additional houses.

New Orleans Business Shows an Upsurge

NEW ORLEANS—Conditions show improvements, especially in the oil fields, as well as towns in cities in all sections of the state. New Orleans shows an increase in grosses of an average of 20 per cent in both the metropolitan areas and the neighborhoods. Business in all lines has increased approximately 25 per cent as a whole with the advent of cooler weather and the closing of out-of-door events.

Alex Schulman Acquires New Orleans Lafayette

NEW ORLEANS—Alex Schulman, veteran showman, has extended his operations here to include the Lafayette, a downtown house specializing in last runs and dime admissions.

Schulman's projection into this field immediately had a bombshell effect with the announcement that he would double bill at five cents. Associated with him are Charles and Rene Levy. The house will be reseated and re-equipped.

The Lafayette had been for years operated by Jake Miller, another veteran showman who is now retiring. It had been built for legitimate and had served on two occasions as the New Orleans outlet for Shubert shows. It passed into the hands of the Saenger Amusement Co., being the first house that company acquired in New Orleans.

North Carolina Theatres Adding Two New Units

CHARLOTTE—North Carolina Theatres, Inc., soon will add two new houses to its present total of 85.

President H. F. Kincey announces the Carolina in Wilson will be opened about October 24, with C. E. Stone as manager. The new theatre, built by the Kincey organization, is a 1,000-seater and the third operated in Wilson by North Carolina Theatres.

The company also is building a new theatre of 850 seats in Monroe to be called the Center to replace the State, which burned last April.

Remodel at Fordyce

FORDYCE, ARK.—Ed Harper, construction engineer for the K. Lee Williams Theatres Co., is remodeling the Amuse-U Theatre, which will be renamed the Dallas. It is estimated that from four to six weeks will be required to finish the remodeling program.

At Tri-States Meet

MEMPHIS—List of the registrations for the recent convention here of the MPTO of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee:

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kuykendall, Columbus, Miss.; A. Fiore, Altec Service, Atlanta; H. B. Moag of Altec Service, Atlanta; Al Avery, RKO, Memphis; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Flexer of Ritz at New Albany; T. W. Young, Memphis; Jim Kane, Conway Theatre, Conway, Ark.; John Oxford of Paramount Theatre, Helena; Glen Calvert, Strand Theatre, Memphis; Milton Linder, National Screen, Memphis; C. F. Bonner of the Community Theatre, Pine Bluff, Ark.; W. E. Elkin, Temple Theatre, Aberdeen, Miss.; R. B. Cox, Batesville Theatre, Batesville, Miss.; Mr. and Mrs. R. X. Williams of Oxford, Miss.; R. H. Conway, National Screen Service, Memphis; O. C. Hauber of Pine Bluff, Ark.; Bill Headstream, Melba, Batesville, Ark.; W. E. Sipe, Roadshow Attractions, Memphis; Henry Glover, Republic Pictures, Tampa; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thomas of Strand Theatre, Clarksville, Ark.; Miss Louise Moeller, Malco, Memphis; R. H. Fisher, Crescent, Belzoni; Steve Coan, Camden, Ark.; Curtis O'Rear, Joie, Smackover, Ark.; Remel Young, Saenger, Hope, Ark.; R. P. Karregan, M. P. A. Service, Memphis; A. E. Chadick, M. P. A. Service, New Orleans, La.; Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Ruffin of Covington.; Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Andrews, Malco, Memphis; Nathan Flexer, Waverly Theatre, Waverly, Tenn.; Curby A. Smith, Rialto, Morrilton, Ark.; Henry Brownlee, Ritz at Russellville; P. E. Morris of Indianola, Miss.; Oscar Miller of the Bob Burns Theatre, Van Buren, Ark.

Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Wren, Crescent, Little Rock, Ark.; T. M. Jordan of the Majestic, Iuka, Miss.; W. M. Carmichael, Queen, Hazelhurst, Miss.; H. B. Snook, RCA, Camden, New Jersey; W. S. Taylor, Strand, Laurel, Miss.; W. M. Buchanan, Athens, Ala.; Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Gilbert, West Point, Miss.; Mr. and Mrs. Burgess Walton, Princess Theatre, Columbus, Miss.; J. A. Grower, Lyric, Tupelo, Miss.; W. F. Bugie, Paramount Pictures, Memphis; Mr. and Mrs. Glen Calvert, Strand Theatre, Memphis, Tenn.; Bob Johnson, Joie Theatre, Ft. Smith, Ark.; W. H. Workman, Burch Mfg. Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Buster Clark, Malco, Memphis; Bailey Prichard, Peerless Poster Exchange, Memphis; Harold Thomas, Malco Theatre, Memphis; E. F. (Steve) Stein, Met Theatre, Jackson, Tenn.; Al Moore, Vitagraph, Memphis; Herbert Sanderson, Strand, Jonesboro, Ark.; Oscar Oldknow, National Theatre Supply Co., Los Angeles, Calif.; Bob Bostick, NTS, Memphis; Neil Blount, RCA, New Orleans, La.; Ben Jordan, Universal, Memphis; W. H. Ramsey, Burch Mfg. Co., Memphis; Tommy Haynes, Columbia, Memphis; Gordon Lee Hutchins, State Theatre, Corning, Ark.; W. L. Landers jr., Landers, Batesville, Ark.; Mike Carmichael, Monogram, Memphis; Tex Ritter, Monogram Pictures, Hollywood, Calif.

Miss Louise Mask, Luez Theatre, Bolivar, Tenn.; J. R. McEachron, Paramount, Jackson, Tenn.; Joe Jones, Monogram Southern, Memphis; Mrs. Lela Flippin and Juanita Williams, Grand Theatre, Cardwell, Mo.; Orris Collins, Capitol, Paragould; Alger Lancaster, Majestic, Stuttgart, Ark.; J. A. Prichard, Universal Film, Memphis; John W. Mangham, Monogram Southern Exchanges, Atlanta; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Martin, Commercial Appeal, Memphis; Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Lightman, Malco Theatres, Inc., Memphis; S. T. (Doc) Lyles of Ritz at Oxford, Miss.; Eric Landeau, Malco Theatres, Memphis; Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Johnson, Malco Theatre, Memphis; W. M. Snelson, Republic Pictures, Memphis; Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Brownlee, Joie Theatre, Ft. Smith, Ark; Mr. and Mrs. Guy B. Snow, Strand, Newport, Ark.; Elsie M. Wagner, Film Transit, Memphis; G. W. Simpson, Film Transit, Memphis; Sidney Metcalf and S. M. McSwain, Ritz at Morrilton, Ark.; E. W. Savage, Palace at Booneville, Ark.; E. N. Epley, Monarch Theatres Supply Co, Memphis; and Dave Groskind, Malco Theatres, Memphis.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Jones, Republic Pictures, Little Rock; Nat Wyse, Fox Film, Memphis; Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Mansfield, Universal Pictures, Memphis; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sapinsley, Malco Theatres, Inc., Memphis; Mary Joe Tate, Malco Theatre, Memphis; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ford, Malco Theatre, Memphis; Hiram Meeks, Fulton Theatre, Fulton, Ky.; W. Clyde Smith, Paramount, Hot Springs; B. W. Hirsh, Malco Theatres, Memphis; Jimmy Rogers, Columbia Pictures, Memphis; J. Frank Willingham, M-G-M, Memphis; Ollie Bland, National Theatre Supply Co., Memphis; Clayton Tunstill, Malco, Owensboro, Ky.; E. L. Drake, Paramount, Jackson, Tenn.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wheeler, Roxy Theatre, Memphis; R. V. Reagin, RKO, Memphis; Leon Pickle, Kraver, Henderson, Ky.; Harry Wallace, Jam Handy Productions, Detroit, Mich.; Sidney Wharton, Pastime, Warren Ark.; S. E. Coffin, Malco Theatres; Todd Ferguson, M-G-M, Memphis; Mrs. Alma Walton, Memphis; Grover Wray, RKO, Memphis; Loyd Miller, Republic Pictures, Memphis; T. A. Wilson, Bay Theatre, Red Bay, Ala.; J. F. Norman, Best, England, Ark.; Paul Jones, Saenger, Pine Bluff; E. S. Hawes, Western Electric, Memphis; Tom Young, Fox Film, Memphis; Herb Kohn, Columbia Pictures, Memphis; M. J. Pruniski, Malco Theatres, N. Little Rock, Ark.

NEW ORLEANS

THE Misses Augusta Woolverton, stenographer, and Rosemary, film inspectress at M-G-M local offices here, will leave October 13 to join a group of the company's employes in Chicago for a trip to San Francisco to visit the company's headquarters and the World's Fair. They in company with others were selected on the grounds of general efficiency. All the bunch are wishing the talent scouts will not grab them . . . Jesse Lasky has cancelled his plans to hold film tests in New Orleans. He will contact the east and middle west for new faces.

Josef Lehmann, former federal theatre actor, has been engaged to coach the Civic Theatre group. His first attempt will be a modernized Uncle Tom, it is said. In November, "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" will be staged . . . Benny Plazza, a former manager of the Orpheum and one of the most popular in the long line, with the exception of the present skipper, Vic Meyers, who is holding up Benny's reputation and a bit more, is in Italy unable to get a ship home. Plazza is vice-president of the Major Pictures in Hollywood.

The Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus is underlined to play New Orleans, October 14 and 15, at the circus grounds near the T. P. depot . . . John Quinlan, resident manager of the Liberty who has been in the Baptist Hospital for some time, underwent a major operation this week. The doctors hold strong hopes for a speedy recovery.

Dallas Variety Golf Tourney Oct. 14

DALLAS—Variety's fall golf tournament and festivities will begin in Dallas on Saturday, October 14, and end the night of October 16. Following past tournaments, club leaders anticipate a bigger and better series of events.

On Saturday, there will be open house in the new club rooms for members and guests. There will be free barbecue, music and entertainment. With theatre men being good football fans, many will go to the Cotton Bowl for the Texas-Oklahoma game. Oklahomans have always been a factor in the Dallas Variety Club, so rivalry in this game is established. The fun will start again in the clubrooms that night.

Sunday, golfers may practice around the Lakewood Country Club course, scene of the following day's big tournament. The regular stag party and Calcutta pool will be held in the Variety Club that night.

The tournament starts at Lakewood Monday morning. Prizes will top several hundreds of dollars. The usual entrant fee of $5 is assessed each player with the fee including buffet lunch, dinner and a dance in the Lakewood ballroom.

Santone Censor Board Plans to Classify Films

SAN ANTONIO—Classification of all future motion pictures to be shown in Santone into groupings as being suitable for adults, young people, kiddies, and family entertainment, was announced last week by Mrs. Dovie Vincius, city amusement inspector, who presided at the meeting of the city amusement board Saturday morning in the city hall. Instead of censoring the films, the aim of the new board will be to "fit the amusement to the group," Mrs. Vincius stated. Controversial pictures will be previewed by the board before being booked by the local theatres, she also announced. Other members of the board are Mesdames Alfred W. Rhode, G. H. C. Johnson, James Gibson, J. H. Woods, and Floyd James, all of San Antonio.

Motiograph Visitor

DALLAS—Roy Boomer, district manager for Motiograph, Inc., spent the past two weeks in Texas, visiting theatres and also Henry Sorenson, owner of Modern Theatre Equipment Co., distributors of Motiograph projection and sound in this state. They conferred on new model sound which is manufactured by the Western Electric Co., Sorenson said.

Assign Leonard Lee

HOLLYWOOD—"Battalion of Death," from an original by John Monk Saunders, will be adapted by Leonard Lee for Paramount.

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Oklahoma Theatres Issues Set Nov. 14

OKLAHOMA CITY—Issues in the requested injunction of Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., against distributors will be set at a pre-trial conference scheduled for November 14, Judge A. P. Murrah decided in federal district court here.

The trial on merits was set for December 11 by Judge Murrah at the same time.

The application for an injunction seeks the court to force distributors to sell Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., second and subsequent-run product for its Odeon Theatre at Shawnee, Okla. It alleges that each of the distributors named defendants have such product in their vaults that has not been contracted for in Shawnee, but which they have refused to sell to Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., which is a Momand company.

Defendants in the Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., suit have filed answers in federal district court here denying conspiracy charges and withholding of film and asking that the petition be dismissed.

Filing separate denials and requests for dismissal were defendant distributors, Vitagraph, Columbia, 20th Century-Fox, Universal, Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio, Paramount, and Griffith Amusement Co.

Erskine Sells Interest In Bryant Supply Co.

CHARLOTTE—Announcement is made that J. B. Erskine has sold his interest in Bryant Theatre Supply Co. to the corporation. He has not announced his future plans. However, he will continue to hold his interest in the Capitol Supply Co., Atlanta, Ga.

MEMPHIS

THAT long-legged bird, the stork, has been very generous this past week. His first stop was at Frank Heard's, M-G-M head booker, where he left seven pounds of girl named Sandra Claire. His next was at Ollie Williamson's household, branch manager for Vitagraph, where he left an eight-pound bundle with red curly hair and blue eyes (this is according to Papa Ollie's statement). This young lady's name is Norma Kelly. Playing papa is a new experience for both of these seasoned film men.

H. R. Mitchell of Hartselle, Ala., was on the Row booking for his new theatre, which will be completed at Linden, Tenn., within the next 30 days. This theatre will have approximately 200 seats. This is Mitchell's first experience in the show business . . . Oscar Oldknow, sales manager for NTS, who headquarters in Los Angeles, spent several days here with Bob Bostick, local branch manager. He also attended the MPTO convention while here.

Exhibitors along the Row: Charles Canfield of McCrory, Ark.; C. W. Tipton of Manila; A. D. Fielder and his daughter from Steele and Lilbourne, Mo.; R. R. McCormick, Senatobia; Nathan Flexer of Waverly, Tenn.; Jack Marshall of Dyersburg; Miss Louise Mask of Bolivar; G. H. Goff of Parsons; Mrs. Margaret Higginbotham of Hardy; W. W. Davis of DeWitt; Orris Collins of Paragould; Guy Amis of Lexington, Tenn.; Clyde Westbrook of Cleveland, Miss.; Dave Flexer of New Albany; Paul Schaffer of Marked Tree; Mrs. Lela Flippin and daughter, Juanita Williams, of Cardwell, Mo., and L. F. Haven of Forrest City, Ark.

Seen at the Arkansas-Mississippi State football game were Sidney Wharton of the Pastime, Warren, giving his all for "dear ole Arkansas," and C. H. Collins of Maben, who was doing likewise for Mississippi State. However, to E. R. Gillette of the Bristol, Memphis, how the game went did not matter a great deal, but to Walter Parham of the Royal, Memphis, "Arkansas really let him down."

Rube Jackter, sales executive for Columbia, and Sam Moscow, southern district manager, spent several days here with Manager Jimmy Rogers . . . Glen Scott, with the Ritz, Memphis, was married September 19 to Miss Anita Callahan . . . Milton Dureau, salesman for United Artists out of New Orleans, was in the Memphis territory working on accounts.

Ollie Williamson, branch manager for Vitagraph, announces several changes in personnel due to the transfer of Frank Norris from the booking department here to head booker at Kansas City. Earl Hartzog becomes assistant booker; Ward Carpenter moved up from the accessory department to the confirmation desk, while Joe Reis, former assistant shipper, is promoted to ad sales; Tommie Smith becomes new assistant shipper.

E. R. Gillette has been very busy getting a new marquee installed on his Bristol in Memphis . . . It was good to see R. B. Hardy in Memphis booking pictures again, as it was his first visit since early spring when he sold his theatre in Nashville, Ark. to K. Lee Williams Theatres. He has been connected with Williams since selling his theatre.

Dan Andrea is new assistant shipper at National Screen. He is a newcomer to the Row . . . 20th-Fox held a trade screening of "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Strand here. A number of exhibitors were in town for the occasion . . . An infrequent visitor on the Row this week was Carl Christian of the Temple Theatre, Des Arc, Ark. He says Memphis is a little too far away to make the trip often.

Ralph Bachus, formerly with Crescent Amusement Co. in Brownsville, and W. R. Riley, who formerly operated the theatre at Troy, Tenn., were in Memphis arranging for product for their new house in Brownsville, Tenn. This is to be a colored operation with a seating capacity of approximately 350 . . . G. E. Sibley, who is building a new theatre at Adamsville, Tenn., paid Filmrow his initial visit and arranged pictures for his official opening on October 10.

Barnard Haberfeld of the Varsity at Amory, Miss., was in Memphis for the first time since his trip to the west coast some weeks ago . . . H. C. Robinson has opened the Star at Hot Springs, Ark. This house, with 425 seats, is the first colored operation in Hot Springs in many years . . . Henry Glover, Republic's branch manager in Tampa, spent several days in Memphis recently renewing acquaintances.

Abe Suzore, who formerly operated the Bristol, Memphis, and who for the past six months has been vacationing, passed through here and took time out to say hello to his many friends.

HERE COMES
"THE MAN WITH THE MAGNARC"

Swinging Along With His Transverter. His Projection Makes You Smile and Come Back Again and Again.

For Smiling Patrons See Your National Representative or Write

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

DALLAS

A NUMBER of Filmrow and Dallas friends, as they did last year, will be in Tyler all day on October 14, to attend the Festival of Roses, the annual A&M game there and a lot of hospitality in the home of S. G. Fry and Mrs. Fry, who are making it a tradition to be hosts to out-of-towners on that annual festive occasion. Those who went over last year, including this scribe, will long remember it. This year the party will be bigger and even better, we are told. Fry has several shows in east Texas, including two in Tyler. He is a city dad there and his son is president of the junior chamber.

R. E. Blevins has leased the Village at Collinsville, north Texas, from E. L. Black, and will take over operation of the house at once. There was some oil play in the situation when Black opened it up. Since then shows have been run on Friday and Saturday. Blevins, who seems to be a conscientious worker, and who bears the unusual qualifications of operator, manager, and display artist, says he and his wife are moving to Collinsville right away and that the two, unassisted, will attempt to make a go of their new show. He will operate, she will sell tickets and look after what goes on downstairs.

Lloyd Rust, the Republic manager and an official in the local company, is on an extended trip into the southwest to wind up the loose ends on new contracts.

C. H. Cox, who has two good theatres at Gilmer, was telling Filmrow about the East Texas Yamboree to occur there the end of October. The Yamboree is an important celebration annually in that part of the state. They do raise the biggest and finest yams (sweet potatoes) there and for years have told the world about it. Such men as Cox, long active in Rotary and other civic enterprises, and C. H. jr., of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, have done most to put Gilmer on the map in this annual celebration.

J. Howard Hodge of Midland, was in town on a periodical visit looking mainly after projection and equipment requirements of his theatres . . . Arthur Silverstone and Harry Gold, United Artists home office executives, were in Dallas and Texas a few days working on the bigger company deals.

Rufus Layton, who operates three modern theatres in Childress, the Palace, Gem and Monogram, the last of which was recently remodeled and opened, drove to Dallas, Wednesday, to set in pictures. He is just back from an airplane trip to Atlanta where he visited relatives. Rufus said the cotton crop around Childress was too short to justify improvements and operation of the Monogram. Nevertheless he has the third house and plans to keep it open.

R. C. "Bob" McIlheran, manager of the Garden Theatre, Wichita Falls, and a Texas film man for many years, was a visitor to the Row this week the first since he took over the new assignment . . . Roy Fuller and Mrs. Fuller, of Cleburne, were among the week's visitors, he booking and collecting advertising accessories and she visiting the downtown shops.

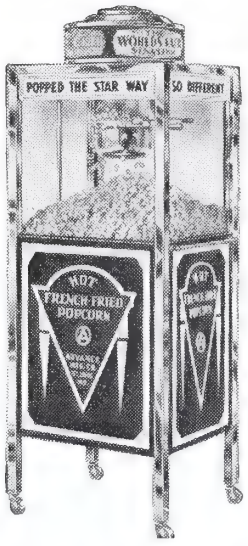
Robb and Rowley are celebrating their 30th anniversary in Big Springs the week of October 15 . . . Paul Short is a busy lad these days readying himself for the Variety Club Golf Tournament, the impending visit of his boss, George Dembow, and the winding up of important contractual business for National Screen . . . Elmer Zrenner was presented with a lifetime membership in the Variety Club for his unselfish work in all Variety business as well as particular effort at the Boys Camp at Belton this year.

I. "Steve" Brody, was a symphony in Submarine Blue on the Row, Wednesday. From tip of his toes to the top of his greying head he was resplendent in sartorial elegance, so said Joe Estes, responsible for many a catchline in exploitation . . . Jack King, head man for Interstate in Harlingen, was a visitor over the weekend . . . Mrs. Morris Schueneman and Mrs. Lazarus of Bryan were visiting on the Row shop-

(Continued on page 65)

A WINTER MONEY-MAKER

Tickets	Cetron Photo Cells
Carbons	RCA Tubes
Projection Lamps	Exciter Lamps
Rectifiers	Amplifier Repair Service
Machine Parts	Matching Transformers
Westinghouse Rectifier Tubes	Deodorants
Reels	Lens
Speakers	Film Cement
Horns	Take Up Belting
Transformers	Rewinds
Thumb Tacks	



ADVANCE POPCORN MACHINE

AND ALL OTHER ACCESSORIES FOR THE THEATRE

HERBER BROTHERS

"Fair Treatment and Adequate Service Always"

210 SOUTH HARWOOD DALLAS, TEXAS

ATLANTA

ALONG the Row: Bill Karrh, Swainsboro; A. Bishop, Columbus, Ga.; Roth E. Hook, Aliceville, Ala.; Bob and Bill Boardman, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Lew Hutchinson, Austell, Ga.; Frank Bryan, Green Cove Springs, Fla.; Jules Chapman, New York; Preston Henn, Murphy, N. C.; "Violatin'" Taylor, Columbus, Ga.; Mrs. Willingham Wood, Washington, Ga.; Mr. House, Pensacola, Fla.

Jolly Club will hold a Harvest Dance October 14 at the Atlanta Athletic club. Tom Crowley and His Orchestra will furnish the music . . . J. S. Carscallen is back on the Row after a trip to Hamilton, Ont. . . . Jess Edwards of Visugraphic, goes to the hospital for an operation this week . . . Tommie Laird of Leesburg, Fla., booker for the Fain circuit and brother of Sidney Laird, Columbia booker, is the father of a new girl. The child was born in Leesburg.

Miss Mildred Weeks of Dallas, Tex., is visiting her uncle, John J. Jenkins, and Mrs. Jenkins . . . J. U. McCormick has returned from a Tennesee trip . . . John Jenkins plans a Tennessee, the Carolinas and Virginia trip . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" will be previewed October 8 at the Rialto Theatre by the Columbia exchange.

The Lee Theatre Opens In Little Rock, Ark.

LITTLE ROCK—The Lee Theatre, 13th and Pine streets, has opened. The house is owned by the Arkansas Amusement Corp. and was formerly known as the Highland. Closed for the past three months, it has been remodeled and air-conditioned.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

BILL RUFFIN of Covington, Tenn., operator of Ruffin Amusement Co., operating in Kentucky and Tennessee, told the writer recently that he had almost recovered from his recent operation which took him out of circulation for several weeks. Here's hoping you continue to improve, Bill.

Jack Pope, formerly manager of Joy Houcks theatre at Ringold, La., has been transferred to Rayville, La., as manager of the Joy there. Best luck, Jack.

W. C. Riley, formerly operating a theatre at Troy, Tenn., and Ralph Bachus, formerly with Crescent Amusement Co., at Brownsville, Tenn., have opened a 225-seat colored theatre in Brownsville, Tenn., as yet unnamed. A name contest will be held.

H. D. Conwill, recently with Malco at Tupelo, Miss., has joined Dave Flexer as manager at New Albany, Miss.

Bill Baker, operator of the Dreamland at Macon, Miss., has completed redecorating his house.

Hilton Moss, formerly with Joe Applebaum at Rolling Fork, Miss., is about ready to open his new colored theatre, named the Lincoln at Laurel, Miss.

J. A. Grower, city manager for Malco at Tupelo, Miss., has rebuilt the balcony, adding seats, and completely redecorated the house, installing 540 new seats down stairs and installed new rest rooms. While visiting here Mac Buchanan of Athens, Ala., called around to see friend Grower.



CHARLOTTE

TOM WATSON of Memphis has joined the RKO office here as office manager and booker. Watson booked here several years ago for Paramount.

Filmrow extends its sympathy to Frank Gibhardt, RKO salesman, whose father died suddenly while on a visit here.

Mrs. Marjorie Thomas of M-G-M is vacationing in New Orleans.

Winners in the local Metro office of trips to the World Fair are Mrs. Blanche Carr and Miss Jewel Terry. They left for New York, October 1.

Johnnie Wangberg, home office representative for RKO, was in Charlotte for a few days recently.

Seen along the Row: George Hughes and E. L. Hearn from Albemarle; George Carpenter, Valdese; A. F. Sams, Statesville; G. L. Faw, Biscoe; J. M. Reynolds, Shelby; S. S. Stevenson, Rock Hill, S. C.

Tommy Walker, southern representative of Lieberman Flag and Valance Co., New York, was in town last week.

Jaydel Circuit Opens New Circle in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS—The Circle, latest and largest of the suburban theatres to be constructed by independents at the reputed cost of $125,000, opened this week. The house is operated by Jaydel Theatres, Inc., officers of which are: Dick Dicharry, operator of the Lincoln Theatre for Negroes, president; Henry Lazarus, operator of the Center and Coliseum, vice-president; Dick Dicharry jr., secretary; Isidore Lazarus, treasurer. Young Dicharry also is house manager.

Converting Chester, S. C., Building Into Theatre

CHESTER, S. C.—Fred J. Powell, local manager, announces that Chester Theatres have leased the large A. H. Wherry jr. building on Main street and will spend $55,000 remodeling it to convert it into a modern motion picture house, the work to begin January 1. The theatre will occupy the entire building.

Mr. Powell said the house will be modeled after the Burwell Theatre at Parkersburg, W. Va.

Order RCA Sound

ATLANTA—New RCA sound has been ordered for the new theatre being built in Augusta, Ga., by Augusta Amusements, Inc.; the new Palace scheduled to open soon at McCombs, Miss., by the Solomon Bros., the Webb, 800-seater at Gastonia, N. C., managed by William Conn, and the new 700-seater being built at Elberton, Ga., by Georgia Theatres Service Corp.

DALLAS

(Continued from page 63)

ping for new doo-dads for their new theatre which opens soon.

R. A. Gill, Cartex at Carthage, underwent a surgical operation in Dallas, Wednesday . . . M. S. McLemore jr., now operator and manager of the Palace at Plano, was on the Row with his booking book this week. He took the house over October 1 . . . Mrs. Marthe McSpadden of Electra, arrived on the Row, Wednesday, in new fall attire and with a very cordial greeting for everyone. She made a big hit with the bookers who took that memorable trip to Clarendon about two months ago. She fed them all, about 30, in genuine chuck wagon style, right in front of her Grand Theatre in Electra.

Hal Norfleet, well-known publicity man, left for Beaumont where he says he has a connection with Jefferson Amusement Co. He said he would not know what his exact duties will be until talking with circuit officials. Hal recently returned from Little Rock where he went in the employ of King Scenic Co. for the opening of a theatre there. His train was wrecked near Marshall, but Hal was among those who came out unscratched, although he was tossed from his berth . . . The Hildbrand Cafe, new eating shop for Filmrow, was ready for its premiere opening Thursday. The place is streamlined in red and stainless steel and a long line of leather upholstered booths.

R. E. Bagwell, operator of the Texas at Big Lake the past three years, spent three days in Dallas booking and buying necessities for the house. His visits are few and far between as Big Lake is close to El Paso. Dallas friends kidded Bagwell about being on his "annual pilgrimage to Filmow." While away, however, the Texas is in good hands. Believe it or not, Mrs. Bagwell operates the machines and can do that as well as any man, the exhibitor said. Even little Barbara Ann, their 7-year-old daughter, can almost run off a show. Bagwell worked for Griffith five years before settling down at Big Lake. Bagwell renewed for BOXOFFICE *for a year.*

G. H. Hall of Sonora and Eldorado, two other far distant places, was among the west Texans in town . . . H. W. Leuthstrom, the American Seating Co. representative, was only slightly bandaged after an automobile accident recently in Louisiana . . . Major Cole's Elite Theatre opened in Bonham, Friday. He now has a triumvirate of houses, the American and Best being the others.

Buys Billings Tiffany

OKLAHOMA CITY—Roy Rollier has purchased the Tiffany Theatre at Billings, Okla., from Louis Carleton. He also operates a theatre at Lamar, Okla.

New Pike Theatre Owner

MAGNOLIA, MISS.—Mrs. Joe Delaney of New Orleans is now the owner of the Pike Theatre in Magnolia, Miss.

Johnston Testimonial A Trade Highlight

By V. W. CRISP

DALLAS—The testimonial dinner given for P. K. Johnston, Tuesday night at the Adolphus Hotel, honoring his 25th year in motion pictures, was attended by about 200 Interstate employes, film and other theatre men, which recorded the occasion as one of the memorable social events in this industry's regional history.

Johnston for years has been an executive in Interstate's booking department. The party was first announced for last Friday in the Dallas Athletic Club, but taking a bigger turn, it was postponed and held in the larger roof garden at Adolphus.

Karl Hoblitzelle, Interstate president, made the principal address in which he paid tribute to Johnston for accomplishing and contributing something in the world at large and for his rise in the business to a place of responsibility. This came about, Hoblitzelle said, because "P. K.", had such a fine attitude in fellowship for his associates and for the public as well. Hoblitzelle also felicitated Johnston for being a good citizen and for the love and respect shown him by all who knew and worked with him.

To this eulogy, as it were, Johnston responded eloquently and with much feeling for the tribute paid to him both by Interstate employes and officials.

R. J. O'Donnell started the ball rolling at the festal board in his usual job as master of ceremonies and in which he excells. His tribute to Johnston was about the highest one man could give to another.

Because Johnston started in this business during the nickelodeon, the entertainment was planned to suggest then and now. Reels from back in 1914 were run off, which included newsreels, athletic events and parts from ancient prints showing Francis X. Bushman, the Gish sisters, Bill Hart, the Talmadges, Valentino, Pickford, Fairbanks and others. These silent versions were accompanied by a suggestion of the music and singing that went with them in the old days.

Harry Sachs, also of the Interstate booking department, presented Johnston with an engraved wrist watch as a token from the entire Interstate personnel. A supplementary gift, an engraved plaque, also was presented as coming from John Franconi and Ed Blumenthal of Monogram.

At the dais were Johnston, Mrs. Johnston, Hoblitzelle, O'Donnell, Sachs, Besa Short, Ed Rowley, Harold Robb, E. J. Solon and H. J. Griffith.

"Singapore" to Butler

HOLLYWOOD—Frank Butler is writing the script for Paramount's "Road to Singapore," which Victor Schertzinger is directing for Producer Harlan Thompson.

SANTONE

BUSTER BRYANT and Corrine Miller, local winners of "The Gateway to Hollywood" talent search held here recently, left Saturday for Hollywood to try their luck in pictures . . . Mons. Percy Barbat, the French actor, recalling the days when he played in Paramount's first "Beau Geste" out in Hollywood during 1926.

Recent visitors included L. G. "Shine" Mason, Texas-Consolidated city manager, McAllen, at the Interstate office; Harry Reeves, Mission, Menard, and H. N. Britten, Texas, Pharr, at Azteca Film exchange; Tommy Donahue and Billy Kroeger, Paramount, Dallas, at Henry's on North Main here, and Murray Smith, business agent, Beaumont projectionists, with his wife and mother, spent a few days at the Bill Keeler's Cottonwood home.

Localisms: Searcy Lacy, office skipper of the Valley Film Service here, is taking golf lessons at the Olmos Golf School . . . Manager Edward E. Collins of the Majestic has informed BOXOFFICE here that Segar Ellis and his orchestra has just been booked in for a date at this ace Interstate house the latter part of the month.

"Old Mexico Inn" opened recently out on Nogalitos Street under the managership of Dan Quinones and Martin Villapadierna, projectionists at the State Theatre. Present for the grand opening were the following Interstate employes: Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Arnold; Irene Brown; Herman Pure; Rubye Price; D. L. Baker; Beulah Greene; Andrew Dorbin; Lloyd Allsup. IATSE members from Beaumont included Mr. and Mrs. Murray Smith; Cliff Mouton, and Buddie Budwine. Local operators attending were William Keeler and wife; Johnny Dennis and wife; Bobby Dennis; Walter Tinney, and Alfred Pena. Our news scout reports that everyone really enjoyed themselves.

At a special meeting held in the Plaza Hotel, Friday night, National Carbon Co., Inc., played host to a group of dealers and specialists in presenting a new kind of commercial motion picture. Industrial films shown on the program included the first to be made by March of Time, a new use of a "coming attractions" presentation, and a Walt Disney short, also used for the initial time on a trade program, along with "Rip Van Winkle jr.," and this year's "Prestone" anti-freeze feature.

The Joy Theatre has started a double feature picture policy along with vaudeville.

Build Profits—Patronage with
PARAMOUNT PREMIUM CO.
IKE KATZ, Sales Mgr.
210 H. St. N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C.

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
315 S. HARWOOD **BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC.** DALLAS, TEXAS

MIAMI

ANNOUNCEMENTS, official and impressive as only a hand-lettered velum document can be, are broadcasting the news of the arrival of Mitchell Wolfson jr. The new arrival is the second son and the third child in the family of this Wometco executive. Hal Kopplin, head of the Wometco art and advertising department, took his cue from the elder Wolfson's newly acquired role as a city father of Miami Beach and prepared the announcements in the form of official proclamations. Both mother and son, who tips the scales on the sunny side of seven pounds, are doing nicely at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

First sign of the big season which Walter Winchell, et al., have promised us this year is the resumption of a fulltime schedule by Jimmy Barnett's Flagler Theatre. It has been playing only a Friday, Saturday and Sunday run during the summer.

Sonny Shepherd of the Lincoln, accompanied by Tom Thursday, local author, took off this week for New York to have a look at Grover Whalen's extravaganza on Flushing Meadows.

Mark Chartrand, manager of the Mayfair Theatre, is receiving condolences from his friends on the death of his mother. She had been a longtime resident of Miami.

OKLA. CITY

A BENEFIT preview of "Dancing Co-Ed" was held at the Criterion Theatre last week with 25 per cent of the gross proceeds going to the Oklahoma City Optimist Club, the money to be used to buy instruction books, tools and supplies for the Junior Optimist Club of 66 underprivileged boys who meet weekly at the Salvation Army rooms.

Local Monogram exchange here is releasing "The Fight for Peace" with a big ballyhoo campaign . . J. Eldon Peak, head of the Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co., has been celebrating this week his recovery after a tonsil operation.

Southwest Theatres are getting set to erect a new marquee on their Circle Theatre at Tulsa . . . Jack Curray, Paramount exchange manager, is getting over a heart attack of last week.

Ralph Pulliam, manager of Southwestern's Isis here, has resigned to move to California and Toby Wilson has been moved from the Palace in Tulsa to the Isis. C. J. Mercer of the Cameo in West Tulsa has been named manager of the Palace. Gene Hayes now is in charge of the Cameo.

T. B. Noble jr., State Theatre managing director, in Lincoln, Neb., on business.

The Queen Feature Service, Inc.
Quality Theatre Equipment & Supplies
1912½ Morris Ave. Phone 3-8665
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Rubin Frels Appeals Case in Victoria

DALLAS—A communication from Victoria, Tex., said that Rubin Frels had lost his injunction case there against J. G. Long, the Griffith Circuit, et al., in which Frels charged monopoly in restraint of trade as the Long-Griffith combination started plans to construct a 1,200-seat de luxer in Victoria.

Prior to the hearing, Long and Griffith had torn down buildings and had started excavation for the new building. In the interim, Frels appealed his case to the State Court of Civil Appeals. The tearing down was completed, but excavation has not been finished and has not been in progress during the past few days, the communication said.

Gotham Interlude Almost Too Much for Them



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

NEW YORK—These are the James Earnhardts of the Taylor Theatre at Eden, N. C. When better stories of mistaken identity are immortalized, theirs should take a preferred position. Shortly after their arrival, James went down and almost out under a 104 fever. Came the hotel physician's diagnosis: Scarlet fever. A fast ambulance trip to the hospital ward, as an isolated case, was next on the agenda. Came an understandable manifestation of mystery on the part of Mrs. E. A hurried phone call to the family doctor in North Carolina brought an ironical answer: The doctor had innoculated James before he left for New York with diphtheria serum and the big spots on his chest as he writhed with fever were only biological reaction to the innoculation. After pulling enough wires to release an exhibitor from a contract, Mrs. E. and James out of the hospital and into the Cotton Club.

Territory Topics

Alabama

MONTGOMERY—An organization meeting of the New South aimed at fostering a theatre group was recently held.

JASPER—George Deavours, doorman and assistant manager of the Jasper Theatre, has assumed duties as assistant manager of the Lyric in Birmingham.

BREWTON—The Ritz Theatre recently celebrated its third birthday anniversary. Ernest L. Outlaw, is manager; Jimmie Martin is assistant. The house is owned by the Roy E. Martin chain.

Florida

FORT MEADE—Progress is being made on the new Fox Theatre building, a 480-seat house.

JACKSONVILLE — Two successful dances were held to raise funds for the newly-formed Theatre Council, organization for returning the professional theatre to this city.

MIAMI — Remodeling costing approximately $30,000 has been started on the State Theatre.

Georgia

CUTHBERT—M. G. Lee of the Lee Amusement Co., announces construction of a new house seating 280 on the ground floor and 150 in the balcony at Shellman.

ALMA—The New Alma Theatre has opened in its new home in the Strickland building. Various improvements have been made.

MONROE—J. W. Peck, manager of the Cherokee Theatre, is reciving congratulations on the handsome appearance of the house—the result of extensive improvements, including a new and attractive marquee.

WAYNESBORO—The Grand Theatre, closed by fire, has reopened.

DECATUR—Jimmie Johnston has been named assistant manager of the DeKalb Theatre, succeeding Lonnie Thomas, who is now attending Emory University. John Thompson is manager.

TOCCOA—Construction has started on the new Star Theatre building. Work will be completed around December 10, it was stated.

ROCKMART—The Rockmart Theatre is being improved with a coat of paint.

Louisiana

BUNKIE—Edward Martin, general manager of Southern Amusement Enterprises, Lake Charles, has announced several thousand dollars will be spent to recondition the Bailey Theatre.

North Carolina

WILSON—A. S. Grist, manager of the Wilson Theatre, attended a recent meeting of managers and executives of North Carolina Theatres, Inc., at Durham.

South Carolina

COLUMBIA—Mrs. Mabel Kalmakoff has been named treasurer of the Town Theatre, succeeding Miss Ruth Graham, who resigned.

EDGEFIELD—E. D. Johnson of Saluda, and E. M. Mobley of Johnston, have taken over the Edgefield Theatre. They plan extensive improvements.

Tennessee

MOUNTAIN CITY—Mr. Sheffield has succeeded V. B. Coombs as manager of the Strand Theatre.

A New Conciliation Setup Is Sought

TORONTO—A formal request has been mailed by the Anti-Protection League of Canada to film exchange general managers and President N. L. Nathanson of Famous Players Canadian Corp. to cooperate in the consideration of the league's proposal for the establishment of a new setup for conciliation across the Dominion with central and regional offices for the dealing with trade disputes and for the reorganization of clearance schedules. This move has been made following the adoption of a resolution at the meeting of independent theatre owners in Toronto on September 7, a few days after the declaration of war.

Dismissal of H. W. Phelan Suit Against F-P Holds

TORONTO—The appellate court of Ontario dismissed the action of H. W. Phelan, Toronto contractor, to upset the judgment of the supreme court judge in dismissing his suit against Famous Players Canadian Corp. for damages for alleged misrepresentation in the exchange of shares of the Canadian circuit for stock in Paramount-Publix, New York City, ten years ago when control of the Canadian company was assumed by the American chain. The plaintiff claimed $4,500 as his loss in the stock transfer and damages.

The court of appeal has upheld the decision of the trial judge on the ground that there was no deceit or fraud. The case, which was heard last spring, was the outcome of a long dispute between Phelan and Famous Players Canadian Corp., the claim being made by Phelan that he had been pressed into making the stock transfer. The defense argued that the act was voluntary and that the proposed transfer was submitted to shareholders in the form of an announcement. A number of stockholders in the Canadian company never exchanged their shares.

Two Toronto Showmen to Exhibitors Booking Unit

TORONTO—Two veteran exhibitors of Toronto, Sam Lester of the Doric Theatre and A. Lester of the King, have lined up with the Exhibitors Booking Ass'n of which N. A. Taylor is general manager. They had been identified with the Associated Theatres group for a number of years. There are now 32 theatres in Toronto and suburbs which are listed in the Toronto evening newspapers under the heading of "Independent Theatres," these being identified as members of the Exhibitors Booking Association. Mr. Taylor also is vice-president of the Independent Theatres Ass'n of Ontario.

Repact Ford Beebe

HOLLYWOOD—Director Ford Beebe has been repacted for another year by Universal. He is currently on "The Green Hornet," a serial.

Exchange Difference, Customs Boost Import Costs 15%

TORONTO—The cost of advertising accessories, equipment and supplies for the film business imported into Canada from the United States has already increased 15 per cent because of circumstances beyond the control of the industry with the war barely one month in progress.

With the prices of commodities remaining stationary, the advance is due entirely to the difference in international exchange and the manner in which the excise charge and duties are imposed by the customs department of the Canadian government.

When a shipment invoiced at $100 is received from the United States, the cost is immediately translated into the relative value of the American dollar for customs purposes, the premium on U. S. funds being added to the invoice thus raising the $100 to $111. The customs charges are then applied to the increased price, the procedure making a further net increase of four per cent, according to information provided by a representative of the film trade. The premium of 11 per cent plus the duties on this price increase which mean a further four per cent, bring the total additional cost up to 15 per cent, according to this official who is with one of the largest film distributing companies of the Dominion. He pointed out, incidentally, that the Canadian company is compelled to make payment to the American exporter within 30 days.

For the cash payment to the U. S. firm, it is necessary for the Canadian distributor to expend $111 for the purchase of $100 in U. S. money because of the exchange.

From another source it is learned that Canadian branches of American distributing companies are holding current funds in the Dominion because of the premium, this money to be used for investment or until the two currencies may become more equalized. Further, restrictions have been placed on the sending of substantial sums out of the country under the regulations of the foreign securities control board and there is also a tax on surplus funds sent to another country. Imports of films are not seriously affected because of the policy of bringing in master negatives from the states under a temporary bond arrangement and the making of required prints in Canada. This plan gets away from the necessity of the payment of duty on a considerable proportion of theatrical films for the Canadian market.

There has been suggestion that a change will be required in the practice of importing master negatives under bond with time limit because this procedure has resulted in the building up of laboratory facilities in Canada and the employment of trained workers. The cost of imported short subjects has advanced, however, because of the premium on the U. S. dollar and the method of applying the Canadian duty.

The chief setback has been the increase in the laid-down cost of advertising accessories and equipment from the states and how this will affect the use of such items by Canadian exhibitors remains to be seen. If there is a soaring of boxoffice receipts, as was experienced after the first 18 months of the First Great War, the theatres may not worry a great deal about the increased cost of advertising material and supplies.

The theatre business was at a low ebb for the first two weeks of the current war and patronage showed a slight increase during the third week. Business was quite brisk during the fourth week, particularly in the case of attractions which had recognized quality. "The Rains Came," for instance, has been playing to capacity crowds at the Toronto Uptown while other features have earned a holdover. This trend makes it appear that the cinema in Canada is in for a prosperous period—whether it should be classed as false prosperity or not.

Employment has already jumped in industrial cities, unemployed young men have been taken into the armed forces, prices for farm products have advanced so that the basic farm industry is in a better position while transportation facilities are in greater use. On the other hand taxation is on the upturn and wages have not increased but, on the whole, the economic situation is already more favorable than it has been since the spring of 1938 when business started to improve only to flop again because of the succeeding European crises for which Herr Hitler was responsible. For the past year it has been very evident that war must come sooner or later and many businesses suffered. The present moment is one of re-adjustment because of the shutting off of foreign trade in some quarters and the switching of some industries from peace to wartime production but it is expected that the situation will be straightened away much more quickly than in 1914-15 because of the experience gained in the last war.

Uniformed Soldiers Are Given Free Admission

TORONTO—J. Stein, proprietor of the Metro Theatre, new independent house of Toronto, is one of the first to make a standing offer of free admission to soldiers in uniform in the present war.

Another to come forward is Manager D. Fairley of the Capitol Theatre, Belleville, Ont., has offered the use of the theatre to the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment.

A. J. Aylen and Russell Smart of Ottawa are preparing plans for the organization of entertainment for soldiers in barracks.

Heads Community Band

TILBURY, ONT.—A community band recently formed here is headed by Harold Rankin, manager of the Plaza Theatre.

Paramount Retitles One

HOLLYWOOD—New title of Paramount's "Women Behind Bars" is "Women Without Names."

Warner Concessions Become Effective in Dominion

TORONTO — The new policy of Warner Bros., insofar as it is applicable to Canadian conditions, has become effective in the Dominion, notice of its trade code having been presented to Canadian exhibitors over the signature of Gradwell L. Sears, Vitagraph president.

The policy of this company eliminates the score charge for feature productions while cancellation privilege is contained in the clause which sets forth that exhibitors may eliminate proportionately among the several price brackets 20 per cent of the total number of features licensed if the average of the license fees for all features does not exceed $100 and 10 per cent if the average is in excess of $100.

The matter of arbitration on claims and controversies is taken care of through the arbitration setup of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada which has film boards of trade in the six key cities of the Dominion and of which Vitagraph, Ltd., is a member. Likewise, organized clearance for all theatres is provided in the clearance schedules of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada which comprises the eight major film exchanges of the Dominion, these being Regal Films, Paramount Film Service, RKO Distributing Corp., Empire-Universal Films, 20th Century-Fox Corp., Columbia Pictures, Vitagraph, Ltd., and United Artists Corp.

Warner Bros. does not require the booking of short subjects as a condition of licensing features and permits the elimination of any feature which may be considered offensive locally on religious, racial or moral grounds. The operation of censor boards for all Canadian provinces takes care of this situation to a considerable degree but the provision is there for individual use in any event.

Cancellation Rights A "Secret"

Toronto—"I don't know," was the brief reply when a representative of Regal Films, Ltd., was asked if the privilege of cancellation had been extended to Canadian exhibitors in booking contracts for M-G-M features for the current season. No further statement could be secured regarding any prospective changes for the licensing of M-G-M product in the Dominion.

Chance at Greater Juvenile Business

OTTAWA—With the war engaging the attention of Canadian government officials in Ottawa, juveniles of the Canadian capital will have to forego their Saturday morning free film shows which had been presented at the National Museum during the fall and winter seasons over a period of years. The cancellation of the fall series has not brought grief to the licensed theatres, the government-sponsored entertainment having proved strong opposition, even to the extent of killing the attractiveness of special juvenile performances on Saturdays at the regular cinemas. There was no chance for a Saturday morning show at a local theatre during the National Museum season when travel, nature, flying, wild animal, comedy and other pictures were shown in variety.

Ottawa exhibitors have jumped into the breach. Manager T. R. Tubman of the Capitol has organized the Capitol Saturday Morning Club which holds meetings and has its own officers and membership roll. The program consists of a feature film, cartoons and other shorts and a stage show, while an added incentive is the distribution of many prizes, all for the admission price of 10 cents. Manager Chris Holmes of the Avalon is adding a re-issue feature to the regular Saturday matinee program, along with cartoon and novelty shorts. I. Singerman of the Imperial is playing the serial, "The Lone Ranger Rides Again," at Saturday matinees while A. Levinson of the Rialto has started the serial, Buster Crabbe in "Red Barry." Manager Holmes of the Rideau Theatre has also made a play for added juvenile attendance with a Saturday morning all-cartoon show, and plans a second program. The extra feature at the Avalon last Saturday was Joe E. Brown in "Fit for a King," the regular attraction being "Bachelor Mother." As yet, the Regent and Centre theatres have not organized any stunts for the juveniles but the policy of these houses is aimed at adult patronage.

Wartime Regulations Announced Publicly

MONTREAL — Censorship regulations in effect in Canada under the War Measures Act have been made public. On Canada's declaration that a state of war existed with Germany, general directions were issued to the press and radio stations by censorship authorities. These general directions now have been followed by detailed instructions.

Walter S. Thompson, censorship director, said the regulations were drawn up as a result of conferences between departments of the public service.

"They will be amended from time to time as experience in their operation suggests, as it is realized no set of regulations can deal fully with all the problems which arise," said Thompson.

"We know we will have the cooperation of all concerned and, in turn, the censors will give decisions promptly and render a broad advisory service for the guidance of the public.

"The cooperation of muncipal and other authorities who own halls where public meetings are held will be particularly appreciated in order that the regulations may be carried out."

The regulations, which are voluminous, generally prohibit the making or publication, of:

Any adverse or unfavorable statement, report or opinion likely to prejudice the defense of Canada or the efficient prosecution of the war;

Any report or statement likely to cause dissatisfaction to His Majesty or to prejudice His Majesty's relations with foreign powers;

Any report or statement likely to prejudice the recruiting, training, discipline or administration of the forces;

Any information with respect to the movements, numbers, etc., of any of the armed forces of the Allies, or relating to the storage of war material, fortifications, etc.;

Any leaflet or pamphlet relating to the war or to the making of peace which does not carry the name and address of author and printer.

All copies of any newspaper, tract, periodical, book, circular or other printed publication contravening the regulations may be seized and radio station licenses may be suspended or cancelled.

With regard to penalties the censorship coordination committee announced:

"Where no specific penalty is provided in these regulations, any person who is guilty of an offense under these regulations shall be deemed to be guilty of an indictable offense and shall, on conviction, be punishable by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, with or without hard labor, or by fine and imprisonment, but such person may, at the election of the Attorney-General of Canada, be prosecuted summarily in the manner provided by Part XV of the Criminal Code, and if so prosecuted, shall be punishable by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding 12 months, with or without hard labor, or by both fine and imprisonment."

The committee also announced: "For the purpose of the trial of any person for any offense against any of these regulations, the offense shall be deemed to have been committed either at the place in which the same actually was committed or at any place in Canada in which the offender may be found."

First Patriotic Trailer Calls for Women

Ottawa—Exhibitors of the Dominion have received their first patriotic trailer for showing at regular performances in cooperation with the authorities in prosecution of the war. The initial war release was a call for recruits and, singularly, it was for women.

Emergency Lighting Sped by Theatres

TORONTO—The expiration of the time limit on September 30 for the installation of emergency lighting equipment in all theatres ordered by the theatre inspection branch of the Ontario government as a precaution against blackouts due to war measures, sabotage or accident, found many exhibitors in a last-minute rush to secure the required apparatus. The situation was further involved by the necessity of having the units inspected and approved by an inspector of the Ontario hydro-electric commission, with a permit certificate to be held by the exhibitor for examination at any time in the future. This inspection brought the prohibition of any improvised system, such as old automobile headlamps and insufficient wiring.

The independent lighting systems consist mostly of one or more six-volt storage batteries in the generator room which had to be mounted on a metal shelf or stand and screened by metal sheets, with a switch in the immediate vicinity of the projection machines; two or more spot-floor reflectors placed on the rear wall of the auditorium facing the screen so that the beams of light crossed to the opposite corner of the auditorium, with other lamps situated in stairways, foyer, lobby and dark runways or ramps, while at least one reflector, fed from the battery system and operated by the projection room switch, had to be placed in any balcony. The order also suggested an independent light in the projection room to be in use during all performances so that the switch can be seen without difficulty under all circumstances.

Dry Cell Lanterns Permitted

A concession was granted in the alternate placing of dry cell lanterns on permanent shelves in the foyer or stairways where the installation of lamps from the battery supply was found difficult, the dry cell lanterns to be handy for instant use by attendants in charge at the theatre entrance. Provision was also made for the placing of dry cell lanterns in rear exits which are not illuminated by the emergency lights in the auditorium. The new regulations call for a test of all emergency lighting systems each day.

Theatre equipment firms in Toronto experienced a rush-order business during the last week in September and shipments were general to all parts of the Province. The outlay was not considerable but the work of installation presented the chief problem. A heavy-duty six-volt storage battery cost $8.50 while the price for the spot-flood reflector, with bracket and attachments was $2.85. The approved cable was 11 cents per foot; switches, $1.55 each; light bulbs, 40 cents to 50 cents each and battery clips, 65 cents each. The cost of a dry cell battery lantern was $2.85 while exhibitors paid around $9.50 for storage battery chargers which will be useful for the maintenance of the wet battery, particularly in isolated locations.

There has also been a rigid checkup on the flashlights carried by ushers, doormen and other employes while many managers have instructed cashiers to have a flashlight available at all times.

The installation of emergency lighting systems in theatres has not received much notice in the newspapers for obvious reasons and the new lamps have been spotted by but few patrons.

MARITIMES

THE organization recently formed for war work among the girls of the Saint John film exchanges has been named The Film Girls' Patriotic Club. At a special meeting the members registered with the Red Cross Society for voluntary service. Two instructors gave their assistance to those inexperienced in the art of knitting and the wool convenor expects to be quite busy keeping the supply up to the demand.

Leslie A. Sprague, co-proprietor of the Capitol Theatre, St. George, N. B., the Gaiety Theatre, Fairville, N. B., and the Maritime Theatre Equipment Co. at Saint John was married to Miss Mary Darrah on September 27 at Lakeville, N. B. The bride and groom now are honeymooning in upper Canada.

Due to reorganization of his regiment, Harold F. Parker, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Yarmouth, N. S., is not on active service yet but is still holding his position at the theatre. Harold is being congratulated on having been successful in landing a giant tuna on a recent fishing expedition.

R. G. March, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, has returned home after attending the S. R. Kent Drive meeting held at the Boston exchange recently.

The young daughter of Malcolm E. Walker of the Gaiety Theatre, Halifax, N. S., escaped serious injury during a severe storm recently when their summer camp was partially blown down. The child received a few minor bruises but has recovered quite nicely.

Recent visitors to Filmrow included A. J. Mason, chairman of the Nova Scotia motion picture conciliation board and owner of the Capitol Theatre, Springhill, N. S., Mr. and Mrs. J. V. McLaughlin of the Opera House, Newcastle, N. B., and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Williams of the Chipman Theatre, Chipman, N. B.

Regardless of the fact that the outside lighting on theatres in Saint John consists of only a few blue lights and persons generally are not very interested in attending just at the present time, the Strand Theatre had line-ups in the street and full houses the days they showed the pictures of the Louis-Pastor fight.

Present Woman Explorer

TILBURY, ONT.—Patrons of the Plaza Theatre here recently had the opportunity of meeting Aloah Baker, famous woman traveler from Africa, who was introduced to the audience by the mayor.

Growing Censorship Curbs Expression

MONTREAL—Possibility of stringent control of films and newsreels into which political significance might be read may eventuate from the action taken by the Dominion wartime board of censorship in prohibiting radio broadcasts of political speeches, except in cases where the broadcasts take place direct from studios, and the script of the speeches has been submitted to the censors beforehand.

The announcement of this strict control of the radio came after Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec had intimated that he will hold a general provincial election this fall, but according to Walter S. Thompson, director of censorship, the decision was arrived at two days before the election announcement, had no reference to it, and was taken in ignorance of the fact that there is to be an election.

Major Gladstone Murray, general manager of CBC, said the corporation had nothing to do with censoring speeches and had only the responsibility of gathering scripts. The rest, he said, was up to the board of censors.

Premier Duplessis declared that he would refuse to submit copies of his speeches, but the leader of the opposition. A. Godbout, announced that he was satisfied that no discrimination or injustice towards Quebec was intended and that he would submit his manuscripts for censorship. He urged Premier Duplessis to do the same.

The censors' action assertedly was taken because of the difficulty of preventing the broadcast direct from platforms of unwise and unguarded utterances, spoken in the heat of the moment, which might be contrary to the military interests of the dominion during the war.

"Maginot Line" and Fight Film Offered by GN

TORONTO—Harry J. Allen, general manager of Grand National Films, Ltd., is busy with two pictures, one having a war connection and the other of topical interest. He has secured the Canadian rights for the French film, "Murder in the Maginot Line," scenes of which include the line of fortifications. The other picture is the Louis-Pastor fight film which drew capacity at the Casino Theatre for its first Toronto run.

Victorian in Newsreel

VICTORIA, B. C.—Newsreel pictures of the survivors of the *Athenia,* which was sunk by a German submarine, were shown at the Capitol and Atlas Theatre and were of special interest to Victorians because one of the survivors who spoke in the picture was a local girl, Gracie Atfield, and special mention was made of the fact that she was from Victoria.

MONTREAL

UNEXPECTED cold spell, with a slight September snowfall for the first time in 12 years brought up attendance at theatres in a way which brought smiles to the hitherto long faces of managers . . . Optimism about the employment situation and the recovering stock markets; the certainty that the huge wheat crop will distribute money widely, and confidence that the Allies will put an end to Hitlerism, have combined to put the public in a better mood to spend money on entertainment, while those who feel gloomy over the prospect of a long war and increased taxation, feel all the more inclined to divert their thoughts from their worries and find a visit to the "movies" the best cure.

Managers of independent and second run chain houses are somewhat critical of the Hollywood plea for longer runs, and claim that the extended runs given certain pictures during the past summer were not justified by the attendance. "It is natural that the producers, taking a percentage of receipts, should wish to keep pictures as long as possible in the high-priced first run houses," is a synopsis of comments heard frequently.

"The Rains Came" was held over a second week at the Palace, where crowds were lining up as in the good old days . . . Unusually large advertising space is being taken in local newspapers by first run theatres to counteract other entertainment attractions.

W. J. Singleton, general sales manager of Associated Screen News, has been appointed a member of the publicity committee of the Federated Charities' 1939 *campaign. Singleton will look after motion picture publicity. Christopher Ellis, noted radio announcer, will superintend radio publicity.*

Officers and other ranks of the 2nd Survey Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, were guests of the management of His Majesty's Theatre at the premiere performance in Canada of "I Married an Angel."

Girl ushers and ticket sellers in Canadian theatres are envying Jean Ferguson, a Sydney, N. S. W., boxoffice girl who listened intently at rehearsals of P. G. Wodehouse's "Good Morning Bill" and memorized the part of the French maid so well that when the actress filling that leading role fell ill and there was no understudy, she offered her services, was accepted, and played it so well that the part is her's till the end of the season.

Isabel Matthias, a 17-year-old girl entertainer who sang at cinemas in Montreal under the name of Margo Evans, has been missing since May 23. Her parents have asked the local detective bureau to try to locate her, believing she may have found similar work elsewhere.

The torpedoed liner Athenia *had amongst its crew a remarkable amount of theatrical talent which made it "the happiest and gayest ship on the line," according to Eric Adair, former assistant purser. Many of the crew had occasional engagements in Scottish and English music halls. A dancer, comedian or singer could be picked up from among the crew at a moment's notice. "We were always on the lookout for new talent when new seamen joined the crew. We rehearsed them and turned out many a good showman," Adair said.*

Manny Brown and Tom Dowbiggin of Paramount, a crackerjack sales team, have been booking up theatres in Ottawa, Aylmer and surrounding territory . . . It fell to the System Theatre, one of the smaller St. Catherine St. houses, to introduce the Louis-Pastor fight pictures to Montreal. A score for Manager George Panos.

Engagement is announced of the Hon. William James de L'Aigle Buchan, second son of Their Excellencies, the Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir, to Miss Nesta Irene Crozier, only daughter of Lieut.-Col. C. D. Crozier of Abingdon, Berkshire, England. Buchan until recently was with British-Gaumont Films. His father is Governor-General of Canada.

Morris Davis, manager of United Amusement's Belmont Theatre, issued questionnaires asking patrons their opinion of the revival of the Belmont amateur hour. No fewer than 14,571 customers expressed their approval in writing. There was not an adverse vote. The "amateur hour" is staged every Thursday evening, with Harry Satch of New York as master of ceremonies. Len Howard is producer.

Associated Screen News' color film, "Royal Banners Over Ottawa," has been showing at the Cartier, Quebec. It was keenly appreciated, the more so as Quebec theatres were closed for several weeks following the Royal Visit, and so Quebecers were unable to see the newsreels which so entranced the rest of Canada. "Royal Banners" makes up for the omission.

Don Cossacks' world famed chorus appeared at the Palais Montcalm, Quebec, and Lily Pons was at the Capitol in the same city . . . Also musical, but actually a film, was Paderewski in "Moonlight Sonata" at the Empire, Quebec, an appearance all the more timely because he is a former president of ill-fated Poland.

American film fashions are influencing Montreal stores. Two St. Catherine St. millinery buyers for department stores admitted they are now paying seasonal visits to Hollywood. Dress buyers are also giving the film center attention, noting that a score of famous high-salaried designers are now located there. New films featuring glamorous stars are now regarded by female patrons as fashion shows.

Montreal Orchestra's tenth successive season opens November 5. Ten Sunday afternoon concerts will be given at His Majesty's Theatre, nine of them with guest artists. Douglas Clark, now in England, again will direct the orchestra.

Cambrai Theatre, Quebec, is trying out an innovation introduced by Manager Harold Vance, formerly of the Midway, Montreal. It consists of a five-act vaudeville interlude between two feature films.

Scheduled to start its Canadian tour at His Majesty's, Montreal, October 2, the Colbourne-Jones dramatic company, which will play "Charles the King" and two other dramas at stops across Canada, has been delayed by shipping difficulties and has cancelled the booking. The tour will start in Toronto and the company will appear in Montreal early in November.

To make doubly sure of dousing the BBC's straight news broadcasts, a returned European traveler reports the Nazis are installing telephone-wired radio in 80 *per cent of German homes.*

Eugene Beaulac, recently appointed secretary and managing director of Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries, and former chief censor of Quebec, at one time was a newspaperman attached to *Le Canada*. He has never managed a theatre, although credited by the Quebec *Chronicle-Telegraph* with being "former manager of the Cartier Theatre, Montreal."

Last open-air motion picture entertainment of the season was given at the Bonfire Theatre. The 16*mm program featured "Captain Blood." Over* 3,000 *gathered in the park at Notre Dame de Grace to witness the windup of the open-air festivities.*

Anna Neagle has turned down a luscious Hollywood contract and hopped a clipper for the war zone where she will entertain soldiers behind the lines, according to Jack Hirshberg of the Montreal *Monitor*. Herbert Wilcox, her manager, intended to fly back also, but has been ordered by the British government to remain in New York. It is probable he will be a link between the British producers and Hollywood.

Filmrow Bowling League has made a start for the season with 11 *teams, includ-*

(Continued on page 26-G)

No Dull Moments

TILBURY, ONT.—Ingenuity and a minor mishap highlight the week's events for the Plaza Theatre and Manager Harland Rankin.

On a recent evening, about two weeks ago, following a rainstorm, Tilbury became so alive with some kind of bugs that the marquee lights had to be turned off and the boxoffice closed. Here the ingenuity was manifested when Manager Rankin converted a bridge table into a temporary boxoffice and sold tickets in the lobby. The bug invasion lasted about 20 minutes.

The mishap, which was not totally negative, in that it provided extra and appropriate sound effects for the picture being unreeled at the time, occurred when Rankin, desiring to make an adjustment on the forced air fans, fell, ladder and all, just as the hero on the screen, creeping up on the villain, jumped on him. Total cost was a sprained ankle.

TORONTO

FILMROW in Toronto has been presenting a lively scene, with exhibitors flocking in from all parts of Ontario, north, east and west with the obvious intention of getting organized for the fall and winter months with the expectation that business is going to be good, booking and other arrangements having been held off temporarily when war developed at the beginning of September. Toronto exhibitors, too, have made 277 Victoria Street a meeting place to compare notes and to discuss war and its effects.

Mrs. Haskell M. Masters, wife of the Canadian general manager for United Artists, has rolled up her sleeves, figuratively speaking, to engage in war work as chairman of the committee theatre cooperation of the organization which has been called Voluntary Registration of Canadian Women which has made much progress in creating auxiliary corps throughout the whole Dominion, the "weaker sex" having shown Spartan-like determination to help the cause.

Mrs. B. K. Moore, proprietor of Moore's Theatre, Grimsby, Ont., was in Toronto with her family, consisting of her two daughters and two sons-in-law.

First to announce a Sunday midnight show before the Thanksgiving Holiday on Monday, October 9, was Manager Tom Daley of the big Imperial, the feature being the special pre-release presentation of "Hollywood Cavalcade," which will have its first run some weeks later.

V. Simone, proprietor of the Radio City and Beverly theatres, suffered substantial damage to his automobile when a team of horses drawing a heavy express wagon ran away, the tongue of the wagon ramming through the radiator. The accident occurred in the proximity of the film exchange building.

Film executives of Toronto have been busy with the annual financial campaign of the United Jewish Welfare Fund, the demands on which have been particularly heavy because of the refugee situation.

Raymond Allen, general manager of the Allen chain of 34 theatres in Ontario, has been on the sick list but has been able to attend to business details. Jules Allen, one of the pioneers of the Canadian film industry, is on the mend after a severe illness but is in his office most of the business day.

Changeable weather has had local theatre managers on the hop in looking after the comfort of patrons. In one of the large downtown houses, for instance, the heating system was going almost full blast when the day's performances opened but, before evening, the cooling equipment was functioning at top speed because of a sudden climb in the temperature.

With the holiday season at an end in the Muskoka Lakes playground, Frank Giaschi of the King George Theatre, Huntsville, and Gordon Borneman of the Muskoka Theatre, Gravenhurst, were both in Toronto, bringing reports of a very fair summer's trade. They were lining up pictures for the approaching snow season.

Two infrequent trade visitors from the Far North regions of Ontario were H. J. Sweetman, manager of the handsome Community Theatre at Kapuskasing, and A. E. Rolston, owner of the Princess Theatre, Little Current, where the good fish come from. Kapuskasing is a model town from which is shipped all of the newsprint used by the New York Times. *Sweetman had not been seen at the Toronto exchanges for almost a year.*

Marion Nolan, clever daughter of ex-Mayor P. J. Nolan of Ottawa and manager of his Nola and Rexy theatres, called on the various Toronto exchange managers and got what she wanted.

Jack Nelson, one of the early film salesmen in Toronto and manager of the Capitol Theatre at North Bay for many recent years, dropped into a number of exchanges.

The baseball season concluded, C. Thomas Ross, proprietor of the Royal at Bowmanville, followed his usual route along Filmrow. Others noticed included Abe Rappaport of the Hollywood, Campbellford, whose summer hotel has had a brisk season; Jack Allen of the Tivoli, Thorold, where the soldiers are on guard duty along the Welland Canal; G. Hogarth of the Reo at Essex where the vegetable crop has brought the money rolling in; Harold Rankin of the Plaza at Tilbury where the Hudson factory is rushing out the new models, and Mrs. D'Honte of the Imperial at Delhi where the barns and kilns are bulging with the new crop of tobacco.

Fred Guest, veteran exhibitor of Hamilton, is already beginning to feel the effect of enlistments, various employes of his several theatres having joined the colors in the first rush to get into uniform, according to his announcement on a business trip to Toronto.

Allan Ironsides of the Toronto branch of Associated Screen News has already enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and has gone to camp for intensive training. He is a specialist in 16mm films.

Keeping the bookers busy during the recent rush were L. Lush, proprietor of the Berford at Wiarton; L. W. Payne of the Capitol, Listowell; Johnny Walker from the Gem Theatre, Port Dover; Howard Hager, the Regal at Hagersville; J. Fallis of Hamilton Mountain, all in from western Ontario. J. G. Strathy of the Brock Theatre, Whitby, also made a periodic trip.

The sales staff of Regal Films, Ltd., is in full stride for the lining of dates for Gordon Lightstone Week, November 6 to 11, in honor of the branch manager, a big banner announcing the special selling campaign to all callers at M-G-M.

Formal announcement has been made by George Oullahan, exploitation specialist of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., that the exhibitors advertising contest on "Man of Conquest" has been extended to October 15 to give the managers a little more time in which to prepare their campaign books for which sustantial cash prizes have been hung up. The exhibitor sponsored testimonial drive of this company, which is similar to the campaign for Universal in the states, continues to October 28.

Manager L. Hoffman of the Perkins Electric Co., reports that his company has sold 70 auxiliary lighting systems to theatres of Ontario during the past couple of weeks as required by a new regulation of the Ontario government as a special wartime precaution.

Larry Graburn, recently appointed to the head office staff of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has been the recipient of a pen and pencil set as a token of esteem by the members of the Nova Scotia conciliation board of which he was the secretary while manager of the Capitol at Halifax.

They'd Like to Know

TORONTO—An interesting effect of the war on the people is the apparent desire to learn something of the future. One example of this has been found at the Uptown Theatre where Manager Fred Trebilcock had a tea cup reader on the mezzanine floor during specified hours of the day. There was a rush of women—not to have their "fortunes told" but to get a line of future happenings.

Manager George Stroud of the Palace, Hamilton, had a graphologist, Miss Maud Mosher, in the foyer for about four hours each day and this analyzer of handwriting was swamped with requests for advice which were attributed to the war situation.

Screen, Religion Ally

MONTREAL—"Frank Buchman, head of Moral Re-Armament, and Mae West photographed side by side is symbolic of the most notable forward steps of the modern screen," Rev. F. W. Kerr, D.D., minister of St. Andrew's Church, Westmount, told his congregation.

In discussing the film version of "Stanley and Livingstone," he said: "Not many years ago, whenever a clergyman was depicted, he was a harmless specimen of half-baked humanity, but nowadays they picture a virile, manly type who is out where the fight is strong.

"No one would have dreamed a few years ago that the screen would become an ally of religion and decency, of law and order, of patriotism and social reform. That is why there is no anomaly in seeing a prominent religious leader like Buchman side by side with a Hollywood artiste."

Dr. Kerr acclaimed the fact that restraint had been shown throughout in the picturization of Livingstone. There was no striving for spectacular effects, he observed, no stressing of pain and sacrifice, but rather the missionary has been shown in all his zest and enterprise, in his spirit of eager adventure. Because he was radiantly happy himself, he spread that spirit among all those child-like people of Africa.

Amusements' Importance Recognized Generally

TORONTO—Leaders of the community in Toronto have already come out strongly in favor of the enjoyment of amusements, sports and diversions as a safety valve for the people in the war, reference being made to the value of recreation for soldiers in the war zones and the psychological benefit to be derived by the people at home through sports and entertainment.

Comments along this line have been offered publicly by college professors, industrialists, business men, religious leaders and politicians. One speaker declared that any idea of closing the theatres could be classed as "absurd" while it was also urged that organized sports should be maintained as a mental precaution. Declarations appearing in the newspapers were also taken up by radio commentators.

Steps have already been taken by drama leagues to organize theatrical features and concert parties for military camps in Canada and it is expected that the film trade will respond when the time comes with the providing of moving picture entertainments for the troops. There is already talk of using 16mm films for such purpose when the winter camps are established in different Canadian cities. Buildings at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, the Central Canada Exhibition at Ottawa and other large exposition facilities are being converted into barracks and many of these structures have permanent stages and halls which can be used for amusements.

Clair Hague's Daughter Wins Singer's Medal

TORONTO—A signal success has befallen Gwendolyn Hague, 19-year-old daughter of Clair Hague, veteran Universal Canadian representative, in winning the gold medal at the Canadian National Exhibition in the competition for dramatic sopranos.

This was her second victory in as many years as Miss Hague had captured the gold medal last year for aspirants 18 years of age and under. She is a pupil of Mdme. Gedeonoff of Toronto. That pictures and music go together in the case of the Hagues, is indicated in that two sons of the Universal pioneer are engaged in professional film camera work.

Stage Offerings Booked Until April at Ottawa

OTTAWA—With an apparent disregard of war's influences, a number of feature stage attractions have been booked into the Capitol Theatre as far ahead as next April, these to be played distinct from the regular film policy of the theatre, which is a Famous Players' unit. Concert dates already set include the New York Philharmonic Orchestra on December 1; Jan Kiepura, Polish tenor, February 22; Horowitz, pianist, March 3, and the Jooss Ballet on April 4.

Stage shows have also been lined up for His Majesty's, Montreal and Royal Alexandra, Toronto.

VANCOUVER

TOM SHIELDS, Olympia Theatre, is a very sick man and is now in St. Paul's Hospital undergoing treatment for stomach trouble. For many years he has been a prominent figure in the motion picture world here, and always a welcome visitor to Filmrow.

Miss Amy Scriven, manager of the Stanley, flew back from her vacation in the Cariboo in an open plane.

While it is not officially stated, it is generally understood that Bill Brown, and a partner, will be the exhibitors at the theatre which now replaces the old Princess. "Lido" was suggested as the name for it, but has not yet been definitely adopted; "Liberty" now is under advisement.

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Fairleigh, Hollywood Theatre, are back from their trip to the south, having cut it short because of the excessive heat.

In pursuance of a policy of extended runs on "A" pictures, "The Wizard of Oz" ran a second week at the Capitol, with audiences every day quite satisfactory to the manager, Maynard Joiner.

Harry Howard, Theatre Equipment Supply Co., had a busy week at the Varsity, installing the seats and booth equipment. Harry's policy is to give the jobs his personal attention.

W. A. Trout, Zeballos, B. C., was away from his theatre and the mining fraternity, for a short visit to Vancouver, and a browse around Filmrow.

Clarence Wittingham, Youbou, B. C., was another visitor on Filmrow. Clarence operates in several community halls in the tall timber around Cowichan Lake, and seldom is able to get down here.

Marge Ingals is due back at her desk in the RKO office, but the name on the payroll is now "Mrs. Withey." She was away on a honeymoon.

Fred Bannister, Victory, Mission, was in town for a day. E. W. Bickle, Bickle, Courtney, was another visitor on Filmrow.

Charles Ramage, Regal Films, was in receipt of a letter from Tom Shields jr. to the effect that, owing to the heat in southern California, the visit in Hollywood was cut short.

The Grand National office is still without an official manager, but Violet Bedford, the stenographer, is doing her darndest to keep things going, and apparently is doing a pretty good job.

Anxious for Art's Liberty

TORONTO—Sir Ernest McMillan, principal of the Toronto Conservatory of Music and a prominent authority on music, has come out with the statement that he hoped "there will be no silly talk of cutting German music" from theatre and concert programs because of the war.

Rush to Finish Allevato's House at Wallaceburg

TORONTO—Work is being rushed on the completion of the theatre which has been in course of construction at Wallaceburg, Ont., for Tony Allevato who has been the proprietor of the Allevato Theatre at Rouyn in the northern mining country for years. Projection and sound equipment has been received at the new house which is to be called the Alexander, and it is expected the opening will take place in a few days. The outbreak of war brought a hurry-up order in view of the announcement of a halt in the construction of various buildings, work having been stopped on an office structure in downtown Toronto at the fourth floor.

The conversion of a large garage building into a theatre at Trenton, Ont., is being hurried because of the war and this house will open shortly as the Community Theatre in opposition to the Trent, a Famous Players house. This theatre, which will have C-T-R sound equipment, is being built under the direction of N. A. Taylor of Toronto, representing 20th Century Theatres, an independent group. A large air force station is close to Trenton.

Frank Fera is proceeding with a new theatre at Sudbury, Ont., where the International Nickel mines are located. Fera operates the Rio Theatre, which has 380 seats, at Levack, a mining town of the north.

Robert Stevens, who recently opened the rebuilt and greatly enlarged Regent Theatre at Sudbury, has been a visitor in Toronto to round out bookings for this house and for his theatres at Creighton Mines and Sturgeon Falls.

Orphans Special Showing Success in Winnipeg

WINNIPEG—A tie-in with the Winnipeg *Free Press* and the Winnipeg Electric Co., to host the city's orphans at a free showing of "The Wizard of Oz" provided Harold Bishop of the Capitol Theatre here the springboard for an extensive and effective campaign on behalf of the picture and the theatre.

The newspaper gave considerable space to the free showing, winding up its publicity with a front-page story and laudatory comment upon the theatre.

Judy Garland, star of the picture, sent a telegram to the managing editor of the *Free Press* inviting the paper and the electric company to host the orphans at the special showing, held Saturday morning, September 16.

In addition to the orphans special show, Harold Bishop's campaign included the use of three teaser trailers as well as the regular trailer, newspaper ads, letters to school principals, librarians and educators, enclosing a film study guide and inviting to a special showing.

Window tieups and the playing of recordings from the picture in the lobby were part of the exploitation. Radio stations and restaurants in their automatic recording machines, plugged the film's song hits.

MONTREAL

(Continued from page 26-D)

ing two new ones, Grand National-RKO and Suburban Theatres. At present, Consolidated Theatres is leading and 20th-Fox occupies the basement. Star bowlers so far are Sol Levitt of Paramount and Tom Cleary of Consolidated. Teams are Paramount, Warner Bros., 20th-Fox, Regal Films, Empire-Universal, Columbia, Grand National-RKO, United Artists, Suburban Theatres, Consolidated Theatres and United Amusement Corp.

From distant Clarke City on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, C. P. Grace, manager of the Clubhouse Theatre there, visited Filmrow on his annual booking trip.

Filmrow is showing more signs of activity than noticed for some months. Visitors include: Albert Bey, Cinema, Thetford Mines; J. Robert, Palace, Granby; Mr. and Mrs. A. Chouinard, Princess, Quebec; Oscar Major, Bellerive, Valleyfield; P. Senecal, George's, Ste. Therese; M. Hall, Royal, Louiseville; Oscar Thuot, Imperial, St. John's; Leo Choquette, Rialto, Farnham and Starland, Waterloo, Que.; G. Lapierre, Ideal, Beauharnois; Charles Auclair, Hollywood, Montreal, and Eddie Fassio, Rex, Lachute.

"Foto-Nite" Makes Gains As Attendance Stimulus

TORONTO—The latest wave in stimulant stunts for theatres is the "Foto-Nite" feature which has been adopted by a relatively large number of Ontario exhibitors as an added inducement for one evening each week, cash prizes ranging from $35 to $50 being offered for the young lady's photograph which is selected in a draw, providing she is at the performance.

Charles F. Ingram, manager of the Bayview, Toronto, is putting on the stunt every Friday night with $35 as the reward. Manager Tom McKnight of the Patricia, London; Sam Goldstone of the Centre Theatre, Peterboro; Henry Marshall of the Rideau at Ottawa, and Manager Thomas Mascaro of the Granada, Hamilton, are among those who have adopted the idea.

Even Slot Machines Hit by War

Montreal—Slot machines in theatres and other public places in cities and towns of northern New York state are losing a percentage of their customary profits owing to the ten per cent depreciation in Canadian money. These machines take Canadian nickels as well as United States coins, both being of the same dimensions and weight. As many thousands of these Canadian nickels have been used as currency on the southern side of the border, but are not now being accepted, the holders are getting rid of them in the safest and most profitable way by using them in cigarette and gum vending machines, telephone coin boxes and parking meters.

Reopening Theatres in England Raises Production Hopes

By ROY CARMICHAEL

MONTREAL—Because the most successful films shown in Montreal first-run theatres this year have been British productions, the eyes and ears of managers are turned overseas in the hope of ascertaining what the future holds in the way of new British pictures. Reopening of the theatres in the United Kingdom after a few days of black-out has raised hopes that the British studios will be able to continue operating. Last news is that they have been compelled to establish themselves in new wartime headquarters away from their usual locations. Many directors, actors and technicians have been called up for war service, but so far, it is understood, no productions have been held up. "Traitor Spy" was in progress by Argyle Pictures at Welwyn when Director Norman Walker was forced to join his unit and his task was taken over by John Argyle, a young producer.

Redolent of romance and history ought to be the productions of Columbia Pictures who have moved their headquarters to stately Wadhurst Castle on the borders of Kent and Sussex. M-G-M have taken over a converted mill at Rickmansworth and Gaumont-British moved its accounts department to the somnolent village of Crediton, while Grand National transferred operations to Cheltenham. Film production in safe areas will be permitted to continue, the government announced, but some refugee producers were nervous that they might find themselves in concentration camps owing to their birth in enemy countries.

Alexander Korda is concentrating his energies on finishing "Thief of Bagdad," and Grafton Productions have been working day and night on "The Stars Look Down."

"David and Goliath" has gone into production at Ealing where Michael Balcon probably will concentrate on propaganda and instructional films.

Requirements of the British Quota Act are expected to be waived, but it is thought that American companies will discontinue importation of new pictures for several months, if not for the duration of the war. This was the policy they followed during the Spanish civil war.

Camouflage made its first appearance on the stages of studios at Denham, in which the London Stock Exchange also has headquarters.

All newsreel units in Britain are continuing operations at the request of the Home Office, and their cameramen and technicians are exempted from war service by order of the War Office.

Warner has commenced production at Teddington of a new Max Miller comedy, "Hold Your Hat," and Gaumont-British is busy at Islington on "Band Wagon."

Millions of feet of film have been shifted from the London libraries of British Movietone News to Denham, Gerald Sanger, editor, stated. He added: "While the cinemas were closed, we were busy exporting negatives. When they reopened we resumed normal production of reels at Denham. We shall take negatives from countries outside the war area and even from France where they have a similar emergency plan. It may be possible to get negatives through from other parts of the war area through Holland."

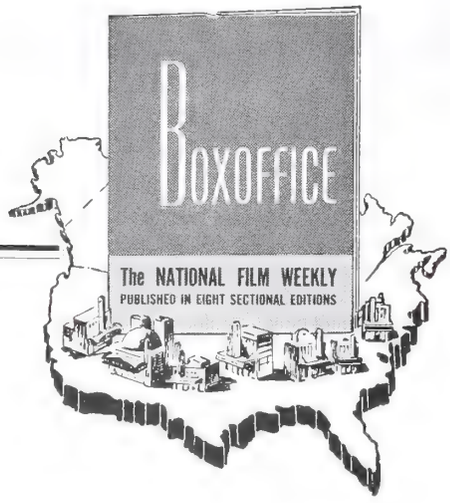
The first wartime cinema to reopen was the Pier at Aberystwyth where "The Mad Miss Manton," which stars Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda, was shown. It was followed in the same city by the Coliseum Super-Cinema showing "Made for Each Other," with James Stewart and Carole Lombard. An operator was kept on duty in each to listen for air raids and notices in the theatres pointed out the nearest air raid shelters. Patrons carried gas masks. Permission to reopen cinemas was entirely in the hands of local authorities, who soon yielded to the widely voiced argument that amusement was necessary to keep up the national morale. An express condition of re-opening was the training of cinema staffs in rescue work.

British Equity, the artists' organization, is urging that work in the theatre in wartime should be regarded as national service for all artists over military age, or who are unfit for active service. Up and down the country players are rehearsing and are ready to fulfill engagements wherever they are called. This also is the situation in Montreal where several entertainment organizations have offered their services to aid war purposes such as the Red Cross and entertainment of the soldiers. One organization, on the lines of the once famous "Dumbells" is "The Flanders Troubadours," composed of ex-servicemen. The members have offered their services to the Minister of National Defense and the Canadian Red Cross Society.

A leading Scottish actor, Grant Sutherland, who had been cast for the important role of Seth in "David and Goliath," had been working two days on the set when he was hurriedly called to don a uniform and was given only a few hours to report to his unit. He recently made a hit in "The Spy in Black."

Very restricted importation of Parisian films into Canada is expected, and theatres in Quebec province will have to economize on "double bills" and try for longer runs. Theatres and cinemas in Paris closed for a time but are gradually reopening. The national theatre, La Comedie Francaise, reopened on September 25 with ticket sales restricted to the number of accommodations in nearby air raid shelters. Ticket holders, all with gas masks slung on their arms, were given a card indicating the shelter to which they were to go in case of an alarm.

Meanwhile, the Poles, deprived of their country, are, in the section occupied by Russian troops, given free productions of Soviet films dealing with the life of Lenin. In Silesia the German troops view films from "cinemas on wheels" which were rolled up as near the war front as possible.



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Warner Bros. (——) **100 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 11, '39**

If further proof were needed to establish Bette Davis' rightful claim to filmdom's Thespic crown, her truly regal characterization of England's most famous queen unquestionably supplies it. Seldom has the screen boasted so flawlessly fine a performance. The picture itself must be acclaimed as one of the most distinguished productions of many seasons. All the pomp, pageantry, intrigue and majesty of Elizabethean Britain is ensnared in its wide productional scope. Against this spectacular background, made doubly impressive and realistic through Technicolor photography, the inspired brush of masterful scripting and direction paints a love story sufficiently torrid, tender and tempestuous to satisfy the most avid seeker of romantic film fare. Supporting cast, headed by Errol Flynn, is comparably splendid. Michael Curtiz directed.

Bette Davis, Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Donald Crisp, Vincent Price, Henry Stephenson, Henry Daniell.

Private Lives of **Elizabeth and Essex** F **Historical Drama**

United Artists (——) **65 Minutes** **Rel. Sept. 22, '39**

An unusual effort in point of production and performance. Beautifully staged, delicately and artistically treated and acted. High class and distinctive in all departments, the acting stands out with Leslie Howard's performance in the vanguard. Ingrid Bergman, newcomer, does impressively well, auguring a genuine future for her under proper handling. The quality of photography is outstandingly apparent. The story deals with a triangle situation which is created when a maestro of the violin falls in love with his daughter's music teacher. Adroit direction and sensitive cast interpretation steer through the situation without cliches that might have swamped a less artistic offering. Gregory Ratoff directed for Producer David O. Selznick.

Leslie Howard, Ingrid Bergman, Edna Best, John Halliday.

Intermezzo F **Romantic Drama**

20th-Fox (019) **65 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 3, '39**

Barely passable as program entertainment of the lightweight variety, this had the germ of an original idea which might, with better handling, have been developed into worthwhile material. Badly transcribed to the screen, however, and with no established cast names to bolster its drawing power, it succeeds in attaining only ordinary levels as supporting fare. Story finds Glenn Ford—a screen newcomer, by the way—en route to Arizona where he has purchased a 20-acre ranch sight unseen. During his trip he meets Jean Rogers, a refugee from Spain; Raymond Walburn, a decadent college professor; and Nicholas Conte, a confirmed hobo. Ford and Rogers are forced to marry to escape arrest. Arriving at the ranch they find it a hopeless shambles, but, discovering mutual love, the two dig in to make it a paying proposition. Ricardo Cortez directed.

Jean Rogers, Raymond Walburn, Glenn Ford, Nicholas Conte, Marjorie Rambeau, Eddie Collins, Irving Bacon.

Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence F **Drama**

20th-Fox (007) **97 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 13, '39**

Dozens of films—everyone of them a hit—contribute their best entertainment elements to the masterful making of this fictionized history of motion pictures and their development from the days of custard pie tossing, Keystone Cops and the first super-spectacles through the birth of sound. An engrossing story of Hollywood, its fancies and foibles, is translated into terms of the lives of its characters, each of whom is an adroitly blended, legendary composite of many widely-publicized, easily-recognized celebrities who have left their imprints upon the pages of filmdom's chronicles. Alice Faye, manifesting a flare for comedy which will further crystallize her place among current top-notchers, occupies the place of honor in a fine cast. Technicolor adds materially to the feature's high rating. Irving Cummings directed with distinction.

Alice Faye, Don Ameche, J. Edward Bromberg, Alan Curtis, Stuart Erwin, Jed Prouty, Buster Keaton, Donald Meek.

Hollywood Cavalcade F **Musical**

Paramount (——) **71 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 24, '39**

The latest version of this well-known thriller holds plenty of suspense. Interspersed with lighter moments by Bob Hope, it will provide a goodly quota of entertainment. True to its first love, there are the hidden subterranean passages, sliding doors and mysterious sounding of gongs as the prospective heirs of an eccentric millionaire gather in a dilapidated mansion somewhere in the bayous of Louisiana. There are two wills, one declaring Paulette Goddard the heir, and the second, her successor in the event of death, who is unnamed. The lawyer is the first done away with by a prowling cat, who maneuvers in the form of an ape. Miss Goddard is about to be the second victim when the villain is killed. The romantic leanings are furnished by Miss Goddard and Hope. All hands turn in good performances with Elliott Nugent adept in his direction. Arthur Hornblow jr. produced.

Bob Hope, Paulette Goddard, John Beal, Douglass Montgomery, Gale Sondergaard, Nydia Westman.

The Cat and the Canary A **Horror Film**

RKO Radio (081) **61 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 3, '39**

A satisfactory package of action entertainment for the George O'Brien fans and the juveniles who will condone the rubber-stamp aspects of the story and dialogue. As the title indicates, O'Brien is the strong silent man who brings law and order to the frontier town, which is dominated by a crooked sheriff and equally shady gang. When the sheriff's men try to prevent an attractive school teacher, Virginia Vale, from leaving town because she resents the officer's attentions, O'Brien steps in and rescues her. The mayor persuades O'Brien to accept the post of marshal; the sheriff imports a killer to get him, but O'Brien saves his life and enlists his aid to clean up the town. Directed by David Howard.

George O'Brien, Virginia Vale, Leon Ames, Henry Brandon, Harry Cording, Lloyd Ingraham, Slim Whitaker.

The Marshal of Mesa City F **Western**

United Artists (——) **95 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 6, '39**

"Eternally Yours" is at once corny and very smart; spicy and quite homey; affectionately garnished for the chewing gum trade and streamlined for Park Avenue. In other words, it is romantic comedy of a velocity that should sweep mass and class alike to the boxoffice. As long as teams are in order, David Niven and Loretta Young make as ingratiating a pair as will be found until Niven gets another partner. The supporting cast could hardly be better. The story's understandable perplexities merely add to the zest of the proceedings, and manages to make room for the sort of dialogue and situations that combine levity and sound marital reasoning. Miss Young, granddaughter of "Bishop" C. Aubrey Smith, flees on the eve of her marriage to phlegmatic Broderick Crawford to become the wife of magician Niven. Tay Garnett directed for Producer Walter Wanger.

Loretta Young, David Niven, Hugh Herbert, Billie Burke, Broderick Crawford, Zasu Pitts.

Eternally Yours F **Romantic Comedy**

Universal (——) **64 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 1, '39**

Universal has succeeded in digging up some new activities for the G-Men. However, the same old formula is retained. This time it is an efficient organization which counterfeits lottery tickets. G-man Preston Foster is assigned to the case. He meets lovely Irene Hervey, who handles some of them at her hotel cigar counter. When it is revealed that the tickets are counterfeit, Miss Hervey and Chick Chandler, one of the employes, decide to help Foster smash the gang. This is done with enough action to keep things moving until the climax. The film measures up as adequate fare. Foster, who handles his role in a convincing manner, is adding weight. Noel Madison does all right as the leader of the counterfeiters. Phil Rosen directed.

Preston Foster, Irene Hervey, Inez Courtney, Chick Chandler, Jerry Marlowe, Noel Madison.

Missing Evidence F **Action Drama**

Republic (951) **61 Minutes** **Rel. Sept. 29, '39**

Not one of the better Roy Rogers' efforts, but it is no fault of his. The musical interludes are spotted poorly, tending to slow up the action. Best portions of the film occur during the outdoor sequences when the men are riding and the camera gets a chance to roam over the terrain. Rogers deserves a decent script. The story here is reeled out against a Civil War background. Rogers' friend, Dave Kerwin, joins a guerilla band whose leader, Stuart Hamblen, is ousted from his Confederate commission. It is Rogers' job to get Hamblen's gang, including his friend. Choice of a heroine, Sally March, leaves much to be desired. Joe Kane directed.

Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Sally March, Stuart Hamblen, Dorothy Sebastian, Earl Dwire.

The Arizona Kid F **Western**

SELLING ANGLES: "Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence"

Glenn Ford's determination to acquire a ranch and become self-supporting suggests a tieup with a real estate dealer in a promotion campaign to sell "small farms." Dress an attendant as a hobo, with a bag on a stick slung over his shoulder, and bearing a placard with picture and theatre billing on his back, as street ballyhoo. Obtain audience reaction as to their impression of Ford via a special ballot. Marquee credit should go to him and to Raymond Walburn.

CATCHLINES:

Twenty Desert Acres . . . Meant the Difference Between Paradise . . . and a Life of Drudgery and Despair.

A Stirring Drama of the Youth of Today . . . Two Who Dared Life . . . For a Happiness They Knew Must Be Theirs.

SELLING ANGLES: "The Marshal of Mesa City"

George O'Brien's name on the marquee should be more than enough to draw in the western fans. If you have not organized a "George O'Brien Junior Rangers" club, do so. Decorate theatre front and lobby to represent a frontier town, hanging braces of six-shooters and sawed-off shotguns around the walls. Swear in all the kids as "deputy marshals" and hand out inexpensive tin stars. Promote an amateur pistol-shoot. Tie up with distributors of pulp western magazines to stuff heralds in copies.

CATCHLINES:

Mesa City Came to Fear His Brand of Law and Order . . . For He Shot First and Shot to Kill.

Nobody Ever Beat Him to the Draw . . . So He Brought Justice to Mesa City.

SELLING ANGLES: "The Arizona Kid"

Republic has arranged a number of tieups with national firms for Rogers. Those companies are Mission Orange Drink, Packard Shaver, Wheaties and Tootsie Rolls. Stills and accessories are available for displays with merchants. Now is a good time to start a Roy Rogers fan club, since the cowboy star continues to gain in popularity. Novelty buttons can be distributed at the matinee show to all new members. Colorful Roy Rogers valances should decorate the marquee.

CATCHLINES:

Here Come Roy and "Gabby" . . . Matching Blazing Six-Shooters with a Ruthless, Guerilla Gang.

Roy Rogers Plays a Lone Hand in a Game of Life or Death.

SELLING ANGLES: "Intermezzo"

This introduces a new screen personality in Ingrid Bergman, who should share the marquee billing with Leslie Howard. Stress the classical music atmosphere in which Howard and Miss Bergman portray a violinist and pianist respectively. Mount a large compo-board facsimile of a musical scroll above the marquee, spelling out the picture title in letters resembling musical notes. Invite music teachers and students of piano and other instruments to attend. Make a definite play for feminine trade, pointing out the picture is, above all, a dramatic love story.

CATCHLINES:

Intermezzo . . . A Flaming Interlude When Two Who Loved Dared to Recapture the Ecstasy of Youth.

A Love They Could Not Hope to Hold Wove Its Tangled Spell Over Two to Whom Music Was Their World.

SELLING ANGLES: "The Cat and the Canary"

Patrons should not be permitted to be seated during the performance and exhibitors should stress this in order to maintain the suspense. Sliding doors and other trick gadgets might be set up in the lobby. Trick novelties should be distributed a day in advance of the opening. Have a man dressed as a black cat parade the streets with a canary on his shoulder. A ballyhoo truck with a spooky house on it doing all sorts of tricks will attract attention.

CATCHLINES:

Beware of Cats and Canaries . . . Murder, Mystery and Romance Have Their Fling.

She Inherits a Fortune and Then Things Begin to Happen.

Hope Finds an Old Love in Mysterious Surroundings.

SELLING ANGLES: "Missing Evidence"

Since the film concerns itself with lotteries, stage a contest. Heralds made up with effective copy should contain lucky numbers. The numbers should be on display in the lobby, with those who have them to get free tickets. Dates on other sweepstake events should be watched, and if they break with the release of the film, they can be utilized for exploitation tieups. The G-man angle should not be overlooked in decorating the lobby.

CATCHLINES:

The G-Men on the Trail of a New Racket.

If You Buy Lottery Tickets . . . You Must See This Picture.

SELLING ANGLES: "Private Lives of Elizabeth, Essex"

Concentrate on the names of Bette Davis and Errol Flynn as selling points, citing the film as the greatest in a long series of Thespic triumphs for Miss Davis. Make over theatre front and boxoffice to resemble an English 16th century castle. Have juveniles submit models of Spanish galleons and English pirate ships for a lobby display contest. In advertising and throwaway layouts use Old English type as a means of striking the correct atmospheric note. Invite history classes in schools to see the film as an adjunct to their regular studies.

CATCHLINES:

Bette Davis . . . First Lady of the Screen . . . Scores Her Greatest Triumph in the Year's Greatest Picture.

All the Spectacle and Sweep of England in the Days of Queen Elizabeth . . . And the Story of a Love That Swept Caution to the Winds.

SELLING ANGLES: "Hollywood Cavalcade"

Carry out the Hollywood atmosphere in lobby with dummy cameras, lights, giant megaphones, etc. Decorate lobby with blown-up star heads and stills and as many off-stage Hollywood shots as can be obtained. Tie up with a newspaper in a "Movie Memory" contest, inviting readers to list the greatest pictures and personalities they can remember during the past 10 or 20 years. Tie up with an automobile agency and borrow, from owners, cars of various ages from Model T Fords to the latest models for a "Hollywood Cavalcade" parade.

CATCHLINES:

Out of Hollywood's Historical, Hysterical Yesterdays Come the Greatest Screen Thrills of Today.

When Fabulous Filmdom Was Young . . . And Custard Pies Splashed Curvacious Cuties to Fame.

SELLING ANGLES: "Eternally Yours"

Title, cast, producer, production values and authors offer an opportunity for telling results, albeit effort and cash is not spared. To symbolize the title, try a city-wide stunt to discover the oldest married couple, with merchant support. A letter-writing contest that should show a wide range of results could be around "If you had the powers of the world's greatest magician, what would you do?" A "handcuff-escape" lobby stunt, using a trick set, should attract interest. Distribute wing collars with lipstick imprints around town with the display line: "He fought for his honor—and lost." The title suggests a series of notices in newspaper public notice columns.

CATCHLINES:

Discover Whether a Girl Can Love a Man When She Knows He's Eternally Hers.

A Million Women's Romantic Dream . . . But a Gay Nightmare to His Wife.

Reviews

Monogram (3856) **52 Minutes** **Rel. Aug. 25, '39**

Not the best Jack Randall prairie glide by any means, this sagebrusher will only be a nominal boxoffice taker. Randall goes on a hunt for the man who killed his father, and the trail leads him to a western town plentifully steeped in such mal-practices as robbery, murder, and land-grabbing. He organizes the vigilantes to mop up on the sharpers. Al St. John, loaded down with three weeks' growth of beard, wobbles through sad comedy attempts, and the romance element is borne by Virginia Carroll. Lindsley Parsons is the producer from his own original, screenplayed by Joseph West and directed by Spencer Bennett. Photography is cloudy, pace, slow.

Jack Randall, Al St. John, Virginia Carroll, Davison Clark, Nolan Willis, Glenn Strange, Don Rowan, Brandon Beach.

Oklahoma Terror F — Western

Carmel Prod. (SR) **108 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

A warm, moving cross-section of life in a settlement of Jews in the Poland of another year, this film has definite boxoffice possibilities. It is based on the literary work of S. J. Abramowitz. The performances of the various delineations of small town character are convincing and serve well in putting forth the story intent. Humor is delivered cleverly. The narrative concerns chiefly the romance between a blind girl and a crippled bath attendant. The various contributing forces of the drama are a cholera epidemic from polluted water and the smug attitude of the town fathers in relation to a hospital and medical project. Religious superstition is taken over the coals and, as a result, the two chief characters are at length married in a cemetery. Shortly after which they leave the town for new horizons. Edgar Ulmer directed.

Isidore Casher, Helen Beverly, David Opatashu, Yudel Dubinsky, Rosetta Bialis, Tillie Rabinowitz.

The Light Ahead F — Drama

Sphinx Films (——) **106 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

Probably the last film made in Poland that will play here. The producer is Greenfilm, Warsaw. It is a lengthy and detailed account, dramatically touching and skillfully performed, of the gradual disintegration of a simple family of Jews and their friends who live in a provincial town in Poland. The narrative follows each story segment in good style. The father, a composer of chassidic music, goes to America. Later he sends for his young son. The daughter runs away, but returns and marries. Another son is killed in the war. Later comes news of the father's death. All these events are shown in their relationship to the mother. At length, she is taken to America where she finds her youngest son. It is all told well and not without humorous relief.

Lucy Gehrman, Alexander Stein, Max Bozyk, Chane Levin, Gertrude Bulman, Izchok Grudberg.

A Brivele Der Mamen F — Drama

Film Alliance (SR) **65 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

Screen entertainment of a different and exciting sort is this English importation which deals with the conquest of the Matterhorn, tallest of the Alpine peaks. Climax of the story is in the efforts of the English and Italian parties to reach the summit first. Since the English start from the Swiss side, it becomes a nationalistic issue, and two friends, Robert Douglas, leader of the English party, and Luis Trenker, Italian mountain climber, are estranged and become rivals. The film gains its strength in the mountain-climbing sequences, where a strong undercurrent of suspense pervades. These are beautifully photographed. Joan Gardner supplies the romantic interest as Trenker's sweetheart who effects the reconciliation between the two friends. Milton Rosmer directed. Trenker co-directed in the Alpine scenes.

Robert Douglas, Luis Trenker, Mary Clare, Fred Groves, Joan Gardner, Frank Birch.

The Challenge F — Outdoor Drama

Esperia Films (SR) **155 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

This Italian film is a super grand-scale account of the Roman conquest of Carthage. The story is told in broad strokes. The props and casts are immense and the high mark, a whole reel of it, concerns the decisive battle of Zama from which the Romans emerge the winners. The pity is that there are no English subtitles, which limits its appeal. The story, briefly, tells of the reign of Scipio and the growth of the Roman Empire. A commercial foundation is needed. Scipio decides to move into Hannibal's country. He does so. The battle scenes and military strategy at Zama are capably handled and will undoubtedly thrill audiences. Of the cast, Isa Miranda is the only familiar name. The photography and performances are excellent and adequate, in that order. Carmine Gallone directed.

Isa Miranda, Francesca Braggiotti, Annibale Ninchi, Camillo Pilotto, Lamberto Picasso.

Scipione L'Africano F — Historical Drama

Select Attractions (SR) **66 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

Pursuing a rather bumpy course of hodge-podge melodramatics to point up its tale of lurid murder, this English effort is all that it sets out to be. It has the exploitation possibilities that transient houses need, but probably will find a curious, if not dubious, reception among family-type audiences. More than a little of the action is left to the imagination. While the performers would invest the piece with the grimy work at hand they present the paradox of overacting and understatement. The direction is jerky and a strange haze seems to hang over the photography. A waterfront barber is telling a customer the tale of his predecessor, the process of which is accomplished via flashback. It concerns a suave schemer, who lures wealthy looking passengers from the ships that ply between the East Indies and London to his shop and with an ingenious contraption murders them and loots their belongings. George King directed.

Tod Slaughter, Bruce Seton, Stella Rho, John Singer, David Craig, Jerry Verno.

Demon Barber of Fleet St. F — Melodrama

York Pictures (——) **80 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

Discriminating audiences will discover some extraordinary things in this English film. They probably won't know that a handful of youthful thespians, operating with their own funds, are responsible for every foot of it, and without benefit of studio facilities went into the countryside and put their talents to work. Even the discerning eye will recognize a finely wrought effort; simple in its fundamentals but embodied with a fertile imagination, splendid direction and superb photography. Through it runs a story of a young farmer. His desperate attempts to make ends meet bring nothing but conflict with his wife. In a fit of hate he murders her, flees and becomes a hunted man. He meets a girl novelist and finds himself falling in love as she unwittingly unmasks him. A tense and masterly climax finds the farmer meeting his death as the law closes in. Roy Kellino directed.

James Mason, Pamela Kellino, Sylvia Coleridge, William Devlin, Peter Coke, Esma Cannon.

I Met a Murderer F — Drama

Select Attractions (SR) **70 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

The English like their mysteries and approach them in an unabashed manner. For example, this Edgar Wallace thriller is presented with all the trimmings. It has everything but His Majesty's Navy and it is surprising how they overlooked that. When one becomes accustomed to rather heavy English accents, it is easy to settle down and enjoy the antics of Gordon Harker as Inspector Elk. However, it should not be taken too seriously. There is the Frog and his henchmen who return to terrorize London. Hartley Power, who apparently is the British conception of the Hollywood conception of a Chicago gangster, comes to Harker's aid in caging the Frog. Rene Ray is the attractive reason for Power's intervention. Harker, incidentally, is a good character actor and gets some laughs over. Maurice Elvey directed.

Gordon Harker, Una O'Connor, Rene Ray, Hartley Power.

Return of the Frog F — Melodrama

Film Alliance (SR) **66 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

As a propagandistic bit about the efficiency of the British navy and the cleverness of British diplomats, this film serves its purpose well. But to be unloaded on audiences here as entertainment is another story. Charged with trite dialogue that is childishly heroic at times, the story concerns the troubles in a Latin country, unidentified, that is rocking in the surges of revolution. British businessmen are threatened and a cruiser is ordered to lurk about. When the rebels capture a warship and shell the town, the cruiser goes into action, is fired upon, lays a smoke screen and torpedoes the belligerent craft. To put it forth as a timely story is hardly logical. The story is incongruous. It is just a melodrama of the British Navy and diplomacy that present audiences will probably view with raised eyebrows.

H. B. Warner, Robert Douglas, Richard Cromwell, Hazel Terry, Noah Beery, Esme Percy, Henry Victor.

Torpedoed F — Melodrama

SELLING ANGLES: **"A Brivele Der Mamen"**

Emphasis on the fact this is probably the last production from a Polish studio to reach these shores might prove a selling point. Then there is the well-known standby—exploiting the tearful side of the story to gain feminine attendance. This angle deserves all the attention it can possibly get. A tieup with the HIAS group, which has done much to rejoin scattered members of Jewish families, is indicated as the latter part of the film's story unfolds. This probably can be easily accomplished.

CATCHLINES:

A Saga of Simple Folk . . . The Innocent Victims of a Cruel Fate.

A Film Drama That Abounds in Everything. It Will Make You Laugh, Cry and Share Its Joys.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"**

All the trimmings that usually go into the exploitation of sensational-type murder films belong here. In the absence of a "name" cast it might be wiser to concentrate on the title and the implications it suggests. In this respect, you might assemble a collection of items normally associated with murders; guns, rifles, "poisoned" darts, all sorts of bladed instruments, etc. A large sign should invite passersby to identify the object responsible for the success of the "Demon Barber's" accomplishments. The stunt behind this, of course, would be an antiquated barber's chair, hidden behind a curtain, which should be revealed as the death trap. Probably one of the most talkative of all mortals is a barber. For a stunt, invite your local barbers to a special showing; they might help do the rest.

CATCHLINES:

Your Life Is Worth Just One Penny to the Demon Barber of Fleet Street.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Torpedoed"**

This one calls for the maritime props. At its best it can only be a second feature. The American players in the cast might be exploited, particularly Noah Beery, whose heavy roles have gained him fame. Here he is cast as a kindly, simple-minded "Presidente." The photography is good and effective blowups can be made from the battle scenes at sea. Otherwise this one deserves regulation, run-of-the-mill advertising.

CATCHLINES:

With Gun and Torpedo to Make La Santa Safe for British Business.

The Audacious to the Rescue . . . With Romance and Bravery En Route.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Light Ahead"**

If the past success of films of this sort is any sort of standard, this Jewish film should enjoy a widespread welcome through advertising in regular newspaper and poster channels. The various members of the cast are familiar in Jewish Art Theatre circles. Of the cast, Helen Beverly is known for her performance in "Green Fields." Biographical sketches of cast members should be written with an eye for eventual placement in the theatre page. The film has English subtitles.

CATCHLINES:

From Out of Yesteryear Comes This Powerful Film of the Vicissitudes of a Jewish Home.

A Colorful and Authentic Picture of the Time . . . Based on Abramowitz's Immortal Classics.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Scipione L'Africano"**

Until the distributors see fit to equip this film with English subtitles, the logical selling procedure is indicated through newspaper advertising that will reach Italian-speaking patrons. A healthy boxoffice proportion of this populace should turn out to see it. Where there is a thriving foreign film house, the management might make a play for the trade of the students of the international cinema. But, of course, adverse political ideas are to be taken into consideration at the outset. In any case, this film is as big as Barnum.

CATCHLINES:

The Dramatic Life Story of Early Rome . . . Based on Rigid Research and With a Cast of Thousands of Extras and Animals.

The Biggest Battle Ever Seen on Any Screen . . . Authenticated in Every Case by Scrupulous Attention to History.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Return of the Frog"**

The symbol of the gang in the film is a frog, which can be exploited in a number of ways. As in the picture, a large-sized frog can be constructed out of compoboard and mounted in front of the theatre. Bulbs can be placed in eyes and be made to blink on and off. An amplifier can be placed inside the frog with a barker speaking through a microphone in the theatre. Bookmarks in the shape of a frog can be distributed and tied in with circulating libraries since the film is based on an Edgar Wallace story. Tickets can be awarded to the youngster bringing the largest frog to the theatre to be displayed in the lobby.

CATCHLINES:

Horror Gripped London at the Return of the Frog.

Who Was the Mysterious Frog?

SELLING ANGLES: **"Oklahoma Terror"**

Since Randall is the "Romeo of the Range," he offers a chance to lure more femme trade than westerns average. His phiz plastered in displays designed to attract young gals in stores might lure a few dimes. Lobby tricked out in western regalia, guns, saddles, boots, etc., would likewise prove magnetic. Might form a Randall club, giving a card on which are titles of all westerns in his current Monogram series. As each one attended, have title punched. Those seeing everyone, get free ride on the last one.

CATCHLINES:

Vigilante Avengers Free Range With Rope and Gun.

Jack Randall, the Screen's Handsomest Cowboy Star, Tags His Father's Murderer in Hail of Lead.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Challenge"**

Mountain climbing is the main theme of this film and that should be hammered home. A cardboard group of snow-covered mountain peaks could be used for the lobby. In order to focus attention, label each after some well-known mountain and list the height. Tieups with sporting goods stores could show equipment needed for mountain climbing. If such material can be obtained, it should be used for display. An effort should be made to interest the newspaper feature editor in a series of stories dealing with the conquest of noted mountains.

CATCHLINES:

Two Men Answered the Challenge of Matterhorn . . . Mightiest Peak of Them All.

Its Impregnable Heights Meant Death to Those Who Met the Challenge.

SELLING ANGLES: **"I Met a Murderer"**

If ever a film deserved unlimited, personalized attention, this one does. The requisite consideration is to attract that segment of patrons of an intellectual bent, if possible. Word-of-mouth should do the trick thereafter. Emphasis should be on the "experimental" attitude of the producers. Undoubtedly you can capitalize on the story, if properly exploited, of the young group of actors who sought to extoll their independence by making this film. They had little money, no equipment and no studio. Yet they have achieved what you can conservatively say is infinitely more interesting than many pictures that cost many times more. Don't fail to get as wide distribution as possible of scenic stills from the film; many of them are of vignette quality.

CATCHLINES:

Haunted and Hunted . . . A Murderer's Deed Brought Him Love . . . Then Death.

SHORT REVIEWS

NEWSREELS

Tuesday, September 26

Movietone News, No. 5: The King and Queen visit hospitals, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, survivors of the Courageous, the British Tommies, war styles for English women, French soldiers off for war, the American Legion in Chicago, Roosevelt at Hyde Park, China hit by floods, polo, bike racing, Lew Lehr.

News of the Day, No. 203: Tommies head for front, war scenes dominate England, King and Queen inspect shipping, survivors of the Courageous, the Poilus move up, America's neutrality battle, fall fashions, polo.

Paramount News, No. 8: Swing at the Fair, Gold Star Mothers pray for peace, films from France, scenes of Polish prisoners, Panama parley, the Legion convention, the Senate fight for peace.

RKO Pathe News, No. 20: Panama parley, Hull at the Fair, British and French move to the front, President's mother marks 85th year, Senate in neutrality battle, swing hits Fair, polo.

Universal Newsreel, No. 809: Pittman on neutrality, French troops rush to front, Panama parley, Aquitania dares U-boats, coast gripped by heat wave, Chicago greets Legionnaires, six-year boy swims Hudson, jallopies hold reunion race, "death drivers" in thrill meet.

Thursday, September 28

Movietone News, No. 6: Pictures of the German "blitzkrieg," French troops move up, Belgium mobilizes, the Swiss mobilize, Australia prepares for the war, dress fashions, heat wave grips coast, the birth of the films, the Legion on parade.

News of the Day, No. 204: The German trail of conquest, battle front scenes, Legionnaires in big peace parade, storm smashes Pacific coast, football season opens.

Paramount News, No. 9: Legion asks for preparedness, Edison honored on film's 50th birthday, storms hit west coast, Paris war scenes, Belgium mobilizes, Switzerland mobilizes, Paramount's 1939 football forecast.

RKO Pathe News, No. 21: The Legion parades, French war scenes, First Lady addresses nation's women, film's 50th year tribute to Edison, surplus corn harvest, storm hits west coast.

Universal Newsreel, No. 810: French prepare for air attack, scores dead in coast storm, the Legion parade, Pepper urges embargo repeal, steel mills feel war boom, hail Edison on film's birthday, Missouri mules, duck hospital.

The Battle Fleets of England

RKO (March of Time, No. 2) 18 *Mins.*

To say this is timely would be an understatement of some sort. The material contained in this reel will command the attention of audiences, not simply because it is topical, but because it is also presented in an intelligent and informative manner. According to March of Time, some of the scenes are from an undeveloped negative shipped out of England before censorship went into effect. At any rate, the subject deals with the role of the British navy in this war and how her men are trained for the sea. It is a good picture of what the navy means to England and how England intends to continue her supremacy over the seas.

Land of the Midnight Sun

Vitaphone (Merrie Melody) 7 *Mins.*

A corking cartoon subject by Leon Schlesinger's merry men. It is another takeoff on the travelogue. Although not as successful as previous efforts, it still contains many laughs. The cartoon, which is in Technicolor, concerns the voyage of a luxury liner to the land of the Eskimo.

The Wrong Room

RKO (Leon Errol Comedies) 19 *Mins.*

In most entertainment circles it is generally conceded Leon Errol has the funniest "drunk" routine in show business. For two reels, in this hilarious comedy, Errol furnishes solid substantiation of that fact. His performance of an inebriated professor who becomes involved with a honeymoon couple is good for a steady succession of laughs. When Errol stumbles into the wrong room and finds the young woman alone and asleep, he becomes convinced he has committed an act of bigamy. There is a snappy script containing a number of broad innuendos, but it is all in fun. Lou Brock directed, Bert Gilroy produced.

Crop Chasers

Columbia (Color Rhapsody) 7½ *Mins.*

Not much here in the way of entertainment but this cartoon in Technicolor should appeal to the youngsters. Black crows and scarecrows are the theme of this tidbit in which two scarecrows save a baby crow who has fallen into a well.

SHORT OF THE WEEK

Think First

M-G-M (Crime Does Not Pay) 20 Mins.

This is an object lesson for the estimated 100,000 girls who each year turn to shoplifting. It is a worthy endeavor and one that, if properly exploited, can mean much to the boxoffice. The entire circle that represents the shoplifting ring is exposed, but not in the fashion of a documentary film. The story, direction and general handling add up to a most absorbing and often suspenseful subject. Step by step, the film takes in the operation of the racket; the "front," the "fences" that dispose of the stolen loot, the inevitable arrest and grilling, the work of the police and scientific investigators and the costly price that is paid when weakness and discontent make easy victims for the underworld.



'The Middleton Family'

Modern Talking Picture Service
55 Mins.

Among the more conjectural aspects undertaken in this elaborate commercial film, which is sponsored by Westinghouse and is free to exhibitors, is that screen entertainment should take sides in national economic issues. A crossfire of dialogue observes that as long as private enterprise is given a free hand the country should not be alarmed over unemployment; that machines do not hinder, rather aid unemployment; one character also implies Marxism is superior to capitalism. A competent cast, save the lad portraying the hero's role, supplies an otherwise pleasant hour of adventure among an Indiana family visiting the World's Fair. The film is done in Technicolor and is thereby enhanced no end, considering that the novel and mechanical displays at the Fair take up most of the footage. Much of this is of a scientific nature, and, obviously, underscores Westinghouse's place in the electrical sun. Designed as an experiment that "may establish a new trend toward fictional treatment of industrial themes in films," the effort is outstanding in its field, but in its relationship toward public problems conceivably may overstep its bounds.—L. W.

Screen Snapshots

Columbia (Series 19—No. 1) 10 *Mins.*

Harriet Parsons presents a phase of the industry that has literally developed into a highly skilled trade. It is about the art of making up and naturally the Westmore brothers figure prominently. Some of the stars who have makeup applied are Penny Singleton, Gloria Dickson, Rosemary Lane, Jane Beecher, Jean Arthur, and others. Women will be more than interested since the reel discloses a few hints about makeup for the street.

Act Your Age

RKO (Edgar Kennedy Comedies) 18 *Mins.*

Edgar Kennedy is still having miseries from father-in-law trouble. It is a diverting two-reeler and will register satisfactorily in spots where Kennedy pleases. The problem of old age in industry comes around to plague Kennedy. His boss intends to promote him, but Kennedy thinks he is going to be fired so he attempts to act young. The final blow comes when the boss considers the father-in-law for the post.

Captain Spanky's Showboat

M-G-M (Our Gang Comedy) 11 *Mins.*

Your patrons have probably observed all manner of groups perform something akin to "The Mortgage Is Due" on the old homestead. Well, here's another version by the kids who have made a specialty of trying to amuse young and old with their antics. It's rather amusing, is performed with zest and manages to get in an original twist or two.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, *4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.*

Columbia

Coast Guard

A good action picture that had a number of poorly faked action scenes, but the usual weekend customers gave it their approval and that's what is most important. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Rural patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo

Five Little Peppers

Played it on bargain night. The kids liked it. Boxoffice report not so bad, not so good. Not bad for the bottom half of a double bill. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-20-10. General patronage. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 360.—Stanley E. Blackburn, Mainstreet Theatre, Fremont, Neb

Law Comes to Texas

Very good western but did only average business. The people in this section seem to go for these musical westerns more than any other kind. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500. —S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Man They Could Not Hang, The

One of Boris Karloff's better pictures. It isn't spooky, but it has an unusual story with lots of punch. Used it on a weekend and a midnight show and was well satisfied. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-20-10. General patronage. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 360.—Stanley E. Blackburn, Mainstreet Theatre, Fremont, Neb.

Trapped in the Sky

Average picture, and fans who go for this type picture were satisfied. It is not a picture, however, that will stand or just by "boosting." Play by the war and spy angle as it deals with both of these. Saturday. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 240.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

First National

Blackwell's Island

An action picture that went OK on the weekend. Fri., Sat. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Confessions of a Nazi Spy

This was a fair show. It helped us pass away the time. The force liked the show. If we had had some people to see it they would have liked the show. The few who saw it went to sleep in the show. There was nothing to it. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 342.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Hardys Ride High, The

Good picture but not as entertaining as others of this series. Business fair but they don't seem to be so hot about Rooney as they were. Nevertheless it's a nice series. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 345.—S. L. George, Mountain Home Theatre, Mountain Home, Ida.

Kid From Texas

A swell picture for the weekend crowds. Drew well. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Let Freedom Ring

Did not make film rental. Nelson Eddy without Jeanette MacDonald is just not enough here. Made a mistake of playing this one on Sunday. Sun., Mon. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 900. Capacity: 250.—Graff Theatre, Onaga, Kas.

Lucky Night

Robert Taylor and Myrna Loy in a good comedy, but this is not the special that Metro would make you believe. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,700. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

On Borrowed Time

Leave it to M-G-M to increase your boxoffice receipts. A different and unusual picture which pleased our patrons. Play this one and you won't go wrong. Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500. —S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Tarzan Finds a Son!

Very good picture which did excellent business. John Sheffield nearly stole the show in this one. Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500.—S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

They All Come Out

A pleasing program picture that the paying critics seemed to like better than the newspaper and trade magazine critics. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Hot. Rural patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

Monogram

Down the Wyoming Trail

Tex Ritter is without a doubt the poorest western star I have ever run. The guy tries to sing, but a poor out at it. But still the public likes him. There are a lot of western stars who need to be kicked out. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 342.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Paramount

Gracie Allen Murder Case

Completely goofy picture that seemed to please the roughnecks. Tried the patience of some of our customers. Did less than average business. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 345.—S. L. George, Mountain Home Theatre, Mountain Home, Ida.

Magnificent Fraud

Average B picture with Tamiroff doing a swell job, but he means nothing at the boxoffice. Used the Louis-Galento fight pictures with this feature and drew in a little extra business. Paramount has been very weak this year. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 345.—S. L. George, Mountain Home Theatre, Mountain Home, Ida.

Man About Town

Very good. In fact the best Benny picture we have shown. Seemed to please everybody but Benny's past poor pictures hurt the draw. Business average. Had some come that had seen the feature before. Is sure to please in any spot. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 345.—S. L. George, Mountain Home Theatre, Mountain Home, Ida.

Man About Town

This is Jack Benny's best picture, but if Rochester, the Negro, had not been in the show it would have been a flop for Paramount. The people got a lot of laughs out of the show. Played to a big house of people. Wed. Weather: Fair. Small town patronage. Admission: 25-10. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 342.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Midnight

Those who came Friday night enjoyed it, but the farmers on Saturday didn't like it. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Silver on the Sage

Not much comment on this one. Hoppy doesn't draw like he once did for some reason, but it's better than the average western. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Rural patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

Some Like It Hot

A good average program from Paramount. It won't pull them in on its own, but will please those who do come. Thurs., Fri. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 240.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

Star Maker, The

A good picture. Have seen Bing Crosby in better. But "Star Maker" has a wonderful cast of young talent. Did not draw for me on Friday, Saturday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 200.—C. A. Kelley, Rex Theatre, Custer City, Okla.

RKO Radio

Bad Lands

A real picture for the action fans. More than just a western. However, the plot is almost a direct steal from RKO's "Lost Patrol." My weekend crowd liked it. Fri., Sat. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-20-10. General patronage. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 360.—Stanley E. Blackburn, Mainstreet Theatre, Fremont, Neb.

Flying Irishman

Played this one double feature with "Sergeant Madden." Corrigan much better flier than an actor. Our patrons think he should stick to flying. "Sergeant Madden" good. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 900. Capacity: 250.—R. W. Graff, Graff Theatre, Onaga, Kas.

In Name Only

It has a swell cast, but the plot is sort of time worn. The women liked it but the men left it alone. Don't bank too heavily on it. Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-20-10. General patronage. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 360.—Stanley E. Blackburn, Mainstreet Theatre, Fremont, Neb.

Republic

In Old Monterey

Good picture and good business. Autry is a real draw. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Man of Conquest

Those who came liked it, but just as I predicted, less business than an average western. Am inclined to think it was the title that scared them. I hate to think Dix slipped so far, as I always liked him. However, truth impels me to say the poorest Friday, Saturday in months and at usual prices. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-25-10. Farmer and family patronage. Population: 2,500. Capacity: 450.—H. E. Rehfield, Iowa Theatre, Bloomfield, Ia.

Woman Doctor

Above average drama from Republic. Pleased the customers, but failed to draw good as it lacked star power. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Woman Doctor

Trite story with a hammy heroine. Put in a western to build it up. Wed. Weather: Fair and hot. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

20th Century-Fox

Chasing Danger

Doubled billed with Republic's "Blue Montana Skies." Good average western by Republic and fair Fox offering in action picture. Fair receipts. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Population: 800. Capacity: 250.—E. B. Wacaster, Ozark Theatre, Ozark, Ark.

Chasing Danger

Just another of that unlimited number of poor fillers for double bills. Took in only enough on two nights to pay for the feature. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-25-20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Horn and Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Frontier Marshal

Just what the small town exhibitor prays for. Sun., Mon. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Jesse James

Still draws 'em in. Don't know whether it's the story, stars or direction, but "Jesse James" has what it takes. Village and rural patronage. Population: 200.—H. C. Allison, Fountain Theatre, Fountain, Mich.

Little Princess

Shirley Temple fading fast here. Our patrons simply do not like an English setting. Sun., Mon. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 900. Capacity: 250.—R. W. Graff, Graff Theatre, Onaga, Kas.

Mr. Moto on Danger Island

Double billed with Republic's "In Old Caliente." People don't like this baby-talking Jap even if the picture is fair. Chan series much better. The Republic western a bit slow but OK. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Population: 800. Capacity: 250.—E. B. Wacaster, Ozark Theatre, Ozark, Ark.

Rose of Washington Square

One of the best crowds in the last two months. But few thought it "stacked up" with "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Thurs., Fri. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 240.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

Young Mr. Lincoln

Very good picture that pleased most of them. This type picture has limited drawing power. Had a Sunday missout so am unable to report receipts, but think it would have done better than average account holiday. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 345.—S. L. George, Mountain Home Theatre, Mountain Home, Ida.

United Artists

King of the Turf

Picture of father and son that is hard to beat. A race that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 900. Capacity: 250.—R. W. Graff, Graff Theatre, Onaga, Kas.

Wuthering Heights

And the balance of UA films mean nothing here. In a small town there are not enough people to enjoy this type of picture. The paying customers want to be entertained. They have enough troubles of their own without spending money to see tragedy. Weather: Fair. Population: 500. Capacity: 150.—H. C. Allison, White Cloud Theatre, White Cloud, Mich.

Warner Bros.

Dodge City

Played this one late, but had three good nights. Nothing but favorable comments on it. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 900. Capacity: 250.—R. W. Graff, Graff Theatre, Onaga, Kas.

Naughty But Nice

This is just another of Warner's pictures. They are out to kill Powell and making a good job of it. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Warm. Family patronage. Population: 7,000. Capacity: 1,000.—W. R. Paarr, Du Page Theatre, Lombard, Ill.

Secret Service of the Air

One swell picture. The first I have played of these series. Hope the rest are as entertaining. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.



EVERYTHING about the Gotham bespeaks gracious living . . . its spacious rooms, its atmosphere of good taste, its superb cuisine. Elegance is apparent; economy not forgotten.

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Selling Seats

PRACTICAL IDEAS BY PRACTICAL SHOWMEN

Press, Radio, Store Tie for "Women"

UTICA, N. Y.—A smashing press, radio and store tieup campaign arranged by Jack Walsh, M-G-M area exploiteer, and Bill Haines, manager of Warner's Stanley here, helped to pile up a good gross for "The Women." A scrambled name contest involving the stars, was held over WIBX for several days before the picture opened. Tickets were awarded to the first ten persons supplying the correct answers —listener response was good, by the way.

Five leading Utica stores cooperated on fashion displays. One did some cooperative advertising. Cooperation of a sports store also was enlisted, for the sports toy angle. Another exploitation stunt was the distribution of 10,000 teaser folders bearing the name of a local fashion shop and captioned "What Do Women Talk About When Alone?" Inside was a suggestion to see the film at the Stanley and learn.

In Albany, Alex Sayles, manager of Fabian's Palace, staged a promotion on "The Women" notable for swell press breaks. One was an eight-column streamer in *The Knickerbocker News*. Radio publicity and plugging helped, too. Sayles worked out a cooperative cosmetics advertisement as part of the drive.

The 10-minute fashion display in Technicolor is said to make tieups with women's stores on the picture a natural.

Big Campaign in Detroit Exploits M-G-M Film

DETROIT—A heavy exploitation campaign was arranged by United Detroit Theatres for "The Women," opening at the United Artists Theatre. The major tieup is for Cunningham's Drug Stores, largest local chain, to have displays in some 80 units on the film. In addition, the stores will give away 50,000 halftones of stars.

M-G-M is using double-trucks in color in local papers, with the *Free Press,* in addition, giving a two-page editorial tieup in color.

Crash St. Louis Newspaper With Eight-Page Section

ST. LOUIS—An eight-page special section was promoted for "The Women" in the *Star-Times,* the first time such a feat has been accomplished in this city in the last 15 years. Harold "Chick" Evens, manager, and Jimmy Harris, press agent of Loew's, were behind the exploitation.

Lipstick remover packages, made up in the form of book matches, were distributed to bridge clubs and various women groups.

Teaser Advertising on Paper's Society Page Plugs Film

WAUSAU, WIS.—The Wausau Theatre here used a unique type of teaser advertising on the society page of the local daily to plug "The Women."



—Metropolitan Photo

Point of Sale Advance—

Extensive coverage in the magazine press is the basis of this eye-arresting display in the Radio City Music Hall lobby in New York, prior to the opening of "Nurse Edith Cavell." mounted on a 40x60 *compo board, the layout consists of breaks from* Life, Screenland, Motion Picture, Silver Screen *and* Hollywood Movies.

'Only Angels Have Wings' Has Exciting Ballyhoo

TILBURY, ONT.—A ballyhoo for "Only Angels Have Wings" that ended up by costing Manager Harland Rankin of the Plaza here two passes, was one of the theatre's most ambitious exploitation campaigns.

Across the street from the theatre a large airplane was suspended, and after hanging there for four days before the opening, it suddenly gave way to the wind, falling in front of a team of horses and badly frightening them. The owner of the horses was given two passes.

NUGGETS

IN AN effort to offset the competition of bowling as much as possible, the State Theatre in Portland, Me., has placed cards, plugging the current picture and house in each alley and is offering passes to high scorers.

•

The M-G-M "Wizard of Oz" caravan recently held a gigantic parade in downtown Indianapolis sponsored by the neighborhood theatres and was received with great enthusiasm. In many of the towns where the caravan toured, schools were in the parade.

•

In New Haven an attention-getting teaser ad on "Espionage Agent" read: "This space is reserved for 'Espionage Agent' . . . See tomorrow's newspaper or call Roger Sherman."

•

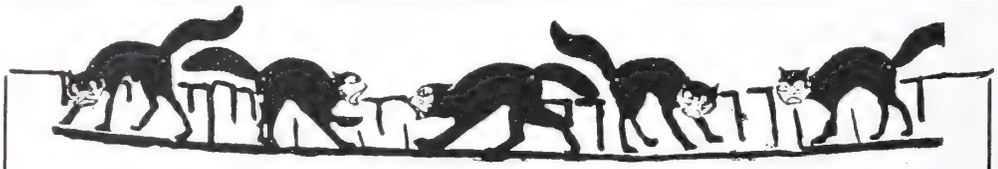
The Strand in Stamford, Conn., offered a five dollar reward to any woman with courage enough to sit in the darkened theatre alone at midnight for a special preview of "The Man They Could Not Hang." Warning is added, "If nervous or frightened easily don't accept but see it at one of the popular performances instead with your husband or boy friend."

•

Gilded bricks with the words "Quick Millions" imprinted thereon were placed at all busy intersections of Salt Lake City and a lobby display pointing to an improvised tunnel off the lobby with shining mineral nuggets lying around inside also made an interesting effect. The exploitation was conducted by Manager Norman Sprowl of the Utah Theatre.

War Lobby Display

NEW HAVEN—Notified of a last-minute booking of "All Quiet on the Western Front," Sam Badamo, College manager, went to work fast. A large, striking 24-sheet went up in the lobby. Cooperation with the National Guard netted an interesting lobby display which included latest type machine guns, and many war implements used in the last World War.



HATS DECORATIONS **HALLOWEEN** FAVORS NOISEMAKERS

HATS	$1.00 Per 100	Serpentine	$2.90 Per 100 Pkgs.
HORNS	$1.00 Per 100	Noisemakers, Asst.	$2.00 Per 100
BALLOONS	$1.00 Per 100	Skeletons	$ .72 Per Doz.
CRICKETS	$1.00 Per 100	Cat Cutouts	$ .72 Per Doz.
BLOWOUTS	$1.00 Per 100	Witches	$ .72 Per Doz.
SQUAWKER BALLOONS	$1.50 Per 100	Halloween Lanterns	$ .84 Per Doz.

F. O. B. Kansas City — Write for Complete Catalog.

OPTICAN BROTHERS

301 W. 9th St. — Kansas City, Mo.

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

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Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5 367
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C

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H

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939, Unless Otherwise Specified.

◎Indicates short of the week.

◎Indicates color.

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All-American Blondes..(..)..Oct. 20
Boom Goes the Groom (17½).....Mar. 24, '39
Mutiny on the Body (17).....Feb. 10, '39
Now It Can Be Sold (17) June 2, '39
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17).....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Swing You Swingers (18).Jan. 20, '39
With Andy Clyde.
Teacher's Pest (..).....Nov. 3
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The Sap Takes a Wrap (15½).....Mar. 10, '39
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18).....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..).....Aug. 11

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Crop Chasers (8).....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (..).....Nov. 3
Happy Tots (7).....Mar. 31
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7).....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7).....May 26
Mountain Ears (..).....Oct. 20
Nell's Yells (7).....June 30
Peaceful Neighbors (8)..Feb. 26, '39
The Gorilla Hunt (8)....Feb. 24, '39
The House That Jack Built (7).....Apr. 14, '39

COLUMBIA TOUR

Big Town Commuters (9).Feb. 3, '39
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions..(..).....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10).....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)...Oct. 27
Sojourn in India (..).....July 7
Morocco (10).....Aug. 11

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 7 Parade of Hits (9).Mar. 24, '39
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11) Apr. 21, '39
No. 9 Songs of the West (10).....May 19, '39
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16
Third Series
No. 3 (..) College Songs.....Oct. 13
No. 4 (..) Stephen Foster Song Nov. 17
No. 5 Friendship Songs (10).....Jan. 27, '39
No. 6 Moon Songs (10)...Feb. 24, '39

FABLES CARTOON

Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6
Park Your Baby (..).....Dec. 22

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

No. 1 Charles Goodyear (..)...Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

No. 1 (10½).....Feb. 22
No. 2 (10½).....Mar. 23
No. 3 (11).....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6. '39
Krazy's Bear Tale (7)...Feb. 17, '39
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6)...May 12, '39

MUSIC HALL VANITIES

(New series)

A Night in a Music Hall (10½).....Jan. 20, '39
A Night at the Troc (10).Mar. 2, '39
Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10).....May 19, '39

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..).....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1

PICTUREGRAPH

No. 1 (..).....Jan. 15, '39

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7)..Apr. 28, '39
Scrappy's Added Attraction (6).....Feb. 3, '39
Scrappy's Rodeo (6).....June 2
Scrappy's Sideshow (7)...Mar. 3, '39

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 17)

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No. 2 (..).....Oct. 20
No. 5 (9).....Jan. 13, '39
No. 6 (10½).....Feb. 17, '39
No. 7 (10).....Mar. 17, '39
No. 8 (9½).....Apr. 8, '39
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No. 10 (10).....May 26
No. 11 (10).....June 29
No. 12 (10).....July 28
No. 1 (..) Art of Make-Up...Sept. 22
No. 2 (..).....Oct. 27
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Bows and Arrows (..).....Sept. 29
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5, '39
Get Ready Navy (10).....Jan. 6, '39
Jai Alai (..).....Nov. 3
Jockeys Up (10½).....June 2
Navy Champions (9½).....Mar. 17
Odd Sports (10).....Feb. 10
Technique of Tennis (8½)...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

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A Ducking They Did Go (16½).....Apr. 7, '39
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½).....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17).....June 30
Three Little Sew and Sews (16).....Jan. 6, '39
We Want Our Mummy (17).....Feb. 24, '39
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16).....May 19, '39

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (..) Smithsonian Institute Oct. 6
No. 2 Inside the White House (11).....Feb. 21, '39
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10).....May 26, '39
No. 4 Library of Congress (10).....Aug. 4

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

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Help Wanted (21).....June 10
Money to Loan (21).....Mar. 11, '39
While America Sleeps (21).....Apr. 15, '39

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In Technicolor

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Colorful Curacao (9).....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Imperial Delhi (8).....Feb. 18
Java Journey (10).....Mar. 18
Picturesque Udaipur (8)..May 13, '39
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29, '39

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A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10)..May 13, '39
Ice Antics (9).....Feb. 11
Love on a Tap (11).....Mar. 18, '39
Prophets Without Honor (11).....May 20, '39
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11)...May 27, '39

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15, '39
Somewhat Secret (21)...Mar. 25, '39

M-G-M CARTOONS

(New Series)

◎Art Gallery (9).....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11).....July 15
Jitterbug Follies (9).....Feb. 25, '39
◎Little Gold Fish (8)...Apr. 15, '39
Mama's New Hat (9).....Feb. 11
◎The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9).....June 10
Wanted No Master (8)...Mar. 18, '39

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY

Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Alfalfa's Aunt (11).....Jan. 7
Auto Antics (10).....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11).....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15, '39
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29, '39
Dog Daze (11).....July 1
Duel Personalities (10)..Mar. 11, '39
Joy Scouts (10).....June 24
Tiny Troubles (10).....Feb. 18

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20, '39
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia..June 24
New Roadways (10).....Jan. 28
Story of Alfred Nobel (11)..Feb. 18
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11).....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10)..Mar. 18
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia.....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9).....July 1
Double Diving (10).....Jan. 14
Football Thrills of 1938 (..).Sept. 16
◎Heroes at Leisure (10)....Feb. 11
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11, '39
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20, '39
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cure (Sepia) (9)....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).....Apr. 8, '39

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9)..Mar. 18, '39
Dark Magic (10).....May 13
Home Early (9).....May 27
How to Eat (10).....June 10
How to Sublet (8).....Jan. 28, '39
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7).May 12, '39
My Friend the Monkey (7).....Jan. 20, '39
Rhythm on the Reservation (7).....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7).Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7)....June 9, '39
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Always Kickin' (7).....Jan. 27, '39
Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21, '39
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8).....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES

(New Series in Cinecolor)

Ecuador (10).....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10).....May 26
Land of Inca Memories (10).Jan. 27
Peru (9).....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

A Song Is Born (10).....Jan. 6, '39
Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10).....Sept. 8
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10).....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Music Through the Years (11).....Feb. 3, '39
Jan Garber and Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10).....May 5, '39
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10).....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10).June 2, '39
Richard Himber and his orchestra.
Three Kings and a Queen (11).....Apr. 7, '39
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Circus Co-Ed (10).....Mar. 10
Farewell Vienna (10).....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10)..Apr. 14, '39
Public Hobby Number One (11).....Sept. 22
Swans (10).....May 19, '39
That's Africa (10).....Feb. 10
Unfinished Symphony (10)...Jan. 13

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 6 (10).....Jan. 6, '39
Great Britain's Kenya Colony, horse gadgets and a visit with Stan Shaw and his Milkman's Matinee.
No. 7 (10).....Feb. 3, '39
The Mexican Charro at play, plumed birds and all about accordions.
No. 8 (10).....Mar. 3
No. 9 (10).....Apr. 7, '39
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11).....May 5, '39
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and song of the year.
No. 11 (10).....June 2, '39
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10).....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

◎Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22).....Apr. 7, '39
Customers Wanted (7).....Jan. 27
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7)..June 16, '39
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7).....July 28, '39
Leave Well Enough Alone (7).....Apr. 28
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19, '39

POPULAR SCIENCE

(In Cinecolor)

No. 3 (10).....Jan. 6, '39
No. 4 (10).....Mar. 10
No. 5 (11).....May 12, '39
No. 6 (11).....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-I (11).....Sept. 15

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10).June 9, '39
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12, '39
Frolicking Frogs (10).....Dec. 23
Hijinks with trained frogs including a jumping contest.
Good Skates (10).....Apr. 14, '39
Ice skating with champions.
Hold Your Breath (10).....Feb. 17
Depicting a novel underwater track meet.
Hydro-Maniacs (10).....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10).....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Two Boys and a Dog (10) Jan. 20, '39
Adventures of two boys and a wire hair terrier on a pack trip in the Rocky Mountains.
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES

The Blue Danube Waltz (10).Sept. 29
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS

(In Color)

No. 1 (11).....Oct. 13
No. 4 (10).....Feb. 3, '39
No. 5 (10).....Apr. 14, '39
No. 6 (Cinecolor) (10)....June 16, '39

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

Autograph Hound, The (8)..Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9, '39
Donald's Cousin Gus (7)..May 19, '39
Donald's Lucky Day (8).Jan. 13, '39
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8).....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Practical Pig (8).....Feb. 24, '39
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
Society Dog Show (8).....Feb. 3, '39
Mickey Mouse enters Pluto in the Society dog show and Pluto does not win.
The Pointer (8).....July 21
◎The Hockey Champ (7).Apr. 7, '39
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15).....May 19, '39
Clock Wise (16).....Mar. 24
Father-in-law's grandfather clock drives Edgar nuts as he unsuccessfully tries to get rid of it.
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28
Maid to Order (18).....Jan. 27, '39
Edgar tries to marry his father-in-law off with amusing complications.

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Swing Vacation (19) .....**Feb. 24, '39**
Sales Slips (17) .....**July 21**

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Crime Rave (18) .....**Jan. 13, '39**
Errol entertains bank bandits at his home without knowing it.
Home Boner (20).....**Mar. 10, '39**
Moving Vanities (17).....**May 5, '39**
Ring Madness (19) .....**June 30, '39**

MARCH OF TIME

No. 6 (18) .....**Jan. 20, '39**
The State of the Nation.
No. 7 (19) .....**Feb. 17**
Young America and Mexico's New Crisis.
No. 8 (18) .....**Mar. 17, '39**
No. 9 (19) .....**Apr. 14, '39**
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20) .....**May 12**
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19) .....**June 9**
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22) .....**July 7**
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18) .....**Aug. 4**
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19) .....**Sept. 1**
Soldiers with wings.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11)....**May 12, '39**
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11) .....**Apr. 14, '39**
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.
Readin, Ritin and Rhythm (10) .....**Feb. 17, '39**
Samovar Serenade (10).....**Mar. 17**
Codolbon & His Gypsy Orchestra, Moscow Choir, Karavaeff, Luba Malina.
Tropical Topics (10).....**Jan. 20, '39**
The Rimacs, Rosita Ortego, Sister Virginia.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11) .....**Sept. 8**

PATHE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16)....**Oct. 20**
Dog-Gone (16) .....**Apr. 21, '39**
Marriage-Go-Round (18).....**July 28**
Plumb Crazy (16).....**Feb. 3**
Pat C. Flick as a plumber causes considerable commotion on a job.

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Big Leaguers (9).....**Apr. 21, '39**
The Chicago Cubs get ready for the pennant chase.
Bow Strings (9) .....**Jan. 27, '39**
Archery.
Devil Drivers (9) .....**June 16, '39**
Kennel Kings (9) .....**Aug. 11**
Riding the Crest (9).....**July 14, '39**
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9)....**May 19, '39**
The golfers show how it's done.
Snow Falls (9) .....**Feb. 24**
A ski picture that's different.

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Ranch House Romeo (17).....**Apr. 7**
Sagebrush Serenade (19).**June 16, '39**

REELISMS (New Series)

Air Waves (10) .....**Mar. 10**
Gold (9) .....**Feb. 10**
Nevada Unlimited (8).....**Sept. 15**
Pack Trip (9) .....**Aug. 18**
Pilot Boat (9) .....**Feb. 3, '39**
Soldiers of the Sea (9)...**Apr. 7, '39**
Swinguet (8) .....**May 26, '39**
Television (9) .....**May 5, '39**
World of Tomorrow (9).....**June 23**
Zoo (9) .....**July 21**

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19).....**July 21**
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) Aug. 18
Daily Diet of Danger (10) Jan. 6, '39
Filming the Fleet (11).....**Oct. 27**
Sand Hogs (10) .....**May 12**

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10).....**Sept. 1**
Clocking the Jockeys (11)....**Nov. 24**
Hunting Dogs (11) .....**Mar. 3, '39**
Inside Baseball (11) .....
Shooting for Par (10) .....**Jan. 6**
Sports Immortals (11).....**June 23**

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11) Aug. 4
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11)..**Nov. 10**

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts, No. 3 (11) .....**Mar. 31, '39**
Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..)..**July 7**
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10).**Sept. 15**
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..)..**Dec. 22**

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10) .....**Sept. 29**
Muscle Maulers (11) .....**Apr. 14**
The Silly Season (..).....**Dec. 8**
What Every Inventor Should Know (10) .....**Jan. 20, '39**

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..) .....**May 26**
Isle of Pleasure (11).....**Feb. 3, '39**
Mystic Siam (10) .....**Mar. 17, '39**
Tempest Over Tunis (11)....**June 9**
The Evergreen Empire (..)..**Oct. 13**
Viking Trail (10) .....**Feb. 17, '39**

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..).....**June 16**
A Mouse and a Million (..)...**Nov. 3**
Africa Squawks (7) .....**June 30**
Barnyard Baseball (7) .....**July 14**
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) May 5
Frozen Feet (7) .....**Feb. 24**
Gandy Goose and G-Man Jitters (7) .....**Mar. 10**
Hook, Line and Sinker (7)..**Sept. 8**
Nick's Coffee Pot (7).....**May 19**
Nutty Network (7) .....**Mar. 24**
One Gun Gary in the Nick of Time (7) .....**Jan. 27**
Sheep in the Meadow (7)....**Sept. 22**
The Cuckoo Bird (7) .....**April 7**
The First Robin (..).....**Dec. 29**
The Golden West (7).....**Aug. 25**
The Hitch-Hiker (..).....**Dec. 1**
The Old Fire Horse (..)....**July 28**
The Orphan Duck (7).....**Oct. 6**
The Owl and the Pussycat (7) .....**Jan. 13, '39**
The Prize Guest (7).....**June 2**
The Three Bears (6).....**Feb. 10**
The Watchdog (..).....**Oct. 20**
Their Last Bean (7).....**April 21**
Two Headed Giant (7)....**Aug. 11**
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) Nov. 17

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (9)..**Sept. 4**
Bird on Nellie's Hat.....**June 19**
Bola Mola Land (7).....**May 29, '39**
Charlie Cuckoo (7).....**Apr. 30, '39**
Crack Pot Cruise (7)....**Apr. 10, '39**
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8) .....**Oct. 9**
Little Tough Mice (7).....**Mar. 13**
Magic Beans (7) .....**Feb. 13**
Nellie of the Circus (7)...**May 8, '39**
One Armed Bandit (7).....**Mar. 27**
Silly Superstition (7).....**Aug. 28**
Slap Happy Valley (7).....**Aug. 21**
Snuffy's Party (7) .....**Aug. 7**
Stubborn Mule (7) .....**July 31**
The Birth of a Toothpick (7) .....**Feb. 27**

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 59 (9) .....**Jan. 30, '39**
No. 60 (10) .....**Feb. 20, '39**
No. 61 (9) .....**Mar. 13**
No. 62 (9) .....**Apr. 10, '39**
No. 63 (9) .....**May 15, '39**
No. 64 (9) .....**June 26, '39**
No. 65 (9) .....**July 17**
No. 66 (9) .....**Sept. 25**
No. 67 (9) .....**Oct. 16**

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19) .....**Mar. 15**
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17) .....**Apr. 12**
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18)...**July 12, '39**
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Nautical Knights (19)..**Jan. 11, '39**
Arthur & Morton Harvel, Moore & Ravel, Judy Starr, Stump and Stumpy, The Khezzis.
Pharmacy Follies (18)...**May 17, '39**
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18).....**June 14**
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17).....**Aug. 9**
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7) .....**Aug. 15**

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 58 (9) .....**Jan. 2**
No. 59 (9) .....**Feb. 6**
No. 60 (9) .....**Mar. 6**
No. 61 (9) .....**Apr. 3**
No. 62 (9) .....**May 1, '39**
No. 63 (9) .....**June 5, '39**
No. 64 (..) .....**July 3**
No. 65 (9) .....**Aug. 7**
No. 66 (8½) .....**Sept. 18**
No. 67 (9) .....**Oct. 9**

TWO REEL MUSICALS

Boy Meets Joy (17).....**Sept. 6**
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Swing Hotel (18) .....**Oct. 18**
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21).....**Sept. 6**

UNIVERSAL NEWS
Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (..).....**Mar. 25**
A Swing Opera (..).....**July 22, '39**
Broadway Buckaroo (20).**June 3, '39**
Home Cheap Home (..).....**Mar. 18**
Projection Room (..) .....**Mar. 4**
Rollin' in Rhythm (..).....**Apr. 15**
Seeing Red (20).....**Aug. 26**
Seeing Spots (20) .....**Apr. 29, '39**
Slapsie Maxie (17).....**Sept. 10**
Sophomore Swing (20).....**Jan. 21**
Small Town Idol (20).....**Feb. 11**
Sundae Serenade (20).....**Feb. 25**
You're Next to Closing (20) .....**May 13, '39**
Wardrobe Girl (..) .....**June 17, '39**

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

For Your Convenience (10) .....**May 20, '39**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10) .....**Sept. 30**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 2 (10) .....**Jan. 7, '39**
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10) .....**Feb. 25**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4 Apr. 22, '39
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (..) .....**June 10, '39**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10) .....**Aug. 5**
Modern Methods (..).....**July 15, '39**
Points on Pointers (9) .....**Jan. 28**
The Roving Camera (10) Mar. 25, '39

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7) .....**Apr. 1**
It's an Ill Wind (7).....**Jan. 28**
Polar Pals (..) .....**June 3, '39**
Porky and Teabiscuit (7).**Apr. 22, '39**
Porky's Hotel (7) .....**Sept. 2**
Porky's Movie Mystery (7)..**Mar. 11**
Porky's Picnic (..) .....**July 15, '39**
Porky's Tire Trouble (7).....**Feb. 18**
The Lone Stranger and Porky (7) .....**Jan. 7, '39**
Christopher Columbus jr. (7) .....**May 13, '39**
Scalp Trouble (..).....**June 24, '39**
Wise Quack (..) .....**Aug. 5, '39**

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10) .....**Apr. 29, '39**
Blue Barron & Orch. (10) Jan. 21, '39
Clyde Lucas & Orch. (10) Jan. 7, '39
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10) .....**Mar. 18**
Dave Apollon and His Orchestra (11) .....**Dec. 24**
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (..) .....**Apr. 8**
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10) .....**Aug. 12**
Jerry Livingston & Orchestra (10) .....**Feb. 4**
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10) .....**May 20, '39**
Leith Stevens & Orch. (..) .....**June 10, '39**
Rita Rio & Orch. (..)....**July 1, '39**
Russ Morgan & Orchestra (11) .....**Feb. 25**
Swing Styles (10).....**Sept. 2**
Will Osborne & Orch. (..) .....**July 22, '39**

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

A Day at the Zoo (7).....**Mar. 11**
Bars and Stripes Forever (7).**Apr. 8**
Believe It or Else (..)..**June 3, '39**
Count Me Out (7) .....**Dec. 17**
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7) .....**Apr. 22, '39**
Dangerous Dan McFoo (..) .....**July 15, '39**
Detouring America (7).....**Aug. 26**
Dog Gone Modern (7)....**Jan. 14, '39**
Goldrush Daze (7) .....**Feb. 25**
Ham-Ateur Night (7) ....**Jan. 28, '39**
Hare-um Scare-um (7).....**Aug. 12**
Little Brother Rat (7).....**Sept. 2**
Naughty But Mice (7)....**May 20, '39**
Old Glory (..) .....**July 1, '39**
Prest-O Change-O (7).....**Mar. 25**
Robinhood Makes Good (7)..**Feb. 11**
Sioux Me (7) .....**Sept. 9**
Snow Man's Land (..)..**July 29, '39**
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7) May 6, '39

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (..).....**Aug. 12, '39**
Lincoln in the White House (21) .....**Feb. 11, '39**
Quiet Please (..) .....**July 1, '39**
Sons of the Plains (19).**July 30, '39**
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20).....**May 20, '39**
Swingtime in the Movies (20) .....**Jan. 7, '39**
Fun on the Warner lot with Fritz Feld, Katherine Kane, John Carroll, Charles Foy and Jerry Colonna.

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10)....**Feb. 18**

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (..).**Apr. 15, '39**
Dean of the Pasteboards (10) .....**May 27**
Gadgeteers (10) .....**Feb. 18**
One Day Stand (10).....**Aug. 19**
Tax Trouble (10) .....**Mar. 18, '39**
Ski Girl (10) .....**Jan. 14, '39**
Vote Trouble (10).....**Sept. 9**
Witness Trouble (..)....**July 29, '39**

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11)..**Mar. 4**
Chained (..) .....**Apr. 1**
Haunted House (..).....**June 3, '39**
High Peril (12) .....**Feb. 18**
Lives in Peril (..).....**July 7, '39**
The Human Bomb (12)....**Jan. 7, '39**
Three-Minute Fuse (..)..**July 29, '39**
Verge of Disaster (10).....**Aug. 26**
Voodoo Fires (11) .....**May 6**

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician...**May 6, '39**
12 chapters.

Secret of Treasure Island...**Mar. 17**
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.

The Shadow (..) .....**Oct. 27**
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters .....**June 10, '39**
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.

Dick Tracy's G-Men .....**Sept. 2**
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.

Lone Ranger Rides Again Feb. 25, '39
15 Chapters. Robert Livingston, Jinx Falken, Chief Thunder Cloud.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers .....**Apr. 11, '39**
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.

Oregon Trail (15 chapters)...**July 4**
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.

Scouts to the Rescue....**Jan. 17, '39**
12 Chapters. Jackie Cooper, Jack Mulhall, Vondell Darr, Bill Cody jr.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol ❶ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography.

	JUNE 17	JUNE 24	JULY 1	JULY 8	JULY 15	JULY 22
COLUMBIA	15 Comedy 1072 **Awful Truth** (92) reissue Irene Dunne 15 Western 9207 **Western Caravans** (58) C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—July 1	20 Action Drama 9012 **Clouds Over Europe** (79) (Form. "Q" Planes) Laurence Olivier Valerie Hobson R—June 10	29 Drama 9032 **Parents on Trial** (57) Parker-Downs; R-July 8 30 Comedy 9005 **Good Girls Go to Paris** (73); R-June 24 J. Blondell-M. Douglas		15 Western 9208 **Man From Sundown** (59) Starrett-Meredith R—Aug. 5 10 Drama 9025 **A Woman Is the Judge** (60) Hudson-Kruger; R-July 8	20 Comedy 9010 **Blondie Takes a Vacation** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 22
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	16 Action Drama 939 **Tarzan Finds a Son!** (81) Johnny Weissmuller Maureen O'Sullivan R—June 3	23 Comedy 940 **Maisie** (74) Ann Sothern Robert Young R—June 17	30 Drama 941 **Stronger Than Desire** (77) Virginia Bruce Walter Pidgeon R—July 1	7 Drama 942 ❶**On Borrowed Time** (99) Lionel Barrymore Bobs Watson R—July 8	14 Drama 943 **They All Come Out** (70) Rita Johnson Tom Neal R—July 8	21 Comedy 94 **Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever** (87) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone R—July 15
MONOGRAM			1 Action Drama 3814 **Stunt Pilot** (62) John Trent Marjorie Reynolds R—July 8			21 Western 386 **Man From Texas** (60) Tex Ritter R—Aug. 12
PARAMOUNT	16 Drama 3841 **Invitation to Happiness** (99) Irene Dunne Fred MacMurray R—May 20	23 Melodrama 3842 **Grand Jury Secrets** (68) J. Howard-G. Patrick R—May 20 23 Western 3843 **Heritage of Desert** (73) D. Woods-E. Venable R—Mar. 25	30 Melodrama 3844 **Bulldog Drummond's Bride** (57) John Howard Heather Angel R—June 24	7 Musical 3845 **Man About Town** (85) Jack Benny Dorothy Lamour R—June 17	14 Com. with Music 3846 **Million Dollar Legs** (63) Betty Grable Jackie Coogan R—July 15	21 Action Drama 384 **Magnificent Fraud** (78) Akim Tamiroff Lloyd Nolan Patricia Morison R—July 1
REPUBLIC		23 Western 856 **In Old Caliente** (57) Roy Rogers; R-July 15 21 Western 867 **Wyoming Outlaw** (52) Three Mesquiteers R—July 15		3 Drama 814 **Mickey, the Kid** (66) Bruce Cabot-Tommy Ryan R—July 1	15 Musical Comedy 815 **She Married a Cop** (65) Phil Regan-Jean Parker R—July 1	
RKO RADIO	16 Melodrama 926 **Girl and the Gambler** (62) (For. The Dove) Steffi Duna Leo Carrillo R—June 10	23 Drama 927 **Five Came Back** (75) Chester Morris Wendy Barrie R—June 10	30 Mystery Drama 929 **Saint in London** (70) Geo. Sanders Sally Grey R—July 1 30 Western 985 **Timber Stampede** (58) G. O'Brien - M. Reynolds R—June 24	7 Melodrama 930 **Career** (78) Anne Shirley Edward Ellis R—July 1	14 Drama 993 **Of Human Bondage** (83) (Reissue) Leslie Howard-B. Davis 14 Drama 994 **Lost Squadron**(79)reissue Joel McCrea-Richard Dix	21 Musical 9 **Way Down South** (62) Bob Breen-Alan Mowb R—July 22
20TH-FOX	16 Melodrama 948 **Charlie Chan in Reno** (71) Sidney Toler Phyllis Brooks R—June 3	23 Com. Drama 954 **Susannah of the Mounties** (78) Shirley Temple Randolph Scott R—June 17	30 Comedy Drama 950 **It Could Happen to You** (72) Stuart Erwin Gloria Stuart R—June 3	7 Melodrama 952 **Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation** (65) Peter Lorre Virginia Field R—Nov. 19	14 Musical Comedy 949 **Second Fiddle** (85) Sonja Henie Tyrone Power R—July 8	21 Action Drama 9 **News Is Made at Night**(P. Foster-L. Bari R—July 8 21 Mystery Drama 8 **Ware Case, The** (72) Clive Brook-Jane Bax R—July 29
UNITED ARTS						
UNIVERSAL			30 Melodrama 3038 **House of Fear** (66) William Gargan Irene Hervey R—May 20	7 Drama 3031 **Forgotten Woman** (68) Sigrid Gurie Donald Briggs R—July 8	14 Comedy 3008 **Unexpected Father** (89) (For. Sandy Takes a Bow) Baby Sandy-Mischa Auer R—July 22	21 Drama 3 **I Stole a Million** (78) George Raft Claire Trevor R—July 22
WARNER-F.N.	17 Com. M-Drama WB324 **Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter** (69) Bonita Granville John Litel R—July 15	24 Action Drama FN363 **Kid From Kokomo** (92) Wayne Morris Joan Blondell R—May 27	1 Com.-Music WB311 **Naughty But Nice** (90) Ann Sheridan Dick Powell R—June 10	8 Action Drama WB312 **Hell's Kitchen** (81) Dead End Kids Margaret Lindsay R—June 24	15 Action Drama WB325 **Waterfront** (59) Denis Morgan Gloria Dickson R—July 1	22 Drama FN **Daughters Courageou** (107) Lane Sisters John Garfield R—June 24
MISCELLANEOUS	16 Musical Astor **Everything Is Rhythm** (60) Harry Roy-Princess Pearl	23 Melodrama Astor **U-67** (65) Allan Hale		2 Drama Astor **Out of Singapore** (74) Noah Beery-M. Love		

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

JULY 29	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 12	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2
Action Drama **9033** **Behind Prison Gates** (62) (For. Escape From Alcatraz) Lillian Donlevy Jacqueline Wells R—Aug. 5	4 Action Drama **9008** **Coast Guard** (72) Randolph Scott Frances Dee R—Aug. 19		17 Melodrama **9018** **Man They Could Not Hang** (64) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 19	22 Comedy Drama **9017** **Five Little Peppers** (60) Edith Fellows 23 Western **9209** **Riders of Black River** (59) C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	30 Wild Horse **9034** **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (65)
Drama **945** **Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (114) Robert Donat R-May 20	4 Drama **946** **Miracles for Sale** (70) Robert Young Florence Rice Henry Hull R—Aug. 5	11 Drama **947** **Lady of the Tropics** (91) Hedy LaMarr Robt. Taylor R—Aug. 12	18 Comedy Drama **948** **These Glamour Girls** (79) Lew Ayres-Lana Turner Anita Louise R—Aug. 26	25 Comedy Fantasy **949** **Wizard of Oz** (102) Judy Garland Frank Morgan R—Aug. 19	1 Comedy Drama **1** **The Women** (134) Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 2
	1 Mystery **3807** **Mr. Wong in Chinatown** (70) Boris Karloff Grant Withers Mary Reynolds R—July 22		15 Drama with Mus. **3825** **Girl From Rio** (62) Movita-Warren Hull R—Aug. 12 16 Western **3866** **Riders of Frontier** (58) Tex Ritter R—Sept. 9	25 Western **3856** **Oklahoma Terror** (52) Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 22 Melodrama **3826** **Irish Luck** (61) F. Darro-D. Purcell R—Aug. 26	
Drama **3848** **Land of Lost Men** (64) Ella May Wong R-July 29	4 Comedy **3849** **Night Work** (62) Mary Boland Charles Ruggles R—Aug. 12	11 Comedy Drama **3850** **Our Leading Citizen** (90) Bob Burns Susan Hayward R—Aug. 5	18 Melodrama **3865** **This Man Is News** (75) Barry K. Barnes V. Hobson R—July 29 18 Western **3859** **Renegade Trail** (58) William Boyd R. Hayden R—July 29	25 Musical Comedy **3851** **Star Maker** (94) Bing Crosby Louise Campbell R—Aug. 19	1 Melodrama **3901** **Death of a Champion** (66) Lynne Overman Virginia Dale R—Sept. 2
Comedy **816** **Should Husbands Work?** (72) Wilson Family Lee Wilson R—July 22	31 Western **846** **Colorado Sunset** (64) Gene Autry-S. Burnette R—Aug. 5	10 Western **868** **New Frontier** (56) Three Mesquiteers R—Aug. 19	14 Western **847** **In Old Monterey** (70) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—July 29	21 Action Drama **825** **Smuggled Cargo** (61) Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay R—Aug. 26	28 Drama **9111** **Flight at Midnight** (66) Phil Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner R—Sept. 2
Melodrama **931** **Gambler** (70) Tracy-Barbara Read R—July 15	4 Comedy **932** **Bachelor Mother** (81) Ginger Rogers David Niven R—July 1	11 Western **933** **Bad Lands** (65) R. Barrat-N. Berry jr. R—July 29	18 Drama **936** **In Name Only** (92) Carole Lombard Cary Grant Kay Francis R—Aug. 12		1 Melodrama **935** **Conspiracy** (59) Allan Lane-Linda Hayes R—Sept. 2
Outdoor Drama **951** **Frontier Marshal** (70) Randolph Scott Nancy Barnes R—July 29	4 Comedy Drama **001** **Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women** (82) Ann Sothern James Ellison R—July 29	11 Comedy Drama **002** **Chicken Wagon Family** (65) Jane Withers Leo Carrillo Marjorie Weaver R—Aug. 19	18 Adventure Drama **003** **Stanley and Livingstone** (100) Spencer Tracy Nancy Kelly Richard Greene R—Aug. 5	25 Comedy **004** **Quick Millions** (61) (The Jones Family) Jed Prouty Spring Byington R—Aug. 5	1 Detective Drama **005** **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (85) Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26
Comedy **Barker Carnival** (90) Ann Sheridan Richard Carlson R—July 22	4 Drama **Four Feathers** (109) Ralph Richardson June Duprez R—June 24	11 Melodrama **Man in the Iron Mask** (110) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—July 8	18 Drama with Music **They Shall Have Music** (120) Andrea Leeds Joel McCrea Jascha Heifetz R—July 15		
		11 Drama **3003** **When Tomorrow Comes** (90) Charles Boyer Irene Dunne R—Aug. 19			1 Comedy Drama **Under-Pup** (88) Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey R—Sept. 2 1 Outdoor Drama **4051** **Mutiny on the Black Hawk** (66) R—June 24 R. Arlen-A. Devine
Comedy **FN366** **Boy Quarterback** (56) Wheeler Dickson R—July 8	5 Melodrama **WB315** **Indianapolis Speedway** (82) Ann Sheridan Pat O'Brien R—July 15	12 Comedy **WB326** **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (59) Jane Wyman Allen Jenkins R—Aug. 5	19 Drama **FN356** **Each Dawn I Die** (92) James Cagney Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan R—July 22	26 Comedy **FN376** **Hobby Family, The** (54) Irene Rich-H. O'Neill R—Aug. 26 26 Drama **FN367** **Angels Wash Their Faces** (96) Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5	2 Drama **FN452** **The Old Maid** (95) Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins R—Aug. 5

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

Booking Chart

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	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14
COLUMBIA	5 Drama 9002 **Golden Boy** (100) Stanwyck-Holden R—Aug. 19 7 Mystery Drama 1025 **Hidden Power** (60) Jack Holt-Gert. Michael R—May 29	14 Western 1201 **Outpost of the Mounties** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredith (63)	21 Drama 1015 **Those High Grey Walls** (82) Walter Connolly Iris Meredith R—Sept. 30		7 Action Drama **U-Boat 29** (77) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23	
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	8 Melodrama 5 **Blackmail** (79) Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16	15 Drama 4 **Thunder Afloat** (94) Wallace Beery Chester Morris Virginia Grey R—Sept. 23		29 Comedy Drama 3 **Dancing Co-ed** (81) Lana Turner Richard Carlson R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 6 **Fast and Furious** (..) Ann Sothern Franchot Tone	13 Comedy Drama **Ninotchka** (..) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas
MONOGRAM		12 Action Drama 3815 **Sky Patrol** (61) John Trent Marjorie Reynolds R—Sept. 23		30 Documentary **Fight for Peace** (68)	1 Outdoor Drama **Crashing Thru** (..) James Newell Jean Carmen	10 Drama 38 **Mutiny in the Big Hou** (..) Chas. Bickford Barton MacLane
PARAMOUNT	8 Western 3954 **Range War** (66) Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden **R—Aug. 12**	15 Drama 3902 **Beau Geste** (114) Gary Cooper Ray Milland **R—July 29**	22 Comedy 3903 **$1,000 a Touchdown** (71) Joe E. Brown Martha Raye R—Sept. 30	29 Comedy Drama 3904 **Honeymoon in Bali** (96) **(For. My Love for Yours)** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16	6 Comedy 3905 **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23	13 Drama 39 **Jamaica Inn** (106) Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**
REPUBLIC	6 Western 857 **Wall Street Cowboy** (66) Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9		21 Melodrama 912 **Calling All Marines** (65) Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16	29 Western 951 **Arizona Kid** (61) Roy Rogers Sally March R—Oct. 7	6 Western 961 **Kansas Terrors** (..) Three Mesquiteers	13 Action Drama **Sabotage** (..) Arleen Whelan Gordon Oliver
RKO RADIO	8 Western 986 **Fighting Gringo** (60) Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2 8 Drama 003 **Full Confession** (72) V. McLaglen-S. Eilers R—Aug. 26	15 Comedy 002 **Day the Bookies Wept** (65) Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9	22 Comedy Drama 934 **Fifth Avenue Girl** (80) Ginger Rogers James Ellison R—Aug. 26	29 Drama 001 **Nurse Edith Cavell** (95) Anna Neagle George Sanders R—Aug. 26	6 Musical 946 **Everything's on Ice** (65) Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9	13 Drama **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis Virginia Vale R—Sept. 30
20TH-FOX	8 Melodrama 006 **Charlie Chan at Trea-** **sure Island** (73) Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore **R—Aug. 12**	15 Drama 011 **The Rains Came** (103) Myrna Loy-Tyrone Power George Brent R—Sept. 16	22 Comedy 008 **Stop, Look and Love** (57) Jean Rogers William Frawley R—Sept. 2	29 Drama 009 **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Nancy Kelly R—Sept. 30	6 Drama 010 **The Escape** (60) Kane Richmond Allan Duff	13 Musical ©**Hollywood Cavalcad** Alice Faye-Don Ame R—Oct. 7 13 Drama **Road to Glory** (95) (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter
UNITED ARTS			22 Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story** (65) Leslie Howard Ingrid Bergman John Halliday R—Oct. 7	29 Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) Gary Cooper Andrea Leeds R—Sept. 23		12 Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) Loretta Young David Niven R—Oct. 7
UNIVERSAL	8 Musical Comedy **Hawaiian Nights** (64) Downs-Carlisle R—Aug. 26 8 Western 4058 **Desperate Trails** (58) John Mack Brown Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight	15 Drama 4017 **Two Bright Boys** (70) Jackie Cooper Freddie Bartholomew R—Sept. 23 8 Musical 4044 **Mikado** (92) Kenny Baker; R-Jan. 7	22 Melodrama 4027 **The Witness Vanishes** (66) E. Lowe-W. Barrie	29 Drama **Rio** (75) Sigrid Gurie Basil Rathbone R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 4035 **Hero for a Day** (69) Anita Louise-Dick Foran	13 Melodrama **Tower of London** (. Basil Rathbone Boris Karloff 13 Drama **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16
WARNER-F.N.	9 Com. Melo. WB419 **Nancy Drew and the** **Hidden Staircase** (60) Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas R—Aug. 26	16 Drama FN **Dust Be My Destiny** (88) John Garfield Priscilla Lane **R—Aug. 19**	23 Comedy FN469 **No Place to Go** (57) Fred Stone Gloria Dickson Denis Morgan R—Sept. 23	30 Melodrama WB415 **A Child Is Born** (79) Geraldine Fitzgerald Gladys George Jeffrey Lynn **R—Aug. 5**	30 Melodrama FN462 **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30 7 Melodrama WB418 **Pride of the Blue Grass** (65) R—Sept. 23 E. Fellows-J. McCallion	14 Musical **On Your Toes** (..) Zorina-Eddie Albert
MISCELLANEOUS						

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25
COLUMBIA					
9 Comedy Drama **1101** **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (..)** Jean Arthur James Stewart 6 Drama **Scandal Sheet (..)** Kruger-O. Munson	24 Comedy **Beware Spooks! (..)** Joe E. Brown Mary Carlisle	2 Comedy **Blondie Brings Up Baby (..)** Penny Singleton Arthur Lake 2 Western **Stranger From Texas (..)** Charles Starrett			23 Comedy Drama **Incredible Mr. Williams (..)** Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas
GRAND NAT'L					
MGM					
Comedy **8** **the Circus (..)** Marx Bros. Florence Rice	27 Comedy Drama **Looking After Sandy (..)** Virginia Weidler Henry Hull				
MONOGRAM					
Western **Riders of Destiny (..)** (Reissue) John Wayne Western **Sagebrush Trail (..)** (Reissue) John Wayne	25 Action Drama **3816** **Danger Flight (..)** John Trent	31 Western **3857** **Overland Mail (..)** Jack Randall			
PARAMOUNT					
Drama **3907** **Television Spy (..)** William Henry	27 Drama **3908** **Disputed Passage (..)** Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff John Howard	3 Western **3955** **Law of the Pampas (..)** Wm. Boyd	10 Drama **Geronimo (..)** Preston Foster Ellen Drew	17 Drama **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	24 Melodrama **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7
REPUBLIC					
RKO RADIO					
Comedy **010** **Flying Deuces (..)** Laurel & Hardy	27 Outdoor Drama **006** **Allegheny Uprising** (..) John Wayne Claire Trevor	3 Drama **061** **Queen of Destiny** (95) (For. 60 Glorious Years) Anna Neagle Anton Walbrook R—Nov. 26, '38	3 Western **081** **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7 10 Drama **Meet Dr. Christian (..)** J. Hersholt-D. Lovett	17 Drama **008** **Reno (..)** Richard Dix Gail Patrick	24 Musical **That's Right, You're Wrong (..)** Kay Kyser and Orch.
20TH-FOX					
Comedy **018** **Hotyard Sally (80)** Jackie Fields Howard Comedy **014** **Now Up Your Troubles (..)** Jane Withers	27 Action Drama **013** **20,000 Men a Year (..)** Randolph Scott Martha Healy 27 Documentary **062** **First World War** (73) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34	3 Drama **019** **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford R—Oct. 7	10 Drama **015** **Drums Along the Mohawk (..)** Claudette Colbert Henry Fonda	17 Comedy **016** **Too Busy to Work** (..) Jones Family	24 Comedy Drama **020** **Day-Time Wife** (..) Tyrone Power Brenda Joyce
UNITED ARTS.					
	26 Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughter** (80) Joan Bennett-Wm. Gargan Adolphe Menjou R—Sept. 16				
UNIVERSAL					
Comedy with Music **Her Love (..)** Deanna Durbin Western **4059** **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) Tim Mack Brown	20 Comedy **Little Accident** (..) Sandy Henville Florence Rice 27 Drama **Green Hell (..)** Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett	3 Action Drama **One Hour to Live** (60) Charles Bickford Doris Nolan John Litel R—Sept. 16	10 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again (..)** Marlene Dietrich James Stewart	17 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns (..)** N. Grey-V. Price 17 Melodrama **Legion of Lost Flyers (..)** R. Arlen-A. Devine	24 Western **Chip of the Flying U** (..) Johnny Mack Brown
WARNER-F.N.					
Melodrama **Saving the Money** Craig (..) Ronald Reagan Bruce Stevenson	28 Drama **Roaring Twenties** (..) James Cagney Priscilla Lane	4 Comedy Drama **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman	11 Drama **WB** **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7	18 Comedy Drama **Lady Dick** (..) Jane Wyman-Dick Foran	25 Drama **We Are Not Alone** (..) Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson
MISCELLANEOUS					

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	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 6
COLUMBIA						
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM						
MONOGRAM						
PARAMOUNT	[1] Comedy **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (..) Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter	[8] Western **Llano Kid** (..) Tito Guizar **Gale Sondergaard**	[15] Musical Comedy **St. Martin's Lane** (..) Chas. Laughton Vivien Leigh	[22] Fantasy **Dr. Cyclops** (..) Albert Dekker Janice Logan	[29] Action Drama **Untamed** (..) Ray Milland Patricia Morison	
REPUBLIC						
RKO RADIO						
20TH-FOX	[1] Melodrama 021 **Charlie Chan in City of Darkness** (..) S. Toler-L. Bari [1] Melodrama 022 **Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday** (..) G. Harker-A. Sims	[8] Drama 023 **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly	[15] Comedy Drama 024 **Honeymoon's Over** (..) Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver	[22] Drama 025 **Blue Bird** (..) Shirley Temple Sybil Jason		
UNITED ARTS.						
UNIVERSAL	[1] Melodrama **Missing Evidence** (64) Preston Foster Irene Hervey R—Oct. 7					
WARNER-F.N.						
MISCELLANEOUS						

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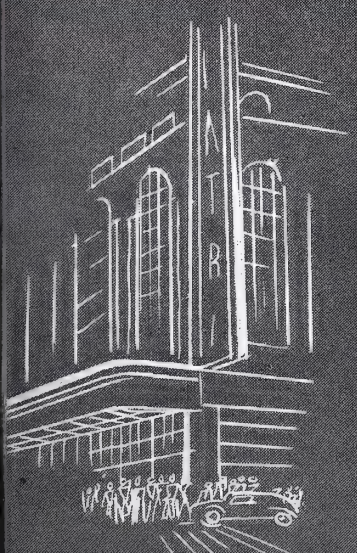
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for backgrounds and general exterior work

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

OCTOBER 14, 1939 25c Per Copy. Per Year $7.50 in U. S. and Canada. Foreign $10. NATIONAL EDITION



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"THUNDER AFLOAT" climbed into the Big Hit class. Theatres stressing timely submarine warfare, how the U-boats are destroyed! Wallace Beery's best since "Hell Divers." Comedy and thrills!

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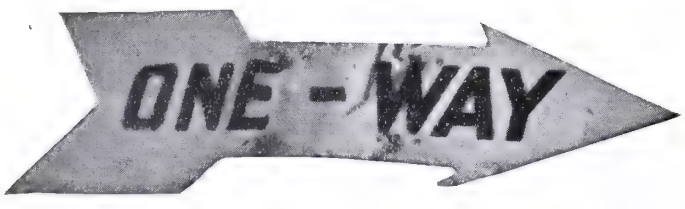
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"REMEMBER?" (*Robert Taylor, Greer Garson, Lew Ayres*). It was sneak previewed and wowed the audience. A grand comedy. Greer Garson's first since "Chips."

"NORTHWEST PASSAGE". Technicolor. (*Spencer Tracy, Robert Young, Walter Brennan*). The studio previewed it in a theatre in rough-cut form. It's sensational.

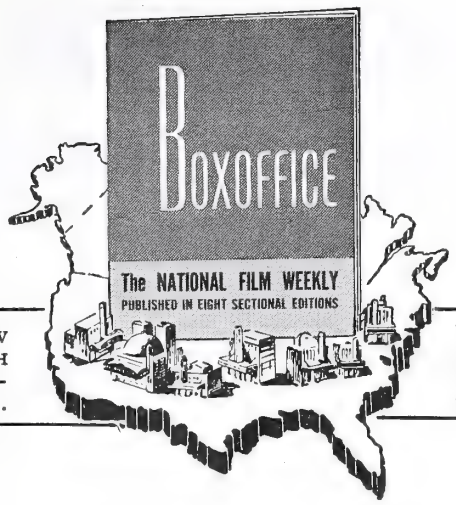
"ANOTHER THIN MAN". (*William Powell, Myrna Loy and Asta*). It's shaping up into their best yet! Watch!

More in our next issue of TODAY!



M-G-M

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THERE IS A WAY

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK issued a statement. Then he left Hollywood for Mexico and points south. He stressed the need for theatremen to help the producer in this emergency situation by extending their playing time. A normal one-week attraction stretched over two weeks. The three-day dates blown up to six.

While Schenck, who spoke on behalf of the Motion Picture Producers' Association and, thus, obviously on behalf of all the majors on the coast, was traveling, BOXOFFICE was journeying around the country on its own. Its correspondents discovered a wide approval of the Schenck suggestion. They also ran into hurdles, handicaps and caustic criticism. Like this:

The major circuits, united as one in their reactions, maintain it is normal business with them to play the product for whatever the load can carry. They hold over now; they always have—in short, they maintain this is an old story with them. Those showmen who trail the first runs in the downtowns everywhere as well as the first runs in the neighborhood zones generally declare they are for the plan. There they leave it, but not before pointing out the celluloid allows no further wringing, because by the time they get it the moisture, which is a way of referring to possibilities, is all but gone.

Nowhere apparent in the coast suggestion is an answer which might make the scheme effective, bring the producer more money and make the rank-and-file exhibitor a happier business man. But there is an answer, obvious enough to write about, far more difficult to bring about.

It deals with clearances and the exorbitant and unwarranted protection which the top theatres and their in-chain allies enjoy to the frequent detriment of those trailing. The most rabid opponent of the current clearance setup, so far as this observer is aware, has no substantial argument against the system, per se. Apparent enough is the right of the 5,000-seat theatre paying anywhere from $7,500 to $30,000 a week in film rental to enjoy safeguards over the 25-cent house paying a couple of hundred. This is not the difficulty.

The trouble develops over the inequities springing from the first taste of blood and the iron heel demands grown out of mass buying power which result in a majority exhibitor vote in opposition to the current system as a nationwide survey conducted by this publication only recently revealed.

It has long been apparent to those who would stop to look that the condition, some day and by some method applied in or out of the industry, must be relieved through reasonable adjustment. In these pressure days when many steps, sensible and stupid, are talked about and when some, intelligent and short-sighted, are undertaken, a proper direction in which to turn for a further way out of the clouded scene might very well deal with clearances. More particularly does it bear on the extended playing time appeal on which producers currently appear to be pinning hope.

There is little reason to believe any disaster can be near in an unwinding process under which the circuits relinquish a small portion of their out-of-proportion advantages. They will not suffer because they will not, nor should they be expected to, give up enough to feel the pinch.

Whatever runs they may elect for the product need undergo no interference. Yet, by permitting that product to reach the far-down-the-liners while it continues reasonably fresh, they would make extended playing time possible for hundreds, perhaps thousands of exhibitors, and profitable for all those who may be involved.

Kann

"BIG STICK" STILL SWINGING; THREE NEW ACTIONS AGAINST IND'P'T CIRCUITS IMPEND

Silent on Details: See Industry Suit Delayed Until Next March

NEW YORK—Official sources connected with the department of justice intimate the three new suits planned against independent circuit operators will be filed in the next two weeks. Names and places are withheld and efforts to secure such information meet with no results.

It is admitted now there is no possibility of the all-industry suit pending here coming to trial before next March, at the earliest. Preliminary motions and arguments will hold up the case until that time, it is held.

Although the government has been hoping for an early trial, distributor attorneys, time and again, have voiced the opinion the all-inclusive suit would not come up before next spring because of the various preliminaries.

Government May Retain An Outside Lawyer

NEW YORK—Reports current in the federal building downtown have it that the "Big Stick" is interested in retaining a prominent attorney of the calibre of Max D. Steuer for the prosecution of the all-industry suit. Efforts to check with department of justice officials are useless, the department maintaining silence as it does in matters of this kind. Paul Williams, in charge of the industry case under Thurman Arnold, has been expected from Washington but of late his arrivals and departures are cloaked in secrecy and associates downtown say they are without official knowledge of his whereabouts from time to time.

Steuer's name has been brought up, but the general belief among film counsel is the government will not meet his fees. Additionally, it is held, Steuer does not need the publicity which may accrue from the case.

David Podell, who has been identified with a number of film cases, already has been working for the "Big Stick" in an advisory capacity on the big suit. While some attorneys are inclined to believe Podell may try the case for Arnold, opinion among others leans toward the belief a man of greater prominence in law ultimately will be called in to handle it.

There is no indication when the suit will come to trial. Some film men say it will be next fall and after the Schine and Griffiths' case. Others have a feeling that, as soon as the question of answering the A to Z quiz is disposed of, Senior Judge John C. Knox will name a federal judge, either from this or an adjacent district to hear the case. Arguments on the interrogatories will be held Tuesday in the motions court with distributors seeking the right to answer only those questions relevant to the suit and not to particularize on the general business of each company. Counsel for the majors will point out the amount of time an investigation to answer all the questions and the amount of money attendant to the findings will take. Most of it can be eliminated if the non-essentials were to be disposed of at this time, they say.

Meanwhile, counsel for each of the majors now is delving into the files, gathering available material for the interrogatories. The questions dip into every branch of the business and many of the records required are not in New York.

On Tuesday, Thomas Cook of Cravath, de Gersdorf, Swaine & Wood, assisted by Willard S. McKay, argued for the Schine

(Continued on page 14)

Will Make 'Em for Market, Not for Studio's Delight



NEW YORK—Columbia's efforts to establish an "exhibitor's studio" will embrace a policy of "not producing pictures for the satisfaction of anyone at the studio" coupled with a production formula of "lighter films that lend themselves to a variety type program."

This conclusion manifested itself following a conference between Columbia executives and leading theatre operators who were invited to give their views on production merits as they bear on the boxoffice, Abe Montague, general sales manager, advises. He declares the exchange of views at the session are deemed to be of such value that Harry Cohn, president, who sat in on the meeting, is prepared to fly east from the coast to attend the next conference.

Montague states the exhibitors that he, Harry and Jack Cohn spoke with laid particular stress on the importance of paying "as much attention to the so-called 'double-bill picture' as 'A' product, from a production, boxoffice and publicity standpoint." This view, he adds, stems from the observation that a film often regarded by studios as of mere "B" potentialities turns out to be "excellent boxoffice."

Aim at Audience of 17 to 27

Another observation deemed by Montague to be of particular significance is that studios should build pictures that "play to the biggest audiences." By that, Montague says the exhibitor group means stories aimed at patrons between the ages of 17 and 27 should find the largest potential returns.

"The logic of the men we spoke to is that once you build a film with appeal directed to the older generation you largely limit its possibilities to that strata. But stories that fit into the 17 to 27 category will always interest the older generation. In other words, old age is interested in youth, not vice versa."

If the views of the exhibitors Montague and the Cohns conferred with are to be interpreted as reflecting the situation generally, then "there are too many heavy type pictures on the market. I'm referring to too much physical action," Montague says. "We are going to lighten up these heavy films," he adds.

The "steering committee," as Montague refers to the exhibitors who attended the conference, emphasized the importance of cooperating with distributors in publicity that attends the release and showing of films. "These men say they are against taking a 'free ride' on the distributors," Montague asserts. "They recognize the benefits to be derived from meeting the distributors' expenditures when it comes to selling a picture locally."

Considerable value is attached to the observations of the steering committee as it bears on (1) what may be wrong with the average picture, (2) what has been or should be left out, and (3) what type of publicity should accompany the release of particular pictures, Montague says.

"All of these factors play an important part in the program of exhibitors and we regard the information we have received of inestimable value," the general sales manager states. Another session with the same men who attended the first conference as well as additional exhibitor leaders will be held in the near future.

50-80% OF U. K. REVENUE MAY BE FROZEN; PRESAGES SWEEPING READJUSTMENTS HERE

Expect Briefs in B&K Suit Soon

CHICAGO—Briefs in support of the government's contempt proceedings against B&K and the majors are expected to be filed next Wednesday. Robert Wright and Seymour Simon, assistants to the attorney general, have gone to Washington to complete the briefs. Defendants have 30 days in which to answer after the briefs are filed.

Although there is no action on other pending anti-trust cases, it will be remembered distributor counsel rested their case without putting in a defense last month. Considerable interest is being manifested in the outcome of the current proceedings in view of the government's similar charges against FWC on the coast and other suits in the various courts around the country.

Attorney Back From Coast; FWC Particulars Near

NEW YORK—Richard Everett Dwight of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, counsel for 20th-Fox and National Theatres, has returned from the coast where he has been conferring with local attorneys on the government's suit charging contempt by FWC of the 1930 consent decree. He had been on the coast two weeks with Fred Pride and Colonel Johnson of his office consulting Charles A. Buckley, legal head of FWC, and others on the suit.

Demand for a bill of particulars will be made by defendants at the October 16 hearing. FWC individuals named in the suit with headquarters here and in New York have retained separate counsel.

Skouras Is Set for Trail On Fourth Yearly Drive

NEW YORK—Spyros Skouras plans to leave October 26 for the coast on the first lap of a tour of National Theatres' divisional checkups in connection with the fourth annual drive. While on the coast he will confer with company counsel on the "Big Stick's" suit alleging violation of a 1930 consent decree by FWC. However, the main purpose of the trip is in the interests of the drive. Thornton Sargeant, first run district manager in Los Angeles, is the leader, according to latest reports.

Services for Hayner

NEW YORK—Funeral services were held Monday in Toronto and Wednesday here for Walter Hayner, general sales manager for Regal Films, Ltd., of Canada which distributes M-G-M product. Burial was at Fresh Pond Cemetery, Middle Village, L. I. Hayner was 46 and had been ill about two months.

Niven Tells It in Paid Space

Hollywood—Sidney Skolsky, diminutive columnist, reports:

"David Niven, who leaves Hollywood this week en route to London and the English army is taking an advertisement in the trade papers which will read:

" 'David Niven—now playing a small part in a European crime short.' "

Border States' Houses Absorb Currency Loss

TORONTO—With Canadian currency being discounted at 10 per cent below par value because of the European war, American exhibitors at the border are stiffening the competition by offering to accept the Canadian dollar at full value. The Strand, Ogdensburg, N. Y., already has advertised the plan in Canadian papers, amplifying the competition between the theatre and the Riviera, Prescott, on this side.

Similar situations where Canadian exhibitors are meeting such opposition are at Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Windsor, Sarnia and Sault Ste. Marie.

UA Resignation Notice In Hays Office Hands

NEW YORK—Despite denials by the Hays office, UA has tendered its resignation from the organization, according to executives of the distributing company. A six months' notice has been given the MPPDA.

UA Huddles on New Plans; Count Out the War Zone

NEW YORK—Murray Silverstone, general manager of UA, returned late this week from the coast where he conferred with company producers on plans in the face of the European war. Silverstone gave the member producers a pep talk and cautioned them to budget their pictures within limitations of domestic and foreign markets not involved in the war.

Name Arthur Silverstone Harry Gold's Assistant

NEW YORK—Arthur Silverstone, brother of Murray and Emanuel, has been appointed assistant to Harry L. Gold, eastern UA sales manager, confirming a BOXOFFICE exclusive of September 30.

Silverstone has been with UA for years, latterly in London. He has been in America for several months and has made several trips with Gold through the latter's territory.

Percentage Restrictions on Half Year Back & Ahead; Question Mark Beyond

NEW YORK—From 50 to 80 per cent of British revenue normally flowing to New York may be frozen in London for the duration of the war.

The possibility drives home further the stark realization that sweeping readjustments in the domestic industry structure may be unavoidable in the effort to maintain the business on something resembling an even keel.

Since the outbreak of European hostilities, executives here have been anticipating money restrictions of some nature without information as to the form such restrictions would assume. This week, they learned what the formula may be.

Considers a Curb

The British government, through Oliver Stanley, president of the British board of trade and Downing Street's contact with the English film industry, is considering a restriction of remittances of 50 per cent on the distributor's share of contracts bearing a date prior to October 10 and of 20 per cent on the distributor's share on contracts dated the six months thereafter. The future beyond the six months' period is completely a question mark.

What this would mean, in the event of adoption, is best indicated by the generally accepted fact that all American companies operating in Great Britain gross between $50,000,000 and $60,000,000 a year. While the funds not available for transmission to New York, naturally, would not be lost, they would remain in London in the form of reserves which would become available when peace is declared and Great Britain's fiscal system is unwound for post-war operations. The significance of the Stanley proposals, however, rests in the reduction in available cash and the effect of the curtailment on working capital to meet current production requirements.

Concede Cooperative Effort

New York executives agree that the British government is bending every effort toward the development of an equitable formula. How far London may be expected to unbend in view of its extraordinary wartime financial needs was not determined early in the week.

Foreign sales managers are meeting with more frequent regularity at the Hays office, but the overall impression is that little can be done from this end and that the ultimate decision is in the hands of British authorities.

Thus, the chief concern continues to be England. There appears relatively little concern over France where restrictions of various nature long have been the rule.

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

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SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Nathan Cohn. Telephone Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2321 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Telephone MAin 7716.
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IN CANADA

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EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Telephone Walnut 5519.
REGINA, SASK.—The Star, Andy McDermott.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—161 Princess St., D. Fetherston.
TORONTO, ONTARIO—242 Millwood Road, Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER, B. C.—615 Hastings, C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St. Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

OBSERVING a local run of "Thunder Afloat," the "Cleveland Press" remarks editorially:

"With another war raging in Europe and this country seriously concerned about its chances of remaining neutral, we question the bellicose mood in which the story of this film is presented.

"In peace times, this might be unnoticed. But at this particular moment, the drum rolling and flag-waving of this film is dangerous.

"The point of these few words is to urge American moviegoers to view this and other such films with a grain of caution."

A prediction: Further comment like this, and not necessarily directed at "Thunder Afloat" alone, is on the way.

In Washington, Senator Thomas, an Oklahoma Democrat, declared himself for legislation banning the exhibition of war films, news or features, as a rider to neutrality legislation. His argument was: If the country is to remain neutral, it should neither see nor hear anything that would sway sentiment for or against any of the belligerents.

Films to radio and then to newspapers. This is a logical step. It, therefore, appears the senator had more on his hands than he could have successfully eschewed. His idea has now been withdrawn, although others like it do not seem remote.

This, however, has little bearing on a new issue which faces the industry. Confronted by the President's admonition to remain neutral in deed, if not in thought, the problem of the direction which films dealing with the war will go becomes immediate and important.

If the industry swings toward a stressing of Hitlerism either in new films or revivals, criticism of fomenting a war psychology seems inevitable. If it avoids any implications of war guilt, while newspapers all over the country editorialize in that vein, the old criticism of pussyfooting will again spring to the forefront and films once more will be accused of having milk, not blood, in their veins.

While the European conflict is still young, it is already old enough to throw a pretty riddle squarely in the face of this sorely tried business. That much, this early, is apparent.

SMORGAN-POWELL, writing in the "Montreal Star," observes:

"Surely it is much better for the greatest educational medium in the world today to discuss themes that are of the most widespread interest to the present generation than it would be to merely seek to amuse by the process of complete make-believe. I am not, of course, underestimating the tremendous demand for and value of pure comedy, but it does seem to me to be both logical and sensible that the screen should not limit itself by any narrow boundaries, but should, on the other hand, endeavor to present as broad a field of entertainment as possible. It can only do that if it sweeps aside the manifest limitations of fiction and seeks, in the world of the past and the world of the present, subjects based upon fact."

And what, please tell, is wrong with such reasoning?

Ecstasy!

In the idyllic mood:

Hedy Lamarr has made a final decision on her idea of the perfect summer vacation. She expects to spend a part of a summer drifting dreamily on the Columbia River. "I miss the lazy rivers near which I grew up in Europe and which I have not seen for several years. Boating on a big river is my idea of the perfect vacation and, from what I have been able to learn, the Columbia River is the nearest thing to the rivers I knew so well in Europe."

His Memory Good

In "The Cat and the Canary," Bob Hope and Paulette Goddard are called upon to spend a night in a haunted house. "Don't big, empty houses scare you?" Paulette asked Bob.

"Not me," said Hope. "I used to be in vaudeville."

Imagination Dep't

Virginia Fields, who is quite a looker, is credited with owning two ducks which either tolerate visitors or don't. Several of Hollywood's glamour boys of whom there are quite a few have had their aplomb upset by failing to suit the ducks.

Unfair to Virginia.

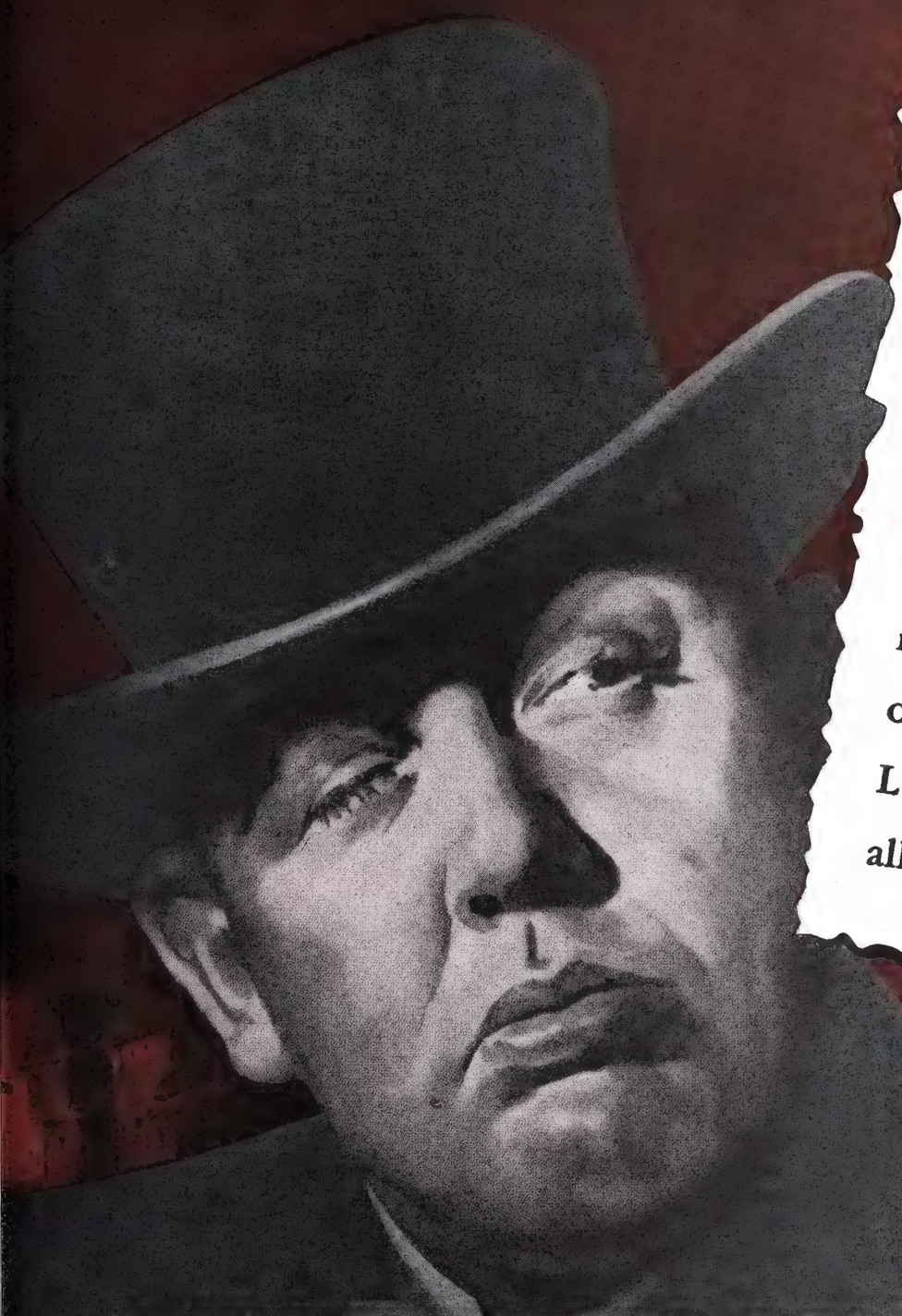
Pretty Fast

Columbia studio enterprise already is at it on behalf of "Arizona:"

"The entire epic will be made in the state whose colorful past it mirrors."

What! Epic already?

"THE SUPREME DIABOLIC OF THE SCREEN"



"In 'JAMAICA INN' Laughton becomes anew the supreme diabolic of the screen . . . brilliantly, theatrically, a lusty roaring sort of melodrama which conjures the spell of excitement in a different style, an outstanding screen event. Laughton outdoes them all!"

—*Los Angeles Times*

CHARLES LAUGHTON in "JAMAICA INN"

with Maureen O'Hara • Leslie Banks • Emlyn Williams • Robert Newton

A Paramount Release • Directed by Alfred Hitchcock • Produced by Erich Pommer • From the novel by Daphne du Maurier • A Pommer-Laughton "Mayflower" Production

Paramount Pictures

Paramount Pictures

300 NEW HOUSES THREW OPEN THEIR DOORS IN U. S. AND CANADA SINCE FIRST OF YEAR

South Leads All Areas In Building, With Texas at Peak

NEW YORK — Approximately 300 new theatres premiered since the first of the year in the United States and provinces of Canada, a third quarter tally by BOXOFFICE correspondents reveals. Under construction, according to reports filtering in from the field at the close of September, were 152 projects and 179 others planned for immediate building.

For the first three months of the year, 78 new houses were lighted up; for the second quarter, 82; and in the last 90 days 129, 86 of which had not been previously reported in one stage or another. There were 43 houses under construction on July 1 and since have made their debut. Latest survey shows Canada dropping far behind in planned, in work and newly opened houses. In their respective categories, the current list shows four, four and three as compared to nine, 12 and eight on July 1, and six, 16 and eight for April 1.

Texas, Col. H. A. Cole's state, is usually active in all departments. Leading the field by a wide margin, there are 17 new projects in various stages of development. The next state is California with 11, Tennessee with 8, and Ohio, 7. Texas, with 6 listed, ties with California and Pennsylvania in the number planned. The Lone Star state is second in the newly opened category with seven. Arkansas leads with 11. West Virginia also has 7 and Michigan 6.

Pickup Is General

The south, according to latest reports, is far ahead of any other section in the country in building activity. The west is second and the middle west third. Building in the east and New England has perked up somewhat and the Rocky Mountain region is showing signs of new life.

The 43 houses opened since last reported under construction are: Azalea, 750 seats, Mobile, Ala.; Evans, Mountain Home, Ark.; State, 750 seats, Jewett City; Park Playhouse, 700 seats, Thomaston; Plaza, 600 seats, Windsor, all in Connecticut; Monterey, Monterey; Town, 600 seats, Bell Gardens; Clark, 500 seats, Barry; El Monte, 900 seats; Uptown, Fairfield; Vogue, Salinas; Telenews, 600 seats, San Francisco, in California; Hull, 350 seats, Hull; Louise, 500 seats, Louisville Ill.; Tree, 500 seats, Greensburg, Ind.; Viv, Coburn; Gray, Grayson; New Kentucky, Latonia; Hi-Land, Louisville, Ky.; Strand, Cairo; Cass R. Beechler's house in Charlotte; Flatroc, Flatrock; Garden, Garden City; Esquire, Grosse Point, Mich.; Tivoli, seating 800, Maryville, Mo.; Dilworth, 526 seats, Charlotte; State, Selby, N. C.; Elmwood, Elmwood; Crest, 500 seats, Crestline; the Schwartz and Shulman house in Painesville, and Chris Velas 500-seater in Woodsfield, Ohio; the new Consolidated 522-seat unit in Sapulpa, Okla.; Liberty, 750 seats, Mercer; Penn, Titusville; Basle, Washington, Pa.; Ritz, 600 seats, Union, S. C.; Jackson, Jacksonville; two new Robb & Rowley theatres in Waxahachie; Capitol, Springfield; New, 250 seats, Victoria, Tex.; the 1,000-seat Roth and Richardson house in Suffolk, Va.; Mode, 550 seats, Oshkosh, Wis., and Paul Volkman's new theatre in Wapate, Wash.

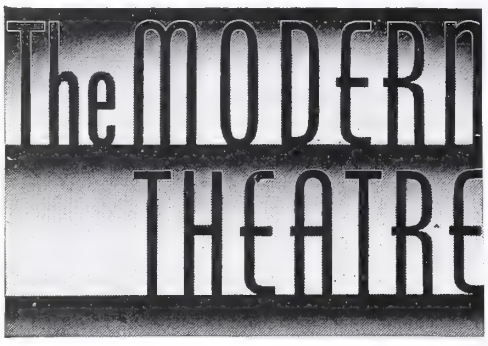
Of the 114 theatres planned in the quarterly survey ended July 1, latest indications show 13 still of these in the same division. In Bethel, Conn., Athan Prakas of the Rivoli, Bridgeport, contemplates a 500-seater for the town; plans have been completed for a 1,100-seat theatre in Carbondale, Ill., by the I. W. Rodgers circuit of Cairo, Ill. This project will cost, it is estimated, $100,000. Mullin and Pinanski are still discussing ideas for a new house in Cleveland Circle, Boston. Max Allen has designs for immediate construction of a 1,000-seat project in the Lincoln Park section of Detroit. Another large suburban house is contemplated for Six Mile Rd. and Myers Rd., Detroit. The Butterfield circuit is figuring on three new houses for Lansing, Mich. Work is expected to start soon on the new 2,000-seat Loew theatre to be built by Metropolitan Life in the Park Chester section of the Bronx, New York City. Louis Wiethe has plans all set for a 900-seat venture in Westwood, Ohio. Lindsey Theatres, Inc., is still talking about a $150,000 theatre and building project for Lubbock, Tex. L. M. Threet, who has been active lately in building, is about set to put plans in work for a 1,000-seat theatre at Port Arthur, Tex. The Ashley Theatre Co. has been granted a permit for a theatre and store undertaking in Madison, Wis., the enterprise to cost about $70,000.

Progress is reported on 30 other theatres which have been in construction the past few months. These are the Fowler, 500 seats at Fowler; Campus, Los Angeles; Tower, Santa Rosa, in California; Ridgefield, 550 seats, Ridgefield; Whitney, 900 seats, Whitneyville, Conn.; O. L. Christian's 400 seater at Blue Mound, Kas.; State, Newport; M. A. Lightman's house in Owensboro; Harry Schwartz's 500-seat house to cost $20,000 at Paris, and the 1,000-seat $70,000 building by Crescent Amusements in Princeton, Ky.; Royal, 874 seats, Franklin, La.; Stewart Reese's house at Plymouth, Mass.; Nortown, 1,000 seats, Flint, Mich.; Sam Shubart's house at Richmond Heights; the 1,000-seat Negro house for Tommy James in St. Louis, Mo.; R. E. Griffith's 900-seat $30,000 project at Clovis, N. M.; Randforce's 1,000-seater, the Clinton, in Brooklyn; Brandt's Pix on W. 42nd St., the new Consolidated 600-seat house on 43rd St. & Broadway, in N. Y. C.; Mimosa, 800 seats, Morgantown, N. C.; Temple, seating 700 and costing $40,000, and the new Skirball Bros. unit to seat 750, in Cincinnati; Skirball's 750-seater, Massilon; Feiber & Shea's 750-seater, New Philadelphia, Ohio; Gerard, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mike Manos house in Jeanette; the Sheppard Bros. venture in Smithtown, Ohio; Belle Meade, Nashville, Tenn.; Interstate's new $125,000 house in Houston, Tex.

Seven theatres previously reported as planned and now in construction are: Borough, 500 seats, Groton, Conn.; the 600-seat project by Nathan Flexer and B. Haberfield in Winona, Miss.; a 1,000-seat house in Woodbury, N. J.; R. E. Griffith's

(Continued on page 10)

In This Issue . . .



PUBLIC HEALTH: *"Between Heat and Cold There's a Happy, Healthy Medium"*

•

PUBLIC RELATIONS: *"Teaching Theatre Discrimination, a New Jersey-Born Activity"*

•

HOUSE ATTRACTION: *"They Reversed the Order in Planning the Park Theatre"*

•

SANITATION: *"To Be Entirely Sanitary or Barely Clean Enough to Get By"*

•

PLANNING: *"Modernization Takes the Curse from Another Old-Time Cinema"*

•

AIR CONDITIONING: *"Summer's Gone Again—But You've Still Gotta Problem"*

•

DECORATING: *"A Beauty Treatment Brings the Customers Back Smiling"*

•

CINE' CLINIC: *"The Motion Picture Projectionist and His Contribution to Society"*

. . Start Reading on Page 27

Third Quarter Exceeds First Two; Canada Drops Far Behind


"In INGRID BERGMAN, Selznick has found another great lady of the screen." —New York Times
"INGRID BERGMAN is the most gifted and attractive recruit that the studios have enlisted in many moons." —Herald-Tribune
"INGRID BERGMAN is the finest thing that has come to Hollywood from anywhere in many a day." —Daily News
INGRID BERGMAN definitely establishes herself as an important film personality." —Journal-American
"If you want to know what it is that sets this picture apart, I can tell you in two words, INGRID BERGMAN." —Evening Post
"INGRID BERGMAN is an excellent actress, with a fresh, earnest quality in her work." —Evening Sun
SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL presents
LESLIE HOWARD
in
INTERMEZZO
A Love Story
introducing
INGRID BERGMAN
Produced by DAVID O. SELZNICK
Directed by Gregory Ratoff
Associate Producer Leslie Howard
Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

152 MORE ARE NOW BEING BUILT, WHILE 179 ARE PLANNED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION

Eastern and Mountain Areas Picking Up; Many in Work

(Continued from page 8)

780-seater costing about $20,000 in Hobbs, N. M.; Tri-States $65,000 venture at Canton, Ohio; A. L. Clary's new theatre at Alice, Tex., and Texas Consolidated's $50,000 house at Five Points, El Paso, Tex.

Latest developments reported in the past three months, state by state, are:

Alabama

Gadsden—Jack Crawford says his new house will open soon.

Selma—Mrs. David Regan is opening a theatre here.

Winfield—The new Winfield has been opened by Mrs. W. S. Thornton.

Arkansas

Altus—J. P. Baker has opened his new 300-seater, the Altus.

Ashdown—The opening of the new Dixie with 346 seats and Jewel announced by K. Lee William Theatres.

Bauxite—Wallace Kauffman recently opened a 500-seat house on a four night a week basis.

Bearden—L. B. Brazil of Hot Springs has opened the new Rex.

Black Rock—Mrs. Margaret Harkey Higgenbotham, owner of Ozark Amusement Co., planning immediate opening for her new theatre.

Delight—A new house is being readied for opening soon.

Dyer—A new theatre has opened here.

Elaine—The new theatre opened here is being managed by F. R. Watson.

Magnolia—W. P. Florence, who also operates the O'Deon here, has completed the new Macco.

Mt. Vernon—The new 200-seat Terry has been opened by V. E. Terry.

Osceola—Miss Emma Cox of the Gem opened a new 300-seater called the Joy.

Prescott—October 1 was set for completion of the new 500-seater, costing $25,000 by Addys Brown who operates the Nevada and Gem.

Rison—Plans are completed for the new 300-seater to be ready for October 15 occupancy by Miss Blanche Wacaster.

Tuckerman—Carl Christian will open a new house here to add to his four others.

California

Camino—Irwin Johnson is opening the new Camino here.

Carlsbad—Vincent Araiza has opened the Carlsbad.

Centerville—The Petersen Circuit will build a new 750-seat house here.

Inglewood—FWC, in association with UA Theatres, started work on a new 1,100-seat project to cost $140,000.

Where and What They Are

NEW YORK—*Theatres in work, planned and opened since July 1, the third quarter of the year, for 40 states including Canada, as gathered by* BOXOFFICE *correspondents are highlighted in the following chart:*

State	*In Work*	*Planned*	*Opened*
Alabama	2	....	1
Arkansas	4	....	11
California	11	6	4
Colorado	3	1	1
Connecticut	2	2	2
Delaware	....	1	....
District of Columbia	....	....	1
Florida	2	1	1
Georgia	3	....	1
Idaho	....	1	....
Illinois	2	1	3
Indiana	5	2	1
Iowa	....	....	4
Kansas	....	1	3
Kentucky	4	....	1
Louisiana	4	1	2
Maryland	1	1	1
Massachusetts	1	4	1
Michigan	2	3	6
Minnesota	....	1	3
Mississippi	2	....	3
Missouri	2	1	....
Montana	3	....	....
Nebraska	2	1	1
New York	4	2	2
North Carolina	2	3	3
Ohio	7	3	4
Oklahoma	4	2	2
Oregon	....	1	....
Pennsylvania	1	6	1
South Carolina	2	1	1
South Dakota	....	1	....
Tennessee	8	1	2
Texas	17	6	7
Virginia	4	5	....
Washington	2	....	1
West Virginia	5	1	7
Wisconsin	....	2	....
Wyoming	....	....	2
Canada	4	4	3
Total	115	66	86

Lamont—Gordon Darling opened the Lamont seating 700.

Los Angeles—F&M plans to build two new houses in southwestern part of the city. Plans being drawn and construction scheduled to start soon.

Construction started on new 1,000-seater, to be known as the Alto, by Milt Arthur, head of Cabart Theatres.

Carlin-Sinker Circuit announces plans for a 900-seat house in vicinity of Alvarado and 8th Sts.

Lake theatre is under construction by John Drew.

Oildale—James J. V. Banducci and Dick LeMucchi opened new River, seating 900.

Pomona—Announcement has been made that an 800 seater is under construction by John Drew, owner of the Temple, Glendale. To open early in December.

Sacramento—Another house is being built here by the Blumenfeld Circuit.

San Carlos—New house planned here.

San Francisco—D. B. Levin, general manager of San Francisco Theatres, building new theatre in the Mission district.

The new Tower is slated to open the first week in October by Bunny Lustig and A. Sims who plan several others in and around this city.

Sanger—William Gustine's new Star opened September 1.

A. Fukada of Hanford is building a new house.

Taft—The new Roxy has been opened by J. W. Base, owner and operator. Seat-

(Continued on page 19)

Who?



is the star who broke fifty million hearts in "Bachelor Mother" and "Real Glory"...and now finds his perfect screen sweetheart as LORETTA YOUNG becomes his gay partner in love?

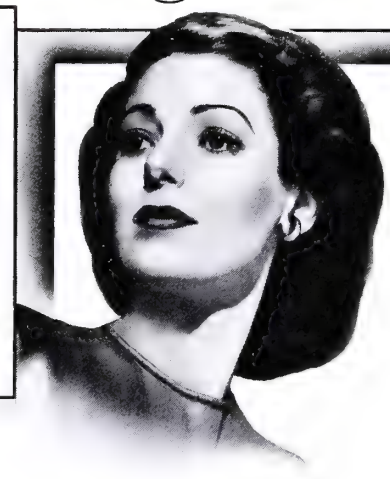


Answer: David Niven, 1939's most sensational new star name, will help make 1939's most sensational business **ETERNALLY YOURS.**



Dear Arturo—
You showed me a dazzling world but denied me a home. Loved me—dearly—but played tricks after hours. You're tops as a Magician—but zero as a husband. I'm through—though I'll be —
Eternally Yours—Anita

Anita Dearest—
I know I've hurt you—But if you leave me now my life will be as empty as a hat—and all the magic in the world can't pull happiness out of it.
Eternally Yours—Arturo



WALTER WANGER *presents*

Eternally Yours

starring

LORETTA YOUNG • DAVID NIVEN

with HUGH HERBERT • BILLIE BURKE • C AUBREY SMITH
BRODERICK CRAWFORD • ZASU PITTS • VIRGINIA FIELD • RAYMOND WALBURN
A TAY GARNETT Production • Original screenplay by GENE TOWNE and GRAHAM BAKER
Directed by TAY GARNETT • **RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS**

"THIS IS JUST WHAT TH
EXHIBITOR ORDERED!
—Film Dail

RKO Sales Shifted; 'Andy' Smith Joins

NEW YORK—After more than a year of inactivity, A. W. Smith jr., former general sales manager of UA, joins RKO as eastern sales manager in charge of the eastern half of the United States and all of Canada. This is one step in a wholesale reorganization of home office sales personnel. Other major shifts follow:

Ned E. Depinet, vice-president in charge of domestic distribution, actively takes over sales, succeeding Jules Levy, general sales manager who leaves the company after 12 years. Depinet will function under a new three-year contract.

Smith succeeds E. L. McEvoy who shortly assumes a district including Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis and Cincinnati with headquarters in Cleveland.

Robert E. Mochrie, former assistant to Smith when the latter was eastern general sales manager of Warner, and southern district manager for UA when Smith was general sales manager of the latter company, joins RKO as southern district manager in charge of Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans, Memphis, Dallas and Oklahoma City with headquarters in Atlanta.

Cresson E. Smith, long western and southern sales manager, continues in his post without change.

A BOXOFFICE Exclusive

Ralph Rolan, special field contact operating between sales and advertising and publicity, is out.

Reports that Smith—A. W.—would join RKO handling the east, were published exclusively in last week's eastern edition of BOXOFFICE.

Levy's retirement from RKO occasions no particular surprise. Observers for some time have been aware of an overlapping of manpower in the top selling post. Levy tells BOXOFFICE he is now fashioning plans and may have something to talk about in a week. He entered RKO as general manager of the theatre booking department where he handled buying and booking of film. Seven years ago he was switched to distribution as general sales manager. He has spent more than 25 years in the industry, starting as a salesman for Universal and finally becoming a member of the sales cabinet with Depinet and Ned I. Marin, now in production, as associates. Subsequently, he joined the old First National for three years and then joined UA as special representative.

As George J. Schaefer joined RKO, reports persisted a manpower change, then described as immediate, embraced Smith for a high distribution post. As Smith was mentioned, so was Mochrie in the same breath. Reorganization and the situation at the studio, however, engaged Schaefer's early attention and compelled a delay in any shiftings then contemplated in New York.

With the entry of Mochrie, the south is consolidated into one division giving the appointee the offices formerly supervised by Hubert Lyons and Sol Sachs. Lyons becomes Atlanta manager, replacing J. B. Brecheen, who goes to Charlotte succeeding N. J. Colquohoun, who becomes a member of the Atlanta sales force. Sachs becomes manager at Dallas, replacing C. W. "Ching" Allen who will be assigned elsewhere.

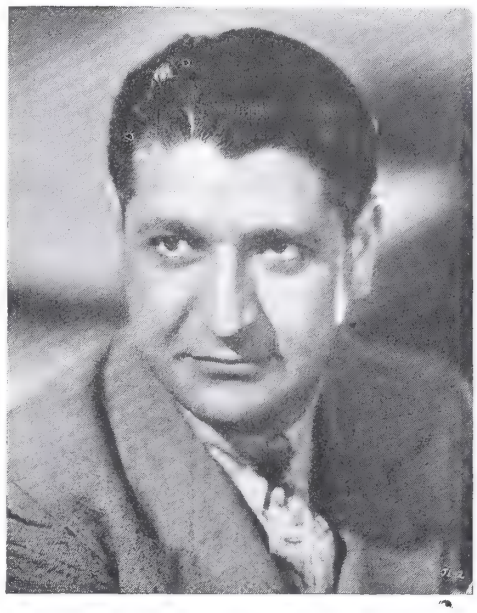
"Andy" Smith will have J. H. MacIntyre, Nat Levy, E. L. McEvoy and Leo M. Devaney as his district managers; "Cress" Smith these: Walter Branson, L. E. Goldhammer, Harry Cohen and Mochrie.

Harry J. Michalson continues in charge of short subjects.

Head Cast in Latest Drama



NED E. DEPINET



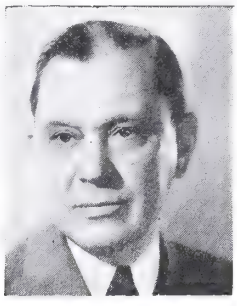
JULES LEVY



A. W. SMITH jr.



ROBERT MOCHRIE



CRESSON SMITH



E. L. McEVOY

LeBaron Sees Domestic Emphasis Necessary

HOLLYWOOD—Now is the time to concentrate more than ever on product for the domestic market in order to offset foreign losses, asserts William LeBaron, managing director of production for Paramount, who has returned following a short New York vacation.

It is also the time, he says, to get those millions of people who do not attend the theatres regularly. He is confident films steeped in American tradition and folklore will do the trick.

Stories, LeBaron points out, should be filled with human and heart interest. The people want to be diverted; they want to laugh, he argues.

Paramount has only 15 more productions to complete, according to LeBaron, in order to wind up its current program. The company has its releases set until the end of February.

Jack Partington Heads F&M Eastern Activities

NEW YORK—With the resignation of Sam Dembow jr., F&M's eastern activities will be in charge of Jack Partington, Harry C. Arthur jr., said on his departure for St. Louis. Partington handled the local F&M office prior to Dembow's joining the company and now resumes his former post, which includes negotiations for film and stage shows. In addition, Partington personally supervises the F&M shows at the Roxy.

Arthur will continue in charge of St. Louis operations and Marco Wolf will remain on the coast as head of the office there. Periodic trips to New York will be made by Arthur to sit in on deals with Partington. He is due here Monday.

ST. LOUIS—Returning from New York after a week, Harry C. Arthur stated the union trouble at F&M theatres "is a shakedown by lawyers."

Committee Named for Variety Club Award

NEW YORK — Thirty-three newspaper writers, authors and news commentators will serve on Variety's national humanitarian award committee, according to Eugene Connelly, chairman of the group which will select the person to receive the second annual award for 1939. The award will be made at the sixth annual convention of national Variety in Dallas, early next year.

The Rev. E. J. Flanagan of Boys Town, Neb., who received the first award, will serve on the committee to choose the 1939 winner.

Others on the committee are:

Clark Howell, Atlanta *Constitution;* George H. Lyon, Buffalo *Times;* Burrows Matthews, Buffalo *Courier Express;* Arnold Gingrich, *Esquire;* Carl D. Groat, Cincinnati *Post;* Paul Bellamy, Cleveland *Plain Dealer;* Louis B. Seltzer, editor of the *Press,* Cleveland; J. A. Meckstroth, Ohio *State Journal,* Columbus, Ohio; Lewis W. Bailey, editor of the *Dispatch-Journal,* Dallas; Dwight Young, *Journal-Herald,* Publishing Co., Dayton, Ohio; Gardner Cowles, Des Moines *Register and Tribune;* John Manning, Detroit *Times;* Mark R. Gray, Indianapolis *Commercial;* J. W. West, Kansas City *Journal;* Frank Ahlgren, Memphis *Commercial Appeal;* Edward J. Meeman, Memphis *Press-Scimitar;* Charles B. Cheney, Minneapolis *Journal;* Basil L. Walters, Minneapolis *Star;* Sumner Blossom, *American Magazine;* A. Merritt, *The American Weekly,* New York; Fulton Oursler, *Liberty;* Rex Smith, *Newsweek;* Lowell Thomas; Lee Ellmaker, Philadelphia *Daily News;* Harry T. Saylor, Philadelphia *Record;* Harry M. Bitner, Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph;* Oliver J. Keller, Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette;* Edward T. Leech, Pittsburgh *Press;* Channing Pollock; E. Lansing Ray, president of the *Globe-Democrat,* St. Louis; Felix Morley, Washington *Post;* John O'Rourke, Washington *Daily News.*

Pathe Counsel Confers On Cinema Lab Deal

HOLLYWOOD—Robert Benjamin of Phillips & Nizer, eastern counsel for Pathe, is here from New York conferring with O. Henry Briggs, head of Pathe Laboratories, on a deal for the outright buy of Cinema Laboratories. Pathe has been after the local plant for several years as a western operating point, supplementing activities in Bound Brook, N. J. Both Benjamin and Briggs plan to return east in about a week.

Loew's Head on Coast for Periodic Studio Checkup

NEW YORK—Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, arrived on the coast Friday for a periodic checkup of studio activities. Home office executives state the trip is routine and not significant. He is not expected back in time for the postponed meeting of the board Wednesday. In all probability, Schenck will be back October 23. Mrs. Schenck is with him.

"Swindle" Film Company Operating in the East

NEW YORK—Exhibitors are being warned against a "swindle" deal said to have been tried successfully by a company representing itself as the General Film Co. of Fort Pierce, Fla., of which a J. Basil LeRoy is president and an A. T. King is representative.

King is said to have solicited theatres for a tieup to make a local two-reel film entitled, "Safety Film," incorporating schools, the City Hall and fire department. Also included are numerous local business firms, from which General obtains revenue to pay for the film.

The method has been to solicit merchants, making a contract with them on the strength of having a contract with the local theatre to take a "movie" of "their business" for various sums or merchandise. General has collected from a number of merchants and then disappeared from the territory.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933.

Of BOXOFFICE, published weekly at Kansas City, Mo., for October 14, 1939.
State of Missouri,
County of Jackson, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Morris Schlozman, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the BOXOFFICE Magazine and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor-in-chief, editor, managing editor, and business manager are: Publisher: Ben Shlyen, Kansas City, Mo.; Editor-in-Chief, Maurice D. Kann, New York, N. Y.; Editor, Wm. G. Formby, Kansas City, Mo.; Managing Editor, Jesse Shlyen, Kansas City, Mo.; Business Manager: Morris Schlozman, Kansas City, Mo.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given).

Ben Shlyen, Kansas City, Mo.

Clara Shlyen, Kansas City, Mo.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state). There are none.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner: and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

MORRIS SCHLOZMAN, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of October, 1939.

L. W. WILSON, Notary Public.

(My commission expires August 9, 1940).

Reorganization Step By Dufaycolor Co.

NEW YORK—Dufaycolor Co., Inc., has filed a petition for reorganization under Chapter XI of the Chandler Act in the federal court, listing assets of $119,717 and liabilities of $518,197. The company imports raw film from Dufay-Cromex, Ltd., of England and also promotes Cinecolor.

Its petition declares 95 per cent of the creditors approve continuation in business. The plan for doing so consists of securing an additional $500,000 working capital in the next six months and paying unsecured creditors in promissory notes due in three years at three per cent interest.

Among creditors are Color Corp., to whom is owed $399,500 on five-year five per cent notes; 20th Century-Fox, $1,323; Rockefeller Center, $2,872 for rent; De Luxe Labs, $3,479; Eastman Kodak and DuPont. Assets include stock in trade, $60,161; machinery and tools, $14,853 and debts, $30,775.

Government May Retain An Outside Lawyer

(Continued from page 4)

circuit in Buffalo for a bill of particulars. Other distributor counsel, including John Lord O'Brian and John Caskey, also spoke in favor of the motion. Because of the general coverage of the petition, distributors ask that the "Big Stick" be more specific in its allegations and, where certain charges are made, contend the government be made to name the exhibitor, theatre and cause of action.

No new moves have developed in the Griffiths' case in Oklahoma City, the Crescent action in Memphis and the alleged FWC violation of a consent decree in Los Angeles. A preliminary hearing on the FWC case is slated for October 18 with arguments to center about a motion by the defendant circuit and numerous individuals for a bill of particulars.

Inglewood, Cal. Opening By Arthur Expected

INGLEWOOD, CAL.—Milton Arthur's new Argo here is expected to be opened in a fortnight. Arthur is understood to be among the independents complaining against FWC clearances which are incorporated in the petition of the government's alleged violation of a 1930 consent decree.

Charity Can't Break Grip Of Georgia Blue Laws

ATLANTA—Sunday shows cannot be held in Georgia whether they are for charitable purposes or not, according to a decision handed down by the court of appeals which denied a new trial for suburban exhibitors recently found guilty of violating the state law banning labor on the Sabbath. Suburban theatres have been holding Sunday shows and turning over the proceeds to the Scottish Rite Hospital for crippled children.

Today

300 THEATRES ARE PLAYING HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE

Every exhibitor who saw it wanted it *immediately*...the greatest demand for prints in the history of this company!

And the millions of patrons now crowding to see it prove it *the most sensational box-office attraction that ever hit this industry!*

20th CENTURY FOX

THE KEYSTONE OF YOUR FUTURE

Twin City's View on More Time Mixed

MINNEAPOLIS—Theatremen here give a mixed reception to the appeal of Joseph M. Schenck for exhibitors to provide greater revenue to offset European losses and help tide producers over the present war crisis.

Independents' spokesmen declare that Schenck "is following the usual procedure of producers in making the exhibitor the fall guy," trying to put an unduly large part of the load on the shoulders of theatre owners and passing the buck to the latter. They assert Schenck will find that these exhibitors will not accept the responsibility for "maintaining the structure of film production" through the present difficult times.

On the other hand, the head of the largest circuit in the territory, a producer-affiliated chain, endorses the view without reservations.

"Same Old Bull"—Steffes

"The same old line of bull," W. A. Steffes, president of Northwest Allied, characterizes the Schenck statement. "Schenck must be talking about his own theatres. Independents have been bled dry for years and, with income steadily declining and costs rising, will have a struggle to remain in business under any circumstances. As far as showmanship is concerned, those exhibitors who fail to display it to the fullest degree are dead fish."

Bennie Berger, head of one of the territory's largest independent circuits, asserts producers should clean up their own homes "before telling exhibitors that they must do more."

"Let the producers set an example," urges Berger. "Let's see them practice economy and show greater ability in turning out boxoffice pictures. How can exhibitors be expected to pay more or provide greater revenue for distributors when theatre income is on a steady down trend and the lowest now that it has been in more than four years?

Sees Cancellation Need

"As far as extra playing time is concerned, if the exhibitor would be relieved of the requirement of playing a lot of poor pictures, he might have a better chance to extend the good ones' playing time. Distributors know in their own hearts that they are hurting the whole industry from top to bottom by compelling the theatre owners to date the 'dogs' or pay for them.

"And why don't they start immediately to pare the executives, stars and writers' excessive salaries as a move in the direction of economy?"

John J. Friedl, managing director of the Minnesota Amusement Co., the territory's dominant circuit, however, hopes the Schenck appeal will not fall on deaf ears.

"It always has been our circuit's policy to encourage the production of boxoffice pictures by giving them the maximum amount of playing time possible," he says. "Moreover, we stress showmanship and maintain an expensive and efficient publicity department. Even in normal times we feel that exhibitors must play the part that Schenck points out."

A Montreal Plan To Cut Costs

Montreal—William Lester, assistant managing director of United Amusement which operates a chain here and elsewhere throughout Quebec, has an idea. He suggests producers get together and fix maximum salaries for stars, as was done by the National Hockey League which placed a $7,500 annual salary maximum on players.

Lester adds he recognizes the difficulties, particularly in the instances of individual stars for whom there may be a pronounced public demand. The fixed maximum, however, is his way of cutting costs.

Detroit Men State Answer Is Quality

DETROIT—Reaction of local exhibitors to the Schenck statement is very mixed with larger exhibitors generally willing to "play ball," while the smaller independents tend to view the situation with considerable skepticism.

Exhibitors generally are agreed they will go along with the idea of extended playing times, provided producers actually deliver big enough pictures, but they feel producers should set their own houses in order first by reducing expenses and that RKO's lead in this direction is all to the good.

See Duals as Snag

The universality of double bills in Detroit is felt also to be a problem making actual use of extended playing dates generally more of a problem than in typical single bill areas.

Many exhibitor leaders are unwilling to be quoted for publication, but their views are herewith summarized. Of those who are willing to be quoted, the typical reactions follow:

"I am entirely in accord with the ideas expressed by Joseph M. Schenck, and it is our intention to cooperate along the lines indicated," said David M. Idzal, managing director of the Fox Theatre. "We are probably one of the first theatres in the country that has already adhered to the policy of holding over the pictures wherever possible. Now, more than ever, we expect to continue that policy, even, if necessary to conserve that policy, by buying single features. I consider the policy suggested by Schenck to be absolutely right."

Fred DeLodder, independent circuit owner and president of Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, believes:

"The idea would not be practicable for neighborhood theatres. Schenck is looking at the producers' rather than exhibitors' side of it. Second runs might conceivably run two weeks on pictures, but that would kill business for the key runs in the same neighborhood and the subsequent runs would be still worse off.

"Neighborhood theatres would have to reduce their admission prices generally if such a policy were adopted, and we certainly wouldn't want that. And it would come back to the producers in the form of lower film rentals, as admission prices were cut."

Film Draw Provides Out, K. C. Believes

KANSAS CITY—"If we could be assured of good pictures, there is no question that we could run them longer, making it possible to buy fewer from the better companies," is the comment of Jay Means, who operates the Oak Park and Bagdad, suburban houses, on the Schenck plea for extended playing time.

"I agree with Schenck's statement. However, we can't extend the runs unless the pictures justify it. We are following the extended run practice to a certain extent now, and have been for some time. While the results haven't been tremendous, they are, in our opinion, better than many of the changes we have made."

The same view is expressed by another independent exhibitor.

"All Should Help"

"Every exhibitor should put his shoulder to the wheel and get out of any worthwhile picture every ounce of revenue so that producers can keep making outstanding product," says G. C. Diamond, who operates the Roxy at Eldorado, Howard at Arkansas City, and Vogue at Salina, Kas. "This is the only type of product nowadays that will make money for the exhibitor.

"The public has become so critical because of the years of education to expect first class pictures that it is impossible to sell them inferior films. Any deterioration in product would be fatal, in my opinion, at the present maturity of the motion picture. The generation now going to movies take good pictures as a matter of course and wouldn't accept anything else."

A realistic note is sounded by Glen W. Dickinson of the Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc.: "We are certainly inclined to agree with Schenck's statement. The quality of pictures must be maintained. But then we have always tried to get out of a picture all that was in it, and I think most other theatres have done the same thing, through extended runs, exploitation, etc." he observes.

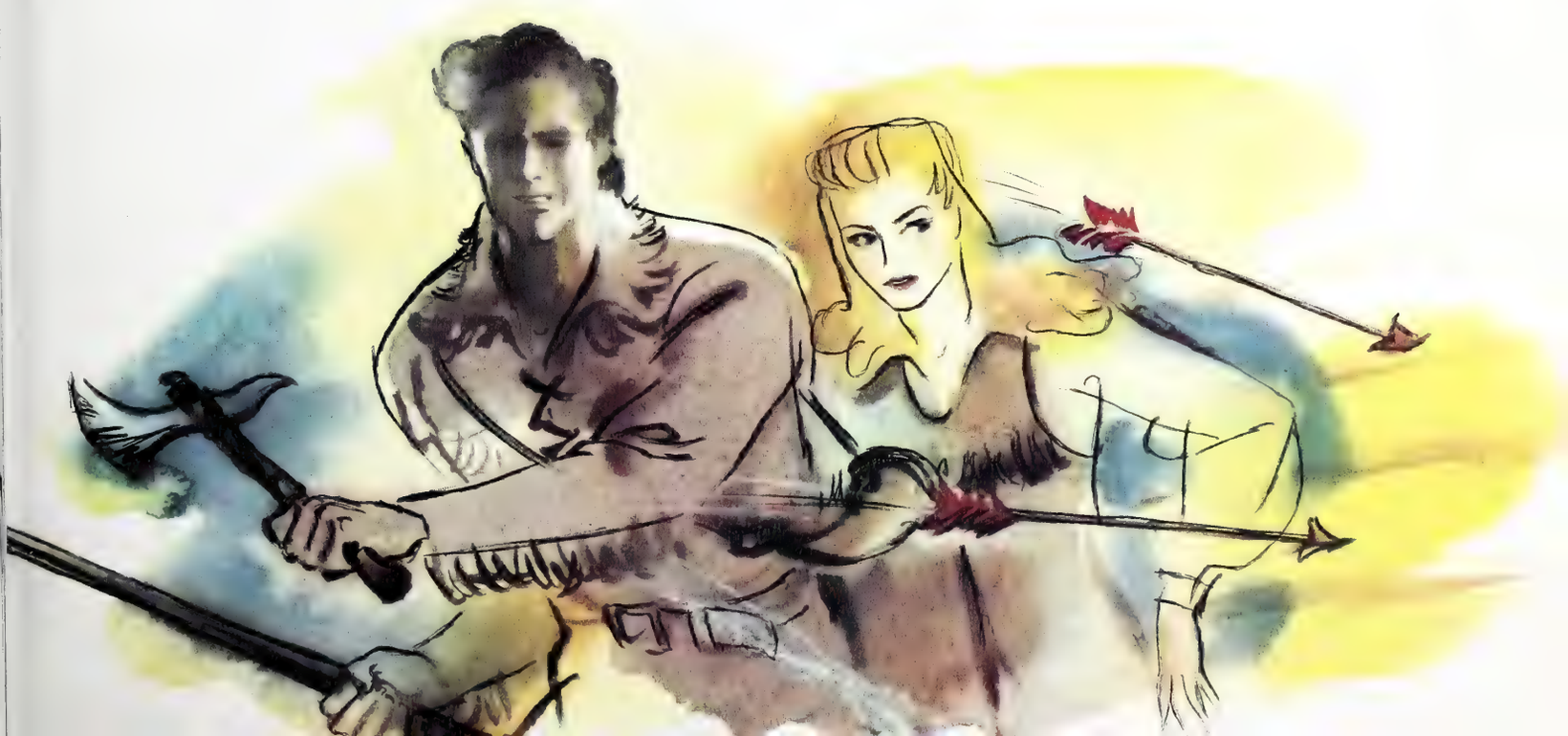
Says Rentals Too High

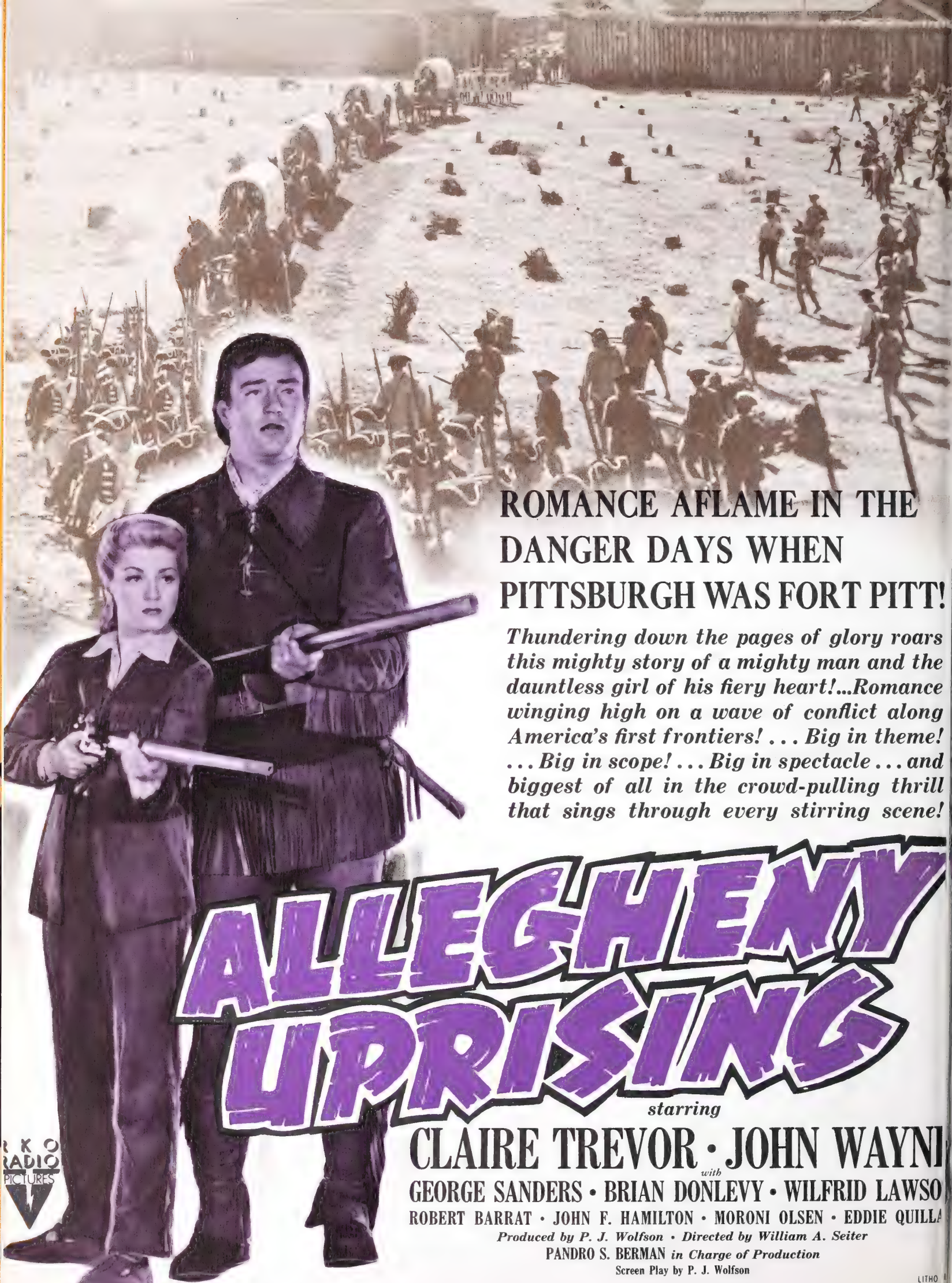
"But producers are charging too much for pictures now. The trouble is they want too much of a margin on their investment; they want to make too much money. The cost of films has increased steadily. The result has been that for several years the independent (the affiliated theatre has other sources of money) has been forced to let the physical condition of his theatre run down. One of the most serious effects of increasing film prices has been the deterioration in theatre manpower and this has affected affiliated circuits as well as independents. Exhibitors have been unable to pay the kind of money to attract top quality manpower, which today is 25 per cent of what it ought to be in all theatres.

"The highest we paid for pictures of Will Rogers in his heydey was 25 per cent. Today producers want 40 per cent on films that won't gross half so much."

FIGHTING JIM SMITH AND WILDCAT JANIE

...IN RKO RADIO'S GIANT OF ALL ACTION SHOWS!....





ROMANCE AFLAME IN THE DANGER DAYS WHEN PITTSBURGH WAS FORT PITT!

Thundering down the pages of glory roars this mighty story of a mighty man and the dauntless girl of his fiery heart!...Romance winging high on a wave of conflict along America's first frontiers! . . . Big in theme! . . . Big in scope! . . . Big in spectacle . . . and biggest of all in the crowd-pulling thrill that sings through every stirring scene!

ALLEGHENY UPRISING

starring

CLAIRE TREVOR • JOHN WAYNE

with

GEORGE SANDERS • BRIAN DONLEVY • WILFRID LAWSON

ROBERT BARRAT • JOHN F. HAMILTON • MORONI OLSEN • EDDIE QUILLA

Produced by P. J. Wolfson • Directed by William A. Seiter

PANDRO S. BERMAN *in Charge of Production*

Screen Play by P. J. Wolfson

RKO RADIO PICTURES

LITHO

300 New Theatres Since '39 Began

(Continued from page 10)

ing capacity 600.

Twenty-Nine Palms—W. J. Underhill building 400-seater here.

Ventura—Principal Theatres, FWC subsidiary, will build house seating 600 in partnership with Charles Corcoran.

Willowbrook—Construction started on 450-seat Valuskis by Frank Valuskis.

Colorado

Glenwood Springs—George P. Weirick building new 400-seat house.

Lake Oswego—Norman Goodin announces plans for $50,000 500-seater to get under way immediately for a February opening.

Longmont—Fox Intermountain will open new theatre with 800 seats here, this being second for circuit.

Montrose—Fox Intermountain will open a new theatre here making its second unit in town.

Ovid—A. C. Jesminik has opened the Ovid.

Connecticut

Bridgeport—Louis J. Anger will start work soon on 1,000-seat house planned in the North End.

Chesire—Natalie diFrancesco is proceeding with new 350-seat house here.

Cromwell—Construction started on new 600-seat house.

Shelton—Morris Hadelman will start construction of new 750-seater on site of the present post office in few months. To replace 550-seat house he is now operating.

West Haven—Michael Cascioli opened 900-seat Forest in Allingtown section.

Delaware

Seaford—Reese Harrington and Thomas Ayres awarded contracts for new theatre here, ground to be broken upon completion of the government inlet project.

District of Columbia

Washington—Guy Flannery, Richlands has opened new Guy's here.

Florida

Ft. Lauderdale—Sparks Theatres opened the $200,000 New Florida.

Jay—This town with population of 400 will have a theatre built by the Wagner interests.

Lake Worth—West Palm Beach Theatres, Sparks affiliate, has begun construction of new 800-seat project, the Lake. Will be opened in time for winter trade.

Milton—M. F. Green, local business man, remodeling a building for theatre to seat 400 and to be ready for early October opening.

Georgia

Augusta—The new Miller seating 1,500 will be opened in December by Augusta Amusements with F. J. Miller as manager.

Elberton—The Georgia Theatres Service will open in December new 700 seater being built here.

Hopeville—Louis Teples will open New Hangar on October 6 with 500 seats and

Twin City Worries Over More Houses

Minneapolis—Although the policy of the local city council has been to refuse new building permits because of the current oversecting problem and the possibility of jeopardizing current investments, Twin City exhibitors are showing some concern over the number of new theatre applications.

costing $50,000. John Elder will manage.

Royston—Curtis Ware opened new house here.

Idaho

St. Maries—Contract awarded for the Bungalo by Fulton Cook, exhibitor and builder.

Illinois

Beardstown—S. E. Pertle has bought 500 seats for his new Princess.

Freeport—Bennis Brothers of Lincoln formally opened the new Freeport.

Pittsfield—Clark and Russell Armentrout are building 500 seater.

Redbud—The new Red Bud opened here by C. T. Dusinberre. Seating 250.

Roxana—With plans completed, Albert Crichlow of Alton expects to start work soon on new theatre here.

Washington—Sam Traynor is in charge of the Tabewell, 400-seater, opened by Bailey circuit.

Indiana

Brazil—Sam Grimes expects to open new Cine, seating 350, shortly.

Huntingburg—A new 700-seater costing about $30,000 scheduled for erection here.

Indianapolis—Charles M. Olson Enterprises plan $75,000 theatre on East Washington St. if zoning board approves.

Michigan City—Indiana-Illinois Theatres building the Lido. To be finished in five months.

Maurice Rubin of Associated Theatres announces plans for new $150,000 theatre for fall opening.

Muncie—Mrs. A. L. Kitselman's new 900-seat house already under way on University and Martin Sts. Leonard Sowar of the Rivoli will manage.

Paoli—Luckett Amusement Co. opened new Strand recently. Seating 700 and wired for television.

Remington—A new theatre being built on the site of former Gilbert garage.

Iowa

Great Falls—FWC has opened the Town.

Lenox—The State has been completed at cost of $18,000. To be operated by Frank Shipley.

Pocahontas—The new Rialto, erected by Jack Bouma, is now open.

Whiting—The Whiting has been opened by Eugene E. Hopkins.

Kansas

Eldorado—Gus Diamond has opened 550-seat Roxy.

Glen W. Dickinson operating 600-seat theatre in Sharp Bldg.

Topeka—A new theatre is scheduled for this town.

Kentucky

Albany—W. H. Nunn and F. C. Hassler are building 400-seat house.

152 Building; 179 In Plan Stages

Benton—Chickasaw Amusement Co. of Covington erecting theatre here.

Brownsville—The new Swan has been opened by M. H. Sparks and Ray Coleman, who own and operate the Swan, Edmonton, Ky.

Cynthiana—Carl Rohs expects to open 700-seat house he is building here about January 1.

Vanceburg—W. J. Stamper, local merchant, completing new 400-seat house.

Louisiana

Abbeville—Frank Degraw building 700-seat house.

Catanoula—Roger Bienvenus opened a new 300-seat theatre.

Cutoff—John M. Guidry, president of Black Gold Theatres, finished construction of 598-seat house.

Norco—Jeff Rebstick of Golden Meadows, La., will open a theatre here.

Plaquemine—Lionel Delacroix erecting a new house in this town.

St. Martinville—Jeff Rebstick will open a theatre here for Negroes.

Shreveport—Claude Hazel, in partnership with Milton Starr of Nashville, Tenn., will build a new colored house here, the Ritz.

Maryland

Baltimore—Morton E. Baker scheduled opening the Newsreel, October 1.

M. Leibowitz reported planning new house on Eastern Ave., near Grand.

Parkville—A new house is being built above Durkee's Northway.

Massachusetts

Boston—Frederick E. Lieberman is taking bids for new theatre near Milk St. and Washington.

Henry Steinberg and Arthur Blanchard, operators of Drive-In in Sturbridge, planning theatre in new housing section of South Boston.

Lee—Formento Circuit, operators of Park, taking bids for the New here.

Milford—Leon Task, Capello theatre manager, expects to open new house here shortly.

Worcester—Henry Steinberg opened his new Greendale, suburban house. Max and Joseph Vogel are operating.

E. M. Loew planning new 1,000-seat house in Billings Square section.

Michigan

Albion—Bruce Godshaw's Albion opened here.

Beaverton—James Methner opened the Gem.

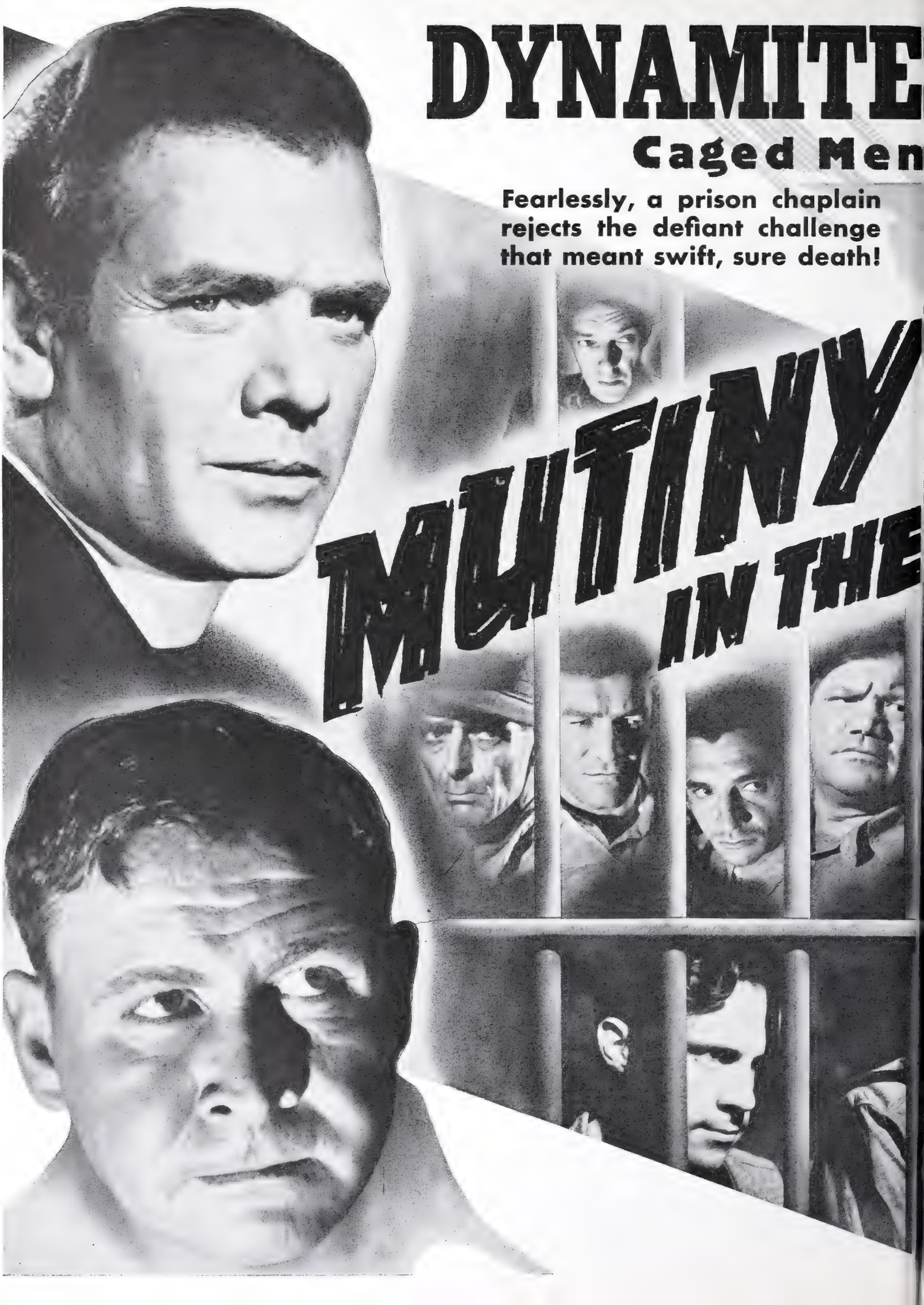
Blissfield—F. H. Guy opened the new Bliss.

Detroit—Jack Broder started remodeling store and garage on Jefferson and Drecel Avenues, near the Cinderella, for conversion of a theatre, to be called Time.

An 800-seat house, known as Van Dyke, at Van Dyke Ave. north of Harper Ave., by William Schulte.

Plans for new house in northeast section on Joseph Campau Ave., near Yemans, announced by Saul Sloan, head of

(Continued on page 63)


DYNAMITE
Caged Men
Fearlessly, a prison chaplain rejects the defiant challenge that meant swift, sure death!
MUTINY IN THE

DRAMA...

Lusting For Life!

BIG HOUSE



STARRING

CHARLES BARTON

BICKFORD · MacLANE

Directed by WILLIAM NIGH

Associate Producer GRANT WITHERS
Screenplay by ROBERT D. ANDREWS
Original Story by MARTIN MOONEY

A MONOGRAM PICTURE

MONOGRAM PICTURES

"RAINS CAME" AND "THE WOMEN" AGAIN TOPS

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

THE RAINS CAME—Denver.....225

THE WOMEN—New York (2nd wk) 200

HONEYMOON IN BALI—New York (2nd wk) 180

HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE (dual)—Omaha 165

HONEYMOON IN BALI (dual)—New Haven 165

THE OLD MAID (dual)—Kansas City 150

THE WOMEN—Minneapolis 150

EXTENDED RUNS

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, 21st wk., New York City.

Four Feathers, 6th wk., Los Angeles.

Beau Geste, 4th loop wk., Chicago.

End of a Day, 4th wk., Filmarte, New York City.

Real Glory, 4th wk., New York City.

The Women, 4th wk., Chicago.

The Old Maid, 3rd loop wk., Chicago.

The Rains Came, 3rd wk., Cincinnati.

BOSTON

Fenway—**Espionage Agent** (FN); **No Place to Go** (FN) 70
Memorial—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), 1st wk.; **Full Confession** (RKO) 125
Metropolitan—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 1st wk.; **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox) 115
Orpheum—**Golden Boy** (Col); **Miracles for Sale** (M-G-M) 75
Paramount—Same as Fenway 70
State—Same as Orpheum 65

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**Five Little Peppers** (Col)..... 90
Carolina—**The Old Maid** (FN).....110
Imperial—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox)..110
Imperial—**Blackmail** (M-G-M) 100
State—**Bad Lands** (RKO) 100
State—**Rollin' Westward** (Mono) 90

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Beau Geste** (Para), 4th loop wk.....100
Chicago—**The Old Maid** (FN), plus stage show, picture moved to Apollo for 3rd loop wk....120
Garrick—**U-Boat 29** (Col); **What a Life** (Para). 90
Oriental—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M), 2nd loop run; stage show 100
Palace—**In Name Only** (RKO), plus stage show, 2nd wk. 90
Roosevelt—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN), held 2nd wk. 125
State-Lake—**The Man They Could Not Hang** (Col), plus stage show..... 90
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M), held 4th wk. 115

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO) 100
Capitol—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk...120
Keith's—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 120
Lyric—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), 2nd wk.....130
Palace—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN).....120
Shubert—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para), plus stage show 120

CLEVELAND

Allen—**Coast Guard** (Col) 125
Hippodrome—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
Palace—**The Under-Pup** (Univ). Stage: John Boles and vaudeville 105
State—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para) 95
Stillman—**Our Leading Citizen** (Para) 50

DALLAS

Capitol—**Hidden Power** (Col), 1st half..... 80
Capitol—**Forgotten Woman** (Univ), 2nd half.... 90
Majestic—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN) 110
Palace—**The Women** (M-G-M) 120
Rialto—**Two Bright Boys,** (Univ), 1st half.... 90
Rialto—**The Under-Pup** (Univ), 2nd half.....100
Tower—**The Old Maid** (FN) 100

DENVER

Aladdin—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), after a wk. at the Denver 225
Broadway—**These Glamour Girls** (M-G-M); **Blackmail** (M-G-M), after a wk. at the Orpheum 100
Denham—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para) 95
Denver—**Golden Boy** (Col) 95
Orpheum—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Conspiracy** (RKO) 110
Paramount—**Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (UA); **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox)..... 95
Rialto—**Man in the Iron Mask** (UA), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **North of Shanghai** (Col) 100

DETROIT

Adams—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), after 2 wks. at Fox; **Two Bright Boys** (Univ)....100
Cinema—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), after 1 wk. at Adams; **The Eagle of the World** (Foreign) 95
Fox—**In Name Only** (RKO); **Everything's on Ice** (RKO) 80
Michigan—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **What a Life** (Para) 85
Palms State—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **Irish Luck** (Mono) 70
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..100

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Desperate Trails** (Univ); **Trapped in the Sky** (Col) 70
Apollo—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox); **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., moveover 80
Circle—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **Two Bright Boys** (Univ) 90
Indiana—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Conspiracy** (RKO) 90
Loew's—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **Coast Guard** (Col) 75
Lyric—**Each Dawn I Die** (FN), plus stage show 95

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ)..... 90
Midland—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **Hidden Power** (Col) 75
Newman—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), held....140
Orpheum—**The Old Maid** (FN); **Hidden Staircase** (RKO), held 150
Tower—**The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 90
Uptown—Same as Esquire 95

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **These Glamour Girls** (M-G-M) 125
Downtown—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN); **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (WB).....110
Four Star—**Four Feathers** (UA), 6th wk..... 60
Hillstreet—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Hawaiian Nights** (Univ) 125
Hollywood—Same as Downtown 110
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet 125
Paramount—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), reissue; **$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para). 85
State—Same as Chinese 140

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Beau Geste** (Para); **$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para) 100
Riverside—**Tropic Fury** (Univ); Lawrence Welk on stage 135
Strand—**The Old Maid** (FN); **Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation** (20th-Fox) 100
Warner—**They Shall Have Music** (UA); **Unexpected Father** (Univ) 125
Wisconsin—**The Women** (M-G-M) 130

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Range War** (Para); **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox) 90
Century—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..100
Gopher—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para).....109
Minnesota—**Of Human Bondage** (RKO), plus stage show incl. Senator Murphy and Coleman Clark 125
Orpheum—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox), plus stage show incl. Chester Morris..... 70
State—**The Women** (M-G-M) 150
Time—**Lucrezia Borgia** (Foreign), 2nd wk.....100
World—**Stolen Life** (Para) 75

NEW HAVEN

College—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Stronger Than Desire** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., 6 days.....115
Loew-Poli—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **These Glamour Girls** (M-G-M), 6 days 90
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **Risky Business** (Univ), 8 days 165
Roger Sherman—**Espionage Agent** (FN); **No Place to Go** (FN) 65

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Clouds Over Europe** (Col) 90
Globe—**Bachelor Mother** (RKO), 2nd run..... 80
Liberty—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), 2nd wk.... 85
Lyceum—**6,000 Enemies** (M-G-M) 80
Orpheum—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO) 100
Saenger—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox).....100
State—**Blackmail** (M-G-M) 125
Tudor—**Man in the Iron Mask** (UA), 2nd run.. 75

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M), 20th wk., held 100
Capitol—**The Women** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....200
Criterion—**Woman Is the Judge** (Col).....110
Globe—**Challenge** (FA) 100
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 2nd wk., plus stage show 180
Radio City Music Hall—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO), 2nd wk., plus stage show.....100
Rivoli—**Real Glory** (UA), 3rd wk., held.....120
Strand—**Espionage Agent** (FN), 2nd wk., plus stage show 90

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**In Name Only** (RKO) 80
Liberty—**Full Confession** (RKO); **Hobby Family** (FN), 4 days 100
Liberty—**Indianapolis Speedway** (WB); **They Asked for It** (Univ), 4 days.....100
Midwest—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 100
Plaza—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M), moveover.... 80
State—**Colorado Sunset** (Rep); **Smuggled Cargo** (Rep), 3 days 100
State—**U-Boat 29** (Col); **Calling All Marines** (Rep), 7 days 130
Tower—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk...125

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Full Confession** (RKO) 130
Omaha—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **They All Come Out** (M-G-M) 120
Orpheum—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Hawaiian Nights** (Univ) 165

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**Intermezzo** (UA) 105
Boyd—**The Women** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..... 90
Earle—**The Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M), plus Phil Spitalny's orch. on stage 100
Fox—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 9 days.....100
Karlton—**The Old Maid** (FN), 2nd wk.....100
Palace—**In Name Only** (RKO), 3rd run..... 90
Stanley—**Beau Geste** (Para) 120
Stanton—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd run.110

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk...120
Barry—**The Girl From Mexico** (RKO); **On Trial** (WB) 100
Fulton—**Stanley and Livingstone** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk.; Louis-Pastor fight pictures.....100
Penn—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 110
Senator—**Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox); **Behind Prison Gates** (Col).....100
Stanley—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN) 80
Warner—**The Star Maker** (Para), 2nd d. t. wk.115

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Forgotten Woman** (Univ) 125
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..130
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **Stolen Life** (Para) 100
Liberty—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox) 120
Mayfair—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ); **Hero for a Day** (Univ), 2nd wk.....100
Orpheum—**Hawaiian Follies** (stage); **Wolf Call** (Mono); **Mr. Moto on Danger Island** (20th-Fox) 100

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**The Man They Could Not Hang** (Col); **Stolen Life** (Para) 110
Centre—**The Star Maker** (Para) 115
Paramount—**In Name Only** (RKO) 115
Studio—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para), 2nd wk.....125
Utah—**On Borrowed Time** (M-G-M); **The Under-Pup** (Univ) 115

SEATTLE

Fifth Avenue—**The Women** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..100
Liberty—**Those High Grey Walls** (Col); **This Man Is News** (Para) 85
Music Box—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 2nd wk. 90
Orpheum—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Stronger Than Desire** (M-G-M) 90
Palomar—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN), plus stage show 90
Paramount—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **Everybody's Hobby** (FN) 100

SELLING TO WARRING NATIONS MAY UNDERGO CHANGE IF CASH-CARRY PLAN GOES THROUGH

Provisions Slap at Own Distribution in the Warring Nations

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON — Enactment of the neutrality legislation now under consideration in Congress will require a reorganization of the methods practiced by the American film companies in distributing their pictures in the countries involved in the European war.

The operation by American companies of their own distributing agencies in the belligerent countries, to which the pictures are shipped from the United States, will no longer be possible under the cash-and-carry provisions of the legislation.

Under a strict interpretation of the measure, the scope of activity of the film producers will be confined to the United States, so far as the warring nations are concerned, by requirements that all deals with the governments or nationals of such countries must be concluded here, with the foreign buyer transporting the films in a foreign vessel. In addition, in any sales made to belligerent governments or their agencies, the deal must be for cash.

Providing heavy penalties for violation —a fine of not more than $50,000 or imprisonment for as long as five years, or both — the bill prohibits American ship owners from transporting any passengers or any articles or materials to belligerent nations in their vessels.

As far as business dealings between American businessmen and concerns and nationals of the fighting countries are concerned, the bill requires that the buyer shall take title to the merchandise in the United States, and export of any merchandise is suspended until a sworn declaration that no American citizen has any right or title to the goods has been filed with the collector of the port from which it leaves.

However, it was explained by Senator Tom Connally of Texas, who participated in the writing of the bill, it is planned to interfere as little as possible with ordinary export trade. To this end it is provided that while it is required that title to exported merchandise be transferred in this country there are to be no restrictions on ordinary commercial credits and where it is the custom to sell any type of merchandise on other than a cash basis that method may be continued.

In addition, while the bill as now written would take American film companies out of the market not only in Germany, France and England but in all colonies, dominions or possessions of the last two, it is planned to lift the restrictions with respect to such possessions in the Pacific, remote from the probable scene of war activities, thus permitting the continuance of trade in films and other products with such markets as Australia and Japan.

At the same time, Senator Connally pointed out that while shipments to belligerent countries must be made on the transfer-title-and-carry basis, there are no restrictions on trade with neutral countries, unless they shall be proclaimed combat areas. Accordingly, he said, it would be possible for an American film company which operates its own agencies abroad to ship films to its agency in some neutral country without a transfer of title. That agency, he continued, could re-ship the pictures to a belligerent country, again without transfer of title.

Concerning New York Over Neutrality Imposts

NEW YORK—Overseas operations of the major companies may be hamstrung seriously if the current version of the proposed neutrality bill passes Congress. Observers say most of the danger lies in the wordage and the addition of further amendments is necessary to protect the industry.

Under the neutrality bill, the title rights of an article will have to be passed in New York which means the cash sale takes place here before shipment is made.

No exception, however, is made for a film which is a copyrighted article, and this is not sold, but rented. Furthermore, money from the lease of the film abroad begins to accrue when the film is played. Therefore, it is argued, it is impossible to comply with that provision in the neutrality bill and state the value of the article in advance, except for the print value.

So far no provisions have been made to exempt the companies from the ban on all shipments to belligerent countries.

Seriousness of the situation is indicated by C. C. Pettijohn's visit to Washington.

Americans May Take Charge Of French War Production

PARIS—French production for French theatres under American aegis may materialize shortly as a committee of distributors' representatives consisting of Laudy Lawrence of M-G-M; Ben Miggins of 20th-Fox, and Robert Schless of Warner are considering the proposal advanced by Yves Chataigneau, head of the cinema and photograph section of the general information bureau.

With much of the available personnel of the French studios called to colors, production is at a standstill, although preparations have been made to complete one or two films in outlying studios.

Before committing themselves to the government's suggestion, distributors are checking into the production setup as it stands today. The factors to be considered are the number of incomplete French films and the cost of completing them, how the authorities expect the films to be financed and the list of actors and directors available.

On the latter score, it is understood, there are 20 free directors and 35 male actors who can be utilized if production is to continue.

The distributors' committee also is working very closely with French producers, distributors and exhibitors on all industry problems. The most pressing is the shortage of projectionists.

M-G-M, under Lawrence's direction, already has started to train men and women to replace the operators who are in the army. A bureau of registration has been established for operators and all companies have promised to help in the training so theatres can remain open after 8:30.

Money-in-Movement Advocate

New York—Sidney Skolsky, writing in the New York Post, tells this one from Hollywood:

"One of your favorite actors went to see his producer this week about a new contract with a salary raise. The producer said, 'More money will put you in an upper bracket. You'll only have to give the money to the government on your income tax.'

"The actor replied, 'I know. But I like to feel it in transit.'"

Myers Praises Warner For Trade "Code"

Kalamazoo—"Warner Bros. has taken the lead in putting certain reforms into effect by voluntary action and it now seems likely that the other major companies will follow its example," Abram Myers, Allied general counsel, wrote the Michigan Allied convention here.

"Since the development is voluntary and does not require the exhibitors to sign their lives away in order to benefit by it, I think the concession should be gratefully received and that Warner Bros. should be thanked for cutting through the politics and humbug that stymied the code negotiations," he declared.

Sees No Interruption In U. K. Producing

NEW YORK—British production will continue with every indication American companies will resume their quota operations now that England has adjusted herself to war-time operations.

Authority for this view is Irving Asher, head of British production for Columbia and associate producer for Alexander Korda. He says the quota law is in force and as yet there has been no indication that it will be revoked. "We may have to make less films. But remember, the exhibitors there need product."

Concerning reports on the shortage of available manpower, Asher scoffs at those. He points out acting and technical personnel are in the reserve branch of the military and the producers hope they can be recalled when needed.

As for production, the only inconveniences caused by war, according to Asher, are the shortage of gasoline, which necessitates the use of trains to get to studios and the impossibility of shooting night exteriors.

Asher has no idea when he will return to London but he hopes it will be soon since he has three films to do for Columbia. First, he will leave for the coast Tuesday to visit his family. As far as he could determine at this moment, Columbia plans to continue its quota production.

Before he left London, Asher completed "10 Days in Paris," starring Rex Harrison. He also produced "U-Boat 29" and "Clouds Over Europe" for Columbia.

He expects suburban theatres in England to do most of the business. Theatres in suburban sections remain open until 10 p. m. while closings are staggered in the West End of London. One week a certain section of West End, Asher explains, closes at six and the following week another section will remain open until 10 p. m.

Production is proceeding at Denham, the Ealing studios where Michael Balcon is making two features and at Elstree where John Maxwell expects to do three. He thinks 20th-Fox will carry on at Gainsborough.

Asher reports Korda has finished "The Thief of Bagdad" and is now doing the trick photography. Korda, he says, has finished a propaganda film for the government and is marking time until further orders.

"You must realize the British people need entertainment especially during blackouts which are rather nerve-wracking. They will need pictures that will entertain and make them laugh. Producers in England realize it is their duty to fulfill that function," Asher observes.

He does not minimize the problem of exchange which is now menacing the revenue of the industry. Individuals leaving the country are not allowed to take out more than 10 pounds, he says.

"Intermezzo" Pulls Big Gross

NEW YORK—"Intermezzo" garnered $99,500 in its first week at the Music Hall and is now in its second stanza.

It Was Only a Fire Engine

New York—Response to air raid warnings apparently becomes a force of habit. Irving Asher will testify to that. Latest of the American film men to return from London, he checked in at the Ambassador after arriving by Clipper plane.

"The first night I retired early," he relates, "I was awakened by a siren. I jumped out of bed and ran to the window to look for planes. Only then did I realize it was a fire engine tearing down the street."

Sees a Shift to Spanish And American Pictures

NEW YORK—Latin American theatre owners will benefit from "more playing time for Spanish language and American films, which otherwise would be consumed by productions of France, England and other European countries," in the opinion of Ben Y. Cammack, assistant export manager for RKO.

Giving an "early appraisal" of the situation caused by the Second World War as it affects Latin American exhibitors, Cammack declares operators in those countries will be "favorably" affected.

His observation is based "on the facts that warring nations require and urgently need products of Spanish-American countries. Belligerents will need sugar and manganese ore from Cuba; oil from Venezuela, Aruba and Mexico; coffee, manganese ore, cotton and cocoa from Brazil; wheat and beef from the Argentine and Uruguay; copper, nitrates, tin and iron ore from Chile, Bolivia and Peru, etc. This means a ready and waiting cash market for all these products which, in turn, means a maximum number of people will be engaged in gainful employment."

The greater number of people at work in these countries, Cammack believes, is bound to have a prosperous effect at boxoffices. "And from experience gained during the First World War," he adds, "when the films of European nations disappeared from the screens of Latin American theatres, we believe this phase of history will repeat itself."

Jules Seltzer Will Guide Roach Coast Publicity

HOLLYWOOD—Jules Seltzer is taking over the publicity reins at the Hal E. Roach studios, succeeding his brother, Frank, who has been promoted to eastern representative. Frank is due in New York in a few days and will divide his time between here and the east.

Gianninis Are Due in Gotham for Vacation

NEW YORK—Dr. A. H. Giannini, his son Bernard A. and their wives, are due from Hollywood, Tuesday, for an indefinite vacation here. The trip is a honeymoon for Bernard and his wife who were recently married.

Future of British Quota on the Fire

LONDON—Question of whether the British Quota Act could function in time of war was the chief topic of discussion Friday among the three branches of the industry and the government, represented by Oliver Stanley, president of the British Board of Trade. Various arguments were presented and mulled over in line with the government's policy of cooperating to its greatest extent with the industry.

However, in lending its cooperation, the government will impose restrictions on remittances being sent to New York in order to stabilize the pound sterling. Such measures were not entertained during the first World War, but it is held the growth of the industry since then has changed the entire picture as far as the monetary shipments are concerned. Not more than $10,000,000 was annually shipped to American companies in the first World War. Today, yearly remittances average from $50,000,000 to $60,000,000 with M-G-M alone said to be grossing about $12,000,000. Then 20th-Fox is said to be sending to the United States about $10,000,000 annually and Paramount is reported to be in the $8,000,000 to $9,000,000 class.

No decision has yet been reached on Stanley's proposal to limit remittances on current contracts to 50 per cent and on new agreements to 20 per cent of the distributors' share at the boxoffices. With negotiations proceeding amicably there is some encouragement within the industry's ranks that an equitable plan will emerge from the present palavers.

Edward Small's Production Plans Stay Unaltered

NEW YORK—Despite a curtailed world market, Edward Small will adhere rigidly to announced production plans, according to J. J. Milstein, Small's eastern representative, who has returned from the coast. Milstein states "My Son, My Son," budgeted at close to $800,000, and "Kit Carson" are to face the cameras simultaneously November 1.

Possibly as an indication for the "go ahead" signal on Small's part, in the face of postponements in other production quarters, is the success of "The Man in the Iron Mask" in South and Central America. Milstein says the film's returns in those countries are comparable with the best achieved by any UA release.

WB Brooklyn Laboratory Dismisses 10 Employes

NEW YORK—About ten employes of the Warner laboratory in Brooklyn have been let out. Dismissal slips went to mechanics, negative cutters and examiners because of the "shortage of work," it is said.

Since the Vitaphone studio, adjacent to the laboratory, closed down this summer, production and cutting have been transferred to the coast. The Brooklyn plant is now confined almost solely to release prints.

Hint Surprise Moves In U. S.-Schine Suit

BUFFALO—Several surprise moves are expected to be instituted by defendant counsel in the government suit against Schine and the majors in the next few weeks, it is learned. Intimation that certain developments will begin to pop was revealed here during the week after arguments for a bill of particulars were heard before Federal Judge Knight.

Recent theatre acquisitions by Schine are said to be in line with the circuit's normal business operations and, according to a spokesman, there is no intention of deviating from policies which have been in effect for 20 years, until the court rules otherwise.

With Thomas Cooke of Cravath, de Gersdorf, Swaine & Wood as chief counsel for Schine, arguments for a bill centered about the vagueness and generalities of the government's petition. He said the defendants had to be apprised of the exact nature of the charges before they can properly prepare their case. In some instances, the allegations go as far back as 10 to 18 years and the contention of the defendants held none of the allegations could be investigated unless specific identifications of the purported violations were cited.

Columbia and UA are going it alone, while other distributors presented an 11x14 brochure consisting of 29 printed pages in demands for the bill.

Irving Moross of Columbia's home office legal staff presented a brief argument. Counsel for UA did not appear, Edward C. Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery being on the coast at the time. In addition to Cooke, John Lord O'Brian, representing six majors; John Caskey of Dwight, Harris, Caskey & Koegel, 20th-Fox attorneys, and Willard S. McKay, Schine attorney, were present during argument.

Seymour Krieger and Herbert Borland, for the government, argued that, under the new rules of law, bills of particulars are unnecessary because defendants could get whatever information they are after by interrogatories. Although reports have been current Berkeley W. Henderson, who had recently been transferred to this district by the department of justice, would act for the government he has not yet put in an appearance.

Distributor counsel have not yet been served with a brief by the "Big Stick" in the motion for a temporary injunction. In any event, when briefs are served, defendants have ten days in which to answer. The government has until October 24 to file an answer to the demands for bills and defendants have two weeks from that date to reply.

More Expense; Cooling Plants Active

New York—With Indian summer making thermometers frisky and shooting them to 80 degrees and more, theatre operators over the country have been faced with the additional expense of turning on air cooling systems again. An important major circuit figures it cost approximately $900 to get the system going in one of its Broadway houses.

Nat Holt, RKO district manager with headquarters in Cleveland, was in town this week and stated it cost $100 to turn on the juice in one of his Cleveland theatres.

Irving Fleischer Hospitalized

NEW YORK—Irving Fleischer, restaurant concessionnaire at the Warner home office building, is ill at the French Hospital.

Arguments in "A-Z" Quiz Off to Nov. 1

NEW YORK—By mutual agreement, argument on the "Big Stick's" A to Z quiz, scheduled for October 17, has been postponed until November 1. Distributors asked for additional time to prepare a list of questions relative to the interrogatories in the belief that certain information sought by the government is immaterial and unnecessary.

The delay is the second asked by distributors because of the amount of work attached to preparation of data for presentation to the court.

Cambridge Showmen Back New Sunday Show Try

CAMBRIDGE, O.—Having lost out in a move last year to establish Sunday shows in this town, local theatre operators are engendering new interest in a petition to revive a referendum.

E. C. Grainger, general manager of Feiber & Shea, came on from New York this week to consult with local interests on the petition. He also made stops at Newark, Zanesville and Marietta and returned to New York the latter part of the week.

Savini Returns From Coast

NEW YORK—R. M. Savini, head of Astor Pictures, returned over the weekend from a coast trip.





—American Airlines Photos

A Couple of the Boys Arrive From Hollywood—

Smiling because it means surcease from the studios and holiday-making along the Great White Way. On the left, it is Groucho Marx who now has "At the Circus" behind him. On the right, it is Spencer Tracy who has finished his job in "Northwest Passage."





They Were on Hand to See $50,000 Disbursed—

—Metropolitan Photos

Among those who attended the Will Rogers Memorial Commission luncheon where checks aggregating $50,000 were distributed among institutions which specialize in the care of handicapped children were—on the left—Senator Henry Walters of RKO, Joseph Bernhard of Warner, Walter Vincent of Wilmer & Vincent, and Harold Rodner of Warner. On the right, the group includes Arthur Israel, assistant to Barney Balaban at Paramount; John C. Wright, managing director of the Rivoli; Bill Ornstein of Boxoffice; *William T. Powers, chief buyer for National Theatres, and Harry H. Buxbaum, New York branch manager for 20th Century-Fox.*

BROADWAY

SOL LESSER is a grandfather. His son, Stephen, now associated with his dad in production, on October 1 became the father of a girl whose name is Julienne. Sol had been in the east on business and returned to the coast in time for the event . . . Mary Doyle, Harry C. Arthur's niece and receptionist at the Roxy, is now Mrs. Woody Jabbour . . . Eddie Bergdale of Homer Harman's staff at the same theatre has returned from a three-week honeymoon spent touring the south . . . Bill Powers took his daughter, Katherine, 13, and son, William jr., 8, to the Fordham-Alabama game the other day. Fordham is Powers' alma mater. The following week he took the family to the rodeo at the Madison Square Garden . . . Milt Hossfeld has moved to Bronxville . . . Morris Kinzler showing pictures of his three-year-old baby, a chip off the old block . . . When Harry Arthur flew back to St. Louis he took with him a cocker spaniel for Nat Steinberg, Republic St. Louis franchise holder. Arthur breeds dogs at his Shrub Oak farm at Peekskill . . . James Girden of Warner's home office is convalescing at his home after being discharged from General Hospital . . . Ben Kalmenson is back from another tour of Warner exchanges under his supervision.

Freddie Schwartz spent the last weekend at Lake Placid, which still is his favorite summer and winter resort . . . Leslie E. Thompson denies he has dropped the major from his name, despite the kidding recently by Sam Rinzler . . . George O'Neil, who scripted the screenplay for "Intermezzo," attended the opening day's performance at the Music Hall and then scrammed to the coast on an M-G-M assignment . . . W. J. Roth, manager in the Philippine Islands for Erpi, is vacationing here and does not plan to return to Manila until after the first of the year. He says there is a marked trend in new theatre construction in the more remote islands . . . Eddie Peskay most likely will call off that coast trip he planned. He's interested in the Public Theatre recently acquired by Moe Baranco. It is revealed Peskay tried to include this house in the deal made with Sig Vittman and M. G. Felder for three Bronx houses, but the purchasers "no want" and the house went to Baranco, who has reopened the Public after extensive alterations.

Al Rosen, manager of Loew's State, will have a big night on his hands November 6 when the finals in the "Star Maker" amateur contest being conducted by the circuit are held at the theatre. Semi-finalists from each borough will appear then and $550 will be awarded in prizes . . . Ben Goetz shortly will be discharged from Doctor's Hospital . . . E. S. Zalter, Altec comptroller, is back from a week in Detroit . . . Members of the Warner Club, Friday, tendered Nat Fellman, newly elected president, a testimonial dinner at the Edison. On the committee were W. Stewart McDonald, T. J. Martin, J. M. Brennan, E. W. Budd, Leonard Schlesinger, Stuart Aarons, Frank Cahill, Frank L. Gates, Bob Salomon, Harold Rodner, Harry Mayer, Ruth Weisberg, Jules Levey, A. W. Schwalberg, M. B. Blackman, H. M. Doherty, E. E. Hinchy, Arthur Sachson, Saul Immerman, John T. Holmes, Willard C. Patterson and Abel Vigard . . . Al Sherman of Columbia has been basking on Miami Beach these past few weeks.

William Fox paid Leopold Friedman, secretary and general counsel of Loew's, a visit at his office the other morning . . . Harold Rinzler hopes to make his first trip to the Fair, October 31, the closing day . . . Joe Vogel is back on the job, but says his hip could be in much better condition . . . Irving Greenfield, Loew attorney, has been having trouble with his stomach . . . Bill Heineman's weight is now down to where he wants it . . . John L. Franconi celebrated his 24th year in the industry and his second year as Monogram Texas franchise holder last week . . . John J. O'Connor has been on a tour of RKO midwest theatres . . . Mrs. Stanton Griffis, the former Whitney Bourne, has leased an 11-room apartment on E. 72nd St.

Bob Wilkes of M-G-M was honored during the week with the presentation of a gold service medal of the Grand Lodge of Masons of New York State . . . Henry W. Kahn has been named general sales manager of Film Alliance of the U. S. and shortly leaves on a tour of key cities . . . Sam Burger will be leaving shortly for South America on behalf of Loew's. Under present plans he will not sail for Paris to relieve Ludwig Lawrence, managing director of M-G-M on the continent, who has joined up with the French foreign legion . . . Willard S. McKay was in Buffalo again this week on the Schine suit.

Harry Gold returned the other day with Arthur Silverstone from a three-week tour of the south with a line of double talk bordering on insanity . . . Bill Mallard, RKO counselor, has dropped five pounds from his belt line these last few weeks . . . Maurice Freedman, RKO artist, has 17 paintings on exhibition at Midtown Galleries . . . Mike Siegel of Imperial Pictures in Washington has acquired Standard product for the territory . . . Rudy Berger, M-G-M manager in Washington, was a home office visitor . . . N. L. Nathanson visited Loew home office executives Wednesday . . . Bill Scully and F. J. A. McCarthy of Universal returned from Dallas with an Interstate contract in tow . . . Ernest Schoedsack is in town from the coast for a vacation . . . Joe Moskowitz to the coast any week now.

Marion Spitzer is here from the Paramount studio on a month's holiday. John Byram of the eastern production department had her to lunch at "21" as one of the early bits of socializing . . . Irving Asher is in New York from London . . . Morris Loewenstein, president of the MPTO of Oklahoma is visiting and will attend the national organization's meeting of directors at White Sulphur before returning west. With him are Ona Johnson, who is associated with various of the Loewenstein enterprises, and Sol Davis, well-known independent distributor in that area . . . Abe Lichtman's been up from

Washington booking vaudeville. He says it's no cinch.

Herman Wobber leaves for San Francisco, Wednesday, and then to Hollywood on a visit to the exchanges as part of the Kent Drive. Wobber was in Chicago, Friday, with Bill Gehring on the B&K deal . . . William Sussman is back after visiting Cincinnati and Cleveland . . . A few floors below in the 20th-Fox building where National Theatres is located, Harry Gold and his new assistant, Arthur Silverstone, waiting for Spyros Skouras . . . Joe Hummel recommends the lobsters at White's over at W. 43rd St. He usually dines there with his two sons on Fridays.

CUPID CORNER: Frances Marion Kridel, daughter of the Harry A. Kridels, was married to Richard Cotter Carton at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in South Orange, N. J. The couple are honeymooning in the west . . . Leonard Goldenson, assistant to Leon Netter, Paramount circuit executive, married the former Isabelle Weinstein, daughter of Russeks' president . . . "Hap" Hadley, pre-eminent artist to the trade, is honeymooning with his former secretary, who was Margaret Keegan . . . Announcement is made by the Harry Scharlins of the engagement of their daughter, Babette, to Bernard "Bingo" Brandt, brother of Harry, William and Louis . . . Mrs. L. Kloverstrom of Rockaway Beach, L. I., announces the engagement of her daughter, Eva Shapiro, secretary to Leonard Picker, Columbia attorney, to Meyer Meierovitz, of Newport, R. I., which will be the scene of the wedding . . . Howard Harris, brother of Radie Harris, was married to the former Jeanne Gidding . . . Irving Barry of National Theatres vigorously, furiously and unequivocally denies rumors that would have him taking the fatal step.

The Tom Geretys have moved to a new apartment in Rockville Center, L. I. . . . Paul Robeson was aboard the Washington *when the vessel docked Thursday from Europe . . . Aaron Copland, composer who wrote the musical score for "The City," has gone to the coast with a Hal Roach contract to score "Of Mice and Men" . . . Eddie Richeter, New Jersey booker at the M-G-M exchange, has forced himself to give up smoking on account of a little fine that was imposed when the fire inspector made his last visit . . . Bob O'Donnell of Dallas was in and out of town in a brace of days . . . E. Wallace Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers, is shopping for a molar to replace a frontal that suddenly dropped out of place . . . Which brings up the story being circulated by Lou Johnson, head of the M-G-M exchange's shipping department, who insists that his son, while surf-casting, hooked what he considered to be nothing less than a baby whale. He reeled in, the story continues, and found a very valuable catch indeed: A set of solid gold false teeth.*

Dora Eitzig, secretary to Jack Chertok, M-G-M shorts producer, is vacationing in these parts . . . Ditto Mollie Davis and Sadie Meckler, secretaries at the company's Cleveland office . . . Dorothy Butler, eighth floor receptionist at Loew's, leaves Friday to join her husband in Aruba, Dutch West Indies, where he is employed as an electrical engineer . . . W. Katz, J. Kane, M. Grad and J. Greenberg, with a total of 1,739 points, are leading the Columbia Club's Bowling League. In second place, with 1,650 points, are Al Schwartz, Leonard Picker, Irving Moross and A. Johnson . . . Irving Asher, Columbia's British producer, is here from London, via *Clipper,* for about a week before heading for the coast and a visit with his family . . . Dave Rose's family is still with him in London, with plans indefinite as to their return to these shores.

Monroe Greenthal post mortems the Columbia-Yale fracas at New Haven to Lindy luncheon confreres, Morris Helprin, Al Margolies, Louis Berg and Myer Beck. "So Columbia comes in second, and I've got dough on the nose," pines the alumnus . . . Arthur Schwartz, Julie Sanders—son of Rudy—Lou Wolff, Joe Ingber and Marty Levine are a pro-Brandt group of "fressers" . . . Rube Jackter is hosting Izzy Rappaport of Baltimore. "I've just come back from Atlanta and a nice deal with M. A. Lightman for about 80 theatres," glows Jackter. Nate Levy, brother of Jules, and RKO's Philly district manager, is in the middle of Mike Poller and Harry Michalson.

R. E. Griffith talking a Warner deal with Ben Kalmenson . . . Louis Frisch and George Skouras taking very big steps, westward on 45th St., and not saying a word about it . . . Jerry Fairbanks, who came east to sign a deal with Lou Diamond of Paramount for a new series of one-reelers, flew his own Stinson monocoupe back to the coast over the weekend . . . Al Danson of Paramount exploitation was in Boston, Buffalo and Columbus on "What a Life" campaigns . . . Eugene Solow, who did the screen adaptation on "Mice and Men," returns to the coast in a few days to help cut the film . . . The M-G-M exchange's annual Pep Club Halloween dance will be held the evening of October 27.



—Ralph Morgan

"Abe Lincoln" Returns—

Raymond Massey, his role in the film version of the Robert E. Sherwood play finished, returns to New York. He will resume his role in the play, but on tour.

Bob Smeltzer, Warner central district manager, was in from Washington for conferences with Roy Haines . . . The "Music Hall Family" turned out en masse to pay tribute to and help celebrate the birthday of W. G. Van Schmus. Among those present: Guy Eyssell, Leon Leonidoff, Erno Rapee, Russell Markert, Florence Rogge, Hattie Rogge, Gene Snyder, Hazel Flynn, Eugene Braun, Robert Henderson, Bruno Maine, Fred Cruise and Willa Van.

LOEW NOTES: Joe Vogel says that, after 30 years, he now has a steady job with Loew's. He celebrated on October 10 and in reminiscence harked back to the days when he started as an usher at the Yorkville in Harlem which Loew's acquired 30 years ago from Hurtig & Seamon, the former burlesque kings . . . C. C. Moskowitz recently was tendered a dinner by the New York chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi, having been one of the founders of the national alumni association 27 years ago. He was given an engraved ring and fountain pen . . . Arthur Moskowitz's home in Forest Hills was robbed the other day . . . Good news continues with the grand old lady of the Moskowitz household who took her first auto ride the other day after being confined to the house for 13½ weeks . . . Oscar Doob and Ted Friend, the latter night club prowler for the *Mirror,* in a planning mood at Bob Goldstein's Tavern with the Loew publicity head preferring an omelet to a juicy steak.

POLITICAL PALAVER: *Clarence E. Hill, assistant to William Sussman, eastern division head for 20th-Fox, has been renominated to the Millburn, N. J., township board . . . Walter Hoffman, city manager for the Reade circuit in Morristown, N. J., didn't make out so well in the primaries. He ran for alderman, much as he tried to persuade the Republican party not to put him up against Hiram Todd, who has held the post for 25 years. He missed by 91 votes which isn't so bad for Hoffman, who never before had entered the political arena.*

WEED WHISPERS: Bill White of the Skouras circuit and Jack Ellis, local RKO salesmen, like their cigars light while Tom Pettey, head of WHN, likes his Coronas on the dark side . . . Dave Blum is back on a full time diet with his cigars . . . Bill Rodgers eschews them, (pardon the pun) after a brief tryout . . . Al Suchman, film buyer and chief booker for Consolidated Amusements, prefers his ropes small and thin, the same as Max A. Cohen, who now goes for Kool cigarettes in a big way . . . Milt Kusell enjoys munching his cigars and always has a ready supply in his vest pocket.

PISCATORIAL NOTE: *Harry Buxbaum, local branch manager for 20th-Fox, heard of a Columbia sport short dealing with fish and asked Nat Cohn if he could take a gander. Cohn asked the why and wherefore which brought "Buxy" to reply, "We want to make a screen test of the fish for a feature we have in mind" . . . Joe Seider manages to take the reel and rod in hand weekends and reports his luck is still holding up.*

Operator of two Bay City, Mich., theatres, vice-president and life member of the

(Continued on page 26-C)

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington; Notables Will Meet Him There

NEW YORK—The Washington scene, fraught with debates on neutrality and the red-hunting activities of Mr. Dies, takes on a more glamorous and appealing hue Tuesday when the National Press Club sponsors the world premiere of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," at Constitution Hall.

In addition, the Washington correspondents will play host at a dinner to a large Columbia party including the company's executives, Will H. Hays, newspaper and magazine critics, press association reporters and trade paper representatives assembled from Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other intermediate points.

Frank Capra, the producer-director, is coming from Hollywood to attend a luncheon tendered by the club.

Arthur Hachten, International News Service and president of the club, Fred Perkins of the Washington Bureau of the Scripps-Howard Alliance, and Walter Karig, Washington correspondent of the Newark *Evening News*, are handling all arrangements.

The festivities actually start at Monday noon in New York where Columbia and the Columbia Broadcasting System join forces to tender H. V. Kaltenborn a luncheon at the Rainbow Room. Kaltenborn "covers" for the camera the filibuster scenes in the picture. A preview showing will follow the luncheon.

Newspaper men and women to attend include: Marjory Adams, Boston *Globe;* Howard Barnes, New York *Herald-Tribune;* B. Bergman, Philadelphia *Record;* William Boehnel, New York *World Telegram;* Eileen Creelman, New York *Sun;* Norman Clark, Baltimore *News-Post;* Herbert Cohen, Brooklyn *Eagle;* Peggy Doyle, Boston *American;* Helen Eager, Boston *Traveler;* Frank Farrell, New York *World-Telegram;* Prunella Hall, Boston *Post;* Charles Howard, Boston *Globe;* John Hutchens, Boston *Transcript;* Elinor Hughes, Boston *Herald;* Bland Johaneson, New York *Daily Mirror;* Gilbert Kanouer, Baltimore *Evening Sun;* Jeff Keen, Philadelphia *News;* Leo Mishkin, New York *Morning Telegraph;* Henry Murdock, Philadelphia *Ledger;* Frank Nugent, New York *Times;* Rose Pelswick, New York *Journal-American;* George Ross, New York *World-Telegram;* Samuel Schwab, Philadelphia *Enquirer;* Louis Sobol, New York *Journal-American;* Irene Thirer, New York *Post,* and Danton Walker, New York *Daily News.*

The magazine contingent consists of Dan Mish, *Look;* Frances Simon, *Pic;* F. J. Smith, *Liberty,* and Tom Wenning, *Newsweek.* The press associations group includes Mark Barron, Dale Harrison and Jack Stinnett of Associated Press; George Lait, International News Service; Lee Mortimer, Kings Features; Ira Wolfert, NANA, and Joan Younger, United Press.

Will H. Hays heads the industry group which includes Jack Cohn, Nate Spingold, Abe Montague, Abe Schneider, Maurice Bergman, Leonard Gaynor, Hortense Schorr, Frank McGrann, W. G. Van Schmus, Hazel Flynn, Martin Quigley, Colvin Brown, Jay Emanuel, Arthur James, Sam Shain, Chester Bahn, C. E. Lewis, Mo Wax and Red Kann.

Official Washington will be represented by such figures as Postmaster General James A. Farley, Attorney General Frank Murphy, Col. Ed Starling, chief of the White House Secret Service; Col. Edward A. Halsey, secretary of the senate, and Walter H. Moore of the department of justice. And by the following senators: Guy M. Gillette, D. Worth Clarke, E. W. Gibson, Lester Hill, E. D. Smith, Harry S. Truman, Kenneth McKeller, Daniel C. Roper, Arthur Capper, William H. Smathers, William H. King, Theodore Francis Green, Carl Hayden, Prentiss M. Brown, James M. Mead, Rufus C. Holman, John E. Miller, Victor Donahey, Hattie W. Caraway, Styles Bridges, Alvin B. Adams, Robert R. Reynolds, Wallace H. White jr., and Robert F. Wagner.

RKO Tallies 500 Lounge Visitors

New York—More than 500 exhibitors, representing approximately 2,000 theatres in this country, and representatives of 16 foreign nations have visited the RKO lounge since it was opened for World's Fair visitors. Among the players who also dropped in were Raymond Massey, Nancy Carroll, Herbert Rawlinson, Sally Eilers, Edward Ellis, Anna Neagle, James Ellison, Lorna Lynn, ZaSu Pitts, Alice Eden, Cary Grant and Ray Whitley.

Atlas Promises RKO Underwriting Nov. 1

NEW YORK—A new underwriting agreement for RKO common stock will be submitted on November 1, according to a statement made to Federal Judge William Bondy by Richard Jones, representing Atlas Corp.

The directors of RKO and Atlas officials have been engaged in studying the European situation to see what effect it will have on RKO's earnings. When that has been decided a new offer will be formulated.

It also was disclosed by O. C. Doering of Irving Trust that the banking house will file a statement next week of RKO's earnings for the first six months of 1939.

Judge Bondy was not particularly pleased with the postponement. "This proceeding is pending an interminable time," stated the jurist. "RKO cannot go on and remain in the courts indefinitely. It has been in court long enough. Progress must be made toward final reorganization."

"U"-Gibraltar Chain Split Over Rentals

DENVER—Universal has split with Gibraltar Enterprises, operating 43 theatres, a number of which are closed situations, in this area after efforts by distributor executives to get together with Charles Gilmour, president of the circuit, on a 1939-40 deal failed.

As a result, Universal is offering long-term deals to competing exhibitors. Where the circuit is in closed towns, the distributor will make its product available to newcomers.

Is Second Universal Recent Breakaway

NEW YORK—The Gibraltar breakaway is the second for Universal in recent weeks. BOXOFFICE last week exclusively reported an impasse with the Saenger circuit in New Orleans because of failure to strike a new deal. Since then, the distributor has sold at least four situations on term franchises and is offering similar deals to present and prospective exhibitors in Saenger towns.

Charles Rackliffe Rites Held at Holyoke, Mass.

HOLYOKE, MASS.—Funeral services for Charles W. Rackliffe, for many years an operator of theatres in Holyoke, Springfield and Northampton, were held here. He was 79.

Rackliffe owned the Suffolk and Majestic in this city, leasing both to Boston interests several years ago. He also formerly leased the Academy of Music, Northampton and the Bijou, Springfield.

Pneumonia Proves Fatal For Mrs. John Tracy

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.—Mrs. John Tracy, mother-in-law of John J. O'Connor, RKO theatre operating head, passed away Thursday with services being held Saturday at the Holy Family Church. She had been in her 60's and an invalid for some months until pneumonia set in several days before her death. O'Connor, who had been on a midwest trip, returned in time for the funeral.

Paramount May Release New One-Reeler Series

NEW YORK—Paramount may release a new series of one-reelers to be produced by Jerry Fairbanks and Robert Carlisle of Scientific Pictures, which already is supplying the distributor with two one-reel series. Material will come from *Liberty* magazine's short stories, known as "Bits of Life." Each reel will contain two separate and distinct stories running five minutes apiece. If a test reel meets with success, Scientific will probably turn out six for Paramount's 1940-41 program.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 26-A)

Poetry Society of London, literateur and intimate friend of the late Floyd Gibbons is Richard P. Leahy. Author of "Solitude and Mystery," Leahy is here for a reading of his book at the Shakespeare House in the Merrie England Village at the World's Fair, October 9. He attended Gibbon's funeral and dedicated the following eulogy to the late journalist:

FLOYD GIBBONS

Torn from a loving public's sorrowing breast
Another gallant hero finds his rest.
How calmly peaceful now, how coldly still
This stormy petrel that was dangers' thrill!
How senseless now the heart that beat so warm
And high in every universal storm—
The heart that sacrificed itself to save
Full many a comrade from an early grave.
In a world battle where the cause ran high
To save a friend he sacrificed an eye.
And many a generous act unknown, apart
From valorous deeds endears him to the heart.
Oft times a foreign struggles intrigue bore
This valiant spirit from his native shore
To delve into the maelstrom of a strife
Where death played constantly with tragic life.
Borne from his childhood on adventures wings
He scoffed at danger for the good it brings.
An aching void Floyd Gibbons leaves behind.
The mould is broken that produced his kind.

Booker Willie Katz at the Columbia exchange is busy again with his football operations . . . Charlie Stern spent a few days in Boston . . . One of the things Jack Sullivan unstintingly does is to attend the World Series and he did it in grand style. Another daily visitor was William LeBaron who is making the most of his New York vacation . . . The football season officially got under way with a spirited gridiron huddle in Aubrey Schenck's office with Milt Hossfeld doing the quarterbacking . . . Heavy discussion at the Columbia exchange in which enthusiastic praise is showered on "Mr. S——h G——s to W———n." Exhibitor Jack Hattem admits grudgingly that Columbia has a "great" picture. So Nat Cohn says, "That'll cost you 60 per cent now." Incidentally, Dave Snaper, New Jersey exhibitor, won 10 bucks on the punchboard that Cohn had been offering his "friends."

Pullman Honors Marcus Loew

NEW YORK—The late Marcus Loew has been honored by the Pullman company which has named a car after the founder of the circuit and company bearing his name.

Syracuse Meet Unauthorized, Says Cohen; Won't Attend

NEW YORK—Maintaining that the meeting of Allied of New York called for Syracuse, October 17, by six officers and directors "is without authority," Max A. Cohen, president, says he will ignore the session.

Cohen informs BOXOFFICE the directors have no power to call a general membership meeting; that this can only be done through a quorum of 20 members and only at a regularly constituted meeting. He asserts the organization's directors are limited to a request for a board meeting at the discretion of either the president, secretary or treasurer.

Referring to the minority group of six who called the October 17 meeting as "espionage agents of Colonel Cole and Abram Myers," Cohen declares four of the group "are not in good standing, and not all of them are directors."

Cohen answers the interpretation of E. Thornton Kelly, Allied's former executive secretary, who says neither he nor certain members regard his dismissal from office as official, with: "Kelly holds no elective office. The president has the right to hire and fire such employes."

Kelly has mailed a bulletin to Allied members, requesting attendance at Syracuse "for the purpose of sifting facts concerning the controversy between Max A. Cohen and E. Thornton Kelly," and for determination of "the future status of this organization with relation to National Allied." The bulletin states the motion for the Syracuse meeting was made by Murray Briskin, Capitol; Homer and Clarence Dopp, Strand, Johnstown. The "officers and directors" who signed the call are Harry Savett, Greene, Greene; Mitchell Conery, Ravena, Ravena; Max Fogel, Webster, Rochester; John Gardner, Rivoli, Schenectady; Charles Wilson, Bijou, Troy, and William Tishkoff, Murry, Rochester.

Resort to Court to Name Labor Fight Arbitrator

NEW YORK—Further efforts by Local 306 and major circuits to name a fifth arbitrator this week to settle the union's demands for a 25 per cent increase were unavailing. Counsel for both sides will shortly journey to Albany and ask the appellate court to name the fifth man.

More than 50 suggestions for an impartial man have been presented by the union and circuits with no success. As soon as the court delegates an arbiter, Joseph D. Basson and Bert Popkin will represent the local and C. C. Moskowitz of Loew's and Leslie E. Thompson of RKO, the circuits.

Governor Lehman and Charles Poletti, lieutenant governor, have been among the names suggested by the union and rejected by the circuits.

Picketing Injunction Is Denied in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA — Common Pleas Judge Curtis Bok refused to grant an injunction to prevent Local 307, IATSE operators union, from picketing the Cinema Art Theatre. The injunction was sought by Charles and Harold Steerman, operators of the house, who want to do mechanical work themselves.

Judge Bok would not rule on the justice of their desire, but held the state's anti-injunction act forbade any restraining action on his part. He pointed out the union was not misrepresenting the nature of the dispute nor using violence.

Local 473 Files an Appeal Against Picketing Ban

WILMINGTON, DEL.—An appeal from the decision of Chancellor W. W. Harrington in the Court of Chancery here permanently enjoining Projectionists Union, Local 473, IATSE, from picketing the New Rialto Theatre, has been filed by the union with the state supreme court at Dover.

The appeal, filed by H. Albert Young, Wilmington attorney for the union, claims the Chancellor's opinion is a violation of the constitutional rights of "peaceful picketing."

Orange Anti-Trust Suit Dismissed

New York—Federal Judge John W. Clancy, Friday, dismissed, with taxable costs, the $225,000 triple damage anti-trust suit of Orange County Theatres against Paramount, Big U, RKO, UA, Joseph Lee, Eugene Levy, George Walsh and Netco Theatres. The suit alleged violation of the Sherman laws with respect to the Academy, Newburgh, N. Y. Plaintiff requested dismissal on grounds of inability to proceed.

Quemos' Attorneys Show Cause Against Delay

NEWARK—Attorneys for Quemos Theatre Co. have brought an order to show cause why service of process in the action against major distributors and opposition theatres should not be quashed and the complaint dismissed in accordance with a decision rendered by Judge Guy L. Fake on July 7, 1939.

Defendant distributors obtained an order to show cause why service of process should not be quashed on the ground they are not sueable in this district, which Judge Fake denied. Defendants were represented in this move by Merritt Lane, attorney, who died June 23, 1939, and in the show cause order brought by Chester K. Ligham, Quemos counsel, the defendants are said to have "continually and unnecessarily" delayed substitution of counsel, thus delaying the trial.

Chester Morris in Gotham

NEW YORK—Chester Morris, who appears in "Thunder Afloat," arrived here from the coast Saturday.

Heavy Paper Schedule At SMPE Meeting

NEW YORK—Embracing many technical aspects of the industry, authors of more than 20 papers will be present at the fall convention of the SMPE at the Hotel Pennsylvania, October 16-19, to read their articles. Arrangements have been made for delegates to witness a special television demonstration at the World's Fair after the business sessions on the opening day.

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia will be present at an informal get-together luncheon. E. A. Williford, president, will preside as chairman.

Among papers to be presented are: "Photographic Duping of Variable-Area Sound," by F. W. Roberts and E. Taenzer; "A Sound-Track Center-Line Measuring Device," by F. W. Roberts and H. R. Cook jr.; "Volume Distortion," by S. L. Reiches; "Television Control Equipment for Film Transmission," by R. L. Campbell; "Considerations Relating to Warbled Frequency Films," by E. S. Seeley; "Future Development in the Field of the Projectionist," "The Projectionist's Part in Maintenance and Servicing," by J. R. Prater; "Artificial Reverberation for Motion Picture Studios," by P. C. Goldmark and P. S. Hendricks and "A New Non-Intermittent Motion Picture Projector," by F. Ehrenhaft and F. G. Back.

Sidney Returns to Loew's Soon; Duties Not Set

NEW YORK—Louis K. Sidney's new duties upon his return to the Loew home office shortly have not yet been set, it is stated by a spokesman for the company. Sidney has been producing musicals at the studio following the windup of M-G-M's interest in the "Good News" radio program.

Perry Charles, formerly of the Loew home office publicity department and more recently associated with the production department on the coast, is returning within the next week or so to join Howard Dietz's staff.

Charter to Cinema Lodge Of B'nai B'rith Nov. 3

NEW YORK—Formal presentation of a charter to the newly-formed Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith will take place November 3 at a midtown hotel to be announced.

The organization, which is an eastern counterpart of the Beverly Hills Lodge, is to embrace all phases of the amusement field. Following the first meeting here, presided over by A. W. Schwalberg of Warner, it was estimated a membership of 500 may be achieved. Leonard Schlesinger of Warner is chairman of the membership committee.

Third Postponement

NEW YORK—The second adjourned board meeting of the MPPDA, scheduled for Wednesday, has been postponed a third time, with the session now set for October 18.

They'll Be Four Crowded Days

NEW YORK—*Program for the fall convention of the SMPE at the Hotel Pennsylvania, October 16 to 19, follows:*

Monday

9:00 a. m., Banquet Room; Registration.

10:00 a. m., Banquet Room; General and Business Session—Report of the convention arrangements committee; W. C. Kunzmann, convention vice-president. Report of the membership and admissions committee; E. R. Geib, chairman. Welcome by the president, E. A. Williford. Society Business: Election of officers for 1940; proposed amendments of the by-laws; "Partial Deafness and Hearing Aid Design," W. C. Beasley, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md. "The Problem of Distortion in the Human Ear," S. S. Stevens, Department of Psychology, Harvard University. Progress report of the Academy Research Sub-Committee on Acoustical Characteristics, F. Durst, chairman, Hollywood.

12:30 p. m., Grand Ballroom—Informal get-together luncheon; E. A. Williford, chairman. Address of welcome by Mayor LaGuardia. Guests: Bruce Barton, W. G. Van Schmus.

2:00 p. m., Banquet Room; general session—"Science and the Motion Picture," H. Roger, Rolab Photo-Science Laboratories, Sandy Hook, Conn. (Demonstration). "Photographic Duping of Variable-Area Sound," F. W. Roberts and E. Taenzer, Ace Film Laboratories, Brooklyn, N. Y. (Demonstration). "Volume Distortion," S. L. Reiches, Cleveland. (Demonstration). "Optical Control of Wave-Shape and Amplitude Characteristics in Variable-Density Recording," G. L. Dimmick, RCA Manufacturing Co., Camden, N. J. (Demonstration). "Synthetic Reverberation for Motion Picture Studios," P. C. Goldmark and P. S. Hendricks, Columbia Broadcasting Co. (Demonstration). "Backward Perspective—a Review in Retrospect of the Work of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library since 1936," D. L. Baxter, Museum of Modern Art Film Library, New York. (Demonstration).

8:00 p. m., Chrysler Auditorium, New York World's Fair—"Three Dimensional Motion Pictures," J. A. Norling, Loucks & Norling, New York, N. Y. (Demonstration).

8:35 p. m.—"Automatic Slide Projectors for the New York World's Fair," F. Tuttle, Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester. (Demonstration).

9:00 p. m., RCA Exhibit, New York World's Fair—Special demonstration of television by engineers of the RCA.

9:45 p. m., American Telephone & Telegraph Building, New York World's Fair—Demonstration of two-channel recording and reproduction with steel tape, with participation by the visiting delegates, followed by a demonstration of the "Voder." Aural acuity tests will also be made by means of special tone-hearing test machines.

Tuesday

10:00 a. m., Banquet Room; laboratory session—Report of the laboratory practice committee; D. E. Hyndman, chairman. "Photographic Tone Reproduction—Theory and Practice," L. A. Jones, Eastman Kodak, Rochester. "Sensitometry of Subtractive Color Film," R. H. Bingham and H. Hoerlin, Agfa Ansco Corp., Binghampton. "A Sound-Track Center-Line Measuring Device," F. W. Roberts and H. R. Cook jr., Ace Film Laboratories, Brooklyn.

2:00 p. m.—This afternoon has been left open in order that delegates to the convention may visit the Fair.

8:00 p. m.—Joint meeting with the New York Electrical Societey, in the auditorium of the Engineering Societies Building. Speaker: Homer Dudley, Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York. In the Bell Telephone Laboratories Dudley and associates have developed electric circuits for the artificial production of speech. One form of the device is itself voice-controlled, thus differing fundamentally from the Voder of the World's Fair which is controlled by keys and pedals. It has been christened the "Vocoder" or "voice coder."

Wednesday

10:00 a. m., Banquet Room; projection session—"Future Development in the Field of the Projectionist," A. N. Goldsmith, New York. "Motion Picture Auditorium Lighting," B. Schlanger, New York. "Simplex 4-Star Double-Film Attachment," W. Borberg and B. Pirner, International Projector Corp., New York. "The Projectionist's Part in Maintenance and Servicing," J. R. Prater, Congress Theatre, Palouse, Wash. "Suggestions for Encouraging Study by Projectionists," F. H. Richardson, Quigley Publishing Co., New York. "Delivering Laboratory Results to Theatre Patrons," J. R. Prater, Congress Theatre, Palouse, Wash. "A Review of the Question of 50mm Film, With Suggestions and Recommendations," H. Griffin, International Projector Corp., New York. Report of the Projection Practice Committee, H. Rubin, chairman. "Projection Room Planning for Safety," E. R. Morin, Connecticut Department of State Police, Hartford.

2:00 p. m., Banquet Room; general session—Report of the Television Committee; A. N. Goldsmith, chairman. "Television Control Equipment for Film Transmission," R. L. Campbell, Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, Passaic, N. J. "A Narrow-Band Transmission System for Animated Line Images," A. M. Skellett, Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York. (Demonstration). Report of the Studio Lighting Committee; C. W. Handley, chairman. "Starting Characteristics of Speech Sound," R. O. Drew and E. W. Kellogg, RCA Manufacturing Co., Camden. "The Importance of Cooperation Between Story Construction and Sound to Achieve a New Personality in Motion Pictures," L. L. Ryder, Paramount Studios, Hollywood.

8:30 p. m., Grand Ballroom; semi-annual banquet and dance—Introduction of officers-elect for 1940. Presentation of the SMPE Progress Medal. Presentation of the SMPE Journal Award. Entertainment and dancing.

Thursday

10:00 a. m., Banquet Room; 16mm session—"Some Industrial Applications of Current 16mm Sound Motion Picture Equipment," W. H. Offenhauser jr., and F. H. Hargrove, Berndt-Mauer Corp., New York. "The Production of 16mm Sound Pictures for Promoting Safety in the Mineral Industries," M. J. Ankeny, Bureau of Mines, U. S. Department of the Interior, Pittsburgh. (Demonstration). "Lenses for Amateur Motion Picture Equipment (16mm and 8mm)," R. Kingslake, Eastman Kodak Co. Report of the Non-Theatrical Equipment Committee; R. C. Holslag, chairman. "A New Non-Intermittent Motion Picture Projector," F. Ehrenhaft and F. G. Back, New York, (Demonstration). "A Flexible Time-Lapse Outfit," A. B. Fuller and W. W. Eaton, Eastman Kodak Co.

2:00 p. m., Banquet Room; sound session—"Considerations Relating to Warbled Frequency Films," E. S. Seeley, Altec Service Corp., New York. "Investigation of the Influence of the Negative on the Ground-Noise of Photographic Sound Prints," O. Sandvik and W. K. Grimwood, Eastman Kodak Co. Report of the Standards Committee; E. K. Carver, chairman. "Tape Splicers for Film Developing Machines," J. G. Capstaff and J. S. Beggs, Eastman Kodak Co. "Fine-Grain Films Applied to Variable-Density Sound Recording," C. R. Daily, Paramount Studios, Hollywood. "A Multiduty Motor System," A. L. Holcomb, Electrical Research Products, Inc., Hollywood. "Class B Push-Pull for Original Recording," C. L. Lootens, Republic Productions, Inc., Hollywood. "New High-Quality Sound System," G. Friedl jr., H. Barnett, and E. J. Shortt, International Projector Corp., New York. "Development and Application of the Triple-Head Background Projector," B. Haskins, Warner-First National Studios, Burbank.

Following are the officers and committees in charge of the convention:

Officers—E. A. Williford, president; S. K. Wolf, past-president; W. C. Kunzmann, convention vice-president; J. I. Crabtree, editorial vice-president; D. E. Hyndman, chairman, Atlantic Coast section; Julius Haber, chairman publicity committee; Sylvan Harris, chairman papers committee; H. Griffin, chairman convention projection, and E. R. Geib, chairman membership committee.

Reception and Local Arrangements—D. E. Hyndman, chairman; M. C. Batsel, R. O. Strock, G. Friedl jr., H. Rubin, O. F. Neu, L. W. Davee, A. N. Goldsmith, H. Griffin, L. A. Bonn, J. A. Hammond, J. H. Kurlander, Terry Ramsaye, P. J. Larsen, A. S. Dickinson, V. B. Sease, E. I. Sponable, W. E. Green, O. M. Glunt.

Registration and Information—W. C. Kunzmann, chairman; E. R. Geib, M. Siegel, F. Hohmseister, P. Sleeman.

Hotel and Transportation—J. Frank jr., chairman; J. A. Norling, C. Ross, J. A. Maurer, R. E. Mitchell, P. D. Ries, G. Friedl jr., M. W. Palmer, J. R. Manheimer, P. A. McGuire.

Publicity—J. Haber, chairman; S. Harris, F. H. Richardson, J. J. Finn, G. E. Matthews, P. A. McGuire, J. R. Cameron.

Convention Projection—H. Griffin, chairman; M. C. Batsel, M. D. O'Brien, L. W. Davee, G. C. Edwards, W. W. Hennessy, A. L. Raven, F. E. Cahill jr., H. F. Heidegger, P. D. Ries, J. K. Elderkin, H. Rubin, C. F. Horstman, J. J. Hopkins, F. H. Richardson, B. Schlanger.

Banquet and Dance—A. N. Goldsmith, chairman; A. S. Dickinson, H. Griffin, J. A. Hammond, L. A. Bonn, E. I. Sponable, J. H. Spray, R. O. Strock, H. Rubin, D. E. Hyndman, E. G. Hines, P. J. Larsen, O. F. Neu.

Ladies' Reception—Mrs. O. F. Neu, hostess; Mrs. D. E. Hyndman, Mrs. H. Griffin, Mrs. J. Frank jr., Mrs. F. C. Gilbert, Mrs. E. I. Sponable, Mrs. R. O. Strock, Mrs. A. S. Dickinson, Mrs. G. Friedl jr., Mrs. E. A. Williford, Mrs. P. J. Larsen, Mrs. L. W. Davee.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

DISPUTED PASSAGE (Para)—Faithful adaptation of the Lloyd C. Douglas novel, which, unfortunately, lacks the compelling punch to put it over as mass entertainment. As a character study, it will attract most patronage among the discriminating clientele. Akim Tamiroff and Dorothy Lamour are featured. Harlan Thompson produced; Frank Borzage directed.

IRELAND'S BORDER LINE (Regal)—An obviously Irish and receptive audience found this all-Irish production immensely amusing. Despite shortcomings in scenario and directorial departments and weakness in supporting cast, film should generate a responsive attitude through homey comedy and serio-comic development of jewel theft and recovery. Jimmy O'Dea is good in lead role. Title is misnomer. Harry O'Donovan produced and directed.

LAW OF THE PAMPAS (Para)—Hopalong Cassidy goes to South America and returns, unscathed as usual, after plenty of hair-raising adventures. Producer Harry Sherman has fortified this one with a better-than-usual supporting cast and other garnishments to make it a solid hit among those who enoy the best in outdoor entertainment. Nate Watt directed.

MUTINY IN THE BIG HOUSE (Mono)—One of the more important offerings from Monogram, this prison picture qualifies for a place among the better of the many films that have been built on the penal theme during recent months. Charles Bickford, Barton MacLane, Dennis Moore. Associate producer, Grant Withers; director, William Nigh.

ROARING TWENTIES, THE (WB)—It will roar its way across showmen's ledgers leaving a trail of black figures and satisfied customers, this lightning-paced action melodrama of the prohibition era, its evils and its laughs. James Cagney is starred in a superior cast and in the type of gangster role which first made him a favorite with lovers of red-blooded entertainment. Sam Bischoff produced; Raoul Walsh directed.

SUED FOR LIBEL (RKO)—Cleverly constructed mystery-melodrama, packing more than its share of fast-moving entertainment, this is entirely worthy of consideration as a program feature. Possessing no marquee names, it nevertheless has a competent cast. Kent Taylor, Linda Hayes, Lillian Bond. Director, Leslie Goodwins.

WHEN GERMANY SURRENDERED (SR)—An eloquent appeal for peace, particularly timely and therefore potentially profitable in view of current world conditions, this depicts the actual horrors, brutalities and destruction of the last World War as photographed at the front. A. L. Rule's accomplishment in compiling and editing, and his stirring narration are of the highest order.

WHY THIS WAR (Jewel)—A complication of clips mostly filmed during the last war. Concluding sequences trace the events leading up to the current conflict. Narration lashes out strongly against the imperialist war-makers and presents a strong argument for peace. Editing and the earlier commentary, however, are on the weak side.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Deadline on Revamp Plan By French M. P. Corp.

NEW YORK—Federal Judge William Bondy has set October 24 as a final date for confirmation of the plan of reorganization of the French Motion Picture Corp. The company filed its petition of bankruptcy in February, 1938, and Bondy approved the reorganization plan several months ago.

The plan will pay unsecured creditors 15 per cent in full settlement and tax and wage claims in full.

M. P. Associates to Plan Charity Affair Oct. 17

NEW YORK—Motion Picture Associates, of which Jack Ellis is president, will hold a luncheon meeting at the Hotel Astor October 17 to discuss preparations for the organization's 20th annual charity dinner and dance, to be held November 25. Morris Sanders is chairman of the committees arranging the affair, with Morris Kurtz, co-chairman.

Pfeiffer Plagiarism Suit On Movie Quiz Dropped

NEW YORK—Suit of Edward J. Pfeiffer against Edward Churchill of Donahue & Coe for allegedly plagiarizing the Movie Quiz idea in the Motion Pictures Greatest Year campaign has been withdrawn by stipulation of both parties.

National Ad Campaign For "On Your Toes"

NEW YORK—Warner plans a national advertising campaign for "On Your Toes" in 14 fan magazines with a total circulation of 17,000,000. Full-page ads will appear in the November issues.

Leserman Closing Several FWC Spots for Warner

LOS ANGELES—Carl Leserman, assistant to Gradwell L. Sears, general sales manager for Warner, continues to close numerous FWC situations, following a resumption of friendly relationships between the distributor and circuit.

BALTIMORE

VARIETY CLUB had election of officers last Monday after a luncheon at the Belvedere Hotel. The following officers were elected: J. Louis Rome, chief barker; Frank Durkee, first assistant chief barker; Bill Hicks, second assistant chief barker; Nick Weems, treasurer; Joe Young, secretary. Board of directors: Eddie Sherwood, Joe Grant, Rodney Collier, Elmer Nolty, Eddie Perotka, Bill Saxton, and Edward Kimpel jr. . . . Howard E. J. Harding, chief motion picture inspector of Maryland, resigned from office last week, resignation was due to an $800 a year salary cut. Two other inspectors were cut $50 each a year.

Robert Marhenke, Broadway manager, was a guest of the Maryland Legislature's Assembly Club of Baltimore at the Lord Baltimore Hotel last week . . . Herbert Morgan, former publicity chief at Loew's Century, was in town and is now on his way to Tangier Island to film a short of native life. He also plans to make a short at Johns Hopkins . . . Ernie Woods rented a camera to Pan American Airways to make landing test on clipper ships here . . . Max Cluster, Cluster, and wife have just returned from a trip to New York . . . The new Durkee Senator opened up last week with a bang.

A large delegation from Baltimore film business attended Masonic Lodge to see Vernon Nolty, Boulevard, and Gus Nolty, Patterson, receive there third degree. Afterwards a party was held at the Elks Club . . . Chubby Caplan, Linden, and wife celebrated Chubby's birthday last week.

Burglars forced their way into the Vilma Theatre last week during the night and smashed the combination off a safe in the office and took approximately $300. *Lewis Gaertner reported to police burglars battered a rear door to get into the theatre. The robbery was discovered by the janitoress . . . Albert Sklar, brother-in-law of Al and Harry Vogelstein, who is a member of the house of delegates, was elected president of the Assembly Club of Baltimore . . . Cliff Jarrett, assistant manager of the Hippodrome, is back on the job after a visit to Florida. Cliff says don't drive. Cliff should know.*

Governor O'Connor appointed two new members to the board of Motion Picture Operators Examiners. Frank Hornig, Horn, replaces Meyer Leventhal, Lord Baltimore, as president of the board, and Caroll Bayne replaces Nelson Baldwin. Mr. Gordon remains on the board as the fire underwriters representative . . . Lester Green, supervisor of Bill Hick's circuit, is seriously thinking about trading in his chariot . . . Bill Hicks entertained 40 guests at the Belvedere Hotel on his tenth wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Edward Kimpel jr. has recuperated from burns suffered in an accident in her home last week . . . Miss Louise Cassell, Horlacher Delivery Service, has just returned from the Jersey Shores . . . Winners of weekly contests for managers of Rome theatres are Robert Marhenke, Broadway, and Ed Wyatt, Preston.

WASHINGTON

FRANK CAPRA's latest screen success for Columbia, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," will grace the screen of Constitution Hall on October 17 under the sponsorship of the National Press Club. Invitations have been extended to President and Mrs. Roosevelt, members of the cabinet, the senate, the house of representatives, and the diplomatic corps. The drama critics of the leading eastern newspapers also are among the numerous invited guests. Frank Capra has announced his intentions to appear personally, and it is hoped that star Jimmie Stewart will accompany him. This feature will have its world premiere at the Earle Theatre in the near future.

Blanche Carr and Jewel Terry, the successful representatives of Metro's Charlotte exchange to the Frisco fair, were greeted in the nation's capital by Metro's Washington hostesses, Buddy Hall and Marge Dermody, who feted them with breakfast and luncheon, followed by a sightseeing tour. The guests joined the local representatives and proceeded to Union Station under the escort of the entire Metro staff where they entrained to Chicago to join the group party to the coast . . . Rudy Berger, Metro branch manager, has returned from a home office conference . . . Mrs. Berger, who had been convalescing in a local hospital, chose her birthday to return home . . . Peggy Sedlak, telephone greeter at Warner theatres, has been confined to her home with concussion, resulting from a recent accident . . . Bill Ewing, Warner theatres publicity staff, has returned after a brief illness.

Seen along the Row: Hunter Perry, Dominion theatres; Tillie Smith, Mt. Savage; H. Quade, Hughesville; Danny Weinberg, Bedford; Spud Querry and Dick Eason, Marion . . . Kitty McGlynn, Warner theatres contract department, has been nominated to represent the Soroptimist club in the forthcoming Hallowe'en queen festival . . . Muriel Stevenson of the Wilmer-Vincent circuit weekended with 20th-Fox's Sara Young, following which she renewed acquaintances along the Row . . . Paramount's cameraman, Hugo Johnson, accompanied Sumner Welles of the state department to the Pan-American conference in Central America. Incidentally, the Paramount News showing the Poland invasion was "clippered" to America to provide a scoop on the local screens.

J. M. Smith, Northeast, Md., is making a rapid recovery from a recent appendectomy . . . RKO's Gladys Sweeney has returned following a brief illness . . . The dual role played by Louis Hayward in "The Man in the Iron Mask" prompted Loew's publicity staff to invite all twins in the district to attend the Palace showing as guests of the management . . . Universal's Bernie Kreisler's excitement over the release of Deanna Durbin's next vehicle, "First Love," is overshadowed by his anxiety to win the current drive, with the local branch still in front by a whisker.

During Ann Sheridan's personal appearance at the Earle a unique star fan club came into existence. Seventy-five Washington girls with red hair formed the Ann Sheridan redheaded fan club. The club was sponsored by the theatre and station WJSV of the Columbia chain . . . It is rumored that M. K. Murphy, formerly associated with a theatre chain in the anthracite area, will regain his controlling interest. Local reports have it that "Honeymoon in Bali" is vieing with "Beau Geste" in boxoffice receipts.

"The Monroe Doctrine," latest in the series of Warner historical shorts, was previewed in Washington last week for representatives of the state department, the Pan-American Union and other prominent officials. Newdealers attending included Tommy Corcoran, Dave Shencker, Ben Cohen, Jerome Frank, Father John O'Grady, Lewis White, Abner Goldstone, B. G. Dahlberg and Carlton Henry . . . Following the election of officers for the coming year the Variety Club of Washington chose Abe Lichtman, past chief barker, as canvass man to represent Tent No. 10 at the national Variety convention to be held in Dallas, Tex., with Sam Galanty and Edward Fontaine as delegates . . . On Wednesday evening, October 11, the branch managers and salesmen of the Washington exchanges were entertained by the Baltimore Variety Club in Baltimore. The annual dance of the Baltimore Variety Club will be held January 21.

Sidney Lust to Helm of Capital Variety Club

WASHINGTON—Following a luncheon at the Willard Hotel the Variety Club of Washington elected officers for the coming year. Sidney Lust, a member of the board of governors for many years was elected chief barker; Hardie Meakin, first assistant chief barker, Edward Fontaine, second assistant chief barker; Sam Galanty, treasurer; Nate Golden, secretary-elect; Ray Bell, executive secretary.

The following were elected to the board of governors: John J. Payette, Archie Engel, Hardie Meakin, Sidney Lust, Fred Rohrs, Edward Fontaine, Harry Brown, Sam Galanty, Nate Golden, Harry Lohmeyer and Clark Davis. Others who comprise the board are the club's former chief barker, A. Julian Brylawski, Carter Barron, Rudy Berger and retiring chief barker, Abe Lichtman. All new officers assume their posts in January.

J. Louis Rome Heads Balto Variety Club

BALTIMORE—The Variety Club of Baltimore held its annual election of officers following a luncheon at the club. J. Louis Rome was elected chief barker, with Frank H. Durkee as first assistant chief barker; William Hicks, second assistant chief barker; Nick Weems, treasurer; Joseph L. Young, secretary. The following were elected to the board of governors: William Saxton, C. Elmer Nolte jr., Edward Perotka, Edward Sherwood, Edward Kimpel, Joseph C. Grant and Rodney Collier.

MPTOA Board to Talk Trade Concessions

NEW YORK—Pertinent phases relative to trade concessions that have been offered and others that will be sought will be among the major topics for discussion at the MPTOA's annual board meeting at the Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, Va., October 23-24, according to Ed Kuykendall. The session this year replaces the customary annual convention.

Kuykendall came here from Buffalo to attend to various details in connection with the board meeting. He declined to amplify the observation that further relief from distributors is essential if "the law suits are going to stop."

Election of officers will take place at the Virginia meeting. It is expected the entire slate will be returned to office. The post of general counsel will be filled as well as other board vacancies.

Near an Agreement on Financing of Plays

NEW YORK—Negotiations between committees representing the majors and Dramatists Guild over play financing are drawing to a close. The provisions contained in the third draft of the agreement have met with the approval of the guild council and the indications are, when it is presented to the majors' committee, it will likewise be confirmed.

It is pointed out by a spokesman of one of the companies that the pact is being drawn up by attorneys representing the guild and no official steps will be taken until the film committee studies the new draft.

One of the chief stumbling blocks has been removed. The guild demanded for its members a down payment of $15,000 for the rights to the play regardless of the length of the run.

In order to protect themselves against plays folding within a week, the companies proposed a $5,000 down payment for the first week, $2,500 for the second and $7,500 for the third week. Under the provisions fixed in the minimum basic agreement, the author would receive $9,000 and the producer $6,000.

Various means have been fixed to determine the amount of royalties a film company must pay if the play runs longer than three weeks. This will be disclosed when the latest version of the pact is unveiled.

Special Ad Budget Aside For 'Gulliver's Travels'

NEW YORK—Paramount has set aside a $210,000 special advertising budget for newspapers and national magazines for "Gulliver's Travels," which is being released as a Christmas week special. Additionally, six exploiteers will be sent out to the field for special tieups early next month. These men also will work on merchandising campaigns for "The Gay Days of Victor Herbert."

Test in Pennsylvania For Sunday Shows

PHILADELPHIA — Eighteen districts in Pennsylvania will vote on Sunday shows in the November 7 election, according to a survey made public by Rev. William B. Forney, executive secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance.

The Blue Law champion said Sunday sports will be on the ballot in still two other districts.

"In all of the districts our organization is planning a stiff fight against the elements who are attempting to desecrate the Sabbath with motion-pictures and professional sports," said the minister.

The Sunday shows issue will be decided in these districts:

Bristol township, Bucks county; Forty Fort, Luzerne; Shingle House, Potter; New Philadelphia, Schuylkill; Wellsboro, Blossburg, Mansfield, Elkland and Westfield, in Tioga; Roscoe, Washington; Koppel and Freedom, Beaver; Mifflinburg, Union; Coalport Borough and Bigler township, Clearfield; Mount Penn and West Reading, Berks, and Black Lick, Cambria.

Under the new state law, referenda on the issue can be held every five years.

"The big fight will come in 1940," Rev. Forney said. "Our organization is planning to have the issue on the ballot in many districts we lost five years ago, and are confident Sunday movies and sports will be rejected in many." Philadelphia will be one of the scenes of a referendum in 1940, he added.

Fighting Elimination of "Emergency Seal" Fee

PHILADELPHIA—Representatives of all exchanges, at a meeting in the Vitagraph office, laid plans for combating the censor board's new decision to eliminate the "emergency seal" formerly granted at the nominal fee of 25 cents. The new decision threatens a big rise in costs to exchanges.

Although the exchange men would not disclose what form their battle will take, it was understood it will be done in a political way by appealing to higher-ups in the state government.

Denies Loew's Plans New Theatres in Argentine

NEW YORK—Reports that Loew's is planning to construct theatres in subsequent spots in Argentine are denied by Arthur M. Loew.

"We have no immediate plans for the building of theatres there," Loew says.

Not Ex-UA Chief's Wife

PHILADELPHIA—The report of the death and burial here recently of Mrs. Hiram Abrams, widow of the former president of UA is in error. The Mrs. Hiram Abrams who died was the widow of a former executive of the Stanley-Mastbaum theatre interests.

PHILADELPHIA

SKIP WESHNER mobilized the boys in the Warner publicity office for an exploitation stunt for "Babes in Arms" that attracted a lot of favorable talk. He had 30,000 copies of the early edition of the *Daily News* printed with the front page head—"Babes in Arms Take Philadelphia by Storm." He got the boys out at 7:30 a. m.—no mean feat in itself—and sent them around town with a troupe of newsies to hand the papers out, free of course. Recruited as newspaper salesmen were Ev Callow, Milt Young, Al Zimbalist, Bill Kanefsky and Jimmy Dormond. Four girls were decked out in white sweaters to pin buttons ballyhooing the show on center-city pedestrians.

Frank Friestock is building a 500-seater in Cumberland . . . The Affiliated's Lorraine is reopening soon . . . Leo Posel opens his Tyson, November 1, and is building another house not far away on Castor Road. And as if that isn't enough for one neighborhood, a third theatre is being planned by another exhibitor on the same street . . . Allied Picture's "Uncivilized," twice banned by the former censor board, has just got an OK from the new board . . . George Nonamaker, UMPTO's press representative, has been engaged by Rosita Royce, the girl who dances with doves and little else, to do publicity for her visit to the Fays.

Variety Clubbers elected a new board of managers at their last meeting. The new destiny-deciders are Ted Schlanger, Skip Weshner, Harry Blumberg, Dave Supowitz, Sam Stiefel, Dave Milgram, John Monroe, Bill McAvoy, Sid Samuelson, Jay Emanuel and Ray O'Rourke. Stiefel and William J. Clark will represent the club at the Dallas convention next year, and have been instructed to try to bring the subsequent convention to this fair city. Earle Sweigert was re-elected national representative. Club members are arranging a benefit at the Fays for the needy family of a late figure in Vine Street commerce.

In case they've forgotten—Barney Cohen has to get something for the missus on the 25th, which is their third wedding anniversary, and Nathan Bernstein has to buy his present on the 23rd for his wife, the former Frances Goldberg, National Penn Printing . . . Sam Stiefel, Fays, is looking forward to birthday presents on the 17th; Jack Greenberg, Hollywood, on the 18th, and Leonard Hetelson, Colonial, West Philadelphia, on the 30th . . . The Showmen's Club has changed its social evening from Sunday to Saturday, which seems a more appropriate day for jollification . . . Tillie Solomon, UMPTO, says she has just visited the Fair again, and her original poor opinion of it hasn't changed. Another headache for Grover Whalen.

Harry Goldberg, Warner circuit advertising head, was in town . . . Lester Stallman, Astor, Reading, is winning popularity with the kids by holding "cellar shows" in his home, giving all the little Hollywood aspirants a chance to show their stuff, without boring the moviegoers . . . Marty Goldenberg, State, got Parent-Teachers Associations to back "They Shall Have Music."

Nat Watkins, Avon, has original ideas in giveaways. His latest was boxing gloves for the kids at a showing of "The Champ" . . . Art Cohn, Roosevelt; Al Cohen, Nixon, and Haddon Matthews, 69th Street, got a lot of schoolroom support for their showings of "Stanley and Livingstone." They even had pupils reading papers on the picture in history classes, and a Frankford High prof plugged it to 100 apprentice teachers . . . Herman Comer's outside screen, showing a trailer of "All Quiet on the Western Front" to passersby, brought in the largest crowd since the house started its first-run policy.

Joe Dougherty, Tower, went the limit in promoting a free giveaway, when he got a piano from a dealer as a tieup with "They Shall Have Music." The same picture got a big center-city display in Gimbel's window through the efforts of Ben Blumberg, Lane; Roland Haynes, Colonial, and Henry Kahan, Savoia . . . Charlie Dolde, Family, got plenty of cooperation from American Legion posts in arranging a striking display for a recent war picture . . . Lee Kline, Orpheum; Ben Blumberg, Lane, and Silvert Setron, Logan, know how to get their staffs to tickle the old brains for ideas. They're offering prizes for the best promotion suggestions.

$1,250,000 Suit Against Fox to Trial Dec. 27

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Isador Wasservogel has set December 27 as the date for trial of the $1,250,000 suit of the Lexington Ave. and 59th St. Corp. against William Fox.

The suit was originally against Fox Theatres and Milton C. Weisman, receiver of Fox Theatres, but that portion of the action was settled in 1937.

The action claims breach of an agreement made in 1926 whereby Fox promised to erect a theatre on the premises owned by the plaintiff and to spend $1,250,000 in its construction. In 1931, the company backed out of the deal. For its defense, Fox claims William Fox had no right to make the deal, which was never authorized by the board of directors.

Universal Asks Dismissal In an Action Over Title

NEW YORK—The words "inside information" are in common usage and no one has an exclusive right to them, attorneys for Universal state in answering a suit for $25,000 filed in supreme court by Stage and Screen Productions. A dismissal is sought.

In 1934, Universal released in the United Kingdom and Ireland a picture produced by the plaintiff under the title of "Inside Information." Recently, Universal produced one of its own under the same name.

ALBANY

MOE SILVER, Warner Theatres upstate zone chief, was in Buffalo for a huddle with Ralph Crabill, western district manager, and others.

Harry Savett, associated with B. Pearlman in the operation of theatres, was on Filmrow. He takes care of houses in Antwerp, Greene and Port Leyden, among others . . . Kingsley Ryan, Ausable Forks and Keesville exhibitor, was another exchange visitor . . . Mitchell Conery, Conery circuit, reported ill at his home in Ravena . . . Clair Avery, M-G-M advertising clerk, is recuperating from a broken kneecap. His car was hit by another . . . Josephine Lasky, M-G-M switchboard operator, is on vacation . . . Gene Lowe, Monogram salesman, celebrated his second wedding anniversary. He lives in Schenectady.

Frank Curtis, of the Rialto, Massena, made one of his infrequent visits to Filmrow . . . Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wilson, parents of Charles F. Wilson of the Bijou and Lansing, Troy, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last week, according to word received on the Row.

Mrs. Dave Rosenbaum, associated with her husband in operating the Strand, Elizabethtown, was a caller at several exchanges. Rosenbaum spends much of his working time in Ausable Forks and Keesville, where he manages theatres for Charles Marshall.

Vic Bunze of the Casino, Waterford, seen at preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade." Ditto John Gardner of Gardner circuit, Schenectady; Neil Hellman, son of the head of Hellman circuit; Charles Wilson of Bijou, Troy, and many others.

Two Saturday afternoon matches between teams from Metro and Warner Theatres office may be the forerunner of a Filmrow bowling league. Warner crew won the first tilt by 31 pins, coming through in the final game. Bert Windelspecht was high man, the Warner shipper rolling in the 190's. Walter Spur and Joseph Tansky, Warner art department, and Woody Campbell, contact, were among other keglers on that side. Metro had Jack Walsh, exploiteer; Ed Urschel, checking supervisor; Bill Williams, salesman; Bill Gaddoni, booker, and Jack Norton, shipper.

Si Fabian presented the managers of Albany exchanges with tickets for the World Series games in New York, according to Filmrow reports. The circuit head made the same timely gesture last year. Most of the exchange toppers are baseball enthusiasts.

Leonard Berkowitz is now doing clerical work for the city of New York. He was formerly with the Waldorf, Randforce unit in Brooklyn.

Full name of the Morse circuit district manager headquartered in Poughkeepsie and a recent Albany visitor, is John Stowell . . . New manager of circuit's Colonial, Utica, is Fred Frechette. He peddled pictures for Paramount here some years ago and at one time was an independent exhibitor in Chicopee Falls, Mass.

Schines Host to Crowd at Gloversville Reopening

GLOVERSVILLE—The Glove, ace Schine theatre in Gloversville, reopened to a crowded house and with guests in attendance, after extensive remodeling. Special ceremonies, marked by addresses from local dignitaries, were held. Harold Sliter, executive assistant to the Schine brothers; George Lynch, chief buyer, and Lou Goldstein, head booker, were on hand to greet guests.

Albany exchangemen attending reopening, and the party given by Schine circuit later, included: Bernard Kranze, RKO manager; Moe Grassgreen, 20th Century-Fox; Joe Engel, Universal; Joe Miller, Columbia; Arthur Newman, Republic, and Gene Lowe, Monogram salesman.

Lina-Principal Action Over Prints Settled

NEW YORK — Suit of Lina Pictures against Principal Film Exchange for $10,000 for alleged illegal retention of some 90 prints of one to six reels each has been settled and discontinued in the supreme court.

Action claimed defendants acquired the prints from Principal Distributing Corp. in 1933 for two years. In April, 1936 the latter turned them over to the plaintiff. When Lina attempted to secure them, Principal refused to comply.

Application to Examine S. A. Lynch Is Denied

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Church has denied an application by David Stoneman, Boston attorney, for permission to examine Stephen A. Lynch, former Paramount Publix director before trial.

Lynch is being sued for $250,000 for legal services to himself and to Paramount from 1933-36.

$250,000 Charity Quota of 3 Amusement Groups

NEW YORK—A quota of $250,000 has been set for the motion picture, theatrical and music publishers' division by the Business Men's Council of New York and Brooklyn Federations in its 1939 drive. The figure represents the share of the total of $7,481,000 which the campaign anticipates from the three amusement groups.

Kosch Is an Incorporator Of Senta Theatre Corp.

ALBANY—Harry G. Kosch, attorney, is one of the incorporators of Senta Theatre Corp., formed to conduct a motion picture business in New York. Other incorporators are Walter Ehrlich and Frank Balletta, both of New York.

Kaplan Becomes Century Projector

ALBANY—Sam Kaplan Manufacturing & Supply Co., Inc., with offices in New York, now is known as Century Projector Corp. A certificate of change of name has been filed here.

RICHMOND

SIDNEY WILMER and Walter Vincent, heads of the Wilmer & Vincent circuit, were in town on a tour of inspection. They also visited Norfolk before returning to New York . . . Harley Davidson, Paramount salesman, spent the past weekend here . . . Victor Friedman, doorman at the Lee, visited Norfolk . . . Muriel Stevenson, secretary to A. Frank O'Brien, city manager for Wilmer & Vincent, spent the weekend visiting Mrs. Sara Young in Washington. Sara is booker at the 20th-Fox exchange.

Grace Heath, cashier at the Lee, and her husband have returned from a honeymoon in New York . . . Allen Sparrow, manager of Loew's, visited with his wife in Norfolk, his home town . . . Olmstead Knox of RKO and Eddie Martin of Republic, were in town. Also George Nathan, National Screen . . . Frank Storino, manager of the Lincoln, and his bride-to-be were shopping for furniture. After the wedding on October 21 in Norfolk, they will honeymoon to New York . . . Jim Evans, maintenance engineer at the State, is back after being out sick.

John Eggleston has been promoted to manager of the Victoria in Victoria. He was formerly projectionist . . . Warren Connor, Altec official, was down from Philadelphia, according to Mervin Ullman, local engineer . . . Edith Lindeman, film editor of the *Times-Dispatch*, gave "Hollywood Cavalcade" a nice feature story in the magazine section of the paper on the Sunday before the picture opened . . . Percy Pollard has been promoted from assistant manager of the Capitol to manager of the Bellevue, succeeding Joe Mullen, who was transferred to the Ashton in Arlington.

The Midnight Duckpin League started last Monday with Loew's taking two from Carillon as Eddie Weaver rolled a set of 349. Keith Caudle's Colonial team beat the Brook-Vue, with Keith rolling 327. The State boys took two from Lee Smoot's Park team despite Charlie Mathews, who rolled a game of 139 and a set of 359; Charlie Hulbert's Lee team defeated the Grand two out of three. Jimmy Thompson rolled a high set of 359 for the winners.

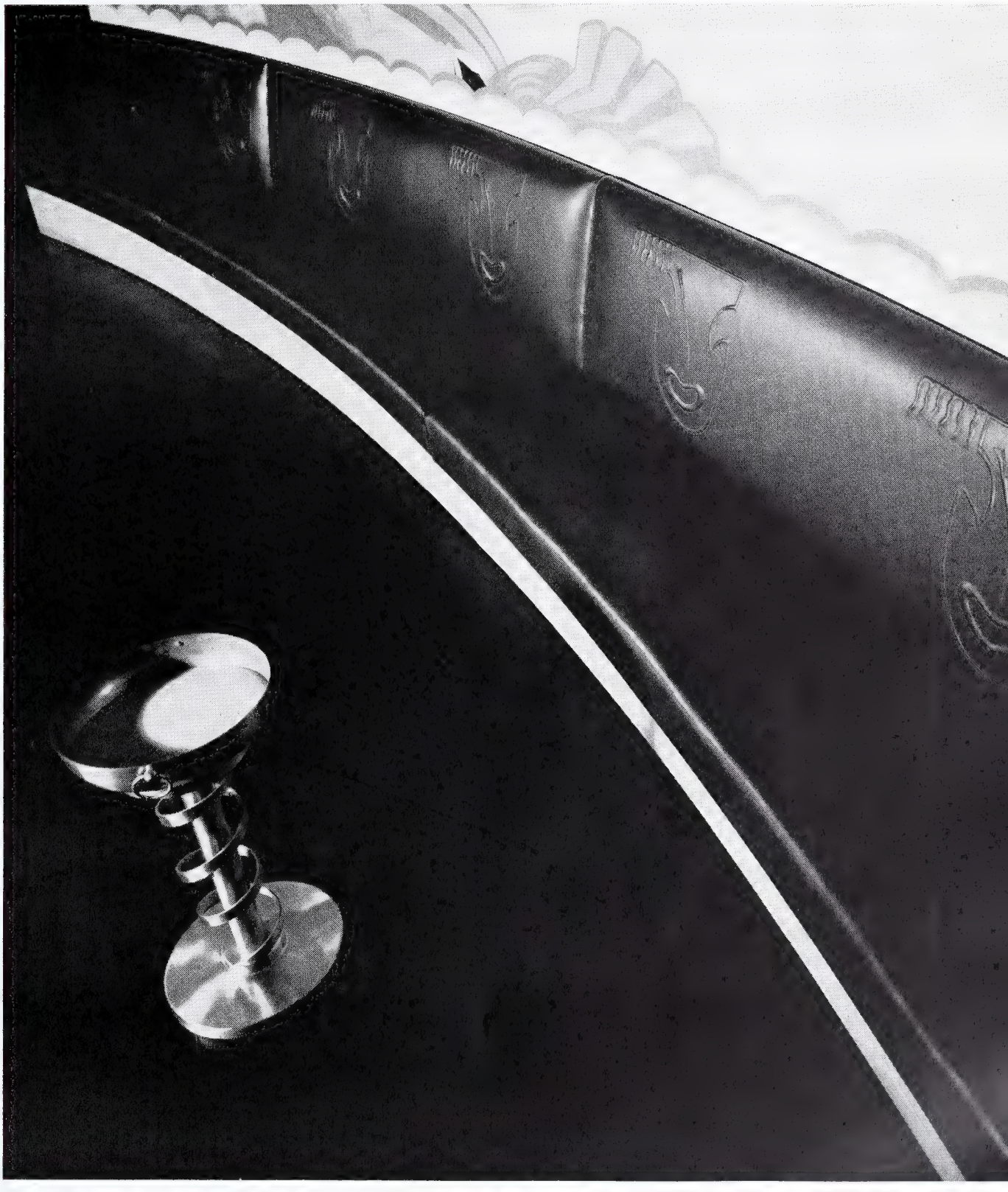
French Films Replacing Russian in Detroit

DETROIT — French films are replacing Russian at the Cinema here, according to Moe Zipperman, manager. Although output from the Soviet has met with considerable success in the past, the new trend at the Cinema is toward French films. It is held the war has induced an unfavorable reaction toward Russian pictures and sympathy for the French.

To Bow in Albany

ALBANY—"Drums Along the Mohawk," 20th Century-Fox picturization of Walter D. Edmonds' novel, will be world premiered here at the Palace, November 2.

The MODERN THEATRE



T. 14, 1939

. . . . . SANITATION



MODERN TO THE CORE

The Strong Mogul High Intensity Automatic Reflector Arc Lamp marks a distinct advance in projection arc lamp design and construction. It admits no competition for it is in a class by itself, and provides many fundamental advantages available only in Strong lamps. It is our earnest desire that every exhibitor arrange with his Independent Theatre Supply Dealer to see a demonstration in his own theatre to prove to his own satisfaction all that is claimed for the Mogul.

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You wouldn't go on a modern hunt like this...

But are you using an old-fashioned sound system on modern movies?

Here's an important fact to remember—Hollywood is now producing finer sound than ever before—because movie fans demand good sound. To properly reproduce it—and build up your business—install...

New RCA Photophone Magic Voice of the Screen

with Rotary Stabilizer plus Shock-Proof Drive

—available at low cost to theatres of every size!

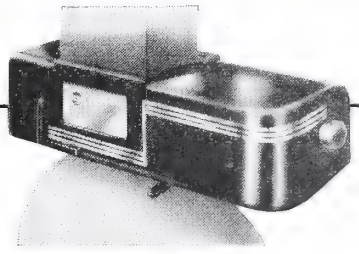
LET'S LOOK AT FACTS. You can show the finest pictures in the world—but you'll have empty seats in your theatre if the sound is poor. Because nowadays movie fans know good sound from bad—and patronize the theatre where listening is as much fun as looking.

Hollywood knows this and that's why Hollywood puts such excellent sound on its films. But how about you—are you letting an outmoded sound system hurt your takes?

It will pay you to find out about the *new* RCA Photophone Magic Voice of the Screen. For here's the equipment built for true reproduction of modern movie sound. It's the tonic your box office needs. And its low cost will surprise you, just as its many new features will delight you. Full details from your RCA Photophone representative.

• • •

Better sound means better box office—and RCA Tubes mean better sound.



Only the New Magic Voice of the Screen offers all these Features!

This splendid new equipment gives you full assurance of constant film speed by adding the amazing new Shock-Proof Drive to the famous Rotary Stabilizer! Besides this great feature, the new Magic Voice brings you new styling, new protection, new convenience, new added reserve power and many other outstanding *proofs* that it's the best value you've ever seen! Ask your RCA Photophone representative for complete information.

RCA Photophone's service organization has a low cost theatre service plan in which you'll be interested.

RCA Photophone

MAGIC VOICE OF THE SCREEN

RCA Manufacturing Co., Inc., Camden, N. J.—A Service of the Radio Corp. of America

You can profit by reading this letter from Georgia about

AMERICAN Bodiform RESTFUL CHAIRS

Patron response is enthusiastic everywhere for these more attractive, more comfortable theatre chairs. And theatre managers report substantial savings in housekeeping costs. It will pay you to investigate.

Rialto Theatre

84 FORSYTH ST., N. W.

W. T. MURRAY, Manager — ATLANTA, GEORGIA

April 17, 1939

American Seating Company
354 Nelson Street
Atlanta, Georgia

Gentlemen:

It gives us much pleasure to write you this letter regarding the American Bodiform seats which you installed throughout the Rialto Theatre recently.

We have had hundreds of our patrons come to us since these seats were installed ... both men and women, telling us how much roomier the new seats are and how restful they are to the back. Women, mostly, rave about the convenience of these seats in turning themselves back when they arise to let someone pass and have their hands full of packages.

After all, in buying seats, you try to buy what you believe will be most comfortable for your patrons; and, judging from the many compliments we have received since installing these seats, we are satisfied that we bought the proper seats, and at any time should you have a theatre manager who is the least bit doubtful about what seats to buy, if you will bring him to the Rialto, I feel sure that he will buy the seats which YOU installed in this theatre.

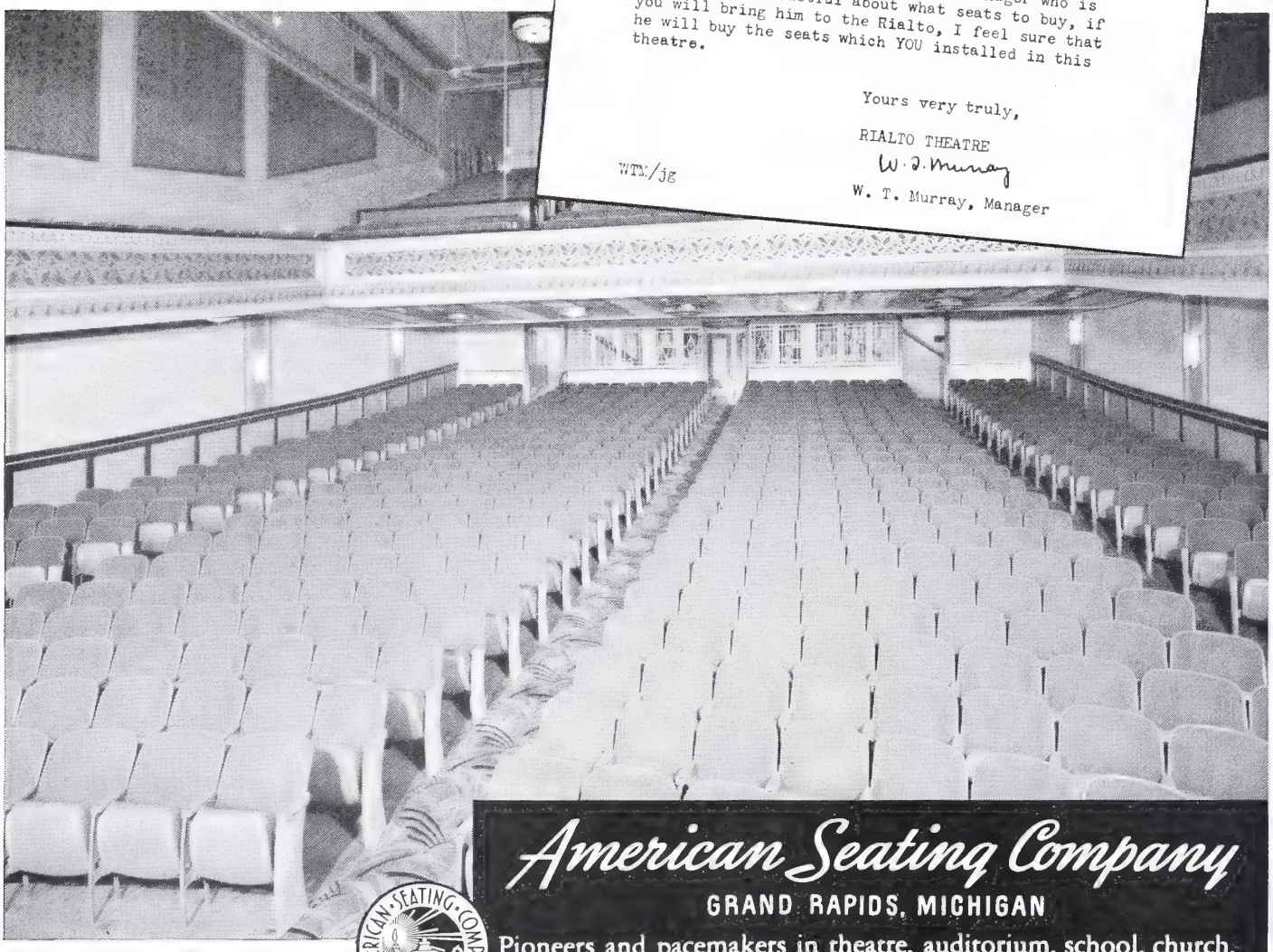
Yours very truly,

RIALTO THEATRE

W. T. Murray

WTM:/jg

W. T. Murray, Manager



Rialto Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia showing recent installation of American Bodiform Restful Chairs

AMERICAN SEATING COMPANY · GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. · REG. U.S. PAT. OFFICE

American Seating Company

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Pioneers and pacemakers in theatre, auditorium, school, church, stadium and transportation seating

Branch Offices and Distributors in Principal Cities

The MODERN THEATRE

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION OF BOXOFFICE

(Title registered U. S. Patent Office)

Edited by J. HARRY TOLER

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The Motion Picture Projectionist and His Contribution to Society.....56
By Nathan D. Golden

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Change the Scenery and Go On With the Show

A momentary pause for a bit of factual reflection reminds us that the season for scene changes is with us again.

Hot weather haberdashery has already given way to garments of heavier texture. Custom and the desire for comfort dictate a universal change of human habits at this time of year.

The psychological effect of this seasonal shifting of moods and mannerisms on theatre patronage is pronounced. So prevalent is it, in fact, that no exhibitor can afford very well to allow the seasons to overlap in respect to the appearance and operative efficiency of his theatre.

Indian Summer, now imminent or at hand in many parts of the country, prompts a change of color scheme. Cooling plants become (or should be) convertible to air conditioning systems for the sake of winter health and comfort.

Sanitation becomes a more serious problem with the passing of summer. Larger crowds, closer confinement and the threat of communicable diseases move up higher in the concern of smart management.

But aside from the more practical or patent reasons for seasonal readjustments in House Appeal, there is proof in the boxoffice records of theatres, where it has been tried, that a change of scenery is always good for show business.

As we approach a new season of the year when public thought instinctively turns to indoor entertainment, would it not be a good idea to surprise our customers of seasons past with a new scene of action?

Toler

October 14, 1939

Between HEAT AND COLD *there's a* HAPPY, HEALTHY MEDIUM

By **Ansel M. Moore**

THERE is one phase of air conditioning, and a most potent one, that has been wantonly neglected and practically left unsung in the promotion of the subject's several use values to the moving picture industry.

Sanitation, the principal theme selected for discussion in this issue, is the phase to which we refer. Rarely do we find house hygiene or the public health factors of approved air conditioning practice referred to in the advertisements and promotional literature of those who profess to have created a mechanical Moses for the emancipation of mankind from the tyrannies of Old Man Weather.

True, the comfort condition is alluded to with some degree of regularity nowadays and a few of the more courageous manufacturers have come out from behind their reserve and actually placed a bit of emphasis on their ability to do something about that comfort condition during all seasons of the year.

But by and large, theatre air conditioning still remains a summertime business despite the common knowledge that cooling is but one of several ways to make a person feel comfortable—and it's a temporary expedient at best. In fact, certain processes of cooling employed in some of our theatres under the guise of air conditioning are as foreign to the function implied as they possibly could be.

The Sanitation Side

Lack of room herein prohibits our going into the many angles of misunderstanding and misapplication that assault the good name of air conditioning in many of our theatres today. Our esteemed colleague, the Hon. Gordon H. Simmons, is taking care of such details most capably in his columns herein, regularly.

Therefore, with the preliminaries disposed of, we will confine our ensuing discussion to the subject, at issue, i. e., Sanitation.

A complete air conditioning system comprising in one coordinated unit all that is claimed for modern engineering and equipment both individually and collectively, might be taken literally to assume practically all the functions of a sanitary system.

Sanitation—the science of health—demands exactly and all of what the accredited air conditioning system is designed to produce plus other precautions of cleanliness and house hygiene that fall within the scope of good housekeeping practice in any theatre.

It is our stubborn conviction that the health of our theatre patrons is of far greater importance to us commercially than the more simple expedient of giving them temporary relief from the seasonal extremes of heat—or cold. Hence, our advocacy of automatic, year-round room temperature control—a true comfort condition in any kind of outdoor weather.

Six Vital Functions Cited

At this point, let's make a quick analysis of what a complete and truly modern air conditioning plant is capable of doing. A true air conditioning system under proper control will do six jobs simultaneously and each of the tasks has a particularly forceful affinity to the subject of Sanitation.

We enumerate:

(1) True air conditioning maintains proper and comfortable temperatures throughout all seasons of the year, irrespective of the varying size of the audience;

(2) It automatically regulates and maintains the amount of moisture (humidity) in the air under varying conditions;

(3) It keeps the air pure and clean by removal of dust particles and other foreign substance from the unrefined fresh air;

(4) It provides adequate ventilation by extracting the "used" air that is laden with foul odors, smoke, fumes, disease germs and other unsanitary elements, replacing it with fresh filtered outside air;

(5) It effects a correct circulation of the conditioned air throughout the entire theatre without cold spots, dampness or disagreeable drafts;

(6) It protects and prevents deterioration of furniture and fixtures by maintaining a normal degree of temperature and reduces the cost of maintenance to a minimum by reason of its extraction of dirt from the air.

Consequently, in consideration of the foregoing use values, the natural conclusion arises that air conditioning is more a provision for all-season sanitation than anything else, save perhaps the overworked illusion of the cooling phase and its exploitation value during the short periods of hot weather in the good old summertime.

Logically then, the full benefits to be expected from an air conditioning system for any theatre must come from the clean, healthful and comfortable conditions a complete air conditioning system is designed and engineered to produce continually. Anything short of that is decidedly *not air conditioning* and deserves no recognition nor reference as such.

Three Elemental Essentials

According to our understanding of the procedure necessary to the acquisition of an air conditioning system that will perform its functions in the manner ascribed above, there are three basic elements involved. We name them in the order of their relative importance:

(a) Engineering: A complete and thorough survey of conditions, structural, geographical, barometrical and financial, to determine all specific requirements of the job at hand. A careful, conscientious study of the conditions to be met so that an engineered plan may be designed to meet all requirements at minimum cost and minus the risk of misapplication. Only capable engineering can be depended upon to make certain an installation that is adequate, efficient, compact and completed, in the case of already established theatres, without unnecessary interruption to business.

(b) Equipment: Unification—all parts working in harmonious inter-relation for highest all-round efficiency at lowest possible cost is an all-important consideration in the acquirement of an air conditioning system. The entire plant, irrespective of size, should be matched in capacity and performance to operate as a unified system. And here again, *engineering* performs a most vital function. The plan should guide the selection of all equipment.

(c) Maintenance: Continuous, efficient and economical operation depends upon the thoroughness with which points *a* and *b* have been applied. Capable engineering will indicate fully automatic control and operation and encourage a "hands off" policy respecting the adjustments of the system. Aside from this, periodic inspection and common ordinary cleanliness and care in the maintenance of equipment

Cover Illustration

The modern sand urn, a functional and most effective device for the suggestion of cleanliness, is used in this instance to symbolize the principal theme of this issue—Sanitation. But no less in point is the pleasing sweep of banquettes, upholstered with simulated leather which readily suggests the importance of cleanability in the selection of materials and furnishings for the modern theatre . . . The photograph, supplied through the courtesy of L. C. Chase & Co., presents a sectional view of the lobby in the Hall of Music at the New York World's Fair, an outstanding example of contemporary building for attractive environment in places of public occupancy, such as the modern theatre.

should serve as a protection for the important investment.

A Costly Complex

The average theatre owner and particularly some owners of smaller capacity houses will say: "Yes, this all sounds very good in theory, but I'm afraid I can't afford that kind of system." Quite a natural assumption, too, on the part of an exhibitor *who has not been shown* nor has taken the trouble to investigate what the present market offers.

That sort of reaction can best be answered by a double-barrelled question—one that should get a quick rise out of some of the old-timers who have been in theatre business ten years or more. The question: How much have you spent for air conditioning (or cooling) since you've been in show business and what have you got to show for it now?

The inference won't cover all cases, of course; but we have evidence aplenty that enough money has already been wasted by the "don't-think-I-can-afford-it" complex to make a sizeable payment on the European war debt. Yet the majority of our small and not a few of our large theatres remain stuffy, unsanitary and unhealthful to patrons during the best business seasons of the year.

There are many owners who still believe the summer cooling and some very modest semblance of ventilation and heat regulation during the winter months serves to discharge their obligation to the public. Consequently, there's a happy medium in between the two emergency extremes that is being overlooked—Sanitation.

Sum it all up and we must conclude that the theatre industry is still waiting to be shown more about the use values and box-office advantages of year-round air conditioning. In justice to the theatre industry, we must remark in closing that what they have learned about the subject has been acquired the hard and expensive way.

But let us be charitable and entirely compromising in our attitude toward those who have suffered the mistakes of the past. Most of the earlier troubles experienced in air conditioning may be charged to experimentation. But the try-out period is well past and it is now time, we believe, for the air conditioning industry to use what the theatre industry is so well able to supply: *A practical demonstration of use values to the public,* in whom both are most peculiarly concerned.

THE PICTURE

Here's how air conditioning keeps your customers Cool all Summer, Warm in Winter and Healthy the Whole Year Round. This schematic drawing of a central station air conditioning system represents a year-round installation—providing heating, cooling, humidifying or dehumidifying, cleaning and circulation of air.

Looking at the air conditioner from right to left, note the outdoor air intake. Here is the first step in conditioning the air. Air is drawn into the system through the outdoor air intake and passes through a non-freeze heater. Steam is automatically supplied to the non-freeze heater when outdoor temperatures would endanger the freezing of spray water.

Next return air, that is, air taken from the room to be reconditioned, is mixed with the outdoor air and the mixture is then drawn through filters where it is cleaned of all dirt and dust before it reaches its next destination—the humidifier and dehumidifier. The return air is used with outside air—instead of taking all outside air—to reduce operation costs, and the air conditioning system still can do just as effective a job. Every breath of return air is reconditioned before it is recirculated into living or working spaces.

After leaving the filters, the air enters the dehumidifier (summer) or the humidifier (winter) for the removal or addition of moisture. In summer, the air conditioning system must condense the excess moisture from the air, while in winter moisture must be added to the crisp, dry air.

The air is drawn through sprays of cooled water in summer and heated water in winter. The spray water in summer is cooled by introducing chilled water and in winter it is heated by the addition of steam. The steam enters the spray water at the water heater while the chilled water enters through the three-way valve on a pipe leading from the refrigeration equipment.

Nothing is left to manual control, however. A thermostat, located in the air stream behind the sprays, controls the temperature of the air by controlling the temperature of the spray water. This thermostat turns on the chilled water or the steam as needed.

To permit operating economy, to increase the total air supplied to the conditioned space, to assure correct air distribution without increasing the size of the humidifying or dehumidifying equipment and to allow circulation of a constant quantity of air to avoid drafts, cold spots or overheated areas, recirculated air not passed through the humidifier-dehumidifier enters the air conditioner through a by-pass damper.

The mixture of by-pass air and air from the humidifier-dehumidifier passes through the reheater, where it is warmed in winter. The final step of the air drawn through the system is its entrance into the fan which discharges it into the supply duct for distribution to the spaces where air conditioning is specified.

The schematic drawing and functional explanations were supplied through the courtesy of the Engineering Division of Carrier Corporation.

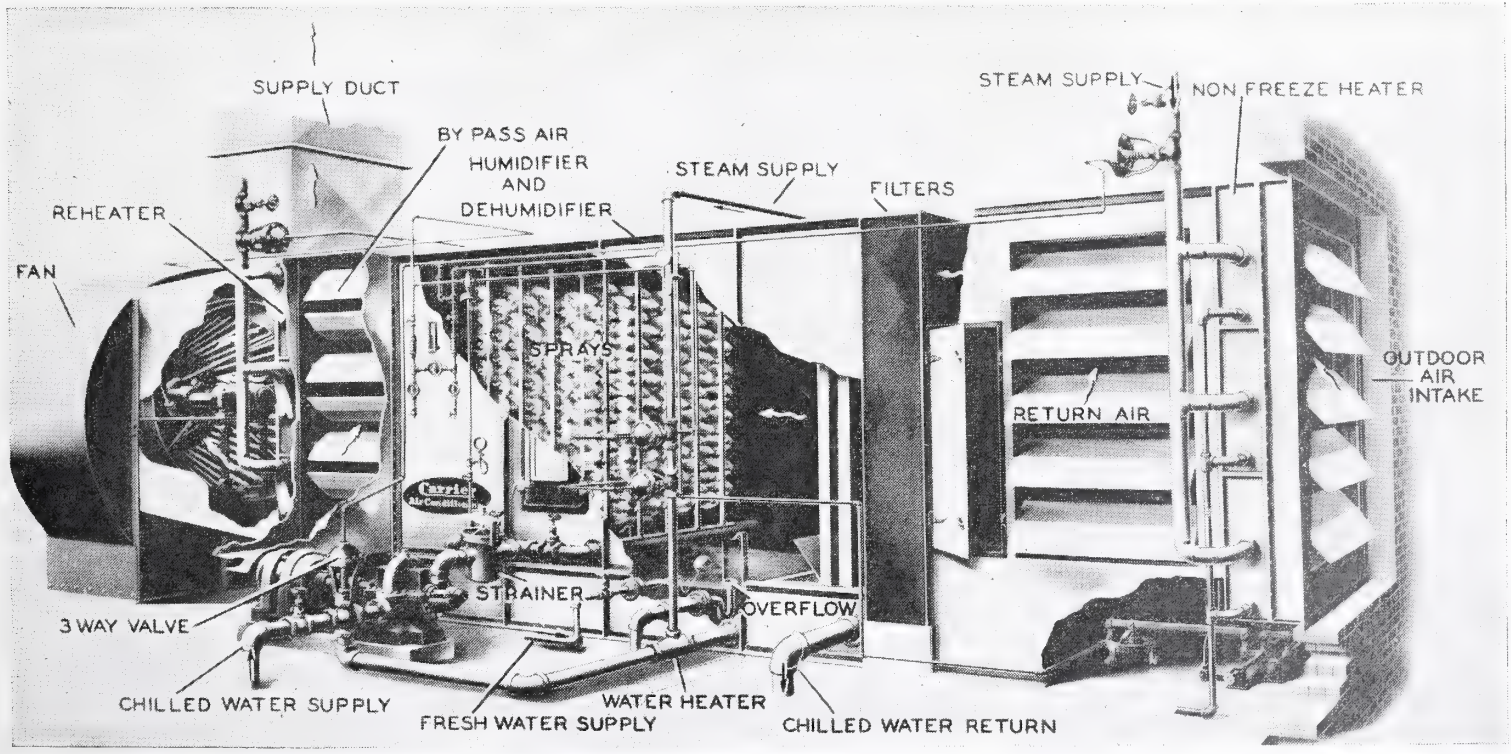
Carpet Installations Show Marked Increase

Theatre carpeting, both in replacement and new building installations, has shown a substantial increase during the past few weeks, according to information supplied by the contract division of Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Co. Not only a greater volume of yardage is being supplied to theatres, but the demand for better grades of carpet is pronounced, according to the report.

Recent representative installations reported from the files of the Smith Contract Division include the Keith-Albee Theatre, of Huntington, W. Va., and the Charleston Municipal Auditorium in Charleston, W. Va. Extensive carpeting activities are reported from the Twin Cities area, including installations in the Highland and West theatres, at St. Paul, and across the river in Minneapolis at the Varsity and Vogue theatres. Rural Minnesota is also experiencing a theatre carpeting boom, installations being reported at White Bear Lake, Parkers Prairie, Cook, Gaylord, Winthrop and Sauk Center.

Often it is more sensible and saving in the end to replace an old projector or some other piece of equipment than to try to patch it up. The result is most important.

Your toughest competitor is the man who runs a modern theatre.



Teaching THEATRE DISCRIMINATION, *a* NEW JERSEY-BORN ACTIVITY

By **William Lewin***

Not often are we privileged to publish such a potent and inspiring article on the subject of House Appeal as in this instance. Yet the author has given us a plain statement of facts to indicate the possibilities of arousing public interest in and appreciation of the mechanical and management sides of moving picture presentation. The message indicates clearly what may be accomplished by alert property-minded theatre management to restore the movie-going habit through safe and sane methods of new business promotion among the patrons of today—and of tomorrow. The teaching of Theatre Discrimination, we believe, is deserving of all the encouragement it can be given, because it seems so exactly to fit the needs of our industry at this time.—THE EDITOR.

LIKE the photoplay itself, the photoplay-appreciation movement was born in New Jersey. Ten years ago the first study guide to a current film of interest to teachers and students was prepared by two New Jersey teachers and published as an experiment in progressive education.

Today illustrated guides to the appreciation of the best films are published regularly by Educational and Recreational Guides, 1501 Broadway, New York, in line with the aims of the committee on motion pictures of the National Education Association's Department of Secondary Teachers. And today, under the auspices of this committee and under the guidance of the same two New Jersey teachers, a new phase of the photoplay-appreciation movement is under way—the teaching of *Theatre Discrimination.*

INITIATED IN NEWARK

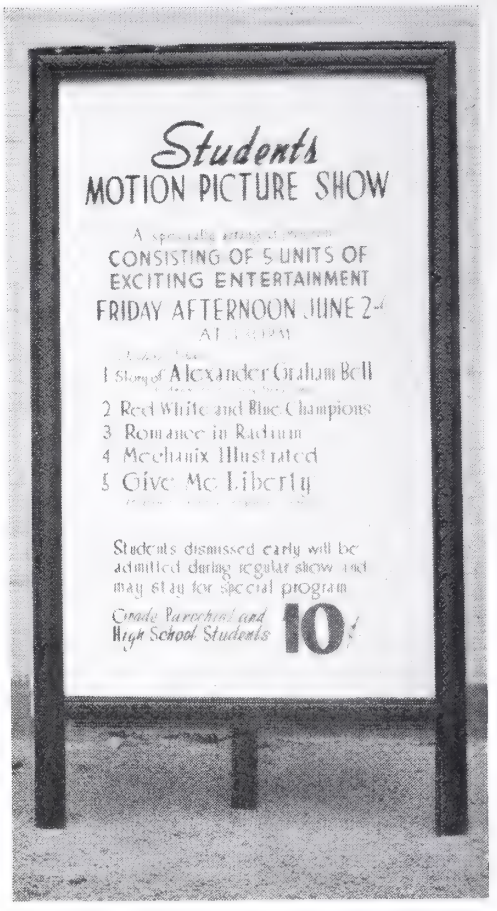
First to teach this new subject is the Weequahic High School at Newark, in cooperation with Louis Stein, manager of the Roosevelt Theatre, a Warner house on Clinton Avenue, Newark. Unexcelled for enterprise and intelligence in pleasing his community is Mr. Stein. He will appear as a guest lecturer next month before students in "PRA" (photoplay and radio appreciation) at Weequahic High School, where this subject is taught five times a week, with regular credit toward the high-school diploma. He will also appear before students in the Weequahic Adult School, where parents and teachers will be studying the same subject this fall.

Behind the newly developed course in theatre discrimination at Newark lies an interesting story. It began with Mr. Stein's perfection of his technique for pleasing public and parochial students, both elementary and high-school, and their teachers. For example, as a culmination of his activities during the academic year ending last June, Mr. Stein enlisted the aid of the principals of the schools in his neighborhood in offering a selected program of screen entertainment that was designed not only to amuse, but also to educate children and to develop in them a sense of film evaluation. His basic purpose was to establish an amicable and cooperative relationship between his theatre and the schools of the vicinity and to enable the theatre to make a genuine cultural contribution to the life of the community.

COOPERATION ENCOURAGED

In approaching the school principals of his area, Mr. Stein did not attempt to arrange a program for all age groups, but eliminated any appeal to children of the primary grades. He explained his purpose in interesting the school principals in a specially selected student's motion-picture program and invited suggestions and criticisms on his contemplated showings. With the advice and assistance of an informal local committee, he decided to present one feature, "The Story of Alexander Graham Bell," and four carefully chosen shorts, "Red, White and Blue Champions," "The Romance of Radium," "Mechanix Illustrated," and "Give Me Liberty." The feature started at 3:30 p. m. and was followed by the shorts in the order named. The program was over at 5:52 p. m., allowing the children to get home by six o'clock.

The principals and teachers of six public schools gave their whole-hearted support to the project—those of Weequahic High School, Madison Junior High School, Maple Avenue School, Hawthorne Avenue School, Bragaw Avenue School, and Avon



One of the display accessories used to sum up the story for the attention of the entire neighborhood.



Louis Stein at work. The manager of the Roosevelt, a neighborhood (Warner) house in Newark, New Jersey, has found a new and sensible way to stimulate photoplay appreciation.

*Chairman, Committee on Motion Pictures, Department of Secondary Teachers, National Education Association.



Exterior view of the Roosevelt Theatre, in Newark, where the public appreciation plan was initiated and proved most effective.

Avenue School—and one parochial school, Blessed Sacrament.

Leadership in school cooperation was forthcoming because Mr. Stein's theatre itself, as well as his program, was deserving of sincere appreciation. The acoustics of his house, the projection quality, the ventilation, the general feeling of comfort that one has here, and the selection of his personnel—all these things are of such high standards that the response of educators and parents to an appeal regarding a specific program of educational interest is quick and complete.

Plan of Promotion

Mr. Stein had no trouble at all in distributing 10,000 announcement tickets to the seven schools of his area. He simply made them up in bundles of 100 each (though bundles of 25 or 30, the average class size, might have been a bit better), and delivered them to the principals. In each home room of each school the tickets were passed out to the pupils. In the high school, mimeographed invitations were left in the teachers' letter-boxes as a gesture of good will. The newspapers readily carried announcements of the project, and a 40"x60" display sign in the lobby of the Roosevelt summed up the story for the entire neighborhood.

Whereas other theatres, less well equipped and less well kept, would have had trouble in filling their seats with such a practical project, Mr. Stein reported that all his expectations were exceeded.

In fact, normally Mr. Stein's own theatre plays to only about 75 or 100 adults on week-day matinees. As a rule, no children attend, except those so young as to be below school age; children who ought not to be in the theatre anyway. Yet on the day when he called for a specific response from the schools, Mr. Stein sold 1,820 admissions during the hour from three to four o'clock. Of this number only 84 were sold to adults. The seating capacity of the theatre is 1,686, so that Mr. Stein had to hang out the SRO sign. He admits that even his Saturday or Sunday matinee attendance is less than half the attendance of this type of educational matinee.

Formulae for House Appeal

There is no secret formula to follow in order to duplicate the success of the Roosevelt Theatre in Newark. The success of the house is rooted in such ideals as these:

(1) Keeping the screen clear and clean, free from clogged perforations that may obstruct sound, with a nice mask to secure a pleasing frame.

(2) Maintaining a steady light during projection, so that the audience feels that it is watching living and breathing people, avoiding the flicker, the occasional jumpiness, the variations in light that certain opposition houses may tolerate. (We have noted bluish, yellowish, and blotchy tints in houses that presumably are penny-wise and pound-foolish in false economy with carbons or that tolerate inattentive operators. Educators visiting a booth readily take note of dirt, oil on films, poor splices, worn sprockets, loose rollers, improper tension when, as a phase of the work in photoplay appreciation they show students how to judge a booth and how to inspect a reel of film. The finest production of a big Hollywood studio may be ruined in the presentation and thus give the wrong impression to the student in one theatre, while it gets adequate presentation in another house).

(3) Complying exactly with the recommendations of sound engineers in acoustic treatment and in setting the volume according to the house and the size of the audience.

(4) Conditioning the air at all times by means of equipment that will provide for frequent or continuous adjustment of ventilation and temperature. (Even theatres that are not equipped with latest air-conditioning devices can avoid giving their customers headaches if they will operate large blower and exhaust fans over the ceiling. One of the Roosevelt's opposition houses has such poor ventilation that teachers and students have reported that when they were about to enter the house they were repelled by the bad air and returned their tickets at boxoffice).

(5) Seeing that chairs and carpets are in best possible repair, so that patrons do not stumble on torn floor-coverings or tear their clothes on defective seats.

(6) Selecting and cultivating a courteous, attentive, and well-informed type of personnel, employes who will make theatre patrons feel that they are as welcome and as comfortable as in a community clubhouse.

Adherence to Ideals

Any theatre manager who will live up to the ideals of fairness, courtesy, alertness, cleanliness and watchfulness of Manager Louis Stein—and who will back up those ideals with a type of theatre operation *which includes constant vigilance over lighting, sound and ventilation,* as outlined here—will deserve increasingly the support of the schools. And make no mistake about it; the schools in their effort to build a whole new generation of discriminating movie-goers are just as eager to "play ball" with intelligent theatre operators as such operators are to win the respect of educational authorities.

Two hundred theatres in the Chicago area spend approximately a million dollars a year for give-aways—dishes and other doodads. That would buy a lot of house improvements that would really do some good.

REMOVABLE RUBBER MATS REDUCE DIRT INCOME

Dirt—grimy mud and sand—carried in on the feet of patrons is responsible for perhaps more than 80 per cent of the wear that constantly, and particularly during the winter months, attacks the carpets of our theatres. To keep this destroyer out of the house is quite a problem for theatre management.



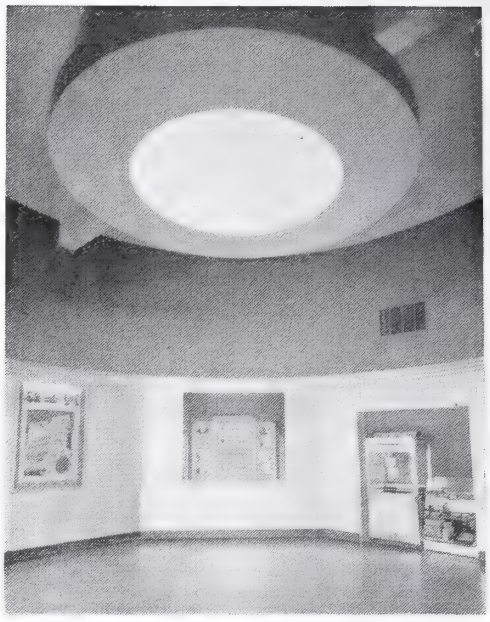
One of the most effective and economical means of barring dirt at the threshold of the carpeted foyer and auditorium is to trap it with flexible runners and rugs of rubber link matting in the entrance lobby. The links of the modern rubber mat are scientifically designed to remove dirt from the feet of incoming traffic and trap it beneath the mat and out of sight to be removed *en masse* during the cleaning period.

A representative installation of rubber matting of this type is shown in the accompanying illustration—a view of the lobby of the Wuerth Theatre, at Ypsilanti, Mich., supplied through the courtesy of American Mat Corp. This mat covers over 500 square feet of floor surface. It is about 57 feet long and is of a colorful pattern combining bright red, orange, dark blue and shades of light green.

Besides adding smartly to the decorative effect of the corridor, this removable rug provides a clean walking surface with safety and resiliency of tread which are additional factors of public interest.

They REVERSED THE ORDER *in* PLANNING THE PARK THEATRE

By **Helen Kent**



Dramatic and spacious, the outer lobby of the Park Theatre is dominated by a center dome which glows softly blue, an effect gained by fluorescent lighting.

"THEY planned it that way" might well be the theme of this presentation of the new St. Louis Park Theatre, located in an outlying community district of Minneapolis. The owners have provided a sparkling gem of an amusement place for a suburban neighborhood which had too long been starved for an entertainment place of its own; one to its own liking.

For more than a year plans were made and studied for the erection of a theatre which would be in finest taste and entirely functional, since artistry and culture were known to count for more in this particular community than any sham showiness or striving after glamour with a capital "G."

The owners and planners had long since decided that what went into the theatre building itself would mean quite as much to their potential patrons as would whatever offering of transient entertainment they might provide in the future. They looked upon their patrons-to-be as persons who might be members of a club, coming to the theatre primarily to be entertained, but also to join their friends and neighbors in a healthy and community-spirited atmosphere.

An Impressive Facia

For this reason, the interior of the new Park Theatre predominates over the exterior, in spite of the fact that the monolithic exterior is an eye-stopping entity. There is nothing garish about the Park's curvaceous structure; and display, although ample, is a secondary consideration in connection with the beacon-like lighting of the building itself.

With a reversal of usual practice, the interior of this new theatre was planned first and then walls were built around the inner design. In this manner, a functional whole was attained which includes everything to be desired by today's more discriminative theatre patrons. This plan is particularly applicable to the community-type house, of which the Park is such a pleasing example.

The owners, St. Louis Park Theatre Company, of which Harold Field and Harold Kaplan are principals, hoped to make of their theatre a self-sustaining patronage magnet in which the charm of the theatre itself would outweigh any fluctuations in quality of picture presentation. With the help of Architect Perry Crosier, of Minneapolis, they seem to have attained that end and the St. Louis Park theatre-goers have acclaimed the new house with all the fervor at their command, and significantly also with a more than satisfactory response at the boxoffice of the new showplace.

In a spacious setting at the junction of three major highways, the imposing structure that is the new Park Theatre stands out invitingly to passing motorists. Its name sign, a brightly illuminated three-sided beacon atop the building, serves to guide customers toward the theatre from a wide radius of surrounding suburban neighborhood. At night, the entire building is illuminated with light in greatest intensity near the base and the suffused glow culminates in the semi-circular marquee which houses ample display in distantly legible silhouette letters.

Modern in Structure

The building exterior, which is beautiful in form when viewed from any direction, is constructed of three basic materials—concrete in showy white, a beautifully toned grey Minnesota granite and heavy plate glass. Simplicity of basic materials as well as simplicity of design form a striking combination in this instance. The polished granite used as facing for the area beneath the marquee and glass used in the circular portion above the marquee for accent as well as in large display cases offer two fine examples of functionalism in exterior planning.



An eye-stopping functional exterior bathed in illumination at night and equally impressive by day was the result of a reversal in planning the new St. Louis Park Theatre. The interior of the house was planned first and then walls were built around the inner design in this interesting instance.

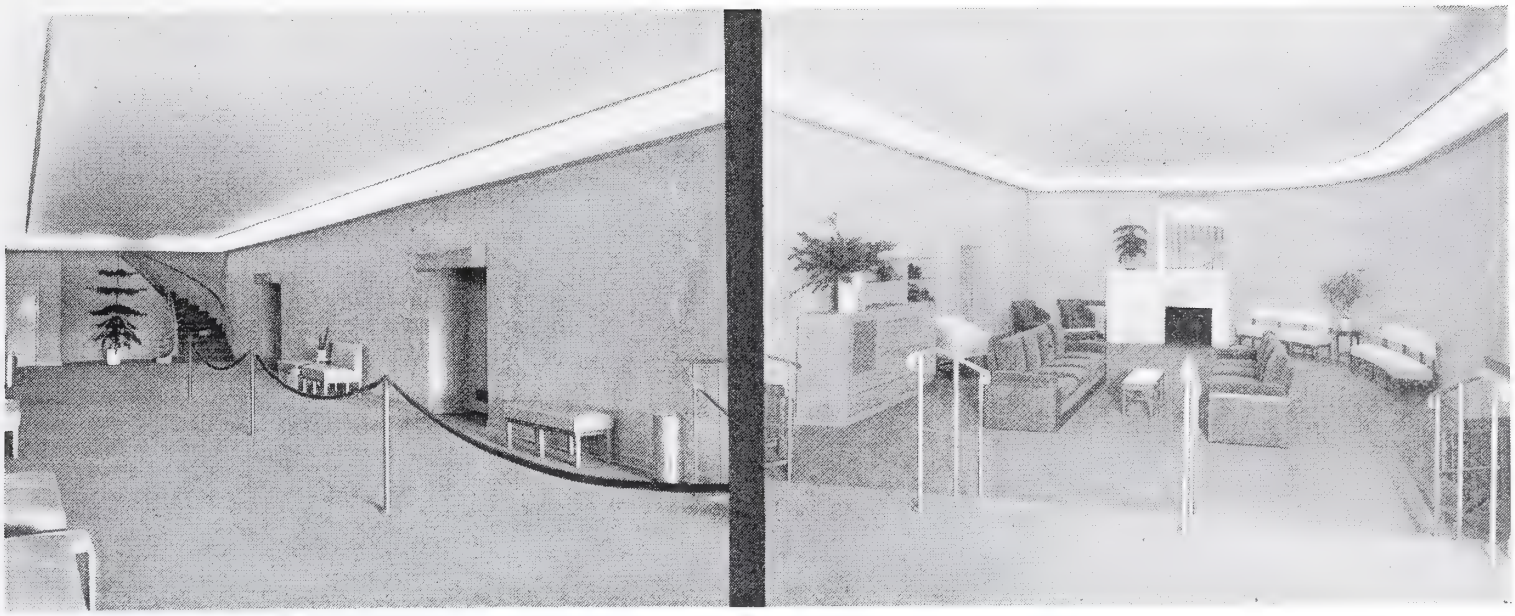
As a high-light for the simple exterior treatment in grey and white, alumilite is used extensively for trim. The silvery metal frames the display cases which surround the entrance and is used with beautiful effect when combined with granite to form a unique circular boxoffice which is set in the very center of the building entrance at the corner of the structure.

The first impression patrons get of the interior of the new Park Theatre is gained in the stunningly simple but spacious outer lobby, which is located immediately behind the entrance doors. This portion of the theatre is dramatic as a result of modern design. Octagonal in shape at the base, the room becomes circular at the top and is dominated by a center dome which glows softly in a sky-like blue, an effect gained by fluorescent lighting on a blue background.

Lower walls in the lobby are panelled in alumilite and recessed at intervals to accommodate illuminated poster cases and a confection alcove. The upper walls, where the contour changes to circular sweep, and the ceiling are in magenta tones which contrast beautifully with the blue of the lighting effect. A terrazzo floor in grey and black, trimmed with metal strippings to form a modernistic compass design, completes the functional decorative scheme in this impressive part of the house.

A Charming Technique

Within the foyer, patrons of the new Park Theatre come under the spell of an utterly charming technique of interior decorating which, from this point of the



The foyer (left) and the adjoining surrealistic main lounge (right) are graced with loveliness and cultured good taste. They show the charming effect of modern functional furnishings combined with indirect lighting and a studied color scheme for a truly patronage-appealing interior.

house on into the inner reaches, permeates the scheme with loveliness and cultured good taste. Interior decoration of the house was designed and supervised by a member of the American Institute of Decorators who is well known for such work in and around Minneapolis.

The color scheme in the foyer is silver grey, yellow in lemon tones and blue. Walls are in grey with an overlaid design of white lilies with yellow leaves at intervals surrounding the room. This same yellow is picked up by the upholstery of leather-covered benches placed about the foyer for the convenience of patrons. Graceful stairways with alumilite handrails lead from the foyer to the upper loges.

All carpeting throughout the house is thick grey velour which is particularly luxurious and in harmony with the decorative scheme. Bright blue rubber mats at the entrance to the inner lobby give an accent that is both attractive and highly functional. With no other illumination than a continuous cove containing fluorescent lamps at the ceiling line surrounding the foyer, a cozy glow is maintained which is most complimentary to the decoration and furnishings.

At the far end of the foyer and three steps below the level of the adjoining room, the surrealistic main lounge is located. The lounge room is dominated by a real log-burning fireplace, which is visible from the main entrance to the theatre. It is of white marble with alumilite facing and is made most interesting by an off-center hearth and surmounting flush mirror.

This fireside scheme together with luxurious furnishings which might grace any well-appointed home or club-room is particularly appreciated by patrons of the new house who find the atmosphere for waiting and meeting friends most relaxing. Well-liked also is a loud-speaker arrangement in the lounge which brings recorded music controlled from the manager's office or even important radio programs into this portion of the house.

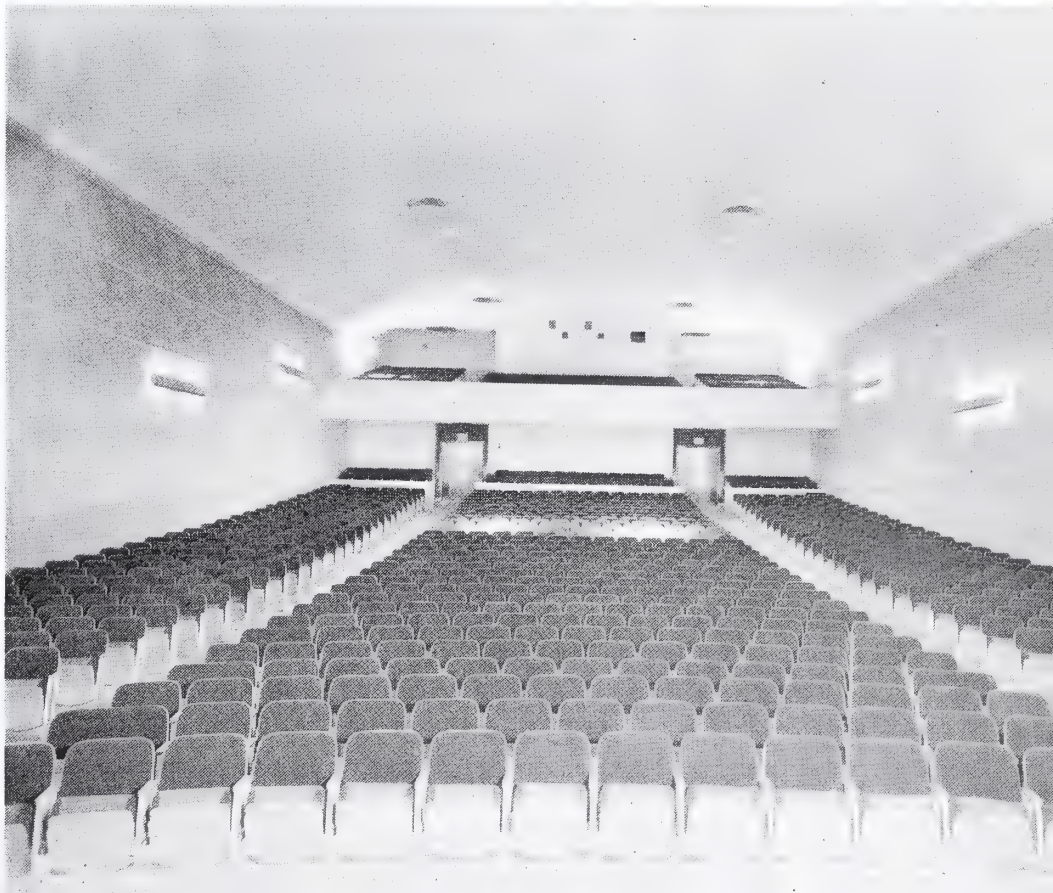
Surrealistic Effects

The surrealistic influence aforementioned is a whimsical note brought into the theatre at a time when the trend is receiving much comment by patrons of art and even average persons who don't know what it's all about anyhow. In this instance the effect is gained principally by a novel wallpaper, the design of which appears to be conventional bouquets of flowers on a blue background. However, when examined more closely, the bouquets are found to be composed of piano keys, daisies with alarm clock eyes, drinking glasses, guitars, violins and horns. For further art appreciation, patrons of the new Park Theatre are then referred to the second floor where an art gallery for special exhibitions is maintained for the interest of guests of the theatre.

Restrooms are located adjacent to the main lounge and in these also good taste is highlighted by beauty of appointments The rooms are tiled for easy maintenance in tones of blue and fixtures naturally are of the latest and finest construction.

The auditorium, which seats 1,100 patrons, is simple in decorative effect and offers comfort as its predominant motive. Seating was designed especially for the Park Theatre by the decorator and it enhances the room most attractively with silver-toned frames and aisle standards and bright red mohair upholstery. An interesting development in this installation is

(Continued on following page)



The auditorium of the St. Louis Park Theatre, which seats 1,100, is simple in decorative effect and offers comfort as its predominant motive. Patrons here receive the benefits of finest sound and projection, scientifically controlled air conditioning and lighting, and relaxation-provoking seats.

U.S. AIR CO.
Theatre AIR CONDITIONING

THE NEW
ST. LOUIS PARK THEATRE
Completely Air Conditioned
FOR SUMMER COOLING
WINTER HEATING BY USAIRCO

EQUIPMENT USED:
- Blowers
- Air Washers, double stage
- Hydraulic Speed Pulleys
- Exhaust Blowers
- Blast Cores for Steam Heating, with full automatic control.
- Unit Heaters for lobbies

UNITED STATES AIR CONDITIONING CORP.
MINNEAPOLIS - - MINNESOTA

They Reversed the Order In Planning the Park Theatre

(Continued from preceding page)

the use of "love seats" for two patrons at the ends of alternate rows. This is a relatively new way of staggering seats and it is claimed to be most popular with young patrons of the Park Theatre.

Cinder-block construction insures good acoustics and fluorescent lighting in color provides practically the sole decoration. The proscenium is flanked by lighting troughs which guide the eye naturally to the focal point of the auditorium. The stage is draped in chartreuse velvet curtains to introduce a second brilliant color in the scheme. Projection and sound provided by the finest equipment available is certainly no secondary consideration in this house, either. It's tops, as attested by satisfied patrons.

Amply Air Conditioned

The air conditioning system in the new theatre is worthy of special note also. It combines year-round control of temperature within one system for heating and cooling the entire building. Air conditioning for summer is based on cold water from a 350-foot artesian well and proper ventilating is carried throughout the house by a scientifically designed duct system.

Of primary interest to the entire community of St. Louis Park is the fact that the new Park Theatre has become the nucleus about which a fine new shopping center is forming. Already the new theatre has attracted modern shops of various kinds which are supported by and in turn support the theatre crowds.

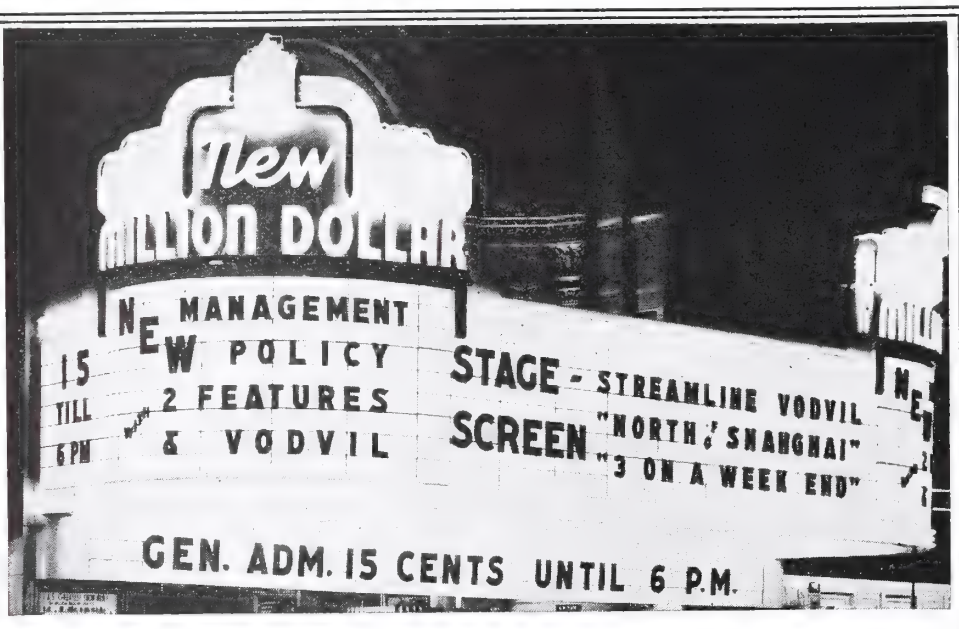
If it weren't for the fact that the Park Theatre is so fine an example of modern entertainment provision, this business-building in the community might not be so heartfelt by its customers. As it is, St. Louis Park is proud of its new theatre and it's showing this pride by an even more than expected support at the boxoffice. But then, the St. Louis Park Theatre Company planned it that way.

WM. K. ROBERTSON
Consulting Engineer
212 Walker Bldg. Minneapolis, Minn.
Designer of Heating, Lighting, Air Conditioning, Plumbing and Power Plants. 30 Years' Experience.
Designer of St. Louis Park Theatre

Modern materials for sound treatment on walls and ceilings have greatly simplified both the decorative and acoustical problems in all theatres.

If a patron can relax and be at ease while in your theatre, he is much more likely to return again soon.

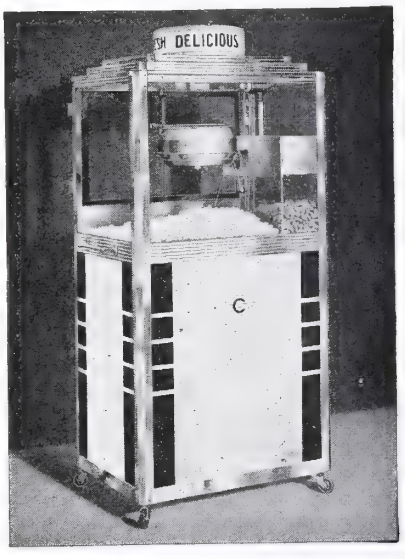
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Popcorn Machine Headquarters since 1885



To the left, a new low-priced, all steel Heywood chair with Streamline Back. It's from the OC 600 series and is available in a number of smart, distinctive combinations.

Swanky Style.. AT A PRICE!

THEY'RE smartly styled. They have decorative flash. They're packed with real quality, comfort, and construction. That's the story of the new Heywood 600 series of chairs. The tremendous volume coming in on these chairs enables us to make manufacturing savings and to thereby price these chairs within the budget of every box office. Ask your Heywood Sales Representative to show you pictures and prices on the new 600 series They're one of the best box office bets you can put on any program.

Below: one of three backs available on the new Heywood low priced chairs. This style has a turned over, protective back panel.



HEYWOOD - WAKEFIELD

Established 1826

GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Theatre Seating Division

SANITATION

EMPHASIZING THE ESSENTIAL PHASES OF HOUSE HYGIENE IN THEATRE MAINTENANCE

To be Entirely Sanitary or Barely Clean Enough to Get By

LAWS of sanitation and rules of cleanliness enacted and prescribed by local health authorities and often loosely enforced in places of public occupancy do not provide a satisfactory standard for modern theatre maintenance.

To stay merely within the law or to come perilously near the danger line of public approval on matters of sanitation is poor practice for theatre management, simply because more is expected and demanded of theatres in this respect than is the case in any other place of business.

People have a right to expect a theatre to be cleaner and more wholesome than other places they frequent because of the length of time they spend in theatres as compared to other business calls or diversions; hence they will not tolerate "railroad station" toilets and unsanitary conditions encountered in commercial restrooms other than those in theatres.

In the Public Eye

The moving picture theatre is definitely "on the spot" in respect to sanitation, cleanliness and general conduct relating to the health, comfort and convenience of patrons. One may be able to get by the health authorities with a condition that is woefully short of sanitation; but public opinion and natural aversion to uncleanliness at any point in the theatre is not so easily surmounted.

To keep the place entirely sanitary in every respect or barely clean enough to get by is a problem that faces every theatre owner and manager more acutely today than ever before. It is not difficult to determine why the onus of the decision rests so squarely upon the shoulders of picture showmen, when one stops to consider the peculiar conditions of theatre operation.

Hotels and restaurants deal largely with individuals. Theatres deal with congregations. Crowded conditions demand more strenuous measures and greater vigilance respecting maintenance for sanitation. Hence the theatre is always among the first to feel the lash of aroused public opinion and legal restriction when health authorities take steps to combat epidemics or the spread of communicable contagion.

Recently, a bill was proposed for introduction as a legislative measure in the State of Illinois to bar the double-feature program on the basis of sanitation, with argument that it was dangerous to public health to allow patrons to spend the time required to see double features in the confines of a crowded theatre. The proposal pointed out the fact that many theatres are poorly air conditioned and otherwise unsanitary.

The proposition was not acted upon, of course, but it indicates how quickly the sanitation phase of theatre operation pops up when public health measures are subjects of legislation or law enforcement. Truly the theatre industry is being "picked on" in this respect; but smart ownership through provision and precaution is reversing the effect and actually, in many cases, is making capital out of its condemnation, by exploiting sanitary provisions freely.

The Psychological Effect

There is a purely physical side of theatre sanitation, of course, which dictates thorough cleaning measures and rigid inspection routines not only in the restrooms but throughout the entire house. And there's also a psychological side that is of equal, if not greater, importance from the standpoint of theatre business promotion.

The appearance and reputation—the suggestive evidence of strict sanitation at first approach to the theatre—has a definite effect on patrons. A faded, dust-covered theatre facade; poorly lamped signs and marquees badly in need of paint; lack of illumination—anything that infers slipshod maintenance on the exterior of the theatre—naturally suggests a more critical inspection of the interior.

Cleanliness must start at the very threshhold of the theatre, therefore, and extend all through the house, reaching its most critical climax in the restrooms where the utmost in the provision of sanitation is expected by all and demanded by the more discriminating patrons.

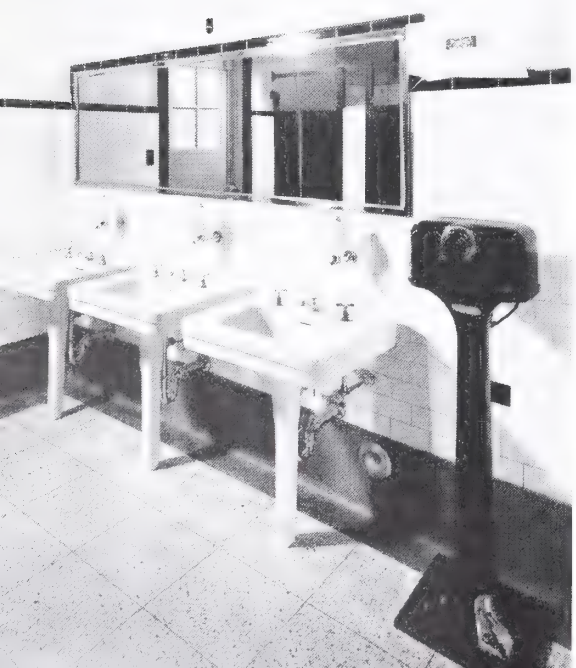
Air conditioning is important to sanitary maintenance. Proper ventilation is imperative. Deodorization and disinfecting are important but secondary to other factors of sanitary maintenance. Carpet cleaning thoroughly and frequently by vacuum process nightly or between shows is a vital consideration in sanitary maintenance.

Means for keeping out traffic dirt, such as removable rubber link mats that scrape the mud from dirty feet without patrons' being conscious of the process, should be considered in all cases. Cleanable walls and ceilings, fixtures and furnishings that do not act as harbors for dust and dirt and which may be cleaned easily and often are of great importance also in simplifying sanitary maintenance.

Where Cleanliness Counts

Every fixture or article of furnishing that comes into personal contact with the patrons should be maintained spotlessly. Such things as theatre chairs and lobby furniture can be particularly offensive in this respect if not kept meticulously. Grimy upholstery and disagreeable odors that naturally emanate from unclean seats offer a problem of sanitation that requires a rigid cleaning routine with the best tools available.

Use more paint—more often. Do not spare the soaps and other detergents. Wax



This theatre washroom comes near to possessing all the requirements of a strictly sanitary and serviceable arrangement for the convenience of patrons. (Photo courtesy Crane Company).



The drinking fountain, a most desirable convenience for patrons, should be of the "untouchable" type for both practical use and psychological effect. (Photo courtesy Crane Company.)

the hard-finished floors. Seal the cracks and crannies permanently rather than allow them to fill up with dirt. Keep the vacuum cleaner humming between shows. If it's really a theatre cleaner it is equipped for many cleaning functions besides merely removing dust from the carpeted floors.

The drinking fountain, now a universally accepted convenience for theatre patrons, should dispense in a most sanitary manner pure, palatable water that has been cooled to a proper temperature. And since the drinking fountain is viewed with alarm (with considerable justification in some cases) by health authorities and the human element generally, it should be strictly of the germ-proof type. Better no drinking fountain at all than the unsafe utensils still being used in some of our theatre lobbies. They're little more than a danger sign to discriminating patrons.

Now that we've mentioned a number of the "danger signs" which might in themselves create some doubt in the minds of patrons with regard to the sanitary upkeep of a theatre, let's figuratively retire to the restrooms and give some attention to what goes on there.

In the modern theatre, commodious restrooms for ladies and gentlemen are a most practical provision. Not entirely because they are most necessary from the standpoint of comfort and convenience; but also because the well-appointed restroom has a definitely valuable effect on the good will of the community. This prestige factor is important to the arousal and retention of public interest.

Since theatre restrooms (including men's lounges, ladies' powder rooms, washrooms, toilets and all other comfort provisions) have for their primary purpose in the theatre the creation and keeping of public good will, they should share equal attention with other departments of the theatre—and much greater concern should be given them in relation to sanitary upkeep.

To relegate restrooms and toilet facilities to some remote section of the building, an area that might be useless for any other purpose, is sometimes unavoidable in the erection of a theatre, but nevertheless it is a mistake. To assume that any kind of cheap equipment and furnishings will suffice for this important part of the house is likewise an error.

Ample Area in Restrooms

Theatre restrooms should be as ample in area as carefully prepared floor plans will permit and as conveniently located as architectural ingenuity can devise. The factor of strict sanitation should govern their construction and outfitting and their decorative effects ought to be no less inviting than those in other departments of the house.

Ladies' rooms particularly should be arranged and outfitted with the utmost concern for the fancies of the more fastidious sex and with all modern conveniences for cosmetic application. Decorative expressions of good taste are never wasted here and strict sanitation is a supreme requisite. In a more practical sense and perhaps with fewer frills, the men's rooms must be equally inviting and kept as spotlessly clean. A clubby atmosphere appeals

(Continued on following page)



DAYTON LADDERS
are equipped with safety SHOES

AT NO ADDED COST

There's no need to worry about sliding or slipping with the Dayton, the original custom built safety ladder. Now all Daytons (Model A) are equipped with the new Queen Safety Shoe at no added cost. This remarkable shoe is of the steel ferrule type, with easily replaceable vacuum cup rubber treads, and conforms with all state codes for specific requirements.
For double protection, insist upon the Dayton. It's light, strong and durable. Sizes 3 to 16 feet. Moderately priced.

Write Dept. BO-10 for details and catalog.

The DAYTON Safety Ladder Co.

121-123 W. Third St., Cincinnati, Ohio

PROVIDE PROPER WASHROOM SANITATION

1 No matter how efficient automatic deodorizing devices may be, the daily or routine use of a cleansing disinfectant such as CORO-NOLEUM on washroom floors, basins, seats, etc., is important.

2 As all floor surfaces are more or less porous, it is necessary to seal them. Washroom floors finished with FILPOR will not only help prevent destructive elements from entering the pores of the floor, but will always look better and be easier to keep clean.

3 The use of liquid soap, besides being sanitary and efficient, eliminates waste. The WEST LATHERATOR VALVE automatically agitates the soap into a rich creamy lather *before* it leaves the valve, thereby saving the usual waste, as none of the soap runs off the hands. Latherator Valves can be installed in your present system at small cost.

4 The West Disinfecting Company manufactures a complete line of paper towels from fresh, clean pulp in its own mills. Standardized quality is obtained by expert scientific manufacturing control. West towels are made in either Junior or Senior sizes and in 32 lb. or 38 lb. basic weights. In addition, the TANDEM (double towel) is obtainable and is popular with commercial organizations where costs are carefully checked.



5 An efficient method of deodorization in lavatories is the WEST AUTOMATIC DRIP MACHINE. The special drip fluid spreads on the surface of the water, and helps overcome bad odors at the source. The results obtained through the use of this modern apparatus have been so thoroughly satisfactory that it has been recognized as a most practical, economical and efficient method for elimination of washroom odors.

For literature on above products, send coupon below.

WEST DISINFECTING COMPANY
42-16 WEST STREET • LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y.

West Disinfecting Company Dept. BN
42-16 West St., Long Island City, N. Y.

Please send literature on promotion of washroom sanitation.

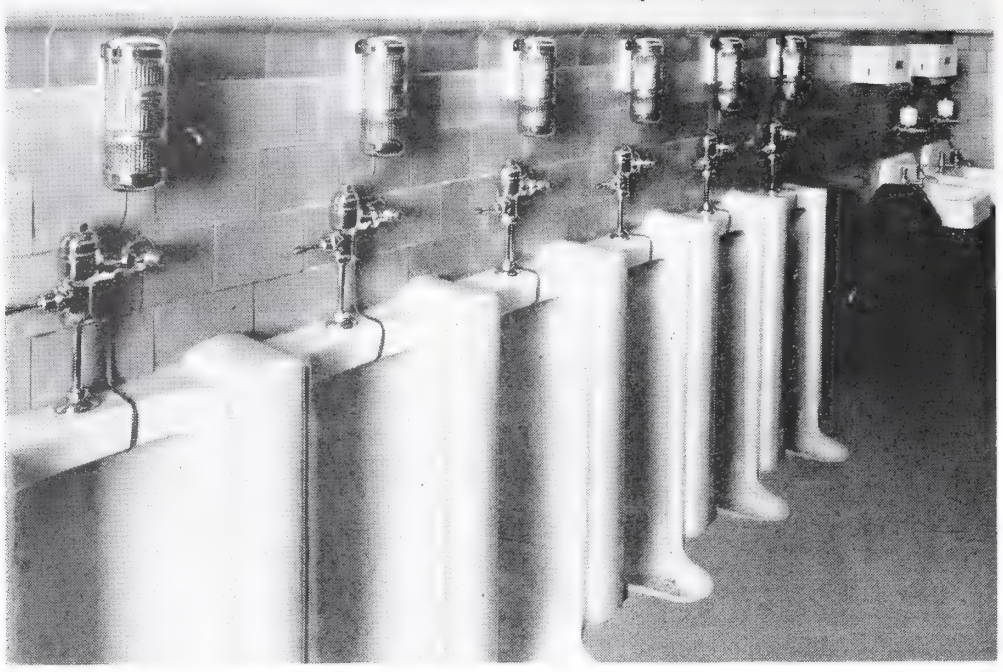
Name_____

Position_____

Organization_____

Street and No._____

City and State_____



An effective method of disinfecting and deodorization is shown in this sectional view of a theatre washroom. Automatic drip dispensers are seen above each of the urinals. In the background, liquid soap and paper towel dispensers and a self-closing waste receptacle are to be noted. (Photo courtesy West Disinfecting Co.)

To Be Entirely Sanitary or Barely Clean Enough To Get By

(Continued from preceding page)

to men, who appreciate modern conveniences no less than the women.

Faucets and fittings plated with chromium are to be preferred for washrooms because they will not tarnish, last long and are easily cleaned with a damp cloth. Lavatories and toilet bowl units of acid-resisting vitreous enamel are impervious to stain and last longer. Hard rubber composition toilet seats last indefinitely and are easily cleaned and sterilized with wood alcohol.

Wall-hung closets and urinals facilitate mopping of floors. Partitions of pressed steel are easy to keep clean and sanitary. Regulated drip disinfectant and deodorant dispensers should be installed on urinals and toilet bowls. Liquid soap dispensers are indicated for the lavatories. Bar soap is both wasteful and unsanitary. Paper towels are preferable to cloth; provided they are properly dispensed and adequate provision is made for their disposal. Self-closing waste cans are recommended for washrooms.

Nowadays, there is such widespread agitation in behalf of public health, crusades against venereal and other communicable diseases and general alarms on the spread of contagion that a theatre owner must look sharply to his sanitary conditions lest he be charged by public opinion as an accessory before the fact.

The manual labor (elbow grease) involved in keeping a theatre plant entirely sanitary is not all that is required. There must be tools to work with and the present market offers all the accessories for modern sanitary maintenance and most of them are comparatively inexpensive.

Two Simplex Units Now Available Separately

International Projector Corp. announces the availability as separate units of the Simplex Double Shutter attachment and the Simplex Air Deflector and Aperture Cooling Unit. These devices are improvements which are integral parts of the Simplex E-7 projector and are now being sold for Super-Simplex mechanisms.

The Air Deflector and Aperture Cooling unit consists of a metal frame holding a heat-resisting flat sheet of glass of exceptional purity developed by the manufacturer to insure fullest possible light transmission.

The Double Shutter attachment offers the advantages of Simplex Synchronized Front and Rear Shutters including an increase of light, one of the features of the Simplex E-7 mechanism.

Vending and Dispensing Of Sanitary Supplies

The science of sanitation has provided many utilities of the modern type for the provision of personal convenience for patrons in theatre restrooms, toilets and washrooms. Automatic dispensing and in many cases vending of supplies by coin-operated devices is a popular and most profitable practice in theatres today. A number of such necessary conveniences may be mentioned, including liquid soap and paper towel dispensers, sanitary napkin venders, coin-operated toilet stalls electric hand-driers, handkerchiefs and other items for which common or emergency needs may arise.

New Water Cooling Unit Has Economy Features

A new water cooler, built with the same type condensing unit used in large air conditioning installations, has been developed by Carrier Corporation to provide low cost drinking fountain service.

Styled in bronze, the new water cooler is only 15½ inches square and can be installed most anywhere. Water flows at the touch of the hand, but there is no splash with the deep-drawer bowl.

Other features of the cooler are: A water-regulating valve that automatically eliminates stream fluctuation; a valve that automatically regulates the water for palatable temperature, and provision for a glass and bottle filler.

Robbed and Don't Know It?

● You'd do something about it if a couple of bandits held up your box office every day. Well, they really do that, **every** day. Dust and Dirt **do** rob good money out of your till **all** the time. Why don't you slug them? Cops can do nothing—only the Super will stop this robbery. Thousands of theatres have **quit** paying tribute to Dust and Dirt. Carpets, furnishings last far longer, look better. Bright screens show perfect reflection. Better pictures! Sound holes cleaned out, front and back, music delicate and delightful! **Sells more tickets!** Payroll is cut to what it should be. Thousands **keep** their profits.

Ever take a **dare!** How's this one? Find out what a Specialized Super Cleaner will do for you, too. Try it free five days at **our** risk. Clean your screen **on us.** Clean basement to box office. For once, accept a free ride. Your wholesaler will favor you, or write



The most consistent money-maker in any theatre today.

THE NATIONAL SUPER SERVICE COMPANY

1941 N. 13TH STREET, TOLEDO, OHIO

A REMARKABLE ENGINEERING TRIUMPH DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED BY ASHCRAFT

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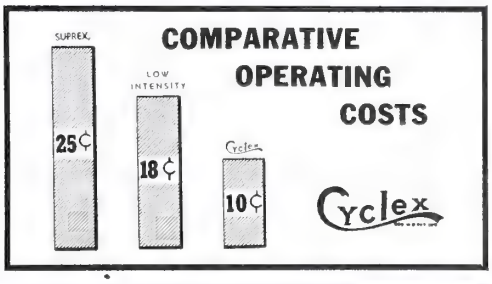
A COMPLETE NEW PROJECTION SYSTEM

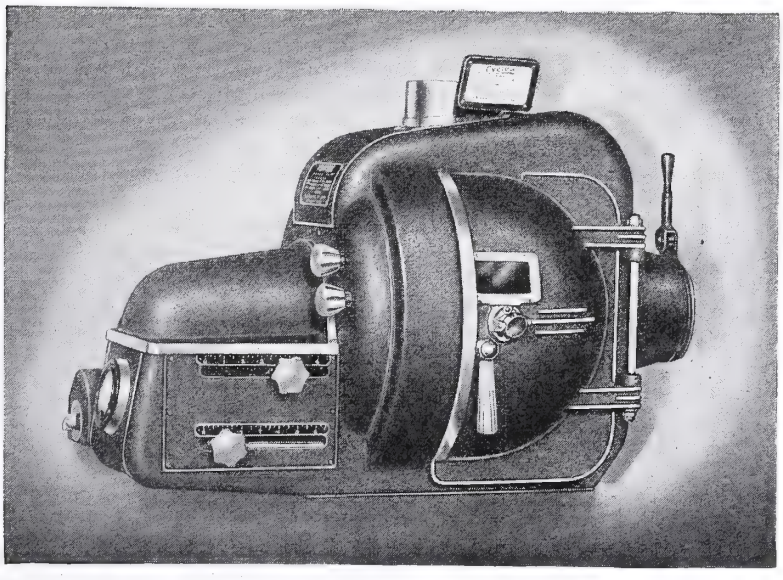
LIGHT AND POWER SOURCE



Producing High Intensity Light at Less Cost than Low Intensity

• NO GENERATORS • NO RECTIFIERS •
• NO BALLAST RESISTORS •

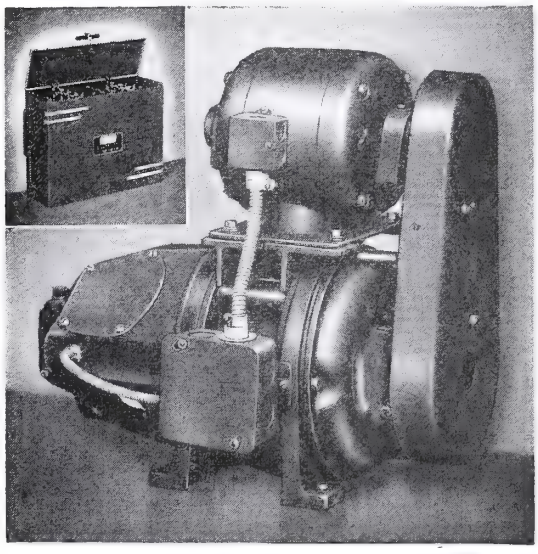




The New Cyclex **PROJECTOR LAMP**

—A Marvel of Efficiency and Simplicity

A new arc-lighting principle producing a whiter High Intensity light with a power input of only 900 arc watts. The Cyclex precision arc-control guarantees uniformity of screen illumination.



The New Cyclex **POWER UNIT**

More power, per dollar's worth of energy purchased, is converted into useful light by the Cyclex power unit than is possible with generators or rectifiers.

Designed for theatres where Low Intensity is entirely inadequate and Suprex is not necessary

ONE PAIR OF CARBONS per lamp will operate A FULL 9 HOUR SHOW

General Electric motors, used on this equipment, carry the usual G.E. quality.

Cyclex IS PRICED WITHIN THE REACH OF EVERY THEATRE . . . DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE ON REQUEST

Manufactured Exclusively by

C. S. ASHCRAFT MFG. CO. *47-31 35th Street, Long Island City, N. Y.*

A MECHANICAL OCTOPUS ON A DIET OF DIRT

IT MAY seem a bit far-fetched to compare the feeding habits of that mysterious and altogether hideous denizen of the deep, the octopus, with those of one of the streamlined and all-sufficient vacuum cleaners which industry has contrived especially for theatre work. But there's really something about them to suggest a comparison.

The multi-tentacled sea-monster is a marvel in its efficiency at picking up things. Its suckers designed so cleverly by Mother Nature and so plentifully supplied serve to remind us of the mechanical counterparts—the form and functional attachments of the modern, portable vacuum cleaner. If you don't "get it," just take time out from checking up on the day's receipts some evening and watch this most versatile of all mechanical "night prowlers" at work, cleaning up and devouring the day's mess in your theatre. We must assume, of course, that your plant is possessed of and blest with that type of cleaning tool and your staff has been trained how to use it.

If you happen to be at hand when the "trainer" unlocks the closet and releases his mechanical octopus for its nightly nourishment of dirt, you'll see it silently slither out of captivity on rubber-tired wheels that provide traction for its attack. Gliding smoothly to its nearest electrical outlet and safe on the leash of its trainer, it soon begins to reconnoiter in search of food—which it takes in courses.

First comes the appetizer. A long tentacle suddenly appears from nowhere and noses its way up the walls to the ceiling, sucking delightful bits of dust and foreign particles from grilles, poster frames, fixtures and furnishings. Draperies and fabrics supply a choice cocktail for the swelling belly of our softly humming charger.

Then for the entree. The long snout is suddenly retracted and the "monster" turns its ravenous attention to the softly carpeted floors. A delectable meal of dirt, lint, grit, grime, seasoned with minute disease germs and more observable vermin is sucked en masse from the labyrinths of woof and warp into the reaches of its distended bread basket. No seam or siding is left unexplored. It licks the platter clean. The stair carpets yield their bit to another special snout and nozzle. Down the darkened auditorium aisle it proceeds, not blindly, because it has eyes. A headlight searches out its morsels. Out comes another "trunk" that goes rooting beneath the seats, snorting out the dirt from the nooks and crannies and then sucking it in. Up comes the snout again and quick as a wink the business end of it grows whiskers. A brush disturbs imbedded dust and vermin in the pile of the seat upholstery and presto! Into the bag it goes.

One would think that by now the enormous appetite would be sated. But no! Dessert must be served. So—to the stage. Out steals the curly tentacle again, this time with a long black rigid tube at the far end which when raised high almost, but



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ATTRACTIVE . . .
COMFORTABLE . . .

Ideal Chairs

that can compete with those beside the thousands of radios in your community . . . chairs with a definite box office value!

There's an Ideal Chair to meet every budget. Write for catalog describing the staunch, quality construction and exclusive features of the full line of unsurpassed values. Dealers Everywhere.

IDEAL BUILT TO EXCEL NOT JUST TO COMPETE CHAIRS

IDEAL
SEATING COMPANY
Grand Rapids, Michigan
— Export Office —
334 WEST 44th STREET
NEW YORK CITY
Attention J. E. Robin

Method and System in Theatre Management

Theatre business is no different from any other business, such as a grocery, bakery, clothing store or other mercantile business. The fact that picture patrons do not receive a tangible commodity when they purchase a ticket impels many of us to believe that the picture business is entirely different and therefore must be operated with methods peculiar to itself.

This is a fallacy and the quicker we realize it the better off our business will be. Everything in the theatre should be made part of a very definite plan so that the maximum results are obtained with a minimum amount of time, labor and money. This should begin with management, and the manager to be properly efficient in his theatre must be so within himself.

not quite, hits the ceiling. Stage draperies disgorge plenty of choice pastry and then silently move back, disclosing a perfect source of sweet-meat to top off the meal.

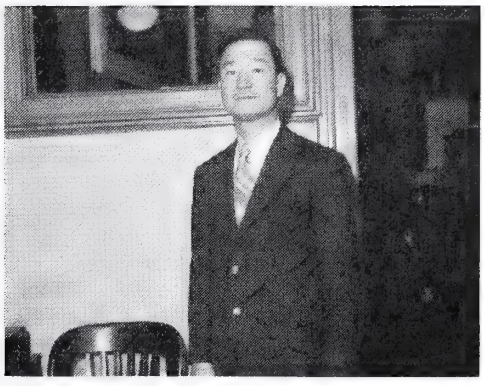
The perforated sound screen, honeycombed with choicest dust and filmed with fine particles—a meringue of obstruction to good sight and sound—gives off plentifully to the silent and soft sweep of the long tentacle, on the sucker-end of which is a soft mustache that looks like lamb's wool or camel's hair that disturbs not the shimmery screen nor marks its surface.

The repast is finished? Not yet. For its nightcap the "monster" moves on up to the projection room where it caps the climax with a strong draught of carbon dust and arc ashes sucked from the innards of still warm lamphouses, licking its chops as it takes a final swig of dust out of a bank of rectifiers.

And so to bed. Into the closet; but back tomorrow because the daily diet of dirt never ends and the supply in theatres is inexhaustible.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Perhaps you've never seen an octopussy at feeding time. But if you think the foregoing is a lot of "mullarkey," just have someone give you a personal demonstration of one of the new portable theatre cleaners and watch it perform. It's a show worth seeing.

Mr. Chan (Not Charlie) Inspects Theatre Chairs



Mr. Chung Chan, an executive of the Consolidated Amusement Co., Ltd., of Honolulu, was a recent visitor at the Heywood-Wakefield Co. plant at Gardner, Mass., where he looked over current theatre chair designs with Frederic K. Hill, manager of the H-W theatre chair department. The Consolidated Amusement Co. operates a chain of theatres in Hawaii. Mr. Chan reports that seating comfort has become a predominant consideration of theatre management throughout Polynesia, in the heart of the Central Pacific.

A capable theatre architect will not only give you a better house, but he will save you more than his modest fee in the judicious selection and correct application of materials.

Modern theatre construction and outfitting requires most competent architectural advice, and the best of it is none too good for the benefit of the boxoffice.

Straight from the owners . . .

TENNESSEE

"Suzore Theatres have used Alexander Smith Carpet two successive times in our 20 years of entertainment to a large and loyal patronage. So you see--! You can really pull service out of this carpeting."--F. Suzore, Suzore #1 Theatre and Suzore #2 Theatre, Memphis, Tenn.

MINNESOTA

"We cannot say too much in praise of our Alexander Smith "Crestwood" Carpet which was installed ten years ago, and today, looks almost new. When the time comes that we find it necessary to replace, you may rest assured that we shall waste no time investigating other makes. It is unbelievable that a carpet could be manufactured to withstand the wear and give such complete satisfaction. There may be better carpet available at the same price, but we are not aware of it, and are not even going to attempt to find it . . . we are entirely satisfied that we have the BEST."--Will J. Glaser, Paradise Theatre, Faribault, Minn.

ARKANSAS

"Approximately 100,000 people traverse an Alexander Smith Carpet in the small lobby of our New Theatre in Hope, Arkansas each year. There is not a day of fair or bad weather that every punishment is given this carpet and it stands up 100% under all wear. We like our Alexander Smith & Sons carpets for their beauty, service and fair prices."--R. V. McGinnis, New Theatre, Hope, Ark.

ALEXANDER SMITH CARPET

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MOHAWK-
COCK-OF-THE-WALK

Flaunting their glowing colors . . . crowing defiance at wear —Mohawks rule the roost of Theater Carpets! Mohawks fulfill all your press-book adjectives on beauty . . . only Mohawk was gorgeous enough for the world-famous Roxy. But down the dark aisles inside, Mohawks are subdued—pride themselves and please your patrons with their deep, sound-absorbing pile. And beneath Mohawk's beauty is Mohawk's woven-in stamina. The broad Mohawk Theater Line includes just the color, pattern, price you're looking for. See Rialto, Scotia and the Broadway Group.

Write for your free copy of Mohawk's new illustrated book—"Those Who Know"

MOHAWK *Theater* CARPETS

MOHAWK CARPET MILLS, INC., AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

Off-Peak Operation In Air Conditioning

Storage of cold during the night or in other off-periods of operation permits smaller compressors, reduced operating costs in theatre air conditioning. Refrigeration, like electricity, can be produced at convenience and stored up until it is needed. Instead of a storage battery, however, the accumulator of cold is a tank of water or brine which is cooled or even frozen during the production cycle, and melted during the consumption cycle.

This simple fact has been known for years, but little use was made of it until air conditioning engineers, seeking to reduce costs further, adapted the storage principle of refrigeration to summer air conditioning systems. Today it is a practical reality for many commercial fields of air conditioning, states W. B. Henderson, executive vice-president of the Air Conditioning Manufacturers' Association.

As applied to air conditioning, the storage battery method of cooling spreads out the production of cold over as much as 24 hours a day. The refrigeration equipment, instead of being shut down when the theatre closes, continues to run throughout the remainder of the night, continuously storing up refrigeration in water or brine tanks to be drawn upon for air conditioning the next day. Because it works longer hours, the refrigerating unit can be correspondingly smaller in size and cost.

The development was largely inspired by executives of the power companies who have offered reduced rates for night operation, in an effort to shift the growing demands of air conditioning installations from day-time peaks into the nightly valleys of electric current consumption. Off-peak operation of air conditioning systems is a perfect answer to the utility problem, and is bringing substantial savings in power costs to air conditioning users.

Partially offsetting the obvious economies of a smaller investment in refrigerating machines and the lower power rates, however, is the cost of the extra storage tank and its accessory control equipment, Mr. Henderson points out. In addition, considerable space must be found to accommodate the tank. Water, brine, and ice tanks are the three common types. Because of the difference in their cold-storing capacities, a cold water tank requires roughly three times as much space as an ice tank of equal capacity, while a brine tank would take twice as much space as ice.

Economies of the storage method are most apparent for air conditioning installations having a low usage factor, such as small theatres and other auditoria, where operating time is confined to a few hours each day and evening. Industrial air conditioning, which usually has a very high usage factor, does not lend itself so readily to the storage method, except where extremely low night power rates are available.

The technique may be applied in the design of any new installation in which its economy can be proved, and to those existing installations which employ cold water as the cooling medium.

BUSINESS BOOMLET

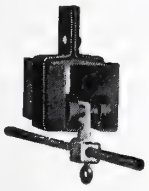
The Celotex Corp. reports earnings, after all charges, for the quarter ending July 31, 1939, the third quarter of the company's fiscal year, of $436,000, as compared to net profit of $161,319.55 for the corresponding period of last year and a net profit of $22,535.56 for the previous quarter. Net sales for the third quarter were $3,701,000 as compared with sales of $2,-360,000 for the same period of last year, a gain of $1,341,0000.

For the nine months ended July 31, net profit amounted to $447,000, equal, after provision for preferred dividend requirements of $109,021.89 on 29,072½ shares of outstanding preferred stock, to 52 cents a share on the 638,410 shares of outstanding common stock. This compares with net for the corresponding nine months period of last year of $278,851.18 which after giving effect to a 100 per cent common stock dividend paid last November was equal to 27 cents a common share on the shares then outstanding.

"The substantial gain in sales volume shown for the third quarter as compared to the previous quarter," according to B. G. Dahlberg, president, "reflects the increased building activity generated by an improvement in public confidence. The gain probably represents a conversion into actual building construction of building contracts awarded which earlier in the year had shown a pronounced upswing.

"Current orders continue to reflect improvement over the corresponding period of last year," he continued, "and the management is confidently expecting its sales volume as well as general business conditions to remain very favorable for the remainder of its current fiscal year."

ON THE RIGHT TRACK



Comparatively new, BESTEEL is making sales history thruout the country because of its many practical advantages. Economy—in handling, in operation, in price . . . large and strong enough for the average stage . . . small enough for restricted spaces. Send for complete information and sample.

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THE REMOVABLE SUPPORTING FRAME

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and used them EXCLUSIVELY until a competitor began to infringe. In our recent patent litigation, the U. S. District Court, in a decree entered June 21, 1939, upheld ADLER'S EXCLUSIVE RIGHT to manufacture this equipment under ADLER Patent No. 2,038,978.

DECISION NOW UP TO COURT OF APPEALS

which will probably be rendered some time in 1940. In the meantime we urge you to disregard all attempts to try the case out of court as a competitor is now doing, as it may result to your disadvantage.

YOU ARE PROTECTED

in the purchase of all ADLER EQUIPMENT, not only by our present patent protection insurance with National Patent Corp., in which Seaboard Surety Co. participates, but also by the independent protection afforded by our Supersedeas Appeal Bond which we placed with the Court in accordance with Rule 73 (d) of the New Rules of Civil Procedure for U. S. District Courts, which states it should be in an amount to satisfy "judgment in full, together with costs, interest and damages for delay." Therefore, as long as all of this is satisfied, there can be no legitimate claims whatever by a competitor for damages or profits derived from the sale or use of our products, or any injunction issued against any of ADLER'S customers, whether jobbers or users.

WE CAN SEE NO AUTHORITY IN THE OPINION OF THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CLAIM THAT THE SO-CALLED 1940 COMPETITIVE FRAME DOES NOT INFRINGE THE ADLER PATENT

YOU ARE NOT SAFE IN ASSUMING that this imitation or any other similar construction where parts are merely reversed, does not infringe the ADLER patent, as reversal of parts is merely a colorable variation and does not avoid infringement.

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The modern ADLER ***Locked-in-Line*** Frame Construction SETS DIRECTLY IN THE GROOVES OF THE SIGN and requires no changes in your regular sign construction. There are no clips to scratch the surface of your signs (especially on porcelain enamel where rust would follow). ADLER Construction is simple, strong, soundly engineered and most easily installed, and handled for maintenance. It permits letters to slide easily from frame to frame—provides light-tight joints. FULL UNDERWRITERS' APPROVAL up to 108" high. Put your faith in sound construction, backed by sound business principles and the guarantee of our well-rated, responsible organization.

WE WILL FURNISH YOU A PATENT PROTECTION CERTIFICATE ON ALL ADLER EQUIPMENT YOU BUY

Various Adler Patents

United States Patents No. 2,156,257 granted May 2, 1939; No. 2,144,954 granted January 24, 1939; No. 2,038,978 granted April 28, 1936; No. 1,989,855 granted February 5, 1935. Canada Patent No. 369,858 granted Nov. 9, 1937. England Patent No. 442,512 granted Feb. 3, 1936.

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PLANNING

CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION WITH LEADING THEATRE ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS

Modernization Takes the Curse from Another Old-Time Cinema

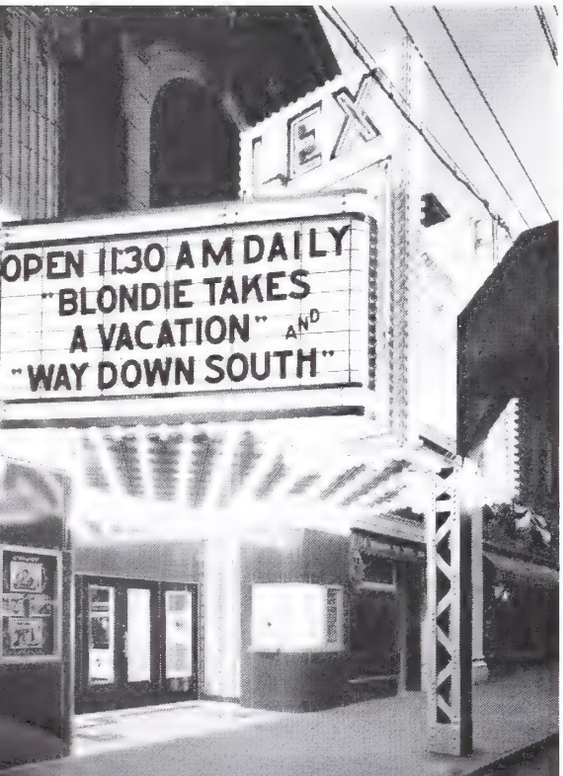
A case of economical building modernization applied as a last resort revives patronage . . . Pictures and particulars of the project supplied by the architects, Rapp & Rapp, of Chicago.

UNDER prior management, just about everything in a shrewd showman's bag of tricks had been tried to make a profitable enterprise of the old Lexington Theatre, located at 1160 East 63rd Street, on the south side of Chicago. That is, except what apparently was the thing most needed—House Appeal.

This "last resort" measure was applied recently and with remarkable effect on the earning power of the place. The theatre was closed for alterations on June 30th and reopened last month, September 1st, to a packed house. Up to this writing, there has been no observable recession reported in the daily takes at the boxoffice.

The preliminaries to the project are as follows: Facts given to indicate the foresight of current management, who as stated above must have figured that since practically all other promotional methods had proved ineffective, the property restoration plan was perhaps the last-chance remedy to make the old Lexington Theatre pay satisfactory dividends on the property investment.

BEFORE: a hodge-podge of unrelated elements; a state of disarrangement and overdone advertising that did little to attract patronage and much to drive it away. The L-road structure above the marquee stood out like a sore thumb.



Gay Nineties Influence

The old Lexington Theatre building was erected in 1912. Naturally, its layout would show a marked influence of the early days of the cinema when theatre planning was more faddish than functional and far less satisfying to public comfort and convenience than contemporary theatres of today. In fact, the old Lexington Theatre was definitely dated in its design and quite obviously influenced by the Columbian Exposition of 1893, Chicago's first World's Fair, the locale of which is not far removed from that of the new "Lex" Theatre.



BUT NOW: A clean, neat modern facade that dominates the street; an electrical display that does a real job of advertising and successfully conceals the disturbing L-structure which, of course, could not be moved. The new Lex speaks for itself.

Located in one of the most crowded shopping and apartment sections of Chicago's South Side, the building was in a bad state of repair and exceedingly poor form and condition for the requirements of moving picture presentation as it must be practiced today. Three small "shops" reduced the theatre's main entrance to a very meagre passageway and a most unimposing and inconvenient reception to patrons was the result.

A cramped lobby, a small five-foot foyer and many other inadequate and poorly arranged space provisions in the old layout, plus poor seating and unsatisfactory conditions for sound reproduction made it a most acute case for a major overhauling operation.

The building faces 63rd Street, a narrow thoroughfare which accommodates a double-deck and hideously noisy transportation system—street cars on the surface and the "L"-road above. One of the Elevated's posts stands directly off center in front of the theatre with the overhead tracks above obstructing the second-story view. The customary full-faced facade and upstanding electrical display, therefore, was quite out of question.

Such were the problems that faced Theatre Owner Alex Manta when he decided to take over the old Lexington Theatre and bring it under the banner of other successfully managed Manta amusement enterprises in the Chicago exchange area. Mr. Manta is president of Indiana-Illinois Theatres, Inc., which operates some 30 theatres in the adjoining states, principally in Chicago suburbs.

Problems Plentiful

The problems were plentiful and somewhat perturbing. However, the potential drawing power of the location was evident to Mr. Manta and his associates. They reasoned that if the name were shortened, a complete change of face was effected and the atmosphere and character of the place were changed, leaving no trace of the original impression on people who had patronized the old theatre or lived in the neighborhood for years, there was still possibility for profitable operation.

The architectural firm of Rapp & Rapp was consulted on the problem and commissioned to draw plans and direct the modernizing operations. Rapp & Rapp are members of the Advisory Board of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute. The firm has specialized in theatre architecture for years.

Floor plan drawings showing the "before" and "after" arrangement for direct comparison are presented here to indicate the extent and practicability of the struc-



D. H. BRUSH jr.



MASON G. RAPP

Principals in the architectural firm of Rapp & Rapp, who planned and supervised the rejuvenation of the old Lexington Theatre.

tural alterations. These pictures are largely self-explanatory and sufficiently clear to show the improvement. A more detailed explanation of the decorative technique employed in the Lex Theatre is presented by Hanns R. Teichert elsewhere in this issue. The ensuing descriptions are merely high-lights of the project given to indicate the extent and manner of modernization.

WHAT WAS DONE

Front: The old name "Lexington" was shortened to "Lex" and cleverly worked into a modern streamlined marquee that serves to camouflage the aforementioned L-road stanchion which sets at the curb immediately in front of the theatre. Four-line attraction boards at each side of the marquee set at an angle for street view terminate into fins that serve to conceal the L-post and serve as flashers. Bright colors and constant animation of the sign serve to compensate for a bad location. First floor facade is of bright red enamel, trimmed with aluminum strips. A harmonizing floor of terrazzo with a modern design and integrated poster cases present a most inviting entrance.

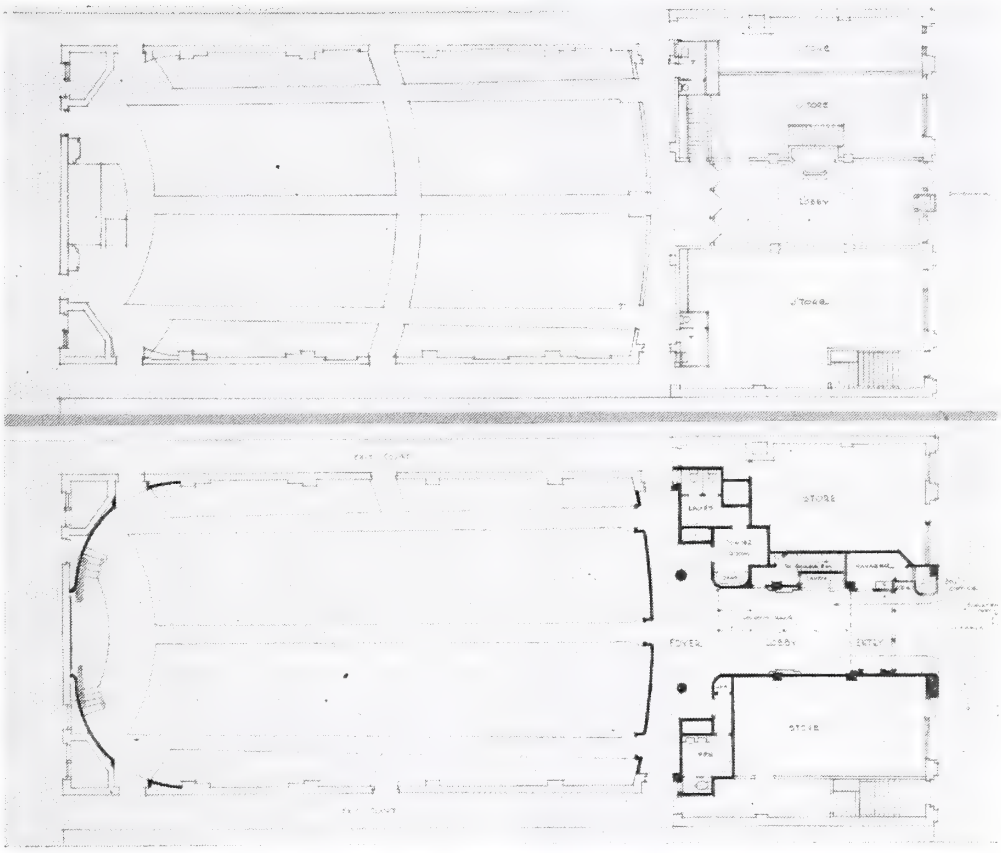
Lobby: A portion of the frontage of one of the adjacent stores and a part of the rear of both store rooms were utilized to provide a wider street frontage, new rest-rooms and a more spacious lobby and foyer. The old "dead-center" boxoffice was abolished and an unsymmetrical new ticket office was placed to the right of the entrance, not only to "open up" and enhance the appearance of the front, but to aid in the normal circulation from box-office to auditorium to street.

A glass block panel consisting of three flutes of glass lighted from behind in power green serves to accentuate the box-office and enliven the lobby which is otherwise quite simply decorated; but entirely functional. The manager's office, a new provision, is directly connected by an entrance to the boxoffice. An alcove on the right is provided for a popcorn machine and confectionery counter. Lobby floors are carpeted in a modern weave and pattern of special design. Removable aisle posts are worked into a most effective traffic and hold-out system. Built-in poster cases are effectively cove lighted. Walls here are treated in walnut trimmed with aspen in natural finishes.

Foyer: Full advantage is taken of the increased area effected by the new layout. Two steel supporting columns at either side were rounded up and cleverly merged with decorations in an inconspicuous manner. An especially striking recessed lighting fixture in polished brass and plate glass sets off the space to advantage. Convenient entrance to a ladies' powder room at the right and the men's room at left. Restrooms are small but delightfully decorated and efficiently equipped in all particulars. A drinking fountain is niched in to save room. Auditorium entrance doors are colorful and strikingly trimmed.

Auditorium: The old wood floor of the auditorium was replaced with a new concrete board. Walls were treated acoustically with an attractive natural-finished material of excellent sound absorbing quality. Ceiling was redecorated in the modern manner but otherwise left unchanged. Auditorium completely reseated

(Continued on page 59)



Above—As the floor plan of the old Lexington Theatre appeared before modernization and below—as it now appears after complete reapportionment of its areas into a plan for higher operating efficiency and greater House Appeal.

THEATRE MODERNIZING GUIDE

THE MODERN THEATRE ★ PLANNING INSTITUTE MEMBER

Through the co-operation of our affiliated architects, leading manufacturers, their engineers, designers, dealers, contractors and others, a majority of whom are active members of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, we are prepared to assist the theatre-owner in selection and application of all commodities and services needed in remodeling and modernizing by placing him in touch with dependable sources of supply. As sponsor of the Institute, we strive to impartially relay each inquiry only to sources of reliable information. However, we do not guarantee all statements or claims made in connection with products offered.

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The MODERN THEATRE Planning Institute, 10-14-39
Room 334—332 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: Without cost or obligation please arrange to have data supplied to us covering the following subjects:

☐ Acoustics	☐ Decorating	☐ Screens
☐ Air Conditioning	☐ Heating Equipment	☐ Seating
☐ Amplifiers	☐ Lighting Fixtures	☐ Signs and Marquees
☐ Architectural Service	☐ Lounge Furniture	☐ Sound Equipment
☐ Carpets	☐ Plumbing Fixtures	☐ Theatre Fronts
☐ Coin Changers	☐ Projectors	☐ Ticket Machines
☐ Complete Remodeling	☐ Projection Lamps	☐ Other Subjects

.....

Theatre ..... Seating Capacity.....

Address .....

City ..... State.....

Signed.....
(Owner-Manager)

AIR CONDITIONING

DEVOTED TO A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN THEATRES

Summer's Gone Again . . . But You've Still Gotta Problem

By **Gordon H. Simmons***



THE editor must have thought I might drop dead and die on him because even before August had arrived he instructed me to "inject a little winter air conditioning argument into these articles." I'm quoting him.

Winter conditioning is something you haven't got; that is, practically none of you have it. Nor do I believe that hardly any of you even know what is it. As to what it is, I have my pet suspicions. And I don't mind whispering them to you if you'll promise not to tell anybody.

Now, I happen to know that many new theatres are being erected and projected throughout the country. Yet of all the letters I receive, just about one in ten is from an owner who has not made any mistakes because he was not ready to. So I am dedicating this article to owners preparing to build and getting ready to make some mistakes just like all the rest of you who think your air conditioning problems hibernate at the end of hot weather.

But Man Alive! Have I made a mistake! My error consists in developing air conditioning practice beyond what you are accustomed to or know about, and at such a personal cost to me that I may never get my money back.

Reference to a Result

Once in awhile, a theatre owner throws up his hands and says, "Simmons, you handle this job; but if it doesn't work you'd better get out of town." After I finish his job and adjust it and then tell him to *keep his hands off it,* he watches the operation for awhile, feels the result and then says to nobody in particular, "Well, I'll be damned!"

What I am referring to is a "result"—something you don't know about and maybe don't care to know about. In the last July 22nd issue of this journal on page 51, top right corner of the page, is a picture of something 99 per cent plus of you never saw before.

It's a simple little tool for year-round temperature control and it has to do with winter air conditioning just as much as anything else. And it has *plenty* to do with what happens at your boxoffice because I could adjust it to drive all your patrons away. But the darn gadget *can* be adjusted not only to attract patronage but to *keep 'em coming*—because it *can* be regulated to keep your patrons supremely unconscious of the weather.

I have "rassled" with you theatre owners so long, trying to inculcate some of the elementary principles of air conditioning, but with only spotty success. So I said to myself, "Darn your hides, I'll fix you—and fix you good. I'll take the complete operation out of your hands and then tell you to *keep hands off.*" Better for you to monkey with your sound equipment than this pet robot of mine, because if I catch you doing it I'll stand in your front door and haunt you plenty.

It is said that "Necessity is the Mother of Invention." Well, I recognized Mother Necessity after I attended a theatre in a small town last winter where there was a mild epidemic of the flu. All air was recirculated and I got filled up with the bugs. After so much boasting how I never got sick, one of your movies got me.

Fighting for Fresh Air

I've tried all kinds of persuasive pleas and arguments to get you fellows to put some fresh air into your houses during the winter. No soap! Well, on jobs I do now, I *take over* those fresh air dampers and operate them by means of this robot which may look like a Frankenstein to you, but it isn't.

It's the carburetor of your automobile, the sugar in your tea, the noodles in your soup. The only thing I might do to improve it is to electrify it so that if you should defy me and touch it you'd be knocked over on your can. Maybe I've got sump'n there.

As I've said before, I am interested in your job, not you. But I've got to get through you to get at your job—which is the "why" of these articles. Ye editor and I are not making any money but we sure are having a lot of fun alternately scolding and cajoling you. We mean well even if we do act funny.

Of course, you can do some of the things that "thing-in-a-box" can do. But I just want to call your attention to the "thing" rather than the "box," and explain the "guts" of air conditioning if I can. I am merely calling this gadget to your notice in order to rivet your attention and prevent any arguments from any source because I am talking about no theory but an accomplishment.

Did you ever attempt to hold a tom-cat by the tail with careless disregard for what his teeth and claws might do to you? Now air conditioning as such requires a constant and perpetual *adjustment,* because the minute you attempt to grab one factor by the tail some other item requiring adjustment because of what you did jumps up and slaps you in the face. Go ahead and adjust that, and something else happens in a vicious confusing circle.

Open your fresh air dampers too much and you waste fuel. Close them too much and your place stinks to high heaven. Adjust your thermostat and you have affected the humidity. Run your blower too fast and you get drafts and noise. Run it too slow and you've got no control over anything.

Grab a cat by its tail and he'll bite you on the leg. Catch him by his neck and he'll claw the daylights out of you. Seize him by the foot and he'll still leave his marks on you. Your unconditionable air conditioning system both winter and summer is leaving its marks on your boxoffice.

Buy something cheap and pay for high maintenance as well as big operating costs. What is your fuel bill? Whatever it is, it's too much. Pay somebody $200 less to put in a job worth $2,000 less. Or pay thousands for a good system and then operate it so loosely that it becomes a liability instead of an asset. Now it's your money and your theatre and your privilege to operate it according to your heart's desire. But if a little friendly advice from me to you is acceptable, ask for it and it will be cheerily forthcoming. Enclose a stamp, or two stamps. Checks, drafts and money orders not returned, either.

But to get down to business and unscrew the inscrutable, here are some facts anent winter air conditioning which I

Are You Confused?

The subject of Air Conditioning explained in common, non-technical every-day terms becomes less baffling to the man who wants to buy equipment. If you are confused regarding the application of air conditioning to your theatre, write a letter to Gordon H. Simmons, 926 N. Cass Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, outlining your conditions, seating capacity, room dimension, present equipment, etc. Give him the facts, ENCLOSE POSTAGE for reply and he'll be glad to analyze your layout and give you unbiased recommendations on your requirements.

*Air Conditioning Engineer, Milwaukee, Wis.

doubt that I've touched upon before.

MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW

A thermostat is supposed to cut off the heat or cooling when the theatre is *up* to temperature (or *down* to temperature in the summertime).

It rarely does this. Set your thermostat at 70 degrees and the theatre might go to 75 degrees or even higher before the heating is checked. This results in wasted fuel and discomfort to your patrons. Now I cannot devote the rest of this article to just this one thing. If any of you have this trouble, write in and ask for advice.

During the winter, humidity is needed. Some time ago I recounted what happened to my household goods for lack of humidity. It cost me money; but you have invested *much more*.

Most of you theatre owners are not troubled by lack of humidity because you use the customers' sweat for humidifying purposes. Well, if you don't think this affects your boxoffice, you don't know your American Public. Better for your patrons to congregate around a garbage can. Fresh air is needed, but I have mentioned that before, and when you take in fresh air you lose needed humidity. What to do? Nobody, save one owner, has yet asked me this.

Nor can I devote the rest of this article to this item, either. I can only "call my shots" and then try to put the next ball into the corner pocket.

A blower must deliver far more air for summer cooling than for winter conditioning. The ideal economical arrangement would be to constantly regulate the volume of air delivered in proportion to the number of customers in your house. Just *try* to do this by hand! Anyhow, I am giving you something to shoot at.

Now attempt to hand-regulate your fresh air dampers so that a fixed percentage of fresh air per customer will always be delivered. Give 'em too much fresh air and you pay the fuel man. Give 'em too little and they'll walk out on you if they have good sense. An increasing number of your patrons are getting hep to it—and some of you theatre owners are too.

Now what equipment man or contractor even offers the facilities that go to make up the ideal job when offering you a proposition? How many of you ever even heard of air conditioning discussed in this vein? How much trouble am I going to get into by opening your eyes to what you should have but don't get, mostly because you don't want to pay for it?

DUMB PETS AND PEOPLE

Dumb animals are instinctively wary of places that are dangerous to them. Take your pet cat to the lethal chamber used in big cities for the disposal of surplus pussies. Even though you know your cat has never been near such a place before, it will turn out to be no longer a "pet" until you take it away from there.

Take your favorite pooch to the dog pound, or throw a stick into the water where many dogs have died before. Will he retrieve it? I'd like to know. Now human beings are animals. So you must watch 'em and study 'em and strive to make them feel safe and more comfortable for they actually do have a helluva time as it is to keep sanitary and sweet tempered.

It has to be a darn good picture to hold the good will of a crowd while it sits in bodily discomfort either winter or summer. The depressing effect of recirculated air stupifies; poisons them. Drafts and breeze irritate them. If they are alternately too warm and too cool, they are warned, unconsciously perhaps, to stay away.

You can't have any of these faults eltminated unless their elimination is *built into your job*. With a crowd that varies between ten and a thousand or more, how can you expect to maintain an even temperature unless your job is designed to do it?

Humans packed together generate heat, as all of you must know. And it is heat the human animal must get rid of to remain comfortable. He gives off the same amount of heat both winter and summer, and his body is more sensitive to its environment than possibly you know. It is *automatically* adjusting itself from minute to minute to remain comfortable with a hostile environment.

I don't want to take you into the realm of metaphysics, the occult or the mysterious, but I may have to in order to

(Continued on page 59)

SIMMONS' Q-AND-A CORNER

Problems presented herein are bona fide and are not imaginary concoctions for the purpose of misrepresenting reader interest. Original signed letters are on file for examination, subject to the approval of correspondents.

I plucked the following problem at random from my over-extended file and lo and behold, it's a timely one from a theatre man out in Iowa:

The letter: "I have been reading your articles in BOXOFFICE on air conditioning. I have a little problem which I think you may be able to help me on. Specifically the problem is humidity.

"I have enclosed a rough sketch, which will give you an idea of the setup we have here for our heating and cooling systems. We have a 27 inch . . . warm air furnace with a separate heating blower which takes care of the heating in very nice shape, but I am unable to get any moisture into the air. Of course, the water pan on the furnace does very little good and last winter I tried out a spray type of humidifier which was placed directly over the dome of the furnace. This outfit was equipped with humidistat, solenoid valve, etc., but after a week or two of trial which was not at all satisfactory, I had it taken out.

"During the summer months the humidity in the auditorium runs around 50 to 70 per cent, while in the winter it drops to a low of from 0 to 20 per cent. The last two days it has registered 0, which I suppose is the reason I am finally writing you.

"I don't know whether it has any bearing or not, but our auditorium is lined with . . . (popular interior finish), both ceiling and walls, except for a 40-foot wainscote of cement plaster.

"The furnace is coal burning, hand-fired, and equipped with thermostatic damper control and automatic blower control. In the winter we close the damper, cutting off the cooling blower and air washer except for ventilating purposes when the house is crowded. There are two 30x30-inch vents in the ceiling at the back of the auditorium.

"I trust that this information (although not very well presented) is sufficient for you to tell me how I can get the proper moisture content into the air in the winter. If not sufficient, I will be glad to furnish it.

"I am enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope for your convenience in replying. Any other suggestions regarding the setup will also be welcome.—J. H. E."

My Response: "Your sketch and letter of the 23rd just received. You are the first theatre man who has written me on the subject of humidity, and I really wish you hadn't. It is a subject that makes me 'sweat.' To talk learnedly on the subject is easy, but to give you definite specific recommendations is another matter entirely, because your heating plant, a warm air furnace, doesn't afford any help. Your air washer seems to be stuck in the fresh air intake so it probably is not usable unless you want to go to the expense of some duct work in order to be able to recirculate some of your air.

"As a matter of fact, humidity in theatres usually is high enough because the moisture and sweat given off by the patrons humidifies the theatre air. And while I don't recommend this method of humidification, 99 and 44/100ths per cent of the theatre owners seem to be satisfied with it. So you see, you *have* broached a delicate subject.

"I have had a lot of humidifier experience and nearly all of it has been bad. The theory of humidification is so simple. A singing kettle on a hot stove is our earliest humidifier. But when one comes to designing a decent commercial piece of apparatus, the hardness of the water used often puts apparatus on the bum, to say nothing of other technical difficulties.

"If you had the usual steam boiler serving heating coils, I could handle your problem with ease. Many schools have a long narrow trough with a steam coil immersed in it which warms the water and causes it to evaporate into the stream of air passing over it.

"Now I'd be glad to experiment with you. Your problem is not one of general interest to theatre owners but it should be. I might suggest something that would be 'home-made' but fairly effective provided your water is soft. Let me know about this. Also if you have a domestic hot water boiler. Of course, you could pur-

(Continued on page 55)

DECORATING

DISCUSSION OF ACOUSTI-DECORATIVE EFFECTS FOR MODERN THEATRE INTERIORS

A Beauty Treatment Brings the Customers Back Smiling

By **Hanns R. Teichert***



THERE was once an old theatre on Chicago's southside. It had served its purpose well—for more years than we or anyone else would care to remember. It was decidedly "run down at the heels" (shabby is the polite and generous word for it). The commercial neighborhood surrounding this theatre had progressed, remodeled and done a rather creditable job of keeping up with the fast changing world, but the theatre exterior and interior had become old-fashioned, antiquated and the movie-goers were looking to other houses and elsewhere for entertainment.

Cause and Effect

What was the trouble? Well, to put it straight, the local public taste demanded a clean, modern theatre. But public taste for progress is not always to be denied and somewhere along the line, ownership of the old theatre changed hands. The new owner had an idea of what was wrong, so he immediately set about to turn this veteran theatre of the pre-war period into a modern, successful house.

You're probably thinking right now—"just another fancy story—prove it!" That challenge, gentlemen, we accept with thanks, and the best way to convince you is to invite you to visit the theatre or to write the management for an expression in regard to the outcome.

The theatre that provides proof in point is the Lexington, located at 1160 E. 63rd Street, Chicago, Illinois. The name was changed to the New Lex, but they are getting mail at the same old address. This should be proof enough to convince you that we are talking about realities—not drawing on imagination to put over an argument. Stick with us and we'll tell you how these new owners turned this house into one that is doing a creditable business at the boxoffice after the remodeling, which we are told is being more particularly described elsewhere in this issue. Our ensuing remarks, therefore, will be confined to the decorative phase of the project.

The Lexington closed its doors last June after the new owner had hired a competent Chicago architectural firm, Rapp & Rapp, and from then on the activity proceeded in earnest. Just what the structural changes amounted to we'll let you read in the other article in this issue, referred to above. But we will give you briefly the color scheme and the decorative layout which was entrusted to us. Here it is:

Decorative Details

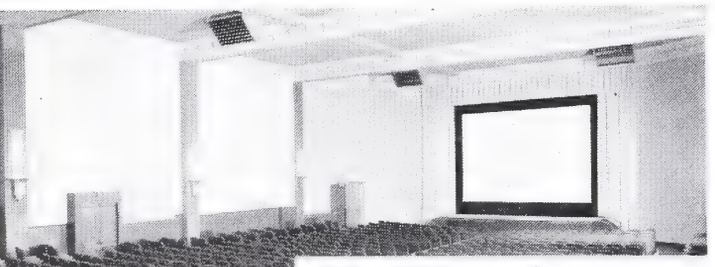
Besides an attractive modern front with plenty of flash and night appeal through special lighting, the New Lex now boasts of an artistic approach through lobby and foyer to a beautiful interior. The lobby, which in spite of its small scale inspires an atmosphere of elegance and restraint void of all unnecessary frills, is purely utilitarian in character. The ceilings are arranged in different levels and are kept in an eggshell color, indirectly illuminated.

Walls in this portion of the house are covered with lastic veneer, a natural finish walnut, richly grained panel finish arranged in a beautiful design. The two decorative features on either side of the room are additionally dramatized by use of a lighter wood. To one side of the room a candy alcove is located, with copper finished fabricoid as its decorative element. On the opposite wall, the display cases for coming attractions are framed in eggshell enamel.

The foyer, which is more or less a part of the lobby, represents a decided change of color and texture emphasized by a domed ceiling indirectly illuminated by a beautifully designed circular polished brass fixture which is enhanced with a decoration of carved glass leaves. These features against a wall of turquoise blue and entrance doors to the auditorium covered with metallic copper cloth create a composition of beauty and permanence.

The darker walls will be easily cleaned and the copper cloth covered walls are tarnish proof, requiring only a slight dusting to remove finger-marks and smudges.

*Theatre Decorating Specialist, Chicago, Illinois.







At left—A view of the Lex Theatre auditorium after modernization. Protruding grilles in the ceiling are to be replaced by a modern type of air diffuser when a complete air conditioning system is installed in the spring. Below—A section of the Lex foyer which affords an idea of the spaciousness that can be effected in places of small area by decorative technique.

Advisory Service

Since modern theatre decorating is a specialized art requiring counsel, creative talent and planning ability which are not usually available at all points of the country, Mr. Teichert has agreed to serve our readers in an advisory capacity. He will be glad to correspond with any of our readers who may wish information and advice on decorating procedure. All such inquiries will be given prompt attention. Address your inquiry to The Modern Theatre, *332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. It will be immediately referred to Mr. Teichert for analysis and advice, without obligation.*

The sidewalls of the foyer were purposely kept in a light champagne color to mark the entrances to restrooms. Carpets are in shades of wine.

A yellow and coral background in the powder room gives an ideal color scheme for milady's makeup and will surely prevent her over-rouging and applying too much powder before leaving the theatre.

MORE HOUSE APPEAL

The auditorium is a symphony of soft straw yellow and orange coral. Its ceiling is finished in a darker shade of coral in order to give the illusion of additional width to the house. The yellow walls are accented with illuminated pilasters of an orange tone and this color is again recalled in the curved walls flanking the proscenium arch on either side of the picture screen. Seats are upholstered in Royal blue with backs lacquered in the same color. Stage curtain is gold plush.

An unpretentious neo-classic design in soft related colors has been applied to these walls in order to give them more interest, without detracting the attention of patrons from the screen. The entire color scheme of the interior is well-balanced by a maroon-colored dado and woodwork.

That's our side of the story of the new Lex Theatre, in Chicago, and once again we want to bang home our belief that there are hundreds and hundreds of old theatres throughout this country that can be promptly taken "out of the red," if a competent architect and decorator were allowed to put the house in order.

Can this statement also be proved? Again we answer yes, positively—by your writing to any of the owners whose theatres have been described heretofore in this series of articles. Let those who have followed our advice give you the answer. We rest our case for another month!

Gesundheit!

Thirty-one thousand sniveling sufferers jammed the Carrier Igloo of Tomorrow on August 23 to take part in scientific activities and enjoy entertainment arranged for them in connection with "Hay Fever Day" at the New York World's Fair.

A "sneezing contest" to find the world's champion ker-chooer offered amusing contrast to the dignified scientific and educational program designed to focus attention upon the plight of hay fever sufferers.



To the tune of "Turkey in the Straw," these eight Arthur Murray dancers introduce a new dance creation, "The Hay Fever Hop," while delighted crowds look on between sneezes.

In keeping with the new carnival spirit of the Fair, eight Arthur Murray dancers introduced a new creation, the "Hay Fever Hop," which won instant acclaim from the assembled victims of the ragweed. Dance music was provided by Harry Reser and his Eskimos, appropriately garbed in hoods and parkas.

On the more serious side, J. A. Bentley, vice-president of Carrier, struck the keynote of the day when he urged hay fever sufferers to band together to obtain official recognition of their plight.

"Unless authorities undertake an extensive ragweed control program, hay fever will continue to be a growing menace to public health," Mr. Bentley said. "Instead of decreasing, it is becoming more prevalent in America.

"The science of air conditioning has done much to alleviate this condition by providing filtered, pollen-free air. Today, hay fever sufferers are obtaining a great deal of relief in air conditioned motion picture theatres."

The winner and runner-up in the "sneezing contest" were taken on a specially-arranged altitude flight over the metropolitan area and out to sea, to test their reactions when they rose above the pollen zone. Prof. Hodgson, assisted by an American stewardess, was to accompany them to chart a complete record of their reactions at various altitudes. Hildegarde Halliday, famous stage and screen sneezer, acted as presiding judge during the "sneezing contest."



ELKTON, VIRGINIA, is proud of the modern metropolitan appearance of the Elkton Theatre since the interior has been finished with Celotex Key Joint Units! This new insulating interior finish is *applied direct to open framing* and furnishes a full three-quarters inch of proved insulation to keep the theatre warmer in winter and cooler in summer!

Five standard sizes permit making any number of attractive designs. *There's no need for cutting or sawing* except at room borders and openings. Decorated panels shown in the ceiling are stock panels. Your dealer can furnish them to you—together with all the other materials which made this beautiful interior!

Phone your Celotex Dealer today! Ask him to show you *how easy and inexpensive* it is to give your theatre a completely new interior with the help of Celotex Key Joint Units, or Celotex Interior Finish Tile and Plank. Or write for our new book of interior finish ideas. It's FREE!

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Session at Fair Grounds For S.M.P.E. Delegates

One of the evening meetings of the Fall Convention of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers is scheduled to be held on the New York World's Fair grounds so that members may witness special photographic and sound recording demonstrations at two of the largest exhibit buildings, it has been announced by W. C. Kunzmann, convention vice-president, and D. E. Hyndman, chairman of the Atlantic Coast section, who is in charge of local arrangements.

On Monday, October 16, the opening day of the conclave, the evening session will convene at the Chrysler exhibit for a demonstration of stereoscopic pictures. This will be followed at 10 o'clock by a special demonstration of "Two-channel Recording and Reproduction with Steel Tape" in the AT&T exhibit, with visiting delegates participating. Efforts are being made to arrange a special television showing for the delegates between the two demonstration periods.

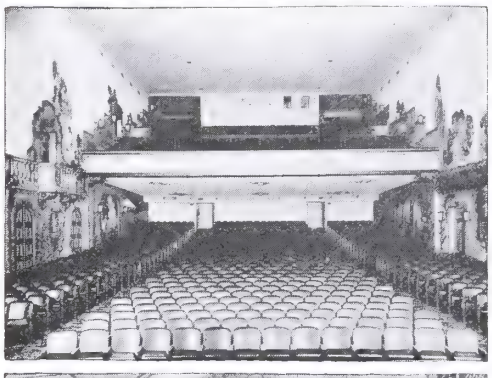
The afternoon and evening of the convention's second day have been left open to permit delegates to visit the Fair again, or to enjoy sightseeing. An interesting program of papers on a wide assortment of subjects, including sound recording and reproduction, scientifically produced studio reverberation, television projection problems, and many others is being arranged for the four-day convention, which will be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, October 16 to 19, inclusive.

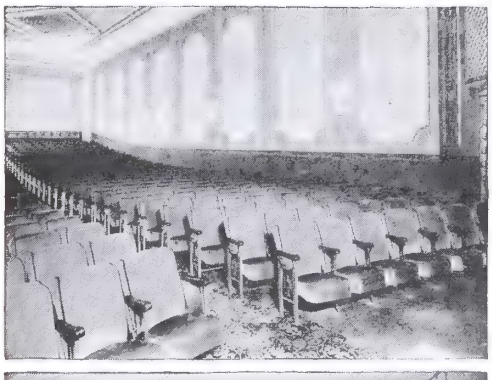
An important feature of the convention will be the election of four officers for 1940. The terms of Engineering Vice-President L. A. Jones, Financial Vice-President A. S. Dickinson, Secretary J. Frank jr., and Treasurer L. W. Davee expire at the end of the year. Nominees for the positions include Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Frank, to continue the same duties, and D. E. Hyndman, of the Eastman Kodak Co., for engineering vice-president, and R. O. Strock, of Eastern Service Studios, Inc., for treasurer.

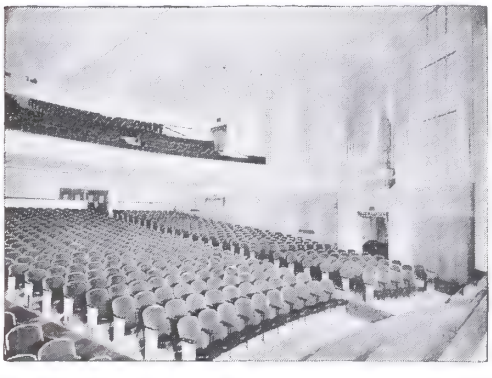
Climax of the convention will be the semi-annual banquet and dance, to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Pennsylvania Hotel, October 18. At that time the Society's famous Progress Medal and Journal Awards will be presented, and the officers-elect will be introduced.

It's not a bad idea to time your daily theatre cleaning operations so that departing patrons can see it being done. It creates a desirable impression.









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PREFACE



MR. LEWIN

Edward Paul Lewin, architect and a member of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute Advisory Board, has prepared a series of three interesting articles advocating the erection of new and the rehabilitation of old, out-of-date theatres in the immediate vicinity of government and privately owned low-cost housing projects.

In the November 11th issue of The Modern Theatre section of BOXOFFICE, Mr. Lewin will start the series with a discussion of the progress and gradual improvement in motion picture theatre construction since its inception at the beginning of this century. This will be followed in the December 9th issue with a brief history of low-cost housing in the United States and a comparison between the marked improvement in the progress of motion picture theatre construction and the ultimate success accomplished in present housing projects after many hardships encountered during the years devoted to the promotion of slum clearance and low-cost housing. These conscientious efforts to stimulate both theatre and housing construction have culminated in marked activity in both developments which, incidentally, have both gained definite impetus during the past five years.

In the January 6th, 1940, issue, Mr. Lewin will conclude the series with a discussion of the value and necessity of the up-to-date modern theatre, as one of the most important recreational features in the development of housing projects of the present and future.

Simmons' Q-and-A Corner

(Continued from page 51)

chase a . . . . gas-fired humidifier for about $350, and your problem would be solved. Would you care to do this?—G. H. S."

Next out is a letter from a lady showman down in Ohio. She was confused. And who wouldn't be? But read:

The Letter: "Having read your article in BOXOFFICE, I am writing for some information regarding air conditioning in a new theatre, now under construction; seating capacity about 550, cubic feet of space 100,000. Building brick, heavy walls. One hundred feet from back wall to center of stage; 38 feet wide; 24 feet high.

"We are so confused—we have had a number of air conditioning men call on us, and it seems that each one has a different idea.

"We have a 10-foot space (on west side of the main auditorium) which can be used for installation of machinery, etc. Some of the air conditioning salesmen want to install machinery in this 10-foot space, run a duct along the west wall and shoot the air across the auditorium; some desire a duct run through the center of the ceiling, lengthwise, and distribute the air from the front of the theatre or stage.

"Those who have called on us are: (Names deleted by censor.)

"If unable to give or outline what is to be done in our case, would it be possible for you to advise which company is best adapted to make proper installation?

"We are in a small town, 4,000 population.

"Do you think refrigeration or coil system cooling should be used?

"Thanking you for a prompt reply, we remain—H. L."

My reply: "Regarding your inquiry of the 10th, I telephoned you because I am trying to reduce the amount of confused thought about such a simple subject.

"Naturally, I cannot give you much information before I see your plans. What you put up to me in your letter almost got me confused.

"For many of the firms mentioned in your letter are high-grade. And I cannot play favorites in this business. At the same time, their business is to sell apparatus. Taking enough time to study each individual job doesn't leave much opportunity to do any selling, so planning a job and selling a job are two incompatible things.

"If you want some information, send along your plans and I'll try to give it to you. But if you want a real air conditioning job, my charge is $..... for complete supervision and if I fail to save you $..... on the cost of it, you will be the first one.

"In regard to your last question, I'll need to know the temperature of the water available before I can advise you.—G.H.S."

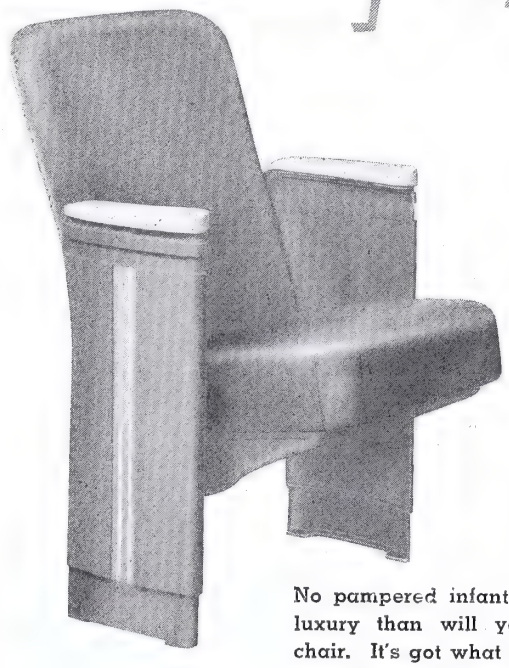
Liquid Soap Costs Less Because of Less Waste

While it is true that a dollar will buy more soap in cake than in liquid form, the dollar's worth of soap in liquid form should wash many more hands. The inevitable waste which accompanies the use of cake soap must be counted into its costs. It soaks away in imperfectly drained soap dishes and washes away uselessly in repeated rinsings. Furthermore, about 15 per cent of a cake of soap is usually thrown away because when worn fairly thin the cake is no longer convenient to use. There is also the inevitable pilferage of cake soap to be considered. Liquid soap dispensers provide a most effective form of service and sanitation in theatre washrooms.

EXPANSION

Further business expansion is indicated for Forest, Inc., manufacturers of projection equipment, in the announcement of removal to more spacious quarters at 200 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Newark, N. J. According to Raymond Duport, vice-president of the company, larger quarters were needed for the manufacture of additional products, including a new projection arc lamp and a line of screens.

IRWIN No. 127—"The Lap of Luxury"



No pampered infant ever nestled more contentedly in the lap of luxury than will your patrons in this exceedingly comfortable chair. It's got what it takes to overcome the seatitis that's usually generated by a double feature. And that, sir, is something that folks remember—something that brings them back again and again. End standards are gracefully curved, nicely panelled, striped and topped with wooden armrests with harmonizing contours. They reach right down to the floor—free from toe-catching legs and dust catching designs. Thoroughly modern, in a very attractive manner, this chair constitutes an investment in theatre seating that will pay unusually good dividends. See it at the nearest National Theatre Supply Company display room or write for full particulars.

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IRWIN Seating Company



GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

The Motion Picture Projectionist and His Contribution to Society

By **Nathan D. Golden***



THIS occasion, "Projectionist Day," at the New York World's Fair, is highly significant and gratifying to every member of the projectionists' craft, and it gives me the keenest pleasure to be privileged to take part in it. These exercises are indeed an honor justly due to a group of men who—though the nature of their calling requires them to stay in the background—nevertheless contribute constantly to the enhancement of the pleasure of enormous numbers of Americans, as they enjoy one of the livest and most satisfying of the arts.

My warm fellow-feeling for projectionists everywhere has its roots in my own youthful experience. I'm still an active member of Local 160 of the "I. A." in Cleveland, Ohio. As one who first received his baptism in the Motion-Picture Industry back in the days when this present giant could hardly be said even to have "swaddling-clothes," it was my humble duty to be rewind boy in the booth of an exceedingly unpretentious theatre—the entire equipment of that booth consisting of a rewind and an Edison Universal projector. That was as long ago as 1907—those days of the glamorous but somewhat hazy and sketchy dawn of what has since become the Golden Era of the Motion Picture.

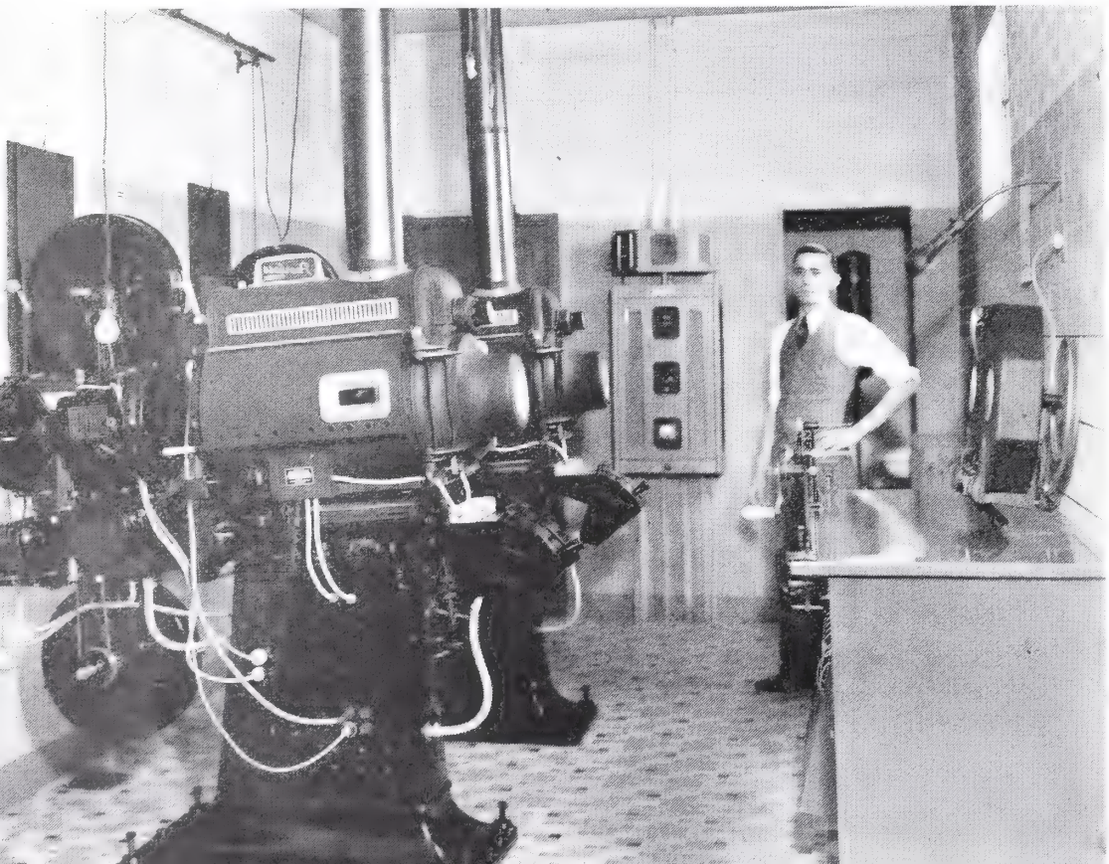
Astounding Improvement

Far indeed has the craft of the projectionist gone—with mighty strides it has advanced—since those early days. So astonishing have been the improvements that have come about in recent years, both in the quality of the equipment used in the projection rooms and in the training and qualifications of the members of the craft, that any comparison with the primitive days serves only to make us realize the present splendid status and position of projection in the motion-picture world.

And this motion-picture world is almost as broad and varied and teeming with perpetual interest as the very earth itself. The projectionist today is proud to be a part of an industry that represents an investment of more than two billion dollars here in the United States. He realizes that the product which he handles every day comes from one or more of the total of a hundred American firms producing motion pictures, whose yearly average of features is not less than 500. In 1938 the production costs in this industry reached the stupendous sum of $165,000,000. When the projectionist has time to ponder—which isn't very often when he is on the job—he cannot but be somewhat staggered by the fact that, in order to produce a single motion picture, 276 different arts, crafts, and professions are required to "do their stuff," and that these multifarious skills and talents are now exercised, in the motion-picture industry, by nearly 30,000 people, whose annual pay-roll is not far from 130 million dollars.

Those arresting figures refer, of course, to production only. In the exhibition field, of which the projectionist forms such a vital part, there are 241,000 people employed in the 16,250 theatres now open in this country. The average weekly attendance at these theatres is 85 million persons. Those lovers of the motion picture contribute yearly, at the boxoffice, the colossal sum of approximately 1 billion dollars. Forming, as he does, a dynamic

Chief of the Motion Picture Division, U. S. Department of Commerce.



Despite his anonymity, the projectionist "is the activating element, the sparkplug, the generator; the man who brings the whole thing into vivid, pulsating life" . . . A view of the projection room in the Fort Sackville Theatre, in Vincennes, Ind., capably equipped and competently manned by Projectionist Floyd Clark, who appears in the background.

FITTING

While this interesting appraisal of the projectionist was not written especially for The Clinic, *inasmuch as it is a transcript of Nate Golden's talk at the recent "Projectionist Day" meeting at the New York World's Fair, it fits so nicely into the objective formula of this department that we reproduce it here.*

Nate Golden has done a lot for the moving picture industry—every division of it—from the production and distribution phases down through all its various processes to the actual presentation of the picture on the screen. The fine job he has done and is still doing has earned for him the respect and admiration of the entire industry. Mr. Golden's tribute to the projectionist is typical of his democracity and devotion to all matters pertaining to theatre business.—The Editor.

and irreplacable element in a great human and material mechanism such as this, the projectionist has ground for pride.

Pride in Performance

True enough, the projectionist is doomed to be inconspicuous, so far as the average members of the general public are concerned. Few persons in an audience that is roaring with merriment at screen humor, or shaken with emotion by screen tragedy, ever give a passing thought to the men in the projection booth—unless something goes wrong. President Roosevelt, in a different connection, has spoken of the need for certain men "with a passion for anonymity." Like those men, the motion-picture projectionist is *anonymous;* he may not have exactly a "passion" for that state, but he's reconciled to it. He knows that he'll never get any fan mail—that nobody will be interested in photographing his nether extremities—that his face will never be lithographed in any multi-color process—and that he'll never be a guest star on Rudy Vallee's program. The projectionist knows full well that the public doesn't care whether he has any "oomph!"

As an offset to this, however, he has the satisfaction—like those who enjoy and deserve the brilliant glow and radiance of motion-picture fame—of doing a difficult job proficiently and faithfully. The fact that the average audience is oblivious of his presence is, in fact, the *supreme tribute* to the competence of his performance. It means that the show is going smoothly and efficiently, with no gaps, lacks, or hitches or mechanical flaws—*which is precisely as it should be.*

Responsibility Pronounced

If something were to go wrong—if there should be a sudden stop or prolonged "sound outage" or any other obvious and disconcerting fault—the audience would abruptly become conscious of the man in the projection booth. And that consciousness would be decidedly *critical.* There would probably be very plain manifestations of impatience, of irritation, of derision. There might even be "Bronx cheers." And that would be injurious in more ways than one. When "Audience-pleasure" is needlessly shattered, even for a few minutes, the prestige of the theatre is impaired. Such damage to good-will might be costly. And, moreover, the projectionist—handling as he does some potentially dangerous material—may justly be said to have both lives and property within his care. All these values must be safeguarded. And they ARE magnificently safeguarded by the competent projectionist today, who knows his machines and instruments, and all the requirements of his work, and who usually turns in a job pretty close to 100 per cent.

He is enabled to do this because he has, as a rule, a good store of sound knowledge—knowledge of electricity, mechanics, optics, as well as of the more routine technique of his craft and of that intangible art of theatrical effectiveness which we designate as "showmanship." The conscientious, true projectionist certainly aims to possess these qualities, because he realizes the arduous duty that devolves upon him.

It has been said that the projectionist is the "neck of the bottle" in the vast motion-picture industry. That, of course, is exactly true—but we might well vary the figure of speech. He is the activating element, the spark-plug, the generator, the man who brings the whole thing into vivid, pulsating life. All of the inexpressibly complex and titanic process that has gone into the making of a picture would be futile if the projectionist and his apparatus didn't function.

The Final Analysis

Writers of genius may create an enthralling and delightful story. Scene-builders may erect the towers of ancient Babylon or the court of Kubla Khan. Specialists in studio magic may evoke terrific hurricanes or other weird catastrophes. Tragediennes or glamour girls may be summoned from the ends of the earth. Researchers may ransack libraries. Rich properties may be acquired from the palaces of kings. Intriguing make-up may be applied. Thousands of brilliant costumes may be worn. Directors may achieve feats that stagger the imagination. The editing may be adroit. The publicity may be inspired and spectacular. All this, I say, may happen in the creation of one of our superb American films today. But if the projectionist and his apparatus weren't on the job; if *he* didn't turn in his normal proficient performance, the whole stupendous effort would be just so much waste motion.

So one can hardly over-stress the importance of a good projectionist. He has a responsible post. His work, indeed, is indispensable. He has every reason to be proud of his place in the amusement world. He has every incentive not only to maintain that place but to *go forward*—through ever-better training, ever-keener enthusiasm, and firmly grounded aspirations.

Have You a Problem?

Conductors of the CINE' CLINIC will be glad to answer questions relating to problems of projection and sound operation and practices through these columns. State your problem clearly, detailing symptoms of trouble. Answers to questions of general interest will be published in a later issue, identified by inquirer's initials only. Should you desire private information or advice, enclose stamp for reply. Address The MODERN THEATRE, Room 334, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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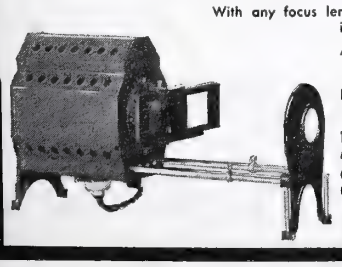
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Summer's Gone Again But You Still Gotta Problem

(Continued from page 51)

clinch something in your minds in a way you'll never forget. If you think your brains are entirely and exclusively your cerebrum, don't forget the cerebellum and the medulla oblongata.

What part of your brains controls your heart or lung action? It's *automatic*, ain't it? And lucky for you it is. Now I can't say positively what part of a patron's brain passes judgment on your theatre's climatic conditions; but I think it's the part that works by instinct, just like the dog's.

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I think I know how to obtain and maintain an interior comfort and health condition that can be anything within reason that anyone should specify. I draw upon the materials of this market to accomplish my objectives. Therefore, I am well equipped to make the attempt to draw upon you theatre men for an intelligent cooperative effort to lift theatre air conditioning out of its present much misunderstood status.

This department merits the enthusiastic support and personal interest you are giving it. It is no camouflaged effort to sell you anything. But not one of you has yet written in to contribute a thought that might be helpful to another theatre owner. Of course, I am glad to help you with your personal problems. It costs me money to do so but I will continue as long as I can.

It is only in this way that I can *prove* I'm no screwball theorist. A preacher needs a congregation, as well as some sinful souls to sit on the mourners' bench and shout "Amens" at intervals. That's way I selected you theatre owners as my congregation. There are so many sinful souls among you, air conditionally speaking, that you sho' do need salvation.

How'm I doin', Brothers?

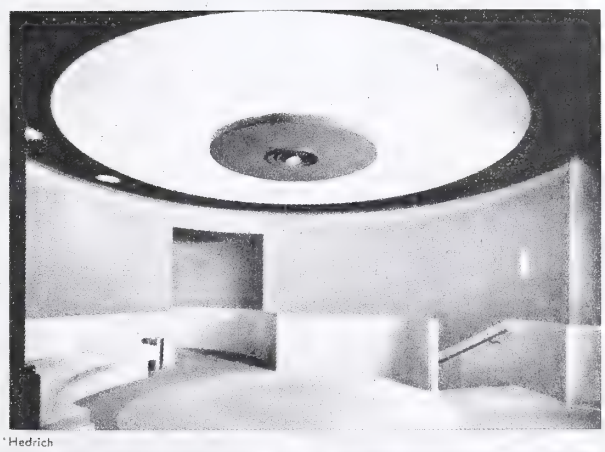
Modernization Removes the Curse from Another Old-Time Cinema

(Continued from page 49)

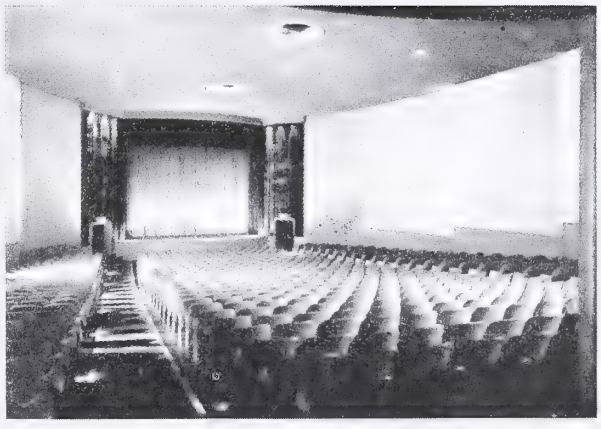
with a new type of retractible seat chairs adding convenience to comfort and good looks. Lighting fixtures spaced at intervals along the side-walls are of the new fluorescent type, providing utmost in beauty and facility of illumination under positive control. Fixtures are in modern design in polished brass and nickel silver and of the semi-indirect type. The theatre's entire electrical wiring system was revised to meet all requirements of local codes.

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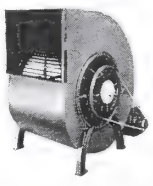


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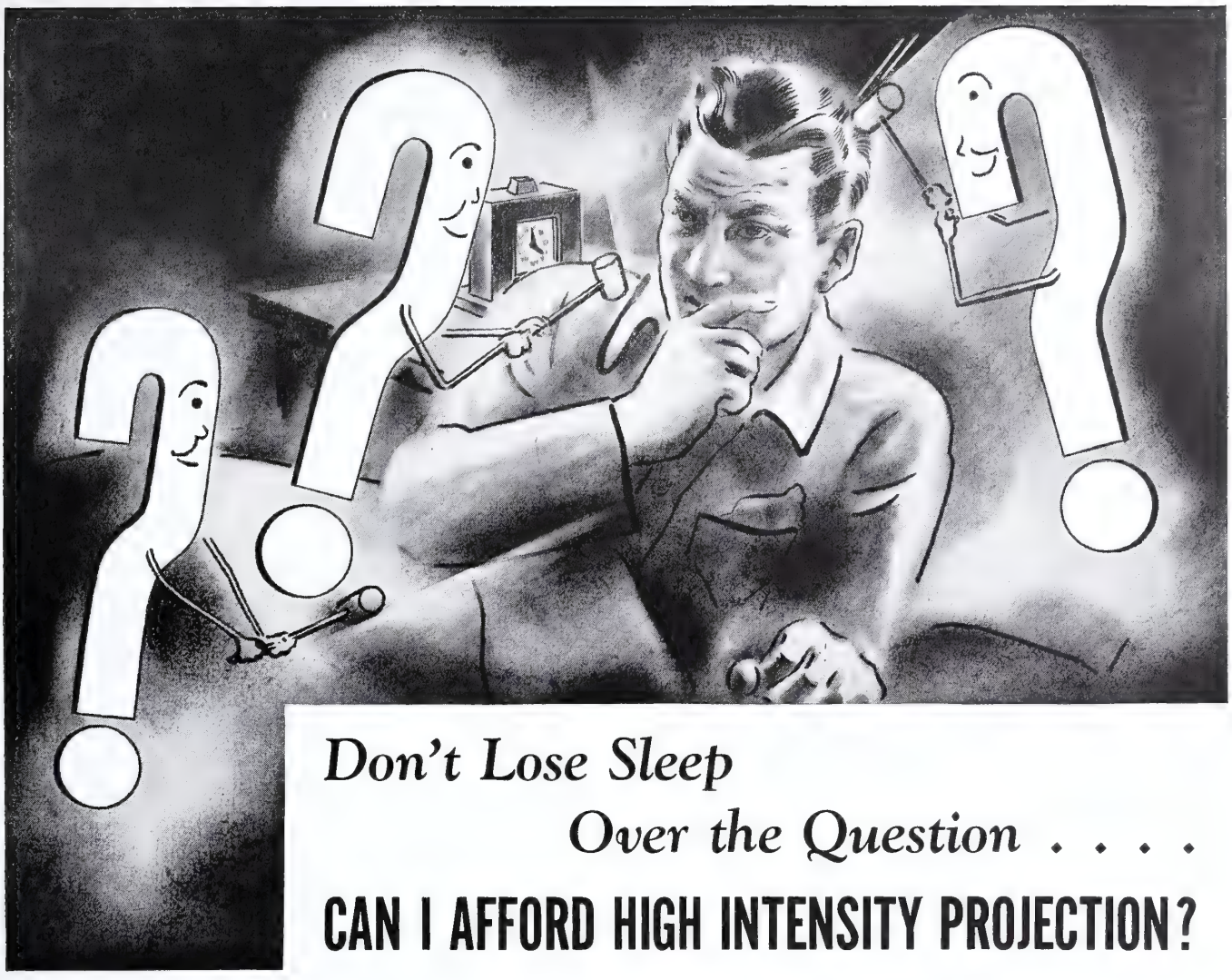
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NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER

(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Hollywood's Fascist Elements to Light

Again shifting into high gear as the leading anti-Fascist organization in the film colony, the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League promised to toss a bombshell right into its own back yard, so to speak, by scheduling an emergency meeting for October 12 to notify its members of "some shocking facts" regarding the screen community and the activities of domestic Fascist groups.

The HANL declared in its announcement that "only fools and traitors can condone" the conditions which have been uncovered. Those scheduled to speak were J. Walter Ruben, Metro producer; Scenarist Mary McCall jr.; Al Wirin, Civil Liberties Union attorney, and Michael Elkins, HANL investigator. Invitations to the session were signed by Ruben, Virginia Bruce, Edward Chodorov, H. S. Kraft, Wells Root and Jo Swerling.

The scheduled session took precedence over other liberal activity. The war abroad and its inter-relation to Hollywood promoted Associated Film Audiences to caution the industry to avoid incitement, spread truth and defend democracy. The AFA outlined a four-point policy, proposing that:

(1) Films should defend democracy at home; (2) they should deal truthfully with the present war; (3) they should stand for neutrality; (4) they should make no sacrifice of their entertainment quality.

Spurred by endorsements from such screen notables as Melvyn Douglas, Director W. S. Van Dyke, Joan Bennett and Burgess Meredith, who are among the local sponsors of the organization, the Southern California Committee of the American Union for Concerted Peace Efforts will hold a three-panel conference on world peace October 28. Herbert Biberman, film director and member of the HANL, is on the arrangements committee. Session will be held at Occidental college.

The Motion Picture Democratic Committee, under the leadership of Melvyn Douglas, is collaborating with the Motion Picture Guild in preparing a film dealing with the Central Valley water project. Script is now being written.

Simon's Next

Next directorial assignment at Metro for S. Sylvan Simon will be "Go West," forthcoming Marx Brothers comedy.

Spotlight Shifts to Capital in Federal Probe on Coast

The spotlight which has been playing locally on the federal government's investigation into various film industry matters, has shifted back to Washington with the windup of the federal grand jury's hearing. Charles H. Carr, assistant to Att'y-Gen. Frank Murphy, has submitted a complete report to his chieftain and is standing by for further orders.

The grand jury was impanelled after Carr had spent several weeks gathering data concerning alleged labor racketeering, charges of income tax evasions and various corporate matters concerning the industry. The grand jury, which was in session ten days, heard testimony by such subpoenaed witnesses as Darryl F. Zanuck, Louis B. Mayer, William Goetz, William Dover, Harry Cohn, Harry M. Warner, Pat Casey, Victor Clarke and such union leaders as Harland Holmden, IATSE executive; Joseph Carpenter, president of IA Local 37 and Herbert Sorrell, business manager of the studio painters.

Meantime, Fox West Coast executives here are preserving unbroken silence concerning their preparations in connection with the preliminary hearing scheduled for October 16 in the government's suit charging the circuit and nine major distributors with contempt for alleged violations of the 1930 consent decree. Charles Buckley, head of FWC's legal department, steadfastly refuses to comment concerning the procedure being shaped.



Cake for His Birthday—

When Director James Hogan celebrated a birthday recently, during the piloting for Paramount of the Martha Raye starrer, "The Farmer's Daughter," he was assisted in cutting up the cake by Charlie Ruggles, left, and Producer Bill Thomas. Hogan is at the right.

Metro Efficiency Winners Making Jaunt to Coast

CHICAGO—Ten M-G-M field employes, two from each of five offices, were at the Blackstone Hotel, Friday, preparatory to a free trip to the San Francisco Golden Gate Exposition and the studios at Culver City. The trips are in the form of awards in an annual efficiency competition, and allow for four days, October 16 to 20, on the coast.

The winners are Estelle Schilferth and Henry Cordes, Cincinnati; Esther Blendman and Elizabeth Wyatt, Washington; Elizabeth Hoffman and Joseph Lalima, New York; Augusta Woolverton and Rosemary McElroy, New Orleans, and Blanche Carr and Jewel Terry, Charlotte.



Foreign Press in Hollywood—

Bauburao Patel (pointing the finger), editor of Filmindia, *president of the Journalists' Association of India, and guest of honor at a cocktail party given him at the Warner studio, chats with Harry M. Warner, right, as S. Charles Einfeld and Lya Lys look on in evident enjoyment.*

George Green Heads Independent Firm

Formation of a new production company under the banner of Producers Corporation of America, with a program of eight high-budgeted features to be made for the 1939-40 market, was revealed with the filing of incorporation papers at Sacramento.

John Charles Thomas, noted operatic and concert baritone, has been signed to star in the company's first picture, which will be "Kingdom Come," a novel by Adela Rogers St. Johns. Film will get before the cameras in mid-December.

Head of the corporation is George Green, veteran producer-director-writer, who was at one time affiliated with Paramount. Carl Winston, director and writer, is vice-president. He has been associated with Erich Pommer in England and has held various posts with Paramount, RKO Radio and other companies. Howard Levy and Harry Sokolov are treasurer and secretary respectively. The new company, according to the announcement, is "independently financed."

No release for the scheduled output has been set. Company heads are currently lining up a technical staff and seeking studio space. Press relations are being handled by Russell Birdwell.

Finney and Ritter Ready To Film Two in Utah

Headed by Producer Edward Finney and Tex Ritter, western star, a Monogram production unit is scheduled to pull out shortly for Kanab, Utah, to spend a month filming two sagebrushers. First will be "Roll, Wagons, Roll," which Al Herman will direct from an original script by Victor Adamson, Edmund Kelso and Roger Merton.

Feature Length Silent Comedies for 20th-Fox

Spurred by the success of the silent sequence in "Hollywood Cavalcade," 20th Century-Fox is preparing to film a series of feature-length silent comedies, reviving the Mack Sennett-Keystone Kops tradition.

Sennett has been signed to work with Harry Joe Brown, who will produce, and is preparing a story for the initialer.

The first, to be titled either "Left at the Altar" or "Love in a Pullman Car," will probably be filmed in a combination of Technicolor and black-and-white photography.



Making Her Mark—

In the concrete in the courtyard of the Chinese Theatre is Ginger Rogers, RKO star. She leaves her signature, hand prints and foot prints thereby for posterity.

Hays Office Drops Publicity Unit

First major shakeup to hit the Hays office since the recent general order for reductions in pay and personnel came to light with the disclosure that the committee on public relations has been disbanded, with Kyle Palmer, its head, checking off the payroll. Formed nearly two years ago, the committee had been designed to effect more cordial relations for the industry in its press and publicity contacts.

Busiest unit within the Hays organization, as usual, is the labor contact division headed by Pat Casey. In addition to ironing out details of the new IATSE-producer contract, giving the union a 10 per cent wage increase, Casey and his staff are studying demands filed by the studio painters for a 15 per cent boost. A general membership meeting of the association has been called for October 16, the day on which painters have declared an answer must be forthcoming. In addition, negotiations are being carried on with the Screen Readers and Set Designers Guilds concerning new working contracts.

A Retreat From High Mark In Production Recorded

Production has dropped off a few pegs from the record-making marks established during the past three weeks. Total in work stands at 40, with eight others in preparation for immediate starts.

Two went into production at Columbia—"Gun Lord of the Frontier" and "The Cop From Hell's Kitchen"—to boost the total at that plant to six. Metro started "The Earl of Chicago" and finished "Judge Hardy and Son" to maintain its five-picture pace. Monogram has one in work, "Roll, Wagons, Roll," a new start.

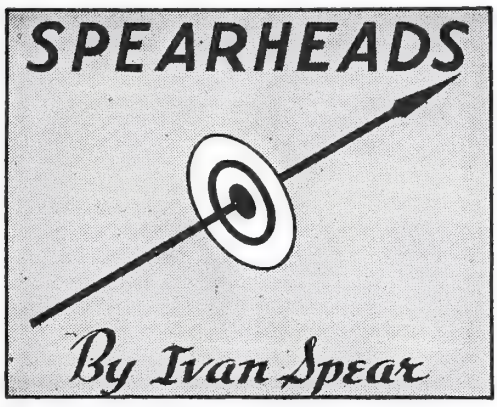
"The Light of Western Stars" went into work at Paramount, filling the gap left by completion of "The Gay Days of Victor Herbert." Four are being filmed. RKO Radio's total dropped to eight with the windup of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." Republic has two in production, neither a new start.

Twentieth Century-Fox is shooting six. Both "The Adventurer" and "The Man Who Wouldn't Talk" went into the cutting room. Samuel Goldwyn's "Raffles;" Walter Wanger's "Send Another Coffin," and Hal Roach's "Of Mice and Men" were all completed, leaving the United Artists production aggregate at three. Wanger started "The House Across the Bay."

With no starts scheduled, Universal wrapped up "Tower of London" to drop its production total to five. An equal number is in work at Warner, both "Timber" and "Granny Get Your Gun" having been sent into production.

Helms "Old Hickory"

Warner has assigned Lew Seiler to direct "Old Hickory," forthcoming historical featurette, which starts October 18.



RKO RADIO made a splendid investment of a few of its production dollars when it engaged several of the more widely-read Hollywood columnists to appear in a sequence of the Kay Kyser picture, "That's Right, You're Wrong." For the one-day paychecks of bit players, the studio not only obtained the doubtful Thespic talents of the rumor-wranglers, but were given an invaluable amount of newspaper space, since most of the writers—with characteristic self-effacement—devoted their entire columns to their respective reactions and experiences while under the heady influence of greasepaint. A substantial score for Perry Lieber during his early days as the No. 1 boy in RKO's praisery.

In connection therewith, Hedda Hopper confesses:

"When I receive a call to work in a picture I run like an old fire horse."

To which Louella Parsons, who, incidentally, did not appear in the film, might opine that she acts in the same way.

➞

This job of being an associate producer is apparently becoming easier every day. Twentieth Century-Fox has just started shooting on John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," one of the most important and certainly the most controversial picture to go before cameras in many months. Whereupon, Nunnally Johnson, who adapted the screenplay and also receives credit as associate producer, takes himself off for New York for a six months' holiday. Production—or, possibly, screen credit—by remote control.

➞

Names Is Names Dept:

Charles Sherlock has been added to the cast of Metro's "Nick Carter."

➞

To combat the flood of war news, describing mass slaughters of Europeans, Paramount intends to take the minds of theatre-going audiences off such morbidities with a cheerful little bit of fluff titled "The Monster."

A story by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur, it is a delightful farce dealing with a homicidal maniac who makes love to a series of beautiful and wealthy women and murders them for their money. War-time entertainment in the lighter vein.

➞

In answer to a paragraph in this space recently, Bill Hebert has cleared up the mystery as to who will write what about motion pictures for the new edition of the Encyclopedia Brittanica. He writes:

"The reason for the confusion is that the section is made up of a number of chapters, each contributed by individual authorities, and no one person is writing the entire section.

"The way I have come into the picture is that the section consisting of all these chapters has not been completely brought up to date for more than ten years. In other words, some of the material antedates the arrival of sound! Cecil B. DeMille's chapter on direction was brought up to date last year; Miss Parsons will write the lead article on the industry as a whole for the new edition; and Mr. Walter Yust, editor-in-chief of the Brittanica, has asked me to revise and bring up to date such other portions of the section as need it.

"More important, he has asked me to write the first chapter on Publicity the Encyclopedia has ever carried."

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Twentieth Century-Fox announces it has borrowed Tom Collins from the Farm Security Administration to serve as technical advisor on the production of "The Grapes of Wrath." Collins has lived with the "Okies" for ten years and is the man to whom John Steinbeck dedicated his novel.

Mr. Collins certainly ought to be able to put a kick in the picture.

Maestros, Mysteries and Miscellaneous

Because of their past performances, the showing of either an Ernst Lubitsch or a Frank Capra production is always an outstanding event on the film capital's preview calendar. The past week, therefore, was made doubly impressive, since offerings from each of the two masters were unfurled for the critical gaze of reviewers and other Hollywood first-nighters.

Capra's latest and last for Columbia is, predominantly, a preachment in patriotism which, despite a rather heavy coating of hokum and some over-long sequences of dialogue in Sidney Buchman's screenplay, carries with it enough examples of the celebrated Capra touch to assure it a better-than-average popularity rating. The work of Jean Arthur and James Stewart in the leads is splendid, and their performances are bolstered by a large and unusually competent cast of supporting players. Buchman's script, based on a story by Lewis R. Foster, can be classified in the superior vein aside from the above-mentioned tendency toward over-abundant dialogue in one or two scenes. Capra, who of course both produced and directed, marshaled his technical elements with his usual ability.

In Lubitsch's "Ninotchka," Metro has a subtle, scintillating romantic comedy, atmospherically as Russian as cold beet borsht, which adds new lustre to the producer-director and to its star, Greta Garbo. Satirizing life and loves among the comrades of the USSR, the sparkling screenplay by Charles Brackett, Billy Wilder and Walter Reisch gave both Lubitsch and Garbo vast opportunities to test their talents anew, and both came through with banners flying. Garbo is delightful in her first comedy role, one in which she manages to maintain her vaunted elegance and yet project a warmth of personality hitherto unrevealed. Although hardly to be typed as ideal for mass consumption, the film cannot be called anything else but an unadulterated triumph for all who were concerned in its manufacture.

* * *

In the fair-to-good category fell five other features.

One of Monogram's most important offerings, from the standpoint of budget, cast, production expenditure and exploitation potentialities, was "Mutiny in the Big House," a first-rate melodrama that easily earns a niche among the better of the many films based on the prison theme to make their appearance during recent months. The cast, headed by Charles Bickford and Barton MacLane, is topflight. Robert D. Andrews' script is keyed in the penal mood established in Martin Mooney's original, while William Nigh gave it steady-handed direction under the able production guidance of Grant Withers.

RKO Radio presented a cleverly-constructed mystery melodrama in "Sued for Libel," which, although lacking impressive marquee names, has been equipped by Producer Cliff Reid to do more than its share as fast-moving program entertainment. Jerry Cady's screenplay, adapted from an original by Wolfe Kaufman, moves along rapidly to a suspenseful climax. Leslie Goodwins directed with competency.

Not as speedy as its title would imply, Metro's "Fast and Furious" is still a deft mixture of chills, thrills and comedy, mounted in Leo's best program pattern by Producer Frederick Stephani and skillfully directed by Busby Berkeley. Franchot Tone and Ann Sothern form a pleasing and talented combination in the top roles, capitalizing on the crisp dialogue and entertaining situations provided by Harry Kurnitz's original screenplay. Average audiences should have no fault to find with it in any respect.

Adroit showmanship in the teaming of the Ritz Brothers with Jane Withers characterized 20th Century-Fox's "Pack Up Your Troubles." Both the Ritzes and Ginger Jane appear to better advantage than in their past several starts, the latter now having definitely discarded her "little girl" roles in favor of a more demure adolescence. Lou Breslow and Owen Francis wrote the original script, which highlights the comedy angles of the last World War, and H. Bruce Humberstone contributed an excellent directorial job

(Continued on page 69)

Labor Council Formed to Deal With Producers; Bioff Head

Establishment of a studio labor council comprising all unions under the American Federation of Labor banner except the motion picture painters, and simultaneous efforts of the painters to secure a 15 per cent wage increase for its membership, are the current high spots along Hollywood's ever-active labor front.

The new council, with William Bioff, ex-IATSE coast representative, at its head, has begun drafting a plan for uniform action in conducting future negotiations with producers. The group includes representatives from the teamsters, machinists, molders, utility employes, carpenters, builders and plasterers. Painters were not included because the membership of that union had already voted unanimously to maintain strict autonomy in its dealings with producers.

Painters, meanwhile, set October 16 as the deadline by which time producers must reply to their demands for a salary increase. Painters also are considering the application of the Screen Cartoonists Guild for a charter.

As a last vestige of the bitter fight for control of IA Local 37, which resulted in a court victory for the IATSE, a peace deal has been negotiated providing for immediate restoration of autonomy for the local and releasing $100,000 in union funds which had been tied up for several months. Craftsmen who joined Local 728 when Local 37 was declared defunct have been returned to the latter group and an election of officers has been scheduled to take place in December.

Directorates of the Screen Actors, Directors and Writers guilds all held their regular weekly meetings.

The SAG board completed the final draft of its licensing plan for agents, which has been submitted to the executive committee of the Artists Managers Guild for its approval and will be studied by the AMG membership at a general meeting called for October 16. Licenses to handle actors will be issued by the SAG only to agents affiliated with the AMG. The Guild is preparing to submit to the producer-SAG standing committee a request for wage increases for various extras, concentrating particularly on those now drawing $5.50 checks. The standing committee also is being asked to consider revisions of certain clauses in freelance players' contracts, particularly the "call back" proviso, of which a more strict interpretation is being requested. The SAG board also reinstated Eddie Aquilina, extra, who was suspended indefinitely for refusing to give certain information concerning a labor problem to Guild officials.

The SDG meeting concerned itself chiefly with the adoption of a resolution forbidding members to accept pay cuts from producers until an industry-wide war conference is held. The SWG directorate heard reports of an investigating committee which revealed there has been only a slight reduction in the number of writers employed since the outbreak of the European hostilities.

Other labor developments:

The producers association has appointed Fred Pelton chief labor contact representative, with Victor Clarke as his assistant. Pat Casey will continue his principal duties in New York.

The American Society of Cinematographers has voted against merging with the IA photographers, Local 659, but declared itself in favor of accepting a separate IATSE charter. Action came shortly after George Browne, IA president, relayed word from New York that he favors a merger of the two photographic groups.

Producers have approved a 10 per cent wage increase for newsreel cameramen, culminating negotiations which were launched in the east and transferred here. The Screen Set Designers Guild has filed requests with producers for a wage increase and reduction of hours. The Society of Motion Picture Art Directors met to draft a set of demands which it will submit to producers, calling for a closed shop contract and basic wage scales.

The Screen Publicists Guild-producer contract now is in effect, the SPG membership having ratified the basic agreement, which calls for a $100 weekly minimum for seniors and $50 weekly for juniors.



The First Lady Visits Son Jimmy—

Taking time out from her lecture tour, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt visited her son, James, at the Samuel Goldwyn studios, and dropped in on the set of "Raffles." The lineup, left to right: Sam Wood, who is directing the David Niven starrer; the First Lady; Mr. Goldwyn and Roosevelt.

Warner Rushes Plans for Biography of Franklin

Spurred by the tentative M-G-M announcement, never officially confirmed, that it is "considering" the filming of a biography of Benjamin Franklin, Warner has claimed priority rights to the subject and is rushing preparations to get it before the cameras as soon as possible as a starring vehicle for Edward G. Robinson.

Warner attaches declare the idea was registered with the Hays office nearly two years ago. Hal Wallis has assigned Norman Reilly Raine and Aeneas MacKenzie to do a rush job on the screenplay, planning to start production about December 1.

Meantime Metro spokesmen declare the Franklin story was but one of three Revolutionary War tales up for consideration —the others being "Alexander Hamilton," by Dorothy Thompson and Fritz Cortner, and "Benedict Arnold." No decision has been reached as yet on which will be selected.

Magazine Tieup Gives New Series of Shorts

A tieup has been effected between Jerry Fairbanks and *Liberty* Magazine whereby Fairbanks will produce a series of one-reel shorts based on the publication's short stories for release through Paramount. Fairbanks, co-producer with Robert Carlisle of Scientific Films, will headquarter in Hollywood and will use a number of Paramount contract players. Group will be titled the "Bits of Life Series."

Migratory Shots For "Grapes"

Bearing more than 25,000 feet of background material, Director Otto Brower and a location unit of 40 have returned to 20th Century-Fox after a 3,000-mile jaunt through five states garnering atmospheric footage for "The Grapes of Wrath." The company picked up shots of migratory workers in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California for inclusion in the film version of the John Steinbeck novel.

Increased Domestic Revenue, UA Aim

After conferring with individual United Artists producers and disclosing that UA will fall in line with the other major companies to the extent of attempting to step up domestic distribution revenues to offset war losses abroad, Murray Silverstone, chairman of UA's executive committee, returned to New York, terminating a stay of a week.

At a luncheon attended by Edward Small, David O. Selznick, Richard Rowland, Walter Wanger and Hal Roach, Silverstone declared the goal of increased domestic grosses can only be obtained through greater cooperation among the various UA units to effect necessary production economies, and promised that the company's sales staff would do its share by securing a greater number of bookings.

Noticeably absent from the gathering was Samuel Goldwyn. Silverstone admitted further that, during the course of his conferences with the UA producers, no parley was held with Goldwyn concerning the latter's plans. The UA chieftain maintained, however, his trip here had nothing to do with Goldwyn's action to terminate his UA contract.

Silverstone conferred briefly before his departure eastward with Edward Raftery, UA attorney, who was expected to follow him back to New York within a few days. Also heading for New York was J. J. Milstein, eastern representative for Edward Small, who huddled with the producer on his picture lineup and sales campaigns on a number of future films.

Having placed the studio on a wartime operations basis and instituted numerous economies, Herbert J. Yates, Republic's board chairman, wound up his stay at the North Hollywood plant and returned to New York. During his visit, Yates initiated a personnel purge which resulted in layoffs for some 125 studio employes.

William LeBaron, Paramount's managing director of production, has returned from a two-week visit to the homeoffice. In New York he conferred with President Barney Balaban, Russell Holman, Neil Agnew and other executives, and also looked over the current crop of Broadway plays.

Edward Small Scheduling "My Son" to Roll First

Edward Small has re-shuffled his production schedule and has pegged "My Son, My Son" to go into work first on his 1939-40 slate for United Artists release, shoving back "Kit Carson, Avenger." Charles Vidor will direct "My Son, My Son" with Brian Aherne and Louis Hayward set for top roles.

Crew to South America

To gather background material for "The South American Way," forthcoming musical, 20th Century-Fox will send Director Otto Brower and a camera crew to the southern continent.

Director and Actor Guilds Stand Firm Against Salary Slashes

While there is a temporary feeling of relief among Hollywood's rank and file because of an almost complete cessation of axe-swinging among studio personnel—which characterized the industry's first reaction to fears of lost foreign grosses—new clouds seem to be gathering as the result of action taken by the Screen Actors and Screen Directors Guilds. These two leading talent unions have flung down the gauntlet by cautioning their respective members to accept no salary cuts, thus placing squarely in studio executives' laps the problem of seeking other means to further pare operating expenses. This, students of the situation feel, must ultimately result in another wholesale purge among white collar workers, maintenance crews, clerical help and other lesser lights who were first—and hardest—hit by the war scare.

The SDG followed the lead set by the SAG when, at its regular board meeting, a resolution was adopted prohibiting members from taking any salary slashes until the whole matter has been worked out in an industry-wide caucus. In amplifying on this action, a spokesman for the directors declared that the SDG will not consent to any cuts for its members until the producers have demonstrated their good faith by eliminating many of the current and glaring production wastes and, perhaps, reduce their own salaries in proportion.

Meeting was highlighted by the appearance of President George Schaefer of RKO Radio, who pleaded to no avail with the directorate to recommend that megaphonists under contract to his company accept the salary reductions he has asked of them in line with his general wage-slashing policy. SDG spokesmen declared all members will be instructed to immediately call to the attention of the Guild's conciliation committee any attempts by production executives to effect paycheck reductions.

Previously the SAG had advised its members, in a statement prepared by Kenneth Thomson, executive secretary, to reject any suggested percentage salary cuts because it "believes that this is a matter for consideration by the industry as a whole," and expressing the opinion that actors should "know exactly what every other branch of the industry, including distribution and exhibition, is prepared to sacrifice." When pressed for additional comment as to how the Guild proposes that producers effect necessary economies, SAG spokesmen declined to go on record with any statement.

A note of optimism pervaded the report presented the directorate of the Screen Writers Guild, in which it was revealed that writing personnel on the major lots has been reduced only slightly since the outbreak of war and that, with the exception of RKO Radio, there have been no concerted moves to cut scribblers' salaries. A statement following the session declared that the loss in revenues, even if all theatres in the belligerent countries are closed down, will amount to less than 10 per cent, and that some of this loss would be regained through increased profits in domestic distribution.

Murray Silverstone, chairman of the United Artists executive committee, spent a week in conference with various UA producers, during which he announced UA will attempt to combat foreign losses by concentrating on a drive to step up domestic revenues. William LeBaron, Paramount's managing director of production, and Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, reiterated that the company will "make every picture promised" and will rely upon "sane and thoughtful production methods to effect necessary economies." Herbert J. Yates, before his departure for New York, indicated that his economy purge at Republic had drawn to a close, which was borne out by the announcement that the studio will proceed with all projected physical improvements, including construction of new streets, walks and landscaping at the North Hollywood plant.

On the production front, Yates advanced Republic's schedule through to January 3, 1940, by adding another Gene Autry western to the slate and chalking in "Hit Parade of 1940" for an early 1940 start. Selznick International is laying plans to produce six films during the period after January, 1940. Twentieth Century-Fox has set starting dates on 14 more films which will keep the studio at a peak until the end of January. Monogram is going ahead with production plans with no projected cuts in either budget or personnel. Walter Wanger has added "Gallantly Gleaming," a patriotic subject, to his slate and has borrowed Sonya Levien from RKO Radio to do the script. However, Max Gordon and Harry Goetz have shoved back the starting date on "The American Way" from November 15 to some time in February. Their first for RKO Radio, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," is in the cutting room.

Tuttle to Produce, Direct 'Chas. McCarthy's' Next

Frank Tuttle has been designated by Universal as producer-director of "Charlie McCarthy, Detective," with Jerry Sackheim, former story editor for the studio, as his associate. Film is slated for an October 16 start with Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd in toplines.

RKO Signs McCarey

Ray McCarey has been signed by RKO Radio to direct "Little Orvie," from a story by Booth Tarkington, for the Lee Marcus production unit.

To Meg Lowe Vehicle

Universal has ticketed Harold Schuster to direct "Trouble Is My Middle Name," an Edmund Lowe vehicle. Roy Chanslor wrote the script.

Judell Forward; Capra Leases Space; GN Showdown Near

With two pictures completed, a third now in production and another being prepared for an immediate start, Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp. is maintaining its record as one of the most active of Hollywood's independent production units.

Edited and scored, Judell's most ambitious film to date, "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," has been shipped to his distribution headquarters in New York and will be released simultaneously in all key cities October 22. The company's first production effort, "Torture Ship," is to be previewed shortly for medical societies throughout the country, tying into the story angles concerning the use of medicine as a crime preventative.

Now before the cameras is "Buried Alive," a prison melodrama with Beverly Roberts and Robert Wilcox in the top roles. Victor Halperin is directing. This will be followed by "Mercy Plane," a story by William Lively, and "Gold Star Mothers," a script by William A. Ulman jr., which is set for an Armistice Day release.

Moving a step closer to the launching of production activity, the recently formed Frank Capra Productions has leased office space at Selznick International. Capra has returned from a brief vacation in northern California and has begun a series of conferences with his partner, Robert Riskin. So far neither the company's first film nor its scheduled release has been announced.

In what Fine Arts attaches declare is probably a "showdown" gesture, Franklyn Warner, FA president, hurried east to renew his discussions with E. W. Hammons, Grand National head man, relative to a possible resumption of the GN-FA production-distribution affiliation. Belief of FA spokesmen here is that Warner will definitely break with GN unless Hammons is successful in the near future in his efforts to garner additional financing to bolster GN's production and distribution setup. FA holds a three-picture releasing contract with RKO Radio and has delivered one, "Isle of Destiny," to that company. The second, "Land's End," is in preparatory stages.

Meantime, Hammons suspended the salaries of all GN homeoffice, exchange and studio employes, effective until he has secured new financing. The order affects seven employes in the local exchange and approximately 15 who have been operating the studio on a skeletonized basis, including Dick Pearl, studio manager.

Edward Gross, who recently organized Rainbow Productions and signed Buck Jones to a six-picture contract, left for Chicago to be Jones' guest at the "Silver Rodeo," in which the cowboy is appearing. Gross will continue on to New York.

Personnel Changes Drop to Normal

With the exception of Metro and 20th Century-Fox, the former lopping off some 40 soundmen and the latter dismissing an equal number of stock players, the payroll purges which arose in several major studios as one of the reactions to the outbreak of the European War, have virtually ceased. Personnel changes within the industry seem, for the time being at least, to have dropped back virtually to normal.

At other plants—particularly Republic and Warner, where heavy casualties were recorded—the axe apparently has been sheathed.

Warner has reshuffled the staff of its Americanization department in an expansion deemed necessary by studio executives because of the scheduled increase in the number of historical featurettes to be turned out during 1939-40. Irving Rubine, in charge of the department, will be aided by Jack Holmes, Edward Manson and Arthur Eddy. Additionally, a report from the Burbank plant discloses ten new featured players have been added to its stock company during the past four months.

William Wright, Paramount associate producer in the Harold Hurley unit, has checked off the lot after a year and a half. His last chore was "Death of a Champion." Robert Bassler has reported to 20th Century-Fox to assume the post of assistant story editor. He was European story editor for the company until the outbreak of war abroad halted production activities in England.

Samuel Goldwyn has relinquished his share in Merle Oberon's acting contract, which he held jointly with Alexander Korda, to whom Miss Oberon is now married. The actress, who has just returned from England, plans to free-lance.

Garson Kanin, suspended by RKO some time ago for refusing to accept a directorial assignment, has been reinstated and has begun preparations for piloting "Woman Overboard," a Leo McCarey production. Cary Grant and Irene Dunne will be co-starred.

Cinémarks

Priscilla Lane was guest of honor at the annual frontier pageant and rodeo at Bakersfield, October 8 . . . Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, in Hollywood for a short visit, was the guest of her son, James Roosevelt, at the Samuel Goldwyn studios . . . Burgess Meredith, completing an acting chore for Hal Roach, has returned to New York to prepare for a stage engagement . . . Joseph I. Breen, Hays office executive, is off on a three-week vacation.

*

Merle Oberon has returned from London and reported to Samuel Goldwyn for her next acting assignment . . . Personnel of the Charles Chaplin production organization staged its first golf tournament at the Brentwood Country Club . . . Frank Capra is spending a few days fishing in northern California . . . Mr. and Mrs. Sol M. Wurtzel motored out for a two-week vacation in New York, leaving John Stone in charge of the Wurtzel unit at 20th Century-Fox.

*

James Roosevelt, Samuel Goldwyn's vice-president, planed to Cleveland to attend the funeral of Dr. Harvey Cushing, his father-in-law, then spent a day in Washington, D. C., before returning here . . . Harry Revel, the songwriter, is in New York consulting with publishers concerning a book he has written.

Nunnally Johnson, 20th Century-Fox producer-writer, has left for New York on a six-month leave of absence, during which he intends to write a play . . . King Vidor, Metro director, plans to head east shortly for a holiday . . . Kenneth Thomson, Screen Actors Guild executive secretary, and Mrs. Thomson, sailed for Honolulu for a short vacation.

*

Mitchell Leisen, Paramount director, has returned from a short New York vacation . . . Dr. A. H. Giannini has left for the east for a month's holiday. He was accompanied by his wife, his son and new daughter-in-law . . . Granted a three-month absence by M-G-M, Scenarist Kay Van Riper has gone to Palm Springs for a rest.

*

To confer with W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, on a deal to make a group of action features for Monogram release, Ted Richmond has planed to New York.

*

Ann Rutherford, Metro starlet, has been named Queen of South Carolina's annual Cotton Festival. She was crowned at and presided over the formal ball at Greenville, S. C., October 11 . . . A son was born to Mrs. Phil Epstein, wife of the Warner writer, at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Farm Security Staffman Is "Grapes" Advisor

Serving as technical advisor on 20th Century-Fox's "The Grapes of Wrath" is Tom Collins, of the staff of the Farm Security Administration, who has lived with the migratory workers for ten years. John Steinbeck dedicated his documentary novel to Collins.

Victor Jory Into Lead For Sherman's Next

Following a substantial budget boost for the vehicle, Victor Jory has been ticketed for the male lead in "The Light of Western Stars," the Zane Grey story which Harry Sherman will produce for Paramount. Lesley Selander directs.

SCRIPTERS

—Columbia

OLIVER DRAKE to "Cowboy Joe," forthcoming Joe E. Brown starrer.

—Metro

BERT KALMAR and HARRY RUBY to "Go West," Marx Brothers comedy.

—Paramount

LYNN STARLING to "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

—Republic

GORDON KAHN to "The Wolf of New York." Sol Siegel will produce.

BETTY BURBRIDGE teamed with GERALD GERAGHTY on "South of the Border," next Gene Autry western.

—20th Century-Fox

JOSEPH HOFFMAN and STANLEY RAUH to "Young as You Feel," 16th in the "Jones Family" series. Picture rolls November 1 with Malcolm St. Clair directing.

—Universal

PHILIP MacDONALD to "Charlie McCarthy, Detective."

—Warner Bros.

DEAN FRANKLIN to "Bomber No. 6," dealing with the U. S. army aviation corps.

EDMUND PARDO to "Down on the Levee," forthcoming Technicolor short subject.

JOHN WEXLEY to "City of Conquest."

Spotlight on Juveniles At "Babes" Premiere

Hollywood's younger set came to the fore to climb on the premiere bandwagon when M-G-M staged the world debut of "Babes in Arms" at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, October 10. The pomp and ceremony usually attending such functions was blended with the spirit of youth in an affair which brought to a temporary close the current cycle of lavish screenings in the film colony.

Thousands of autograph hounds and star-gazers thronged the bleachers which were especially constructed on either side of the theatre. Judy Garland, who co-stars with Mickey Rooney in the musical, imprinted her foot and handprints for posterity in a block of cement in the forecourt. Frank Whitbeck, of the studio advertising staff, functioned as master of ceremonies, describing the course of events and introducing incoming guests over the air via Station KMTR. Music was supplied by Georgie Stoll's studio orchestra.

Headlining the list of guests were Rooney and Miss Garland, Deanna Durbin, Jane Withers, June Preisser, Bobby Breen, Bobs Watson and Terry Kilburn, all screen juveniles. Other guests included Louis B. Mayer, E. J. Mannix, Mervyn Le Roy, Sam Katz, Joan Crawford, Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck, Greer Garson, Nelson Eddy, Margaret Sullivan and Leland Hayward, Lana Turner, Virginia Bruce and J. Walter Ruben, Hedy Lamarr and Gene Markey, Myrna Loy and Arthur Hornblow jr., George Cukor, David O. Selznick, Jack Warner, Hal Wallis and Louise Fazenda and scores of others.

Seven Paramount Players For Detroit Premiere

Seven Paramount players currently making personal appearances in various western states will be dispatched by the studio to Detroit to attend the world premiere of "Disputed Passage," October 19. Included in the itinerary are John Howard, Akim Tamiroff, Patricia Morison, Olympe Bradna, Susan Hayward and J. Carrol Naish. The premiere will be the incentive for a statewide celebration in which the automobile industry will tie up on a "sneak preview" of the 1940 model cars two days before the Detroit automobile show.

Warner has sent 20 ballet dancers on an 11-week tour in conjunction with showings of "On Your Toes." Stopovers are scheduled for San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Salt Lake City, Omaha, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia. Zorina, who stars in the picture, made a stage appearance when the film was given its world premiere at the Strand Theatre in New York City.

Bruce Cabot, returning from London, has been set for a two-week p. a. engagement in New York. The Ritz Brothers open a stint at the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco, November 11. Martha Raye opened a 12-week tour in Philadelphia, October 13.

Gene Autry returned from a short p. a. trek to Sacramento in order to resume film activity. He will be followed here by his screen sidekick, Smiley Burnette, who has been doing personals in Portland.

Wyler Helms "Outlaw"

"The Outlaw," dealing with frontier days in Texas, will be directed for Samuel Goldwyn by William Wyler. Gary Cooper, who will star, has checked in from New York to begin preparations for the assignment.

OPTIONS

—Columbia

RONALD SINCLAIR, juvenile actor, handed term contract to appear in the "Five Little Peppers" series.

—Samuel Goldwyn

ROBERT CARSON joins writing staff on loan from Paramount.

—Metro

NORAH PERRY, stock actress, given contract extension.

MELVYN DOUGLAS signs long-term acting pact.

—Paramount

VIRGINIA DALE, featured player, held for another term.

—RKO Radio

HARRY LANGDON signs one-picture deal to star in an untitled two-reel comedy.

JOHN FARROW, director, held for another term. Next assignment is "Father Damien."

—Republic

DORIS DAY given stock acting contract.

—20th Century-Fox

ELSIE KNOX, stage actress and former model, signs long-term contract.

—Universal

JOHN FULTON signed to handle trick photography on "The Invisible Man Returns."

MISCHA AUER given one-year contract extension.

LULI DESTE, Austrian actress, given long-term contract.

—Warner Bros.

WALLY KLEIN given new writing contract.

SPEARHEADS

(Continued from page 65)

under the executive supervision of Sol M. Wurtzel.

Only moderately entertaining is "The Flying Deuces," Boris Morros' first independent production for RKO Radio. Laurel and Hardy, employing every tried-and-true gag in their large supply, and adding a few new ones in the bargain, nevertheless were the victims of a too-slender story thread which would be much improved with the elimination of a number of draggy sequences. Best market for the feature will probably be with the juveniles and with confirmed Laurel-Hardy fans. A. Edward Sutherland handled the megaphone and no less than four writers—Ralph Spence, Alfred Schiller, Charles Rogers and Harry Langdon—collaborated on the script.

* * *

Trailing the pack was Paramount's "Television Spy," relegated to cellar position because of the lack of drawing power in its cast and the thoroughly obvious plot development—having to do, as the title indicates, with spies and a mythical telecasting invention. Edward T. Lowe produced and Edward Dmytryk directed.

REVIEW FLASHES

DISPUTED PASSAGE (Para)—Faithful adaptation of the Lloyd C. Douglas novel, which, unfortunately, lacks the compelling punch to put it over as mass entertainment. As a character study, it will attract most patronage among the discriminating clientele. Akim Tamiroff and Dorothy Lamour are featured. Harlan Thompson produced; Frank Borzage directed.

MUTINY IN THE BIG HOUSE (Mono)—One of the more important offerings from Monogram, this prison picture qualifies for a place among the better of the many films that have been built on the penal theme during recent months. Charles Bickford, Barton MacLane, Dennis Moore. Associate producer, Grant Withers; director, William Nigh.

ROARING TWENTIES, THE (WB)—It will roar its way across showmen's ledgers leaving a trail of black figures and satisfied customers, this lightning-paced action melodrama of the prohibition era, its evils and its laughs. James Cagney is starred in a superior cast and in the type of gangster role which first made him a favorite with lovers of red-blooded entertainment. Sam Bischoff produced; Raoul Walsh directed.

SUED FOR LIBEL (RKO)—Cleverly constructed mystery-melodrama, packing more than its share of fast-moving entertainment, this is entirely worthy of consideration as a program feature. Possessing no marquee names, it nevertheless has a competent cast. Kent Taylor, Linda Hayes, Lillian Bond. Director, Leslie Goodwins.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Plans a "Rains" Sequel; Dickers With Bromfield

Darryl Zanuck has announced plans to film a sequel to "The Rains Came" at 20th Century-Fox, and is negotiating with Louis Bromfield, author of that novel, to write the screen treatment.

Tamiroff in "Way of All Flesh"

Paramount has assigned Louis King to direct its remake of "The Way of All Flesh," which starts late this month with Akim Tamiroff in the lead.

In The Making

	STARTING	WELL ALONG	COMPLETED
COL.	**PASSPORT TO HAPPINESS**—Tony Martin. Producer: Irving Starr. Director: Joseph Santley.	**THE INCREDIBLE MR. WILLIAMS**—Joan Blondell, Melvyn Douglas, Ruth Donnelly, Donald MacBride. Producer: Everett Riskin. Director: Alexander Hall. **HIS GIRL FRIDAY**—Rosalind Russell, Ralph Bellamy, Cary Grant, Helen Mack, Ernest Truex, Gene Lockhart, Roscoe Karns, Porter Hall. Producer: Howard Hawks. Original: Ben Hecht, Charles MacArthur.	**THE STREET OF MISSING WOMEN** — Preston Foster, Ann Dvorak, Douglas Fowley, Wynne Gibson, Peggy Shannon, Lorna Grey, Veda Ann Borg. Producer: Jack Fier. Director: Sidney Salkow.
GN			
M-G-M	**EARL OF CHICAGO**—Robert Montgomery, Reginald Owen, Edward Arnold. Producer: Victor Saville. Director: Richard Thorpe. Original: Brock Williams. **SHOP AROUND THE CORNER**—Margaret Sullavan, James Stewart, Joseph Schildkraut. Producer-Director: Ernst Lubitsch. Original: Nickolaus Laszlo. Screenplay: Samson Raphaelson.	**A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT**—Ann Sothern, William Gargan, Lewis Stone, Marsha Hunt, Tom Neal, Walter Brennan. Producer: Edgar Selwyn. Director: Robert Sinclair. Original: Damon Runyon. **BROADWAY MELODY OF 1940**—Eleanor Powell, Fred Astaire, Florence Rice, Joe Yule, Jack Mulhall. Producer: Jack Cummings. Director: Norman Taurog.	**JUDGE HARDY AND SON**—Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Ann Rutherford, Sara Haden, Fay Holden. Producer: Lou Ostrow. Director: Geo. Seitz. Screenplay: Kay Van Riper.
MONO.		**MR. WONG AT HEADQUARTERS**—Boris Karloff. Producer: William Lackey. Director: William Nigh. Original: Hugh Wiley. Screenplay: Scott Darling.	
PARA.	**BUCK BENNY RIDES AGAIN**—Jack Benny, Virginia Dale, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, Andy Devine. Producer-Director: Mark Sandrich. Screenplay: Everett Freeman.	**SAFARI**—Madeleine Carroll, Douglas Fairbanks jr., Tullio Carminati, Muriel Angelus. Producer: Anthony Veiller. Director: Edward H. Griffith. Screenplay: Lawrence Hazard, Leonard Lee. **GUN CHORES**—William Boyd, Russell Hayden. Producer: Harry Sherman. Director: Howard Bretherton. Original: Jack Jungmeyer. Screenplay: Harold and Daniel Kusell.	**THE GAY DAYS OF VICTOR HERBERT**—Allan Jones, Mary Martin, Susanna Foster, Jerome Cowan, Lee Bowman, John Garrick. Producer: William LeBaron. Director: Andrew Stone. Screenplay: Russel Crouse, Robert Livey. **THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER** — Martha Raye, Charles Ruggles, William Frawley, William Demarest, Gertrude Michael, Benny Baker. Producer: William Thomas. Director: James Hogan. Screenplay: Lewis Foster.
RKO		**SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON**—Thomas Mitchell, Freddie Bartholomew, Edna Best, Terry Kilburn, Herbert Rawlinson, Tim Holt. Producer: Gene Towne and Graham Baker. Director: Edward Ludwig. Original: Jean Wyss. Screenplay: Walter Ferris.	**THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME**—Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Hara, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Thomas Mitchell, Alan Marshal, Rod LaRocque. Producer: Pandro Berman. Director: William Dieterle. Original: Victor Hugo.
REP.			**SAGA OF DEATH VALLEY**—Roy Rogers, George (Gabby) Hayes. Producer-Director: Joe Kane. Screenplay: Stuart Anthony.
20TH-FOX		**THE BLUEBIRD**—Shirley Temple, Johnny Russell, Nigel Bruce, Sybil Jason, Nancy Kelly, Gale Sondergaard. Producer: Gene Markey. Director: Walter Lang. Original: Maurice Materlinck. Screenplay: Walter Bullock. **EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT NIGHT** — Sonja Henie, Ray Milland, Alan Dinehart, Fritz Feld. Producer: Harry Joe Brown. Director: Irving Cummings. Screenplay: Art Arthur, Robert Harari.	**THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T TALK**—Lloyd Nolan, Jean Rogers, Onslow Stevens, Eric Blore, Mae Marsh. Producer: John Stone. Director: David Burton. Screenplay: Robert Ellis, Helen Logan. **THE CISCO KID AND THE LADY**—Cesar Romero, Marjorie Weaver, Bonnie Barnes, Chris-Pin Martin. Producer: Sol Wurtzel. Director: Herbert I. Leeds. **THE CITY**—C. Aubrey Smith, Donald Woods, Lynn Bari. Producer: Sol Wurtzel. Director: Ricardo Cortez. Original Screenplay: John Larkin.
UA	**UNTITLED**—Laurel and Hardy. Producer: Hal Roach. Director: Gordon Douglas. Screenplay: Gordon Douglas, Harry Langdon, Felix Adler, Charles Rogers.	**RAFFLES** — David Niven, Olivia de Havilland, Dudley Digges, Lionel Pape, Dame May Whitty. Producer: Sam Goldwyn. Director: Sam Wood. **PRODUCTION NO. 6** — Charles Chaplin, Paulette Goddard, Reginald Gardiner, Henry Daniell, Maurice Moscovitch. Producer: Charles Chaplin. Director: Charles Chapin. Screenplay: Charles Chaplin.	**SEND ANOTHER COFFIN** — Pat O'Brien, Ruth Terry, Broderick Crawford, Edward Arnold, Claire Dodd, Douglas Dumbrille. Producer: Walter Wanger. Director: Tay Garnett. **OF MICE AND MEN** — Burgess Meredith, Lon Chaney jr., Betty Field, Charles Bickford, Noah Berry jr., Leone Roberts, Bob Steele. Producer: Hal Roach. Director: Lewis Milestone. Original: John Steinbeck. Screenplay: Lewis Milestone.
UNIV.	**CHARLIE McCARTHY, DETECTIVE**—Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy, Mortimer Snerd. Producer-Director: Frank Tuttle.	**THE INVISIBLE MAN RETURNS** — Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Nan Grey, Vincent Price. Producer: Ken Goldsmith. Director: Joe May. Original: Kurt Siodmak. Screenplay: W. P. Lipscomb. **GREEN HELL**—Douglas Fairbanks jr., Joan Bennett, John Howard, Vincent Price, George Sanders, George Bancroft, Alan Hale. Producer: Harry Edington (Famous Productions). Director: James Whale. Original: Frances Marion.	**TEST DRIVER** — Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Peggy Moran, Jack Arnold, Sandra King. Producer: Ben Pivar. Director: Christy Cabanne. **TOWER OF LONDON** — Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff, George Sanders, Barbara O'Neil, Nan Grey, John Sutton. Producer: Rowland V. Lee. Director: Rowland V. Lee.
WB-FN		**BROTHER RAT AND THE BABY**—Eddie Albert, Jane Bryan, Peter B. Good, Wayne Morris, Priscilla Lane, Ronald Reagan, Arthur Treacher. Original: Fred Finkelhoffe, John Monks jr. Screenplay: Earl Baldwin. Director: Ray Enright. Producer: Robert Lord. **TIMBER**—Dennis Morgan, Alan Hale, Ronald Reagan, Gloria Dickson, John Payne. Producer: Bryan Foy. Director: Terry Morse. Screenplay: Lee Katz, Charles Belden.	

Pacific Independents Will Meet October 16

LOS ANGELES—To clarify organizational details of the new Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, a general meeting has been called for October 16. Membership, comprising the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., the ITO of No. Calif. and Nevada, and the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the Pacific Northwest, will attend. Robert Poole, executive director of the southern California ITO and temporary executive secretary of the conference, will preside.

Conference was established to "create a more harmonious relationship" among independent showmen, distributors and producers, it was announced at the time of its founding. Poole plans to leave for New York on a ten-day business trip immediately following the session.

MPTO of Washington Will Convention October 27

SEATTLE—October 27 has been selected as the date for the annual convention of the MPTO of Washington. The date precedes the Washington-Stanford football game, so exhibitor members are being urged to attend the convention and then take in the game the following day.

A special committee meeting was held in the office of the executive secretary, Jim Hone, to arrange details for the gathering and also special entertainment. It was agreed a special midnight show should be held the evening of the convention at the Orpheum Theatre. Special stage attractions and a preview of a new picture will be provided. Bill Forman, general manager for Sterling, promises to supply the stage show, with Evergreen Theatres offering the screen attraction.

Eddie Rivers of Evergreen, Jack Sampson of Sterling and Joe Cooper will handle publicity for the affair. L. O. Lukan, president of MPTO, and Hone are handling details for the noon luncheon and the convention proper.

FWC-Blodgett Theatre Planned at San Diego

SAN DIEGO, CAL.—Ending a ten-year construction lull by Fox West Coast, the circuit has announced plans to erect a 900-seat subsequent-run house here in partnership with John Blodgett. Theatre will be the first FWC unit to be built in a decade.

Plans are being drafted by Architect S. Charles Lee. Enterprise calls for an investment of approximately $100,000. The building will house two stores and have a large parking lot adjacent.

Maywood House to FWC

MAYWOOD, CAL.—Fox West Coast has purchased the Maywood Theatre from Gene O'Keefe and will close it temporarily for a redecorating job.

Independents Snub Jubilee; Brunt on FWC & Warner



On the Other Coast—

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. McElroy of the Rex Theatre at Vale, Ore., pause at the RKO Exhibitors' lounge while on their visit to New York.

LOS ANGELES—Perhaps because they remember too well the industry's ill-fated "Motion Pictures Are Your Best Entertainment" campaign of a year ago, the vast majority of independent operators hereabouts seem loath to cooperate or even to enthuse over the "Golden Jubilee of Motion Pictures" now being observed. As a result, the lion's share of promotional work is being done by Fox West Coast and Warner Theatre interests.

Keynoted by a proclamation issued by Mayor Fletcher Bowron setting aside the period from October 8 to October 14 as "Jubilee Week," FWC is boosting the event by:

Posting facsimiles of the proclamation in the lobbies of all its houses; running special trailers; working out cooperative advertisements in metropolitan newspapers; setting up an advertising budget to purchase 500 street car cards and 100 24-sheet billboards; working out lobby displays and festoons in individual FWC theatres; tying up on displays in downtown store windows, and festooning prominent street intersections.

Display at Rosemary

Dean Hyskell, the Fox circuit's exploitation chief, arranged a display of old projectors and other props at the Rosemary Theatre in Venice, and obtained Charles Chaplin's permission to revive one of the veteran comedian's silent two-reelers in the house. The United Artists, down town, staged a "preview" of William S. Hart's last starring vehicle, "Tumbleweeds."

Hyskell also prepared publicity stories concerning old-time pictures, including a description of the original kinetoscope invented by Thomas A. Edison in 1889, complete with photographs of Edison, now being used as advertising adjuncts by most of the circuit's houses.

Warner houses in the area are carrying lobby posters, valances and facsimiles of Mayor Bowron's proclamation, and are using cuts of the Jubilee seal in their newspaper advertising.

National Screen Service and other companies handling accessories, report sales are almost nil among independents, most of whom are not condescending even to purchase Jubilee seals, banners or other promotional paraphernalia.

Neither the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz. nor the local chapter of Allied States has taken any steps to urge their respective memberships to support the campaign.

Auto Giveaway Policy Extended by FWC

LOS ANGELES—Eight new automobile giveaways, in addition to the ten already scheduled, have been set by Fox West Coast during the one-month period before Christmas. Four cars will be given away in the San Diego and four in the Long Beach district, under the supervision of George Bowser.

A Closed Discussion by Allied of Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—After a lengthy closed discussion, members of the local Allied unit adjourned the first important meeting of the fall season with the announcement that discussion will be resumed October 16.

James C. Quinn, executive secretary, firmly refused to reveal the subject of the meeting, explaining it is "too vital" to be given premature publicity. It was understood, however, zoning ordinances in the southern California territory are being studied and that a committee of three —Lou Bard, President Seth Perkins and Quinn—has been appointed to gather data on that topic for consideration by the entire membership.

Allied also is mapping plans for an extended drive for new members.

Dale to Kelly

LONG BEACH—C. W. Kelly has purchased the Dale Theatre from the Cabart circuit. Kelly formerly headed an independent circuit in Colorado.

FWC Converts San Diego House for Newsreels

SAN DIEGO, CAL.—Fox West Coast has converted its Plaza Theatre into an exclusive newsreel house, first such enterprise in the city. Move closely followed similar conversions of the Rex, FWC house in Bakersfield, and the California at San Bernardino into newsreel theatres.

SEATTLE

ETCHED in the cocktail glasses presented to guests of Betty Pritchard at the Northwest Film Club were the significant words, "Betty and Frank, 1939," telling of the hostess' engagement to Frank Christie. Betty, president of the Clearbrook Hunt Club, was surrounded by many members. Frank, past president of that club and a newly-elected vice-president of the Film Club, was also kept busy. Over 100 guests were present. Frank is head booker for Fox-Evergreen in Washington, while Betty is a member of the same force . . . The ordinance banning carnivals from Seattle has been introduced in the city council by the license committee. The council referred it to that committee for consideration before voting on it. The measure does not affect circuses . . . Reunited for the first time in 45 years, Mrs. Stephen Ackles of Seattle and her sister, Mrs. Thomas Kitchen of Henrietta, Mo., are getting acquainted all over again. Mrs. Kitchen came to Seattle on a vacation trip which she "had always meant to take before" but never quite did. Mrs. Ackles is the mother of Dick, of Universal, and Ray, salesman for Columbia east of the mountains.

J. T. Sheffield, after spending a few days in Portland, left for Hollywood to meet Herbert J. Yates for conferences . . . This week is being celebrated as Civic Theatre Week in Seattle . . . Sponsored by the various clubs and the junior chamber of commerce, the Repertory Playhouse will open its 12th consecutive year with "Our Town," the 1938 Pulitzer prize winner . . . Frank Newman sr., president of Evergreen Theatres, is enjoying a family reunion . . . Mrs. Pandro Berman is here with her son from Hollywood and Frank Newman jr., with his wife and daughter, are up from Portland . . . Mrs. Frank E. Sabin, wife of the owner of the Majestic in Missoula, Mont., is in town visiting friends . . . J. L. McCurdy, RKO publicist, was here for special work on "Fifth Avenue Girl" . . . Oscar Paisley of Missoula is opening his new Roxy in Coeur d'Alene, Ida., around October 21.

Martin Steffin of the Roxy, Tacoma, is very sick at his home . . . Charley Schuler of the Park, Tacoma, sends word he is having lots of luck hunting deer in the Okanogan country . . . Junior Mercy, chairman of the new membership committee of the Northwest Film Club, called a special board meeting to report progress. Among those attending were: J. T. Sheffield, president; Frank Christie, vice-president; Eddie Lamb, secretary; Ben Shearer, Leroy Johnson and Herndon Edmond, also a vice-president . . . Frankie Peacock is confined to her home with a sprained ankle . . . Morrie Segel, back from his hunting trip sans game; Mike Barovic stayed behind hoping for better luck . . . Jerry Shartin, daughter of Bill, the local Warner manager, interviewing Constance Bennett for her high school paper . . . Considerable shifting in Evergreen theatres in Spokane. Russ Brown resigned from Orpheum management with Buck Seale moved into that spot from the Liberty. Ernie Rose succeeds Buck, moving over from the State, and Jim Keefe, former assistant manager at the Orpheum, is new manager of the State. Oscar Nyberg remains as manager of Fox. Joe Rosenfield is city manager.

Charley Hardin made an appearance on the Row after being on the Olympic Peninsula all summer. Charley will live here the balance of the winter . . . A large, enthusiastic crowd on hand at the Green Lake for the preview of "Ninotchka," new Garbo comedy . . . Cecil Farnes returned to Portland to rejoin the Universal sales staff. Cecil was with the Seattle staff during the absence of L. J. McGinley . . . Hap Frederick of 20th Century-Fox exchange, telling of his plane trip from Spokane during which he enjoyed a chat with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt on her way here to visit daughter Anna Boettiger . . . Joe Danz of the Embassy has added a new marquee . . . Charles Barnes has been appointed assistant to Frank Jenkins of the Montlake. Frank just opened with a policy of reissues and foreign films . . . Paul Aust of the Broadway has opened a real estate office next to his theatre. He will specialize in theatre brokerage.

Leonard Raatz, doing very well on his birthday, with wife buying many presents for him . . . Lunt & Fontanne will appear at the Metropolitan early in November in "Taming of the Shrew" . . . J. T. Sheffield, proudly displaying a copy of a popular detective magazine with a true story of bandits captured by his brother, L. M., a sheriff in North Carolina . . . Erwin Wagner of the sign company, here from Chicago enjoying a weekend of fishing with Eldred Bechtel of the Shearer company . . . Visitors: Art Trimble, Roxy, Toppenish; W. B. McDonald, Avalon, Olympia; Morrie Nimmer, Fox-Evergreen, Wenatchee; Mickey DeLeo, Rose, Port Townsend; Dad Abbott, Sedro Woolley; E. W. Groesbeck, Enumclaw; Walter Graham, Shelton; Rex Thompson, Port Orchard; Chuck Charles and wife, Everett; Ned Edris, Tacoma; Cecil and Mrs. Gwinn, Centralia . . . Junior Mercy, hopping to Yakima by plane . . . Kenny Schultz, to Spokane . . . Al Baker, down from Bellingham . . . The Warner gang, celebrating opening of new club quarters.

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Spreckels Is Remodeled

SAN DIEGO—Remodeling of the Spreckels Theatre, owned by Lou Metzger, has been completed at a cost of $25,000. House was given a new front and marquee, fittings and decorations.

Portland Stage Year Tops for a Decade

PORTLAND—The theatre has returned to Portland, with the biggest stage season in more than 10 years, bringing from 25 to 30 stage plays and musical attractions during the fall and winter.

Following successful runs of "Swing Mikado" and "Tobacco Road," William B. McCurdy has booked Clifford Odets' "Golden Boy," with Eric Linden and Bernice Claire; Eva le Gallienne and her New York company in "Hedda Gabler" and "The Master Builder;" "On Borrowed Time," with Taylor Holmes, and "What a Life," with Jackie Coogan and Mary Brian among the stars.

Raymond Massey, who made the film version in near-by Eugene, will appear in person in "Abe Lincoln in Illinois." Katharine Cornell and Francis Lederer are to appear in "No Time for Comedy," Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in "Taming of the Shrew" and Dennis King and Vivienne Segal in "I Married an Angel."

In addition, two major concert series have been booked together with a number of other musical and dancing attractions.

Portland's leading motion picture porducers comment on the local stage revival without resentment. They have, in fact, facilitated the movement by making the Mayfair Theatre, operated jointly by the J. J. Parker and Evergreen interests, available for many of the major performances.

"We don't consider the right type of stage performance as being competitive," Ted Gamble, Parker general manager, explained. "Anything that contributes to the so-called 'art of the theatre' is a benefit, inasmuch as it gives the public a better understanding of what the major motion picture producers are trying to do, and a better appreciation of the better pictures."

The boxoffice records of some of the best pictures from a critical standpoint, Gamble said, show that the film industry is a few steps ahead of the public. A public educated to the best in theatrical production will lead, he predicted, to a higher type of motion picture, more extended runs and improved returns to producer and exhibitor alike.

Stars to Seattle

SEATTLE—Personal appearance of concert, radio and screen stars seem to come in bunches here. Slated for early showing are Rubinoff, Lawrence Tibbett, Alec Templeton, Marian Anderson, Martha Graham, Richard Bonelli, Marjorie Lawrence, Artur Rubinstein, Byrd Elliot and Lily Pons.

Shutter at San Bernardino

SAN BERNARDINO, CAL.—Cabart Theatres has temporarily shuttered its Studio Theatre, a third-run 900-seat house which has been operating on a 25-cent admission scale.

LOS ANGELES

NORMAN NEWMAN, RKO Radio booker, replaces Max Myers as Columbia office manager. The latter has resigned to join Coast Pictures . . . Lon Hoss, Universal salesman, was all smiles when his nephew, Monty Pierson, pitched the Yanks to their second win over the Cincinnati Reds . . . Al Galston and Jay Sutton pulled out for a weekend fishing trip.

Al Meyers, son of A. Meyers, owner-operator of the Astor Theatre, will open his new bowling alley and cocktail bar October 25 . . . Kurt and Max Laemmle, operators of the Glassell and Franklin theatres, came in for bookings.

Bill Swanson, who doubles as film exhibitor and stage impresario, reports that the record-breaking run of "White Cargo" on the stage of his Beaux Arts Theatre will end in another four weeks. At that time "Tobacco Road" goes into the house as his next attraction . . . Ben Aranda jr. is back on the job at his theatre in Brawley—down in the lettuce country—after a tour of Mexico which kept him on the go for several weeks.

Illness and other misfortunes have befallen several local showmen. It was learned from New York that Mrs. Foster Jackson, visiting there, slipped and fell, breaking her pelvis. She's in the Roosevelt Hospital and will be confined for several weeks. Meantime her Elsinore Theatre at Elsinore is in the hands of Mrs. Florence Lynch . . . Al Keogh of the El Cajon Theatre, Bakersfield, is laid up with a heart attack . . . H. M. Thomas, operator of the Ramona Theatre, San Diego, is also under the weather . . . And Mark Hansen, Fox West Coast partner, disclosed that N. Herond, his business associate, is nursing an illness.

Columbia held a trade screening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at the Fox Boulevard Theatre for exhibitors in the territory . . . Universal exchange is still first in the national exhibitor booking drive, with only three more weeks to go.

Majestic Pictures has taken over local distribution of all Standard Pictures, chiefly foreign films . . . Bud Meyers, Coast Pictures salesman, pulled out on a selling trip to Bakersfield . . . W. E. Calloway, Warner district manager, checked in from an eastern trip.

Bookers: Al Snadow, Hub Theatre; Jimmy Graff of the Savoy; Al Galston, Marcal and Center Theatres; Murray Hawkins, Swan circuit; Mac Sinift, Daly and Del Mar; Max Garden of the Roslyn.

Irving Carlin and Max Sinker have dropped prices at their Oriental Theatre from 25 to 15 cents . . . Mike Newman, Columbia exchange exploiteer, checked in from a trip to San Francisco . . . Charlie Horowitz has replaced Sid Weder as manager of the Gore Bros.' El Rey Theatre, moving over from the Savoy, which was sold recently to Harry Hollander. Weder will be transferred to another Gore Bros. house.

Foster Blake, newest member of Universal's sales staff, pulled out on his first selling trip . . . Ben Fish, United Artists' western district manager, planed to Denver on business, and Fred Gage, UA salesman, headed for San Diego . . . Mrs. E. W. MacLean, wife of the UA salesman, is back at home after a siege in the hospital.

Mel Levinson is back on the job at Metro Premium after attending his father's funeral in the east . . . Astor Films has acquired local distribution rights to "The Unknown Soldier Speaks," an anti-war feature . . . "Tumbleweeds," the William S. Hart reissue, has been booked into the San-Val Drive-In Theatre in Burbank beginning October 26.

W. H. (Bud) Lollier, Fox West Coast executive, checked in after a business jaunt to Sacramento . . . Jack Partington, president of Fanchon & Marco, came in from New York to go into huddles with F-M executives here concerning resumption of stage shows at the Paramount Theatre downtown. Manager Harry Wallen reported the first week's take, in which Count Basie and the Dead End Kids headlined the bill, was far above anything done by the house since early summer.

Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, planed in from Denver . . . "When Germany Surrendered," comprising authentic and exclusive newsreel clips from the last World War, opened its local run at the Cinema Theatre October 18. A. L. Rule produced and narrated the reel . . . Bill Kohler of Astor Pictures returned from a short business jaunt to San Francisco . . . Majestic has acquired two more features, "Lost on the Western Front" and "Hitler's Reign of Terror."

Bookers: Fred Siegel, Palomar Theatre, Oceanside; Gene O'Keefe, from Maywood; Sam Decker of the Avalon; Ben Peskay, operator of the Palms in Palms; Alex Mounce and George Bromley, Campus Theatre; Bob Whitson and Herman Lewis of the W-L circuit; Harold Glass, Gordon Theatre.

Smoke of Peace Pipe Covering Warner-FWC War Clouds

LOS ANGELES—With conferences on details of the deal now under way, negotiations are expected to be consummated shortly whereby the territory's largest circuit, Fox West Coast, will buy the entire Warner product lineup for 1939-40. Participating in the huddles are Carl Leserman, aide to Gradwell Sears, Warner distribution head, here from New York; W. E. Calloway, west coast district sales head for Warner; President Charles Skouras, of FWC; and Arch M. Bowles, Charles M. Thall and Larry Kent, all FWC executives.

Settlement signifies a definite wash-up of the FWC-WB feud which sprang up several months ago when Warner indicted the circuit for its exhibition policies and announced it intended to "sell away" from FWC to independent operators in the territory. This program was pursued in only two or three spots before the pipe of peace was smoked. Preliminary negotiations for the FWC product buy have been under way in New York for several weeks between Sears and Spyros Skouras, president of National Theatres, of which FWC is an affiliate.

Bowles, the circuit's northern division manager, and Leserman are setting northern California playdates. The Warner distribution executive also will huddle with FWC's southern California district managers to establish playdates for this area.

Before arriving here, Leserman stopped at Salt Lake City to close a product deal with the Publix Salt Lake circuit, operating more than 38 houses in Utah and Idaho. Harry David handled negotiations for the chain.

SALT LAKE

NORMAN SPROWL, manager of the Utah here, and Earl Baughman, at the helm of the Capitol, Logan, have switched posts . . . Intermountain Theatres has reopened the Victory. The house was closed during the summer . . . A trade showing of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" was held here by Columbia. It's Frank Capra's latest . . . C. S. Roy of the Roy, Afton, Wyo., was a visitor at the Sheffield-Republic exchange.

The state's attorney-general has ordered discontinuance of Bank Night and Ten-O-Win, which, he declares, fall under Utah's anti-gambling laws . . . Less than 10 minutes after he had robbed the cashier at the Roxy of $194 in currency, a 25-year-old bandit who gave police a Texas address, was behind the bars . . . Add preview showings: Metro's "Babes in Arms" and "Ninotchka," and Paramount's "Disputed Passage" and "Honeymoon in Bali" . . . Mayor H. W. Peery of Ogden, Utah, well known in amusement circles here, is a candidate for his fourth two-year term as mayor of Ogden.

"Confessions of a Nazi Spy" is being exploited heavily by Joe Lawrence for a second-run showing at the Rialto . . . "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" is still attracting patrons to the Gem, which is operated by W. E. Shipley . . . On a brief stopover here, Rubinoff said swing has had its fling and now is ready for a fadeout.

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LOS ANGELES

S' FRANCISCO

MAYOR ANGELO J. ROSSI proclaimed October 8 to 14 Motion Picture Jubilee Week and the theatres throughout the city have been cooperating in various ways. Fox jammed its lobby with mechanical equipment which has been associated with the industry from its inception. It is a veritable museum and contains the first camera and projector and subsequent equipment right down to the most modern Simplex machine. United Artists in Oakland had a similar display in their foyer and the other houses around town ran old two-reelers and revivals pertinent to the progress of the motion picture.

Monogram's "Fight for Peace" has been taken up to Stockton for a trial run and if the patrons' response justifies it, Fox West Coast will bring it to Market St. . . . The Egyptian, not ordinarily a foreign house, ran an all-Greek double bill this week, "Astero" and "Refugee," with English captions.

The Sun Tower on Treasure Island landed a bit part in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" when the RKO people came up in a sound truck and recorded the huge belfry's entire repertoire, which they took back to Hollywood to be put on sound tracks . . . "White Cargo" is now in its third month at the Alcazar. The "Desert Song," which has been playing to packed houses at the Curran, goes on tour October 16, with "A Night at Moulin Rouge" taking over the Curran.

Ramblings on the Row: L. G. Tegtmeier, local manager for B. F. Shearer, was out of town on business . . . Two birthdays were celebrated this week at Warner's, with Joseph Hanley, office manager, and Al Shmitken, branch manager, receiving congratulations . . . Sadie Schofield, Warner secretary, has been ill but is expected back at her desk soon . . . C. L. Shultz jr. of National Theatre Supply is taking a belated vacation and is in Carmel for two weeks . . . A. Samish has put new seats in his Hester house in San Jose. National Theatre Supply did the job . . . Dick Bare, Carmel exhibitor, is invading southern California and will open a new house at Claremont . . . A new house also is contemplated for Rodeo.

Gene Autry, Republic singing star, was the big attraction at the Sacramento Stadium Show, October 8 . . . Telenews Theatre held an early morning party for 400 members of the San Francisco *News* Junior Club, giving the kids an hour and a half of news and shorts on October 7 . . . Lily Pons and Hubby Andre Kostelanetz will be the headliners at Treasure Island October 20 . . . Cupid has been running rampant on the Row: Violet Carson, RKO inspectress, has left S. F. to marry a Los Angeles merchant; Phoebe Fairbanks, Columbia booking department secretary, has announced her engagement; Louise Hogan of M-G-M walks down the aisle this week.

Genial Ernest Van Pelt, M-G-M exploiteer for San Francisco and vicinity, has been transferred to Salt Lake City to fill a similar capacity there. Mr. Beck, in charge of exploitation for M-G-M in Salt Lake City, will move to San Francisco.

Employe Ticket Sales to Start Oct. 15 at FWC

LOS ANGELES—Although Christmas is still some distance away, the annual sale of Employes Goodwill Tickets will begin at Fox West Coast October 15. The plan provides for ushers, cashiers, house managers and other FWC employes to sell tickets on a "personalized" basis, a policy which, in previous years, has helped compensate for the usual slack-up in attendance during the Christmas season.

DENVER

ATLAS theatre circuit has taken the Jewel back from R. A. Allen, who leased the house about a year ago. Dave Davis, general manager, is retaining E. J. Ward as manager.

Colorado will have two Thanksgivings plus an Armistice holiday due to the action of Governor Carr in designating November 30 as a legal holiday.

Bert Nolan, former film man, broke his shoulder and received a cut on his forehead as the result of a fall on the stairs at his hotel.

John Michaelson of Mercury Laboratories, N. Y., was here conferring with exchange and theatre men.

The Hiawatha, Denver, a Fox house, has signed with Coppel Amusement Co. to use some Mexican films this winter. The Hiawatha also has been added to the Fox Ford and cash night. This makes 11 Fox houses in the hookup and drawing. A Ford is given every week and a grand piano and cash also are offered, with the latter building if not won on the first number drawn.

Herschell Wheeler, who has been managing a theatre at Mesilla Park, N. M., has been named manager of the Black Hills Amusement Co. Pace Theatre at Gordon, Neb. He succeeds Howard Allen, who died a few weeks ago.

Nat Wolfe of Commercial Film Exchange has gone to Salt Lake City for a conference of western distributors of the Consolidated Book Publishers, who are putting out the Standard American Encyclopedia for a theatre giveaway. They will confer on trade paper cooperative advertising among other things.

A new fire alarm system has just been installed in the Warner exchange, and the RKO and Universal exchanges are again enclosed after a new front had been installed. The interior work on both places is proceeding rapidly . . . Mike Cramer, M-G-M office manager, is vacationing for two weeks.

A new exhibitor entered the business when B. C. Depron took over the Walsh Theatre at Walsh, Colo. . . . Al Slager, formerly operating the Palm, has bought the Bideawee for four nights for the showing of the Jewish film, "Two Sisters."

Casey Edinger, owner of the Zaza Theatre here, is much improved after having spent seven weeks in bed due to a heart attack, and is up and around.

PORTLAND

SUBMITTED without recommendation for those who want to try it is Herb Sobottka's sure-fire formula for breaking a jinx. The 13th wedding anniversary fell on Friday and he gave Mrs. Sobottka a pair of silver foxes . . . "The Rain Came" moved to the Music Box and the epidemic of colds at the Paramount is clearing up . . . So has the weather . . . Sylvia Haycox Schmeer gets a laugh out of a case of mistaken identity after Zollie Volchuck jumped out of a doorway to give her a scare as she walked along the street. The girl just looked like Sylvia.

Frequenting Filmrow: "Dutch" Stover, over from Bend; Mrs. Elaine Furlong, for the Condon and Heppner houses; M. W. Mattchek, calling on Saturday and catching the Oregon-Stanford football game; Ray Henderson, from Albany; Dick Fisk of Gold Beach, saying his wife is ill; R. M. Savini, Astor Pictures head, here conferring with Eddie Hutson; Bob Marsden and Denny Hull, up from Coos Bay; R. P. Van Ness, from Mill City.

W. J. Kupper, 20th Century-Fox sales chief from New York, here for a flying visit . . . T. J. Cleary moved on to Salt Lake . . . Universal outpost hosted J. G. Malafronte from the New York home office . . . The Row hears Eino Hemmila, manager for George Hunt in Medford, is at home ill . . . Upstate managers around to extend schedules included George Gould, Dalles; W. D. Thrall, Junction City; W. E. Robbins, Garibaldi; Guy Garrison, St. Helens, and Bill Odum, Redmond . . . Elma Simmons, Paramount, vacations Saturday.

"Have you got?" night, a golden egg goose at Hamrick-Evergreen neighborhood houses last summer, moves up stage and downtown October 26 with a one-night tryout at the New Rivoli. It is an auction sale in reverse, with Manager Zollie Volchuck offering maybe $2 from the stage for, say, a box of Carter's little liver pills. If no paying guest so provided will part with 'em for that, the two spot goes onto the bid for a box of snoose or whatever Zollie asks for next. Also there are contests on the stage with cash prizes, and it adds up to a stated sum being given away as advertised.

Alexa Buehler tells envious girl friends about the Mexican bull fighter she met at that long bar in Tia Juana this summer and then had to go to some trouble to shake. It seems his spangled jacket and apparent immunity to tequila rather fascinated her at first, but he was too willing . . . Frank Newman jr., Liberty manager, returned from Seattle where he visited relatives on a week's vacation. It was a reunion, with his sister, Mrs. Pandro S. Berman, also present.

Earl Hunt, Hamrick-Evergreen artist, still vacationing, makes a quick run up to Tacoma and back with Mrs. Hunt . . . Roy Brown, booker, back on the job after a swing around with stops at Reno and the Golden Gate international expose . . . Jack Flannery, northwest representative of National Screen Service, down from Seattle to see Herb Cass.

Government Brief May Be In by October 18

CHICAGO—The government is expected to have its brief ready in the criminal contempt suit in federal court here on October 18, it is understood.

Both Robert Wright and Seymour Simon, government attorneys, have returned to Washington to complete the briefs. After that the defense has 30 days in which to answer.

It will be remembered that the defense rested its case abruptly when the government agreed that it was not trying to prove any conspiracy attempts in the case.

Meanwhile, there is nothing new on the other local anti-trust cases, with all parties apparently awaiting the outcome of the government's own action.

Depositions Are Taken In La Crosse Action

LA CROSSE, WIS.—Depositions from officials of theatre companies were taken by attorneys here in the $1,000,000 damage suit of the La Cross Theatres Co. vs. the Welworth Theatre Co., Minnesota Amusement Co., 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, Paramount and others.

The depositions were taken from W. D. Furford, Aurora, Ill., La Crosse Theatres Co. official; M. Levy, Minneapolis, 20th Century-Fox representative, and Ed Reuben, Minneapolis, president of the Welworth Co.

Action was started by the La Crosse company about a year ago charging the theatre and film companies with operating in restraint of trade.

New Remington Theatre Will Open October 15

REMINGTON, IND.—The newly-constructed Rem Theatre here is expected to open around October 15. It will be managed by Harold Heyer of Morocco, Ind., who has been operating the Moroko there. Business men here are sponsoring the new Rem and have purchased the complete stock subscription. The theatre has been leased to Johnson & Hires of Morocco.

42-Hour Week Effective In Illinois Oct. 24

CHICAGO—Changes going into effect in the wages and hours law of Illinois on October 24, provide for a maximum work week of 42 hours with 30 cents per hour as minimum wage. The 30-cent scale will remain in effect until October 24, 1945.

Engineers' Union Wants Salary Cut Returned

CHICAGO—It is understood the engineers' union is dickering with exhibitor representatives for a return of the five per cent cut the union took last year.

Trade Unhurt by Legislature; An Eye on Special Session

MADISON, WIS.—Barring possible passage of discriminatory tax measures at the special session sometime next month, the industry emerged unscathed as the longest legislature in Wisconsin's history adjourned *sine die* without solving the state's tax problem for the biennium.

Defeated or pigeonholed trade measures included special chain taxes and proposals for admission and footage imposts.

Left in the hopper as a result of adjournment were such measures as the Paulson bills, which would have prohibited cash drawings in theatres and would have labeled the maintenance or operation of gambling or lottery devices a nuisance.

Also killed was the Peters bill, which proposed virtual elimination of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers from Wisconsin, while a divorce measure was indefinitely postponed earlier in the session and no further action taken on it.

Because of a budget deficit for the biennium in excess of $21,000,000 (with only slightly more than $4,000,000 in the state's general fund), an 18-man interim committee is to be named to draft a tax program to meet the emergency and report back to a special session expected to be called by Gov. Julius P. Heil sometime next month.

Picketing Is Result Of Pact Dispute

MILWAUKEE—The IATSE Local 164 has been picketing the Tosa Theatre here, because, according to Oscar E. Olson, business manager of the union, the house has broken its contract agreement which he contends expires October 31.

Ross Baldwin, operator of the theatre, declares he is unable to pay the $1.71 per hour wage demanded by the union and that he is willing to pay $1.25 an hour. Various other exhibitors, it is reported, will seek reclassification of their houses after the expiration of their present contract with the union.

Early Bird Admissions Are Cut at F&M House

ST. LOUIS—For the first time in the history of the 5,000-seat Fox Theatre, the price scale for early birds was slashed on October 6.

In two-column ads in the local newspapers, Fanchon & Marco announced that the admission price for the first 1,000 femmes to enter the house daily would be only 15 cents. The house opens at 11:30 a. m.

On October 6 the house resumed its scattered stage show policy. The first stage offering of this season was the A. B. Marcus spectacle revue. A special midnight show was given on Saturday, October 7.

The usual early price scale for adults at the Fox is 25 cents. Heretofore time and not the number of customers governed the price changes.

Managerial Changes Are Made by I-I Theatres

INDIANAPOLIS—Indiana-Illinois Theatres announce several managerial changes. Rex Williams, formerly at the Hoosier Theatre, Whiting, Ind., moves over to the Elco, Elkhart, Ind., replacing Sid Holland, who has joined the Schine circuit as manager of their Eckle in Syracuse, N. Y. Chick Thompkins, who has been managing the Vogue in East Chicago, will replace Williams in Whiting.

Hammer Succeeds Ettinger

INDIANAPOLIS — Don Hammer has been named to succeed Milton Ettinger as office manager and booker at the local Grand National exchange. Hammer was formerly with GN as salesman.

Held and Assigned

HOLLYWOOD—Held for another term by RKO, Director John Farrow's next assignment for that studio is "Father Damien."

Warner Circuit Promotes Several in Chicago Area

CHICAGO—Continuing its policy of promotion within the company's own ranks, the Warner circuit has announced several managerial changes.

Al Blasko, formerly at the Jeffery Theatre, becomes manager of the Paramount, Hammond, succeeding E. H. Arkin, who has been moved to the Venetian Theatre, Racine, Wis. Other changes include:

Gene Hopson, from Oakland to Jeffery; J. McWhorter, from assistant at Beverly to manager Hamilton; Robert Kennedy, from Hamilton to Oakland; H. Corbett, assistant at Oakland to assistant at Beverly; Richard Hagstrum, from chief of service at Capitol to assistant at Hamilton; and Jack Fleming from assistant at Hamilton to assistant at Oakland.

Bernhard Will Conduct Managerial Meeting

CHICAGO — Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Theatres, is expected to be here Monday or Tuesday to conduct a general meeting of managers of the Chicago and Wisconsin zones.

Daughter to Allisons

INDIANAPOLIS—Harmon Allison, operator of the Ritz Theatre, Mooresville is the proud father of a 7 pound 6 ounce girl born at the Methodist Hospital here. The baby has been named Lynne.

Screening, Baseball Interesting Blend

CHICAGO—Everyone was so interested in the goings-on of the Soviet commissars in the hilariously funny "Ninotchka" of M-G-M at the screening last week, that it was no wonder an exhibitor looked flabbergasted when he saw a headline upon leaving the theatre that read:

"Reds Fight to Halt Yanks." At first he thought Russia was withstanding an attack by the U. S., instead of realizing that the Cincinnati ball team was battling the New York Yankees in the world series.

Speaking of baseball, Charlie Cooper was speaking to an exhibitor during the luncheon between pictures of the M-G-M screening, about the Chicago Cubs-White Sox city series. Kiddingly, he remarked that the Cubs that afternoon were pitching "a rookie from Milwaukee, Jack Shumow." To which the exhibitor, innocently (but indignantly) answered:

"What do they want to do that for; don't they know this is serious; or don't they want to win, anyway."

P. S.: Yes, Charlie meant the same Jack Shumow, who is M-G-M's city sales manager.

Outstate Showmen Attend Indianapolis Screening

INDIANAPOLIS—The Metro screening of "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms" at the St. Clair Hotel, followed by a luncheon at the Claypool Hotel, drew exhibitors and press representatives from two states. Attending were:

Marc Wolf and Al Blocher of Theatrical Managers and their circuit managers; Leonard Sowar, Muncie; Ray Brenner, New Castle; Fred Doughty, Winchester; Trueman Rembusch, of the Rembusch circuit with Managers H. Murphy of Franklin and Joe Finneran of Elwood; Tom Baker and Joe Smith of Affiliated circuit; Fred Dolle circuit, represented by H. J. Arnold of Terre Haute, S. P. Katzenbach of Terre Haute and Harry Frederichson of Lafayette; Vonderschmitt circuit, represented by Art Clark of Bloomington, Mrs. H. P. Vonderschmitt of Noblesville, Howard Owens, Seymour and Andy Browning from Greencastle; The Gregory circuit's John Doerr, general manager from Chicago, and Managers Ray McCormick of Frankfort, Dale Loomis of Peru and Ferd Nessel from Anderson; Olson Enterprises Carl Niesse, general manager; Sol Greenburg, head booker; Claude Allison of the Strand, Guy Kilbourne of the St. Clair, Al Hedding of the Uptown, Otto Ebert of the Ritz, Forest Quinn of the Vogue, all of Indianapolis; A. C. Zaring, Zaring Theatre; Earl Cunningham, Fountain Square Theatres; Sam Eibeck, Affiliated circuit; Oscar Kuschner, Hollywood; Al Ackerman, Tacoma; Jess Morgan, Talbott; Eddie Zeyer, Zaring; Morris Singer, Avalon, all of Indianapolis.

Other independent exhibitors from Indiana and Kentucky were: S. B. Rees, Plymouth; Howard Morin, Brookville; Mrs. Verne Gorrell, Winamac; William Studebaker, Logansport; I. A. and Roy Kalver, Decatur; Roger Scherer, Fort Wayne; Mr. MacNabb, Tipton; Mrs. Hilda Long, Sheridan; A. B. Thompson, No. Vernon; Mrs. Janet Prewitt, Plainfield; C. W. Massey, Worthington; E. K. Crouch, Fairmount; William Luckett, Scottsburg.

A special bus and fleet of cabs, promoted along with police escort, took the screening group to the Claypool Hotel luncheon.

Chicago Newsreel Crews Have a Busy Weekend

CHICAGO—The newsreel crews out of the Chicago offices were kept busy over last weekend. Besides all having to go to Cincinnati to film the world series baseball games, many of the reels had men assigned to major football games in this section. In addition, all took pictures of the funeral of the late Cardinal Mundelein.

Red Felbinger and his Paramount crew were particularly busy, as they put out a special on the Mundelein funeral, with pictures to all accounts the night of the funeral. Likewise, specials were also made on the Notre Dame and Northwestern football games for various accounts.

Four Chicago Zone Houses in Shift

CHICAGO—Ownership changes occurring in the territory recently include:

Lyric Theatre, on 22nd St., taken over by Sam Grossman, formerly operated by Henry Fields.

Wabash Theatre, on 19th and Wabash, taken over by Jim Costos, formerly operated by Herman Saperstein.

Bell Theatre, on Armitage Ave., taken over by Eva Marcus, formerly operated by George Lang.

Verdi Theatre, Kensington, Ill., taken over by Pete Kalairis, formerly operated by Henry Bombaro.

Indianapolis Metroites Elect Club Officers

INDIANAPOLIS—The Pep Club, composed of employes of the local M-G-M exchange, has been reorganized, with election of new officers including D. S. MacLeod, president; Jerry Adams, vice-president; Klaska Johnson, secretary; Foster Gauker, treasurer, and Madalyn Cornet, sergeant-at-arms.

The projection room in the building has been remodeled into a meeting and recreation spot. It has been furnished with modernistic furniture.

On October 16, members will hold a house-warming to officially open the clubrooms.





—Photos by Candid Illustrators

With Screenings the Vogue—

Above is a general view of the assembled exhibitors and press members at the luncheon in the Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, which followed the screening by Metro of "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms." In the lower photo are Chicagoans who were hosted by Metro at similar showings in the Cinema Theatre. In the ranks, but requiring your checking as to place, are, among others, Al Teplitz, Harry Solomon, Elmer Benesch, Charlie Cooper, Jack Kirsch, Moe Lang, Abe Gumbiner, Seymour Gumbiner, Lester Retschen, Dick Zalken, Jack Rubin, Ed Mager, Sam Myers, Hank Saperstein, Max Sachs, Al Raymer, Bill Cherukas, W. E. (Doc) Banford, Jack Shumow, Marvin Lowentall, Doc Raflaski, Abe Fader, I. Ettleson, Lou Reinheimer.

Indiana Showmen!!
It's Your Party

13TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
AND TRADE SHOW
ASSOCIATED THEATRE OWNERS OF INDIANA, Inc.

MONDAY-TUESDAY OCT. 23-24
HOTEL ANTLERS, INDIANAPOLIS

OUTSTANDING EVENTS

Jamboree Party-Mon., Oct. 23, 9 p. m.

13th Annual Banquet-Tues., Oct. 24, 7.30 p. m.

Theatre Equipment Mfg. Exhibits

Discussions On Subjects That Can't Be Put In Print

Be There—Exhibitors

INDIANAPOLIS

SEEN along the Row: Alex Kalafat, Garrett; L. T. Moore and wife, Mitchell; Joe Schilling, Connersville; Don LeBrun, South Whitley; "Red" Massey, Worthington; A. B. Thompson, North Vernon; Sam Neall, Kokomo; Roy Kalver, Decatur; Roy Harrold, Rushville; Harmon Allison, Mooresville; Roy Howard, Bloomington; Leonard Sowar, Muncie; Mel Grundy, Muncie; Nick Paikos, Tipton; Dick Vlastos, Fowler; Bruce Kixmiller, Bicknell; D. D. Lee, Cayuga; J. B. Stine, Clinton; Mrs. Janet Prewitt, Plainfield; Mrs. William J. Haney, Milan.

Lee Seitz is now manager of the Emerson Theatre, replacing Morris Cantor. Cantor will devote his time to his circuit offices in operating the Emerson, Rivoli, Parker, Sheridan and the Esquire, which will be reopened soon.

Jim Kennedy, manager of the Ritz, is proud of the new uniforms his usherettes are wearing. They are of black garbardine trimmed in blue satin . . . Grey Kilbourne, manager of the St. Clair, announces installation of the new cushioned seats will be completed this week.

Edward Flynn, newly appointed manager of the Parker, is happy over plans for a redecorated theatre front to be started soon . . . The local Universal office has had Fred Reiger, home office representative, as a visitor the past week.

With the reopening of the modernized Old Trails Theatre in Mickleyville, Mrs. Ruby Hack, owner, announces the appointment of Albert Winegate as manager. Winegate formerly managed the Orleans in Orleans, Ind.

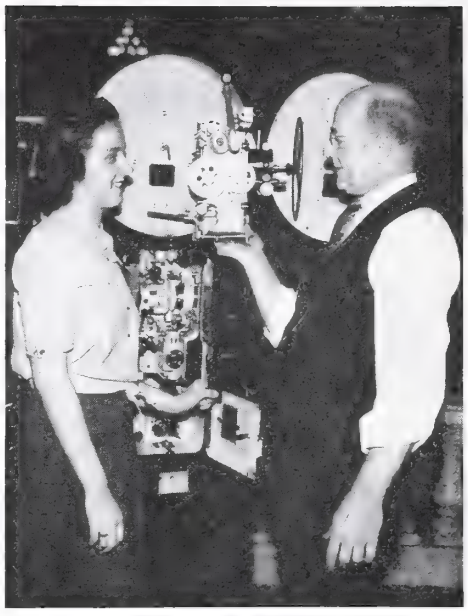
Margaret Common, formerly with RKO in the office, has joined the United Artists staff here, replacing Beatrice Lobdell, resigned.



—Photo by Candid Illustrators

En Route to Work—

Merle Oberon, wife of Alexander Korda and British film star, pauses in Chicago, en route to Hollywood. The star said that her husband is remaining in England to assist in production of propaganda films.



—Photo by Candid Illustrators

A Trade Veteran—

Martin Johnson, of B&K's Chicago Theatre and Chicago's oldest motion picture projectionist, in point of years of service, is demonstrating an old-time projector, with a late model in the background, to Pamela Buehling, Chicago Theatre candy girl. Johnson started operating back in 1906 for Turnbull and Aiken's Nickelodeon.

Neighborhood theatres in Indianapolis, it is noted, are making fewer changes each week, and outstanding pictures are being given a full week's run.

Ernie Miller, operator of the Cinema, announces to his public that during the last two years his house has shown product of every major company.

William Schwartz, booker at the local M-G-M exchange, will be married to Roslyn Rosenbluh on December 17 at the home of the bride in New York City, where Schwartz was formerly located.

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the industry, many Indiana exhibitors are playing "The Great Train Robbery," the first feature-length film starring Broncho Billy, and the "First Kiss," a short film.

Evansville Preparing a Welcome for Joe Cook

EVANSVILLE, IND.—Preparations are going forward for a big "welcome-home" celebration for Joe Cook, Evansville's own screen, stage and radio star, who is coming here with his company for his first local professional appearance.

A welcome banner will be stretched across Main Street and there will be a parade featuring Joe himself, in all probability riding on a horse-drawn fire wagon, the old hose house No. 1 having been a boyhood haunt.

Extortion Charge May Be Heard Oct. 16

ST. LOUIS—A motion to quash the indictment against John P. Nick, international vice-president of the IATSE, and State Representative Edward M. Brady was overruled October 7 by Circuit Judge Robert L. Aronson in the circuit court for criminal causes. This action apparently clears the way for the trial of one of them commencing on October 16.

The men are accused of extortion in connection with the alleged payment to Brady of $10,000 by a number of St. Louis independent motion picture theatre owners.

It is anticipated that Nick and Brady will ask for a severance when the case is called up before Judge Aronson on October 16.

The $10,000 payment to Brady is alleged to have been made from a $15,000 "defense fund" raised by a number of theatre owners in 1936. About that time the question of a new wage scale and working agreement for union motion picture machine operators employed by the theatres was under consideration. The union officials were demanding that the men be paid an increase of $10 a week each. With two operators employed this meant a minimum increase of $1,040 a year for each theatre in the city.

A $7,000 "defense fund" was raised in 1937, when the next annual wage contract came up for consideration. There was no $10 a week increase in 1936 and in 1937 while there was some minor wage adjustments they were made in such manner they did not greatly increase the expenses of the theatre. Nick and Clyde A. Weston, former business agent of Local Union No. 143, were indicted on a charge of extortion last February by a grand jury which investigated the $7,000 fund raised in 1937.

Last April Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley ousted Nick and Weston from control of the affairs of Local No. 143. The court placed the union in charge of Receivers James A. McKeown and William M. Brandt. The latter is secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union. He has been criticised by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, for consenting to serve as co-receiver for the union.

Chicago Critic Relays Praise of Industry

CHICAGO—In her rave review on RKO's "Nurse Edith Cavell," the Chicago *Tribune's* Mae Tinee, gave Hollywood itself a plug. She quoted Producer Herbert Wilcox's comments on Hollywood cooperation. She said in part:

" . . . (Wilcox) was most general in praise of his cast and the manner in which Hollywood producers and technicians assisted him. It's no trick to make a picture over here, he says, for Hollywood has EVERYTHING. (The caps are Mae Tinee's). Mention a need one moment and it's supplied the next."

Chicago Council Changes System of Film Rating

CHICAGO—The Better Films Council, which for years has been rating films in family, adult and young adult groupings, announces a new classification setup, whereby films in the future will be listed as for mature or family audiences. When pictures are of special juvenile interest, suitable for special children's matinees, they will be so listed.

"We felt that the type of pictures produced have changed so in the last few years," said Mrs. Richard M. McClure, president, "that it has become increasingly difficult to distinguish between the adult and young adult groupings. Therefore, we have decided on the new lists." Mrs. McClure was aided in this work by Mrs. Charles R. Holton, vice-president and chairman of reviewing.

The listings for the second half of September have only mature rating as follows:

"Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," "Frontier Marshal," 20th-Fox; "Angels Wash Their Faces," "Indianapolis Speedway," and "The Old Maid," Warner; "Blackmail," M-G-M; "Conquests of Peter the Great," Amkino; "Grand Jury Secrets," Paramount; "In Name Only," RKO; "The Ware Case," GB, and "Janosik," Czechoslovakian film.

Two short subjects were given special mention. Both by M-G-M, they are "Angel of Mercy" and "Prophet Without Honor."

No Reviews in Daily News If Films Are Unworthy

CHICAGO—The *Daily News* has instituted a new type of coverage of first-runs in the Windy City, the paper announcing that henceforth a synopsis and cast list will be run on all first-run films in the city. In addition, should a picture warrant it, reviews will be used.

Lloyd Lewis remains as motion picture and dramatic editor, in addition to his duties as sports editor of the paper. General synopsis and reviews are expected to be handled by C. J. Bulliet, assisted by Joe Lawlor.

Educational Post to Film Committee Executive

INDIANAPOLIS—Mrs. Mary Sharp, secretary of the film committee of the Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays, has accepted an invitation to become a member of the motion picture committee of the department of secondary education in Indiana.

Mrs. Sharp is now working on a ten-point program, the purpose of which is to cooperate with public libraries in utilizing the stimulating influence that photoplays have on reading.

St. Louis Suburban Opening

ST. LOUIS—The new Esquire Theatre in Richmond Heights will open Wednesday, October 18, according to Harry Greenman, resident manager.

CHICAGO

SAM CLARK screened two more Warner patriotic shorts—"The Monroe Doctrine" and "The Bill of Rights"—for Chicago school board executives on Thursday . . . Incidentally, Warner is screening now weekly every Friday night for the salesmen.

Bill Bishop, M-G-M exploiteer, held special screenings at Northwestern and Notre Dame Universities this week of Pete Smith's "Football Thrills of 1938."

Ultraphone has moved its Chicago offices to the 1000 block on South Wabash.

Ludwig Sussman ran special reels on the late George Cardinal Mundelein at his Adelphia Theatre a few days after the churchman's death.

Joe Abramson now is connected with the Excel Projector Corp.

Lucille Alexander of the local Movietone News office had a tough break the other week when that Negro intruder entered the office as she turned her back and made off with her purse containing $25. Lucille and a couple coppers chased him, but the bandit eluded them.

One of filmdom's perennial cowboy stars, Buck Jones, is here for the rodeo being held at the Stadium.

Ben Kalmenson, Warner western sales manager, passed through here en route eastward, after a trip as far as the Des Moines exchange.

Abe Fisher, local manager of Ben Judell's Producers' Distributing Corp., awaited this week prints of the company's initial production, "Torture Ship," based on the Jack London story.

Sam Clark left this week for a midwest exploitation trip, to set campaign for Warner's "Espionage Agent," "On Your Toes," and "The Roaring Twenties."

Mae Tinee, the Chicago *Tribune's* film critic, ran a special page feature last Sunday on the motion picture industry's 50th anniversary, using stills of famous bygone stars.

Ingrid Bergman, Swedish star, current in "A Woman's Face," at the Essaness Julian Theatre, is the same Ingrid Bergman of Hollywood's "Intermezzo," the same role she played in the Swedish film. It is reported that the American rights of "A Woman's Face," have also been purchased for Hollywood remake.

Saul Goldman of Sack Amusement Enterprises is back from a trip to St. Louis and Indianapolis and other towns.

Warner Story on Air Corps

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has assigned Dean Franklin to script "Bomber No. 6," a story dealing with the U. S. army aviation corps.

New Owner Remodeling

GREENFIELD, IND.—J. B. Sconce is remodeling his newly acquired State Theatre here.

Film Carriers, Photoplay Lead Chicago Bowlers

CHICAGO—"Nothing is sacred in the Chicago Film Bowling League." So say the Universal and Republic bowling teams.

And the reason is the two teams who are one and two in the standings, as of last week.

For years Film Carriers and Photoplay Advertising combined to enter one team in the league. This year they entered separate teams and have astounded everyone by staying on the top, with the Film Carriers first.

Last week the Carriers took three from Universal, with Barney Klass rolling 558. Photoplay continued its winning, taking a pair from Paramount. Warner took two from Republic, even though Jack Kirsch shot a 571 series. National Screen whitewashed 20th Century-Fox.

The standings:

	Won	Lost
Film Carriers	7	2
Photoplay	6	3
Paramount	5	4
National Screen	5	4
Warner Bros.	5	4
Universal	3	6
Republic	3	6
20th-Fox	2	7

Wm. Sherman Will Sell For Universal in Ind.

INDIANAPOLIS—William Sherman, office manager and booker for the past several months at Universal, will take over the duties of Abe Kaufman, salesman in the Indianapolis territory, who recently resigned to devote his full time to the operation of the Lyceum in Terre Haute which has been operated by Mrs. Kaufman.

More Essaness Houses Give Bikes

CHICAGO—Three more Essaness houses—the Liberty, Michigan and Devon theatres—are giving away bicycles in the Pepsicola tieup.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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They Can Swing Into It

Indianapolis—Ward Farrar, manager of Loew's Palace, is busy these days planning a "battle of music" on his screen. He will go ballrooms one better by making his contest a fight to a decision between swing and classics.

On one side will be Artie Shaw, the reigning swing sensation in "Dancing Co-ed," and in the other, Jascha Heifetz, in "They Shall Have Music."

A Picketing Injunction Suit Changes Venue

ST. LOUIS—The suit of the owners of the Criterion Theatre to enjoin ten members of the Colored Cashiers' Society from picketing the show or otherwise interfering with its operations was transferred October 6 from Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley to Circuit Judge Harry F. Russell after Samuel L. Thomas, one of the defendants, filed an affidavit seeking a change of venue on the grounds that he believed "he cannot have a fair and impartial trial because of the prejudice of the judge."

The suit charged that the defendants sought to compel the theatre to employ four Negro motion picture machine operators although an agreement was made between Local Unions No. 143 and 143-A last June that the work should be divided between Negro and white operators, two of each race being employed.

Harry James, UA, Heads Chicago Bookers Club

CHICAGO—New officers for the coming season have been elected by the Bookers Club of Chicago.

Harry James, United Artists, is president; Charlie Davidson, B&K, vice-president; Frank Nardi, Republic, treasurer; Joe Abramson, Excel Projector Corp., secretary; Joe Stout, B&K, corresponding secretary, and Oscar Bernstein, United Artists, sergeant-at-arms.

Ask Bible Tales

INDIANAPOLIS—At an executive board meeting of the Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays, it was suggested that a resolution be sent to Warner Bros. asking that their plan to make one-reel historical pictures include Old Testament stories. This resolution was indorsed by the "May Wright Sewell Club," Indiana Council of Women, and the Federated Council of Church Women.

Show War Exploitation Film

ST. LOUIS—"When Germany Surrendered," a motion picture said to have been made up of film salvaged from the World War photographic records of eight nations, opened a run at the Hollywood Theatre.

SPR'GFIELD

A. R. ZIMMER, manager of the Fox-Lincoln Theatre, is brushing up for the fall trade by having a bit of paint and varnish applied to the marquee and entrance to his theatre.

Max Tschauder, city manager for Frisina Amusement, has made arrangements for three performances of the stage show, "Tobacco Road," at the Roxy Theatre on November 17-18.

Nicholas Kerasotes, of the Kerasotes chain, attended the preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade" in St. Louis.

A special campaign is being planned by Dave Jones, advertising manager of the Kerasotes theatres, for "U-Boat 29" when it is shown at the Strand Theatre.

Edmond Metzger, manager of the Strand Theatre, is seeking a solution for the over-enthusiasm of his young patrons. He hasn't minded the paper wads, pins or even paper clips so much, but now is trying to find a method of keeping "bad" boys from shooting genuine man-size barbed wire staples at the walls and screen of the theatre.

A crazy auction will become a regular Wednesday night feature at the Orpheum Theatre beginning October 18. The theatre and a local furniture dealer will cooperate in providing household items which will be auctioned off for whatever they will bring. The money taken in thus will then be returned to the theatre's patrons by purchasing small "crazy" personal items from them.

M. E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum Theatre, was about ready to turn down a hospital worker's attempt to sell him a charitable coupon book, but had to come across in a hurry when the pretty nurse informed him that she had taken care of his wife at the hospital when Berman's new baby was born there recently. Berman had to admit that such a sales approach was new to him.

New Sound for Two

CHICAGO—New RCA sound is being installed in the Esquire, Indianapolis, 600-seater formerly known as the Garrick, which is presently undergoing a remodeling program, and in the new 800-seat Esquire now being built at Rock Island, Ill., for Tri-States Theatre Corp.

"Talking Pictures" On South Side

Chicago—We were driving about the south side the other night and passed Harold Jacobs' Indiana Theatre at 210 East 43rd St. In the heart of the Negro belt of the Windy City, the theatre still sports old-time architecture. To make the picture complete, Jacobs has atop his marquee in large letters and studded with old-style electric light bulbs, this astounding news:

"Talking Motion Pictures."

It May Be Only "Extra" Work

Indianapolis—It develops that Gov. M. Clifford Townsend may be delayed in receiving his "one-day" check as a featured player in "Wings Over Indianapolis," now in production, since he has no social security account number because public officials are not covered by the act.

The picture is scheduled to be shown soon in several neighborhood houses.

Trade's 50th Anniversary Helps Theatre's 14th

CHICAGO—Al Bachman, manager of the B&K Harding Theatre, prepared a special lobby display in celebration of the industry's 50th anniversary, tying in with the 14th anniversary of the opening of the theatre.

Bachman included in his display various Edison inventions of 50 years ago and their modern counter-parts, including electric light bulbs, generators, fans, dictaphones, and other similar equipment. He also showed an old-time penny movie machine and a new modernized one now being put on the market that operates automatically.

As part of his celebration, Bachman placed on a large 40x60 lobby board, pictures of 16 old-time stars. Patrons who named them correctly received passes to the theatre.

Mark E. Bruce, 81, Dies At Stevens Point, Wis.

STEVENS POINT, WIS.—Mark E. Bruce, retired exhibitor, died here at the age of 81. He started in the theatre business in 1912 as operator of the Gem. Later he remodeled the house and changed its name to the Strand.

In 1920, he leased the Opera House, the present Fox Theatre, and continued to operate that until 1925, when he sold out to John Adler of Marshfield. Bruce had served as a member of the Stevens Point water commission since its organization. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Indianapolis Boards Will Present Many Filmites

INDIANAPOLIS—Many screen players are scheduled to appear here during the coming season either on personal appearance tours or in legitimate plays at the English Theatre. Among them will be Edward Everett Horton, Vivienne Segal, Dennis King, Glenda Farrell and Raymond Massey. On October 30, Paul Muni will appear in the world premiere of "Key Largo." It will mark Muni's return to the stage after 11 years.

Change at Greenwood, Wis.

GREENWOOD, WIS.—Mrs. Elizabeth Kenyon has purchased the Parkway Theatre from W. A. Potter. Mrs. Kenyon's son, Lloyd, is managing the house.

MILWAUKEE

THE local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis was presented last week with a check for $1,010 from the Will Rogers Memorial commission. Art Schmitz, local RKO exchange manager, made the presentation.

Standard Theatres opened its modernized Packer Theatre in Green Bay, October 7. George Hannon, former operator of the house, is manager of the theatre, formerly the grand.

Fox's Orpheum in Green Bay has installed new RCA sound . . . The New Adler at Marshfield is now changing its programs on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Harvey Hanson, manager of the Palace in Antigo, cooperated with the local high school by closing his house on the night of the stadium dedication and annual football classic.

Dr. Irwin Deer, representative of the community service department of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., has been speaking before Wisconsin organizations including the Better Films Council in Fond du Lac, the Lions Club at Appleton and the Rotary Club in West Allis.

The Rivoli in Chippewa Falls has embarked upon a new program of Saturday morning amateur hours aired from the theatre over WEAU.

Three Seek to Appeal Mann Act Conviction

TERRE HAUTE, IND.—Attorneys for three persons convicted by a local federal court jury of violating the Mann (white slave) Act have asked the jury to withhold sentences temporarily pending efforts to obtain an appeal for their clients.

Convicted of transporting minor girls across state lines for immoral purposes in connection with a county fair show here, were Irving and Rose Lewis of Brooklyn and John Thomas Norton of Texas.

Defer Sentence on Charge Of Theatre Robbery

JEFFERSON, WIS. — Deliberating for less than three hours, a circuit court jury found Donald Cash guilty of robbing the Classic Theatre, Watertown, last February 26 of $290. Sentence was deferred pending motions.

Chouteau Is Victor

ST. LOUIS—A judgment of $7,020 in favor of Henri Chouteau, owner of the old World Theatre, against the City of St. Louis was affirmed by the St. Louis court of appeals on October 7. It was based on his suit to collect damages and special benefit assessments against his property on Delmar Blvd. involved in the widening of Delmar several years ago.

New Pact to Wally Klein

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has handed Wally Klein a new writing contract.

Air Memorial Service To Honor Laemmle

CHICAGO—A special memorial service in honor of the late Carl Laemmle was conducted Sunday night over the National Broadcasting Co. Dr. Louis L. Mann, nationally-known rabbi of Chicago's Temple Sinai, officiated. Charles Sears, NBC staff tenor, sang the traditional "Kadish." Gail Sullivan of Mayor Edward J. Kelly's staff read a memorial message. A similar message from Illinois' Governor Henry Horner also was read. Numerous Chicago film folk were among those in the studio audience who attended the ceremonies.

Capt. Julius Klein, newspaper man and formerly an assistant to Laemmle in old Universal days, supervised preparation of the program. In his eulogy he spoke of "Uncle Carl" as a patriot who cared for refugees of all countries, one who was a great humanitarian. He linked his former chief's name with that of another great humanitarian, the late Cardinal Mundelein, mentioning that both worked together for the foundation of the Legion of Decency. He added that "All Quiet on the Western Front" will always be a monument to Laemmle.

Dr. Louis Mann eulogized the late Universal founder as "universally and genuinely loved by all . . . He knew what loyalty meant, for he lived by the axiom that 'to have a friend is to be a friend' . . ."

Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, told how Laemmle rose from poverty and obscurity in Chicago to wealth, fame and power as a leader in the industry. He read a message of condolence from Gov. Henry Horner, which paid "sincere and regretful tribute to his memory."

The program was broadcast from the WMAQ studios over an NBC coast-to-coast network.

Start in Murphysboro

MURPHYSBORO, ILL.—Work has begun on the construction of the new Rodgers Theatre being erected here by I. W. Rodgers of Cairo, Ill. The house is being built at a cost of about $100,000 and will seat 1,200 when completed about March 1. George Hays, manager of the present Rodgers house here, also will manage the new house.

After a Street Car

GALESBURG, ILL.—T. J. Reed, Paramount director, in Galesburg to film a scene on the Knox College campus for "At Good Old Siwash," lodged a "squawk" with municipal authorities (their first of that type) over the substitution of motor buses for the trolley cars that used to run through the city's streets.

Buses, he said, were "out," and what he wanted urgently was an ancient street car of the early 1900 vintage.

"We can lay one section of track," he said, "but we must have a suitable trolley right away—and no lunchrooms converted from old street cars need apply."

ST. LOUIS

HARRY CRAWFORD, manager of F&M's Ambassador, was a guest speaker at a recent luncheon meeting of the local Scottish Rites Club. His topic: "My Experiences as an Actor, Broadway Producer and Theatre Manager."

Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., the setting for the famous Siwash College stories written by George Fitch, is all agog because a contingent from Hollywood has arrived at the school to film scenes for use in a picture based on the Fitch tales. Some 300 Knox students, it is expected, will be used in several of the scenes.

A new exploitation channel was uncovered by Harold W. "Chick" Evens, manager of Loew's, and Jimmy Harris, his advertising chief, when they effected a tie-up with the 165 filling stations of Continental Oil here to plug "Man in the Iron Mask." A board in front of each station was used to bear one sheets a week prior to opening of the film.

Recent chair installations were made by John Marlow for his new theatre in Herrin, Ill.; by the Lyric at East Prairie, Mo., and the Dix, Dixon, Ill.

Chicago Warner Club Dance October 27

CHICAGO—The Hallowe'en supper dance of the Warner Club has been set for the Panther Room of the College Inn, at the Hotel Sherman. The party will be Friday night, October 27, with music by Harry James and his orchestra.

The club is buying out the spot for the night, and everyone on Filmrow is invited at $2.50 per person.

Weinburg Calls Jitterbugs For Lions Club Function

INDIANAPOLIS—Nate Weinburg is busy these days assembling a team of the best "jitterbugs" in Indiana for a special act to be shown at the Lions Club charity ball in the Butler fieldhouse, October 25.

The new entertainment service formed recently in Indianapolis, National Broadcasters and Entertainers, headed by Miss Kay Kyser, also has contributed three acts.

Hollmann to Cleveland

ST. LOUIS—J. Z. Hollmann, one-time manager of the St. Louis division of the Celotex Corp. and recently on a leave of absence due to ill health, has been named division manager in Cleveland. He succeeded George J. Dinges, who has been transferred to the newly opened Atlanta division.

McLaglen-Cooper Starrer

HOLLYWOOD—Screenplay of "No Power on Earth," Jackie Cooper-Victor McLaglen co-starrer for Universal, will be written by William Hurlbut. Arthur Lubin will direct.

This Week We Meet . . .

THE BAILEY CIRCUIT

CHICAGO—A compact, well-operated circuit in deluxe fashion is the chain of five houses headed by H. U. Bailey of Princeton, Ill. And capably aiding him in operation of the Bailey Enterprises are John Bailey, his son, and Sam Traynor.

Both John Bailey and Traynor are general managers, John Bailey handling the general business of Bailey Enterprises, together with his dad, which includes the publication of the largest weekly circulated newspaper in the United States, the Bureau County *Republican*. Traynor spends his time buying and booking pictures, and in charge of operation of the theatre circuit.

H. U. Bailey has been in the publishing business ever since he can remember. For it was his father, in 1863, who purchased the Bureau County *Republican* from John Howard Bryant, brother of the famed William Cullen Bryant, the poet. The newspaper has been operated by the Bailey family for the last 75 years.

Mr. Bailey has been director of the Citizens' First National Bank in Princeton for 27 years, and a trustee of the Princeton First Methodist Church for 30 years. This month he attended as a lay delegate the Methodist District Conference in Chicago.

It was just three years ago that Bailey decided to enter the theatre business in Illinois. He has been interested in the theatre business for several years in Mangum, Okla. He hired Sam Traynor, who had been manager of the E. E. Alger Princeton Apollo Theatre, as general manager. Since then the Baileys have acquired five houses. They are the Minonk Theatre, Minonk; Capitol, Morrison; Stark, Toulon; Woodford, Eureka, and Tazewell, Washington. The last is their most recent house. All of the theatres are modern in construction; the Baileys own four of the buildings outright. All of the theatres are operated in deluxe manner as near as can be done in small towns.

John Bailey, who is married, and the father of a newly-born baby daughter, Nancy Jane, has been business manager of the *Republican* since 1930, when he graduated from the University of Wisconsin. Incidentally, the *Republican* has a net paid circulation of 7,200 per week; acknowledged the largest in America.

Both of the Baileys are considerably interested in their five theatres, but permit Traynor to handle operation himself. Before entering the theatre business, he was with the rival Princeton paper, the Bureau County *Tribune*. He still dabbles in reporting, being United Press correspondent in Princeton.

H. U. Bailey takes an active interest in business world, having been for seven years under Gov. Len Small, director of trade and commerce for the state of Illinois. He also is in the real estate business, and when wanting to get away from it all, will hie himself and a few friends off for duck hunting. Any evening, at home, however, he may be found at some friends' homes, or entertaining friends, at home, at bridge.

Takes Marseilles Mars; Closes the Ritz There

MARSEILLES, ILL.—Alliance Theatre Corp. of Chicago, headed by S. J. Gregory, has taken over the Mars Theatre here from A. R. Workman. Meanwhile, Alliance has closed its Ritz Theatre here, opening only on week-ends.

Harry Watts Is Back in Hospital for Checkup

KNIGHTSTOWN, IND.—Harry Watts, operator of the Alhambra Theatre here, has been returned to the hospital in New Castle for observation. However, he is expected to return home in a few days. Watts has been in ill health for some time.

Nate Blank Manager of Orpheum, Terre Haute

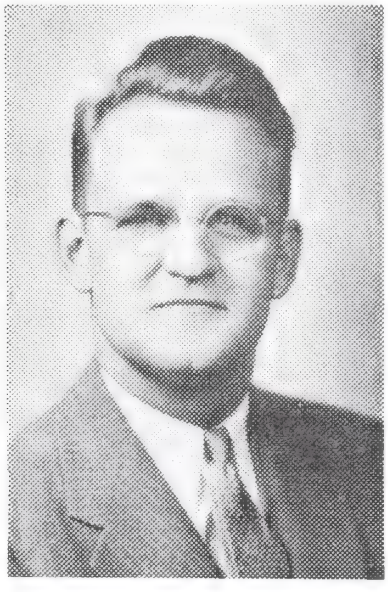
TERRE HAUTE, IND.—Nate Blank, for several years in the theatre business on the west coast, has been appointed manager of the Orpheum here, a newly-acquired link in the Gregory circuit.

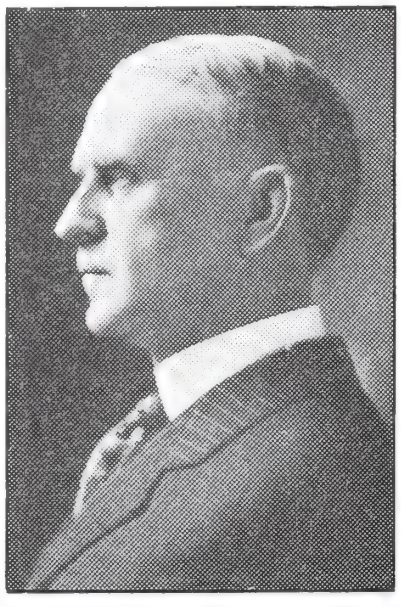
Re-equip a House

INDIANAPOLIS—Olson Theatres has just completed a re-equipment program on the Uptown here, managed by Al Hedding. Installations include a new screen, new seats, Neonized marquee and the latest in projection.

Rewarded for Performance

HOLLYWOOD—As a reward for her performance in "Espionage Agent," Brenda Marshall has been assigned the leading feminine role opposite Errol Flynn in Warner's "Virginia City."







They Operate the Circuit—

These three men are responsible for the Bailey Enterprises, Princeton, Ill. In the center is the head of the organization, H. U. Bailey. Left, is his son, John, general manager of the Bailey newspaper, the Bureau County Republican, *and right, is Sam Traynor, general manager of the Bailey theatres.*

Minneapolis Trade Is "Off" of Festivals

MINNEAPOLIS—Local theatremen are unlikely to cooperate in any other civic festival similar to the recently concluded century celebration which proved the worst sort of a dud as far as the showhouses were concerned.

Theatre owners contributed liberally to the fund to defray some of the celebration's large expenses and did their part otherwise. Then they took it on the chin at the boxoffice, and how.

In the first place, the theatre people say, the celebration attracted comparatively few transients and their business was hurt severely by the festival's counter attractions which weaned away their own regular customers.

Two large street parades were held and on those particular nights the theatres did next to nothing. Then the celebration had its own big show at the Auditorium twice a day for the week. At 15 cents matinee and 25 cents night admission it offered Vincent Lopez and Pinky Tomlin and their orchestras, an array of screen stars, a concert, dancing, pageants and acts of various sorts. It also gave a big ball at the Armory, Thursday night.

On behalf of Northwest Allied States, independent theatre owners' association, W. A. Steffes, president, protested to the celebration committee against the unfair Auditorium opposition. The protest was made several weeks before the celebration, but it went unheeded.

Now they're talking about making the festival an annual event. However, if the show people have any influence or anything to say about the matter it'll be no dice.

Record Number of Screen Players at Civic Event

MINNEAPOLIS—This city was host to the largest number of screen players ever to visit it at one time from Hollywood. They came, for the most part, to participate in the century celebration.

June Lang and Richard Carlson, former Minneapolitans, were much in evidence at the celebration doings. Paramount sent in Olympe Bradna, Susan Hayward, Patricia Morison and J. Carrol Naish for a day. Chester Morris also was on hand, playing a personal appearance engagement at the Orpheum.

Paramount gave a breakfast for its stars to which local newspaper men and exchange employes were invited. All of them and also Miss Lang and Mr. Carlson attended the Twin City Variety Club's first party of the season Thursday night.

The Paramount exchange also was visited by the screen players who were taken in tow by Ben Blotcky.

Paramount Screening Duo

MINNEAPOLIS—Paramount will hold an exhibitors' invitation screening of "Disputed Passage" and "Seventeen" at the Rialto here Monday, October 16.

Radio Competition Increasingly Severe, Complain Showmen

MINNEAPOLIS—Because there are so many top-flight comedians now on the air, exhibitors here claim that the radio opposition is getting worse.

Tightness of money makes the situation even more serious, the theatre men say. With so much good free entertainment available over the ether waves, prospective patrons are loath to spend money to attend the showhouse, it is claimed.

One neighborhood exhibitor, who made it a point to ask former patrons why they were absenting themselves, says he was told that they were remaining at home "because they didn't want to miss" the comedy radio programs on those particular nights.

This radio opposition is blamed in part by many of the exhibitors for the fact that their grosses are on the decline.

Decision Shortly in Ascap Test Case

LINCOLN—With filing of the state's findings in the recent anti-Ascap test case here in federal court, both sides have fulfilled orders from the bench, and the decision in the case, awaited since action was first filed in the summer of 1937, will be forthcoming shortly.

Ascap's legal crew was prompt in the documenting of its findings, but the state's side, drawn by William Hotz, an 86-page collection, came in just under the wire. Judges Gardner, Donohoe and Munger, who heard the case, asked for it by October 6, which was the date of the state's filing.

Hotz contends the $5,000 fine and year's jail for each violation is not too severe, and asks that Ascap contracts be considered not enforceable.

He wants the temporary restraining order dismissed, bill for injunction dismissed at plaintiff's cost, permanent injunction denied, and the society declared an unlawful, monopolistic organization operating in violation to Nebraska law.

Having expressed themselves as in a hurry to wind up the case, which is now more than two years old, it is expected the trio on the bench will have the decision by the first of November.

In any event, both Ascap and the state have said it will be carried to the supreme court.

Price-Buying Manifesting Itself in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—Theatre men here assert that patrons are becoming "price conscious." With business considerably below normal, the exhibitors profess to be greatly concerned over the development.

The fact that there have been two admission scale price reductions during the past fortnight has aggravated the worry. The Minnesota dropped from 30 cents to 25 cents for the mid-afternoon shows. The Orpheum scale for stage shows was reduced from 35 to 25 cents before 1 p. m. and from 40 to 35 cents from 1 to 5 p. m. In neither instance, however, was the night admission changed. Moreover, as far as can be learned no other scale slashes are contemplated in the loop or uptown at present.

Evidence of the public's price consciousness was found in the nature of the telephone inquiries received by the Orpheum prior to the Eddie Dundstedter one-day stage engagement. An unusual number of the inquirers wanted to know the admission prices.

Rogers Memorial Fund Portion to Fight Polio

KANSAS CITY—The Will Rogers Memorial Commission through its Kansas City committee Friday, October 6, presented to Frank H. Cromwell, chairman of the infantile paralysis foundation here, a check for $562.50. This is in line with the commission's announcement that a portion of the receipts from the 1939 Will Rogers campaign would be turned back to local institutions specializing in the care of handicapped children.

The committee, composed of James Winn, Warner branch manager, chairman; Arthur Cole, Paramount; Lawrence Lehman, Orpheum Theatre manager; George Fuller, 20th-Fox manager; Jerry Zigmond, Newman Theatre manager, and E. C. Rhoden, general manager for Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., was represented at the presentation by the first four.

Cole pointed out that Variety Club already is taking care of one child crippled by infantile paralysis, and Cromwell said that the foundation would be glad to have suggestions from the club of names of children who should have the care and medical attention for which the foundation was organized.

Attending the presentation also were Frank Marqua, treasurer of the foundation; Mrs. Samuel Sawyer, and Monroe Rubinger, Warner exploiteer.

Levy Says 20th-Fox Drive "Progressing Nicely"

MINNEAPOLIS—Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager and S. R. Kent drive leader, before departing for another swing around the country, reported that the drive is "progressing nicely." Said Levy: "Everyone apparently is pleased. That's some consolation." Because the pull, perhaps, is a little tougher, Levy explained, "everybody's working harder."

Kaycee Barkers Name Directorate of 11

KANSAS CITY—Under the new Variety Club plan of electing 11 directors who in turn elect their own officers, Monday night the following barkers were named:

Ward Scott, 20th-Fox district manager; Sam Abend, Film Delivery; Arthur Cole of Paramount; Finton Jones of the Travelers; Jay Means, Oak Park; Robert F. Withers, Republic-Midwest manager; Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newman; C. A. Schultz, head of Commonwealth Theatres; T. R. Thompson, manager of RKO; Charles E. Gregory, manager of National Screen Service, and Jim States, Paramount.

Arthur Cole and Sam Abend were elected delegates to the national convention of Variety to be held next April in Dallas; Earl Jameson and George Baker, the latter retiring chief barker, were named alternates.

Frank Hensler of Metro was elected national canvassman, contact man between the local and national tents, to hold office from the next national convention to the following one.

Past chief barkers of the Kansas City tent will be ex-officio members of the board of directors. The present plan contemplates that eventually each chief barker will serve in such ex-officio capacity for five years.

Movie Ball Committees

The annual Movie Ball will be held at Pla-Mor, Friday, November 10, Earl Jameson, general chairman, reported to barkers. Jameson has named the personnel of the important ball committees, which are:

General ticket sales: Sam Abend, chairman; C. E. Gregory, Reube Finkelstein, and Frank Hensler.

Entertainment: Jerry Zigmond, Barney Joffee and Frank Ritter.

Decorations: Ward Scott and members of the Cinema Club.

Radio advertising: Don Davis, chairman and Jay Means.

Program: Finton Jones, chairman; Norris Cresswell, Harold Lux, Arthur Cole, Jim Lewis, Charley Potter, C. E. Esterley, George Baker.

Table reservations: Douglas Desch, Monogram branch manager, who indicated reservations could be secured beginning Monday, October 16.

Decorative scheme of the Pla-Mor auditorium this year will be theatrical advertising of all companies in order to make it really a "movie" ball.

The first day of ticket sales Leon Abraham of RKO reported the sale of 52, and Jack Gregory of Altec, 16.

The club voted its thanks to the golf committee, T. R. Thompson and Bill Warner, for a profit on the recent golf tournament, which went to the club.

A dinner for barkers and their wives, to be held at the Interdenominational Home. has been tentatively planned, according to Arthur Cole, chairman of the welfare committee. At that time a complete report of the welfare work of the club will be explained; the girl with infantile paralysis whom the club is taking care of will be there. The dinner will be served by the girls in the home.

Mr. Cole explained that the club last week presented $100 to a fund to alleviate the distress of some 2,000 Kansas City school children who are undernourished and poorly clothed. The school board called attention to the serious need and Variety's contribution on the front page of the *Star*. The money will go to provide more milk for undernourished children, just as does the money from the Variety Club-Kansas City *Star* bowling tournament. More cooperation from the paper for that tournament was promised as the result of the $100 gift, Mr. Cole said.

Reporting on the bowling league, Jim Lewis said there was a need of at least eight or ten more bowlers to fill in on the eight teams, and he strongly urged more active support.

Due to unseasonable weather the games committee, composed of Bob Withers and Harold Lux, have postponed the billiard and ping pong tournament, which is scheduled for this fall.

Elson, Workman, Steffes To Dallas for Variety

MINNEAPOLIS — Bill Elson and W. H. Workman, both of them past chief barkers, will represent the Twin City Variety Club tent at the Variety clubs' national convention at Dallas next April. W. A. Steffes, who has just concluded two terms as chief barker, also will attend as national canvassman from Minneapolis on the national board of directors.

All three men were elected at the club's annual meeting here this week. Steffes' choice was unanimous, nominations for national canvassman being closed after his name's proposal. Elson led the ticket. Workman and Eddie Ruben were tied for second delegate and the latter stepped aside for the former and became an alternate. Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn., exhibitor, also was chosen an alternate.

The club also elected 11 directors. These directors will select from their own number all the officers for the ensuing year, including chief barker, assistant chief barker, treasurer and secretary. The directors are Gordon Greene, Bill Elson, W. H. Workman, Eddie Ruben, Ben Blotcky, Joe Podoloff, Gilbert Nathanson, J. L. Stern, Harry Dryer, "Hy" Chapman and Bill Donnelley. The last named and A. A. Feinberg were tied and Feinberg gave way to Donnelley.

It was announced the club would be host to St. Paul city and county officials at a dinner the evening of November 2. Members will be permitted to invite guests, but the affair will be stag.

The club deferred action regarding the choice of a charity, for which it is proposed to raise a minimum of $22,000 during the next 12 months. There have been a large number of proposals and the charity committee will deliberate on these before making a recommendation to the entire membership.

L. M. Kenyon Buys Parkway

GREENWOOD, WIS.—L. M. Kenyon has taken over the Parkway Theatre here from A. J. Gehrman.

Fox Isis Reopening Is Joyous Event

KANSAS CITY—Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., reopened its completely rebuilt and remodeled Isis October 6. Many exhibitors and film men took advantage of the occasion to pay their respects to Morrill Moore, manager; Lon Cox, district manager, and other Fox Midwest officials who attended the opening.

Ben Kendrick's band, retained by the merchants of the district, played from 7 o'clock on; the theatre canopy was mounted with a loud speaker system to ballyhoo the new house and to comment on film and theatre figures as they arrived or departed, and merchants maintained open house for the crowds till late in the evening. The street was jammed with thousands of persons attending the festivities, and the theatre was full for both performances of "Hollywood Cavalcade," the picture previewed at the opening.

Highlight of the opening, aside from the theatre itself, was the voice of Lew Lehr, which gave the opening night audience a special welcome to the Isis.

While the theatre is laid out on the same basic plan as before the fire which almost completely destroyed it this spring, that is, stadium type, spacing, etc., it looks, as it is, a new house, one of the most attractive in the middle west. Decoration, lighting and seats, plus sound and screen, make the theatre as new as tomorrow.

The house will operate on a 30-cent policy, with the Apollo down the street continuing at 25 cents.

Hollingsworth, Branching Out, Takes Lincoln Fox

LINCOLN—Frank Hollingsworth of Beatrice, Neb., has branched out his theatre holdings to acquire the Fox, which until October 1 was leased by Fox Midwest.

Hollingsworth has had the Rialto, a second-run spot in Beatrice, for several years. He formerly had the Grand in Wymore, Neb., but sold it prior to negotiations for the Fox.

The theatre will be closed and will undergo some remodeling before Hollingsworth opens it on a first-run policy.

It is understood Fox Midwest objected to the rental figure of around $400 monthly, wanting it halved until such time as Beatrice, which is the largest shut-Sunday town in the state, carried the Sunday show issue successfully.

Oliver Will Join Brother In Springfield Firm

KANSAS CITY—Charley Oliver, booker for Universal, resigned last week to go to Springfield, Mo., where he will be in business with his brother. Charley has been in the film business for 19 years, having served with Universal since 1933, with Metro and with RKO prior to that.

LINCOLN

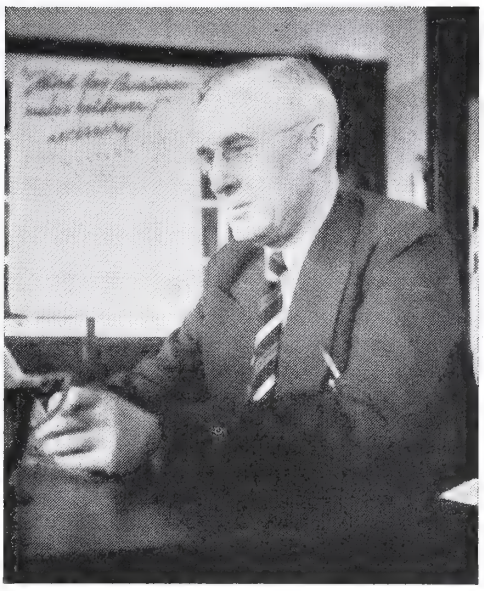
PINKY TOMLIN, the screen actor, songwriter and band leader, comes in here to play a dance job at King's Ballroom, October 20 . . . Lincoln chamber of commerce already has written to Richard Rowland, the United Artists producer, attempting to gain the nod for the world premiere of "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop" for Lincoln. It's practically Bess Streeter Aldrich's home town, and she's the author . . . Proof the Nebraska football team does not excite 'em as of old: Showmen here had less calls to buy football tickets for visiting filmers for this year's Minnesota game than ever before.

Evert Cummings was in town with a party of seven to watch the first home pigskin tussle . . . Sid Rose was worried all week about accommodations that would suit his bosses and friends . . . The different exploitation man is Speed Lambert, of Metro: He never bothers newspapermen . . . Russell Egner, RKO's branch managing father of twins, says the twins have entered Omaha U and won't come to Nebraska until later . . . Bob Livingston is going to buy one of those plush-cushioned 71 Buicks, and will park it in front of the Colonial. That way, he figures if anybody's film rental is raised, it'll be George O. Monroe's, not his.

Bob Huffman, having booked the reissue of "All Quiet," looks for it to do big business here . . . Klara Cook, phone answering personality gal at the Lincoln Theatres Corp. offices, has been replaced by Dottie McCullough . . . Ominous note from the outlands: Local WPA state offices are getting 300 requests a day from people who want WPA berths this winter . . . Howard Federer is still waiting for T. B. Noble jr., in Oklahoma City, to send him back the top-coat T. B. borrowed last November . . . Last year, when Alvin Hendricks was manager of the Varsity, the house had usherettes, but this year, with Bill Knight as manager, every aisle is manned by husky lads. Bill is a married man, and it's simpler that way.

Harvey Traylor says many a man, given enough rope, has tied a matrimonial knot with it . . . A. F. Bull, who uses the trade name of Francisco, and does a spook show, was found to have set a record take for his type of act, at the Lincoln . . . Now that Frank Hollingsworth, Beatrice, has branched out and taken on an A house, he's bidding on some of the fancier residences of the town . . . Ed Vaughan is doing his Christmas shopping early. He bought the sock to hang up.

Lou Finske, whose division no longer embraces Lincoln for J. H. Cooper, resigned last week as one of the members of the welfare fund group for Lincoln Theatres Corp. Fund is made up of nickel assessments on all passes, to be used by employes in need. His place on the board was taken by Vincent DiFiore, the Paramount man, and the other two members are Bob Huffman and Charlie Shire. Vote of any two on any case carries.



For Sack in Kaycee—

W. L. Norris, veteran independent distributor in the Kansas City territory, who has taken over the Sack Amusement Enterprises franchise for that area. The company has 24 all-Negro features ready for distribution.

Central Equipment Co.'s New Offices All Ready

KANSAS CITY — The Central Theatre Equipment Co. is now ensconced in its beautiful new offices at 115 West 18th St., it is announced by Ernest C. Leeves, general manager. The company handles Mirrophonic sound, Motiograph projectors, International seats, Ashcraft lamps and other equipment.

Another division is operated in conjunction with the equipment business known as the General Lighting Service. P. O. Lanhan and W. B. Marquis are in charge. The service includes fluorescent lamps from Metalcraft Industries of St. Joseph, Mo.

Also employed are George Kraus as mechanic in the service department and Miss Martha Dozier, formerly of the Kansas City Slide Co., as secretary. Kraus was formerly with the Kansas City Sound Service.

CIO Pickets "Citizen" at The Capitol, Davenport

DAVENPORT, IA.—Two CIO pickets Wednesday night were patrolling the entrance to the Capitol Theatre here where "Our Leading Citizen," starring Bob Burns, was being shown.

The pickets, representatives of the Farm Equipment Workers union, carried signs reading: " 'Our Leading Citizen' is Anti-Union."

Union officials said the show had been picketed in numerous other cities in recent weeks "because of certain incidents in the story."

KAYCEE

A THEATRE man was asked the other day about a certain picture.

"Oh, it's a good picture. Why, you should see . . ." and he proceeded to give an enthusiastic account of some of the sequences.

The man who asked the question went in to see the film. When he came out, he was a little miffed:

"Good Lord, man, did you ever see a *bad* picture?"

"Why, yes . . ." and after cogitating a few minutes the theatre man turned up with three pictures he honestly could call bad—three out of the literally thousands that he has seen!

"Well, maybe I'm in the right business after all," he comforted himself afterward. "When they're made, I can't do anything about them—if I were the best critic in the world. All I can do is tell people what's good about them."

Along Filmrow: Shields Wilson, Camden, Camdenton, Mo.; Abe Shafer, Shafer, Edgerton, Mo.; J. H. Whitted, Weston, Mo.; Charles Lancaster, Strong City and Cottonwood Falls, Kas.; Virgil Green, La-Plata, Mo.; Frank Weary, Richmond, Mo.; Jess and Earl Binney, Pattonsburg, Mo.; Frank Anderson, Kirksville, Mo.; Stan Schwahn, Lawrence, Kas.; J. W. Davis, Higginsville, Mo.

Chet Hylton, Fox Midwest booker, celebrated his umpth birthday October 5 . . . Buddy Brown, another Fox Midwest booker, departed last week via TWA for a vacation in West Virginia.

H. H. Daniels has sold the Nu-Era at Oswego, Kas., to Nick Kotsis. Nick also has the Holden, Holden, Mo. . . . The Rialto, Marysville, Kas., formerly operated by Leonard Smith, now is being operated by Arnold Kloxin.

Hazeljoy Ralph spent last week on vacation in her home town, Newton, Kas. . . . Earl Jameson and Joe Jacobson were scheduled to leave early this week for Canada and a hunting trip.

Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc., has moved into its new offices on the third floor of 3525 Broadway. The enlarged space was laid out especially to fit the circuit's office needs.

Triple bill of the week, at the Lind-

(Continued on page 83)

QUALITY POPCORN

The Best Is the Cheapest
SOUTH AMERICAN JUMBO
HYBRID PROCESS JAP HULLESS
Iowa's Finest Corn
FLAV-O-NUT SEASONING
— The Best —
A Pure, Sweet, Neutral Cocoanut Oil, Well Colored
Distributor of Cretors Popcorn Machine
POPPERS' SUPPLY CO.
RUBE MELCHER
1717 Wyandotte GR 0672
Kansas City, Mo.

DES MOINES

WE sat quietly at the Moulin Rouge performance wearing a white gardenia and a black eye (both presented by the same guy). The black eye didn't keep us from noticing the place was teeming with Filmrowers.

Harry Holdsberg and Emil Franke were the two fellows behind us making all those interesting comments. Harry was discovered when our compact rolled under his seat and he gallantly retrieved it. Emil was nuts about the midget-adult dance act and seemed to know all the performers (we have ears in the back of our head, Emil). The ultra-smart Mrs. Franke, whom we spotted smoking in the lobby, sat elsewhere, but we observed the Frankes happily reunited at Thompson's after the show.

Who was that handsome gal Jess Carter escorted to the Shrine? . . . We saw the Don Wests go out for a breath of fresh air . . . Abe Frankle was there with his showman's haircut . . . Ray Blank exchanged "Hi's" with Ken Clayton . . . We missed Art Anderson, but maybe Art prefers only the better things and doesn't waste his dough on the leg shows.

John LeRoy Johnston, Walter Wanger's "most conservative press agent in Hollywood," is also one of the most widely informed. We decided that maybe the producers do have a few little problems after we'd listened to Johnston's discourse on salaries, labor difficulties and the terrific expense involved in getting one little bunny to chase another little bunny for the camera in "Eternally Yours." Johnston was so tired by his labors he reclined on the bed and wearily twisted a piece of string (he hurled this onto the floor when we told him the occupation reminded us of a sideshow imbecile we'd seen once) . . . Johnston wears the most comfortable-looking three-eyelet shoes, and they are only size 6! He likes red-skinned salted peanuts, seldom drinks, never smokes and says BOXOFFICE *is a very progressive publication. A right guy, you see. Burton Jerrel dropped in to see Johnston just as we were leaving. We're not sure, but we think Jerrel was insinuating that we're not the most ethical columnist in the world. He said he'd take it back when we were gone. Did you, Burton?*

Speed Lambert telephoned about the carriage Metro is bringing here from the Land of Oz. Wanted us to arrange for the kiddies at St. Joseph's to see it . . . Too bad some of these theatre people, who think Clayton tries to keep their stuff out, couldn't have seen him frothing at the mouth Saturday because a tight section required cutting and somebody suggested doing it on theatre stuff rather than society slush. To see the hair stand up on Ken's back, and hear him yowl with rage, you'd have thought he owned a half-interest in Tri-States.

When you look at that portrait exhibit in Younker's tearoom foyer, pick out the prettiest youngster, then look up her identification. You'll find she is Nancy Branton, G. Ralph's pride and joy . . . Art Catlin, United Artists' witch doctor, is the most youthful looking p.a. we've met, and he undoubtedly ranks way up there as pleasant company.

Pinky Tomlin's band, which recently made a short called "Boy Meets Joy," with Joy Hodges, played at the Tromar here Thursday . . . Mrs. George Clark may bring John Barrymore in "My Dear Children" back here in November for the teachers' convention . . . Clayton received the screen tests Paramount made of Iowa's redhead, also a test made of Father Gannon's youthful DM songbird . . . Film Transportation's Eddie Marchack sent cards back from Louisville and New Orleans and now he's back himself . . . Frances White, WPA art project head for Iowa, has gone to Hollywood to draw mice for Disney at very scant bucks per week.

Ask Jerry Banta at Metro to tell you about that mysterious piece of lingerie he found in his backyard Saturday . . . We received a lovely letter from Anna "Nurse Edith" Neagle in New York saying she decided to remain in this country because British authorities have instructed her that her services are not needed in England. She reported Barret McCormick as being delighted to hear that he went over so big in DM, and asked that we give Clayton (Mr.) her kindest regards (kindest regards in a British accent and a sweet voice, Mr. Clayton) . . . We saw Jerry Spandau (who was she, Jerry?) eating steak at the Silhouette Saturday night.

En route to Paramount screening room to view a "March of Time" we encounter Joe Smith on the sidewalk near Des Moines Theatre Supply . . . Bert Thomas waves from the Republic window . . . Al Schuyler is too busy gabbing on the National Theatre threshold to see anybody . . . Perkins is hauling his little red wagon down the street singing cheerfully (and tunelessly) to himself . . . Dorothy Day scuttles out of Paramount and is gone in a flash.

Looking Ahead

LINCOLN—Two of his trusted employes and his wife will split up ownership of the Capitol Theatre, according to the terms of Bob Livingston's will, which was drawn this week.

Livingston, saying he expected to be around to run the joint a long time yet, drew the will leaving 40 per cent of the house to Mrs. Livingston, 30 per cent to Mrs. Avis Rutherford, his secretary and office manager, and 30 per cent to Roy McGraw, senior projectionist.

In event of death of either of the 30 per cent receivers, the holding will be shared alike by the other two, yet Mrs. Livingston can give her 40 per cent to anyone she wants to.

Awake to Fame

STATE CENTER, IA.—A lone horse hobbled down Main St. here at dawn Saturday.

The limited populace awoke some time later to discover a strange thing had befallen State Center. The good folk formed in knots about the street to determine whether to be mad or glad.

What had happened? This: The films of Hollywood had handed State Center the dubious honor of being the most typically "one-horse town" in America!

The reward is the world premiere of the Warner picture, "Pride of the Blue Grass," which stars the blind "wonder horse" Elmer Gantry.

A committee of State Center citizens had sent Warner Bros. the following qualifications to win the toss:

State Center has about 1,000 population.

It is a flagstop on the Northwestern.

The one-man police force uses a 1920 Model T (when the volunteer fire department isn't using the lizzy for a fire).

Horse-trading is the chief local industry.

The premiere will be given in the only local theatre, the State.

Mayor J. G. Gutekunst wasn't to be found Saturday, and it may be he hasn't yet learned he is mayor of a one-horse town. Volunteer Fire Chief Walter Eckhardt set out at once when he learned of State Center's plight, to try to scare up a second horse.

Editor Marshall Watson said he couldn't recall seeing the one horse recently, but prepared to get out an edition next week to the effect that if State Center is going to be a one-horse town it's got to be the best of them. He will use the Hollywood label as a starting point.

There was some talk, in view of Saturday's development, of rolling up the sidewalks a half hour earlier from here on.

And the milkman said his horse will hobble down Main St. at dawn again tomorrow, again too early for Editor Watson to see it.

But not too early for Roy T. Hill, local exhibitor. Roy kidnapped the horse, and appeared at Warner Bros. in Des Moines to pick up his film Tuesday afternoon. BOXOFFICE was on hand to get pictures of Roy trying to read the hoss to sleep with her column.

Not Blaming Hollywood

LINCOLN — W. N. Youngclaus, owner-manager of the Island, Grand Island, Neb., is not blaming Hollywood product for the stench within his theatre, and he went to the source this week.

A neighbor is a butcher, who has been given to smoking meats on the lot back of the theatre every day, so Youngclaus went to court and gained an injunction against the operation of the smokehouse from noon to mid-night daily, the time his theatre is open.

Fumes of burning hickory, coupled with singed ham, makes luscious nasal traffic around mealtimes, but it's hard to cue it with a sound track and get the best results.

KAYCEE

(Continued from page 81)

bergh: "Double Danger," "Almost a Gentleman" and "Night Riders."

Finton Jones knows when to be out of town. He was in southern Missouri week before last when called on the new county grand jury. Even so, he has to report and be ready in case they need him.

There was a splendid turnout at the trade showing of Paramount's "Disputed Passage" and "Seventeen" at the Apollo Monday afternoon. A lot of out-of-town exhibitors made the trip to Filmrow, especially to be here for the showing.

John McManus, manager of the Midland, recently was elected a director of the Kiwanis Club here.

Jack D. Goldhar, United Artists district manager, is visiting in Kansas City.

Screenland Cafe customers are missing the smiling face of Juanita Lowman, who quit her job last Saturday after five years service.

Allen Wright, former manager of the Byam Theatre, is now employed at Joe Green's Raymond Theatre in Pasadena, Cal. Green, formerly with the Fulton circuit here, is now producing a picture in color called "Trail Blazer," starring Claire Windsor.

Paul Humston's Kansas City Sound Service has been appointed western Missouri distributor for Erpi 16mm class room films.

E. M. Hartley, head of the National Theatre Supply's sound department, New York City, was here this week visiting J. Walter Shreve, manager of the local branch.

L. J. Kimbriel of the Oklahoma Theatre Supply reports the sale of 500 new Heywood-Wakefield seats to Miss Grace Russell of the Lake Theatre, Storm Lake, Ia.; 850 seats to Earl Kerr for his new house at Marshalltown, Ia., and 500 new seats and 150 yards of carpet to Charles and Meta Barron for their rebuilt Kansan, Pratt, Kas.

On the Row: Nick Kotsis, Holden, Mo., and Oswego, Kas.; Jack Johnston, who formerly operated the Ritz, McPherson, Kas.; George Hayob, Marshall, Mo.; J. H. Whitted, Weston, Mo.; H. A. Porta, Humansville, Mo.; E. A. Peterson, Plaza, Greenfield, Mo.; J. E. Pennington, Topeka, Kas.; Ray Cook, Maryville, Mo.; John Courter, Gallatin, Mo.; C. A. Botkin, Harper, Kas.; L. O. "Bob" Ringler, Peabody, Kas.; Tom Edwards, Eldon, Mo.

L. B. Coleman, auditor for Paramount, New York, was here the past week.

Twentieth Century-Fox held a trade screening of "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Dickinson, Beloit, Kas., Thursday afternoon, October 12. George Fuller, branch manager, was in charge, and the affair was attended by approximately 50 exhibitors, including H. J. Griffith, Glen W. Dickinson, Finton Jones, among others.

Don Davis Still Leading Variety Bowling League

KANSAS CITY—Don Davis is still leading the Variety Bowling League, even after three postponed games with Warner Bros. Dubinsky is in second place after winning two from the Barkers. In the last matches Cinema Club lost two to Film Delivery. National Screen won two from Finton Jones.

Cinema Club	726	913	698	2327
Film Delivery	758	724	771	2253
National Screen	661	690	713	2064
Finton Jones	653	645	732	2030
Dubinsky Bros	845	841	780	2477
Barkers	867	764	753	2384

Warner Bros.
Don Davis ..... Postponed

TEAM STANDINGS

	Won	Lost	Pct.
Don Davis	11	1	917
Dubinsky Bros.	10	5	667
Film Delivery	8	7	533
National Screen	8	7	533
Barkers	7	8	467
Cinema Club	4	11	267
Finton Jones	4	8	333
Warner Bros.	2	7	222

OCTOBER 21 SCHEDULE

Barkers vs. National Screen.....Alleys 19-20
Finton Jones vs. Dubinsky Bros...Alleys 21-22
Warner Bros. vs. Film Delivery....Alleys 23-24
Don Davis vs. Cinema Club.....Alleys 25-26

INDIVIDUAL HIGH SCORES

M. Anderson, 212; Hoffman, 205; L. Abraham, 205.

Waverly to H. Van Sloan

WAVERLY, MINN.—H. Van Sloan has bought the Waverly Theatre and will operate it. The former owner is Ray Lyman.

Minnesota Opposition Distressing Loop

By B. O. TELLER

MINNEAPOLIS — Loop showmen aren't feeling too good about the Minnesota Theatre opposition. They contend that the 4,000-seater, reopened with big stage shows and independent feature photoplays at 15-25-30 cents admission, is in, effect, a subsidized project because it is being operated for the ground and building owners and no rental whatsoever is charged against operations. Moreover the salary of Gordon Greene, managing director, is being paid by the Benz company which is operating the theatre.

While the Minnesota is by no means setting the world afire, its business apparently satisfies its operators, for the initial 10-week trial period has been extended to Jan. 1, 1940, with indications that, if the present pace is maintained, another indefinite extension will occur.

It is pointed out that while the Minnesota gross at the present scale does not run into large figures the house plays to a considerable number of people weekly. The feeling is that most of those people are taken away from the other theatres.

Other showhouses are at a disadvantage because substantial rental charges must be covered by their operations, the theatremen say.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.
Blowers, washers, spray nozzels, office and home units.
Special Offer—Priced to Sell.
Why Pay More?
G. A. Peterson
VIctor 4075 316 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, Mo.

A. A. Electric Machinery Co.
Ernest Amoneno, Mgr.
1117 Cherry St. Phone: Victor 8796

Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co.
Distributors for
RCA, Brenkert, U. S. Air, Heywood-Wakefield
126 West 18th St. GR. 2864 Kansas City, Mo.
708 West Grand Ave. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.
1804 Wyandotte St.
C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't
Wichita, Kas.
C. D. Peck, Mgr. Phone 2-2153

EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

Independent Theatre Owners Association
1214 Brush Creek Road — VAlentine 2770
E. E. Webber jr., Pres. John Wolfberg, Sec.

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
Frank Cassil, Pres. Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

AIR CONDITIONING

National Air Conditioning and Engineering Corp.
VI. 3535
213 West 19th St.—Kansas City, Mo.
Manufacturing—Engineering—Installation

SOUND SERVICE

K. C. SOUND SERVICE
Syncrofilm Sound Equipment and Service
1818 Wyandotte St.
W. P. Humston HA 4783

SCREEN PUBLICITY

Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: HIland 2694

MINNEAPOLIS

EXHIBITORS who attended the 20th-Fox invitation screening of "Hollywood Cavalcade" were tickled pink with the picture. The Columbia invitation screening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" also had the exhibitors raving. And the boys still are singing the praises of M-G-M's "Babes in Arms" and "Ninotchka," which also were given special screenings.

The debonair Lowell Kaplan of the Eddie Ruben forces entertained the glamorous Ruth Petty, featured singer in the Minnesota Terrace . . . Harold Lyons, 20th-Fox salesman, feeling like a million dollars in that flashy new car, a flaming red Buick, but still happiest when the weekend rolls around and he's united with his roommate, Tommy Charek, Warner salesman. They're a Damon and Pythias pair . . . Harold B. Johnson, Universal salesman, back on the job, but still weak after that nine days' flu and bronchitis siege. He was in Chicago this week for a district sales meeting.

Phil Monsky in town from Omaha with a new quiz game that provided some local exhibitors lots of fun in their own offices, at least . . . "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, introduced Bruce Robinson, *This Week* magazine representative, at a luncheon at the Hotel Nicollet, the pair taking much pride in a color ad for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," which is running in that widely read publication . . . The mother of Irving Gillman, Esquire Theatre owner, seriously ill at Rochester, Minn.

Joe Floyd manager of the Hollywood, Sioux Falls, S. D., in Minneapolis to see the sights . . . Mannie Goodman, the "Valance" man, was among those who took the Nebraska win over Minnesota the hard way. And he doesn't even hail from around here. Ben Blotcky of Paramount and Abe Kaplan and George and Arnold Crance, exhibitors, were also among the sadder but wiser spectators at the Lincoln gridiron tussle . . . Harry Sherman, the Minneapolis-New York commuter, on the eastward lap at this writing after setting his vaudeville unit shows into the Minnesota Theatre and several other additional spots.

Ben Ashe, who recently moved into town from Fergus Falls, Minn., so that he could assist Bennie Berger with the latter's big independent circuit, confesses that he doesn't mind being back in the traffic zone, but complains that he can't find enough cribbage players here . . . Faces we miss along Hennepin Ave.: Joe Jacobs, Frank Mantzke, Bill Shartin and Rud Lorentz. All these former local film men now are located elsewhere.

The entire membership of the Fiddlers Club, junior theatre men's organization, was at the train to meet the conquered Minnesota football team on its return from Lincoln, Neb. Good losers, eh? . . . Dick Wagner, veteran Sioux Falls, S. D., showman, is lining up a portable circuit which will include Indian reservations exclusively . . . Eddie Carter, old-time vaudevillian, ill at Asbury hospital here . . . Ben Spewak back from the World's Series and claims to have had his money on the right team.

Don Galinski, formerly with Warner here and in Omaha, back in Minneapolis and taking a fling at the department store business . . . Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; A. G. Gunn, Rice Lake, Minn.; Charlie Connaught, Olivia, Minn.; H. C. Van Sloan and G. R. Lyman, the new and old owner, respectively, at Waverly, Minn.; Andy Anderson, Detroit Lakes, Minn., and Lewis Handy, Preston, Minn.

Eddie Ruben, independent circuit operator, went duck hunting with Bert Baston, University of Minnesota assistant football coach . . . F. T. Murray, Universal home-office manager of branch operations, spent a week here . . . Joe Podoloff, 20th-Fox branch manager, has been advised by his home office that "Drums Along the Mohawk," forthcoming release, is even better than "Hollywood Cavalcade" and one of the finest pictures the company ever has made.

Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn., exhibitor, escaped injury when another motorist ran into his new car while he was en route to Minneapolis. The auto was badly battered . . . Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, a visitor . . . Charlie Weiner, the Monogram man, on a fortnight trip through the territory . . . Max Mazur, Columbia salesman, after closing practically all of his out-of-town accounts now is contracting Twin City exhibitors.

Lee Dibble, sales manager of Ten-O-Win, in from San Francisco to visit National Screen which distributes the game in this territory . . . Morrie Steinman, Monogram salesman, nursing injuries sustained in an auto accident . . . Dave Bader, National Screen salesman, on a special trip into the northern Michigan wilds . . . "Nickey" Goldhammer, RKO district manager, visited the Omaha and Des Moines exchanges . . . Jack Flynn, M-G-M district manager, came to town to attend the local branch's "Victory Dinner" celebrating its landing of top honors in its district and second place in the entire United States in the M-G-M "Summer Championship Drive."

Jack De Wahl, RKO home office representative, a visitor . . . A drunken driver smashed into Gene Meredith's new Packard (it's only two weeks old), heavily damaging the Warner accountant's car . . . Jay Haas, Paramount ad sales manager, in town . . . Stella Cameron of the Warner office staff, took advantage of her vacation to get married. After the honeymoon-vacation she'll return to the job . . . Ben Blotcky back from a successful trip through the territory and reporting that exhibitors are pleased with the Paramount lineup.

Danny Matin, formerly a film man here and now residing in Seattle, a visitor . . . Lou Hummel, Paramount southern Minnesota salesman, driving a new Olds . . . Paramount house managers and employes wore old-time costumes during the city's century celebration . . . J. L. Stern, the Bank Night man, serving on the jury . . . Harry Dryer, the exhibitor, treated the Variety Club bunch with some of his wife's delicious chopped herring . . . Mort H. Singer and his general manager, Morgan Ames, in town briefly to visit Bill Sears, Orpheum manager . . . Bill Crystal, RKO salesman, ill with the flu.

Church Advertises Free "Movies"

Minneapolis—The public is asked to "spend Sunday nights from now on at church" by the Friends Church in large newspaper amusement column display ads. The ads promise "movies, drama and music." The film attraction, "Creation," is described in the ads as "an excellent talkie;" the drama, "'Honest Doc,' delightful comedy on stage."

Johnston Bemoans The Headlines

Des Moines—John LeRoy Johnston, publicity head for Walter Wanger, points out another unfortunate effect the present international situation is having on the home market:

"Unsettled conditions abroad have not only cut out our market completely in some countries and reduced it to almost nothing in others, but has hampered adequate exploitation of our product here in America. The war news crowds out film stories, which could easily be justified to any newspaper man under ordinary circumstances. But how can even the finest film be expected to steal space from a sensational show which has been playing to world-wide audiences since the beginning of time?"

Tri-States' New Ingersoll Has Preview Opening

DES MOINES—Local theatre people were privileged to see Tri-States' new Ingersoll Theatre Monday, October 2, at a 20th-Fox screening of "Hollywood Cavalcade" before it was opened to the public Thursday, October 5.

The seating arrangement is the outstanding feature of construction. By placing a double "love seat" at the end of every other row, the rest of the seats are staggered so that each person has a view between the two persons ahead.

The theatre design does away with the inner lobby. The schedule for the new Ingersoll calls for a change of bill each Thursday, Sunday and Tuesday.

Bruce Shelton, former assistant manager of the Des Moines, will manage the theatre.

Buys "Gold Star Mothers"

HOLLYWOOD—Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp. has purchased film rights to "Gold Star Mothers," a story by William Ulman jr.

OMAHA

SOL YEAGER has resigned as salesman at the RKO layout . . . Mary Francis, Monogram, took a vacation trip to Minneapolis . . . Chick Friedman, National Screen Service, Des Moines, was on the Row with a big new car . . . Louise Cotter, Brandeis press agent, was home due to illness but is all right now.

Mickie Larson, Majestic Theatre, Oakland, Neb., was on Filmrow for the first time in four years. Larson has been an exhibitor for over 30 years and is well known to exhibitors in the Omaha area. Larson said he noticed a "lot of changes on Filmrow."

Lou Levy, Grand National boss, here this week . . . Harold and Hazel Dunn, Jewel, Valentine, Neb., on the Row for the first time in several weeks. It's about time for a fishing trip, isn't it, Harold? . . . Frank Good, Iowana, Red Oak, Ia., also in town after a vacation trip.

Regina Molseed, RKO booker, said that Gordon P. Held purchased the Strand Theatre, Griswold, Ia., from his father, P. G. Held. The senior Held has been in the theatre business over 23 years and has been at his present location over 13 years. Now he'll have more time for traveling and fishing, his favorite sports.

Faye and Lloyd Honey, exhibitors at Tecumseh, Neb., a smartly dressed father-and-son pair in bright green suits. Lloyd tells us he's building a home for himself and family at Tecumseh . . . John Winn, Grand National booker, has been ill.

Congrats to Wayne Stephenson, Paramount booker, on a birthday . . . Donald Vernon McLucas, United Artists boss, a birthday . . . Hazel Petty and Opal Woodson, United Artists, birthdays . . . Louis Kozal, Tri-States artist, a birthday . . . Milton Swift and Etta Tatelman, Warner, birthdays.

Harold Conroy, Roxie, Shelton, Neb., also had a birthday this week . . . Also Carsten Gehlsen, veteran exhibitor at Burke, S. D. . . . Also Alton Smith, youthful exhibitor at Murray, Ia. . . . And Marvin Fosse, Grand, Wellman, Ia., and Carl Parsons, Avon, Keota, Ia.

Brandeis Theatre celebrated a sixth anniversary this week. When Manager Will Singer opened the house in 1933 everyone told him he'd be closed in 60 days. Secondly, he expected to stay in Omaha three weeks and he's been here ever since . . . Some interesting sidelights on Singer: He's been in the business about 46 years . . . His full name is Adolph William Singer . . . He likes to handicap horses, merely as a pastime, of course!

No new developments on the Goldberg-Tri-States squabble, but something expected soon . . . Omaha exhibitors, both downtown and suburbans, having plenty of trouble with heavy competition with night football, legit, sponsored shows and what not.

Have had requests for more columns on exhibitors' hobbies . . . One wiseacre wanted to know if Charlie Williams, prexy of the MPTO of Nebraska and western Iowa, follows any other sport besides poker playing . . . Also what's the lowdown on Freddie Horn, Columbia salesman, and what about Joe Smith, new RKO peddler, who's hiding something . . . Don't get shut out, watch this column for developments and over-exposures.

The Nod to Trade

LINCOLN—The chamber of commerce asked the amusement business to sit down for a roundtable on how to boost the sustaining activity fund of the chamber for 1940—and the session rounded out into a generous gob of name-calling.

On one side of the table sat Bob Huffman, city manager of the Lincoln Theatres Corp. with R. H. Pauley, operator of the Turnpike Casino, dance spot, while opposing them were Howard Federer, Nebraska Theatres, Inc., and Bob Livingston, Capitol.

The session took on unexpected complexion when Pauley took a poke at the chamber for constantly gigging the populace to get out crowds for Western League baseball through the summer, taking the stand that if the team wasn't getting support, it was no more the chamber's place to front for it than for his dancery if it wasn't making enough to pay off. Huffman took a similar stand, indicating night baseball, hard or soft, was a tremendous summer competition. Federer and Livingston champed hard ball, but agreed softball was a menace to business.

So far, the chamber still doesn't know how it stands on getting amusement money in the sustaining fund.

Around 25 Filmites Attend Cook's Tivoli Opening

MARYVILLE, Mo.—C. E. "Doc" Cook opened his new Tivoli Theatre here with a formal bow to the public and a special party for members of the industry. Doc reserved the Country Club for industry guests, and served refreshments during the afternoon. A loge was reserved in the theatre for industry guests during the evening. The program included a stage show.

Approximately 25 from the theatre and film business attended the opening, including R. R. Biechele and Dick Liggett, Kansas City, Kas.; W. E. Truog and J. M. Robertson, Earl Jameson and Sam Abend, Walt Shreve and Frances Keilhack, Ben Marcus and Bill Bradfield, Doug Desch and Stan Goldberg, Charley Gregory, L. J. Kimbriel, Ernie Leeves, Joe Maguire, and Rube Melcher from Filmrow; R. D. Strickler, Craig, Mo.; the Frank Cassils of St. Joseph, Mo., and others.

Changed to Esquire

MINNEAPOLIS—Irving Gillman's sure-seater has had its name changed from the Time to the Esquire. A contest was held to determine the new name.

A Novel to Selznick

HOLLYWOOD—David O. Selznick has purchased "If Winter Comes," a novel by A. M. Hutchinson, from 20th-Fox. John Cromwell is slated to direct.

Gills Annex Lakeville Unit

LAKEVILLE, MINN.—Abe and Udell Gill have increased their theatre holdings by taking over the State Theatre here.

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

LEO WOLCOTT of the Grand in Eldora says he is NOT a tramp athlete, because he doesn't have athlete's foot.

Charles Marks, manager of the Avery Theatre since it was built in Garner in 1931, announced Saturday that the Villaume Box & Lumber Co. of St. Paul, Minn., owners of the theatre, have sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gran of Sioux Rapids. The Grans will take possession November 1. Mr. and Mrs. Marks plan to return to their former home at St. Paul.

There's a very tragic but interesting story connected with that large diamond Bob Dawson of the Rozoda in Redfield wears on his left hand.

Art Downard, manager of the New Grundy Theatre at Grundy Center, has been transferred to a Webster City theatre.

I. C. Jensen, for the last ten years assistant cashier of the Northwest Savings Bank, has joined the Central States Theatres as assistant to Tom Arthur, manager of the Cecil, Palace and Strand theatres in Mason City. Hope you like your work, I. C.

Ronald (White Hope) Duntman of Bagley, has been observed recently by BOXOFFICE doing the following things:

1. Bending elbows.
2. Dancing at the Tromar.
3. Taking one of Filmrow's prettys for a spin in his truck.

Editorial comment: Tst! Tst! Ronnie.

Adel's J. O. Doop (not pronounced as in booboopadoop) of the Rialto Theatre fetched his sunny smile to the Row, Saturday morning. We know because we met Mike Riley just after he'd seen Doop, and Mike was sort of tanned from basking in it.

The Eugene Hopkins opened the new Whiting Theatre last week in Onawa. It cost $15,000.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

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MT481 Main signs and marquees
MT482 Signs, Neon
MT483 Signs, structural glass
MT484 Signs, travel word
MT485 Attraction boards
MT486 Letters, attraction board
MT487 Letters, changeable silhouette
MT488 Price signs, boxoffice
MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
MT498 Transformers, Neon
MT499 Ladders, safety
MT500 Moving words projector

AIR CONDITIONING

MT505 Air conditioning plants—complete
MT506 Heating systems
MT507 Refrigeration
MT508 Air washers
MT509 Blowers
MT510 Air circulators
MT511 Fans, exhaust
MT512 Grilles and registers
MT513 Temperature control devices
MT514 Air conditioning accessories
MT515 Motors, multi-speed fan
MT516 Motors, constant speed
MT517 Air filters
MT518 Air diffusers, high velocity
MT519 Cooling coils

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MT520 Architectural service
MT521 Decorating service
MT522 Seating service
MT523 Theatre chairs
MT524 Chair covers
MT525 Theatre carpets
MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

MT569 Expansion Bolts
MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
MT584 Fireproofing compounds
MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

PROJECTION

MT591 Projectors, complete with sound
MT592 Projectors, standard
MT593 Projectors, semi-portable
MT594 Projector pedestals
MT595 Projector parts
MT596 Lamps, suprex type
MT597 Lamps, reflector arc
MT598 Lamps, high intensity
MT599 Lamps, incandescent projection
MT600 Arc regulators
MT601 Arc controls
MT602 Control panels
MT603 Rectifiers, copper-oxide
MT604 Rectifiers, tube type
MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

MT641 Cleaning compounds
MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber link matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

SOUND

MT661 Sound systems, complete
MT662 Sound heads
MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT685 Screens, moving picture
MT686 Lighting, stage
MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, viterous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

MISCELLANEOUS

MT715 Accounting systems
MT716 Change makers
MT717 Safes, boxoffice
MT718 Tickets
MT719 Ticket choppers
MT720 Ticket issuing machines
MT721 Ticket registers
MT722 Ticket holders
MT723 Pop corn machines
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EFFORTS TO REVIVE CODE NEGOTIATIONS, SET UP INTERIM ARBITRATION, MICH. ALLIED AIM

Three-Point Program Is Unit Responsibility For the Future

By H. F. REVES

DETROIT—A three-point program occupies the officers of Allied Theatres of Michigan under the mandate issued by the annual convention last week at Kalamazoo. The program:

1. Continuation of code negotiations and immediate adoption of an interim system of arbitration, the organization appealing to distributors for action in this connection.

2. Support for a state law, perhaps to draft one, to outlaw or restrict free shows.

3. More extensive investigation of feasibility of a central purchasing combination, a tentative feeler for which exists in convention decision to purchase lamps at quantity discount.

Final sessions of the convention were marked by the realization of the need for and benefit of direct cooperation on the part of exhibitor leaders. Much of the discussion in the final session, aside from the election and formal business reported in last week's edition of BOXOFFICE, was devoted to the definite strengthening of the organization.

Circuit Leaders Present

Typical of the prevailing spirit of cooperation was the presence of leaders of affiliated circuits, namely, J. Ollie Brooks, head booker of the Butterfield circuit; and leaders of the two booking organizations of Michigan, Carl Buermele of Co-Operative Theatres, and Raymond E. Moon of Mutual Theatres, as well as individual members of both organizations.

Wednesday's session opened with an address by former Senator Ernest Conlon, now with the Michigan state chamber of commerce, who discussed the amusement tax situation, the need for new taxes and the extent to which relatively new tax sources were supplying a huge volume of revenue.

"You understand the benefits of organized activity," Conlon pleaded, in giving the keynote of the session. "But you should devote a considerable portion of your time to getting even more new members into your organization.

"You came very close last year to having an amusement tax, at least of three per cent on your gross business.

"Within the past ten years the cost of the Michigan state government has increased from $100,000,000 to $214,000,000 annually, and requests at the present session were for $250,000,000. It is away beyond any reasonable expense. Two new taxes, only six years old—the sales tax and the liquor tax—together account for $75,000,000 a year.

"You can credit a saving of three per

(Continued on page 88)

Branch Clarifies Code Stand

Kalamazoo—Contending that exhibitor leaders had attacked his code stand, given to the trade press a few days before the convention, because they misunderstood his views, Ray Branch, Michigan Allied head, made the following statement to BOXOFFICE:

"I am still strongly convinced that we should have a code for the industry. I am certainly not disappointed, as some have suggested, that Allied leaders did not accept the code as presented at Minneapolis. I strongly feel that there were certain things in the code given us at that time which could not be accepted."

Branch made it clear his original statement was not intended to criticize national Allied's rejection of the code.

Ray Branch Outlines Code Negotiations

KALAMAZOO—In his formal address as president of Michigan Allied, Ray Branch gave a detailed history of the code negotiations, in which he personally had an important share. A digest of his speech follows:

"The first thing we set out to do last year was to subscribe to the plan of William F. Rodgers of M-G-M, presented at our Grand Rapids meeting, for a meeting between distributors and exhibitors, for the purpose of adopting a fair trade practice code. There was, in the opinion of both distributor and exhibitor, a dire necessity for such a code.

"At our Grand Rapids convention, you made a request that your president be named as one of the negotiators, and even expressed the thought that unless this request was entertained, Michigan would not be bound by any action taken until the full plan was submitted to us for consideration and approval.

"At our first appearance with the distributing group, Mr. Rodgers said that they had no agenda prepared and asked us to submit the plan for discussion. However, he emphatically stated that his group would not even discuss any phase of two subjects, namely: theatre divorcement and block booking, adding that his group believed these subjects were under consideration by the government, the one in the government suit, the other before Congress in the Neely bill.

"While the code was not accepted, something surely was accomplished, and we may even yet secure at least some of the benefits outlined in these conferences.

"From the outset our group insisted that a plan of arbitration would necessarily have to be formulated to give us some enforcing machinery, otherwise any proposed code would have little or no effect whatever. At the Washington meeting, both attorneys for the distributors urged Mr. Myers to draft some plan and bring

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Says Indep'ts Stronger Than in 15 Years

KALAMAZOO—"Independent exhibitors are stronger today than at any time in the last 15 years and most theatre construction going on today is being carried on by independent exhibitors," Abram F. Myers, Allied general counsel, told the state Allied convention here via a message from Washington headquarters. As he was unable to be present, Myers' message was read by Ray Branch.

The "standstill" in major circuit acquisition and building of theatres Myers credited to the department of justice suit, the general counsel terming increased independent construction activity as a complete about face in the trend, "a most wholesome development."

Contended Myers:

"This is not government interference or government regulation as Mr. Hays and certain trade papers would lead you to believe. It merely represents an honest effect to enforce a law that has been upon the statute books for nearly 50 years. Let those who choose take a stand against law enforcement; my view is that the preservation of stable government depends upon it.

"The Michigan exhibitors have been fortunate in the fact that the predominant affiliated chain in that state has been in the hands of men who saw the wisdom of getting along with their independent competitors instead of driving them out. If chain management in other territories had been equally wise it is probable that the ruthless methods used in building up those chains would have been forgotten and all could have dwelt in harmony together. Unfortunately in most states the campaign of destruction was carried right up to the time that the government suit was filed and the independents did not have time to forget.

"We are in a fair way to get relief from unfair and oppressive trade practices saddled upon independent exhibitors. The government suit against the major com-

(Continued on page 88)

Three-Point Program to Occupy Michigan Allied Unit Heads

(Continued from page 87)

cent of your gross ticket sales by one action of your officers."

Conlon referred to the Ohio film rental tax, and President Ray Branch commented:

"In Ohio, I know of exhibitors who pay dues to three different exhibitor organizations. In Michigan we are fortunate, but we still need manpower.

"If we can go to the state legislature, as independent exhibitors, and our speakers can say, 'We represent small operators, and every cent we have is invested in brick and mortar in a theatre back home,' we will have the strength that we need. While the big circuits have the same interests in tax matters as ourselves, they do not have as much weight as the independents, because the legislators will feel that they are not solely dependent upon theatre investments, as we are."

Chairman Fred Pennell introduced the various resolutions, all of which were adopted, as summarized in last week's issue.

Commenting on the resolution adopted to draft a new state law placing free shows under the same regulations as established theatres, including financial responsibility, in the interests of safety and fair trade practice, Pennell said:

Cites Narrow Gauge Growth

"There is a distributor in Chicago releasing 16mm prints of features of the national producers practically day and date with the theatrical release of the 35mm prints. There is nothing to stop the 16mm man from showing the pictures free in a beer garden or general store next door to your theatres ahead of you."

Pennell proposed a regular schedule of screening "the top picture of the month" for exhibitors at regional meetings being conducted in different sections of the state by Allied. This would be possible through the use of some house in each city which does not have matinees on the day of the meeting, and would be a major attraction for increasing attendance at the regular luncheons, he said.

President Branch introduced Henderson M. Richey, former manager of Allied, as "one of our very old friends who is now on the other side of the fence," referring to Richey's connection with RKO. Richey reviewed the history of Michigan exhibitor organizations, mentioning the leadership emanating from this state particularly through Abram F. Myers, J. C. Ritter, Joe Deniston and Claude Cady. He paid a tribute to "the tenacity and purpose that Ray Branch has shown in these chaotic times of code organization."

Richey commented on the resolution adopted for continued code negotiations and went on to talk of general industry problems:

"I was amazed and impressed by your resolution today to re-establish contact so that some kind of relief can be granted.

"There are a few individuals unwilling to let go of a fool's paradise who are sur-

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Ray Branch Outlines Code Negotiations

(Continued from page 23)

it to New York. Gentlemen, I have never read a document that more clearly outlined, and offered a solution to our problem than that draft. To the best of my knowledge, this document never received mention. I have been told that one trade paper did publish it, but I never saw that paper.

Editor's Note: BOXOFFICE *published the complete draft of Abram F. Myers' code proposals Feb.* 18, 1939.

"On the eve before our national convention at Minneapolis in June, the distributors submitted a proposal. We called our former negotiating committee together, and without hesitation recommended to the national Allied board that it would not meet with our approval. The board then discussed it as a whole, and a resolution rejecting it was adopted.

"Due to the fact that so much had been said pro and con pertaining to the code, and the trade papers had ballyhooed it for the coming convention, the board decided to withhold its viewpoint and give the distributors a chance to present their side. It was even suggested that Rodgers might sell us on it.

"Some trade papers tried to smear Allied, and would have had you believe that we slapped Rodgers in the face, but when the distributor group submitted their plan to the department of justice in Washington, and the comment of Thurman Arnold, special government prosecutor, was released, everything suddenly stopped.

"I would still like to see the code worked on and carried to a conclusion. Aside from some mud-slinging and heated remarks, nothing has changed, at least nothing that cannot be patched up, and a new start made.

"There is no need to select another group to finish this job—you can't improve on that selection, at least unless I were left out of it, modesty compels me to add.

"Will the United States get into the war? Your guess is as good as mine, and on whether it will bring back prosperity to our industry or not. But, we should all be lined up together, and be marching down the line as friends and not enemies.

"I have never had any doubt as to the value of the national Allied to each individual state. I doubt, with all the combined leadership of Allied, if we could have mustered enough courage to have carried on under the distressing opposition through these ten years, which included the NRA days and the innovation of sound pictures, without the sterling leadership of a man (Myers) that has never known what defeat meant."

Says Indep'ts Stronger Than in 15 Years

(Continued from page 87)

panies asks for an injunction against some of these practices. The suits against the great independent circuits—Schine, Griffith, and Crescent—seek the end of discrimination in favor of the chains and against their smaller competitors. In an effort to head off these actions, the major companies attempted to negotiate a code which attempt came to grief. Warner Bros. has taken the lead in putting certain reforms into effect by voluntary action and it now seems likely that the other major companies will follow its example. Since the development is voluntary and does not require the exhibitors to sign their lives away in order to benefit by it. I think the concessions should be gratefully received, and that Warner Bros. should be thanked for cutting through the politics and humbug that stymied the code negotiations.

"The negotiations were part and parcel of an attempt to head off the government suit and the Neely bill. They were not the result of spontaneous desire on the part of the major companies to rectify conditions or grant relief to the exhibitors. It was not surprising that the majors reserved the right to do all the drafting, and that they incorporated in the draft reservations and tricky clauses intended to hinder the government in its suit and Senator Neely and his bill while at the same time making the limited reforms easy of evasion.

Saw "High Pressure" Attempt

"It is a fair assumption that the action of the department of justice in disapproving the code was due not only to the fact that it perpetuated in slightly modified form the practices complained against in the government suit but also to the barefaced attempt to high-pressure the exhibitors and the department of justice into acceptance of a document which fell far short of the relief that both had demanded. It was natural that when this blow was struck those who had promoted the code as a solution of all problems in the industry should seek to place all the blame on Allied. What they overlook is that the code not only was condemned as inadequate by Allied and the department of justice, but also was found wanting by the public groups supporting the Neely bill, by the Senate committee on interstate commerce in reporting on that bill, and was riddled by Senator Neely himself.

"Continued warfare between the different branches of the motion picture industry is not my idea of a healthy or happy situation. For ten years I have been hoping that the major interests would awaken to the danger to the industry as a whole of such a condition. However, an unjust settlement would be worse than none at all. As chairman of National Allied, I feel free to say that, once the major companies show a disposition to settle on a basis that will command the confidence and support of the exhibitors, the government and the public, Allied will enter wholeheartedly into the movement."

Three-Way Program For Mich. Allied

(Continued from page 88)

prised that anybody would take the position that anything is wrong with the industry.

"But the industry has been told so often, 'don't do anything that can be considered a conspiracy, or conniving together,' that every proposition like the code has to be passed on by from eight to 200 lawyers, and they necessarily change the work of the negotiations.

"As an example, I thought it would be a good idea to simplify our (RKO) contract as we promised the exhibitor, and I worked on it. After eight or ten lawyers got through with it, I hardly recognized it. But at least it has been reduced from about 9,500 words to about 4,500.

". . . The distributor, too, is often in a very bad situation especially where an independent exhibitor is in a position to demand uneconomic clearance. I believe the time is coming when clearance will be decided, not by guess, but will be scientifically based upon seating capacity, admission price, area, policy, natural barriers, etc.

"I don't think divorcement is the sole answer to the industry's problems. There will be chaos for several years if we try to solve divorcement first and the buying power of large groups second."

All Officials Re-elected

The confidence of Allied members in their leaders was strongly confirmed by the fact that every officer and director was re-elected. One vacancy existed on the board, through the withdrawal of George Wilbur of Wyandotte, whose Majestic Theatre was sold to Associated Theatres during the year. Fred Pennell of Decatur was elected to fill this vacancy.

Total registration at the convention was over 200, the highest figure since 1929, according to Pearl M. Sprott.

The convention opened with a meeting of the board of directors, followed by the annual directors' dinner. This session was strictly executive, and no statement of action was available. In accord with past practice, however, the meeting was devoted primarily to discussion of issues before Michigan exhibitors, and exchange of ideas upon them, so that the leaders of Allied could go into the convention sessions with a clear understanding of what each had "on his mind."

About 20 conventionites turned out for golf and luncheon on Tuesday at Maple Hills Country Club. Formal business session followed in the afternoon in the ballroom of the Burdick, with President Ray Branch and Business Manager Pearl M. Sprott on the dais.

Report of Secretary-Treasurer Edgar E. Kirchner was read in his absence, showing dues of $5,246 for the year; revenues from Detroit *Free Press* advertising, $1,232; and profit on the 1938 convention at Grand Rapids, $251. Total expenses were $9,400, of which $93.72 went for taxes.

Commenting on Kirchner's report, Branch was able to boast, "There has been a tremendous increase in dues for the year—$1,283. This is a very fair gain, especially in view of the negotiation work which took up a great deal of time in New York."

The gain, incidentally, is one of around 30 per cent.

A. L. Blakeslee, Mayor of Kalamazoo, was on hand to give an official welcome, and mentioned Kalamazoo's boast as the only debt-free city in the country of 50,000 population or over.

R. C. Fowler, on behalf of the Lions Club, spoke briefly on the work of leader dogs for the blind. Demonstrating with the aid of a Detroiter, Dr. Wheeler, who now has such a dog, he gave a demonstration of ability to get around with the aid of the dog.

Fowler mentioned that Detroit theatres, particularly United Detroit Circuit, have given admission to these dogs, and, in fact, in some cases, do so gratis to the owner.

"Blind people get a lot of pleasure out of talkies," Fowler said. "Tests show they get more out of talking pictures than a deaf person whose vision is unimpaired does."

President Branch read his report and a statement from Abram F. Myers, chairman of the board of National Allied, both separately reported in this issue.

To make the actual conduct of the convention more efficient, and avoid the possibility of taking up important session time with minor matters, a special rules and grievance committee was set up this year to handle all general matters. The

(Continued on page 92)

Allied Convention Notes

By H. F. REVES

KALAMAZOO—Edgar E. Kirchner, too busy with his $50,000 Variety Drive to get away, wished they wouldn't keep on electing him secretary-treasurer. Ed was the dude farmer in that oldtimer's photo in the program—a little job of cutout photography, with Ed's head and topper pasted onto an old still of Mrs. Kirchner!

George McArthur, theatre supply dealer, decided not to drive over 50 m. p. h. getting there—his son James used to take along an extra car as a spare . . . Ralph Ruben decided the distance was too great for him to drive at all.

Harry Hobolth, Imlay City, proved the pre-convention authority on when and where . . . Frank Lorenzen recollected the time the police stopped him as a potential bootlegger, in prohibition days—his car was filled with flowers being rushed to the Allied convention at Battle Creek.

Henderson M. Richey and your scribe arrived on the same train, but didn't know it till later . . . Cass R. Beechler was about the first exhibitor visible around the hotel lobby.

George McArthur had an ancient Edison projector, about 35 years old, on display in the lobby, attracting plenty of attention, in connection with the 50th anniversary of motion pictures, which was the motif of the convention. Commonest remark of exhibitors, noting the hand crank for running, was, "You'd kill off the operator if you ran double bills on that one."

Bill Cassidy of Midland and points east checked his coat at the registration desk . . . W. S. McLaren, former owner of the Capitol, Jackson, now a Butterfield house, was on hand—he's a former Allied president.

Joe Deniston of Monroe is another Butterfield partner who is an ex-president of Allied, early on deck renewing acquaintances.

Pearl Sprott was responsible for the whole design of the convention program—pretty clever job . . . We met up with some of the old-time exhibitors in those pictures—Ray Branch was the tough-looking hombre . . . Roy Adams of Mason was posing in front of his Grecian columns (then the latest in theatre fronts) . . . M. E. Frank of Wayland was the chap who didn't believe in advertising—you had to walk up to the stills to see what he was showing, almost, in those days.

Floyd Chrysler did the honors as host at Leo's Den—M-G-M headquarters—up on the fifth floor . . . Floyd was showing a rare photo of himself taken standing with Jean Harlow, just two weeks before her death. Clark Gable and Joan Crawford are also in the picture . . . Floyd reminisces of the film stars he has met professionally—Vilma Banky was a favorite, even with the inspectresses.

J. Ollie Brooks, Butterfield head booker, not only was on hand early, but brought out his trio of Kalamazoo managers—Marty Gruenwald of the Fuller, Pat Heavey of the State, and Stanley Cady of the Capitol. Cady is the son of a pioneer exhibitor, Claude Cady of Lansing—he's now the postmaster. Pat toiled plenty on advance work for the convention.

James McArthur, managing the display for his dad, was passing out some useful thermometers—did you get yours? . . . M. E. Frank of Wayland turned up with a bad cold.

Pearl Sprott promoted a tieup with the telephone company to furnish notebooks, which were much in evidence at business sessions . . . S. P. Farber, new Trailer-Made representatives, was around introducing himself to the trade.

Joe Portell and Bill Schulte of Detroit arrived together, with Joe telling stories about Bill . . . Bill Schuttenhelm was another Detroiter who came in suspiciously early.

Clive Waxman, boasting of Monogram's lineup, was the victim of C. R. Gibson's (Greenville) comeback when he talked of

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When the Trade Honored Nat Levy—

More than 100 members of the Detroit trade and out-of-town guests gathered in the Italian Gardens of the Book Cadillac Hotel to pay tribute to Nat Levy, RKO district manager who has been transferred to Philadelphia. The event was sponsored by the Detroit Variety Club.

LEVY BANQUET NOTES . . . .

DETROIT—There were two Daves at the head table—Newman and Idzal . . . Jack Saxe was at his usual post at the door . . . Charlie Garner was ticket taker.

Art Pfleiderer, trust company executive at the Fox, gave frank reminiscences of his introduction into show business and his years of doing business with Levy . . . Charlie Perry, Variety Chief Barker, presented (by proxy of a photo) a portable bar to match Levy's new home in Philadelphia, on behalf of all present.

Brother Jules Levy was a lucky visitor to the Fair Grounds Track in the afternoon, mentioned Detroit as his own home town.

Nat Levy, responding, threw away his prepared speech and made a heartfelt impromptu talk instead . . . Mayor Richard Reading came in to give the official farewell.

Leo Devaney, manager of RKO exchanges in Canada, and Ted McEvoy, eastern sales manager, were other speakers . . . Jack Goldhar, UA district manager, missed the candid cameras.

Jack Hurford, Fox Theatre manager, was also on the platform . . . Alex Schreiber was last man out of the hall.

Ollie Brooks and Arthur Caplan reminiscing over their days together at Camp Sherman . . . Sam Gurwin, RKO attorney, and your scribe, went to school together—our first meeting in 15 years.

M. B. Horwitz, Ben S. Fine, Nat Lefkowitz and Jack Shulman were up from Cleveland for the occasion . . . Henderson M. Richey went from here to Indiana to visit his mother, who now is 80 . . . Bill London showed up resplendent in a new brown-checked fall coat . . . Censor Charlie Snyder says Jay Conover of Grand National went to Hamtramck on his honeymoon . . . Earl Hudson of UDT put in one of his rare personal appearances.

Adolph Goldberg has now been named Junior; Irving is Senior; or is it the other way around? We still don't know which is which . . . Occasion was the last local appearance of the Levy Brothers together . . . Sam Ackerman is not building a new theatre—but he is getting that recipe for tomato sauce . . . Irving Belinsky wore his tux because his other suit was at the cleaners. Irving introduced Joe Reich as his son—might have been believed if he'd put it the other way around . . . Ray Moon was busy circulating around the tables . . . Fred Schader had a ticket, but didn't want to eat . . . Frank Lorenzen and Lew Emery of the RKO-Uptown manage to meet most every day.

The Krim Brothers arrived in time to start the last table . . . Ed Kirchner has been visiting his dentist, in between planting his winter crop of wheat . . . Eddie Heiber, capable general chairman of the event, started off the program . . . Judge Charles Rubiner did a workmanlike job as toastmaster . . . Wires were read from many absentees, including John W. Harris, Ned E. Depinet, Lester Krieger, Ira Rappaport, Jack Flynn, Staffs of RKO offices at Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Mannie Gottlieb, Harry Michaelson, Edward Sherman, J. P. McGreevy, Roy Churchill, James Robertson, Harry Goldstein, Paul Schlossman, Bill Skirball, Art Levy, Tom Walsh, Leon J. Bamburger, Louis A. Emery, L. E. Goldhammer, Eddie Bergman and J. R. Kauffman of Cleveland.

Judge Rubiner, unacquainted with show names, finally did it—called Bill Skirball "Screwball" . . . John Harris had a new excuse for being absent—"it's my mother-in-law's birthday" . . . Mac Krim nearly burnt his ear off with that cigar . . . Sol Krim has got back from his first trip in seven years to Mt. Clemens, where his father used to run all three theatres . . . John Howard, Paramount chief, claimed he really represented the distributors; proof, he was the only one at the head table without a tux . . . Howard gave one of the wittiest speeches local filmite gatherings have ever heard. Has unsuspected talent for mimicry, by the way.

Dave Newman, the lawyer-exhibitor, was introduced by the Judge with, "Lawyers think he's a good exhibitor" . . . Newman spoke on behalf of local exhibitor . . . Walter Branson, new RKO district manager, made his first public talk here.

Lorenzen's Team Keeps Its Lead in Detroit Bowling

DETROIT—Frank Lorenzen's team kept at the top of the bowling list in the Nightingales Club, in the second week of play. Individual high scores were well distributed, with top scoring going to Gil Light, 203; J. S. Goossen, 203; S. J. Lambly, 202; Cliff White, 202; Stanley P. Bouchey, 209 and 204; O. W. Blough, 206, and Jack Lindenthal, 215.

Standings of teams are:

Team	*Won*	*Lost*
Lorenzen Flower Shop	7	1
Motiograph	6	2
Oliver Theatre Supply	5	3
National Theatre Supply	4	4
Brenkert Projectors	4	4
McArthur Supply	3	5
National Carbon Co.	2	6
Amusement Supply Co	1	7

Detroit Club Fund Drive To Climax October 16

DETROIT—Variety Club's campaign for $50,000, to provide lunches and clothing for indigent school children, swung into the final stages of the public solicitation—with Tag Day on Monday, October 16, as the climax. Theatre owners are responding generously to the call, preliminary reports indicate, with the highlight an outright gift of $500 from Wisper and Wetsman circuit.

Finish "Singapore" Script

HOLLYWOOD—Don Hartman and Frank Butler have completed the script of "Road to Singapore" for Paramount. Hartman next goes on "At Good Old Siwash," while Butler is assigned an untitled production for an early fall start.

Defendants Ask Delay In Schreiber Suit

DETROIT—The suit of Mid-West Theatres Co.—the "Raymond Schreiber circuit" group on Woodward Ave.—against Co-operative Theatres, in U. S. district court, alleging, in general, conspiracy, etc., went ahead with filing of a motion by the defendants asking for a delay in further progress on the case in order to clear up ownership of the theatres. Fourteen clauses were contained in the motion, largely technical, but the essence of the case is in the plea that "this cause be stayed, until a final adjudication of the ownership of the theatres as to which plaintiff in its bill of complaint claims control."

Title to the theatres, Colonial, Blackstone, Forest, Garden and Majestic, is involved in the case of Jacob Schreiber, Colonial Theatrical Enterprises, Inc., et al., vs. Raymond Schreiber, Mid-West Theatres Co., et al., defendants, now pending in the circuit court.

Series Occasions Reunion For Sachses and Wolfs

CLEVELAND—Harry Sachs, Interstate circuit booker in Dallas, and Mrs. Sachs met Warner Zone Manager Nat Wolf and Mrs. Wolf in Cincinnati last week to attend the world series baseball game. They accompanied the Wolfs back to Cleveland to visit with the many friends they made when Sachs was local Warner booker. The Sachs divided their Cleveland visit between the Wolfs and the "Buck" Stoners. It is four years since their last trip to Cleveland.

Shulman & Schwartz Host Trade at Painesville Bow

PAINESVILLE, OHIO—Jack Shulman and Abe Schwartz opened their new 1,239-seat Lake Theatre here last Thursday night to a throng of visiting trade members and to the people of Painesville.

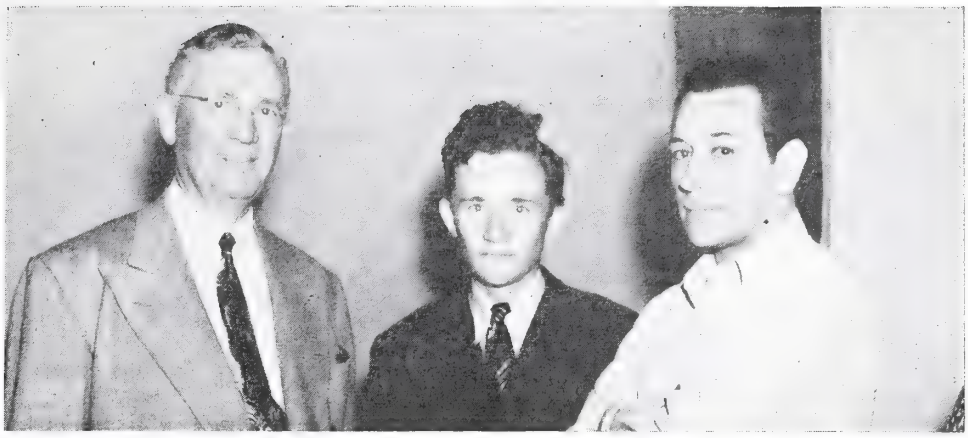
The house, modern throughout, features extra wide passageway between the rows of seats, and cost approximately $150,000. Harold Kay is manager.

New Seating at Cadiz

CADIZ, OHIO—The Community Theatre here is installing new seats.

Admission Tax Profits Ohio

Columbus—The income of the state of Ohio from a three per cent tax on admissions amounted to $1,193,000 during the first nine months of 1939. As compared to the same period in 1938, an increase of slightly less than seven per cent was recorded.



They Get a Look Into Production—

Wister M. Elliot, Vandergrift, Pa., showman, and his son meet and chat with George Raft on the set of "Invisible Stripes" at the Warner studio in Burbank.

CLEVELAND

JOE KAUFFMAN, Universal branch manager, states that "All Quiet on the Western Front" has been booked to play first run theatres in all key spots throughout the territory.

Ben Stahl, manager of the Liberty Theatre, is giving away an electric washer, refrigerator and other household electrical appliance, as per a deal handled by Lake Shore Sales.

Frank Belles, Republic special sales representative, took to the road this past week to acquaint the exhibitors in the territory with Gene Autry's newest picture, "In Old Monterey."

Harry Reinhart, Canton circuit owner, and Mrs. Reinhart, recently convalescent from an operation, attending the opening game of the baseball series in New York.

Hal D. Shreefler of the Castamba Theatre, Shelby, John Huebner of Marion and Harry Reinhart of Canton were spotted among those present at the trade screening of 20th-Fox's "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Lake Theatre last Monday.

Robert Marco is the newest addition to the local film colony. He came all the way from Los Angeles to manage Dave Schumann's Abby Theatre where he succeeds Mike Leavitt, resigned.

Jack Shulman and Abe Schwartz entertained about 150 film men and their wives at a buffet dinner last Tuesday evening after which they held a preview of their new Lake Theatre in Painesville, which officially opened its doors to the public the following Thursday. Harold Kay is manager.

The Drive-In Theatre, originally scheduled to fold October 1, has changed the closing date to November 1 . . . Peter Rosian, Universal special representative, is back in the territory again after spending the past four months in the south.

Unexpected visitors called at the home of I. J. Schmertz, local 20th-Fox branch manager, in the wee small hours the other night, and cautiously removed all available cash, practically all of Mr. Schmertz's clothing, and most of Mrs. Schmertz's wardrobe, without disturbing their sleep.

The big news of the week was that Sid Dannenberg is back at the helm of the Warner theatre publicity department after a long illness.

Pete Bathory, manager of Joe Trunk's State Theatre in Youngstown, was married last week . . . Anne Vickers, secretary to M-G-M Branch Manager Frank Drew, is back from California where she looked up some past members of the Cleveland film colony. H. A. Bandy, one-time local Goldwyn branch manager, is retired from business and now is a gentleman farmer. Another old friend who has not been heard from for a long time is Jack Conant. He was the last General Film branch manager in Cleveland and now is with Columbia.

Eddie Miller, manager of Warner's Hippodrome, tied up with the local Florists' Ass'n to give roses to the first 500 women attending the opening performance of "Fifth Avenue Girl."

J. H. Steinberg has sold the Harbor Theatre, Ashtabula Harbor, to Billy Thomas, former manager of the Elk Club . . . Eddie Johnson, of the film delivery service, has added a new truck to his fleet.

Lou Walters, manager of the local office of National Theatre Supply Co. and Mrs. Walters are in New York.

A Title That Spells BOX-OFFICE and a Picture

REPLETE WITH ACTION

'A GANGSTER TALKS'

with NOAH BEERY - J. CARROL NAISH

GILBERT ROLAND - CARMEL MYERS

Adapted from "No Living Witness"

Big Feature Rights Exch., Inc.

Cleveland - Indianapolis - Cincinnati

Allied Convention Notes

(Continued from page 89)

the great "Rip Ran Winkle"—said Gibson, "Oh, another sleeper." . . . Mrs. Ray Branch, missing, was discovered out on a shopping tour of Kalamazoo.

Tuesday afternoon saw an overflow in the Burdick—they started sending them to the Columbia and American hotels . . . Lloyd Hammond is getting his exhibitors mixed—took Harry Hobolth for Harvey Collier.

Ed Kirchner and Ed Stocker sent wires of regret for their non-attendance . . . Abram F. Myers was absent from a Michigan Allied convention for the first time in about ten years.

Ray Branch got lost—like many another exhibitor—when it came to pronouncing "Ninotchka"—called on Hen Richey as Russian authority . . . Joe Deniston, the Monrovian, made the day's shortest speech: "There nothing more embarrassing than to listen to a man who has nothing to say."

Jim Ritter also turned in a credible speech, as another ex-president . . . Andrew Musetti, builder of the Esquire Theatre, Grosse Pointe, was very much in evidence, along with the manager, George W. Sampson.

Ron Abbey of the Kalamazoo *Gazette* was the versatile artist who covered the convention by camera, and was responsible for that unique photographic bulletin board in the lobby . . . C. W. Patten of the *Gazette* covered the convention for the city room.

Ron Abbey, Mrs. Abbey and Nan Corstang, society editor, were at the M-G-M preview . . . Jack Flynn and Frank Downey of M-G-M, unable to make a personal appearance, had a special trailer made, giving their greetings to convention guests, shown at the preview.

Altec's Cliff Giesseman confessed the gang headed by himself and Willard Turnbull watching the "man in the street" broadcast, was the intelligentsia of the convention! . . . Mary Ostach and Marjorie Coleman were the capable young staff handling the registration desk.

Eddie Heiber, Universal branch manager, arrived Tuesday evening, but went right to bed, a victim of the grippe . . . Pearl Sprott developed a cold on the last day.

Warren Slee, M-G-M exploiteer, entertained with a towel dance, *a la Turkish* . . . Pete Schram, Kazoo exhibitor, headed the cleanup squad in front of the theatre.

What made Henderson Richey so surprised at that flashlight? . . . E. V. Smith, WE soundman, was snapped in restful repose.

Burt Foster, Monogram salesman, made a flying trip to Benton Harbor and points south, seeing Mrs. Julius Fodor and others for playdates . . . Col. George McCoy, Columbia's eastern state salesman, was off for his territory Wednesday afternoon.

Columbia manager, Carl Shalit, was busy arranging transportation back to Detroit . . . George McArthur had a lobby display as the exhibitors went into the meeting.

Burt Foster was back on the bellboys' bench by mid-afternoon . . . Dow Thompson, UDT manager, was a Wednesday arrival . . . Former Senator and Mrs. Ernest Conlon were among the guests of the convention.

Charlie Powell was on hand as special stockboy and greeter for National Screen Service.

OLD-TIMERS:

Tuesday was their night—and what a night! Brought out the biggest registration in years, men the younger old-timers hadn't seen since way back when.

Bob Codd, South Bend, Ind., exhibitor, who used to have houses in Owosso, Adrian and Niles—starting at Niles in 1914. He was recently deputy secretary of state for Indiana.

Ed Reeves (no relation to your scribe) used to have houses in Paw Paw, is now 75, and active in the painting business right in Kalamazoo . . . Henry Carley of Allegan was official greeter for the entertainment at the party.

Claire Townsend, Columbia salesman, was beating the big bass drum, later contributed an expert jitterbug number . . . Age and illness kept some away. Here are some of the absentees who sent regrets:

Dave Palfreyman, top of the list . . . George W. Trendle, who pointed out that John H. Kunsky started the first regular motion picture house in Detroit in 1905.

Doc Tiffany, Mackinac City, kept home by illness, started in 1912 . . . Ben L. Converse, Owosso, who "goes way back when," now a police desk sergeant . . . Joe Ayotte started August, 1908, in Alpena.

Ezra B. Dodge started June 1, 1908, at Hudson . . . George A. Ferguson, Cedar Springs, referred to the recent death of his old partner, Mr. Luiden . . . W. W. Post, a popular old-timer of Fennville.

Tom Lancaster, not so active now, still has three houses around Detroit . . . Bert Silver, Greenville, says he's like Governor Dickinson, too old to be of much use in company, sold his house recently because he "was tired of quarreling with film sharks."

A. J. Berube started in Tawas City,

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Eight Points Cover the Convention Schedule

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important conventions committee appointed by Branch at this juncture were:

Resolutions: William Thick, chairman; Glenn Cross, Henry Carley and Cass R. Beechler.

Credentials: James Olsen, chairman; William Schulte and William Schuttenhelm.

Registration: Pete C. Schram, chairman, and Pat Heavey.

Ways and Means: Allen Johnson, chairman; William A. Cassidy and J. S. Gibson.

Rules and Grievance: Fred Pennell, chairman; Harry Hobolth and Mort Dennis.

The balance of business discussions was taken up with eight suggestions made by Branch, generally referred to the appropriate committees. Indicating the attitude of Michigan Allied on current industry problems, the eight points were designed to cover the most pressing problems facing exhibitors:

1. Action on the Neely Bill, with a recommendation for a new resolution favoring it, "if the present resolutions on record are not strong enough."

2. Free shows. "We have one menace that we are faced with now, far more than a year ago," Branch said. "Last year we gave the subject little time, largely because we had no remedy. But it is growing alarmingly fast.

"I have a lot of little booklets which a company in Pennsylvania is distributing, to set people up in the motion picture business. They will supply you with the equipment and a catalog of films, advance you the money, and you pay them back by the week. This is 16mm film.

"I don't believe we have as much to fear from the few men in Michigan who were using 35mm film as from this new class. But the 16mm outfits have fine sound and pretty good projection. They won't go in theatres, but out on the street corner, it's different, especially at a free show. You have only to go outside the larger cities and see these free shows playing to big audiences.

"Paramount's 'Heritage of the Desert,' an August release, and 'They Shall Have Music,' a recent UA picture which has not yet played this part of the state, were advertised in the August 26 issue of a trade paper by a company in Colorado. Some Michigan exhibitors are now trying to get hold of these prints.

"There is a good suggestion that, if we have a town that is close by giving free shows, go over and talk to the merchants. They will have a pretty good reason for running free shows—they get at least one night a week that they can keep people at home in their little towns for shopping. Perhaps if, instead, we who have theatres close by, put on the free show for them, keeping it under control so that we do not show something that will conflict with our own town, the merchants may be glad to have us put it on free. It now costs them something for the roadshow man—and they should be willing to let us run

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Trailers Hot Topic At Allied Meet

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announcements of our own theatres for putting on the free show."

3. What is believed to be the first attack in the industry on the recent policy of some majors to produce their own trailers was started with a statement by Branch, who spoke as a member of the code negotiation committee:

"Distributors were surprised that we considered trailers and the trailer situation important enough to take up in trade practice negotiations. Mr. Rodgers (Wm. F. Rodgers of Metro) said that his company would be willing to drop trailer production if others would do likewise, as they could not get as much for trailers as they think they are worth.

"If producers ever get back their trailers, you are going to pay plenty for them. They showed us figures during the negotiations that they are losing a tremendous amount on trailers.

"I don't want to make a recommendation either way, but I'd like to see a resolution come out of this convention protesting distributors making their own trailers, unless they return to the old practice of furnishing us trailers free to advertise their pictures.

"If you had eight companies all making their own trailers, that would not really be competition. I'd still rather take a chance with just one company.

"At least, we should take action, demanding free trailers on percentage productions."

Branch's comments on the "one company" were generally understood to refer to National Screen Service, with the statement passed in the meeting that general resumption of trailer production by the majors would force National Screen out of the trailer field entirely.

4. The double bill situation. Hopelessness of the present situation, plaguing many larger Michigan towns, and Detroit worst of all, was expressed by Branch's comment: "I haven't even a recommendation for a resolution." Exhibitor leaders appear to have reached the point where mere passing of resolutions on this subject is understood to achieve no active move toward its solution.

5. Screen credits. On this point, Branch said, "We have a real problem in screen credits. One exhibitor who took the time to count it, told me that there is three-quarters of a reel devoted to credits in 'The Wizard of Oz.' Some kind of a protest must be made by exhibitor organizations, in order to accomplish anything. It has got to the point where screen credits are wasting a lot of time on the screen."

The time taken up with credits was linked with difficulties of program-making under double bills in discussion.

6. Plans for regional meetings upon a more intensive basis than in the past were discussed. Details were not worked out, but increased advertising to sell the idea to exhibitors was advocated, and a definite move of Michigan Allied policy in this direction is expected. Much work along this line was done in the past year, but leaders agree that much still remains to be accomplished.

7. The tax situation. In view of the narrow escape from passage of theatre tax legislation in last winter's legislative session, and the continuance of plans for taxation in the next session, a general discussion of the problem was slated for later.

8. Saving on lamp costs. Branch reported on a deal worked out with the Consumers' Power Co., which services many exhibitors in Michigan, outside the Detroit Edison area, but proved "too successful," inasmuch as lamp distributors in the territory went to the General Electric Co. and a rule was adopted that the effective trade discounts could not be given to an association, but only to a duly recognized purchasing agent.

Discussion indicated a strong sentiment for making Allied such a purchasing agent for its members. One owner of four theatres stated that he had saved enough on lamp renewals to pay his entire dues to Allied.

Allied Convention Notes

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1909, kept away by his health . . . Harry L. Smith, Vassar, wrote that his father, who started there in 1905, was kept away by his age.

Others heard and some of them showed up were: S. E. Sayles, Muskegon; William Koons, Vicksburg; J. F. Wuerth, Ann Arbor; George A. White, Stockbridge; H. E. Gallup, Marquette; George N. Olson, Grayling; Frank Joslin; E. Kilmark, Coloma; Claude E. Cady, Lansing, and C. E. Pettit, Harbor Beach.

Ray Branch did some hard work on this event, and now has records showing the first motion picture theatre in practically every city in Michigan—a valuable file for historians . . . Some of the boys reminisced when there were four subjects on one reel—those present said they'd take double bills instead! . . . A serious note was struck when there was a tribute of silence as Branch read off the entire roll of known old-timers who had passed on.

Prizes were given, in five and ten dollar amounts, to distinguished old-timers. Here they are: Tom Lancaster of Detroit, the exhibitor occupying essentially the same premises where he started in business, for the greatest number of years—he started in 1904 . . . Frank Lee, Three Oaks, operating the same theatre under the same management and same roof, greatest length of time (dates back to 1909).

Sam Ackerman, person showing earliest membership in a Michigan exhibitor organization, continuous as long as he stayed in business—his card dates June 1, 1911 . . . W. S. McLaren, Jackson, the oldest exhibitor-owner or manager present, in years of continuous service—since January, 1905.

AT THE BANQUET:

Business was too good . . . For first time in Allied's history, there were more single than double tickets sold . . . The gals must have stayed home, so the boys could play golf.

Ed Weingarden, UA salesman, showing pictures of his grandchildren . . . Pat Heavey, Butterfield Kalamazoo manager, was the only man at the convention to get a traffic ticket.

Floyd Chrysler was missing for several hours from M-G-M suite, just before the banquet . . . Warren Slee, M-G-M's exploiteer, almost attended in shirt sleeves.

Cliff Giesseman, Altec, called for rolls—the boys passed him roses instead . . . Ollie Brooks bestowed a dahlia on Joe Deniston . . . Deniston was sitting opposite his new opposition, Al Grasgrin, of the new Flatroc of Flat Rock.

Fred Pennell of Decatur was official ticket taker . . . Mr. and Mrs. Cully Buermele, missing all day because Cully had a bad cold, made their appearance in grand style.

Ralph Ruben confesses that gladiolas make him relax . . . Eddie Westcott, Fox, offered 10 to 2 odds, and got no takers . . . Phil Kaplan, Theatrical Advertising, was one of the late arrivals.

Irwin Pollard proved his ability as a raconteur . . . Moe Dudelson, UA manager, was busy circulating between tables.

Eddie Westcott nearly broke a tooth eating his ice cream—contributed a streamlined buck and wing to the program later . . . Fred Dickely, Altec, made up for his voice quality by its quantity.

Claire Townsend, another jitterbugger, thought the girl with the mike was a reward for his solo . . . Jack Stewart, Universal, was too bashful to do a solo.

Ollie Brooks, Butterfield, really had a public, and was forced to do encores . . . Senator Ernest Conlon spoke briefly . . . Henderson M. Richey left early to fly back to New York.

Pete Schram, Kalamazoo, was introduced as "the real bull" by Ray Branch . . . Pearl Sprott rated a standing vote of thanks for her work for the convention and Allied.

Jim Sharkey and Jack Ross had their own party, with a private entertainment of their own . . . Claire Townsend gave Sharkey a corsage . . . Add Film Twins Department—Jack Ross and Floyd Chrysler.

Sonny Boy—the original of Al Jolson's picture—was the star of the floor show, doing singing and impersonations . . . Floor show was of exceptionally high calibre.

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DETROIT

S P. FARBER has established offices at Royal Palm Hotel for Trailer-Made Service. Company was formerly represented here by Leonard Schechter.

Mrs. Cully Buermele is back from several months' vacation in Illinois and upper Michigan . . . Frank J. Downey, M-G-M manager, had four teeth extracted . . . Ollie Brooks of Butterfield and F. C. Dickely of Altec made a trip to Flint . . . Richard W. Rauch is forming the Movie-Products Co., located in Highland Park.

Cameo Theatre Co. was reorganized this week with Florica Flucksa, Mary Stoica, Vasile Mihain and Mary Mihain as the owners . . . Mrs. O. K. Helmore, manager of United Film Distributors, is recovering from a fall downstairs, which required several stitches to be taken in her head.

John Howard, Paramount manager, will be in charge of the premiere of "Disputed Passage," next Wednesday, October 18. Festivities on Washington Blvd. are planned. Stars expected to appear include the other John Howard, Dorothy Lamour and Akim Tamiroff.

Times Square Amusement Co., operating the reopened Times Square Theatre, has been incorporated for $4,000 capitalization. Beatrice Broder and Thomas Paul are listed as stockholders . . . Pop Stolz was the Legionnaire parading in red checked pajamas at the convention.

Walter Rickens is a champion long distance telephone conversationalist . . . Ralph Peckham, Grand National manager, is an expert pipe cleaner.

Salvatore Cinquemani is reported recovering from an auto accident . . . Theatrical Post, American Legion, gave another show for shut-ins at Marine Hospital . . . Charley Snyder, censor, was away in Chicago.

Jay Conover, GN, had the following wedding guests: Jacob Boodman, Ralph Peckham, Nat Haase, Charlie Snyder, Walter Goryl and Belle Rothenberg.

Harry Lotz, UA booker, has decided to name his new son Russell . . . Charles Garner has taken over distribution of "Little Flower," a religious film, for Sunray Films of Cleveland . . . Col. L. T. Lewis has returned from Ohio to handle state rights on "Mad Youth" . . . Irwin Pollard got back from Kalamazoo and his story-telling to go to work on the pin tables next morning.

Roy Reed, roadshowman, was in town from Chicago . . . Bob Fisher has returned from Boston and New York, and is dickering for a new film . . . Carl Zipper, Excellent booker, reports a quiet week while Michigan show business centered in Kalamazoo.

Ed Kirchner has secured the cooperation of the Detroit Council of Churches in announcing Variety Club's Drive for $50,000 for needy school children.

Robert M. Gillham, in charge of advertising and publicity for Paramount, was in town to continue arrangements for the premiere of "Disputed Passage."

Filmites of Theatrical Post, American Legion, were well represented at the Chicago convention. Heading the delegation were Commander Max Kolin, who was alternate, and past Commanders Gilbert E. Light and Jack Ferentz. Others attending included: Vice-Commander Pop Stolz, Bob Seeley, Walter Rickens, Harry Brewer, Max Leo Corrigan, Adjutant Harry Berns, Finance Officer Owen Blough, with Mrs. Blough, and Mrs. Floyd Akins. Headquarters were at the Morrison Hotel.

Arrangements Ready For MPTO Meeting

PITTSBURGH—Arrangements are complete for the 19th annual convention of MPTO of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., according to Charles Philbrook, general chairman. The two-day affair on October 23-24 at the Roosevelt Hotel will feature entertainment as well as several important business sessions.

Abram F. Myers, general counsel and chairman of the board of directors of national Allied, will give the main address on general industry topics and the benefits of organization.

Sidney Samuelson, executive secretary of Allied's MPTO of Eastern Pennsylvania, will be present from Philadelphia to discuss state legislative problems. H. M. Richey, former Allied leader and now RKO's ambassador of goodwill, and Miss Pearl M. Sprott of Detroit, business manager of Allied Theatres of Michigan, also will be present.

Officers will be elected the second day of the convention. Three members of the board of directors and a labor committee also will be chosen.

Monday, October 23, will be devoted to registration and a business meeting will be called at 1 o'clock. Second business session will be called at the same hour the following day. M. A. Rosenberg, president, will preside at both meetings.

A banquet is scheduled for Tuesday evening. Guests will deliver short greetings and the evening will be turned over to entertainment.

Independent theatre owners and managers of the territory are invited to attend the business sessions and banquet and dance. Non-members will be extended every courtesy and they may "speak their piece" or present their grievance. They may participate in every way, except in voting.

A delegation of West Virginia exhibitors is expected, according to Fred J. Herrington, secretary. Members of the ITO of West Virginia, a new Allied unit, have made reservations.

Registration fee is $5 per person.

Convention Committees And Their Members

PITTSBURGH—MPTO of West Pennsylvania, Inc., convention committees for October 23 and 24 at the Roosevelt Hotel are announced by Charles S. Philbrook, general chairman, as follows:

General Convention Committee: Samuel Gould, Norman C. Huhn, Alex S. Moore, William Finkel, Archie Fineman, F. H. McKnight, Nathan Rosen of Pittsburgh; M. Serventi, Rimersburg; R. Allison, Cresson; Fred A. Beedle, Canonsburg; H. Goldberg, Beaver Falls; G. M. Purcell, Uniontown; N. A. Malanos, East Pittsburgh; Peter Profili, Vestaburg; William Gray, Monongahela; J. G. Carruthers, Grove City; Larry Puglia, Waynesburg; Harry Stahl, Sharon; Miss C. R. Cupler, Washington; Werner Lund, Daisytown; John C. Bixler, Scottdale; Robert S. Higgins, Charleroi; Jean Angeli, California; Speer Marousis, New Castle; J. J. McFadden, Renova.

Grievance: Frank Panoplos, Clairton, chairman; William J. Walker, Crafton; J. B. Kane, Pitcairn; Peter Antonoplos, East Pittsburgh; Gilbert Gellman, Swissvale; Harry Fleishman, Pittsburgh; Morris Roth, Duquesne.

Entertainment: Carl Poke, Pittsburgh, chairman; Harry W. Walker, Crafton; Sam Fleishman and Al Glazer, McKees Rocks; E. T. Beedle, Canonsburg; Floyd Bender, Millvale; M. A. Rosenberg, Pittsburgh.

Publicity: M. N. Shapiro, Hazelwood, chairman; Harry Rachiele, Sharpsburg; Jake Soltz and H. L. Shearer, Pittsburgh; Rudolph Navari, Verona; Robert F. Klingensmith, BOXOFFICE.

Ways and Means: Joseph Gellman, Duquesne, chairman; Dr. C. E. Herman, Carnegie; William R. Wheat jr., Sewickley; Charles R. Blatt, Somerset; Herman Stahl, Oil City; J. H. Rankin, Bridgeville; F. H. King, California; Theo. Mikolowsky, Masontown; Bart Dattola, New Kensington; John C. Friburg, Johnsonburg; John Oglietti, Leechburg; Oliver A. Kihchel, Jeannette; Harry Hendel and Bennett Amdur, Pittsburgh.

Resolutions: Israel Roth, Pittsburgh, chairman; George Corcoran, Monongahela; E. H. Goldberg, Pittsburgh; A. P. Way, DuBois.

UDT Managerial Shifts Put Corbin Over Two

DETROIT—Shift of managers has been made by United Detroit Theatres, with Robert Corbin again resuming direct charge of the two major houses of the circuit, the Michigan and the United Artists. Irving Katcher, formerly assistant at the Ramona, has also been switched to the booking department.

Ed Stock is transferred from the Alger to take Katcher's place at the Ramona, while Gaylord Barrows, from the Norwest, takes Stock's post.

Gordon Johnson, former relief assistant, and lately second assistant at the United Artists, becomes assistant at the Norwest.

Lou Siegel has been added to the art staff, replacing Carl Weilfonder, who resigned to join an advertising agency.

Clothes Via Matinee

DETROIT—Edward Jacobson, manager of the Rainbow Theatre, was host on Saturday, October 7, at 11 o'clock at a special children's matinee given in conjunction with the Variety children's fund drive. The price of admission was some wearable clothing. Free candy was provided in conjunction with the neighborhood merchants.

Work Ahead in Durbin

DURBIN, W. VA.—New theatre under construction here for R. B. Summerson will be ready for opening within six weeks. Seating capacity will be 312.

Termer to Rosemary Lane

HOLLYWOOD—Rosemary Lane has drawn a new term acting contract at Warner Bros.

Variety Luncheon Notes

DETROIT

Mac Krim, recovered from facial and other injuries received when his horse met another—with Mac between them—in a polo match. Against the doctor's orders, Mac went out to Flint again and came back with the trophy, for the season.

Saul Korman, Grant Theatre, and Bob Fisher were the advance guard, way down front . . . Jack Douglas, reaching to get a good hand, hit the chandelier—guess those new glasses don't fit yet.

Charlie Perry decided he'd rather sit with the gang than up at the head table—then they made him ad-lib over WMBC to fill out the program.

Barker Dick Reading—Hizzoner the Mayor—met a lot of old friends, had some new jokes as always . . . Bill Carlson, rushing on official business, was too busy for his usual job of greeting the Mayor.

Hal Burriss, Coulter Premiums, won the yellow ribbon for first place in Class B, Open Field Tournament of the Detroit Archers, Sunday—the old Robin Hood! . . . James Dickson jr., one of the guests of honor, met Mrs. Dickson—who is "landlady" down at BOXOFFICE's office—up at the head table. P. S.—She bought her own ticket.

Only one-half of the Goldberg Twins was there—which half? . . . Partners Lou Wisper and Frank Wetsman made a rare appearance together.

Richard Moore—he did that fine Abe Lincoln last winter—was present, among many past Potentates of Moslem Temple . . . Truman Oliver, whom we haven't seen in 15 years, was on the job handling the sound for WMBC. He's regularly in charge of the transmitter. Remember Gladstone?

The luncheons lately have been more decorative—with the ladies handling the $50,000 drive . . . Modest guy of the meal was Ed Kirchner—who saw him take that bow?

Freddie Schader at last made his public appearance over the air—but reluctantly . . . That old father and son team was out again—George and James McArthur.

Notables present included: Bill Lochbiler, national commander of the Order of the Purple Heart; Judges O. Z. Ide and Sherman D. Callender, and Judge Clyde I. Webster, late imperial potentate of the Shrine.

Major Leo R. Kelly made the plea of the day for the $50,000 Drive . . . Pat Dennis, ex-radio editor of the *Times*, was chief assistant kibitzer—couldn't keep up with Jack Douglas.

Herschel Hart, radio editor of the News, *handled the sound effects for the dramatic broadcast . . . Col. George McCoy, Columbia, is calling Dave Newman names—say's he's a barrister.*

Harris Silverberg, National Screen manager, took the honor of being the last man to arrive away from Sol Krim.

Field Day in Detroit For Film Holdovers

DETROIT—Holdovers moved to a near-record, with four houses holding bills or playing extended first runs. "The Women" went into a third week, as expected, at the United Artists.

The Adams is holding "The Rains Came," which moved there a week ago from the Fox. The Cinema is holding over the double bill, "All Quiet on the Western Front," which moved in from the Adams for an extended run a week ago, and "The Edge of the World." The Palms-State is getting the Michigan's bill of last week—"What a Life" and "Honeymoon in Bali."

An unusual number of weak films in recent weeks is one reason for holding onto the bills when any reasonably strong pictures are available. In addition, the sentiment recently voiced by Joseph Schenck for extended runs is finding response in the move of these four houses. Another factor in the local situation is the general slowing up of film buying, so that many houses do not have product contracted very far ahead as yet.

Contribute Part of Rogers Fund for Local Aid

CLEVELAND—In a special ceremony held Friday afternoon at the Hotel Statler, Frank D. Drew, M-G-M branch manager and zone chairman of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission, presented a check for $1,896.66 to Lockwood Thompson, local chairman of the National Infantile Paralysis Fund. This was in keeping with a promise made by Drew at the time of the Will Rogers fund drive, to turn over a percentage of the sum raised to the local community for the aid to handicapped children.

The entire local Will Rogers Drive committee participated in the ceremony including Nat Holt, RKO Great Lakes division manager; Col. Harry E. Long, Loew division manager; Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, and exhibitors Myer Fine, M. B. Horwitz, Jack Shulman, Ernest Schwartz, Paul Gusdanovic, P. E. Essick and John Kalafat.

Manager Kelly of the Statler expressed his appreciation of the gesture by entertaining the group with cocktails.

Gerson Resigns Big Feature Rights Cleveland Helm

CLEVELAND—Sam A. Gerson has resigned as manager of the Cleveland office of Big Feature Rights Exchanges, Inc. Lee Goldberg, owner of the exchange, has named Carl Scheuch sales representative. Bernard Rubin continues as office manager and city salesman, and Hillard Levy remains to handle the ad sales department. Big Feature Rights distributes for Producers Distributing Corp. as well as other independent product.

CINCINNATI

QUEEN CITY VARIETY CLUB began its annual Saturday night Jamborees, in the Variety Club rooms, Netherland Plaza Hotel, Saturday, October 7. A record crowd was on hand.

Elmer Redelle, Victory Theatre, motored down from Dayton, Ohio, with a party for the ball games. Other visitors at the Row included Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nally, Nitro, W. Va.; Joel Golden, Schine booker; Charley Albert and Nat Wolf, Warner's, Cleveland; Carl Fitzpatrick, Consolidated Coal Co., Jenkins; Frank Mandros, Rubel Theatre, Logan, Ohio, and Harry Wheeler of Gallipolis.

The famous Joe E. Brown was also much in evidence at the Variety club rooms, endeavoring to satisfy the heavy demands for his autograph. NB: Florence Schomaker copped one.

Monogram's Milton Gurian is passing the perfectos. It's a son, the firstborn, Stanley Louis.

Warner Club presented Mrs. Mildred Lay of the inspection department with a robe and bassinet, in anticipation of the stork.

Dan Rosenwald, Charlotte branch manager for M-G-M, attended the Victory dinner, tendered the local office October 9 at Barney Rapp's. Rosenwald bestowed the awards in the recent billing and sales contest won here.

Exhibitors throughout the territory attended M-G-M's double bill preview, "Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms," at RKO Orpheum, Friday, October 6, both features receiving excellent reaction.

Messrs. Newboldt and Keesling visited the Row, brought by the ball game. Bill Tha'heim, Logan, Ohio, also dropped in . . . 20th-Fox's manager, J. J. Grady, has recovered and returned to his desk.

Ike Libson will call his new Taft owned theatre building, which he has leased, "The Times," in memory of the *Times-Star*, daily published at that locale for many years.

K. Murphy has opened the Viv Theatre at Corbin, Ky.

J. Stallings, Midwest Supply Co., reports new projectors were installed in the Clovernook Theatre, North College Hill; in the Kentucky at Latonia, Ky., and two have been ordered for the new Vance Theatre, the State, at Newport, Ky., which will open October 28.

Orville Wood, Camden; Joe Lee, Cove Theatre, Covington, Ohio, and John Brown and T. D. Clutts, the Civic Theatre, Wellston, Ohio, dropped in this week.

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PITTSBURGH

DAVE FINEMAN, manager of the Regent Square, back on the job after vacationing in New York . . . Louis Krieger, distributor of Alliance Pictures and the special short subject "The Warning," appeared on Filmrow with a number of face bruises, the result of an accidental fall in his home . . . Joe Feldman of the Warner circuit office was busy in New York this week on business in connection with the world premiere of "Allegheny Uprising" . . . George Seibel, city magistrate, formerly a drama critic, has been appointed librarian of North Side Carnegie Library.

Sidney Soltz, son of Jacob Soltz, former proprietor of the Filmrow Restaurant, and Miss Harriett Louise Moses will be joined in wedlock Sunday, October 15. The Rhumba circuit executive is staging a reception in honor of his son and daughter-in-law Sunday afternoon in the Urban Room of the William Penn Hotel . . . City council on Tuesday, by an 8 to 1 vote, passed Mayor Scully's proposed ordinance hiking license tax fees on pinball machines from $1 to $25 per machine. Final passage is expected October 16.

Reissue of "All Quiet on the Western Front" proved a real boxoffice attraction at the Senator . . . Beware of a fake solicitor who says he is a BOXOFFICE representative. The only authorized representative in Pittsburgh is R. F. Klingensmith at 1701 Blvd. of the Allies.

Frank Capra's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" was screened for a trade audience Sunday midnight at the Regent Square Theatre, Edgewood. The trade showing was arranged by Art Levy, local Columbia manager.

Filmrow Bowling League made no mistake in selecting the newly opened Triangle Recreation Center, 529 Penn Ave., for this season's contests. The new establishment, designated as the "bowling of tomorrow," has 18 streamlined alleys and four billiard tables of the latest design. Modernistic furniture, fixtures, decorations and conveniences are features of the Triangle. When one steps out of the elevator on his first visit, he hesitates for a moment in the belief that he has stepped into an elaborate night club. Bob Hendel, manager, has taken a liking to the Filmrow boys after just a few meetings and he expresses the hope that each bowler will find complete satisfaction at the new bowling alley center. He is a nephew of Harry Hendel, Center Ave. exhibitor.

Regular Saturday family party at the Variety Club for October 28 has been moved up one day to Friday, October 27, this being officers' and directors' night. There will be the usual pre-banquet stag party October 28 for visiting Barkers and friends. Eleventh annual banquet follows Sunday evening, October 29, and will be attended by many film and theatre executives as well as civic and sports leaders and stars of stage, screen and radio . . . Joe Bernhard, Warner circuit chief, and Harry Goldberg, eastern publicity head, were here the other day for conferences with Harry Kalmine and his associates.

Anthony Latella, who recently entered exhibition at Roscoe, is one of the regular shoppers in the celluloid colony . . . Bob Clark, Paramount ad sales manager, is doctoring the "nerves," and is just about his old self again, we're glad to report . . . MPTO directors met last Friday afternoon to discuss their convention, October 23 and 24 . . . Mark Goldman, Ike Sweeney, George Sallows and George Comuntzis were among those present at the opening of Fuzzy Knight's night club at Fairmont, W. Va. . . . Richard Lange, West Virginia sales representative for RKO, has an application to join the Variety Club . . . Walter Sarver is building a roller skating rink on Kittanning Road, Natrona Heights . . . Henry Armetta is doing his stuff on the stage of the Stanley.

Latta Chief Barker of Pittsburgh's Variety

PITTSBURGH—C. J. Latta, Warner district manager, was named Chief Barker of Variety Tent No. 1 at the annual election Monday. He succeeds Ira H. Cohn, 20th-Fox branch manager.

C. C. Kellenberg of 20th-Fox was elected first assistant Chief Barker and Burtus Bishop jr., M-G-M branch manager, was named second assistant. Officers re-elected: M. N. Shapiro, dough guy (treasurer), and Al Weiblinger, property man (secretary).

The new board of directors follows: M. A. Rosenberg, Brian McDonald, I. Elmer Ecker, George D. Tyson, M. J. Gallagher and Art England.

Harry Kalmine and Harry Feinstein were elected delegates to the national convention to be held at Dallas. Alternates are Kellenberg and Bishop.

Retiring Chief Barker Cohn and associate officers will be honored at the club's 11th annual banquet at William Penn Hotel, October 29.

Robinson Is Rebuilding At Clarksburg, W. Va.

CLARKSBURG, W. VA. — The Robinson Grand Theatre, is being entirely rebuilt after having been destroyed by fire several months ago. Claude Robinson says that the new theatre building will cost $200,000. Robinson Grand policy has continued at the nearby Moore's Opera House since the de luxe theatre was destroyed.

Start Bowling Season

PITTSBURGH—Second season of the Movie Operators' Bowling League is under way, with games being rolled at the new Triangle Recreation Center, 529 Penn Ave. George Engstler is president of the league, John Lengyel jr. is secretary, and William H. Thompson, treasurer.

Adapts "Patent Leather Kid"

HOLLYWOOD—"The Patent Leather Kid," forthcoming George Raft starrer for Warner, is being whipped into screen form by Michael Fessier.

LOUISVILLE

GOV. A. B. "HAPPY" CHANDLER of Kentucky named more than sixty new colonels, among them Louis B. Mayer.

Col. C. B. Blake, one of the oldest exhibitors in Louisville, was reported critically ill.

Mrs. Antionette Fischer, cashier at the Rialto, suffered a blow on the head when an unsuccessful attempt was made to rob her.

The Opera House at New Albany, pioneer southern Indiana theatre, is getting a facelifting.

Tom Moore, manager of the Orpheum Theatre at Mitchell, Ind., was in town the other day calling on Falls City Equipment Co.

Foster Lane has bought new projectors, new soundheads and a new screen for his Dixie Theatre at Williamsburg . . . C. M. Hughes, who operates the McKee Theatre at McKee, Ky., was in town the other day looking over heating plants.

Tim Cleary, salesman for M-G-M, spent several days in and around Louisville recently . . . Several improvements have been made lately in the Tivoli Theatre at Jasper, Ind., operated by Mrs. Annette Kuebler.

Settos' new theatre at St. Matthews, suburb of Louisville, has been named the Vogue. Both this theatre and Settos' new Grand at Linton, Ind., are expected to open around the first of next month.

We were wrong about this fellow Bob Harned formerly being with Switow in New Albany. He's still there—an operator at the Grand—and running his chain of southern Indiana theatres on the side.

R. C. Hickman Named in $10,000 Damage Suit

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO—A $10 000 damage suit against R. C. Hickman, district manager for Shea Theatres, with headquarters here, has been filed in Licking county common pleas court, Newark, by George Leadman, Columbus. The suit charges that Hickman was at fault in an auto accident that resulted in the death of Leadman's sister, Mrs. Herma Salmons, Columbus.

The accident occurred September 25 at Linville, near Newark. The car in which Mrs. Salmons was riding was stopped because of motor trouble, sheriff's deputies asserted, and said that Hickman's car crashed into it. Hickman and two others are in a hospital.

Lease Newell House

NEWELL, PA.—Newell Theatre has been acquired under lease by Herbert Schaefer and Herbert Staminger, operators of the Park Theatre, Blair Station. The Newell was last operated by Andy Battiston.

Standard Pictures Series Acquired by H. Lande

CLEVELAND—Harry Lande, operating Independent Film Service, has acquired a series of Standard Pictures for distribution in Ohio and Kentucky. They are "Lost on the Western Front" with Paul Cavanagh, Marcelle Chantal and Garry March; "Spy of Napoleon" with Richard Barthelmess and Lyn Harding; "Forbidden Music" with Jimmy Durante, Richard Tauber, with music by Oscar Strauss; "Prisoner of Corbal" with Nils Asther and Noah Beery and "The Mill on the Floss" starring Geraldine Fitzgerald.

All of the pictures except "The Mill on the Floss" are completed and ready for immediate booking.

New Sound Is Provided George Ebeck in a Day

MOUNT GILEAD, OHIO—George Ebeck of the Capitol Theatre had an example of industry cooperation the other day.

Informed at 10:30 a. m. that his sound system was on the bum, he phoned his troubles to Lou Walters, manager of National Theatre Supply. At 11:45 a new sound system was loaded into a truck, accompanied by an Altec engineer. The system was installed under the engineer's directions and was ready for action that evening at show time.

Tommy Felice Is Upped To Warner Booking Post

CLEVELAND—Herbert Ochs, local Vitagraph branch manager, has promoted Tommy Felice from ad sales manager to a member of the booking department. Tommy makes the fifth member of the booking department. The others are Stanley Kositsky, Larry Kreusser, Harold Bein and Marty Friedman. Harry Rothlein, who was Tommy's assistant, takes over the entire ad sales department.

Heads Celotex Office

CLEVELAND—J. Z. Hollmann has been appointed manager of the Cleveland division office by Marvin Greenwood, general manager of the Celotex Corp., Chicago. Formerly an executive in the home office, Hollmann recently has been on leave of absence due to ill health. He succeeds George J. Dinges, who has been transferred to the recently opened Atlanta division.

New Lansing House

DETROIT—Another link was added to the Butterfield Theatres chain [illegible] Gladmer Theatre, at Lansing, Mich., opened Thursday, October 12. Invitations were extended to the trade.

Summerson Sells to C. A. Warner

PITTSBURGH—C. A. Warner, exhibitor at Circleville and Franklin, W. Va., has acquired the theatre at Monteray, W. Va., from R. B. Summerson.

COLUMBUS

LITTLE JACK LITTLE and his orchestra will share honors with the NBC National Barn Dance at the annual Variety Club "Barn Dance" October 25, it was announced by Chairman Lou Holleb. Additional entertainment will come from the many sideshows inasmuch as the entire affair will be staged along gigantic carnival lines.

Milt Jacobs was in Cincinnati, Monday, for the M-G-M "Victory Dinner." He placed fourth in the national sales contest . . . Jim Grady, Fox boss in the Queen City, is back on the job after an illness.

Louie Martin is now signing product contracts for the Court in Cambridge, and expects to open in a month or so.

Harry Chakeres will take over the Roxy in Washington, C. H. in the near future. He plans to remodel the house into an ultra modern theatre, much larger than the present one.

Pending settlement of the government's suit against Schine, the circuit has postponed adding the Majestic Theatre in Nelsonville as a new chain unit. Spence Steenrod will continue to operate house.

Eddie Cantor broke all existing records with his three-day stint at the Palace . . . Next flesh bill opens Friday with Connie Bennett the headline attraction.

Anyone desiring to bet against Ohio State's football team this season would do well to contact Cliff Bozman, manager of the Majestic. Cliff has dough to wager on any or all the games—odds will be arranged if desired.

Pitt Republic Exchange Suffers Fire Damage

PITTSBURGH—Fire of undetermined origin caused $500 property damage to the Republic office and $500 damage to Duquesne Light Co. wires and transformers in the three-story brick structure. The blaze originated in a pile of rubbish in the basement. No film is stored in the building, the Republic shipping room being located elsewhere. A basement fire was discovered and extinguished with no loss three weeks ago. In the future the basement will remain locked. BOXOFFICE occupies office space at the Republic exchange.

"All Quiet" Stirs Peace Group Toward Protest

COLUMBUS—Members of the Peace Action for Franklin County are planning to lodge a formal protest with Universal against any further showing of the reissue of "All Quiet on the Western Front." Group contends that the revised print "not only ruins the dramatic effect of the film but also tends to leave the audience confused as to the final message the film is intended to convey."

Four RCA Installations

PITTSBURGH—RCA sound will be installed in the Vogue, new 1,100-seater being built at St. Mathews, a Louisville suburb, by the Settos circuit, and in the same chain's Grand at Linton, Ind. John R. O'Dell jr., of the Frontenac, Detroit, and Harry Fleishman of the Brighton, local neighborhood house, are installing similar new sound systems.

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250 ROOMS $2 WITH BATH from

JOSEPH HERLICY, Manager

FORT MEIGS Hotel

ST. CLAIR BETWEEN MADISON AND JEFFERSON

ONE OF THE ALBERT PICK HOTELS

Convention Notes

(Continued from page 26-C)

Clive Waxman, Monogram salesman, once again displayed his rare ability as a pianist . . . Henderson M. Richey was cheerleader at the songfest around the keyboard. Sam Ackerman, Bill Schuttenhelm and Jack Krass were the rest of the first quartette.

James McArthur proved his name is Scotch . . . Clarence Williamson, National Theatre Supply, developed a bad cough . . . Jack Howard, Paramount manager, was one of the late and welcome arrivals.

Your scribe discovered a fire near M-G-M headquarters on the fifth floor—somebody was burning rubber on the stove . . . Mrs. Cully Buermele and F. A. Schneider found plenty to chat about.

John W. Hurley, attorney, is partner with Lloyd Hammond in Film Fumbles and a past president of the Wayne County Bar, made his debut among showmen . . . Bill Schulte had the boys searching for Webster when he described himself as "scrumptuous."

Bill Turnbull arrived with his National Theatre Supply gang in time to give the boys some fun . . . John Howard was the victim of a cold . . . Stanley Cady, manager of the Capitol, Kalamazoo, gave a concert on the organ in the lobby at 3:00 a. m.

Late attraction of the evening was M-G-M's double bill—and an extra strong one—at the Uptown—"Ninotchka" and "Babes in Arms" . . . Reactions were generally highly favorable, especially on the latter . . . Some of the guests complained because there were no dishes or Mickey Mouse!

Cliff Giesseman held open house after the event, then went out to eat . . . Mrs. Jack Gammon proved she could hold her own, even outnumbered seven to one . . . Fred Dickely of Altec arrived late, but made up for it.

Jack Krass, Sam Ackerman and Ralph Ruben were among the late visitors on several floors . . . L. C. Becker, American Seating Co., had to get a big double room for his crew, including Bill Sonke and Fred Dunakin.

Ed Hartley of New York City was the hero of the golf qualifying rounds . . . George W. Carr, International Seat man, was an interested auditor at the band concert, abetted by Joe Portell.

Harry Hobolth, coming from Imlay City, got lost between Detroit and Kalamazoo—he followed a railroad map instead of a road map, and wound up in Sturgis . . . Eddie Westcott of Fox was the lucky boy.

Pearl Sprott managed to take time out from her many duties, just getting under the wire to get her meals . . . Bill Flemion and Burt Foster of Excellent weren't on speaking terms at opposite ends of that big hotel lounge. Flemion turned into a jitterbug when he got on that elevator . . . Cliff Giesseman got trimmed in the barber shop. Flemion was the barber, Frank Gammon contributed a shoe shine, and Warren Slee was the blond manicurist. Did you see the results?

Warren Slee, Jack Morgan, Floyd Chrysler and Howard Beck, the Four Comrades of M-G-M, held open house all during the convention, and had one of the most popular spots in the hotel.

Columbus Variety Is Led by Schreiber

COLUMBUS—C. Harry Schreiber, RKO city manager, was named president of the Variety Club, Tent 2, at the annual elections Monday night, according to W. C. Pullin sr., of the Linden Theatre. Virgil Jackson, Jackson-Murphy Theatres, is the new first vice-president; Lou Holleb, New Theatre, second vice-president.

Retired as vice-president were J. Real Neth, Neth circuit, and Bill Ortman, Columbus Outdoor Advertising Co. Both Treasurer Jake Luft, manager of the Grand Theatre Bldg., and Secretary P. J. Wood, secretary of the Ohio ITO, were held over for another year.

New directors elected: Mike Cullen, Loew's western division manager; Bill Cunningham, dramatic critic for *The Citizen;* Jeffrey Goldsol, The Budd Co., and Don Burroughs of WBNS. Max Stearn, Southern Theatre, is a holdover director. In addition, retiring president Pullin automatically became a director.

The directors plus the officers constitute the governing board of the club. Leo Haenlein, Zoo Amusement Park, was the only eligible director not re-elected, Bill McKinnon of *The Dispatch* having resigned from the club several weeks ago.

Mrs. Frank Gammon Crowned Queen

Detroit—Cliff Giesseman crowned Mrs. Frank Gammon, wife of the Altec engineer, as blonde Queen of the Celery City. Cliff arranged to take eight people home to his house to sleep after the banquet.

Norman Levins Return From Honeymoon Trip

CLEVELAND—A five-year romance has culminated in marriage for Norman Levin, United Artists city salesman, and Rose Kirtz Schwartz of this city. After a wedding ceremony performed by Rabbi Harris of the Temple, the newlyweds spent a honeymoon week in Chicago. They are now "at home" in the house Levin recently purchased on Middlefield Road, Cleveland Heights.

Four Roadshows in Canton

CANTON—Film programs at the Palace here will be interrupted four times this season for the presentation of Theatre Guild-sponsored roadshows, the first being "On Borrowed Time" on October 19. Other attractions include "What a Life," "Golden Boy," and "Hedda Gabler."

McKeesport Liberty Reopens

MCKEESPORT, PA.—The Liberty Theatre, owned by the Joseph Weiss Theatres, Inc., closed since July 5 for extensive remodeling, has reopened. The seating capacity has been increased from under 1,000 to 1,550. Al Weiss is manager.

The Maryland to Rachiele

PITTSBURGH—Harry Rachiele has purchased the Maryland Theatre, Blaw Nox. He has operated the house under lease for three years.

The Convention Program

KALAMAZOO—A 28-page program was issued by Allied, with a unique green and gold cover, celebrating the 50th anniversary of motion pictures, as well as the 20th convention of Allied. Abram F. Myers, general counsel of Allied, contributed a statement on the current war situation, and its effect upon the industry.

Individual statements were also made by President Ray Branch, Vice-President Cass R. Beechler, Secretary Edgar Kirchner, and Pearl M. Sprott, as well as national Allied President H. A. Cole. Feature of this year's program was the listing of all organizations making up Allied States, designed to indicate the national strength of this body.

Outstanding in the program was the preparation of a long list of reminiscences of the oldtimers of Michigan showdom, under the caption of "Do You Remember When?". We pick only a few of the outstanding:

Glenn Cross sang illustrated songs . . . Jake Stocker opened the Michigan Ave. Theatre . . . Ed Kirchner opened with the Family as assistant in 1909, now the oldest manager in any one theatre in U. S. . . . Ray Branch booked films at National Film Co. . . . Art Blankenmyer ran the Bell . . . Walter S. Butterfield started in Battle Creek . . . George Trendle ran for alderman . . . Phil Gleichman and A. J. Gillingham consolidated their film companies . . . Joe and Carl Brenkert started to make stereopticans . . .

A tribute was paid to National Allied by Ray Branch at the convention, in the following remarks:

"I pay my respects to our national body for the very many accomplishments made during the year just passing, and while some of the criticism aimed at this body has been undeserved, I know that they will eventually overcome it, and will succeed in whatever is right and best for the industry."

Branch's statement indicated the continuance of close relations between Michigan Allied and Allied States, despite all reports of differences of opinion circulated a year ago.

Adornos Face $100,000 Suit by Saracenos

MIDDLETOWN, CONN.—Damage suit in the amount of $100,000 has been entered by Alexander and Salvatore Saraceno, of the S&S Corp., owner of the Capitol Theatre, against Salvatore, Maria and Joseph Adorno of this city. Salvatore Adorno is owner of the Palace Theatre and an unopened airdome. Before the Morris Pouzzner leasing last spring, Adorno operated the Capitol, Palace and Middlesex theatres together with Arthur Lockwood. The suit charges that Adorno induced Saraceno brothers to enter a combine of theatres under his management in 1932 and later to lease to Lockwood, not revealing Adorno's partnership with the latter. It charges him further with "abuse and misuse of his position as an officer, director and general manager" of the first operating company, and a breach of duty which he owed to the other stockholders in that company.

A similar lawsuit claiming $175,000 damages was filed against Adorno last summer by Franklyn Arrigoni and the Middlesex Theatre Corp., making almost identical charges. The matter is expected to be heard in the county court this fall.

Following a receivership action last year, and the subsequent leasing of the three theatres, Adorno began construction of an open air theatre, which was completed and equipped by mid-summer. However, he was enjoined from opening the house under the provisions of a city law which prohibited operation of any amusement venture over 300 seats which did not front on a city street. Adorno has recently begun a mandamus action against the building inspector seeking to force issuance of a permit for full capacity operation of the house. At the time the former operator began building the airdrome theatre, he also announced he would build a year-round theatre in the city, and plans have been drawn.

New Hampshire Drive-In To Run Until November

NASHUA, N. H.—In operation only since the middle of August, the Daniel Webster Highway Auto Theatre, New Hampshire's only drive-in, has proved such a success that its shows will continue through Armistice Day, it has been announced by Manager Theode Durocher.

The drive-in, located four miles north of Nashua, has been drawing good crowds from both Nashua and Manchester, largest cities in the state.

Manager Durocher said renovations and expansion were being planned for early next season.

Yamins Discusses Production

BOSTON—Nathan Yamins, president of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., called a meeting of the Allied affiliate here Tuesday. Business centered largely about production.

Independent Distribution Life Span Brief, Testifies Morse

BOSTON—The mortality of independent film distributors in Boston has been high, according to Charles Morse of the Morse and Rothenberg circuit, plaintiff in a $2,100,000 anti-trust suit which has been before a master since late last year.

Morse, who has been interested in approximately 50 theatres in this and surrounding territories and now, together with Louis Rothenberg, heads a 19-house chain, was asked by Attorney George S. Ryan about the independent distribution picture since 1930 in the Hub.

"Sono Art operated about two years," Morse said. He estimated that the time was during 1931 and 1932. "Century Pictures operated for two or three years at about the same time. Cameo Screen Attractions operated in Boston since about 1931 or '32 and is still operating."

"Can you tell us now as to the Cameo, how many pictures it has had a year?"

"Since they started in business, I would say their average release or distribution has been around three features a year, and between six or eight westerns."

"Now, before you pass on, can you give us the same information about Sono Art and Century while they were in business?"

"Sono Art, I believe, released their pictures through World Wide Distributing Corp., and this distribution firm handled all of the Sono Art productions, and I believe, that while they were in business, they released about ten features and eight westerns. During the time that Century was in business, they released about 12 features yearly, and about six or eight westerns."

"Now, will you proceed with the other distributors?"

"Hollywood Distributing Co. operated from about 1930 to 1934. They distributed certain independent pictures, including Monogram Pictures. They released about 20 to 24 features yearly, and from 12 to 16 westerns."

"And at the present time has Republic a distributing office here in Boston?"

"Yes."

"Do you know whether or not that is on a franchise basis or whether it is the Republic distributing office itself?"

"I believe it is a Republic distributing office."

"And the manager of that is Herman Rifkin?"

"That is right."

"By the way, that is the Mr. Rifkin who sat on the board in some one of these grievance board hearings?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, will you proceed?" asked Ryan.

"Are you asking for the companies with whom we do business or only the ones that have Boston offices?" said Morse.

"The ones that have their offices here in Boston."

"New England Pictures were in business for about three years and they released three or four features during each of those years.

"And how long have they been out of business?"

"About four or five years. About four years, to the best of my recollection. American Pictures Co. were in business about two or three years and distributed, among other independent pictures, Chesterfield Production. I would say that their distribution was around 15 features a year and eight westerns."

"Can you tell us how long they have been out of business, or are they still in business?"

Hub, Amity, et al.

"They are not in business. They have been out of business about four years. Franklin Productions operated for about two years, and have been out of business about five or six years. They released about 15 features a year. I don't believe they had any westerns. They might have had six. I don't remember. They released for the most part some Tiffany Pictures and some English pictures.

"Allied Productions were in business for two or three years. I believe that Allied became Hollywood, as far as I can remember. They also released some Monogram, I believe, and Mayfair Productions, as I recall it. They have been out of business for about six years.

"Gaumont-British have been in business four or five years and released around 12 English pictures a year, and the physical handling of these features has been done by Fox Film and 20th Century-Fox.

"First Division were in business for two or three years and released First Division features, and also some Chesterfield features. They have not operated for about four years. They released an average, I would say, of 18 features and 10 or 12 westerns.

"Grand National . . . do you want Grand National or have I covered it?" asked Morse.

"Tell us how long they were in business and how many they released?" questioned Ryan.

"Nineteen hundred thirty-six and thirty-

By-Play Enlivens M&R Suit

Boston — By-play occasionally enlivens the otherwise somewhat laborious detail of the Morse & Rothenberg anti-trust suit.

For instance, the plaintiff's attorney, George S. Ryan, after recently compiling a long list of figures, said, "The total price of those pictures would have been a little over $46.50, according to the mathematicians."

"I think," broke in Edward F. McClennen, defense attorney, "the mathematicians will do well if they get a passing mark."

"I know you'd mark them zero, anyway," came back Ryan.

seven was their first season, and therefore, 1938-39 would be their third year in business, and they have released around 12 features a year and about eight westerns each year. They are still in business.

"Bay State Film Co. have been in business about six years—six or seven years—and have averaged three or four pictures a year, in some years as little as one or two, and other years as high as seven or eight, possibly.

"Imperial Pictures have been in business about three years and are still in business, and release around eight to ten features yearly and eight westerns, and they have distributed Ambassador and Imperial, and other independent productions.

"Tiffany Film Exchange operated for two or three years around 1930 to '32 and then went out of business, and handled for the most part Tiffany productions. They release between 15 and 20 features a year and six or eight westerns.

"Amity Pictures were in business from about 1934-1937 and they released three or four pictures each year. They are not in business now.

"Hub Film Co. have been in business for seven or eight years, and are still in business and release some years one feature, some years two, and some years as many as three.

"Wholesome Film Co. have been in business from 12 to 15 years and are still in business. This company devotes itself mainly to non-theatrical accounts and distributes for the most part 16mm films. Two or three years ago they had two foreign pictures, English pictures, I believe, which they distributed, and also during one year they had some Tiffany, they obtained some prints of Tiffany pictures which had been distributed by Tiffany many years ago. In other words, they sold these pictures as reissues or reviews.

Reference to First Division

"Hemingway Film Co. have been in business about 12 years and are still in business. This company has mostly distributed religious pictures, such as Passion Play features, and so forth, but from time to time they get hold of one or possibly two independent pictures during the course of the year, and during one year they also had some old Tiffany pictures. They had some Tiffany prints of pictures which Tiffany themselves distributed many years ago.

"Atlantic Film Exchange were in business about a year. They distributed some, I think four or five features which were originally distributed by United Artists and which were produced by Reliance Producing Co.

"Specialty Film Co. have been in business about two years and distributed an average of six features and six westerns each year. They are still in business.

"Benjamin Rogers has been in business one year and he has distributed two or three features of First Division, and Hollywood Distributing Co., which were first released six or seven years ago.

"Popular Pictures have been in business about a year and a half and they have distributed about two pictures, two or three pictures since they have been in business. I don't believe that Popular Pictures are doing business at the present time.

"Harry Asher distributed two or three features in his name during the last year and a half. I don't believe that he is now distributing any in his own name.

"That is all of the Boston companies that I am able to recall at this minute."

"Well, now, have there been any companies distributing films in New Haven and New York territory that did not have distribution of these films in the Boston territory?"

"Yes, sir."

Morse's Booking Policy

"Take the New Haven territory. What companies were they, and how long in business?" asked Ryan.

"The Connecticut Film Distributing Corp. of New Haven have been in business for four or five years, and are still in business, and they have distributed from time to time one or two English pictures a year, and they have also obtained some prints of Tiffany's for distribution, which were distributed by Tiffany about eight or nine years ago. That is the only one in Connecticut."

Morse explained to the court his policy of booking pictures on double feature programs.

"I always endeavor to book pictures of different types of story, etc.," Morse said. "If you have a heavy melodramatic picture it is always good policy to book a comedy picture or something light with it; if you have a gangster picture you naturally would get something of a different type, something light, a society prom, or something of that kind. You endeavor to keep the show in question as varied as possible. If you have a musical you naturally don't put another musical on with it but you put some underworld or something else with that picture."

"Have you had any policy in the booking of the double feature programs in the theatre, as to whether you put two outstanding attractions together or two ordinary ones or two poor ones, how would you work that?"

"Ordinarily if you have a smash hit or a special from some company you would book another of much less consequence. In other words, you would not waste all your ammunition with two big hits, as far as our theatres are concerned, because we change quite a few times a week and naturally have to spread out somewhat the best boxoffice attractions. In our theatres, if you have exceptionally good boxoffice attractions, it is advisable and good policy to book a picture which does not amount to anything in particular; then if you have an average picture, you book something

(Continued on page 98)

Collection Suit Victory Secures Bank Night Royalty Rights

By BRAD ANGIER

BOSTON—Bank Night's right to collect royalties in Massachusetts was upheld here last week when Roy E. Heffner won a $1,345.10 collection suit against the Reading Theatre Corp. The concern is a Morris Pouzzner operating company. The case, tried before Judge Dillon and a jury in Middlesex superior court, was the first of numerous, long pending local actions to reach trial. George S. Ryan was Heffner's attorney.

The decision was hailed by Heffner as proof that he intends to bring delinquent payees to trial and as evidence that gossip that his office has been stalling, and using litigations merely as threats that would never come to pass, is unfounded. A number of similar cases are in the courts, and Heffner told this publication that he was having Ryan bring others.

Pouzzner, who plans a supreme court appeal, generally denied all allegations in the suit brought by Heffner as Affiliated Enterprises, Inc., assignee. He alleged a plea of payment, that the contract was against public policy, and that the contract was both illegal and had been obtained by means of fraud and misrepresentation.

Judge Dillon told the jury that if they were to uphold the "illegal contract" charge, they must find that Heffner and Pouzzner entered into something that by fair intendment presupposed and contemplated a violation of the law. This had to be the essence of the contract at the time it was made, his honor instructed.

The judge opined that the "lottery" allegation had two prongs; that is, the Bank Night plan as described in the contract and the Bank Night plan as it may have been operated. The second did not necessarily bind the first, he said.

"You may sell a pack of playing cards which somebody may use in conducting a gambling enterprise that is contrary to the law," said Judge Dillon. "On the other hand, that same piece of merchandise may be used for an absolutely innocent purpose that violates no law.

"It certainly would be unjust that the man should not be permitted to recover the value of the sale of the cards simply because afterwards somebody else made use of the merchandise for an illegal purpose."

The jury was also advised, on this score, to take into consideration the contract itself which read, in part, that operation of Bank Night must be conducted in accordance with municipal and state law, "so that by its terms it contemplates that there is not to be any violation of the law in the exercise of the license that is granted by this agreement."

Pouzzner claimed that he had both cancelled and ceased to use Bank Night Heffner, on the other hand, contended that the notice of cancellation was a "subterfuge" and that the Reading Theatre Corp. had continued to use the plan, "paraphernalia, registration books, and other accessories;" substituting such names as "Cash Night," "Bonus Night," and "Jackpot Night." The court instructed the jury to determine the facts.

The Middlesex superior court jury found for Heffner in the amounts of $177 and $1,168.10, the full sums with interest argued for by George S. Ryan.

BOSTON

MRS. BLANCHE EAMES, wife of the circuit owner, Jack Eames, was hostess to Bette Davis at a special screening of "The Old Maid" at the Premier Theatre in Littleton, N. H., last week. It was the first time the star, who has been sojourning at Sugar Hill, had seen the completed version of the film.

Andrew G. Holstrom, Edna F. Holstrom, and Rowland J. Hastings last week incorporated a Worcester amusement concern, Allan Gray Holmes, Inc., with a capital of $25,000.

Frank Colburn, manager of the Colonial in Haverhill, exploited "Union Pacific" recently by planting a newspaper story on how Lynne Overman had at one time played in legit at the Academy of Music in that city . . . Edward Cuddy, general manager of M&P Theatres Corp., was treasurer of the house when Overman played there 22 years ago.

Ed Goldstein, manager of the Bijou in Holyoke, and Mrs. Goldstein have a baby boy. It's Allan Isaac Goldstein.

David Fessenden Perkins, present manager of the Calvin Theatre in Northampton, is celebrating his 40th anniversary in show business.

Jack Martin, Republic veteran, recently received a second baseball autographed by members of the New York Yankees. He gave away a previous ball to a sick child.

Josephine Kahn Rubin, M-G-M cashier, is resigning . . . Charles Morse and Louis Rothenberg, circuit operators, are understood to be interested in acquiring a house in Manchester, Conn.

George Kraska last week put on the North American premiere of the French prize film "Les Quai des Brumes," otherwise "Port of Shadows."

Major Patrick F. Healey, state film head, and Alvin G. Kennedy, junior vice-commander of the Theatrical Post of American Legion, returned last week from the legion convention in Chicago . . . Marcus Schlitt of the Exhibitors Advertising Co. spent last weekend in New York . . . Dave Garceau, manager of the Community in Ft. Kent, was down from northern Maine last week.

Arthur Goldstein, manager of the Avon Theatre in Providence for Louis Gordon and Arthur Lockwood, now is using some foreign product.

Jack Meyers, Hub Film Co. head, and Peggy Keane have married.

Robert Gordon will manage the Braintree Theatre when the house, the former Lyric, is opened by Gordon and Lockwood circuit. The theatre is undergoing renovations. Gordon was formerly assistant manager at the Cameo in Weymouth.

Charles Hurley, manager of the Liberty in Springfield, was within ten patrons of filling his house at 8:30 p. m. when he recently opened a new dish deal.

Arthur LaPlante, manager of the State in Farmington, is having new carpet laid at the Maine theatre.

Edward Ansin and E. Harold Stoneman, Interstate Theatre partners, were at the World Series . . . Steve Broidy, Monogram director, also saw the New York games.

Jack Unger of Paramount was in town last week to sit on the Paramount Pictures negotiations with the M&P Theatres Corp.

Herbert Higgins, independent film booker, went on a retreat to Campion Hall in Andover last weekend.

Edward Spellman, manager for Sam Kurson in Brandon, Vt., is married. Spellman was formerly at Keith's Memorial in Boston.

Clarence Robinson, Paramount Theatre stagehand, is convalescing following a recent illness . . . Hal Danson, Paramount advance man, was in this territory last week on "What a Life" . . . H. W. Stitham has contracted with Capitol Theatre Supply Co. for equipment for the Opera House which he is opening in Hartland, Me.

Roy E. Heffner of Bank Night and George S. Ryan, the attorney, were to have left this week for a one-week hunting trip at Moosehead Lake, in Maine. Heffner planned to headquarter in his trailer . . . Charles Fish of Capitol Theatre Supply Co., was out ill last week with the grippe.

Eddie Cantor, contracted for an RKO Boston Theatre stage appearance, is scheduled to be the feature speaker at a dinner of the Volunteers of America, Monday, at the Boston City Club. Mayor Maurice Tobin also is due to speak.

Joyce Dana, formerly associated with Joseph A. DiPesa of Loew's, Inc., has returned to the Boston Record as film critic.

William Findlay, formerly at the Bijou and later assistant to RKO Artist Carlo Vannicola, is doing ads for the Trans Lux Theatre . . . Robert Daniels, also a former Vannicola assistant, has joined Bresnick-Solomon, local advertising agents doing a quantity of theatre layouts.

Mario Daru, assistant to Jack Saff, advertising manager of the Paramount and Fenway, is getting ready for the hunting season.

Andrew Tegu of the Palace in St. Albans, was in from Vermont last week, booking . . . Frank Perry, Foxboro exhibitor, and Mrs. Perry were in the district last week . . . Louis Stern was down from Barre, Vt.

Lelia Clapp of the Gordon and Lockwood office was out last week with a sprained ankle . . . Mae Tully was doubling . . . Michael J. Hurney of Specialty Pictures, arranged for a second screening of "Bombs Over London" at 20th-Fox, Monday.

Harry Browning, M&P advertising manager, was in New York last week . . . Nellie McLaughlin, Imperial booker, returns Monday from a two-week vacation, part of which she spent in Philadelphia . . . Rudolph Borck, foreign film representative, touched town last week.

Edward Harrison, manager of the Opera House in Waterville, had a quantity of tie-ups arranged for the opening the other Saturday of "Dick Tracy's G-Men" in the Maine college town.

This Hitler guy is certainly messing things up "Over There," isn't he?

But, have you noticed what's happening "Over Here"?

Leading industries have huge unfilled orders. Aircraft and ship building plants are hiring men to fill orders totaling millions.

The Textile industry is starting to boom — cotton is already up 20%. Burlap has doubled in price.

Lumber and residential building have increased to the highest point since 1929. The steel industry has increased production immensely and is putting thousands of men back to work.

Carpeting has already advanced and will undoubtedly advance further if it is possible to secure the wool necessary to manufacture, since practically all wool used in the carpet industry comes from abroad.

Prices in practically all lines of equipment have advanced or are advancing, and you'll save money by placing your orders for contemplated improvements now. Why not let us quote you present prices on your equipment needs?



CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

A NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZATION FOR NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS

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M&R Testimony Deals With Independents

(Continued from page 96)

with it that is fairly good. If you have a very poor picture, you have to book a strong one with it."

"When you have used independent pictures what has been your policy as to the major pictures to be played with it?"

"We tried to get an exceptionally good major picture, one which would have very good drawing—a good, strong picture," replied Morse.

The Giveaway Problem

The question of boxoffice hypoes arose when Attorney Ryan asked the exhibitor the purpose of using giveaways.

"The purpose of using giveaways," said Morse, "is to get a larger gross and make more money and to endeavor, in addition to covering the cost of the giveaways, to take in additional revenue above the cost of the giveaways so that the theatre makes more or less profit."

"What have you observed as to that?"

"I have observed that subsequent-run houses in various localities, including second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, down to last runs, habitually use premiums and cash nights."

"Have you observed anything as to whether or not first-run houses use giveaways other than cash giveaways?"

"I have observed it."

"What have you observed as to that?"

"From my observation, it is practically never done unless there is a certain competitive situation, that in order to hurt a competitor a theatre might put in—a first-run house might put in a premium or cash giveaway that they would otherwise never have thought of—otherwise I don't think a first-run theatre uses premiums as a rule. I don't include cash games. I mean premiums as a rule aren't used by the first-run theatres."

"In the subsequent-run houses, Mr. Morse, what kind of giveaways are most frequently used?"

"Premiums and cash nights."

Good Will Increased

"In how many of your theatres have you used the premiums such as chinaware or kitchenware?" asked Ryan.

"During what period?"

"During the last eight years in New England?"

"How many theatres?"

"Yes."

"We have used them all except one," said Morse.

"And which is the one theatre where you have not used them?"

"Kenmore Theatre."

"In how many of your theatres have you used country store?"

"In about 75 per cent of the theatres."

"In how many have you used grocery night?"

"In about 50 per cent."

"In how many have you used Turkey night?"

"About 75 per cent."

"In how many have you used a gift night where articles of merchandise are given to holders of lucky tickets?"

"All of the theatres except the Kenmore Theatre."

"In how many have you used Bank Night or some form of cash giveaway by chance?"

"In every theatre except the Kenmore."

"In how many theatres have you used vaudeville?"

"The Rialto, Poughkeepsie; Strand, Haverhill; Colonial, Nashua; Park Theatre, Nashua; Arcadia Theatre, Portsmouth—that is all I recall now. We also used vaudeville at the Franklin Park Theatre, if you are going back that far—in Dorchester."

"Have you found in the course of your operation of theatres that the use of giveaways is or is not a good thing for the theatre using it?"

"It has been a good thing for our theatres."

"And why is that?"

"Because it has made us more money. It has increased the gross receipts, and even when you subtract the cost of the giveaway, we find that we are substantially ahead on our net profit."

"Have you found that the use of premiums or other giveaways has any effect in creating goodwill for the theatre?"

"Yes."

"What have you found as to that?"

"It has helped us a great deal in many situations, getting hundreds of new patrons to come to the theatre that would probably never think of coming."

"Are some of these premiums such as chinaware given away in series of sets, one piece a week?"

"Yes, sir, one piece each week."

"And for how long a period of time will they run before the set is given away?"

"From one to two years, as a rule."

"Now is there any advantage to a theatre in securing pictures within a short time after their national release?"

"Yes, sir."

"What is that advantage?"

"The theatre running a picture soon after release will get the advantage of a tremendous amount of magazine, periodical—all kinds of moving picture periodicals and newspaper advertising, and the picture would be fresh in the people's mind, and in many cases a certain story has a time element connected with it, which would be like a football story or an historical event, which would be less valuable and stale as time went on."

"So far as subsequent-run houses are concerned, is there any advantage in getting pictures within a short time after first-run in the locality?"

"Yes, there is."

"What is that advantage?"

"Those advantages would be exactly the same as I have described as getting it immediately after release, in that you get prints which are better, there is nothing cut out of the print, the sound is better, and it is better in many ways."

All-Year Legit Faces Trade in Portland

PORTLAND, ME.—With the beginning of the remodeling activities and refurnishing of Keith's Theatre here October 6, a new and serious form of competition for local exhibitors was begun. For Keith's, one-time leading theatre of Portland, is to be turned into a legitimate house with an all-year-around program of varied shows featuring stage, screen and radio stars. It is expected to be opened about November 20 and will be known as the Maine Civic Theatre.

BRIDGEPORT

HARRY ROSE has dropped Saturday night amateur acts and substituted professional talent from New York, due to lack of local amateurs. Regular Monday night vaudeville continues.

Charlie Obert, assistant manager at the Warner, has been separated from his tonsils.

Majestic turned away 3,000 persons during the first three days of "Thunder Afloat." The film came within a few dollars of setting a house record for the week. Moved to Lyric for extra playing time.

The orchestra boxes have been removed from the Globe and will be replaced with regulation seats.

Alice Fox, secretary to Manager Matt L. Saunders of the Loew-Poli, was a bridesmaid at the wedding of her sister, Mary, on Columbus day.

Loew-Poli openings have been shifted from Friday to Thursday.

Stephen's Hall has resumed weekly programs of Hungarian films.

The girls at the Loew-Poli theatres are talking about organizing a bowling team.

Park City is now scheduling additional matinees.

Post-Telegram *newsboys from South Norwalk were brought to the city to be the guests of Manager Morris Rosenthal at the Majestic . . . Bridgeport naval veterans also were the guests of Rosenthal at "Thunder Afloat." They brought their band and played in front of the theatre.*

Edward Katz of the Loew-Poli staff has entered Junior College.

So many ushers have left the Loew-Poli for jobs in munitions shops that usherettes are back on the floor.

William Finn, Loew-Poli doorman, is back after a two-month illness following an operation for appendicitis.

James Conroy's smile is being graced with a brand new set of store teeth.

Edward Kerwin is the new doorman at the Earner.

HARTFORD

MOTION picture critics from important newspapers throughout the state were in New Haven last Tuesday to attend a preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade." Hartfordites there were Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph, *Courant*, and Julian B. Tuthill, *Times*. The two critics went down in the company of Jack A. Simons, manager of the downtown Loew-Poli.

Harry F. Shaw, division manager of Loew-Poli Theatres, was in town last Wednesday . . . Regal Theatre has changed its opening day from Fridays to Wednesdays.

Notes of a rambling reporter: Louis Cohen, manager of the Loew-Poli Palace, seen sporting a green portable suit with, it is reported, two pairs of vests . . . Several Associated Press photos, concerning the European war, in the Hartford *Courant* last week were from Paramount News . . . Swedish film was showing at the Rivoli last Tuesday.

Maurice W. Shulman, manager of the Webster Theatre, is undertaking billboard advertising . . . Dave Sugarman's former post as manager of the downtown WB Regal is being filled, at present, by Frank Momin. Dave has been switched from the Regal to the Farmington Avenue Colonial, another Warner unit in this area.

Bingo has started at Hartford's Foot Guard Hall . . . Ditto the Elks' Home, New Britain . . . Leo Task has re-opened the Milford Theatre, Milford . . . Construction of that new theatre in Cheshire is, according to the latest reports, progressing quite rapidly.

Ray Trial, usher at the Webster, has left that theatre to attend the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Ray, up to his leaving, had been with the theatre 18 months. Filling in for the former usher is Charlie Spillain, former usher at the M&P Allyn Theatre.

Warner State, Manchester, has boosted prices for patrons. Orchestra seats now are 40 cents, and balcony 30 cents.

A pie eating contest, staged for the first time on roller skates, was to have marked the official opening last Friday evening of Conrose's Skating Rink on Park Street. Formerly known as Conrose's Palomar, the owners (Conn and Rosenthal) ran Conrose's Cinema City Theatre, Sound View, for the summer trade this past summer, with Julian B. Tuthill, Hartford Times, *in the managerial position.*

Crown Theatre had a revue some days ago, and reported fair business . . . March of Time staff, in New London making "The Ramparts We Watch," are, according to latest reports, making rapid progress . . . Jimmy Myers, usher, Loew-Poli, Waterbury, has returned to school studies.

Milford occurrence some days ago: Judge Patrick B. O'Sullivan, superior court, decided in favor of the protesting residents in the complaint against the local Drive-In Theatre. Injunction was granted restraining operation of the house. It appears that the protesters against the theatre said that they were disturbed by the noises from the theatre.

Connecticut Exhibitor Frank Perakos, New Britain and Thompsonville theatre operator, has, it appears, a half-interest in the new State, Jewett City.

Manager George Landers of the E. M. Loew's took a trip to New Haven exchanges last Wednesday.

Going in for adult patron appeal in a big way, October 11 saw the institution of a Jitterbug Night at the Park Street Lyric Theatre, a Warner unit which Paul Binstock manages. Paul says that a Jitterbug Night will be held every Wednesday evening until the week before Christmas, at which time a final contest will be held by the management to determine the champion jitterbug team in the Hartford area.

A five-and-ten-cent store next to Loew-Poli has vacated. Present reports indicate that an electrical appliance firm will carry on in the store space. Watching alterations done on the store last Thursday afternoon was Louis Cohen, manager of the Loew-Poli Palace, who was talking with a bystander.

Officials Grow Stringent In Regulating Bingo

HARTFORD—Even though legalized Bingo is being operated in many cities and towns in the state, Connecticut Enterprises, Inc., which, it appears, announced the start of Bingo at Capitol Park under the sponsorship of several civic and fraternal organizations, seems to have come to a sudden halt in operations.

Hartford authorities are rejecting the wish to permit the game, except when the proceeds go "exclusively" to the organization sponsoring the event.

The move by local authorities was not expected at the time, but when the thing broke, Hartford press gave front page space to the event.

Extend Exit Requirements For Buildings in N. H.

CONCORD, N. H.—Under authority of Chapter 147 of the Public Laws, a new supplementary regulation has been adopted in regard to egress from buildings in New Hampshire, according to the state board of health.

It is specified that all ground-floor outer exits must give free and unobstructed egress to the street, through an alley or court, or through a fire resistive passage at least four feet wide, with at least six inches additional width for each 50 persons accommodated in excess of 300. It is also emphasized that the exits and passages are not to be used for any other purposes than those intended.

Schenck's Rental Bid Gets Sharp Rebuff

BOSTON—Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., called Joseph M. Schenck's recent MPPDA proclamation a descent "from the sublime to the ridiculous." Said Howard, "Mr. Schenck calls on exhibitors to pay higher film rentals in order to maintain the quality and prestige of American films. He says that profits should be a secondary consideration.

"Mr. Schenck makes this request in the face of the fact that the distributors for years have been getting from exhibitors all that the traffic will bear while the producers have been getting rich pocketing the fattest salaries ever paid employes of any industry in the age-old history of business. Exhibitors might well say to Mr. Schenck, 'cut out the unreasonable waste in production, reduce your ridiculous salaries and cut your overhead down where it belongs.'

"The loss of some revenue in the foreign market and the necessity for either reducing budgets or increasing rentals has quite naturally resulted in Mr. Schenck's request for the latter.

"I believe that exhibitors are more than willing to help but in order for them to be able to pay more money for pictures they must gross more. This could be accomplished by selling pictures individually for what they are worth. This method of selling would stimulate the production of only high quality pictures capable of grossing more at the boxoffice and by eliminating 'quickies,' at least, stop keeping people out of the theatres.

"The next stop should be to eliminate preferred playing time and let the exhibitor run his own business. If this is done, the producers' revenue will be greater and the industry a damn sight better off."

Myshrall Columbia Maine Salesman; Wolf to Hub

BOSTON — Carl Myshrall, former Harwichport exhibitor who recently sold out to Interstate, has been appointed Columbia salesman for Maine. Joe Wolf, former local Columbia booker and before that booker for Warner, was moved to Boston to handle the territory vacated by the sudden death of Tim Donahue. Harry Rogovin, branch manager, established the new setup.

Keenan Resigns Republic Bally Post in Boston

BOSTON — Gene Keenan resigned last week as New England exploitation manager for Republic Pictures. Business conditions resulted in the temporary discontinuance of the department. Keenan, who is identified with the legitimate stage, planned to leave for New York this week.

Jeanne Segal, Keenan's secretary, also resigned.

NEW HAVEN

ALL LOEW-POLI houses have changed from Friday to Thursday opening for a 12-week period, to include Columbus Day and Thanksgiving . . . Trade preview season is on . . . "Hollywood Cavalcade" and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" registered OK with exhibitors and their friends who attended the morning shows.

Local No. 273 of motion picture operators will hold its regular meeting Monday, October 16, at Trades Council Hall, with Frank Perry, president, and Matthew Kennedy, business agent, in charge. Election meeting is scheduled for November . . . Local B-41 of AFL exchange employes has affiliated itself with the New Haven Trades Council.

Lee Malcarni's remodeled Deep River Theatre is scheduled for October 15 opening . . . Frank Civitello, artist, who has heretofore exhibited some high-class canvases and theatre display material, exhibited his first motion pictures at the recently acquired Devon Theatre, October 12. "Stanley and Livingstone" is the opening feature . . . The Lockwood-Gordon-Lampert Windsor Theatre is reported about a month short of finishing touches and opening . . . The Shulman Windsor-Plaza won't be far behind.

The Shulman interests, operators of the Webster and Rivoli, Hartford, are now drawing plans and contemplating immediate construction of a 600-seat theatre in Wethersfield. Reports of a house in this town have been centered about Nathan Lampert, Oscar Hausner, and Arthur Lockwood as well . . . Natale DiFrancesco's 350-seater in Cheshire will usher in the new year . . . National Theatre Supply has the booth equipment contract for Mr. and Mrs. Hess's new Groton Theatre . . . American gets the seating contract.

Possibility of a toll bridge between Groton and New London to replace the old, condemned bridge, which would be less accessible to Grotonites and tend to isolate the little town is music to the prospective exhibitors' ears.

Connecticut Films Distributing Co. and Dick Cohen have moved to the second floor at 126 Meadow Street . . . The silent films programs at the Arena are booked for a three weeks' trial, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Easy Street" leading off, admission 10-25 cents.

Fred Van Doren of the Hamilton, Waterbury, is building a retaining wall on his new site which will soon have a 600-seat house . . . What with a house on the east end and another on the west, Van Doren will be playing both ends of Waterbury against the middle . . . Shelton Post Office still delayed in moving to new quarters and the Morris Hadelman theatre will have to wait.

The Connecticut attorney general has ruled an order for merchandise or other personal property may be given as a Bingo prize instead of the merchandise itself, provided the retail total of all prizes offered at all games in one day does not exceed $250. Cash is definitely out, however, as is cashing in of merchandise due bills, which is reported to have been the policy of several organizations.

Elizabeth Formento has bought "Honey" for the Park, Lee, Mass. Capitol, East Haven and the New Broadbrook report a satisfactory build-up on the game . . . Whalley Theatre used plenty of showmanship in putting over the first New England neighborhood showing of "The Mikado" for two days, with a special Saturday morning show thrown in.

The Forest Theatre Corp. annual report shows officers as E. Michael Cascioli, president and treasurer; Leo Ardolino, vice-president, and Carmelo Ardolino, secretary. The corporation is constructing the Forest Theatre, Allingtown.

Harry Shaw was in charge of all trailers for the City of New Haven in cooperation with Fire Prevention Week. At the Poli, Metro's "Guardians Unseen" was added to the regular trailer to make a timely short subject.

Charles Sonin, of the Loew purchasing department, New York, was in town for a few days. Also Lee Mayer, superintendent of the Warner checking department and Harry Moskowitz, head of the Loew-Poli construction department . . . Mr. and Mrs. Morris Hadelman, Mrs. Sam Hadelman, and daughter, Suzanne have all deserted Sam in favor of a trip to Washington.

Oscar Doob of Loew's, New York, seen at the Yale-Columbia game . . . Earl Wright of 20th-Fox was the center of attention in the heart of Meriden the other day. Leo Ricci of the Capitol arranged it by clamping a "bomb" to Wright's rear tire . . . A. Griffith-Grey, brother of D. W. Griffith, visited Springfield in the interest of "Intermezzo" and gave several newspaper interviews . . . Tony Boscardine will flood the Colonial, Canaan parking space for ice-skating this winter. Says Tony, "Where you formerly parked your car, you can now parkyakarkas."

Al Daytz, formerly with Metro Premium Co. here, will manage the newly-opened Progressive Premium Philadelphia office, together with his brother, Mickey Daytz. No new Metro man has been appointed . . . Adolph G. Johnson has sold the Branford Theatre, Colonial, Bridgeport; Alcazar, Naugatuck, and Bostwick, Bridgeport new ovenware deals . . . W. C. Wrisley, just back from a trip to Ohio, reports he returned with several new deals.

Fishman Theatres have lowered the Lyric, New Haven top to 15 cents from 20 cents . . . The five cents is added on premium nights if patron desires his dish . . . The main floor boxes have been ripped out at the Globe, Bridgeport, and regular seats substituted . . . Palace, Hartford, seats have just been delivered and will be installed at once . . . Loew's have leased the Lyric, Bridgeport, for a "Tobacco Road" legit engagement October 16 to 22 . . . "Beau Geste" was a holdover at the State, Waterbury . . . New Haven office of 20th-Fox is still in the lead in the national drive after seven weeks.

Vaude news: The Globe, Bridgeport, has run out of amateurs and will discontinue its amateur nights in favor of professional acts each Saturday, beginning October 14, in addition to regular Monday night shows . . . The Poli, Waterbury, still has sponsored amateur nights, broadcast over WBRY with Jack Henry at the mike . . . Mickey Ferris and Stephen Ondek are behind the move to organize vaude acts in Bridgeport once more.

The Court Square, Springfield, has stage shows every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday . . . Plymouth, Worcester presents Little Ann Little and seven acts . . . The Palace, Meriden adds James E. Zabroski, well-known local clarinetist and saxophonist in addition to its regular Swing Night program . . . One-night vaudeville stands will soon be revived at the Palace . . . Bob Crosby went from his Arena, New Haven engagement to the State, Hartford, a hit at both . . . The Jitterbug contest series at the Loew-Poli-Bijou and windup at the Poli, a huge success.

The Poli, Waterbury, will try Golly's new "Kash Kwiz" idea every Tuesday evening, offering $100 in cash and merchandise prizes. The house had Ten-O-Win and Screeno in the days before the ban.

I. J. Hoffman is moving into his new home on East Rock Avenue, New Haven . . . The Warner offices will be completely streamlined and de luxed in two more weeks . . . Bob Russell sold Fisk Tires the full back page of a "Golden Boy" tabloid . . . Nat Rubin used the Al Jolson "Kol Nidre" scene stills for reproduction in Jewish press ads for "Hollywood Cavalcade," designed to reach 5,000 New Haven readers . . . Katherine Cornell and Francis Lederer will pre-Broadway "No Time for Comedy" at the Shubert, October 16-17.

A Reunion in Bridgeport

Bridgeport—Howard W. Pettengill, manager of Warner, grew up in Haverhill, Mass., with George Valacka. They followed different paths for more than 20 years and then Howard got transferred from Worcester to this city to find George operating a restaurant across from the theatre.

The Fine Art of Conversation

Boston—A certain pugnacious conversationalist in the local film district has a tag-line that provokes a mutual sense of humor when his rantings reach a certain point.

"What the hell," he asks. "Do you think I'm a damn fool to fight at my age?"

Lydon and Ramsdell Up in MPTOA Ranks

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, eastern regional vice-president of Allied States Ass'n, and George A. Ramsdell, local Allied director and Malden circuit operator, have been appointed to the advisory committee of the MPTOA in this state by Samuel Pinanski, M&P Theatres Corp. partner recently re-elected president of the Bay State unit.

Lydon, who has been a member of the organization for a number of years, explained his affiliation is merely in the interests of the legislative efforts in this state of the Allied Theatres of Massachusetts, Inc. Joseph Brennan, MPTO secretary in Massachusetts, is unofficial state legislative agent for the entire local film industry. The local affiliate concerns itself little with national organizational problems.

Philip Bloomberg, head of a north shore circuit; Nathan Goldstein, Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., partner, and Abner Eilenberg are also on the advisory committee.

The executive board also appointed by Pinanski, includes Martin J. Mullin, Harry McDonald, Max Melincoff, John J. Ford, Stanley Sumner, Brennan, H. M. Addison and John H. Devlin.

The board of directors is composed of Mullin and Edward Cuddy of M&P Corp.; Addison and Fred Greenway of Loew's, Inc.; Harry McDonald and Benjamin Domingo of RKO Theatres; Melincoff and H. E. Hoffman of Warner Bros.; John J. Ford of Maine and New Hampshire; John S. Giles of the Giles circuit; James H. Doyle of the Broadway Theatre, and Walter A. Brown of Boston Garden.

Also sitting with the board of directors are President Pinanski, Vice-president Devlin of Loew's Inc., and Treasurer Sumner of the University Theatre, Cambridge.

Drive-In Theatres Corp. Faces Legal Troubles

BOSTON—The legal and labor troubles of Drive-In Theatres Corp. in this territory reached a head when the company's ozoner at Saugus was darkened by forcible removal of equipment. A dispute over an AFL projectionist contract had been raging at this situation. At the Drive-In at Weymouth, original DiMaura-Guarino situation, the unit's bank account has been attached.

Adding to labor troubles and lawsuits that have plagued the houses, of late, public complaints alleging disturbance from loud speaker systems have been voiced.

Extends Vaudeville

BOSTON—Ben Domingo, RKO city manager, has increased vaudeville bookings at the RKO Boston Theatre from three days a week to four days a week. Flesh has been clicking well this year at the house, the town's only de luxer in footlights.

Assign John Wexley

HOLLYWOOD—John Wexley will script "City of Conquest" for Warner Bros.

Rogers Fund Benefits Hub Charity

Boston—Boston film men last week handed Mayor Maurice Tobin a $2,000 check as contribution of the local industry to the Will Rogers Memorial Fund. John Dervin, UA branch manager; Arthur K. Howard, Allied business manager; Joseph Brennan, MPTOA business manager, and Maurice N. Wolf, Boston Friars Club president, made the presentation at City Hall.

PORTLAND

PATRICK MICHAEL, 18-year-old son of John Ford, Hollywood director, was enrolled this week as a freshman at the University of Maine. Ford was given an honorary degree by this institution two years ago. Under the name of Feeney, the elder Ford was known in pre-war days as one of the best football players that Portland High had turned out. Sturdily built, six feet one inch tall and weighing 185 pounds, Patrick is following in the footsteps of his famous father by already shining on the gridiron. Before coming to Maine he attended Menlo Junior College at Palo Alto, adjacent to Leland-Stanford University.

Service staff members at both the Strand and Empire Theatres have donned new and unusually bright uniforms—red with black collars and pockets, trimmed with gold braid. The State expects to have theirs within a few days.

In an interview with a *Sunday Telegram* reporter, Bela Blau, New York theatrical producer, who successfully reopened the rustic Deertrees Theatre at Harrison, Me., this summer after a season of inactivity, announced that the house would be opened again next summer, definitely. Before Blau came to Harrison and took over the management of the attractive summer theatre, the house had had a sad history. It had been originally opened two years previous but was received with no enthusiasm whatever, proving to be a white elephant, indeed. The second year it was not even opened. Blau undertook the venture with considerable misgivings, but, thanks to his own enthusiasm and ability, the cooperation of such persons as Mrs. Phyllis Thaxter, Donald Payson, Mrs. Helen Quick, Miss Margaret Kinney of Portland, Mrs. Enrica Clay Dillon of Harrison, and Maurice Hamblen, Bridgton, as well as local newspapers and Radio Station WGAN, the theatre prospered. In fact, according to Harrison's tax assessor, not for 20 years has the town done the business it has this year, and for that Blau and Deertrees are to be thanked.

The day has at last been set for the John Divney-Mary MacNaughton nuptials, November 25. John is manager of the Maine Theatre . . . Arthur Kendall, musical director at Radio Station WCSH, who has assisted the State Theatre management in putting on its radio programs, is seriously ill . . . The State's "Recess Time" juvenile program set up a new all-time high in attendance at its second performance of the season Saturday, October 7.

Filmrow visitors: Bill Benjamin, NS salesman, and Mrs. Benjamin, Boston; Johnny Feloney, 20th-Fox representative, and Lester Hughes, Paramount salesman out of Boston, whose residence is Portland but who has been seen so rarely of late that he takes on the status of "visitor," even to his family.

The recent death of Fay Templeton recalls to Portlanders that she first appeared here about 1912 as the lead in the Fay Templeton Opera Company. In 1932 she played "Little Buttercup," with the Civic Light Opera Co. at the Jefferson Theatre as part of an Elks charity program.

Elizabeth R. Pendergast, who was employed with the Paramount exchange on St. John St. before it was closed, was married to Earle A. M. Cote at St. Dominic's Church, Monday morning, October 2. They will reside at 124 Bolton St.

The Cape Theatre, operated by Leon P. Gorman, held a charity show under the auspices of the Holy Cross Church, Sunday, October 8. Sunday shows were turned down by the Cape Elizabeth and South Portland officials last July 7.

The Portland Automobile Show will be held at the Exposition Bldg. the week of October 23, with William Freiday, York Harbor exhibitor, again in charge. The former Portland exhibitor has managed the show for several consecutive years, with considerable success. Three new automobiles will be given away during the week.

Sybil Ward, English actress, gave a solo performance of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" at Frye Hall, October 6.

Connecticut Filmites Contribute to Fund

NEW HAVEN — Exchange managers traveled to Hartford Friday to attend a special luncheon at the Bond and present the Connecticut Chapter of the Infantile Paralysis Foundation, through its chairman, Dr. Benjamin G. Horning, with a contribution of $1,500, "in appreciation of what the motion-picture-going public has done for the motion picture industry." Lou Wechsler, chairman of the Will Rogers Memorial Drive in the Connecticut territory, together with Thomas Donaldson, Metro manager; Ben Simon, 20th-Fox; Barney Pitkin, RKO; John Pavone, Warner; Morris Joseph, Universal; Edward Ruff, Paramount, and Tim O'Toole, Columbia, comprised the committee authorized to make the presentation, as part of over $50,000 which is being given to various chapters of the Paralysis Foundation in 25 sections of the country. The amount represents a portion of the moneys collected in theatres in this state, or contributed by theatre operators in the recent Rogers drive.

The press in Hartford and New Haven gave the gift and luncheon considerable attention.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN A FOOTBALL contest sponsored by Manchester newspapers, 100 State Theatre tickets, as well as cash prizes, are offered to persons selecting the most winners from names of leading college teams scattered through advertisements in a special full-page layout once each week for ten weeks.

"Alexander's Ragtime Band" was brought back to the Gardens Theatre in Laconia, after, the management said, hundreds of patrons had requested repeat showings.

Clarence Mixer, manager of the Bayview Pavilion, Alton Bay's cinema-dance center, recently played host at a reunion of a World War division, some members of which hadn't met since leaving France.

Milt Douglas, topnotch vaudeville comedian, headed the first stage show when flesh was resumed with films at the Strand in Manchester.

Lyric Theatre employes and members of Local No. 195 of the Theatre Employes were represented with floral tributes at the funeral of Ephrem M. Thibodeau, 73-year-old Manchester resident.

The small city of Rochester takes credit for one of Hollywood's newcomers—Milton E. Parsons, who has landed character roles in a new Judge Hardy picture, in "Patsy" with Virginia Weidler, and in "Another Thin Man," with Myrna Loy and William Powell. Parsons was graduated from Rochester high school in 1922 *and later attended Boston University.*

Loew-Poli Ushers Plan Bowling in Hartford

HARTFORD—Ushers of the Loew-Poli here were to have started a bowling season, last Monday evening, scheduled to last through the winter months. The management has announced to BOXOFFICE that other theatres in Hartford will be invited to bowl. Bowling will, according to present plans, be held on Monday nights at a local alley.

Boston Drive-In Company Files Incorporation

BOSTON—Mid-West Drive-In Theatres, Inc., of this city has been incorporated under Massachusetts law with an announced capital of 1,000 shares of no par stock. Incorporators are Marjorie C. O'Brien of Boston, Louise Timberlake of Concord and Catherine Boyle of Woburn.

Open Film Lectures

BOSTON—Howard Hendee, veteran actor and present director of research for RKO Pictures, opened a lecture season at the Charlotte Cushman Club, Tuesday, with a talk on "Authenticating the Movies." The former Cosmopolitan Pictures executive appeared at the invitation of Mrs. Malcolm Bradley French.

Showmen Do Not Let a Tip Stay Neglected

HARTFORD—Whether it's a coincidence or just something that's happened will, in all probability, never be known. At any rate, it seems, that several weeks after this area's correspondent for BOXOFFICE wrote a news item as follows: " . . . What with all the new theatre building going on in the state . . . Question: Just why hasn't the town of Wethersfield, with a population of nearly 10,000, one theatre, while towns with even smaller population have one or two?" the news has come that a theatre will be built in Wethersfield at the southeast corner of the Silas Deane Highway and Church Street. Estimated cost is $50,000.

Operators of the new house will be, according to announcements in the local press, officials of the Webster Company, Hartford theatre interests. Construction is to start as soon as weather permits, it has been learned.

The new theatre, according to present plans, will seat approximately 1,600, and will have parking accommodations for 150 cars. Expected opening is for next spring.

39 Films Pass Mass. Censors Unscathed

BOSTON — No Massachusetts censorial trouble was incurred last week when the group of 39 motion pictures were okayed by Commissioner Eugene M. McSweeney of the Department of Public Safety. United Artists' "Intermezzo;" Universal's "Rio," and the same company's reissue of "All Quiet on the Western Front," were among the features passed in this state.

Arthur Jarrett and eight other acts were approved for Sunday performances, but six routines were refused Lord's Day licenses and eight others were required to make stringent modifications.

Heavy Tax Assessment Saving in Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—Through a stipulation in superior court, the Poli-New England Theatres, Inc., will effect a saving of $19,215 on tax assessment value on three pieces of property here. The total value of the land and buildings had been fixed by the Board of Relief at $1,118,035. The stipulation slashes the aggregate to $1,098,820. The houses involved were the Loew-Poli, Globe and the site of the old Plaza Theatre.

Theatrical Post Has Dance Slogan

Boston—"Black out those blues with the swellest time of your life" is the slogan for the ninth annual film district dinner-dance sponsored by the Theatrical Post of American Legion. This year's affair will be featured by the installation as post commander of Stoneham exhibitor and Allied director, William H. McLaughlin.

When Fire Comes

BOSTON—A New England theatre manager, ready for any emergency, describes what happened during a recent fire scare at his house and adds some advice. His name, as well as that of the theatre, are omitted for obvious reasons.

"I was standing in the foyer, talking to one of the patrons, when I heard someone in the orchestra yell, 'fire'!" he said. "I rushed in and could see that the audience, composed mostly of children, was in a panicky condition, all on their feet and starting to run.

"Those exit doors easily accessible were just being opened by the patrons leaving the theatre. The ushers were calling to the audience to please be seated, there is no danger, the performance will continue in a few moments, etc. I was making my way to the stage, calling to the audience with the same phrases used by the ushers and was about three-quarters of the way down when the picture went back on the screen, relieving the tension, as the audience was still undecided as to whether they should run out of the theatre, and it was only through the continual calling and calming of the ushers that kept the patrons in their seats. Only about 30 people left the theatre audience of about 1,800, there were no people injured and a real serious panic averted.

"As you know, these panics can start in a very few seconds, and it was only the intelligent and precise action on the part of the service staff that averted this panic. Working along these lines, we hold fire drill every two weeks and instruct the boys on what to do in case of fire, panic, etc. Some boys had worked only five to two weeks and they handled themselves like veterans, proving the value of these drills. As the patrons opened the exit doors themselves which are easily accessible and in sight, I instructed the boys to open first the doors that are unseen."

Alterations Underway At Hartford Palace

HARTFORD—The Loew-Poli Palace Theatre here was to have begun alterations, including installation of new seats, last Monday, according to an announcement made by the management. The theatre will be open during alterations period.

All alterations were supposed to have been finished by October 10.

Steve Broidy Elected to Monogram Directorate

BOSTON—Steve Broidy, general sales manager for Monogram in New England, was officially elected last week to Monogram's board of directors. He replaced Leon Fromkess. This publication reported several weeks ago that Broidy was slated for the board.

Sports Arena Plans Abandoned

HARTFORD—Plans for a $350,000 sports arena in Hartford have been abandoned and the $11,500 subscribed has been returned, the Phoenix State Bank announces.

Wometco Houses Make Objections

MIAMI—Latest objections to be filed by a group of defendants in the Miami monopoly suit are those entered in the district court by the 13 theatres, commonly known as Wometco houses.

These objections are filed in the names of the Lincoln Operating Co., the Miami Theatre, Inc., Biscayne Beach Theatre, Inc., Mayfair Operating Corp., Capitol Theatre Corp., Rosetta Theatre, Inc., Biltmore Theatre, Inc., Grove Theatre, Inc., State Operating Co., Ritz Theatre, Inc., Lyric Operating Corp. and Strand Theatre, Inc.

Ten separate objections were listed to the interrogations recently propounded by legal counsel for the plaintiffs, the Cameo and Surf theatres, which are bringing suit, asking for a permanent injunction against the continuance of certain alleged monopolistic practices, particularly with reference to clearance periods, with the two local theatre organizations, Paramount Enterprises, Inc., and the above mentioned Wometco houses, and the eight major national distributing companies, as defendants.

Confidential Trade Secrets

It is claimed in the objections that the interrogatories sought to elicit private confidential trade secrets and information "which can be taken advantage of by business competitors of each of the defendants, which competitors are parties to said suit, to the great detriment and disadvantage of each of the defendants."

Further objections listed the claims that the interrogations in question sought secret developments of these defendants which are vital and valuable assets if kept secret, that each of the interrogations were "incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial," that they seek information which has no bearing upon the issues in the cause, that they tend to annoy, embarrass and oppress the defendants, that they seek information with reference to matters taking place after the institution of the suit as well as before the plaintiffs engaged in business, that these interrogations unnecessarily burden the defendants and put them to unusual and unreasonable expense, and finally that each of the interrogatories constitute a "mere fishing expedition."

Although Judge John W. Holland has returned to the bench of the local U. S. district court, he will be unable to set a date for the hearing of the several objections awaiting his action, until the forepart of next month, he stated this week.

New Theatres Planned at Luling and Gonzales

LULING, TEX.—H. G. Stein, long an important exhibitor in Texas, will remodel a building in Luling for a new theatre. In the neighboring town of Gonzales, Lynn Smith has a similar plan under way for an additional house. The improvements in both towns are being handled by Corgan & Moore, Dallas theatre architects.

Zanuck Statement on Picture Profit Cited in Miami Suit

MIAMI—While he denied ever saying "A motion picture lives three months at most," Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production for 20th Century-Fox, said rather that the "gravy, the bulk of the revenue, comes in on a picture in the first three months." This significant statement was made in the course of the recent deposition of his testimony to be used in the pending local monopoly suit, and was contained in the copy of that testimony just received by the offices of the counsel for the plaintiffs in this suit.

This commitment about the length of time a picture is valuable at the boxoffice was made in the course of Zanuck being questioned about J. P. McEvoy's *Saturday Evening Post* article in the issue of July 1, 1939, "He's Got Something."

40-55 Week Run Needed

"In the first three months a picture gets back a major portion of its domestic revenue. But," he appended, "a picture is not actually played out until it has had a run in America in the domestic field of approximately 40 to 55 weeks."

Further questioned as to whether or not he had ever asked that a correction be made of the statements which he claimed were erroneously attributed to him, Zanuck replied, "No. I thought it was a very friendly article and that the general sense of the article was correct and that any errors were not great enough to call for a retraction."

Other highlights in the Zanuck testimony touched upon a reference to the gloom of the left wingers who suspect that he had bought John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" in order to shelve it. McEvoy had quoted Zanuck as saying that this notion was "the silliest damn thing I ever heard . . . If you can show me a man that could persuade me to pay $75,000 for something in order to pigeonhole it, I'd make a picture about him." While not acknowledging those very words, the 20th Century-Fox executive said he had made a statement very close to that.

Praises Fox Studio Setup

In commenting upon studio efficiency, he had told McEvoy that the setup on the Fox lot was the most efficient in the industry. He had added, in commenting upon the fact, that there has only been one Thalberg . . . ever, he observed that the "studio which permits itself to break up into independent units is asking for trouble."

He concurred on the accuracy of McEvoy's quote: "Profit is the only thing that pays off in this business" which Zanuck had given as a conclusive answer to the critics' stated preference for old-time pictures. "I am making pictures for the public, not the critics. 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' outgrossed 'Cavalcade,'" he pointed out.

In further commenting upon the McEvoy article, the Fox executive said that the writer took no notes or had anyone present to take notes. Wording was put in such a way as to get more humor into the interview or to give it color, but there was no direct quote in the entire article, he declared.

Relative to his interest in following through pictures after their completion, Zanuck stated that his particular interest was in watching to see when a picture "gets out of the red, if it ever does . . ."

"I receive only the opening figures, for instance at the Roxy Theatre in New York or at Grauman's and Loew's State theatres here, or the leading theatre in Chicago and perhaps the San Francisco figures. After that I only know from week to week what the various pictures have grossed throughout the nation, the total gross. I have no idea what theatres they play other than maybe five first-run key city theatres.

"I have no idea of knowing even on what basis the picture was sold. I don't know, for instance whether the picture gets 25 or 30 per cent. I always presume our bigger pictures get the highest percentage of revenue."

Zanuck Started as Writer

Detailing briefly his own career, in reply to the queries of Lee G. Paul, examining counsel from the offices of MacDonald, Schulthesis & Pettit, Zanuck said he was originally a novelist and short story writer. That he first came to Hollywood to watch the filming of some of his stories which had been purchased for picturization. Later he became a free lance scenario writer and then a contract writer for several companies at first, and later for Warner Bros., at whose studios he became a producer and then general manager of production. He continued there until the formation of 20th Century pictures and has been an executive of the 20th Century-Fox Corp. since that merger four years ago. He has been in the film business since 1921, he stated.

This testimony was given in Zanuck's office on the 20th Century-Fox lot. George F. Wasson, his legal counsel, was present.

It is anticipated that action will be taken this week on the interrogations mailed to 20 officers of the eight major distributors which are defendants in this suit along with the two local organizations, Paramount Enterprises, Inc., and the Wometco corporations, as Judge John W. Holland has returned from his vacation.

Also awaiting the judge's decision is the matter of the testimony of Hiram Parks, former salesman in Florida for Warner, from whom testimony was sought in a recent hearing at Lubbock, Tex. Questioning was suspended, on demand of counsel, until a ruling from Judge Holland could be obtained on the materiality of the testimony he was in a position to give.

Theatre Manager Robbed

ALEXANDRIA, LA.—R. G. McGee, theatre manager, was held up and robbed of $93.60 Saturday in his office by an unidentified bandit who assaulted him with a brick. The bandit also was armed.

Cole Will Help Form N. Y. Allied Unit

DALLAS—An attempt to form a new Allied New York unit in the divided ranks of Allied of New York, recently expelled from the national organization, is the purpose of the visit to Syracuse of Col. H. A. Cole, Allied president, of Dallas.

Led by E. Thornton Kelly, a group of New York members are seeking to swing the unit back into the Allied fold or form a new organization for national affiliation. The New York unit is headed by Max Cohen, who is opposed to a tieup with Allied.

While in the east, Cole also will visit Washington, Pittsburgh and Indianapolis.

Republic Will Keep Full Schedule, Assures Yates

ATLANTA — Following a long telephone conversation with Arthur C. Bromberg, president of Republic Pictures of the Southeast, Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the Republic board, reiterated statements made to the press earlier in the week that the war would bring no curtailment either as to the amount or quality of Republic production during the coming year.

Yates told Bromberg that of the 52 pictures scheduled on the 1939-40 program, 11 have been completed, five are in production, and 10 more will have been completed by January 1, bringing the schedule up to date as of January 1.

Yates reported great success for Gene Autry's tour throughout the British Isles. Eight Autry films were purchased for barracks entertainment by the British government.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

SEEMS as though Bob McGee, managing the Ritz for Milton Starr at Alexandria, La., had some bad luck in the form of a holdup in which Bob was struck over the head by the holdup man and relieved of the sum of $95 while attending to his duties at his office. Hope you are O.K. by now, Bob.

H. C. Robinson, now operating the Star Theatre at Hot Springs, makes this venture the first Negro theatre operation in Hot Springs since 1925, *or before the days of sound. Robinson has been with the Saenger people for the past nine years, holding down jobs at Texarkana, Shreveport and at Greenville, Miss. This house has a seating capacity of* 400, *has new equipment and a good-looking flash front.*

H. H. Thomas, who left Malco about 18 months ago to join the forces of Jefferson Amusement Co. at Beaumont, Tex., is back with Malco as manager of the Memphian at Memphis. He formerly was located at Russellville, Ark., and seems mighty happy to be back with M. A.

W. O. Taylor operating the Uptown Theatre at Dresden, Tenn., has our sympathy in recent auto crash injuries to his brother, sister and niece. We're hoping they get along the best possible way.

R&R's Highland Theatre at Little Rock, Ark., after being dark for about 90 days, has reopened as the Lee under the management of the Arkansas Amusement Co. The house has been remodeled, new equipment and seats and air conditioning installed, also a new marquee.

A newcomer in the theatre business down here is W. D. Riemers of Jackson, Miss., who accorded the writer a cordial interview the other day and gave him the story of the new theatre being constructed by him and his associates. The new house will be located at 3021 *No. State St., formerly a suburb known as Fondren and will be named the Pix. The house will be opened about January* 15 *and will seat* 610 *persons, all downstairs. Parking space for* 150 *cars will be available for patrons. American Desk Co. will install the seats and Simplex projection and sound equipment will be installed. W. D. Reimers is the president of the company; Van Downing, vice-president, and B. C. Ricketts, secretary and treasurer. This will be the only suburban theatre in Jackson which has six houses located in the downtown area.*

Blance Wacaster, who is operating in the Legion Hut at Rison, Ark., tells your correspondent that she has been delayed in getting into the building she has leased, but has hopes of being "at home" by November 15.

It is said that O. C. Hauber, who for many years has operated a theatre at Pineville, La., which is across the river from Alexandria, has sold his operation to his manager.

O. G. Wren, president of the Arkansas ITO, tells us that he expects a fine attendance at their convention next week.

Dallas Barkers Elect Officials for 1940

DALLAS—Eleven Variety members were elected as a "crew" to pilot the club during 1940 at an election held Monday night. Forty-one members participated.

Chosen were: R. J. O'Donnell, R. E. Griffith, H. B. Robb, J. B. Underwood, Lloyd Rust, Burt King, B. C. Gibson, Paul Short, L. Bissinger, Elmer Zrenner and Duke Evans.

Out of their number the eleven will designate officers and directors to guide the club during the next year.

In the meantime Variety goes right ahead with plans for entertaining at the national Variety convention which will be held in Dallas next April. At the southwestern tournament held this weekend at Lakewood Country Club, the winner will represent Tent 17 during the national golf tournament which will be held concurrently with the convention.

Plan Nature Films in Georgia

ATLANTA — Plans for a motion picture based on the life of deer in the mountains of Georgia and North Carolina were disclosed here in the visit recently of Chester Franklin and O. O. Dull, director and producer for M-G-M. Film under consideration will have its plot developed around the faun supply farm at Asheville, N. C.

Team on Next Autry

HOLLYWOOD—Betty Burbridge and Gerald Geraghty will collaborate on the script of "South of the Border," next Gene Autry western for Republic.

SIMPLEX FOUR STAR SOUND
IS SOUND BUSINESS FOR YOU
More People Every Day Are Listening To and Enjoying
SIMPLEX FOUR STAR SOUND
and Telling Others About Its Quality.
Your Theatre Will Profit With
SIMPLEX FOUR STAR SOUND
NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.
ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

Open Paramount Case Against Leader Press

OKLAHOMA CITY—Paramount has won a reopening of its suit against the Leader Press here to enjoin the printing firm from printing 24-sheets and accessories and to obtain court costs.

The United States circuit court of appeals reversed the decision of Judge Edgar Vaught of federal district court here which ruled in favor of the printing firm. It was originally filed in district court here in April of 1937.

Paramount charged that the local printing company made and sold advertising novelties, 24-sheets, accessories, etc., using names of Paramount stars and titles of Paramount pictures without identification to show such stars and pictures were Paramount products. In addition, the printers were charged with making "grotesque, inartistic and inferior" drawings and cartoons of Paramount stars and 24-sheets.

SANTONE

UNDER the direction of Alvin Ray of Hollywood, a marionette show was presented at the four Interstate community theatres Saturday afternoon. The performances were given at the Broadway, Harlandale, Highland Park and Uptown, all neighborhood houses.

In town last week were Roland Butler, general publicity agent for Ringling's Circus, and Ned Alvord, dean of theatrical press agents . . . Roland Jung is the new doorman at the Prince Theatre.

William O'Donnell, city manager of Interstate circuit here, was given a surprise birthday party October 2 . . . We are informed that Oliver "Buzzo" Thomas, skipper of the State Theatre, is in a local hospital suffering a severe attack of ptomaine poisoning . . . Mary Louise Walliser, dramatic critic and film reviewer of the San Antonio *Evening News*, has returned from Hollywood.

National Films, Inc. here are producing a series of 16mm feature western films for the national trade.

Add to the ill and injured: I. W. Martin, Interstate concession manager here, is recovering after a recent appendectomy . . . Mrs. Thelma Hall, KTSA receptionist, is nursing a lame knee, hurt in a fall.

Senorita Maria Cristina Jimenez, whose dad ramrods the Latin-American Film Exchange here, was elected a Princess in the Fiesta de la Raza held at the Municipal Auditorium October 12. Eulalio Sanchez' orchestra furnished the musical score for the pagent.

C. W. Rzeppa, operator-manager-owner of the new theatre recently opened at Poth, was a recent show shopper at Barron's Independent Film Exchange here, and also ordered BOXOFFICE sent to his south Texas theatre.

DALLAS

GUY LUTHER, projectionist for Interstate Circuit, working at this time in the Tower, had two days off recently, which he spent camping out and fishing on the Elm fork between Lakes Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain. Guy said he dragged in 40 pounds of fish.

L. V. Yates, a roving Texas exhibitor, has opened a new show in O'Donnell. He calls his house the "Don." . . . Ted Lewis, of Texarkana, was among the east Texans on the Row . . . W. J. (Bill) Chesher, recently opened up his third theatre at Littlefield.

Albert Flores has been transferred from the accessory department of Sack Amusement Enterprises in Dallas to booker in the Atlanta, Ga., branch of that company. He succeeds Colyar Phillips, who resigned. Harry Gleaves, formerly of Paramount, will handle Sack accessories in the Dallas branch.

Miss Evelyn Oldfield, who this Saturday marries Harry Parks, will be back in the Sack office as stenographer after a honeymoon in Colorado.

G. A. Luchese and Mrs. Luchese of San

(Continued on page 105)

Bring Your Sound Equipment
Up-to-date NOW
For Fall and Winter Business

You Can Do This by Installing
The Latest Model

OPERADIO

Matched Unit System
With Curvalinear Speaker and Horn

— OR BY INSTALLING —

NEW AMPLIFIERS
NEW TUBES
NEW SOUND HEADS
NEW EXCITER LAMPS
NEW PHOTO CELLS
NEW SPEAKERS

ALSO ALL PROJECTION MACHINE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

We Trade In Your Old Equipment

HERBER BROTHERS

"Fair Treatment and Adequate Service Always"

210 SOUTH HARWOOD DALLAS, TEXAS

TENNESSEE

SUNDAY films, authorized by city ordinance, were shown in Newport for the first time on October 1. The ordinance fixes hours as 1 to 5 p. m. and after 8:45 p. m. to avoid regular church hours.

Paramount Theatre had the first Nashville "holdover" in weeks with "The Rains Came." A six-week drouth in middle Tennessee afforded a striking contrast between the picture and local weather conditions.

Chas. F. Dearman plans to open his new theatre in Smithville, the New Fox, not later than October 16. The projection and other equipment is being placed and interior decorations completed.

A. L. Cox, manager, reports that robbers entered the office of the Capitol Theatre, Union City, Sunday night, October 1, and escaped with the entire week-end receipts. The dial of the office safe was knocked off, apparently by experts.

The Lyric Theatre, in cooperation with the Times, Rockwood, is giving 25 guest tickets weekly to those who give the correct solution to a puzzle appearing in the newspaper. The puzzle, when solved, is an advertisement of a current film title.

The Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce has a "finger printing" booth in the Tivoli Theatre entrance under the supervision of an FBI operative. All patrons of the theatre are invited to submit to fingerprinting for FBI files. About nine out of ten persons are responding.

Three Houses Re-Seat

MEMPHIS—Sale of new seats to C. E. Elkins, Walnut Ridge; Louis Haven, Imperial, Forrest City and the Imperial, Marianna, all in Arkansas, is reported by the Monarch Theatre Supply of Memphis.

Improvement Noted In Southwest

New Orleans—In the opinion of Lawrence Westbrook, WPA regional director, private business enterprise in the southwest is fast approaching normal with unemployment rolls shrinking correspondingly. The trade, of course, stands to gain.

Saenger Competition Buying Universal

NEW ORLEANS—Universal definitely appears to have sold away from Saenger after a disagreement over terms for the coming year, according to reliable reports along Filmrow. The outfit is not only soliciting independent business which is in opposition to Saenger and its various affiliates, but the contracts are being approved with rapidity.

Universal is reported to think that its product warrants better deals than it has been getting in the past.

Report Equipment Sales

DALLAS—Recent equipment sales in the local area reported by National Theatre Supply include lamps, generator and rewind to J. C. Chatmas, Palace, Marlin; sound, projectors, lamps, generator, lenses, rewind, cabinet, changeovers and rewind table to George B. Winter, Texas Drive-In, Clarkwood; screen to B. R. McLendon, Ritz, DeKalb; Ennis Amusement's Plaza, Ennis and L. M. Threet, Texan, Livingston; lighting fixtures, J. W. Blevins, Majestic, Dublin; marquee letters, Audrey Cox, Palace, Lamesa; mechanisms, Queen, Merkel and pedestals, Grand, Stamford.

2,000 USED CUSHION CHAIRS

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AMERICAN DESK MFG. CO

FACTORY — TEMPLE, TEXAS

Sales Offices in

DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — KANSAS CITY

NEW ORLEANS

BOB WOOD, press agent for Loew's State Theatre, went the whole round this week with a stunt to put over "Eternally Yours," which opens at Loew's State Thursday. Wood got a columnist to conduct a contest for the oldest married couple, then gave them a big day with hotel rooms, limousine rides, a party in a swank night club, etc., followed by the renewal of their wedding vows. Stunt made good space; couple selected had been married over 60 years.

Dick Dicharry, one of the owners of New Orleans' latest and finest neighborhood theatre, the Circle, is something more than a theatreman. Dick is owner of the last of the river packets to operate on the Mississippi in these parts—the Dixie Belle. *The boat has been used frequently in pictures and on its decks some of the south's finest writers, among whom is Roark Bradford, have worked.*

The Saenger Theatres are going in for a policy of presenting the final football scores of Tulane University here and Louisiana State University on the screens of their Saenger, Tudor and Globe.

The Palace Theatre, a strictly colored house, is now following the lead of two local major houses which stage midnighters each week on Saturday nights when everybody ought to be taking their weekly bath. The Palace is now staging flesh (the dark kind) at special for whites only on Wednesdays to more than extraordinary business.

While here for the southern preview of "Nurse Edith Cavell," Anna Neagle sent five cables to England . . . The Children's Theatre, sponsored by the Better Films Council, opened its third season at the New Orleans Public Library, with "The Hoosier Schoolboy." Showings are on Saturday afternoons, with admission free. Twelve thousand attended the shows last year.

S. H. Daigre is building a $50,000 *house in the residential section of Plaquemine. It will seat* 1,000 *and be known as the Osage . . . J. C. Alexander is dismantling his Carroll Theatre, North Carrolton, Miss. He's going into another business . . . Fire Prevention Week will be observed generally by New Orleans houses.*

The state of Louisiana has picked November 23 as its official Thanksgiving Day, although many will stick to November 30. The local suburban houses, which for years have been offering turkeys to their patrons, will observe both dates—so as not to go wrong. Besides it will help business.

Azteca Has Two New Releases

SAN ANTONIO—New October releases announced by the booking department of the Azteca Films office here are "El Capitan Adventuros" and "Perjura."

Charlie as Detective

HOLLYWOOD—Philip MacDonald has been assigned to write the script of "Charlie McCarthy, Detective" for Universal.

MEMPHIS

EXHIBITORS seen along the Row: G. E. Sibley of Adamsville, Tenn.; R. C. Gentry, Lyric, at Baldwin, Miss.; Clyde Browning, O. K., Ecru, Miss.; Gordon Lee Hutchins, Corning, Ark.; W. F. Ruffin, Covington; Ned Greene, Mayfield; G. H. Goff, Parsons; Dave Flexer, New Albany; Bill Headstream, Melba, Batesville, Ark.

Harry A. Ross, president of Ross Federal, together with C. B. Ross, were in Memphis this week conferring with Cliff Wallace, their local manager. This is Harry Ross' first trip to Memphis in about five years. He advised he was making a swing of his offices. He left by plane to visit his Washington office.

M. J. Pruniski and M. S. McCord of the Malco Theatres, N. Little Rock, put aside all cares this past week and hied off to Cincinnati to see the World Series . . . K. K. King, city manager for Commonwealth in Searcy, was just back from a managers' meeting at the Osage Hotel on the Lake of the Ozarks. He said big fun was had by all . . . Lew Andrews, office manager for the Malco Theatres, is back at his desk after a two-week vacation.

The reason for Ed Sapinsley's "unhappy" look these days is that he is chairman of the losing team on the sale of the tickets for the LaSalle "raffle," and it was understood with his rival team chairman, Jimmy Rogers, that the losers had to wine and dine the winners. As yet no definite plans have been made to appease the winners appetite, or thirst, but it is understood that Ed and his boys will have to catch the check.

Floyd Schaffer of the American Desk Mfg. Co. has just returned from a trip to Dallas and his home office which is located at Temple, Tex. . . . Dick Anderson, of the RKO newsreel department, spent several days in the local office assisting in the re-arrangement of their news schedules . . . Bob Smallwood of the Ritz at Oxford, Miss., was seen at the Ole Miss-Southwestern football game watching those Mississippi boys go to town.

Bill Sims of the R&R office in Dallas and his wife, Frances, are spending several days in Memphis with Alton Sims, Bill's brother, who is in charge of the R&R office in Memphis. This is the first trip here for them since Bill was transferred to Dallas several months ago.

Elsie Wagner of Film Transit is very happy these days over her new three-year-old champion, "Mi-Kie-Su," who recently walked away with the blue ribbons from the Cincinnati and Dayton dog shows . . . Slim Brewer of the Savoy at Clarksdale, Miss., was in booking this week driving a brand new Oldsmobile.

Jimmy Scheibler, office manager for RKO, says from now on he is keeping his feet on good dry land. The reason for this sudden decision, we found, is that last Sunday he and a party of friends decided to take a run down the river in their launch and after getting about 20 miles down the river they ran onto a sandbar and were unable to get the boat off. They thought surely some boat would come by shortly that would assist them or get them aid. However, it was 8 a. m. Monday before the coast guard landed them safely ashore—Jimmy showed up at the office about noon Monday.

The Memphis Variety Club, as Tent No. 20, held its first annual election of officers since the formation of the club at the Monday business meeting. Those elected to serve during 1940 are as follows: M. A. Lightman, chief barker; J. A. Prichard, first assistant barker; R. L. (Bob) Bostick, second assistant barker; Herman Chrisman, treasurer, and Fred Ford re-elected secretary. The six canvassmen elected were: Jimmy Rogers; Al Avery; R. H. Conway, T. W. Young, Bailey Prichard and Winfield Snelson.

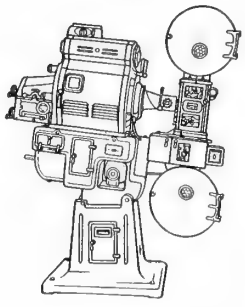
To Celotex Post

ATLANTA—George J. Dinges, former division manager in Cleveland, has been named manager of the newly opened division office here of the Celotex Corp. He was succeeded in Cleveland by J. Z. Hollmann.

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Western Electric and Bell Telephone Laboratories — which developed the first practical talking picture apparatus—have never stopped pioneering in sound recording and reproduction research. Now their latest and greatest achievement—the Mirrophonic De-Luxe Sound System—is ready to give you the finest, fullest, most life-like sound reproduction you've ever heard. Motiograph's Projectors are the logical equipment companions to the Mirrophonic De Luxe Sound System. Motiograph Projectors and Mirrophonic Sound Systems are distributed by

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THEATRE SUPPLY, INC.

"Everything for the Theatre Except Film"

MOTIOGRAPH PROJECTION

OKLA. CITY

J. ELDON PEAK, head of Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co., is back on the job after a tonsil operation . . . E. B. Coleman, M-G-M exploiteer, was in town for two days just to see that everything was right with "The Women." He was accompanied by Mrs. Coleman.

Howard Wheeler, new assistant manager at the State, ushered in the fall season with a new suit . . . T. B. Noble jr., State Theatre managing director, is back from a business trip to Lincoln . . . Max Brock of Lawton was in town for a short visit.

The preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade," held by 20th-Fox at the Tower Theatre, brought out all the folks from this neck of the woods. The audience laid in the aisles on those Keystone Cop scenes . . . "U-Boat 29'" brought in the customers so well at the State, that it was held over three extra days.

It's a third week for "The Rains Came" here, and it has been quite a spell since a film carried that long here . . . Orchids to Luthur Groves for the newest theatre in our midst, the Villa, which, we ununderstand, is taking care of itself at the boxoffice in its first showings.

Special note to those who have been listening to Ernest Fair, BOXOFFICE representative: Radio program is on at 6:15 over KOCY each evening now . . . Gordon Derrick, assistant manager at the Circle, kept away from the popcorn a long time; being too close to it all day ruined his appetite for the confection. But last week, it must have been popped just right. Watch the machine, girls!

E. A. Patchen, assistant general manager of Standard Theatres, believes in the use of the gloved hand. Pat says it keeps one from breaking one's finger nails while throwing pass-chiselers out of the door.

Last week's bowling results lined up as follows: Warner Bros. took Clark Poster, 3-0; National Theatre Supply handed RKO a 3-0 pasting; 20th Century-Fox set Standard Theatres down, 3-0, and Paramount blasted Griffith Amusement, 3-0. Plumlee of Paramount was high man with a 199, with Hudgens of Warner next, with 193.

Standard's Ritz is still closed, although certain parties have been seen measuring for carpets and estimating on this and that . . . Berlin Parks of National Theatre Supply has all the boys wide-eyed with his topnotch bowling scores.

Andrew Higgins, maintenance head at the State, is working on an invention that will enable him to keep his fingers out of the bandsaw. No ordinary protective devices have succeeded to date.

"All-the-Way" Threat Against Blue Laws

MIAMI—Threats of a clamping down of old blue laws, still standing unrepealed on the Miami records, is being made to theatres here this week. These threats followed the resumption of a drive being made against curb markets remaining open on Sundays.

"Close and close alike," the market men cry, declaring that they will force the issue against theatres, transportation companies, filling stations and even golf courses. In fact, all businesses and recreations not specifically exempted by law.

A test case has been brought to court following the arrest of one curb market operator last Sunday.



ARKANSAS

CLAY'S THEATRE has been opened at Hackett. The house has just been remodeled and new equipment installed. Clay Garmon, Fort Smith, formerly of Hackett, is owner and manager.

Remodeling of the Hanley Bldg. on Second and Main Sts., Tuckerman, has been started in preparation for the installation of a new theatre. Carl Christian, who operates theatres at Cabot, De-Valls Bluff, Des Arc and Quitman, has a five-year lease on the building. Newton Neighbors, who has built and remodeled several theatre buildings for Christian, has charge of the work. Remodeling and installation cost will amount to about $6,000, it is said.

The Ritz, Morrilton, has increased its seating capacity to 370, with the recent addition of 50 seats. The house was opened last January by W. D. Metcalf, formerly of Purcell, Okla. His son, Sid Metcalf, is manager of the house.

W. W. Johnson, who for more than two years has managed the Stamps State Theatre, is now managing the Crystal at Lewisville. He succeeds M. D. Collins, who has been transferred to the Tri-States Theatres' general office at Atlanta, Tex.

The Dixie at Ashdown announces a change in management. Jewell Callaham, who went to Ashdown from Broken Bow, Okla., has been transferred to Broken Bow, and Bill Frazier, who had previously managed the Dixie, will return to Ashdown.

Manager E. W. Savage of the Palace, Booneville, announces the purchase of new sound equipment, new projection machine, and new lighting equipment . . . Herbert Pittman, manager of the Paradise, Cotter, states that a new marquee and a large Neon sign will be placed at his theatre soon . . . K. K. King, Searcy, and Doyle Branscum, assistant manager of the Lyric, Harrison, recently spent three days at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Manager E. W. Savage of the Palace, Booneville, recently bought new equipment, including a new projection machine and lighting material for the screen. A cooling system also was installed.

Herbert Pittman, manager of the Paradise at Cotter, has installed a new marquee, and a large Neon sign will be placed at the theatre in the near future.

The Macco at Magnolia has recently undergone extensive improvements, including both the interior and exterior. The front has been remodeled, new rugs have been laid and a ladies' rest room added.

The Radio Theatre, Beebe, has completed the installation of a new sound system . . . Jack Thomas, manager of the Strand, Clarksville, and Mrs. Thomas left recently on a two-week vacation. Thomas attended a meeting of Malco managers in Memphis last week . . . Oscar Miller, manager of the Bob Burns Theatre, Van Buren, also attended the managers' meeting in Memphis.

DALLAS

(Continued from page 101)

Antonio, were on the Row this week in connection with improvements underway at their Nacional Theatre there. They operate the Zaragosa Amusement Co. in the Alamo City.

Latest Variety Club members are: Glen H. McClain, Rita Theatre, Victoria; Joe H. Bryant, National Screen Service; Wayne Brenkert, Detroit, Mich.; Sam Maceo, Galveston; D. R. Rowland, Oklahoma City; and W. B. Shuttee, Standard Theatres, Oklahoma City.

L. D. Brown, owner of the Queen and its operator along with the Gem in association with Interstate, arrived in town this week on a periodical visit.

Judge Roy Walker, of Lampasas, an exhibitor leader, was in town this week and on the Row evidently in connection with his proposed meeting to organize a new exhibitor organization for Texas. He told BOXOFFICE, *however, that nothing definite had been done toward calling that meeting at this particular time.*

Claude Ezell will make his headquarters in Dallas after months of continuous travel about the country. Ezell shares with W. G. Underwood the Republic franchise for the southwest. During the past few years Ezell has been active in giveaways and through his efforts Bank Night was offered in a majority of the theatres.

Frank Benson, manager of the Majestic and Ritz in Bowie, has been in Chicago on a vacation. He saw Oklahoma trounce Northwestern and will see Notre Dame and SMU this Saturday—will fish awhile in Michigan and then return to Texas.

Walter Stoeppleman, distributor of "Box Office Insurance," has a group of new theatres lined up for his plan. R. B. Weatherall's Plaza at Madisonville has gone to town so far with that insurance which he will also start in his new theatre at Teague which opens in about two weeks. Stoeppleman said he will start the game in the Dorothy and Avon at Huntsville. He said it has been successful in Wiergate and Pleasanton and that Gidney Talley will soon start it in Mathis and Floresville.

Mrs. O. F. Craig Dies

NEWARK, ARK.—Mrs. O. F. Craig, 64, wife of the owner of the Royal Theatre here, passed away at her home the night of September 26 from a heart attack. She acted as ticket seller and cashier for her husband since 1920, missing less than a dozen shows. She sold tickets on Tuesday night, September 26, and died from a heart attack just a few hours later. Mrs. Craig is survived by her husband and one daughter, Mrs. Desha Lester, and by two sons, O. F. jr. and Roy, and five grandchildren.

Langdon in Two-Reeler

HOLLYWOOD—Harry Langdon has signed a one-picture deal with RKO to star in an untitled two-reel comedy.

John Franconi Enters 25th Anniversary in Industry

DALLAS—A little over 24 years ago John L. Franconi began his film career with the World Film Corp. in Dallas. That career covered all the phases in distribution and it also included the experience of theatre manager.



J. L. FRANCONI

Now Franconi is celebrating his second year as half owner of the Monogram franchise along with Ed Blumenthal and this celebration will take place the first week in October. It will take in Franconi's 24 years in motion pictures.

Franconi was born in Dallas and throughout the years has been an active worker for progress in this industry. He is a Shriner and a Variety Club member.

Standard Projectionists Seeking 10% Increase

OKLAHOMA CITY—Projectionists here for Standard Theatres are seeking a ten per cent salary increase in new contracts, it is understood. Standard now has eight houses operating.

Not only is the 10 per cent salary increase requested, but union officials are seeking a three-year contract instead of the usual one-year agreement.

Last year, Standard signed a one-year pact calling for a five per cent increase.

"Cowboy Joe" for Joe E.

HOLLYWOOD—Next Joe E. Brown starrer for Columbia will be "Cowboy Joe." Oliver Drake will script.

Rosten Is Answered

OKLAHOMA CITY—When Dr. Leo Calvin Rosten of the Carnegie Foundation declared that Oklahomans were such clods they whistled, shouted and made mouth-noises when hot love scenes were prolonged on local screens, he found quick retaliation.

The Oklahoma City *Times* published three-page wide pictures of Robert Taylor and Hedy Lamarr doing their stuff and an extended story quoting local film men denying any experience with such incidents. Dr. Rosten's report stated that kissing scenes were cut short for Oklahoma audiences because "prolonged love-making causes Oklahomans to whistle, shout and throw feathered darts at the screen."

"Kissing scenes run just as long on the screen in Oklahoma theatres as they do on the screens of the theatres of Montana or the eastern states," said W. B. Zoellner, M-G-M manager here, while H. R. Gaus, salesman for M-G-M; Otto Rohde, Warner manager; Charles Clark of 20th-Fox, and R. B. Williams of RKO all volunteered similar reports.

Rites for Mrs. Handley

SAN ANTONIO — Funeral services were held here Monday afternoon for Mrs. Lelia Inez Handley, 48, mother of LeeRoy Handley, assistant manager of the Majestic Theatre and Phillip Handley of the Texas service staff. Interstate employes here attended.

"Mr. Smith" Pleases

DALLAS—High praise was accorded Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" by the nearly 300 persons who attended a screening of the Capra film held at the Tower Theatre here.

NOW! A JUNGLE SERIAL TO MAKE YOUR BOX-OFFICE JINGLE! NOW!

FIRST RUN!

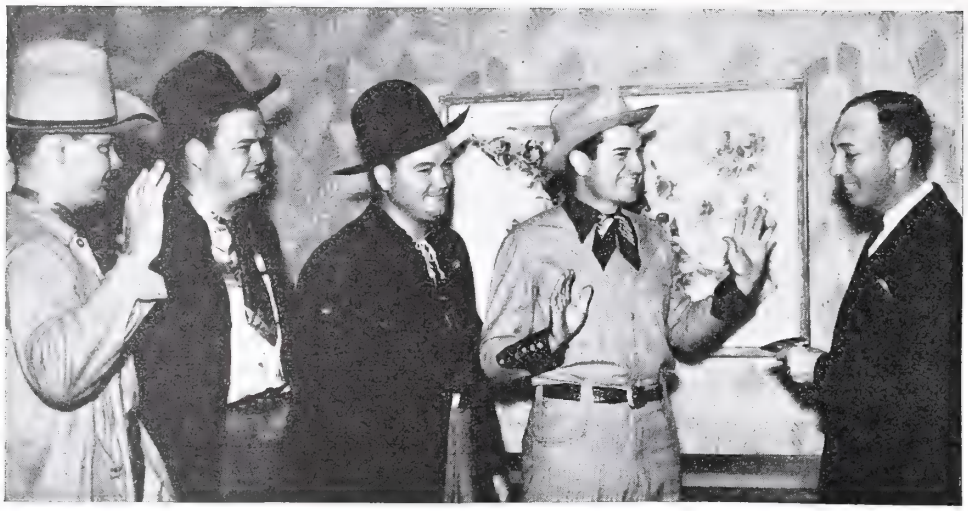


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Sol Sachs Has the "Gun"—

Ray Whitley, RKO's warbling western star, and three cronies visit his company's Exhibitors' Lounge in New York and there meet a fellow Texan, Sol Sachs, Dallas manager for RKO.

MIAMI

THAT trio of out-of-town film men calling on W. R. Lynch, general manager of Paramount Enterprises, Inc., the first part of last week were Hubert Lyons and Paul Harrison of RKO's Atlanta office and John Kirby of Paramount in the same city.

One of the amusing sidelights in a recent hearing on testimony being taken for the pending monopoly suit here referred to the fact that there weren't any pictures made in Georgia. But that was last month . . . before a company from Paramount arrived (as it did this week) in Albany for some location shooting for "The Biscuit Eater," being built, we understand, around the former Baby Leroy, now approaching the ripe old age of 8 and being billed as Lonnie Leroy. A wire to Bradfield at the local Fleischer studios called him up to Albany this week.

First of the autumn celebrities anticipated at the Pan American airport will include Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Taylor who plan to fly down to Rio for a belated honeymoon in the near future. Work on the long anticipated "Floridian" in which Taylor is next to be featured will have to wait a little longer, Barbara says.

With his ears and his eyes full of music, dancing and prestidigitation, Al Weiss jr. is back at his Olympia after a "busman's holiday" in New York. He was scouting all vaudeville and stage show presentations with an eye to the stage shows which he will have in his big Flagler St. house this season. He managed to see all the legitimate productions except three—in his spare moments.

Mark Chartrand has been dashing about his boulevard house, the Mayfair, this past week readying everything for his Friday opening with "All Quiet on the Western Front." After that he will resume a day and date schedule which will be the same as that of the Miami, the two houses showing Wometco's Miami first runs simultaneously as they did the greater part of last season. "The Rains Came" will be the first feature under this schedule. The popular Mayfair Lane, where patrons are served their choice of demi tasse, tea or gingerale as they enter or leave the theatre, is to be continued as a feature of this swank boulevard house. With Chartrand at the Mayfair this year will be Henry Hamilton returning as chief of service and Jack Shafer, who has been the operator there for the four years that Chartrand has managed this house. Coming in as a new smile in the boxoffice is Veda Hahne, who has been doing relief cashier duty during the summer.

And with the writing of these words, Miami's BOXOFFICE *correspondent is climbing into her Fiat and turning its nose toward the old home in Ohio—Chicago and Detroit, too. She hopes she can cover the territory in time to be back south by the first of November.*

Add to happy but jittery citizens: Charlie Ozborn over his new State. He's like the old cullid mammy found sobbing over the grave of her long deceased storm and strife. As she hoped, audibly, that he's gone where she " 'spected he ain't." The Capitol used the trestles in front of his house as the background for the hanging of an effigy, tagged "The Man They Could Not Hang."

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University Group Books Seven French Films

AUSTIN, TEX.—Tentative booking of seven French-language films is being arranged for by Alliance Francaise, a University of Texas organization of persons interested in French literature and language, to be shown in the Varsity Theatre, Interstate house, during the next nine months.

Included in the series of films will be "End of a Day," "Bizarre, Bizarre," "Generals Without Buttons," and "Quai des Brumes," according to a club spokesman.

No definite playing dates have been set; however, the seven pictures will be presented on four separate days, on three of which there will be double features. The Varsity will be secured by outright rental for the playing dates.

Last year the organization brought to Austin four films, "Carnival in Flanders," "Grand Illusion," "Pearls of the Crown," and "Carnet de Bal."

Application Filed to Build Jackson, Miss., Theatre

JACKSON, MISS. — Application was filed with the city engineering department for construction of a neighborhood theatre to be known as the "Pix" at 3051-53 North State St. (Fondren).

Expenditure for the building, exclusive of plumbing, wiring, furnishings and equipment will be $20,000, the application stated. W. J. McGee and Son are the contractors.

Two Shows at Visulite to Raise 'Iron Lung' Funds

CHARLOTTE—The Visulite, independent uptown theatre, ran two special benefit shows at which free-will offerings were taken for a fund being raised by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars to purchase an "iron lung" for the community.

The films were supplied gratis and employes worked without pay.

RCA Sound for Lyric

PRATTVILLE, ALA. — A new RCA sound system is being installed in the Lyric here by William E. Cooper, owner. The 445-seat house, damaged recently by flood waters, is getting a complete overhauling.

Improvements for Lyceum

NEW ORLEANS—Frank Heiderich, owner of the Lyceum Theatre, has installed a new air-conditioning system and has completely redecorated his St. Charles Street house. The sound control has been corrected.

Complete Theatre Construction

BRACKETTVILLE, TEX.—Construction work on the New Brackettville theatre here has just been completed. Installation of equipment for the new house will begin soon.

A New War Song

LONDON—The catchy little ditty, "We're Going to Hang Out the Washing on the Seigfried Line," was piped up in London night clubs and music halls during the weekend as the first candidate to succeed "Tipperary."

With a tune somewhat reminiscent of "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag," the words of the chorus go like this:

We're going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line
Have you any dirty washing, mother dear?
We're going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line
'Cos the washing day is here.
Whether the weather may be wet or fine,
We'll just rub along without a care.
We're going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line
If the Siegfried Line's still there.

At one music hall the chorus was printed on a sheet hung on a clothes line with "unmentionables" bearing the names of Hitler and other Nazi leaders. The audiences riotously joined in singing the song half a dozen times.

The song was written by Jimmy Kennedy and Michael Carr, Irishmen both.

"Tipperary's" author, Jack Judge, died last year on the 24th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War.

Border Houses Meet Currency Discount

TORONTO—International competition in the theatre business of Canada and the United States has developed a new angle because of the increased discount on Canadian currency, the latter being ten per cent below the valuations of the U. S. dollar.

With the prospect of the falling off of Canadian patronage at theatres in border cities of the United States because of the exchange situation, exhibitors on the American side of the line are advertising that Canadian money is being accepted at par, thus making a virtual ten per cent reduction in the admission price.

The Strand Theatre at Ogdensburg, N. Y., has actually advertised in Canadian newspapers that Canadian money is taken at the boxoffice, thus giving J. Scott's Riviera Theatre at Prescott, on the Canadian side of the boundary, some renewed opposition. In some respects, a similar situation is to be found at Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Windsor, Sarnia and Sault Ste. Marie where Canadian exhibitors have American theatres as opposition.

Levis in Montreal

MONTREAL—Carrol Levis, the young Canadian who has become the "Major Bowes of England," spent a few days here this week en route to Hollywood. In three short years, Levis, Toronto-born B. B. C. maestro, whose home is in Vancouver, has become the highest paid radio personality in the British Isles.

Independents Combine Action Seeking Clearance Revision

TORONTO—The campaign being waged by the Independent Theatre Owners Ass'n for trade reforms which cover conciliation and clearance schedules will be continued, is the decision made following the unsatisfactory termination of a discussion anent these reforms with N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

The independents recently completed an election meeting at which Harry Alexander of Toronto was named president of the association, succeeding Harry Firestone. Nat Taylor was re-elected vice-president and M. Axler, secretary.

Backlog of French Films Built Up

MONTREAL—There is no immediate prospect of a serious shortage of French product for exhibition in Dominion theatres, acording to J. M. DeRoussy, commercial manager of France Film Co. here.

"In anticipation of hostilities," said Mr. DeRoussy," France Films stocked up against just such a contingency, and the public can be assured of a two years' supply. We informed our customers September that we have a list of 104 films for the season 1939-40. Of pictures not yet released, we have 156, and there are still five cases to arrive through the port of New York. Then, there are many old pictures to be revived which patrons of the cinema will doubtless welcome."

"In Paris," continued Mr. DeRoussy, "the great producing firms have transported their technical material, etc., to the Riviera where they will be able to work in security. As for the actor personnel, of those who have been called for military service, the majority have been placed in posts of more or less security back of the fighting front. Then, too, there are many artists who are unfit for service by reason of age and other impediments. Of the technical staffs and personnel in general, many are women and quite a few are foreigners. And last, but not least, the French government wishes that the film industry continue with as little interruption as possible, not alone from the viewpoint of the good it will do to lighten the cares of war, but also from the strictly commercial point of view."

In speaking of the aid which France will give, Mr. DeRoussy said that well-known actor-soldiers will even be given the opportunity to make pictures while in the army, as permission can be obtained from the authorities for active participation in the studios. Thus, he contends, there would appear to be no cause for alarm that French films will be curtailed in the Canadian market by reason of the war.

Reissues Fill the Gap in British-Made Product

TORONTO—The last British-made feature to be imported into Canada was "The Ware Case" which was on its way before the declaration of war, no British production having been shipped since the opening of hostilities.

During the past month, however, there has been a strong run of three British reissues of propaganda nature, these being "Our Fighting Navy," "Secret Agent" and "You're in the Army Now," which previously had enjoyed minor success.

Adapts "Wolf of New York"

HOLLYWOOD—Gordon Kahn will adapt Republic's "The Wolf of New York" for Producer Sol Siegel.

Film Aids Drive

MONTREAL — Distress in the sections where agencies of the Federated Charities work throughout the year, is graphically portrayed in a brief film which commences showings in 15 or more Montreal theatres this week. The film, produced by the Associated Screen News, is part of the program in preparation for the annual campaign of Federated Charities and its 33 agencies which opens October 17, for an objective of $752,000.

Okay "Thunder Afloat"

WASHINGTON—Official approval of Metro's "Thunder Afloat" by the U. S. Navy Department followed a special screening of the film for the naval executive board here.

Newsreel a Sleuth

MONTREAL—Two British airmen—one a Canadian—who were reported by the Air Ministry this week as "missing, believed to be prisoners of war" have been recognized in a newsreel taken in a German internment camp.

They are Pilot Officer Alfred Burke Thompson, of Penetanguishene, Ont., and Squadron Leader S. S. Murray.

The two officers were reported missing after, it was understood, taking part in the bombing of the Kiel Canal in the early days of the war.

The manager of a cinema at York, England, Mervyn Moorse, said a non-commissioned officer belonging to the same squadron as Thompson and Murray thought he recognized them on the screen. With Murray's wife and Thompson's fiancee he visited the cinema twice again. The three then said they were certain about the identity of their men.

Moorse cut the picture from the newsreel and forwarded an enlargement to the squadron. Later the wing commander of the squadron wrote the manager: "This has settled the matter beyond all dispute. Your action in supplying irrefutable evidence is much appreciated by myself and officers of the squadron."

Peacetime Pranks Are Booted

Montreal—Pajama parades, theatre invasions and other peacetime pranks will not be tolerated by the public in time of war, Dr. H. J. Cody, principal, warned students of the University of Toronto at the opening ceremonies. "The eyes of the country are upon you who are a privileged group," said the university president. "Be on your best behavior so that no criticism may fall upon yourselves or upon the university you represent."

Dr. Cody cautioned students against extravagance in their social activities. "Don't hire a band from New York and have to pay for a band from Toronto at the same time," he said. "Before the war is over, we all will have to tighten our belts."

VANCOUVER

FRED GUEST terminated his extended visit here and checked out last week, leaving the management of the Stanley in the capable hands of Miss Amy Scriven.

Tom Shields is progressing slowly, but favorably, in St. Paul's Hospital, and, with his son, Tom jr., back from his trip to the south, his mind is easy regarding the management of The Olympia during his convalescence.

Frank Gow, supervisor of suburban theatres for Famous Players, is back from a trip to the interior where he found business somewhat quiet but the theatre managers looking forward to decided improvement when dehydrating of fruits and vegetables gets under way. The processing of surpluses is one of the war measures which will prove a boon to producers in British Columbia.

Harold Warren, the Capitol, Port Alberni, was in the city, having come over to welcome his mother who has just returned from a trip to Australia and South Africa, and very glad to have arrived safely after many sleepless nights aboard ship, with a constant fear of being attacked by an enemy cruiser or submarine.

The distribution of trailers to the various theatres for exhibition during Fire Prevention Week is keeping Frank Vaughan, Empire Films, on the jump. As secretary of the Film Board, this work landed on Frank's shoulders.

Vaudeville will again be added to the Orpheum's program, with weekly changes as well as a leavening of amateur competitions and exhibitions, in true Ivanesque style.

Norman Duncan's first year as manager of the Strand was celebrated with a Canadian preview of "U-Boat 29," which drew audiences only exceeded by one other showing.

C. W. Mitchell, manager of the Bralorne Community Club Theatre, is making bookings for the winter season.

MONTREAL

EVENT of the week is the relenting of the Quebec government in regard to its ban on juveniles witnessing films. On the urgent representations of the Hon. Gilbert Layton, Minister Without Portfolio, in the provincial cabinet, children were permitted to attend showing of "The Wizard of Oz" at Loew's Montreal Theatre. They took advantage of the opportunity to the full, and, accompanied by their elders, have been attending the theatre by hundreds daily.

Managers of second-run chain and independent theatres are now wondering whether the permission given to Loew's will be extended to them. They have bitter recollection of the fact that while children were allowed to see "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" at the Palace, smaller theatres who admitted juveniles to see the same picture were prosecuted and heavily fined. Will history repeat itself, or will Quebec government, which is now preparing to hold an election, show a sense of fairness on this occasion? That's what the managers want to know.

The Paderewski film, "Moonlight Sonata," will be presented at His Majesty's for a week starting October 14, under the auspices of the Federation of Polish Societies in Canada. The entire proceeds will go to Polish refugees. The film which was first shown in Canada at the Princess, Montreal, has just concluded a successful run at the Empire, Quebec City.

Scores of French film stars, and hundreds of other players, writers, directors and cameramen are now in the French army, while many scenario writers are offering their wares to Hollywood. Maurice Dekobra, author of French thrillers, Jacques Constant, author of "Anglers," and Jacques de Benac, author of the film, "Lafayette" are sailing for the United States. Maurice Chevalier and Victory Boucher are organizing a volunteer theatrical troupe to entertain soldiers at the front and in training camps.

A department store library has tied up with "The Wizard of Oz" at Loew's by advertising low-priced copies of the book and recommending that it be read by those who see the picture . . . Motion pictures of the present war will be available to home collectors in 16 mm and 8 mm film.

Lionel Shapiro recalls that Milton Berle advertised as making his first appearance as a legitimate actor in New York, actually made his first appearance 30 years ago when he was the baby carried by Pearl White out of a burning building in "The Perils of Pauline."

Celebrating its anniversary, the Plaza Theatre of Tilbury, Ont., supplied patrons with dance music from a five-piece orchestra from 9:30 p. m. to 1 a. m., and also distributed favors to the ladies.

Charles Magnan, owner of the Malartic Theatre, Malartic, Que., a gold mining center, has been nominated to contest Abitibi county in the Liberal interest in the provincial election, October 25.

Joe Lightstone is presenting a second edition of the Mayfair Revue, called "The Good Old Days," at the Mayfair Theatre, which was formerly the Gayety, burlesque house, and now is a cinema . . . Cambrai Theatre, Quebec, is presenting a new musical stage show.

By a happy coincidence the showing of "The Wizard of Oz" at Loew's coincided with the teachers convention, which of course means holidays for the youngsters. Loew's was able to cash in on this fortunate circumstance by holding early morning performances for children, who had, however, to be accompanied by adults.

Quite a few members of the staffs of the various organizations connected with the film industry in Montreal have joined the military forces. Associated Screen News has received word that one of its Toronto salesmen, Allan Ironsides, has enlisted in the 110th bombing squadron.

Mayor Hedley Forbes of Fredericton opened the new Gaiety Theatre there which is owned by W. W. O. Fennely and seats 900 people. It replaces a theatre burned down.

Associated Screen News has prepared a dramatic two minute trailer for Dominion Fire Prevention Ass'n which, through the cooperation of the managers, is being shown in 500 Canadian theatres. Canadian Film Board of Trade and Empire Universal are distributing the film. ASN is also work-

Thanksgiving Weekend Boosts Dominion Gross

TORONTO—Theatres everywhere in Canada assumed a holiday aspect over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, with the annual holiday being officially observed on October 9. In spite of war talk and preparations, hundreds of theatres staged Sunday midnight shows, special Monday matinees and extra performances.

The three largest theatres in Toronto led the parade with midnight holiday previews. Manager Fred Trebilcock of the Uptown Theatre gave an advance showing of "Honeymoon in Bali" while Manager Tom Daley presented "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Imperial, while Loew's Theatre gave a preview of "The Women," these features being dated for regular run later. Shea's had "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" and vaudeville.

The enthusiasm was in marked contrast to the holiday reaction for Labor Day when, with the declaration of war by Britain on September 3, the theatres were practically empty for what should have been one of the best days of the year.

With the Thanksgiving Day pickup, the theatre business in Canada is expected to continue with a substantial swing.

Buy Salvation Army Story

HOLLYWOOD—"Marching as to War," a story of the Salvation Army by Lawrence Pohle and Thomas Aherne, has been purchased by 20th Century-Fox.

ing on Poppy Day and Federated Charities trailers.

Morris Davis of the Belmont has decided to extend Len Howard's Belmont Amateur Hour until further notice.

Phyllis Argall, Canadian journalist in Tokyo, says motion pictures there are often so heavily censored as to be unrecognizable. For instance, "Mutiny on the Bounty," which has been showing at the System in Montreal, shows no trace of the mutiny in the Japanese version, mutiny being an almost unheard of crime in the Japanese army and navy.

Apart from the study of teaching by films at the teachers' convention here, films are being used to supplement discussions. The health education section, under the chairmanship of W. O. Searle, is using motion pictures of physical education activities, particularly track and water sports. The science group has chosen a Gaumont-British instructional film, "Circulation," and an Erpi film, "Seed Dispersal," to illustrate the use of films in teaching nature study and related subjects in elementary schools.

A center of interest at the teachers' convention is a fully-equipped demonstration room in which Associated Screen News representatives explain the operation and care of the various types of projectors used in schools.

Edouard Asselin, assistant attorney-general of Quebec province, confirming the assurance that children will be permitted to view "The Wizard of Oz" during its showings in Montreal, if accompanied by parents, and "if all precautions are taken for their safety," stresses that the department's action will depend entirely on observance of these conditions.

Priceless Historical Films Stored Away for Safety

LONDON—The National Film Library of the British Film Institute sent into Sussex for safety during the war nearly 2,000,000 feet of films of priceless historical value, dating from 1895 to the present.

They include the full-length film of the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the coronation procession of King George V, the funerals of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII, troops going out to the Boer War and the Great War, and the historic Canadian and American tour of the King and Queen in the early summer.

A Blow to Regal

MONTREAL—A severe blow to Regal Films was the death on October 7 of Walter F. Hayner, 47, general sales manager for Canada, whose funeral was held in Toronto, Monday, October 9, after which the body was taken to New York for interment. H. Cass, province of Quebec manager for Regal Films, attended the service in Toronto.

On Loanout to Goldwyn

HOLLYWOOD—Robert Carson has joined the Sam Goldwyn writing department on a loanout from Paramount.

Election Radio Speeches To Undergo Censorship

MONTREAL—The censorship co-ordination committee has named three members to take charge of censorship of radio speeches to be made in the Quebec provincial election campaign, Maurice Goudrault, manager of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.'s stations in Montreal, announces.

They are Maurice Ollivier, legal officer of the House of Commons, and Paul Fontaine and Romeo Gibeault, lawyers of the justice department. Censorship from Montreal will be under the direction of Lieut.-Col. Rene P. Landry, secretary of the CBC and a member of the censorship coordination committee.

Federal Cabinet Members Also Must Submit Texts

MONTREAL—Should Rt. Hon. Ernest Lapointe, minister of justice, or any other federal cabinet member wish to take to the radio in connection with the present Quebec election campaign he, like any other individual, will have to submit the text of his address in advance to a three-man censorship committee with headquarters now in the Mount Royal Hotel here.

Hon. Adelard Godbout, provincial Liberal leader, had his opening speech passed upon by the committee and Paul Gouin, head of the Action Liberale Nationale, will submit the text for an address he is to broadcast.

Premier Maurice Duplessis has stated he would not submit in advance any speech he might wish to deliver over the radio.

"U" Signs Luli Deste

HOLLYWOOD—Luli Deste, Austrian actress, has been given a long-term contract by Universal.

VICTORIA

THE annual Dahlia Floral Display of the Capitol Theatre proved to be a good drawing card again this year. The foyer of the theatre was beautifully decorated with flowers which were supplied by Brown's Nurseries in Victoria. The event, which has been staged for the past three years at the Capitol, drew many comments from patrons who lingered in the theatre lobby both as they entered and as they left the show.

Ed Morbey, assistant manager of the Dominion Theatre, is back at work after spending a holiday hunting and fishing in the Cowichan Lake District. He reports limits of grouse and other game.

Newreel pictures about the *Courageous* and survivors proved a good drawing card at the Dominion.

Coincidental with the decision of the Capitol Theatre to hold over "The Old Maid," Victoria had its first rainfall after a prolonged dry spell. Advantage of this was taken by assistant manager, Martin Cave, who hit upon the idea of getting several young lads to parade the streets with extra large black umbrellas on which were printed in white "Held Over, 'The Old Maid,' at the Capitol."

WINNIPEG

A GOODWILL publicity windfall came to theatremen here when the local Hudson Bay Company store, in an institutional ad, compared its attraction, created by comfort and modernity in arrangement and furnishings, to the attraction of modern theatres, with their fine furnishings and patron comforts. The Bay building in Winnipeg is an expensive structure which cost a good deal more to erect than the most lavishly decorated and equipped theatre in the city, and the firm's comparison was a flattering one to the trade.

The at-home games of the local rugby team have been seriously affecting theatre grosses what with crowds of over 5,000 attending the games and many listening to the broadcasts.

Assistant Manager Paul Lambert of the Baddow Theatre had to refund a number of tickets last week when faulty water connections in the apartment above his theatre led to the flooding of his projection room.

A reissue of the March of Time short, "The Maginot Line," playing at the Metropolitan, was previewed for HQ of Military District 10 by Don Gauld. Commanding officers of each unit attended.

Male ushers have replaced girls at Leno Toraldo's Uptown . . . Henry Morton has completed the installation of new carpet at the Garrick . . . D. Griesdorf, manager for UA, has moved into his new home.

D. V. Rosen, former manager at Empire Universal here, has gone to Toronto . . . Harry Woolfe, RKO manager, is ill at the Misericordia Hospital. His family has just returned from Calgary . . . Hymie Sablut of Empire Universal and Leon Katz of the Miles circuit have joined the Cameron Highlanders.

Western Theatres, Ltd., formerly in the Somerset Bldg., has opened new offices in the Film Exchange . . . Mars. Arthur Silverstone and family, who have been visiting in Winnipeg, have gone to join Mr. Silverstone of UA in New York.

Ben Plottel and Hymie Schwartz now are joint managers of Empire Universal . . . Bob Richardson, manager of the Princess at Yorkton, has joined the army.

Bill Russell, formerly of the Roxy here, has taken up residence at Vancouver . . . Lou Geller of Vitagraph, Ltd., is on a trip to Regina.

American vaudeville bookings have proved successful for Tom Pacry, manager of the Beacon Theatre . . . Walter Grieve, formerly of Rivers, Man., is living in Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Weiner have left for Florida . . . Mrs. A. Hurwitz of Boston is here visiting her son, Robert, supervisor of the Starland, Fox and Regent . . . Joe Freed of the Elm is back from New York . . . J. Barron of the Grand, Calgary, is in the city. Ditto Bob Evans, auditor for Empire Universal.

TORONTO

THE marriage took place at St. Simon's Church, Toronto, on October 7 of John Massie Cooper, second son of Col. and Mrs. John A. Cooper, to Miss Freda Brookfield, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Brookfield of Tillsonburg, Ont. Colonel Cooper is president of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada.

"Nothing beats worry like a good movie" is the slogan which has been adopted for his advertising for these war days by Manager Sid Scott of the Capitol Theatre, Sudbury.

Following the appointment of Leslie Preston as manager of the Capitol, St. Thomas, in succession to Ted Doney who has enlisted in the Canadian Army, James Simmons, assistant manager of the Capitol at London, Ont., has been made manager of the Palace Theatre in London where Preston formerly presided. B. Pearce, head usher of the London Capitol, has been promoted to assistant manager at that theatre where W. K. Trudell is in charge.

Clare Appel, of the advertising department at Famous Players' head office, has been celebrating his birthday, as has R. S. Roddick, recently appointed district manager for the Maritime Provinces with headquarters at the Halifax Capitol. Others in the current birthday group included Tim McCoy of the Grand at Kingston and S. C. Clayman of the Regent, Windsor. Previously, Angelo Stevens of the Ottawa Regent had observed his anniversary.

Pat Drohan, manager of the Capitol at Chatham, Ont., is a bit chesty as a result of his campaign on "Four Feathers" when he secured a full-page story on the picture in a tieup with the Chatham *Daily News.*

The Imperial Theatre, big downtown house in Toronto, has long been handicapped by the parking problem but Manager Tom Daley has solved the situation by organizing a large automobile area where patrons may park their cars free of charge. The lot was formerly covered by many worn-out houses and is situated only a couple of hundred feet from the theatre which seats 3,411 persons.

Al Sedgewick, manager of the suburban Belsize Theatre, continues to take an active interest in the affairs of the district as president of the Mt. Pleasant Business Men's Ass'n. He has mapped out a wartime program of community activities following a conference with Alderman Innes of the city council.

For years one of the best known cinema organists in London, England, Quentin Maclean, has discovered that a pleasure trip in the Dominion will have to be prolonged for the winter season because of the war and will shortly be heard by patrons in Toronto. He has also been engaged by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. He was badly wounded while serving as a combatant in the First Great War.

Manager Jay Smith of the Avenue Theatre, has proclaimed "No Neutrality Here" in connection with advertising for his theatre in the playing of a series of semi-patriotic features, the latest of which was "You're in the Army Now," a Gaumont production.

Palmer Brandeaux of the Casino Theatre, Toronto, is slowly recovering from severe injuries sustained in the crash of an airplane which was in charge of Pilot J. Paton of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who was only slightly hurt.

"The Wizard of Oz" played three weeks solo at Loew's Theatre, Toronto, to exceptional crowds and has been succeeded by a double bill, "Lady of the Tropics" and "On Borrowed Time," which had been waiting two weeks for the finish of the fantasy. Manager Fred Trebilcock secured fine business with "The Rains Came" at the Uptown Theatre for two weeks. "Nurse Edith Cavell" played the Imperial Theatre for one week.

In the digging up of records of the First Great War it has been found that Gene Lockhart, veteran screen star and former resident of Toronto, was a soldier in the 228th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and played goal for the hockey team of that unit in the National Hockey Ass'n. He also played football for the crack Argonaut senior team.

Gurston Allen, son of Jules Allen, Toronto theatre chain magnate, has volunteered for active service with the Royal Canadian Artillery through the Canadian Officers' Training Corps.

B. Danson of the Exhibitors Booking Ass'n is another representative of Toronto's film colony who has joined the colors, as has Jack Rosenfield, son of Louis Rosenfield of the new Palace Theatre at Galt, Ont.

Famous Players has leased the Opera House at Brockville, Ont., from Ritchie and Dobbie of that city, the latter having rebuilt the house after being dark for several years. The chain also has the one other theatre in Brockville, the Capitol.

Adam "Bill" Bailie, owner of the Adelphi Theatre, and V. Simone, proprietor of the Beverly Theatre, both of Toronto, have adopted the Foto-Nite stunt. Mr. Simone also features dishes, mystery and prize nights.

Lloyd C. Mills of the Elgin Theatre, Ottawa, has held over "They Shall Have Music" for a second week. His campaign on this picture included a private screening before the regular opening to which he had the local critics and leading music teachers as guests.

Frank Fisher, Toronto branch manager of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., has turned from tennis to badminton in which both he and his wife have won numerous championship honors.

B. W. Silver, general manager of Colonial Pictures, Ltd., independent distributors of Toronto, has been in Montreal to confer with his branch officials.

Film Executives Resume Canadian Trade Calls

TORONTO—Executives of film companies in the United States have not visited Canada in any great number since the start of the war, no doubt waiting for trade developments of importance. With hostilities well into their second month, however, and with the straightening out of wartime regulations, several officials have paid a call upon Canadian trade leaders.

James R. Grainger, president of Republic Pictures, has made the trip from New York City to confer with officials of Famous Players Canadian Corp. His last visit to the Dominion was for the circuit's big convention at Niagara Falls last July.

Another distinguished trade visitor was William C. Gehring of 20th Century-Fox, New York, who made a personal check on trends and prospects. Gehring felt quite at home as, at one time, he was manager of the Toronto branch of Fox Film Corp. and was also in charge of the Montreal office.

Following the visit of Grainger, A. W. Perry, general manager of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., made a business trip to Montreal to look over Republic bookings.

F-P Managers Are Assured Bonus Contest Planned

TORONTO—Assurance has been given the managers of Famous Players Canadian Corp. that a cash bonus contest, of a form not yet decided upon, will be launched "when business conditions become stabilized" to replace the extra bonus contest, based on increased profits over a corresponding period of last year, which was called off shortly after the war began. The scheduled contest for cash prizes aggregating $5,000 had actually got under way when the conflict intervened. Incidentally it is announced that the cancellation of the contest has nothing to do with the Managers' Sharing Plan for quota increases which is a permanent yearly feature and will continue as in the past.

Fred Masters jr. Joins Air Force Service

TORONTO—The first employe of the head office of Famous Players Canadian Corp., to enlist for active service in the Second Great War is Fred Masters jr., a member of the auditing department, who is in the Royal Canadian Air Force with the rank of Aircraftsman. He is stationed at St. John, N. B., where he is engaged in intensive training as well as attending to his duties as a rigger.

The first theatre manager of the company to join the colors is Lieut. Fred G. Doney who is with the First Divisional Royal Canadian Army Service Corps which has already been warned for service in France. Lieutenant Doney joined the company in 1924 when he was appointed an usher at the Parkdale Theatre, Toronto, after which he went to Regal Films, Ltd., and later to the head office. After a period with the Tivoli Theatre, Toronto, and the Capitol and Palace theatres, London, he was appointed manager of the Capitol in St. Thomas in 1936. He is 29 years of age and was married in 1932.

Especially Active In Southern Zone

(Continued from page 19)

Detroit Theatres Co.

Flint—Willard Johnson opened the Flint.

Lincoln Park—Construction has been held up temporarily on new theatre planned here by Max Allen.

Milan—W. H. Storl opened the Milan.

Newberry—Thomas Shimens is planning new house here.

River Rouge—Construction of 1,000-seat house expected to get under way late this fall.

Minnesota

Hendricks—Ed Sorenson opened 260-seat New Lake, costing $15,000. First theatre in this town.

Minneapolis — Ben Spewack reported planning new theatre for district adjacent Victory Drive.

St. Paul—George Granstrom, owner of Grand View, opened new $100,000 house, the 950-seat Highland.

Tracy—James Anderson opened the new Tracy.

Mississippi

Brookhaven—L. W. Watts building a theatre which, when completed, will give his circuit fifth unit.

L. E. Downing opened new 325-seat Haven here.

Greenville—The Azars opened 432-seat Lincoln for colored patronage.

Maben—J. D. Courtney, formerly of Rosedale, opened new 350-seat Maben.

McComb—The new Palace, soon to open, will be operated by Solomon Bros.

Missouri

Hornersville — Lyle Richmond and Johnny Mohrstadt to open new 300-seat Strand.

Kansas City—E. W. Bowers started construction on a neighborhood house.

The new Esquire, seating 800, opened as first run.

Morehouse—W. H. Dillon plans 400-seater here, to be known as Dillon.

Montana

Chester—Carl Veseth building a new theatre here.

Chinook—John Griffin's new Grand being completed.

Harlem—A new house is being built here by Carl Veseth.

Nebraska

Falls City—Oscar Johnson, who has the Rivoli here, is building a 550-seat house that will take the same name. He will close present house when new Rivoli opens.

Mitchell—McDonald Bros. of Torrington, Wyo., start new theatre with 500 seats.

Omaha—A corporation headed by A. L. Kaplan is operating the new State.

C. A. Brown said to be planning new theatre in West Farnam area.

New York

Amenia—Lou Bucken plans new house here this fall.

Buffalo—Plans for new 1,400-seat house on Niagara St., to cost approximately $100,000, announced by Shea Theatres. The house is first of three contemplated for next six months.

The new Century has been opened by Basil-Dipson interests.

Flushing—Harold Weinstock has begun construction of 600-seat house on 69th Street, with provisions for television.

Forest Hills—Interboro Circuit has Trylon under construction.

New York City—David Dubin, who operates Grand Central Newsreel, building another newsreel house on south side of 42nd St. near Vanderbilt Ave.

Nat Steinberg building a 600-seat house in Brooklyn.

Randolph—The 400-seat Keith-Garfield has opened.

North Carolina

Clinton—F. L. Turlington plans house here for Clinton Theatres.

Gastonia—Maurice Honeigman opened new theatre for colored patronage.

Reidsville—W. H. Hendrix opened new house here.

Richmond—H. C. Wall of the Richmond plans a new 500-seat house.

Rockingham — H. B. Meiselman has opened new 316-seat house here.

H. C. Wall planning new $25,000 house on west Washington St., adjacent to bus terminal.

Troy—G. H. Faw completing a theatre here.

Vass—Work is progressing on a new house.

Ohio

Beverly—Charles Dixon building 300-seat house here.

Cincinnati—Elmer Shard has broken ground on new Hyde Park house.

College Hill—J. W. Nordlok and R. W. Tusch opened 600-seat Clovernook.

Columbus—Ted Pekras planning 800-seat house on the Hilltop.

George and John Rappold, who have the Innis, building 600-seat house. Scheduled to open October 15 on the south side.

Eaton—Si James understood planning second theatre here.

Rader Bros. spent $52,000 on the 525-seat house recently opened here. The operators headquarter in Columbus.

Fairfield—John Robertson opened new 700-seat house here.

Latonia—Louis Wiethe recently opened a new 900-seater in this suburban city.

New Solon—Horace Wersel begins construction on theatre in City Building.

Vanceburg—T. Neal Hubbard of Maysville, Ky., leased new 400-seat Kentucky being built here and slated to open mid-October.

Westwood—Louis Wiethe building 1,000-seat house in this Cincinnati suburb; to cost about $110,000.

Williamsport—A new theatre slated to open October 15.

(Continued on next page)

11 More in Three Months for Canada; 4 Open, 4 in Work

Canada reported 11 new projects in the last three months, three of which have been opened, four planned and four in work. Three houses which were reported under way on July 1 have been opened. They are R. T. Stevens' New Regent, seating 1,500, at Ontario City; Leslie Gregory's Vogue at Leamington, Ont., and the Harrow, Harrow.

Five other houses under construction in July had not yet been opened at the end of the third quarter, October 1. They are the first theatre in Mitchell, Ont., being erected by Mrs. H. J. Sutherland of St. Mary's; Les Gregory's new Geneva in Orillia; the new Paris in St. Boniface, the unit being constructed by 20th Century Theatres in Trenton, and the Pylon which Ray Lewis and E. Sterling are building in Toronto. Immediate opening dates are scheduled for most of the houses.

The 11 new candidates to the Canadian theatre map are as follows:

Opened

Crapaud, P. E. I.—B. H. Yeo, veteran independent, 175-seat theatre in this village. It will be operated one night in every fortnight.

Kenerik, N. S.—The new Kenerik, owned by E. D. Redden and K. R. Corkum.

Vancouver—A. Wasel is the owner of the Varsity, 600-seater costing $40,000 in the University district.

In Construction

Alberni—H. E. Warren has let contracts for a new 350-seat house to cost approximately $20,000.

Kimberly—A. G. Blaine has started work on a 500-seat project to cost $40,000.

Toronto—The owner of a new theatre being erected at Eglinton Ave. and Dufferin Sts., northwest outskirts here, is not divulged.

Wallaceburg—Tony Allevate of the Rouyn is behind the new Allevate being constructed.

Planned

Montreal—Lakeshore Theatres has purchased a site on Lakeshore Blvd., near St. Anne Ave., Point Claire, for a theatre. No construction date has been set.

Sudbury—Frank Fera announces he will build here, where another house is going up by Davis and Turpin.

Fort Erie, Ont.—This city, opposite Buffalo, is to have a new 750-seat house to cost $75,000 and built by Mrs. L. H. Marks.

Wells—Levi Graham of the Strand, Prince George, B. C., has bought a lot here for a theatre site.

San Antonio Area Gets 5,000 Seats

San Antonio—New theatres and remodeling since the first of the year added approximately 5,000 seats in this area, according to a BOXOFFICE check-up. The state of Texas is regarded as one of the most active in new construction, as compared with other states, by both major affiliates and independents.

Texas Leading All In Construction

(Continued from preceding page)

Woodsville—Paul Pontius of Sylvan, Sylvania, plans 300-seat house.

Oklahoma

Bartlesville—Griffith Amusements and Berryman Bros. plan new house here.

Colbert—Glen Thompson planning a house here. The town presently has no theatre.

Langley—Norma Rylander expects to open the New shortly.

Oklahoma City—A new theatre building is under construction at 29th and McKinley Sts., with R. C. Keaton of Keaton Ice Co. said to be interested.

Luther Groves opened the Villa at 23rd and Villa Sts.

Purcell—Jim Nance is building here.

Tishomingo—Glen Thompson opened the New Thompson, which replaces Princess, destroyed by fire.

Willis—J. B. Wilkes of Conroe to open new house here shortly.

Oregon

Seaside—Jack Callahan, operator of Strand here, leased lot at Columbia Drive and Broadway; to erect $50,000 house.

Pennsylvania

Altoona—R. Allison to open new house in residential district at Logan Blvd. and Burgoon Road about October 15.

Chester—Stanley-Warner opened the State.

East McKeesport—Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Malanos plan a house here this fall.

Ebensburg—A theatre is to be built here for A. N. Notopoulos, Altoona exhibitor.

New Castle—A new theatre is planned for this town.

New Cumberland—Frank Firestock planning new $50,000 theatre here.

Pittsburgh—A theatre is to be included in centralized shopping area in Brentwood. Venture located at Mock Ave. and Clairton Blvd.

Spring Grove—A new theatre reported planned for this town.

South Carolina

Florence—Dewey McDermon to open new Roxy shortly.

Louisburg—L. Glenn Davis opened new Louisburg.

Monroe—North Carolina Theatres let contracts for new house here.

Piedmont—L. A. Linder, who operates in Greenville, building theatre here.

South Dakota

Brookings—Local bankers plan to erect theatre here.

Tennessee

Adamsville—F. Sibley opens new 350-seat house here Columbus Day.

Bruceton—G. H. Goff building 500-seater.

Covington—The new Benton, being built by Paul Harrington of Ruffin's Chickasaw Amusements, to open about mid-October. House will seat 500.

Halls—The tenth unit in Ruffin Chickasaw Amusements string slated to open here November 1.

Lafayette—J. S. McMurry opened 388-seat Macon.

McMinnville—The new 1,000-seat Park is scheduled to open October 7.

Memphis—Hilton Moss of Laurel, Miss., opening new Negro house on south side here.

Murfreesboro—Crescent Amusements is building a house here.

Nashville—The new Woodbine, neighborhood house, opened with Charlie Bess managing.

Ripley—Shand Enterprises plans $40,000 theatre.

Shelbyville—The new 500-seat Bedford is under construction.

Texas

Amarillo—A. H. Truitt plans to open new Star shortly.

Austin—Interstate's new Austin, circuit's seventh here, opened.

Bishop—The J. G. Long Circuit opened the New.

Bonham—Major H. S. Cole building the Elite, his third unit.

Brackettville—Construction started on new theatre here.

Bryan—Bryan Amusement Co. announces plans for the new Aggie.

College Station—Contracts for construction of new Campus let by V. A. Walker of Norman. L. M. Threet is interested in $60,000 venture.

Dallas—R. Z. (Bob) Glass set October 15 for opening of new Styde here.

H. H. Stroud building a theatre here.

The J. G. Long and R. E. Griffith circuits building the El Rancho here.

Denison—Interstate, which operates the Rialto and Star, plans to build third unit here.

Denver City—R. E. Griffith interests and a partner are building a theatre here.

Five Points—Texas Consolidated building 750-seat house to cost $65,000.

Houston—Glass Theatres building the Studewood, to cost about $25,000.

Hugh Potter building $100,000 house at West Graym and Shepherd.

Ben McKinney expects to open new Navaway in south Houston shortly.

W. V. Ratcliff building a house on Navigation Blvd.

Kountze—The 400-seater built by J. M. Langston of Broaddus, Tex., has opened.

Lindale—J. T. Dorsay of Grapeland building a theatre here.

Nocona—Dave and Jake Lutzer plan new house here.

Roscoe—R. O. Goss converted local building into a theatre.

Sherman—R&R built a new "A" house here, replacing a fire loss.

Taft—The J. G. Long circuit opened the Spanish.

Teague—R. B. Weatherall plans a new house here.

Tyler—Interstate constructing 1,100-seat house to cost about $150,000.

Victoria—Jefferson Amusements began work on 1,200-seat house.

Whitesboro—T. J. Mitchell to open a new house here.

Willis—M. Wilkes of Conroe is building the new 250-seat house here.

Woodville—J. Wood Fains opened a new 500-seater here.

Virginia

Abingdon—A new house is being built by Lincoln Theatres of Marion, Va.

Bonny Blue—Don Reda plans 488-seat house here. He operates others in mining camps for Blue Diamond Coal Co.

Thirteen Projects In West Virginia

Clarksville—B. F. Sothern, operator of the State, has 600-seater under construction, with plans for Thanksgiving opening.

Covington—Jeff Hofheimer of Norfolk plans a house here.

Danville — Charles Abercrombie announces he will build another theatre here, to cost about $25,000 to be ready January 1.

Farmville—A new theatre contemplated here by local circuit.

Marion—The Lincoln Circuit plans new unit here.

Norfolk—Kopeland Ornoff plans formal opening for new Lenox on or about October 5.

North Tazewell—Ground broken for new house here by F. Thompson.

Washington

Lake Burien—Mel Sohns building a 500-seater here.

Seattle—Work started on University of Washington's $64,000 Penthouse Theatre.

Spokane—George Hutchins opened new Dishman near here.

West Virginia

Benwood—The new Roxy, neighborhood house, expected to open October 15. Roy Green, seven years manager of the Colonia, Wheeling, identified with project.

Cairo—Bill Heaton of Pennsboro recently converted garage into theatre seating 300.

Cameron—Construction started on theatre for Sperling & Lowe, who operate in Moundsville, W. Va.

Charleston—The new 825-seat State, built by Albert Aaron on west Washington St., opened.

Edgewood—Opening of new Mayfair, 850-seater built by Chris Velas, set for middle of October.

Fairmont—Construction started on house sponsored by Columbus Harr, Dr. Carl J. Carter and A. J. Colborn. George W. Nelson will manage 600-seat house.

Keyser—N. F. "Newt" Carskadon opened new Keyser, 580-seater, across the street from old Music Hall.

Lewisburg—The new Lewis opened by Custer Circuit. Has 650 seats.

Parkersburg—Mrs. P. M. Thomas opened 400-seat Parker.

Pine Grove—Construction starts shortly on 300-seater for Lem Harvey, Moundsville exhibitor.

Wheeling—George S. Otte opened the Pike.

Woodsdale—Nikitas Dipson circuit's new theatre, remodeled from a garage, opened.

Chris Velas building a house on highway leading to Elm Grove, to be known as Woodsdale.

Wisconsin

Blanchard—Thomas Watson of Warren, Ill., purchased building on Main St.; will remodel first floor into a theatre.

Milwaukee — Standard Theatres Co., which recently acquired the Grand, Green Bay, announces plans for 800-seater on west side.

Wyoming

Gillette—The new American, operated by George McAnany, opened with 200 seats.

Laramie—Fox opened new 942-seat Fox here.

Columbia (1101) **125 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 19, '39**

A stirring preachment in patriotism is the predominant note of Frank Capra's production which stars Jean Arthur and James Stewart, whose respectively fine performances are backed by a large and unusually impressive supporting cast. The film reflects sufficient of the mastery of the Capra touch to win it far above average popularity and patronage. Richly endowed as to production values, there is the additional and considerable asset to be found in the timeliness of the subject matter, which is designed through the noteworthy screenplay by Sidney Buchman to enhance the picture's inherent emotional appeal. The story treats with the single-handed and successful battle in the U. S. Senate of a young idealist to free his state of graft and corruption. Frank Capra, of course, directed.

Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Claude Rains, Edward Arnold, Guy Kibbee, Thomas Mitchell, Eugene Pallette.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington F Comedy Drama

WB (——) **93 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 14, '39**

Slow moving and lacks the pace Warner is known for setting in musicals. Its success is entirely up to the exhibitor who will have to sell it for all it is worth. Ray Enright directed as best he could with the material transcribed from the popular Broadway success, which had a weak plot but more music than story. With Alan Hale as the egotistical Russian impresario, Vera Zorina as the ballerina and Eddie Albert as the vaudeville hoofer with bigger and better ideas, the yarn concerns itself with a ballet troupe stranded and penniless in an American hotel. Comes Gloria Dickson with elastic money strings to finance the show and Albert replacing the temperamental partner of the ballerina, a heyday for the troupe. To compensate for the dullness is the dancing by Zorina and tap routines by Albert in the final reels.

Vera Zorina, Eddie Albert, Alan Hale, Erik Rhodes, James Gleason, Gloria Dickson, Frank McHugh.

On Your Toes F Musical

M-G-M (6) **71 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 6, '39**

Not quite as speedy as its title implies, this is nevertheless a diverting enough blend of chills and chuckles in Leo's best program pattern and, accordingly, should give general satisfaction. Franchot Tone and Ann Sothern form a pleasing combination in the leads as the now-familiar young married couple with sleuthing as an extra-curricular hobby. Tone, a dealer in rare books, lends his friend Lee Bowman enough money to buy his way into the promotion of a beauty contest. Bowman's partner, John Miljan, a decidedly shady character, is killed and Bowman arrested on suspicion. To save his friend and, incidentally, protect his investment, Tone steps in, becomes involved in another murder and nearly loses his life before unmasking the killer. Directed by Busby Berkeley.

Franchot Tone, Ann Sothern, Lee Bowman, John Miljan, Allyn Joslyn, Mary Beth Hughes, Cliff Clark.

Fast and Furious F Comedy Drama

M-G-M (——) **85 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 20, '39**

"At the Circus" is long, loud and sometimes funny. Ditto for the Marx brothers, except that the film's length comes from another direction; the romancing and "straight" story development left to Kenny Baker as disinherited heir and embryonic circus operator. In the general hubbub that the Marxes generally manage to generate there are enough laughs to keep most audiences in a highly amused state. Here and there are lines and situations of comedy calibre that might spread like a chain letter. A standout bit of musical entertainment is achieved in a boogie-woogie swingout, highlighted by a Harpo harpsody. Baker sings an undistinguished original twice, which doesn't help the pace; which isn't a criticism of his vocal ability. Chico's piano playing and Harpo's brash handling of societyish Margaret Dumont are treats. Ed Buzzell directed.

Marx Bros., Kenny Baker, Florence Rice, Nat Pendleton, Margaret Dumont, Fritz Feld.

At the Circus F Comedy

20th Century-Fox (014) **75 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 20, '39**

A happy blend of showmanlike elements, including timeliness of its subject matter and the adroit casting which teams Jane Withers with the Ritz Brothers, stamps this as one of the best Withers vehicles to come along in months and good, substantial program entertainment by any yardstick. The erstwhile gingery moppet, now nearly grown-up and much more sedate in her demeanour, still troupes with the best of them and the Ritzes have been provided with parts well in keeping with their talents. Story is projected against the background of the last World War, with comedy prevailing throughout. The Freres Ritz, vaudevillians who can't get a booking, join the U. S. cavalry and wind up as mule guardians. Overseas they become pals of Jane, young mademoiselle in a French village, and inadvertently become heroes. H. Bruce Humberstone directed.

Jane Withers, Ritz Brothers, Lynn Bari, Joseph Schildkraut, Stanley Fields, Leon Ames, Lionel Royce.

Pack Up Your Troubles F Comedy

RKO Radio (010) **65 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 14, '39**

Laurel and Hardy employ every reliable, time-tested gag in their bag of slapstick tricks in this, the initial Boris Morros production venture, and add a few new ones besides. The moderately entertaining result would be vastly more amusing with the elimination of several draggy sequences. The picture's best market will be with the kids and the confirmed comedy fans, but its slender story—merely a framework for the Laurel-Hardy antics—mark it as only average merchandise for general audience consumption. The two comics, employed in a Des Moines fish market, are in Paris on a holiday, where Hardy falls in love with a married woman. Rejected, he joins the Foreign Legion to forget, dragging the long-suffering Laurel along with him. A. Edward Sutherland directed.

Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Reginald Gardiner, Jean Parker, Charles Middleton, James Finlayson.

The Flying Deuces F Comedy

M-G-M (7) **110 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 3, '39**

Scintillatingly subtle and as Russian as borsht, this romantic comedy, which satirizes life and love in the Soviets, at the same time adds several inches to the film stature of two of Hollywood's most famous—Producer-Director Ernst Lubitsch and Actress Greta Garbo. A streamlined screenplay, literally sparkling with brilliant dialogue, tests the mettle of this duo, with the result that the widely-vaunted Lubitsch touch of yore asserts itself with new mastery. Garbo finds herself in an entirely new type of role, one which prescribes the more difficult nuances of sophisticated comedy, and while she rises to the situation nobly, her elegance remains undeniable, and she carries herself with proud assurance of her talents. While "Ninotchka" may lack something for the masses, it must be catalogued as a triumph for all concerned.

Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas, Ina Claire, Bela Lugosi, Sig Rumann, Felix Bressart, Alexander Granach.

Ninotchka F Comedy Drama

Paramount (3907) **58 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 20, '39**

The lack of drawing power in its cast, plus an extremely obvious story of espionage activities for control of a mythical super telecasting invention, relegate this melodrama to the category of unimportant program offerings. William Henry and Judith Barrett head the cast, which contains no established names. William Collier sr., radio tycoon, plans to turn over a long-distance television device developed by his employe, Henry, to the government. His enemy and former partner, through agents, steals the plans, from which a transmitter unit is constructed for ultimate purchase by a foreign power. Collier and Henry discover the plot accidentally when they tune in on the spies' station, learn where it is located, and effect the villains' capture. Edward Dmytryk directed.

William Henry, Judith Barrett, William Collier sr., Anthony Quinn, Richard Denning, John Eldredge, Dorothy Tree.

Television Spy F Melodrama

Republic (913) **69 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 13, '39**

Republic's effort at ringing the tocsin for Americanism rebounds as a dull and unconvincing drama. The script, in its way, is keyed to the times when it deals with sabotage at an airplane factory. But the gospel it intends to put across is much too synthetic to attain a marked degree of sincerity. Gordon Oliver is the young mechanic who is framed by the sabotage ring. His father, Charles Grapewin, with the help of his old army friends, help smash the ring when the forces of law move too slowly. In passing, it must be said the talents of the likeable Oliver and Grapewin, a good actor, are wasted. Arleen Whelan, as the chorus girl who remains in the small town for Oliver, makes an attractive addition. Herman Schlom produced and Harold Young directed.

Arleen Whelan, Gordon Oliver, Charles Grapewin, Lucien Littlefield, Paul Guilfoyle, Dorothy Peterson.

Sabotage F Action Drama

SELLING ANGLES: "Fast and Furious"

Franchot Tone and Ann Sothern rate the marquee and advertising credits as the newest in the "Mr. and Mrs." detective teams. The bookstore background should be put to use in tieups with libraries and dealers in antique volumes. In connection with one of these dealers, hold a "rare book" week in which prizes are offered for the oldest and most valuable edition. Use the title in tieups with local gasoline stations, automobile dealers, etc.

CATCHLINES:

All He Knew About Sleuthing He'd Read in Books . . . So This Book-Peddler Found Himself Turning Detective to Save His Life.

Death Dogged the Steps of This Dealer in Rare Books . . . When He Came Face-to-Face With Murder.

SELLING ANGLES: "The Flying Deuces"

Prepare two huge cutout heads of Laurel and Hardy and plant them above the marquee or in the lobby. Arrange a "doubles" contest for mimics of the veteran comedy team. The old reliable "laugh insurance" tieup can be worked out with a local insurance agent. Stills showing Hardy attempting to commit suicide can be planted with banks and loan companies on the selling point that "money worries don't have to drive you to this."

CATCHLINES:

If You're Looking for Tender Romance . . . Sweeping Spectacle . . . Look Somewhere Else—for This Is for Laughs Only.

The Funniest Picture in This Funny Team's Career . . . Setting a New High Mark in Half-Witted Hilarity.

SELLING ANGLES: "Sabotage"

With war in the headlines, the title should attract considerable attention if displayed in such a way as to connotate foreign spies at work. Stories on spy activities in this country should be blown up and used for a lobby display. In advance of the opening, distribute heralds and posters with only the title reproduced. Following this teaser campaign, include theatre and playdate after the interest of the community is aroused. Stills of Arleen Whelan are available for tieups with women's stores.

CATCHLINES:

Undeclared War . . . As a Foreign Syndicate Threatens Our Defenses.

Spies Invade America and Get a Spy's Reward.

SELLING ANGLES: "On Your Toes"

Have some stilt walkers parading the streets drawing attention to the theatre . . . Another excellent idea, if you could get a dancer to do it, would be to have either a man or woman walking the leading thoroughfare on their toes. Invite chorines to see the picture and you can use the phrase "On Your Toes" for all kinds of tricky copy. Build a miniature stage for the marquee and have just several groups of toes moving around. Better yet would be to put up a curtain and actually have girls performing, with only the toes visible.

CATCHLINES:

Be "On Your Toes" and See "On Your Toes!" . . . Two Vaudeville Hoofers Reunited in a Russian Setting . . . Don't Miss Zorina's Dancing.

Time Separated Them, But Their Love Never Died . . . Go Backstage "On Your Toes" . . . Dance With Zorina, Tap With Eddie Albert and Pity Alan Hale.

SELLING ANGLES: "Pack Up Your Troubles"

In all exploitation and advertising sell Jane Withers and the Ritz Brothers as one unit. Hold an American Legion and war veterans' night and decorate the lobby with trophies and souvenirs loaned by the Legion. Issue, as throwsheets, an "extra" with a headline reading: "Jane Withers and Ritz Brothers Declare War on Gloom." Dress attendants in trench helmets such as were worn by American soldiers in the last war. Check with local exchange on merchandising tieups arranged by the studio on Jane Withers.

CATCHLINES:

The Big Parade . . . Becomes a March of Mirth . . . When Ginger Jane and the Wacky Ritzes Launch a Laugh Attack on All Fronts.

Jane Withers and the Ritz Brothers . . . Those Three Nobodies of No Man's Land . . . Send a Laugh Ultimatum to Sour-Pusses Everywhere.

SELLING ANGLES: "Television Spy"

The public's interest in television is this picture's strongest selling point. Try to pick up some sight-and-sound broadcasting paraphernalia, or the amateur devices of local inventors for display in the lobby. Tie in the spy angle by preparing lobby easel layouts of newspaper headlines concerning espionage activities. As street ballyhoo, mount a weird and complicated looking piece of "machinery" on the back of a small truck and drive it about taking "photographs" of pedestrians.

CATCHLINES:

As Startling as Its Title . . . As Timely as Television Itself . . . This Thrill-Drama of a New and Dangerous Type of Spy.

SELLING ANGLES: "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"

Stud the marquee with the names of James Stewart and Jean Arthur, and award recognition also to Producer Frank Capra. Construct a compo-board cutout resembling the dome of the capitol building in Washington and mount it above the marquee with the picture title imprinted on it. Urge all students of current events in local schools to see it as a visual insight into Congressional procedure. Prepare throwsheets in the form of "ballots," listing the theatre as the "polling booth."

CATCHLINES:

The Human, Pulsing Story of a Boy With Ideals . . . Whose Patriotic Fervor Refused to Be Downed by a Political Machine.

Frank Capra's Greatest Film Triumph . . . And Absolutely the "Must" Picture on Your Entertainment List.

SELLING ANGLES: "At the Circus"

The infrequency of Marx Brothers' films is alone something to hang a good portion of your campaign on. Merely the implication of their monkeyshines coupled with a circus is an angle rich in material. Perhaps you can string up a set of dummies hanging feet first across the facade of the house. A "gorilla" should be swinging within menancing distance. Any sort of an animal parade with a band to lend color could be utilized to work in a number of street stunts. You should be able to pique a lot of imagination through distribution of a "calling card," using the name of lawyer Harpo: J. Cheever Loophole. Kenny Baker's popularity as a radio artist should be amplified.

CATCHLINES:

You've Never Been to the Circus Until You've Gone With the Marx Bros.

SELLING ANGLES: "Ninotchka"

Garbo is, of course, the name to sell, with Melvyn Douglas cited in support. Create a Russian atmosphere in the foyer, making over the boxoffice with artificial minarets and dressing the attendants in the blouses and boots of the Russian peasant. Emphasize the "new Garbo" by employing the same slogan being utilized by Metro to describe her—"Garbo Laughs." Promote a word-building contest around the picture's title.

CATCHLINES:

Garbo Laughs . . . A Laugh Heard Round the World . . . In a Joyous and Jolly Piece of Screen Entertainment.

The New Garbo in Her Latest, Greatest Triumph . . . A Picture That You Cannot Afford to Miss.

Short Subject Reviews

Information, Please

RKO Pathe (No. 1) 10 *Mins.*

That popular radio program which features Clifton Fadiman, John Kieran, Franklin P. Adams and Oscar Levant is brought to the screen as witty and adult entertainment. The guest star on the initial reel is Rex Stout, noted fiction writer. The screen follows the radio program very closely. Fadiman asks the questions and, as on the air, the answers are entirely unrehearsed. The redeeming quality of this program is its spontaneity. But it suffers somewhat from a static camera. More mobility would give this reel the pace it needs.

A Day on Treasure Island

M-G-M (FitzPatrick Traveltalk) 10 *Mins.*

This is a pictorial journey through the Golden Gate International Exposition at San Francisco. Thus it is natural that its physical attractiveness should record beautifully in the color cameras. Most of the footage comprises outdoor shots, yet there is a treat in store for those who would get a glimpse of the wonders of this man-made island without having to travel thousands of miles to see it first hand.

Vincent Lopez and His Orchestra

Vitaphone (Melody Master) 10 *Mins.*

An ordinary musical one-reeler in which Vincent Lopez and his orchestra play "Down With Nola," "Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride" and "Old Man Mose." Betty Hutton, who is billed as the "Country's No. 1 Jitterbug," gives her whacky version of the last number. Maybe the swing fans will like it.

The Blue Danube Waltz

Paramount (Symphonic Series) 10 *Mins.*

The lilting strains of the Blue Danube Waltz are projected from the screen by the National Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Frederick Feher with all the charm and beauty found in the composition. A pleasant innovation is the color of the film which is tinted in a soft, blue shade. All in all, it is an enjoyable, soothing reel.

Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise

Columbia (The Three Stooges) 18½ *Mins.*

Comedy in the inimitable style of the Three Stooges which may be appreciated in some quarters. They work hard at their trade, but dish out a brand of obvious and adolescent slapstick. In this two-reeler, they help Widow Jenkins recover the deed to her farm on which oil has been discovered.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Movietone News, No. 7: Belgium defense disaster; Crack-Up Frakes ends stunt career; ghost fleet comes to life; Welles at Panama; Cardinal Mundelein dies; Kelly heads Legion; the Gee Foster girls; Lew Lehr, and the following football games, Notre Dame-Purdue, U. S. C.-Oregon, Navy-William and Mary, Pittsburgh-Washington.

News of the Day, No. 205: Windsor goes to France; royal family rallies Holland for defense; air raid terror in Polish town; Pan-America on guard; aviation thrills; Notre Dame-Purdue and other leading football games.

Paramount News, No. 10: Pan-American republics meet; the neutrality debate; "somewhere in France;" last scenes of Polish capital; the leading football games.

RKO Pathe News, No. 22: Holland mobilizes for defense; Pan-American republics meet; aviation thrills; big cattle herd; Irish beat Purdue; Challedon wins in mud.

Universal Newsreel, No. 811: Holland mobilizes; Paris evacuation continues; French rush troops to front; Kelly heads Legion; Smith backs F. D. R.; the leading football games.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Movietone News, No. 8: France displays armed might, Hull warns Americans, Chicago pays tribute to Cardinal Mundelein, shoe fashions for winter, Yanks cop opener, Helen Wills Moody fails in comeback try, Lew Lehr.

News of the Day, No. 206: Pictures of France's army on the western front, seaplane sets new endurance record, nation mourns prince of church, new "daily dozen" for wasp waistline, Yanks cop opener.

Paramount News, No. 11: Issue deals with British assembled and edited version of what is happening on the western front and the French invasion of the Saar region, also highlights of the World Series opener.

RKO Pathe News, No. 23: Cardinal Mundelein dies; Hull warns American travelers; mechanical harvesters for pineapple growers; discover new fishing grounds; sand painting; sheep migration; Yanks win opener.

Universal Newsreel, No. 812: Yanks win opener; Canada starts air training; Paris evacuation continues; rites for Cardinal Mundelein; animals of wire; salmon haul; gals swim in sea of apples; Helen Wills Moody plays again.

The Story of Elias Howe

Columbia 11 *Mins.*

(Fools Who Made History)

An interesting account of Elias Howe, the man who invented the sewing machine. This is the first of the series about men "who gave their lives for progress rarely enjoy the gratitude of the age in which they lived . . ." The story deals with the struggles Howe endured before his invention was accepted. From a dramatic standpoint, it could be more effective. Hugh McCollum produced.

Dreams on Ice

Columbia (Color Rhapsody) 7 *Mins.*

The appeal in this Technicolor cartoon is restricted to matinee trade. It is about a little boy who floods his room at night in hopes that it would freeze so he can go ice skating. Instead, he falls asleep and the toys put on an ice show.

Swing Hotel

Universal (Two-Reel Musicals) 17 *Mins.*

Improvement in the entertainment calibre of this issue is noticeable, although it boasts no outstanding names. Topping the cast is the Notables Quartet, who sing songs without frills and as they should be sung. Duke Daly and his band provide the musical background. Martha Mears is the featured vocalist. A colored dance trio, the Three Rockets, impress by their precision style. John Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs round out the bill.

Cupid Rides the Range

RKO (Western Musicals) 18 *Mins.*

Ray Whitley and his Six Bar Cowboys are featured in a languid two-reeler. For those who like prairie songs, Whitley and his group will please. There is also romantic story which has Whitley saving a Spanish senorita from the clutches of an unscrupulous American rancher. The entire proceedings are very innocuous.

Ice Frolic

Vitaphone (Broadway Brevity) 20 *Mins.*

The first of the new season ice shorts shapes up as an entertaining program addition. It introduces seven-year-old Snooky Gardner who skates and sings in promising manner. There are other swell performers on skates: Adele Inge, Alfred Trenkler and the team of Peggy Fahy and Richard Toucey.

Peru

Paramount (Color Cruise) 9 *Mins.*

Peru is a nation whose civilization is descended from a great and ancient race. Reminders of the glories and customs of the ancient Incas are ever present in the modern pursuits of the Peruvians. A gay carnival and sights of Lima highlight the reel.

Going Places

Universal (No. 67) 9 *Mins.*

A current glimpse of Africa in which the camera journeys from Beira, a seaport city on the east coast, to the uplands of Rhodesia. There are beautiful estates and farm lands in Rhodesia. Gold also plays an important part in its development. Scenes of natives at work and play and the Zimbabee ruins round out the reel.

The Orphan Duck

20th Century-Fox (Terry-Toons) 7 *Mins.*

A neat cartoon effort in Technicolor that rates as one of funnier jobs turned out by this studio. It is all about a black duckling who attaches himself to a family of chicks. His presence is resented by the rooster until the duckling saves one of the chicks from drowning.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, *4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.*

Columbia

Blind Alley

Played this one with a stage show and did fair business on it. Our patrons' comment not so good. Wed. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500.—S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Coast Guard

Lowest gross since last February when it was below zero. Just no draw here in the sticks. Might be exploited in a city on the waterfront. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Small town patronage. Population: 500. Capacity: 150.—H. C. Allison, White Cloud Theatre, White Cloud, Mich.

Only Angels Have Wings

Here is one swell picture which held the interest with a most noticeable intensity from beginning to end. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Smashing the Spy Ring

A timely picture and no complaints. Very short, but built up with good short subjects and rounded out a good program. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. Colored patronage. Population: 18,700. Capacity: 250.—W. C. Mathews, Frolic Theatre, Bessemer, Ala.

First National

Confessions of a Nazi Spy

Didn't know whether to play this or not as this is a German community. I wish I hadn't, as they stayed away. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Dark Victory

This was one of the finest pictures of the year. Had a fine turnout. The men cried same as the women. If they will make more like this, the small town may do some business. Bette Davis was fine for once. Wed. Weather: Fair. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 342.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Kid From Kokomo

A swell picture which May Robson steals. Below average at boxoffice but that was probably our fault for not exploiting properly. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Nancy Drew, Reporter

Good little action picture which pleased on Family night, but did not draw so good. Tuesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Goodbye, Mr. Chips

Fair picture of the type that won't draw flies—or at least that's all it will draw. The British pictures just rub the fur of a small towner the wrong way. Tues., Wed., Thurs. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

It's a Wonderful World

But it's not quite as wonderful as I thought it would be from either the boxoffice standpoint or from the satisfied customer angle. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 240.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

Lady of the Tropics

A rather sordid story in which the "shero" Hedy Lamarr shoots herself in the end. (End of the picture.) Some boo-hoo stuff to please the women, but to the men the whole thing was a bunch of hooey. Fair crowd first night—nix the second. Sun., Mon. Admission: 25-15. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 300.—J. W. Crabtree, Paramount Theatre, Clarendon, Ark.

Lucky Night

A pretty weak story for these two stars. Myrna Loy is much too old to be co-starred with Robert Taylor. Sun., Mon. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Maisie

A very good picture which did better than average business. Give this one a little advertising and it will pack them in. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500.—S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

On Borrowed Time

I had originally eliminated this feature from my contract, but rebooked same on the office manager's endorsement and am glad I did. It's something a little different in the motion picture line, but your patrons will enjoy it! Book it, and then work like the devil to get 'em in. Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

On Borrowed Time

Wonderful dramatic product, but some question about boxoffice appeal. If you can get them in they'll stay if just from curiosity. We didn't manage to get them in. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

6,000 Enemies

The "Friendly Company" did a pretty good job on this low allocation picture. Unusual story, well starred and produced. Pleased generally. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 300.—J. W. Crabtree, Paramount Theatre, Clarendon, Ark.

Women, The

A winner sure. The men will enjoy it more than the ladies. Work on them in your exploitation. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Monogram

Starlight Over Texas

The best Ritter to date. This boy is climbing into second place in drawing power, as he is well liked by our western fans. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. Colored patronage. Population: 18,700. Capacity: 250.—W. C. Mathews, Frolic Theatre, Bessemer, Ala.

Star Reporter

While this should be a fair program picture, there seems to be something lacking. Would say it's good as the lower half of a double bill. Tues., Wed. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Action patronage. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

Paramount

Beau Geste

I think this a wonderful picture, well directed. Ladies may not like it too well, but will be a good draw. I had a bad break with it, lost out on my opening night, film wasn't sent. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 200.—C. A. Kelley, Rex Theatre, Custer City, Okla.

Invitation to Happiness

Quite a few favorable comments and quite a few unfavorable ones. Failed to draw above average. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 240.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

Lady's From Kentucky, The

This picture not up to George Raft's standard, as the boxoffice says so. The usual run of racetrack stories. Sun., Mon. Weather: Hot. Admission: 15-10. Colored patronage. Population: 18,700. Capacity: 250.—W. C. Mathews, Frolic Theatre, Bessemer, Ala.

Man About Town

This picture proves that with a good beginning and a good ending any picture can be a hit. Rochester and the dancing girls steal this one, so play him up in your exploitation. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Man About Town

One of the best of the "Bennys." Of course he is not the whole show, had good support. Above average picture, drew fair. Tues., Wed. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 200.—C. A. Kelley, Rex Theatre, Custer City, Okla.

Renegade Trail

The Hopalong Cassidy series is going over swell here. This series is holding its place despite the musical westerns. Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500.—S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

St. Louis Blues

I really enjoyed this picture and most of the few that came to see it seemed to enjoy it. Not enough big stars in it to draw in small situations like this. A picture must have at least two top-notch stars in it before boxoffice is up to par. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. Rural patronage. Population: 350. Capacity: 175.—Leo A. Smith, Liberty Theatre, Liberty, Neb.

Star Maker, The

A natural for children and pleased more than other pictures of Bing. Stress the kid stars. They are good. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fine. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Star Maker, The

I thought this a very good picture, but some of my customers didn't care for it. Business was only fair. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.——E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

RKO Radio

Bachelor Mother

Did very good business on this one despite the rain. We played it before the Alabama in Birmingham and capitalized on their advertisements in Birmingham papers. Mon., Tues. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500.—S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Bachelor Mother

Don't miss this one. Almost a boxoffice record. Very pleasing and very well produced for straight entertainment. RKO has something here, a very pleasing picture. Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Rainy. Admission: 25-10. Home town patronage. Population: 13,400. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

In Name Only

Until now I haven't thought so much of RKO, but after a show like this one, you just have to give them credit. The women liked this one more than the men. Mon., Tues. Weather: Bad. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500.—S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Sorority House

A shameful waste of acting talent in a "P. U." picture. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Republic

Dick Tracy Returns

This is certainly one swell serial. Republic seems to have the formula for making good ones. It proves beyond doubt that crime does not pay. July, Aug., Sept. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 500.—S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Forged Passport

Not too good. Just a wasted playdate for me; did not make rental. Tues., Wed. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 200.—C. A. Kelley, Rex Theatre, Custer City, Okla.

20th Century-Fox

Hotel for Women

This was a light comedy picture. The new star in this picture was fair, but has no drawing name. Play this on Bargain Night. Will get by at 10c to all. That would be too much for it. The four people I showed to said they wouldn't mind paying a dime. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 342.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Jones Family in Hollywood

Did good business on this good feature. Considering their price allocation, I believe the Jones Family pictures are as good a bet as the Hardy Family features. Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Mr. Moto on Danger Island

Just another little picture which failed to draw. I wasted my screen time on it. Tues., Wed. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Rains Came, The

This may be okay at the boxoffice, but most managers will probably hide when the people go out. The customers get a lot less for their money than what they have a right to expect. Brenda Joyce is a find. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Rose of Washington Square

This picture has everything. The only show that has really clicked here for many weeks. Why can't we have more like this? Alice Faye as usual comes through and steals the show. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. Rural patronage. Population: 350. Capacity: 175.—Leo A. Smith, Liberty Theatre, Liberty, Neb.

United Artists

Wuthering Heights

Both Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier do a fine job in this. Give this some extra advertising and it will do extra business. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 2 for 35-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Universal

All Quiet on the Western Front (reissue)

If you haven't played this recently, you may be missing something. It did far better than average for me. Fri., Sat. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Sun Never Sets, The

Acting good. Not much else to say about it. Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Family patronage. Population: 7,000. Capacity: 1,000.—W. R. Paar, Du Page Theatre, Lombard, Ill.



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LOS ANGELES

Selling Seats

PRACTICAL IDEAS BY PRACTICAL SHOWMEN

Novelty Recipe Cards Plug RKO Feature

WATERLOO, IA.—Manager J. V. Dostal of the Orpheum Theatre distributed 10,000 2½x4½-inch cards as an advertising stunt for "Fifth Avenue Girl." Copy on one side read: "See other side for recipe for new intoxicating laughter cocktail." On the other side was printed:

1 Happy-Go-Lucky Shop Girl.....Ginger Rogers
1 Unhappy Millionaire .....Walter Connolly
1 Indifferent Chauffeur .....James Ellison
1 Spoiled Son .....Tim Holt
1 Society Wife .....Verree Teasdale
1 Scatterbra'n Daughter.....Kathryn Adams
1 Dizzy Butler .....Franklin Pangborn

To Be Publicly Mixed and Sampled by You at the Orpheum Theatre, Starting Friday, Sept. 22

RESULT — "FIFTH AVENUE GIRL"

Three girls were hired to walk on the principal streets, carrying gay colored parasols with the picture title on them. The stunt was used three days in advance of the opening and created considerable comment.

In addition, window tieups were secured plugging Rogers Fashions. Also a special tieup was arranged with the local high school football game via window cards plugging both the football game and the picture. A man-in-the-street broadcast was arranged, offering guest tickets as prizes.

Puts Over Cooperative Page for "Citizen"

HARRISONBURG, VA.—To assure his theatre and picture being well represented in the two-day Turkey Festival, Jack Fretwell, manager of the State Theatre, worked up a full-page cooperative page for "Our Leading Citizen" which ran in the special Turkey issue of the local paper.

Fretwell also placed a float in the grand parade, stressing the 50th anniversary of the motion picture industry and carrying pictures of various outstanding stars. After the parade one sheets were placed on the float and used as a ballyhoo medium to the large crowds.

Theatre Is Bomb-Proofed For Exploitation Stunt

SAN FRANCISCO—The first bomb-proofing in San Francisco took place at Herbert Rosener's Larkin Theatre. However, it was all in the interest of publicity and exploitation for "Double Crime in the Maginot Line," the picture currently running at the house.

The Orpheum also is capitalizing on the public's interest in the war with the largest war map in San Francisco in its outer lobby. The actual progress of the European conflict is shown together with latest press bulletins from all fronts.



Float for "Lincoln"—

Fifty-two good-sized rolls of red, white and blue crepe paper went into making this attractive float for "Young Mr. Lincoln" by Charles Donnell of the Olympic Theatre, Canyon, Tex.

"Fifth Avenue Girl" Sold With Horse Show Tieup

PORTLAND, ME.—Lee Young, manager of the Strand here, tied in with the Portland Horse Show in ballying RKO's "Fifth Avenue Girl," starring Ginger Rogers, by awarding a Ginger Rogers trophy to Miss Deborah Lombard, winner of the junior horsemanship class. The presentation was made by a representative of Miss Rogers and RKO.

Hollywoodian Fanfare as "Intermezzo" Premieres

PHOENIX, ARIZ.—Premiere with much of the fanfare of Hollywood was the one here for "Intermezzo, A Love Story" at the Fox Phoenix Theatre.

A motorcade of state and city officials, headed by Gov. Robert Jones and Mayor Walter Thalheimer, wound through the city's main streets to the theatre for the premiere. A battery of floodlights lined the street in front of the house to add another Hollywood touch.

"Island of Lost Men" Sold Four Ways

BOSTON—Al Lashway, manager of the Strand in Pawtucket, pyramided publicity on "Island of Lost Men" so that for an expenditure of less than $35 he garnered newspaper and word-of-mouth press agentry that ordinarily would not have been available for ten times that price. Lashway hypoed interest in four steps.

Lashway first dared any woman to make application to sit in the Strand alone during a special preview of the film. The newspaper ad for the second day built up this dare. And the third day, an announcement was made that a woman would sit alone as described. On the fourth day, the day before the film opened, the name of the patron selected was given.

Although only the first announcement informed those interested that they should make written application to the manager, 56 applications in all were received by Lashway. A newspaper photographer and reporter interviewed the solo visitor after she went through the "ordeal."

Book Publisher Tieup for "Jamaica Inn" Is Set

NEW YORK—Paramount has arranged a merchandising tieup with Sun Dial Press, publishers of Daphne du Maurier's "Jamaica Inn," as part of its national exploitation campaign for the Charles Laughton film based on the novel.

A deal is available to exhibitors, whereby either of two types of special discount coupons furnished by the book concern, may be distributed. The first, distributed by the bookseller to every purchaser of the novel, can be redeemed at the theatre for part of the admission charge. The second, distributed by the exhibitor, grants a discount on the book to all who buy tickets for the film. Sun Dial will redeem both discount tickets in cash.



HATS DECORATIONS **HALLOWEEN** FAVORS NOISEMAKERS

HATS	$1.00 Per 100	Serpentine	$2.90 Per 100 Pkgs.
HORNS	$1.00 Per 100	Noisemakers, Asst.	$2.00 Per 100
BALLOONS	$1.00 Per 100	Skeletons	$ .72 Per Doz.
CRICKETS	$1.00 Per 100	Cat Cutouts	$ .72 Per Doz.
BLOWOUTS	$1.00 Per 100	Witches	$ .72 Per Doz.
SQUAWKER BALLOONS	$1.50 Per 100	Halloween Lanterns	$ .84 Per Doz.

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Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

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Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 946

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14 6
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
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Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2. 986
Fighting Mad (Mono).....
First Kiss (20th-Fox) 020
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First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34..... 062
Five Came Back (RKO) June 10 927
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Flight at Midnight (Rep) Sept. 2 9111
Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14.... 010
Forgotten Woman (Univ) July 8 3031
Four Feathers (UA) June 24...
Frontier Marshal (20th-Fox) July 29 951
Full Confession (RKO) Aug. 26. 003

G

Girl and the Gambler (RKO)...
Girl From Rio (Mono).....3825
Golden Boy (Col) Aug. 19.....9002
Good Girls Go to Paris (Col) June 24 9005
Goodbye, Mr. Chips (M-G-M) May 20 945
Grand Jury Secrets (Para) May 20 3842
Green Hell (Univ) June 10.... 926

H

Happy Ending (Para).....
Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26
He Married His Wife (20th-Fox) 023
Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence (20th-Fox) Oct. 7..... 019
Hell's Kitchen (WB) June 24... 312
Henry Goes Arizona (M-G-M).. 2
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30..... 009
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Hero for a Day (Univ).....4035
Heroes in Blue (Mono).....
Hidden Power (Col) May 27....1025
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Hobby Family (FN) Aug. 26... 376
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Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16 .....
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House of Fear (Univ) May 20..3038
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In Old Caliente (Rep) July 15.. 856
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Invisible Man Returns (Univ)...
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20 3841
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It Could Happen to You (20th-Fox) June 3 950

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8.....3906
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K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) 961
Kid From Kokomo (FN) May 27 363
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L

Lady Dick (WB-FN) .....
Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12 947
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Llano Kid (Para) .....
Little Accident (Univ).....
Lost Squadron (RKO) reissue.. 994

M

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Maisie (M-G-M) June 17..... 940
Man About Town (Para) June 17
Man From Sundown (Col) Aug. 5 9208
Man From Texas (Mono).....3865
Man in the Iron Mask (UA) July 8
Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19 9018
Marshal of Mesa City (RKO) Oct. 7 081
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Mickey the Kid (Rep) July 1.. 814
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Million Dollar Legs (Para) July 15 3846
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Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation (20th-Fox) Nov. 19 952
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N

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O

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Old Maid, The (FN) Aug. 5..... 452
On Borrowed Time (M-G-M) July 8 942
On Your Toes (WB) Oct. 14....
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para) Sept. 30 3903
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug.5
Our Neighbors—the Carters (Para) .....
Out of Singapore (Astor).....
Outpost of the Mounties (Col)..1201
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P

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Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23 418
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Q

Queen of Destiny (RKO) Nov. 26, '38 061
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R

Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16 011
Range War (Para) Aug. 12.....3954
Real Glory, The (UA) Sept. 23..
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29.3859
Reno (RKO) 008
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30 9209
Riders of Destiny (Mono) reissue
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Roaring Twenties (WB-FN)....
Roll, Wagon, Roll (Mono).....
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14..... 913
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Scandal Sheet (Col) .....
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She Married a Cop (Rep) July 1. 815
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Should Husbands Work? (Rep) July 22 816
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Stranger From Texas (Col).....1202
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Stunt Pilot (Mono) July 8.....3814
Submarine Patrol (20th-Fox) Nov. 5 909
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Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3 939
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They All Come Out (M-G-M) July 8 943
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29 3865
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Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30.... 004
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M) Sept. 23 4
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Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5 326
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Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16.....4052
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U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
U-67 (Astor) .....
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2.....
Unexpected Father (Univ) July 22
Untamed (Para) .....

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
Ware Case, The (20th-Fox) July 29 8014
Washington Cowboy (Rep).....
Waterfront (WB) July 1 325
Way Down South (RKO) July 22 947
We Are Not Alone (WB-FN)...
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ) Aug. 19 3003
Winter Carnival (UA) July 22..
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19. 949
Woman Is the Judge, A (Col) July 8 9025
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2.. 1
Wyoming Outlaw (Rep) July 15. 867

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939, Unless Otherwise Specified.

◎Indicates short of the week.

◎Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

A Star Is Shorn (17)....Apr. 21, '39
All-American Blondes..(..)..Oct. 20
Boom Goes the Groom (17½).....Mar. 24, '39
Mutiny on the Body (17).....Feb. 10, '39
Now It Can Be Sold (17) June 2, '39
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17).....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Swing You Swingers (18)..Jan. 20, '39
With Andy Clyde.
Teacher's Pest (..).....Nov. 3
The Chump Takes a Bump (18).....May 5, '39
The Sap Takes a Wrap (15½).....Mar. 10, '39
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18).....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..).....Aug. 11

CINESCOPES

World of 1960 (Futurama) (..).....Nov. 3

COLOR RHAPSODIES

Crop Chasers (8).....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (..).....Oct. 20
Happy Tots (7).....Mar. 31
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7).....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7).....May 26
Mountain Ears (..).....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7).....June 30
Peaceful Neighbors (8)..Feb. 26, '39
The Gorilla Hunt (8)....Feb. 24, '39
The House That Jack Built (7).....Apr. 14, '39

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (..)..Nov. 17
Big Town Commuters (9)..Feb. 3, '39
Historic Cities of India (..)..Oct. 27
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions)..(..).....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10).....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)....Oct. 27
Sojourn in India (..).....July 7
Morocco (10).....Aug. 11

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 7 Parade of Hits (9)..Mar. 24, '39
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11) Apr. 21, '39
No. 9 Songs of the West (10).....May 19, '39
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16
Third Series
No. 3 (..) College Songs.....Oct. 13
No. 4 (..) Stephen Foster Song Nov. 17
No. 5 Friendship Songs (10).....Jan. 27, '39
No. 6 Moon Songs (10)...Feb. 24, '39

FABLES CARTOON

Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6
Park Your Baby (..).....Dec. 22

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

No. 1 Charles Goodyear (..)...Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10).....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (10).....Oct. 12
No. 1 (10½).....Feb. 22
No. 2 (10½).....Mar. 23
No. 3 (11).....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6, '39
Krazy's Bear Tale (7)...Feb. 17, '39
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6)...May 12, '39

MUSIC HALL VANITIES (New series)

A Night in a Music Hall (10½).....Jan. 20, '39
A Night at the Troc (10)..Mar. 2, '39
Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10).....May 19, '39

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..).....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1

PICTUREGRAPH

No. 1 (..).....Jan. 15, '39

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7)..Apr. 28, '39
Scrappy's Added Attraction (6).....Feb. 3, '39
Scrappy's Rodeo (6).....June 2
Scrappy's Sideshow (7)...Mar. 3, '39

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 17)

No. 1 (..).....Sept. 15
No. 2 (..).....Oct. 20
No. 5 (9).....Jan. 13, '39
No. 6 (10½).....Feb. 17, '39
No. 7 (10).....Mar. 17, '39
No. 8 (9½).....Apr. 8, '39
No. 9 (10).....May 12
No. 10 (10).....May 26
No. 11 (10).....June 29
No. 12 (10).....July 28
No. 1 (..) Art of Make-Up...Sept. 22
No. 2 (..) ..Oct. 27
No. 3 (..) .....Nov. 24

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10).....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (..).....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5, '39
Get Ready Navy (10).....Jan. 6, '39
Jai Alai (..).....Nov. 3
Jockeys Up (10½).....June 2
Navy Champions (9½).....Mar. 17
Odd Sports (10).....Feb. 10
Technique of Tennis (8½)..June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½).....Apr. 7, '39
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½).....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17).....June 30
Three Little Sew and Sews (16).....Jan. 6, '39
Three Sappy People (..).....Dec. 1
We Want Our Mummy (17).....Feb. 24, '39
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16).....May 19, '39

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (..) Smithsonian Institute.....Oct. 20
No. 2 Inside the White House (11).....Feb. 21, '39
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10).....May 26, '39
No. 4 Library of Congress (10).....Aug. 4

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (..).....
Help Wanted (21).....June 10
Money to Loan (21).....Mar. 11, '39
While America Sleeps (21).....Apr. 15, '39

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11).....Sept. 2
Ancient Egypt (9).....Jan. 21, '39
Colorful Curacao (9).....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Imperial Delhi (8).....Feb. 18
Java Journey (10).....Mar. 18
Picturesque Udaipur (8)..May 13, '39
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29, '39

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10)..May 13, '39
Ice Antics (9).....Feb. 11
Love on a Tap (11).....Mar. 18, '39
Prophets Without Honor (11).....May 20, '39
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11)...May 27, '39

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15, '39
Somewhat Secret (21)...Mar. 25, '39

M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series)

◎Art Gallery (9).....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11).....July 15
Jitterbug Follies (9).....Feb. 25, '39
◎Little Gold Fish (8)...Apr. 15, '39
Mama's New Hat (9).....Feb. 11
◎The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9).....June 16
Wanted No Master (8)...Mar. 18, '39

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY

Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Alfalfa's Aunt (11).....Jan. 7
Auto Antics (10).....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11).....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15, '39
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29, '39
Dog Daze (11).....July 1
Duel Personalities (10)..Mar. 11, '39
Joy Scouts (10).....June 24
Tiny Troubles (10).....Feb. 18

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20, '39
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia..June 24
New Roadways (10).....Jan. 28
Story of Alfred Nobel (11)..Feb. 18
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11).....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10)..Mar 18
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia.....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9).....July 1
Double Diving (10).....Jan. 14
Football Thrills of 1938 (..)..Sept. 16
◎Heroes at Leisure (10)....Feb. 11
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11, '39
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20, '39
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cure (Sepia) (9)....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).....Apr. 8, '39

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9)..Mar. 18, '39
Dark Magic (10).....May 13
Home Early (9).....May 27
How to Eat (10).....June 10
How to Sublet (8).....Jan. 28, '39
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7)..May 12, '39
My Friend the Monkey (7).....Jan. 20, '39
Rhythm on the Reservation (7).....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7)..Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7).....June 9, '39
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Always Kickin' (7).....Jan. 27, '39
Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21, '39
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8).....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES (New Series in Cinecolor)

Ecuador (10).....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10).....May 26
Land of Inca Memories (10)..Jan. 27
Peru (9).....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

A Song Is Born (10).....Jan. 6, '39
Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10).....Sept. 8
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10).....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Music Through the Years (11).....Feb. 3, '39
Jan Garber and Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10).....May 5, '39
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10).....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10) June 2, '39
Richard Himber and his orchestra
Three Kings and a Queen (11).....Apr. 7, '39
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10).....Oct. 20
Circus Co-Ed (10).....Mar. 10
Farewell Vienna (10).....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10)..Apr. 14, '39
Public Hobby Number One (11).....Sept. 22
Swans (10).....May 19, '39
That's Africa (10).....Feb. 10
Unfinished Symphony (10)...Jan. 13

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 6 (10).....Jan. 6, '39
Great Britain's Kenya Colony, horse, gadgets and a visit with Stan Shaw and his Milkman's Matinee.
No. 7 (10).....Feb. 3, '39
The Mexican Charro at play, plumed birds and all about accordions.
No. 8 (10).....Mar. 3
No. 9 (10).....Apr. 7, '39
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11).....May 5, '39
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and song of the year.
No. 11 (10).....June 2, '39
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10).....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

◎Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22).....Apr. 7, '39
Customers Wanted (7).....Jan. 27
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7)..June 16, '39
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7).....July 28, '39
Leave Well Enough Alone (7).....Apr. 28
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19, '39

POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)

No. 3 (10).....Jan. 6, '39
No. 4 (10).....Mar. 10
No. 5 (11).....May 12, '39
No. 6 (11).....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-I (11).....Sept. 15

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10)..June 9, '39
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12, '39
Frolicking Frogs (10).....Dec. 23
Hijinks with trained frogs including a jumping contest.
Good Skates (10).....Apr. 14, '39
Ice skating with champions.
Hold Your Breath (10).....Feb. 17
Depicting a novel underwater track meet.
Hydro-Maniacs (10).....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10).....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Two Boys and a Dog (10) Jan. 20, '39
Adventures of two boys and a wire hair terrier on a pack trip in the Rocky Mountains.
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES

The Blue Danube Waltz (10)..Sept. 29
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)

No. 1 (11).....Oct. 13
No. 4 (10).....Feb. 3, '39
No. 5 (10).....Apr. 14, '39
No. 6 (Cinecolor) (10)....June 16, '39

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

Autograph Hound, The (8)..Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9, '39
Donald's Cousin Gus (7)..May 19, '39
Donald's Lucky Day (8)..Jan. 13, '39
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8).....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Practical Pig (8).....Feb. 24, '39
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
Society Dog Show (8).....Feb. 3, '39
Mickey Mouse enters Pluto in the Society dog show and Pluto does not win.
The Pointer (8).....July 21
◎The Hockey Champ (7)..Apr. 7, '39
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15).....May 19, '39
Clock Wise (16).....Mar. 24
Father-in-law's grandfather clock drives Edgar nuts as he unsuccessfully tries to get rid of it.
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28
Maid to Order (18).....Jan. 27, '39
Edgar tries to marry his father-in-law off with amusing complications.

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Swing Vacation (19) .....**Feb. 24, '39**
Sales Slips (17) .....**July 21**

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Crime Rave (18) .....**Jan. 13, '39**
Errol entertains bank bandits at his home without knowing it.
Home Boner (20).....**Mar. 10, '39**
Moving Vanities (17).....**May 5, '39**
Ring Madness (19) .....**June 30, '39**

MARCH OF TIME

No. 6 (18) .....**Jan. 20, '39**
The State of the Nation.
No. 7 (19) .....**Feb. 17**
Young America and Mexico's New Crisis.
No. 8 (18) .....**Mar. 17, '39**
No. 9 (19) .....**Apr. 14, '39**
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20) .....**May 12**
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19) .....**June 9**
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22) .....**July 7**
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18) .....**Aug. 4**
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19) .....**Sept. 1**
Soldiers with wings.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11)....**May 12, '39**
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11) .....**Apr. 14, '39**
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.
Readin, Ritin and Rhythm (10) .....**Feb. 17, '39**
Samovar Serenade (10).....**Mar. 17**
Codolbon & His Gypsy Orchestra, Moscow Choir, Karavaeff, Luba Malina.
Tropical Topics (10).....**Jan. 20, '39**
The Rimacs, Rosita Ortego, Sister Virginia.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11) .....**Sept. 8**

PATHE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16)....**Oct. 20**
Dog-Gone (16) .....**Apr. 21, '39**
Marriage-Go-Round (18).....**July 28**
Plumb Crazy (16).....**Feb. 3**
Pat C. Flick as a plumber causes considerable commotion on a job.

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Big Leaguers (9).....**Apr. 21, '39**
The Chicago Cubs get ready for the pennant chase.
Bow Strings (9) .....**Jan. 27, '39**
Archery.
Devil Drivers (9) .....**June 16, '39**
Kennel Kings (9) .....**Aug. 11**
Riding the Crest (9).....**July 14, '39**
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9)....**May 19, '39**
The golfers show how it's done.
Snow Falls (9) .....**Feb. 24**
A ski picture that's different.

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Ranch House Romeo (17).....**Apr. 7**
Sagebrush Serenade (19).**June 16, '39**

REELISMS (New Series)

Air Waves (10) .....**Mar. 10**
Gold (9) .....**Feb. 10**
Nevada Unlimited (8).....**Sept. 15**
Pack Trip (9) .....**Aug. 18**
Pilot Boat (9) .....**Feb. 3, '39**
Soldiers of the Sea (9)...**Apr. 7, '39**
Swinguet (8) .....**May 26, '39**
Television (9) .....**May 5, '39**
World of Tomorrow (9).....**June 23**
Zoo (9) .....**July 21**

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19).....**July 21**
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) Aug. 18
Daily Diet of Danger (10).**Jan. 6, '39**
Filming the Fleet (11).....**Oct. 27**
Sand Hogs (10) .....**May 12**

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10).....**Sept. 1**
Clocking the Jockeys (11)....**Nov. 24**
Hunting Dogs (11) .....**Mar. 3, '39**
Inside Baseball (11) .....
Shooting for Par (10) .....**Jan. 6**
Sports Immortals (11).....**June 23**

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11).**Aug. 4**
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11)..**Nov. 10**

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts, No. 3 (11) .....**Mar. 31, '39**
Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..)..**July 7**
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10).**Sept. 15**
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..)..**Dec. 22**

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10) .....**Sept. 29**
Muscle Maulers (11) .....**Apr. 14**
The Silly Season (..).....**Dec. 8**
What Every Inventor Should Know (10) .....**Jan. 20, '39**

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..) .....**May 26**
Isle of Pleasure (11).....**Feb. 3, '39**
Mystic Siam (10) .....**Mar. 17, '39**
Tempest Over Tunis (11)....**June 9**
The Evergreen Empire (..)..**Oct. 13**
Viking Trail (10) .....**Feb. 17, '39**

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..).....**June 16**
A Mouse and a Million (..)...**Nov. 3**
Africa Squawks (7) .....**June 30**
Barnyard Baseball (7) .....**July 14**
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) May 5
Frozen Feet (7) .....**Feb. 24**
Gandy Goose and G-Man Jitters (7) .....**Mar. 10**
Hook, Line and Sinker (7)..**Sept. 8**
Nick's Coffee Pot (7).....**May 19**
Nutty Network (7) .....**Mar. 24**
One Gun Gary in the Nick of Time (7) .....**Jan. 27**
Sheep in the Meadow (7)....**Sept. 22**
The Cuckoo Bird (7) .....**April 7**
The First Robin (..).....**Dec. 29**
The Golden West (7).....**Aug. 25**
The Hitch-Hiker (..).....**Dec. 1**
The Old Fire Horse (..)....**July 28**
The Orphan Duck (7).....**Oct. 6**
The Owl and the Pussycat (7) .....**Jan. 13, '39**
The Prize Guest (7).....**June 2**
The Three Bears (6).....**Feb. 10**
The Watchdog (..).....**Oct. 20**
Their Last Bean (7).....**April 21**
Two Headed Giant (7)....**Aug. 11**
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) Nov. 17

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7)..**Sept. 4**
Bird on Nellie's Hat.....**June 19**
Bola Mola Land (7).....**May 29, '39**
Charlie Cuckoo (7).....**Apr. 30, '39**
Crack Pot Cruise (7)....**Apr. 10, '39**
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8) .....**Oct. 9**
Little Tough Mice (7).....**Mar. 13**
Magic Beans (7) .....**Feb. 13**
Nellie of the Circus (7)...**May 8, '39**
One Armed Bandit (7).....**Mar. 27**
Silly Superstition (7).....**Aug. 28**
Slap Happy Valley (7).....**Aug. 21**
Snuffy's Party (7) .....**Aug. 7**
Stubborn Mule (7) .....**July 31**
The Birth of a Toothpick (7) .....**Feb. 27**

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 59 (9) .....**Jan. 30, '39**
No. 60 (10) .....**Feb. 20, '39**
No. 61 (9) .....**Mar. 13**
No. 62 (9) .....**Apr. 10, '39**
No. 63 (9) .....**May 15, '39**
No. 64 (9) .....**June 26, '39**
No. 65 (9) .....**July 17**
No. 66 (9) .....**Sept. 25**
No. 67 (9) .....**Oct. 16**
No. 68 (9) .....**Nov. 13**

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19) .....**Mar. 15**
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17) .....**Apr. 12**
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18)...**July 12, '39**
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Nautical Knights (19)..**Jan. 11, '39**
Arthur & Morton Harvel, Moore & Ravel, Judy Starr, Stump and Stumpy, The Khezzis.
Pharmacy Follies (18)...**May 17, '39**
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18).....**June 14**
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17).....**Aug. 9**
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7) .....**Aug. 15**

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 58 (9) .....**Jan. 2**
No. 59 (9) .....**Feb. 6**
No. 60 (9) .....**Mar. 6**
No. 61 (9) .....**Apr. 3**
No. 62 (9) .....**May 1, '39**
No. 63 (9) .....**June 5, '39**
No. 64 (..) .....**July 3**
No. 65 (9) .....**Aug. 7**
No. 66 (8½) .....**Sept. 18**
No. 67 (9) .....**Oct. 9**
No. 68 (9) .....**Nov. 6**

TWO REEL MUSICALS

An Old Spanish Custom (..)..**Nov. 15**
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17).....**Sept. 6**
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Swing Hotel (18) .....**Oct. 18**
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21).....**Sept. 6**

UNIVERSAL NEWS
Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (..).....**Mar. 25**
A Swing Opera (..).....**July 22, '39**
Broadway Buckaroo (20).**June 3, '39**
Home Cheap Home (..).....**Mar. 18**
Projection Room (..) .....**Mar. 4**
Rollin' in Rhythm (..).....**Apr. 15**
Seeing Red (20).....**Aug. 26**
Seeing Spots (20) .....**Apr. 29, '39**
Slapsie Maxie (17).....**Sept. 10**
Sophomore Swing (20).....**Jan. 21**
Small Town Idol (20).....**Feb. 11**
Sundae Serenade (20).....**Feb. 25**
You're Next to Closing (20) .....**May 13, '39**
Wardrobe Girl (..) .....**June 17, '39**

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

For Your Convenience (10) .....**May 20, '39**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10) .....**Sept. 30**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 2 (10) .....**Jan. 7, '39**
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10) .....**Feb. 25**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4 Apr. 22, '39
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (..) .....**June 10, '39**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10) .....**Aug. 5**
Modern Methods (..).....**July 15, '39**
Points on Pointers (9) .....**Jan. 28**
The Roving Camera (10) Mar. 25, '39

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7) .....**Apr. 1**
It's an Ill Wind (7).....**Jan. 28**
Polar Pals (..) .....**June 3, '39**
Porky and Teabiscuit (7).**Apr. 22, '39**
Porky's Hotel (7) .....**Sept. 2**
Porky's Movie Mystery (7)..**Mar. 11**
Porky's Picnic (..) .....**July 15, '39**
Porky's Tire Trouble (7).....**Feb. 18**
The Lone Stranger and Porky (7) .....**Jan. 7, '39**
Christopher Columbus jr. (7) .....**May 13, '39**
Scalp Trouble (..).....**June 24, '39**
Wise Quack (..) .....**Aug. 5, '39**

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10) .....**Apr. 29, '39**
Blue Barron & Orch. (10) Jan. 21, '39
Clyde Lucas & Orch. (10) Jan. 7, '39
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10) .....**Mar. 18**
Dave Apollon and His Orchestra (11) .....**Dec. 24**
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (..) .....**Apr. 8**
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10) .....**Aug. 12**
Jerry Livingston & Orchestra (10) .....**Feb. 4**
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10) .....**May 20, '39**
Leith Stevens & Orch. (..) .....**June 10, '39**
Rita Rio & Orch. (..)....**July 1, '39**
Russ Morgan & Orchestra (11) .....**Feb. 25**
Swing Styles (10).....**Sept. 2**
Will Osborne & Orch. (..) .....**July 22, '39**

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

A Day at the Zoo (7).....**Mar. 11**
Bars and Stripes Forever (7).**Apr. 8**
Believe It or Else (..)..**June 3, '39**
Count Me Out (7) .....**Dec. 17**
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7) .....**Apr. 22, '39**
Dangerous Dan McFoo (..) .....**July 15, '39**
Detouring America (7).....**Aug. 26**
Dog Gone Modern (7)....**Jan. 14, '39**
Goldrush Daze (7) .....**Feb. 25**
Ham-Ateur Night (7) ....**Jan. 28, '39**
Hare-um Scare-um (7).....**Aug. 12**
Little Brother Rat (7).....**Sept. 2**
Naughty But Mice (7)....**May 20, '39**
Old Glory (..) .....**July 1, '39**
Prest-O Change-O (7).....**Mar. 25**
Robinhood Makes Good (7)..**Feb. 11**
Sioux Me (7) .....**Sept. 9**
Snow Man's Land (..)..**July 29, '39**
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7) May 6, '39

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (..).....**Aug. 12, '39**
Lincoln in the White House (21) .....**Feb. 11, '39**
Quiet Please (..) .....**July 1, '39**
Sons of the Plains (19)..**July 30, '39**
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20).....**May 20, '39**
Swingtime in the Movies (20) .....**Jan. 7, '39**
Fun on the Warner lot with Fritz Feld, Katherine Kane, John Carroll, Charles Foy and Jerry Colonna.

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10)....**Feb. 18**

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (..).**Apr. 15, '39**
Dean of the Pasteboards (10) .....**May 27**
Gadgeteers (10) .....**Feb. 18**
One Day Stand (10).....**Aug. 19**
Tax Trouble (10) .....**Mar. 18, '39**
Ski Girl (10) .....**Jan. 14, '39**
Vote Trouble (10).....**Sept. 9**
Witness Trouble (..)....**July 29, '39**

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11)..**Mar. 4**
Chained (..) .....**Apr. 1**
Haunted House (..).....**June 3, '39**
High Peril (12) .....**Feb. 18**
Lives in Peril (..).....**July 7, '39**
The Human Bomb (12)....**Jan. 7, '39**
Three-Minute Fuse (..)..**July 29, '39**
Verge of Disaster (10).....**Aug. 26**
Voodoo Fires (11) .....**May 6**

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician...**May 6, '39**
12 chapters.

Secret of Treasure Island...**Mar. 17**
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.

The Shadow .....**Nov. 24, '39**
(15 Chapters).

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters .....**June 10, '39**
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.

Dick Tracy's G-Men .....**Sept. 2**
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.

Lone Ranger Rides Again Feb. 25, '39
15 Chapters. Robert Livingston, Jinx Falken, Chief Thunder Cloud.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers .....**Apr. 11, '39**
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.

Oregon Trail (15 chapters)...**July 4**
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.

Scouts to the Rescue....**Jan. 17, '39**
12 Chapters. Jackie Cooper, Jack Mulhall, Vondell Darr, Bill Cody jr.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol ❶ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

	JUNE 24	JULY 1	JULY 8	JULY 15	JULY 22	JULY 29
COLUMBIA	20 Action Drama 9012 **Clouds Over Europe** (79) (Form. "Q" Planes) Laurence Olivier Valerie Hobson R—June 10	29 Drama 9032 **Parents on Trial** (57) Parker-Downs; R-July 8 30 Comedy 9005 **Good Girls Go to Paris** (73); R-June 24 J. Blondell-M. Douglas		15 Western 9208 **Man From Sundown** (59) Starrett-Meredith R—Aug. 5 10 Drama 9025 **A Woman Is the Judge** (60) Hudson-Kruger; R-July 8	20 Comedy 9010 **Blondie Takes a Vacation** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 22	28 Action Drama 90 **Behind Prison Gates** (6 (For. Escape From Alc traz) Brian Donlevy Jacqueline Wells R—Aug. 5
GRAND NAT'L						
M&M	23 Comedy 940 **Maisie** (74) Ann Sothern Robert Young R—June 17	30 Drama 941 **Stronger Than Desire** (77) Virginia Bruce Walter Pidgeon R—July 1	7 Drama 942 ❶ **On Borrowed Time** (99) Lionel Barrymore Bobs Watson R—July 8	14 Drama 943 **They All Come Out** (70) Rita Johnson Tom Neal R—July 8	21 Comedy 944 **Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever** (87) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone R—July 15	28 Drama 9 **Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (1 Robert Donat R—May 20
MONOGRAM		1 Action Drama 3814 **Stunt Pilot** (62) John Trent Marjorie Reynolds R—July 8			21 Western 3865 **Man From Texas** (60) Tex Ritter R—Aug. 12	
PARAMOUNT	23 Melodrama 3842 **Grand Jury Secrets** (68) J. Howard-G. Patrick R—May 20 23 Western 3843 **Heritage of Desert** (73) D. Woods-E. Venable R—Mar. 25	30 Melodrama 3844 **Bulldog Drummond's Bride** (57) John Howard Heather Angel R—June 24	7 Musical 3845 **Man About Town** (85) Jack Benny Dorothy Lamour R—June 17	14 Com. with Music 3846 **Million Dollar Legs** (63) Betty Grable Jackie Coogan R—July 15	21 Action Drama 3847 **Magnificent Fraud** (78) Akim Tamiroff Lloyd Nolan Patricia Morison R—July 1	28 Drama 38 **Island of Lost Men** (6 Anna May Wong R—July 29
REPUBLIC	23 Western 856 **In Old Caliente** (57) Roy Rogers; R-July 15 21 Western 867 **Wyoming Outlaw** (52) Three Mesquiteers R—July 15		3 Drama 814 **Mickey, the Kid** (66) Bruce Cabot-Tommy Ryar R—July 1	15 Musical Comedy 815 **She Married a Cop** (65) Phil Regan-Jean Parker R—July 1		26 Comedy **Should Husbands Wor** (62) Gleason Family Marie Wilson R—July 22
RKO RADIO	23 Drama 927 **Five Came Back** (75) Chester Morris Wendy Barrie R—June 10	30 Mystery Drama 929 **Saint in London** (70) Geo. Sanders Sally Grey R—July 1 30 Western 985 **Timber Stampede** (58) G. O'Brien - M. Reynolds R—June 24	7 Melodrama 930 **Career** (78) Anne Shirley Edward Ellis R—July 1	14 Drama 993 **Of Human Bondage** (83) (Reissue) Leslie Howard-B. Davis 14 Drama 994 **Lost Squadron** (79) reissue Joel McCrea-Richard Dix	21 Musical 947 **Way Down South** (62) Bob Breen-Alan Mowbray R—July 22	28 Melodrama **Spellbinder** (70) Lee Tracy-Barbara Re R—July 15
20TH-FOX	23 Com. Drama 954 **Susannah of the Mounties** (78) Shirley Temple Randolph Scott R—June 17	30 Comedy Drama 950 **It Could Happen to You** (72) Stuart Erwin Gloria Stuart R—June 3	7 Melodrama 952 **Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation** (65) Peter Lorre Virginia Field R—Nov. 19	14 Musical Comedy 949 **Second Fiddle** (85) Sonja Henie Tyrone Power R—July 8	21 Action Drama 953 **News Is Made at Night** (71) P. Foster-L. Bari R—July 8 21 Mystery Drama 8014 **Ware Case, The** (72) Clive Brook-Jane Baxter R—July 29	28 Outdoor Drama **Frontier Marshal** (70 Randolph Scott Binnie Barnes R—July 29
UNITED ARTS						28 Comedy **Winter Carnival** (90) Ann Sheridan Richard Carlson R—July 22
UNIVERSAL		30 Melodrama 3038 **House of Fear** (66) William Gargan Irene Hervey R—May 20	7 Drama 3031 **Forgotten Woman** (68) Sigrid Gurie Donald Briggs R—July 8	14 Comedy 3008 **Unexpected Father** (78) (For. Sandy Takes a Bow) Baby Sandy-Mischa Auer R—July 22	21 Drama 3007 **I Stole a Million** (78) George Raft Claire Trevor R—July 22	
WARNER-F.N.	24 Action Drama FN368 **Kid From Kokomo** (92) Wayne Morris Joan Blondell R—May 27	1 Com.-Music WB311 **Naughty But Nice** (90) Ann Sheridan Dick Powell R—June 10	8 Action Drama WB312 **Hell's Kitchen** (81) Dead End Kids Margaret Lindsay R—June 24	15 Action Drama WB325 **Waterfront** (59) Denis Morgan Gloria Dickson R—July 1	22 Drama FN360 **Daughters Courageous** (107) Lane Sisters John Garfield R—June 24	29 Comedy F **Cowboy Quarterback** Bert Wheeler Gloria Dickson R—July 8
MISCELLANEOUS	23 Melodrama Astor **U-67** (65) Allan Hale		2 Drama Astor **Out of Singapore** (74) Noah Beery-M. Love			

JANUARY, 1940						
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FEBRUARY, 1940						
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MARCH, 1940						
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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

AUGUST 5	AUGUST 12	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 9
Action Drama 9008 **ast Guard (72)** ndolph Scott ances Dee -Aug. 19		17 Melodrama 9018 **Man They Could Not Hang (64)** Boris Karloff R—Aug. 19	22 Comedy Drama 9017 **Five Little Peppers (60)** Edith Fellows 23 Western 9209 **Riders of Black River (59)** C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	30 Wild Horse 9034 **Konga, the Wild Stallion (65)**	5 Drama 9002 **Golden Boy (100)** Stanwyck-Holden R—Aug. 19 7 Mystery Drama 1025 **Hidden Power (60)** Jack Holt-Gert. Michael R—May 29
Drama 946 **acles for Sale (70)** bert Young rence Rice nry Hull -Aug. 5	11 Drama 947 **Lady of the Tropics (91)** Hedy Lamarr Robt. Taylor R—Aug. 12	18 Comedy Drama 948 **These Glamour Girls (79)** Lew Ayres-Lana Turner Anita Louise R—Aug. 26	25 Comedy Fantasy 949 **Wizard of Oz (102)** Judy Garland Frank Morgan R—Aug. 19	1 Comedy Drama 1 **The Women (134)** Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 2	8 Melodrama 5 **Blackmail (79)** Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16
Mystery 3807 **. Wong in Chinatown (70)** ris Karloff nt Withers ry Reynolds -July 22		15 Drama with Mus. 3825 **Girl From Rio (62)** Movita-Warren Hull R—Aug. 12 16 Western 3866 **Riders of Frontier (58)** Tex Ritter R—Sept. 9	25 Western 3856 **Oklahoma Terror (52)** Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 22 Melodrama 3826 **Irish Luck (61)** F. Darro-D. Purcell R—Aug. 26		
Comedy 3819 **ht Work (62)** ry Boland rles Ruggles -Aug. 12	11 Comedy Drama 3850 **Our Leading Citizen (90)** Bob Burns Susan Hayward R—Aug. 5	18 Melodrama 3865 **This Man Is News (75)** Barry K. Barnes V. Hobson R—July 29 18 Western 3859 **Renegade Trail (58)** William Boyd R. Hayden R—July 29	25 Musical Comedy 3851 **Star Maker (94)** Bing Crosby Louise Campbell R—Aug. 19	1 Melodrama 3901 **Death of a Champion (66)** Lynne Overman Virginia Dale R—Sept. 2	8 Western 3954 **Range War (66)** Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden R—Aug. 12
Western 846 **orado Sunset (64)** e Autry-S. Burnette -Aug. 5	10 Western 868 **New Frontier (56)** Three Mesquiteers R—Aug. 19	14 Western 847 **In Old Monterey (70)** Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—July 29	21 Action Drama 825 **Smuggled Cargo (61)** Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay R—Aug. 26	28 Drama 9111 **Flight at Midnight (66)** Phil Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner R—Sept. 2	6 Western 857 **Wall Street Cowboy (66)** Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9
Comedy 932 **chelor Mother (81)** ger Rogers vid Niven -July 1	11 Western 933 **Bad Lands (65)** R. Barrat-N. Berry jr. R—July 29	18 Drama 936 **In Name Only (92)** Carole Lombard Cary Grant Kay Francis R—Aug. 12		1 Melodrama 935 **Conspiracy (59)** Allan Lane-Linda Hayes R—Sept. 2	8 Western 986 **Fighting Gringo (60)** Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2 8 Drama 003 **Full Confession (72)** V. McLaglen-S. Eilers R—Aug. 26
Comedy Drama 001 **a Maxwell's Hotel for Women (82)** n Sothern nes Ellison -July 29	11 Comedy Drama 002 **Chicken Wagon Family (65)** Jane Withers Leo Carrillo Marjorie Weaver R—Aug. 19	18 Adventure Drama 003 **Stanley and Livingstone (100)** Spencer Tracy Nancy Kelly Richard Greene R—Aug. 5	25 Comedy 004 **Quick Millions (61)** (The Jones Family) Jed Prouty Spring Byington R—Aug. 5	1 Detective Drama 005 **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (85)** Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26	8 Melodrama 006 **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (73)** Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore R—Aug. 12
Drama **our Feathers (109)** ph Richardson e Duprez -June 24	11 Melodrama **Man in the Iron Mask (110)** Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—July 8	18 Drama with Music **They Shall Have Music (120)** Andrea Leeds Joel McCrea Jascha Heifetz R—July 15			
	11 Drama 3003 **When Tomorrow Comes (90)** Charles Boyer Irene Dunne R—Aug. 19			1 Comedy Drama **Under-Pup (88)** Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey R—Sept. 2 1 Outdoor Drama 4051 **Mutiny on the Black Hawk (66)** R—June 24 R. Arlen-A. Devine	8 Musical Comedy **Hawaiian Nights (64)** Downs-Carlisle R—Aug. 26 8 Western 4058 **Desperate Trails (58)** John Mack Brown Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight
Melodrama WB315 **ianapolis Speedway (82)** n Sheridan O'Brien -July 15	12 Comedy WB326 **Torchy Plays With Dynamite (59)** Jane Wyman Allen Jenkins R—Aug. 5	19 Drama FN356 **Each Dawn I Die (92)** James Cagney Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan R—July 22	26 Comedy FN376 **Hobby Family, The (54)** Irene Rich-H. O'Neill R—Aug. 26 26 Drama FN367 **Angels Wash Their Faces (96)** Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5	2 Drama FN452 **The Old Maid (95)** Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins R—Aug. 5	9 Com. Melo. WB419 **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (60)** Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas R—Aug. 26

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

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MAY, 1940						
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JUNE, 1940						
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30						

	SEPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14	OCTOBER 21
COLUMBIA	14 Western 1201 **Outpost of the Mounties** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredith (63)	21 Drama 1015 **Those High Grey Walls** (82) Walter Connolly Iris Meredith R—Sept. 30		7 Action Drama 1010 **U-Boat 29** (77) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23		19 Comedy Drama 1 **Mr. Smith Goes to Wa ington** (125) Jean Arthur James Stewart; R-Oct. 16 Drama **Scandal Sheet (..)** O. Kruger-O. Munson
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	15 Drama 4 **Thunder Afloat** (94) Wallace Beery Chester Morris Virginia Grey R—Sept. 23		29 Comedy Drama 3 **Dancing Co-ed** (81) Lana Turner Richard Carlson R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 6 **Fast and Furious** (73) Ann Sothern Franchot Tone R—Oct. 14	13 Musical Comedy **Babes in Arms** (..) Mickey Rooney Judy Garland	20 Comedy **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14
MONOGRAM	12 Action Drama 3815 **Sky Patrol** (61) John Trent Marjorie Reynolds R—Sept. 23		30 Documentary **Fight for Peace** (68)	1 Outdoor Drama **Crashing Thru (..)** James Newell Jean Carmen	10 Drama 3803 **Mutiny in the Big House (..)** Chas. Bickford Barton MacLane	20 Western **Riders of Destiny (..** (Reissue) John Wayne 20 Western **Sagebrush Trail (..)** (Reissue) John Wayne
PARAMOUNT	15 Drama 3902 **Beau Geste (114)** Gary Cooper Ray Milland **R—July 29**	22 Comedy 3903 **$1,000 a Touchdown** (71) Joe E. Brown Martha Raye R—Sept. 30	29 Comedy Drama 3904 **Honeymoon in Bali** (96) **(For. My Love for Yours)** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16	6 Comedy 3905 **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23	13 Drama 3906 **Jamaica Inn (106)** Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**	20 Drama **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14
REPUBLIC		21 Melodrama 912 **Calling All Marines** (65) Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16	29 Western 951 **Arizona Kid** (61) Roy Rogers Sally March R—Oct. 7	6 Western 961 **Kansas Terrors** (57) Three Mesquiteers	13 Action Drama 913 **Sabotage** (69) Arleen Whelan Gordon Oliver R—Oct. 14	
RKO RADIO	15 Comedy 002 **Day the Bookies Wept** (65) Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9	22 Comedy Drama 934 **Fifth Avenue Girl** (80) Ginger Rogers James Ellison R—Aug. 26	29 Drama 001 **Nurse Edith Cavell** (95) Anna Neagle George Sanders R—Aug. 26	6 Musical 946 **Everything's on Ice** (65) Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9	13 Drama 004 **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis Virginia Vale R—Sept. 30	20 Comedy **Flying Deuces** (65) **Laurel & Hardy** R—Oct. 14
20TH-FOX	15 Drama 011 **The Rains Came** (103) Myrna Loy-Tyrone Power George Brent R—Sept. 16	22 Comedy 008 **Stop, Look and Love (57)** Jean Rogers William Frawley R—Sept. 2	29 Drama 009 **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30	6 Drama 010 **The Escape (60)** Kane Richmond Allan Duff	13 Musical 007 **Hollywood Cavalcade**(96) Alice Faye-Don Ameche R—Oct. 7 13 Drama 061 **Road to Glory** (101) (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter	20 Comedy **Shipyard Sally (80)** Gracie Fields S. Howard 20 Comedy **Pack Up Your Trou** (75) Jane Withe R—Oct. 14
UNITED ARTS.		22 Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story** (65) Leslie Howard Ingrid Bergman John Halliday R—Oct. 7	29 Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) Gary Cooper Andrea Leeds R—Sept. 23		12 Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) Loretta Young David Niven R—Oct. 7	
UNIVERSAL	15 Drama 4017 **Two Bright Boys** (70) Jackie Cooper Freddie Bartholomew R—Sept. 23 8 Musical 4044 **Mikado (92)** Kenny Baker; R-Jan. 7	22 Melodrama 4027 **The Witness Vanishes** (66) E. Lowe-W. Barrie	29 Drama **Rio** (75) Sigrid Gurie Basil Rathbone R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 4035 **Hero for a Day** (66) Anita Louise-Dick Foran 29 Drama Reissue **All Quiet on the Western Front** (93) Lew Ayres	13 Drama 4052 **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16	20 Melodrama **Tower of London (** Basil Rathbone Boris Karloff 20 Western **Oklahoma Frontier** **Johnny Mack Brow**
WARNER-F.N.	16 Drama FN461 **Dust Be My Destiny (88)** John Garfield Priscilla Lane **R—Aug. 19**	23 Comedy FN469 **No Place to Go (57)** Fred Stone Gloria Dickson Denis Morgan R—Sept. 23	30 Melodrama WB415 **A Child Is Born (79)** Geraldine Fitzgerald Gladys George Jeffrey Lynn **R—Aug. 5**	30 Melodrama FN462 **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30 7 Melodrama WB418 **Pride of the Blue Grass** (65) R—Sept. 23 E. Fellows-J. McCallion	14 Musical **On Your Toes** (94) Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14	21 Melodrama **Smashing the Mone Ring** (..) Ronald Reagan Margot Stevenson
MISCELLANEOUS						

JULY, 1940						
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SEPTEMBER, 1940						
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29	30					

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

OCTOBER 28	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 2
COLUMBIA					
Comedy **vare Spooks! (..)** **E. Brown** **ry Carlisle**	2 Comedy **Blondie Brings Up Baby (..)** Penny Singleton Arthur Lake 2 Western **1202** **Stranger From Texas (..)** Charles Starrett			23 Comedy Drama **Incredible Mr. Williams (..)** Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas	30 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday (..)** Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy
GRAND NAT'L					
MGM					
Comedy Drama **10** **Little Angel (..)** ginia Weidler ry Hull	3 Comedy Drama **7** **Ninotchka** (110) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas R—Oct. 14	10 Drama **Secret of Dr. Kildare (..)** Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore	17 Drama **A Call on the President (..)** Ann Sothern Walter Brennan	24 Comedy Drama **Another Thin Man (..)** William Powell Myrna Loy	
MONOGRAM					
Action Drama **3816** **ger Flight (..)** **n Trent**	31 Western **3857** **Overland Mail (..)** **Jack Randall**	5 Action Drama **Fighting Mad (..)** James Newell 7 Drama **Heroes in Blue (..)** Dick Purcell Bernadene Hayes		25 Western **Roll, Wagons, Roll (..)** Tex Ritter	
PARAMOUNT					
Drama **3908** **puted Passage (..)** othy Lamour m Tamiroff n Howard	3 Western **3955** **Law of the Pampas (..)** Wm. Boyd	10 Melodrama **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7	17 Drama **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	24 Comedy **Our Neighbors—the Carters (..)** Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter	1 Drama **Happy Ending (..)** Pat O'Brien Olympe Bradna
REPUBLIC					
Action Drama **ers Creepers (..)** Rogers ver Bros. & Elviry		10 Drama **Main Street Lawyer (..)** Edw. Ellis Anita Louise	17 Comedy **Covered Trailer (..)** Gleason Family 15 Western **Washington Cowboy (..)** Gene Autry-S. Burnette		
RKO RADIO					
Outdoor Drama **006** **gheny Uprising (..)** **n Wayne** **re Trevor**	3 Drama **061** **Queen of Destiny** (95) (For. 60 Glorious Years) Anna Neagle Anton Walbrook R—Nov. 26, '38	3 Western **681** **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7 10 Drama **005** **Meet Dr. Christian (..)** J. Hersholt-D. Lovett	17 Drama **008** **Reno (..)** Richard Dix Gail Patrick	24 Musical **011** **That's Right, You're Wrong (..)** Kay Kyser and Orch.	
20TH-FOX					
Action Drama **013** **00 Men a Year (..)** idolph Scott tha Healy Documentary **062** **t World War** (78) Reissue) Nov. 17, '34	3 Drama **019** **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford R—Oct. 7	10 Drama **015** **Drums Along the Mohawk (..)** **Claudette Colbert** **Henry Fonda**	17 Comedy **016** **Too Busy to Work (..)** Jones Family	24 Comedy Drama **020** **First Kiss (..)** Tyrone Power Brenda Joyce	1 Melodrama **021** **Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (..)** S. Toler-L. Bari 1 Melodrama **022** **Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday (..)** G. Harker-A. Sims
UNITED ARTS.					
Comedy **isekeeper's Daughter** 30) **n Bennett-Wm. Gargan** **lphe Menjou** Sept. 16					
UNIVERSAL					
Comedy **le Accident (..)** dy Henville ence Rice	3 Action Drama **One Hour to Live** (60) Charles Bickford R—Sept. 16 3 Drama Reissue **Road Back (..)** Richard Cromwell	10 Comedy with Music **First Love (..)** **Deanna Durbin** 10 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again (..)** Marlene Dietrich **James Stewart**	17 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns (..)** N. Grey-V. Price 17 Melodrama **Legion of Lost Flyers (..)** R. Arlen-A. Devine	24 Western **Chip of the Flying U (..)** Johnny Mack Brown 17 Drama **Green Hell (..)** Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett	1 Melodrama **Missing Evidence** (64) Preston Foster Irene Hervey R—Oct. 7
WARNER-F.N.					
Drama **ring Twenties (..)** es Cagney cilla Lane	4 Comedy Drama **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman R—Sept. 16	11 Drama **WB** **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7	18 Comedy Drama **Lady Dick (..)** Jane Wyman-Dick Foran	25 Drama **We Are Not Alone (..)** Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson	
MISCELLANEOUS					

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

OCTOBER, 1940						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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DECEMBER, 1940						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 6	JANUARY 13
COLUMBIA						
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM						
MONOGRAM						
PARAMOUNT	[8] Western **Llano Kid** (..) Tito Guizar **Gale Sondergaard**	[15] Musical Comedy **St. Martin's Lane** (..) Chas. Laughton Vivien Leigh	[22] Fantasy **Dr. Cyclops** (..) Albert Dekker Janice Logan	[29] Action Drama **Untamed** (..) Ray Milland Patricia Morison		
REPUBLIC						
RKO RADIO						
20TH-FOX	[8] Drama **023** **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly	[15] Comedy Drama **024** **Honeymoon's Over** (..) Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver	[22] Fantasy **025** **Blue Bird** (..) Shirley Temple Sybil Jason			
UNITED ARTS						
UNIVERSAL						
WARNER-F.N.						
MISCELLANEOUS						

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FOR SALE—Two theatres, western Kansas, located in two county seat towns. Only theatres in counties; will sell one or both. Cash only. B-1157, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

THEATRE—Minnesota town of 900; modern, complete. Terms; good business. Write B-1168, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

THEATRES WANTED

THEATRE LEASE WANTED—By experienced showman. Prefer California. Lot 97, 5533 L. B. Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

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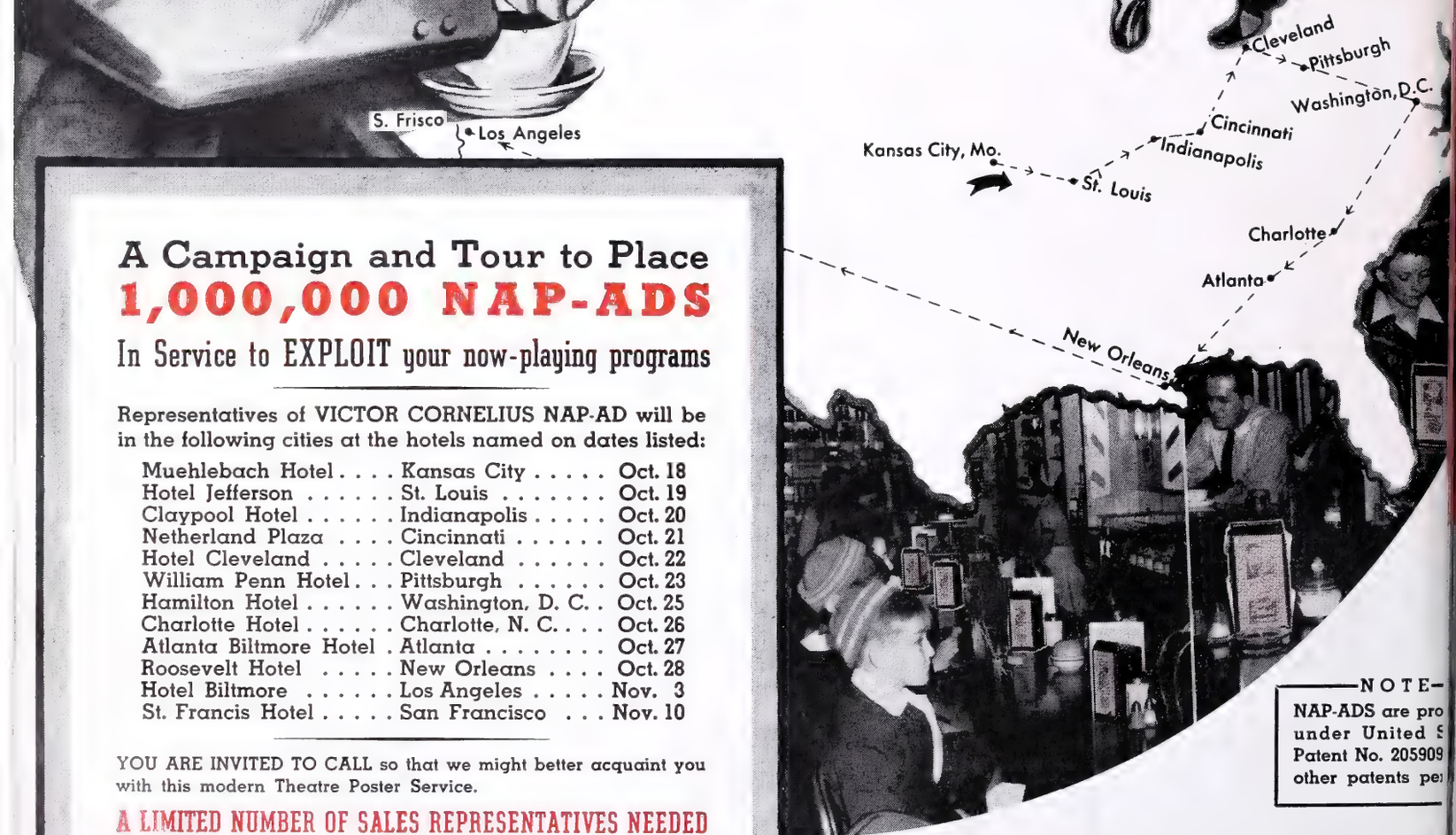
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Hotel Cleveland	Cleveland	Oct. 22
William Penn Hotel	Pittsburgh	Oct. 23
Hamilton Hotel	Washington, D. C.	Oct. 25
Charlotte Hotel	Charlotte, N. C.	Oct. 26
Atlanta Biltmore Hotel	Atlanta	Oct. 27
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VICTOR CORNELIUS EASTLAND, TE

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

OCTOBER 21, 1939 25c Per Copy. Per Year $7.50 in U. S. and Canada. Foreign $10. NATIONAL EDITION

PRODUCTION INDEX



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Only M-G-M can make this sort of comedy so that it smacks over to the millions. This is a laugh riot on a par with "A Night at the Opera" and "A Day at the Races"

GROUCHO — CHICO — HARPO

MARX BROS. "AT THE CIRCUS"

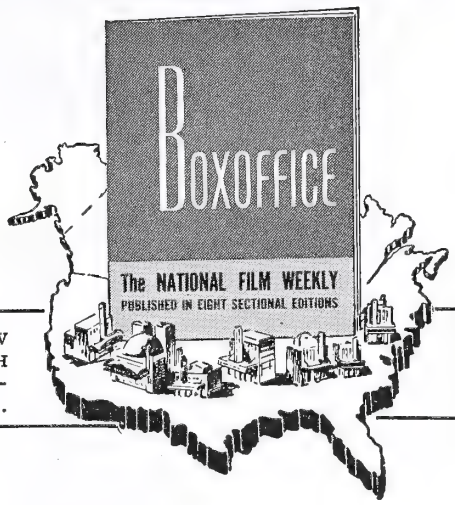
Groucho—Chico—Harpo MARX BROS. "AT THE CIRCUS" with Kenny Baker • Florence Rice • Eve Arden • Margaret Dumont • Nat Pendleton • Screen Play by Irving Brecher • Directed by Edward Buzzell • A MERVYN LEROY Production • An M-G-M Picture

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—Leo

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IT GETS BACK TO HOLLYWOOD

AN OHIO exhibitor asks these questions:

Would like you to editorialize on 'Has the Movie Business Hit the Peak?'

1.—Is it on the decline?

2.—Is public interest in movies diminishing so that grosses will never again hit their former stride?

3.—Is the public tired of the old faces and same old stories re-made and re-hashed?

4.—Are we in the same period of public apathy as preceded sound pictures?

I, personally, think so. What do you think?

There's a modest series of brain twisters to hurl at a single individual, but we'll take the death-defying leap, hoping there is a bottom and we land feet up:

1.—The business is in a current decline, as everyone realizes. And for a combination of causes. Some, the definite fault of the industry. Others, beyond its control. The faults leading into the celluloid household, and they are not necessarily presented in order of their significance, include (a) production of too many pictures which, in turn, spawns too many average or bad ones; (b) a division of production brainpower occasioned by the requirements of double features and, thus, a split in the maximum effectiveness of that power; (c) slavishness to the so-called success formula which nurtures the carbon copy system that Hollywood has relentlessly pursued for years and results in a market glutted with too much of the same merchandise; (d) mobilization of real attractions for simultaneous release in well-established theatre periods, such as Labor Day and New Year's, with long stretches of entertainment drought in between.

The consequences of each condition are well known and should require no further exposition here.

Outside factors include an unsettled general condition domestically, induced by a precarious situation abroad; opposition by big business to the New Deal which results in frozen capital, paints the unemployment curve blacker and brings about shrunken audiences for pictures.

2.—Public interest in films rises, falls or remains static in direct ratio to the quality of the entertainment offered. There is no reason for anyone to calculate films are indispensable to a degree which automatically guarantees a prosperous industry. Going to the movies may be a habit. We believe it is and that it will continue. But the significant gauge by which the situation must be calibrated is will they go frequently enough if the studios do not furnish them with a sustained line of attractions they want to see? To harbor the idea, on the other hand, grosses will never again attain their one-time peak is to dabble around in unsatisfactory and unpredictable futures. No one can answer such a question conclusively, for this business is too sensitive and too volatile to remain permanently anchored to a given set of conditions.

3.—If the public is not tired of "the old faces and same old stories re-made and re-hashed," they ought to be by this time. Both equations have been played to death. More particularly does this apply to story re-hashes, but the difficulty there flows to the answer to our Ohio inquirer's first question. It is a herculean, as well as impossible, job to make them all click when a single studio is committed to as many as forty to sixty features each twelve months. The old face, and its complement, the new face, of course, always has been a baffling problem for Hollywood to solve. The indications, and they are there if anyone will bother to look hard enough, is that the effort at developing fresh personalities is currently a trifle more serious than usually is the case. That there must be more of this cannot be denied. As a matter of fact, it is as essential a task as any confronting the studios. This time, perhaps it will succeed.

4.—Public apathy toward films, undoubtedly, exists, but it is this opinion the drift has some distance to traverse before it accumulates to the degree prevailing before sound came in. Every time apathy seems to gain, the good luck star under which this business proceeds twinkles brightly again in the guise of unusual attractions which save the day.

The future? It is up to the men who make the product and, while this assuredly is the easiest way to toss off a perplexing question, the obviousness of the approach cannot belie its essential truth.

Kann

"U" TO SELL AWAY FROM "UNFAIR" CIRCUITS IN FIGHT FOR SPOT IN THE CELLULOID SUN

Nothing Concrete On British Quota

NEW YORK—Nothing concrete as yet has developed from the discussions between Oliver Stanley, president of the British Board of Trade, and distributor and exhibitor committees in England on various proposals submitted for reduction of remittances to home offices and the effect of the war on quota production.

Foreign heads of the major companies expect developments to materialize shortly, but it is too early to anticipate at this time the nature of the final results, it is stated here.

The general feeling here is that the amount of money to be sent from England probably will be cut to 50 per cent on current contracts and a greater percentage on new deals being made. There is no definite indication what action will be taken on quota production, now at a standstill in England.

Because it is felt the pound sterling is a guiding factor for all markets, grave concern is apparent at distributor headquarters in the recent drop in value However, it is held that paring of remittances might help stabilize British currency during the war.

Over-the-counter dealings in foreign currencies continue by most companies in an effort to salvage as much as they can from returns abroad. Virtually all of these deals have been discontinued in advance. In any event, it is held, increased activities in the South American markets cannot make up the losses sustained from Europe.

American Counter Demands To British Currency Curb

LONDON—American counter demands to British proposals for currency restrictions consist of a request for free withdrawal of all funds for all pictures completed or in production by October 9 for one year.

After that period, the American distributors will take a 50 per cent slash in the revenue coming from England.

A source close to the distributors indicates they would also ask for an elimination of the quota on the ground that it is impossible to fulfill the conditions demanded by the act under present circumstances.

In its place, the distributors would undertake as a substitute a program of voluntary production depending on the facilities available in order to keep British product flowing.

The proposals of the distributors are now before the British government. Distributors will continue meeting with the board of trade until a satisfactory basis for establishing remittance restrictions can be reached.

Saenger and Gibraltar Breaks Starters; After Five-Year Deals

NEW YORK — Universal, satisfied it has earned, and now is entitled to, its place in the celluloid heavens, is insisting upon "fair" terms and either will sell away from circuits unwilling to grant them or encourage new interests to enter exhibition.

The policy crystallizes through two instances where the company has done exactly what it declares it now will do generally. First is the break with the Saenger circuit in the south. BOXOFFICE first reported distributor and circuit could not get together on price, W. A. Scully, general sales manager for "U," subsequently stating he could not get the terms he felt fair. Second is the break with Charles Gilmour of Gibraltar Enterprises, operating approximately 43 theatres out of Denver.

Universal is offering five-year franchises to opposition exhibitors in Saenger and Gibraltar towns, many of which, however, are closed situations. Where no opposition exists, the same sort of deal is being made available to any individual or group who may want to reopen a presently dark theatre or to show Universal product in a local auditorium or hall. Portable shows, at the same time, are not being ruled off or out.

A company spokesman makes it clear Universal has no intention of re-entering the theatre business. "We are producers and distributors and that's what we intend to remain," he declares. "But we feel we have now established ourselves on a new and firmer footing which has earned the considerate and fair support of the exhibitor. We see no reason why we should be penalized either because, in a given situation or series of situations, a dominant group seeks to take advantage of its position by endeavoring to batter us down or because a group has given other companies such lavish terms that there is peanuts left for whomever else may come along.

"We feel we have the right to view ourselves as an integral part of this industry. As such, we don't think it at all unreasonable to expect that Universal draws its proportionate share. The company is entitled to that. Furthermore, it proposes seeing it gets exactly that."

Skolsky Has a Word For Them

New York—"The three Communists in 'Ninotchka' have been dubbed the Karl Marx Brothers," reports Sidney Skolsky in his Hollywood column appearing locally in the New York Post.

Schlaifer Is Silent On UA-B&K Deal

NEW YORK—L. Jack Schlaifer, western sales manager for UA, declines to discuss the B&K deal in Chicago. Although Walter Immerman, chief buyer for the circuit, recently told BOXOFFICE while in New York that negotiations were progressing on the one-year pact, Schlaifer is referring all inquiries to his superiors or B&K officials.

Chicago Credits Agreement Between B&K-UA Pends

CHICAGO—That the price argument between B&K and UA is partially patched up at least is shown in the fact that the local Paramount affiliate is working to get playdates off on three UA pictures immediately. B&K this week played "They Shall Have Music," at the Apollo, with "Four Feathers" at the Roosevelt.

"The Real Glory," one of the new season's pictures, is scheduled to go into the United Artists immediately after the run of "Babes in Arms," which started this week. This means that "Ninotchka" will have to be shoved back at least another couple of weeks.

It is figured here the setting of these three pictures practically assures that B&K and UA will get together, at least for single picture deals, but more than likely on a one-year deal again this season.

Chicago RKO Palace Drops Vaudeville for Twin Bills

NEW YORK — Starting November 3, the RKO Palace, Chicago, eliminates vaudeville in favor of duals. The price scale remains the same. "First Love" and "Full Confession" are the opening duo. Tom Gorman, division manager in the Windy City, left for his headquarters Wednesday after home office palavers at which the decision to change the Palace policy was reached.

RCA and Farnsworth Will Exchange Radio Rights

FORT WAYNE, IND.—RCA and the Farnsworth Television and Radio Corp. will exchange rights on inventions in radio and allied fields, under an agreement announced here.

E. A. Nicholas, Farnsworth president, said the concerns have entered into patent license agreements covering television receivers, transmitters and other radio and electrical sound recording apparatus.

Both companies are prohibited from granting sub-license to third parties under their respective patents.

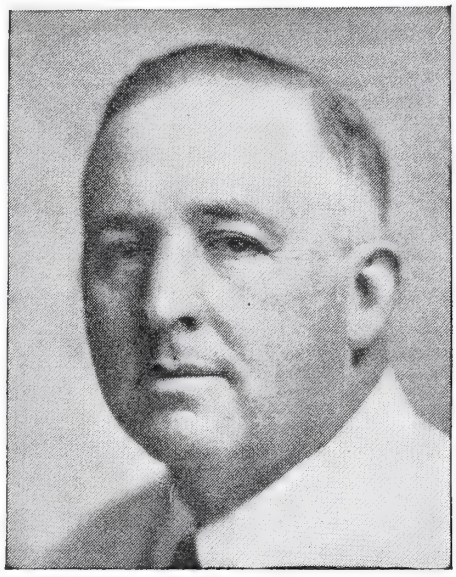
MPTOA DIRECTORS TO WEIGH WAR IMPACT ON OUTPUT; QUALITY MUST STAY, THE VIEW

Whole Issue of Trade Practices Also Upon Meeting Agenda

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.—Effect of the European war on the production situation in Hollywood, with one eye turned toward the impact on quality and the other toward quantity, looms large on the agenda of the annual meeting of the MPTOA board at the Greenbrier Monday and Tuesday.

The directors understand there is little they can do about any findings which may be reached beyond earnest recommendations to the studios that nothing be permitted to beat down quality entertainment. Of the 33 officers and directors, 25 are expected. That total embraces a number of important circuit operators, such as Sam Pinanski of M&P Theatres, Paramount's New England affiliates; Walter Vincent of the Wilmer and Vincent circuit, which is centered in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and Mitchell Wolfson of Wometco which operates in Miami. Cross-sectionally, advance indications presage, these men and others will be in a position to inform those directors who represent subsequent runs of the trend in the market on both of the quality and quantity equations.

Significantly on the program is the whole issue of trade practices. The MPTOA's current approach was covered largely in a pre-meeting bulletin issued by Ed Kuykendall last weekend in New York. But the expected presence of William F. Rodgers, chairman of the distributors' sub-committee on trade practice formulation, probably will result in a closer inspection of the history of the code, with particular attention directed toward clarification of what blocked out of the draft eventually rejected by Thurman Arnold of the department of justice much of the territory first determined upon.



The President-Elect—

E. L. Kuykendall of Columbus, Miss., who is slated for re-election to the presidency of the MPTOA at the meeting of the board Monday and Tuesday.

It is highly probable Rodgers will be sounded out on his ideas of a method of developing a program in the light of the justice department's current disapproval. Some of the directors recall exclusive publication in BOXOFFICE some weeks ago of the declared intention of various company presidents to wait on the President with an appeal that he overrule Arnold and permit adoption of a code. These men, likewise, are familiar with the recent BOXOFFICE survey which brought to light a 67 per cent theatre vote for code adoption. Their argument is that the evidenced drift, voicing as it did the majority exhibitor viewpoint, might well be turned to in any appeal up the line and beyond Arnold's sphere of influence.

Praise in Board Bulletin For 'Definite Proposals' By Warner and Metro

NEW YORK—In a pre-board meeting bulletin, Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, ruminates that the industry "is so deeply involved in litigation and lawsuits that nothing can be done on trade practices until the courts decide the issues." Continuing in this vein, he ponders:

"That will take years before any final decisions are reached, involves enormous legal expenses that will force drastic 'economy' programs, and, judging from past experience, will ultimately result in a lot of inept, drastic regulations by court decrees that will solve none of the economic problems with which we are confronted, or in new restrictive legislation on our businesses."

He cites the "definite" trade practice proposals already offered by Warner and M-G-M and adds "nothing definite has been done by the other companies."

Referring to the proposals offered by the two distributors, he says: "This represents a genuine step forward, is presented in simple understandable language—unlike the code—and deserves the commendation of all independent exhibitors who have a real interest in getting something done in this field."

Carrying on in this vein, Kuykendall adds: "The exasperating delays and prolonged stalling on the MPTOA trade practice program presented more than three years ago, the injection of exhibitor politics in the negotiations and the lengthy legal drafting engaged in has confused and obscured the essential and important problems presented to a considerable extent. In the resentment against the failure to deal with exhibitor complaints in an effective manner we are apt to ignore definite progress that has been achieved. While it is more popular in exhibitor circles to

(Continued on page 9)

Among Those Expected at the Greenbrier Conclave



PINANSKI



WOLFSON



PIZOR



VINCENT



BRYLAWSKI



WEHRENBERG

Myers Wary on Deals; Hits Admission Hikes

WASHINGTON—Cautioning exhibitors to be wary in making new deals because of the tendency of producers to cut production costs in view of European conditions, Abram F. Myers, general counsel for Allied, in his latest bulletin, states the solution to the present problem is not higher admissions, but is predicated on mass entertainment.

Increasing admissions at this time, Myers feels, will "strangle" business rather than build grosses at the boxoffice. "The success of the business," he adds, "has been predicated on a mass entertainment proposition. The novelty of motion pictures is gone," he says, "and now it has settled down to a substantial commodity."

Analyzing various phases of the industry in view of the Second World War, Myers asserts "the situation in the industry is rather serious because of the natural restriction of around 25 per cent of the distribution gross. While it is gratifying to see some of the companies attempting to reduce their overheads, which should have happened a long time ago, nevertheless, under the present system of block booking it is impossible to tell how many pictures advertised as big pictures will be of 'B' calibre."

Continuing, he adds "Unfortunately all information as to problems of reduction are in the hands of distributors and the exhibitor cannot do much about it. The only thing he can do is to buy carefully."

He said further that "unquestionably if the war situation continues there will be an improvement in business, but that such improvement would be temporary, particularly if we get into the war, as based on the last war. Even though we made money for a while, eventually it cost everybody a lot of money."

Commenting on non-theatricals, Myers said the 16mm situation was rather disconcerting but he had every confidence no distributor was going to injure his own business by subjecting the industry to 16mm opposition.

Myers recommended cooperation in celebration of the Golden Jubilee and paid special tribute to the Maryland exhibitor who inserted a page advertisement in a newspaper calling the drive to the attention of the public.

On the embargo, it is Myers' viewpoint the administration bill will be passed. He does not feel the film business will be particularly affected by shipping either way because there is not enough involved. The only place where the industry will be concerned is in the reduction of gross business because of chaotic conditions abroad.

Undoubtedly the re-employment of men will bring more business to theatres, he concludes. "However, if we get into the war it will not be so good because we will have to pay for it in a different way."

Allied Is Checking on WB, M-G-M Promises

Washington—Allied is making a careful checkup to see whether Warner and M-G-M are keeping the promises to exhibitors on the adoption of various code principles in new contracts. This is revealed by Abram F. Myers, general counsel, in his latest bulletin, dated October 12.

"While we have no way of knowing at this time to what extent the independent exhibitor will benefit," the Allied spokesman states, "it is at least a constructive move."

Myers adds not many deals have been made with independents and just how much the exhibitor will benefit by the promises remains to be seen.

Asks Why Others Slow On Solo Code Plans

NEW YORK—Ed Kuykendall, president of the MPTOA, in his latest bulletin asks: "Why 20th-Fox, Paramount, RKO and Columbia continue to delay action and withhold announcement of what, if anything, they propose to do" on adopting code concessions and principles in contracts, "remains a mystery."

Checking up on latest developments, insofar as the companies named are concerned, BOXOFFICE learned that Paramount now is offering the same concessions promised by Warner and M-G-M: namely, 20 per cent cancellation on average rentals up to $100; 15 per cent, from $100 to $250; 10 per cent on pictures averaging over $250. There also is a voluntary arbitration offer. Two special riders have been prepared for contracts, one covering arbitration for those who want it and the second for cancellations. The company also is eliminating score charges on all percentage pictures.

Executives at 20th-Fox state the attorneys still are working on a plan to be made public shortly and they most likely will be along the same lines as those of the other companies already announced.

Sales heads at RKO haven't yet decided on the final offering. Plans have been discussed for the past month, but nothing material has eventuated. The indications are favorable. No one will hazard a guess how soon an announcement will be forthcoming.

A. Montague, sales manager for Columbia, is known to have been working on code concessions for some time but any delay in making an announcement has been due to the amount of work necessary on numerous product deals closed in the past few months. He will probably make a statement shortly, but for the time being he has no comment.

Hearing in FWC Contempt Suit Now Slated Nov. 13

LOS ANGELES — The hearing scheduled this week in federal court on the government's alleged contempt proceedings against FWC and major companies had been adjourned until November 13 to permit defendants more time to prepare for a demand for a bill of particulars.

Exposure an Antidote To Pressure Groups

LINCOLN—"Most pressure groups are sore spots on democracy which exposure will eventually destroy," C. C. Pettijohn, general counsel of the MPPDA, told delegates to Women's Clubs of the State of Nebraska in convention here.

Coming from New York especially for the occasion, Pettijohn launched an attack on "so-called 'authorities' on the motion picture business who have appeared before you from time to time and told you how our business ought to be run. These people, of course, are 'experts' because none of them has ever made, sold or exhibited a motion picture." His reference was to individuals and groups supporting the Neely bill, of which the group he addressed is one.

"Pressure groups," he said, "whose real ambition is to break up the structure of self-regulation erected for the industry in order that the screen might become a prey to every subversive influence, can always count on hundreds of resolutions declaring block booking, blind buying, clearance, zoning and other trade practices of the industry affect the morals of the screen.

"It would be safe to bet 1,000 to one that few, if any, of these organizations contain a single member that could even define the trade practices referred to, let alone understand the part they play in the distribution of motion pictures. Men who have spent lifetimes in the industry have found no better method than now exists of making available to the smallest theatre in the land for a few dollars the costliest productions of the studios for which big theatres pay thousands of dollars to distributors for first runs. Yet certain women's clubs, sororities and boys' brigades do not hesitate by resolution or otherwise to condemn the trade practices of the industry on the pressure charge that these affect the moral contents of the screen."

Pettijohn asserted "no other medium of entertainment, education and information has been subjected to more self-purification than the movies. Not a single great church organization, social service or educational movement has any complaint to make today about the screen, from the standpoint of immoral or un-American influence.

"In fact," he emphasized, "pictures are so clean there are grumbles from the left that 'art'—and I quote the word—is being strangled in the effort to protect the interests of the family in screen entertainment."

The MPPDA counsel delivered a chronological account of the various processes of a film, from the time the story is bought until it appears on the screen of the smallest theatre. Concluding, he said:

"This explains why present mechanics of distribution in the picture business has kept the price of the finest motion picture entertainment produced in the world by Americans, for Americans, at lower admission prices than are charged anywhere else in the world. It is something in which there should be a public interest because it is in the interest of the public."

GLORYGIRL JANIE...

slip of a blonde who shoots like a soldier and loves like a wildcat . . . *and*

FIGHTING JIM SMITH...

mighty frontiersman . . . matchless in battle, rock-bound in courage, helpless in a woman's arms . . .

IN RKO RADIO'S ROARING EPIC OF PIONEER DAYS!



THEIR ROMANCE RODE THE CONFLICT OF PENNSYLVANIA'S PIONEER DAYS!

Too real to be fiction; too exciting to be history — the screen's greatest blending of both, this mammoth melodrama of the turbulent times whose glorious thrill will never die! . . . A MOVIE made for moviegoers! . . . A great, big, rousing action show built on the foundation that experienced showmen KNOW means BIGGEST BOX-OFFICE!



ALLEGHENY UPRISING



starring

CLAIRE TREVOR
JOHN WAYNE *with*
GEORGE SANDERS • BRIAN DONLEVY
WILFRID LAWSON • ROBERT BARRAT

JOHN F. HAMILTON • MORONI OLSEN
EDDIE QUILLAN . . .

Produced by P. J. Wolfson
Directed by William A. Seiter
PANDRO S. BERMAN
in Charge of Production
Screen Play by P. J. Wolfson

RKO RADIO PICTURES

LITHO USA

MPTOA Praise for 'Definite Proposals'

(Continued from page 5)

complain and denounce, maybe some few things are on the road to clarification as the result of organized exhibitor demands.

"These include: (1) The separate score charge, which seems to be on the way out with all companies. This does not mean that we don't have to fight the distributors on the price of film, or that they will necessarily reduce their prices by the amount of the score charge; but that, at least, the prices quoted will be in one amount, with no deception as to the real price, no extra charges to pay on top of the film rental agreed upon. It is silly to expect the removal of the score charge to prevent distributors from asking more for their pictures. No such miracle is possible.

Most to Give 20%

"(2) Most distributors are going to give a 20 per cent cancellation on contracts up to $100 average, 10 per cent and 15 per cent over that average, and in addition you will probably, but not invariably, be able to cancel any pictures actually offensive to the people in your community. If this policy is generally adopted, without too many qualifying restrictions (each of which cuts down the exhibitors' option to cancel pictures) it will permanently solve the block booking problem for the small exhibitor. The large exhibitor has no serious problem on block booking.

"(3) The other matters are less definite and represent really a softening of general sales policies, growing out of a better appreciation of exhibitor problems as an indirect result of our trade practice complaints, proposals and negotiations. These are mostly in the form of promises and refer to such problems as forcing shorts with features, final allocation of prices as the pictures become available, keeping regular customers, no exclusive runs, substituting pictures on designated playdates and selling less than a full block to theatres that are booked up.

"This group of 'promises,'" Kuykendall continues, "at best is in very general terms and depends entirely upon the judgment, intelligence and good faith of the distributors' field representatives to be effective. Unfortunately, they are all closely related to the prices, terms and conditions asked for by distributors for their pictures, which still involves fighting and horse trading in its cruder forms."

Cites Four Main Problems

Observing that "some of the 'hot issues' raised during the excitement" of the defunct trade practice code "are turning out to be insignificant and unimportant problems," Kuykendall remarks: "The four main and really important trade practice problems of exhibition and distribution seem to be: (1) The selection of pictures in wholesale buying (block booking); (2) Overbuying to deprive a competitor of pictures (monopoly); (3) Unreasonable clearance between theatres (zoning), and (4) Cut-throat competition between theatres (double features, giveaways, premiums.)"

BOXOFFICE FLASHES

IATSE Would Extend Closed Shop

HOLLYWOOD—A petition has been filed by the IATSE with the national labor relations board in an effort to extend a closed shop to Republic, Monogram and other independents not included in the recently signed working agreement. Under the agreement, the IA secured a closed shop at all major studios and gained a ten per cent increase in wages.

Canada Reducing War "Red Tape"

OTTAWA—The Canadian government has moved to reduce the "red tape" in its wartime regulations restricting the flow of cash and shipments between Canada and other countries. Special consideration is accorded "related companies" operating here and abroad. It is expected to benefit major distributors by enabling their Canadian exchanges to simplify payments to New York for films, accessories and supplies, and payments on excess revenue on film rentals above Canadian operating expenses.

Must Rephrase Miami Queries

MIAMI—The Cameo Theatre Co., plaintiff in the anti-trust suit here against the Wometco circuits and major distributors, must rephrase interrogatories directed to 20 officials of defendant companies, the district court has ruled. The court held the plaintiff should not have addressed the people individually, but should have questioned the companies with demands that specific individuals be required to answer.

Mistrial in Union Leader's Suit

ST. LOUIS—Acting on its own motion, the district court here declared a mistrial Wednesday in the extortion case of John Nick, IATSE vice-president, because one of the jurors talked with a state witness. The court said there apparently had been no malicious intent on the part of the juror. The case was reset for November. Nick was being tried on charges of extortion in connection with a $10,000 "defense fund" raised by local theatres in 1936 while the IA union was demanding increased wage scales.

Arkansas ITO Opposes Neely Bill

LITTLE ROCK—The ITO of Arkansas, in semi-annual convention here, voted unanimous opposition to passage of the Neely anti-block booking bill. The organization's position will be made known to congressmen of the state.

Federal Prober Leaves Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD—Taking with him a voluminous collection of material for presentation to Attorney General Frank Murphy, Charles H. Carr, an assistant, has returned to Washington after a two-month inquiry into studio and trade matters here. Testimony before the federal grand jury concerning alleged labor racketeering, charges of income tax evasion and other corporate matters constituted the bulk of the material.

Nickelodeons Threaten Comeback

MINNEAPOLIS—The trade here is concerned over threats by some of the Twin City neighborhood theatres to institute five-cent children's matinees and Sunday cash giveaway nights. One independent says that if it breaks, he will go to a two-for-a-jitney basis.

St. Louis Labor Dispute Halts Arthur's Trip

NEW YORK—Harry C. Arthur, who was due from St. Louis Monday, has delayed his arrival indefinitely due to labor troubles in the Mound City where an inter-factional dispute has resulted in the picketing of several F&M theatres there.

"Lincoln in Illinois" Is Done; Gordon Is Back

NEW YORK—Max Gordon is back from Hollywood after completing "Abe Lincoln in Illinois." His partner, Harry Goetz, remains on the coast until the final cutting and preview. Work on "The American Way" has been tentatively held up.

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

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ST. LOUIS—5149 Rosa Ave., David F. Barrett. Telephone Flanders 3727.
SALT LAKE CITY—605 Utah Savings & Trust Bldg., Viola B. Hutton. Telephone Hyland 4359.
SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Nathan Cohn. Telephone Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2321 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Telephone MAin 7716.
WASHINGTON—1426 G. St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY, ALTA.—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Telephone Walnut 5519.
REGINA, SASK.—The Star, Andy McDermott.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—161 Princess St., D. Fetherston.
TORONTO, ONTARIO—242 Millwood Road, Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER, B. C.—615 Hastings, C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

FROM time to time, there has been much wonderment over the exaggerated claims made by advertising man and press agent alike for the attraction they are touting. One of the best of the ad men carries with him, in a convenient notebook out of which reminders emerge from time to time, this quotation from Charles Dickens' "Nicholas Nickelby."

> "It being a fact in theatrical history that it is a hopeless endeavor to attract people to a theatre unless they can be first brought to believe that they will never get into it."

One of the best of the exploitation and advertising men reasons it out along these lines:

> "My experience is the exhibitor never believes all he reads anyway. If you tell him a picture is colossal, he'll end up by believing it's an attraction. If you tell him it's a modest good, he'll conclude there must be something wrong with it by the very lack of super superlatives. Since every film handled by every press agent is better than the last, I follow the super super idea."

Neither one offers as an explanation that the general skepticism and "show-me" attitude of the average showmen might be traceable to either or both of the above routines.

Out of the Vacuum

While the world at large stands in grave danger of collapsing, Wally Westmore, makeup expert at the Paramount studio, finds time to go profound on the intricacies of the American haircut. It's either too close to the head on the sides, long when it ought to be short, short when it ought to be long and frequently combed the wrong way.

But that's not all. No, indeed. Westmore has drawn up a compilation of the ten male players who get trimmed better than all others. Want to know? They are George Brent, Gary Cooper, Clark Gable, Allan Jones, Joel McCrea, Pat O'Brien, George Raft, Randolph Scott, Robert Taylor and Robert Young—presented by this space's diligent effort in strict alphabetic alignment so there won't be any trouble over the billing.

SCANNING the assortment of poppycock which rolls off the nation's presses can become a tiresome job. Also an occasionally productive one for columnar purposes.

John McDowell is a congressman. He also conducts a weekly column, "Country Editor," in the "Wilkinsburg, Pa., Gazette." That gives him a voice and outlet to observe along lines such as these:

> "One of the most insidious forms of wrong news and unneutrality are the movies. There is more deliberate, planned propaganda flickering over the cinema screens of the nation than there are girls in Hollywood. I have heard some of the best known movie news commentators of the nation hysterically shuddering and shouting over some built-up atrocity to the extent that the audience itself is about ready to shoulder arms and go out and lick somebody." Etc., etc.

What the congressman knows about the girls in Hollywood is his own business. What he thinks he knows about this industry we take on as our business. This generally prevalent practice of hurling charges, loosely contrived and unsupported by facts, deserves the exposure we hope it now gets here. McDowell ought to put the information on the line or keep his mouth and his typewriter shut.

Salute

In many ways, Monogram hits the market with its best picture to date in "Mutiny in the Big House." The story, in its essentials, is familiar enough, dealing as it does with the penal system and how, under it, some succumb and others survive. But the direction by William Nigh is strong, production values are unusual for this company and cast assets are genuinely weighty. Those assets embrace Charles Bickford, Barton MacLane, Dennis Moore, George Cleveland, Charlie Foy, Nigel de Brulier and others and they're all good.

This one is worth "A" playing time.

Handful

One room of Eleanor Powell's bungalow at M-G-M is covered with framed and autographed pictures of her friends in New York and Hollywood.

Merely 300-odd of Eleanor's intimate circle.

NEVER BEFORE...

A picture with such emotional impact!



"DISPUTED PASSAGE"



Dear Paramount–

Thank you so much for preserving the full flavor of "Disputed Passage" in this beautiful picture!

Those who liked the characters in the book will be glad to see them come to life here.

Lloyd C. Douglas

A Paramount Picture with **Dorothy Lamour**

Akim Tamiroff • John Howard

Judith Barrett • William Collier, Sr. • Billy Cook

A FRANK BORZAGE Production • Directed by FRANK BORZAGE • Screen play by Anthony Veiller & Sheridan Gibney • Based on the novel by Lloyd C. Douglas



The Press Recognizes a Jubilee—

CHICAGO—What is thought to have been the most thorough coverage of the 50th anniversary of the motion picture industry in any one city in the country was that engineered by the publicity department of the B&K circuit in Chicago.

All of the daily newspapers in the city cooperated fully with the department, working under the direction of Publicity Head William K. Hollander.

The *Tribune* ran an editorial complimenting the industry, while Mae Tinee, film critic, used a full page in the Sunday edition reviewing the history of the industry, with statistics showing its importance to the country. Full-page advertisements were carried by the *Herald-American* and *Times*, while the film editors of the two papers, Dorothy Deere and Doris Arden, respectively, ran special features and art layouts.

The *Daily News* ran a full page showing the history of the film industry in terms of Chicago participation.

Radio announcements were carried by stations WIND and WJJD, with Hal Tate, the "movie tattler," using a special morning program over the latter station.

A special proclamation was obtained from Mayor Edward J. Kelly giving full recognition to "movie week."

NEW YORK—Enthusiastic activity on the part of exhibitors and local film organizations in San Francisco, Greenville, S. C., Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Columbus, Milwaukee, Dallas, El Paso, Tacoma, Buffalo, Rochester, Houghton, Fort Wayne and Elkhart, Ind., Cleveland and Zanesville, Ohio, is reported by the Hays office committee in charge of the jubilee.

Nicholas Schenck Sees No Need for Jitters

CHICAGO—Still certain there is no need for the jitters "at this time" over production or distribution plans, Nicholas M. Schenck passed through here on what he termed "just one of my regular trips."

"Of course," he said, "we will stick to our policy of making the best pictures possible as economically as possible, and there is nothing that warrants changing our production plans or cutting down on announced budgets at this time."

He added that, as he sees it, there is no need at present for any company to make radical changes in plans. He said M-G-M and Loew's plan no personnel changes for the present and that Metro would try to meet the war situation by producing the best possible pictures they know how so as to realize maximum revenues. "Good pictures," he emphasized, "always do good business and mean healthy boxoffice returns."

Regular $1.62½ Dividend On Loew's Preferred

NEW YORK—The regular $1.62½ cents on the preferred stock, payable November 15, has been declared by Loew's directors at a postponed meeting. His presence on the coast prevented Nicholas M. Schenck, president, from attending the session. J. Robert Rubin, general counsel for M-G-M, presided. Schenck is due back Monday.

"Ninotchka" First Garbo Film Into Music Hall

NEW YORK—Although tentatively set for the Capitol, "Ninotchka" will follow "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" into the Music Hall. The "Ninotchka" booking marks the first Greta Garbo film to play the Hall.

Roach Decides Against Transferring Seltzer

HOLLYWOOD—Frank Seltzer, studio publicity and advertising head for Hal E. Roach, is not being transferred east after all, Roach having changed his mind the last minute about replacing Tom Walker, eastern sales representative. Walker continues in the east for the time being with Grace Rosenfield remaining as talent and publicity contact.

"Drums Along Mohawk" Premiere in Five Cities

NEW YORK—Five cities in the Mohawk Valley will hold simultaneous premieres of "Drums Along the Mohawk" on November 2. The Technicolor special will be shown in 14 reels at the Palace, Albany; Proctor's, Schenectady; Rialto, Amsterdam; Glove, Gloversville and Olympic, Utica.

Make This Sizzling Sales Copy the Keynote of Your Campaign!

DANGEROUS CURVES AHEAD!

But Hilda's curves weren't meant for the kitchen... Housework to her was a bore... She couldn't cook a pie or a biscuit... Yet the town beat a path to her door!



She Has What It Takes at
WORLD PREMIERE ENGAGEMENT
California Theatre, San Diego

Outgrosses every other attraction in eight year history of house. Engagement extended in move-over to the Plaza Theatre.



"Top entertainment ...smacko laugh generator!"
—Variety

HAL ROACH presents

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER

starring

JOAN BENNETT ★ ADOLPHE MENJOU

And Introducing Hollywood's Newest Heart-throb **JOHN HUBBARD**

Wm. GARGAN Geo. E. STONE Peggy WOOD Donald MEEK Victor MATURE

Directed by **HAL ROACH**

Screen Play by RIAN JAMES and GORDON DOUGLAS
From the Novel by DONALD HENDERSON CLARKE

RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS

18 Ind'pts Prepared To Combat Schines

BUFFALO—The government will center its chief line of attack in the anti-trust suit against the Schine circuit and majors on 18 affidavits from independent exhibitors in New York state and Ohio, Seymour Krieger, assistant to the attorney general, indicated here in the first round of the arguments before Federal Judge John Knight.

Among exhibitors, past and present, and towns already mentioned as playing an important part in the government's presentation are: Charles Dickenson, Palace, Lockport, N. Y.; John Bahas, Ashland, Ohio; M. Buchman, Star, Delaware, Ohio; M. DeToto, Seneca, Seneca Falls, N. Y.; M. Kessel, Manchester, Ohio; M. Angelas, who had been considering a theatre for Norwalk, Ohio; Fogel and Tishkoff, Murray, Rochester, N. Y., and M. Dipillo, who wanted to build in Geneva, N. Y.

Considerable stress by the "Big Stick" is being laid on the buying power of the Schines. "It is the contention of the government that this buying power has been abused," Krieger informed the court. "It has been abused in taking away pictures from independent exhibitors and it has been abused by forcing independents out of business. It has been abused by compelling distributors to grant Schine certain privileges he couldn't have gotten if it had not been for the fact that he buys for so many theatres, and so many of those theatres are represented by closed situations where there is only one market, the Schine organization."

The government asserts the circuit has at least 40 closed towns among the 146 theatres operated in 72 situations.

Holding that Schine "purchases are made solely and primarily in accord with the legitimate requirements and demands of each theatre as made by the public demand in the community in which they are operated," Frederick H. Wood, counsel for the circuit, stated, "Whether you call it circuit buying power or whatever you call it, no man can be condemned as a violator of the law who confines his operations to getting supplies necessary for the conduct of his business, even though in doing so, he may make it more difficult for someone else to engage in the same line of business, in the same community."

Wood held Schine is not engaged in interstate commerce, but in a local business. He also denied the "use of threats, coercion and unethical conduct" on the part of the Schines and contends the case is not within the purview of the Sherman Act.

While the government will most likely limit its presentation to the 18 affidavits, it is revealed the defense has more than 50 affidavits signed by sales executives, Schine men and other independents to offer in opposition.

"Schine Not Invader;" Says Most of Deals "Solicited"

BUFFALO—Myer Schine has not been an invader in the towns into which the circuit has spread the past 20 years and, in practically all situations where theatres have been purchased from exhibitors, the deals have been at the solicitation of the seller and without threats, Frederick H. Wood, trial counsel for the Schine circuit in the government suit, held for the record in the pending action.

"With only two or three exceptions during the 20 years' growth of the circuit have the Schines ever gone into a town and rented or built a theatre against exhibitors then operating there," the lawyer added.

"In practically every instance, as appears from Myer Schine's affidavit, his entrance into another town has been brought about through the purchase of the business or theatre of an exhibitor already there who sold to him voluntarily, without threat, without the exercise of compulsion, and in most instances, or at least in a large proportion of instances, solicited Schine to buy him out because for some reason he wanted to sell.

"So Schine has not been an invader. He has been a buyer of the existing business which the man who then owned it wanted to sell without threats or compulsion upon the part of Schine. The circuit expanded by buying theatres of people who wanted to sell theatres."

Raftery, UA Counsel, Is Back From Coast Visit

NEW YORK — Edward C. Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, counsel for UA, returned from the coast Friday after stopovers at Chicago, Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Dallas in connection with the various pending anti-trust suits against major companies.

Raftery canceled a trip to Indianapolis from Dallas when the Bair action against M-G-M, et al., was postponed. He had been gone almost three weeks.

"A-Z" Quiz Answers Face Fourth Delay

NEW YORK—A fourth postponement for answering the A to Z quiz is expected to be sought by distributors following another stalemate in the discussions with Paul Williams, assistant to the attorney general, on the list of interrogatories to be detailed.

For the past few weeks, Williams and distributor counsel have been holding informal meetings in an effort to get together on what the major companies feel are pertinent questions to the issues involved in the all-industry suit. Williams, however, has his own views on what he wants and is prepared to ask the presiding judge of the motion part to order the defendants to answer.

Originally set for October 7, a ten-day respite was given distributors by stipulation because of the amount of work entailed in gathering the data. Several days prior to October 17, another stipulation was agreed upon and the hearing was put over until November 1.

With lawyers of the various companies still knee deep in collecting material from all parts of the country, including Hollywood, it is held further time is necessary before most of the information can be secured. From two to three weeks are expected to be asked in the latest move to delay answering the quiz.

In distributor quarters it is held the meeting with Williams was very friendly and that he admits some questions asked, in view of the corporate setup of the various companies, are too broad. The session is regarded as an exploratory one. No date has been set for another get-together, but it may be next week.

Folly Amusement Refiles Complaint Against UA

NEW YORK—Folly Amusement Holding Corp. has refiled its bill of complaint against UA, which was dismissed some time ago by Federal Judge Edward A. Conger. The new suit is different in wordage, but still fails to include UA specifically, beyond charging that all the defendants conspired against it.

The plaintiff operates the Folly Theatre in Brooklyn, and seeks damages of $750,000 for alleged violations of the Sherman anti-trust act from all majors, Monogram, Republic, the Randforce Amusement Corp., and several individuals.

The Folly also filed a bill of particulars on other defendants, repeating charges made in its complaint.

Analyses of Albany Exchange Accounts Extended in Probe

ALBANY—The government suit against the "big eight" in the producing field has led to extended analyses of accounts and preparation of reports by local exchanges. In one of the major branch offices, Paramount, this work started three months ago. At another, 20th Century-Fox, Joe Burke, Bernie Wolff and Morris Brown of the home office, have been on the job.

Film Figures Invade the Law

Buffalo—" . . . and in the same two and a half years (Schine) has spent over one-half billion dollars in building new, modern up-to-date theatres in towns where the theatres previously in operation were old and antiquated," Frederick H. Wood, special counsel defending the circuit in the government suit was telling the court. Other lawyers looked startled.

"The government would have Your Honor stop these operations, stop the completion of these theatres in which $500,000,000 has already been spent and $300,000,000 of outstanding commitments because Schine means to open more and operate a number of theatres," Wood persisted.

By this time, efforts to flag the attorney were unavailing. It was pretty obvious Wood meant thousands, not millions, but that did not influence one lawyer from observing dryly, "Fred must have been thinking of his fee."



Stop what you're doing and take good notice! Your theatres have reached no gross so high, have held no drama so long, that it can't be topped by this attraction! It is Cagney co-starred with Priscilla Lane in 'The Roaring '20's'! Read the reviews! Follow the tip! Tell your customers *now!*

JAMES CAGNEY
and
PRISCILLA LANE
in "THE
ROARING TWENTIES"
with
HUMPHREY BOGART • GLADYS GEORGE
FRANK McHUGH • JEFFREY LYNN • PAUL KELLY
Directed by RAOUL WALSH
Screen Play by Jerry Wald, Richard Macaulay and Robert Rossen • From an Original Story by Mark Hellinger

Warners for Action!
Warners for Fair Play! Warners for 'The
ROARING TWENTIES'

Washington Meets Capra's Mr. Smith

By RED KANN

WASHINGTON—Tuesday was Capra Day here.

Congress discussed neutrality. Lobbyists were functioning, as usual, on behalf of their special interests. But the city knew that Mr. Smith and Capra, his mentor, had arrived in Washington.

The producer came in from Hollywood. He was the friendly target of a luncheon thrown in his honor by the directors of the National Press Club and most of the members were there. Capra spoke. So did W. G. Van Schmus, managing director of the Music Hall which will house Mr. Smith during his first-run stay in New York. Arthur Hachten, president of the press club, finished off the talks.

A group of 60 journeyed down from New York to greet Mr. Smith as he went to Washington. They included New York newspaper critics, representatives of news syndicates, trade papers, national magazines and, of course, the top kick men from Columbia's home office. In Philadelphia and Baltimore, others joined up and, by the time the out-of-New York contingent had arrived, Boston already was on hand.

Some repaired immediately to the Mayflower Hotel. Others, by arrangement, had an opportunity to listen to the neutrality debate in Congress. All had an early dinner and, in the evening, converged at Constitution Hall as a small segment in an audience of 4,000 which had assembled for the world premiere on the account of Mr. Smith and what and how he did it in Washington. Since the far-famed National Press Club was host, many of the visiting newspapermen stuck around press headquarters after their stories were filed and at 2 o'clock Wednesday morning, rejoined their temporary Pullman abodes for the journey to their respective cities.

Not only this. Columbia, which hasn't had a junket of this kind until Mr. Smith made one possible, gathered up important exhibitors from the surrounding territory.

For instance, these: From Baltimore: Frank Durkee, Durkee circuit; I. M. Rappaport, Hippodrome Theatre; J. Louis Rome, Rome circuit. From Washington: John J. Payette, general zone manager, Warner theatres; George A. Crouch, assistant general zone manager, Warner theatres; Charles Olive and Fred Kogod, Atlas and Princess; A. E. Lichtman, Lichtman circuit; Louis Bernheimer, Bernheimer theatres; Morton Thalhimer and Sam Bendheim, Neighborhood Theatres, Richmond, Va.; Ben Pitts, Pitts circuit, Fredericksburg, Va.; Louis Ribnitzki, chief booker, Warner theatres; J. Henry Hiser, Hiser, Bethesda, Md.; Herman Rubin, Century, Petersburg, Va.; William Wilder, Wilder theatres, Norfolk, Va.; Leonard Gordon, Palace, Newport News, Va.; Mrs. Clara Wachter, Henry's, Hagerstown, Md.; Mrs. Grace Fisher, the Maryland, Cumberland, Md.; Hunter Perry, Paramount, Charlottesville, Md., and Elmore D. Heins, Roanoke, Va.

From New York, newspaper and trade

(Continued on page 19)

He's a Never-Licked-Yet Optimist

New York—War, weather, punk product, catastrophe, studio strikes, major shake-ups and market crashes notwithstanding, the industry has never faced a crisis from which it did not extricate itself, and the Second World War and its implications is no exception.

That, rather briefly, is the nostalgic reaction of a declared veteran of 25 years, at present the film buyer for a major circuit, when confronted with the query: "What's going to happen if each of the majors lops off from one to four pictures because the loss of foreign revenue dictates a general economy wave which might ultimately suggest the dropping of certain planned productions?"

Says he, "I have seen emergency situations far more drastic in terms of dollars and cents than that which seems to be cropping up ever since the new war began. Don't fear, we always find a way, and you can be sure it's usually not a very painful way, either. As matters stand today, I think it is something to cheer about. It's the best opportunity the industry has ever had to balance itself. It means cleaning house in Hollywood, the lifeblood of our existence."

Private Job Increase Boon to Cleveland

CLEVELAND—Relief officials in Cleveland state that more than 3,000 family heads have left relief rolls during the last 60 days for private jobs. This is a reversal of the relief trend here a year ago when thousands were added to the WPA and city relief rolls because of business recession.

Relief officials credit today's business improvement in mills, shops and factories as reason for absorbing workers.

Employment supervisors for WPA in Cuyahoga county report more than 2,000 had left WPA jobs for private industry in August and September. City relief officials say more than 500 had informed relief visitors that they had obtained private jobs during the two-month period and officials added that as many more had gone into private industry without notifying visitors.

Similarly, the officials of the National Youth Administration in Cleveland state that a total of 71 youths have, during the past two months, left the rolls for private jobs.

Conduct Nationwide Tour For Map-Ad Service

KANSAS CITY—Pausing here for conclusion of local theatre contracts, Victor Cornelius, president, and T. C. Collins, general sales manager of Victor Cornelius Nap-Ad, Eastland, Tex., announced a nationwide tour in behalf of the theatre poster service firm. The tour from here will include St. Louis, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington, Charlotte, Atlanta, New Orleans, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Among circuits already represented in Nap-Ad contracts are Gibraltar, Fox West Coast, Fox Intermountain, Fox Midwest, Griffith groups, Robb and Rowley, Rialto, Frisini, Kerasotes, Fox Everg reen, Westland, Atlas, and Coles.

Goetz Will Rest

NEW YORK—Ben Goetz, M-G-M production executive, has been discharged from Doctor's Hospital and is planning a trip to the coast after a short rest.

Vodvil Influx Posing Problem for Majors

NEW YORK—Impact on distributors of the recent influx of vaudeville at independent houses in the metropolitan area is seen in the inquiries being directed at unclosed accounts to ascertain how much, if any, screen playing time may be lost.

From the tenor of queries, according to exhibitors who have been approached, there is a growing uneasiness among sales heads over the bullish market on stage acts, whether name bands, variety units or revivals of amateur nights. Reduced to its essentials, the anxiety is only where 1939-40 deals have not been concluded. In these cases the chances of getting a deal is seen to be considerably reduced if the exhibitor decides to drop one or two companies' product in favor of flesh.

It is admitted in sales circles that virtually every flesh performance displaces a second feature and that where the one-film-vaudeville policy clicks at least one, perhaps two, distributors may lose out. This calculation is on the basis of stage shows for a three-day maximum basis. Where the shows run the full week, film consumption is proportionately less.

At present there are about 12 houses in this area using one or more forms of stage attractions. Varying results are reported, but, in the main, there appears to be no cheering over boxoffice returns. At the same time, it is to be borne in mind that New York independents are about the last to sign up for new season product. Sales executives say the present impetus of vaudeville may only amount to a trial horse before the time arrives for independents to affix signatures to sales contracts. If the new combination program meets with any success, costlier film offerings will have fewer takers, is the tacit admission.

RKO-Blank Des Moines Pool Ends Next Month

NEW YORK—The RKO-Blank pool in Des Moines will be definitely terminated next month, it is learned with the return of J. J. O'Connor, general manager of RKO theatre operations, from a visit to Des Moines and Chicago. The exact date now is being worked out.

The greatest advance radio build-up ever accorded a motion picture *for* DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK

THREE-WEEK NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN CLIMAXES WITH THE KATE SMITH PROGRAM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Read the thrilling details:

- Night after night, day after day, the full three-week campaign, unprecedented in radio, is already under way, not only on all Kate Smith's programs, but also on other famous CBS programs.
- *The spectacular climax—a dramatization of "Drums Along the Mohawk"—will occupy 25 minutes of Kate Smith's one-hour show on the evening of November 3, in addition to plugs throughout the rest of the program.*
- 76 stations of the CBS network will carry the message to millions.
- *Kate Smith's program has the highest rating on the air today, insuring a record audience for this broadcast.*
- The November 3 show will be broadcast twice — once at 8-9 p. m., E.T , for the Eastern states; again at 9-10 p. m., P.T., for the Western states.
- *The date of this broadcast is just one week prior to release date, timed to hit with maximum boxoffice effect for exhibitors playing "Drums Along the Mohawk" on Armistice Day.*

20th CENTURY FOX
THE KEYSTONE OF YOUR FUTURE

"U-BOAT 29" EMERGES TO TOP WITH 200 MARK

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

U-Boat 29—New York 200
Intermezzo—New Orleans 150
Babes in Arms—Philadelphia.....150
All Quiet on the Western Front (dual)—Chicago.....140
The Real Glory (dual)—New Haven 140
Dust Be My Destiny—New York 135
The Rains Came—Cleveland (3rd wk.) 135

EXTENDED RUNS

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, 22nd wk., New York City.

End of a Day, 5th wk., Filmarte, New York City.

Stanley and Livingstone, 4th wk., Pittsburgh.

The Women, 4th wk., Chicago; 3rd wk., Detroit, New York, Seattle.

Fifth Avenue Girl, 3rd wk., Portland.

Honeymoon in Bali, 3rd wk., New York City.

Lucrezia Borgia, 3rd wk., Minneapolis.

The Old Maid, 3rd loop wk., Chicago.

The Rains Came, 3rd wk., Cleveland, Oklahoma City, Pittsburgh.

BOSTON

Fenway—**What a Life** (Para); **Television Spy** (Para) 120
Memorial—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Full Confession** (RKO), 2nd wk. 55
Metropolitan—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.; **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox)... 60
Orpheum—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 120
Paramount—Same as Fenway 120
State—Same as Orpheum 115

CHARLOTTE

Carolina—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), 1st half.. 90
Carolina—**The Real Glory** (UA), 2nd half....100
Imperial—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M), 1st half. 90
Imperial—**Espionage Agent** (FN), 2nd half.... 90
State—**Frontier Pony Express** (Rep).....100

CHICAGO

Apollo—**The Old Maid** (FN), 3rd loop wk.....100
Chicago—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), plus stage show, held 2nd wk.....120
Garrick—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), new version; **Night Work** (Para)...140
Oriental—**Stanley & Livingstone** (20th-Fox); **Lady of the Tropics** (M-G-M), plus stage show; both pictures 2nd loop showings.....100
Palace—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO), plus stage show 100
Roosevelt—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN), 2nd wk..110
State-Lake—**Coast Guard** (Col), plus stage show 95
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M), 4th wk..110

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox).....100
Capitol—**Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M) 120
Keith's—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN).....130
Lyric—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 2nd wk.....130
Palace—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), held 130
Shubert—**The Under-Pup** (Univ), plus stage show 120

CLEVELAND

Allen—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk...135
Hippodrome—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO).....110
Palace—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN). Stage: Watercade 85
State—**Intermezzo** (UA) 80
Stillman—**They Shall Have Music** (UA)..... 65

DALLAS

Capitol—**Behind Prison Gates** (Col), 1st half.. 90
Capitol—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN), 2nd half 100
Palace—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para).....125
Majestic—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox)....125
Rialto—**Coast Guard** (Col), 1st half.....100
Rialto—**Under-Pup** (Univ), 2nd half.....100
Tower—**The Women** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....120

DENVER

Aladdin—**The Fight for Peace** (Mono)..... 65
Broadway—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Conspiracy** (RKO), after a wk. at the Orpheum.100
Denham—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para), 2 days after full wk.; **What a Life** (Para), 5 days to start full wk. 125
Denver—**The Old Maid** (FN) 120
Orpheum—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Way Down South** (RKO) 95
Paramount—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN); **Hawaiian Nights** (Univ) 120
Rialto—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Whispering Enemies** (Col) 115

DETROIT

Adams—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., after 2 wks. at Fox; **In Name Only** (RKO), after wk. at Fox 90
Cinema—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), 2nd wk., after 1 wk. at Adams; **The Edge of the World** (Jack Rock Prod., England) 90
Fox—**The Road to Glory** (20th-Fox); **Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox)..... 95
Michigan—**Four Feathers** (UA); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 85
Palms State—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), after wk. at Michigan; **What a Life** (Para), after wk. at Michigan 90
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.. 85

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Riders of Black River** (Col); **Mutiny on the Blackhawk** (Univ) 75
Apollo—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para); **Full Confession** (RKO) 75
Circle—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ); **The Under-Pup** (Univ) 90
Indiana—**The Old Maid** (FN); **Hobby Family** (FN) 110
Loew's—**Golden Boy** (Col); **U-Boat 29** (Col)... 85
Lyric—**Indianapolis Speedway** (WB); Ozzie Nelson orchestra stage show 120

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox)... 85
Midland—**Golden Boy** (Col); **U-Boat 29** (Col).. 75
Newman—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), holdover. 70
Orpheum—**The Old Maid** (FN); **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (WB), holdover.... 80
Tower—**Hero for a Day** (Univ), Gene Austin on stage 125
Uptown—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox)... 85

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox); **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox)..100
Downtown—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN); **Kid Nightingale** (WB) 90
Four Star—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox)..100
Hillstreet—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Full Confession** (RKO), 2nd wk.....125
Hollywood—Same as Downtown 90
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet 110
Paramount—**What a Life** (Para); **Count Basie and Dead End Kids** on stage 200
State—Same as Chinese 100

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **Coast Guard** (Col) 120
Riverside—**Calling All Marines** (Rep), plus stage show 125
Strand—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox); **Unexpected Father** (Univ) 100
Warner—**Espionage Agent** (FN); **The Under-Pup** (Univ) 90
Wisconsin—**The Women** (M-G-M); **Miracles for Sale** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..... 90

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Death of a Champion** (Para); **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox) 90
Century—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ)..... 90
Gopher—**What a Life** (Para) 100
Minnesota—**Mickey the Kid** (Rep), plus stage show 95
Orpheum—**The Man in the Iron Mask** (UA).... 95
State—**The Women** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....100
Time—**Lucrezia Borgia** (Foreign), 3rd wk..... 80
World—**Stolen Life** (Para), 2nd wk..... 90

NEW HAVEN

College—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ); **Five Little Peppers** (Col).....110
Loew-Poli—**Goden Boy** (Col); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 105
Paramount—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para); **Island of Lost Men** (Para), 6 days..... 75
Roger Sherman—**The Real Glory** (UA); **Hawaiian Nights** (Univ), 8 days.....140

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Gracie Allen Murder Case** (Para)..... 75
Globe—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ)..... 80
Liberty—**I Stole a Million** (Univ)..... 90
Orpheum—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN).....125
Saenger—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para).....130
State—**Intermezzo** (UA) 150
Tudor—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd run.. 95

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M), 21st wk., held 100
Capitol—**The Women** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.....130
Criterion—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para)..... 90
Globe—**U-Boat 29** (Col) 200
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 3rd wk., plus stage show 120
Radio City Music Hall—**Intermezzo** (UA), plus stage show 125
Rivoli—**Real Glory** (UA), final 6 days of 4th wk. 100
Roxy—**Eternally Yours** (UA), plus stage show..125
Strand—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN), plus stage show 135

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**The Women** (M-G-M) 115
Liberty—**The Chicken Wagon Family** (20th-Fox); **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox) 100
Midwest—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN)..... 85
Plaza—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk... 90
State—**Sabotage** (Rep); **Mickey the Kid** (Rep), 4 days 100
State—**Whispering Enemies** (Col); **The Zero Hour** (Rep), 3 days 100
Tower—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox)..... 80

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO) 130
Omaha—**The Real Glory** (UA); **Miracles for Sale** (M-G-M) 115
Orpheum—**The Under-Pup** (Univ); Stage, Glen Gray and his Casa Loma orchestra.....105

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**Intermezzo** (UA), 2nd wk. 75
Boyd—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M) 150
Earle—**Rio** (Univ), with Ted Fio-Rito's orchestra on stage 75
Fox—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox) 90
Karlton—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 2nd run.110
Palace—**The Old Maid** (FN), 3rd run.....125
Stanley—**Beau Geste** (Para), 2nd wk., 5 days 120
Stanton—**Espionage Agent** (FN) 115

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox).... 70
Barry—**Conspiracy** (RKO); **Code of the Secret Service** (WB) 80
Fulton—**Stanley and Livingstone** (20th-Fox), 4 days, 4th wk., with Louis-Pastor fight pictures 90
Penn—**Blackmail** (M-G-M) 90
Senator—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 3rd d. t. wk. 130
Stanley—**These Glamour Girls** (M-G-M); stage shows resumed with **Eddie Cantor Revue**...200
Warner—**Way Down South** (RKO); **The Saint in London** (RKO) 65

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN); **The Under-Pup** (Univ) 120
Liberty—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk..... 90
Mayfair—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Forgotten Woman** (Univ) 90
Orpheum—**Waterfront** (WB); Jimmie Grier and Band 110
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **Stolen Life** (Para), 2nd wk..... 90
United Artists—**The Women** (M-G-M), 3rd wk...100

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**Hawaiian Nights** (Univ); **Chicken Wagon Family** (20th-Fox).....105
Centre—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox).....115
Paramount—**Four Feathers** (UA) 120
Studio—**The Star Maker** (Para).....115
Utah—**What a Life** (Para); **$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para) 120
Victory—**Adventures of Robin Hood** (FN), 2nd run; **Frontier Pony Express** (Rep) 115

SEATTLE

Fifth Avenue—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Hero for a Day** (Univ) 100
Liberty—**The Real Glory** (UA) 100
Music Box—**The Women** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.... 90
Orpheum—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Stronger Than Desire** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....100
Palomar—**Espionage Agent** (FN), plus stage show 90
Paramount—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox).....110

Film Gives Solons Statecraft Lowdown

(Continued from page 16)

paper representatives included: Jack Alicoate, Chester B. Bahn, Howard Barnes, William Boehnel, Colvin Brown, Herbert Cohen, Eileen Creelman, Frank Farrell, Dale Harrison, Arthur James, Bland Johaneson, George Lait, Chick Lewis, Daniel D. Mich, Leo Mishkin, Lee Mortimer, Frank Nugent, Rose Pelswick, George Ross, Sam Shain, Frances Simon, H. Allen Smith, Frederick James Smith, Jack Stinnett, Irene Thirer, Archer Winsten, Joan Younger. From Philadelphia: Bernard Bergman, Jay Emanuel, Jeff Keen, Henry Murdock, Samuel Schwab, Moe Wax. From Baltimore: Norman Clark, Gilbert Kanouer. From Boston: Marjory Adams, Joyce Dana, Peggy Doyle, Helen Eager, Prunella Hall, Charles Howard, Elinor Hughes, John Hutchens.

Cabinet members, a flock of senators and congressmen, high dignitaries of the army and navy also were on hand. They included, among other, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Postmaster General James A. Farley, U. S. Solicitor General Robert Jackson, Charles Edison, acting secretary of navy; Jesse H. Jones, chairman of RFC; U. S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley F. Reed, Attorney General Frank Murphy, Gen. Hugh S. Johnson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce John Monroe Johnson, Dr. S. L. Rowe, director of Pan-American Union; District Commissioner Melvin C. Hazen, Col. Edward A. Halsey, secretary of the senate; Col. Ed Starling, chief of White House secret service; Daniel C. Roper, former secretary of commerce; Assistant Secretary of War Louis Johnson, Assistant Secretary of Interior Everett K. Burlew, Senators Alben W. Barkley, Arthur Capper, Hattie E. Caraway, Vic Donahey, William H. King, George W. Norris, Clyde M. Reed, Robert F. Wagner; Congressmen Bruce Barton, Sol Bloom, Charles A. Buckley, Joseph W. Byrns jr., Frank Crowther, Martin Dies, Hamilton Fish, Joseph A. Gavagan, Louis Ludlow, Matthew J. Merritt, Mary T. Norton, Caroline O'Day, Leon Sacks and Christopher D. Sullivan.

Reflecting their pride and their enthusiasm, Columbia's delegation was made up of Harry and Jack Cohn, Abe Montague, Abe Schneider, Nate B. Spingold, Maurice A. Bergman, Hortense Schorr, Leonard Gaynor, Hank Kaufman and Bernard Zeeman.

M-G-M Gets a Rival In Another Field

Springfield, Ill.—M-G-M, Inc., of Mt. Vernon, Ill., has been granted a state charter. Purpose: Not pictures, but drilling for oil and gas. The company is so named because the initials of its three incorporators spell MGM.

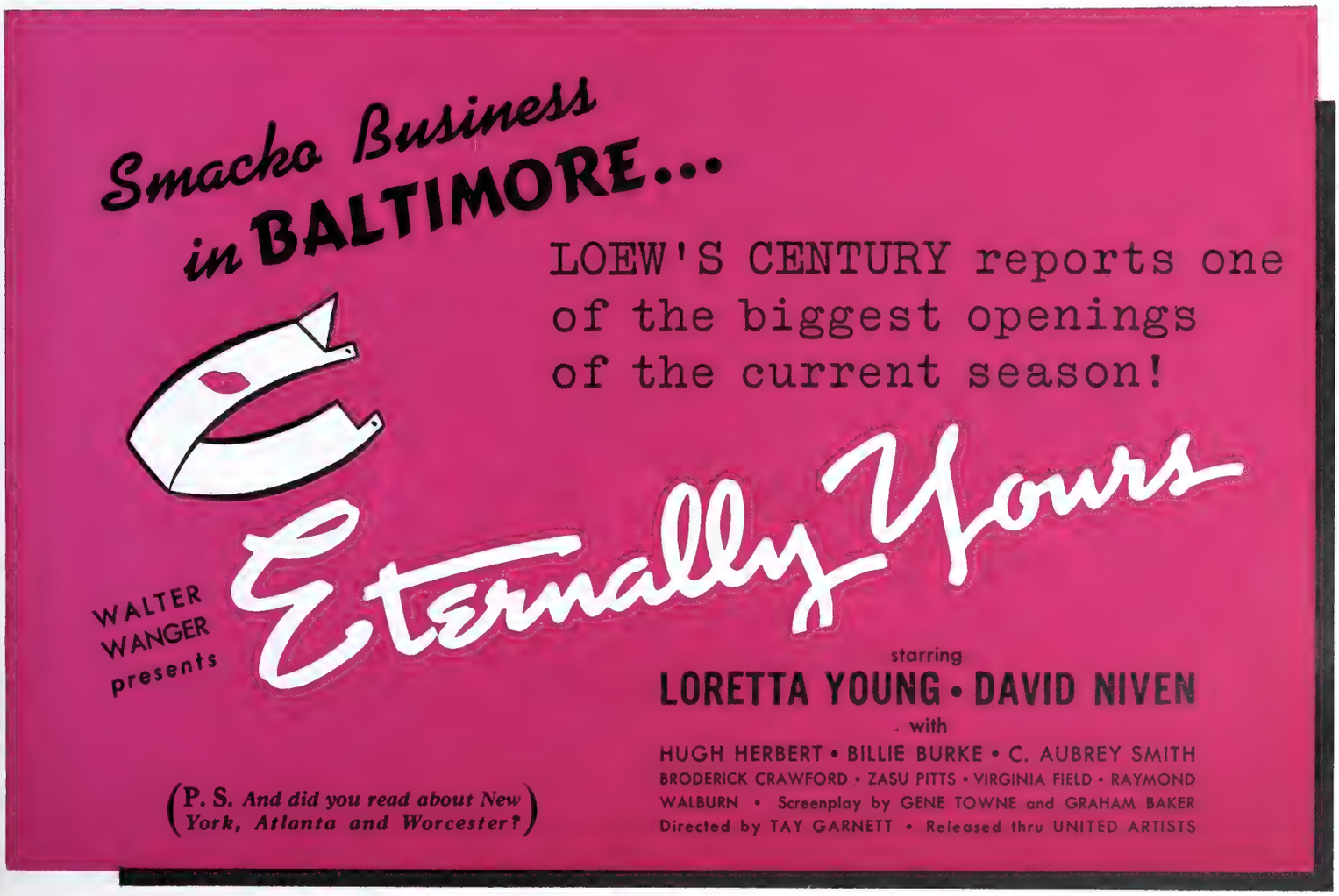
Denies Producer Rap; Cites Dual 'Menace'

CHICAGO—Edwin Silverman of the Essaness circuit denies having told a BOXOFFICE reporter producers are off their base when they seek to advise theatre operators how to conduct their business. He was so quoted in commenting on the Schenck plan for extending playing time. "After all, in this industry we need cooperation and more of it and such silly statements as I am credited with having made wouldn't be conducive to the spirit that the industry needs," he states.

Additionally, Silverman voices a thought on duals, "I also want to add that, with the advent of double features, showmanship has practically disappeared. This is not only proven by out-of-the-theatre advertising; it also is reflected in the newspaper advertising. The best thing to do in this country would be to follow the move of the Odeon circuit in London and return to single features and progressive showmanship."

TAD's Principal Assets Acquired by Alexander

COLORADO SPRINGS — Acquisition of the principal assets of TAD Screen Advertising, Inc., Dallas, by Alexander Film Co. is announced by J. Don Alexander, president. TAD was formed three years ago and has been Alexander's largest competitor.



SMPE Awards Medal To Lloyd A. Jones

NEW YORK—The annual Progress Medal of the Society of M. P. Engineers goes to Dr. Lloyd A. Jones of the Eastman Kodak Laboratories. Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, president of Technicolor, receives the Society's *Journal* Award for the outstanding paper published in its publication during the year.

Both presentations climaxed the four-day annual fall convention at the Hotel Pennsylvania which ended Thursday after a series of technical sessions at which the latest advances in motion picture technology were outlined.

Preparations are already under way for the annual spring convention in Atlantic City April 22-26.

Jones, the recipient of the *Journal* Award in 1935, was singled out for the Progress Medal because of his work in photographic research. Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith, prominent consultant, complimented Jones with particular reference "to his investigations of sensitometric procedures; his studies of photographic processes, his contributions to precision in photographic terminology and his determination of the criteria of pictorial excellence achieved by photographic processes."

E. P. Curtis, official of the Eastman Kodak Co., made the *Journal* Award presentation to Dr. Kalmus, who last year was honored with the Progress Medal, for his paper, "Technicolor Adventures in Cinemaland."

Probably the most colorful event to the 300 delegates was the address of Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia at the opening day luncheon. The mayor in his characteristic style urged the industry to return "to where it received its start" and produce pictures in New York City.

"I would be very happy to confer with any delegates or agents who could convince the producers of the advantages of returning to New York," the mayor declared. "This isn't a small town chamber of commerce talk. I mean it," he emphasized.

The mayor called New York "the art center of the world" in extolling the cultural assets of the city. "We have everything else and more of it," he said proudly.

LaGuardia made it clear that cheaper conditions would not prevail. "I don't think it will cost any less. We pay decent wages here, too."

Screen and the radio were praised by the mayor as the media that has taken from the political machine the power once wielded. He labeled the screen "a great medium of education and entertainment."

E. A. Williford, SMPE president, who presided, also introduced Congressman Bruce Barton and W. G. Van Schmus to the delegates.

Every phase of the technical science of motion pictures including the practical field of projection occupied the delegates.

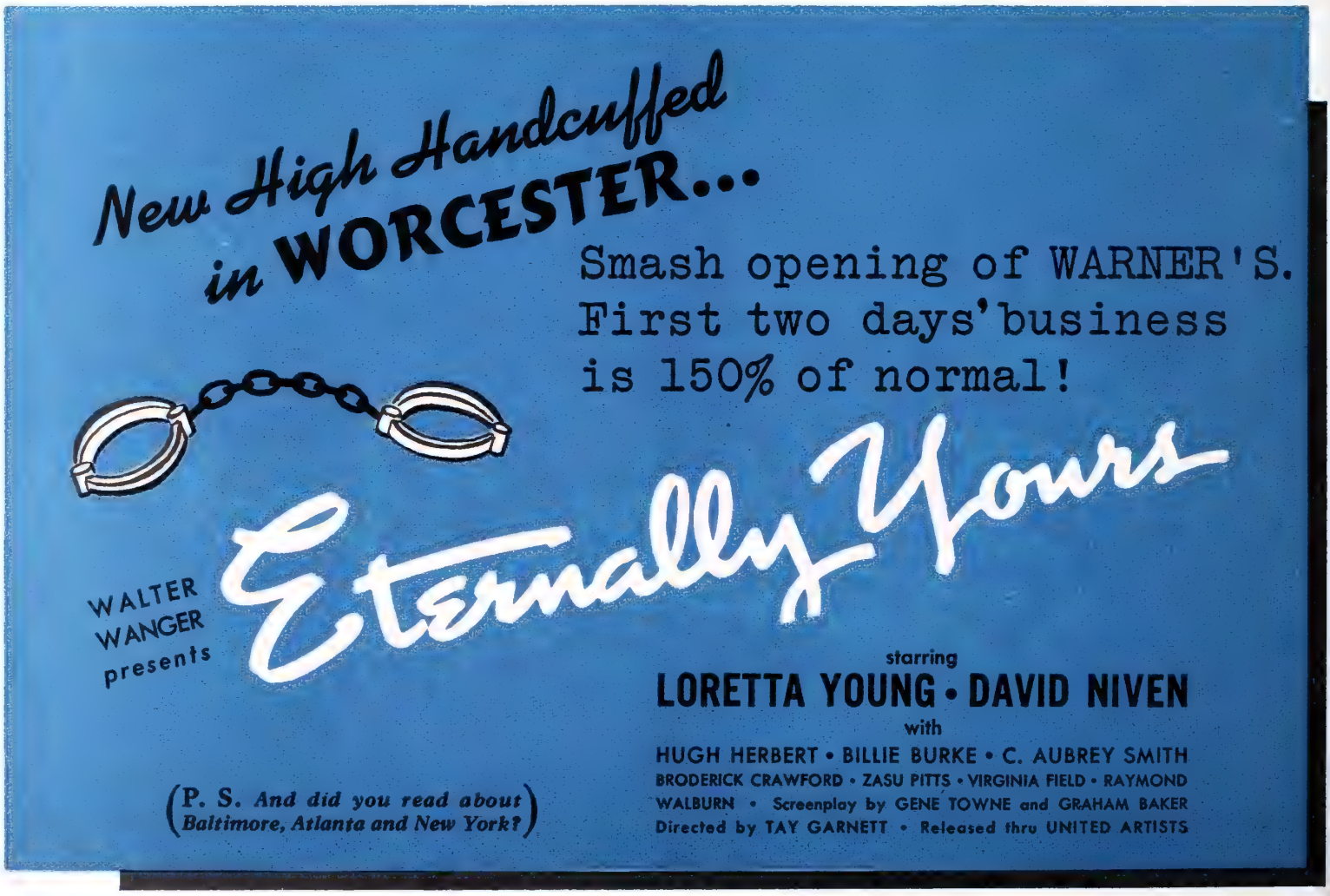
Attracting considerable attention was J. A. Norling of Loucks and Norling Studios, whose paper described how motion pictures in three dimensions utilized polarized light. Peter C. Goldmark and Paul S. Hendricks of Columbia Broadcasting told of a unique system they developed for the production of desired reverberation effects to meet the special requirements of television production.

At the Engineering Societies Bldg., delegates witnessed a demonstration in which "Vocoder," the big brother of "Voder" played the feature part. Homer Dudley of the Bell Telephone Laboratories explained how the new device actually "codes" the words, expressions and tones uttered by a speaker or singer in such a way that all sorts of "tricks" may be performed on human speech and on vocal as well as instrumental music. It will also create intelligible speech out of non-speech sounds.

Dr. S. S. Stevens of the department of psychology at Harvard presented a paper in which he discussed the problem of sound distortion within the human ear.

Two new officers were elected. D. E. Hyndman, of the Eastman Kodak Co., who is chairman of the Society's Atlantic coast section, is engineering vice-president. R. O. Strock of the Eastern Service Studios is the treasurer. A. S. Dickinson, financial vice-president, and J. Frank jr., secretary, were returned for additional terms.

Kalmus Accoladed For Leading Paper



NAT'L ALLIED DETERMINED TO SET UP OWN STATE UNIT; SQUABBLE WITH COHEN GROWS

Head of Expelled Unit in Convention Summons to "Clear Away Smoke"

NEW YORK—National Allied will not be deterred from nurturing the nucleus for an affiliated unit within the borders of New York.

Max A. Cohen, president of Allied of New York, which has been expelled from the parent organization, has called a meeting of all state units for November 1, in Syracuse to "clear away the smoke"

This might be the sum and substance of about a month of smoldering between a minority faction being coached by Col. H. A. Cole, national president, and Sidney Samuelson, national board member, and that group which professes to be behind Cohen.

However, the picture would not be complete without a few details. E. Thornton Kelly, discharged secretary of Allied of New York, and leg man for the faction being sponsored by Cole and Samuelson, had said the meeting in Syracuse, October 17, was for the purpose of a "showdown" as to which way the unit was going —with Cohen or national Allied.

Officially, the group that met passed a resolution criticizing Cohen's action in discharging Kelly—termed an excessive act of Cohen's authority—and went on record as regarding the session as "legal," inasmuch as Cohen had characterized the meeting as outside the bounds of the organization's constitution.

The Allied Viewpoint

Both Cole and Samuelson addressed the Syracuse gathering. Each of the national leaders was interviewed by BOXOFFICE. Cole said: "The membership of Allied of New York thinks as we do, but it has been misled and misinformed. If the situation in New York is left alone, it only means that a good organization will go to pot. The New York unit cannot be a member of national Allied with Cohen as its head. The attitude is to break away from Cohen and seek membership with national Allied, which will probably be accepted."

Samuelson said: "We're in a campaign in New York. We have very definite plans, but we're not telegraphing our blows. As a national Allied board member, who went to Syracuse with purely selfish motives, I am completely satisfied with results."

Cole bore out Samuelson's assertion that a "plan" had been presented to the Syracuse assemblage which Samuelson would not divulge. However, Cole declared the "plan" was "recommended" by Samuelson and the members present "seemed to like it."

The national Allied president asserted he is anxious to learn what has become of

(Continued on page 24-E)

Picture Pioneers Enjoy Fall Festival; 150 Members Now

NEW YORK—With the initiation of 41 additional veterans, a number of them from out of New York, Picture Pioneers, Inc., now has a total membership of 150. And very much to its sponsors' surprise.

For, when Jack Cohn and a handful of others, conceived the idea of banding together socially—at the rate of a couple of functions a year—those who could establish by documentation the fact they had been active in the industry for 25 years or more, it was figured 30 men would constitute the peak load in New York.

At any rate, the fall shindig was held at Colbert's, fashionable east side restaurant, Friday evening. The keynote was old-time, nostalgic stuff with an occasional fairly modern touch like cocktails, and all anyone could stand, on the house from approximately seven o'clock until dinner time. Dinner was beefsteak and beer.

There were old-fashioned song slides, vaudeville—remember?—lined up by Marvin Schenck of the Loew office and a 15 minute, historically-grounded reel of material shot 40 years ago by Lumiere of Paris and projected by Francis Doublier, who is credited with being the first commercial cameraman and projectionist. Hal Hode says so, anyway. Joe Hornstein edited the subject which as made up of clips showing a number of noted scientists who had worked on the principles of motion pictures.

E. K. (Ted) O'Shea, Metro district manager, turned out to be the "guinea pig" in a mock trial procedure by which new applicants were finally admitted to membership. Fake charges designed to prove O'Shea was undesirable, despite his 25 years or more in the industry, were introduced and witnesses for prosecution and defense brought before Judge Ferdinand Pecora who, to no one's surprise, finally ruled O'Shea was O. K.

New members taken into the fold Friday night include Phil Reisman, J. A. Hopfenberg, Joseph Rothman, Charles J. Gribbon, Bert Ennis, Lou Rydell, Adolph Haas, David A. Levy, Nat Beier, Elmore D. Heins of Roanoke; William Skirball of Cleveland; Henri Elman of Chicago; Alan Friedman, Morris Josephs of New Haven; Cresson E. Smith, Herman Wobber, Larry Beatus, William A. Downs, Frank Doublier, W. H. Rippard, Arthur G. Whyte, Max Cohen of Universal; J. J. Fitzgibbons of Toronto; Leo Devaney of Toronto; Arthur Gottlieb, Herman Stern, Oscar C. Binder, Charles Goetz, J. H. Hoffberg, Leo Justin, Harry Karasik, Joseph A. McConville, Eugene Meyers, Peter Siebel, Jules Levy, Harvey Day sr., Maurice Seidlitz, Edward M. Saunders, Edward S. Gaylor and O'Shea.

An Exhibitor With a Social Conscience

New York—Jack Ellis, RKO's Brooklyn salesman, tells the story of an exhibitor who, after refusing to come to terms on new product, facetiously suggested that he might sell his theatre.

Ellis suggested he might have a prospective buyer.

The exhibitor evinced a keen and serious interest. "Who's got money to buy my house in times like this?"

"It happens to be a refugee from Berlin," was Ellis' answer.

"Nothing doing, no sale" shot the exhibitor. "He can't have my house. He's suffered enough."

Joe Nolan as RKO's 'Cliff Work' Seen

NEW YORK—Joe Nolan, RKO studio manager, is expected to be placed in charge of general operations under George J. Schaefer, president, under a similar setup prevailing at Universal where Cliff Work handles all details and reports to Nate J. Blumberg. According to official sources, Schaefer has been considering a new RKO production head to succeed Pandro Berman, but nothing definite is expected to happen for some time. Schaefer is due back from Hollywood in a fortnight by present plans.

For the first six months of the current year, RKO and subsidiaries reported a net operating loss of $68,070.29, which is $412,105.75 under the same period last year. In discussing the companies' business for the ten months of the current year, A. Christensen, vice-president of Irving Trust, trustee, states, "On the whole operations are better than last year." Net loss for the first six months in 1938 totaled $480,176.04.

The theatre company continues to show profitable results. The first 26 weeks of 1939 resulted in a net profit of $482,650.07 as compared with $416,478.69 for the same weeks last year. The picture company showed a loss of $756,668.14 for the period as against $1,135,522.42 last year for the first six months. Pathe News had a $49,881.43 net profit for the current first 26 weeks which compares with a profit of $117,574.41 for the first six months of 1938.

Myers' Double Pat Creates an Enigma

NEW YORK—Abram F. Myers, patting Warner and M-G-M on the back for their stand in adopting principles of the code in new season's selling, is an enigma to some of his adherents.

Myers commended the two companies at the Kalamazoo meeting of Allied of Michigan. This is regarded as a reversal of his attitude in Minneapolis.

"When these two companies wanted to incorporate the concessions into an agreement and make it obligatory upon themselves to fulfill, Myers took a rap at them," a leading local independent states. "Now that Gradwell Sears and Bill Rodgers come out with the same things, or nearly all of the concessions and offer them voluntarily, Myers praises them."

The exhibitor wants to know "why the red herring all of a sudden on part of national Allied by tendering flowers to a corpse that can't smell them?"

One interpretation claims Allied is backwatering on the theory many exhibitors are realizing the fallacy of the national organization's deathknell to the code. Now that the code is a thing of the past, exhibitors are glad to get whatever concessions distributors will offer, this independent states, when previously they could have secured much more and under different conditions.

Cohen Sends Notice; 8 Show Up

Syracuse—So that there will be no confusion as to the legality of the meeting called by E. Thornton Kelly for the formation of a new New York allied unit, Max A. Cohen, president of the recognized organization, sent out a notice to all members Friday advising them there would be no meeting on October 17, the date set by Kelly.

Only eight exhibitors appeared at Tuesday's session, exclusive of Col. H. A. Cole, national Allied president, and Sidney E. Samuelson, national director.

New York—Max A. Cohen took another sideswipe at national Allied directors who are trying to form an opposition unit to Allied of New York by terming the Syracuse gathering "a fourth fiasco."

Serve Schine Defendants With Injunction Briefs

NEW YORK — Attorneys for defendant companies and the Schine circuit were served this week by the government with briefs for a temporary injunction in the anti-trust suit pending in the Buffalo federal courts. Willard S. McKay, local counsel for the Schines, leaves for Gloversville next week for conferences on the government briefs and other details in connection with the case.

Capra Deprecates Scare Over War

CHICAGO—En route to Washington from the coast, Frank Capra told BOXOFFICE "everyone is getting too much excited" in Hollywood over the European war situation. "Everyone is pretty much up in the air and appears to be worried and they are talking nothing but cutting down to the bone on expenses at every possible point."

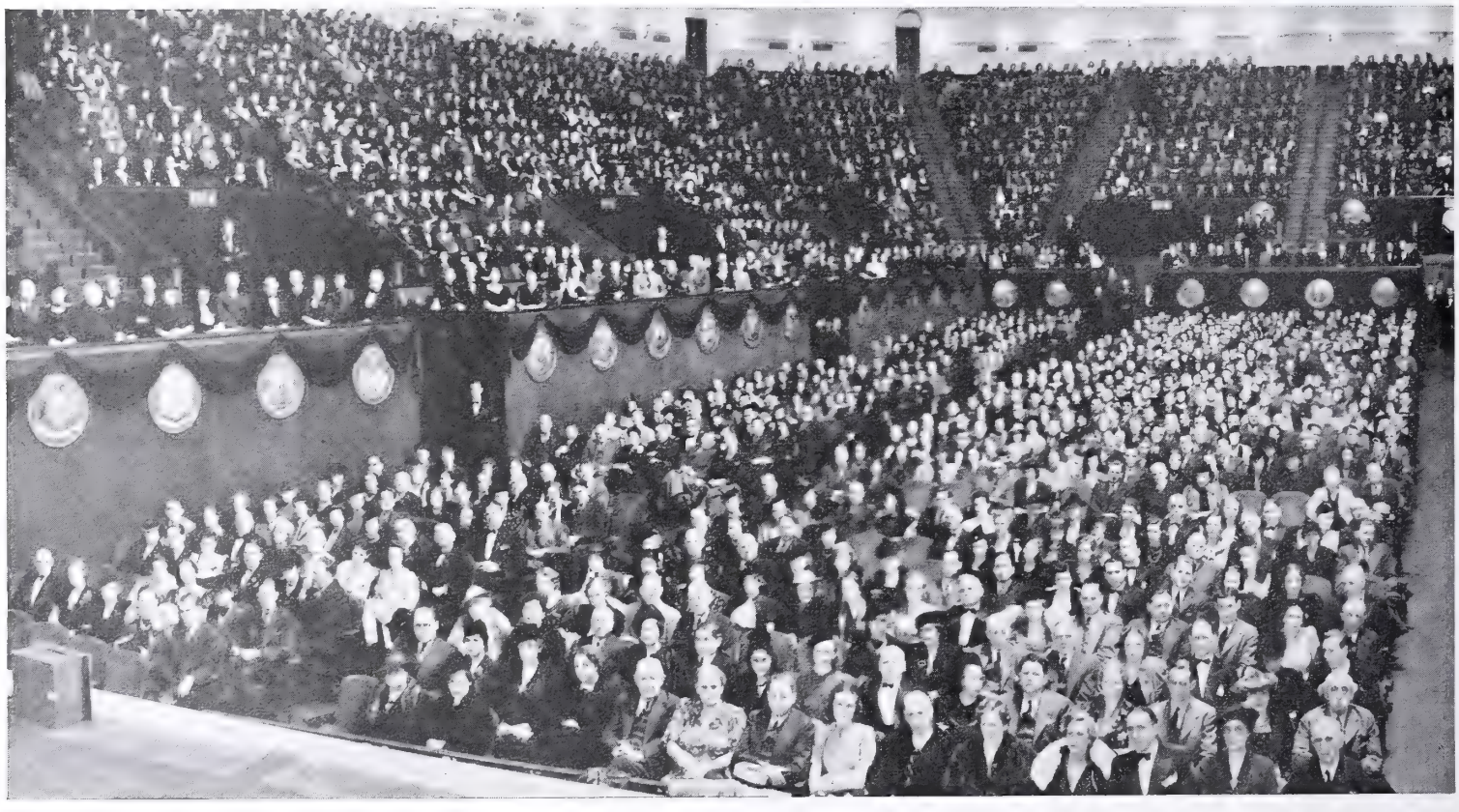
Holding the thought is purely his own, the producer-director contends plenty of good pictures can still be made at $1,000,000 to $1,500,000 without sacrificing quality. "On that cost basis," he added, "I feel we can still turn out excellent quality product that will offer a good return on the investment from rentals in the American market alone."

"Routine" Meeting Held By New Jersey Allied

NEW YORK—"Routine" is the description given by members of Allied of New Jersey who attended a meeting at the Hotel Astor. The next meeting will be held at Newton, N. J., October 31.

Archie Weltman Recovering

NEW YORK—Archie Weltman of Loew's legal staff is recovering at Medical Center from a gallstone operation.



Cabinet Members, Supreme Court Justices, Senators, Congressmen—

Panorama shot from the stage of Constitution Hall, Washington, scene of the world premiere of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." The far-famed National Press Club sponsored the event which was heavily attended by officialdom. Newspaper writers and critics from Boston, New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, were escorted to the scene in special cars, enter-



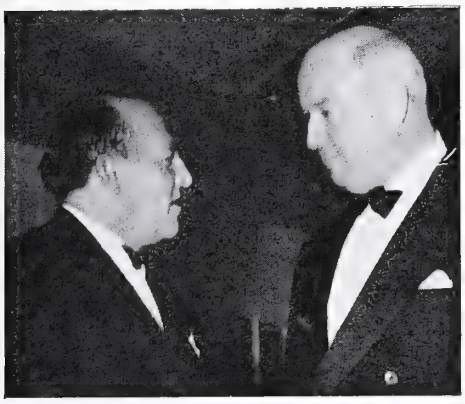
Window gazing. Jack Cohn, vice-president, and Abe Schneider, treasurer, survey the scenery somewhere between New York and Washington.



Abe Montague, Columbia's general sales manager, caught by the all-seeing camera in the dead center of a necessary step in lunching.



W. G. Van Schmus, managing director of the Music Hall, and Frank Capra, listening to Harry Cohn, not shown. The place: The National Press Club.



At the premiere. Harry Cohn, Columbia's president, chats with Postmaster General James A. Farley, who was one of many government officials present.

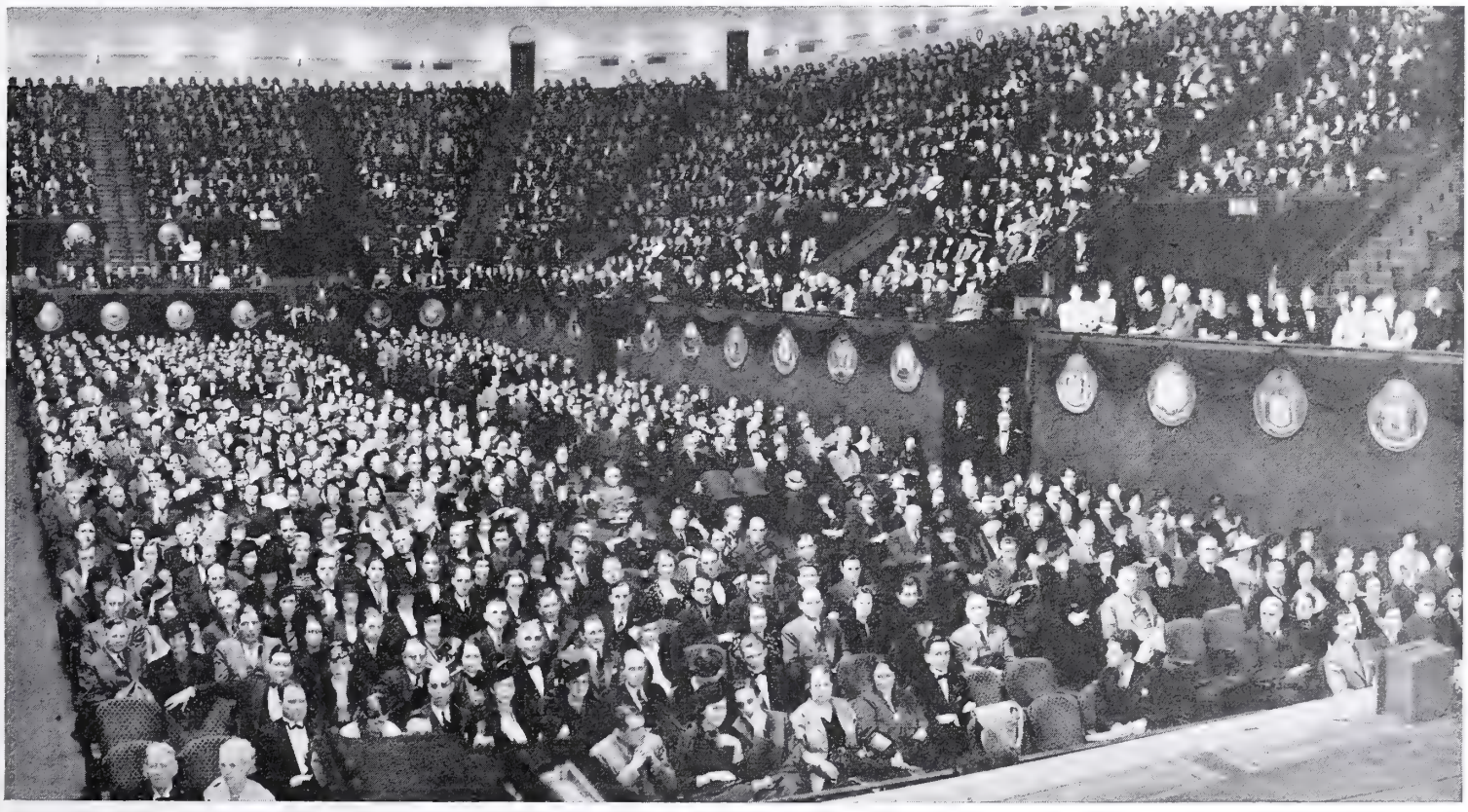


Among the many senators on hand was that old veteran, George W. Norris of Nebraska. Senator Bankhead of Alabama made the cutting room floor.



—Metropolitan Photos

U. S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley F. Reed, one of the distinguished audience, snapped as he entered the portals of Constitution Hall.



—Schultz Photo

And Critics Among 4,000 at Washington Premiere of Capra Film—

tained before and after dinner at the press club and returned to their respective cities in comfortable and individual Pullman bedrooms.

War Brings "Mixed Prospects," Financial Analysts Declare

NEW YORK—Describing the European war as imposing "mixed prospects" on the industry, Poor's Publishing Co. states "the industry would stand to lose roughly 60 per cent of its foreign revenue and 25 per cent of its total gross should the markets of all the warring nations remain closed to its films."

Continuing, the survey observes "a 20 per cent rise in production costs scheduled for the 1939-40 season promises to cut deeply into profits, although economies presumably will be effected. Although total revenues will be supported by a fairly good level of receipts derived in domestic and South American markets, a decline in total income is indicated."

Although the article finds the export market "crippled," the "decline will not be so sharp as would appear at first glance" because of the "fact that Argentine, Brazil and Mexico are among the five leading foreign markets for this country's films, taking 22 per cent of the number of positive feature prints exported during the first six months of 1939, or twice as many as the United Kingdom and France combined.

"Moreover, lack of competition from belligerents will enable U. S. motion picture producers to enter South American markets heretofore closed. Unsatisfactory foreign exchange, quota systems, and other restrictive measures designed to foster industry in these countries, however may prove to be offsetting factors."

"On Three Premises"

The survey describes the outlook in the domestic market as "somewhat brighter" on three premises. These are (1) a prolonged war abroad, (2) maintenance of U. S. neutrality, and (3) repeal of the arms embargo. Because of these factors "a marked rise in domestic industrial activity is forecast. Higher consumer incomes, which should accompany this development, would be reflected in greater theatre attendance. This, in conjunction with admission price increases (as proposed), is favorable to higher boxoffice receipts from domestic theatres. A sharp rise in living costs, however, might cancel much of the improvement indicated."

Citing the industry's combined "estimated" production budget of $176,000,000 for the 1939-40 season, the survey states plans originally called for a "four per cent increase in total feature and western releases; more 'A' and less 'B' quality films were promised. Now that the European war has broken out, the industry is revising its production schedules, with the intention of pruning expenditures as much as possible without lowering quality. However," it concludes, "drastic cuts in production costs are not indicated and present prospects are that expenses for the current season will exceed those of last year."

Gianninis Start Vacation

HOLLYWOOD—A. H. Giannini, his wife, son and daughter-in-law, left Thursday for New York on an indefinite vacation.

Producers Awaiting Drama Guild's Pact

NEW YORK—The committee representing the majors in the negotiations over play financing have yet to receive copies of the contract approved by the executive council of the Dramatists Guild. Consequently, according to a spokesman for the companies, it will be some time before the pact is given full endorsement.

Members of the guild are expected to pass on the executive council's action the first week in November when a general election will be held.

Sidney Fleischer, guild attorney, who is whipping the pact into final shape, hopes to get it before the committee consisting of Jake Wilk of Warner; Sidney Phillips of M-G-M, and John Byram of Paramount before the week is up.

The attitude of the majors' committee is that, since negotiations have been going on intermittently for three years, there is no particular reason at the moment to become excited over the agreement.

For example, the committee has no idea of what form the question of dropping the option of a play has assumed in the latest agreement. Metro has contended for some time that, if a film company decides after the first week that the play is not suitable for screen material, it should be allowed to give up the option without paying more than a week's royalties which under the present scale would amount to $5,000.

See Latin America Tightening Control

NEW YORK—The reaction to recent attempts to focus the spotlight on the Latin-American market has already been felt there in the form of tightening restrictions and increased taxation, reports Walter Gould, UA supervisor for that territory, who has returned from a 10-week trip of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

He believes, however, there is a growing rapprochement between the North and South American countries because of the war and that the situation will better itself in the future.

It is Gould's observation that national production in Argentina has reached its peak and now will continue on a normal and more rational basis. Native product occupies about 10-15 per cent of the playing time in Brazil and Argentina, Gould says. He does not think it will increase.

According to him, business generally is on the upswing in South America, but, if there will be a boom, it will be controlled carefully. "The governments down there learned their lesson in the last war," he points out.

The American companies, he estimates, should be able to pick up about 15 per cent more playing time formerly consumed by French and other foreign films.

Gould maintains the Latin-American market is being sold completely and can not very well be further exploited.

"Every film company," he says, "is selling every potentiality it is prepared to sell. The only territories we don't sell are those we can't because of geographical conditions."

Gould confirms a story first appearing

(Continued on page 24-E)





Accorded Recognition by SMPE—

—Bachrach

Immediately above is Dr. Loyd A. Jones, chief physicist of the Kodak Research Laboratories, who was awarded the annual Progress Medal of the engineers' organization at its fall convention which closed in New York on Thursday. To the right is Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, president of Technicolor, who received the SMPE Journal *Award for the outstanding paper, "Technicolor Adventures in Cinemaland."*

(Story on page 20)

3,884 Theatre Firms Gross $578,871,000

WASHINGTON—Tax-paying theatre corporations to a total of 3,884 had an aggregate gross income of $578,871,000 in 1937. They paid $7,245,000 in taxes on that gross, figures compiled by the treasury department reveal.

At the same time, the department reported that while slightly less than half of the exhibition corporations reported taxable income for the year, only one out of four of the producing corporations was in the taxable group.

Returns for 1937 were filed by 4,097 theatre corporations, 213 of which were inactive and had no income, and only 2,177 paid taxes, the group showing total gross income of $472,536,000 and net income of $53,120,000 on which the government collected $6,188,000 in normal taxes, $1,057,000 as surtax on undistributed profits and $289,000 in excess profits taxes. The remaining 1,707 corporations, with an aggregate gross income of $106,335,000, wound up with a deficit of $6,386,000 after taking their allowable deductions.

In the production field, out of 246 corporations filing returns, 52 were inactive, and only 61 contributed to the internal revenue bureau, having total gross income of $123,603,000 and net income of $13,864,000 on which the government received $1,325,000 in normal taxes, $207,000 under the undistributed profits tax and $7,000 on excess profits. The remaining 133 companies had a gross income of $115,844,000, but showed a deficit for tax purposes of $10,727,000.

The experience of the film industry, on the whole, was much better than that for all amusements, where only 3,625 out of 10,457 corporations reported taxable income. The gross income of all corporations in the amusement industry—motion picture production, theatres (film and legitimate), circuses, race tracks, etc.—was $1,045,963,000 and total taxes paid were $95,199,000.

Gala Soiree by French on Bow Out of World's Fair

NEW YORK—As a fareweil gesture of its participation in the World's Fair, Governor General Marcel Olivier, commissioner general for France, has arranged a gala soiree at which a group of new French documentary films will be shown in the theatre of the French Pavilion, October 24. The showing will be followed by a reception in the Salle des Fastes.

November 14 Trial Date in Raphaelson-Kane Suit

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Wasservogel has set November 14 as trial date for the $25,000 suit of Samson Raphaelson against Robert T. Kane. Suit claims breach of a 10-week writing contract entered into in 1938.

Kane's defense is he acted as agent for New World Pictures, Ltd., and, if Raphaelson's action has any merit, it should be directed against the 20th-Fox subsidiary and not him.

INTER-OFFICE **BOXOFFICE** The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry COMMUNICATION

To: Red
From: Len

Date: Wednesday
Place: New York

I hardly know just where to begin the story based on the official release following the third adjourned MPPDA board meeting, so I'll just ramble.

"The board met and discussed the general situation.

"No new developments.

"The board will meet again next Wednesday."

Brandt Turns to Exploration; To Assay Coast's Gold Source

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—There's gold in them thar hills of sunny California and exhibitors are putting it there.

And what do exhibitors get out of it? Increased film rentals.

That's the way Harry Brandt, president of the ITOA and head of the Brandt circuit of approximately 75 theatres, feels about it.

Now he's determined to find out the why and wherefore; that is, why producers and executives at the studios should continue to receive enormous salaries while the exhibitor, in return, receives demands for increased rentals.

On or about November 15, Brandt will leave for Hollywood for an indefinite survey of the studios. Is it the war that is bringing on the demands for higher rentals? Or is there another reason?

Brandt contends he did not draw a cent from his business last year, yet he paid out more than $1,000,000 to distributors in rentals and lost approximately $300,000 for the 12-month period.

Despite this, he says, all companies are asking for more money for their product next season. Looking over the lineup of one major company the other day, Brandt feels the output is no better than the pictures that came through last season. Yet, he adds, this distributor is asking for "exorbitant" increases.

Holding that he puts in 18 hours a day and that he has spent his lifetime in exhibition, Brandt says he is not one of "those fellows who go around yelling the industry owes him a living."

"If I am asked to pay increased rentals all along the line, I want to know what for. Are the producers making $3,000 and $5,000 a week taking cuts? Are production budgets being cut? Is there a lot of waste going on in Hollywood?

"There's one thing I know. I don't see why I should pay more money for film while producers continue to own stables of horses.

"I can list many constructive things I have done in this business, more than any one else. I do not intend to go to California with a chip on my shoulder. Quite the contrary. I am leaving with an open mind.

"If the producers are right and conditions are as they say, I will shout it to the rooftops to every exhibitor in the country.

"I want to know if the producers are taking cuts in proportion to what I have taken."

When informed he may not be able to convince the producers of his plight, Brandt retorted with "whether that is so or not, I will convince the exhibitors of this country, independent or otherwise."

His trip is purely on his own and has nothing to do with the ITOA. Brandt feels the time has come when he should personally look into the situation; that he cannot continue much longer under present conditions and that, if there is nothing that can be done to remedy the coast situation, he may keep his peace after he returns.

However, his essential point is why are distributors demanding those increased rentals? He says he proposes finding out.

Rinzler Won't Talk—With Reasons

New York—Sam Rinzler, called upon to address the Motion Picture Associates, begged off when he arose at the dais with something like this:

"Really, there's very little I can say at this time. All of you know this is the beginning of the buying season, so I have to save my voice. As an example, I spent the entire morning talking a deal with UA, and so far it's only an 'Intermezzo'."

Back Pay Suit "Absurd," Says Major Spokesman

NEW YORK—"It's absurd and a lot of nonsense," is the way a major circuit spokesman describes the action by Local 306 to recover approximately $300,000 in back pay. "We do not owe the operators any back pay."

Executives of RKO, Loew's, Warner and Paramount circuits were served with summonses early in the week in the action instituted by Matthew Levy, counsel for the union. These are returnable November 6.

Local 306 claims a ten per cent salary reduction was taken by the operators during the regime of Sam Kaplan with a promise to restore the cut after a year, but this the circuits failed to do.

BROADWAY

TIME, effort and a little publicity will always bear fruit. Eddie Cantor, who was married in Brooklyn, stepped back into that borough many years later, Thursday morning, precisely, a grandfather by about 10 hours. A BOXOFFICE correspondent, getting perfect interference behind a wedge made up of Ernest Emerling, Eddie Dowden, Eugene Murphy, George Scharf and other Loewites, at the same moment stepped into the first celebrity subway reception on record hereabouts. It was Loew's manner of letting a lot of Brooklynites know that Cantor and his radio troupe was playing the Metropolitan.

The subway stunt was invented because the Loew staff thought it smacked of a more local flavor than a reception at Grand Central Terminal, where Cantor arrived, sleepless, from a previous night's engagement in Boston. So Cantor was whisked by taxicab to the Bowling Green station of the IRT where the local press boarded the designated car behind him and headed for the Borough Hall station in Brooklyn—one fast stop under the river. Six Grover Whalenish, borrowed thespians, two girls in bathing suits, including Miss North Beach Airport—which constituted a high and low and original twist in greeters—and a horde of office proletariat enveloped Banjo Eyes. From that point on it was six shows a day at the Met—and crowded ones, at that. It seems the crowd was largely induced at the thought of looking at the man who has become nationally famous as a father of five daughters—and one grandson. He was asked how he feels about the sudden transition. "Well," he observed, "it's a start."

Al Hovel, operating head of Century circuit, has put on considerable weight of late and attributes it to lack of exercise. However, he says he does manage to get in some relaxation Saturdays when he goes fishing off Old Greenwich. Running now are blackfish, flounders and weak fish with luck on the flounders much better than the others and netting Hovel about 50 to 75 each time he goes out . . . Milt Kusell came back from Buffalo with a pip of a cold . . . Abe Goodman's daughter, Marylyn, three, won't be bothered by her tonsils or adenoids any more . . . Charles E. McCarthy, Arch Reeves, Earl Wingart and Rodney Bush are now located in the new three-story building adjacent to 20th-Fox's home office . . . Eddie Rugoff says he's much better now and he looks it . . . T. E. Shea, Erpi executive, has gone to the coast for conferences with Clifford W. Smith . . . Connie Bennett is p. a.-ing in Buffalo on the first of a series of personals.

Gaston Dureaux, buyer for E. V. Richards, was in town on a holiday. He returned to New Orleans by water . . . Louis Schine and Gus Lampe were around the other day and lunched with John J. O'Connor, Fred Meyers, Max Fellerman and Bill Sussman. An inquiring reporter asked Schine where he was stopping, but O'Connor answered with "The Schine Netherlands" . . . Murray Silverstone garnered a two-day sunburn during his coast stay, but it disappeared while enroute to New York . . . Harry Weiner, Columbia Philadelphia branch manager, was a one-day visitor Thursday . . . Harry Brandt is dieting. Ditto Louis Schine.

Bill Powers has bought a farm in Paterson, N. Y., where he will spend his summers from now on . . . Tim Whelan, Columbia director, is back from a Washington trip . . . Ann Sheridan departed for the Warner studio, Friday, after being voted the favorite star by the Boston U football squad . . . Zorina made a p. a. at the Strand, Friday night, in conjunction with the opening of "On Your Toes" . . . Mickey Rooney is in Detroit where he is visiting the Thomas Edison Foundation . . . Jane Withers is spending a week in town before winding up a vacation and appearance tour to return to the 20th-Fox studios . . . Otto Mantell, former UA manager in Czechoslovakia, is vacationing in Texas. He will return to Europe in another UA capacity as soon as he can obtain a passport . . . Louise Sillcox of the Dramatists Guild spent the weekend in Vermont . . . Will Hays represented the industry at the Waldorf during the refugee discussions . . . Sidney Kaufman of M-G-M's publicity staff is preparing to leave for Washington shortly for the first showing of a four-reeler he helped produce for Allied Chemical . . . Irving Shiffrin spent a day in Philadelphia early in the week and is bemoaning trouble with his car these autumn days.

UA's Latin American supervisor, Walter Gould, lost 26 pounds on his trip. He now is taking a short vacation on his farm in Chestertown, Md., before returning to the desk . . . Si Seadler gets mention in the last issue of the New Yorker *in the profile on Simon and Schuster. Seadler is credited with having notified the detectives there were strange goings on at a cocktail party which Max Schuster was giving at the Algonquin Hotel. The cocktail party was a weekly event for the literary lights of the day . . . Charles Cohen of the Metro publicity staff gets back Monday from a Boston vacation . . . The grippe put Pete Lewis of the New York Film Board on the sidelines temporarily . . . Chester Morris, who made the tour of the Loew neighborhood houses, was guided around by the redoubtable Eddie Dowden and Mel Heymann . . . Dave Miller's two-reel short, "Drunken Driving," has the boys at M-G-M throwing away their licenses.*

The Billy Brandts, Sunday evening, getting a personal and enthusiastic welcome from Lindy, at his Ess and Fress Emporium . . . The Jack Cohns, Joe Schenck, the Mervyn LeRoys, Raymond Massey and Emil K. Ellis among the first nighters at "The Gentlemen Who Came for Dinner" . . . The Jean Lenauers and the E. I. Loperts consuming whatever it is the Russian Tea Room offers after theatre . . . E. C.



—Ralph Morgan

From Films to Plays—

Having completed a role in "That's Right, You're Wrong" for RKO, Edward Everett Horton disembarks from the coast plane to start rehearsals for "Springtime for Henry" which he proposes taking on tour. Not a motion picture, by the way.



—Metropolitan Photos

Flash! Exhibitors Crash a Studio—

As guests of RKO and on behalf of the "Information, Please" series, Frederic Ullman jr., the producer and on the extreme right, acts as sort of guide with an eye to publicity breaks, like this. Left to right, the congregation includes Abraham Leff, Leff-Meyers circuit; Myron Seigel and Milton Schwartz, Century circuit; Laurence Bolognino, Consolidated Amusement; John Dacey who handles shorts at the New York RKO exchange, and Irving Dollinger, president Associated Theatres of New Jersey.

Grainger made a weekend trip to New England on behalf of Feiber & Shea . . . Jack Goetz returned early in the week from a few days in Toronto . . . Jack L. Warner is expected to remain on the local scene for another week or two before returning to the coast . . . The Don Ameches plan to leave next week for an eight-week air tour of South and Central America . . . Manny Reiner claims he got some swell "AP" breaks on the special prison screening of "Mutiny in the Big House" on his recent exploitation jaunt to Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Reading.

Louis Phillips, Arthur Krim and Louis Nizer taking short steps in the crisp, but warming, noonday sun . . . C. C. Pettijohn was in Chicago, Omaha and Lincoln, all in a brace of days . . . Ben Cammack, Leon Bamberger and J. L. Hopfenberg of the Max Glucksman office gobbling up food and conversation over a Roth's luncheon table . . . George Walsh was in town, no little disturbed over Poughkeepsie clearance . . . Abe Schneider of Columbia, snake-hipping it through Broadway pedestrian traffic . . . Phil Reisman checks the early afternoon papers to see how many foreign countries are added to the ineligible list . . . Mrs. Mabel Parkhouse has just rounded out her 15th year as secretary to C. C. Pettijohn . . . Evelyn O'Connell, formerly Y. Frank Freeman's secretary, is being wined and dined by the Freemans during her coast holiday . . . "One of the finest boys I know around here," quoth Rube Jackter on his way to keep a luncheon appointment with Bob Weitman of the Paramount.

Monroe Greenthal was on his way to the coast over the weekend to confer with UA producers on exploitation ideas for new product . . . Bob Smeltzer, Warner central district manager, was in from Washington for conferences with Roy Haines . . . Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, Technicolor president, who was the recipient of the annual *Journal* Award of the SMPE at the convention banquet, was presented it by Edward P. Curtis, sales manager of Eastman Kodak's motion picture film department . . . Leonard Gaynor has completed his two-picture assignment for exploitation of Columbia product. Now to that farm . . . A surprise luncheon was tendered to Mrs. Dorothy Raith, eighth floor receptionist at Loew's, who has left to join her husband in the Dutch West Indies. Taking place at the Hotel Astor, the occasion brought out 29 guests, including Henrietta Klein, Gertrude Wittner, Helen Berger, Shirley Blendees, Amy Schiff, Marion Bokser, Helen Poyas, Rose Vladimer, Minnie Ginsberg, Irene Frimet, Gertrude Schapiro, Evelyn Greenberg, Enid Kastan, Roberta Elston, Elizabeth Heslin, Ruth Gillis, Mrs. Margaret Blaha, Prudence Dillon, Rose Morel, Charlotte Sabin, Irene Windham and Caroline Madden.

The Louis Nizers are "at home," which means the honeymoon is over and the film attorney is back at his desk . . . A joint announcement from Marvin Schenck and Ben Boyer states the producing committee of "Night of Stars," benefit show for settling refugee Jews in Palestine, which will be held in Madison Square Garden, November 15, had as honorary chairman, Barney Balaban, Nate J. Blumberg, David Bernstein, Jack Cohn, George J. Schaefer, Joseph M. Schenck, Murray Silverstone and Maj. Albert Warner . . . Harry Brandt and Bob Wolff very, very deep in product discussion outside the Astor's Hunting Room . . Sam Sax has gone to the coast for Warner in an undefined capacity . . . Al Margolies was in Boston over the weekend to pave the way for the Wednesday premiere of "Intermezzo" at Keith's Memorial . . . Nunnally Johnson, who did the screenplay of "The Grapes of Wrath," is here from the coast on a six months' leave of absence from the 20th-Fox studios.

Since John J. O'Connor made his first flight last week from Chicago, the boys over at RKO are calling him "Lindbergh O'Connor" . . . "Patsy" Goldberg, Philadelphia manager for National Screen, has been keeping his Monday-visit-to-New York schedule without a miss . . . Al Adams, formerly ad and publicity head at Republic, is now at RKO working with Ben Grimm on layouts . . . H. J. Yates is back from the coast . . . Marc Lachmann handled Betty Grable's arrival from the coast for Buddy G. DeSylva. She goes into rehearsal immediately for "DuBarry Was a Lady," which will have its tryout in New Haven, November 9 . . . Leon Goldberg, KAO treasurer, is getting back to his old form in the gym. He had a few aches and pains for his first efforts of the new season, but not enough to keep him from his executive duties.

When Max A. Cohen, head of Allied of NY, learned Harry Brandt was planning to go to the coast, he called up the ITOA president and said, "Where do you come off making a trip to Hollywood without me." Brandt apologized and answered, "I'm sorry, I'll arrange transportation for two" . . . Bob Lynch, Philadelphia district manager for M-G-M, was in town during the week . . . Ernie Morrell, transportation head for M-G-M, is mourning the loss of his oldest brother who passed away Wednesday after a heart attack . . . Monty Proser is in town again and will be here for some time before heading for sunny California again . . . Harry Bernstein went to bed early the other night. The hour was 10:30 p. m. and he was all set for a good night's sleep. At 1 a. m. the telephone rang —against his orders—(he lives at the Warwick) and on the other end was Col. E. A. Schiller calling from California, who spoke for 20 minutes . . . Louis K. Sidney is due from the coast, Monday.

Illness of Charles Laughton is keeping Erich Pommer on the coast for at least another week . . . Sol Wurtzel, 20th Century-Fox executive producer, slipped one over on the boys when he arrived on the Commodore Vanderbilt, a regular fare train. He's stopping at the Sherry-Netherland while vacationing here . . . Joe Schenck planed out for the coast over the weekend . . . At Lindy's for lunch the other day, Johnny Dervin, UA Boston branch manager, and Arthur Silverstone, Harry Gold's new assistant . . . Since Bill Sussman acquired his new Yonkers home, his phone has been busy with insurance agents who are full of new ideas . . . Sam Burger of Loew's foreign department finally gets away Tuesday by plane on that Latin-American jaunt.

An Ancient Feud Flares Anew

Hollywood

Dear Editor:

Before my father, Mox Shobbus, took a troop ship to join the Foreign Legion he said: "Erif, my son, for 43 years we have lived on the fringe of Hollywood. This fact alone establishes us as a brave family. Often we have fought and won against subversive elements (yeah, he said that) because our enemies were always in the open. Maybe they were looking for the California sun. The worst enemy, positively, however, is that certain carnivora what throws bricks and then is hiding behind those women's new petticoats.

"In short, get Ali Gaga, that low life. The great schism between the Shobbuses and Gagas must be gapped—by the Shobbuses. Use force if necessary. In case Ali Gaga gets hurt—I hope—the worst a jury could say it was an act of God under very suspicious circumstances."

So you see, editor, the bars are down. Long live the Shobbuses and a magnificent tradition!

Your new friend,

ERIF SHOBBUS.

New York

Dear Editor:

So Erif thinks that his father, Mox Shobbus, has sailed to join the Foreign Legion! That boy suffers from hallucinations and I know why. Before he was born, his mother, Mrs. Mox, was frightened by the silent version of "Beau Geste."

My information is that Mox sailed to open a drive—In a theatre in the Siegfried Line. The dope has been plastering the Maginot Line with one-sheets of "All Quiet on the Western Front." Both sides are driving to the movies in tanks and Mox is having no trouble except with Saarbrucken operators' local and four British bombers who are flying over his theatre dropping heralds and skywriting "Four Feathers."

Mox complains the British are violating his protection, as he has 28 days' clearance along the Westwall. He has an arbitration clause in his contract and demands a prompt hearing in Munich. The judges, Hitler and Chamberlain, can't agree on the third arbiter. Chamberlain wants Daladier and Hitler wants Joe Stalin. If Mox isn't careful, he's liable to start a war over there. Here in America, we're fighting over repeal of the embargo; if they would only repeal Mox Shobbus, there'd be peace in our time.

I close with a word of warning to Erif Shobbus, that upstart. Please leave me alone in my mountain retreat, curled up in front of my fireplace with a good woman and a pipe.

As ever,

ALI GAGA.

Seek to Untie Knots In Italy and Spain

WASHINGTON—State department officials are understood to have been asked by the film industry to straighten out their difficulties in Italy and Spain, arranging with the former, if possible some way in which the American industry can return to Mussolini's bailiwick, and securing an arrangement with Spain which would enable the companies to get some of their money out of that country.

Department officials this week had no comment to make on the situation, but it is believed probable that there will be some exploration of the possibilities of easing the way of the film companies in the two countries named.

The American industry withdrew from the Italian market some months ago as a result of the imposition of restrictions which they felt they could not meet, but there have been indications since that the Mussolini government regretted its action and would not turn down overtures for reconciliation.

In the Spanish market, the difficulty of realizing from the sale of pictures has bothered the companies considerably, it is said.

With world markets for American pictures more and more restricted, the companies are seeking to maintain pleasant relations with those European countries with which it is still possible to do business, despite the war.

French Theatre Receipts at Lowest Ebb Since War

PARIS—Theatre business in France has been shot to pieces since the war started and receipts are at their lowest ebb. The theatre-going public has become war-minded and all attention is being focused on activities on the front.

Women are increasing in business popularity, according to surveys. Universal has eight offices in France, seven of which are being operated by members of the distaff side. Jean Colam, however, is the exception and continues to head the offices at Algiers, Morocco. Exhibitors also are calling upon women to operate projection machines in an effort to keep open and garner what little trade is available.

German, Slovakian Film Groups to Cooperate

WASHINGTON — Representatives of the German film industry and Slovakian MPTO group have met in a first step to discuss a close cooperation between the two groups, according to the department of commerce. It is believed the session entertained the idea of prohibiting western and gangster type pictures.

Harry Ross Bullish

NEW YORK—Optimism and signs of local improvement are apparent in the midwest, south central and mid-Atlantic states, according to Harry A. Ross, head of Ross Federal, who is back from a visit.



—Metropolitan Photos

"It's Like This"—

Or, an authentic photographic record of Max Gordon registering a point in the orthodox busy executive manner.

After More Favorable Terms in Argentina

NEW YORK—Distributor attorneys have agreed to submit strong representations to the Washington committee currently negotiating a new Argentina trade treaty in an effort to secure more equitable terms than those imposed when the government, on October 2, passed a new budget law requiring a remittance tax of five per cent on gross business.

The new law, which is to become effective Jan. 1, 1940, is said by foreign sales spokesmen to be "the last gasp" in a series of harsh levies leveled at American distributors over the past five years. The latest impost, according to one observer, caught the sympathy of the Argentine government when a senator pointed out one American distributor drew 11,000,000 pesos out of the country tax free over three years, while the same company's Argentine subsidiary showed a minimum annual loss of 380,000 pesos in the same period.

Before the new budget law was passed the Argentine government allowed an arbitrary deduction of 50 per cent of remittances sent to America as expense in distributing film. Ultimately, officials maintained American distributors were not paying an equitable share of taxation. In due course, according to foreign sales executives a number of assessments were imposed, which, in the past five years are said to have totaled more than $1,000,000. The new levy prohibits the deduction of any expense against royalties, and is interpreted here as a five per cent duty.

Big Laugh Films Shy; Gordon Finds It Sad

By DAVE GOLDING

NEW YORK—Broadway knows Max Gordon for an astute showman who has produced successful shows consistently over a period of years. Hollywood knows him currently for his association with Harry Goetz in the production of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

So when Gordon has a word to say concerning Hollywood's greatest need at the present, it pays to bend an ear in his direction.

"Right now, more than anything else, I would rather have a big laughing show," he says. "There isn't a big laughing picture in the business the way Harold Lloyd used to make them."

To illustrate his point, he generously selected a competitor's picture, "Hollywood Cavalcade." (Max Gordon Plays and Pictures Corp. releases through RKO) "The way the audience goes for the Keystone Kops in that picture shows what they want these days."

Gordon also believes, it may be heresy in some quarters, that when a producer is worthy of the title, he should be let alone to prove it. That is his chief criticism of Hollywood. For its technical genius, he has nothing but the greatest of admiration.

The story, to Gordon, is paramount. "In a picture, the story is the thing. After all, audiences have seen everything there is to see on the screen. They are now interested in what the actors and actresses have to say. And another thing, audiences listen."

Television is another field that occupies Gordon's attention. He is advisor to NBC on television productions.

"Television has a tremendous future," is the way he feels about it. "One thing about a television dramatic production," Gordon points out, "is the observer never gets the feeling of a motion picture. He knows the acting is going on simultaneously. That is very important."

He has no fears about what television will do to the screen and theatre. "Remember what they said when radio was introduced," Gordon asserts. "I do think, however, there will be a wedding of the stage and screen for television, and it won't be a shotgun one either."

Concerning his present film plans, Gordon states "The American Way" will definitely be produced and probably go before the cameras in about 60 days. His latest stage production "Very Warm for May," opens shortly.

It is a pretty good guess that although Gordon likes Hollywood, he loves Broadway better.

Skiing in Canada May Enjoy Business Boom

TORONTO—It's beginning to look as though the Canadian skiing industry will enjoy a boom this winter. The impetus will be supplied by exhibitors and film executives who normally spend a considerable portion of winter on warm Florida beaches.

National Allied Row With Cohen Grows

(Continued from page 21)

about $11,000 that Cohen's organization has collected in dues and from the convention held in May. He claims New York Allied has never submitted a financial statement, which, according to the state laws governing a non-profit organization, "is a serious matter." Consequently, Cole said, Kelly has been directed to demand from Cohen a financial statement.

Cohen characterizes the Syracuse session as the "fourth fiasco" by national Allied to form a new state unit.

In what he terms a "very interesting chain of circumstances" precipitated by "recent events," Cohen points out that "it is now common knowledge that the government intends prosecuting the suit against Schine prior to any proposed industry litigation. This will focus all attention away from the major distributors' anti-monopoly action, and we now find a more tolerant attitude on the part of national Allied officers, particularly insofar as trade practice reforms are concerned."

He adds his organization "now congratulates national Allied officials for their broad viewpoint, and trusts that the statements were made with sincerity and in good faith." In furtherance of his desire for "wholehearted negotiations and with a common mutual understanding of pressing problems," Cohen urges a "tolerant approach by both sides to the evils and abuses of the industry," through which "much can be accomplished toward a more peaceable future."

He observed: "It must be apparent to every clear-thinking independent exhibitor throughout the country that distributor and exhibitor are 'married' and that there can be no 'divorce'."

Gould Sees Latin America Tightening Film Control

(Continued from page 24)

in BOXOFFICE that one of the reasons for his trip was the acquisition of the theatres by UA in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He reveals UA has acquired the operating interest in the Opera United Artists, seating 2,200; the Roxy, 3,500 seats, and the Astoria United Artists, 1,100 seats.

The Opera United Artists opens November 5 while the Roxy is under construction. The third is already in operation. Difficulty in obtaining satisfactory product deals is believed to be the motive behind the latest UA move.

Gould, incidentally, thinks one of the troubles with the Latin-American market is that not enough women attend the theatres. "Something ought to be done about it," he asserts.

Zabel With Skouras

NEW YORK — Eddie Zabel, assistant to Spyros Skouras, will accompany him on a routine checkup of the various divisions of National Theatres. Skouras leaves here Monday by plane for Milwaukee.

Congressman Finds a Phrase Karl Marx Overlooked

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—The motion picture industry is "economic public enemy No. 1 of America."

On no less an authority than Congressman Lyle H. Boren of Oklahoma, the motion picture trust's nemesis from the great Southwest, the industry is thus neatly filed in its niche in the Hall of Fame.

Further, said Mr. Boren, writing in the *Congressional Record*, "the methods of the leaders in the industry may well be compared with those of Al Capone, Pretty Boy Floyd, Dutch Schultz and other of our once world-famous gangsters."

And still further, declares the former school teacher and author, executives in the motion picture industry receive greater compensation than those in any other industry—and, he infers, they aren't worth it.

The disparity between the $10,000-a-year salary of a Congressman and the $1,161,753 which Louis B. Mayer received from Loew's and the $134,750 from M-G-M was too tempting for the Congressman to pass over, and he finds it "sickening to learn that one man receives a salary greater than the President of the United States, plus the salaries of 96 Senators."

Too, he points out, the largest salary paid an actor ($289,000 to Clark Gable), is but 25 per cent of Mayer's compensation.

Not to leave Mayer alone on his pinnacle, Representative Boren comments on the salaries paid J. Robert Rubin, Nicholas M. Schenck and the Warner brothers, all of whom admittedly are getting along pretty well, and in contrast finds in an NRA report for 1933 that of the 1,563 actors and actresses who received $150 or more a week, 75 per cent received less than $5,000, out of which they had to pay 10 per cent agent's fee and buy their wardrobe.

"The czars of the motion picture industry exercise such control that they are able to pay themselves 24 times as much of the net income accruing to their companies as other leading industries pay to their executives," he says, getting into his stride.

"Such a wide disparity in remuneration cannot be accounted for by the mere statement that the motion picture industry is an art requiring the creative talents possessed by these executives. Frankly, most of them differ very little from the ordinary successful businessman. The vision which leads a producer to pioneer in the field of entertainment is not at all unlike the instinct which springs from any other successful executive who envisions a new process or product which receives wide public approval at the counter instead of at the boxoffice.

"Such utter disregard for the public and their own stockholders can only be perpetuated and perpetrated by callous disregard for their managerial responsibilities to their stockholders."

Even more bitterly, the Congressman rebukes the methods of the industry in fighting control. "The motion picture lobby and its puppets are honeycombing the nation's capitol and the capitols of the 48 states in an attempt to corrupt the churches, schools and the nation's public servants," he charges.

"There have never been gangsters or bandits in any land or clime that have excelled their talent for robbing the American public. I point to the motion picture industry as the economic public enemy No. 1 of America."

And so, with Silver saddled and awaiting only his "Hi-Yo," the Lone Ranger from the land of the oil monopoly (which he has yet to attack) tells the House that a few of us boys "have prepared, with your aid, to make a comprehensive measure out of the Neely bill. We plan to put more guts and teeth in it."

MORAL: If you come from a state that gets $200,000,000 a year from oil production and $5,000,000 from boxoffice receipts, it's a darn sight safer to attack the film industry.

REVIEW FLASHES

BAD LITTLE ANGEL (M-G-M)—A Sunday School lesson in celluloid, quaintly mid-Victorian in character, but with the pollyanna spirit laid on a little too heavy for average audience enjoyment. Little Virginia Weidler shows genuine talent and self-assurance in the title role. Albert E. Levoy produced; William Thiele directed.

BEWARE, SPOOKS (Col)—Those who like their comedy utterly devoid of subtleties and confirmed Joe E. Brown fans will find his latest vehicle a prize package of guffaws, since it specializes in slapstick and hokum at their very broadest. Robert Sparks produced; Edward Sedgwick directed.

SCANDAL SHEET (Col)—Hard working newspapermen will take this highly colored tale about sensational journalism with a wink; to audiences, it will be just another run-of-the-mill picture. Otto Kruger, Ona Munson, Edward Norris. Nick Grinde directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

"Borgia" Return Showings Garnering Big Takes

NEW YORK—A series of return engagements of "Lucrezia Borgia" are said by Gallic Films to be garnering unusual returns. The film, which played at the Grand International in Los Angeles a year ago for two weeks is currently winding up its fourth stanza at the same house.

ALBANY

INTO Filmrow exchanges came: Carl Nilman, operator of theatres in Shelburne Falls, Mass., and Valatie, N. Y.; Allen Jones, booker for Conery circuit, Ravena; J. E. Bird of the Arlington, East Arlington, Vt.; Leonard Rosenthal of the State, Troy; Sid Dwore, operator of Cameo, Palace and Lincoln, Schenectady; Morris Silverman of the Mount Pleasant, Schenectady; Lou Bucken, Amenia exhibitor; Phil Straus, Pine Plains showman; George Thornton of the Orpheum, Saugerties, and Orpheum, Tannersville; Ernie Wolfe, Lowville operator; Irving Barker of the New Theatre, Hoosick Falls.

Twentieth Century-Fox inspectresses excursioning with 3,500 local residents for Albany Day at the World's Fair were: Mrs. Katherine Heavenor, Doris Senecal, Elizabeth Hillis and Anne Hasbrouck . . . Harvey Newland screened final show of the season at Firemen's Hall, Windham, October 20. It is a Catskill Mountain summer situation . . . Allen Sirrine is recarpeting Empire in Port Henry. Incidentally, employment rolls show an increase in that town, shipping point for iron ore extracted from nearby mines. Republic Steel & Iron Co., is expanding operations, with the reopening of old mines and construction of a blast furnace. It is said that the latter phase of operations has been done in Troy.

Another Irishman has been added to the Filmrow roster. He is Jimmy Coyne, student booker at Universal—so they say. Emerald Islers are numerous in local booking ranks. As can be seen from these names: Dan Houlihan, 20th Century-Fox; Bill Murray, Grand National; Ray Powers, Warner-Vitagraph; Mary Hawkins, Republic. Several of the boys double as office managers . . . George Lynch, chief buyer for the Schine circuit, is the "Ould Sod" descendant holding probably the biggest job among the bunch in the Albany territory.

John Cooney, Union Square, independent first run in Pittsfield, Mass., came to Albany for preview of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." His brother, Bill, interested in the theatre, seen on Filmrow . . . Ronnie Bush, 20th Century-Fox advertising department, was here conferring with Manager Moe Grassgreen and others on premiere of "Drums Along the Mohawk" at Palace, Albany, November 2 . . . Harry Berkson, Monogram franchise holder upstate, visited local office on trips from Buffalo. He reported business improving in Buffalo territory since infantile paralysis epidemic situation had improved and ban on theatre attendance eased. Berkson joined George Weeks, Monogram general sales manager, in a call on Schine headquarters at Gloversville . . . Charles Boasberg, RKO manager in Buffalo, accompanied Bernard Kranze, RKO boss in Albany, to Schine headquarters in Gloversville and Kallett offices in Oneida.

Paul Baron, Universal's Atlanta manager and head of the playdate drive, huddled with Joe Engel, local chief. Campaign, which closes October 28, is on both new and old product. Standings of various Universal exchanges are published every fortnight . . . Al Marchetti, Universal booker, back at work following an attack of grippe . . . Bill Gaddoni, Metro date setter, was reported ill at his home in metropolitan area . . . Bill Kennedy, Rouses Point and Champlain exhibitor, in a Montreal hospital for treatment . . . Filmrow offered condolences to Stanley Goldberg, Columbia booker, on death of his father. Burial was in Hamilton, Ont. It was a case of sorrow mixing with joy, all Columbians having made plans to attend wedding in New York of Cashier Lou Olshen and Helen Goldstein. Virtually entire staff was present at latter Sunday ceremony. So were other Albany friends of Olshen, who received a chest of silver from fellow employes. In absence of Goldberg and Olshen, Salesman Morris Cohn acted as booker . . . Mitchell Conery, Conery circuit, on Filmrow but minus his rosy complexion, due to recent illness.

Ausable Bridge Co. Buys Rex in Keesville, N. Y.

ALBANY—Ausable Bridge Co. has taken over the Rex in Keesville and will continue its operation as a picture theatre, according to Filmrow reports. Kate Prentice, niece of Charles Marshall, was running the house. The bridge company at one time owned a theatre that stood near the bridge.

Keesville, northern Adirondack Mountain village, is one of the few in its population class (1,795) with two theatres.

Win WB Foreign Tilt

NEW YORK—Richard Reichter, Warner manager in Yugoslavia, and Jack Kamras, in charge of sales in Finland, are the winners in the company's European exploitation contest.

WB Halloween Party, Oct. 27

NEW YORK—The annual Halloween party of the Warner Club is set for October 27 at the home office.

Another Theatre Reported Planned in Ellenville

ALBANY—Reported along Filmrow that a second theatre will be built in Ellenville, Catskill Mountain village of 3,280. Jimmy Spadaro operates the present house, Shadowland. It is virtually new, having been rebuilt. Rival is understood to be an exhibitor from a town served by New York exchanges. Sometime ago, Spadaro is said to have received a proposition from Walter Reade, one of whose spots is Kingston. Like Ellenville, it is in Ulster county.

Asks Assessment Cut

NEW YORK—William Yoost has instituted suit against the New York tax commission for a reduction of $180,000 in assessments for 1939-40 on the Regent, Royal, Superior and 34th St.

Heart Attack Is Fatal

TROY, N. Y.—W. R. Donnelly, 34, a projectionist, died here of a heart attack.

Poses Moratorium on Government Suits

NEW YORK—A plea for a more tolerant understanding of the grave issues at stake was sounded by Emil K. Ellis, film attorney, when he told members of the Motion Picture Associates the "government should call an armistice on its anti-trust suits until the European war is over to determine whether the industry can survive without foreign markets."

Such a moratorium could be achieved, Ellis declared, without the government impairing its case. "But it is important that the department of justice take the whip out of its hands and lay it down" so that distributors could give immediate attention to many clearance disputes that are pending. "The companies cannot give these disputes the attention they deserve because they are concentrating on the big anti-trust suits," he asserted in further qualifying his proposal for an "armistice."

More than 100 members and applicants attended the session at the Hotel Astor. Jack Ellis, president, presided. He stressed the importance of securing advertisements for the organization's souvenir journal in connection with the annual charity ball at the Astor, November 25.

Pari-Mutuel Bill Threat Nets Executive Huddle

NEW YORK—Seriousness of the pari-mutuel bill pending in Albany brought leading independent and major circuit heads together in C. C. Moskowitz's office Thursday for a discussion of procedure. Another meeting has been called for Monday, same place.

It was stated that, at the time Skouras operated in St. Louis, business dropped approximately 50 per cent when a similar bill was passed in Missouri. A representative for the Warner circuit expressed an identical view for Ohio and Walter Reade held it to be likewise for his New Jersey theatres.

Attending the session, and slated to meet again, were Moskowitz and Leopold Friedman of Loew's; Henry Walters of RKO; George Walsh of Netco; Leo Brecher, who has several houses; Sam Rinzler and Louis Frisch, Randforce circuit; George Skouras, Skouras circuit; Laurence Bolognino, Consolidated Amusements; Al Hovel and Fred Schwartz, Century; Edward Rugoff, Rugoff & Becker; Si Fabian, Fabian circuit; Walter Reade, Reade circuit; M. Thompson, Cocalis Amusements.

Einfeld in Monday

NEW YORK—S. Charles Einfeld, director of advertising and publicity for Warner, is scheduled to arrive Monday from the coast. Jack Warner is slated to leave Friday.

Metro Chicago Meet

CHICAGO—Metro district managers meet here October 28 and 29 for a discussion of product plans, largely on "Gone With the Wind."

Vaudeville Out at Three S-W Houses

PHILADELPHIA—Three of the five S-W neighborhood houses that opened with vaudeville last month have suddenly dropped the policy. The reason given by insiders was that flesh shows have not drawn enough to justify their expense.

This development renewed speculation about when the S-W circuit will institute double features, which Warner officials said they intended doing in "highly competitive spots."

In an apparent attempt to head off this move, members of the local Allied unit are trying to get together in eliminating doubles as far as possible. A closed meeting last week found most of them in favor of discontinuing the practice of doubling A pictures, and of cutting out duals altogether wherever possible.

This attempt to stabilize the competitive relationship between the S-W circuit and the independents was strengthened by a meeting between Allied representatives and Warner officials to discuss clearance problems. Gradwell Sears, WB sales chief attended, and reports are that some grievances were satisfied.

The S-W houses that dropped flesh shows are the Alhambra, Frankford and Kent. Vaudeville remains in the Oxford and Allegheny, and in the central-city Earle.

Emergency Seal Abolition Holds in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA—Exchange managers have failed to get any help from political higherups in reversing the censor board's ruling abolishing the "emergency seal," which formerly was granted for a nominal fee of 25 cents.

The practical effect of the ruling will be that exhibitors in many cases will suffer an extra delay in getting their films. Formerly if an exhibitor wanted a film that was tied up, the exchange could borrow a copy from the home office for a week or so, and pay 25 cents instead of the regular censor's fee of $2 per reel. The new ruling will make such temporary borrowing prohibitive, and the exhibitor therefore will have to wait until a film is available locally.

The "emergency seal" practice is not required by law, but it has been in force for about 20 years in this territory, until the board appointed this year by Gov. Arthur H. James rescinded it.

Rambeau Promoted

PHILADELPHIA—L. D. Rambeau, who has been advance manager for group selling shows, in which motion pictures are used, has been promoted to the executive contact staff for the Jam Handy organization. Rambeau will work out of the Philadelphia office. Jack C. Coffey, who has been handling special assignments for Jam Handy in Philadelphia and Wilmington, will head the executive contact staff in New England with headquarters in Boston.

PHILADELPHIA

DICK MAYERS, Studio, was lucky enough to get the German Navy to work up an exploitation stunt for "Torpedoed." The picture shows a mock torpedoeing of the British battleship "Royal Oak"—and an obliging U-boat came around when the picture was ready for release, and sank the ship! . . . Mort Magill, United Artists, got a letter from Jeff Davis, who used to work here, and is now in Atlanta, Ga. Davis is making out well, having a perfect name for a southern film salesman . . . The Holme, former S-W house, opens October 21 under Fox-Sablosky management.

"Take a bow, Everett Callow, for your fine exploitation campaign," reads a broadside sent all over the country by the M-G-M exploitation office. Callow is being praised for his stunts for "The Women," which included a fashion show that made all the society pages, beauty shop ads, department store window displays, radio broadcasts, newspaper serialization, flower distribution for men in the center of town, and other ideas . . . Bill Kanefsky, one of Callow's smart young men in the S-W publicity office, is putting out a fine short subject review for circuit managers.

Lee Kline, Orpheum, is doing a swell job of getting the ladies together in a "Saturday Morning Community Movie Club." Idea is to have them sponsor shows for the kiddies . . . Sam Phillippe, Plaza, got $50 in the mail as first prize in the "Ballerina" exploitation contest . . . Lewen Pizor has become a father-in-law (daughter's marriage) a few weeks after being presented with a new baby of his own . . . And Al Zimbalist, S-W idea man, became an uncle twice within a month, as his sister and sister-in-law both contributed to the country's vital statistics.

Moe Verben is getting groggy conducting the Showmens Club's new membership drive. Among the celebrities he has just signed up are Sam Blatt, Quality Premiums; Eli Ginsburg, Preferred; Michael Katz, Hollywood; Joseph Stokvis, National Screen; Matty Presby, Warner; Sam Palan, Monogram; Ralph Jordan, National Penn; Robert Greek, Towne; I. Gewertz, Regis; Nat Abelove, Ritz, and others too tedious to mention . . . Film Exchange Employes Union members are busy lining up votes for their favorites in the coming election.

Leo Posel's Tyson will soon open . . . Jay Emanuel is the Variety Club's new chief barker. He'll carry the burdens of office with the help of Skip Weshner, Warner, first assistant; Dave Supowitz, second assistant; John Monroe, Forpaugh's, secretary, and Ben Amsterdam, Atlantic Theatres, treasurer . . . A respectable number of barkers will attend the banquet of Tent No. 1, in Pittsburgh, October 27. They are Bill Clark, Earle Sweigert, Al Fischer, Sam Stiefel, Eddie Sherman, Jack Beresin and Hillary Brown.

John Schaeffer will represent International Pictures in this territory . . . Dave Seaman, Forum, is getting free space in the Frankford Weekly *in the form of a film column . . . And Stan Benford, Palace, is having his miniature film magazines delivered by Parkway Baking Company drivers together with the morning's rolls.*

Joe Nevinson, Grange, wants credit given to Jack Singer, usher; John Slavin, doorman, and Sandra Altman, cashier, for service suggestions that are giving the house a lift in patronage . . . Jack Minsky, Frankford, got his Louis-Pastor fight film too late to attract much attention. So he coupled it with a film of the Louis-Schmeling battle, and ballyhooed it as a fight program.

Al Reh, Stanley, turned his lobby into a circus for the opening of the Marx Brothers looney show, "At the Circus." He had trick mirrors, clowns, animal cutouts, and a zany impersonating Harpo . . . Lage Brien, Prince, Ambridge, celebrated the first anniversary of his kiddie club with a free Saturday matinee attended by 2,100 *kids. The club members themselves put on a stage show. Ads in the paper were signed by P. J. Caul, burgess of Ambridge, "elected Daddy of the Kiddie Club."*

Roxy Theatre Corp. Files Suit to Abate Taxes

NEW YORK—The Roxy Theatre Corp., has filed a writ of certiorari in the supreme court seeking a reduction of $975,000 in tax assessments for 1939-40.

The suit is filed against members of the tax commission of New York City, who were ordered to stand trial on November 6 by Justice Julius Miller.

It is asserted the figure of $4,100,000 which the theatre was taxed is excessive. The amount was made up by assessing the land $1,550,000 and the building $2,550,000. The theatre appealed the assessment which was made February 1 and on May 4 the board turned down the appeal on the ground the theatre was appealing its 1938 assessment. The Roxy claims the present tax is $775,000 over the 1937 figure and that, as a theatre's value depreciates as it gets older, the assessment is much too high.

Pact Breach Suit Against Paramount Is Revealed

NEW YORK—Suit for $250,000 against Paramount Pictures and Paramount Pictures Distributing Corp. by Benjamin Roman is revealed in supreme court by a request on the part of Roman to examine Neil F. Agnew, Joseph Unger, Milton Kusell, and Myron Sattler before trial.

Suit claims breach of a year's contract entered into November 18, 1938, whereby Paramount granted Roman the exclusive re-issue rights to "The Spoilers" and "Morocco" in New York and northern New Jersey. The plaintiff was to give Paramount $15 for each day's exhibition at an "A" house; $12.50 at a "B" house, and $10 at a "C" house and keep any sum above that for himself. It is claimed Paramount breached the agreement in February, 1939. Paramount has entered a general denial.

WASHINGTON

"LIBERTY is something too precious to bind in books," was the keynote of Jimmie Stewart's address to the Senate in the role of "Senator Jefferson Smith" in Frank Capra's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," which was premiered at Constitution Hall with our official family highlighting a distinguished and enthusiastic audience. Opinion was unanimous that both Capra and Stewart are entitled to Academy awards.

Hollywood and Vine has nothing on 13th and F when it comes to seeing the stars. For the past few weeks the nation's capital has been both a starting point and an early stop on personal appearance tours. First Betty Grable, then Anna Neagle, Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney, Ann Sheridan, Dick Powell and Joan Blondell, and now comes M-G-M's starlet, Ann Rutherford, who journeyed to Greenville S. C., to assume the role of National Cotton Festival Queen . . . Carter Barron, Loew district manager, accompanied by Carlton Duffus, Metro exploiteer, planed south to meet Ann and accompany her to Washington, Richmond, Norfolk, and Baltimore. Ray Bell, Loew publicist, wired the local colleges to select their campus romeo to serve as escort for a day to Ann during her stay. The stunt aroused considerable interest and provided excellent publicity.

All Filmrow is pulling for Earl Taylor who was recently hospitalized . . . Henry Lego, Herndon, planed to Iowa to attend the funeral of his sister . . . RKO's Mary Janin is spending her belated vacation in the Big City . . . The Horlacher contingent from Philly visiting with Ralph Binns included Larry Daily, Charlie Anspach, Jack Hahn and Dave Rosen . . . Tom Rayfield, Clark Film manager, was presented with a 7¾-pound boy . . . Eddie Cumberland, Colonial Beach, visited the Row . . . Edgar Moss, 20th-Fox district manager, visited the local exchange.

Filmrow was saddened upon learning of the death of Mrs. Edna DeRosselli, Metro inspectress for many years . . . Metro's Irene Schweigenhaft has returned from her vacation . . . Gene Ford, Loew's Capitol manager, has been confined with illness; his daughter, however, cheered him in celebrating her first birthday.

Sam Tabor, Universal salesman, copped first place in the national sales drive and will be rewarded with a goodly sum . . . Edith Silverburg has joined the 20th-Fox staff . . . Sam Ternant, New-So, Cumberland, was seriously injured in a recent motor accident . . . Mrs. Albert Landgraf, UA, is doing nicely after an operation at Sibley Hospital . . . Earl Horne, Radford, Va., visited the Row and renewed his many acquaintances.

Anna May Schaben, Metro telephone greeter, resigned to enter the convent of the Sisters of Charity. A farewell party was held at Collingwood. Her sister, Mary Ellen, will replace her . . . Al Glazer, Pittsburgh exhibitor, visited with Sam Wheeler, 20th-Fox branch manager . . . Grayson Mills, 20th-Fox, held a housewarming in his new Hyattsville home with a large group of co-workers celebrating the event.

WB Sales Plan Ahead, Declares Allied Unit

CLARKSBURG, W. VA.—Warner is commended for having "taken a long step forward in presenting their 12-point program" covering its 1939-40 sales policy, in a resolution forwarded to Gradwell L. Sears, general sales manager, by the Allied-affiliated ITO of West Virginia.

The resolution puts the independent exhibitor organization on record as believing the distributor "will do all they propose to do with sincerity."

The resolution further points out that Warner has "cleared the atmosphere for its buyers," and expresses the hope that "other major companies will soon follow suit."

The message was forwarded to Sears by Richard D. Marks, newly-elected ITO president, and Danny Davis, secretary.

Stoneman Gets Hearing on Paramount Lease Suit

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Isador Wasservogel has scheduled the $70,886 suit of David Stoneman, Boston attorney against Sam Katz, Sam Dembow jr., Ralph A. Kohn, Marion Coles, Felix E. Kahn and Fred L. Metzler for hearing.

The action claims the defendants, all former directors of Paramount Publix, showed Stoneman a financial report in 1931, which failed to disclose losses of millions of dollars. As a result, Stoneman claims he allowed Paramount to guarantee a lease by a subsidiary, on the Empire, Portland, Ore., which was to run from May, 1931 to March, 1949. The lease was broken when Paramount went into the courts.

Date for UA Stockholders Meet Is Not Determined

NEW YORK—No date has been set for the annual UA stockholders' meeting and no decision has been made by Alexander Korda whether he will attend, Murray Silverstone states. Korda is now active in the production of propaganda films for the British government. In the event he cannot attend, Emanuel Silverstone, American representative for London Films, will act for the producer.

Anti-Trust Suit Parleys Summon FWC Council

NEW YORK—Charles A. Buckley, counsel for FWC, is in town conferring with home office executives on the "Big Stick" proceedings alleging violation of a 1930 consent decree. His stay here is indefinite.

Women's Clubs Delegates Oppose the Neely Bill

LINCOLN, NEB. — Approximately 1,200 delegates attending the annual convention of the Women's Clubs here unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Neely bill.

BALTIMORE

LESTER GREEN, supervisor of Bill Hicks circuit bought a new chariot . . . Jack Whittle of the Avenue and Arthur Price of the Aurora, announce the dance hall at their Gwynn Oak Park will be renovated and heated and will remain open for the winter season . . . Mr. and Mrs. Sam Soltz, Howard, motored to Pittsburgh last week . . . Meyer Leventhal, Lord Baltimore, is renovating and cataloging all historical films of official archives of the City of Baltimore.

Leon Bach, Home theatre executive, and wife, took in the World's Fair last weekend. Leon says that it's a tough job trying to take in everything in two days . . . Grace Moore, who is in town, went to the new Times Newsreel Theatre, and after seeing the show said, 'The Fight for Peace' is one of the most vital, most provocative pictures I have ever seen." Morton Baker, manager, immediately put ads in all Baltimore papers with the above copy.

Little Jacques Shellman has just received his inheritance from his aunt's estate . . . Morris A. Mechanic, president of the New and Center, was interviewed over station WFBR in conjunction with Motion Pictures' 50th anniversary. He answered questions concerning beginning of motion picture photography in 1887 and outlining the highlights from that date up to the latest films . . . Winner of weekly contests for managers of Rome theatres are Robert Marhenke, Broadway, and Nathan Cantor, Astor.

Herman Blum of the Little Theatre has just returned from New York . . . Morris Shapiro, Radio, went to the races last week and came back a wiser man . . . Sam Tabor won the $250 prize as top salesman for Universal . . . C. R. McLaughlan, Altec engineer, is in Norfolk relieving Bruce Mewborn . . . "Fixer Dugan" Cohen, Essex, went to the exchange and asked for a picture called "Caval Cat." They said "no."

Lawrence Shanberger, Keith's, arranged a tieup with the Baltimore *News Post* on "They Shall Have Music" and offered a scholarship for the best talented young violinist, professionals will be barred . . . I. M. Rappaport, Hippodrome chief, attended the huge benefit show at Patterson, N. J., last week . . . Jean Freeland is giving his Avenue the onceover.

MPTO of D. C., is showing a minute talking trailer by Gen. Albert Cox, head of D. C. National Guard, urging recruiting. It was filmed by Ernie Woods Studio.

Admission Tax Collection In Sharp Upward Bound

WASHINGTON—Federal admission tax collections in September reached the highest figure since last December, reveals the monthly report of the bureau of internal revenue.

The collection totaled $1,852,256 compared with $1,513,468 in the same month of 1938.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Wurtzel Observing 25th Year at Fox

Chalking up a record unequaled by any other individual, Sol Wurtzel is observing his 25th anniversary as a production executive with 20th Century-Fox and its predecessor, Fox Films. Wurtzel joined the old Fox company in New York in 1914, came to Hollywood in 1917 and is credited with having produced some 700 features during his career.



SOL WURTZEL

When 20th Century merged with Fox in 1933, Wurtzel remained as executive producer of the "B" unit, which post he holds today.

Academy Recognition for Western, Sherman's Aim

Heroine hanging by one hand on the edge of a gaping cliff . . . hero and cattle-rustling villain engaged in a desperate battle for her life and honor.

That situation has been making boxoffices tick the country over since motion pictures began and now, in the opinion of Producer Harry Sherman, a special Academy Award for westerns should be set up by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Sherman, who manufactures the "Hopalong Cassidy" sagebrushers for Paramount, has formally proposed such a step to the Academy on the grounds the outdoor melodramas are "in a distinctive class and deserve distinct consideration" and basing his argument further on the claim that "budgets for this type of production have been substantially increased in recent years, and many of the pictures contain true artistic merit."

Sherman pointed out that westerns depend solely on story, acting and action and that players in them "perform stunts which few would even attempt, so why shouldn't they be accorded recognition?"

Small Schedules "Sleepy Hollow"

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," the folktale by Washington Irving, has been added to Edward Small's 1939-40 production schedule for United Artists.

Federal Investigator Winds Up Two-Month Stay in Hollywood

Efforts for Stabilization Advance Waveringly

Two important developments — one cheering, the other in the nature of a setback—highlight Hollywood's current efforts to stabilize itself in production and operational procedure now that the European War is nearing the end of its second month.

Belief that the film capital is now on a comparatively sound wartime basis was strengthened through the report of Central Casting that extra placements during September—the month in which hostilities abroad started—gained nearly 3,000 over August, the total standing at more than 26,000, as compared to some 16,000 in September of 1938. Further, the ratio is expected to continue till the end of the year, with a number of high-budgeted pictures now either in work or scheduled for early starts.

Foy Unit Marks Time

However, some cold water was dashed on personnel records when Warner ordered an immediate suspension of production in Bryan Foy's program unit, with vacations for all hands for a period of from four to six weeks. The action, it was explained, does not come primarily as an economy move, but because the "B" production schedule has been completed for release through March. Activity will be resumed about December 1.

Advancing a similar reason, Universal called a halt to the production of its Richard Arlen-Andy Devine action dramas, of which five out of a total of seven have been completed. Work will resume in February.

The profit side of the ledger, however, found:

Metro hitting the production level ordered by Louis B. Mayer by starting two films and scheduling two others to follow in a week. Republic beginning to line up its production quota as far ahead as March. Richard Rowland announcing his first for United Artists, "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," will roll January 4. Monogram setting an October 30 starting date on "Rip Van Winkle," designated as a comparatively high-budgeted undertaking.

The executive front finds Sam Sax, exhead of Warner's English production, now at the Burbank studio giving Harry M. Warner a detailed picture of conditions abroad. Sax will be given an executive post at the Burbank plant. The war situation is also being discussed by Nicholas M. Schenck of Loew's, Inc., who checked in at M-G-M for one of his periodic visits.

Marking the definite washup of the first phase of the federal government's investigation into a number of film industry matters, Charles H. Carr, assistant to Attorney-General Frank Murphy, has returned to his headquarters in Washington, after a stay of nearly two months here.

Carr took with him a voluminous collection of material for presentation to and examination by his chief and the treasury department. Most of it was in the form of transcriptions of the testimony given by studio executives and labor leaders before the federal grand jury, which was impanelled after Carr spent several weeks gathering data concerning alleged labor racketeering, charges of income tax evasions and various corporate matters concerning the industry. The inquiry, among other things, checked into a reported $100,000 "payoff" to William Bioff, at one time Pacific Coast leader of the IATSE, by Joseph M. Schenck of the Producers Association, and income tax questions arising out of the merger of Fox Films with 20th Century in 1933.

Carr intimated he may return within a few weeks. The deputy prosecutor had no comment to make, however, as to whether the case is permanently closed or will be reopened after Washington officials have studied the evidence he has rounded up.

The grand jury, which was in session for ten days, heard testimony by Louis B. Mayer, Harry M. Warner, Darryl Zanuck, Harry Cohn, William Goetz, Sid Rogell, Pat Casey, Victor Clarke and labor officials including Harland Holmden, Joseph Carpenter and Herbert Sorrell, among others.

Borrow Lamour for "Johnny Apollo"

Dorothy Lamour has been borrowed from Paramount by 20th Century-Fox to co-star with Tyrone Power in "Johnny Apollo."

Painters Wage Boost Request Waits; Five New Demands

Successful in obtaining a week's delay in the deadline set by the studio painters for an answer to their demands for a 15 per cent wage increase, producers have been confronted with another major problem with the submission of demands for a 10 per cent salary boost by the studio plasterers, utility workers, machinists, molders and plumbers, all American Federation of Labor unionists.

The painters had set October 16 as the date on which producers must reply to their request. However, producer negotiators pleaded for the additional seven-day respite on the grounds a further study of the situation was necessary.

The five AFL unions are being represented in their negotiations by William Bioff, former Pacific Coast IATSE leader, at the head of a "united front" committee which it is indicated will be the forerunner of a studio labor council comprising all AFL crafts except the motion picture painters. Latter have gone on record as being unanimously in favor of complete autonomy.

Painters called a general meeting for October 22 at which time a strike vote will be taken unless their demands have been acceded to. The local contains approximately 1,000 members.

Ambitious IATSE Move

The IATSE, which recently won a 10 per cent wage increase and closed shop conditions in the major studios for 12,000 workers, has moved to extend its jurisdiction to the independents, including Monogram and Republic, and has filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board asking to be certified as bargaining representative. Heretofore the independents have employed a fairly heavy proportion of technicians, utility workers and others without union cards. The IA has also applied a 5 per cent wage levy against members of the sound technicians local to liquidate the indebtedness incurred during the recent intrajurisdictional battle over Local 37.

Another phase of the extra player problem has been scheduled for investigation by the Screen Actors Guild with the announcement by President Ralph Morgan that charges by extras that favoritism is shown in the Central Casting Corp.'s method of placing day workers are to be thoroughly probed. Morgan declared that "if there is a basis for these charges the Guild will insist on a housecleaning" but added that should the allegations be proved groundless "Central Casting and its staff are entitled to have the ugly rumors set at rest."

The SAG having already ratified the pact, the Artists Managers Guild scheduled a general meeting to pass on the Guild's licensing plan for agents. The contract, under which only signatories may handle SAG members, calls for agency representation to be limited to one year, with the right to re-sign for three years if mutually agreeable. The pact has already been approved by the AMG's executive committee.

Ballots mailed out by the SAG to ratify its recent election of officers, in which the entire slate of present incumbents was chosen to serve again for another term. Officers will be inaugurated at a special meeting November 5.

The Screen Writers Guild will hold its annual election November 8. Nominating committee is now selecting a slate of officers to be mailed members for their approval. The Screen Directors Guild has scheduled a meeting for October 23, which will be attended by Mabel Walker Willebrandt, SDG attorney.

Other labor developments:

The jurisdictional fate of animators and other film cartoonists is being disputed by the Screen Cartoonists Guild and the IATSE cameramen's local, with the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors and the Federation of Screen Cartoonists—the latter comprising members of Walt Disney's staff exclusively—also on the fringes of the debate. Both the SCG and the IA claim jurisdiction over these craftsmen in all animated cartoon plants and have filed certification petitions with the NLRB. The SCG waived its rights over cutters in cartoon units to the film editors, but the IA cameramen claim in their petition that cutters must be included within the IA fold. The IA local also insists that Disney's FSC be disbanded and that its members apply for IA cards.

Unit Managers Guild met to discuss the status of its members at Republic and other independent studios and to lay plans for a drive to sign the top independent plants to the SDG basic agreement under which the UMG operates. Society of Motion Picture Art Directors is preparing a draft of demands for a closed shop to be submitted shortly to the producers. Office workers at Universal have filed a certification petition with the NLRB.

Delay on SAG-Agent Licensing Pact

On the ground that more time to study details is required, the Artists Managers Guild has declined to ratify the new Screen Guild-agent contract and has called a second meeting for October 23 to pass on the licensing agreement.

New Tugboat Annie

Warner announces "Tugboat Annie Sails Again" as the initialer in the revived Tugboat Annie Series based upon the popular short stories by Norman Reilly Raine. Ken Gamet is scripting with a December start on the docket.

Litvak on "It All Came True"

Warner has assigned Anatole Litvak to direct "And It All Came True," co-featuring George Raft, Ann Sheridan and John Garfield. Film rolls in November.



Early P. A. Start—

Entrusted with the negative of "Hitler —Beast of Berlin," most ambitious production venture to date of Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp., Roland Drew embarks for New York to deliver it to a developing laboratory. Drew, one of the featured players in the picture, will make personal appearances with it.

John Stahl Is Free Of Universal Pact

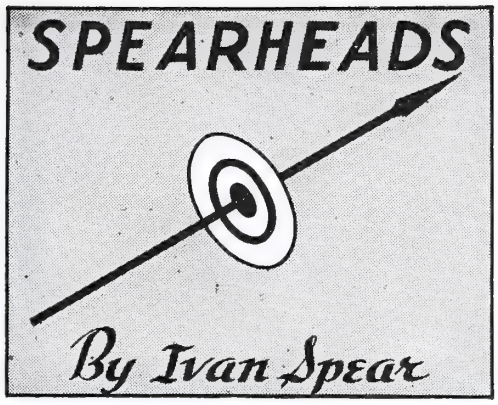
Declaring himself dissatisfied with available story material for his next assignment, Producer-Director John M. Stahl secured an amicable release from his Universal contract, which had two years to run. Accompanied by Mrs. Stahl, he has gone to New York on a combined pleasure and business trip and, upon his return, will announce a new affiliation. He is currently negotiating a producer-director pact with two major studios.

Terminating his contract as writer and actor after an association of several years, Robert Benchley, humorist, dramatic critic and Thespian, has left M-G-M and has been signed by Selznick International to appear in a series of short subjects. It is the first time that S-I, releasing through United Artists, has ever attempted the production of any but feature-length pictures. Making of the series will be divided between Hollywood and New York, the first to go into work when activity on the S-I lot resumes sometime in February.

Charles Grayson has obtained a release from his writing contract at Universal, after three years with the studio. The scripter plans an extended vacation in South America. Ben Hecht has wound up his M-G-M writing contract and left the lot.

John Hartley, Paramount stock player, has left the payroll. His last assignment was in "Opened by Mistake."

Returning from a six-month leave of absence, Alexander Toluboff has rejoined the Walter Wanger production staff as a set designer.



WHILE the comparison will probably prove shocking to the nerves of the esthetes, Film-actress Marlene Dietrich apparently is serving as Hollywood's No. 1 guinea pig. The frail fraulein is in the center of the microscopic field in two current film capital experiments—one involving casting, the other public relations.

Miss Dietrich's previous emoting before the cameras of two continents had firmly established her in the minds of the fans as the glamorous type. She was, perhaps, the screen's most outstanding exponent of exoticism. Regardless of individual reactions to the Dietrichian charms and talents, her languid delineations failed to pay dividends for the production companies which starred her, although Marlene herself fared right well when the more princely of Hollywood's weekly paychecks were distributed. But, while Mr. and Mrs. Public might have "Oh'ed" and "Ah'ed" at her shapely limbs and diaphanous beauty, they did not lay the main thing on the line at the boxoffice in sufficient quantities to warrant continuance of her screen career on the ethereal plane originally ordained as her lot by the Magi of filmdom. In brief, La Dietrich as a glamour gal was as dead as a dodo.

Then Universal, in as surprising a bit of casting as has come to light in many months, brought her back from almost complete obscurity for the femme lead in "Destry Rides Again," in which super sagebrusher she portrays the part of a hardboiled entertainer in an early western dancehall. Just how the theatre patrons will react to this Thespic metamorphosis will be revealed only when the picture has been released and its grosses tabulated.

Of more interest, for the time being at least, is the parallel experiment which is making such a Herculean attempt to have the public forget the actress' aloof languishment and accept her as the hale-and-hearty good-fellow type, a la Carole Lombard, Jean Arthur, Barbara Stanwyck and several kindred stars whose individual and collective aura is apparently more satisfying to the American taste.

And, if space alone is criterion, someone is doing a splendid job in this direction. One can hardly pick up a periodical without reading some publicity tidbit which tells of a very human gesture on the part of Marlene. "Miss Dietrich wines the boys of Universal's publicity department," "Miss Dietrich buys wrist watches for her cameramen and sound recorders," "Miss Dietrich consents to be photographed in unflattering poses," etc., etc. The piece de resistance of this humanizing campaign was a six-page photographic layout in a recent issue of Life Magazine, in which stills from her hectic hair-pulling battle with Una Merkel, with the saloon floor as the arena, displayed her soaked to the skin with water, her dress torn, the stockings covering those world-famed legs snagged and awry, and—the final touch—Miss Merkel attempting to carve off a substantial chunk of the Dietrich torso with her teeth.

Again, fan reaction to this about-face in the public relations methods applied to the erstwhile sequestered siren is a moot question, the ultimate answer to which also is hidden in the post-release future of the picture.

Universal's publicity chief, John Joseph, and his competent corps of assistants claim exclusive credit for the voluminous space garnered by the deglamourize-Dietrich campaign, albeit Miss Dietrich's name adorns the client list which hangs in the plush-lined, gold-plated Beverly Hills offices of Russell Birdwell and Associates, free-lance publicists de luxe. Just what Birdwell and associates are doing for Marlene's celluloid future is hardly discernible to the naked eye, particularly in view of the fact that the Universal flacks claim unequivocal title to all of her recent publicity. At the same time they are frank to admit that it is in the nature of an experiment, the outcome of which cannot be too certain; but argue that if it is non-productive of the desired results the actress will be no worse off than she was before she accepted the "Destry" part and submitted to the hoydenish build-up and ballyhoo it indicated.

And so the Dietrich celluloid and popularity destiny has been thrown up for grabs, with only one phase of the outcome a certainty—if the campaign is successful and Marlene is re-established as a boxoffice personality Birdwell will take the bows, while if it fails the onus will be the heritage of the Universal praisery.

Mobsters, Mirth and Medicine

A satisfying and sizeable slice of Americana during one of its most hectic moods, the late but not lamented prohibition era, made life worth living—and, in most cases, a trifle nostalgic—for the reviewers who were unanimous in declaring Warner's "The Roaring Twenties" an unqualified best of the preview week.

Fulfilling the descriptive title, this lightning-fast action melodrama should roar its way through theatres everywhere and leave in its wake sound, solid profits and satisfied patrons. Mark Hellinger, who had a ringside seat as a newspaperman during that epoch of high-jacking and alcoholic hilarity, contributed a well-documented original story which was turned into a first-class script by Jerry Wald, Richard Macaulay and Robert Rossen; a screen play in which James Cagney scores in the type of gangster role which first made him a favorite. Producer Sam Bischoff gave the vehicle everything needed to mark it as a topranker and Raoul Walsh provided the necessary speed and timing in his direction.

* * *

Additionally in the more important budget class were Paramount's "Disputed Passage" and Metro's "At the Circus." Although it cannot be gainsaid that Paramount exerted every effort to transcribe the Lloyd C. Douglas novel faithfully to the screen, it must unfortunately be reported that the adaptation does not have the required punch to sell it as entertainment for the masses. Chiefly, it is a character study which will be found most welcome by discriminating patrons and the host of Douglas fans. The screenplay by Anthony Veiller and Sheridan Gibney, intelligently done, is perhaps a shade too literal in its adherence to the original. In its technical aspects Harlan Thompson's production is well up to standard, and Frank Borzage contributed evenly-paced direction.

Most audiences seeking broad comedy will find it in sufficiently large doses in Metro's new Marx Brothers vehicle, "At the Circus." Noisy and a bit lengthy, the feature has a few hilarious sequences, little or no story and the reliable antics of Messrs. Groucho, Chico and Harpo, each contributing his standard brand of insanity. Edward Buzzell directed for Producer Mervyn LeRoy, and Irving Brecher draws credit for the script.

* * *

The balance of the week's lineup qualify generally as worthwhile additions to the season's quota of satisfying program items. In "Meet Dr. Christian," first in a proposed series, RKO Radio has a warm, human and sometimes compelling vehicle which, by dint of a vital and realistic performance by Jean Hersholt, will probably find itself scoring solidly. As the first en-

(Continued on page 31)

Cinémarks

Mr. and Mrs. Sol Wurtzel have trained out for an extended vacation. Wurtzel is observing his 25th anniversary as a film executive . . . Samuel C. Diege, independent producer who has been associated with Fine Arts, died of a heart attack.

*

Scenarist Alice Duer Miller, fresh from a New York holiday, has checked in at RKO Radio to begin a writing assignment for Producer Herbert Wilcox . . . When the first in his new series of starring films, "Meet Dr. Christian," makes its debut in Minneapolis October 23, Jean Hersholt will be on hand to attend a meeting of some 10,000 citizens of that metropolis.

*

Twenty-five years as a Universal studio employe, the last few of them as studio production manager, netted Martin Murphy, among other things, a new de luxe automobile, a letter of congratulation from President Nate Blumberg and a surprise buffet supper. Cliff Work donated the car and studio executives and employes honored Murphy at the festive board.

*

Friends of Producer Edgar Selwyn of Metro helped him celebrate a brithday anniversary at his Beverly Hills home . . . Park Frame, Warner location scout, is gandering the bayfront districts for a likely atmosphere for the first "Tugboat Annie" feature . . . More than 500 Paramount studio club members and their guests indulged in rug-cutting at their annual fall dance at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

*

Scenarist Myles Connolly, recuperating from an appendectomy, is vacationing for a month in New York . . . The Rogue River country in Oregon has beckoned Pandro Berman, RKO Radio production chief, for a week's holiday . . . Binnie Barnes will be guest of honor when the first fall meeting of the National Council of Jewish Juniors is held October 22.

*

James Ryan, casting director for 20th Century-Fox, left for New York on a three-week holiday. He was accompanied by Mrs. Ryan . . . Humphrey Bogart is planning a Lake Tahoe vacation when he completes his current Warner assignment . . . James A. FitzPatrick, Metro shorts producer, has gone east to pick up material in Pennsylvania, Mississippi and Louisiana for his Traveltalks series.

*

The Masquers Club will stage a testimonial dinner, October 25, honoring Darryl Zanuck for his recent cooperation with the Motion Picture Relief Fund in staging the "Hollywood Cavalcade" premiere for the Fund's benefit . . . Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck left for New York.

*

John Payne has left for a vacation at Sun Valley and in New York . . . Harry M. Warner has accepted an invitation to become a member of the committee of awards of The American Hebrew, *which annually gives a medal to the man or woman who has contributed most toward a better understanding between Christians and Jews in America.*

*

Charles Coburn has returned to Hollywood and film work after spending the summer in charge of the annual Mohawk Drama Festival in New York.

Schenck East After Huddle With Mayer

Making one of his periodic studio visits, Nicholas M. Schenck of Loew's Inc., spent a few days at the M-G-M studios in Culver City conferring with Louis B. Mayer, production chief, and other plant executies on production and distribution matters, then returning to his New York headquarters. The moguls discussed release plans for "Northwest Passage," filmization of the Kenneth Roberts novel, and huddled generally on the production procedure which has been adopted since the outbreak of war abroad.

A detailed picture of the foreign situation was revealed to Harry M. Warner and Hal Wallis, of the Warner studio, by Sam Sax, former head of the company's Teddington, England, studio. With the abandonment of all production there, Sax was ordered to report to the Burbank studio, where an executive post will be created for him.

Herman Wobber, sales chief of 20th Century-Fox, was expected in at the Westwood studio to huddle with Darryl Zanuck, Joseph H. Schenck and William Goetz concerning the production lineup for the balance of the 1939-40 season, Schenck having returned from his Mexican survey to participate in the parleys. With the current season's program well ahead of schedule, particularly in the Sol M. Wurtzel unit, Wobber and the studio executives will look over several story properties now on hand for possible inclusion in the 1940-41 schedule.

Wurtzel will not sit in on the conferences, having left for New York on a combined business-pleasure trip, during which he will confer with distribution executives on sales and release plans for his current production quota.

Irving Berlin has gone to New York, winding up his parleys with Zanuck concerning production plans for his next 20th Century-Fox picture, "Say It With Music." He will return in April to place the film before the cameras.

To be honored guest at the world premiere of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," Producer-Director Frank Capra headed for Washington, D. C., for a ten-day stay. Sponsored by the National Press Club, the showing was to be attended by President and Mrs. Roosevelt as well as members of the cabinet and Senate.

From present indications President George Schaefer will remain at the RKO Radio studio for another week or two, completing his work of effecting general salary reductions and conferring with the heads of the several independent production units releasing through his company.

Lewin & Loew Form Firm; UA to Release

Revising his original plans for re-entering independent production, as announced last spring, David L. Loew has formed a partnership with Albert Lewin, former Paramount producer, under the corporate name of David L. Loew-Albert Lewin Productions, to manufacture an unannounced quantity of films for United Artists release during the current season. Incorporation papers, filed in Sacramento, list Loew, Lewin and Henry Ginsberg, general manager of Selznick International, as directors.

Attorney Harry Sokolov, who is representing the new company, declared that Ginsberg does not contemplate resigning his S-I position. The company will make its headquarters for the present on the S-I lot in Culver City. Lewin at present is in the east but will return within two weeks, at which time the company's initial vehicle will be announced.

At the time of the UA convention here last spring, the announcement was made that Loew would produce from four to eight top-budget features for distribution through that corporation. However, since that time he has been inactive until the affiliation with Lewin was announced.

Another UA producer, Richard Rowland, has acquired shooting space at General Service studio, where he has had office space since incorporating his production unit. His first picture, "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," goes before the cameras January 4 with Barbara Stanwyck in the title role.

Having recently previewed "The Great Commandment," for which no release has been announced, Cathedral Pictures' executive producer, Jack Coyle, left for Kansas City to confer with Rev. James K. Friedrich, associate in the company, concerning plans for its second production.

Seeking top names for the film version of "Angela Is 22," the Sinclair Lewis play, Jack Skirball has returned to the coast from New York. In association with John Wildberg, Broadway stage impresario, Skirball will produce the picture as one of a series for Columbia release. Filming starts in December at the Eastern Service studios in New York.

Fine Arts attaches expected Franklyn Warner, president of the company, to return from New York during the week, at which time it was anticipated a definite announcement as to whether FA will continue its association with Grand National would be made. Neither company is now active in production, GN's president, E. W. Hammons not yet having consummated his efforts to secure financing, while FA has been marking time awaiting developments on the GN front. Warner's unit holds a three-picture releasing contract with RKO Radio and has delivered one, "Isle of Destiny," filmed in Cosmocolor.



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Electrical Research Products Inc.
SUBSIDIARY OF
Western Electric Company

Hollywood Personnelities

Options

—Columbia
CHARLES M. BROWN joins writing staff in the Robert Sparks production unit.

—Metro
VIRGINIA WEIDLER, child actress, held for another year. Her next assignment is "Kathleen," a story by Kay Van Riper.

—20th Century-Fox
MARY BETH HUGHES given long-term acting contract.

—Warner Bros.
MAY ROBSON given new term acting contract.
JAMES HILTON draws new term writing contract.

Cleffers

—Samuel Goldwyn
VICTOR YOUNG signed to write music and score "Raffles."

—Metro
EDWARD WARD scoring "Bad Little Angel."
ARTHUR ROSENSTEIN, music and vocal coach, given new term contract.
DAVID SNELL writing score for "Henry Goes to Arizona."
EDWARD WARD and EARL BRENT write an original song, "Try to Remember," for use as theme material in "Remember?" co-starring Robert Taylor and Greer Garson.
ROBERT WRIGHT and CHESTER FORREST working with HERBERT STOTHART on special song material for "Lover, Come Back to Me," which will co-star Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy.

—Paramount
FREDERICK HOLLANDER scoring "Remember the Night." Irving Talbot is conducting the studio's recording orchestra.
VICTOR SCHERTZINGER has composed a song titled "The Moon and the Willow Tree," with lyrics by JOHNNY BURKE, which will be used in "The Road to Singapore." Schertzinger is directing the picture.
SIGMUND KRUMGOLD scoring "Diamonds Are Dangerous."

—Republic
CY FEUER scoring "Main Street Lawyer."

—Hal Roach
AARON COPELAND to "Of Mice and Men," with ABE MEYER supervising.

—Warner Bros.
MAX STEINER to write score for "Four Wives." He just completed a similar chore on "We Are Not Alone."

Technically

—Metro
DAN CATHCART set as unit art director on "Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep," the Joan Crawford-Clark Gable co-starrer.
LEONARD SMITH to photograph "Go West," next Marx Brothers comedy.
DAVID MILLER directing "The Flag Speaks," two-reel Technicolor featurette.
WALTER STROHM assigned as assistant director on "Congo Maisie."
SERGEI PETSCHNIKOFF set as unit manager for "Congo Maisie."
KEITH WEEKS set as unit manager on "Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep."
LEW BORZAGE assigned assistant directorial spot on "Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep."
WILLIAM SKALL to handle Technicolor cameras on "The Flag Speaks," a two-reeler which David Miller will direct. BERT GLAZER is assistant director.

—Monogram
HARRY NEUMANN assigned to photograph "Mr. Wong at Headquarters."

—RKO Radio
THERON WARTH assigned to edit "Sunset."
FREDERIC KNUDTSON editing "Legion of the Lawless," George O'Brien western.
DESMOND MARQUETTE to edit "Mexican Spitfire," Lupe Velez starrer.

—20th Century-Fox
RALPH DIETRICH of the production staff, set to leave for Buenos Aires in November, heading a camera crew, to pick up background material for "The South American Way." Dietrich will be accompanied by BERT GLENNON, cameraman, and R. CARNEY and P. Uhl, Technicolor technicians.

Scripters

—Metro
LAWRENCE HAZARD to "One Came Home." Albert Levoy will produce.
JULIEN JOSEPHSON to an untitled "Hardy Family" picture.

—Paramount
MAXWELL SHANE to "Golden Gloves," from his own original.

—Producers Pictures Corp.
JOSEPH O'DONNELL to "The Invisible Killer."

—RKO Radio
GENE FOWLER to an untitled story for Producer-Director Leo McCarey.
ALICE DUER MILLER to the next Herbert Wilcox production, as yet untitled.

—Republic
CONNIE LEE to "Down By the Old Mill Stream," a Gene Autry western.
EUGENE ALAN and CARROLL GRAHAM to "The Girl From God's Country."

—Warner Bros.
CHARLES REISNER to "Tugboat Annie Sails Again."
ERNEST BOOTH to "Daniel Boone," a historical featurette.

Story Buys

—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
"Escape," by Ethel Vance. Story deals with anti-Nazi activities in Germany and ran serially in the Saturday Evening Post.
"Waterloo Bridge" by David O. Selznick, who acquired re-make rights to the vehicle some time ago from Universal. Selznick has loaned Vivien Leigh to M-G-M for the starring role.
"Kathleen," a radio play by Kay Van Riper as a possible vehicle for Virginia Weidler.

—RKO Radio
"The $1,000 Marriage," by Arthur Beckhard, as a Leon Errol comedy. Bert Gilroy will produce and Leslie Goodwins will direct.

—Republic
"Million Dollar Fugitive," a series of newspaper stories by Jack Foster dealing with the life of Louis Lepke Buchalter, the gangster.

New High Levels Again Beckoning Production

Quickly recuperating from a brief letdown, production has again begun climbing back to high levels. Now in work are 43 films in the major plants, this figure being supplemented by the addition of 11 others in final preparatory stages.

Columbia is shooting five, including a new starter, "Passport to Happiness." Two others—"The Street of Missing Women" and "Blondie Brings Up Baby" have been sent to the cutting rooms. Metro has launched "Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep" and "Congo Maisie," at the same time completing "Nick Carter" and "The Secret of Dr. Kildare." Four are in production. Monogram shoved off "Mr. Wong at Headquarters" to raise its total to two.

"Safari" and "The Biscuit Eater"—the latter on location in Georgia—are Paramount's new starts. Studio is shooting four. Six are in production at RKO Radio, including a new starter, "Distant Fields." Chalked up as completed are "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" and "Escape to Paradise," the latter a Principal Production. Republic is shooting two, having launched "South of the Border."

Twentieth Century-Fox raised its total to seven by gunning "Charlie Chan in Panama." Universal started "Trouble's My Middle Name" and completed "First Love" and "Green Hell," the latter being Harry Edington's first effort under the Famous Productions banner. Four are in work at the Universal City plant. Various United Artists producers account for an aggregate of three productions.

Warner is filming six, having started "The Life of Dr. Ehrlich" and "Million Dollar Fugitive." Sent to the cutting rooms was "Invisible Stripes."

Tom Pettey to the Fore on Hays Office Publicity

Readjustment of personnel and realignment of the staff in its new duties since the recent general economy order at the Hays office finds Tom Pettey, of the press relations department, slated to take over most of the duties handled by Kyle Palmer as head of the now-disbanded committee on public relations. Palmer will leave the payroll November 1. The committee was organized nearly two years ago as a means to effecting more cordial relations for the industry in its press and publicity contacts. Pettey has returned to his desk after a two-week vacation in Texas.

The busy labor unit has also undergone a reorganization. Fred Pelton has been appointed chief labor contact, headquartering here, with Victor Clarke as his assistant. Pat Casey, who has been in charge of this division, will henceforth headquarter in New York and will exercise supervision over labor problems arising there. Pelton's first important chore will be to negotiate with William Bioff, ex-IATSE Pacific Coast chief, concerning demands for wage increases by plasterers, utility workers, molders and machinists, who formed a solid American Federation of Labor front and deputized Bioff as their representative.

Judell's Arizona Studio To Open in a Gay Way

Opening of the new western location studio at Prescott, Ariz., early in November as another milestone in the development of Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp. will find Arizona state officials, including Gov. R. T. Jones, participating in the ceremonies. Governor Jones has accepted Judell's invitation and the fete will include a street parade and a barbecue at the studio, which is now nearing completion. Date of its opening will be known as "Bobby Clark Day" in honor of the 13-year-old world's champion junior cowboy who will feature in a series of eight "Sagebrush Family" westerns to be produced there by Judell.

The company will also manufacture 16 other westerns at the Arizona plant, including eight Tim McCoy starrers and an equal number featuring George Huston. All will be released through Judell's Producers Distributing Corp.

In Hollywood, where he is filming at Grand National, Judell is well along with "Buried Alive," a prison melodrama which is the third vehicle on his program for the year. Next to go will be "Mercy Plane."

Rogers & McCrea Co-Stars In "The Primrose Path"

RKO Radio has signed Joel McCrea to co-star with Ginger Rogers in "The Primrose Path," to be produced and directed by Gregory La Cava. Marjorie Rambeau draws a featured role. The vehicle was a Broadway stage success.

SPEARHEADS

(Continued from page 27)

terprise undertaken by the new Stephens-Lang independent production unit, it measures up to supporting feature standards in every way. William Stephens, the producer, and Monroe Shaff, his associate, share the credit jointly with Director Bernard Vorhaus and Scenarists Ian McLellan Hunter, Ring Lardner jr. and Harvey Gates.

Producer Harry Sherman sent his veteran "Hopalong Cassidy" to South America and back in Paramount's "Law of the Pampas." The change of clime and scenery "Hoppy" evidently found to his liking, for, in adding the scalps of a few more villains to his belt, the popular cowboy chalked up what is probably his most satisfying adventure to date. Harrison Jacobs' script and Nate Watt's direction contribute substantially to what should be a solid hit among outdoor fans.

Admirably compiled, edited and narrated by A. L. Rule, "When Germany Surrendered" is an assemblage of film shot during the last World War by army cameramen attached to the French, British, German, Italian and American forces. Depicting the actual horrors, brutalities and destruction which took place in that holocaust, the film emerges as an eloquent appeal for peace which, judging from current international conditions, is particularly timely and, consequently, a potential money-maker. Its screening should be compulsory for all jingoists, who might change their minds after viewing one especially horrifying sequence—a closeup of hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches.

Largely of the run-of-the-mill variety, Warner's "Waterfront" was evidently designed for, and should satisfy, the melodrama addicts. Director Terry Morse injected plenty of action, using the script by Lee Katz and Arthur Ripley as his framework. Bryan Foy produced.

Four for Schaefer

Armand Schaefer has been booked for four production assignments at Republic—"National Barn Dance," a Gene Autry western; "Bowery Boy," a Roy Rogers sagebrusher, "In Old Missouri," and "The Girl From God's Country."

Walker to Produce

Paramount has assigned Stuart Walker to produce "Broken Heart Cafe," which had been in preparation by William H. Wright until the latter left the lot. The film goes before the cameras in January.

Ratoff Assigned

Next directorial assignment for Gregory Ratoff at 20th Century-Fox will be "I Am an Adventuress," a story by Nunnally Johnson. Madeleine Carroll has been borrowed from Paramount for the lead.

Ben Pivar Assigned

Universal has assigned Ben Pivar to produce "Trouble's My Middle Name."

• REVIEW FLASHES •

BAD LITTLE ANGEL (M-G-M)—A Sunday School lesson in celluloid, quaintly mid-Victorian in character, but with the pollyanna spirit laid on a little too heavy for average audience enjoyment. Little Virginia Weidler shows genuine talent and self-assurance in the title role. Albert E. Levoy produced; William Thiele directed.

BEWARE, SPOOKS (Col)—Those who like their comedy utterly devoid of subtleties and confirmed Joe E. Brown fans will find his latest vehicle a prize package of guffaws, since it specializes in slapstick and hokum at their very broadest. Robert Sparks produced; Edward Sedgwick directed.

SCANDAL SHEET (Col)—Hard working newspapermen will take this highly colored tale about sensational journalism with a wink; to audiences, it will be just another run-of-the-mill picture. Otto Kruger, Ona Munson, Edward Norris. Nick Grinde directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Renewed Reactionary Activities Exposed

Unswerving in its renewed campaign to stamp out Fascism and its by-product, Nazism, in the United States, the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League came uncomfortably close to home when some 320 members and friends, assembled in "emergency" session, learned through the submission of documentary material that totalitarianism is making heavy inroads in Hollywood's motion picture industry.

The meeting, one of the most important on the HANL's calendar for some time, was highlighted by the report of Michael Elkins, League investigator, who submitted information concerning the activities of the revived Ku Klux Klan, the Silver Shirts and similar organizations in the film capital. His report was part of a barrage in which J. Walter Ruben, Metro producer; H. S. Kraft of the HANL; Mary McCall jr., screen writer, and Al Wirin, Civil Liberties Union attorney, participated.

Elkins submitted a partial list of local Fascist leaders and declared the KKK's membership among studio workers, now estimated at 400, is growing daily. He claimed that Ruby M. Edison, commander of the KKK's woman's auxiliary and until recently a motion picture extra, received pay for a day's work at M-G-M and, in addition, secured ten applications for membership. Elkins charged that the KKK auxiliary has 120 members at that studio, including stock and featured players and extras.

Ruben presented a detailed outline of the terrorist activities which he charged are being instigated by Father Coughlin and his adherents. He declared that if Coughlin succeeds in organizing other pro-fascists into one unit "we will have nothing short of a civil war and our cherished democracy will fall into ruins."

"There's only one answer to all of this," Ruben said. "Get up and fight—not the Coughlin way with brick-bats and violence, but with your intelligence, courage and resources . . . We are Americans fighting for the preservation of our American democracy."

Wirin cautioned that the status of civil liberties today, which he termed "excellent," must be protected at all costs.

Among those attending the session:

Harold Arlen, Edward Biberman, Stanley Bergerman, Erica Mann, John Carradine, Edward Chodorov, Sam Coslow, Nat Finston, Jay Gorney, Don Hartman, Heinz Herald, Sig Herzig, Gordon Kahn, Aben Kandel, Henry Koster, Harry Maizlich, Fred Myer, Mortimer Offner, Ray Schrock, Alan Scott, Victor Shapiro, Vincent Sherman, Jo Swerling, Harlan Thompson, Harry Tugend, Frank Tuttle, Salka Viertel and John Wexley.

Special League meetings are now being arranged to review the facts presented at the emergency session and to map combative plans.

Other liberal activity:

The Motion Picture Democratic Committee, in its annual election of officers, chose Philip Dunne as chairman; Melvyn Douglas as first vice-chairman; Miriam Hopkins, second vice-chairman; John Ford, third vice-chairman, and Maurice Murphy, executive secretary.

Irving Pichel was chief speaker at a regular meeting of the HANL's Southwest District. He discussed "The Migratory Worker Problem."

Harry Warner to Appear In Civic Record Film

Invitation to appear in a motion picture titled "America's Making," to be produced by the Russell Sage Foundation, has been accepted by Harry M. Warner. Film will deal with significant contributions of American citizens to the development of the country. The foundation has also asked for clips from "Lights of New York," and "The Jazz Singer," early Warner talkies.

"Irene" Is Next Wilcox Production for RKO

Next Herbert Wilcox production for RKO Radio, to star Anna Neagle, will be "Irene," the stage musical acquired by the studio some time ago. Wilcox will direct. Screen rights were purchased from James Montgomery, author of the original and Harry Tierney and Joseph McCarthy, who wrote the music and lyrics. Alice Duer Miller is writing the script for a November camera start.

In The Making

	STARTING	WELL ALONG	COMPLETED
COL.	**GUN LORD OF THE FRONTIER**—Bill Elliott, Linda Winters. Producer: Leon Barsha. Director: Sam Nelson. **THE COP FROM HELL'S KITCHEN**—Bruce Cabot, Jacqueline Wells, Wynne Gibson, Harry Carey. Producer: Jack Fier. Director: Charles Barton.	**THE INCREDIBLE MR. WILLIAMS**—Joan Blondell, Melvyn Douglas, Ruth Donnelly, Donald MacBride. Producer: Everett Riskin. Director: Alexander Hall. Screenplay: Dwight Taylor. **HIS GIRL FRIDAY**—Rosalind Russell, Ralph Bellamy, Cary Grant, Helen Mack, Ernest Truex, Gene Lockhart, Roscoe Karns, Porter Hall. Producer: Howard Hawks. Original: Ben Hecht, Charles MacArthur.	**BLONDIE BRINGS UP BABY**—Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms, Daisy, Jonathan Hale. Producer: Robert Sparks. Director: Frank R. Strayer.
GN			
M-G-M		**EARL OF CHICAGO**—Robert Montgomery, Reginald Owen, Edward Arnold, Ronald Sinclair. Producer: Victor Saville. Director: Richard Thorpe. Original: Brock Williams. **NICK CARTER**—Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Donald Meek, Addison Richards, George Meeker, Sterling Holloway, Andrew Tombes, Henry Hull. Producer: Lucien Hubbard. Director: Jacques Tourneur.	**DR. KILDARE'S SECRET** — Lew Ayres, Lionel Barrymore, Laraine Johnson, Alec Craig. Producer: Lou Ostrow. Director: Harold Bucquet. Original: Max Brand.
MONO.	**ROLL, WAGONS, ROLL**—Tex Ritter, Muriel Evans, Reed Howes, Tom London. Producer: Edward Finney. Director: Al Herman. Original Screenplay: Victor Adamson, Edmond Kelso, Roger Merton.	**MR. WONG AT HEADQUARTERS**—Boris Karloff. Producer: William Lackey. Director: William Nigh. Original: Hugh Wiley. Screenplay: Scott Darling.	**HEROES IN BLUE** — Dick Purcell, Bernadene Hayes, Charles Quigley, Lillian Elliott. Producer: Ted Wiliams. (Sherwill Productions). Director: William Watson. Original: Charles Williams, Charles Curran. Screenpay: Charles Williams.
PARA.	**THE LIGHT OF WESTERN STARS**—Victor Jory, Russell Hayden, Tom Tyler. Producer: Harry Sherman. Director: Lesley Selander. Original: Zane Grey. Screenplay: Norman Houston.	**BUCK BENNY RIDES AGAIN**—Jack Benny, Virginia Dale, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, Andy Devine. Producer-Director: Mark Sandrich. Screenplay: Everett Freeman, Sam Hellman, Zion Myers, Bill Morrow, Ed Beloin, Eddie Moran.	**FOUR ACES**—William Boyd, Russell Hayden. Producer: Harry Sherman. Director: Howard Bretherton. Original: Jack Jungmeyer. Screenplay: Harold and Daniel Kusell.
RKO	**DISTANT FIELDS**—Alan Marshal, Barbara Read, Helen Vinson. Producer: Robert Sisk. Director John Farrow. Original: S. K. Lauren. Screenplay: John Twist.	**MEXICAN SPITFIRE**—Lupe Velez, Leon Errol, Donald Woods, Linda Hayes. Producer: Cliff Reid. Director: Les Goodwins. Screenplay: Joseph A. Fields. **SUNSET**—Jimmy Lydon, Joan Brodel, Marjorie Main, Paul Fix. Producer: Cliff Reid. Director: Jack Hively. Original: Joseph Fields. Screenplay: Joseph Fields, Arthur Caesar.	**ABE LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS**—Raymond Massey, Mary Howard, Ruth Gordon, Dorothy Tree, Howard de Silva, Alan Baxter, Gene Lockhart, Elisabeth Risdon, Charles Middleton. Producer: Max Gordon, Harry Goetz. Director: John Cromwell. Original: Robert E. Sherwood. **ESCAPE TO PARADISE**—Bobby Breen, Joyce Compton, Marla Shelton, Kent Taylor. Producer: Sol Lesser. Director: Erle C. Kenton.
REP.		**COWBOYS FROM TEXAS** — Three Mesquiteers, Carol Landis, Charles Middleton. Producer: Harry Grey. Director: George Sherman. Screenplay: Betty Burbridge.	
20TH-FOX	**CHARLIE CHAN IN PANAMA**—Sidney Toler, Jean Rogers, Lionel Atwill, Kane Richmond, Chri-Pin Martin. Producer: John Stone. Director: Norman Foster. Screenplay: John Larkin, Lester Ziffren.	**HE MARRIED HIS WIFE**—Joel McCrea, Nancy Kelly, Mary Boland, Roland Young, Lyle Talbot. Producer: Raymond Griffith. Director: Roy Del Ruth. **THE GRAPES OF WRATH**—Henry Fonda, John Carradine, Jane Darwell, Eddie Quillan, Dorre Bowden, Charley Grapewin, Frank Darlen. Producer: Nunnally Johnson. Director: John Ford. Original: John Steinbeck. Screenplay: Nunnally Johnson.	
UNIV.	**TROUBLE'S MY MIDDLE NAME**—Edmund Lowe, Constance Moore, Robert Armstrong, Jerome Cowan, Frankie Albertson. Director: Harold Schuster. Screenplay: Roy Chanslor.	**NO POWER ON EARTH**—Victor McLaglen, Jackie Cooper, Ona Munson, Edward Brophy. Producer: Burt Kelly. Director: Arthur Lubin.	**FIRST LOVE** — Deanna Durbin, Lewis Howard, Robert Stack, Helen Parrish. Producer: Joe Pasternak. Director: Henry Koster. **GREEN HELL**—Douglas Fairbanks jr., Joan Bennett, John Howard, Vincent Price, George Sanders, George Bancroft, Alan Hale. Producer: Harry Edington (Famous Productions). Director: James Whale. Original: Frances Marion.
UA		**REBECCA**—Laurence Olivier, Joan Fontaine, Judith Anderson, George Sanders, Reginald Denny. Producer: David O. Selznick. Director: Alfred Hitchcock. Original: Daphne DuMaurier.	
WB-FN	**GRANNY GET YOUR GUN**—May Robson, Claude Rains, Jane Bryan, Ann Todd, Lya Lys, Arthur Aylesworth. Producer: Bryan Foy. Director: Vincent Sherman. Screenplay: Ken Gamet. **LIFE OF DR. EHRLICH**—Edward G. Robinson, Ruth Gordon, Gale Page. Producer: Wolfgang Reinhardt. Director: William Dieterle. Screenplay: John Huston, Heinz Herald, Norman Burnstine.	**THE FIGHTING 69TH**—James Cagney, George Brent, Pat O'Brien, Priscilla Lane. Producer: Lou Edelman. Director: William Keighley. Screenplay: Norman Reilly Raine, George Boothby. **INVISIBLE STRIPES** — George Raft, Humphrey Bogart, Jane Bryan, Paul Kelly, William Holden. Producer: Lou Edelman. Director: Lloyd Bacon. Original: Warden Lewis E. Lawes. Screenplay: Warren Duff, Earl Baldwin, Jonathan Finn.	

DENVER

ROBT. J. GARLAND, district manager for Fox Intermountain Theatres, is improving as rapidly as could be expected after losing his left arm in an amputation necessitated by an auto accident. The other day he was wheeled outside for a few minutes. He will remain in the hospital for some time yet.

The theatres, along with all schools and public assemblage places, were closed in Durango, Colo., as the result of some 200 *school children having been exposed to a case of infantile paralysis. The situation is not alarming, according to authorities, and the places were closed as a precautionary measure. Two cases were reported, with seven more in the county.*

Harry Huffman, Denver city manager for Fox theatres, was one of the speakers on "How to Recognize and Combat War Propaganda" before the Boulder, Colo., Public Forum.

F. J. S. writes to the Denver Monitor *suggesting that the casts projected on the screen at the opening and closing of feature films be given sound, so that the public may learn how to pronounce some of the names.*

The RKO and Universal exchanges are in a state of confusion (the offices, not the forces) as the result of remodeling, redecorating and new fronts going in. In the RKO exchange, where the greatest changes are to be made, everybody is crowded in small space to give the workmen more room. They really are going to have a modern exchange when the work is all done, and the new floor laid, and new furniture and lighting are in place.

L. M. Cowan, a newcomer in the industry, former government employe, is the new owner of the Denver Poster Exchange, having taken it over from Roland Lutz, who operated it for years.

J. T. Sheffield, owner of the Sheffield-Republic exchanges here and in Salt Lake City and the Pacific Northwest, spent a few days here conferring with Gene Gerbase, manager, and others in the exchange, as well as with theatre men. He is returning to his Seattle headquarters via Salt Lake City.

Ben Fish, western district manager for United Artists, flew in from Salt Lake City for conferences with his exchange here . . . Bill Dollison, booker for Fox Intermountain Theatres, is on a two-week vacation. Wanted to be alone so wouldn't tell where he was going.

Seen on the Row were John Greve and his booker, Earl Smith, of Oak Creek, where they headquarter while operating in nine towns; E. J. Touey, Grant, Neb., and H. E. Galagher of Durango, Colo.

Gene Gerbase, Republic exchange manager, was glad to get back to the cool Colorado breezes after a trip to Dallas, Tex., during which the mercury got up to 95 *at times. After a few days in the office he started a three-week trip to western Colorado . . . Lon T. Fidler, Monogram franchise holder, is on a combined business and pleasure trip to Dallas.*

ITO Pacific Coast Conference Announces Aim of Group

LOS ANGELES—Amplifying on the program announced at the time of its organization recently, the board of trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners in its initial meeting announced the group's aim is to "act upon calls of constituent members" to conciliate and protect each member against all discrimination, unfair clearance and zoning, unfair selling practices, unethical competition, non-theatrical competition and "any other injustices that may arise in the motion picture industry affecting any member-association within the jurisdiction of the conference."

The board also announced that an annual convention will be held each year at a time and place to be designated by the trustees, and disclosed plans to publish a monthly periodical in the interests of the group's members. Headquarters of the organization will be situated here.

The conference represents the memberships of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., the ITO of No. Calif. and Nevada, and the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the Pacific Northwest.

Robert Poole, executive director of the southern ITO, was elected executive secretary and Hugh Bruen treasurer of the conference.

It was again emphatically declared that no effort is being made to establish another independent exhibitor group and that the conference does not, at any time, intend to formulate a buying combine.

The conference represents approximately 2,000 theatres in the combined territories.

Allied Unit Closed Sessions Resume

LOS ANGELES—Resuming where it left off when last week's meeting was adjourned, the local Allied is continuing its series of closed sessions in which, it is understood, a thorough study of zoning ordinances in this territory is being made. One meeting, behind closed doors, was held October 16, with another scheduled for later in the week.

Topic of the sessions has been deemed by James C. Quinn, executive secretary, as "too vital" to warrant premature publicity. However, that Allied is contemplating a drive to change certain zoning regulations was virtually confirmed through the disclosure that the organization's president, Seth Perkins, and two other members, Lou Bard and Quinn, have been appointed as a committee of three to gather data on that subject for consideration by the entire membership.

New Alto in Los Angeles Opened by Southside

LOS ANGELES — Southside Theatres, in which Milt Arthur, Ralph Grunaur and Fanchon & Marco are associated, opened its new Alto Theatre, located at Western Avenue and 89th St., October 18. Celebrities included Gloria Jean, star of the Universal film, "The Under-Pup," which was the opening attraction. Rube Wolfe functioned as master of ceremonies.

The house, a 900-seater, will be managed by Kenneth Bushey.

Pantages, Hillstreet Offer Recorded News Flashes

LOS ANGELES—Patrons of the Pantages and Hillstreet, day date first run RKO theatres, are being supplied with especially prepared news flash broadcasts, three minutes in length and presented at every showing. The news comes from Transradio Press service and is transcribed on wax for relaying over sound systems in each house.

Safety Via Films

SALT LAKE CITY—Over 7,000 children in the Granite school district have been instructed in possible traffic hazards and safety habits for avoiding them through motion pictures, according to officials of the visual education committee of the district.

A Sequel to "Maisie"

HOLLYWOOD—Metro is preparing "Congo Maisie" as a sequel to the recently-released "Maisie." Ann Sothern will repeat in the lead.

Seattle Paralysis Chapter Gets Rogers Fund Check

SEATTLE—The local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has received a $417.50 check from the Will Rogers Memorial Fund—$50,000 was raised by contributions of audiences in theatres over the nation.

Presentation was made by L. J. McGinley, Seattle branch manager of Universal and local chairman of the Rogers Fund, to Col. Walter Pollitz, local chairman for the foundation, at a ceremony in the Universal exchange. Foundation members and Filmrow officials were present.

James Brinton to Manage Academy in Inglewood

LOS ANGELES—Fox West Coast has selected James Brinton as manager of its new Academy Theatre in Inglewood when the house opens early in November. Brinton moves over from the managerial spot at the FWC United Artists Theatre in Inglewood, which he has held for more than two years. He will be succeeded at the UA by David Martin.

SEATTLE

GOV. CLARENCE D. MARTIN of Washington and the Rev. J. Warren Hastings will be main speakers at the annual MPTO convention, according to Jim Hone, secretary . . . Not in many moons has a roadshow caused so much stir as "A Night at the Moulin Rouge." First, the show was banned by the mayor from the Civic Auditorium. Next, it moved into the Music Hall using exaggerated advertising that "despite all efforts to prevent it, a group of New York speculators have secured some of the coveted tickets and are offering them for resale at exorbitant prices." Now it seems Mayor Langlie has been asked to become something of a "one-man censor board at large" for Portland, where the revue goes next. He has been asked to more or less decide whether the show offers a serious threat to the morals of the Oregon metropolis.

Thousands of school children will attend six special concerts of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra this winter. Concerts will be held in John Hamrick's Music Hall and will cost each student between 13 and 18 cents, tickets to be handled directly at the schools . . . Mickey DeLeo won't be around his theatres in Port Townsend for some time. He is serving on the federal grand jury, now in session. However, Mr. Stevens, Mickey's partner, will take care of the opera house while the jury continues on duty.

At the annual meeting of the Washington Press Club, Earle Knight was re-elected president. He is managing editor of the Alaska *Weekly.* Six vice-presidents elected were: Harold Kimball, Ballard *News;* Harry Averill, Mount Vernon *Herald;* Dave Dickson, Elma *Chronicle;* J. C. Kaynor, Ellensburg *Record;* Norman Erickson, Spokane County *News;* and Tom Montgomery, Puyallup Valley *Tribune* . . . Don Beckman of Western Poster is busy these days entertaining his friend, Harlowe Stengel, Paramount cameraman . . . Another visitor this week is R. M. "Bob" Savini, president of Astor Pictures, Inc., of New York. Although Savini has crossed the Continent 64 times, this is his first visit to the Northwest. While here, he arranged with Eddie Hudson, head of General Film Exchanges, to handle Astor pictures in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. Within a few weeks, Eddie will move his headquarters from Portland to Seattle. George Mitchley will cover the territory at large.

The Shell in Tacoma will experiment with first runs. Two will be tried on Saturdays and Sundays and, if successful, will be extended . . . Jim Hone is in Sherwood, Ore., at the side of his mother, who is very ill . . . Lloyd Lamb has secured distribution rights to "When Germany Surrendered" . . . Warner will send the unit of 20 ballet dancers, who appeared with Zorina in the new musical, "On Your Toes," on a tour of ten cities in conjunction with the release of the picture. The itinerary calls for a week each in Portland and Seattle where the group appears at the Palomar Theatre . . . Workmen are pouring concrete for the new theatre at Lake Burien being built by Mel Sohns. House will be named the Burien. Sohns also has a theatre in Kirkland.

Evelyn Oxtoby and her mother, Mrs. Fundenberg, driving up from Portland and honored at a tea by Mrs. B. F. Shearer. The Oxtobys now live in San Francisco. Al was formerly branch manager for Warner in Seattle . . . John Gray von Herberg of Jensen-von Herberg Theatres had a birthday dinner at his home on Bainbridge Island. Soon the von Herbergs will be celebrating the arrival of a new addition. Mrs. von Herberg is the former Gene Dennis . . . Virgil Rogers writes from Carlsbad, N. M., and tells of his stay in El Paso. While there he visited with Alberto Salas Porras, general manager of Azteca Films Productions . . . The George Blairs are expecting a visit from their cousins, the Willie Stewarts, who are returning to their home in China after a visit to their native Scotland . . . W. J. Kupper, western division manager for 20th Century-Fox, in by plane from New York, then planing out again for Denver . . . Mike Barovic, off for a two-week vacation in Idaho . . . Mrs. Frances Bulatkin and her son, Nikolai, house guests of the von Herbergs on Bainbridge.

Harriet Lamb, well enough to go home again . . . Jack Williams of the Ilwaco Theatre, on the Row greeting friends . . . Ike Geller of the Geller theatres in Portland, spending a couple of days here . . . Ray Rowan is new secretary to Wayne Christie, branch manager for Premier Pictures . . . Army Seiges, the attorney, lunching on the Row as a guest of Jimmie O'Neal . . . J. G. Borden jr., in from Blaine to catch up on bookings . . . L. J. McGinley, away on a visit to eastern Washington . . . The Neal Waltons, weekend guests of the Eddie Lambs on Vashon Island . . . Lily Pons, motoring in from Vancouver and going to the airport to meet her hubby, Andre Kostelanetz, who arrived from Hollywood to be with her the balance of a Northwest tour . . . Charles School, traveling auditor for Metro, visiting the local branch . . . Sammy Seigel, UA exploiteer, working between Portland and Seattle on "The Real Glory" . . . Ollie Hartman, over from Grand Coulee and getting a little stiff from bowling.

Preview highlight of the week was the looksee at "Disputed Passage" and "Seventeen," both screened by Paramount at the Green Lake Theatre. Both clicked with the gang on hand . . . The Rialto again has closed its doors and this time it looks like for keeps.

'Tomorrow's Exhibitors'

bowing to tradition, will sell Burch Way popcorn and candies in the theatre. Confections and Entertainment, like Ham and Eggs, are inseparable, and the smart Exhibitor will keep them together.

"Comprehensive Entertainment"

is changing Red Ink to Black in many, many theatres, while Box Office anaemia is still in a Night Mare.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle







Burbank the Locale—

On the set of Warner's "Fighting 69th," in the top picture, Dwight Harkins, operator of the State Theatre in Tempe, Ariz., meets Jeffrey Lynn. On the same set, principals in the cordial handclasp are Ed Church of the T&D circuit of Susanville, Cal., and Dennis Morgan. Getting a chance to chat with Jane Bryan, on the "Invisible Stripes" set, is W. G. Conrad, Denver exhibitor.

LOS ANGELES

DEL GOODMAN, Far Eastern manager for 20th-Fox, has left for Shanghai to resume his activities after spending four months here and in New York vacationing and conferring with company executives . . . Accompanying the body of his 81-year-old father, L. M. Harris, who died suddenly after a short illness, Lou Harris, manager of Fox West Coast's Alexander Theatre in Glendale, trained out for Birmingham, Ala., where burial services are scheduled.

Harry Wallin, manager of Fanchon-Marco's Paramount Theatre downtown, is vacationing in San Francisco for a week . . . Milt Arthur has returned from a short business jaunt to St. Louis . . . Fred Gage, United Artists salesman, checked in after a selling trip to San Diego . . . Metro exchange employes are planning a "victory" dinner, having placed first in the annual mid-summer championship drive in George T. Hickey's western district . . . Booking visitors included Judy Poynter, in from San Clemente; George Haines, Washington Theatre, Pasadena; C. O. VanDerberg, Forum, Ontario; H. E. Brookings, Glendora Theatre, Glendora.

Bill Walsh is back at his Warner desk after a short vacation . . . Alex Mounce and George Bromley plan to open their new Campus Theatre, October 27.

Max Sinker and Irving Carlin have dropped prices at their Oriental Theatre from 25 to 15 cents and have embarked upon a revival exhibition policy. The partners have also opened a new bowling alley, to be operated as part of their amusement company . . . Sam Abarbanel, former member of Republic studio's publicity department, was a Filmrow visitor . . . The Regina Theatre opens with a new "horror" bill October 26, booking "White Zombie" and "Mr. M." Both chillers are being handled by Bill Kohler of Astor pictures.

"Ecstasy" has been booked into the Garden Theatre, opening October 22 after five weeks at the Cinema . . . Majestic Pictures has acquired distribution rights to the English-made "Lost on the Western Front," starring Paul Cavanagh . . . Mike Newman, Columbia exploiteer, left for San Francisco to handle the opening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at the Orpheum Theatre, October 24.

Paramount held a trade screening of "Disputed Passage" and "Seventeen" at the Fox Boulevard Theatre for local exhibitors . . . Some excitement along Filmrow during the periodic "fire inspection" day. Inspectors couldn't find any fires lurking around, however.

Jack Feder, president of the Redef Corp., owners and operators of the Stanley Theatre, Long Beach, announces the house will henceforth be called the Roxy . . . Universal's western division manager, Al O'Keefe on a sales trip to Seattle.

The departure of Norman Newman, RKO Radio's head booker, to take over as Columbia's office manager, caused several staff advancements at the RKO office. Howard Clark succeeds Newman; Robert Ettlinger is filling in for Clark; and Bill Nesbitt, of the ad sales unit, has taken over Ettlinger's position on the booking staff . . . Mike Newman, Columbia exploiteer, came in from San Francisco with the report that "U-Boat 29" broke all house records for the past two years at the Orpheum Theatre there.

Publicity stunt for a revival showing at the Roxy Theatre in Glendale nearly caused a general alarm. The theatre management installed fire bombs on the roof without consulting the fire department. When the bombs began smoking both the police and the fire laddies turned out en masse.

Seattle City Council Clamps A Ban on Street Carnivals

SEATTLE—Clamping down an official ban on street carnivals, the city council, without a dissenting vote, passed an ordinance forbidding this form of commercial amusement within the city limits. The council's action resulted from complaints by the MPTO of Washington through their secretary, Jim Hone; theatre unions, through the Theatrical Federation, and residents of districts where carnivals have been held.

The protests claimed the carnivals created nerve-racking noise, unsanitary conditions and other nuisances. The new law does not affect circuses.

FWC Federal Suit Now Set Nov. 13

LOS ANGELES—The absence of Federal District Judge Campbell E. Beaumont, currently sitting at a court session in Fresno, has caused a postponement until November 13 of the show cause hearing originally ordered for October 16 at which Fox West Coast, the major distributing companies and other organizations must appear in connection with the U. S. government's suit charging them with violating the 1930 consent decree.

Postponement was arranged by stipulation of attorneys representing the government and the various defendants, all of whom are charged with contempt of court as a phase of the government's attempt to show they are operating in restraint of trade and are violating the Sherman anti-trust laws. The action came as the result of an intensive investigation carried on here by Albert J. Law, special deputy department of justice official, who probed the books and records of FWC and the major distributors.

Principal Theatres Plans Another Tracy House

TRACY, CAL.—Principal Theatres, Fox West Coast subsidiary, has announced plans to construct a new 600-seat house, to be operated in conjunction with its Grand Theatre here.

Manchester Robbed

LOS ANGELES — Manager Roy Wolff's books at the Manchester Theatre are $55 short. The theatre's cashier, Virginia Robinson, was robbed of that amount by a bandit flourishing a gun.

Fink Opens November 1

SAN DIEGO—George Fink plans to open his new Coronet Theatre, a 600-seat house, about November 1.

Admission Scale Revised At Rex and Curran

BAKERSFIELD, CAL.—Fox West Coast has revised admission prices at its Rex and Curran theatres. Rex drops from 25 to 20 cents, last-run bookings, and the Curran jumps from 20 to 25 cents, showing second and third-run features.

FWC Reopens Glendale at Glendale After Repairs

GLENDALE, CAL.—Fox West Coast has reopened its Glendale Theatre, 1,125-seat house, after a $40,000 modernization job. Theatre has been dark for the past two months.

Hutchings to Open a New Unit in Dishman, Wash.

SEATTLE—G. E. Hutchings, formerly of Alberton, Mont., was to open the new Dishman Theatre in Dishman, Wash., on October 20. Policy will be single bills on weekends with double features midweek.

Arlington Closed Temporarily

ARLINGTON, CAL.—Robert Elder has temporarily shuttered his Arlington Theatre, planning to reopen within a month.

New Sound for Olathe

DENVER—New RCA sound is being installed in the Olathe, Olathe, Colo., for its reopening following a summer shutdown. W. A. Smith is manager.

Milt Arthur Sells Dale

LONG BEACH, CAL.—Milt Arthur has sold his Dale Theatre, a 500-seat house, to C. W. Kelly, former Colorado independent operator.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
1964 So. Vermont RO. 1145
LOS ANGELES

PORTLAND

A WREATH hangs on the locked door of the 20th Century-Fox office and Filmrow is saddened and hushed under a dreary Oregon mist. It is Tuesday afternoon, and at the Holman & Son funeral home the Row pays its last respects to Vern Whitcomb, 45, Fox booker who succumbed Sunday after a long, gallant fight against failing health. Sudden and untimely, his death shocked hundreds of his friends in the industry—all, in fact, who had come to know Vern through his years of steady service here. Sincere sympathies of the Row went to his widow and two daughters.

Straggling in from last week is the story of Andy McCarl's lucky star and its epic battle with a Friday-the-13th jinx. A tram car came to grief at the intersection just outside the M-G-M office. A loose wire with heavy insulators attached lost a spitting match with a charged power line and thrashed about like a python with a stomach ache. Andy, unsuspecting but with perfect timing, left his desk on some trivial errand just as a ceiling-high glass panel and wooden frame crashed inward and showered over his chair. The story is that one chunk of glass grazed his head as he stood up. Anyhow, he wasn't scratched.

A. J. O'Keefe, Los Angeles district manager for Universal, passed by en route to Seattle. Was to drop in on his return trip in a few days . . . H. P. McNary, Warner office manager, back at the grind after vacationing at the Oregon beaches . . . Johnny Collins of the Star Theatre paying his morning call on the Row.

Jack Kloepper of UA and T. L. Shearer deservedly pleased with themselves after out-talking a traffic cop and being freed without penalty from one of Portland's famous "fixless" parking tickets. They'd paid their nickel to the parking meter, and convinced the captain that the dial still showed green . . . The sight of Jimmy Beale of Columbia carrying a doll buggy probably means a pleasant surprise in store for his little niece.

Late entries in Filmrow's guest books: Bob Marsden and Denny Hall up from Marshfield and North Bend; Bill McKevitt from Newport and Carl Porter, Salem, at M-G-M; Donn Radabaugh of Roseburg and George Roy, Eugene, in booking; likewise Avery Coombes of Newberg and Al Adolph of Salem.

Hamrick-Evergreen office host to Joe Rosenfield, city manager for Spokane, here on a visit . . . Artist Earl Hunt back at his drawing board after two weeks of rest . . . Jimmy O'Connell up from Eugene for a booking meeting . . . Paramount hosting at a trade showing of "Disputed Passage" and "Seventeen."

Al Forman away at The Dalles to help inaugurate pottery night at the Granada . . . Jimmy O'Neil of candy fame and Al Bloom down from Seattle Filmrow . . . Marc Bowman, who graduated from the theatre to radio, is boycotting the busses in favor of a big, black, veteran sedan. Marc's cultured diction not heard so much over the air since his boost to the job of continuity supervisor at KOIN.

S. F. Telenews Theatre Has All Major Reels

SAN FRANCISCO—The Telenews Theatre this week announced contracts for the newsreel releases of M-G-M and Universal, thus bringing to its list every major newsreel release.

The contract is for all issues of these two companies, although the house will be able to use only 40 per cent of the footage. This will supplement the footage obtained from Pathe, Fox and Paramount, in addition to the theatre's own local releases.

Beginning next week, Telenews is going on the air from its lounge with hourly news broadcasts, five minutes every hour on the hour. The news will be gathered from the teletype machine which is currently operating in the lounge for the benefit of the patrons.

Coast Independents Have High Post for Harvey

SAN FRANCISCO — Rotus Harvey, vice-president and general manager of the Harvey Amusement Co., has been named number one trustee to represent northern California on the board of trustees of the newly-formed Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners. Operating in the Bay area since 1919, Harvey worked up from a YMCA manager to where today, in addition to his position with his own company, he is president of the Menlo-Mayfield Amusement Co., president of the Coalinga-Avenal Amusement Co. and president of the northern California ITO.

Ben Levin has been appointed number two trustee to represent the northern ITO.

Kofeldt Named Manager Of Santa Rosa Tower

SANTA ROSA, CAL.—Walter Kofeldt has been appointed manager of the new Tower Theatre by Intercoast Theatres. House opens in the near future.

SALT LAKE

J. T. SHEFFIELD of Sheffield-Republic, Seattle, was a local visitor . . . Nina Scott is back from her California vacation . . . An advance showing of "Three Sons" was held here for the trade by RKO and the reception was enthusiastic . . . In on business were S. M. Davis, Virginia Theatre, Shelly, Ida., and Dr. G. M. Godfrey of the City, Richmond, Utah.

Elissa Landi, screen player, will address members of the Bonneville Knife and Fork Club here in the first of a series of lectures planned by the organization . . . In town booking were C. J. Schultz of the Orpheum, Tremonton, Utah, and Glen L. Lawrence of the Garland, Garland, Utah.

Among legit attractions coming here this fall are "The Taming of the Shrew" with Lunt & Fontanne; "Golden Boy" and "The Master Builder," with Eve LaGallienne . . . Patricia Morison, Susan Hayward, Olympe Bradna and J. Carrol Naish, all Paramount players, will come here for the opening of the Utah Theatre with "What a Life" and "$1,000 a Touchdown."

S' FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCANA: Orchids, limousines and high hats have been much in evidence around the Civic Auditorium as result of the opening of the annual opera season. S. F. is the only American city other than New York which has a yearly season . . . Local papers featured full pages of pictures of pioneer film stars as Motion Picture Jubilee Week was celebrated here last week. "Hollywood Cavalcade," which opened at the Fox as the march of the film industry was being feted, has been doing big business.

Ramblings on the Row: Jack Redmond, long a familiar figure, will soon connect with Golden State Theatres, according to the grapevine . . . M-G-M entertained from Monday to Thursday this week for the ten winners of the efficiency contest held at its exchanges throughout the nation. Eight gals and two fellows were wined and dined and taken to see the Fair before entraining for Hollywood. All were from East of the Mississippi.

The Liberty and Capitol, this city's two burlesque houses, expect increases at their boxoffices after the Fair closes and they no longer will have to compete with the girl shows on Treasure Island . . . It's 4 to 1 now that "Ham 'n Eggs," California's $30 every Thursday pension plan, will be badly defeated at the polls next month. Business men here are predicting a bankrupt state in a short time if the measure by chance does become law, and the S. F. Stock Exchange and other financial houses already have obtained options on Reno locations which will be exercised if the "Ham 'n Eggers" are successful.

Frank Newman, manager at the St. Francis, has been showing some scrap books of the theatre in the nineties to everyone that visits his office . . . The Ritz Brothers are due at the Golden Gate November 1 . . . Telenews had shots of the Stanford-U. C. L. A. game, played at Palo Alto, on its screen three hours after the game ended Saturday . . . Singer's Midgets, Fair attraction, have been booked for Saturday matinee at the Coliseum.

Charles Feldman, branch manager of Universal Exchange in Los Angeles, was a weekend visitor with the object of his trip the U.C.L.A.-Stanford game . . . Bucky Williams, formerly with the El Rey in San Francisco, is now affiliated with the Hopkins and Allendale in Oakland . . . B. B. Levin has broken ground for his new house at 22nd and Mission . . . "Sty" Fish, son of H. Bradley Fish, is at home convalescing after a throat operation.

The Regal, second run Market St. house, has given its employes two weeks' notice.

Dan McLean of the Embassy Theatre is organizing local yachtsmen for the purpose of giving a bay cruise to crippled children . . . The perennial favorite, "The Drunkard," is set for the Polk Gulch Music Hall October 26. Beer will be served in old-fashioned mugs and there will be dancing 'til 2.

Olson Enterprises Is Permitted to Build

INDIANAPOLIS—The Charles M. Olson Enterprises, Inc., has been granted permission by the city zoning board to erect a new theatre with a parking lot at 5835 E. Washington St.

Several weeks ago the board deferred action on the petition when about 15 residents of the vicinity appeared to protest against the proposed theatre, asserting that noise caused by automobiles and patrons coming in and out of the theatre would constitute a public nuisance.

W. A. Brennan, Inc., announced the completion of leases and plans for the project. The theatre will be known as the Embassy and will seat about 1,200 persons. It will be built by Glenn W. Radel, local business man, at a cost of $75,000 and has been leased for 20 years by Charles M. Olson. The contractor is Wm. E. Mick, Inc.

The building will be 80 feet by 140 feet. It will be on a lot 200 feet by 400 feet with parking space for about 400 automobiles. It was designed by Eric G. Stenbeck, the architect who designed the Vogue Theatre in Broadripple, suburb of Indianapolis, and operated by Carl Niesse, general manager for the Olson Enterprises.

Olson Theatre Enterprises was formed last April. At the present time it operates the Uptown, Ritz, Oriental, St. Clair, Vogue and Strand theatres, all in Indianapolis. It will take over the Apollo Theatre early next spring, when the lease held by Fourth Ave. Amusement Co., of Louisville, Ky., expires. At that time the Apollo will be completely rehabilitated.

Olson Enterprises officers are Olson, president; Jean Marks, vice-president; Roy R. Bair, secretary, and Niesse.

The new Embassy Theatre will be located between the Irving at 5600 E. Washington St., operated by the Geo. Settos circuit, and the newly named Sheridan, formerly the Golden, at 6100 E. Washington St., recently taken over by Joe Cantor and brothers.

Construction is to begin very soon and Niesse estimates that it should be ready for occupancy in about 90 days.

Kirsch Heads Amusement Sector in Fund Drive

CHICAGO—Jack Kirsch, president of Allied, is again to be chairman of the amusement division of the Community Fund of Chicago drive. The campaign will start next Tuesday at a huge mass meeting of the industrial chairmen and their captains in behalf of the 178 charities covered by the Community Fund.

John Balaban of B&K is chairman of the advisory committee for the amusement division, which also includes Kirsch, Clyde W. Eckhardt, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, and Edwin Silverman, Essaness Theatres.

The amusement division's quota of the $3,611,000 total being sought has not yet been set.

Court Declares Mistrial in Nick "Extortion" Case

ST. LOUIS—Circuit Judge Robert L. Aronson, acting on his own motion, declared a mistrial Wednesday in the John P. Nick extortion case because one of the jurors, Robert W. Cox, talked the previous night to State Witness Clarence Groeteke. Judge Aronson said there apparently had been no malicious intent on the part of Cox. The case, which deals with the alleged collection by the IATSE vice-president of a $10,000 "defense fund" from certain local theatre owners in 1936, has been reset for November 6.

The early testimony was intended to lay the ground work for the presentation of the details of Nick's dealings with the committee representing the motion picture theatre owners who are alleged to have paid the $10,000 to Representative Brady at a South St. Louis bank in October, 1936.

Robert Thomsen, who is president of Local No. 143, was one of the early witnesses called. He was on the stand the afternoon of October 16 and again on October 17. He said that he was appointed a member of the union's wage contract committee in 1936 to draft a schedule for increased wages.

"Under Mr. Nick's direction, I prepared a schedule which called for an annual increase in wages amounting to between $95 000 and $105,000," he testified.

He said that Nick was not present at the first meeting with the theatre owners because of illness. The owners agreed at that meeting to restore a $5 a week per man cut, which the operators had taken during the depression, Thomsen said. This $5 cut applied to houses of less than 700 seats.

Agreement Withdrawn

"At the next meeting, about a week later, the agreement for the restoration of the $5 cut was withdrawn," Thomsen continued. "Mr. Nick said we could go back and renew our demands on another occasion. Finally he said not to have the committee bother about it and latter he and I would take up the matter."

Thomsen testified that a meeting of the Wage Scale Committee called by Nick at the offices of the operators' union, where Nick asked the members of the committee whether they wanted to go on strike. Nick, he testified, said there was no occasion for a strike. He pointed out only out-of-town men and permit men were working on the jobs in which we thought restorations should be made."

"On October 16 we had another meeting, at which the contract was signed." Thomsen testified, explaining only he and Nick were present as representatives of the operators. This meeting was held in the office of Louis K. Ansell of the Ansell Bros. circuit in the Empress Theatre Bldg. The state alleges that the $10,000 payment was made to Brady the day this contract was signed.

"I didn't know we were to sign a contract that day," Thomsen continued. "I was sent out of the room when the contract was signed. When I came back the meeting was adjourned." He explained that he had been sent to the union offices to get a copy of the previous contract. Arriving at the office he was told a telephone call had been received advising him not to bother with the old contract. He said the new contract did not provide for any wage increases.

Just prior to Thomsen being sent for the old contract a telephone call was received by Fred Wehrenberg, a member of the committee representing the owners. The state is expected to endeavor to prove that the telephone call to Wehrenberg was to advise him that the $10,000 had been paid to Brady as the representative of Nick.

Other witnesses heard included James A. McKeown, co-receiver for Local No. 143 under appointment by Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley, and Albert Friedland, a projectionist and now office manager for the union.

Receiver McKeown testified that after examining the records of the union turned over to him he had been unable to find a copy of the contract executed in 1936 nor could he find any record that a sum of $10,000 had been received by the union at that time.

Friedland said that he had asked for records from the former officers but he had not received them.

Nick was indicted with Brady on Jan. 13, 1939, and has been at liberty under a $25,000 bond.

The state charges the theatre owners were induced to give up the $10,000 to Brady for Nick through a threat to call a strike of projectionists in theatres of St. Louis and St. Louis county. It is further alleged that after the $10,000 was paid to Brady in a South St. Louis bank, the officers of the operators union immediately called off demands for wage increases and entered into a new contract with the theatres.

At the time of the alleged payment of $10,000 to Brady, the union projectionists were demanding $10 a week increase which would have cost each theatre in the city and county at least $1,040 a year, since two men are employed on each shift. It is contended that immediately after the $10,000 was paid, the wage increase demands were dropped.

Brady, the state charges, conspired to demand the payment of the $10,000 by the theatre men. It is alleged that he was a frequenter at the union's headquarters, which at that time were located in the IATSE offices at the southeast corner of Eighth and Market Sts.

Conviction on a charge of extortion carries a prison term of two to five years.

Another indictment returned by another grand jury charges Nick and Clyde A. Weston, former business agent of IATSE Local 143, with extortion in connection with an alleged $7,000 "defense fund" raised by theatre owners in 1937.

Last April, Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley removed Nick and Weston from control of the affairs of Local 143.



Fair Visitor—

E. W. Cupp of the McCullum Circuit at Hooperton, Ill., at the RKO home office World's Fair lounge in New York.

Wis. ITPA Convenes On Oct. 31-Nov. 1

MILWAUKEE—The ITPA of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc., has scheduled October 31 and November 1 as the dates for its annual meeting at the Schroeder Hotel here.

The affair will include a Hallowe'en party the first night sponsored by the local Variety Club with the annual banquet and floor show on the closing night. New officers will be elected in connection with this annual meeting.

Harry Perlewitz, who is serving as temporary manager of the association, has announced that negotiations have been started with the projectionists' union here covering a new contract. Dickering is being done by the independents as a group separate from circuit operators, who will carry on their own negotiations with the union, it was said.

The present two-year contract between 70 Milwaukee county houses and the motion picture projectionists' union, Local 164, expires October 31.

Negotiations also are under way to settle the strike called at the Tosa Theatre, where Ross Baldwin, manager of the house, operated his own machines rather than pay the $1.71 per hour wage demanded by the union. Baldwin has continued to keep his theatre open and said he is willing to settle for a wage scale of $1.25 per hour.

Adds Bargain Matinee

INDIANAPOLIS—Earl Cunningham, manager of the Fountain Square Theatre, has announced a bargain matinee for every Wednesday. The matinee will be continuous from 2 p. m. with the bargain prices extending until 6. This will be three matinees for the South Side playhouse, the others being on Saturday and Sunday.

INDIANAPOLIS

ALL FILMDOM has been invited to attend the Jamboree Party on Monday, October 23, at the ATOI convention when the entire ballroom of the Antlers Hotel will be converted into a gala carnival setting. Music, games, prizes galore and a midnight lunch are among the plans.

Monday along Filmrow is one of much din and ado. It's payoff time on the bets made the preceding Saturday on the football games. We actually saw one dollar bill change hands seven times before it was finally pocketed.

Abram Myers, general counsel of Allied, is scheduled to be in Indianapolis on Monday, October 23, to attend the 13th annual convention and trade show of the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana. Myers will then make a flying departure to be on hand Tuesday at the Western Pennsylvania Motion Picture Theatre Owners convention to be held in Pittsburgh. Col. H. A. Cole, president of Allied, is planning to be in Indianapolis on Tuesday.

Frank Millspaugh, former manager of the Strand Theatre at Muncie which is operated by Theatrical Managers, Inc., has been transferred to their Palace Theatre at Gary as manager.

The band instrument department at Pearson's gave free tickets to Loew's Theatre, good only on Saturday morning to the first 1,000 boys and girls who visited the store Friday. At Loew's ticket holders saw Jascha Heifetz, world famous violinist in "They Shall Have Music."

Otto Ebert, who recently became booker for the newly formed Indianapolis Cooperative Theatres, Inc., has resigned to accept a similar position with John Servaas, owner and operator of Exhibitors Exchange who has theatres in Indianapolis, Martinsville, Lafayette, Noblesville and Rochester, Ind.

A public demonstration was held October 12, during the week that Ozzie Nelson and his orchestra was showing at the Lyric Theatre, at the Jordan Conservatory of Music.

Ted Nicholas, manager of the Lyric Theatre, in regular observance of Friday, the 13th, admitted every 13th person for 13 cents between opening and 5:00 p. m. of that day. One of the theatre employes stood guard at the boxoffice making the announcement every few minutes and kept a check on the counting.

Word was received in Indianapolis this week that Sidney Howard's "Madam Will You Walk," a new production of the Playwrights Company starring George M. Cohan, may be presented in Indianapolis in November prior to its New York opening.

Miss Alice Sparks, stenographer in the office of Big Feature Rights Exchange, who was accidentally shot in the leg by a detective chasing a bandit, has been released from the Methodist Hospital, but will be confined to her home for the next ten days or two weeks.

The Zaring Theatre here met with a freak accident last week, reports Eddie Zeyer, manager, when a trackless trolley flew off the line, hit the top of the theatre marquee, knocking a rail out of place and tearing off about 15 feet of neon.

Al Hedding, manager of the Uptown Theatre, ran a special showing of the picture, "Wizard of Oz," for Indiana School for the Deaf boys and girls Wednesday . . . Forrest Quinn, manager of the Vogue Theatre, is planning a special showing of the picture for underprivileged children.

Mrs. Grace Wolfard, operator of the Hamilton Theatre, is very proud of the new cushion-type seats just installed and she reports her patrons like them too . . . Roy Perry, manager at the Oriental Theatre, gives away more than 350 ice cream cones every Friday night.

George Brown, employe at the Uptown Theatre, is in the Methodist Hospital after a fall off a ladder at the theatre. Although in a plaster cast, he is very cheerful and is busy getting autographs on the cast.

The World's Fair Talent Revues which have been held on the stages of the Olson theatres for the past several weeks was finished last Saturday night and was won by Dick Carson, eccentric xylophonist, who will make a week's personal appearance at the Lyric Theatre as first prize. The Olson Theatres have announced a new attraction, "Crazy Auction," which will start October 24 at the St. Clair and will also run at the Oriental, Strand and Ritz theatres.

Claude Allison, manager at the Strand Theatre, has started his Hallowe'en parties. On Saturday, October 28, he will have a grand matinee with all the kids in costumes and special prizes for the best ones.

Dean Hall, BOXOFFICE sales representative in Indiana, is chairman of the young people's dance committee of the Scottish Rite which will sponsor the first party of the season in the Scottish Rite Cathedral ballroom this coming Saturday night. The dance will be open to young folk, sponsored by members of the Rite. There will be ten of these Saturday night parties during the season.

B&K General Managers to Convene October 25-26

CHICAGO—One of the first general managers' meetings of B&K theatre men will be held Wednesday and Thursday, October 25 and 26, at the Blackstone Hotel. Various executives will talk to the managers.

The plan of the two-day session is to have a general round-table discussion of conditions in the industry and plans for improvement of operation of B&K houses.

Team on Republic Film

HOLLYWOOD—Eugene Alan and Carroll Graham are collaborating on the script of "The Girl From God's Country" for Republic.

ST. LOUIS

RUSSELL MARKERT, who started his chorus training days at the Missouri Theatre here back in 1925 and now is in charge of the 46 famed Rockettes of the Radio City Music Hall, New York City, is here in search of recruits for the Music Hall chorus. He was scheduled to hold tryouts at the American Theatre on October 18 and 19 from 3 to 5 p. m. and planned to stay a little longer each day to accommodate any employed girls who might want to take a whirl at the show business.

A children's theatre is being sponsored by Washington University under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Kelso Renfrow, director of the department of speech of the Adult Study Center, Lake and Waterman avenues. Classes are being organized for boys and girls from 9 to 19 years.

"Tobacco Road" in its two weeks' run at the American Theatre, ended on October 14, copped $23,500, raising its grand total take for all its engagements here to more than $100,000. It has played nine weeks in five trips here.

The Grand Opera house, dark for several years, reopens Friday, October 20, as a burley and film house. Sam Reider is manager of the house.

Dave Komm, well known local exhibitor, is a patient at the Jewish Hospital. He is able to have visitors.

Julien Bryan, lecturer and photographer, will tell of his recent experiences in Poland and show motion pictures of the German invasion before the Contemporary Club Tuesday evening, October 31, at Hotel Statler.

The clothing and toy matinees held by 38 St. Louis and St. Louis county motion picture theatres on October 14 proved highly successful, the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis has announced. The clothing will be distributed to needy children. St. Louis theatres participating were: Melba, Virginia, Michigan, Granada, Apollo, Webster, Peerless, White Way, Roxy, Columbia, Powhattan, Shaw, Will Rogers, Maryland, Macklind, Fairy, Southway, McNair, Melvin, Ivanhoe, Lexington, Plymouth, Congress, Aubert, Florissant, Richmond, Pageant, Gravois and Wellston, and those in the county were Savoy, Normandy, Studio, Osage, Gem, Kirkwood, Lemay and Maplewood.

The fall season of the St. Louis Grand Opera Ass'n opened at the Municipal Auditorium Opera House the evening of October 14 . . . Gene Krupa's Band opens week engagement at Fanchon & Marco's Fox Theatre on October 20. Cab Calloway and his Cotton Club Revue and Horace Heidt and his Musical Knights will also appear at the Fox at early dates.

Paul Beisman, manager of the American Theatre, flew to New York on business.

The $300,000 Esquire on Clayton Road in Richmond Heights, Mo., a local suburb, opened the evening of October 18. Harry Greenman, formerly with the old Liberty, Loew's and Fox and later owner of his own string of neighborhood houses, is the manager.

William J. Sherwood, an electrician, suffered injuries to his back and both legs in a fall while working on the roof of the Esquire last week.

The Little Theatre, 812 Union Blvd., opens October 25 with "The Firebrand" as the offering.



To Washington for "Mr. Smith"—

Phil Dunas, Columbia midwest district manager, is shown at Dearborn Street station in Chicago as he greeted Frank Capra and Mrs. Capra on their arrival from Hollywood. Capra and his wife were en route to Washington for the premiere of Capra's latest Columbia production, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Chicago Theatre Broker Sues Five for $1,000

CHICAGO—Rube Levin has filed suit for $1,000 against Eva Marcus, Sam Kleven, Elmer Benesch, George Lang and George Sommers. He contends in his suit, filed in circuit court, that Mrs. Marcus and Kleven owe him brokerage fees for having arranged purchase of the lease of George Lang and George Sommers of the Bell Theatre, 3064 West Armitage, owned by Elmer Benesch. He further claims that, after having arranged the deal, the various parties consummated the contract themselves.

Teitel Plans Campaign for Maginot Line Feature

CHICAGO—An extensive campaign in the Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin territory is planned by Abe Teitel for "Double Crime in the Maginot Line" franchised to Teitel by Tower Pictures.

Teitel expects to open the picture in one of the Loop houses within the next two weeks.

Name Banker Receiver

GARRETT, IND.—Arthur W. Gallatin, cashier of the Garrett State Bank, has been named receiver of the Royal Theatre. The two partners, A. C. Kalafat and H. E. Hart, allegedly cannot agree on a plan of operation of the theatre or disposition of the property.

Undue Excitement in Hollywood–Capra

CHICAGO—The necessity of paring production expenses to meet the demands of a curtailed foreign market is causing an undue amount of alarm and excitement in Hollywood, Frank Capra feels.

The producer-director said quality product can be turned out for $1,000,000 to $1,500,000, and, on that basis, he thinks Hollywood will be able to realize a good profit on its investment from rentals in the American market alone.

Capra said everyone in Hollywood is quite upset right now and worried about the foreign situation. "They are talking of nothing but of cutting down expenses. It's the English market they are naturally worried about, and, at present, they are operating on the basis of a 50 per cent return from there. This is expected to shrink to 20 per cent in the future."

He pointed out that producers are turning to South and Central America with success in adding to their revenue.

Capra, who was en route to the nation's capitol for the premiere of his latest production for Columbia, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," said he is going to "lay low a while" before announcing plans for his next picture which he will probably make independently with Robert Riskin. He was accompanied by his wife.

Chicago Exchanges Await Independent Buying

CHICAGO—With a few of the circuits the only ones who have bought 1939-40 product yet, the exchanges are anticipating the usual late October and early November rush of completed deals from the independent exhibitors.

In scattered spots a few of the independent exhibitors have made deals, but on the whole most of them still are waiting a while before they sign.

This Week We Meet . . .

JOE VICEDOMINI

CHICAGO—One of the Windy City's oldest old-timers in the business of showing motion pictures is Joe Vicedomini. Whoa, wait a minute; we mean "oldest" in point of years spent exhibiting films, for it was way back in 1912 that Joe, just a youngster of 20 years, started in with a nickelodeon.

Joe was just over from his native Italy when he landed in Chicago from New York. He looked over the situation and decided he would take a whirl at showing those fancy "moving pictures." But it's a long cry from that first 5-cent house, the Roma Theatre, on Halstead St., to the de luxe artistic theatre, the World Playhouse, he now operates on Michigan Ave.

But getting back to the Roma, we'll put it in Joe's own words.

"First of all, get this straight," he laughs. "That was far from a theatre. Just a plain store, with a screen thrown up and a makeshift booth in the rear, where the operator used a hand-cranked machine. We didn't know what regular theatre chairs were in those days; rather, we used 275 folding chairs. And what a racket the customers made when they moved them a little so they could see over the fellow's head in front of them."

No Time for Hobbies

Vicedomini, who says he has never found time for recreation or hobbies, gets a laugh when he tells about the heating "system" he used at the Roma. It was an old-time coal stove, and every time the stove needed refueling, the $5.00-a-week porter would just walk up with a bucket of coal, open it and throw in the coal. But, what a howl came up from the customers, when the poorly ventilated room became filled with smoke as the stove door was opened. And to add to Joe's troubles, the roof of the building was far from leak-proof. Thus, whenever it rained, the patrons would have to hold their umbrellas up over them to keep the rain from dropping through the roof onto their heads. "I laugh now," says Joe, "but it was quite a problem then."

He recalls that the operator, who had to go to the exchange, get the film and return it after the run, received $11 a week, and that the cashier received $3 a week. In the first days of regular nickel shows, a three-reel performance was something to yell about. The house ran continuous from 10 a. m. to 11 p. m., running about 30 shows a day.

Vicedomini ran one of the first foreign films ever shown in America at the Roma. It was the Cinema Production of Rome Company's 4-reel epic, "Garibaldi."

He tells an interesting story in connection with that run. Knowing nothing of the need of a censor permit to run each film, which in the case of the American pictures already had been obtained by the producer or distributor, Joe neglected to obtain one from the city for "Garibaldi." So he started the run and soon had the city inspector in the theatre to see the permit.

"Sure I've got a license," he told the inspector, pointing to his theatre license in the boxoffice.

After the inspector had cut the electric wire leading to the projector and started to walk off with the film, it dawned on Joe that he needed a permit to run the picture itself. Which he obtained the next day.

In 1916, Vicedomini took over the Dante Theatre at Taylor and Halstead. In those days that 600-seat house was something to be proud of, and he showed pictures and stock company stage shows there until 1929, when he took over the Palace on Roosevelt Road. It was at the Dante that the orchestra leader, trumpet-playing Louis Panico, got his start as a $6-a-week musician. Vicedomini opened the Lyons in 1931 and then relinquished it to open the World Playhouse in 1933 as an art motion picture house.

The industry in Chicago politely laughed at his plans for the World Playhouse. But in six years he had proved there was a spot in Chicago for a theatre offering the best in foreign product.

Vicedomini is not worried over foreign product now that war has broken out anew. "We have a many months' supply in this country," he says. He makes several trips a year to New York to buy product.

Working with Vicedomini is another veteran of the industry, his publicist, Dan Roche, who has been at the Playhouse now for five years. Roche was with Paramount and RKO for years before giving it up to retire to the comparative quiet life of doing publicity for one house.

Curfew Law Is Put In Effect in Muncie

MUNCIE, IND.—Boys and girls under 15 years must stay off Muncie's streets after 8 o'clock at night unless accompanied by their parents. Police this week began enforcement of a 43-year-old curfew law after an investigation that resulted in the arrest of 15 juveniles on larceny charges. Theatremen are looking with trepidation on this new enforcement.

Better Films League Has An Election in Racine

RACINE, WIS.—The Better Films League here has elected Mrs. A. B. Arnold, president; Mrs. L. M. Haas, vice-president, and Mrs. E. J. Hannon, secretary-treasurer.

The organization has voted to give three 35mm still picture type projectors to the public and parochial schools of the city. Two projectors were given to the schools last year by the league.

Election Candidates Are Announced by B&K Club

CHICAGO—Election of officers and directors of the Balaban & Katz Employes Club will be held soon, with the following nominated:

For president, Harry L. Odendhal, Congress; A. M. Eisner, Pantheon, and A. P. Conroy, Southtown; for first vice-president in charge of welfare, William Methe, Tower; Richard Copeland, Granada, and Thurston Wayner, Biltmore; for second vice-president, in charge of entertainment, Gordon Bier, Chicago; B. W. Bloomfield, Uptown, and Charles Cottle, Marbro; for third vice-president in charge of athletics, Hugh W. McGinnis, State; Joseph F. Anderson, Belmont, and Ted Dariotis, Roosevelt; for treasurer, Joseph M. Kerns, William Ryan and Rena Gray, all of the office; for secretary, Etta Henderson, office; Eugene Bodenstein, Harding, and Melvin Rainey, office.

For membership on the board of directors representing the loop and warehouse, Al Waldman, Chicago; Walter Brasch, United Artists, and Joe Pipher, warehouse; representing the north side, Jerome Winsberg, Lakeside; Ben Adelman, Uptown, and A. Leonard, Coronet; northwest side, Ada Shayne, Terminal; Edgar Jacob, Congress, and James Ellis, Crystal; south side, Roland Schwartz, Tivoli; William A. Studdert, Tower, and Louis J. Lentz, Maryland; west side, Dean Jones, Paradise; Joseph McGuin, Senate, and James Waits, Iris.

"Birth of a Nation" Ban To Be Fought by Telzer

CHICAGO—It is understood that Art Telzer, Chicago distributor for the revived sound version of "The Birth of a Nation," is planning court action to rescind the recent ruling of the police censor board banning the film. Originally there was a permanent injunction permitting playing the picture in Chicago, but Lieut. Harry Costello, police censor, banned the picture over this writ, on the ground that sound had been added to the film, thus making it, in effect, a new picture needing a new permit.

New Incorporation

INDIANAPOLIS—Floyd Brown, former manager of Universal in Indianapolis, according to statistics from the state house is the new agent in Indiana for Capitol-Monogram Pictures. Incorporation papers reveal 1,000 shares of $1 par value stock. The organization is to distribute motion pictures, advertising materials, etc. Incorporators include Dugald S. McDougall, attorney at Indianapolis; Samuel S. Holmes jr., and Jacob T. Pincus.

Stutz Buys Hoffberg

CHICAGO—E. J. Stutz, operator of the Sonotone Theatre here, is back from New York where he contracted for the Hoffberg product for 1939-40.

CHICAGO

JOHN MILTON, who formerly operated the Harmony Theatre, has opened the Morton Park in Cicero . . . Mike Kassel has returned to his old stamping ground as north side salesman for RKO, trading places again with John Clark, who returns to the North Indiana and Eastern and Central Illinois route.

Larry Stein says this is a "hot tip:" "I went up to Milwaukee yesterday; back in town today."

Bob Burns was a visitor . . . Another was Jane Withers, with her mom and teacher from the 20th Century-Fox lot. Janie was en route to Boston to appear at a food show. She returns in a few weeks to Hollywood to start work on "Jubilo," which will also have Republic's cowboy star, Gene Autry.

Duke Hickey is back from a trip to Indianapolis and St. Louis where he worked on special campaigns for "When Germany Surrendered," the A. L. Rule picture of World War I, being distributed by Johnny Mednikow.

Cameraman Lloyal Griggs headed a Paramount technical crew that paused here en route from the west coast to Albany, Ga., to make background and interior shots for "The Biscuit Eater." They had just finished work at Galesburg, Ill., working with Knox College students on "Good Old Siwash."

Bill Githens, who is connected with the firm that will open the Telenews Theatre in the loop, was here making deals for newsreels and shorts. They expect to open the house about December 1.

Hal Tate, movie tattler of station WJJD, has been making 3-minute recordings of interviews with stars and running them later on his regular morning programs over the station.

Columbia planned to hold a trade screening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" some time this week at the Esquire.

Herman Wobber, general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, and Bill Gehring, district manager, were here over the weekend conferring wirth Clyde Eckhardt, branch manager.

Old But Active

CHICAGO—This is a 16-year-old gag but Irving Joseph of Columbia swears he's heard it revived again out in the country sales posts.

It's the story of the foreign-born exhibitor who was asked by one of his exhibitor pals whether he would buy "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," to which he replied: "For what good is a football picture this late in the season, and who would want a hunchback on a football team in the first place?"

Irving says he first heard that one when he was with Universal in the good old days, but is hearing it again out-state about the new RKO version of the same picture.

Hank Markbreit, Chicago Times *amusement advertising manager, is a papa for the second time. It's a girl this time, Marilynn Lois, and all the family is doing fine.*

Ed Levin of the B&K publicity department spoke before the Junior Matrons' League at Harvey, Ill., on "Music in Motion Pictures."

Fred Wagner, 20th Century-Fox booker, who was 52 years old, died last week at Hines Hospital.

Bill Weinberg, Hollywood Amusement Co.'s roving sales manager, has gone to Kansas City and Minneapolis this time. Bill reports there are some 3,800 theatres now using the Hollywood games. Incidentally, his boss, Phil Fischer, has now taken up with interest his golf game and growing of that new mustache.

John J. O'Connor, RKO theatre executive, was through here en route to New York after conferring in Des Moines with A. H. Blank. Also here was Bill Howard, RKO vaudeville executive.

Blue Zolla, one of Filmrow's newest recruits, and secretary at Quality Premium Co., is at home recuperating after a sudden appendectomy at Michael Reese Hospital last week.

Some of the Santa Fe Chief passengers en route from the west coast during the last week were Betty Grable, Artie Shaw, Edna May Oliver and Bob Burns, who remained over here several days with his ailing wife.

Bob Haley, RKO publicist, had a contest running this week in the Chicago *Herald-American,* seeking a Miss Fifth Avenue in connection with the latest Ginger Rogers picture, "Fifth Avenue Girl," running currently at the house.

Installation of officers of the Bookers' Club was to take place Tuesday night at the club quarters, Crillon Hotel.

Jeanette MacDonald, M-G-M's singing star, will give her first Chicago concert under the direction of Harry Zelzer, Chicago impresario. Her appearance will be on March 29, 1940, either in Orchestra Hall or the Civic Opera House . . . Zelzer also will present her M-G-M singing co-star, Nelson Eddy, March 3, 1940, at the Civic Opera House.

Gene Krupa and his orchestra return to the Panther Room of the Sherman Hotel Saturday night, November 4.

Isaac Cutter Lodge, A.F.&A.M., of which Saul Goldman, of Sack Amusement Enterprises, is master, will celebrate its 17th anniversary Monday night at the Masonic headquarters, 32 West Randolph. Several filmites are members of this lodge.

Joseph Bernhard, Warner Theatres general manager, postponed his trip to Chicago a week, and will conduct the managers' meeting here next Tuesday, October 24, instead of last Tuesday.

Alex Halperin, Chicago zone Warner Theatre head booker, is back from New York where he sat in on film deals . . . I. H. Barron, Warner contact man, was in New York this week attending a routine meeting of contact managers.

Charlie Ryan, Warner assistant zone manager, is expecting about 650 for the annual Warner Club Hallowe'en party next Friday night at the Sherman Hotel in the Panther Room.

John Howard and Robert Preston, Paramount players, passed through en route to Detroit for the world premiere there on Thursday of "Disputed Passage." In charge was Mervyn Hauser of the studio publicity department.

Three-Way Tie in Chicago Film Bowling Contest

CHICAGO—There is a three-way tie in the lead for the Film Bowling League. National Screen and Paramount won three each from Warner Bros. and Universal respectively, while, though Film Carriers lost two to 20th Century-Fox, they all three are tied.

In the other game Republic won a pair from Photoplay. The standings:

	Won	*Lost*
Paramount	8	4
National Screen	8	4
Film Carriers	8	4
Photoplay	7	5
Republic	5	7
Warner Bros.	5	7
20th-Fox	4	8
Universal	3	9

Plan Silent Series

HOLLYWOOD—Spurred by the success of the silent sequence in "Hollywood Cavalcade," 20th-Fox is preparing a film series of feature-length silent comedies reviving the Mack Sennett-Keystone Kops tradition.

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SPR'GFIELD

"MR. SMITH Goes to Washington" will have its mid-week premiere showing at the Senate Theatre.

Dave Jones, advertising manager for the Kerasotes chain, took a busman's holiday to go to Chicago to see John Barrymore in "My Dear Children." "And he's plenty good," says Dave.

Pete Napote, manager of the Frisina chain's theatre at Robinson, Ill., was a visitor to the home office here.

Pio Pedrucci, Frisina's manager at Gillespie, Ill., was also a visitor at the home office.

Bill Feldstein, booker for the Frisina chain, made a business trip to Chicago last week.

Bob Zwerman, manager of the Tivoli Theatre, is taking a week's vacation to go to Olney to help his folks move into their new home.

The Tivoli Theatre has been blossoming out with new fronts weekly. All atmospheric ideas in connection with the pictures showing there have been exploited.

Report Four Installations Of RCA Sound Equipment

CHICAGO—Four installations of RCA Photophone sound are reported in the following houses:

The Telenews, 600-seat newsreeler going up here at State and Randolph Sts. for Midwest Newsreel Theatres, of which Herbert Scheftel is president; Tivoli, 1,070-seater in Mishawaka, Ind.; T. S. Charles' New Moon, Vincennes, Ind., and the Strand, South Bend.

More Install RCA

CHICAGO—RCA sound installations reported by Eddie Klein, Chicago sales manager, include those for the B&K Regal and Southtown theatres, and M. Gazzolo's Imperial Theatre, Chicago; Majestic, Mt. Carroll, Ill.; Stockton, Stockton, Ill.; Packer and Orpheum, Green Bay, Wis., and Oriental, Milwaukee.

Straight Films Reported For Palace in Chicago

CHICAGO—With business off somewhat at the house the last few weeks, reports are about again that the RKO Palace will go back to straight pictures for a while. Despite some top RKO and Universal films, the house assertedly has been at a disadvantage with the B&K loop vaude-film houses. B&K offers name acts at the Chicago, while the Palace shows have been without top names.

RKO executives here, however, are noncommittal on any possible dropping of vaudeville, though such reports still persist in union circles.

New Ticket to Hilton

HOLLYWOOD—James Hilton has drawn a new term writing ticket at Warner Bros.

Theatrical Managers, Inc. Leases at Hagerstown

INDIANAPOLIS—Theatrical Managers, Inc., have leased the new theatre now under construction at Hagerstown, Ind., from Charles Wood, local contractor and builder. The theatre will be named the Circle and will seat approximately 500 persons. It will be modern in construction with the latest type of fixtures and equipment. Hagerstown has a population of approximately 1,500 and at the present time has no theatre operating there. The Perfect Circle Corp. has a plant in Hagerstown which employs a large number of the town's residents.

Indiana in Martinsville To Get Remodeling

MARTINSVILLE, IND.—The Indiana Theatre, badly damaged by fire early in September, is to be remodeled and reopened. The house is expected to be ready for occupancy by November 1 to 15.

Screen Sport Short

CHICAGO—Sports writers of Chicago newspapers were guests at a premiere screening on Tuesday night of "Clocking the Jockeys," a one-reel sports subject shot by Emile Montemurro, Movietone News bureau head in Chicago, at Arlington Park. The subject is part of 20th Century-Fox's regular sports reels. The showing was held at the Fox exchange.

Frankie Feels Wronged

ST. LOUIS—Frankie Baker, 63-year-old Negress who claims she is the "Frankie" of the "Frankie and Johnny" song and the motion picture produced by Republic under the same title, has had depositions taken here in support of her $200,000 damage suit against the film company.

Included in the testimony submitted here the past week was the transcript of a coroner's inquest into the fatal shooting of one Allen Britt, 18-year-old Negro, on Oct. 15, 1899, in a house on Targee St. in St. Louis. This Frankie Baker was acquitted on grounds she shot in self defense. She now conducts a shoe shine parlor in Portland, Ore.

It is probable the defense will endeavor to prove that the world was singing about Frankie and Johnny for many years before this Frankie Baker pumped lead into the said Allen Britt, causing his death four days later. Other testimony taken here was designed to show that the film was distributed in the St. Louis territory.

Defendants in the suit are Republic Pictures Corp. of St. Louis, Mid-West Film Distributors, Inc., Republic Pictures, Chester Erskine, director; Jack Kirkland, the author, and Helen Morgan and Chester Morris, film star.

Some months ago, Miss Frankie Baker filed a suit against Mae West and Paramount because Mae sang the "Frankie and Johnny" song in a motion picture. That suit was later dropped.

MILWAUKEE

AL GULLICKSON, former organist at the Warner Theatre here, is now at the Steuben Inn . . . Alec Templeton and Red Skelton headed the entertainment bill at the eighth annual Food Show in the Auditorium here.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodion Rathbone were local guests last week. Rathbone, son of Basil Rathbone, film star, left October 12 for Canada, where he will enlist in the Canadian forces. Mrs. Rathbone is being groomed for radio stardom by Wesley Ruggles, film producer, and will be heard soon in a series of broadcasts from Chicago.

Ervin E. Deer, director of the community service department of the MPPDA, addressed the Lions Club in Appleton . . . For four days last week, the Hollywood in La Crosse sold Dollar Day tickets with a saving of 40 cents on each.

Mainstreet in Racine is now offering encyclopedias as a gift offer . . . William Exton is resuming weekend stage shows at his Roosevelt in Kenosha.

Rivoli in La Crosse is featuring a beauty contest for the selection of "Miss Chippewa Falls of 1939" . . . Approximately $50,000 is being spent on remodeling the RKO exchange here.

William Exton staged a "Take a Chance Show" at his Roosevelt, Kenosha, on Friday, October 13 . . . Life Newsreels of Indianapolis has been taking flickers for showing at theatres in Fond du Lac and Neenah and Menasha. Subject matter is exclusively local shots.

Eli Arkin, formerly manager of the Paramount, Hammond, Ind., has been named manager of Warner's Venetian in Racine, succeeding Harvey Kny . . . J. C. Ebersberger, manager of the Rex, Sheboygan, addressed the Sheboygan Better Films Council.

Warner's Sheboygan, Sheboygan, plugged "Should Husbands Work" by having an attractive young lady in the theatre's lobby give candy kisses to every man entering the house on a Wednesday from 3 p. m. to 8 p. m.

Milwaukee Building Firm Protests Safety Island

MILWAUKEE—Asserting that the concrete safety island on W. Wisconsin Ave. at N. Plankinton Ave., was a "nuisance and an unwarranted and unlawful obstruction and interfered with the use of our properties," the Buildings Development Co., owner of the Emploire Bldg. and the Riverside Theatre, has filed a demand with the city to eliminate the safety island.

Oak Installing General Seats

MOUNTAIN VIEW, MO.—John A. Woods of the Oak Theatre is installing chairs purchased through the L. T. Rockenstein Co. of St. Louis, manufactured by the General Seating Co.

Justice to Press

RACINE, WIS.—The Racine *Journal-Times* pins a bouquet on "Stanley and Livingstone" for its non-exaggerated treatment of newspapermen in an editorial captioned, "A Newspaper Movie That Does Justice."

The complete text of the editorial follows:

"Newspapers and newspapermen have been rather ridiculously misrepresented in some movies of the past. So it is a pleasure to see a picture that records faithfully the real achievements of one newspaperman of whom all members of the craft can be proud.

"We refer, of course, to 'Stanley and Livingstone,' now showing at a Racine theatre.

"Not many newspapermen have the adventurous opportunity that was given to Henry M. Stanley, a young reporter on the New York *Herald* back in 1869, when he was told to find Dr. David Livingstone, famous explorer apparently lost in 'darkest Africa.' But the dogged determination with which Stanley went after that 'story of the century' has been an example which hundreds of other newspapermen have followed, even though their exploits have proved far less spectacular and never found their way into the pages of history.

"The 'Stanley and Livingstone' picture proves that a story based on the newspaper profession can be highly exciting and entertaining without being grossly exaggerated. We see it as at least a partial 'antidote' for some of the films on the subject by Hollywood."

St. Louis Amusement Co. Buys Warner Product

ST. LOUIS—The complete Warner Bros. program for 1939-40 has been bought by the St. Louis Amusement Co., reports Gradwell L. Sears, the distributor's top sales executive.

The amusement company operates 102 neighborhood houses in the city and the adjoining territory.

Cantor Reseating Esquire

INDIANAPOLIS—Joe Cantor's new Esquire Theatre will get new seats this week. A new glass front has already been installed.

Re-Sign May Robson

HOLLYWOOD—May Robson has signed a new term acting contract at Warner Bros.

Department Store Praises Films

Milwaukee—Gimbel Bros. paid tribute to the industry on the celebration of its golden jubilee and "especially to the Fox Wisconsin Theatres for their part in bringing entertainment and business to Milwaukee and Wisconsin" in a full page newspaper advertisement plugging "The Women," which played the circuit's Wisconsin Theatre here. The advertisement featured various women's styles with several stills from the picture. It was held over for a second week.

Eloquence in a Bid

CHICAGO—It's now Freddie Mindlin, the Emancipator. Fred, who is managing the Essex Theatre (formerly the Panorama) at 717 Sheridan Road, for Carl Borak, sent out the following letters in that neighborhood advising patrons of the single-bill policy of the house:

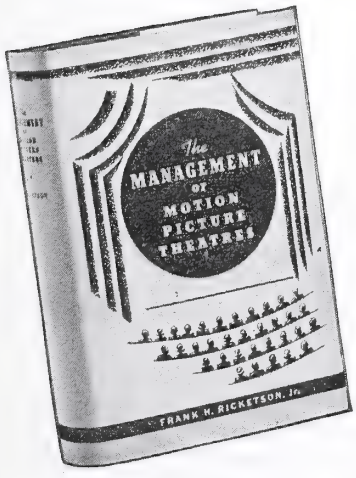
"Four score and seven days ago this company brought forth the idea of a new theatre, conceived by the best artists and craftsmen, and dedicated to the proposition that most men and women are sick and tired of sitting through two lengthy feature pictures, and that they would much prefer a balanced Variety Program of a carefully selected feature picture plus the Essex Hour of Charm—the latest newsreels, travelogues, sport reels, comedies, cartoons and other short subjects.

"And now the Essex Theatre (all newly decorated air conditioned, and with every comfort imaginable) so conceived and so dedicated, is ready for its gala opening on Saturday, October 14th, and with your kind patronage and approval shall not perish from this earth—we hope."

School Produces a Film

ST. LOUIS—The premiere of a motion picture written, directed and acted in St. Louis by St. Louisians was shown the night of October 6 at Temple Israel House. It was the fourth motion picture and third sound picture produced by Larry I. Lederberg, a teacher at the Temple. It is to be shown in Jewish schools of America.

How to operate motion picture theatres *profitably*



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MT482 Signs, Neon
MT483 Signs, structural glass
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MT485 Attraction boards
MT486 Letters, attraction board
MT487 Letters, changeable silhouette
MT488 Price signs, boxoffice
MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
MT498 Transformers, Neon
MT499 Ladders, safety
MT500 Moving words projector

AIR CONDITIONING

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MT506 Heating systems
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MT524 Chair covers
MT525 Theatre carpets
MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

MT569 Expansion Bolts
MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
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MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

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MT593 Projectors, semi-portable
MT594 Projector pedestals
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MT596 Lamps, suprex type
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MT599 Lamps, incandescent projection
MT600 Arc regulators
MT601 Arc controls
MT602 Control panels
MT603 Rectifiers, copper-oxide
MT604 Rectifiers, tube type
MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

MT641 Cleaning compounds
MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber link matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

SOUND

MT661 Sound systems, complete
MT662 Sound heads
MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT685 Screens, moving picture
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MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, viterous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

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MT715 Accounting systems
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A Record Crowd at Beloit Screening

KANSAS CITY—One of the largest trade showings of a new season picture was held in Beloit, Kas., October 12, by 20th-Fox for "Hollywood Cavalcade." In charge of the showing, which was held at the Dickinson, was George Fuller, branch manager of the exchange here. From the Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc., were H. J. Griffith, Glen W. Dickinson, Harold Harris, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Chatham, Ralph Kieffer, W. G. McKinney and Robert Parker, plus Glen Prickett of Junction City.

Attending from 20th-Fox besides Fuller was J. F. Woodward. Other film men included R. C. Borg, Warner Bros.; Harold Cohen, Metro; M. G. Shackelford, Monogram; Is Beiser, Universal; Homer Ellison, National Screen; Hal Perrin, American Seating Corp.; Finton Jones, Travelers, and Don Davis, RCA.

Exhibitors included Mrs. Ruby Neal and Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Moser, Lenora, Kas.; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Larned, LaCrosse; Dan Russell, Ness City; John Whiting, Downs; Mrs. K. M. Blair and Mrs. Freda Dooley, Belleville; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Blair, Osborne; Jess DeLong and Forest Fair, Mankato; Jay Higbee, Art Dustan and C. Burchnall, Formoso; Mr. and Mrs. William Welton and Ed Arnold, Chapman; Homer Strowig, Abilene; C. B. Kelly and Alice Wollner, Wakeeney; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Daniles of Russell; Ray Musselman, Lincoln; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Blanding, Barnard; Al Worman, Smith Center; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gilbreath, Lucas; Oscar Raine, Concordia; Mr. and Mrs. Hal Russell, Topeka, and George Werts, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Gabel and W. S. Gabel of Beloit.

Fuller and Woodward were hosts at a buffet supper in the Porter Hotel in the evening.

Exhibitors Are Keeping Properties Up to Date

KANSAS CITY—In spite of the fact that business is off currently for most theatres, exhibitors continue to bring their theatres up to modern standards, according to Walter Shreve, manager of National Theatre Supply Co. here. Among recent installations are the following:

Home, Kansas City, Kas., Ed Burgan, new sound screen; Maitland, Maitland, Mo., F. L. Lisbona, new screen; Pic, Iola, Kas., W. A. Weaver, carpet; Orpheum, Parsons, Kas., C. B. McAleer, lighting fixtures; Casino, Boonville, Mo., Mrs. Marion Miller, lighting fixtures.

Forum Sponsors Two

DES MOINES—Two sound motion pictures, which have won high awards for their excellence, were presented at Drake University Wednesday, October 18, under the sponsorship of the Economic Forum Club. The films were "The Plow That Broke the Plains" and "The River."

Blind Checking Bogey Bobs Up Again in Minneapolis Area

MINNEAPOLIS—The blind checking bogey is rearing its head here again and independent exhibitors, waxing wrathy, are starting to squawk again. They denounce the blind checking as "unethical" and an "unfair trade practice." They want the exchanges to "cut it out."

On his part, President W. A. Steffes of Northwest Allied asserts the independent exhibitors themselves are to blame. They have brought on the blind checking, he says, by making percentage deals when pledged not to do so.

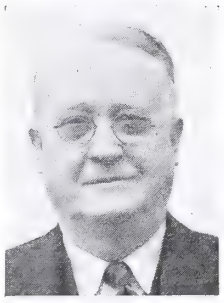
Steffes declares the blind checking ensued after chiselers among the exhibitors thought they could make any sort of a percentage deal in order to take product away from a competitor or get some concessions and then "beat the percentage rap by handing in phoney boxoffice reports, or by fixing the checkers."

The matter came up first at the last Northwest Allied convention when members complained against the blind checking. Ross Federal Service was accused of instigating it by making distributors believe the theatre owners weren't paying fair prices for film and that the blind checking would prove this contention. It hoped to induce the distributors to play more pictures on percentage, the independents charged.

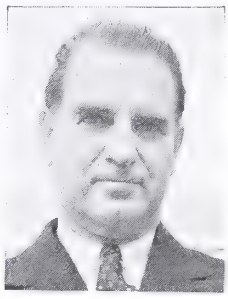
Northwest Allied members voted to refuse Ross Federal checkers access to their premises. However, nearly all the percentage engagements are played outside of the Twin Cities and, as far as can be learned, the Ross Federal men had no great difficulty in plying their trade.

It is not believed likely that Northwest Allied will take any action at this time regarding the blind checking.

Jay Means Elected Head of Kaycee's Variety Club



JAY MEANS



C. E. GREGORY



JERRY ZIGMOND



J. H. STATES

—Photos by Cresswell

KANSAS CITY—Variety Club directors Friday (October 13) elected Jay Means of the Oak Park and Bagdad chief barker for the term beginning January 1, succeeding George Baker. C. E. Gregory, National Screen Service, was named first assistant, and Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newman Theatre, second assistant. Arthur Cole of Paramount was elected secretary, and James States of Paramount, treasurer.

Ben Blotcky Is Named Chief Of Twin City Barkers

MINNEAPOLIS—Ben Blotcky of Paramount is the Twin City Variety Club's new chief barker who will succeed W. A. Steffes, incumbent, on Jan. 1, 1940. He was chosen by the 11 directors who, under the new by-laws, after their election, name the officers from their own personnel.

Other officers elected by the board are "Hy" Chapman of Columbia, first assistant chief barker; William Donnelly of the TMA, second assistant; W. H. Workman of M-G-M, secretary, and Joe Podoloff of 20th-Fox, treasurer.

Previously the club had elected as national canvassman to represent it on the national board Steffes who held the office of chief barker for two terms and was not a candidate for re-election. It also had selected Bill Elson and Workman as delegates and Eddie Ruben and Don Buckley as alternates to the national convention in Dallas, Tex., next April.

The 11 directors are Chapman, Blotcky, Donnelly, Workman, Podoloff, Elson, Ruben, J. L. Stern, Gilbert Nathanson, Gordon Greene and Harry Dryer.

A business meeting of the club has been called for Monday, December 18. On November 2 the club will entertain St. Paul city and county officials at a stag in its Nicollet Hotel rooms. Open house is being held every Saturday night. The charity committee is expected to make a recommendation soon on a charitable cause for which the club will strive to raise a minimum of $22,000.

Omaha Variety Club Elects Morris Cohn as Head

OMAHA—Morris Cohn, Strand Theatre, Council Bluffs, Ia., has been elected chief barker of the Omaha Variety Club for 1940. He succeeds Harry J. Shumow, Metro, branch manager.

Evert R. Cummings, district manager for Tri-States Theatres, was named first assistant chief barker and Sam Epstein, head of the Epstein circuit, was elected second assistant chief barker. Meyer Stern of Capitol Pictures will serve as treasurer and Edward Shafton, attorney connected with the industry, begins his sixth term as secretary.

Other members of the board are D. V. McLucas, United Artists manager; Walter M. Green of Fepco; Ted Mendenhall, Paramount boss; Eugene Blazer, Ascap attorney; John J. Gillin, manager of Radio Station WOW, and Shumow.



Into His New Business Home—

E. C. Leeves, head of the Central Theatre Equipment Co., busily taking advantage of the facilities of his new quarters at 115 W. 18th St. in Kansas City. The accompanying story gives the lowdown on this two-year-old concern in new surroundings.

Central Theatre Equipment Offices Highly Attractive

KANSAS CITY—Probably the most attractive quarters on Filmrow have been opened at 115 West 18th St., by the Central Theatre Equipment Co., which has been active in the western Missouri and Kansas field since it was organized two years ago by E. C. Leeves. The space has been completely redecorated in light, modern tones that form an effective background for the display of fluorescent (cold) lighting, International seats, Motiograph projectors and other equipment for the booth and the theatre. The paneled masonite walls are so constructed as to permit cove and other types of lighting.

Offices in the new location are of bleached mahogany with a dark mahogany trim, and are constructed modernistically; that is, they rise only part way to the ceiling, and the outer side of the office is cut away to give the space privacy without shutting it off from the remainder of the display and office space. Windows are shaded—and decorated—with new aluminum Venetian blinds.

The back half of the space is given over to parts, service, etc.

Lighting Service Subsidiary

From the new quarters Leeves will distribute Motiograph, Western Electric sound, International seats, Ashcraft lamps, including the new Cyclex; Hurley screens, Forest products, including rectifiers and screens and fluorescent lighting.

A special company, subsidiary to the Central Theatre Equipment Co., has been formed to sell and engineer fluorescent lighting service and fixtures. Associated with Leeves in the General Lighting Service are P. O. Lanham, who has had years of experience in fixture designing and lighting problems, and W. B. Marquis, another Kansas Citian.

Among other things, Central shortly will have the new Western Electric TA7500 reproducers, equipped with rotary stabilizer, possessing entirely new amplification and horn system, which is just about ready for the market, and the new Motiograph "K," on which improvements have been made, including one drive for the cylindrical rear shutter and a complete new main drive gear for the mechanism, the whole designed to create less noise and provide more sturdy operation.

Central also has Ashcraft's new "Cyclex" lamp, operated without a generator, rectifier, or ballast resister, claimed to produce a high intensity light at less cost than low intensity lamps. The "Cyclex" has a power of 55-58 amperes at 19 volts, supplied by special rotary converter or frequency changer which serves both arcs. This output will supply 12-foot candles of illumination (screen center) on a 17-foot screen. Of interest to projectionists is the fact that one pair of 7mm Suprex (or high intensity) carbons for each lamp will burn nine hours without a change. The carbon cost per hour of operation is said to be about half that on low intensity lamps, in addition to the saving on current with elimination of the need for the old type generators or rectifiers.

Since Central entered business two years ago it has sold many major jobs, including projection, sound, lamps and generators. Among them are the Carleton, Manhattan, Kas.; Colonial, Kansas City; Hall, Columbia, Mo.; Hollywood, Leavenworth, Kas.; Royal, Unionville, Mo.; Civic, Brookfield, Mo.; Lincoln, Springfield, Ill.; Liberty, Sedalia, Mo.; Electric, Springfield, Mo., and Tivoli, Maryville, Mo.

Leeves has a long background of experience in the field of booth equipment and service. He was with Erpi from 1928 to 1937, part of that time as district salesmanager here. Prior to that he was with the Paschell Texas Theatres, Dallas, two years; branch manager for Pathe at Dallas five years; with E. V. Richards of the Saenger Amusement Co., New Orleans, seven years. He started out with the old First National exhibitors' circuit when Chaplin was in one and two-reelers.

Iowa Business Reports Continue Encouraging

DES MOINES—Business reports in Iowa continue encouraging to exhibitors.

A saving of a million dollars to Iowa farmers within the next year through reduction in the interest rate on Commodity Credit Corp. loans is seen by Iowa AAA authorities.

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace has announced that the interest on the ever-normal granary loans would be reduced from four to three per cent, effective Nov. 1, 1939.

The interest charges to borrowers who deliver the grain to the government in liquidation of loan obligations are not paid by the farmers, of course, and the actual saving will not be significant unless the price of corn gets above the loan rate between now and next August 1.

The resealing of approximately 70 per cent of the 125 million bushels of 1937 and 1938 corn under seal will mean a carry-over of old sealed corn of 80 to 85 million bushels, according to H. L. Dieterich, state AAA committeeman in charge of loans.

The annual saving on loans already in effect would be in the neighborhood of $450,000 with an even greater saving indicated for the coming year's loans on 1939 corn.

Casino in Boonville Is Reopened in Big Way

BOONVILLE, MO.—Mrs. R. W. Miller opened the newly decorated Casino Theatre here with city officials and faculty members of Kemper Military Academy as special guests. After the show Mrs. Miller was hostess at a dutch lunch in the Pine Room of the Boonville Cafe.

Among those who attended the opening from Kansas City were Homer Blackwell of Independent Poster Exchange; John Scott, Republic; and Francis Keihlhack, National Theatre Supply.

Pugh Opening New House

COLUMBUS, KAS.—Art Pugh has started remodeling a building for a new theatre here which will open next month.

R. W. McEwan to Handle Yermie Stern Products

KANSAS CITY—R. W. McEwan has been named distributor for Yermie Stern Commercial Attractions, Inc., New York, which is handling Prince Karma and Kute Kris Kringle. Karma has been playing all year at the New York World's Fair and now is being released to the trade.

Karma is three inches tall (to the audience) and is a numerologist and astrologist. He has been giving 3,000 horoscopes a day in the Fair's house of miracles. Kute Kris Kringle is a holiday promotion, which McEwan already has sold to the Sears, Roebuck store here.

Hallowe'en Party Slated By Kaycee Cinema Club

KANSAS CITY—Harry Wheeler of Paramount, president of the Cinema Club, says a Hallowe'en party will be held at Variety Club October 31 at $1 per couple. Wheeler named the following committee to take charge of the affair: Martin Stone of Screenland, Joe Lysowski of Altec, and Nelson Burrus of Paramount.

Presley Buys Louis

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—M. B. Presley of the Globe Theatre at Savannah, Mo., has taken over operation of the Louis Theatre (colored) from Earl Courter. The deal was effective October 19.

Now Bowling Alleys Rate

MINNEAPOLIS—They're turning theatres in this territory into bowling alley space. Whereas it used to be that old or unprofitable showhouses were made into garages, now they become bowling parlors.

It appears that the game is increasing in popularity by leaps and bounds. Getting wise to the development, exhibitors have been more interested in this combination of sport and amusement than ever before and they're starting to make investments in it.

One of the first exhibitors to enter the field was Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn. His alleys have become his first love and he has offered his two theatres for sale. If deals are made he will expand in the bowling field.

Lowell Smoots, who owns two Little Falls, Minn., theatres, also has embarked in the bowling alley business. However, he plans to retain his showhouses.

A survey discloses that more women than ever before are going in for bowling. It appears they're prompted by a desire to keep their figures trim, to exercise for health sake or because they enjoy the game.

Mahoney Buys Claflin Theatre

CLAFLIN, KAS.—Eugene Mahoney has taken over the Claflin Theatre here.

Many Nap-Ad Contracts Closed in Midwest

KANSAS CITY—Here on the first stop in a nationwide tour in behalf of the Victor Cornelius Nap-Ad Co., Victor Cornelius, president, and T. C. Collins, general sales manager, announced expansion of the theatre poster service into territories not heretofore actively promoted.

Accounts recently closed in the Fox Midwest circuit include the following:

In Illinois: Lincoln Theatre, Belleville, C. C. Murray, manager; Illinois, Centralia, E. F. Gallagher; Grand, Centralia; Capitol, Benton, W. E. Whaley; Orpheum, Marion, Edgar Jones; Strand, West Frankfort, Gill E. Burnett; Lincoln, Springfield, Art Zimmer.

In Missouri: Auditorium, Marshall, Floyd Davis, manager; Liberty, Sedalia, Ed Mater; Mainstreet, Lexington, Gene Kincaid; Beyer, Excelsior Springs, T. S. Wilson.

In Kansas: Iola, Iola, L. Rockhold, manager; Peoples, Chanute, C. P. Forbes; Granada, Emporia, Ray McLain.

Blank Buys Warner

OMAHA—A deal with Warner Bros., calling for all their new season product, has been concluded by the A. H. Blank circuit headquartering here, according to Gradwell L. Sears, Warner sales executive.

"FOR THE UTMOST IN SCREEN RESULTS"

A Complete New Projection System producing High Intensity Light at Less Cost Than Low Intensity.

With the New

ASHCRAFT "Cyclex"

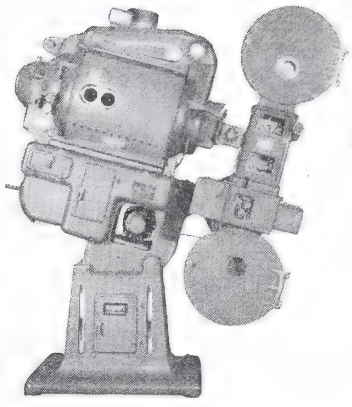
Revolutionary Projection Lamp

One Pair of Carbons per Lamp will Operate a Full 9-Hour Show.

It's New! It's Novel!

IT'S HOTTER THAN A FIRECRACKER!

It's an exclusive Ashcraft Development and distributed only by us.



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TIME PROVEN DEPENDABILITY IS COUPLED WITH TESTED

Modern Features in Motiograph's Model "K"

You will be interested in the descriptive book on the Model "K" Motiograph. We will be glad to send you a copy. There is no obligation, of course.

Central Theatre Equipment Co.

115 West 18th
Telephone
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Western Electric MOTIOGRAPH MIKROPHONIC SOUND SYSTEM

Kansas City, Mo.
E. C. Leeves
Gen. Mgr.

Twin City Trade Is Surprised by Minnesota Hike, Orpheum Cut

MINNEAPOLIS — Surprising development here is a raising of admission at the 4,000-seat independently operated Minnesota Theatre and a lowering at the Mort H. Singer Orpheum, part of the Minnesota Amusement Co. pool, for stage and screen shows.

While the boost of the Minnesota scale is greeted with rejoicing among the local independent neighborhood exhibitors, there is consternation because of the Orpheum's drop and because of the further fact that the Minnesota is starting cash gift nights.

The Minnesota, which recently dropped its mid-afternoon price from 30 to 25 cents goes now from 15-25-30 cents to 20, 30 and 40 cents, the last named price prevailing from 5:30 p. m. to closing. Gordon Greene, managing director, states that the hike is made necessary by the increased expenditures which must be made in order to obtain the name and higher quality stage acts desired.

"Ten-O-Win," with a $350 pot, will be used one night a week at the Minnesota. There also will be a cash quiz night concert for patrons once a week.

The Orpheum scale for all stage-screen shows had been 35-40-55 cents up to a short while ago when it was lowered to 25-35-55 cents. Now it drops to 25-35-40 cents.

Several years ago this 40-cent top was protested against by neighborhood exhibitors here who staged a boycott of RKO product in a successful fight to get it boosted to 55 cents. The independent neighborhood theatre owners claimed the 40-cent price was "unfair opposition" and prevented them from showing subsequent-run Orpheum pictures profitably. What action, if any, will be taken by the independents now is a matter of conjecture. The Minnesota opposition undoubtedly is a factor in the present slash and independent exhibitors generally seem inclined to be less resentful in the matter.

Before the Minnesota opened, independent exhibitors declared that if the big de luxe house attempted to run cash gift nights the giveaways would be blasted wide open downtown and in the neighborhood districts alike.

Nickel Matinees Are Twin City Threat

MINNEAPOLIS—Trade is alarmed over threats by some of the Twin City neighborhood spots to go to nickel children's matinees and Sunday Bank Nights. Subnormal business is being blamed for the development.

One independent exhibitor has let it be known that if the opposition starts the nickel matinees he'll go to two-for-five cents. Northwest Allied is using its influence to keep the exhibitors in line.

Considerable comment also has been occasioned by the fact that one independent neighborhood with a 20-cent admission is holding Book Night, giving away encyclopedias to patrons. It is claimed that a house cannot operate in the black with a 20-cent Book Night.

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of our

Magnesium-Copper Sulphide Rectifiers—For Suprex—

Low Intensity Rectifiers — Rectifier Tubes and Screens

FOREST, INC. - - Newark, N. J.

But No Bloodshed

MINNEAPOLIS—Conflicting claims of exhibitors and distributors about the motion picture business over the luncheon table at the Twin City Variety Club give Merle Potter, *Times-Tribune* film editor, considerable of a kick. In his column last week he told how the theatre owners discourse about their ill-treatment at the distributors' hands while the distributors, on their part, assert they're the aggrieved parties.

"I don't know of a better spot than sitting around a luncheon table listening to a group of motion picture exhibitors and motion picture distributors rag each other," wrote Potter. "A stranger would marvel that with so much violence of language there is no bloodshed whatever.

"To hear an exhibitor talk, you would believe that his children are destitute and that he'll be lucky if he can keep his theatre open for another 24 hours, the reason being that he has to pay so much for fillum. He's just a victim of the villainous producers.

"From the distributors' standpoint, the exhibitor is a cry baby, moaning about nothing, lining his pockets with gold while weeping into a silk handkerchief about the misery of his lot. After a reasonable amount of such talk, however, they get together and spend enough money on a party of some sort or other to finance a small war."

No First-Run Major Films Seen for the Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS—The Minnesota Theatre, independently operated 4,000-seater, apparently will have to continue without first-run major screen product. Through deals already made or pending, the Minnesota Amusement-Orpheum pool here apparently has all of that product sewed up again.

The big circuit's deals with M-G-M, Warner Bros., Universal, Paramount and RKO may be considered completed. Columbia and 20th-Fox are had on carry-over contracts. United Artists' product probably will be split up between the Minnesota Amusement Co. and W. A. Steffes' World Theatre.

Corset Revue on Stage Exploits "The Women"

DES MOINES—The corset fad hooked up with "The Women" for a strictly feminine start in Des Moines Thursday morning, October 19.

An "intimate revue" was staged for women only. Younkers' models disrobed on a special Des Moines Theatre stage to show Des Moines misses and matrons the latest in feminine under-trappings.

Men were barred from the theatre. Tri-States gals were recruited for the ushering chore and Nell Beerbower replaced Hubby Al at the spotlights. Marguerite Browning, associate editor of *You*, operated the public address system. To make the exploitation complete, police matrons were recruited to keep any mere male from crashing the gate.

DES MOINES

WHO remembers that Christmas party at Universal some 12 or 13 years ago, during which Bert Thomas inadvertently locked himself in the men's room? Bert held both 10 and 1 to win the Saturday and Sunday pools on the series . . . Elmer Tilton accused him of hollering his head off with a loaf of bread under each arm.

Frank Gaskill (Metro's little boy, Junior) sadly and unsteadily plunked down 25 bucks the other night . . . Crime, it don't pay, Junior . . . Latest shot of Filmrow's newest father: Jerry Banta, patiently dousing square underwear.

Jack Seigel, who has promised to go riding with Iles & McKinney on their new motorcycles, oughta know this: Morris Smith's hair is still standing on end after the ride they gave him. He even suspects them of trying to rid themselves of a little competition. Furthermore, Jack, McKinney brought the mechanic down to fix an Iowa Film truck via motorcycle. The mechanic was seen hitchhiking back home after refusing a return trip from McKinney.

About Sy Harlan: He saves match covers like a fiend. Note to Iles: Sy was adding to his collection that night you hunted until 4:00 a. m. for him and the key. You know, "Dine and Dance at the Wooden Shoe," and "Dave Fidler's for Beer." Dick Kappler was supposed to have been hunting Sy, too, but Francis Kappler told us Dick was with him.

Art Anderson is supposed to be a new man since he completed those 80 contracts with theatres here'n there, but he looked like the same old Art (cockyzell) to us when we met him on Tenth Thursday.

Ken Clayton picked three beauties for the West DM homecoming. But judging by the stares and come-hither glances he got at the game, he didn't do all the picking. Ken was invited to the shooting of "At Good Old Siwash" with "Golden Boy" Holden, in Galesburg, Ill., but didn't go . . . Grace Simons didn't need to be afraid to look up that day she tripped across Ninth and someone kept tootin' the horn at her. It warn't no fresh guy, Grace, just us.

Edith Levitt, the little gal who used to pretty up Stan Mayer's office at Fox, is now honeymooning in New Orleans as Mrs. Maurice M. Cohen. Judging from her lovely picture in the *R&T*, she feels all right about it, too . . . Did you notice the picture of Patricia Ann Middlesworth in the *Tribune?* Dora M. at Central States is her grandmammy!

Sam Friedman, here ahead of "What a Life" starring Jackie Coogan, has cooked up a contest that's not so bad. The fellow and girl sending in winning letters on why they'd like dates with Coogan and Cyrilla Dorne, will have dinner before the show at the Fort Des Moines Oak Room (s'all right, Gary Riggs) with the two stars. Ken Clayton and BOXOFFICE *have been asked to chaperon (imagine us!).*

Received via mail or messenger this week: Two packages of Julep cigarettes from Roy T. Hill of State Center (and an apology for not sending the gin that goes with it). And five all-day suckers tied with a piece of string bearing the legend, "I'm a sucker for a piece of string," from Wanger's smart press agent in Hollywood, John LeRoy Johnston . . . A 7x14 autographed shot of that sweet person, Anna Neagle, who remembered I like her best minus the brittle glamour, so sent a picture with quaint hair-do and soft blouse.

A long-awaited statement from Don West, whose signature we are saving so we can analyze his handwriting for youse guys in next week's BOXOFFICE *(all your individual characteristics are revealed in your handwriting, Don) . . . A relayed message from RKO's Charles Levy saying it takes 72 hours and a blood test in New York State . . . A Soglow-illustrated little volume called "The Drunk's Blue Book," in a large envelope with our purse . . . (and no Gardenias, no Fanny Farmers!)*

Lee Brown, who used to work for Universal, can't get the business out of his system. He's agog right now about a girl named Evelyn who looks like Simone Simon. He'd like for a scout to have a look-see. Not too long ago we went through Siren, Wis., and had to fight to keep from sending Barney Oldfield a card from there. Or would he have noticed the postmark

Mildred Carlson, in at Des Moines Theatre Supply, was telling us about her sister's cute youngster. Aunt Mildred seems pretty well sold on the kid . . . Chick Friedman is another Filmrower whose sister's infant is tops with him.

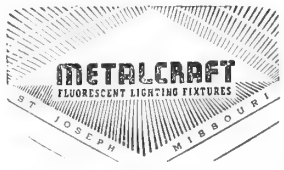
Shhhhhhh! Of course it's not true, but we're repeating it because of that old saying about fire usually turning up where there's smoke. It's being whispered along the Row that Chick Friedman has given up romancin' and taken up wifein'.

The proprietor of the Old Colony Luncheonette is complaining about one of his Filmrow customers. It seems Art Anderson enters the luncheonette with a swagger, seats himself, orders a cupacoffee and proceeds to drink it with his own sandwich which he carries with him in a paper bag! Now Art will naturally deny this story, but circumstantial evidence is strong against you, Mr. Anderson.

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A More Up-to-date Attractive Lighting System for Your Theatre
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KANSAS CITY

IN TOWN: Gus Breedin, Glasco, Kas.; C. E. Martin, Tonganoxie, Kas.; Oliver Williams, Civic, Brookfield, Mo.; George and Yicx Williams, Carthage, Mo.; J. E. Pennington, Topeka, Kas.; J. Bye Coverston, Cozy, Gravette, Ark., and the Dixie Bell at Pineville, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wilhoit, Plattsburg, Mo.; Kate Blair of Belleville and Bill Blair of Osborn, Kas.; Wendell Lenhart, Trenton, Mo.

The most important social note of the week is the marriage Friday night, October 20, of Robert J. Moore, son of Morrill Moore, manager of the Fox Isis and Apollo, and booker at Grand National, to Donna Meade of Paramount. The ceremony took place at the Community Church, with Burris Jenkins officiating. Good luck to you both!

Virginia Hudson, who used to be on the board at Columbia, was married last Sunday—which is just what we thought when she "resigned."

Whether you believe in rules or not, those at 20th-Fox fixed up as advertising novelties for theatres to give away are all right.

The girls are at it again! If you're near 30th and Harrison any Thursday evening you'll probably hear them. They've started their winter dancing sessions: Gretchen Brown, Laura Austin, Frances Smith, Dorothy O'Brien, Marjorie Moore, Florence Flynn and Virginia Gaylord—all but Virginia from the Commonwealth and Republic offices. Where do they get such energy?

In case we didn't mention it before, Louise Burke, Universal, sister of Arthur Burke of the Gillham, is wearing a big diamond ring on that finger.

Jean Fiske at Warner Bros. is going to the Kansas City Art Institute in the evenings (but not every evening, thank goodness!) and is studying interior decorating.

Margaret Totten, the attractive blonde at Warner Bros., is carrying around an infected finger. She can't type—Goody!

It wasn't very cheerful at Warner Bros. the past week: Jimmy Winn's father died; the mother of Norene O'Connor, cashier, died last week, and the father of Mae Ready, inspectress, died Monday . . . Catherine Lawler Dye underwent a serious operation at St. Joseph Hospital, though she was scheduled to go home Tuesday.

Frank Norris is the new booker at Warner Bros., replacing Ted Hammer, who has returned to New York. Norris formerly was at Memphis.

There's an engagement ring on the finger of Ruth Jones at Warner Bros. . . . Dorothy Starr Saferstein is back with the exchange, filling in for Catherine Dye . . . Mrs. Harold Unell, formerly Rose Starr, of Warner Bros., was a visitor on Filmrow Monday. She is a mother now.

Gretchen Brown of Commonwealth went to Salina to attend a wedding. Not her own, she assures.

Lester R. Abbott, vice-president of Motiograph, Chicago, was here this week conferring with E. C. Leeves of the Central Theatre Equipment Co., distributor for Motiograph.

L. J. Kimbriel of the Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co. last week sold 500 new Heywood-Wakefield seats to March Brothers for their new house at Vermillion, S. D., and 500 for the March Brothers' new house at Lamar, Ia. Over 200 seats went to the Municipal Auditorium, Beloit, Kas.

Mrs. Charles H. Burkey of the Summit Theatre has returned home from the Menorah Hospital after an illness of six weeks.

Seen at Variety Club: Mae Clausen, chairman of the Kansas censor board, with Arthur Cole of Paramount; R. R. Biechele, and June Medcalf.

W. C. Slinker, who used to have the theatre at Greenfield, Mo., was on Filmrow. He has his own traveling show now. A "strip tease by shooting," is one feature. With a pistol, he knocks off the shoulder buttons of the girl's dress. He splits a bullet on the point of a hunting knife, the pieces hitting a piece of candy on each side. With his left hand, he shoots in two a swinging thread. Some shooting!

F. Tom Murray, head of branch office operations for Universal, was here a couple of days.

Jack (the lucky dog) Barnett, 20th-Fox cameraman, made pictures of the Coronation Ball and the American Royal Queens the other evening.

Bert Rogers, 62, Dies; Mary, Buddy at Side

OLATHE, KAS.—Bert Rogers, newspaper editor, probate judge and father of Buddy Rogers, died here at the age of 62. Buddy and his wife, Mary Pickford, were at the bedside, with other relatives.

Jean Hersholt to Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—Jean Hersholt, well-known screen actor, is coming to Minneapolis October 23 to appear in a show that will open the Community Fund drive here.

Start Keaton Comedy

HOLLYWOOD—"Nothing But Pleasure," Buster Keaton's first comedy for Columbia of the new season, is now in production.

"Go West" to Simon

HOLLYWOOD—"Go West," the Marx Brothers' next comedy for Metro, will be directed by S. Sylvan Simon.

INTERNATIONAL CHAIRS EXCEL IN—

DURABILITY--COMFORT--BEAUTY

The New CHALLENGER CHAIR Proves Smartness Is Not Expensive.

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RUBE MELCHER
1717 Wyandotte GR 0672
Kansas City, Mo.

MINNEAPOLIS

SID VOLK, prominent independent circuit operator, much pleased over the book giveaways in his houses using this business stimulant . . . Joe Floyd, Eddie Ruben's right-hand man at Sioux Falls, S. D., in town discussing future bookings . . . Tommy Charek, Warner demon salesman, considered Filmrow's best dressed man—one of satorial elegance—a fashion plate de luxe . . . Enig Koeniger, South Dakota exhibitor, a proud daddy.

Elmer Bang, Eureka, S. D., exhibitor, who has managed many theatres, possesses the first ticket for every showhouse he ever opened . . . Ben Spewak, theatrical financier, looking over the Dakotas for prospective theatre spots . . . After hearing of Minnesota's downfall on the gridiron at Lincoln, Neb., Art Ableson, Devils Lake, N. D., theatre manager, canceled his season reservations for the Gopher's games, but after the Bierman tied Purdue he was sorry.

Ask Bill Evidon of Columbia what happened to Duluth Teachers' college . . . "Hy" Chapman of Columbia sponsoring a luncheon for advertising men on the future campaigns for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at the Nicollet Hotel . . . Danny Matin, long standing friend of Tommy Charek, has gone to Omaha to join the RKO sales staff . . . Harry Sherman's vaudeville units going great guns throughout the territory . . . Moe Levy, S. R. Kent drive leader, setting out with Herman Wobber on tour of 20th-Fox exchanges.

Charlie Weiner, Monogram man, sans mustache and declines to tell the reason for the divestment. He's displaying photos of his duck hauls . . . Bennie Berger, the large independent circuit operator, says he was on the door at one of his Bemidji, Minn., theatres when a youth nearly six feet tall presented a children's ticket and, in reply to Bennie's query, stated his age was 11. *But when Bennie asked the year of his birth he said he couldn't remember.*

Gordie Greene, Minnesota Theatre managing director, a successful hunter . . . W. A. Steffes, Northwest Allied president, spending considerable time at his northern Minnesota estate . . . Harry Hirsch, Gayety burlesque impresario, back from a circuit meeting in Detroit, Mich. . . . Eddie Ruben, owner of large independent theatre chain, who played fullback on the University of Minnesota's 1919 team, among those present at the team's reunion.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Jack Wright, Red Wing, Minn.; Jerry Silvers, Cannon Falls, Minn.; R. K. Rasmussen, Perham, Minn.; John Piller, Valley City, N. D.; Ernot Hiller, Crookston, Minn.; Oscar Hendrickson, Grafton, Minn.; Jerry Anderson, who has taken over the West Concord, Minn., theatre from G. A. Severn; Harry Knowlton, Elsworth, Wis., and Wesley Faulkner, Plum City, Wis.

Henry Herbel, Warner district manager, a visitor . . . Performers from all the theatres and some of the other night clubs participate in Cedric Adams' "Celebrity Night" at Curly's night club . . . Carlton Miles, here ahead of "Tobacco Road," coming into Lyceum, was drama editor of the old *Journal* here for nearly 20 years . . . Mother of Esther Freeberg of National Screen office staff passed away.

Many of the Twin City Variety Club bunch planning to go to Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Minnesota-Michigan football game November 11 . . . *Lorraine Stern, daughter of J. L., Bank Night distributor, recuperating at Asbury Hospital from an appendectomy . . . Florence Bellman, Monogram secretary, engaged to wed Leonard Katz . . . Warner had two of its new-season pictures in the local loop last week—"The Old Maid" and "Espionage Agent"—at the Orpheum and Gopher, respectively.*

Fred Holzapfel, North Side exhibitor, and his gang of four shot down 27 ducks . . . Warner's "Dust Be My Destiny" penciled into Century the current week . . . Monogram's pride, "Mutiny in the Big House" current at the Minnesota . . . Morrie Abrams, M-G-M exploiteer, in western Wisconsin for "The Women" . . . Exhibitors still raving over "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," witnessed at an invitation preview. The picture has been set into the Orpheum for a minimum of two weeks, starting November 3 . . .

Barrons Approve Plans For House in Pratt

PRATT, KAS.—Final plans for the new Kansas Theatre here have been approved by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barron. The house will be located almost directly across the street from the Barron Theatre.

Drawn by William N. Caton of Winfield, the plans indicate a modern building in which structural glass of several colors will play a big part. Seats and carpets already have been purchased, and the Barrons are dealing now for other equipment.

Pugh Orders RCA Sound

KANSAS CITY—A. W. Pugh has ordered an RCA sound system from Don (Hi-Fi) Davis here for his new 400-seater at Columbus, Kas.

Adapts "One Came Home"

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has assigned Lawrence Hazard to adapt "One Came Home." Albert Levoy will produce.

Paramount Pep club held a steak fry for its fall outing.

Al Aved, Columbia salesman, mourning the loss of a front tooth . . . Dinah Satz of the Columbia office staff attended a convention in Chicago . . . Frank Mantzke, Universal Milwaukee branch manager, here for the Minnesota-Purdue football game . . . Fred Finnegan transferred by 20th-Fox *to Chicago for a special assignment . . . Bill Winter, RKO, has a new Buick.*

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

UP'N DOWN the Row, everybody's wondering about Judd and the Old Empire in Storm Lake . . . they say he's taking a hand in lighting it up again . . . how's about it, Judd?

Harold Moore, who runs a traveling circuit in about 15 towns around DM, used to be a stock broker and looks it. We were talking to Francis Kappler in at Republic and just as we were about to find out some nice juicy gossip, Harold appeared at the door and called our informant out.

Oakie Goodman of the Empress of Rockwell City has bought the Rialto at Villisca. Oakie is moving to Villisca, but he'll still operate both houses. Why didn't you tell us about all this that day we talked to you, Oakie? (He's the big, strong, silent type, we suppose.)

The Strand won't know itself when Glen Nordyke gets all that new carpet, new wood, and new booth installed at Richland. Fred Fritz is putting new sound in the Cozy at Wilton Junction. U. A. Christensen is changing his heating system to forced ventilation in the Urbana Theatre at Lost Nation.

That WAS Abe Frankle of the DM Casino, whom we saw wandering the streets of Duluth early in September. Abe was up there so he could enjoy his hay fever.

Bill Eddy of Indianola was too busy to give the Old Style Lager signs proper attention during the new court house dedication celebration recently. He not only played the cornet in the whisker band, but he engineered the filming and recording of the affair. He showed the 16mm local talent product to the natives and broke all house records for five days (aside to Art Anderson: including records set by "Four Daughters"). Bill's son, Jack, who runs the theatre at Mount Ayr, shot the pictures. He took 650 feet.

She hasn't passed out the cigars yet, but Edna Rector said umhuh before witnesses recently. The new bride is the popular operator of the Star in Sioux Rapids.

When Fred Thacker was in at Iowa Film he looked too rushed for us to talk to him ourself, but we learn that he's to operate a community-sponsored theatre in Mallard, Ia. Fred also runs the Conway Drugstore there, and plans to open a theatre at Fenton, Ia. Fred's brother has the West Bend Theatre in West Bend.

Bob and Zoe Dawson are building on to the Dawson Dream Cot and plan to raise chows. We hope the Rozoda in Redfield doesn't get neglected when the first batch of puppies arrive.

Walter Carroll, who runs the Star at Colfax, now has a Friday matinee for women only. It was the local merchants' suggestion, but Walter has to figure out what to show them. He thought "Should a Girl Marry" a good idea. May we suggest as second feature either "Little Accident" or "Naughty But Nice?"

Helen Hartman, who used to work for Paramount-Publix, pointed Ben Silsbee out to us while dining in the Oak Room at the Fort. Ben used to be with National Theatre in DM.

We stopped in to visit with Lillian Rittenmeyer at the Casino in DM, and discovered another swell gal exhibitor in the business. She really knows her business, too.

New Projectors Installed

KANSAS CITY—L. E. Pope, purchasing agent for Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., has installed a pair of new SI projectors with Simplex low intensity lamps in the Fox screening room. It is the first such installation in the Kansas City territory.

Lead Role to Tamiroff

HOLLYWOOD—Akim Tamiroff has the leading role in Paramount's remake of "The Way of All Flesh," with Louis King handling the megaphone.

OMAHA

MIKE TRACY, veteran exhibitor at Storm Lake, Ia., was on the Row for the first time in many moons . . . Bob Berke, film peddler for 20th-Fox, has resigned and is on his way to Hollywood where he hopes to land with one of the studios . . . Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Reckords, Majestic, Hebron, Neb., were in town.

D. D. Matin is the new salesman at the RKO exchange. He replaces Sol Yeager, who resigned . . . Harriet Wolsky, United Artists cashier, is in Chicago attending a convention.

Jerry Horacek, Model, Bancroft, Neb., was spotted on Davenport St. with his family . . . Mary Baert, RKO biller, is back from a vacation . . . John Winn, Grand National booker, has taken up shuffleboard, the big sissy . . . Don West, Central States booker, was here from Des Moines.

John Sorenson has taken over the Sioux Theatre at Anthon, Ia., formerly operated by Harry M. Lowder. Sorenson and his wife were visitors on Filmrow this week, but BOXOFFICE *was unable to contact for an interview. We'll get you, Mr. Sorenson . . . Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Fletcher, Lyric, Hartington, Neb., were in town.*

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Bradley, Moon, Neligh, Neb., were in town to get their son, who has been in a hospital here. We're glad to report he's improving . . . Martinas Biemond, Ord, Neb., was on Filmrow.

LINCOLN

K L. AYERS, Lincoln, is looking about the countryside for a theatre, eyeing such spots as Newman Grove, Gresham, Ashland, Schuyler and Seward . . . Charlie Pettijohn, MPPDA general counsel, hopped off his schedule long enough to drop into Lincoln for a word with Bob Livingston . . . Picture of senility: Howard Federer always thumbs slowly through pages in the catalogue wherein are advertised house slippers. Incidentally, he thinks his stenographer, Ruth Johnson, is really Mrs. Hub Boswell, wife of a former Nebraska football player, but she won't fess up.

Carl Lorch, orchestra leader, went from the Turnpike Casino here to the Orpheum, Omaha, to pull a music battle for Bill Miskell, against Glen Gray and his Casa Loma crowd. Sort of like Poland against Germany, says Lorch . . . Ed Vaughan says there's nothing like the light in a gal's eyes to give a man bright ideas . . . Offside comment: When the Seventh Day Adventists convened here, the most militant dry had almost a movie comedy name, G. W. Casebeer . . . Proof that motion pictures have rare charm: Barney Oldfield, Sunday Journal and Star *film editor, has been called upon since Sept.* 1, 1939, *for* 15 *appearances to speak on films, five of them in church, and at the periods normally set aside for Sunday school. Programs were by church sanction, and at ministerial request.*

Les Rees, Minneapolis scribe, came here for the Minnesota game and voiced pregame pessimism for his cause, which nobody took seriously until after the game was over . . . Hank Keller insists the first talkie was sprung on the public in 1926, in spite of the history books saying it was a year later . . . About time for Joe Philipson to make his usual trip into the hinterlands from New York . . . Bill Miller, the Ashland "check-night" peddler, is said to be itching to get to California . . . Since W. M. Youngclaus was able to get an injunction against a meat smoker, who smelled up his theatre with fumes from the backlot, the Grand Island exhibitor has set a dangerous precedent. Maybe other showmen will get injunctions against use of some films for the same reason.

Richard Rowland, the United Artists producer, has written the Lincoln chamber of commerce that he wants to world premiere "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," when it's completed, in Lincoln. It's in honor of Bess Streeter Aldrich, the Nebraska author . . . M. E. Lofgren is expecting an heir for a Christmas present . . . The late Carl Laemmle, on Christmas eve, 1932, *warned by a national broadcast that repeal would turn money from the boxoffices for films to beer joint tills for suds, which may be another factor in the present ticket-window go-by . . . Vincent DiFiore says one steak may be washed down with a glass of water, but three can only be followed by castor oil.*

Detroit Film Buying Moves Cautiously

DETROIT—Film buying in the Detroit territory is generally reported at a standstill, by both exhibitors and distributors, while the deals with major exhibitor groups are being ironed out. Heading the lists, of course, are United Detroit and Co-Operative Theatres, the major local booking combine and affiliated circuit, respectively.

United Detroit has been negotiating for weeks with various distributors, and is about to sign for new product.

Co-Op, on the other hand, has actually signed two contracts, Universal and United Artists, although no details of the contracts are available for publication. Dickering is still under way with the other distributors, as these two will only give Co-Op a small percentage of the total product required for the approximately 100 theatres in the group.

Settlement of the contracts for these two major groups will mean speedy solution of the film situation for other exhibitors whose buying is largely dependent upon what is done by the houses playing ahead of them in runs.

Harris Amusement Leases Manos Jeannette House

PITTSBURGH—Harris Amusement Companies acquired Michael Manos' new theatre at Jeannette under terms of a lease announced this week. The new theatre makes the 21st link in the new Harris chain.

The theatre will be ready for opening around November 1. Seating capacity of the new house is 1,000.

Harris circuit operates the Harris Theatre at Jeannette, and O. A. Kihchel, veteran independent, has the Princess Theatre there. Manos went ahead and built the new house in face of the fact that Harris and Kihchel had all major product under contract, and it was assumed from the start of construction that he would purchase one of the two theatres there or would lease to one of the operators of the town.

Universal Pitt Branch Cops Contest Honors

PITTSBURGH—New Universal branch ran away with the honors in the business contest which closed several weeks ago. Jules Lapidus, manager, copped first honors in the country, the cash award being $300. Four local salesmen were among the first seven sales representatives in the country, with awards as follows: Lou Hess, second, $225; David Barnholtz, fourth, $175; Si Feld, sixth, $125, and William Satori, seventh, $100. Dave Miller, district manager, won the eastern award.

Adapts "Daniel Boone"

HOLLYWOOD—"Daniel Boone," a historical featurette, will be adapted into screen form by Ernest Booth.

19th Convention of Western Pa. MPTO Underway Oct. 23-24

PITTSBURGH—Thirty years of exhibitor organization will be observed here Monday and Tuesday (October 23 and 24), at the nineteenth annual convention of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania, Inc.

Convention headquarters are at the Roosevelt Hotel where registration is in charge of Miss Mathilda Kiel, assistant secretary of the local Allied unit.

Col. Harry A. Cole of Dallas, president of national Allied, will be among those in attendance to greet the early arrivals. Abram F. Myers, counsel and chairman of the board of directors of national Allied, will be another guest. He is scheduled to deliver an important address Tuesday afternoon.

Election Holds Interest

Highlight of the Tuesday business session will be nomination and election of officers. Three members of the MPTO's board of directors will be named at the same time as will members of the important labor committee.

Present officers include M. A. Rosenberg, president, who will preside at the convention; Fred J. Herrington, secretary; Joseph Gellman, treasurer; members of the labor committee are Alex S. Moore, Dr. C. E. Herman and William D. Davis. Rosenberg, by his own announcement, will not be a candidate for re-election, but will, however, remain active in the organization.

Non-members of the MPTO were extended invitations to attend the two-day business convention. They will be granted full privileges in everything but in voting for officers, directors and committee members.

Next to Charles S. Philbrook, general chairman of the convention committee, the busiest person at the two-day confab is expected to be Frank Panoplos, of Clairton, chairman of the committee on grievances. Reports this week indicate that a number of new as well as old problems would be presented. Members of Panoplos' committee stated that they welcomed all grievances and that they would present all such registered "squawks" at the proper time.

Israel Roth is chairman of the committee on resolutions, which may prove more important this year than ever before, this because of the cry from all sides for exhibitor relief or for a revival of code negotiations or for more "merchandising policies" or concessions from the various film producing and distributing companies.

A legislative resume will be made by Fred J. Herrington, secretary, who is observing his 30th year in the industry as an independent leader.

Joseph Gellman, MPTO of W. Pa., Inc., treasurer for many years, is chairman of the ways and means committee. He will report on finances and matters pertaining thereto. Philbrook is general chairman.

M. N. Shapiro was in charge of publicity. A printed convention program was being prepared this week in advance of the two-day business meeting. Entertainment is in charge of Carl Poke.

E. W. Long Wins Renewal Of Mt. Vernon Lease

COLUMBUS — Announcement has been made in Mt. Vernon of a verbal agreement between trustees of the Knox County Memorial Building and E. W. Long, independent theatre operator, to renew Long's lease on the Memorial Theatre for another year. The agreement, with option for renewal, will become binding as soon as a lease can be drawn. To obtain the lease Long raised his bid from $3,000 to $3,600 yearly. For the past five years he has paid $2,400.

In deciding to renew Long's lease, trustees ended a bitter controversy that began in July when the Schine circuit attempted to obtain the theatre with a bid of $3,750. At the time several civic and patriotic organizations sponsored petitions asking that the Long lease be continued. The Schine circuit had announced it would close the house if it obtained the lease, concentrating on the two other chain houses in the town.

Charleston Penny Tax Hits Juvenile Trade Hardest

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—First reaction to the week-old one cent tax that each patron at local showhouses is assessed, is one of dislike as a nuisance.

The tax is particularly onerous to the juvenile trade because a child's admission now costs 12 cents (one cent state tax and one cent city tax) and these pennies often spell the difference between seeing the show or not.

The assessment, which is applicable to all persons entering a theatre, is expected to raise $30,000 annually. Most exhibitors have signs over the boxoffices declaring they are forced to collect the tax over their protests.

Independents in Cleveland Sign Pact With Operators

CLEVELAND—Local independent exhibitors and officials of the operators' union Tuesday agreed to a one-year contract, with wages and working conditions remaining virtually the same as last year. First run and affiliated houses had previously reached an agreement with the union.

Gibbons in Campbellsville

CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY.—Harold Gibbons, until recently manager of the Majestic in Beaver Dam, Ky., is at the helm of the Alhambra Theatre here, a post he held two years ago.

Assigns Gene Fowler

HOLLYWOOD—Gene Fowler is writing an untitled story for Leo McCarey, RKO producer-director.





An Ohio Check Exchange—

In the upper photo Eddie Cantor is collecting from Columbus' Mayor Myron Gessaman the price of two ducats to the second annual Barn Dance of Variety Club, Tent 2. Standing, left to right around His Honor, are RKO City Manager C. Harry Schreiber, Cantor, Virgil Jackson and Johnny Murphy, Jackson-Murphy theatres. The affair will be held October 25. In the picture beneath, Cleveland's Infantile Paralysis Fund benefits to the extent of $1,896.66, which Frank D. Drew, M-G-M branch chairman, as zone chairman for the Will Rogers Memorial Fund is presenting to Lockwood Thompson, chairman of the paralysis fund. Among those looking on are Ernest Schwartz, president of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n; Col. Harry E. Long, M. B. Horwitz, Jack Shulman and Meyer Fine.

Variety Club Maps Second Barn Dance

COLUMBUS—For the second year the Variety Club will hold a Barn Dance and Frolic, with all profits going to the Children's Hospital. The affair is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, at the Columbus Auditorium. Little Jack Little and his orchestra will headline the show. In addition the extensive entertainment lineup will include the star act of last year's party, the radio-famed Hoosier Hot Shots and Uncle Ezra of the NBC National Barn Dance. Door prizes, a jitterbug contest, side shows and an old-time barn dance will be other features of the frolic.

Governor Bricker, Mayor Gessaman and Chief Barker Bill Pullin are honorary chairmen. Lou Holleb is general chairman with C. Harry Schreiber, assistant.

Other committee members include: Pete Wood, general secretary; Jake Luft and Max Stearn, assistants; Virgil Jackson, John Murphy, Bill Pullin jr., and Clarence MacDonald, tickets; Bob Pullin and John Neblett, jitterbug contest; John Barcroft, Bill Cunningham, Harold Eckert, Kenny Tooill and Fred Oestreicher, publicity; Dan Burrows, Al Redman, Curt Littman, Lee Hofheimer, Johnny Jones and Clint Wander, radio raffle.

Jeff Goldsol, prizes; Dick Borel, Don Burrows, John Neblett and Jim Yerian, radio; Matt Reigler and John Thompson, signs and decorations; Milt Staub, loudspeaker equipment; Don Wiper, Col. Lynn Black, Chief John Dunn, Sheriff Jake Sandusky, Chief E. P. Welch and Bill Murphy, safety; Leo Haenlein, George Anagnost, Bill Pancake, Bob Nelson, Johnny Hardgrove, F. E. Gooding, Herb Vance, Bill Almons, Jim Cummings and Jack Needham, sideshows.

Cleveland Barkers Dance Dec. 2

Cleveland—Cleveland Variety Club will step out in style for its annual winter ball on Saturday, December 2. "Duke" Clark, Paramount branch manager, is chairman of the entertainment committee. To date, the only definite thing in connection with the ball is the date.

Detroit Tent Picks Eleven to Direct

DETROIT—The Variety Club has elected 11 new members of the crew—the actual directors of club policy, who will select the year's officers from among their own number. The new crew includes:

Jack Saxe, treasurer of Monogram; David Newman, owner of the Pasadena Theatre; Bill Carlson, Carlson Studios; Louis Wisper, Wisper & Wetsman circuit; Harold C. Robinson, Film Truck Service; John Howard, branch manager of Paramount; William Flemion, president of Excellent Pictures; Barney Kilbride, circuit owner; Edgar E. Kirchner, manager of the Family Theatre; Charles C. Perry, manager of the Adams Theatre, and William Hurlbut, Monogram franchise holder.

Carlson and Perry were elected as delegates to the national convention at Dallas next April, with Kirchner and Howard as alternates.

Perry, retiring as chief barker, was, by precedent, elected as national canvassman for Detroit.

In the committee reports, Kirchner, for the house committee, disclosed that profits from the principal source of revenue, totaled $3,069 over last year, with a net profit of $1,038 from the bar.

Hurlbut reported for the membership committee, Robinson for the welfare, and Carlson for the entertainment committee.

Saxe, as treasurer, covered fiscal activities of the year, with the following as the highlights: Welfare activities, hospital fees, etc., $1,373; flowers, $219; shows for shut-ins, $403; Christmas baskets and gifts, $323; home for boys, supervised by Father Markey, $1,000.

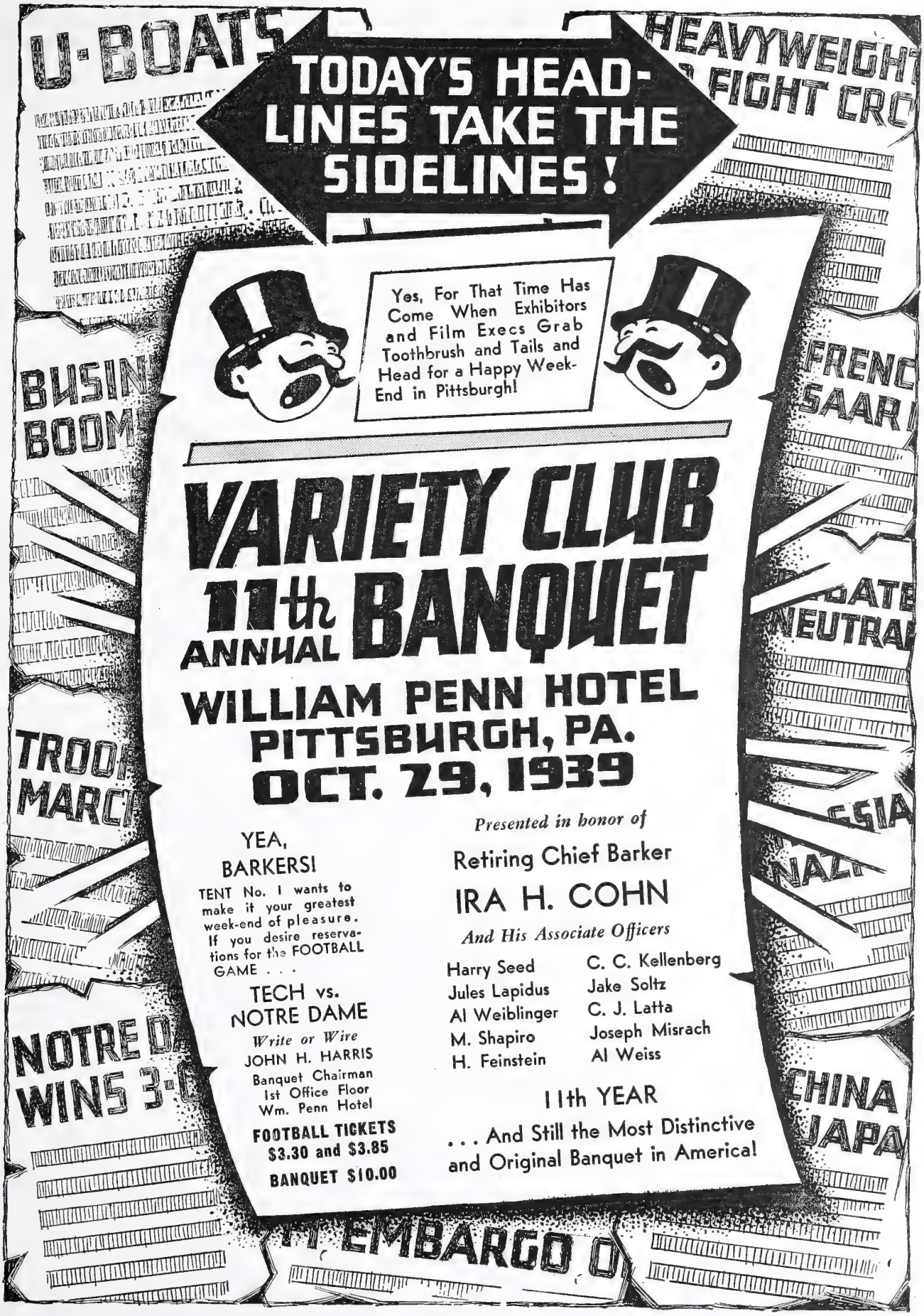
Received from dues, $3,486; total operating costs $14,000; paid off on debt to members, $1,400; the club has $1,000 cash on hand after all outstanding bills are paid.

Kirchner, reporting on the $50,000 drive, reported estimated costs of this, underwritten by Variety, at $3,500. United Detroit Theatres offered to give passes to any number for the boys who will be out on the street soliciting funds on Tag Day.

Reporting on membership, Secretary Newman revealed the present membership is 239.

John Himmelein Takes Command of Post 313

CLEVELAND—John Himmelein was formally initiated into the office of commander of Variety Post 313 of the American Legion at a dinner held Friday the 13th in the Variety Club Rooms. In addition to inducting into office all of the officers who will serve the Post during the 1939-40 year, it was announced that membership in the YMCA would be given to each of the 17 boys who comprised the Post's sponsored baseball team. The raffle that provided the funds for the boys, was handled by Past Commander Howard Roth and Col. Harry E. Long, Loew division manager.


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CLEVELAND

JESSIE WILTSHIRE, long with Columbia Pictures and more recently with Vitagraph, left last Friday with her sister and and brother-in-law to make her home permanently in Florida. So Dorothy Orton, her assistant biller, steps into the biller's position and Jean Wolcott, a newcomer on the Row, has been appointed assistant biller.

Fred Schram, former lessee of the Lyric Theatre in Delta, now is running the Empress Theatre in Whitehouse . . . Robert Smeltzer, Vitagraph district manager, was in town for several days, coming from his headquarters in Washington, D. C., to consummate local deals in cooperation with Herb Ochs, local branch manager.

J. O. Guthrie of the Karolyn Theatre, New London, who recently boosted his business by presenting Dorothy Grainger, a home-town girl, on the stage, reports that the screen star has returned to Hollywood in response to a call to appear in a new picture.

G. L. Carmack who hails from Findlay, has taken over the Star Theatre, Bluffton, from the owner, A. T. Worthington. Carmack also owns and operates the Carma Theatre in Bluffton.

Mrs. Meyer Fine, wife of one of the heads of Associated Circuit, is at Mt. Sinai Hospital for observation with the possibility of an operation in the offing . . . George Lefko, RKO branch manager, states that "Nurse Cavell" is slated to play at the RKO Palace the last week in October.

Visitors from the surrounding towns reported in goodly numbers at the various film exchanges during the week. Spotted along the Row were George Delis of Canton; Leon Velas of Bellaire; Harry Reinhart and his city manager, Ben Schwartz, of Canton; Paul Ellis of Niles; Morris Levin, N. Spayne, Bob Menches, R. E. Paulus, Ernie Lefton of Akron; Sam Reichblum of East Liverpool; Nat Walken of Salem; George Pank of Marion; Jack Hayes of DeGraf and Joe Shagrin and Joe Trunk of Youngstown.

Earl Setron and Doug Smith of the Smith and Setron Printing Co., who started out making window cards and heralds for theatres, are now turning out advertising material for non-theatrical industries from coast to coast.

George Manos, president of the Manos Amusement Co. with theatres in Lisbon, Toronto, Minerva, Leetonia and Columbiana, fooled Old Man Hay Fever this summer by installing air conditioning in his office. This made it possible to stay at home for the first time in many years . . . Perc Essick and Meyer Fine have reopened the Ohio Theatre, Galion, which was closed during the dog days.

Loew's Granada Theatre last week celebrated its 12th birthday. Manager John Newkirk celebrated by presenting a week of outstanding picture programs . . . Marvin Samuelson, manager of Warner's Colony Theatre, reports that the public reaction to the first of a series of Book Review Matinees was most gratifying with attendance up to expectations.

Bill McGrew, one of Manager Harry Henderson's ushers over at the Lorain Fulton Theatre, was one of the top winners in the Jitterbug Jamboree held last week at the Public Auditorium. Parading the theatre aisles was his only formal training, Henderson reports.

S. P. Gorrel, Republic sales manager, just back from a tour of the territory including Pittsburgh, is optimistic about business in general and the picture business in particular since counting the smoke stacks in Pittsburgh from which smoke poured forth.

Ray Wallace, owner of all but one of the theatres in Alliance, is taking his daily exercise these days by promenading every day from 5 to 6 o'clock with his two-year-old son.

Sidney Garfinkle has sold "Pay-Me," new theatre game, to the Mt. Pleasant Theatre two nights a week . . . Mildred London Gurian, formerly of Cleveland and now the wife of Milton Gurian of the Monogram outfit in Cincinnati, is the mother of a son, named Stanley Louis.

"Duke" Clark and Harry Goldstein were hosts last Thursday evening to some 800 guests who assembled at the Lake Theatre for a trade screening of Paramount's "Seventeen" and "Disputed Passage."

Bud Somers, former manager of the Palace, Akron, and now managing Shubert's Theatre in Cincinnati, sends regards to the boys and girls back home via Sam Gorrel of Republic . . . Harry Thompson, Schine booker, has established local headquarters in the 1900-Euclid Bldg., having moved to Cleveland from Bellefontaine . . . William N. Skirball and his right-hand man, Joe Lissauer, were in New York last week consummating product deals for the houses in their circuit.

Urling and Davis, large circuit owners, have sold their house in Zeniople, Pa., to Bill Thomas of the Liberty Theatre, Lowellville . . . George Manos has done over his Minerva, Ohio theatre in the latest style and now it stacks up with the best.

Lee Hendershot of the Orwell Theatre, Powell, has spent his spare time this summer, building himself a house. He had the aid of only one assistant . . . George Papas of Powhattan Point is on the sick list . . . Charles Kosco, booker for the Alpine circuit with headquarters in Kingwood, W. Va., was spotted in town at the Columbia exchange booking for the Steubenville and Salineville houses which also belong to the circuit.

George Glick, Columbia salesman, has just returned from Smithfield where George Sturgeon, theatre owner, predicts a boom due to the opening of the mines in his vicinity . . . F. H. Hathway, owner of the Struthers theatres, is suffering from headaches these days. Reason is that by widening the street on which one of his houses is situated, the marquee extends over the street, so now he doesn't know what to do about it.

The Auto Theatre at Strassburg closes November 1 . . . Ray Wallace, Alliance Theatre owner, is starred in this year's Columbia press book. He was a spectator in the senate chamber when the senate was in session and when Frank Capra's cameramen took shots to be used as models for the sets in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." Ask the man who knows and he'll locate Exhibitor Wallace in the picture . . . Bernard Rubin of Big Feature Rights Exchanges, Inc., reports that prints of "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" and "Torture Ship," first of the PDC pictures have arrived.

W. J. Powell has sold his Lo-Net Theatre in Wellington to Walter Steuve who operates theatres in Findlay. Frank Nolan will manage the house . . . Powell will spend the winter in Florida, as usual . . . David Fettman has been named manager of the Harbor Theatre, Ashtabula Harbor, by the new owner, H. Thomas.

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Showmen Club's Annual Roundup Called Nov. 5

CANTON, OHIO—Annual fall round-up of the Charles Seigrist Showman's Club, which group practically all managers of local theatres are affiliated, will be held Sunday night, November 5, in the ballroom at the Hotel Belden here. The event will be in the form of a "welcome home" party for performers and showmen who will shortly wind up their outdoor season with road attractions. Program will include films of activities of club members, taken this summer by Ted Deppish, official club photographer, brief talks by guests and visiting showmen, an entertainment program of circus and vaudeville acts, and a buffet lunch. Sterling (Duke) Drukenbrod, former theatre manager, during the past season sideshow manager of the Cole Bros. circus, is president of the club, which has membership representation in a score of northeastern Ohio cities and towns.

Warner Club in Canton Enjoys Annual Party

CANTON, OHIO—More than 25 members of Canton's Warner Club and invited theatre executives and guests enjoyed the club's annual party at Tam-O-Shanter, golf club near here, on October 13. The evening was spent informally, with a short program of entertainment. A social hour followed and a buffet lunch was served. Guests included the entire staff of the Ohio, Warner theatre here. Arrangements were in charge of Manager William Harwell.

CINCINNATI

WALLY ALLEN, owner of the Kentucky, Lexington, has made arrangements to crown 20th-Fox's popular star, Marjorie Weaver. Miss Weaver will preside as Queen at the annual Lexington Tobacco Fair, and is coming on from Hollywood to grace the occasion.

A host of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Goetz will join them in the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, October 30, at Dayton, Ohio, where Mr. Goetz is connected with the Strand Theatre. Following a wedding ceremony in the morning, an all-day party at the home of the celebrants will wind up with open house at the Biltmore Hotel. The couple are the parents of Joe Goetz, assistant general manager of RKO theatres, at Cincinnati.

Queen City Variety Club annual election of officers was held Monday night, October 16, at the Netherland Plaza.

The Cinema Club met October 14, with an increase in the organization of 40 members. Plans are being made for a social at the Variety Club rooms and the disposal of a handsome radio set, worth $150.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Behlen and family of Nicholasville, Lancaster and Stanford, left for a two-week trip to New York City.

Business is on the upgrade. UA's Harris Dudelson reports the Cincy office two months ahead of last year's contracts. Reports from the mining districts are that all mines are running full time.

Bruce Sunkel has taken over the Times Theatre, Roseville, Ohio, from Louis Parhas . . . Manny Marcus, theatre owner of Indianapolis, has taken over the Clifton, Cincy suburban house, effective October 15. Marcus plans to spend approximately $20,000 remodeling the house and installing air conditioning.

"Drums Along the Mohawk," will be 20th-Fox's Thanksgiving week attraction, with Cincy's celebration of the holiday set for November 23. Kentucky will celebrate November 30, according to latest reports and West Virginia will move the turkey feast in line with Cincinnati, to the 23rd.

Warren Shaefer has taken over the Cozy Theatre, Morehead, Ky., from Hartley Batson . . . Monogram's Bob Drew returned to the territory October 16, following recovery after his recent appendectomy.

L. W. Partlow, ex-exhibitor of Tippecanoe City, visited his old friends on the Row, following his trip here for the World Series.

Joe Stern, Lyric, Ironton, attended the "series" games in New York; Pat Collins and his brother Frank were in town. Fred Rowland and Homer Bloss were in from Columbus. Frank Schrieber is gloating over a bowling score of 641, topping the scorers.

Joel Golden, Schine booker, has opened new offices in the American Building here . . . Congenial L. E. Rogers, Welsh and Mann, W. Va., visited the Row, and took in the World Series before going on to Chicago to visit his daughter, Peggy.

Maxie Matz, Colonial, Bluefield, W. Va., here on business and pleasure.

COLUMBUS

CHARRY SCHREIBER, city RKO boss, has been elected chief barker of the Variety Club, Tent 2. He goes in office the first of the year.

Fred Schull has closed his Bremen Theatre . . . Grand opening of the Capitol, Williamsport, is next weekend . . . Dick Denison has a new marquee on his Yellow Springs theatre that lights up the entire town.

W. G. Bishop, M-G-M exploiteer in Chicago, has been visiting with the Mrs. in Dayton and Springfield . . . Harris Dudelson, Cincy UA branch manager, was a local visitor during the past week.

According to George Revelis, Palace Theatre in Washington C. H., new equipment can make a world of difference. He cites as an example his new screen inciting favorable comment from the patrons.

Duke Clark jr., was married here last Saturday . . . Roger Garrett, Loew's Ohio organist, deserves a pat on the back for a terrific special organlogue in connection with the showing of "Cavalcade." And did you know he has an NBC program every Sunday night?

From advance indications the Variety Club "Barn Dance" will be about the biggest social event in this city this year. Much credit is due Lou Holleb and his capable assistants. Party will be held the 25th.

Freddie Oestreicher is again conducting his film appreciation classes at the OSU-WPA adult night school. He is the Loew's press agent.

Hal Danson of Paramount's NY publicity office was in town working on "What a Life." Picture is currently at Loew's Broad.

Gus Van was honor guest Wednesday noon at the V. C. . . . If you want to see something funny, catch Clint Wander leading his Peke, "Dagwood," on the street!

Under new national by-laws the Variety Club was entitled to an additional director, so Sunday night the election of George Anagnost, Greystone Skateland, became official. C. Harry Schreiber and Virgil Jackson are to be delegates to the convention, with Max Stearn and Bill Cunningham, alternates. National canvassman is Bill Pullin sr.

Greenwich Council Asks Guthrie to Operate

GREENWICH, OHIO—J. O. Guthrie, lessee and manager of the nearby Karolyn Theatre in New London, has been invited by the local city council to take over the auditorium of the new $47,000 city hall as a theatre. The city fathers have arranged for the regular exhibition of pictures on Thursday and Saturday nights.

The grand opening of the building will be celebrated on Halloween with a community dance in the main street and a free picture show in the auditorium. Judge Van Horn of Norwalk has consented to make the dedication speech.

Current Republic Contest Winners, Haber, Kirby

CLEVELAND—Sam Haber, who recently joined the Cincinnati sales staff, and George Kirby, booker, are the winners in the Herbert J. Yates playdate contest for the second period, announces Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner.

The contest covers two more periods of four weeks each. Winners in the locals are eligible for the national prize to be awarded before Christmas.

Doing Wilcox Production

HOLLYWOOD—Next Herbert Wilcox production for RKO Radio is being prepared by Alice Duer Miller. As yet, it is untitled.

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DETROIT

SYD TAUBE, representing Confection Cabinet Corp., was in town from Toronto . . . Max Blumenthal unveiled a stone at Bay City Sunday, over the grave of his mother who died just a year ago.

Art Robinson booked six shows for shut-ins, sponsored by Variety, last week—one at Lapeer at the State School, at the Sanitarium at Northville, and four places around Detroit.

Mrs. Vera LeVeque, wife of Paul LeVeque, of Cinema Service, died Friday from anemia, and was buried Monday at Cassopolis, her home town. One son survives.

Roland Douglas, theatre manager and roadshowman, is handling the Chevrolet Show now . . . George E. LeVeque is redecorating Cinema Service quarters.

Frank Howard, former Co-Op booker, back from Saranac Lake, is handling publicity for the film bowling league, of which he was the first treasurer. Headquarters at his home in Dearborn.

Earl Hudson, UDT head man, back from a week's stay in N. Y. C., is so busy he hasn't had time to move his own office . . . The UDT is working plenty nights, on the "Disputed Passage" premiere chiefly.

Harry Russell, formerly a booker here, is now in business at Akron, O., where he was recently married to Loraine Evans.

Earl Hudson worked out a UDT tieup with all local high schools for autographed scripts of "What a Life" for the two best essays by students on the film.

Frank Michaels has left the Confection Cabinet Corp. as local manager. His post is being shared between Joseph Tallman, former service man, with the Detroit office three years, and George Bernstein, formerly of the head office at Newark.

M. A. Tork, manager of Julius London's Booth, reports new heating system being installed in the house . . . Wallace Cross, manager of the Cross Machine Shop, is planning to leave on a business trip through the east, in the interests of his carbon devices.

Henry Rosa jr. has left the Cross company to join his father's contracting organization . . . Stanley Oleszkowicz has made a family enterprise out of his circuit—his son Leo is house manager at the new Atlas, while his other son, Joseph, handles the Stanley.

Jack Bell of United Billposting is recovering form a severe "summer" cold. Discloses the International Billposters will meet in Detroit for convention in 1941.

Alexander Olechnowicz is making plans to enter the local neighborhood theatre field . . . Arthur Caplan, president of Metropolitan Motion Picture Co., discloses the company may resume commercial film production.

George Flucksa and William Stoica are installing a new 1,500-*gallon tank at the Cameo . . . Jim Sharkey, RKO manager, collected on the World's Series.*

Bob Fisher slipped on the floor in Excellent Pictures, newly waxed, was knocked out cold, had to visit the osteopath. Excellent's Bill Flemion sure makes it easy for exhibitors to fall for his pictures.

Moe Dudelson, Harris Silverberg, Ralph Ruben and Barney Kilbride make up Alex Schreiber's committee for the theatrical division, community fund drive, November 6-16 . . . *Cem Merritt, manager of* the *Palace at Windsor, is a reserve officer in the Royal Air Force. Says the war has had a good effect, so far, on Canadian theatre business.*

The four original Dead End Kids have been booked by Sol Berns for the Colonial Theatre for three days, making their first appearance here after their opening at Memphis.

Fred B. Miller is back as manager of Sam Brown's Dexter, of which he was the first manager, and Edward J. Bonnville, who was manager, becomes booker for the circuit . . . M. Robbins of the Echo is a bit of financial genius on the side.

"Mike" Schoenherr, manager of Barney Kilbride's Strand, says he's "way out in the jungles" . . . Burton London's only news—he has a new topcoat.

Edward Jacobson, manager of Jack Broder's Rainbo, is leaving to manage the Harmony for Sol Krim, replacing Jerome Feldman . . . Arthur Brock, lately of the Majestic, is new manager of the Rainbo.

Jacobson, cooperating with Variety Club, admitted youngsters to a Saturday morning show free, upon "payment" of some old clothing. One youngster in line said, "Hey Mister, do we get out of your show in time to go to the Riviera"—opposition across the street.

Ben Cohen is readying his yacht to take a trip to Florida . . . Auditor Rowe of the Cohen Circuit and Joe Sullivan are color film fans—get them talking.

Mrs. S. S. Sutherland is going to be a busy lady—beside her regular jobs as motion picture chairman for the Detroit Council of Churches and the Council of Church Women, she has been named public relations chairman for the Greater Detroit M. O. Council, and will be review chairman for the Federation of Women's Clubs, giving film ratings in "The Clubwoman."

Warren Slee, M-G-M exploiteer, says his favorite beverage is milk . . . Paul Krause of the Pastime runs the technical end of his show, with Manager Bill Kowalski handling the boxoffice.

Clare Winnie of the Wolverine has a good idea—keeps business cards of all his contacts under heavy glass in his office—makes a very convenient directory . . . Paris Bucci and Patsy Quaglia have closed the Trieste Film Exchange, which handled foreign films . . . Marian Poupard, Paramount, is back from Mexico City.

Jack Thompson, Paramount, is so busy upstate selling, he can't remember where Detroit's biggest circuit has offices . . . Fred DeLodder got an O.K. from the city council for new signs and marquee at his Your Theatre.

Manager Harry McKee is off to a good start at the Cass, without a dark week between now and Christmas . . . George Flucksa and William Stoica are closing the Cameo, to be reopened about December 1 after remodeling.

William C. Gehring, 20*th-Fox division manager, was in from New York . . . Douglas Brosey of the Amsterdam was over at* 20*th-Fox, buying.*

Charlie Perry, Adams manager, is up after succumbing to one of those delayed "summer colds," and has a swanky new, brown-checked topcoat . . . Jack Coffey, ex-Detroiter, lately handling special assignments for Jam Handy in Philadelphia and Wilmington, will head the executive contact staff for New England, headquartering in Boston, Jamison Handy advises.

Jack Moule, out at the Tuxedo Theatre, is staging a Saturday matinee Hallowe'en party with prizes for youngsters wearing the best costumes, arranged through tieup with merchants.

Lou Mitchell, manager of Beverly, is back on the job, recovered from a severe attack of arthritis.

Bob Fisher is displaying his Boston Bull and his tricks—name is "Junior" . . . Frank Jones, Warner booker, isn't eating with the gang these noons . . . Art Robinson has got a new hideaway back of those silk curtains in his office.



He Met a Horse—

Mac Krim, Detroit circuit owner and polo player, got that shiner when his horse and another connected in a polo match. Mac was up and at 'em again within a week.

LOUISVILLE

THE Movie Operators' Bowling League of Louisville got under way for the season at the Central Alleys, with J. P. Flaherty as president; B. P. Schroeder as vice-president, and E. F. Williams, secretary-treasurer. The schedule calls for 35 weeks of play. Entries and team captains include the following: Brown Theatre, Mr. Williams; Savoy Theatre, E. L. Yeager; Falls City Theatre Equipment Co., L. R. Leatherman; Rialto Theatre, J. L. Stratton; Hill Top Theatre, L. A. Bevel, and Strand Theatre, Mr. Flaherty.

The A. E Campbells, who came from Indianapolis, went back there the other day to participate in an annual equestrian round-up—a social calendar event . . . W. C. Durham, who recently took over the Majestic at Beaver Dam, Ky., has since taken over the Hollywood Theatre at Morgantown, Ky.

Most of the operators and several of the theatre managers in Louisville and surrounding area were on hand at the Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. for a demonstration of a new-type Wenzel projector with all-enclosed gears sealed in oil and fewer moving parts. The demonstration was handled by Wenzel's Mr. Pulverman, Chicago.

Malco's new Strand Theatre at Owensboro, Ky., was opened the other night, with J. C. Tunstall as manager. The Strand is Malco's third theatre there. One of the others, the Bleich, is to be remodeled and enlarged next spring . . . James Belcher of the Joy Theatre at Hilliar, Ky., has leased the New Theatre at Elkhorn City, Ky. . . . S. S. Keiler, who operates four theatres at Paducah, Ky., and one at Murray, Ky., was in New York on a pleasure trip.

A. A. Daugherty, film critic for the Louisville *Times,* was on hand for the Northwestern-Ohio State football game at Columbus . . . Sam Clark, Warner publicity man, was in town for a few days . . . Harry Swartz not only sold his Opera House at Lexington, Ky., as reported last week, but also his new theatre at Paris, Ky. Both went to the Schine interests.

The Orpheum at Fulton, Ky., owned by W. L. Chisholm, has been reopened after a two-year shutdown. Chisholm leased the place to Warner a few years ago, and later it was turned over to Malco before it was darkened. Chisholm, recovering from injuries received in an automobile accident, was directing the business from his bedside. His new manager is Joe "Buster" Shuck, who resigned a managerial job at a Mounds, Ill., theatre to join Chisholm. Shuck formerly was with Warner at Fulton.

Haden Read, who was featured at Loew's organ for several years, and before that was playing in a theatre at Lexington, Ky., is entertaining now at the Seelbach Hotel "Stables" in Louisville . . . Kermit C. Stengel, president of Rockwood Amusement at Nashville, is a daddy again. It's a girl—Betsy. Her granddaddy is Tony Sudekum of Crescent Amusement, same city . . . The Strand in Louisville was shut down three days last week while Kentucky Masons held their annual convention there.

Joe Goldberg of Big Feature Rights, returned from a trip to Memphis and Nashville, and then left with his family to visit brother Lee at the Cincinnati office and talk over new PDC productions. He planned an early trip to Knoxville and Chattanooga . . . Ten Spanish-American War vets, some in uniform, were guests of Loew's for the opening of "The Real Glory," which deals with the post-war Moro uprising.

The Columbia Theatre, which opened last year in Knights of Columbus Hall in Louisville for occasional special features, reopened for the winter season last week with "Damaged Goods," a picture from the celebrated French stage play made famous in this country by Richard Bennett.

According to Boyd Martin, film critic for the Courier-Journal, *the next 12 months "will see the greatest turnover of top-notch stars ever witnessed during a similar period in the history of motion pictures and Hollywood. The scream for new talent has reached a crescendo and the boys are beating the bushes back-country for the best talent that can be found."*

Change at Meyersdale

MEYERSDALE, PA.—The State Theatre has been acquired from Orlo Heckler by V. F. Scott, circuit exhibitor with headquarters at Johnstown. The State is the former Meyersdale Theatre. Heckler remains at the house as projectionist.

Seiler on "Old Hickory"

HOLLYWOOD—Lew Seiler is directing "Old Hickory," historical featurette, for Warner.

Projectionist Bowlers Get Good Start in Detroit

DETROIT—The Nightingale Club, composed of Detroit film bowlers, largely affiliated with the projection end of the business, is off to a good start, with Brenkert and Oliver Theatre Supply tied for the lead. Here are the current standings.

Team—	Won	Lost
Brenkert Projectors	8	4
Oliver Theatre Supply	8	4
National Theatre Supply	7	5
McArthur Theatre Equipment	7	5
Lorenzen Flower Shop	7	5
Motiograph	6	6
National Carbon	3	9
Amusement Supply	2	10

The honor roll still has the old reliables—S. J. Lambly, 222; William Fouchey, 213, and Roy L. Black, 205.

High series went to Lambly, 222, 159 and 191. Total 572, and Jack Lindenthal, 182, 185, 193. Total 560.

Here are the filmites who are in the respective teams—paste this list in your scrapbook—we can't repeat it:

National Theatre Supply—Harry W. Mason, Walter Henderson, Robert J. Trainer, Emil Rausch, and Jack Lindenthal.

Brenkert Projectors—Charles C. Ross, Philip Majestic, Clifford White, Loren C. Loy, and William Fouchey.

Amusement Supply Co.—Edgar Douville, J. W. Padfield, R. J. Miller, Thomas T. Smale, and F. W. Wise.

McArthur Theatre Equipment Co.—Robert E. Seeley, Harry E. Nott, Roy L. Black, M. J. Haskins, and Jack M. Hall.

Oliver Theatre Supply Co.—Thomas T. Stephens, Chester Williams, O. W. Blough, Clarence C. Moroney and S. J. Lambly.

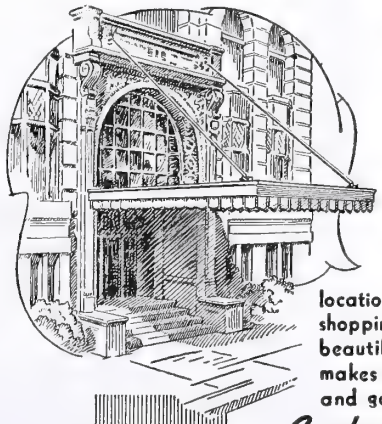
Motiograph—Carl Rush, Romulus Albu, Michael Badarak, F. H. Akins, and Gill Light.

Lorenzen's Flower Shop—M. Allegratti, H. S. Morton, Wade E. Allen, William Swistak, and J. S. Goossen.

National Carbon—J. R. Davison, M. Hockenberry, Sam Comella, W. L. Rickens, and Stanley P. Bouchey.

Krasny to Coast

CLEVELAND—Milton Krasny, president for three terms of the local union of the American Federation of Musicians, will retire at the end of his present term. He will leave shortly after the first of the year, to make his home in Los Angeles where he will become affiliated with a prominent department store.



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BEST HOTEL LOCATION

PITTSBURGH

THE Martin M. Terners will celebrate their silver anniversary November 3. Marty has purchased a new Buick and is thinking of taking Mrs. Terner on a 25th wedding anniversary trip . . . Miss Emmaline Fineberg, former local film board secretary and with Grand National until two weeks ago, is now connected with the RKO exchange . . . Herman Silverman, brother of Meyer of this city and Jake and Ike of Altoona, passed away recently at London, Canada . . . Bernard Davis is now manager of the WB Victor Theatre, MvKeesport, succeeding the late J. A. McDonald. Davis had been assistant to the veteran theatreman who died several weeks ago . . . Joe Hiller is booking Parkyakarkus with a stage show in the local area.

Miss Mathilda Kiel, assistant secretary at the MPTO office, was hard at work this week in connection with the issuing of the exhibitor convention program . . . On his Filmrow booking trips, Vernon F. Scott, the Johnston circuit exhibitor, is usually accompanied by F. E. McClellan, general manager of the company . . . Hayes Garbarino, until recently manager of the Garby Theatre, Clarion, reports he is looking around for a new spot . . . June E. Baker and several of his local Alexander Film Co. representatives, are expected here for the MPTO convention . . . Anthony Antonoplos, son of Peter Antonoplos, has withdrawn from the University of Pittsburgh and is assisting his father at the East Pittsburgh theatres.

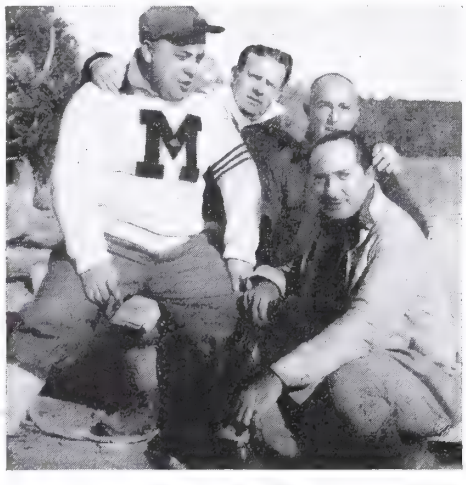
Ed "Hip" Siegal, former local WB theatre manager, has joined the Filmrow colony as local representative for two new theatre games, Whirlwin and Sweepstakes . . . Don Mungello is no longer connected with his brother Tony in the operation of the Slovan and Burgettstown theatres . . . George Wheeler, Columbia sales representative, was ill and unable to work last week . . . Ben Amdur has returned from a vacation in New York . . . Sophie Pincus of the 20th-Fox exchange has taken a new job here with the government's immigration department.

Filmrow's well-known motorcycle patrolman, George Stone, who was seriously injured weeks ago in a crash with a machine, is coming along nicely at Mercy Hospital . . . John A. Woffington jr., formerly employed as manager at the Palace, Tarentum, before the house was recently acquired by Warners, was seen in the celluloid center . . . Phil Grabowski, Sun-Tele *bowling editor, looked on the other evening while the Filmrow boys were doing their stuff at the new Triangle Recreation Center . . . Larry Aurie, coach of the Pittsburgh Hornet hockey team, has been conferring with Owner Johnny Harris on plans for the new season which will be under way soon . . . KDKA broadcast the eastern premiere of "Hollywood Cavalcade" from the lobby of the Alvin Theatre.*

The boxoffice ceiling collapsed last Wednesday in the third mishap in the new Gerard Theatre, being built in Perrysville avenue, West View. On September 12, Clarence J. Vogel, exhibitor and theatre building contractor, fell 25 feet to his death while working on the roof. Several weeks later a wall bulged four and a half inches after it was completed, and had to be rebuilt. Three workmen escaped injury last week when a delivery truck which was unloading lumber caught a beam and loosened the boxoffice ceiling, a steel structure.

Henry Armetta, star of the Stanley stage show this week, was guest of honor at a spaghetti dinner which was staged the other evening at Viviano's spaghetti factory in Carnegie . . . Al Glazer has been visiting his folks at Scranton . . . David B. Franz of Clarksburg, W. Va., who is introducing a new giveaway plan in connection with Coat-O-Fur Nite, states he is expanding his operations . . . Pittsburgh Playhouse will begin its new season October 24 with "I Want a Policeman." Non-commercial Thespians will present seven plays during the season. The seating capacity of the Playhouse has been increased 50 per cent, according to Frederick Burleigh, director . . . L. L. Chamberlain of the Dale Theatre, Johnstown, is on the mend after undergoing an operation in the Memorial Hospital there.

Art Himmelein, who is recuperating from a serious illness, is visiting at the home of his brother, Charles Himmelein, in Altoona . . . Bill Walker of Crafton has been vacationing in New York . . . Louis Krieger, Alliance distributor here, spent the weekend in Philadelphia visiting with his son, Lester Krieger, WB branch manager . . . Sam Soltz, Baltimore exhibitor, visited Filmrow friends here this week . . . Art Morrone was in New York on business for several days . . . Mike Cullen, division manager for Loew's, hurried into town to view the Stanley stage show and to okay the new theatre orchestra under Max Adkins.



Pittsburgh Quartet—

Harry M. Kalmine, B. F. "Dinty" Moore, Art England and C. J. Latta are pictured on a fishing trip at Lake Kawanga, Canada. The fifth member of the party, Tony Stern, did the picture taking.

Tent No. 1's Banquet Draws Celebrities

PITTSBURGH—Rudy Vallee, Father Edward J. Flanagan, Senator James J. Davis and many stars of stage, screen and radio together with a hundred film and theatre executives and civic and sports leaders will be among celebrities in attendance at the 11th annual banquet of the Number 1 Tent of the Variety Club, staged in the William Penn Hotel, Sunday evening, October 29. The affair honors the retiring chief barker and associates together with the new officers, headed by C. J. Latta.

Variety Club of Cleveland Elects Lefton as Head

CLEVELAND—Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner, was elected chief barker of the Variety Club at a meeting of the "crew" held in the club rooms Monday. To serve the year with Lefton, the following officers were named: "Duke" Clark, Paramount branch manager, first vice-president; Jerome Friedlander, attorney, second vice-president; I. J. Schmertz, 20th-Fox branch manager and Frank Boyd, secretary.

The "crew," which in accordance with the new constitution and by-laws of Variety Clubs of America take the place of the former board of directors, and from whom the officers are chosen, consists of Dave Miller, Universal district manager; Bert Stearn, United Artists district manager; A. M. Goodman, United Artists branch manager; "Duke" Clark, Paramount branch manager; Frank Boyd, local American Seating Co. representative; Jerome Friedlander, attorney; Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner; Lester Zucker, Columbia branch manager; I. J. Schmertz, 20th-Fox branch manager; Eddie Miller, manager of Warner's Hippodrome and Manny Landers, orchestra leader.

Nat Lefton succeeds Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, to the high post in the Variety Club.

Krieger Books "Warning" Into Warner Circuit

PITTSBURGH—Louis Krieger, of International Picture Distributing Co., who has the Alliance franchise in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, has booked the Warner circuit in Pittsburgh and six leading independent houses in key towns of his territory, for "The Warning," a three-reel subject that is proving a draw.

The Astor Theatre in Reading, Pa., extended the showing of the film from four days to a full week.

Projectionist Burned

PITTSBURGH—Charles Holmes, projectionist, was slightly burned and damage estimated at $1,500 resulted after fire broke out in the Weiland Theatre. Damage was confined to the booth. The theatre is owned by A. A. Weiland, veteran exhibitor and film distributor of the early days of the industry.

To Higher Court for Bank Night Fee War

BOSTON—The victory of Roy Heffner's Bank Night suit in Middlesex superior court for collection of royalty fees from the Reading Theatre Corp. does not establish the right of collection definitely, Morris Pouzzner, who operates the defendant concern, contends.

Pouzzner intends to carry the case to the state supreme court, he says, and points out that it is precedental in view of other similar suits instituted by Heffner and Heffner's reported threat to file others of its kind.

Myers to Attend Allied Meet at Philadelphia

BOSTON—Abram F. Myers is scheduled to attend the Allied eastern regional meeting at Philadelphia on November 13, Frank Lydon, regional vice-president, told this publication. Lydon said the sectional directors would make reports on territorial progress along several lines of organizational activity. He expected the meeting to be largely routine.

An Independent Exhibitors, Inc., report on the last regional held in New York on September 7, said that directors were advised that "Exhibitors were deeply indebted to the Parent-Teacher Ass'n and other effective civic organizations for some of the recent victories." The report stated "it would be most gracious and judicious for members to continue their militant activities in conjunction with these organizations rather than to assume an attitude of smug conplacency, over-confidence, and wake up to find the ground taken from under them."

Independent Exhibitors Slate Meeting Nov. 14

BOSTON — The Independent Exhibitors, Inc., will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, November 14, according to Arthur K. Howard. The business manager said, however, that a special meeting may be called in the meantime.

A Lesson in Theatre Buying Given by M&R Testimony

BOSTON—How to go about buying motion picture theatres was one of the lessons expounded by Charles Morse, partner of the plaintiff Morse & Rothenberg circuit which is suing major distributors and Maine & New Hampshire Theatres Co. for $2,100,000. Morse went into detail concerning the acquisition of the Cameo in Newburgh, N. Y.

The Cameo was one of approximately 50 theatres the Morse & Rothenberg circuit has been interested in. Former Massachusetts houses, later sold by the chain, included: The Pastime in Marlboro, the Park in Plymouth, the Uptown in Lynn, the Franklin in Springfield, the Lyric in Athol, the Orpheum in Somerville.

Out of state, the circuit had the Garden in Waterbury, Conn.; the Biltmore in Mt. Vernon, N. Y., and the Pitt in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Closed without sales were the Lincoln, Quincy, Mass.; Academy, Fall River, Mass.; Franklin Park, Dorchester, Mass.; Shea's, Fitchburg, Mass.; City Theatre, Newark, N. J.; Regent, Albany; Griswold, Troy, N. Y.; Windsor, Windsor, Conn.; Comique, Lynn; Gem, East Boston; Chelsea, Chelsea; Grand Opera House, Boston; Comique, Fitchburg; Washington, Boston, and the Crown, Lowell, Mass.

George S. Ryan, plaintiff's attorney, asked Morse when the Cameo was first called to his attention. The theatre man set the date as the early part of January, 1933.

"And after it was called to your attention," Ryan went on, "did you look at the theatre?"

Morse said he did.

"Before you looked at it," Ryan said, "did you ascertain anything about its previous history and policies?"

"Yes, sir."

"Had you made any investigation of the theatre situation in Newburgh before you looked at the Cameo?"

"Yes, sir."

"Had you ascertained what theatres were operating there and their policies?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, when you went to see the Cameo Theatre, what did you do?"

"I went to Newburgh, spent a day and an evening, and I noted the location of the Cameo Theatre, and particularly during the afternoon and evenings the passers-by and the number of people in the vicinity on the street, and I noted the policy changes and prices of the other theatres, and visited the locations of the other theatres. I also examined the Cameo Theatre, the interior, noted the condition of the seats, and what equipment was there and what would be needed, and made a thorough examination of the theatre."

"What did you observe as to the location of the theatre?"

Location Was Good

"The location of the theatre was in the heart of the downtown shopping district, an exceptionally good location, on the main street, Broadway."

"What did you observe as to the condition of the theatre inside?"

"The condition of the theatre was quite satisfactory with the exception of the usual minor repairs, such as painting and repairing seats, and minor repairs to the heating and plumbing system, and there was certain equipment which had to be furnished, such as booth equipment."

"Was the theatre in operation at the time that you first saw it?"

"No, sir."

"How long after you first saw it was it before you secured a lease of the theatre?"

"I believe it was about eight or ten days later that a lease was negotiated, that we secured a lease."

"Before securing a lease did you do anything else to ascertain whether this was a desirable theatre for your purpose?"

"Yes, sir. I made a careful check as to the nature, that is, the industrial setup of the town, the industries, and the type of people to which we would be liable to cater, that is, the middle class or poorer classes, and so forth, and as I said before, noted the policies, admissions, and changes of the other theatres, considered the location of all theatres, and so forth."

An Exceptional Opportunity

"What did you ascertain as to the industries there?"

"There were a great number of diversified industries, such as DuPont and American Felt Company, Sweet Orr, overall manufacturers—I think the name of that is Sweet Orr Corp., or Co., that makes the well known overalls—and many other smaller industries."

"What did you ascertain in regard to the type of people that you might expect as patrons?"

"I felt that a theatre such as we contemplated operating would have an exceptional opportunity in that particular location in that city."

"At the time that you first examined the theatre, was there anyone with you?"

"No, sir."

"Before signing the lease how many visits

(Continued on next page)

20th-Fox Leads in Contracts, Allied Film Survey Shows

BOSTON—"The outstanding conclusion to be drawn" from the eastern 1939-40 product survey conducted by Allied "is that the vast majority of exhibitors have concluded contracts with only one company," Arthur K. Howard, Independent Exhibitors' business manager, states.

Howard last week released results of the survey which, he said, is based upon the reports of 121 theatres.

Company—	Contracts	Flat	Percentage	Paid Less	Paid Same	Paid More
Columbia	31	5	26	..	31	..
Metro	24	..	24	1	13	10
Paramount	33	15	18	5	25	3
RKO	9	4	5	2	6	..
20th-Fox	37	12	24	6	19	7
United Artists	7	6	1	..	5	1
Universal	15	3	7	2	12	1
Vitagraph	25	1	24	2	20	3
Monogram	8	8	..	4	3	..
Republic	8	8	..	2	5	..

Macaulay Post Dinner-Dance Will Feature Installation

BOSTON—The film district fall social season will open officially Wednesday with the ninth annual dinner-dance sponsored by the Lt. Vernon A. Macaulay Post of American Legion. Featuring the affair will be the installation of Theatreman William H. McLaughlin as commander.

Harry A. Aaronson, manager of the Rialto in Boston, and Alvin G. Kennedy, state figure, will be put into line for the high office by being installed, respectively, as senior vice-commander and junior vice-commander.

Marcel Mekelburg, former GB district manager now handling Grand National here, is to go in as finance officer for his second year. Ralph Wormhood will be inducted as adjutant and Dr. Edward Melincoff as chaplain.

The executive committee for 1939-40 will include Carl D. Goodwin, Patrick F. Healey, Kenneth Forkey, and William J. Cotty.

Abraham Berk, Mekelburg and Ralph Wormhood have been elected to the reservations committee for the October 25 affair. Cyril McGerigle and James Sherrin comprise the installment committee. The entertainment committee is made up of Robert Sternberg and Joseph Kantor.

Alvin Kenney, Leon Foster and Harry Rosenblatt form the ticket committee trio. Harry Smith and Harry Aaronson, Benjamin Abrams, Albert M. Kane and Karl Foster comprise the program committee.

William Erbb, Tom Bailey, Edward Cuddy, Dr. William R. Basch, George P. Milan, Dr. Nathan Fineberg, Frank J. McCarthy, Mark Burston, Dr. I. Irving Copen and William Murphy have been elected to the reception committee.

Handling publicity are Harry Browning and Howard Crombie. Edward Dobkin and Dr. Edward Melincoff have charge of refreshments. Printing is in the hands of William Cotty and Isaac Kramer. Covering transportation are Walter Blank and Carl Goodwin.

Morse's Testimony A Buying Lesson

(Continued from preceding page)

to the theatre did you make?"

"Two."

"On the second occasion, was there anyone with you?"

"Yes, sir."

"Who was with you?"

"Mr. Simon."

Louis Simon, Morse & Rothenberg district manager outside of New England, testified previously in the present action.

"What did you do on the occasion of your second visit to the theatre?"

"The second day I was in Newburgh, I discussed the situation in general with Mr. Simon. We went into the theatre, and looked at some of the other theatres."

"Do you mean that you went into the other theatres?"

"No, I didn't go into them. We went to the other theatres. We did not go inside. We discussed the situation between us."

"On either of your two visits did you make any check-up on the seating capacity of the theatre?"

"I believe that I testified that I counted the seats on my first visit, and noted the condition of same."

"Before you signed the lease did you form any opinion as to what policy the theatre would be operated upon?"

"Yes, sir."

"And what policy did you decide upon?"

"Three changes a week, double feature. This was a six-day town and didn't operate on Sundays. When we took over the theatre there was no Sunday license, and admissions for adults were 10 cents matinees, evenings 10 cents balcony, 15 cents orchestra."

"Now, after the lease was signed did you have anything to do with getting the theatre into condition to operate?"

"No, sir," said Morse, "except as I discussed with Mr. Simon the day that I was in Newburgh with him. After that, I had nothing to do with it."

"Did you have anything to do, for example, with getting new sound equipment?"

"No, sir. We usually use the same equipment in practically all of our theatres, and there was no question as to that."

"What sound was that?"

"RCA."

"After signing the lease did you later visit the house?"

"Yes, sir."

"How frequently did you visit it?"

"Sometimes once a month, sometimes once in two months, sometimes once in six weeks, sometimes five or six times a year."

"Did you do anything in connection with supervising the operation of the theatre in any respect?"

"Only in conjunction with Mr. Simon."

"What did you do in connection with him?"

"Well, there was a question at one time of installing new seats, and after discussing the matter, we decided together to do same. Sometimes a question of how much advertising space might come up, which was discussed between us. Many things were discussed when I would be at Newburgh or he would be in the Boston office, or if he would telephone me, as was the case sometimes two or three times a week, general matters, routine matters were discussed regarding this theatre, as well as any other in which we were interested."

Confers With Simon

"Did you have anything to do in connection with the supervision of securing product?"

"No, sir, with the expection of Fox product for a certain period."

"Did you advise or have any conferences with Mr. Simon in regard to the product to be secured for the theatre?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you keep in touch with the operations of the theatre as to product used and the receipts obtained?"

"Yes, sir."

"And also as to the expenses of operation of the theatre?"

"Yes, sir."

"What period of time was it when you had something to do with Fox product for that theatre?"

"During the 1933-34 season, I believe, I first discussed this matter with Mr. Bailey, in July or August, I believe it was."

Thomas Bailey, New England district manager for 20th-Fox, has also testified in the litigation.

"When did this theatre open, Mr. Morse?"

"On February 3 or 4, 1933—February 4, I believe."

Talks Started in 1933

"Now, having in mind the date of the opening of the theatre, are you able to tell us approximately when it was that you first started to talk to Mr. Bailey about securing Fox product for the theatre?"

"I believe it was in the buying season of 1933-34, which would be possibly July or August. That is when I first started to talk."

"Prior to that time, did you have anything to do with the securing of Fox product for that theatre?"

"No, sir."

"Where was Mr. Bailey at the time you first talked to him about the product for that house?" asked Ryan.

"From January, 1933, he was in the Fox office in Boston, but the account was handled out of Albany before the time that Mr. Bailey and I discussed a deal late in 1933."

"What was your first conversation with Mr. Bailey about that?"

"I was discussing a deal for our circuit with Mr. Bailey, and he brought to my

(Continued on page 66)

A Corporation to Irk Film Salesmen

Boston—A local film salesman is not as popular around the district as he might be. The latest disparagement campaign got under way last week when several dozen filmites considered lining up friends, chipping in a few bucks apiece, forming a corporation, and leasing a theatre.

The idea was that the film dispenser in question would have to contact this house, whereupon he would be dispatched from one partner to another so that all would be given the individual pleasure of turning him down.

Chamber of Commerce For Portland Legit

PORTLAND, ME.—Staunch members of the Chamber of Commerce since its inception here, managers of first-run theatres were astounded last week when that organization proposed to inaugurate an all-year-around legitimate house in Portland.

Despite vigorous objections from theatre men, the Chamber of Commerce held to its plan to support the conversion of the old Keith Theatre into a legitimate, opening about November 20.

To be known as the Maine Civic Theatre, the proposed legitimate plans to operate 48 out of the 52 weeks each year. Its program, as outlined, calls for 18 weeks of spot bookings (one and two nights) for legitimate road shows; 20 weeks of dramatic stock on a sharing basis; 10 weeks of especially selected vaudeville shows with "name" headliners (full weeks, twice daily).

When not in use, the house will be rented for concerts, local attractions, radio stars, radio bands, etcetera. Income is also expected to be augmented through the "sale of concessions of the better type" in the lobby.

Its backers claim a legitimate theatre of the calibre proposed would act as a "magnet on the theatre-loving people who spend all or part of their summers in New England," and that revenue would be increased tremendously.

The house, when equipped, will seat 1,600 people without the gallery which is closed at present. Proposed prices start as low as 35 cents for 200 seats and include 300 seats at 50 cents and 200 at 75 cents.

Alexander Film Service Gains in New England

BOSTON—Alexander Film Service business in New England has increased appreciably this year, over last, Harry Snyder, district manager, has informed this publication. The largest business gain has been in Massachusetts where contracts are 125.6 per cent above those of a year ago. Maine is up 38.2 per cent; Rhode Island, 33.5 per cent, and New Hampshire 28.1 per cent.

Alexander Film handles local and national accounts in over 250 theatres in this territory, Snyder stated. Circulation in Boston proper, based on weekly attendances, has approximately 276,000.

The salesmen in Snyder's division are Shelton Hubbard, James Cody, I. N. Gordon, Frank O'Mahony, Charles Seeley, Arthur Altman, and Richard Vaughn.

All for Publicity

BOSTON—The pip publicity plum of the week was effected by Loew's, Inc., Joseph A. DiPesa, Joe Longo and Al Longo who prevailed upon Mayor Maurice Tobin to sign a proclamation designating this week as Music Week in Boston. The triumvirate did not deny that the tiein was in somewise Jascha Heifetz, Artie Shaw and UA's "They Shall Have Music."

BOSTON

DONALD MITCHELL, manager of the Paramount in Needham, has been conducting a child popularity contest at the suburban house. Mitchell's tieins have been numerous.

H. W. Stitham was to have opened his house at Hartland, Me., this week. Stitham was booking in the district last week.

Frank Lydon and Arthur K. Howard of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., planned to attend Connecticut's Allied meeting Tuesday.

William Resnick, film accountant, and Mrs. Resnick have a seven and a half pound daughter, Stephanie Roberta. Mrs. Resnick is the former Mildred Shore of Warner. Resnick, a member of the Theatrical Post of American Legion, was formerly associated in Plymouth exhibition with Charles Monning.

Irving Zussman, owner of the Metro Premium Co., has been in Boston . . . Tom McNulty, Marblehead operator, was booking in the district last week . . . Sam Wernick, operator of the Wernick in Chicopee Falls, was booking in Boston last week.

Marcel Mekelburg, Grand National district manager, released "Children of the Wild" here last Saturday.

Gordon Hillman, local newspaper man, authored "Here I Am a Stranger" which was given its local premiere here last week at the Paramount and Fenway.

Jack O'Brien and Arthur Gallery of the Metropolitan Theatre managerial staff have a new office. It's next to that of Managing Director Jack Goodwin.

James O'Donnell, manager of the Haines in Waterville, Me., recently promoted a no-cost stage show for the house. It was a fall fashion presentation, put on for two evenings by Montgomery-Ward Co.

Julian Rifkin, general manager of the Rifkin circuit, has had the Suffolk Theatre in Holyoke rejuvenated with new Mohawk carpet . . . The Uptown Theatre has a new marquee.

Seymour Bagatelle, formerly here with the Morse and Rothenberg chain, was last week appointed New York district manager for the Walter Reade circuit. He is headquartering at the City Theatre.

Al Hamilton, manager of the Empress Theatre in South Norwalk, put on a Norwalk High School night in conjunction with Paramount's "$1,000 a Touchdown." The show featured the school's football team, athletic coach and cheer leader.

Arnold Berger, manager of the Bronx Theatre in New York for Phil Smith, was in town last week . . . Edward Canter, M&P Theatres Corp. treasurer, was at the World's Fair last week . . . Sam Pinanski of M&P was in New York on business last week.

Leonard Goldenson, Paramount executive known here because of his local reorganizational activities, was married last week to Isabelle Weinstein. She is the daughter of the head of Russeks.

The M&P Theatres Corp. has made a tiein whereby a number of Majestic radios will be given away at some of the circuit's theatres.

Fred Husson, Lowell exhibitor, was booking here last week . . . Mrs. I. A. Vincent, operator of the Playhouse in Enosburg Falls, was down from Vermont last week.

(Continued on page 65)

Congratulations!



WILLIAM H. McLAUGHLIN

COMMANDER, THEATRICAL POST OF AMERICAN LEGION

With "Mac" set to serve his Post as well as MOTIOGRAPH has served him at Stoneham, it's bound to be a gala 1939-40 for our film district buddies.



CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

A NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZATION FOR NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS

28-30 PIEDMONT STREET • BOSTON, MASS.

NEW HAVEN

THE Connecticut film territory welcomes two new openings—the latest in a considerable list since September. Ralph Civitello of Connecticut Theatre Display opened the newly renovated 286-seat Devon Theatre to standing room only on Columbus Day. The interior is enhanced by Civitello's own paintings. His fiancee, Ann Chernin, is the pretty girl in the boxoffice . . . The amazingly transformed 475-seat colonial-type Deep River Theatre, formerly Pratt's, was opened by Lee Malcarni of the Essex and Clinton theatres last Sunday. Louis Pratt is manager.

The Lockwood-Gordon Windsor Theatre, now being renovated, is promised shortly after November 1, as is the 650-seat Groton Theatre, which the Hesses of the Moosup are constructing . . . The Michael Cascioli Forest Theatre in Allingtown is now getting finishing touches and is reported contemplating a Thanksgiving Day opening.

Kash Kwiz idea is catching at the Poli, Waterbury, with $56 and merchandise prizes given away at the opening, and a $44 jackpot left to cumulate . . . East Hampton and Moodus Lampert theatres, on a four-a-week operation since Labor Day, now trying a six-day schedule. Nathan Lampert is now building a 19-family apartment house in Miami Beach, while son-in-law Joseph Markov makes the "borscht" circuit and supervises. Mrs. Lampert will redecorate her 400-seat Glastonbury. Maurice Kepner is manager.

Warner Theatre department here, under the competent zone managership of I. J. Hoffman, ranks first in the national drive for the year, and managers, district managers and bookers receive money prizes. The new de luxe office suites in the Roger Sherman Bldg. are about ready for inspection . . . Bob Carney, former assistant manager at the College, New Haven, is now assistant at the Majestic, Bridgeport, while Robert Munzner switches from the Bridgeport to the New Haven house. Now both boys will be working in their own home towns . . . Victory, New Haven, starts weekly Thursday-Friday Jewish picture policy with "The Singing Blacksmith."

Permission to run Sunday matinees will be sought by Leo Schapiro at the next Guilford Town meeting. It is only a few years since Sunday shows were entirely out in this town . . . Paul Reiss of National Carbon Co. in for a few days . . . Charles Sonin of the Loew purchasing department made a second visit in two weeks . . . Joel Levy, head of Loew's booking department, saw some Yale football while en route to Boston for new season booking deals . . . Billy O'Toole, son of the Columbus manager and manager of the Ideal, Roxbury, joins his father in the Yale Bowl these Saturdays.

Samuel Hadelman of the Capitol, Bridgeport, doesn't think much of enforced bachelorhood, and after a few weeks took a plane to Washington and the Mrs. and Suzanne . . . Murray Holstein, the "man of the million gifts," was in town to close the Park lamp giveaway deal . . . Sam Rosen, well-known "carrier," exhibitor and sportsman, disappointed an eagerly-awaiting Meadow Street by coming back from Maine for the sixth consecutive year without a moosehead. Rosen tried various moose calls (ask for a demonstration). The guide tried French. Rosen will probably stick to fishing from now on.

Mrs. Ben Simon is on the sick list after a serious operation at the New Haven Hospital . . . Mrs. Philip Saslau is still confined at home as a result of an accident last summer . . . The Bob Russells celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary with lots of flowers, candy and other gifts . . . Ralph Civitello and fiancee celebrated the Devon opening at a Gables party . . . Morris Drucker, assistant at the Poli, Worcester, just sold his horse. Morris drew the nag out of a grab-bag some months ago; putting on the feed bag put Morris in the red, he says . . . Jim Kaufman, Loew-Poli division artist, is off on a week's hunting trip. If he doesn't shoot game in short order, he'll switch to shooting golf balls.

Silent film revivals at the Arena on Saturdays reported a successful venture by Nate Podoloff, manager . . . Sammy Kaye, a big hit at the State, Hartford, in a 5-day run . . . Tex Fletcher, continuing his personal appearances with Grand National's "Six-Gun Rhythm" at the Lyric, Hartford . . . "The Real Glory" stayed a second week at the Regal . . . "Jamaica Inn" reported best evening business in New Haven on Columbus Day . . . Organized girl night club and restaurant singers and entertainers who lost jobs by application of the 10 o'clock blue law, which excepts only hotels and theatres, have taken action in various towns to obtain hearings.

Talk of maid trouble and babies' bright sayings is not confined to the distaff-side. You'll find it on Meadow Street, too. Saddest talk on the street, however, concerns the bets that were almost placed on the long shots. From Westport comes report of a new "system" for determining the lucky number. Add the weights of the horses, then divide by seven. We don't guarantee it.

Waltz vs. Jitterbug will be a special feature of New Haven and Hartford openings of "They Shall Have Music" and "Dancing Co-ed" . . . Robert Russell, Billy Elder, Nat Rubin and Nestor Auth of the Poli and Bijou received the Loew's Dollar Club award for their recent jitterbug contest which swelled boxoffice receipts . . . Reseating of the Globe, Bridgeport, and Palace, Hartford, still proceeding nights. Lou Simon of Hartford saw an opportunity for a plug even in this. Took a picture of the work in progress and landed it in the dailies . . . Joe Amstead of the Elm Street, Worcester, is supervising installation of a new heating plant in his theatre . . . Bob Russell mailed "They Shall Have Music" study guides to a select list . . . George Freeman of the Poli, Springfield, aired his views on the Golden Jubilee of movies over WMAS . . . John Hesse used circular teaser cards all over the theatre and lobby on "Intermezzo." Cards ask what "Intermezzo" means, to the wife, to the husband, etc.

George Reising, assistant at the Paramount, was out sick a few days . . . Sam Badamo, manager of the College, who is used to sudden bookings and last-minute holdover decisions by now, had one day in which to put some extra "oomph" in the "oomph girl," playing in "Winter Carnival" . . . Mike Sirica started Wrisley silverware deal at the Capitol, Waterbury, October 19 and 20 . . . "Borrow an elephant at your nearest bird store and have him sell tickets at your boxoffice," counsels Harry Shaw. "Turn your posters upside down . . . your trailers . . ." in short, managers can use all their screwy ideas for once, because the Marx Bros. in "At the Circus" are coming.

Milford Drive-In Theatre Closed for the Season

MILFORD, CONN.—The 800-car Drive-in Theatre has closed for the season, following withdrawal by its operator, the Milford Drive-In Theatre Corp., of the appeal to the supreme court of errors from the injunction rendered against it in the lower court recently.

A suit to abate a public nuisance had been brought against this first drive-in venture in Connecticut by 12 nearby residents who claimed the noise was injurious to their health and property. As a result, the plaintiffs obtained the injunction they sought, restraining operation of the sound equipment in such volume as to be heard for more than a 200-foot radius.

Adapts "Deer Slayer"

HOLLYWOOD—"The Deer Slayer," to be made by Gene Towne and Graham Baker for RKO release, will be adapted by Frank Cavett.

GE Appliance Division Centers in Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT—This city has been made the headquarters for the appliance division of General Electric with the completion of the removal of the quarters hitherto maintained in Cleveland, Ohio.

The move to Bridgeport brings together physically the activities devoted to the larger appliances and those centering about the manufacture and sale of various domestic appliances, such as home laundry equipment, heating devices, electric clocks, fans, vacuum cleaners and other miscellaneous appliances.

The move, which was part of a program begun four years ago, was announced as completed on October 2 by H. L. Andrews, vice-president.

Metro Termer to Douglas

HOLLYWOOD—Melvyn Douglas, who just completed "Ninotchka" for Metro in a role opposite Greta Garbo, has signed a long-term pact with the studio.

BOSTON

(Continued from page 63)

Her son accompanied her . . . Abe Weiner, former local UA salesman now branch manager for the distributor in Pittsburgh, was in the district last week.

George S. Ryan, film attorney; Roy E. Heffner, Bank Night distributor, and Al Borrelli of Specialty Pictures were hunting in Maine this week and last.

Meyer Ruttenberg, local Coulter Premiums representative, has turned out with a new black Dodge sedan.

Fred Greenway and Howard Burkhardt, respective managers of Loew's State and Orpheum, proxied for Lana Turner in a "Dancing Co-ed" tieup by awarding a trophy to Mary Hughes of Boston University, chosen as Boston's dancing co-ed.

E. R. Hutchinson, operator of the Strong Theatre in Burlington, was down from the Green Mountain state last week . . . H. J. McKinney, head of National Theatre Supply Co. in New England, and Mrs. McKinney have been vacationing in northern New England and Canada.

Fred Hartwick has purchased RCA sound and a P. A. system for the Strand which he has rebuilt in Taunton.

Walter Murphy, formerly on the local managerial list of Loew's, Inc., has been appointed field manager of 15 Graphic Theatre circuit houses.

H. C. Elwes, local RCA Photophone sales representative, has contracted with Jerry Mascoli for new sound at the Cameo in Waterbury, Conn.

Sam Richmond, booker for the growing Gordon and Lockwood circuit, is awaiting cold weather and hockey. Richmond formerly played with St. Johns Tech at Winnipeg. Starring at Lacrosse, also, the former Jack Myers and later Fred E. Lieberman booker, at one time played against Arthur Chapman, now with the New York Americans. In college, he captained the basketball quintet where his proclivities as a track man and high jumper installed him, despite his medium height, as varsity center.

M. H. Keleher has put in a new sound system at the Princess Theatre in Hartford . . . A similar changeover is in line for the Rialto in Worcester . . . It's new sound, too, for the Park in South Berwick, Me.

Tom Donaldson, former local M-G-M office manager, was in last week from New Haven where he heads the major's branch there . . . Tim O'Toole, branch manager transferred from Boston to New Haven, was also in town . . . Rudy Wetter, National Screen Service salesman who fought off a cold all last week, planned to be in Rhode Island and western Massachusetts this week.

Alden B. Hoag, managing director of the Boston *Transcript* for the past six months, has been appointed to take over full direction of the news, features, and editorial departments of the daily.

Phillip Lavine, New England manager for the Phil Smith circuit, and Mrs. Lavine are at amicable odds regarding their annual Caribbean cruise. Lavine wants to sail. Mrs. Lavine isn't too sure about the submarine situation.

Jeanette Clark has been elected president of the National Screen Service Club which has several socials scheduled . . .

Ed Reed, manager of the Strand in Providence, is already ballyhooing "Gulliver's Travels." Reed's exploitation reads, "— days to Christmas and the showing of 'Gulliver's Travels.'"

Frank Lydon and Herbert Higgins continue banding a group of local film men for a retreat at Campion Hall in Andover on November 17, 18 and 19. A number of non-Catholics are planning to join the exodus, they say. A brother of the Rev. John T. McGrory, who heads the Jesuit institution, operated theatres in Weymouth for a number of years.

MONOGRAM

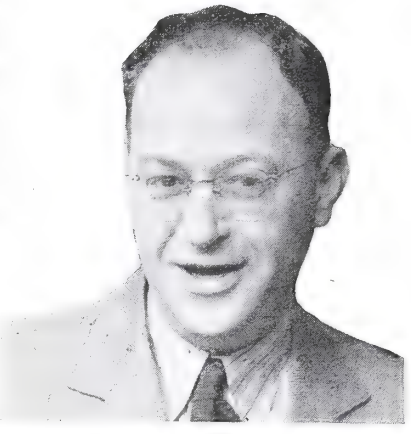
NEWS OF THE WEEK



Here is the inside story on E. M. Loew, one of New England's outstanding showmen who is one of our most prominent exhibitors. He is strangely shy about revealing the story of his success. But we do know that Mr. Loew began his career in Worcester 21 years ago by opening a small theatre. Within a short while the young showman was flat on his back, losing every cent on this unsuccessful venture. After saving enough money, he again entered show business, opening a theatre in Lynn, Mass. Today, 42-year-old Mr. Loew operates some 40 theatres throughout New England. These houses consist of burlesque, vaudeville, A and B movie houses. "E. M." —his friends call him that—makes his home on a vast estate at Hyde Park. His main hobby is playing casino and his associates recently crowned him as casino champ. Our hat is off to Mr. Loew, who refused to be counted out—the mark of a real champion!

* * *

Henry Sperling, who operates the Central Theatre in Manville, R. I., used to be a Boston distributor several years ago. He handled independent films exclusively. That is why he thinks so much of independent films today. Henry is "one of the boys," and always tries to make our job a little bit easier by cooperating to the utmost. This exhibitor is one of that select group of movie people who are respected members of the bar.



* * *

Monogram is declaring war on empty seats in movie houses. If you want to build a steady attendance, try our new product for 1939-40. "Mutiny in the Big House" is all that we say it is—a grand picture, well-acted by Charles Bickford, Barton MacLane and a large cast. While booking this film, don't neglect the Mr. Wong and Tailspin Tommy series. Begin an embargo on unprofitable, high-priced pictures and BUY MONOGRAM.

Steve Broidy

MONOGRAM PICTURES, INC.

39 CHURCH STREET • BOSTON

PROVIDENCE

A CRY of "Fight!" occasioned by a disturbance in the men's room of the Empire Theatre, Sunday afternoon, October 15, was misunderstood as "fire" and resulted in a few moments of panic in which 26 children were injured, some necessitating hospitalization. Immediate reaction of the incident will probably be a move by city officials to revise admission ruling so that children under ten years of age will not be admitted to theatres unless accompanied by persons 18 years of age or older.

John H. McDonald, police officer in Pawtucket theatres for 33 years, at the Music Hall and recently at E. M. Loew's Capitol, died October 13 at his home in that city after an illness of ten weeks. Theatre co-workers attended the funeral Monday morning.

Lippitt Players, after a summer's run at the Barn Theatre in Cumberland, have found winter quarters in the Park, Woonsocket, offering legit attractions Tuesday through Saturday. House is using vaudeville on Sundays . . . Providence's first legit offering of the season will be "The Old Homestead," which the Playhouse will stage week of October 23.

Walter G. Hartford, 82, who at one time operated the old Casino Theatre at Providence and the Imperial at Pawtucket, died October 6 while motoring to his winter home in Tampa, Fla. Leaving Rhode Island in good health, he was stricken ill en route and at New Haven was taken to St. Raphael's Hospital by Mrs. Hartford where an emergency operation was performed.

Bates Theatre, Attleboro, Mass., after being dark for some time, is again in operation.

Looks as though the inter-theatre football season in Providence has ended with the second game. Sunday, Albee eleven downed Loew's State team for the second time, this time to a 6-0 score. Jimmy Wall, Albee's door man crashed through with the sole touchdown. No casualties reported.

Bill Morton, publicist, and Ward L. Jukes, RKO-Albee's ad layout man, have moved into new offices in the theatre. First act of the pair was removal of a large oil painting of George Washington from the wall—for conscience sake, not through lack of patriotism.

Morton and House Manager George French tied up with R. I. Women's Club on "Nurse Edith Cavell" with club leaders contacting 5,000 members via phone to recommend the picture. Cards also were mailed to all registered nurses in Rhode Island calling attention to the Albee booking.

Loew's State played up Friday the 13th in its sidewalk radio interview in front of the theatre last week. Microphone was set up under a high ladder on the sidewalk so that interviewees had to defy jinx to reach the mike. An advance broadcast had offered passes to anyone bringing a black cat to the theatre and 50 persons came bearing felines. A piece of looking glass in a box of sawdust offered a pass to any woman who would break the glass. Only one dared do it. A cot in lobby offered another ducat to any woman who would throw her hat on the bed, then sit on the bed for radio interview. One buxom matron dared do it.

Manager Eddie McBride is counting on Halloween being a big night at Loew's State. An apple dunking contest, pie eating match and Spook Show are all on the calendar for the evening show that night and free cider and doughnuts will be served in the inner lobby to patrons.

Jack Gwynne, headliner magician, in town this week visiting his daughter and son-in-law at their home in Gaspee Plateau. Opening at Fays, Friday, Gwynne is due for *Sunday Journal* feature interview. Local magic groups, S. A. M. and I. B. M. will also attend his performance at Fays in a body next Tuesday night.

Narragansett Track reopens for the last meet of the year October 23 to run through November 11. Theatre operators anticipate usual competition from track during the period.

Russian Bath Scenes Get Boston Censor Shears

BOSTON—Russian baths, it seems, no longer go in Massachusetts. At least, all scenes showing men thus situated were clipped from "The Light Ahead" by the Bureau of Sunday Censorship.

The only other elimination in a list of 47 motion pictures was the dialogue, "Damn you!" and "For God's Sake," in Imperial's "Lost on the Western Front."

Among the features okayed without elimination were Paramount's "Disputed Passage," Universal's "Call a Messenger," UA's "Eternally Yours," First National's "On Your Toes," and RKO's "Three Sons."

Three acts out of 21 were refused Sunday licenses. Eliminations were ordered in seven other routines.

For "Babes in Arms"

BOSTON—Friday the thirteenth meant just another publicity stunt to Joseph A. DiPesa, Joe Longo, and Al Longo of the local Loew's, Inc., advertising department. The trio paid a visit to the first mother of the day at City Hospital and presented her with a layette, per the compliments of Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland. It was a "Babes in Arms" tieup. Get it?

Master Expanding

BOSTON—Maurice Master, head of the Master Motion Picture Co., has acquired property on Piedmont St. and is expanding his trailer and commercial film concern. Master plans to enlarge his second-floor sound recording studio.

Morse's Testimony A Buying Lesson

(Continued from page 62)

attention that he would like to handle the Newburgh and Poughkeepsie and Utica accounts for Fox, and that he would like to put that in the deal with all of our other theatres in New England for which we were negotiating. I told him that I would be very glad to have him do so, and we worked out a deal, either at that time or shortly after. I am not sure whether I saw him once, or two or three times, before we actually had the deal set up, or what the final date was, but at any rate, as far as Newburgh was concerned, before we made up contracts we did work out some sort of rental. We got together on the rental, and he told me that, after he took it up with New York, he couldn't get me a contract at that time, but I did make a deal with him for the rest of the theatres, including Utica and excluding Newburgh and Poughkeepsie."

"At some time later did you work out a deal with him for the Newburgh and Poughkeepsie?" asked Ryan.

"Yes, sir," said Morse.

"Have you any memorandum there that will help you to refresh your recollection in regard to the date?"

"Yes, sir. On Nov. 16, 1933, I signed a contract for Newburgh and Poughkeepsie for '33-'34 product."

"Did you at any time receive an approved copy of the contract?"

"No, sir."

"Were any Fox pictures of that season's product, or after, delivered to the Cameo Theatre?"

"Yes, sir, they were delivered on a spot booking basis."

"At any time after signing the contract did you make any inquiry of Mr. Bailey in regard to it?"

"Yes, sir. I went in to see Mr. Bailey a number of times about getting the approved contract."

"When was the first time you went back to see Mr. Bailey?"

"In December, 1933."

"Did you have any conversation with him at that time about the Cameo Theatre?"

"Yes, sir."

"What conversation did you have?"

"I said, has the contract for the Cameo, Newburgh, been approved? This was about the middle of December. He said, 'No, I have not the approval, but it is all right; you will get it. And in the meantime, I am having you served on a spot booking basis, you are getting the pictures and there is nothing to worry about, the contract is O. K. I have recommended it, and it is yours; it is just as good as if you had it.' That was all at that time."

Further testimony by Morse revealed that the hoped for confirmation of his contract was not forthcoming, and that an agreement to raise admissions, at first presented as a sure means of assuring the contract approval, was also rejected with the declaration by Bailey that the situation was hopeless and that his company would not accept a contract.

Newspaper Favors a Library for Films

BOSTON—Editorializing on the theme, "Forgotten Films," the Boston *Transcript* asked rhetorically, "Should there not be some kind of film library where we could spend half an hour or so in turning up pictures that had their great virtues, but, for one reason or another, will never be revived? How it could be worked out would prove a complicated process, but what are complications to the 'mind of tomorrow'?

"Just such a film was 'The Edge of the World,' which was recently put on here and failed to attract attention. Its plot was not much, but then it did not matter. What did matter was the singularly beautiful photography of sea and sky and rocks and people.

"The picture was taken under considerable difficulties on the Island of Hirta, from the remote coast of Scotland. It had the same quality of lonely beauty that was a distinction of 'Man of Aran.' More honest than the latter picture, it did not suggest that the island was inhabited by only three people. Perhaps its honesty was its undoing in the eyes of the public. But what would we not give now and again for those superb pictures of vast cliffs rising sheerly from the sea!"

Change Opening Days

HARTFORD—Loew-Poli theatres here have changed their opening days for new pictures. Jack A. Simons' Loew-Poli has changed from Friday to Thursday, while Louis Cohen's Loew-Poli house, the Palace, has switched from Friday to the same day. Moves in the same direction have been reported from other areas.

Fish Weds Mendenhall

BOSTON—Marion Fish and Ernest Mendenhall of the Copley-Plaza were married last week in Middleboro. They later left for New York on their honeymoon. The bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fish. Fish, who has patented a number of inventions, is with the Capitol Theatre Supply Co.

Hamilton Knows His Politics, Too

South Norwalk, Conn.—Albert Hamilton, manager of the Empress Theatre here, the other night let his patrons know he is a pretty good political forecaster as well as a showman.

Immediately after Mayor Frank T. Stack had been re-elected to head the city's administration, Hamilton announced the fact to them. Then, only two hours later, he surprisingly followed up with a series of newsreel clips of the mayor and his wife about their home.

HARTFORD

GEORGE LANDERS, manager for E. M. Loew, was in Boston last Tuesday to discuss the release of the Columbia film, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," which the theatre here was scheduled to present on Friday, October 20.

Mrs. E. M. Loew, wife of the Boston Theatre chain executive, was in Hartford last week while passing through this area. According to reports, Mrs. L. was going down to New York.

Members of the Loew-Poli Palace service staff are sporting new uniforms. Congratulations are in order for Louie Cohen, manager of the house, whose 20th wedding anniversary is heard hereabouts . . . State appeared to be quite busy on opening day for Sammy Kaye last Thursday.

Miss Iris Barry, former film editor of the London, England, Daily Mail *and author of several books on the motion picture industry, spoke here at the Avery Memorial last Friday night. She spoke of early French pioneers, besides showing films to the audience.*

Phil Spitalny and "Hour of Charm" Orchestra were due at the Harris Brothers' State Wednesday . . . Joseph Allen jr. appeared on the M&P Allyn Theatre stage last Saturday afternoon for a personal appearance.

The Jitterbug Contest, staged by the Park St. Lyric, a Warner unit, was, according to Paul Binstock, manager of the theatre, "the biggest thing I ever had yet in the theatre."

Downtown WB Strand has changed opening day for new films from Fridays to Wednesdays . . . Book Night is scheduled to start soon at Maurice Shulman's Webster. A set of 15 books will be given away. This will, according to the management, run for an approximate time of 15 weeks.

Bristol doings: Manager Dennis Rich, Cameo, spent a recent day off visiting relatives down New Haven way . . . In Boston recently was Allan Schwartz, manager, Milford Drive-In Theatre.

New display frames are scheduled to be installed at the Capitol, Waterbury . . . Julian B. Tuthill and M. Oakley Christoph, representing the motion picture departments of the two major newspapers in town, were down New Haven way recently to view the trade preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade."

In and about Connecticut: Sidney Klepper, Loew-Poli, Meriden, confined to his home . . . Mike Sirica, manager, Capitol, Waterbury, a recent visitor to the N. Y. World's Fair . . . Joe Ziburis, Charles Schnoomakers, Joe Gandy and Frankie Wendler, the new members of the service staff, Loew-Poli, Waterbury . . . Nothing more has been heard of the idea of Athen Prakas,' owner of the Rivoli at Bridgeport, to open a new house in Bethel.

Springfield, Mass., Court Square Theatre is having new lighting installed on its stage.

More Springfield news: Harry Smith, division manager for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., is ill . . . Reports have it that the Paramount's shows are getting better and better as time goes on. Congrats are due partly to Nate Goldstein, Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., who is in New York booking stage attractions. Manager Bill Powell reports that the theatre is on a policy from now on of a "real show for the money."

State St. Princess has had its marquee painted . . . Unionists are picketing the E. M. Loew's on Asylum St. The men are from the A. F. of L., which claims that the theatre isn't employing any union help . . . WB Regal's new marquee has been the brightly-lighted sign that new-comers to Hartford have seen when on State St. Comments still are being heard.

Seen on Prospect St. last Friday afternoon talking with Julian B. Tuthill, Times, *was Manager Jim McCarthy of the downtown Strand, a Warner unit . . . North End Lenox, Warner unit, is, according to the latest reports, still packing them in on Saturday afternoons. Adults seldom show up at the Saturday matinee, inasmuch as kids usually crowd in, and if the film is good, there's sometimes SRO business on the management's hands.*

Loew-Poli doings: Assistant Manager Wally Cooper's driver's license was stolen last Sunday night . . . Some two months ago Eddie Downs, service staff, found $12 on the floor of the theatre. Being the right kind of fellow, Eddie turned the money over to the management, which kept the sum up to a few days ago, at which time the sum of money was given Downs . . . Russ Grant is assisting Lou Cohen, manager, Loew-Poli Palace, while regular assistant, Jack Tescher's vacation is being done . . . Loew-Poli service staff holds publicity meetings on Sundays at 1:30 p. m. . . . Last month to college: Alabama—Irving Herbert, Harold Rose and Gordon Pearl; while to New Britain's State Teachers' College went part-time doorman, Herb Pivnick. New fellows seen about the Loew-Poli are Bob Pasternack, Marshall Levy and Bobbe Hoffman. Don Adreonatta is taking Russ Grant's place at Loew-Poli while Russ is over at the Palace, in Tescher's absence.

Plans to Reopen Eagle at Lubec on Percentage

BOSTON—Robert Whitten plans to reopen the Eagle Theatre in Lubec, Me., on a percentage deal. The house is being rebuilt following a fire. Whitten is operating elsewhere in Maine at Vanceboro and Millbridge. He has been running Fisher Hall in Pembrook one night a week. Whitten has discontinued operation at St. Francis, and he has darkened at Prospect Harbor for the season.

Divides Scripting Chore

HOLLYWOOD—Allan Scott will team with Gregory LaCava on the screenplay for "The Primrose Path." LaCava also will produce and direct for RKO.

PORTLAND

ALL LOCAL theatres are cooperating with the Community Chest in its tenth annual drive . . . Harry Botwick of the State has been named to the Red Cross committee, drive beginning next month.

Feminine members of both the Maine and State theatres service staffs attended a clam bake at the Grassmere Road residence of Barbara Casey October 9. Barbara is secretary to A. J. Moreau, district M&P manager. The latter returned October 16 from a vacation spent in North Carolina.

Friends of John Divney are wondering why he has suddenly become interested in Jeffersonian nickels, which he seems to be feverishly collecting. Can the fact that John is to be married soon have anything to do with it?

Bernard Toothaker, State Theatre usher, has joined the Navy . . . Billy Romanoff, State chief-of-service, was ill this week with a cold . . . The State opened with "Angels Wash Their Faces," one day early this week due to the holiday.

Mary Siteman, candy girl at the State, underwent an emergency appendectomy this week at the State Street Hospital. Last report was that she was "resting comfortably."

A sudden drop in the temperature is expected to discourage attendance at the Motor-In Theatre at Saco, Maine's only ozoner . . . A new PA system has been installed at the State Theatre.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MAX RANEY'S Hi-Boys and Radio Rangers of NBC were offered as a recent Saturday stage attraction at the Scenic in Rochester.

Rockingham Park, the pari-mutuel race track in Salem, was a target for a resolution voicing stern opposition against horse race gambling, adopted at the annual United Baptist convention in Exeter.

As a special attraction for the eve of Columbus Day, the Modern in Manchester presented a midnight stage program featuring a western show headed by Duke and his original Hillbillies, radio artists, in addition to the regular film menu.

The March of Time film, "Inside the Maginot Line," was repeated at the request of the patrons at the State in Manchester, where there are both large French and German populations.

The Rochester Little Theatre Group has announced that it will open its season in the City Opera House in Rochester November 20-21.

Granite State theatremen are getting a "break" these fall days, especially weekends, because the summertime competitive enterprises have folded, but thousands of out-of-state people continue to pour into the state on "foliage tours."

'Eternally Yours' Smash In Worcester

Worcester, Mass.—The Warner Theatre here broke all records with the opening of Walter Wanger's "Eternally Yours." Ending the day's sensational patronage, the theatre found it necessary to turn away thousands for the evening show.

BRIDGEPORT

ROBERT CARNEY has been transferred from the College, New Haven, to the Majestic as assistant manager, succeeding Robert Munzner who goes to the College as assistant.

Weekend vaudeville shows have started at the State, Torrington . . . The Warner is plugging its late show on Saturdays and Sundays.

Arthur "Otto" Esposito, assistant to Manager Matt L. Saunders of the Loew-Poli, will be a year older on Hallowe'en.

Ralph Mauro, Western Electric sound man, marks his tenth wedding anniversary October 28. He is kept busy with a Great Dane pup that is growing by leaps and bounds.

Morris Jacobson has organized a bowling team at his Hippodrome Theatre.

The Milford Drive-In has closed. A skating rink will be opened on the site with the advent of freezing weather.

Matt Saunders and Otto Esposito were in New Haven for the screening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

John Dina has succeeded John Peddle, resigned, as doorman at the Globe.

Black Rock, first neighborhood house here to show "The Mikado," did capacity for the two-day run.

Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic installed a big map of Europe in his lobby for "All Quiet on the Western Front" and charted the progress of the European war with news bulletins furnished by the Times-Star.

The marquee at the Rivoli is shining with a fall coat of paint.

The city is filled with bingo games with as many as 20 in operation on some nights. Night field has become so crowded that some organizations are staging matinees.

Handy Shifts Coffey

BOSTON—Jack C. Coffey, who has been handling special assignments for the Jam Handy organization in Philadelphia and Wilmington, will head the executive contact staff for this company in New England, according to Jamison Handy, president. Coffey will headquarter in Boston.

Rackliffe of Holyoke Dead at Age 79

BOSTON—Charles W. Rackliffe, prominent New England theatre man, died last week at his Holyoke home at the age of 79. Rackliffe recently leased the Suffolk and Majestic theatres in Holyoke and the Academy in Northampton to Herman Rifkin. Funeral services were held Saturday.

Charles Winship Rackliffe was born in Middletown, Conn., on Dec. 13, 1860. He came to Holyoke 54 years ago where his first business venture was as a locksmith and hardware retailer.

He entered the film industry as a real estate man, building the Suffolk Theatre and leasing it. He finally took over operation of the house himself. Films got under his skin, and he became one of the original stockholders in Warner Bros.

He later bought the Majestic in Holyoke and the Bijou in Springfield. Later he leased the Academy in Northampton from that municipality. These houses, with the exception of the Bijou, were leased about four years ago to Herman Rifkin. Al Anders, previously associated with Rackliffe in operating the Springfield house, took over the lease himself several years ago.

Rackliffe was treasurer of the corporation of the same name, a real estate holding company operating Holyoke and Springfield theatre buildings. After quitting active operation of the house, he opened a second-hand book store near the Suffolk. He was there until the day before his death.

Rackliffe left one daughter, Mrs. Albert S. Pinney of Holyoke, and two brothers, Benjamin D. Rackliffe of Springfield and William Rackliffe of Holyoke. He was buried in the Rackliffe family lot in Indian Hill Cemetery at Middletown, Conn.

Asher Plans to Move

BOSTON—Harry Asher, independent film distributor, is planning to move his Piedmont St. exchange to larger quarters. Asher may go into the former Columbia Pictures Exchange at 12 Piedmont St.

Metro Buys Story

HOLLYWOOD — Metro has purchased screen rights to "A Long Time Ago," story by Philo Higley and Philip Dunning, for Producer Edward Chodorov.

RCA Sound for Princess

HARTFORD—The Princess here is installing a new RCA sound system.

Divorced Players Target in Lynn

Lynn, Mass.—Five hundred members of the local chapter of the Women of the Moose have requested theatre operators here to discontinue showing pictures in which actors or actresses who have been divorced are featured.

A New Cooperative Born in Memphis

MEMPHIS—A new theatre cooperative to meet "monopolistic competition" was formed here October 12 by a group of independents at the Peabody Hotel. The new organization, whose first interest will be to secure for members "sufficient and suitable pictures to protect our investments," will be known as Independent Theatres, Inc.

At the initial meeting, J. J. Rhodes of the Crittenden Theatre, West Memphis, was elected president. Temporary headquarters will be Rhodes' theatre office until regular quarters are set up here.

Other officers named include Lee W. Moffitt, Owensboro, Ky., vice-president; E. F. Stein, Jackson, Tenn., secretary; Jack Guest, Camden, Ark., treasurer, and R. V. McGinnis, Hope, Ark., chairman of the board of directors.

Moffitt, spokesman for the group and head of the Kentucky Theatre Owners Ass'n, said the organization eventually expects to spread throughout the mid-south. "We can make arrangements for capital without difficulty," he said, "and we will meet competition with a united front."

All theatre owners involved, Moffitt said, have film buying complaints on file with the department of justice, but have decided "not to wait for Uncle Sam before doing something to protect ourselves and the patrons of our theatres."

Stein asserted "buying power is not what we are striving for especially—not our main goal; our paramount thought is that we must have sufficient and suitable pictures to protect our investments. What we are asking for, is a fair and equitable amount of the product. There is plenty of good product on the market today for everybody and we are trying to obtain our just rights."

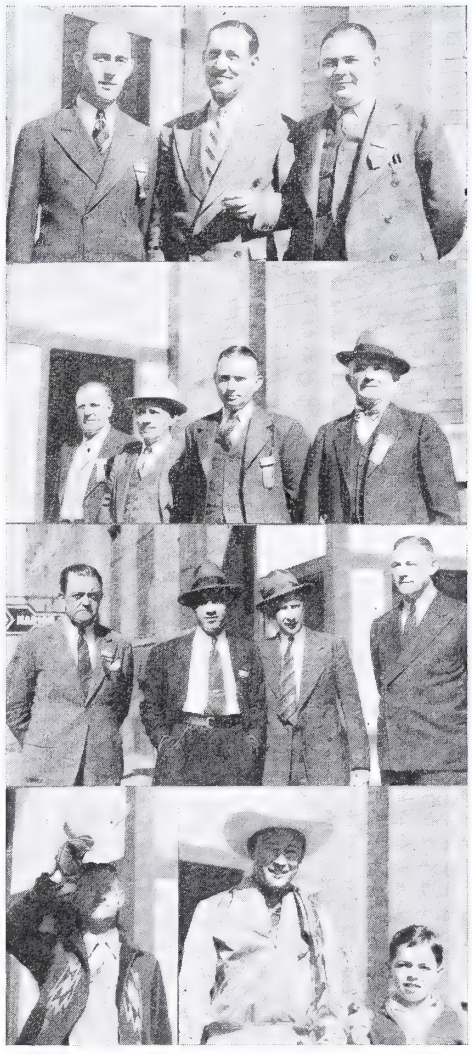
McGinnis said most of the members would be satisfied with second run product, but asserted several distributors meet such requests with, "Sorry, just can't serve you second run." He stated that if the group is successful in overcoming even this particular phase of a "bigger problem," it will have accomplished a great deal toward adjusting what is "seemingly an impossible situation."

Morrilton Would License Theatres on Seat Basis

MORRILTON, ARK.—The city council has proposed an ordinance to change the annual license on theatres from a flat rate of $100 a year to 40 cents per chair. The ordinance will be considered at a meeting shortly.

A license charge based on the number of seats in Morrilton's two film houses would provide additional revenue of about $150 a year. Both theatres, however, already have paid their annual licenses of $100 each for 1939 and doubt was expressed whether the city could legally collect the additional charge on a chair basis this year.

Resolution by ITO of Arkansas In Opposition to Neely Bill



At the ITO Meet—

In Little Rock, they are, left to right: Top row, O. G. Wren, Little Rock, president; Bill Malin, Augusta, vice-president; K. K. King, Searcy, secretary. Second row, Harry Ruh, Berryville; D. E. Fitton, Harrison; Charles Bonner jr., Pine Bluff; G. Carey, Paris. Third row, S. M. Perrin, Alexander Film Co., Colorado Springs; M. Lindner, National Screen Service, Memphis; R. V. Reagin, RKO Radio, Memphis; N. B. Blount, RCA Photophone, New Orleans. Fourth row, Roy Rogers, center, Republic western star, with Col. T. E. Robertson of the Arkansas Livestock Show and Jerry, son of Dink Jones of Republic.

Opening at Alice

ALICE, TEX.—Formal opening of the Hall Industries' new Rialto Theatre here was held recently under the direction of Nick Karl, manager, who replaced Emil Heinen in the same capacity. The new house, rebuilt on the site of the old Rex, boasts an interior partition of glass brick.

LITTLE ROCK — In a formal resolution which will be sent to congressmen of the state, the Arkansas ITO went on record as opposed to the Neely Bill at its two-day semi-annual convention here, October 15 and 16.

The assembled exhibitors heard Ward Martin, a local attorney, declare that the bill, if successful, might eventually prove detrimental to independent exhibitors, inasmuch as it would, he said, delay them in obtaining certain films.

Another speaker was Eli W. Collins, former Arkansas exhibitor and past president of the MPTOA, who is now state director of the Unemployment Compensation Division. He spoke on the advantages of the bureau to the independent exhibitor.

The convening exhibitors and those in attendance representing allied trades were welcomed by O. G. Wren, president.

Film entertainment for delegates was provided at the Arkansas Theatre. Metro contributed "Ninotchka" and two short films; Warner, "Pride of the Blue Grass" and two shorts; Columbia, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and one short; Paramount, "Disputed Passage" and "Seventeen;" RKO, "Nurse Edith Cavell," and United Artists, "The Real Glory."

Present at the banquet were Gov. Carl E. Bailey, Lieutenant Governor Harris of Missouri, Speaker of the House John M. Bransford of Lonoke, and Roy Rogers, Republic's western star.

The annual spring convention will be held here some time in April, it was announced.

Among those who registered, by states:

Arkansas

D. S. Edenfield, Altec Service Corp., Little Rock; Bill Headstream, Melba Theatre, Batesville; C. F. Bonner, Community, Pine Bluff; B. F. Busby, Republic, Little Rock; Mr. and Mrs. B. A. McConnell, Emerson, Hartford; Mrs. J. M. Ensor, Crescent, Little Rock; F. L. Clark, Cozy, Hazen; W. R. Kauffman, Imp, Benton; Mrs. Gene Higginbotham, Ozark Amusement Corp., Hardy; Alton Terrell, Menlo, Murfreesboro; R. V. McGinnis, New, Hope.

M. J. Kilbourn, Royal, Bentonville; C. C. Mundo, Rex, Little Rock; K. K. King, Rialto, Searcy; J. F. Norman, Best, England; Robin Wightman, Royal, Arkadelphia; Elvus Cupp, Royal, Arkadelphia; O. G. Wren, Crescent, Little Rock; D. E. Fitton, Lyric, Harrison; Seed Wortsmith, Republic, Little Rock; Fred Lawrence, Republic, Little Rock; Charles F. Nelms, Ritz, El Dorado; Frank Probst, Crescent, Little Rock; W. L. Landers, Landers, Batesville.

H. E. Ruh, Ozark, Berryville; W. E. Malin, Lura, Augusta; Ben Silus, Ozark; J. L. Wood and wife, Crossett; Herrod Jimerson, North Little Rock; G. Carey, Strand, Paris; O. C. Hauber, Pine Bluff; Sidney Metcalf, Ritz, Morrilton; S. B. McSwain, Ritz, Morrilton; J. E. Wheeler, Little Rock; Jim Kane, Conway, Conway; B. V. McDougald, Drew and Amuse-U, Monticello; Miss Emma Cox, Gem, Osceola; Ray Wilson, New, DeWitt.

Colorado

S. M. Perrin, Alexander Film Co., Colorado Springs.

Louisiana

N. B. Blount, RCA, New Orleans.

Mississippi

A. C. Holland, RCA, Jackson.

Tennessee

Ollie Williamson, Vitagraph; Bailey Prichard, Peerless Advertising Corp.; Milton Lindner, National Screen Service; Ben Jordan, Universal; Elsie M. Wagner, Film Transit Co.; Mike Carmichael and Joe Jones, Monogram; Howard L. Dean and wife, Paramount; Herbert Kahn, Columbia; Todd Ferguson, M-G-M; J. A. Carruth, Vitagraph; A. M. Avery, RKO; Nat Wyse, 20th Century-Fox; O. D. Bland and wife, National Theatre Supply, and Buddy Mansfield, Universal, all of Memphis.





When S. G. Fry Tossed a Party in Tyler, Tex.—

The gang from Dallas and roundabout gathered in the beautiful home shown above at the right. At the left, the host and his wife are seen in their office in an upstairs nook of their home. She is secretary-treasurer of S. G.'s five theatres. He also is director of a Tyler bank, one of the five city commissioners, a director of the chamber of commerce. They are quite proud of their three sons: Segle Fry jr., in the haberdashery business and the youngest president of a junior chamber of commerce; Robert A. Fry, an ex-Georgia Tech celebrity, and Victor Fry, who is attending junior college at Tyler. Read the accompanying story for details of the party.

Tyler Exhibitor Host To Filmrow Figures

By V. W. CRISP

TYLER, TEX.—Salutations of more than 40 people in the film business went out to S. G. Fry and his family of east Texas theatre folks as the local Rose Festival came a step nearer to the status of a national attraction.

During the past few years, the Fry family has had only a few guests to enjoy that celebration. The crowd this year, however, easily made up for the deficit.

Arriving at the Fry home between 8:00 and 8:30 in the morning, which, incidentally, is one of the finest in the newly developed residential areas of Tyler, some guests wondered how S. G. could handle the crowd. The answer: He has had full houses recently in his theatres, five in number.

Downtown, the crowd was headquartered in the leading haberdashery of Tyler. This, too, is a Fry enterprise. Then into the Strand Theatre, thence to the Rose Parade, and a windup in the Fry backyard where 70 people were fed by four whitecoats, aided and abetted by S. G. himself.

Again as Fry's guests, most of the filmites watched the Texas Aggies wallop Villanova.

Included among the guests: From Dallas —W. S. and Mrs. Miller and son, A. M. and Mrs. Witcher; Hal and Mrs. Smithson; J. E. and Mrs. Mitchell; Robert and Mrs. Allen; Roy and Mrs. Litsey; Lloyd and Mrs. Rust; Jack and Mrs. Underwood; Eddie and Mrs. Wilson; True and Mrs. Thompson; Harold and Mrs. Brooks; Jack and Mrs. Zern; J. I. and Mrs. Roberts; Clarence and Mrs. Wilson and Eddie Green. From Paris, Tex.—W. C. and Mrs. Francis and two daughter; Dr. and Mrs. Elbert Goolsby; Mrs. W. H. Wheeler and daughter, all old friends of the Frys. From Van, Tex. came J. E. and Mrs. Rhodes and daughter.

AUSTIN

FIFTEEN-CENT afternoon admission has been extended from 5 o'clock until 6 o'clock with a fair increase, according to Bill Hellums, skipper of the Capitol Theatre.

Misses Sammie Madge Russell and Mary K. Barton are the new cashiers at the Capitol.

Boyd Sinclair, assistant manager, has begun his third year as a columnist for *The Daily Texan,* writing his six-a-week stint, "Steer Standard."

Pericles Alexander is the new amusements editor of the recently launched Austin Daily Tribune. *Other local motion picture reviewers are Ruth Lewis of the* American-Statesman *and Jack Dolph of* The Daily Texan.

Award Patron $1,000 for "Fall" in a Theatre

OKLAHOMA CITY—A jury awarded Gerald G. Whistler of Topeka $1,000 Wednesday in a suit charging lack of oxygen in a theatre caused him to fall. Whistler asked $15,000.

It was alleged that defective air-conditioning equipment caused him to become faint and fall against a drinking fountain. His jaw was fractured and several teeth knocked out.

General Seats for State

MIAMI—The State Theatre here is installing chairs manufactured by the General Seating Co.

Alexander Film Co. Takes Over Tad

DALLAS—Tad Screen Advertising, Inc., which launched into the field some three years ago under the Griffith banner, has sold out to its competitor, Alexander Film Co., according to officials on both sides of the transaction.

J. I. McInaney, Alexander district manager, said Alexander had taken over the entire Tad facilities, with a long term contract for screen advertising in Griffith theatres, and that Alexander had absorbed or taken on most of the Tad sales force.

According to McInaney, this leaves in doubt the status of J. O. (Buddy) Harris, who in past years has been the leader in screen Tad selling. As we get it, Buddy is in the theatre business as an exhibitor in his own right, having operated in Midlothian for the past six months and having more recently purchased the Ritz in Celina from the J. T. McClures.

The Tad organization employed more than 100 people. The office and studio in Dallas will be closed, however, it will require five or six weeks before the business here can be completely transferred to the Alexander plant in Colorado Springs.

C. B. (Brownie) Akers, head of the Tad outfit, said he will return to Oklahoma for an assignment in the home office of Griffith Amusement Co. He said Tad has sold out to Alexander, in which deal went contracts with 200 theatres with advertising revenue totaling $300,000. The Dallas office is closed, Akers said.

RCA for Happy Hour

NEW ORLEANS—The Happy Hour, Central Amusement link, has contracted for a new RCA sound system.

Griffith Granted a 10-Day Extension

OKLAHOMA CITY—A further extension of 10 days in the department of justice suit against four Griffith companies and major distributors has been granted, giving the Griffith counsel, Henry Griffing, until October 20 to file his brief in answer to the government's brief filed two weeks ago.

This and other briefs are based on the motions by defendants asking that the government be forced to file a bill of particulars in the case and clarify its charges and statements so that defense attorneys might know upon which grounds to proceed in their defense.

Additional extension of time was granted by Judge Edgar Vaught in view of the fact that Griffing is new in the case, having supplanted D. I. Johnson as Griffith counsel. Griffing formerly worked with the Johnson firm but resigned last month to set up his own law office.

Last week three distributor defendants filed briefs. These were Columbia, United Artists and Universal. Their briefs are similar to those filed previously by other distributor defendants.

Judge Vaught had asked both sides to file briefs with regard to the defense motions for his study, and announced he would look into them as quickly as possible. He also intimated he would do everything possible to bring the preliminary stages of the case to a rapid conclusion in order that the trial might get under way before the end of October.

This, however, seems highly improbable now as October 20 is the limit of the new time extension for the Griffith brief to be filed. Then will follow Judge Vaught's study of the many briefs, almost a dozen, filed on the subject of the motion.

DALLAS

BURT KING has proved to be a never say die individual. He devotes much time to Variety and otherwise goes in for fraternity. During last week's tournament he compiled all the records, the scores, and other data which is of the greatest value to the club as history goes on. As a matter of fact, Burt has donated about six hours a day to Variety during the past week and members should give him a hand.

Wallace Blankenship has opened his new Rose at Levelland, a $40,000 *project, about which further details will appear later. He renewed and opened the Wallace in* 1925. *The Blankenship circuit consists of the Levelland houses, Morton, Seagraves, Andrews and another spot or two.*

American Desk Mfg. Co. at Temple, entertained its 175 employes, their families and friends at a barbecue in headquarters at Temple, the total being about 600. President Brashear, in Dallas this week, said it was an annual goodwill affair. Forrest Dunlap, sales manager, soared that goodwill by transporting some of that barbecue to Filmrow for sandwiches among friends.

The Lutzer Bros. are building a new show in Nocona, Tex., to augment the Ritz which they now operate. Their second show, the Nocona, burned last year. At the same time a competitive house is under way there. The owners are G. Farris Squibb of Ft. Worth and McLendon of Crane.

H. T. Hodge, veteran exhibitor, was in town over the weekend from his headquarters and home in Abilene. His son, Norman, placed first in the Variety tournament. The veteran Hodge beamed through shrewd eyes under a full growth of solid grey hair as he said, "My son surely likes to play golf."

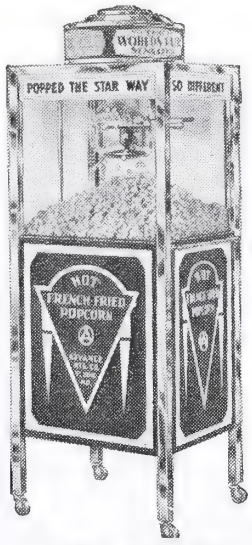
While on the tournament, Joe Lewandos was medalist with a low gross of 71 *which is par for the Lakewood course. He had a handicap of* 3, *which gave him the advantage of* 68. *That score won him fourth place in the prizes.*

Pierre Levy, Interstate's city manager in Ft. Worth, passed away over the weekend, which darkened show business in all its

(Continued on page 76)

ACCESSORIES FOR THE THEATRE

Tickets
Carbons
Projection Lamps
Rectifiers
Machine Parts
Westinghouse
Rectifier Tubes
Reels
Amplifiers
Speakers
Horns
Transformers



ADVANCE
POPCORN MACHINE

Thumb Tacks
Cetron Photo Cells
RCA Tubes
Exciter Lamps
Amplifier Repair Service
Matching Transformers
Deodorants
Lens
Film Cement
Take Up Belting
Rewinds

HERBER BROTHERS

"Fair Treatment and Adequate Service Always"

210 SOUTH HARWOOD DALLAS, TEXAS

CHARLOTTE

MR. AND MRS. N. J. COLQUOHOUN left last Tuesday for their home in Atlanta. He soon will take up his new duties as the manager of the Atlanta RKO office.

Miss Carlotta Porter is the new billing clerk at Paramount, taking the place of Dot Little who is now Mrs. E. C. Deberry.

There is still talk about organizing a Variety Club for the Charlotte film people.

O. S. Barnett of the Monogram with the Mrs. spent a few days in Atlanta last week.

Bobbie Bryant of Rock Hill was visiting here Saturday and very much enthused over his new plans for a new theatre which will be an up-to-date modern building. Bobbie has been an exhibitor in Rock Hill for a long time.

Thomas Branon, head of the Affiliated Pictures in Atlanta, made a short visit with the Charlotte office several days ago.

Harry Rogers and family have moved into their new home in the Wooddale section. Rogers is with Affiliated exchange.

Mrs. William Lake has joined her husband in New Orleans who is with the Monogram office as salesman. Mrs. Lake was the former Ruby Hendley who was with the Paramount exchange as contract clerk.

Lawing Opening Due

ALBEMARLE, N. C.—A new theatre, which will be known as the Roxy, will be opened the latter part of this month by C. G. Lawing of Charlotte, operator of theatres at Badin and Norwood.

Ladies' Memorial Ass'n Honors Vivien Leigh

ATLANTA—Vivien Leigh, young British actress who changed her English accent to a southern drawl for her role of Scarlett O'Hara in the film version of Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind," has become an honorary member of the Atlanta Ladies' Memorial Ass'n.

Mrs. Arthur McD. Wilson jr., president of the association, sent the invitation to Miss Leigh on behalf of the group in a letter which stated the association had learned Miss Leigh had been "true to the essence and spirit of the old South, whose memories we so deeply cherish."

Lucas and Jenkins Plan New Elberton Theatre

ATLANTA—E. E. Whitaker, district manager for Lucas & Jenkins, and Moon Corker, supervisor for theatres, have notified Latimer Heard, manager of the L&J Theatre at Elberton, Ga., that a new house will be built in that community.

The contract has been let to the Capital Construction Co., Atlanta, and the building will be erected at Church and South Oliver Sts. The house will be modern throughout.

Couple Wed 1879 Appear On Stage for UA Film

ATLANTA—Mr. and Mrs. J. N. McLarty, who were married in Villa Rica, Ga., April 13, 1879, were winners of the "Eternally Yours" contest, held in cooperation with the Atlanta *Constitution*, morning newspaper, during the run of the Walter Wanger film, "Eternally Yours," at the Grand Theatre. They appeared on the stage.



ATLANTA

ALONG the Row: Oscar Lam, Rome, Ga.; Hugh Manning, Etowah, Tenn.; Frank Bryant, Green Cove Springs, Fla.; Mike J. Levinson, of New York, who has "White Zombie" and "Lash of the Penitentes," en route to Florida; Mack Jackson, Alexander City, Ala.; Lew Hutchinson, of Austell, Ga.; Bill Griffin, Cullman, Ala.; Col. Orr, of Albertville, Ala.; Harvey Woodward, Winder, Ga.; Tankersley and Hampton, from Ellijay, Ga.; Carl Capes, Buford, Ga.; J. L. Duncan, West Point, Ga.; Fred McLendon, Union Springs, Ala.

Mr. and Mrs. J. U. McCormick have returned to Atlanta after spending the weekend in Charlotte as guests of W. L. Parker of Atlanta Pictures.

Hangar Theatre at the Candler airport, suburban Atlanta, opened last week with a packed house, under management of John Elder, who was on hand to welcome the guests.

Preview of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" brought a large audience to the Rialto.

The Jolly Club held a highly successful Harvest Dance last week; a goodly crowd had a good time.

Miss Mildred Weeks, niece of Mrs. John J. Jenkins, has returned to her home in Dallas, Tex., following a visit here.

W. J. Kimberly recently journeyed to Swainsboro on business.

Harry Gold, UA executive, has returned to New York.

Harry Graham spent a few days in Dallas, Tex.

Ray Locke, Amity's ballyhoo man for "Mad Youth," spent a few days in Atlanta before taking the show into Alabama.

Miss Mary Edna Bell of RKO spent the weekend in Spartanburg.

C. E. Smith, RKO division sales manager, was a recent visitor.

Mrs. Faye Baker of RKO spent the weekend with her husband in Montgomery.

Ann Rutherford Falls in Love With the South

CHARLOTTE—Ann Rutherford, known as Andy Hardy's sweetheart, and who began to love the south as she enacted Corinne in "Gone With the Wind," fell completely in love with this country and its people during her visit here last week.

Miss Rutherford was the luncheon guest of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at the Hotel Charlotte, with 50 others present, including Mayor Douglas, theatre managers and owners and film exchange executives. She was Queen of the Cotton Festival in Greenville, S. C., for two days before coming to Charlotte to make three personal appearances at the Imperial Theatre.

Miami Suit Queries Must Be Redrafted

MIAMI—Redrafting of the interrogatories directed toward 20 officials of the eight major distributors in the local anti-trust suit against the distributors and Paramount circuit affiliates here will be necessary under rulings in the district court. The edicts came when Judge John W. Holland sustained objections filed to interrogatories directed toward the Wometco Theatres and on the materiality of the testimony sought by deposition from Hiram Parks, now working out of Lubbock, Tex.

Objections filed by legal counsel for the distributors were sustained on the grounds that the interrogatories in question were directed to individuals who were named as officials of the several companies; not to the companies with an attendant request that a certain specific officer answer them.

Hearings on the objections filed by the Wometco interests and on the matter of the Hiram Parks' testimony were held over for consideration when the film executives' interrogations are to be reconsidered.

Counsel for the plaintiffs in this monopoly suit, Henry K. Gibson, was prevented from being present by illness. The plaintiffs, the Cameo and Surf theatres, were represented by Stuart MacKenzie and Daisy Richards.

Such statements as are sought from Adolph Zukor and Barney Balaban must be secured by deposition made under written interrogation or oral examination, in accordance with new rules of federal procedure, Judge Holland ruled.

Cross interrogations may be made by defense attorneys, it was further ruled, and incorporated into the deposition.

Legal counsel for the defendants at this hearing included H. P. Adair, Cyril Copps and Victor Blue of Jacksonville, for the seven film distributors other than Paramount Pictures, Inc.; Robert H. Anderson and N. J. Rosenstein for Paramount Pictures, Inc., and Paramount Enterprises, Inc.; Albert B. Bernstein and Harold Tannen for Wometco Theatres, Inc., and associated companies.

The only other attendants were W. R. Lynch, general manager of Paramount Enterprises, Inc., C. E. Holcomb, associated with S. A. Lynch in a number of his business enterprises, and the local BOXOFFICE representative.

Burglary Attempt

CORPUS CHRISTI — Would-be burglars knocked the knob off the safe at the Ritz Theatre, general office of the Corpus Christi Theatres, Inc., early Tuesday morning. A checkup revealed that the vandals failed to get into the strongbox, and nothing was taken from the office.

"Little Orvie" to McCarey

HOLLYWOOD—Ray McCarey has been signed by RKO to direct "Little Orvie," from a story by Booth Tarkington.

MEMPHIS

CLYDE WESTBROOK, who operates the Wesco at Cleveland, Miss., and who maintains one of the finest stables in the south, was in Memphis this week bemoaning the fire which recently occurred, destroying several of his finest horses, including the famous Goldie and Brown Allen jr.

C. H. Caver sr., of the Von at Booneville, Miss., was on the Row booking this week for the first time in several weeks and upon inquiring about his absence learned that due to an infected ankle, he had been forced to get around on crutches.

Frances Jamerson, cashier at Universal is back at her desk after a belated vacation. Exhibitors seen along the Row: Odis Taylor, Uptown at Dresden; W. F. Ruffin, Covington; Norman Fair, Somerville, Tenn.; Jack Watson of Tunica, Miss.; W. T. Ellis of Regent at Cleveland, Miss.; C. M. Mounger of Calhoun City, Miss.; George Hale of Drew, Miss.; Dave Flexer of New Albany; J. F. Wofford of Eupora, Miss., and J. W. Wofford of Union. Lyle Richmond of Senath and John Mohrstadt of Hayti, Mo.

Two usual visitors on Filmrow were Mr. and Mrs. John L. Wood of the Crosset at Crossett, Ark. They were busy Friday afternoon arranging their bookings, and after a hurried shopping tour by Mrs. Wood Saturday morning, they both arrived at the Southwestern-Washington Lee football game just in time for the kick-off. They left Sunday morning for Little Rock to take in the convention.

Earl Crotchett, Universal's newsreel cameraman is driving a new Buick these days.

R. V. McGinnis of the New at Hope, Ark., was in Memphis this week for the first time in several weeks and advised he had just returned from a 3,500 mile vacation, which included New York City and many points of interest along the way.

John Shannon, exhibitor at Portageville, Mo., was about the first person to arrive on Filmrow one morning this past week, as he and Mrs. Shannon left Portageville about 4:30 a. m. in order that she might catch the 7:30 train out of Memphis for Atlanta—he says from 7:30 until the exchanges opened at 8:30 was a mighty long hour.

Lee Moffitt of the Seville at Owensboro, Ky., was through Memphis on his return trip from Washington . . . Nate Evans and Chalmers Cullins, who operate the Orpheum Theatre here, are mighty happy over the stand-out business they did on the personal appearance of the "Dead End Kids."

Bill Medley, assistant shipper at Paramount, is confined to his home this week nursing a badly bruised shoulder. Bill, in attempting to remove a film from the lower rack, knocked a can down containing a print from another rack, the impact of which left him in a rather "decrepit" condition, however, the doctor says he will soon be as good as new.

Ed Sneed, who recently took over the Gem Theatre at Dyer, Tenn., on a 30-day trial basis, was on the Row this week, arranging his future bookings, and says it looks like he is permanently located.

F. G. Roberts of the Ritz at Bald Knob, Ark., has just bought a new projection machine and lighting material for his screen. J. T. James of the James at Cotton Plant, Ark., also is installing new projection equipment. Both of these sales were handled by Peter Dawson of the National Theatre Supply Co.

AND THOSE WHO WANT THE BEST

ARE BUYING

Simplex E-7 Projectors

TRADE MARK REG'D.

The Pinnacle of Projection Achievement. We Challenge the World to Surpass Its Quality. Demonstrations and Comparisons Gladly Arranged.

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

SANTONE

A NEW weekend policy for the Broadway Theatre has been inaugurated with the dual features running Friday and Saturday . . . "I'll Tell the World," Universal's release of five years ago, was shown one day last week for the San Antonio Advertising Club in the Gunter Hotel.

Billed as a "Jinx Midnight Show," the Uptown celebrated Friday the 13th by showing "The Invisible Menace" and "The Missing Witness" along with shorts in keeping with the jinx idea . . . Miss Ruth (Bobb) Beauchaire, night club entertainer, is a new featured dancer at the Joy Theatre.

Two Mexican film players and a producer were in town last week in connection with the Columbus Day celebration held at the Muny Auditorium. They were Maria Conesa, Agustin Inzunza and Jose Calderon, all widely known in Mexico City theatrical circles . . . Louis E. Schneider, Texas-Consolidated Valley manager, Harlingen; Miguel Benitez, National, Weslaco; Dave Moulton, Azteca, Edinburg; Mr. and Mrs. "Stout" Jackson and son, Thomas, who pilots his own plane, winged in from Robstown, all calling upon J. J. Jimenez of Azteca Films here.

Add: Latin-American Film Exchange visitors—Dave Young who ramrods the Dittman and Dreamland over in Brownsville, with the missus and son, Dave jr., and Luis Arcaraz, Radio Station XEW, Mexico, Distrito Federal.

Jimmie Lederer, newsreel cameraman, has been "borrowed" from Universal to shoot a documentary film illustrating the activities of the NYA which has just completed work on the La Villita project here.

Hal J. Ross is back in town and has requested a permit from the city to produce an entertainment show similar to his endurance marathon held here five years ago. An opinion from the city attorney's office last week ruled that the new type exhibition, tentatively set for the Walkathon Arena, which gained its name from Ross' original public show, was legal.

Spotted at the dog show in the Muny Auditorium last week were: Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Floore; Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Welker; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Moss; LeeRoy Handley, all of Interstate here; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stewart of KTSA and KMAC, respectively; Mr. and Mrs. Ken McClure, WOAI commentator, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zahrt of Southland Industries, Inc., here.

San Antonio's own theatre artists, the McBride Brothers of the Southwest Process System, have signed up for BOXOFFICE. *These clever boys make the fronts for the Interstate theatres here that really attract the passersby and make steady customers out of them.*

Build Profits—Patronage with
PARAMOUNT PREMIUM CO.
IKE KATZ, Sales Mgr.
210 H. St. N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Several Win Prizes At Variety Meet

ATLANTA—There were several winners of prizes at the Variety Club golf tournament held October 9 and 10 at the East Lake Country Club here. The winners and their prizes, follow:

Bill Griffin, handicap, president's trophy, to be the property of the club. Low net on 36 holes.

Bill Griffin, low medalist, first day, Henry Grady cup; Howard Wallace, blind bogey for 36 holes, Manning & Wink golf bag; Gus King, low net second day, Motion Picture Adv. Ass'n; Howard Wallace, blind bogey, first day, 18 holes, United Artists, golf clubs; Jimmie Harrison, blind bogey, 18 holes, second day, Wil-Kin Theatre Supply, golf clubs; Mike Alterman, closest to pin, first day, 17 holes, Col. Thos. E. Orr, trophy; Collette Monger, closest to pin, second day, 17th hole, A. C. Bromberg, trophy; Harry Purdy, longest drive, No. 1, first day, Bailey Theatre, shoes; Hugh Manning, longest drive on No. 1, second day, Capitol City Supply Co., shoes.

Harry Purdy, winner of championship flight, Crescent Amusement Co., golf bag; Bill Griffin, runner up championship flight, Bijou Amusement Co., coat; Sam Wilson, winner first flight, Fred Jack, radio; Hugh Manning, runner up first flight, Poster Exchange, cup; Jack Barrett, winner second flight, K&B, zipper bag; Riley Davis, runner up second flight, Fox Theatre, trophy; Gus King, winner of third flight, Theatre Printing Co.; E. E. Whitaker, runner up, Lam Amusement Co.; Jimmie Harrison, winner of fourth flight, Harry Graham, radio; Howard Wallace, runner up, brush case; Mike Alterman, fifth flight winner, Rockwood Amusement Co., jacket; Leon Savell, runner up, brush case; Harry Ballance, winner non-playing participant, Charles E. Kessnich, and Roy Avey, trophy.

The awards were made by Riley Davis at the club headquarters.

Gerald "Jerry on the Job" Fisher, announcer for Radio Station KABC here, acted as emcee for the opening of the Little Theatre's 14th season Monday evening with a Hollywood premiere of the farce comedy, "Boy Meets Girl" running three nights at the San Pedro Playhouse.

Due to popular demand, the Texas Theatre held over "All Quiet on the Western Front" last week . . . Palace offered a seven unit screen show for 15 cents . . . Beulah Greene, State Theatre cashier, brushing up on the Indian language prior to that trip to Dallas . . . Peggy Joan Flashette, the mascot of the Joy Theatre, was entered in the recent dog show here . . . Bill O'Donnell, Interstate city manager; Eph Charninsky, suburban managing director; Jackie Chalman, publicist, and Edward E. Collins, Majestic manager, attended the Variety Club gathering in Dallas.

OKLA. CITY

HENRY S. GRIFFING, who has taken over the Griffith defense in two suits pending in federal district court here following his resignation from the law firm of Keaton, Wells & Johnson, has been named service agent for the Griffith Amusement Co., Griffith Realty Co., and K. Lee Williams Theatres, Inc.

Ralph E. Ford, service man for Brandt equipment lines, was in Oklahoma City the past week . . . Jimmy Birge, while building his new home, has acquired a slight case of the flu, and what with Jack Tunstell, assistant manager at the Criterion, getting a touch of it at the same time, the town's top showhouse was sparse on managerial pep for a few days last week.

Leland S. Vance, manager of the Mistletoe Express, film carrier, has been appointed director of the Oklahoma City chamber of commerce advance solicitations campaign.

Jess Pullen, manager of the Lyric at Tulsa, met an old friend last week when Ken Maynard, western star, filled a personal appearance engagement for two days at the house. Maynard came to Tulsa en route to the Ak-Sar-Ben celebration at Omaha.

Our spies inform us of a cute stunt pulled by Charlie Snyder at the Capitol in Amarillo which you boys might file away in the old exploitation book for future reference. He held a Jinx Nite, Friday the 13th, with a couple of horror films and all the trimmings, and added a novel touch by giving free admissions to the first 50 people in line whose names, either first or last, began with J or I or N or X. A driver's license was the only proof required.

George Friedel, 20th-Fox booker, continued on his merry bowling way in the Variety Club Bowling League last week, stacking 217-163-177, or 557 for his night's total. His team won two from and lost one to Griffith Amusement Co. Clark Poster took two from RKO while losing one.

Exhibitors over this state know what foreign-made films usually do at the boxoffice, so have steered clear of them. However, those citizens of Tulsa who want to see them will have a chance through the International Club which has leased the Tower Theatre for showings of five European films: "Marseilles," "Grand Illusion," "Beethoven," "Alexander Nevsky," and "Don Quixote."

Remodeling work on the Plaza, Tulsa, has been started under a $23,500 building permit. This Southwestern Theatres' house was destroyed by fire last month.

Stage Show Season Opens

AUSTIN, TEX.—The season's first stage-and-screen show opened for a two-day run October 18 at the Paramount Theatre, playing to better than average business.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

J. O. SMITH, formerly with Roy Martin's string of houses at Talledaga, Ala., is now managing the Lumpkin Theatre for Cowart & Shingler at Lumpkin, Ga.

M. G. Lee of Cuthbert, Ga., who operates theatres in Eufaula, Ala., Cuthbert, Ga., and Dawson, Ga., is constructing a new theatre at Shellman, Ga., to be known as the Lee. This house will seat 350 and cost around $10,000. Lee expects to open on December 7. D. B. McLendon will be the manager. One unusual aspect of this theatre is the fact Lee does not employ a contractor, but does all the planning and supervises the entire construction.

C. E. Kenner, who is managing the Albany at Albany, Ga., informed us he is giving his Liberty there a much-needed face lifting in the form of a new marquee, new interior lighting, new Neon sign and animated trim on the marquee. Said he couldn't operate without good old BOXOFFICE so got a renewal and a cup of coffee to boot. Incidentally, he said Paramount is ready to shoot a $400,000 flicker in that locale, beginning at once. Will have some dope on this later.

W. S. Scott, who has been operating the Star Theatre at Brunswick, Ga., has sold the house to W. B. Braswell, for many years manager of a house at Columbus, Ga., for Roy Martin.

Went by Hawkinsville, Ga., to see J. H. Thompson of Martin & Thompson Theatres only to learn that he was in Atlanta winding up his buying for his houses, but talked to L. H. Williams and learned that they had disposed of their Strand at Jessup, Ga.

D. R. Reagan, who worked around Atlanta for many years as a projectionist, is operating a new Negro house at Selma, Ala., with a seating capacity of 310 and all new equipment. This is the only strictly colored house in the town. Says he is doing well for a beginner.

Dick Kennedy of Alabama Theatres has made several changes, some of which are as follows: Archie Dainwood from the Macon at Tuskegee, Ala., to the Marengo at Demopolis, Ala.; Milton Samuel from the Bijou at Knoxville, Tenn., to Tuskegee, Ala.; Bill Steppe from the Marengo at Demopolis, Ala., to the Jasper at Jasper, Ala.; Fred Barton from the Jasper at Jasper, Ala., to the Majestic at Johnson City, Tenn., and Roger Butler from the Majestic at Johnson City, Tenn., to Selma, Ala., as city manager.

E. J. Hunter, operating at Colquitt, Ga., has purchased the Edison Theatre at Edison, Ga., from Cowart and Shingler, which gives him two houses in this section.

The writer expects to spend several days in Atlanta soon visiting the trade and also keeping both eyes open for business and anticipating a visit with Atlanta correspondent Lee Fuhrman.

Jack Zern Is Winner of Dallas Golf Tourney

DALLAS—Norman Hodge, son of the veteran west Texas exhibitor, H. T. Hodge, of Abilene, won first place in the annual Variety Club golf tournament played Monday in Dallas. Hodge, however, being a non-resident and non-member could not convert those honors, according to club rules, so Jack Zern, of Altec, stepped up to take the leading role in this tournament and also to represent Tent No. 17 in the National Variety convention tournament to be held in Dallas next April.

From the tournament and its auxiliary celebration between $4,000 and $5,000 was raised for charity, which, after all, is Variety's chief purpose. With its program of previous activities extending over Saturday and Sunday, and with hundreds of out-of-towners here for the celebration and to see Oklahoma swamp Texas, the tournament leaders report the club's most successful contest in its history.

After the tournament the usual dinner and party was held in the Lakewood Country Club ballroom.

The Variety officers and directors were announced for the coming year: R. J. O'Donnell is chief baker; R. E. Griffith, assistant chief; H. B. Robb, second assistant chief; Jack Underwood, treasurer; Lloyd Rust, secretary; and the directors, Elmer Zrenner, Paul Short, Lou Bissinger, Duke Evans, Burt King, and B. C. Gibson. Induction will be at the New Year's Variety party on December 31.

Small Adds Folk Tale

HOLLYWOOD—"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," Washington Irving's folk tale, has been added to Edward Small's 1939-40 production slate.

NEW ORLEANS

AN inspection by the state fire marshal reveals all exchanges and theatres are entitled to an A-I certificate. The inspection was thorough in every detail . . . Marguerite Clark Williams, star of the silent days, will leave for New York City soon where she expects to spend the greater part of this winter.

Miss Helen Englert has returned from Hollywood with the title of Miss Glamour Girl of 1940. *She will return to the west coast about the first of the year . . . James FitzPatrick, the travelog man, is in the city and says his Technicolor of New Orleans will be released in February.*

Vic Meyers, manager of the Orpheum, set aside a portion of the main floor this week and invited all the numerous candidates for governor, as well as a few minor politicians, to witness the showing of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." They didn't all attend, but thanked the management just the same.

The Carolinas

TO AID the movement for an "iron lung" for Charlotte, three theatres, the Broadway, Charlotte and Tryon, gave benefit shows. The employes donated their services. Robert Hood had charge of the Broadway, Commander Ernest Morgan was at the Tryon, and Nathan Sharp at the Charlotte.

C. H. and P. J. Cordel of Wallace were visitors in Charlotte. Also, Charlie Myers of Rich Square and C. B. Andrews and family of Bishopville, S. C.

R. W. Ramsey attended the convention of sound engineers in New York. Ramsey is with Carolina Sound Equipment Service in Charlotte.

The new Reid Theatre has been opened in Reidsville by W. H. Hendrix. Standard Theatre Supply Co. of Greensboro furnished equipment. Sound equipment was handled by Carolina Sound Equipment Service.

The Pickfair at Kernersville, operated by J. T. Justice jr., has new sound equipment . . . E. M. Mobley has opened a new house at Edgefield called the Towne . . . The Wake at Raleigh has installed new Simplex 4-Star Sound.

Distributor Not Set for "Cavalcade of Texas"

DALLAS—Distribution of "Cavalcade of Texas," five-reel special depicting the resources and advantages of Texas, sponsored by Karl Hoblitzelle and produced by Fitz-Patrick of M-G-M, has not yet been determined upon, R. J. O'Donnell of Interstate tells BOXOFFICE.

Exhibitors by the score have been making inquiry as to where they can book this special. Some called M-G-M, who answered they had nothing to do so far with distribution of the release.

In the meantime, "Cavalcade of Texas" is playing the Majestic this week and, according to Hoblitzelle's wish, national distribution plans may be announced within the next few days.

Lamour in "Johnny Apollo"

HOLLYWOOD—Twentieth-Fox has borrowed Dorothy Lamour from Paramount to co-star with Tyrone Power in "Johnny Apollo."

Madeleine Carroll Role

HOLLYWOOD—Madeleine Carroll will play the leading role in "I Am an Adventuress" for 20th-Fox. Gregory Ratoff will direct.

The Queen Feature Service, Inc.
Quality Theatre Equipment & Supplies
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BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
315 S. HARWOOD **BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC.** DALLAS, TEXAS

Territory Topics

ALABAMA

FORT PAYNE—Strand Theatre has resumed full-time operation.

FLORIDA

DAYTONA BEACH—Plans are being completed for the Child's Theatre project, which will present a series of plays for children.

JACKSONVILLE—Charter was issued at the office of the secretary of state for the Orlando Drive-In Theatre, Inc., with George Wilby, Frank Harris and Harris Robinson named as directors.

TITUSVILLE—Edward Woodhead plans to open a school of theatre arts.

GEORGIA

DECATUR—City commission is considering a request to rezone a section of property near East Lake drive and Meade road for business purposes. Plans are to build a theatre in the section if re-zoning is approved.

NEWNAN—The newly remodeled Alamo Theatre, operated by Lam Amusement Co., has reopened.

MISSISSIPPI

JACKSON — Application has been filed with the city engineering department for construction of a motion picture theatre, costing $30,000. The house will be called the "Pix." Seating capacity was not disclosed in the application.

NORTH CAROLINA

BLADENBORO—The marriage of W. G. Fussell, owner and manager of the Lyric Theatre, and Miss Nettie Vann Butler, was recently solemnized.

RALEIGH—The State Theatre, completely remodeled and re-equipped, has reopened, under management of C. B. Rosson.

WILMINGTON—Construction of a new theatre, to be one of the most modern in this section, has been authorized by Wilmington Theatres, Inc., according to an announcement by George W. Bailey.

YANCEYVILLE—New sound and projection equipment has been installed in the Caswell Theatre.

SOUTH CAROLINA

ANDERSON—Andy Hutchinson, city manager of the State, Criterion and Strand theatres here, has announced the Strand will operate only on Thursday, Friday and Saturday until further notice. The move is temporary, he added.

CHARLESTON—Daniel Ravenel jr. was reelected president of the Footlight Players at a recent meeting. The first play of the season will be Paul Green's "Johnny Johnson."

CHESTER—Fred J. Powell and associates, operators of the City and Palmetto theatres, plan construction of a new house, work to begin in January. The house will seat 700, and will be completely modern.

FLORENCE—The Roxy Theatre, under management of Dewey McDerman, has opened.

TENNESSEE

LEBANON—The remodeled Princess Theatre, under management of John Hatcher, has reopened.

NORRIS—Norris Little Theatre will open its fall season November 18 with a production of "Captain Applejack."

UNION CITY—Burglars entered the Capitol Theatre and escaped with $345 from the office safe, A. L. Cox, manager, reported to police.

TEXAS

The El Paso Little Theatre of El Paso has changed its name to the Community Theatre of El Paso, Texas.

Walter Knoche, skipper of the Palace Theatre, Fredericksburg, has been running German talking pictures at intervals and getting a nice response since the majority of that town understands the language.

Abreu's Cuban Show is now playing dates in and around the Lockhart section. The show is under canvas and features Spanish entertainment throughout.

Jackie Karmi of Karmi Pictures, Hollywood, is working out of San Antonio and the south Texas territory with his roadshows billed as "Nuri, the Elephant," and "Head Hunters of Papua."

(Ed. Note: Tent show and roadshow men in this territory are requested to mail their news notes in to BOXOFFICE Ketner, 531 North St., San Antonio, Tex., for this column. Thanks.)

Blythe-Loew's Suit End Due This Weekend

CHARLOTTE—The plagiarism suit of LeGette Blythe, Charlotte author, against Loew's, Inc., was expected to be settled this weekend.

Frank H. Kennedy, arguing for the defense, read much from source material presented in evidence to show that the defendant did not need to use material from the Blythe book, "Marshal Ney: A Dual Life," in the production of "Bravest of the Brave," as charged in the suit.

DALLAS

(Continued from page 71)

phases in his memory. At the outset, Levy was a bank clerk in Ft. Worth and rose to an executive position. He was attracted by deposits made by the old Healy Theatre, a nickelodeon, in which he soon bought stock. He became interested in the Victor Amusement Co., which owned the Healy. For succeeding years he was an independent theatre operator and is credited as one of the first to raise admission prices. Later he sold his interests to E. H. Hulsey and Southern Enterprises. Levy was one of the veterans and a valuable employe and associate in Karl Hoblitzelle's enterprises in former years as an impresario of vaudeville and later in pictures.

ARKANSAS

RECENT Little Rock Filmrow visitors were: Ray Wilson, New, DeWitt, and Sidney Metcalf, Ritz, Morrilton . . . Jack Arnold made a trip to Mississippi and Tennessee.

A number of delegates to the Arkansas ITO convention stayed over to visit the Livestock Show in North Little Rock.

A theatre has been opened in a temporary location at Rison by Misses Blanche and Mildred Wacaster of Hot Springs. A permanent location in a downtown business building is planned. The owners expect to have the building ready sometime in November. The new house will be known as the "Rison."

Fund for Film Libraries Sought in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS—State Superintendent of Education T. B. Harris told 32 parish superintendents of schools at a general conference in Baton Rouge at the Louisiana State University he would ask the state board of education to set aside $10,000 to establish five motion picture film libraries in the state. Educational films in the libraries to be set up in the state department of education in Baton Rouge and at four state colleges would be used by schools throughout the state in a program of visual education in which the state department of education for the past several years has been advocating.

Last year more than 230 motion picture projectors were used to illustrate instruction in the schools of the state. Harris said that educational films would circulate free of charge from libraries set up in the state department of education in Baton Rouge, Louisiana State Normal College, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, and Southeastern Louisiana College.

Police Officials View M-G-M Crime Short

ATLANTA — Local law-enforcement officials attended a private screening of "Drunken Driving," M-G-M crime short subject, and voiced praise for the film.

Among those attending the screening was Police Recorder John L. Cone, who said, "If drivers will see it, it will help to reduce the slaughter caused by drunken and drinking drivers."

Jack Paschal, editor of the *Georgia Police News,* termed the film "a picture every driver should see."

The film is due for showing soon at the Grand Theatre here.

Max Golden Will Produce Next in "Jones" Series

HOLLYWOOD—Production reins on the next "Jones Family" feature at 20th-Fox to follow "Young as You Feel" will be handled by Max Golden as his first assignment since returning to the studio. Jack Jungmeyer jr. and Edith Skouras are scripting.

TRADE RESTRICTIONS ARE EASED ON AMERICAN COMPANIES WITH BRANCHES IN THE DOMINION

Alexander as ITA Head Marks Fighting Leader's Comeback

TORONTO—The election of Harry Alexander as president of the Independent Theatre Ass'n of Ontario for 1939-40 marks a return to the industry's fighting front of an exhibitor who was once in the thick of the fray as a leader of the once-active Motion Picture Exhibitors' Protective Ass'n of Ontario.

Proprietor of the local Lansdowne Theatre, Alexander was vice-president of the former organization 20 years ago when he supported the battling policy of the late John C. Brady, owner of the Madison Theatre, Toronto, who was president of the independents for many years until his death in 1934. When Brady passed on, Harry Alexander more or less dropped from the ring, but he has thrown his weight once more on the side of the independents.

Alexander succeeds Harry Firestone, able and youthful Toronto exhibitor, who held the executive chair for one year and who continues as a member of the board of directors. Harry, son of the veteran Toronto independent, Sam Firestone, expects to be in the uniform of a Canadian soldier before long and his withdrawal from the chair is largely due to that prospect. He already has had considerable military experience as a member of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, the second infantry unit of the Canadian forces.

N. A. Taylor, who has been re-elected vice-president of the ITA, is general manager of 20th Century Theatres and of the Exhibitors Booking Ass'n. He is a lawyer by profession, being a graduate of the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall. M. L. Axler, the association's secretary, is supervisor of 20th Century Theatres while Treasurer Tom Walton is proprietor of the Rio Theatre in downtown Toronto.

The new board comprises Sam Ulster, Harold Kay, Abe Polakoff, Ben Ulster and Harry Firestone of Toronto and J. O. Scott of Weston, the last named being chairman of the Anti-Protection League of Canada.

Nat Taylor and Harry Firestone represent the independents as members of the Conciliation Committee of the Toronto Board of Trade Film Section and the new ITA board is to elect two other independents to this committee.

The ITA has received letters of thanks for its offer to place independent theatres at the disposal of the governments for recruiting and patriotic purposes from Right Hon. W. L. M. King, Prime Minister of Canada, and Hon. M. F. Hepburn, Premier of Ontario.

Bar on Commodities Of Aid to Enemy

OTTAWA—An interesting angle has developed in connection with the ban on trade with the enemy under the War Measures Act which affects the acceptance in the Dominion of any motion pictures of German origin, whether through a neutral country or not.

Through the regulations of this act, it is an offense for any firm or individual in Canada to accept importation of any commodity through which the enemy country derives any assistance in the way of revenue whether a neutral third party is involved or not.

This forbids the importation of any motion picture film, including newsreel clip, any revenue from which would accrue to the credit of the enemy. This ban is entirely distinct from censorship which is for propaganda or moral reasons. With the ban on trade with the enemy, it is impossible for a Canadian distributor or exhibitor to use a newsreel of wartime scenes in Germany if that country secures even a nominal payment for the films when such payment is made by a neutral or otherwise. In a word, German films cannot be accepted through a neutral country for the duration of the war.

The situation applies to all commodities. For instance, it has been discovered by stamp collectors in Canada that they cannot buy unused German stamps from any person in a neutral country because the revenue from the original sale of the stamps must have been secured by the enemy, either the government or a private individual.

Army Uses Films

MONTREAL—All the latest educational features are being marshalled by commanding officers of Montreal regiments to acquaint their men with modern warfare, it was learned at Military District No. 4 headquarters, where a batch of films from the British War Office are being prepared for showing here.

Scripts Autry Vehicle

HOLLYWOOD—"Down by the Old Mill Stream," Gene Autry's next for Republic, is being adapted by Connie Lee.

Revision of Severe Money Regulations Will Directly Benefit Film Exchanges

OTTAWA—The foreign securities control board of the Dominion government has revised its wartime regulations restricting the flow of cash and shipments between Canada and other countries to enable Canadian branches of corporations in the United States or Britain to carry on operations with reduced red-tape.

An undertaking has been made by the Canadian authorities to allow "related companies" to engage in transactions "with as few restrictions as possible," it is announced, and to permit inter-company accounts to be operated "subject to an undertaking by the companies concerned to account to the board for the foreign exchange acquired as a result of business with foreign countries."

To Ease Money Flow

This move will be of direct benefit to Canadian film exchanges in making payments to head offices in New York City for films, accessories and supplies, and payments of excess revenue on film rentals above Canadian operating expenses—the excess profits being subject to the usual government levy plus the war surtax recently imposed on company profits and individual incomes.

Announcement has also been made that companies which have maintained foreign currency bank accounts in the past for the facilitating of International business again will be permitted to do so upon making formal application to the board. Consideration is being given to the authorization of a special form of license to companies engaging in a large proportion of foreign business under which the firms would be required to make out monthly report forms for the examination by board officials. This would offset the present burdensome job of making out a variety of individual forms for every shipment or payment. Specific details will be listed of all changes in regulations in official orders which will be issued in the near future but, in the meantime, the office staffs of film distributing companies are happy in the knowledge that a substantial cut in red tape is on the way.

New Commemoration

MONTREAL—The history-making Royal visit to Canada has been commemorated in a 1940 calendar put out by the Associated Screen News and containing several of the finest photographs of the visit which have been produced. An Associated Screen News photographer was a passenger on the pilot train which preceded the Royal train across Canada.

Impending Election Stirs Hope Juvenile Trade Will Be Won

By RAY CARMICHAEL

MONTREAL—Motion picture exhibitors as a body do not interfere in politics, because there are undoubtedly as many shades of political opinion amongst them as amongst any other group of citizens. Nevertheless all exhibitors are watching closely the progress of the campaign for the coming Quebec provincial elections, and where possible they are putting in a word to influence candidates to favor easing the ban on juvenile admissions to theatres.

Relaxation of this ban in favor of "The Wizard of Oz" was announced recently, and there is just a suspicion that the provincial government's willingness to allow children to see this picture may have been prompted by the usual desire to please electors which precedes election day.

The government headed by Premier Maurice Duplessis has enforced the ban on juveniles more rigidly than its predecessor and has accepted more fully the views of the Roman Catholic clergy as to the desirability of keeping children away from the theatres, while at the same time encouraging the display of 16mm pictures in various church and church school halls throughout the province.

Many exhibitors are inclined to think that a change of government might be beneficial to their interests, and though, of course, they will vote as individuals, it is likely they will not altogether ignore their material welfare. As announced from time to time in these columns a few exhibitors are amongst the candidates nominated by the Liberal party headed by ex-premier Godbout.

The election results will be scanned with more than normal interest by motion picture people—distributors as well as exhibitors. No matter which party is returned at the polls they will continue to hope and work for a more lenient interpretation of the laws governing admission of the youth of the province to the cinema.

MONTREAL

INTIMATION Montreal is to have a practice "blackout," although probably not for a few weeks, is giving theatre managers something to think about. They'll have to devise means of making their theatres invisible while programs actually are on. Householders, too, will have their problems, and it may be that some will stay at home rather than face the darkened streets. Presumably the radio will not be interfered with.

With Al Plunkett of "Amateur Hour" fame now reported in Ottawa, the mantle of amateur entertainer has fallen on Tom Day who is supervising a variety program at "Doc" Vardec's Corona.

Film trade notables attended a preview of "Hollywood Cavalcade" at the Palace . . . S. Demetre, manager of the United Amusement's Regent Theatre, is traveling in the United States. Ben Quench, assistant manager, is pinch-hitting for him.

Basil Salamis, manager of the Laval Theatre, reports burglars who concealed themselves in the theatre after Tuesday night's show, carried the safe from the second floor office to the basement, broke it open and stole $500. They repeated in a neighboring restaurant and a coal dealer's office.

"Confessions of a Nazi Spy" was Thanksgiving fare at the Cartier, Quebec, while the Capitol ran "The Wizard of Oz," to which children were admitted. At the Empire, "The Man in the Iron Mask" held the screen, while "Blind Alley," "My Wife's Relatives" and a stage show entertained patrons of the Cambrai.

Memories of Ambrose Small's disappearance were recalled by the death of one of his associates, John R. Minhinnick, veteran manager of the Grand Theatre, London, Ont., and former director of Trans-Canada Theatres, which bought Small's Ontario interests . . . Extensive alterations are being made to the Westmount Theatre. Features will be wider aisles and spacious modern chairs. According to Phil Godel, manager, changes will be completed in about a fortnight's time.

Two Parisian stars have announced their intention of visiting Quebec province during the coming winter, and it is considered certain that both will make personal appearances at local cinemas. They are Henri Garat, actor and singer, and Danielle Darrieux, the star of "Mayerling."

Fifteen new Parisian films have arrived in Montreal, and there are officially said to be adequate numbers to meet the demand for the next two years. It is announced in letters from Paris that the French film studios will return to normal production shortly . . . World premiere will be given in Montreal next spring to Marcel Pagnol's new film, "La Priere Aux Etoiles." Mr. Pagnol will accompany the film to Canada.

Northern Electric sound equipment is being installed by Dominion Sound in a new theatre to be opened at Mitchell, Ont., by H. J. Sutherland. The theatre is scheduled to open today.

Dominion Sound Equipments has been appointed exclusive representative in Canada of the Ashcraft Cyclex lamp, a new invention which is expected to revolutionize the arc lamps in theatres. The first pair have already been installed in the Orleans Theatre, Montreal, proprietor of which is Nicholas Lazanis.

"The Wizard of Oz" has been seen at Loew's by thousands of children, whose delight was evident. Their enthusiasm influenced many of their elders to take in the show. Theatre managers expect that permission will be given children to witness Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels" when it is released around Christmas, and also Walt Disney's "Pinnochio."

Ovila Cote, secretary-treasurer of the Victoria and Empire theatres, Quebec, was in Montreal on business a few days ago. Tom Dowbiggin predicts that Paramount will again carry off the championship of Filmrow bowling league.

Dr. J. E. Guibord, of the Nationale Theatre, Grand' Mere, Que., is Liberal candidate for the provincial election in his riding. Hon. T. D. Bouchard, owner of the Corona, Ste. Hyacinthe, is also a Liberal candidate. Charles Magnan, of the Malartic Theatre, Malartic, has withdrawn his candidature.

Ted Kelly of Dominion Sound was in New York for the opening game of the World's Series . . . Filmrow visitors include E. L. Fontaine, Empire, La Tuque; P. Senecal, George's, Ste. Therese; Ambrose Nolan and Mrs. Nolan, of the Pix, Aylmer, and Tommy Trow of the Imperial, Three Rivers. A number of local independent exhibitors also called on the Filmrow distributors.

It is reputed around Filmrow that the project to remove to a more central location next spring has fallen through.

A trio of young Filmrow employes motored to New York and took in the World's Fair on the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend. They were J. Dolman and Miss Druxerman of Columbia and H. Dolman of RKO.

Quebec still leads the Empire in the matter of Sunday motion picture shows. Cinema managers in the north of England are citing the example of this province in their effort to secure Sunday openings.

Mrs. K. Katz of RKO, who has been forced by ill health to resign, was given a sendoff by the girls of Filmrow. The entertainment included a screening of Greta Garbo's new film.

Filmrow bowling league's initial matches witnessed a complete reversal of form. Although Paramount is leading, United Amusement and Columbia, both of whom were near the bottom at the start of last season, are well up in the league table this year.

Conrad Poirier, Montreal West photographer, exhibited a number of films taken by himself at the Notre Dame de Grace indoor motion picture show. Previous film displays by the YMCA were held in the open air.

Sixteenth Jones Film

HOLLYWOOD—"Young as You Feel," sixteenth in the Jones Family series, will be adapted by John Hoffman and Stanley Rauh. The film rolls November 1 with Malcolm St. Clair directing.

"U" Starts McCarthy Film

HOLLYWOOD—"Charlie McCarthy, Detective," with Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd in topline roles, is now in work at Universal under Producer-Director Frank Tuttle.

TORONTO

ONE of the real oldtimers, known far and wide as a theatre manager, passed on in the death of John R. Minhinnick, manager of the Grand at London, Ont., for years and one time director of Trans-Canada Theatres, Ltd., after an illness of six month. He was associated with Ambrose J. Small, wealthy theatre chain owner of Toronto, up to the time of the latter's mysterious disappearance 20 years ago from the Grand Theatre only a few minutes after he had received payment for $2,000,000 for his theatres throughout Ontario.

G. Garrett is the manager of the new Geneva Theatre, Orillia, a unit of the Associated Theatres group seating 800 persons. The Geneva, erected by Les Gregory, Hamilton exhibitor, will change programs three times a week. It is opposition to the Opera House and the Princess operated by L. H. Vicary.

Manager Fred Trebilcock of the big Uptown Theatre got into his wartime stride with "The Rains Came" which has played three lively weeks to near-record business . . . Loew's, Toronto, had a nice tieup with the T. Eaton Co., Ltd., Canada's largest department store, on "The Women" with the store using large newspaper advertising space for winter clothes for "The Women" and conducting a special sale featuring apparel for "The Women."

"Goodbye, Mr. Chips" was held over for a second week by Manager Jack Purves of the Eglinton Theatre for its first run in North Toronto. The picture was originally booked for three days, but business on the sixth day was greater than on the first . . . Manager Jay Smith of the Avenue Theatre has been making splash announcements on the fact that this house has first run in Toronto for Universal News.

For the closing race meet of the Canadian turf season at Long Branch, Manager Tom Daley booked the special short, "The Life of Seabiscuit," for the Imperial Theatre, and one of the feature races at the popular track was held for the Seabiscuit Trophy in a tieup.

Carol Levis, a native of Toronto, stopped off in Toronto on his way from England to Hollywood in quest of a film contract. For three years he has been prominent in British films . . . Wally Vernon, film player on the roster of 20th Century-Fox, has been booked for a personal appearance at the Toronto Hippodrome for the week commencing October 28.

The Toronto *Daily Star* went opposition to local theatres by playing the Royal Tour films at Massey Music Hall no less than ten times in one day, the total patronage being in excess of 16,000. Massey Music Hall was named after the uncle of Raymond Massey, the actor, its erection having been financed by the Toronto Masseys.

Lord Beaverbrook, British newspaper publisher and moving picture financier, made a flying trip to Toronto, within 20 miles of which he was born. He is associated with President N. L. Nathanson of Famous Players Canadian Corp. in a couple of cinema projects. Following the visit of Beaverbrook, Mr. Nathanson went to New York City on business.

The Weiss Construction Co. has completed the walls and roof of the new theatre at Eglinton Avenue and Vaughan Road at the northwest outskirts of the City of Toronto. The house is scheduled to be opened in one month.

The community theatre night of the North Toronto Businessmen's Ass'n is scheduled for November 3 at the Capitol Theatre and Manager Vern Hudson, as chairman of the general committee, is very busy with arrangements. This feature, which will have a special screen and stage program, was to have been held last May, but was postponed because of the Royal Visit. The outbreak of war suggested another postponement but with normal conditions prevailing the committee has gone ahead with the stunt.

Harry J. Allen, general manager of Grand National Films, Ltd., is releasing "Maria Chapdelaine," the French feature made in the Province of Quebec, in a tieup with Canadian educational bodies, the story having been included in this year's school books.

J. Tate, proprietor of the Simcoe Theatre at Sutton, Ont., brought reports to Toronto which showed that his house had been very busy during the past summer. It is situated in the heart of the Lake Simcoe summer resort section.

Manager George Law of the Beverly Theatre, Toronto neighborhood house, has launched the weekly Foto-Nite stunt in addition to chinaware three nights and a mystery gift night for the remainder of the week. For the first Foto-Nite, no less than 10,000 handbills were placed in letter boxes throughout the district.

Negotiations are under way for the Canadian rights on "The Miracle of Sister Beatrice" which is controlled by Park Lane Pictures, Inc., of Buffalo, N. Y. A veteran Toronto theatre man is the head of a syndicate which is considering the picture for the Dominion.

Entertainment Meets

TORONTO—A tiein between theatres and radio, that has been successful for almost five years, is that provided by the Ken Soble Amateur Broadcast in Ontario and Quebec.

Theatre managers throughout these two provinces run amateur contests weekly with the cooperation of the local radio stations. The winners of these contests are given a free trip to Toronto to audition for Ken Soble's Amateur Broadcast. The winners at these auditions are then banded into units which tour theatres throughout Ontario.

The broadcasts are presented over a network of 14 Canadian stations every Sunday from 12:30 to 1:00 p. m. EST., and are sponsored by the Royal Canadian Tobacco Co.

Lloyd Mills, manager of the Elgin Theatre, Ottawa, played an unusual reissue program which brought very fair results. The two features were "Folies Bergere," starring Maurice Chevalier, the rage of seasons following the last war, and "The Informer," the much-discused Academy Award picture of several years ago. The added short was "Three Little Pigs."

Famous Players Canadian Corp. announces the promotion of Arthur Butler to be house manager of the Capitol at Halifax while Freeman Skinner, formerly of the Capitol, has become manager of the Oxford Theatre in that city. These changes follow the transfer of Robert Roddick of Toronto to Halifax.

Closed for the last 11 years, the Broadway Theatre at Haileybury, in northern Ontario, is being rebuilt by David Korman, owner of the property who recently visited Toronto to make arrangements for the early reopening of the house. Korman also operates the Palace Theatre at Englehart.

Famous Players is installing new fronts on the Palace and Tivoli Theatres in Windsor, Ont. Simon Meretsky, proprietor of the Capitol at Windsor, has equipped a number of seats with special hearing equipment, he announced on a day's visit in Toronto.

William McCaul, veteran projectionist of the Broadway Theatre, has enlisted for overseas service with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He served with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in the last war while still in his 'teens.

R. B. Burko, general manager of General Theatre Supply Co., Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg, has announced an increase in the price of theatre equipment imported from the United States to the extent of the difference in the rate of exchange less two per cent, the current extra charge being nine per cent. This advance will fluctuate in accordance with the exchange fixed by the Canadian Foreign Exchange Board.

The Independent Theatres Ass'n of Ontario has been advised that an application has been made for a reduction in the railway rates on film shipments by the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n, of which P. W. Mahon of Prince Alberta has been elected president for another year.

Gwen Hague, daughter of Clair Hague, Canadian Universal general manager, has entered the western Ontario open musical competitions at London, Ont., for both professionals and amateurs. She recently won the senior medal for dramatic contraltos at the festival of the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, after winning the junior award one year ago.

WINNIPEG

A $50 CASH prize has been won by Manager Harold Bishop of the Capitol for the exploitation campaign he carried out in connection with the showing of "Pygmalion." The contest was open to managers of class A houses.

Shown some time ago at the Main street Colonial, "World in Revolt" has been brought back by Max Heppner for another run at his house. Because of its present timeliness it is playing to good business.

Holdovers in the city this week include "The Rains Came" in its second week at the Metropolitan where Don Gauld thinks the first week's business warranted the holdover and "The Real Glory" is being heldover by Sim Rost for a second week at the Garrick.

The first release of the RKO's filming of the radio feature "Information Please" is now being played at the Capitol to appreciative audiences. Attention has been paid to the showing by both the radio editors of the Tribune *and* Free Press, *local dailies.*

"We're in the Legion Now," war-time comedy, is being reissued. War comedies are proving very popular with the fans. "23½ Hours Leave" continues popular screen fare both in the city and in the territory.

The Thanksgiving holiday brought record-breaking business to Winnipeg. Sunday midnight shows and the holiday shows played to big audiences.

The Roxy, Selkirk, Man., one of the Rothstein circuit, has been completely redecorated and refurnished.

E. Zorn, western district supervisor for FP, is making a tour of the western end of his division including Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton.

An event of unusual interest took place with the marriage of Nathan Miles, Gaiety manager, son of J. Miles, president of Western Theatres, Ltd., to Miss Claire Zifot of this city.

Filmrow expresses deepest sympathy to Harry Philet, Regal Films, on the loss of his son.

Honoring the memory of Walter Haynes, Canadian sales manager, Regal Films, the office remained closed during the day of the funeral.

Harry Wolfe, RKO manager, who has been a patient at the Misericordia Hospital, is at home recovering from a foot injury.

Hugh Conway, RKO, is visiting Minneapolis . . . R. Townsend has joined the 19th Artillery.

Lee Pugsley, formerly assistant manager at the Capitol in Winnipeg and latterly at Port Arthur, has been appointed manager of the Tivoli, Winnipeg.

Lou Geller is visiting Calgary . . . Garnett Wright, manager of the Bijou, is back from his holidays.

Visitors to the city include: M. O. Liberman, Rialto, Edmonton; J. B. Barron, Grand, Calgary; A. E. Mellon, Portage.

Vancouver Varsity Gets Good Start

VANCOUVER—The Varsity, Vancouver's newest suburban theatre, opened its doors last week, and capacity audiences attest its popularity.

This 600-seat house, covering an area of 48x115 feet, has concrete walls and floors and a laminated timber roof. The front is finished in a combination of primrose, black and "American Red;" the body primrose, divided into squares above the entrance soffit line, with jet black rulings. Below, broad horizontal bands of black Vitrolite alternate with primrose stucco, the latter relieved by black discs. Flanking the shadow-boards are narrow, vertical glass tile panels, admitting daylight to the men's lavatory and ladies' restroom. The boxoffice, like the entrance doors and trim, is American red with primrose discs.

The high vertical sign—primrose body and red trim—spells the name in shadow-effect letters.

The lobby color scheme, primrose walls and red trim, follows that of the exterior. The carpet is a fantastic pattern in red, blue and gold and the furniture is upholstered in a deep blue. The ceiling is recessed in a long oval, expanding to a large circle in the center, and the concealed lighting consists of a number of translucent discs—apple-green and white—diminishing in diameter from the top down, with amber Neon tubes extending from the center light to the ends of the oval.

The auditorium, lined throughout with acoustical board, is in primrose and red, and for architectural effect the ceiling is dropped at the sides. The aisle carpets are like that in the lobby and the chairs are deep red with navy blue seats; one row is provided with ear-aids. In harmony with the decoration, the usherettes have bell-bottom slacks and waist cadet jackets of blue wool trimmed, and monogrammed, in gold.

Strang Duplex projectors and Truephonic sound equipment is used.

He Doesn't Forget

MONTREAL—Robert Sherwood, famous American playwright who served with the Canadian Black Watch in the first Great War, is not forgetting Canadian soldiers in this one.

It is announced that Sherwood, author of the 1939 Pulitzer prize play, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," has instructed that royalties from the play, when it is presented in Toronto the week of November 13, be turned over to the Canadian Red Cross Society. It is estimated royalties will amount to between $1,500 and $2,000.

Sherwood was 21 when he left Harvard in 1917 and went to Montreal to enlist in the Black Watch. He served with Canadian forces until 1919, returning then to the United States to write such successes as "The Road to Rome," "The Queen's Husband," "Waterloo Bridge," "Reunion in Vienna" and "The Petrified Forest."

VANCOUVER

JOE BREEN, director of the production code in Hollywood, slipped quietly into Vancouver and as quietly slipped out again. He was on a holiday with his wife and saw no one connected with the industry while here, much to the disappointment of many, including Jack Hughes, the Provincial censor.

The strike of the miners at Pioneer Mines is adversely affecting attendance at the Community Club Theatre, so much so that Jim Stewart, the manager, is seriously considering the advisability of discontinuing screenings until the dispute is settled.

Charles Ramage, Regal Films, is entertaining the company's general auditor, Joe Collard, who is here on one of his regular quarterly visits.

Norman Duncan, Strand manager, reports that "U-Boat 29" broke all house records in its first week's run.

Harry Howard, Theatre Equipment Supply Co., is busily assembling and preparing the booth equipment for that reconstructed theatre at Esquimalt. He is also furnishing Holmes heads for the projectors in the Columbia Theatre, Victoria.

Jack Hughes, Provincial censor, has had a large number of films to pass upon recently, but says the majority were shorts of minor interest which, nevertheless must go through the mill.

Ralph Calladine, exhibitor at the Plaza and Columbia in Victoria, is going the limit in remodeling the latter house. It will have a new front, something strikingly novel, and the interior will be redecorated. He has ordered new seats which will be rearranged to give greater audience comfort and accessibility. The projection booth will have some new equipment and probably be rearranged.

With the conclusion of the negotiations for the lease of the new theatre which rose on the site of the old Princess, the lessees, W. Brown and F. G. E. Stevens, are proceeding as rapidly as possible with furnishings and equipment. An order has been placed with La Salle Recreations for the seats, and cabled by them to England for immediate shipment. The Dominion Sound Equipments, Ltd., is furnishing the booth equipment. Necessarily delayed, the opening is tentatively set for the latter part of next month.

Mrs. Fields, manager of the Nova, is issuing cards for attendance at the serial, "Lone Ranger." If punches show that 14 performances have been attended, the 15th is free.

Sam Lechtzier, La Salle Recreations, made a record trip to Victoria last week. Arriving in the morning, he concluded details of the seating contract for "The Mall," Esquimalt's rejuvenated theatre, secured the order for 400 La Salle Luxury chairs for the Columbia, saw the other exhibitors in town, and caught the 2:30 boat back to Vancouver.

A Time and Place

TORONTO—Harrison Forman, Paramount News cameraman, went through the horrors of the war in Poland but he had an experience that he will not forget when he delivered an illustrated lecture on the Polish campaign in Dale Church, Toronto. As he reached the point where he criticized Smigly-Rydz and other Polish leaders who fled from their country, many in the large audience swarmed to the platform and threatened him with violence.

Many of those in the crowd were Canadian Poles who hurled accusations of "Spy," "Nazi agent" and "Communist" at Forman who tried to explain that he was merely giving a talk on what he saw in Warsaw and his personal views of the situation.

Quiet was restored when the films were being screened, but another outbreak followed the visual portion of the program when J. T. Lawson, member of Parliament and lawyer for several film companies, intervened by declaring that freedom of speech was a privilege enjoyed by all in Canada.

When the turmoil increased with Poles surging around Forman and shouting in their native tongue, Lawson rushed to a police station and returned with a detachment, the presence of which enabled the lecturer to offer a final explanation and answer many questions.

The minister of the church, Rev. J. Davey, an Irishman, restored order as much as anybody by explaining there was a time and place for anything and those who wanted to fight could get into the army uniform without delay, pointing to a recruiting sergeant who was standing nearby.

Free Showing for Orphans Wins Publicity for "Oz"

VICTORIA—A special showing of the Wizard of Oz" for orphans of this city netted Manager J. M. Robertson of the Capitol Theatre big writeups and pictures of the orphans entering the theatre, in both papers.

In addition to the special free showing, the picture was well pre-sold by an effective lobby display, created by Chic Bullock, and featuring a miniature fairyland; by a tieup with a local department store featuring Judy Garland dresses and by special matinees at the conclusion of school hours.

Another Song

MONTREAL—Postal suspension orders in both the United States and Canada have barred use of the mails by Columbian Music Publishers, Ltd., of Toronto, which reportedly obtained thousands of dollars from Americans and Canadians through advertisements offering to set song words to music, to copyright, publish and exploit them, and get returns from motion picture and radio rights.

Film on Ben Franklin

HOLLYWOOD—Warner is readying preparations for the production of a film biography on Benjamin Franklin. Edward G. Robinson is slated tentatively for the title role.

Ontario Admissions Are Still "Pegged"

TORONTO—The tacit agreement between the Ontario government and the theatres still holds with respect to admission prices and the amusement tax.

This is said to be the reason why the Provincial legislature, at its recent war session, made no move for the revival of the amusement tax for war revenue purposes —any step toward which would have enabled the theatres to "revise" their admission scale.

When the ticket levy was abolished in 1937, the theatre chains accepted a proposition that admission prices would not be raised to include the former tax, thus passing on the benefit of tax removal to the general public.

That bargain still holds, hence theatre admissions in Ontario are practically "pegged"—until the Provincial government sees a necessity for the ticket assessment for war revenue. In the meantime, theatre prices are not being raised in spite of advancing operating costs because of the war.

Frank Vaughan Now E-U Western District Head

TORONTO—The promotion is announced of Frank Vaughan, branch manager of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., at Vancouver, B. C., to the position of western district manager of this exchange which distributes Universal, Republic and British features in the Dominion. The post is a new one and marks a further development in the organization which was created to succeed Ideal Pictures, Ltd., six years ago.

Vaughan was with Universal Films, Ltd., for many years before its amalgamation with Empire Films, Ltd., to form the present company. For some time he was manager at Calgary, Alta., and was transferred to the Vancouver office on the retirement of J. E. Archer last year.

Harry Paynter, manager of Empire-Universal at Montreal, has been eastern district manager for the past year when he resigned from the Canadian office of Warner Bros. at Toronto.

Peterborough Councillors Annul Photo Restrainer

TORONTO — The city council of Peterborough, Ont., has rescinded the bylaw prohibiting commercial photographers from the streets of the city, except under annual license, because of the discovery that moving picture cameramen and newspaper photographers could not shoot topical pictures under the law. The councillors decided it was better to have the publicity, particularly when a newsreel company wanted pictures of local industrial plants.

Readies "Hardy" Original

HOLLYWOOD—Julien Josephson has been assigned to prepare an untitled original as the next in Metro's "Hardy Family" series.

Hard to Crash Army

TORONTO—Sterling C. Campbell, a technical director of Hollywood, has found it more difficult to crash the Canadian Army than to gain entry to a film studio.

After completing his job on the dialogue of the revised version of "All Quiet on the Western Front," he decided to see the Western Front once more as a combatant and motored to Ontario where he has tried to enlist with six different units but without success so far. Campbell had joined the colors at London, Ont., in 1915 and served with the 18th Battalion in France until he was demobilized in 1919, later spending some months in a military hospital at Toronto.

Campbell has worked in many war and air pictures in the intervening 20 years, including "Wings," "Hell's Angels," the first version of "All Quiet," "Legion of the Condemned," "The Eagle and the Hawk," "Air Circus," "Forced Landing" and "Professional Soldier." He was born in the Canadian city of Charlottetown.

Form Committee to Provide Amusement for Soldiers

TORONTO—Henry L. Nathanson, general manager of Regal Films, Ltd., Toronto, represented the Canadian film industry at a meeting of 50 prominent business men in the Albany Club, Toronto, when the Citizens' Committee for Troops in Training was formed for the purpose of providing amusements and recreational facilities for the soldiers in Canadian barracks under the supervision of Brigadier R. O. Alexander, officer commanding Military District No. 2. The latter pointed out that some of the units were entirely new and did not enjoy the cooperation of long-established auxiliary organizations for the providing of comforts.

A sub-committee is being formed to arrange for screen entertainment at the camps and to supervise the attendance of bodies of troops at theatres in Toronto and other cities on scheduled occasions until next spring when the units will go to summer camps.

Oullahan Is Named E-U Advertising Manager

TORONTO—George Oullahan, originally manager of the accessories department of Canadian Universal and later holding a similar position with Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., has been appointed advertising manager of the company with office at Toronto.

Starting in 1929, Oullahan has been in charge of the distribution of posters and accessories across Canada and has gained a wide friendship among exhibitors throughout the country. He is now in charge of special newspaper publicity of a general nature and advertising campaigns on individual pictures. A recent creation is an advertising folder to augment the press book for each production giving the Canadian angle on publicity, exploitation suggestions, arranged tieups and Canadian prices for available accessories, samples of which are inserted.

On Scots in Hollywood

MONTREAL—Although Hollywood as a motion picture center was founded by Scots, little is heard of the part played by Scotsmen and Scotswomen in Hollywood, because Scottish actors, actresses, directors and technicians are generally referred to as "British" and sometimes as "English." The role they play, however, is important to a degree quite out of proportion to their numbers.

This is revealed by Elsa Buchanan, Scottish film and stage star, who relates her impressions of her fellow-countrymen there. She says the Scots of Hollywood never lose a chance to show their pride in their Scottish birth and celebrate Scottish festivals with enthusiasm. She considers them the backbone not only of the motion picture industry but of Hollywood itself. This is not surprising, for, she relates:

"Hollywood, I was proud to learn, was founded by two Scottish brothers—Alfred and Charles Christie. It is largely due to their initiative that it is what it is today.

"Twenty-eight years ago two young men, Al and Charles Christie, left Canada and their Scottish mother and father to go adventuring. They had the crazy (at least that's what neighbors thought) idea of building studios to make motion pictures.

"During their wanderings Al and Charles came on a place called Hollywood in California, which at that time was mere open country.

"With typical Scottish colonizing instinct they decided there and then that this was the end of their search. They had found the ideal spot to build their motion picture studio.

"Greatly daring, these two Scots laddies started buying up land, chose the sites for their studios and kept the rest. Later, so it is said, they were able to dispose of the remainder at a handsome profit.

"These intrepid Scots opened the first film studio in Hollywood on Oct. 27, 1911. What a day it must have been. How proud they must have felt to see their dreams grow into realities.

"I wonder what they would have thought if they could have peeped into the future and seen how Hollywood would eventually develop into the film metropolis of the world.

"But perhaps they did visualize something of the kind.

"Anyway, Al and Charles started to produce comedies in their new studio, which was little more than a barn. They both agreed that if they could make the public laugh—they had the world at their feet (incidentally, their dictum still holds good today).

"These boys had a marvelous aptitude for picking stars. Among those they are reputed to have discovered were Harold Lloyd, Gloria Swanson, Betty Compton, Colleen Moore and Bebe Daniels.

"Many are world-famous even today. All those lads and lassies were very young, eager and ambitious, and, what was most important, possessed the divine spark of personality. They could really act.

"Naturally their salaries were small to begin with, but Al and Charles saw to it that each had good parts in their pictures. The Christies certainly knew how to pick them.

"During the 15 or more years they made pictures they produced nearly 1,000 comedies—both single reelers and supers. The 'Christie Comedies' in fact, became the rage.

Al produced both the silent and talkie versions of 'Charley's Aunt.' The films went all over the world. They expanded their studios. Then others began to enter the business. Hollywood gradually became the center of the film industry.

"It is a wonderful tribute to these brothers that to this day their methods of making successful pictures still are used.

"Al Christie had an ingenious way of trying out his productions. Before they were finally cut he took his comedies around to a number of small cinemas for a 'sneak preview,' noted the jokes which brought a laugh and those which fell flat. After several showings they went back to the cutting room, and the final versions were then shown to the exhibitors who were to purchase them.

"The same method is still employed, and every motion picture made in Hollywood is previewed several times at small theatres in outlying districts before it is presented to the public.

"What has become of those grand old screen pioneers? Both are still associated with the film industry—Al as a producer and Charles on the business side.

"As a matter of fact, Al, who is often referred to as 'the father of Hollywood,' has just started a new picture."

68 Toronto Houses Hold Extra Holiday Shows

TORONTO—No less than 68 theatres of Toronto, from the big Imperial and Uptown down to the little suburban houses, had special Sunday midnight shows for the Thanksgiving Day weekend, thus indicating another step in the gradual return to good business in the amusement field during the war. It is estimated that approximately 750 employes of these theatres, including projectionists, cashiers, doormen, ushers, janitors, cleaners and other attendants secured extra employment because of the added performances.

A considerable number of local theatres had scheduled midnight shows for Labor Day, but the declaration of war was made on the Sunday before that holiday and theatre patronage was killed for what should have been the first big day of the new season. The October holiday found a different feeling among Canadians generally and business was reported to be very satisfactory, although it did not hit the high marks of previous years.

A Sequel to "Rains"

HOLLYWOOD—Twentieth-Fox is planning a sequel to "The Rains Came." Darryl Zanuck is dickering with Louis Bromfield, author of the first film, to write the screen treatment.

MARITIMES

J. P. O'LOGHLIN, 20th Century-Fox Canadian district manager, spent a couple of days at the Saint John branch recently. Among other things, he stressed the fact that no reductions whatsoever will be made in studio budgets due to the war.

Belle Corber, former booker with Universal at Saint John and now with Regal Films at Montreal, spent her vacation of two weeks visiting her home in Saint John and renewed her many acquaintances on Filmrow.

For several years the Orpheus and Oxford theatres of Halifax were under the management of W. J. Gates but within the past month a change has been made. Gates now is the manager of the Orpheus alone and the Oxford is under the supervision of F. Skinner, formerly employed at the Capitol Theatre.

The Nova Scotia motion picture conciliation board held a meeting in New Glasgow on Thursday, October 12. R. G. March, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, and L. McKenzie, Vitagraph branch manager, were among those attending.

Recent visitors to Filmrow included W. W. O. Fenety of the Gaiety and Capitol theatres, Fredericton, N. B., Jack Butler of the Imperial Theatre, Moncton, N. B. and Joe LeBlanc of the Capitol Theatre, Shediac, N. B.

CBC Statements Reveal Aim to Extend Radio

MONTREAL—From Canadian Broadcasting Corp. statements of policy it is evident that the corporation and Canadian engineers will play a major role in future development in Canada of newer radio forms, such as television, facsimile news and educational broadcasts. At present there are serious engineering, operating and financial problems to be solved in adapting these advances to Canadian use. While television has been publicly and commercially inaugurated in the United States, its limited broadcast horizon and the high cost of the coaxial cable required, impose development curbs yet to be broken.

Preliminary demonstrations of facsimile have been staged in Canada by the CBC and by a Toronto newspaper in connection with this year's Canadian National Exhibition.

Inducement?

TORONTO—The Oriole Theatre, a neighborhood house in North Toronto, recently announced a three and a half hour show in its advertising as an inducement for patronage. The program included "Dodge City" and "Sorority House" as the features; a chapter of the serial, "The Spider's Web," and shorts.

"Escape" to Metro

HOLLYWOOD — Metro has purchased screen rights to "Escape," a story by Ethel Vance on anti-Nazi activities in Germany which ran serially in the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Souvenir Print of Royal Tour Gets to Screens

TORONTO—A short subject that started out to be a souvenir of the visit to Canada of Their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth, with the purpose in mind of presenting the one and only print to the British Monarchs as a tribute from a group of Canadians, has become a theatre release because of the war situation.

The film, dealing with incidents in connection with the Royal Tour, has been called "The Democratic Way" and will shortly be shown in Canadian theatres as a patriotic picture. Scenes of the gigantic parade of the Canadian Corps Reunion in Toronto some months ago have been added as a further stimulant for recruiting while the narrative is of a patriotic nature.

The making of the original picture by professional and amateur photographers in all parts of the Dominion was privately financed by R. S. McLaughlin, president of General Motors of Canada, Ltd.

House Openings Abound Throughout Ontario

TORONTO — The College Theatre at Kitchener, Ont., a unit of the 20th Century Theatres chain headed by N. A. Taylor of Toronto, after extensive rebuilding operations, has been re-opened as the Century Theatre. It has 676 seats.

The new Geneva Theatre, which is being built by L. Gregory at Orillia, Ont., was expected to open during the week of October 16. Gregory has a number of theatres in Hamilton, Leamington and other Ontario points.

Both the Pylon Theatre at Toronto and the Alexander Theatre at Wallaceburg, Ont., are to open during the same week. The Pylon is to be operated by Ray Lewis who recently acquired the Avenue Theatre in North Toronto.

Work on the first theatre at Mitchell, Ont., is being rushed by H. J. Sutherland of St. Mary's, one reason for the speed being the possibility of an early shortage in some building materials because of war's demands.

Offers Midnight Previews

OTTAWA — Don Stapleton, proprietor of the Centre Theatre here, has adopted a new policy for midnight previews whereby an advance showing of a new attraction is presented on the Sunday night previous to regular opening on Wednesday, the pre-release screening taking the form of a Sunday midnight show.

Film Jubilee Plans Shoved Aside

Toronto—Tentative plans for the observance of the golden jubilee of the moving picture business have been shoved aside in Canada because of the war and apparently little or no attempt will be made to work up any special stunts to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the practical introduction of the screen art.

Council Will Continue Film Commendations

OTTAWA—The Canadian Welfare Council, a semi-official agency of Ottawa, will continue to issue its recommendations and comment on current theatrical films during the war, the latest list under the heading of "Motion Pictures the Entire Family Will Like" offering the following suggestions for the guidance of parents and exhibitors in cooperation with Canadian film distributors:

"The Star Maker"—This musical, which is based on the life of Gus Edwards, the man who started many youngsters on their theatrical climb to fame, offers pretty good mass entertainment. Linda Ware, a newcomer, has a lovely voice and some of the children are amusing and capable. Family, particularly juveniles.

"The Under-Pup"—A delightful picture which presents another new youthful singer, Gloria Jean, 11 years of age. Her voice resembles that of Deanna Durbin a great deal. Gloria is a very lovable child. The family.

"The Wizard of Oz"—A dream come true and a very happy two hours of gay fantasy that lifts one out of this troubled world. For all the family, although the Bad Witch may be a bit scary for nervous children.

"Golden Boy"—A moving drama from the stage play by Clifford Odets. Although a prize-fight picture, it stresses the emotional conflict that a hero goes through in choosing between the career as a violinist and as a fighter; it does not glorify the the fighting game. The family.

"The Old Maid"—A powerful woman's picture. The story is not cheerful but it is one that constantly plays upon the emotions. It has been handled so discreetly that it in no way offends one. Adolescents and adults.

"The Women"—A lavish production with plenty of comedy and human appeal. Women will be thrilled by the display of lovely clothes. Adolescents and adults.

"Fifth Avenue Girl"—A good comedy, skillfully performed. However, the romantic side of it is the picture's most unimportant part. The family.

"They Shall Have Music"—This picture stars Jascha Heifetz, world-famous violinist, and will have thrilling appeal for music lovers. However, the plot is rather artificial and disappointing. Most of the action takes place in the tenement districts. The family.

"At the Villa Rosa"—A murder mystery melodrama adapted from the novel by A. E. W. Mason. The story is ingenious and cleverly worked out, and suspense is maintained throughout. Adults and adolescents.

"Confidential Lady"—Romantic comedy-drama of a jilted girl's attempts at revenge. Ben Lyon and Jane Baxter have the leading roles. The family.

"Nurse Edith Cavell"—Supposedly based on facts surrounding the actions and eventual death of Edith Cavell during the World War, it is actually a documentary film. This picture, coming as it does at a time when Europe has been plunged into war, may attract many picture-goers though it is not cheerful entertainment. The family.

"Hero for a Day"—Moderately entertaining, although football is a minor issue in this picture. The family.

"Les Disparus de St. Agil" (French)—All French dialogue with superimposed English subtitles. A fantasy thriller of life in a boys' boarding school in France. Adolescents and adults.

"Un de la Legion" (French)—Comedy drama of the French Foreign Legion starring the famous French actor, Fernandel. There is some authentic desert scenery and the characters are well chosen. The family.

"Heritage" (Short subject)—An outline of the aims and achievements of Prairie Farm Rehabilitation that tells the story of Canada's Western Plains.

"Five Times Five"—Alexander Woollcott spends several days with the Dionne Quintuplets and tells of their daily routine and play. This is by far the most interesting and informative record the screen has given of these five world-famous little girls and is presented naturally and without any attempt at acting. Will be enjoyed by the entire family.

"Autograph Hound" — Donald Duck struts around the studios seeking autographs of the stars. Good. The family.

"Birthplace of Icebergs"—Artistic and impressive photography. Informative narrative by Lowell Thomas. Excellent. Family.

Entertainment Group to Fill In for Festival

MONTREAL—A new group, Montreal Theatre Associates, has been formed to operate during the suspension of the Dominion Drama Festival for the duration of hostilities. At the request of Martha Allan, convener of the Red Cross entertainments for Quebec province, the organization will centralize, prepare and provide entertainments in conjunction with the Red Cross.

At the first meeting of the group, George Simpson of the Royal Bank of Canada Players was elected chairman. Elected to serve on the executive committee were Paul Lieven, chairman of the western Quebec region; Andrew Patterson, secretary of the Festival group; Herbert Whittaker of the 16-30 Club of the Church of the Messiah; Douglass Burns Clarke, of the Sir George Williams College, department of drama; John Mellor of the McGill Players and the Little Theatre of the YMHA; Mrs. E. Colley of the New Theatre Group, and Max Ford of the Sir George Williams College. Mrs. Andrew Patterson was named secretary.

Activities of Montreal Theatre Associates will come under two headings: (1) Entertainment of soldiers, (2) Presentation of public performance for the benefit of the Red Cross.

Starts With "My Son"

HOLLYWOOD—First on Edward Small's new season production schedule is "My Son, My Son," with Brian Aherne and Louis Hayward set for top roles.

"

FROM A LETTER FROM
WESLEY J. LUDWIG
Princeton Theatre, Princeton, Wis.

"I had been wanting to write you about THE BOOKING CHART and express my heartfelt thanks for this fine feature and booking aid but owing to pressing business I was unable to find time to do so. However, I am taking time out now to write you."

"The reason THE BOOKING CHART is of importance to me and I believe to all small theatres is the fact that the exchanges will not supply the smaller theatres with release charts in time to book many of the pictures as early as we want to or would like to. With this chart I step up to the bookers and ask for such and such a picture released at such and such a time and they usually give me a date."

"With this chart we are able to do our booking better and after all that is an important service to any theatre."

"I also wish to take the liberty at this time to thank you for the many fine suggestions I have received in perusing the contents of your journal."

THE *Booking Chart*
A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES
Published regularly in
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry
BOXOFFICE

Warner Bros. (——) **104 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 28, '39**

It will roar its way across the showmen's ledger leaving a trail of black figures and satisfied customers, this lightning-paced action melodrama of the prohibition era, its evils and its laughs. James Cagney is starred at the head of a superior cast and in the type of gangster role which first made him a favorite with the lovers of red-blooded entertainment. The screenplay is a gem of chronological recording of the highlights of that hectic period between the end of the World War and the collapse of the financial bubble in 1929, with outstanding developments and events interwoven with an engrossing yarn concerning the rise and fall of a bootleg bigshot. Produced and directed with meticulous care as to atmosphere and details, the feature will give the younger generation a vivid picture of the period which preceded them. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

James Cagney, Priscilla Lane, Humphrey Bogart, Gladys George, Jeffrey Lynn, Frank McHugh, Paul Kelly.

The Roaring Twenties F

Melodrama

RKO Radio (——) **65 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Cleverly constructed mystery-melodrama, packing more than its share of fast-moving entertainment, this is entirely worthy of consideration as a program feature. Possessing no marquee names, it nevertheless has a competent cast and the screenplay carries through suspensefully to a surprise climax. Kent Taylor, reporter, produces a daily airshow dramatizing late events in the news. Given a wrong tip by a femme newshawk, Linda Hayes, he broadcasts a "guilty" verdict for Morgan Conway, who in reality was acquitted of a charge of murder. Conway promptly slaps a libel suit on Taylor's newspaper. To fight the suit, Taylor digs back into Conway's past, links him to the previous death of a girl listed as a suicide and causes withdrawal of the libel action. Leslie Goodwins directed.

Kent Taylor, Linda Hayes, Lillian Bond, Morgan Conway, Richard Lane, Roger Pryor, Thurston Hall.

Sued for Libel F

Melodrama

Monogram (3802) **84 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 10, '39**

One of the more important offerings from Monogram, as concerns budget, cast, production trappings and exploitability, this prison picture qualifies for a place among the better of the many films that have been built on the penal theme during recent months. The central character, portrayed by Charles Bickford with admirable restraint, is the penitentiary chaplain and the story revolves around his activities and the part he plays in the redemption of his charges, the climax being his heroic and successful efforts to quell a bloody riot among the convicts. Dennis Moore is promising in the supporting spot while Barton MacLane is characteristically satisfactory as the heavy. Directed by William Nigh for associate producer Grant Withers.

Charles Bickford, Barton MacLane, Dennis Moore, Pat Moriarty, George Cleveland, Russell Hopton.

Mutiny in the Big House F

Melodrama

Paramount (3908) **87 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 27, '39**

A faithful adaptation of the Lloyd C. Douglas novel, this unfortunately lacks the compelling punch to put it over as mass entertainment. As a character study, deliberate in treatment, it is well-written and mounted and will probably attract most of its patronage among the more discriminating clientele to whom blood-and-thunder drama is not an entertainment requisite. Akim Tamiroff takes the acting honors as a skillful, caustic surgeon who is an agnostic in matters pertaining to the human soul. Under his wing is John Howard, likewise skilled in the physician's art, who first adheres to the master's beliefs, then deviates to a more warm and human outlook when he falls in love with Dorothy Lamour, a Chinese-born American girl who is Oriental in everything but blood. Frank Borzage directed.

Dorothy Lamour, Akim Tamiroff, John Howard, Judith Barrett, William Collier sr., Victor Varconi, Keye Luke.

Disputed Passage F

Drama

Paramount (3955) **72 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 3, '39**

Senor Hopalong Cassidy goes to South America and returns, unscathed as usual after plenty of hair-raising adventures, with another bell-ringer in the topnotch western series which seems destined to improve with every new addition. Producer Harry Sherman has fortified this one with a better-than-usual supporting cast and other garnishments to make it a solid hit among those who enjoy the best in outdoor actioners. Steffi Duna is probably the most impressive of the many actresses who have been cast in support of the straight-shootin' Cassidy, while Sidney Blackmer is his usual hissable self as the heavy. Hoppy and his buddy find themselves on the pampas where they had delivered a herd of cattle for their employer and where they uncover and defeat a diabolical and murderous plot to rob a wealthy don of his holdings. Directed by Nate Watt.

William Boyd, Russell Hayden, Steffi Duna, Sidney Blackmer, Sidney Toler, Pedro De Cordoba, William Duncan.

Law of the Pampas F

Western

Universal (——) **53 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Hollywood finally got around to making a picture about taxes, and it's not about movie stars, but a western, starring the Universal hope, Bob Baker. This time it's a land grab, on a tax sale, with Forrest Taylor and Glenn Strange as the mobsters trying to beat Fay Shannon out of a ghost town inheritance, hoping to build up a phoney gold strike boom and clip those who bite. Joker is that the old ghost town really sits over a hidden strike, which is being guarded by a man whom everybody thinks is crazy, to be shared later with Fay, who was the daughter of the man's sourdough pal. Original screenplay is by Joseph West, direction by George Waggner. Fleming Allan did the songs. It's a very moderate picture, slated for fair to average business.

Bob Baker, Fay Shannon, Hank Worden, George Cleveland, Forrest Taylor, Glenn Strange, Jack Kirk.

Ghost Town Riders F

Western

RKO Radio (005) **63 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 3, '39**

"Dr. Christian" series gets off to a flying start and bids fair to rank with the best as a topflight audience attraction, if succeeding chapters are able to maintain the warm and human pitch attained in the initialer. Simple, gently philosophical entertainment, the bulk of the credit goes to Jean Hersholt for his vivid artistry in creating a sharply-etched portrait as a placid country practitioner, friend and counselor to all, who once had his chance to seek fame and renounced it to remain a small town doctor. His greatest aim is to see a general hospital constructed in the community. The business-like mayor, Paul Harvey, however, prefers to construct roads and other projects to attract tourists. Not until the mayor's own daughter is seriously injured and saved through Hersholt's skill does Harvey agree to the hospital construction. Bernard Vorhaus directed.

Jean Hersholt, Dorothy Lovett, Robert Baldwin, Enid Bennett, Paul Harvey, Jackie Moran, Patsy Lee Parsons.

Meet Dr. Christian F

Drama

Universal (4058) **58 Minutes** **Rel. Sept. 8, '39**

Universal lines up an imposing array of western talent when it presents Johnny Mack Brown, Bob Baker and Fuzzy Knight in one picture. The central figure, however, is Brown who gets most of the footage, demonstrating his skill in the saddle. It is the usual story about rustlers with Brown cleaning up the gang. Director Al Ray wisely does not take things too seriously and, as a result, scores with a number of laugh situations. For example, the sheriff, who is the head of the gang, is shorn of his sinister qualities, as are the other rustlers. Brown is given a chance to duck the villains in the horse trough and hang from a tree where he lassoes a couple of men out to shoot him. The film keeps moving at a good pace. Attractive Frances Robinson does little.

Johnny Mack Brown, Bob Baker, Fuzzy Knight, Frances Robinson, Bill Cody jr., Russell Simpson.

Desperate Trails F

Western

Columbia (——) **54 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

The message conveyed to the exhibitor by the title of this picture is familiar stuff. But apparently the location is not so docile as he would be led to think. This production, featuring Bill Elliot, and a supporting cast of familiar pug uglies, does the trick all over again, and in exciting and spectacular fashion. As a series it gives promise, for the lead character fails to be trapped by romance. He has "rabbits in his boots," as he says. Rabbits in Elliot's boots will probably mean dough in the till. The story concerns itself with the taming of a prairie town that is overrun with criminals and a frightened population. With much shooting—a couple of gross of blanks are discharged—and the usual riding and fisticuffs, Elliot does his stuff. At the finish the town is fit to live in.

Bill Elliot, Iris Meredith, Dick Curtis, Bub Taylor, James Craig, Stanley Brown, Ethan Allen.

Taming of the West F

Western

SELLING ANGLES: **"Mutiny in the Big House"**

This is based on the prison break of some years ago in a Colorado penitentiary. Dig out newspaper stories concerning it for a smash lobby display. Award the marquee credits to Charles Bickford and Barton MacLane, two renowned "heavies." Build a prison atmosphere into the theatre front and boxoffice. Prepare a layout of prison and police paraphernalia for the lobby. Dress several men in striped uniforms and have them parade about streets in lock step with picture and theatre billing on their backs.

CATCHLINES:

Caged Men in a City of Seething Emotions . . . The Dramatic Story of a Heroic Prison Chaplain Who Quelled a Riot.

To This Chaplain . . . Prison Meant a Chance to Redeem His Charges . . . Even If He Had to Risk His Life.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Ghost Town Riders"**

Bills printed up on tax sale announcements, calling attention to deadline times between start and finish of the film's run, is among unusual manners of attracting attention to this picture. Gold strike content of the film makes good tieup for some giveaway gag—candy or ice cream—to lure kids, billing to be in the nature of a "box-office bonanza," a good picture and an attractive surprise to the first comers.

CATCHLINES:

Entertainment . . . As Sure as Death and Taxes . . . With Bob Baker, the Master of All Three.

Ghost Town Gold . . . The Prospector's Constant Mirage . . . Guarded From Scheming Outlaws by a Crazy Man.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Taming of the West"**

The exhibitor should give this western the usual treatment in his exploitation. Perhaps he might note that it is a rip-roaring story that gives all the required angles of such a production. This should bring in the regular following of Bill Elliot fans. As an additional lure the bait for the feminine clientele should be cast. This fellow Elliot is quite a handsome and fine-riding chap. They'll go for him. Contests of all sorts can be held in conjunction with this one.

CATCHLINES:

"Wild" Bill Came to Town . . . He Saw, Fought and Departed, Leaving the Place Fit to Live In.

A One-Man Pacification . . . "Wild" Bill Single-Handedly Cleans Up Prairie Port and Fills the Jail.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Sued for Libel"**

Arrange a preview showing for newspapermen and radio commentators. Contact a judge, attorney or newsman to speak before some civic club on the libel laws. Stills showing an automobile tumbling over a cliff can be planted with garages and insurance agencies. Prepare throwsheets in the form of "subpoenaes," ordering the bearers to report to the theatre for "jury duty." Give the marquee credits to Kent Taylor and Linda Hayes, a newcomer.

CATCHLINES:

He Thought He Was a Smart Reporter, Until He Pulled the Biggest Boner of His Career . . . And Had to Straighten It Out or Go to Jail.

We Guarantee a Thrill a Second in This Story of a Reporter Who Had to Turn Detective to Keep His Job.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Law of the Pampas"**

William Boyd, as Hopalong Cassidy, probably needs no introduction to your western fans other than his name on the marquee. Stress the new locale in which he finds himself by decorating the lobby in South American style. Dress ushers in the flaring trousers and flat, wide-brimmed Argentine hats and play tango music over the lobby p. a. system. Hire an amateur string band to parade the streets, playing Argentine music. Make the customary bookstore tieups on the Clarence E. Mulford "Hopalong Cassidy" books.

CATCHLINES:

Five Thousand Miles From His Beloved Range . . . Hopalong Cassidy Still Finds the Six-Gun Is Law.

Hopalong Becomes a Friend of Justice on the Great Ranges of the Argentine.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Desperate Trails"**

This is the first of the series which features Brown, Baker and Knight. The new combination should be publicized strongly. Large cutouts of the actors should be placed in the lobby under a banner that displays the title of the film. Teaser snipes and heralds should be distributed well in advance of film. This is a good time of the year to recall the exploits of Brown who used to be an All-American at Alabama. The sports editor of the local paper should be induced to do a feature yarn on Brown.

CATCHLINES:

Battling Buddies . . . Sweeping the Plains in a Cyclone of Thrills and Action.

Three Action Champs . . . To Thrill You in a New Series of Westerns.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Roaring Twenties"**

Conduct a "Roaring Twenties" contest among local collectors for old newspapers, mah jong sets and other objects connected with the era from 1919 to 1929, and work them into a lobby display. Build newspaper advertising along the "Do You Remember When?" line, citing such events as the Armistice, bobbed hair, the Charleston, Lindbergh's flight to Paris and the stock market crash. Give the marquee credits to James Cagney and Priscilla Lane. If a local newspaper carries Mark Hellinger's syndicated column, work out tieups on it, as Hellinger produced the picture.

CATCHLINES:

The Roaring Twenties . . . The Dizziest Decade in America's History . . . Growing More and More Incredible With the Passing Years.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Disputed Passage"**

Capitalize on the tremendous popularity of Lloyd C. Douglas' novels by working out bookstore and library tieups. Construct a compo-board "book" and mount it above the marquee or in the lobby. Invite doctors, nurses, hospital staffs and medical students to attend a special "preview" showing. Dress attendants as nurses and internes. Stage a debate on the question of "faith" healing versus the purely scientific medical viewpoint, which forms the plot of the film.

CATCHLINES:

The Greatest Novel From the Pen of Lloyd C. Douglas Becomes the Picture You Will Never Forget.

The Compelling Story of a Man Made of Iron . . . Who Scorned the Existence of the Human Soul Until a Miracle Made Him Believe.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Meet Dr. Christian"**

As a pre-booking ballyhoo stunt, have theatre attendant go down the aisle calling for "Dr. Christian." Don't neglect to point out that the picture is based on the radio program of the same name, which also has Jean Hersholt as its star. Secure endorsements as to the picture's authenticity from hospital staffs and doctors, showing it to them at a special "preview." Dress attendants as nurses and internes. If there is a Dr. Christian in the community, have him appear as guest of honor.

CATCHLINES:

The Stirring Story of a Man of Medicine . . . Who Will Win Your Heart With His Message of Hope and Mercy.

You'll Like Dr. Christian in This Vivid Picture of Surpassing Tenderness . . . As Big as All Humanity.

Republic (961) **57 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 6, '39**

Law and order, hoof and saddle style, comes to a Caribbean island as a change of menu from the western prairies in a fairly exciting effort. Granted the script strains the imagination, yet the all-purpose action is no more or less than the Saturday matinee fans crave. Sometimes it is not clear just what all the shooting is about, but as long as the Three Mesquiteers are gaining on the enemy there will be few questions. The film is shot through with picturesque mountain terrain and some grand scenic composition. "Native" characters are sprinkled all over with indifferent results. There's very little in the musical end, being confined to a guitar solo and a Spanish dance. The trouble begins when the Mesquiteers attempt to deliver a shipment of horses to the local authorities, who turn around and rob the boys after paying them off. George Sherman directed.

Robert Livingston, Raymond Hatton, Duncan Renaldo, Jacqueline Wells, Howard Hickman.

The Kansas Terrors F — Western

A. L. Rule (SR) **70 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

An eloquent, forceful appeal for peace, particularly timely and therefore potentially profitable in view of current world conditions, this depicts the actual horrors, brutalities and destruction of the last World War as photographed by army signal corp cameramen at the front and behind the lines. A. L. Rule's accomplishment in compiling and editing a mass of material, and his stirring narration, are of the highest order. Every effort should be made, from a civic and patriotic as well as a business standpoint, to create interest in the feature among all types of audiences. In scope, the film rambles from the western to the eastern front, travels down to Italy, shows examples of submarine warfare and delves into sheer horror in its scenes of actual hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches. The entire assemblage bears the stamp of authenticity.

When Germany Surrendered A — Documentary

Trans-Atlantic Films (——) **90 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Except for a few variations, this French film falls into the category of tried and tested drama. Foreign film houses should do fairly well with emphasis thrown on feminine appeal. Corinne Luchaire, who appeared here previously in "Prison Without Bars," is featured. Performances are good. At the outset Miss Luchaire is shot by her sister. The story takes up from that point through the flashback device. Miss Luchaire bears an illegitimate child. Her married sister assumes the mother role. Miss Luchaire's mother instinct is aroused by association with the child. A blackmailing father appears. Miss Luchaire, in a tense set of situations, decides to reveal all. Hence the shooting. Leonid Moguy directed.

The Affair Laffont A — Drama

First National (——) **56 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 21, '39**

Warner's latest contribution to a long list of prison pictures is only mediocre in presentation and cast. It is obviously aimed for class B houses. The less discriminating action-thrill fans will probably overlook a hokum story, which is telegraphically presented, and be carried along by the suspense and excitement generated by the gun and knife play pitched into the picture. Ronald Reagan is listless as a federal agent who becomes a "prisoner" to track down a prison guard at the head of a counterfeiting ring whose base of operations is in the prison's printing plant. Margot Stevenson has little to do as the daughter of a reformed criminal who is killed by his ex-pals in a prison murder. Eddie Foy jr. achieves bright, but unoriginal, humorous touches as a federal man working with Reagan. Terry Morse directed.

Ronald Reagan, Margot Stevenson, Eddie Foy jr., Joe Downing, Charles D. Brown, Elliott Sullivan, Joe King.

Smashing the Money Ring F — Prison Melodrama

Jewel (SR) **70 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

In the final essence, this documentary can be termed a slashing indictment against the war-makers. Yet with all the fine material compiled by Samuel Cummins there are a number of weaknesses that impair the force of its message. Earlier portions of the film are from government archives and show the battlefront scenes and the German U-boat campaign. The land shots are particularly interesting and, if one watches closely, the gruesome aspects of warfare are brought home vividly. The footage is dotted with such bits as a doughboy thumbing his nose at the enemy before going over the top. Editing, however, is poorly done and the commentary by an Englishman detracts greatly. Only when the post-war sequences are shown does the film get the necessary lift.

Why This War A — Documentary

Merit Pictures (SR) **69 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

The expose of phoney spiritualism, always good for a fair amount of interested attendance, is the reason for the production of this film which otherwise falls flat, due to "hammy" performances, stupid dialogue, a familiar story and assorted background properties too apparently faked. The one selling point that must be considered is the appearance of Mme. Harry Houdini, wife of the famous medium exposer, who is carrying out her husband's work in that field. The story concerns a phoney medium who creates an infatuation in an heiress. The girl is loved by a newspaper man. She follows the medium to Egypt and India. At the ripe moment for separating her from her money, the newspaper man intervenes. The atmosphere hardly ever helps the feeble action.

Betty Compson, Robert Fiske, Helene Le Berthon, Arthur Gardner, David Kerman, Robert Fraza.

Mystic Circle Murder F — Spiritualism Expose

Concord Films (SR) **93 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 16, '39**

Harry Baur adds this portrait of the notorious Russian monk to his gallery of vivid historical portraits. Shaping up as dramatic entertainment, it concerns itself chiefly with the outcome of Russia after Rasputin's death at the hands of conspirators. He predicts the chaos which immediately followed the war. In another category, the action recounts Rasputin's mystical and lecherous activities, first in Siberia and later among the cafe society of wartime St. Petersburg. The story follows the familiar pattern laid down elsewhere, wherein he becomes influential at the czar's palace and is later exiled. When he returns and attempts to take up again, he is killed. The performance is what may be expected of a first-rate artist as Baur. There are English titles. Marcel L'Herbier directed.

Rasputin A — Drama

Regal Dist. Corp (SR) **65 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

In quarters where this all-Irish production will undoubtedly get first run bookings there would, on the basis of its premiere at an intimate New York house, appear to be nothing to prevent wide and enthusiastic acceptance. This, in spite of an obvious sub-standard film in most departments where experience and dramatic skill are necessary adjuncts to satisfying story telling. As it shapes up, the story is a rambling affair, something of a comedy of errors. There's an undeniable homey, Irish flavor about the characters and the backgrounds; albeit a wanting supporting cast. Jimmy O'Dea, in the lead role, is an ingratiating comedian. As an itinerant cough mixture vendor who stumbles into a man and woman crook he carries the weight of the piece. Locale is "somewhere" on the border line between northern and southern Ireland. Directed by Harry O'Donovan.

Jimmy O'Dea, Myrette Morven, J. H. Edwin, Hazel Hughes, Ronald Malcomson, Noel Purcell.

Ireland's Border Line A — Comedy

Cathedral Films (SR) **85 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Although not in the same category with what has come to be accepted as film entertainment, this is a thoroughly commendable undertaking as a religious document, treating of Judea during Roman oppression and the rise of Christ, and meriting the support of every sect and creed for the lesson in tolerance it delivers. Well done technically, and invested with good production values, it nevertheless will require different handling from the usual run of product. From a coldly analytical point of view the picture is somewhat slow in its unfolding, perhaps a little too talkative. However, the acting is impressively sincere, the work of John Beal and Maurice Moscovich being particularly fine. Dialogue is completely modern, even a bit slangy at times. Directed by Irving Pichel.

John Beal, Maurice Moscovich, Albert Dekker, Marjorie Cooley, Ian Wolfe, Olaf Hytten, Warren McCullum.

The Great Commandment F — Religious Drama

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Affair Laffont"**

Again the press reviews should be carefully perused for the extraction of the right lines for blowups. Miss Luchaire's previous appearance here in Korda's "Prison Without Bars" deserves all the play it can get in this instance. She is an attractive person and her particular type of beauty is so unusual that big photographic blow-ups, adorning the lobby, should be thought of before and during the showing. Mailing lists to prospective patronage should be stressed.

CATCHLINES:

Mother Love Torn Between Two Stern Realities . . . Blackmail or the Loss of the Man She Loves.

The Plight of Two Sisters Who in Their Endeavor to Cover Their Shame Almost Bring on Tragedy.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Mystic Circle Murder"**

The exploitation of Mme. Houdini deserves the exhibitor's sole interest in his attempt to put this item over. Regardless of the feeble effort he must place before his customers, the mention of the always prevalent campaign to expose fake mediums and their tricks will do much to attract attendance. Of the cast Betty Compson is the only familiar name, but her following is of another day and must be built up again. The opportunity is presented for the creation of eerie props for the lobby and street stunts.

CATCHLINES:

He Attempted to Bring Back the Dead, But Was Foiled by His Own Stupidity.

All the While He Was Fooling Her She Had the Ace Card Up Her Sleeve . . . And Didn't Use It Until It Was Almost Too Late.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Great Commandment"**

Invite members of the clergy to a special showing. In most instances they are almost certain to urge their church members to see and support the picture. Civic support should be enlisted, regardless of religious denominations or beliefs, because of the universal message of peace and good-will which underlies the story. Promote an essay contest among children in Sunday school classes concerning that phase of Biblical history unfolded in the picture.

CATCHLINES:

Brotherly Love and Goodwill . . . The Theme of Better Living Which Must Not Be Forgotten in This Day of International Hatred.

Filmdom's Contribution Toward the Goal of Peace . . . A Stirring Drama of the Times When Brotherly Love Was Scorned.

SELLING ANGLES: **"When Germany Surrendered"**

Because of the current conflict abroad, there is a wealth of material in newspaper headlines and magazine articles comparing the present German state with the country in 1914 to prepare interesting and eye-catching lobby displays. Point out that the picture contains newsreel clips from the last World War never before seen. Invite pacifist, religious and civic societies to attend a showing en masse at reduced rates, and secure their opinions for use in newspaper advertising.

CATCHLINES:

At Last . . . While the World Seethes Again . . . Comes the Real, Uncensored Story of the Last War.

Graphic History . . . As Only the Motion Picture Camera Could Capture It . . . And Never Before Revealed.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Why This War"**

Since the film strongly indicts the war-makers and makes a plea for neutrality, organizations which are fighting for neutrality should be contacted and invited to see the film. Invite leading clergymen in the community and solicit their endorsements. The stills of the war scenes will make an interesting lobby display. They should be placed near the entrance where they can stop passersby. The lobby should be decorated with war implements. An arresting display would have bayonets protruding through the title. A large board should be placed in front of the theatre where latest war bulletins can be posted.

CATCHLINES:

Who Make the Profits When Men March to War?

See the Reason for Civilization's Greatest Crime.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Ireland's Border Line"**

Straightaway your best bet here would be to build interest among your Irish patrons. Any Irish society would cooperate to the extent of lending you a mailing list, which should be thoroughly exhausted in more than one way. A personal letter, pointing out the "all-Irish" aspect of the film, could be the initial effort. This might be followed up with shamrocks and other teasers. There may be a chance of getting bars to feature Irish stout and possibly offering some of the liquid as prizes to the patron guessing the name of the import. Obviously Irish members of the police force should be invited gratis to give their opinion of the jurisdictional differences occurring in the film over police methods.

CATCHLINES:

God Made Ireland—But England's Politician's Divided Her.

Love Laughs at Barriers and Borderlines.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Kansas Terrors"**

You may be able to get some extra boxoffice value here by stressing the new locale. The fact that a bunch of cowboys get into a Latin revolution may provoke some interest outside the juvenile sphere. If you have been using western regalia to dress up ushers, street stunts, etc., this time it might pay to mix it up with uniforms characteristic of foreign republics. You may be able to get the kids to join a contest designed to identify the names of the Mesquiteers and the name of at least one picture they have appeared in. The art used in and around the lobby should point up the Caribbean locale, with ships, haciendas, and native characters playing a prominent part.

CATCHLINES:

A Kansas Cyclone Out of the West Tangles With a Caribbean Tornado.

The Masked Ranger Rides Alone No More.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Smashing the Money Ring"**

Make over the lobby to create a prison atmosphere and "dress in" ushers in grey. Gain cooperation of law enforcement officials by spotting police "flyers" of money counterfeiters at large on lobby display boards. The police department probably will furnish a money expert to tell patrons how to recognize spurious money. Such a tieup should be good for plenty of attention and customers. Ronald Reagan is the best marquee name in a little known cast.

CATCHLINES:

It's a Fight to the Finish When G-Men and a Clever Gang of Counterfeiters Cross Paths.

Boy Doesn't Get Girl . . . But He Does Get a Hot Money Ring Operating From Within Prison Walls.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Rasputin"**

The exhibitor running a house devoted to the exclusive showing of foreign product who is aware of the higher mental level of his patrons, has, in this film, a number of excellent lures for their attendance. Glancing at the screen credits the names of Alfred Neumann and Darius Milhaud appear. The first is the author of the book, "Tragedie Imperiale," on which the film is based and the latter composed the score. Milhaud's reputation in French musical circles rates attention. The tieups and angles are too obvious for mention. And there is Harry Baur, too. It should be easy.

CATCHLINES:

Harry Baur Adds to His Gallery of Vivid Screen Appearances With "Rasputin."

The Unfathomable Figure of Pre-War Russia, Rasputin Is Brought to Life in This Stirring Drama.

Short Subject Reviews

Unusual Occupations

Paramount (No. 1) 11 *Mins.*

This series gets off on the right foot with an entertaining and amusing collection of hobbies and jobs. Sydna Yokely vies with a New Jersey farmer for the "most unusual" honor. The 18-year-old Texas lass, who is pretty enough to be a screen prospect, owns and operates her own ranch. And the way she rides is something to see. Hobby of the New Jersey farmer is a collection of war machinery and equipment used in the last war which the farmer trots out for his own amusement. Then there is Olympe Bradna's collection of miniature furniture, a man who specializes in steel and a Java railroad watchman.

The Red Army

Amkino 23 *Mins.*

Currently in the headlines, the subject of this film rates attention from a wide audience of divergent views. Various mechanized divisions, cavalry, artillery and other corps go through their paces, generally on parade. A sham battle with tanks demonstrates what these war implements are capable of. A high army official is heard speaking to a Cossack squadron. What he has to say about war has an interesting bearing on what is occurring at the present time. That familiar aerial view showing a vast assortment of airplanes is also included in the varied footage.

The Evergreen Empire

(Magic Carpet of Movietone)

20th-Fox 11 *Mins.*

The Pacific northwest is the lumber empire of this continent. In that territory the state of Washington is located prominently. It has great forests and mountain peaks, and fine harbors for the commerce of the world. Pictorially, it is an ideal subject for Cameraman Jack Kuhne who hits the bell with another fine job. The aerial photography is first-rate and there is an exceptional bit which shows how science helps the salmon return to its spawning ground despite the obstacle of dams.

The Aghileen Pinnacles

(Father Hubbard's Alaskan Adventure)

20th-Fox 11 *Mins.*

Geographically speaking, the Aghileen Pinnacles are a certain type of mountain peak that had no business among the Arctic mountains. So Father Hubbard, a noted geologist in his own right, decided to check their origin. The trip up the mountain side is grand screen entertainment. Splendid photography catches the sweep of the awe-inspiring glacier country. The trip is described by Father Hubbard and Lowell Thomas in an interesting conversational fashion. Definitely worthwhile.

SHORT OF THE WEEK

The Day of Rest

(Robert Benchley)

M-G-M 10 Mins.

One of Robert Benchley's assets is that he can take a prosaic subject like spending Sunday at home and rejuvenate it into droll and amusing entertainment. Another is that he does not have to attempt to be funny. He is one of those more fortunate fellows who can be himself and still garner laughs. But when he takes a fling at badminton, Benchley is hilarious. There are a number of other gay bits that will insure the success of this short.



A Failure at Fifty

M-G-M (Miniature) 10 *Mins.*

From the screen and for men of 50 comes a ray of hope. It is Carey's Wilson's intention to prove to men who have lost faith in their own future that there is no telling when life's dreams can be realized. He shows a jobless man of 50 who is about to end his life, but out of the darkness some one stops and tells him a story. It is the story of Abe Lincoln, who after many successive failures, reached the White House after 50. As usual, Wilson's narration is compact and dramatically effective. A "must" for any program."

Getting Your Money's Worth

Lenauer International 10 *Mins.*

It is interesting to observe what a small and intelligent group can do with a subject that strikes close to home. It is also important to audiences since it points out how one can get their money's worth when purchasing a used car. Reputable dealers who stand behind their product will welcome a subject of this kind. People who find it necessary to buy second-hand autos will undoubtedly greet it warmly. The reel is a striking example of how a show subject can be both enlightening and entertaining. Showmen would be wise to spot it prominently. Julian Roffman produced.

Clocking the Jockeys

(Ed Thorgersen's Sports Review)

20th-Fox 11 *Mins.*

A day in the life of the jockey which sports fans will find entertaining. The pastime of horse racing has its legion of followers and a lot depends on the lads that ride the ponies. The jockeys watch their weight more carefully than a chorus girl and indulge in all sorts of physical activity to keep in shape. The camera goes behind the scenes to record what transpires in an interesting fashion. Photography is of the better variety.

The Little Lost Sheep

Columbia (Krazy Kat) 7 *Mins.*

Just another cartoon. Little Bo Peep discovers a little lamb missing from the fold. It is at this very moment that a wolf, disguised in sheep's clothing, is about to perform a mean act. Krazy Kat is enlisted as detective and justice triumphs.

The Building of Boys

Columbia (Happy Hour) 11 *Mins.*

Just as long as big cities have slums and youngsters who grow up in gutters, this splendid subject will have a significant appeal to thinking audiences. The

(Continued on page 88)



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Columbia

Awful Truth, The (Reissue)
Much praise for this one. Quite a few thought it one of the best they ever saw, but old pictures, no matter how good, never do much for me. Even at that, though, business was slightly above average. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

California Frontier
Buck Jones is a pretty fair draw here, though some of the younger boys are backing him down. It draws some of the oldsters. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

Law of the Plains
Starrett and sons of the pioneers are always good. An action house should welcome them. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

Only Angels Have Wings
Nice picture, well received, but a bit overpublicized. Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Family patronage. Population: 7,000. Capacity: 1,000.—W. R. Paarr, DuPage Theatre, Lombard, Ill.

First National

Code of the Secret Service
Dualled with Republic's "Southward, Ho." A pretty good double feature bill, to usual business. First picture better of the two. Rogers needs better stories. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-25-10. Farmer and family patronage. Population: 2,500. Capacity: 450.—H. E. Rehfield, Iowa Theatre, Bloomfield, Ia.

Dark Victory
Fine picture. Real bad print. Small town patronage. Population: 930. Capacity: 350.—Sammie Jackson, Jackson Theatre, Flomaton, Ala.

Kid From Kokomo
May Robson stole the picture. Lots of belly laughs. Good comedy. Business O. K Wed., Thurs. Weather Hot. Admission 25-10. Small town patronage. Population 1,400. Capacity 300.—Lester Meyer, Strand Theatre, Chillicothe, Tex.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever
Just about tops with my audience and many said their best to date. You can't go wrong on the Hardy family and they deserve your best dates. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-25-10. Farmer and family patronage. Population: 2,500. Capacity: 450.—H. E. Rehfield, Iowa Theatre, Bloomfield, Ia.

Maisie
A nice little picture that pleased, but doesn't pack quite the "wallop" that Metro would lead you to believe. Tues., Wed. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 240.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

On Borrowed Time
A picture that is really different. Comments ran from "the best picture I have ever seen" to "I didn't like that at all." It caused a lot of talk pro and con and did average business. I am glad I played it. Wonderful acting by all. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Hot. Rural patronage. Population: 647. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

Pygmalion
Pleased generally, but did have a few adverse comments, but some thought it better than average. Good midweek, but not strong enough for a Sunday date. Wednesday. Weather: Hot. Admission: 30-25-10. Farmer and family patronage. Population: 2,500. Capacity: 450.—H. E. Rehfield, Iowa Theatre, Bloomfield, Ia.

Rose Marie (reissue)
A reissue, but one you should not miss. A wonderful show and a wonderful setting. Business very good. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

San Francisco (reissue)
Another wonderful show which makes me think that a lot of the reissues are better than the new ones. Extremely good performances by the entire cast. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Stronger Than Desire
Good program picture and average bargain night business. Thursday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 30-25-10. Farmer and family patronage. Population: 2,500. Capacity: 450.—H. E. Rehfield, Iowa Theatre, Bloomfield, Ia.

Tarzan Finds a Son!
The best Tarzan picture yet was the opinion of my customers. Pleased everyone and many asked why it had been so long since a Tarzan picture. Tarzan jr. was outstanding. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Hot: Rural patronage. Population: 647. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

Monogram

Across the Plains
As a western star Jack Randall stands up with any of them. The stories are improving and Jack's horse "Rusty" is a good addition. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

Down the Wyoming Trail
Ritter and Randall in Monogram films seem to please here. Wed., Thurs. Population: 500. Capacity: 150.—H. C. Allison, White Cloud Theatre, White Cloud, Mich.

Wolf Call
A nice little picture, however, a little too slow for my trade. Movita's and Carroll's warbling sequences a little too drawn out Tues., Wed. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

Paramount

Gracie Allen Murder Case
Good comedy. Gracie very dumb. Good support. Draw fair. Tues., Wed. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 200.—C. A. Kelly, Rex Theatre, Custer City, Okla.

Invitation to Happiness
Picture over-rated and far fetched. Silly story for Dunne. "Stronger Than Desire" on same program. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Family patronage. Population: 7,000. Capacity: 1,000.—W. R. Paarr, DuPage Theatre, Lombard, Ill.

Lady's From Kentucky, The
This picture failed to draw any more than the average poor program offering, yet the customers were lavish in their praise. I reckon I failed to put it over. Where light comedies are enjoyed this should do much better than it did for me, provided you sell your customers on it. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 240.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

Man About Town
Good. Benny, what happened to your black eye when you first sat down at the breakfast table? It wasn't there when you wiped your face; B. Barnes walked up and you were still wiping face but black eye wasn't there! Small town patronage. Population: 930. Capacity: 350.—Sammie Jackson, Jackson Theatre, Flomaton, Ala.

Never Say Die
A pretty fair picture with a lot of laughs. The boys in the overalls and the kids with their dates thought it was okay. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Hot. Rural patronage. Population: 647. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

RKO Radio

Annabel Takes a Tour
Jack Oakie seems to be slipping in spite of the streamlines. Dualled it with Republic's "Come on Leathernecks" which was the life-saver. Sun., Mon. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

Bachelor Mother
An excellent comedy with plenty of sparkle. The cast is well chosen for their parts and all give good performances. The plot is good and receives the treatment which it

deserves. The picture did extra good business and everyone was pleased. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375.—Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

King Kong (reissue)

This really drew for my house. While the lighting is poor and the fakes were too obvious, my crowd, being none too critical, went for it. Tues., Wed. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

Law West of Tombstone

Double billed with Republic's "Sea Racketeers." While "Sea Racketeers" is only a program filler, "Law West of Tombstone" should have been in color and given publicity. To my notion a nice blending of action, dialogue and humor. Seems to me to be better than "Dodge City." Sun., Mon. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

Love Affair

Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer in a swell love story. This was made silent years ago. Women will go for it, but the men stay home. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Saint in London

Neither of the two succeeding pictures have come up to the first of the series, which was "Saint in New York." "Saint in London" was fair for its type of picture, but it drew only the real devotees type, and there wasn't enough of them. Business below average and no enthusiasm. Wednesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375.—Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

Story of Vernon and Irene Castle

Nice picture if you remember the Castles. Fred and Ginger well teamed. Drew fair. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population 800. Capacity 200.—C. A. Kelley, Rex Theatre, Custer City, Okla.

Republic

Blue Montana Skies

The Gene Autrys are the only ones to make a profit from Republic. The balance of their product might be O. K. if the theatre needed pictures badly. Population 500. Capacity: 150.—H. C. Allison, White Cloud Theatre, White Cloud, Mich.

Higgins Family

Played with Monogram's "Boys Reformatory." Both swell pictures for an action house. Frankie Darro is well liked here. The Gleason family should catch on anywhere. Sun., Mon. Weather Warm. Admission 20-10. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200.—H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

In Old Monterey

Tops in western entertainment. Best cast of any program western I've ever played and ten minutes longer than average western too. Many thanks, Republic. Weather: Good. Small town patronage. Population: 930. Capacity: 350.—Sammie Jackson, Jackson Theatre, Flomaton, Ala.

Rhythm of the Saddle

Autry always good for an action house. Am playing him Sunday and Monday instead of weekends with better results. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Action patronage. Population: 12,000. Capacity: 200. — H. L. Stolzman, Eagle Theatre, Austin, Minn.

20th Century-Fox

Frontier Marshal

Due to an accident to myself of a broken leg I was unable to view this picture, but from boxoffice receipts I would recommend it to be a good buy. Fri., Sat. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Population 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Gorilla, The

When crazier shows are made the Ritz Bros. will make them. A very amusing picture which did fairly good business. Wednesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population 5,500. Capacity: 500.—S. S. Barksdale, DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Second Fiddle

Good, but not so good as previous Henie pictures. Not enough skating seemed to be the patrons' viewpoint. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-25-10. Farmer and family patronage. Population: 2,500. Capacity: 450.—H. E. Rehfield, Iowa Theatre, Bloomfield, Ia.

Story of Alexander Graham Bell

A good picture, but with just about the average draw for this type picture, which means not much. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 240.—J. Foster Bailey, New Theatre, Coffeeville, Miss.

United Artists

Captain Fury

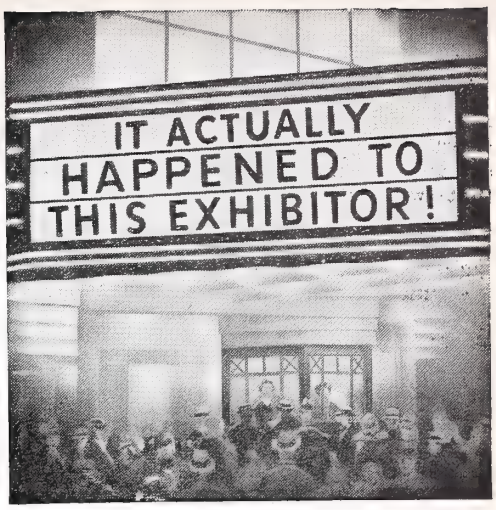
Good action picture. Played with "Bridal Suite." Made good dual. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Family patronage. Population: 7,000. Capacity: 1,000. W. R. Paarr, DuPage Theatre, Lombard, Ill.

Man in the Iron Mask

Fairly good picture that has an historical background to give it some educational value. Too much on the heavy side to have a wide appeal. Too little humor from either the dialogue or the situations, but gives evidence of careful direction and sincere acting. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375. — Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

Man in the Iron Mask

A great show and very well produced: I wish I had more of this kind. Everyone seemed well pleased and a number of people came both nights. Mon., Tues. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500. — J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.



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The Building of Boys

(Continued from page 85)

reel is designed to show the wholesome effort being made by Boys' Clubs throughout the country to foster an environment that will build a better generation of youth. There is drama in the contrast of kids stealing from fruit stands, hitching rides and being influenced with the surroundings that only slums offer, with the purposes, scope and functions of the Boys' Club movement.

Fools Who Made History

Columbia 10½ *Mins.*

There should be wide and genuine interest in this dramatization of incidents leading to the discovery by Charles Goodyear of a process to vulcanize rubber. The playlet is enacted with sincerity and is nicely handled from a production standpoint. The facts of the story ring with authority, as one failure after another seemingly spurs Goodyear to become obsessed with his inventions. Even after discovering a successful process it is stolen by others and Goodyear is shown resorting to court action, with Daniel Webster as his attorney, to retrieve his patents.

One Mother's Family

M-G-M (M-G-M Cartoon) 9 *Mins.*

Animation and humor are cleverly sustained here for one reel and the result is an entertaining cartoon in Technicolor. The tale is about a hen and her brood and the difficulty she has keeping them out of danger. One chick, in particular, proves to be the bane of her existence.

Static in the Attic

Columbia 19 *Mins.*

Lacking cohesion and the sort of material to garner laughs, this comedy starring Walter Catlett is mostly a lot of action that fails to develop the intended results. Dialogue and situations are rather trite and far from original. Catlett's wife and son are giving him a surprise birthday party. Catlett happens to be allergic to radios, so the script calls for and delivers a lot of radio and other incidents that almost bring him to grief with his boss, who is a guest.

Stranger Than Fiction

Universal (No. 67) 9½ *Mins.*

All sorts of odds and ends that will hold the interest of an audience. Here is what the reel contains: a gum collection; a man constructing a miniature White House from discarded mother of pearl knife handles; a legless chap who has learned to skate; a miniature navy game; an Oklahoma farmer who uses a hearse for a family car, and a place where fish hop right into boats.

Set 'Em Up

M-G-M (Pete Smith Specialty) 10 *Mins.*

Pete Smith does it again. A swell reel about bowling that will attract the kegling fans. For form and accuracy, there is Ned Day, American match play champion. For the most amazing trick stunts there is Brooklyn's Andy Varipapa who throws two balls simultaneously down two alleys for strikes. In his repertoire, there are other astounding stunts. Photography, incidentally, is nicely executed.



NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Movietone News, No. 9: French arms move up; Daladier confers with General Gamelin; first pictures in the fighting trenches; Hitler and his troops on the eastern front; final rites for Cardinal Mundelein; premiere of "Hollywood Cavalcade;" Lew Lehr; Yanks sweep series; the Yale and Notre Dame victories.

News of the Day, No. 207: Rumania avenges slain premier; Nazi troops "mop up" Polish cities; French advance on western front; final rites for Cardinal Mundelein; Yanks sweep series; the leading football games.

Paramount News, No. 12: Yanks cop title; neutrality on wings; Panama parley ends; Michigan, Alabama and Oklahoma win.

RKO Pathe News, No. 24: Shifting scenes in Europe; Cardinal Mundelein to final rest; Panama parley ends; Yale and St. Mary's win; Yanks sweep series.

Universal Newsreel, No. 813: French guns pound Nazi ine; pomp marks Cardinal's burial; Yanks sweep series; Alabama, Notre Dame and Oklahoma win.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Movietone News, No. 10: War preparations at Panama Canal; the war front; Dr. Benes works for restoration; Daladier replies to Hitler; Biddle reaches Paris; the rodeo; log-drive; the Futurity; yacht racing; Lew Lehr; football.

News of the Day, No. 208: Panama Canal protected; Tommies reach France; King and Queen inspect Scottish regiment; Iroquois arrives; hat fashions; Carnegie Tech wins; daredevil stunts.

Paramount News, No. 13: Iroquois arrives safely; Hoover sees rebirth of Polish nation; the western front; Panama Canal defenses.

RKO Pathe News, No. 25: Panama Canal defenses; Tommies reach France; Polius dig in on German soil; kid football game; Iroquois arrives safely; Bullitt greets Biddle; Cornell wins.

Universal Newsreel, No. 814: Panama Canal defenses; Iroquois arrives; profit parade in St. Louis; the war in France; the Futurity race; kid's football game; motorcycle hill climb.

Soviet Russia Today

Amkino 77 *Mins.*

In spite of its length this is just a collection of documentary propaganda shorts which reveal industries and educational projects of the U. S. S. R. The dialogue is heavily loaded with praise and exposition of the quantity and quality of what is depicted. The human subjects are frightfully self-conscious. Much of the material has been seen at one time or another and is generally taken for granted.

Going Places

Universal (No. 68) 9 *Mins.*

Bird lovers will enjoy this reel dealing with all kinds of feathered creatures. Parading before the camera are the toucan, macaw, the whooping crane, the cormorants, the pelican, the owl and various members of the cuk family who spend their winters in Florida.

Sheep in the Meadow

20th-Fox (Terry-Toons) 7 *Mins.*

Little Boy Blue rescues Mary's little lamb from the bad wolf. It should be amusing cartoon stuff for children and fairly diverting for the adults.

PRODUCTION INDEX

A CHECK-UP ON FEATURE RELEASES

Releases of 1938-39 for a seven-month period. Production number follows title. Running time in parenthesis. National release date at end of title line. Symbol ❂ indicates a BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography. This department makes no attempt at evaluation of picture quality, but merely presents a thumbnail synopsis.

Columbia

A Woman Is the Judge..9025..(60).....July 10
Drama. A woman judge finds the girl being tried for murder is her daughter who disappeared with her husband 17 years ago, and resigns her post to defend the girl. Frieda Inescort, Otto Kruger, Rochelle Hudson. Director: Nick Grinde.

Awful Truth, The..1072..(92)..reissue.....June 15
Comedy. A gay succession of events begin rolling when hubby steps out on his wife, but objects when she retaliates in like manner. Irene Dunne, Cary Grant, Ralph Bellamy. Director: Leo McCarey.

Behind Prison Gates..9033..(62).....July 28
Melodrama. A detective, posing as a criminal, barely escapes with his life when he enters a prison in the endeavor to track down his bank robber quarry. Brian Donlevy, Jacqueline Wells, Joseph Crehan. Director: Charles Barton.

Beware Spooks!..(..) .....Oct. 24
Comedy. The experiences of Joe E. Brown as a demoted police officer who trails his man to a Spook House concession. Joe E. Brown, Mary Carlisle, Clarence Kolb. Director: Edward Sedgwick.

Blind Alley..9016..(71) .....May 11
Action Drama. A killer escapes from prison, and he and his gang take refuge in the home of a psychology professor, where the latter attempts to analyze the fugitive. Chester Morris, Ralph Bellamy, Ann Dvorak. Director: Charles Vidor.

Blondie Takes a Vacation..9010..(68).....July 20
Comedy. The Bumsteads finds themselves up to their necks in complications when they set out to save a hotel they want to stay in, from bankruptcy. Arthur Lake, Penny Singleton. Director: Frank Strayer.

Clouds Over Europe (formerly "Q" Planes)
9012..(79) .....June 20
Action Drama. Scotland Yard is called upon to solve the disappearance of secret planes, and uncovers an espionage system operating a powerful destructive ray. Laurence Olivier, Valerie Hobson, Ralph Richardson. Director: Tim Whelan.

Coast Guard..9008..(72) .....Aug. 4
Action Drama. Randolph Scott, appealed to by his wife, Frances Dee, saves Ralph Bellamy, who has been lost in a polar blizzard. The coast guard helps things along. Scott, Dee, Bellamy, Walter Connolly. Director: Edward Ludwig.

First Offenders..9030..(61).....Apr. 12
Drama. An attorney, concerned with the problem of rehabilitating wayward youngsters, gives up his job to carry out his idea. Walter Abel, Beverly Roberts, Iris Meredith. Director: Frank McDonald.

Five Little Peppers..9017..(60).....Aug. 22
Comedy Drama. The struggles of the five poverty-stricken Pepper children, until the grandfather of the town's rich boy takes a deep interest in their problems. Edith Fellowes, Ronald Sinclair, Dorothy Ann Seece, Clarence Kolb. Director: Charles Barton.

Golden Boy..9002..(100) .....Sept. 5
Drama. From the Broadway stage hit, of a brilliant boy constantly at war with himself, because of his dream to become a great musician, at the same time showing a flare for fighting. William Holden, Barbara Stanwyck, Adolphe Menjou. Director: Rouben Mamoulian.

Good Girls Go to Paris..9005..(73).....June 30
Comedy. A pretty waitress from Minnesota with a yen to go to Paris, solves her problem in hilarious fashion, lining up four boy friends to take her there. Melvyn Douglas, Joan Blondell, Walter Connolly. Director: Alexander Hall.

Hidden Power..1025..(60) .....Sept. 7
Mystery Drama. A scientist, in his research on a life-saving serum, discovers a new explosive valuable for military use, but sacrifices money and his personal happiness rather than market a chemical destructive to humanity. Jack Holt, Gertrude Michael, Dickie Moore. Director: Lewis D. Collins.

Konga, the Wild Stallion..9034..(65).....Aug. 30
Drama. A murder is committed over a horse, and the guilty man is sent to prison. A romance springs up between the murdered man's daughter and the other's son. Fred Stone, Rochelle Hudson, Robert Warwick, Richard Fiske. Director: Sam Nelson.

Lady and the Mob, The..9013..(65).....Apr. 3
Comedy. A dainty, old lady bank owner sets out to rid the town of racketeers preying on dry cleaners. Fay Bainter, Ida Lupino, Henry Armetta. Director: Ben Stoloff.

Law Comes to Texas..9214..(57).....Apr. 16
Western. Wild Bill Hickok brings law and order to a small Texas town run by a crooked sheriff in cahoots with the judge. Bill Elliott, Veda Ann Borg. Director: Joseph Levering.

Lost Horizon..1071..(118)..reissue .....June 1
Drama. From the James Hilton novel, in which a group of travelers are kidnaped and brought to a strange, Tibetan civilization, where they find happiness and contentment. Ronald Colman, Jane Wyatt, Sam Jaffe, Margo. Director: Frank Capra.

Man From Sundown..9208..(59).....July 15
Western. The rangeland is over-run with a gang notorious for killing any eye-witnesses of its various atrocities, and Starrett, as a ranger, has a trick to turn. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith. Sam Nelson directed.

Man They Could Not Hang, The
9018..(64) .....Aug. 17
Horror Drama. A scientist is sentenced to hang for murder, when the medical student he had tried out his artificial heart invention on, dies. He swears vengeance, and after his death his laboratory assistant revives him, and he turns into a demon of hate, terrorizing those responsible for his hanging. Boris Karloff, Lorna Gray. Director: Nick Grinde.

Missing Daughters..9027..(58) .....May 22
Melodrama. A columnist solves the mystery of a missing girl, who is found murdered, and uncovers the dangerous ring responsible for this and other cases of missing girls. Richard Arlen, Rochelle Hudson, Marian Marsh. Director: C. C. Coleman jr.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington..1101..(125) Oct. 19
Comedy Drama. A young politician is sent to replace a deceased senator in Washington, unaware that he is being made the puppet of a corrupt political gang. His secretary finally puts him wise, and then he takes things in his own hands. Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Claude Rains, Edward Arnold. Director: Frank Capra.

Only Angels Have Wings..9001..(122)....May 25
Action Drama. A hard-boiled manager of a South American aviation line finds love and adventure in the air. Cary Grant, Jean Arthur, Richard Barthelmess. Director: Howard Hawks.

Outpost of the Mounties..1201..(63).....Sept. 14
Western. A Royal Mounted is forced to arrest his sweetheart's brother for murder, but later learns it is a frameup and rounds up the guilty parties. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Stanley Brown. Director: C. C. Coleman jr.

Outside These Walls..9031..(61).....May 4
Drama. Released from prison, a young man finds employment closed to him because of his past. With the help of the Warden he starts a newspaper, and again fights to prove his innocence when someone implicates him in a robbery. Michael Whalen, Dolores Costello, Virginia Weidler. Director: Raymond B. McCarey.

Parents on Trial..9032..(57).....June 29
Drama. A plea for patience and understanding by parents, especially in cases involving adolescent romances and elopements. Jean Parker, Johnny Downs, Noah Beery jr. Director: Sam Nelson.

Riders of Black River..9209..(59).....Aug. 23
Western. Starrett and his friends round up a gang of rustlers who had murdered his young brother. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Sons of the Pioneers. Director: Norman Deming.

Scandal Sheet..(..) .....Oct. 16
Drama. The publisher of a tabloid which prints other people's scandals is in a tough spot when scandal faces him, and he goes to jail on a murder charge rather than print the truth which would clear him. Otto Kruger, Ona Munson. Director: Nick Grinde.

Spoilers of the Range..9206..(58).....Apr. 27
Western. Charles Starrett helps the ranchers recover the money stolen from them which was to pay for a new dam. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith. Director: C. C. Coleman jr.

Those High Grey Walls..1015..(82).....Sept. 21
Drama. The story of what happens to the men in white who become prison doctors. Walter Connolly, Onslow Stevens. Director: Charles Vidor.

Trapped in the Sky..9024..(61) .....June 1
Action Drama. Portrays the efforts of a spy ring to destroy a new airplane development by the U. S. Army. Jack Holt, C. Henry Gordon, Katherine DeMille. Director: Lewis D. Collins.

U-Boat 29..1010..(77) .....Oct. 7
Action Drama. A German U-boat commander is tripped up in trying to secure secret information on British naval maneuvers. The underlying trend of the story is an indictment of mass murder, war or otherwise. Conrad Veidt, Valerie Hobson. Director: Michael Powell.

Western Caravans (formerly Arizona Cowboy)
9207..(58) .....June 15
Western. A sheriff prevents trouble that threatens when government settlers arrive to take up their claims. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Russell Simpson. Director: Sam Nelson.

Whispering Enemies..9023..(63).....Mar. 24
Action Drama. A cosmetic manufacturer is forced into bankruptcy when a rival concern launches a whispering campaign against his product. He retaliates in a manner that gets him in trouble with the law. Jack Holt, Dolores Costello. Director: Lewis D. Collins.

First National

Angels Wash Their Faces..367..(96).....Aug. 26
Drama. Racketeers start a series of neighborhood fires, and a lad with a reform school record is blamed. When "Sleepy" dies in a fire, the Dead End Kids step in and help the D.A. get their men. Ann Sheridan, Frankie Thomas, Dead End Kids. Director: Ray Enright.

Code of the Secret Service..374..(62).....May 27
Action Drama. The secret service trail a band of counterfeiters operating from an old monastery in Mexico. Ronald Reagan, Roselle Towne, Moroni Olsen. Director: Noel Smith.

Confessions of a Nazi Spy..353..(102).....May 6
Action Drama. Based on Leon G. Turrou's articles dealing with the activities of the Nazi spy ring in America. Edward G. Robinson, Paul Lukas, Francis Lederer. Director: Anatole Litvak.

Cowboy Quarterback..366..(56) .....July 29
Comedy. A Montana cowboy sets a professional football league on fire until he gets mixed up with a couple of city slickers. Bert Wheeler, Marie Wilson. Director: Noel Smith.

Dark Victory..354..(106) .....Apr. 22
Drama. A spoiled, flippant millionairess learns from her doctor-husband that her life is limited to months and that blindness will be the warning sign. Bette Davis, George Brent, Geraldine Fitzgerald. Director: Edmund Goulding.

Daughters Courageous..360..(107) .....July 22
Drama. A deserted wife, about to re-marry, is confronted by her returned husband. She, however, goes ahead with her plans and also manages to save her daughter from erring as she did. John Garfield, Claude Rains, Jeffrey Lynn, Fay Bainter. Director: Michael Curtiz.

Dust Be My Destiny..(88) .....Sept. 16
Drama. A poignant story of a boy and girl-wife who battle against almost insurmountable obstacles for their share of justice and a place in the world. John Garfield, Priscilla Lane, Alan Hale. Director: Lewis Seiler.

Each Dawn I Die..356..(92).....Aug. 19
Drama. A newspaper reporter is framed on a manslaughter charge for exposing a crooked district attorney who later becomes governor. James Cagney, George Raft, Jane Bryan. Director: William Keighley.

Espionage Agent..462..(80) .....Sept. 30
Melodrama. How America's counter-espionage system intends to keep spies out of the U. S. Joel McCrea, Brenda Marshall. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Hobby Family, The..376..(54) .....Aug. 26
Comedy Drama. A family turns its hobbies into useful service when a forest fire breaks out. Sonny uses his amateur broadcasting unit to summon help, and father gets a shot of the pyromaniac responsible for the fire. Irene Rich, Henry O'Neill, Jean Sharon, Jackie Moran. Director: William McGann.

Kid From Kokomo..363..(92) .....June 24
Action Drama. A country orphan boy becomes heavyweight champion through the efforts of a fight promoter and the motherly affection bestowed upon him by an aging erstwhile actress. Pat O'Brien, Wayne Morris, Joan Blondell, May Robson. Director: Lewis Seiler.

Man Who Dared, The (formerly I Am Not Afraid)..375..(60) .....June 3
Melodrama. A remake of "The Star Witness," in which an aging Spanish war veteran wipes out a gang of racketeers who try to intimidate him at a grand jury hearing. Charley Grapewin, Jane Bryan. Director: Crane Wilbur.

No Place to Go 469..(57) .....Sept. 23
Comedy Drama. The problem of children in taking care of an aged parent who can't get along with them. Gloria Dickson, Dennis Morgan, Fred Stone. Director: Terry Morse.

Old Maid, The..452..(95) .....Sept. 2
Drama. A dramatization of mother love and sacrifice in this story of an old maid whose child grows up unaware that the woman she calls "aunt" in her own mother. Bette Davis, Miriam Hopkins, George Brent. Director: Edmund Goulding.

Sweepstakes Winner..373..(59) .....Apr. 29
Melodrama. A gullible blonde is taken in by a couple of race horse phonies, but beginners luck aids her in winning the sweepstakes. Marie Wilson, Johnnie Davis, Allen Jenkins, Charles Foy. Director: William McGann.

You Can't Get Away With Murder..364 (78) .....May 20
Action Drama. A boy of the slums pals around with a police character, who kills a pawnbroker, for which murder his sister's patrolman fiance is charged. Humphrey Bogart, Gale Page, Billy Halop, Harvey Stephens. Director: Lewis Seiler.

Gaumont British

Pagliacci..(78) .....
Musical Drama. Based on the famous opera, "Il Pagliacci," in which a jealous husband kills his unfaithful wife and her lover. Richard Tauber, Steffi Duna. Director: Karl Grune.

Grand National

Exile Express..301..(70) .....May 13
Drama. The chemist a girl works for is found dead and she is ordered deported. A reporter follows the girl, rescues her from abductors, and gets the story and the girl. Anna Sten, Alan Marshal. Director: Otis Garrett.

Frontier Scout..325..(62) .....Oct. 21
Western. A western with a Civil War background, in which Wild Bill Hickok as a Kansas town marshal saves his friend's cattle-commission house from cattle rustlers. George Houston, Al St. John, Dave O'Brien. Director: Sam Newfield.

Panama Patrol..314..(69) .....May 20
Action Drama. Uncle Sam's Cipher Bureau intercepts a note which leads to the uncovering of foreign spies operating in the Panama Canal zone. Leon Ames, Charlotte Wynters, Abner Biberman. Director: Charles Lamont.

Singing Cowgirl (formerly Lady Buckaroo) W1-3..(57) .....May 31
Western. A scheming lawyer discovers gold on an adjoining ranch, has the couple who owns it killed but is trapped when he tries to do away with the child. Dorothy Page, David O'Brien. Director: Samuel Diege.

Six-Gun Rhythm..W1-19..(57) .....May 13
Western. A college football hero returns to his ranch to find his father murdered and the murderers ruling the countryside. His football pals lend a hand and they clean up the mob. Tex Fletcher, Joan Barclay. Director: Sam Newfield.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever..944..(87)..July 21
Comedy. Mickey, as the hero of the annual high school play, manages to fall in love with the dramatics instructor, an infatuation that lasts clear up until a "man to man" talk with the judge. Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Cecilia Parker. Director: W. S. Van Dyke II.

At the Circus..8..(85) .....Oct. 20
Comedy. The Marx Brothers put on a hilarious show to help a disinherited playboy raise the money in 24 hours to keep from losing his circus. Marx Bros., Florence Rice, Kenny Baker. Director: Eddie Buzzell.

Blackmail..5..(79) .....Sept. 8
Melodrama. An innocent fugitive from a chain gang, is blackmailed by the guilty party until he finally tricks the latter into a confession. Edward G. Robinson, Ruth Hussey, Gene Lockhart, Bobs Watson. Director: H. C. Potter.

Bridal Suite (formerly Maiden Voyage) 937..(69) .....May 26
Comedy. A spoiled playboy, after dodging his wedding three times, finally settles down when he falls in love with a maid in Switzerland. Annabella, Robert Young, Walter Connolly, Billie Burke. Director: William Thiele.

Broadway Serenade..931..(113) .....Apr. 7
Drama with Music. A success vs. marriage vs. career combination, in this story of a struggling song composer whose wife becomes a prima donna, which ultimately leads to their estrangement. Jeanette MacDonald, Lew Ayres, Frank Morgan. Director: Robert Z. Leonard.

Calling Dr. Kildare..932..(86) .....Apr. 28
Drama. A doctor's assistant in a clinic in a tenement district becomes involved in a murder case when he keeps secret a call he makes to help a wounded boy. Facing disgrace, he sets about to absolve the boy and to clear his own name. Lionel Barrymore, Lew Ayres, Lana Turner, Lynne Carver. Director: Harold S. Bucquet.

Dancing Co-Ed..3..(81) .....Sept. 29
Comedy Drama. The jitterbug craze breaks out when a professional dancer is planted as a co-ed in a college to insure her winning a national dance contest sponsored by a motion picture studio. Lana Turner, Richard Carlson, Artie Shaw and his band. Director: S. Sylvan Simon.

Fast and Furious..6..(73) .....Oct. 6
Comedy. A young married couple vacationing at a seaside resort turn amateur sleuths when a promoter of a beauty pageant is murdered and their friend is falsely accused. They are almost killed themselves before the unusual solution to the mystery is cleared. Franchot Tone, Ann Sothern. Director: Busby Berkeley.

Goodbye, Mr. Chips..945..(114) .....July 28
Drama. A schoolmaster becomes headmaster through the inspiration and love of his young wife which carries him to success even after her death. Robert Donat, Greer Garson. Director: Sam Wood.

Hardys Ride High, The..934..(81) .....Apr. 21
Comedy. The Hardys are about to come into a large inheritance, but evidence is found to disprove their rights, and the family settles down to normal living once more. Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Fay Holden, Cecilia Parker. Director: George B. Seitz.

It's a Wonderful World..936..(86) .....May 19
Comedy. A private detective, assigned to guard a millionaire playboy, finds himself trying to solve a murder to keep his boss from going to the electric chair for the crime. Claudette Colbert, James Stewart, Ernest Truex. Director: W. S. Van Dyke II.

Kid From Texas, The..929..(70) .....Apr. 14
Romantic Comedy. A Texas cowhand shows society back east a few fancy ways of playing polo. Dennis O'Keefe, Florence Rice. Director: S. Sylvan Simon.

Lady of the Tropics..947..(91) .....Aug. 11
Drama. Torrid love story of the "never-the-twain-shall-meet" variety. Robert Taylor, Hedy Lamarr, Joseph Schildkraut. Director: Jack Conway.

Lucky Night..933..(82) .....May 5
Comedy. A bored daughter of wealth meets a young man on a park bench, and after embarking on a night in search of excitement, they wind up married. But when the spirit of excitement dies down, the marriage is threatened. Myrna Loy, Robert Taylor. Director: Norman Taurog.

Maisie..940..(74) .....June 23
Comedy. A showgirl, stranded in Wyoming, gets a job on a cattle ranch, and shows the woman-hating foreman a few tricks of her own. Robert Young, Ann Sothern. Director: Edwin L. Marin.

Miracles for Sale..946..(70) .....Aug. 4
Mystery-Drama. Called upon to expose a quack ghost-chaser, a young magician soon finds himself in the midst of a pair of baffling murders. Robert Young, Florence Rice, Henry Hull. Director: Tay Garnett.

On Borrowed Time..942..(99) ◎ .....July 7
Drama. The story of a beloved grandfather who fights death to keep the grandson he adores from the clutches of a scheming aunt. Lionel Barrymore, Bobs Watson, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Beulah Bondi. Director: Harold S. Bucquet.

6,000 Enemies..938..(61) .....June 9
Melodrama. A hardboiled district attorney who sent scores of framed men to prison is himself framed and put behind the bars with 6,000 enemy inmates plotting against him. Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Paul Kelly, Harold Huber. Director: George B. Seitz.

Stronger Than Desire..941..(78) .....June 30
Drama. Remake of "Evelyn Prentice" in which a brilliant criminal lawyer learns his wife is involved in a murder, through the reflection in the eye of a snapshot of the murdered man. Virginia Bruce, Walter Pidgeon. Director: Leslie Fenton.

Tarzan Finds a Son!..939..(81) .....June 16
Action Drama. The King of the Jungle returns to share his glory with the crown prince of Tarzania. Johnny Weissmuller, Maureen O'Sullivan, John Sheffield. Director: Richard Thorpe.

Tell No Tales..935..(69) .....May 12
Action Drama. A newspaperman, into whose hands falls a hundred-dollar bill that is part of the ransom money paid in a kidnapping, trails its source, and at each step a drama is uncovered which involves a group of individuals through whose hands the money has passed. Melvyn Douglas, Louise Platt, Douglas Dumbrille. Director: Leslie Fenton.

These Glamour Girls..948..(79) .....Aug. 18
Comedy Drama. A taxi dancer shows a few snobbish, socialite glamour girls how people behave on her side of the tracks. Lana Turner, Lew Ayres, Tom Brown. Director: S. Sylvan Simon.

They All Come Out..943..(70) .....July 14
Drama. Authentic shots of the interiors and system of the Federal Bureau of Prisons form the background of this story of a hungry, ragged youth who aligned himself with a gang of criminals and is sent to a reformatory. Rita Johnson, Tom Neal. Director: Jacques Tourneur.

Thunder Afloat..4..(94) .....Sept. 15
Drama. Enlisting for subchaser duty during the world war, the hero is reduced to an ordinary seaman for insubordination. He reinstates himself when an enemy boat sinks their ship and he saves the lives of those on board. Wallace Beery, Chester Morris, Virginia Grey. Director: George Seitz.

Wizard of Oz..949..(102) ◎ .....Aug. 25
Musical Fantasy. From Frank L. Baum's famous fairy tale of a little Kansas girl swept to the Emerald City of Oz by a cyclone, and portrayed on the screen in Technicolor, with lavish scenes and lilting songs. Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Frank Morgan. Director: Victor Fleming.

Women, The..1..(134) .....Sept. 1
Comedy Drama. A blend of satire, sentiment and comedy in this story of a wife who turned heartbreak into happiness, when she found her "friends" were trying to ruin her future. Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell. Director: George Cukor.

Monogram

Across the Plains (formerly Riders of the Rio Grande)..3855..(53) .....June 1
Western. Two brothers are separated in childhood, one is reared by Indians, the other by renegades. The first swears vengeance on the renegades, not knowing that his brother is at the head when their paths cross years later. Jack Randall, Dennis Moore, Joyce Bryant. Director: Spencer Bennett.

Boys' Reformatory..3820..(61) .....May 1
Action Drama. A young lad takes the rap so that his buddy can stay out of the reformatory and save his face with his mother. Frankie Darro, Grant Withers. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Danger Flight..3816..(..) .....Oct. 25
Action Drama. A loyal air pilot saves the company payroll from gangsters in a thrilling sky battle. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone, Tommie Baker. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Down the Wyoming Trail..3864..(62) .....May 18
Western. A ranch foreman dresses as Santa Claus to capture a cattle rustler. Tex Ritter, Mary Brodell, Horace Murphy, Charles King. Director: Al Herman.

Fight for Peace..(68) .....Sept. 30
Documentary. Newsreel shots of international affairs dating from the World War to the present. Includes events such as the Russian revolution, the rise of Fascism and Nazism, the Spanish Civil War, and the Sino-Japanese outbreak. Narrated by David Ross. Produced by Warwick Pictures.

Girl From Rio..3825..(62) .....Aug. 15
Musical Comedy. A South American singer comes to New York to save her brother from a false arrest. A job in a night club leads her to the owner and his conviction as the man who framed her brother. Movita, Warren Hull. Director: Lambert Hillyer.

Irish Luck..3826..(61) .....Aug. 22
Melodrama. A bellhop with a yen to be a detective gets his chance when he solves a baffling murder committed in the hotel. Frankie Darro, Dick Purcell. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Man From Texas..3865..(60) .....July 21
Western. A railroad trouble shooter protects New Mexico ranchers from the inroads of a land-gathering schemer. Tex Ritter, Charles B. Wood. Director: Al Herman.

Mr. Wong in Chinatown..3807..(70) .....Aug. 1
Mystery. Wong captures the killer of a Chinese princess, who was a guest in his own house, while on a mission to purchase airplanes for her brother's province. Boris Karloff, Grant

Withers, Marjorie Reynolds. Director: William Nigh.

Mutiny in the Big House..3803..(..).....**Oct. 10**
Drama. A protege of a prison chaplain is forced to participate in a prison break, but comes to the rescue of the chaplain and saves his life, thereby winning a pardon. Charles Bickford, Barton McLane, Dennis Moore. Director: William Nigh.

Oklahoma Terror..3856..(52) .....**Aug. 25**
Western. A cowboy avenges the murder of his father, and with a vigilante group mops up a western town steeped in crime and graft. Jack Randall, Al St. John, Virginia Carroll. Director: Spencer Bennett.

Riders of Destiny..Reissue..(..).....**Oct. 20**
Western. A secret service man saves the ranchers from an unscrupulous gang seeking to wrest their land from them by withholding water rights. John Wayne, Cecilia Parker. Director: R. N. Bradbury.

Riders of the Frontier..3866..(58).....**Aug. 16**
Western. Tex saves the girl ranch owner from the schemes of her ranch boss. Tex Ritter. Director: Spencer Bennet.

Should a Girl Marry? (formerly Girl From Nowhere)..3823..(57) .....**June 10**
Melodrama. Unaware that she was born in prison, a young bride is victim of a blackmail plot being aligned against her. But the blackmailer's wife prevents the plot from taking form. Anne Nagel, Warren Hull, Lester Mathews, Mayo Methot. Director: Lambert Hillyer.

Sky Patrol..3815..(61) .....**Sept. 12**
Action Drama. A "Tailspin Tommy" picture, in which a youth overcomes a phobia of firing guns, when he joins the U. S. Army pilots to aid in capturing smugglers and spies. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone, Jackie Coogan. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Starlight Over Texas..3859..(59).....**Sept. 7**
Western. The first in the series of eight prairie operas Monogram will make. Story concerns a Texas ranger in pursuit of cattle rustlers. Tex Ritter. Director: Al Herman.

Streets of New York..3802..(73).....**Apr. 12**
Drama. A lad of the slums sets up Abraham Lincoln as his ideal and strives to become a lawyer in the face of poverty and a gangster brother. Jackie Cooper, Martin Spellman, George Irving. Director: William Nigh.

Stunt Pilot..3814..(62) .....**July 1**
Action Drama. Second of the "Tailspin Tommy" series. A stunt pilot for a motion picture company, while making a war film, is involved in a murder mystery when real bullets are substituted for blanks and he innocently kills another pilot. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone. Director: George Waggner.

Undercover Agent..3824..(56) .....**Apr. 5**
Melodrama. A postal inspector finds the party behind a counterfeit sweepstakes ticket racket, thereby clearing his girl's father of the charge. Russell Gleason, Shirley Deane, J. M. Kerrigan. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Wanted by Scotland Yard..3829..(62).....**Apr. 19**
Melodrama. An ex-convict is framed into going back into a criminal career when he is led to believe his sweetheart has betrayed him. James Stephenson, Betty Lynne. Director: Norman Lee.

Wolf Call..3813..(65) .....**May 22**
Action Drama. Adapted from Jack London's novel, of a New York playboy whose father, in order to make a man of him, sends him into the Northern wilds to operate a radium mine. John Carroll, Movita. Director: George Waggner.

Paramount

Back Door to Heaven..3833..(85) .....**Apr. 21**
Drama. Five people in the same graduating class meet ten years later as a lawyer, a night club dancer, a bank president, a dishonored ship's captain, and a fugitive from the law. Wallace Ford, Aline McMahon, Stuart Erwin, Patricia Ellis. Director: Wm. K. Howard.

Beau Geste..3902..(114) .....**Sept. 15**
Drama. Brotherly love and high adventure in the French Foreign Legion are vividly portrayed in this story adapted from Percival Wren's best seller and silent film of a decade ago. Gary Cooper, Ray Milland, Brian Donlevy. Director: William A. Wellman.

Bulldog Drummond's Bride..3844..(57)....**June 30**
Melodrama. Drummond finally marries his fiancee, despite interruptions by a bank robbery and a midnight murder. John Howard, Heather Angel. Director: James Hogan.

Bulldog Drummond's Secret Police..3831..(55) .....**Apr. 14**
Melodrama. A valuable King's treasure is lost, and Drummond unearths a torture chamber in the secret passages of Rockingham Towers, and murder, explosions and horror prevail until the mystery is solved. John Howard, Heather Angel, Reginald Denny, E. E. Clive. Director: James Hogan.

Death of a Champion..3901..(66) .....**Sept. 1**
Melodrama. A book salesman gets himself involved in three murders at a society dog show. Lynne Overman, Robert Paige, Virginia Dale. Director: Robert Florey.

Disputed Passage..3908..(..) .....**Oct. 27**
Drama. From the Lloyd C. Douglas novel of two doctors and a girl, in which one doctor sees his God as Science. Dorothy Lamour, Akim Tamiroff, John Howard. Director: Frank Borzage.

Gracie Allen Murder Case..3839..(75).....**June 2**
Comedy. Gracie sends the wrong man to jail, the police to an insane asylum and falls in love with the murderers, before she and Philo Vance solve a murder mystery. Gracie Allen, Warren William, Kent Taylor, Ellen Drew. Director: Alfred E. Green.

Grand Jury Secrets..3842..(68).....**June 23**
Melodrama. Two brothers, one a star reporter and the other, an assistant district attorney, fight against each other for honors and scoops. John Howard, Porter Hall, Gail Patrick. Director: James Hogan.

Heritage of the Desert..3843..(73) .....**June 23**
Western. A city-bred lad matches fists and wits with land thieves who try to deprive him of a ranch he inherits. Donald Woods, Evelyn Venable, Robert Barrat, Sidney Toler. Director: Lesley Selander.

Honeymoon in Bali..3904..(96).....**Sept. 29**
Comedy Drama. A fellow who knows what he wants meets a girl who doesn't know what she wants, but a tropic island decides them both. Fred MacMurray, Madeleine Carroll. Director: Edward H. Griffith.

Hotel Imperial..3836..(80) .....**May 12**
Drama. A war drama of a young woman who, in search of an officer responsible for her sister's suicide, falls in love with the man she hates. Isa Miranda, Ray Milland, Gene Lockhart, Reginald Owen. Director: Robert Florey.

I'm From Missouri..3830..(77).....**Apr. 7**
Comedy. Burns goes to London to interest the British army in his thoroughbred mules, and meets stiff competition when a tractor mogul tries to sell the government calvary tanks. Bob Burns, Gladys George, Gene Lockhart, Judith Barrett. Director: Theodore Reed.

Invitation to Happiness..3841..(99).....**June 16**
Drama. A low-brow prize fighter marries a high-brow girl. He loses the world's heavyweight championship and his wife, but wins the latter back again. Fred MacMurray, Irene Dunne, Charlie Ruggles. Director: Wesley Ruggles.

Island of Lost Men..3848..(64).....**July 28**
Drama. A crazed Eurasian, who has set up a kingdom of savages and outcast whites is foiled by the daughter of a Chinese general he had robbed and left to die. Anna May Wong, J. Carrol Naish. Kurt Neumann directed.

Jamaica Inn..3906..(106) .....**Oct. 13**
Costume Melodrama. A respected British country squire and local justice of the peace, turns out to be the power behind a blood-curdling crew of bandits. Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Hara, Elsa Lanchester, Leslie Banks. Director: Alfred Hitchcock.

Lady's From Kentucky, The..3834..(77)..**Apr. 28**
Comedy Drama. A hard-boiled bookmaker learns the real meaning of sportsmanship when he falls in love with a Kentucky belle. George Raft, Ellen Drew. Director: Alexander Hall.

Magnificent Fraud..3847..(78) .....**July 21**
Action Drama. An actor masquerading as the president of a Latin American republic, at the behest of conspirators, gives his life for a democratic government. Akim Tamiroff, Lloyd Nolan, Patricia Morison. Director: Robert Florey.

Man About Town..3845..(85).....**July 7**
Musical. A shy producer, in love with his star who is unaware of the fact, creates some hilarious situations when he pretends to be a gay Casanova. Jack Benny, Dorothy Lamour, Edward Arnold. Director: Mark Sandrich.

Million Dollar Legs..3846..(63).....**July 14**
Comedy With Music. A bunch of college kids put their school on the athletic map in defiance of the wishes of the founder. Betty Grable, Jackie Coogan, John Hartley, Donald O'Connor. Director: Nick Grinde.

Never Say Die..3832..(80) .....**Apr. 14**
Comedy With Music. A man with 30 days to live marries an heiress who is running away from a fortune hunter. Martha Raye, Bob Hope. Director: Elliott Nugent.

Night Work..3849..(61) .....**Aug. 4**
Comedy. A pair of foster parents prove their mettle when they save their adopted son from falling off a building, thereby having the adoption approved by the lad's steeplejack grandfather. Mary Boland, Charlie Ruggles, Donald O'Connor. Director: George Archainbaud.

$1,000 a Touchdown..3903..(71).....**Sept. 22**
Comedy. A frustrated Shakespearean actor reads a book on football and organizes the world's greatest eleven to save the mortgage on the college. Joe E. Brown, Martha Raye. Director: James Hogan.

Our Leading Citizen..3850..(90).....**Aug. 11**
Drama. A seat in Congress is the reward of a kindly lawyer who extricates his home town from a series of labor-capital-isms strifes. Bob Burns, Susan Hayward. Director: Alfred Santell.

Range War..3954..(66) .....**Sept. 8**
Western. Hopalong aids the ranchers who, while constructing a railroad trunk line for shipping their cattle, are victimized by an unscrupulous land-holder who raises the toll for use of his thoroughfare. William Boyd, Russell Hayden. Director: Lesley Selander.

Renegade Trail..3859..(58) .....**Aug. 18**
Western. Hopalong breaks up a gang of rustlers, at the same time aiding a woman rancher whose convict husband returns with threats to disclose his identity to his son who believes him dead. William Boyd, Russell Hayden, Russell Hopton, Charlotte Wynters. Director: Lesley Selander.

Some Like It Hot..3837..(65).....**May 19**
Musical. A jam session of swing music aided by laughs and romance. Bob Hope, Shirley Ross, Una Merkel, Gene Krupa and orchestra. Director: George Archainbaud.

Star Maker, The..3851..(94) .....**Aug. 25**
Musical Comedy. A musical dramatization of the stars of yesterday, in which Bing appears with a group of talented youngsters. Bing Crosby, Louise Campbell, Ned Sparks. Director: Roy Del Ruth.

Stolen Life..3864..(90) .....**May 26**
Drama. The story of twin sisters of opposite types, one of whom marries an explorer and is accidently drowned, whereupon the other assumes her identity. Elisabeth Bergner, Michael Redgrave. Director: Paul Czinner.

Television Spy..3907..(58) .....**Oct. 20**
Drama. A romance via television blooms amid espionage and foreign intrigue. William Henry, Judith Barrett. Director: Edward Dmytryk.

This Man Is News..3865..(75) .....**Aug. 18**
Comedy Melodrama. A reporter who knew too much, scores a scoop when he makes up a murder story in advance of its happenings. Barry K. Barnes, Valerie Hobson. Director: Donald MacDonald.

Undercover Doctor..3840..(67) .....**June 9**
Action Drama. Based on the activities of J. Edgar Hoover in his expose of doctors who get rich by treating wounded criminals. Lloyd Nolan, J. Carrol Naish, Janice Logan. Director: Louis King.

Unmarried..3838..(66) .....**May 26**
Comedy Drama. A tough prizefighter and speakeasy proprietress find regeneration through love of an orphan boy. Helen Twelvetrees, Buck Jones. Director: Kurt Neumann.

Union Pacific..3835..(137) .....**May 5**
Outdoor Drama. The history of the building of the Union Pacific railroad. Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea, Robert Preston, Lynne Overman. Director: Cecil B. DeMille.

What a Life..3905..(75) .....**Oct. 6**
Comedy. Without any effort Henry seems to incur the academic wrath of his teacher in high school. His troubles reach a climax when he wants to take his girl to the prom. Jackie Cooper, Betty Field. Director: Theodore Reed.

Republic

Arizona Kid, The..951..(61).....**Sept. 29**
Western. Friendship is in the balance when one friend is forced to capture a guerilla band to which his buddy belongs. The story is filmed against a Civil War background. Roy Rogers, Dave Kerwin, Sally March. Director: Joe Kane.

Blue Montana Skies..844..(56) .....**May 5**
Western. A band of Canadian Northwest fur smugglers use a Montana dude ranch as their front, but a Canadian cattleman seeks them out to avenge the murder of his partner. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, June Storey. Director: B. Reeves Eason.

Calling All Marines..912..(65).....**Sept. 21**
Melodrama. Foreign agents try to steal a radio-controlled aerial bombing device from the U. S. Marines. Donald Barry, Helen Mack. Director: John H. Auer.

Colorado Sunset..846..(64) .....**July 31**
Western. A veterinarian's "protective association" is exposed, and with it the sheriff's protection. Autry wins the election, and the cattlemen's market again is open. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette. Director: George Sherman.

Flight at Midnight..9111..(66).....**Aug. 28**
Drama. The sacrifice and courage behind the scenes of air transportation, by men who risk death for the progress of aviation. Phil Regan, Jean Parker, Col. Roscoe Turner Director: Sidney Salkow

Frontier Pony Express..854..(57) .....**Apr. 19**
Western. A Pony Express Rider saves the army's documents from Confederate spies. Roy Rogers, Mary Hart, Don Dillaway. Director: Joe Kane.

Features

THE COMPLETE CHECK-UP ON CURRENT RELEASES

In Old Caliente..856..(57).....June 23
Western. Rogers, through the aid of friends, traps the real thief and clears himself of a theft charge brought against him by his employer. Roy Rogers, Mary Hart, Jack LaRue. Director: Joe Kane.

In Old Monterey..847..(70).....Aug. 14
Western. A U. S. army sergeant poses as a cowboy to investigate the opposition of cattlemen to the government's purchase of ranch land for war maneuvers. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, June Storey, Hoosier Hot Shots, Ranch Boys. Director: Joe Kane.

Kansas Terrors..961..(57).....Oct. 6
Western. A couple of Kansas cowpunchers accompany a shipment of horses to the Caribbean Islands, where they find themselves in the midst of a conflict between the oppressed peons and a vicious island overlord. Robert Livingston, Raymond Hatton, Duncan Renaldo, Jacqueline Wells. Director: George Sherman.

Man of Conquest..801..(97).....May 15
Historical Drama. The story of Sam Houston and his fight for Texan independence from Mexico, and Texas' ultimate entry into the Union. Richard Dix, Gail Patrick, Edward Ellis. Director: George Nicholls jr.

Mickey, The Kid..814..(66).....July 3
Drama. A gangster's boy, born into a life of crime, fights his way out, after the taste of a better environment, in his determination to become an honest citizen. Bruce Cabot, Tommy Ryan. Director: Arthur Lubin.

Mountain Rhythm..845..(59).....June 9
Western. Gene Autry uncovers a plot to deprive the ranchers of their grazing lands. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Maude Eburne. Director: B. Reeves Eason.

New Frontier..868..(56).....Aug. 10
Western. A fight for a water pipe line to their desert land motivates this Three Mesquiteers yarn. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan. Director: George Sherman.

Night Riders..865..(58).....Apr. 12
Western. The Three Mesquiteers defy a gambler who uses a forged land grant to oust ranchers. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan, Max Terhune. Director: George Sherman.

Sabotage..913..(69).....Oct. 13
Action Drama. On the eve of his marriage, a young mechanic in an airplane factory innocently is accused of a sabotage plot when an army plane crashes during a test. A group of aged veterans bring the saboteurs to justice in a stirring climax. Arleen Whelan, Gordon Oliver, Charley Grapewin, Lucien Littlefield. Director: Harold Young.

She Married a Cop..815..(65).....July 15
Musical Comedy. A singing policeman is framed into "doubling for a pig" by an animated cartoon producer. Phil Regan, Jean Parker. Director: Sidney Salkow.

Should Husbands Work?..816..(62).....July 26
Comedy. A wife beats her husband to a job but after queering a big deal, all is straightened when it is found the family holds a key block of stock. James Gleason, Lucile Gleason. Director: Gus Meins.

Smuggled Cargo..825..(61).....Aug. 21
Drama. The head of the orange growers' association is framed, and a near lynching is averted. Barry Mackay, Rochelle Hudson, Ralph Morgan. Director: John H. Auer.

S. O. S. Tidal Wave..813..(60).....June 2
Action Drama. A television news commentator combats gangsters using a rival television station to telecast a horror film. Ralph Byrd, George Barbier, Kay Sutton. Director: John Auer.

Southward Ho! (formerly Headin' for Texas) **855..(58).....May 18**
Western. Conflict arises between two ex-Confederate soldiers and their ranch co-owner when they learn the latter was a Union officer. Roy Rogers, Mary Hart, George Hayes. Director: Joe Kane.

Street of Missing Men..811..(65).....Apr. 25
Action Drama. Upon his release from Alcatraz, a former gangster leader sets out to wreck the newspaper which sent him to prison. Charles Bickford, Harry Carey, Tommy Ryan, Guinn Williams. Director: Sidney Salkow.

Three Texas Steers..866..(59).....May 15
Western. A young girl is led to believe the ranch she inherited is worthless, but the Three Mesquiteers save her from being duped. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan, Max Terhune, Carole Landis. Director: George Sherman.

Wall Street Cowboy..857..(66).....Sept. 6
Western. New York's financial barons wage a battle of wits for control of a ranch suitable for mining. Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Raymond Hatton, Ann Baldwin. Director: Joseph Kane.

Wyoming Outlaw..867..(52).....June 21
Western. The Three Mesquiteers smash a political relief racket after the gang forces an innocent boy to turn outlaw. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan, Raymond Hatton, Donald Barry. Director: George Sherman.

Zero Hour, The..812..(62).....May 27
Drama. How a stage star, with loyalty and courage, faces a tangled problem, when the man she is about to marry is hopelessly crippled in an automobile accident. Frieda Inescort, Otto Kruger, Don Douglas. Director: Sidney Salkow.

RKO Radio

Allegheny Uprising..006..(..).....Oct. 27
Outdoor Drama. A chapter in American history following the war of 1759, when the government fought to suppress illegal trading in rum and the sale of weapons to the Indians. Claire Trevor, John Wayne, George Sanders, Brian Donlevy. Director: William A. Seiter.

Bachelor Mother..932..(81).....Aug. 4
Romantic Comedy. A sales girl finds herself the "mother" of an abandoned baby on the day she is fired. The situation is brought to the attention of the owner's son, and he is jockeyed into a spot where he is the "father." Ginger Rogers, David Niven. Director: Garson Kanin.

Bad Lands..933..(65).....Aug. 11
Western. A trapped posse of nine men, besieged by Apaches and a half-breed killer reveals the individual strength and weaknesses of its members' characters. Robert Barrat, Noah Berry jr. Director: Lew Landers.

Career..930..(78).....July 7
Melodrama. A homespun yarn of the lives of two families in a small Iowa town, which film introduces the two winners of the "Gateway to Hollywood" contest, John Archer and Alice Eden. Anne Shirley, Edward Ellis, Samuel B. Hinds. Director: Leigh Jason.

Conspiracy..935..(59).....Sept. 1
Melodrama. A wireless operator on an American boat is marked for death by a foreign rival faction. Allan Lane, Linda Hayes. Director: Lew Landers.

Day the Bookies Wept, The..002..(65)..Sept. 15
Comedy. A cab driver with a love for pigeons, is tricked into buying and entering in the big race a nag who dotes on alcoholics. Joe Penner, Betty Grable, Tom Kennedy. Director: Leslie Goodwins.

Everything's on Ice..946..(65).....Oct. 6
Musical. A six-year-old skating star who executes everything on ice from the can-can to the hula. Irene Dare, Roscoe Karns, Edgar Kennedy. Director: Erle C. Kenton.

Fifth Avenue Girl..934..(80).....Sept. 22
Comedy Drama. A satirical farce subtly deriding the rich and those who envy them, along with a smattering of current sociological theories. Ginger Rogers, Walter Connolly, James Ellison. Director: Gregory La Cava.

Fighting Gringo, The..986..(60).....Sept. 8
Western. A band of volunteer vigilantes roam the west to aid the oppressed and to see that justice prevails. George O'Brien, Lupita Tovar. Director: David Howard.

Five Came Back..927..(75).....June 23
Drama. A passenger plane crashes in a Brazilian jungle, and a drama of courage and cowardice is unfolded when four people have to be left behind before the plane can take off safely. Chester Morris, Kent Taylor, Lucille Ball. Director: John Farrow.

Fixer Dugan..922..(68).....Apr. 21
Action Drama. Romance and tragedy wend their way into this human story of circus folks, and how the "fixer" helps adjust their personal problems. Lee Tracy, Virginia Weidler, Peggy Shannon. Director: Lew Landers.

Flying Deuces..010..(65).....Oct. 20
Comedy. Two American fish peddlers go to Paris where one of them falls in love with a married woman. They join the Foreign Legion to forget, and when they try to desert they inadvertently become heroes. Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Jean Parker. Director: A. Edward Sutherland.

Flying Irishman, The..919..(73).....Apr. 7
Biographical Drama. A dramatization of the life of Douglas ("Wrong Way") Corrigan. Douglas Corrigan, Paul Kelly, Robert Armstrong. Director: Leigh Jason.

Full Confession..003..(72).....Sept. 8
Drama. A priest, bound by the sanctity of confessional, cannot reveal the confession made to him of a crime for which another man is to be electrocuted, but uses his influence to make the real murderer give himself up. Victor McLaglen, Sally Eilers, Joseph Calleia. Director: John Farrow.

Girl and the Gambler, The (formerly The Dove)**..926..(62).....June 16**
Western Melodrama. A Latin-American Robin Hood with a dash of caballero wagers that he can woo and win a certain maiden's heart in 24 hours. Leo Carrillo, Tim Holt, Steffi Duni. Director: Lew Landers.

Girl From Mexico, The..928..(71).....June 2
Comedy Melodrama. An advertising man flies down to Mexico to sign a radio personality for a new program and falls in love with his new fiery, Spanish star. Lupe Velez, Donald Woods, Leon Errol, Linda Hayes. Director: Leslie Goodwins.

In Name Only..936..(92).....Aug. 18
Drama. The story of a heartless woman who married for wealth and social position, and kept her husband bound to a loveless marriage to prevent his marrying the woman he loved. Carole Lombard, Cary Grant, Kay Francis. Director: John Cromwell.

Love Affair..916..(87).....Apr. 7
Comedy Drama. A couple break their engagement and agree to meet in six months, at the end of which time the girl is crippled in an accident. Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer. Director: Leo McCarey.

Nurse Edith Cavell..001..(95).....Sept. 29
Historical Drama. The true story of the trial and execution that shocked the civilized world in 1915 of a World War nurse who put humanitarianism above patriotism. Anna Neagle, Edna May Oliver, George Sanders. Director: Herbert Wilcox.

Of Human Bondage..993..(83)..Reissue...July 14
Drama. A dramatization of W. Somerset Maugham's modern classic of the deep and tragic love of a medical student for a cheap waitress with a cold heart. Leslie Howard, Bette Davis. Director: John Cromwell.

Panama Lady..925..(65).....May 12
Melodrama. A wealthy oil prospector goes through a complete rehabilitation at the hands of a dance hall girl. Lucille Ball, Allan Lane. Jack Hively directed.

Racketeers of the Range..984..(60).....May 26
Western. A cattleman fights a slick attorney who tries to sell his girl client out to a big packing company. George O'Brien, Marjorie Reynolds. Director: D. Ross Lederman.

Rookie Cop..923..(60).....Apr. 28
Melodrama. A young policeman shows his superiors the importance of police dogs in criminal detection. Tim Holt, Virginia Weidler, Janet Shaw, Ace the wonder dog. Director: George Howard.

Saint in London, The..929..(70).....June 30
Mystery Drama. The Saint picks up a wounded man on a country road, who leads him into a web of intrigue and super-crime, with death a constant companion. George Sanders, Sally Gray. Director: John Paddy Carstairs.

Sorority House..924..(63).....May 5
Comedy Drama. Presents a celluloid argument against the existing dangers of snobbishness among college sororities. Anne Shirley, J. M. Kerrigan, Barbara Read. Director: John Farrow.

Spellbinder..931..(70).....July 28
Melodrama. A lawyer kills the client, for whom he had obtained acquittal when the latter marries the lawyer's daughter as protection. He then obtains clemency for himself. Lee Tracy, Barbara Read, Patric Knowles. Director: Jack Hively.

Story of Vernon and Irene Castle, The..838 (92).....Apr. 28
Musical. The rise of the two internationally successful ballroom dancers, taking the period from 1911 up to the death of Castle as a flying instructor in Texas during the war. Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers. Director: H. C. Potter.

They Made Her a Spy..920..(67).....Apr. 14
Action Drama. In the belief that sabotage was responsible for her brother's death, a young woman joins the intelligence bureau and rounds up a foreign spy ring. Sally Eilers, Allan Lane, Larry Blake. Director: Jack Hively.

Three Sons..004..(72).....Oct. 13
Drama. The owner of a large department store holds big dreams for his three sons, only two of which measure up to his expectations. Edward Ellis, J. Edward Bromberg, Virginia Vale, Robert Stanton. Director: Jack Hively.

Timber Stampede..985..(58).....June 30
Western. A railroad man and a lumber baron, who together plot to strip government land of timber, are halted in their ruthless attempts. George O'Brien, Marjorie Reynolds. Director: David Howard.

Way Down South..947..(62).....July 21
Musical. Bobby balks a scheming executor of his estate who would sell the plantation Negroes. Bobby Breen, Alan Mowbray. Director: Bernard Vorhaus.

State Rights

A Brivele Der Mamen (A Letter to Mother) (106).....Sphinx
Drama. The gradual disintegration of a simple family of Jews and their friends who live in a provincial Polish town, how the family comes to America one by one and the events that transpire, all shown in their relationship to the mother. Lucy Gehrman, Alexander Stein, Max Bozyk. Producer: Greenfilm, Warsaw. 10-39

Alexander Nevsky..(92).....Amkino
Epic Drama. The invasion of Russia by the Order of Teutonic Knights in the 13th Century. Nickolai Cherkassov, N. P. Okhlopkov. Director: Sergei Eisenstein.

Betrayal..(80).....World
Historical Drama. A new approach is presented in this story of Catherine the Great of Russia and the love she bore for the treacherous Count Orloff. Annie Vernay, Pierre Richard-Willm. Director: Fedor Ozep. 10-39

Bizarre Bizarre..(84).....Lenauer
Comedy. A French satire of British customs,

with an underlying plot centering around a botanist who writes mystery stories under an assumed name. Louis Jouvet, Francoise Rosay, Michel Simon. Director: Marcel Carne.

Black Limelight..(63) .....Alliance
Melodrama. A man's mistress is murdered, but his wife helps clear him of the murder charge by trapping the family lawyer who is obsessed with a homicidal mania during a full moon. Raymond Massey, Joan Marion. Director: Walter C. Mycroft. 7-39

Bombs Over London..(78) .....Film Alliance
Melodrama. A mad diplomat from an unnamed country in Central Europe uses a peace conference as a front to stage an air raid on London by wireless-controlled airplanes. Charles Farrell, Fritz Kortner, Margaret Vyner. Directors: Roger Macdougal and Alexander MacKendrick. 10-39

Challenge, The..(65).....Film Alliance
Outdoor Drama. A thrilling mountain-climbing race between an English and Italian party to reach the top of Matterhorn, tallest of the Alpine peaks. Robert Douglas, Luis Trenker, Joan Gardner. Director: Milton Rosmer. Trenker co-directed in the Alpine scenes. 10-39

Champs-Elysees..(89) .....Tri-National
Comedy. A narration of the history of the Champs-Elysees in which the love life of Louis XV is highlighted. (In French with English subtitles.) Sacha Guitry, Jacqueline DeLubac, Lisette Lanvin. Director and author: Sacha Guitry.

Conquests of Peter the Great..(94).....Amkino
Historical Drama. A dramatization of the swashbuckling monarch who led Russia out of feudalism, but was forced to commit his son to execution for an attempted betrayal. Russian cast. Director: Vladimir Petrov. 9-39

Curtain Rises, The..(85).....Frank Kassler
Drama. Two girls in a French Academy are in love with the same fellow. One girl commits suicide, disguising it as murder, so that the blame will be placed on her rival. Louis Jouvet, Claude Dauphin, Janine Darcey, Mady Made. Director: Marc Allegret.

Daughter of the Tong..(56) .....Metropolitan
Melodrama. G-Man Grant Withers trails a Chinese woman gangster who controls the alien smuggling racket in Chinatown. Evelyn Brent, Grant Withers. Director: Raymond K. Johnson. 9-39

Dead Men Tell No Tales..(69).....Alliance
Mystery Thriller. The matron of a boys' school wins a Sweepstakes, and falls into the hands of a murderous fiend. Emlyn Williams, Hugh Williams, Sara Seegar. Director: David MacDonald. 9-39

Death Goes North..(63).....
Action Drama. A wife aids a male conspirator in the murder of her husband to obtain valuable timber lands in the North Woods. Edgar Edwards, Sheila Bromley, Rin Tin Tin jr. Director: Frank McDonald.

Demon Barber of Fleet St...(66).....Select
Melodrama. A weird tale is unfolded as a waterfront barber tells a customer of his predecessor who lured wealthy passengers from English ships to his shop where he murdered them and looted their belongings. Tod Slaughter, Bruce Seton, Stella Rho. Director: George King. 10-39

Double Crime in the Maginot Line..(83)..Tower
Mystery Drama. Several military men are suspected of the double murder in France's world-famed Maginot Line, until the net closes in on a German spy. Victor Francen, Vera Korene, Fernand Fabre. Director: Felix Gandera.

End of a Day, The..(94) .....Juno Films
Drama. The poignant story of actors at the twilight of their careers. Victor Francen, Louis Jouvet, Michel Simon. Director: Julien Duvivier. 10-39

Escape From Yesterday..(88).....Hoffberg
French Drama. A man-hunt that leads to adventure in North Africa with the Spanish Foreign Legion. Jean Gabin, Annabella. Director: Julien Duvivier. 7-39

Fighting Renegade..(54).....Victory-Principal
Western. Tim McCoy in a dual role, first as a Mexican guide and then as Bill Carson seeking a murderer, all in the interests of an Indian expedition. Tim McCoy, Joyce Bryant. 9-39

Grand Illusion..(92) .....World
Drama. The effects of war are presented in this drama depicting the hardships endured by French army officers in a German prison camp. (In French with superimposed English dialogue titles.) Eric von Stroheim, Jean Gabin, Pierre Fresnay Dita Parlo. Director: Jean Renoir.

Harvest..(80) .....French Film Center
Drama. A film poem of a woman who leaves an itinerant scissor-grinder to marry a peasant farmer, and through her love inspires him to harvest the land wasted by others. Fernandel, Gabriel Gabrio, Orane Demazis. Director: Marcel Pagnol. 9-39

Hatred..(..) .....World
Drama. A story of the sea, from the novel by O. P. Gilbert. (In French with superimposed English dialogue titles). Starring Harry Baur.

Heartbeat..(90) ..French M. P. Corp.....Sept. 4
Drama. A human drama of the honest, simple lives of the Provence peasants, with the romance centered around a girl who runs off with a scoundrel, and returns a year later, only to be humiliated by her father's code of honor. French cast. Director: Marcel Pagnol. 9-39

Heroes of the Marne..(85).....Spectrum
French war drama. The story of undying love in a strife-torn world. Raimu, Albert Bassermann, Jacqueline Porel. Director: Andre Hugon.

Housemaster..(85) .....Alliance
Comedy Drama. From the English stage play, "Bachelor Born," in which 500 harassed school boys revolt against the reforms of a new headmaster. Otto Kruger, Diana Churchill, Phillips Holmes. Director: H. Brenon.

I Met a Murderer..(80) .....York
Drama. An English-made film sponsored by a group of talented youthful thespians. Story concerns a young farmer who murders his nagging wife in a fit of rage, and becomes a hunted man. James Mason, Pamela Kellino, Sylvia Coleridge. Director: Roy Kellino. 10-39

In Old Montana..(61) .....Spectrum
Western. An army lad returns to his dad's ranch to help settle the cattlemen-sheepherders' feud, which is being kept alive by the local banker. Fred Scott, Jean Carmen. Director: Raymond K. Johnson.

Indiscretions..(80) .....Tri-National
French Comedy. A middle-aged woman has an affair with a young man and her husband cleverly makes her regret it. Sacha Guitry, Betty Dausmond, Jacqueline Delubac. Director: Sacha Guitry. 6-39

Lenin in 1918..(130) .....Amkino
Historical Drama. Russian film with English titles. A biographical portrayal of Lenin, his early struggles to keep his party in power, and the events leading up to an attempt on his life. Russian cast. Director: Mikhail Romn. 7-39

Light Ahead, The..(108) .....Carmel
Drama. From the S. J. Abramowitz classic, of the romance between a blind girl and a crippled bath attendant, who find conflicting forces in the smug complacency and superstitious attitude of the townspeople. Isidore Casher, Helen Beverly, David Opatashu. Director: Edgar Ulmer. 10-39

Lure of the Wasteland..(52) .....
Western. Filmed in Telco-Color, and the story of a federal man assigned to recover the loot hidden by train robbers. Grant Withers, Karl Hackett. Director: Harry Fraser. 9-39

Mademoiselle Ma Mere..(78) .....J. H. Hoffberg
Farce comedy. A young woman marries an elderly man to spite her father, but the marriage is never consummated. She runs off with her stepson and an annulment leaves them free to marry. Danielle Darrieux, Marcel Simon. Director: Henri Decoin. 10-39

Man and His Wife, A..(77).....French Films
Drama. How a middle-aged man sucessfully wins his young wife away from her young lover. Harry Baur, Suzy Vernon. Director: Jean Dreville.

Manhattan Shakedown..(57).....Warwick
Melodrama. A Broadway columnist risks his life to find the man who is blackmailing his friend. Rosalind Keith, John Gallaudet. Director: Leon Barsha.

Marseillaise..(..) .....World
Drama. A dramatization of the French Revolution. (In French with superimposed English dialogue titles.) Pierre Renoir, Louis Jouvet. Director: Jean Renoir.

Murder Is News..(55) .....Warwick
Action Drama. A columnist predicts the divorce of a wealthy businessman, who later is found murdered. John Gallaudet, Iris Meredith, John Hamilton. Director: Leon Barsha. 7-39

Mutiny of the Elsinore..(73).....Regal
Action Drama. From Jack London's forceful drama of adventure and mutiny on the high seas, and the hopes and desperations of these sea-faring men. Paul Lukas, Lyn Harding. Director: Roy Lockwood.

Neighbors..(90).....Best Films
Comedy. A Jewish comedy of errors in which a mixup in names brings confusion and romance into the life of a radio announcer. Helen Gross, Joseph Orwid. Director:

New Horizons..(92) .....Amkino
Melodrama. The birth of the U.S.S.R. and Maxim's appointment as commissar of the government bank. M. Shtraukh, M. Gelovani, Boris Chirkov. Directors: Gregory Kozintsev, Leonid Trauberg. 7-39

On His Own..(96) .....Amkino
Drama. A sort of continuation of the screen biography of Maxim Gorky, picking up the threads where the period of childhood had come to a close and where Gorky faces the future unafraid on the brink of manhood. Alexi Lyarsky. Director: Mark Donskoi. 10-39.

Oppenheim Family, The..(97) .....Amkino
Drama. Based on the novel by Leon Feuchtwanger. Portrays the life of the Oppenheims under the Nazi regime terror. Russian cast. Director: Gregory Roshal. 7-39

Outlaws' Paradise..(55) .....Victory
Western. A G-Man goes on the hunt for stolen bonds and the gang responsible for the robbery. Tim McCoy, Joan Barclay. Director: Sam Newfield.

Port of Hate..(57) .....Metropolitan
Melodrama. Two friends discover a pearl oysterbed in the South Seas, one of whom gets killed and the other is left to protect the secret from pearl raiders. Polly Ann Young, Kenneth Harlan, Carleton Young. Director: Harry S. Webb. 9-39

Prisoner of Corbal, The..(73).....Syndicate
Drama From Rafael Sabatini's novel of a revolutionary terrorist who, in pursuit of a woman of noble birth, uses all sorts of traps to snare her. Nils Asther, Noah Beery, Hazel Terry. Director: Karl Grune. 9-39

Rangle River..(72) .....J. H. Hoffberg
Outdoor Drama. The importance of the river to cattle raisers, in this story from the pen of Zane Grey. Victor Jory, Margaret Dare. Director: Clarence Badger. 6-39

Return of the Frog..(70) .....Select
Melodrama. An Edgar Wallace thriller in which the Frog and his henchmen return to terrorize London. Gordon Harker, Hartley Power, Rene Ray. Director: Maurice Elvey. 10-39

Royal Divorce, A..(87) .....Imperator
Historical Drama. Josephine holds no love for Napoleon at the time of their marriage, but his love for her sets him out to conquer the world. When he becomes famous, she shows her affection, but it is then too late Ruth Chatterton, Pierre Blanchard. Director: Jack Raymond 9-39

Scipione L'Africano..(155) .....Esperia
Historical Drama. An all-Italian film (no English subtitles) showing the conquest of Carthage by the Romans during the reign of Scipio. Isa Miranda and Italian cast. Director: Carmine Gallone. 10-39

Scorched Earth, The..(50) ....B. V. Mindenburg
Documentary. An indictment of Japanese aggression in China, the film composed entirely of newsreel clips. Narrator: Cliff Howell. 7-39

Smoky Trails..(56)..Metropolitan.....July 1
Western. One of the Bob Steele series, in which Bob meets face to face the villain who shot his father in the back. Bob Steele, Jean Carmen. Director: Bernard B. Ray. 9-39

Song of the Streets..(75)..Mayer-Burstyn..Sept. 1
Drama. French version of "Dead End" kids growing up in the slums of Paris, with neglect and poverty making them potential criminals. French cast. Director: Victor Trivas. 9-39

Special Inspector..(55) .....Warwick
Melodrama. A government agent is assigned to get fur hijackers smuggling their loot across the Canadian border. Charles Quigley, Rita Hayworth. Director: Leon Barsha. 6-39

Spy of Napoleon..(77) .....Unity
Historical Melodrama. English-made film portraying the intrigue and machinations surrounding the reign of Napoleon III, war with Prussia in 1870, and the downfall of the French ruler. Richard Barthelmess, Dolly Haas. Director: Maurice Elvey. 7-39

Taku..(48) .....Norman Dawn
Nature Drama. The story of a grizzled prospector who had been panning gold for 30 years without a strike. Filmed against a background of authentic scenic shots and photographic studies of animals in the Taku country of Alaska. Amateur cast. Director: Norman Dawn. 10-39

Texas Wildcats..(58) .....Victory
Western. Tim McCoy poses as the "Phantom" to avenge the death of his partner. Tim McCoy, Joan Barclay, Forrest Taylor. Director: Sam Newfield. 7-39

Three Waltzes..(80) .....Vedis Films
French Operetta. Depicts the loves of the Grandpres and the de Chalencey of 1867 France, covers three generations and Strauss's music, and brings the story to a halt in a modern film studio. Yvonne Printemps, Pierre Fresnay. Director: Dr. Ludwig Berger. 6-39

Tiger Hunt..(54) ⚙ .....World
Adventure Travelog. The story of a tiger that terrorized a native jungle village and evaded all traps set for him, until a beautiful girl is offered as prize to the hero capturing the beast. Native cast. Producer: Marquis de la Falaise.

Timberland Terror..(75) .....Hoffberg
Melodrama. Produced in Australia, the story deals with the timberland country, and a life guard who saves the heroine and her father's timber business Shirley Ann Richards, Frank Leighton. Director: Ken G. Hall.

Torpedoed..(66) .....Film Alliance
Melodrama. How the British navy diplomatically quells a revolution in an unidentified belligerent Latin country that had attacked one of their ships. H. B. Warner, Robert Douglas, Richard Cromwell. 10-39

Treachery on the High Seas..(68).....Times
Melodrama. Jewel thieves are after a ruby necklace on a trans-Atlantic liner. Ben Lyon, Bebe Daniels. 10-39

Tumbleweeds..(82)..Reissue..Astor .....June 9
Western. The same picture produced by William S. Hart in 1925, with Hart speaking to the audience for the first time in an 8-minute prologue. William S. Hart, Barbara Bedford, Lucien Littlefield. Director: King Baggot. 7-39

Typhoon Treasure..(68) .....State Rights
Outdoor Adventure. A pearler whose schooner is wrecked in a typhoon trails through a perilous jungle to save the treasure from thieves.

Campbell Copelin, Joe Valli. Director: Noel Monkman. 7-39

U. S. S. R. on Screen, 1939..(94).....Amkino
Documentary. Presents a collection of newsreels covering various phases of Soviet activity, including the Moscow building program and the emancipation of women. Narrated.

Will of the People, The..(55).....States Right
Documentary. A documentary compilation from the government's film archives and newsreel clips showing the Loyalist struggle against the combined Fascist forces of Franco, Germany and Italy. Commentary: By Producer Louis Frank.

Wings Over Africa..(62).....Merit Pictures
Adventure Thriller. Seven people go by plane to South Africa in search of a cache of diamonds hidden there by a deceased prospector. Filmed against a background of authentic shots of Africa, its native tribal customs and dances. Director: Ladislaus Vajda.

Without a Home..(88).....Foreign Cinema Arts
Drama. A man brings his family to America, but in his eagerness to make good in the land of opportunity, neglects his family for his job. (A Yiddish film with English sub-titles). Ida Kaminska, A. Marten, Warsaw Synagogue Choir. Director: A. Marten.

World Is Ours, The..(96).....Frank Kassler
Comedy Satire. The only remaining print in existence not destroyed by Hitler, and made a few months before he took over Czechoslovakia. The story is of two unemployed sign painters who stumble on the cache of arms hidden by the "grey hats" and warn the workers in time to break up the plot. Voskevec and Werich. Director: Mac Fric.

20th Century-Fox

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes..005..(85) Sept. 1
Mystery. A murderous fiend runs amuck in the Tower of London, in his attempt to steal the crown jewels, to the complete bafflement of the great Sherlock Holmes. Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, George Zucco. Director: Alfred Werker.

Boy Friend..943..(70) .....May 19
Comedy. When a murder occurs in the police training school which Jane's brother attends, she and her sweetheart turn sleuths and capture the crooks. Jane Withers, George Ernest, Arleen Whelan. Director: James Tinling.

Charlie Chan at Treasure Island..006..(73) Sept. 8
Melodrama. Treasure Island in San Francisco's World Fair is the background setting for a couple of well manipulated murders. Sidney Toler, Cesar Romero, Pauline Moore. Director: Norman Foster.

Charlie Chan in Reno..948..(71) .....June 16
Mystery Drama. Charlie Chan finds the solution of a murder by the elimination process difficult because of dislike for the victim by so many individuals. Sidney Toler, Ricardo Cortez, Phyllis Brooks. Director: Norman Foster.

Chasing Danger..941..(60) .....May 5
Action Drama. Second of the "Camera Daredevil" series, in which two newsreel cameramen are thrown on the track of gun runners supplying an Arabian leader with ammunition for an uprising. Preston Foster, Wally Vernon, Lynn Bari. Director: Ricardo Cortez.

Chicken Wagon Family..002..(65).....Aug. 11
Comedy. Leo Carrillo takes his family, chicken wagon and all, to New York, where they regain a sound economic footing with the aid of Jane Withers. Carrillo, Withers, Spring Byington. Director: Herbert I. Leeds.

Climbing High..8012..(71) .....April 28
Comedy. The plot evolves around an advertising model, a millionaire, a phoney countess, a jealous brother, a Communist and a madman. Jessie Matthews, Michael Redgrave. Director: Carol Reed. Gaumont British produced.

Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women..001..(82) Aug. 4
Comedy. A home town girl wins back her boy friend when, in addition to becoming New York's leading model, she also saves him from a shooting charge. Ann Sothern, Linda Darnell, James Ellison. Director: Gregory Ratoff.

Escape, The..010..(60) .....Oct. 6
Drama. A kindly, big city doctor unfolds this tale of a group of tenement kids he had brought into the world and relates the events leading up to their criminal careers. Edward Norris, June Gale, Frank Reicher, Amanda Duff, Henry Armetta, Kane Richmond. Director: Ricardo Cortez.

First World War..Reissue..062..(78).....Oct. 27
Documentary. A symposium of chronological events of the World War, divided into 11 chapters, showing the events leading up to the war, the personalities involved, and warfare on the high seas, in the air and in the trenches. Bonny Powell, Russell Shields, Lou Lehr, Louis de Rochemont. Dialogue: Pedro de Cordoba. Edited by: Laurence Stallings.

Frontier Marshal..951..(70) .....July 28
Outdoor Drama. How a sure-shot he-man proved the scourge of Arizona's early bad men and brought law enforcement upon wild Tombstone. Randolph Scott, Nancy Kelly, Cesar Romero. Director: Allan Dwan.

Gorilla, The..944..(66) .....May 26
Comedy Mystery. A mad gorilla, on the loose, terrorizes a vicinity, and the Ritz Brother Detectives are assigned to the case. Ritz Bros., Anita Louise, Patsy Kelly. Director: Allan Dwan.

Here I Am a Stranger..009..(82).....Sept. 29
Drama. So that her infant son may have security and education, a woman divorces her irresponsible husband and marries a wealthy man. The lad grows to manhood only to find himself in a conflict between the world he was born into and the world his mother had created for him. Richard Greene, Richard Dix, Brenda Joyce. Director: Roy Del Ruth.

Hollywood Cavalcade..007..(96) ◎.....Oct. 13
Musical. A history of motion pictures and their development from the days of custard pie tossing, Keystone Kops, and the first super-spectacles, through the birth of sound. Alice Faye, Don Ameche, J. Edward Bromberg, and others. Director: Irving Cummings.

Inspector Hornleigh..945..(76) .....Apr. 21
Melodrama. A detective with a stamp collecting hobby solves a most baffling murder mystery. Gordon Harker, Alastair Sim, Hugh Williams. Director: Eugene Forde.

It Could Happen to You..950..(72).....June 30
Comedy Drama. A faithful wife didn't think it could happen, but a dead woman is found in the back of her husband's car when he returns from his boss's party. Stuart Erwin, Gloria Stuart, Douglas Fowley. Director: Alfred Werker.

Jones Family in Hollywood, The..946..(60) June 2
Comedy Drama. The family of Pa Jones tags along when he goes to Hollywood as a delegate to the American Legion convention, and are bitten by the motion picture bug. Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Shirley Deane. Director: Malcolm St. Clair.

Mr. Moto on Danger Island..937..(64).....Apr. 7
Melodrama. Mr. Moto is called upon by a diamond syndicate to run down a gang of clever gem smugglers. Peter Lorre, Jean Hersholt, Warren Hymer. Director: Herbert I. Leeds.

Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation..952..(65).....July 7
Melodrama. By dint of brainwork and jui-jitsu Mr. Moto saves the crown of the Queen of Sheba, reposing in a museum, from the itchy fingers of an arch-criminal. Peter Lorre, Joseph Schildkraut, Virginia Field. Director: Norman Foster.

News Is Made at Night..953..(71).....July 21
Action Drama. An editor and his cub reporter unmask a "friend" who is responsible for a wave of murders designed to cover his own criminal record. Preston Foster, Lynn Bari. Alfred Werker directed.

Pack Up Your Troubles..014..(75).....Oct. 20
Comedy. The Ritz Bros. can't get vaudeville bookings and join the U. S. cavalry during the World War and wind up as mule guardians and heroes. Jane Withers, Ritz Brothers. Director: H. Bruce Humberstone.

Quick Millions..004..(61) .....Aug. 25
Comedy. The Jones Family inherit a gold mine in the west, but arrive to find the property being used as a hideout by bank bandits. Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Eddie Collins. Director: Mal St. Clair.

Rains Came, The..011..(103) .....Sept. 15
Drama. The film version of Louis Bromfield's best seller, of love, romance, and a breathtaking earthquake spectacle, in exotic India. Myrna Loy, Tyrone Power, George Brent. Director: Clarence Brown.

Return of the Cisco Kid, The..940..(71)..Apr. 28
Outdoor Drama. The Cisco Kid bucks the boss of the countryside to help a girl recover the deed to her ranch. Warner Baxter, Lynn Bari, Cesar Romero, Henry Hull. Director: Herbert I. Leeds.

Road to Glory..061..(101)..Reissue.....Oct. 13
War Drama. A love triangle in which an embittered French captain loves a war nurse who loves a lieutenant in the captain's army. Fredric March, Warner Baxter, Lionel Barrymore, June Lang. Director: Howard Hawks.

Rose of Washington Square..942..(86)....May 12
Musical. The songs of yesteryear are highlighted in this story of a burlesque showgirl who turns down a theatrical contract to marry a confidence man. Alice Faye, Tyrone Power, Al Jolson, Marie Wilson. Director: Roy Del Ruth.

Second Fiddle..949..(85) .....July 14
Musical Comedy. A school teacher wins a screen test contest, and a press agent tries to promote a publicity romance between her and a waning matinee idol, but falls in love with her himself. Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power, Rudy Vallee. Director: Sidney Lanfield.

Shipyard Sally..018..(80) .....Oct. 20
Comedy. Sally and her father give up the stage and buy a shipyard pub in the shipbuilding town of Clydebanks. She takes the problems of the impoverished commoners to her heart and soon becomes a fighting champion for the working class of England. Gracie Fields, Sydney Howard. Director: Monty Banks.

Stanley and Livingstone..003..(100) ◎ ..Aug. 18
Adventure Drama. A dramatization of the most daring assignment in journalistic history. Henry M. Stanley, New York Herald reporter, fights death and pestilence in the wilds of Africa, in his search for Dr. David Livingstone, missionary-explorer. Spencer Tracy, Nancy Kelly, Richard Greene. Director: Henry King.

Stop, Look and Love..008..(57) .....Sept. 22
Comedy. The story of a well-meaning but meddlesome mother who drives away her daughters suitors by talking too much. Jean Rogers, William Frawley, Robert Kelland. Director: Otto Brower.

Story of Alexander Graham Bell, The ..938..(97) .....Apr. 14
Epic Drama. The story of a great love that was responsible for one of the greatest inventions of all mankind. Don Ameche, Loretta Young, Henry Fonda. Director: Irving Cummings.

Susannah of the Mounties..954..(78).....June 23
Outdoor Adventure. Shirley, as sole survivor of an Indian massacre, is taken under the wing of a Canadian Mountie. She averts another uprising and saves the latter's life when the Blackfeet tribe try to burn him at the stake. Shirley Temple, Randolph Scott, Margaret Lockwood. Director: William A. Seiter.

Ware Case, The..8014..(72) .....July 21
Mystery Drama. A mutual friend frees a bounder husband from a murder charge. When the husband learns the friend loves his wife, he admits the crime and kills himself. Clive Brook, Jane Baxter. Director: Robert Stevenson.

Winner Take All..939..(61).....Apr. 21
Comedy Drama. A crooked promoter makes a boxing sensation out of a cowboy by fixing his fights for him, but it took a girl to turn him into a real fighter. Tony Martin, Gloria Stuart, Henry Armetta, Robert Allen. Director: Otto Brower.

Young Mr. Lincoln..947..(101) ◎ .....June 9
Historical Drama. A portrait of Lincoln's earlier years as a rail-splitter, humorist, pie-eating contestant, and his experiences as a lawyer. Henry Fonda, Alice Brady, Arleen Whelan. Director: John Ford.

United Artists

Captain Fury (90) .....May 26
Action Drama. An exiled Irelander breaks the rule of a tyrant and saves the land holdings of the Austrian Colonists. Brian Aherne, Victor McLaglen, George Zucco, June Lang. Director: Hal Roach.

Eternally Yours..(95) .....Oct. 12
Comedy. On the eve of her marriage to a man she does not love, the granddaughter of a bishop runs away to become the wife of a magician. Loretta Young, David Niven, C. Aubrey Smith. Director: Tay Garnett.

Four Feathers..(109) ◎ .....Aug. 4
Adventure Drama. A military spectacle of the British Sudan. A man wins redemption from the charge of cowardice over overwhelming odds. Ralph Richardson, C. Aubrey Smith, June Duprez. Director: Zoltan Korda.

Housekeeper's Daughter..(80) .....Oct. 26
Comedy. The daughter of a housekeeper in a wealthy home is involved in a murder when a rejected suitor seeks refuge in their home. The son of the household, who is a newspaper reporter, helps the girl out of her difficulty and a romance blossoms. Joan Bennett, Adolphe Menjou, John Hubbard, Peggy Wood. Director: Hal Roach.

Intermezzo..(65) .....Sept. 22
Romantic Drama. A poignant love story of a maestro who falls in love with his daughter's music teacher. Leslie Howard, Ingrid Bergman. Director: Gregory Ratoff.

Man in the Iron Mask (110).....Aug. 11
Melodrama. Semi-historical spectacle of the legendary twin of Louis XIV, condemned to life imprisonment as a masked mystery man. Louis Hayward, Joan Bennett, Warren William. Director: James Whale.

Real Glory, The..(95) .....Sept. 29
Melodrama. Based on the history of the building by America of a native army in the Philippines and the overthrow of the fanatical and rebellious Moros. Gary Cooper, Andrea Leeds, David Niven. Director: Henry Hathaway.

They Shall Have Music..(120).....Aug. 18
Drama with Music. Jascha Heifetz makes his first screen appearance, as a conductor who saves a tenement district music school from

financial collapse by conducting a concert with the children as musicians. Jascha Heifetz, Andrea Leeds, Joel McCrea, Walter Brennan. Director: Archie Mayo.

Winter Carnival..(90) .....**July 28**
Comedy. Dartmouth College's annual winter carnival is background for this campus romance of winter sport and tender love. Ann Sheridan, Richard Carlson. Director: Charles F. Riesner.

Wuthering Heights..(103) ◎ .....**Apr. 7**
Drama. From Emile Bronte's novel of a love-crazed man whose unrelenting hatred in his revenge against a lost love, warped the lives of those around him. Merle Oberon, Laurence Olivier. Director: William Wyler.

Zenobia..(71) .....**Apr. 21**
Comedy. A village doctor treats a sick elephant, who develops a strong affection for her benefactor and becomes a 6,000-pound pest. Oliver Hardy, Harry Langdon. Director: Gordon Douglas.

Universal

Big Town Czar..3018..(66) .....**Apr. 21**
Action Drama. A big shot gangster makes a strong impression on his younger brother, who leaves school to join his gang. But tragedy soon takes the place of glamour. Barton MacLane, Tom Brown, Eve Arden. Director: Arthur Lubin.

Code of the Streets..3019..(70).....**Apr. 14**
Action Drama. "The Little Tough Guys" come to the rescue of an innocent man, doomed to die. Harry Carey, Frankie Thomas, Paul Fix, "Little Tough Guys." Director: Harold Young.

Desperate Trails..4058..(58).....**Sept. 8**
Western. The hero discovers the sheriff and banker in cahoots with the outlaw gang who run the town. John Mack Brown, Bob Baker, Fuzzy Knight, Frances Robinson. Director: Albert Ray.

East Side of Heaven..3006..(88).....**Apr. 7**
Comedy With Music. A singing cab driver helps a mother by watching her child, but gets involved in a city-wide kidnap hunt. Bing Crosby, Joan Blondell, Mischa Auer, Sandy. Director: David Butler.

Ex-Champ..3010..(72) .....**May 19**
Action Drama. A retired ex-champ loses his job as doorman, and takes on the training of a young lad who wins the coveted belt and the ex-champ's daughter. Victor McLaglen, Nan Grey, Tom Brown. Director: Phil Rosen.

Forgotten Woman, The..(3031)..(68).....**July 7**
Drama. A young woman becomes innocently involved in a crime mesh and is sent to prison, where her baby is born. She is almost the forgotten woman, until one of the gangsters makes a deathbed confession. Sigrid Gurie, William Lundigan, Eve Arden. Director: Harold Young.

For Love or Money..3030..(66) .....**Apr. 28**
Comedy Drama. Two employes, entrusted with $50,000, lose the money, and their boss gives them 36 hours to produce. June Lang, Robert Kent, Edward Brophy. Director: Albert S. Rogell.

Hawaiian Nights..(64) .....**Sept. 8**
Musical Comedy. A hotel magnate sends his swing-crazy son to Honolulu to work in a hotel there, but he meets a young woman managing a rival hostelry and with his orchestra helps put the place on its feet. Johnny Downs, Mary Carlisle, Eddie Quillan. Director: Albert Rogell.

Hero for a Day..4035..(66).....**Oct. 6**
Comedy. An old graduate of a small Texas college shows the Texas football team that the college spirit consists of more than just football, while his niece falls in love with the big star of the team. Anita Louise, Charley Grapewin, Dick Foran. Director: Harold Young.

House of Fear, The..3038..(66).....**June 30**
Mystery Drama. A producer restages a play to track the murderer of a Broadway stage star. William Gargan, Irene Hervey, Alan Dinehart. Director: Joe May.

I Stole a Million..3007..(78) .....**July 21**
Drama. A criminal, through no fault of his own, in fighting back to go straight, sacrifices his own life to ensure the happiness of his wife and child. George Raft, Claire Trevor, Dick Foran. Director: Frank Tuttle.

Inside Information..3040..(62).....**June 2**
Action Drama. A rookie cop uses scientific methods to capture jewel robbers. June Lang, Dick Foran, Harry Carey, Mary Carlisle. Director: Charles Lamont.

Lady in the Morgue, The..2027..(70).....**Apr. 22**
Mystery Drama. A Crime Club mystery wherein the body of a murdered woman disappears from the morgue. Preston Foster, Frank Jenks, Rowland Drew, Patricia Ellis. Director: Otis Garrett.

Little Accident..(..).....**Oct. 27**
Comedy. Baby Sandy saves a newspaper columnist from being fired, wins a baby contest and "adopts" herself some new parents. Hugh Herbert, Baby Sandy, Florence Rice. Director: Charles Lamont.

My Man Godfrey..(93)..Reissue.....**June 2**
Comedy. A "socialite hobo" lands a butler's job in a wealthy, madcap household with two wild daughters who cause no end of trouble when they both fall in love with him. William Powell, Carole Lombard. Director: Gregory La Cava.

Mikado, The..4044..(92) .....**Sept. 8**
Musical Operetta. Gilbert & Sullivan's musical operetta, the story of Nanki-Poo, son of the Mikado, who marries Yum-Yum against his father's wishes. Kenny Baker, Jean Colin, D'Oyly Carte Troupe. Director: Victor Schertzinger.

Mutiny of the Black Hawk..4051..(66).....**Sept. 1**
Outdoor Drama. A government agent is assigned to stop slave running in the South Seas, and leads a successful mutiny to accomplish his ends. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Constance Moore. Director: Christy Cabanne.

Oklahoma Frontier..4059..(58).....**Oct. 20**
Western. A lad holding a map to a claim left by his father is murdered and the hero is falsely accused of the crime. He escapes and with the aid of his sweetheart finds the real murderer. Johnny Mack Brown, Bob Baker, Anne Gwynne. Director: Ford Beebe.

Rio..(75) .....**Sept. 29**
Drama. A ruthless French swindler is sent to a South American penal colony. His wife follows him and works as an entertainer in a cafe, where she meets and falls in love with a young American. Her husband is killed while trying to escape and she is left free to marry the American. Basil Rathbone, Sigrid Gurie, Robert Cummings, Victor McLaglen. Director: John Brahm.

Sun Never Sets, The..3009..(94).....**June 9**
Drama. Two brothers in the British civil service find themselves faced with an international crisis that might rock the entire world if their heroic efforts fail. Douglas Fairbanks jr., Basil Rathbone, Barbara O'Neil, Lionel Atwill. Director: Rowland Lee.

They Asked for It..3040..(61) .....**May 26**
Action Drama. A small town newspaper, trying to capitalize on sensational news, points to the death of a farmer as murder, and gradually uncovers enough evidence to prove it was real murder. William Lundigan, Joy Hodges, Michael Whalen. Director: Frank McDonald.

Tower of London..(..) .....**Oct. 20**
Melodrama. Imprisoned in the Tower for refusing to marry the King's choice, the hero is released after the King dies. To save the throne from the King's scheming brother, he helps an exiled King to regain the throne. Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff, John Sutton, Barbara O'Neill. Director: Rowland V. Lee.

Tropic Fury..4052..(63) .....**Oct. 13**
Drama. A dictator with a Napoleon complex rules the jungles, making slaves of the rubber plantation workers. But the yoke of his rule is broken when the natives revolt. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Beverly Roberts. Director: Christy Cabanne.

Two Bright Boys..4017..(70) .....**Sept. 15**
Drama. A gambler and his son, who are hired by an unscrupulous oil operator to obtain land from a widow and her son, become good friends with the latter and help them instead. Jackie Cooper, Freddie Bartholomew, Melville Cooper. Director: Joseph Santley.

Under-Pup..(88) .....**Sept. 1**
Drama with Music. The adventures of an east-side tomboy in a snobbish camp of socialite girls. Gloria Jean, C. Aubrey Smith, Virginia Weidler.

Unexpected Father (Formerly Sandy Takes a Bow)..**3008..(89)** .....**July 14**
Comedy. Baby Sandy, the child sensation in "East Side of Heaven," plays the starring role in her second film, as an orphan who is cared for by her mother's dancing partner. Measles and the authorities intervene, but the baby goes on a hunger strike until she is returned. Baby Sandy, Shirley Ross, Dennis O'Keefe, Mischa Auer. Director: Charles Lamont.

When Tomorrow Comes..3003..(90) .....**Aug. 11**
Drama. Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer fall in love, but she agrees to forget about him when Boyer introduces her to his wife, who is mentally ill. Boyer, Dunne, and Nydia Westman. Director: John Stahl.

Witness Vanishes, The..4027..(66) .....**Sept. 22**
Melodrama. The publisher of a London newspaper is railroaded to an insane asylum, from which he escapes, having vowed vengeance against the four men who had framed him. Edmund Lowe, Wendy Barrie, Barlowe Borland. Director: Otis Garrett.

Warner Bros.

A Child Is Born..415..(79) .....**Sept. 30**
Melodrama. Comedy and tragedy is enacted in the maternity ward of a hospital, in which is shown the joy with which some women usher life into the world, others resentfully, still others are denied fulfillment. Geraldine Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Lynn, Gale Page, Johnnie Davis. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Dodge City..304..(104) ◎.....**Apr. 8**
Outdoor Drama. A spectacle of the west back in '72 when the railroad reached Southwest Kansas and the steers out of Texas made that outpost town a roaring beehive of activity. Errol Flynn, Olivia De Havilland. Director: Michael Curtiz.

Hell's Kitchen..312..(81) .....**July 8**
Action Drama. A philanthropic gangster on probation takes charge of a wayward home for boys, but pandemonium breaks out when the gangster is framed and the institution threatened. Dead End Kids. Directors: Lewis Seiler and E. A. Dupont.

Indianapolis Speedway..315..(82) .....**Aug. 5**
Drama. A racer tries to keep his kid brother from the track and from the latter's girl. He fails in both, but reconcilation comes when both ride to victory in the big race. Pat O'Brien, Ann Sheridan. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Juarez..301..(127) .....**June 10**
Historical Drama. An Indian boy becomes Mexico's liberator in its fight for Democracy in 1864. Paul Muni, Bette Davis, Brian Aherne. Director: William Dieterle.

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase 419..(60) .....**Sept. 9**
Melodrama. Two sisters plan to donate their estate for a children's hospital, but someone else finds the property valuable for a purpose, and uses murder to thwart the original plans. Bonita Granville, Frankie Thomas. Director: William Clemens.

Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter..324..(69)..June 17
Drama. Nancy does some more detectifying in her own way to save an innocent man from the electric chair. Bonita Granville, Frankie Thomas, John Litel. Director: William Clemons.

Naughty But Nice..311..(90) .....**July 1**
Comedy With Music. A music professor, raised by maiden aunts, goes to New York to market his rhapsody, and meets a fourth aunt who shows him the swing side of music. Dick Powell, Ann Sheridan. Director: Ray Enright.

On Trial..323..(62) .....**Apr. 1**
Melodrama. A dramatization of Elmer Rice's play, in which the main character, on trial for murder, refuses to lift a finger in his own defense. His wife disappears but turns up at the right moment to convince the jury that her husband's act was justified. John Litel, Margaret Lindsay. Director: Terry Morse.

On Your Toes..(94) .....**Oct. 14**
Musical. A ballet impresario gets a wealthy girl to back his ballet show, but she is unaware that the dance was stolen from its original author. Vera Zorina, Eddie Abert, Alan Hale, Gloria Dickson. Director: Ray Enright.

Pride of the Blue Grass..418..(65).....**Oct. 7**
Melodrama. The poignant story of a jockey's devotion to a blind horse. The lad is unaware of the horse's affliction until he loses several races, after which the youth, by love and diligence, trains him to jump by signals. Edith Fellows, James McCallion. Director William McGann.

Smashing the Money Ring..(..).....**Oct. 21**
Melodrama. A G-man gets himself sent to prison to hunt clues to the identity of the man heading a counterfeit ring on a gambling ship. Ronald Reagan, Margot Stevenson, Eddie Foy jr. Director: Terry Morse.

Torchy Plays With Dynamife..326..(59)..Aug. 12
Comedy. Newspaperwoman Torchy goes to jail to get next to a gangster's girl. In a jailbreak she saves the girl's life and the gangster is apprehended. Jane Wyman, Allen Jenkins. Director: Noel Smith.

Torchy Runs for Mayor..322..(60).....**May 13**
Comedy Drama. When Torchy's paper refuses to print an expose of crooked city politics, she decides a new mayor is necessary and through the perpetration of a practical joke becomes the winning candidate. Glenda Farrell, Barton MacLane. Director: Ray McCarey.

Waterfront..325..(59) .....**July 15**
Action Drama. The lives, loves and hates of the longshoremen and stevedores. Gloria Dickson, Dennis Morgan, Ward Bond. Director: Terry Morse.

Women in the Wind..316..(65).....**Apr. 15**
Action Drama. An aviatrix, in need of money for an operation on her crippled brother, enters the women's air derby, and ends up a la "Wrong Way" Corrigan. Kay Francis, William Gargan, Victor Jory. Director: John Farrow.

Alphabetical Index of Feature Releases

Designed as a Time-Saving Guide for Exhibitors Who Know the Title of a Picture, but Do Not Recall the Producer or Distributor. All Pictures Listed Here Appear in the PRODUCTION INDEX in Alphabetical Order Under the Proper Company Headings. Date Following Title is Issue of Review.

A

A Brivele Der Mamen (SR) Oct. 7
A Child Is Born (WB) Aug. 5
A Woman Is the Judge (Col) July 8
Across the Plains (Mono) June 3
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26
Alexander Nevsky (Amk) Apr. 15
Allegheny Uprising (RKO)
Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever (M-G-M) July 15
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5.
Arizona Kid, The (Rep) Oct. 7
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col) reissue

B

Bachelor Mother (RKO) July 1
Back Door to Heaven (Para) Apr. 15
Bad Lands (RKO) July 29
Beachcomber, The (Para) Dec. 3
Beau Geste (Para) Aug. 29
Behind Prison Gates (Col) Aug. 5
Betrayal (SR) Sept. 23
Beware, Spooks! (Col)
Big Town Czar (Univ) Apr. 22
Bizarre, Bizarre (Lenauer) Apr. 15
Black Limelight (SR) July 8
Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16
Blazing Sixes (WB)
Blind Alley (Col) Apr. 29
Blondie Takes a Vacation (Col) July 22
Blue Montana Skies (Rep) May 6
Bombs Over London (SR) Sept. 16
Boy Friend (20th-Fox) May 13
Boys Reformatory (Mono) May 6
Bridal Suite (M-G-M) May 27
Broadway Serenade (M-G-M) Apr. 8
Bulldog Drummond's Bride (Para) June 24
Bulldog Drummond's Secret Police (Para) Apr. 8

C

Cafe Society (Para) Feb. 11
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16
Calling Dr. Kildare (M-G-M) Apr. 29
Captain Fury (UA) May 13
Career (RKO) July 1
Challenge, The (SR) Oct. 7
Champs-Elysees (Tri-Nat'l) Feb. 25
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 5
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3
Chasing Danger (20th-Fox) Jan. 7
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox)
Climbing High (20th-Fox) Apr. 22
Clouds Over Europe (Col) June 10
Coast Guard (Col) Aug. 19
Code of the Secret Service (FN) May 13
Code of the Streets (Univ) Jan. 28
Colorado Sunset (Rep) Aug. 5
Confessions of a Nazi Spy (FN) Apr. 29
Conquests of Peter the Great (Amk) Sept. 2
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2
Cowboy Quarterback (FN) June 8
Curtain Rises (Kassler) Apr. 29

D

Dancing Co-Ed (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Danger Flight (Mono)
Dark Victory (FN) Mar. 11
Daughter of the Tong (SR) Aug. 26
Daughters Courageous (FN) June 24
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO) Sept. 9
Dead Men Tell No Tales (SR) Aug. 5
Death Goes North (SR) Aug. 12
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2
Demon Barber of Fleet Street (SR) Oct. 7
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21
Dodge City (WB) Apr. 8
Double Crime in the Maginot Line (Tower) Apr. 29
Down the Wyoming Trail (Mono) June 17
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

Each Dawn I Die (FN) Aug. 19
East Side of Heaven (Univ) Apr. 15
Easy Money (Inv)
Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (20th-Fox) July 29
End of a Day (SR) Sept. 23
Escape From Yesterday (SR)
Escape, The (20th-Fox)
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7
Everybody Dance (GB)
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9
Exile Express (GN) Feb. 18
Ex-Champ (Univ) May 20

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Federal Man-Hunt (Rep) Jan. 14
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2
Fighting Renegade (SR) Sept. 9
First Offenders (Col) Mar. 11
First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34
Five Came Back (RKO) June 10
Five Little Peppers (Col)
Fixer Dugan (RKO) Apr. 29
Flight at Midnight (Rep) Sept. 2
Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14
Flying Irishman (RKO) Mar. 11
For Love or Money (Univ) Apr. 22
Forgotten Woman, The (Univ) July 8
Four Feathers (UA) June 24
Frontier Marshal (20th-Fox) July 29
Frontier Pony Express (Rep) Apr. 15
Frontier Scout (GN) Sept. 17
Full Confession (RKO) Aug. 26

G

Gang's All Here (Asso-Brit.) Apr. 29
Girl and the Gambler, The (RKO), June 10
Girl From Mexico (RKO) May 20
Girl From Rio (Mono) Aug. 12
Golden Boy (Col) Aug. 19
Good Girls Go to Paris (Col) June 24
Goodbye, Mr. Chips (M-G-M), May 20
Gorilla, The (20th-Fox) May 27
Gracie Allen Murder Case (Para) May 13
Grand Jury Secrets (Para) May 20
Grand Illusion (World)

H

Hardys Ride High, The (M-G-M) Apr. 22
Harvest (SR) Aug. 5
Hatred (World)
Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26
Heartbeat (SR) Sept. 9
Hell's Kitchen (WB) June 24
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30
Heritage of Desert (Para) Mar. 25
Hero for a Day (Univ)
Heroes of the Marne (SR) May 6
Hidden Power (Col) May 27
Hobby Family (FN) Aug. 26
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox) Oct. 7
Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16
Hotel Imperial (Para) Apr. 22
Housekeeper's Daughter (UA) Sept. 16
Housemaster (Alliance) Apr. 15
House of Fear, The (Univ) May 20

I

I Met a Murderer (SR) Oct. 7
I Stole a Million (Univ) July 22
Illegal Traffic (Para) Nov. 5
I'm From Missouri (Para) Mar. 25
In Name Only (RKO) Aug. 12
In Old Caliente (Rep) July 15
In Old Montana (Spectrum) Apr. 8
In Old Monterey (Rep) July 29
Indianapolis Speedway (WB) July 15
Indiscretions (SR) May 20
Inside Information (Univ) June 10
Inspector Hornleigh (20th-Fox) Apr. 22
Intermezzo (UA) Oct. 7
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20
Irish Luck (Mono) Aug. 26
Island of Lost Men (Para) July 29
It Could Happen to You (20th-Fox) June 3
It's a Wonderful World (M-G-M) May 13

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8
Jones Family in Hollywood (20th-Fox) May 27
Juarez (WB) Apr. 29

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21
Kid From Kokomo (FN) May 27
Kid From Texas (M-G-M), Apr. 8
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col)

L

Lady and the Mob (Col) Mar. 11
Lady in the Morgue (Univ) Oct. 23
Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12
Lady's From Kentucky (Para) Apr. 15
Law Comes to Texas (Col) May 27
Lenin in 1918 (SR) July 8
Light Ahead (SR) Oct. 7
Little Accident (Univ)
Lost Horizon (Col) reissue
Love Affair (RKO) Mar. 11
Lucky Night (M-G-M) May 6
Lure of the Wasteland (SR) Aug. 26

M

Mademoiselle Ma Mere (SR) Sept. 30
Magnificent Fraud (Para) July 1
Maisie (M-G-M) June 17
Man About Town (Para) June 17
Man and His Wife, A (SR) Apr. 15
Man From Sundown (Col) Aug. 5
Man From Texas (Mono) Aug. 12
Man in the Iron Mask (UA) July 8
Man of Conquest (Rep) Apr. 15
Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19
Man Who Dared (FN) Apr. 8
Manhattan Shakedown (SR) Apr. 22
Marseillaise (World)
Mickey the Kid (Rep) July 1
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7
Million Dollar Legs (Para) July 15
Miracles for Sale (M-G-M) Aug. 5
Missing Daughters (Col) Apr. 29
Mountain Rhythm (Rep) July 8
Mr. Moto on Danger Island (20th-Fox) Mar. 18
Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation (20th-Fox) Nov. 19
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14
Mr. Wong in Chinatown (Mono) July 22
Murder Is News (SR) July 8
Mutiny in the Big House (Mono) Oct. 21
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24
Mutiny on the Elsinore (Regal) Feb. 25
My Man Godfrey (Univ) reissue

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB)
Naughty But Nice (WB) June 10
Never Say Die (Para) Mar. 11
New Frontier (Rep)
New Horizons (SR) May 27
News Is Made at Night (20th-Fox) July 8
Night Riders (Rep) Apr. 8
Night Work (Para) Aug. 12
No Place to Go (FN)
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26

O

Of Human Bondage (RKO) reissue
Oklahoma Frontier (Univ)
Oklahoma Terror (Mono) Oct. 7
Old Maid (FN) Aug. 5
On Borrowed Time (M-G-M) July 8
On His Own (SR) Sept. 23
On Trial (WB) Mar. 25
On Your Toes (WB) Oct. 14
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para)
Only Angels Have Wings (Col) May 20
Oppenheim Family, The (SR) June 3
Orphans of the Pecos (Vic)
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug. 5
Outlaws' Paradise (Victory) Apr. 29
Outpost of the Mounties (Col)
Outside These Walls (Col) June 3

P

Pacific Liner (RKO) Dec. 31
Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14
Pagliacci (GB)
Panama Lady (RKO)
Panama Patrol (GN) Feb. 25
Parents on Trial (Col) July 8
Port of Hate (SR) Aug. 19
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23
Prisoner of Corbal (SR) Sept. 9

Q

Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5

R

Racketeers of the Range (RKO) May 20
Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16
Range War (Para) Aug. 12
Rangle River (SR) May 20
Real Glory (UA) Sept. 23
Red River Range (Rep) Apr. 29
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29
Return of the Cisco Kid, The (20th-Fox) Apr. 29
Return of the Frog (SR) Oct. 7
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30
Riders of Destiny (Mono)
Riders of the Frontier (Mono)
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36
Rookie Cop (RKO) Apr. 29
Rose of Washington Square (20th-Fox) May 13
Rough Riding Rhythm (Conn)
Royal Divorce, A (SR) Sept. 9

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14
Saint in London (RKO) July 1
Scandal Sheet (Col)
Scipione L'Africano (SR) Oct. 14
Scorched Earth (SR) May 27
Second Fiddle (20th-Fox) July 8
She Married a Cop (Rep) July 1
Shine On, Harvest Moon (Rep) May 27
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox)
Should a Girl Marry? (Mono) Aug. 5
Should Husbands Work? (Rep) July 22
Singing Cowgirl (GN) June 3
Six-Gun Rhythm (GN) Feb. 18
6,000 Enemies (M-G-M) June 3
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 16
Smashing the Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21
Smoky Trails (SR) Aug. 19
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26
Some Like It Hot (Para) May 13
Song of the Streets (SR) Aug. 12
Sorority House (RKO) Apr. 22
S. O. S. Tidal Wave (Rep) June 3
Southward, Ho! (Rep) June 17
Special Inspector (SR) May 6
Spellbinder (RKO) July 15
Spoilers of the Range (Col) June 10
Spy of Napoleon (SR) May 27
Stand Up and Fight (M-G-M) Jan. 7
Stand-In (UA) Oct. 9
Stanley and Livingstone (20th-Fox) Aug. 5
Star Maker, The (Para) Aug. 19
Starlight Over Texas (Mono)
Stolen Life (Para) Apr. 29
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2
Story of Alexander Graham Bell (20th-Fox) Apr. 8
Story of Vernon and Irene Castle (RKO) Mar. 18
Stranger From Arizona (Col) Sept. 24
Street of Missing Men (Rep) Apr. 29
Streets of New York (Mono) Apr. 15
Stronger Than Desire (M-G-M) July 1
Stunt Pilot (Mono) July 8
Sun Never Sets (Univ) June 10
Susannah of the Mounties (20th-Fox) June 17
Sweepstakes Winner (FN) Apr. 22

T

Taku (SR) Sept. 16
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14
Tell No Tales (M-G-M) May 20
Texas WHdcats (SR) June 24
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M) Aug. 26
They All Come Out (M-G-M) July 8
They Asked for It (Univ) July 8
They Made Her a Spy (RKO) Mar. 25
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30
Three of a Kind (Inv)
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30
Three Texas Steers (Rep) June 24
Three Waltzes (SR) May 20
Tiger Hunt (World) Apr. 29
Timber Stampede (RKO) June 24
Timberland Afloat (M-G-M)
Timberland Terror (SR) Aug. 5
Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5
Torchy Runs for Mayor (WB) Apr. 1
Torpedoed (SR) Oct. 7
Tower of London (Univ)
Trapped by G-Men (Col) reviewed (River of Missing Men) Sept. 11
Trapped in the Sky (Col) Feb. 18
Treachery on the High Seas (SR) Sept. 30
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16
Tumbleweeds (SR) reissue May 27
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23
Typhoon Treasure (SR) May 27

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23
U. S. S. R. on the Screen 1939 (Amk) Aug. 19
Under Suspicion (Col) Nov. 27
Undercover Agent (Mono) Sept. 2
Undercover Doctor (Para) May 27
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2
Unexpected Father (Univ) July 22
Union Pacific (Para) May 6
Unmarried (Para) May 27

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9
Wanted by Scotland Yard (Mono) Apr. 29
Ware Case, The (20th-Fox) July 29
Waterfront (WB) July 1
Way Down South (RKO) July 15
Western Caravans (Col)
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ)
Whispering Enemies (Col) Jan. 7
Will of the People (SR) Mar. 4
Wings Over Africa (SR) Aug. 5
Winner Take All (20th-Fox) Feb. 25
Winter Carnival (UA) July 15
Without a Home (SR) Apr. 15
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19
Wolf Call (Mono) May 27
Women in the Wind (WB) Feb. 4
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2
World Is Ours, The (SR) Aug. 19
Wuthering Heights (UA) Apr. 1
Wyoming Outlaw (Rep) July 15

Y

You Can't Get Away With Murder (FN) Jan. 28
Young Mr. Lincoln (20th-Fox) June 10
Youth Takes a Fling (Univ) Oct. 1

Z

Zenobia (UA) Mar. 18
Zero Hour, The (Rep) May 27

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PAIR LATE model ABH Weber Simplex sound heads; double channel Operadio amplifier, Jensen speakers with tone filter; pair Weber, older model sound heads in good condition; Operadio single channel amplifier. REX THEATRE, BERLIN, WISCONSIN.

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FREE—The 1939-40 Picture Guide combined with the Date and Record Book is yours with a year's subscription to BOXOFFICE—only $2.00 a year (52 issues). Provides for all bookkeeping, dating, advertising and exploiting pictures. Write Subscription Department, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

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MAKE YOUR OWN POWER. Power plant and ventilating equipment suitable for 800 seat theatre. Heavy duty 45 H.P. Bessemer gas engine. 30 K. W. 125 volt D. C. belted generator. Allis Chalmers motor-generator 115 volts D. C. 195 Amps. Generator panel complete. (2) Arc lamp rheostats. (4) Sturtevant ventilating fans 110 volts D. C. (1) 18 inch dia.; (2) 36 inch; (1) 42 inch; (1) 6 ft. dia. fan belted to 10 H. P. 110 volt D. C. Motor. Bryant heating boiler, gas fired—1,000 square feet rad. estimated. All equipment in good condition. Offered at a bargain. Write for detailed description or come and see. GUTHRIE THEATRE, Broad St., Grove City, Pa.

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WANT TO RENT—Operating or closed Ohio state small town theatre. By capable, financially responsible showman. B-1173, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

BUY OR LEASE THEATRE; give particulars. B-1172, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

LEASE 250-750 seat house—Missouri, Kansas or Nebraska. May buy. B-1163, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

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FOR SALE OR LEASE—Attractive, modern 550 seat theatre; only one in live town of 5,000 near New York City. Completely equipped. Bargain for right person. No brokers. CLARENCE LOEWE, 1518 Paramount Bldg., New York City.

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OPERATORS AND MANAGERS—Every state; movie circuits. No. 518 State Theatre, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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MANAGER — Thoroughly experienced; all departments of theatre. M. M. LEDFORD, 2117 Fifth Ave., McKeesport, Pa.

OPERATOR—At liberty after Oct. 21. Simplex, Motiograph, most sound. Young; single; religious. Distance no object. JACK ALLEN, Alexandria, Indiana.

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HOW

the owners of the Broadway Theatre, in San Antonio, Texas, answered the oft-repeated question among showmen: "What's going to happen to picture show business?" Real showmanship answers all doubts with action. The theatre industry is PLANNING and BUILDING its way out of a bad situation brought on by inattention to and neglect of its most appealing and permanent public attraction—HOUSE APPEAL . . . . Read about this outstanding modern theatre project and others in our next forthcoming issue and keep your eye on The Modern Theatre section of BOXOFFICE regularly if you really want to keep step with what's going on in theatre construction and outfitting—and why.

AIDS TO ADVERTISING

is the theme of next issue. A thorough-going exploration of promotional values in the architectural effects, design motives and mechanical fittings of modern theatres—large and small . . . . There's indisputable advertising value in a flashing front and modern marquee. But what of a comfortable seat, an air conditioned room, a decorative scheme, a beautiful carpet, or a picture perfectly presented? Our editors have gathered some new slants on the effects of theatre advertising to be expounded in the

The MODERN THEATRE

issue of NOVEMBER 11, 1939

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION OF BOXOFFICE

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

OCTOBER 28, 1939 25c Per Copy. Per Year $7.50 in U. S. and Canada. Foreign $10. NATIONAL EDITION

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK AND DR. A. H. GIANNINI DISCUSS PRODUCTION AND QUALITY MAINTENANCE . . . "HIT AND MISS FOREVER?" AN EDITORIAL APPROACH TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE HOME MARKET . . . 'ROUND-THE-COUNTRY SUITS NOT LIKELY TO REACH TRIAL BEFORE NEW YEAR, LAWYERS BELIEVE . . . AND THE USUAL BOXOFFICE SERVICE FEATURES: GROSSES, REVIEWS, BOOKING CHART



M-G-M's GOT WHAT THE WORLD WANTS!

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(*Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell*)

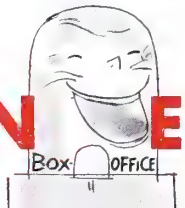
"BABES IN ARMS"
(*Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland*)

MARX BROS. "AT THE CIRCUS"
(*Groucho, Chico and Harpo*)

"NINOTCHKA"
(*Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas*)

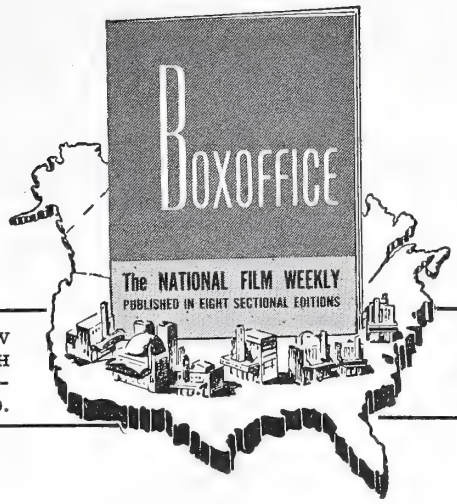
"ANOTHER THIN MAN"
(*William Powell, Myrna Loy*)





HAPPINESS IN EVERY BOX-OFFICE!

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HIT-AND-MISS FOREVER?

THIS industry, strong for slogans, continues to regard the grass on the other fellow's lawn as greener.

Faced by an eighty per cent freeze on remittances from England and, perhaps, an import restriction there of one hundred twenty-five or one hundred and fifty pictures, the optimism boys still turn their wishful thinking eyes toward the remaining markets overseas, anticipating they hold the answer to their troubles. In terms of geography, this essentially is South America.

All right, let's take a look at South America. The United States Chamber of Commerce, as BOXOFFICE already has reported, has warned American business at large against too many hopes of substantial increases in that direction.

The Motion Picture Division of the Department of Commerce has the figures to demonstrate that, even today, American films are close to their maximum playing time in those Latin markets which are worth the bother.

It might be possible to increase the equation now that everyone expects England, France and Germany to slither into nonentity as producing nations for the duration of the war.

Better terms are always a possibility, of course, and that might help. But the potentialities span, very apparently now, is far less than is generally known unless the industry's executive strata have gone for ivory towers and vacuums in wholesale.

Then what? Then this:

The need to concentrate chief attention on the home market, always the best market, becomes the more pressing. It is in connection with this very need that some questions are now about to be sprung:

What has the industry done by way of scientifically ascertaining its possibilities right here in America?

What steps have been taken to get at the facts?

For instance, how accurate is the current estimate of an 85,000,000 weekly attendance and is it not the truth this figure, because some figure had to be arrived at, was more loosely than analytically reached?

But accepting it in lieu of anything better, although some researchers declare they can satisfactorily prove 60,000,000 is closer to it, what has been attempted by anyone in any direction about combing additional possibilities? Or about endeavoring to discover ways and means of persuading those who now attend to come more often?

Who can tell how many more might be regarded as potential customers? Or who they are? Or what walks of life they traverse? Or if they are intellectuals or morons? Or if they are economically equipped to "go to the movies" once a month, once a week or not at all?

Aside from hit-and-miss approaches and the conclusions which may be inconclusively drawn from the performance of specific pictures, what does this industry know about the types of attractions the public will support? If a film, popular in point of story and cast appeal, does $1,500,000 in this market, could it have done more and by what means?

You will get answers to these obvious questions, of course. But the answers will not be scientifically adduced. They could not possibly withstand any thorough, statistically-grounded counter attack because no one in this wide-flung business is authoritatively equipped to reply.

It seems ironic and past all understanding that this business can find $1,000,000 to finance the greatest contest in its history and not a penny for market research.

Why?

Kann

ALL PRODUCERS AIMING FOR GOOD PRODUCT, SAYS SCHENCK; GIANNINI FEELS LIKEWISE

Economy a Goal, But Not as a Penalty Upon Quality

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—Notwithstanding the war, "everyone is trying to make as good product as they can and no one is cutting down on the number of pictures planned, as far as I know," Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, told BOXOFFICE in an exclusive interview on his arrival from a two-week visit at the studios. Jovial and optimistic, the Loew and M-G-M chieftain briefly summed up the situation in Hollywood with "everything is lovely." Mrs. Schenck accompanied him.

Speaking for M-G-M, the head man said, "we are trying to save every dollar we can, but not at the expense of quality." His policy has always been to maintain quality and he emphasized this again, adding M-G-M "will make all of the 52 announced, or as close to the number as it can." He pointed out this has always been the aim of the company.

Maintain Production Pace

"Our company is shooting on all cylinders," he added with a smile, "and eight are now in production." Asked whether more films of "Gone With the Wind" calibre are contemplated, he stated the best way to answer the question was "we are going to continue to produce pictures as fine as we possibly can."

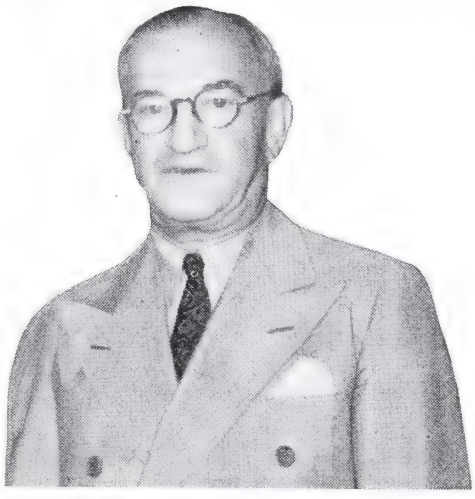
There is no tendency by producers to reduce programs and "it looks to me like every one of the studios is going ahead full speed." He added, however, the war has brought about "some cutting, but everyone is going ahead as best they can."

Schenck looks forward to resumption of production in England by American companies. "We want to go ahead if the British government will let us. I believe they will." He said that two pictures, "A Yank at Oxford" and "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," made in England under the supervision of Ben Goetz, have been outstanding successes here and abroad and intimated that as the reason for and desire to continue production in London.

No Data on Foreign Mart

As for business, he said, "We are going ahead about the same as last year." Schenck referred to domestic operations, admitting he had not seen latest reports on foreign returns and was in no position to talk. He added, however, that when he left for the coast he understood the foreign gross was off approximately 20 per cent.

Immediately on his return, he conferred with William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, on the policy for "Gone With the Wind."



NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK

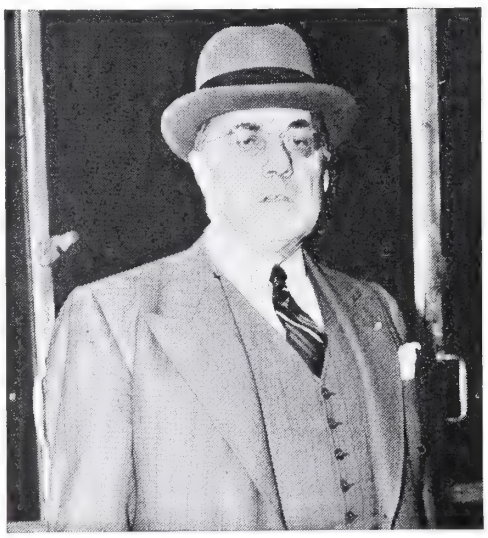
Big Ones Due, Warner at Even Keel, Says Einfeld

NEW YORK—Generating enthusiasm over five of "the biggest pictures" to be released by Warner within the next two months, S. Charles Einfeld, director of advertising and publicity, asserted the company's production expenditures and activity is being maintained at even keel. Mrs. Einfeld accompanied him from the coast.

"We will produce every picture sold," he said, which means 48, 12 of which are "B's."

Seven in the latter category are completed and the remaining five will get under way about December 15, he added. Meanwhile, Bryan Foy and the rest of the "B" production staff are on vacation.

Einfeld will probably return to the coast around November 1, at which time Jack L. Warner, who has been here for about three weeks, is scheduled to do likewise.



DR. A. H. GIANNINI

Sustain Hope War Climax Near, New Markets Are Available

By CARLTON WAINWRIGHT

NEW YORK—Hollywood is concentrating on the making of "good and better pictures" with the hope the European war will reach its climax soon and the foreign market will open up again, to some extent if not all, whereby producers can get an appreciable return on their pictures.

So states Dr. A. H. Giannini, who arrived from the coast with his son, newly married, and their wives, for a 10-day vacation. They plan to head west in about a week.

"All is going along nicely and I think as far as Hollywood is concerned every company is bending every effort to make good pictures and to continue producing quality product.

"I know of no company which has deviated from this policy." Then he asks, "Why should they?" Answering his own question in the same breath, he says, "They have to make good pictures. I think they (the producers) realize grosses are down because of the foreign situation; yet, I believe they will go right ahead and create new markets, such as in South America."

A Neutral Arbitrator

Having no financial or stock interest in Columbia, the Lubitsch company, Selznick International or Imperadio, Giannini is on the board of directors of each company as a neutral member to "arbitrate differences" which may arise. That also is the extent of his interest in the entire industry. Prior to his active retirement from the film business, the "Doc" was president of UA and chairman of the board. But because of his association with the four companies, Giannini keeps abreast of the industry's activities.

"As far as I know there is no restricting or limiting budgets. After all, this thing on the other side is not going to continue forever, the producers hope it will be a short war. No one knows, but all are hoping.

"There has been some cutting here and there, but this has been of minor consequence. All studios are busy, all have the same objectives: to make good pictures and to continue to make the best they possibly can."

Giannini feels the industry will come through the current crisis without much scathing because the desire is apparent from every quarter not to budge from the objective of producing quality product and maintain budgets with as little paring as possible. Two things stand out in his mind: one, the war is only a temporary affair, and secondly the film companies are concentrating on new markets.

ROUND-THE-COUNTRY SUITS NOT LIKELY FOR TRIAL BEFORE NEW YEAR, N. Y. LAWYERS THINK

Government Cooperative In Delay Requests; Quiz Narrowing

By JACK RUST

NEW YORK—None of the "Big Stick" actions against major and independent circuits and distributors pending in Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, Nashville, Buffalo and New York will come to trial before the first of the year, in the opinion of lawyers handling the various cases. Preliminary motions before the courts and others to be filed will delay trials for another two or three months, and in some cases longer, it is held.

Cooperation of government officials submitting to stipulations for delaying answers in the various actions is noted with appreciation by distributor counsel. Particularly is this apparent in the all-industry suit where department of justice authorities in Washington have acceded to three delays on answering the A to Z quiz. A fourth postponement will be sought November 1, or a few days earlier.

See Agreement on Questions

After several meetings with Paul Williams, assistant to the attorney general, the indication is an agreement will be reached without the court's assistance for paring the interrogatories to necessary and vital questions. It is held the department is cognizant of the fact a number of its questions are "too broad" and cannot be answered without spending many months in the files and in the field for the information required. Delay in answering the interrogatories has also resulted in Senior Judge John C. Knox indefinitely putting off the naming of a local federal judge to hear the all-industry action.

Although the department of justice in Washington and here steadfastly declines to reveal where the next series of three anti-trust actions will be instituted, it is known that FBI men have been active in Memphis, Miami and the mideast. In Memphis the operations of Malco have been checked by John Clagett, who was in the government's lineup in the St. Louis case and also is listed among counsel in the all-industry suit. Wometco has been mentioned from time to time as a prospective target of the government in Miami. In the mideast, the Co-operative booking combine has been investigated. Its headquarters are in Detroit. In the event a suit is launched, it will be the first of its kind against a booking combine.

Not wholly unexpected is the withdrawal by the government of Universal and RKO from the contempt proceedings in the B&K case. During the hearings last month before a special master, it was indicated then that the two companies had no place in the defense and that

(Continued on page 22)

On Behalf of the Schines

Buffalo—In answer to the affidavit of John Buchmann of the Star, Delaware, O., Paul N. Lazarus, contract manager for UA, cites figures and percentages in a replying affidavit. To-wit:

In 1931, UA product playing the theatre on straight percentage showed the largest rental to be $88.61 and the smallest $6.71.

In 1932, the largest percentage rental was $41.43 as against the low return of $6.47.

In 1933-34, the largest rental amounted to $155.13 and the smallest, $6.15, or an average of about $20.

However, when the distributor sold the Strand in that town in 1935-36, the average flat rental was $100. And in 1938-39, adds Lazarus, the Schine circuit, operating the Strand, paid as high as $187.50 for a picture.

Co-operative of Michigan and Wometco of Florida Seen Next

WASHINGTON—The "Big Stick" will next level its guns at Co-operative Theatres of Michigan and Wometco in Florida, informed sources on Capitol Hill declare. The Michigan combine embraces some 80 units in Detroit, while Wometco is operated by Sidney Meyer and Mitchell Wolfson in Miami and Miami Beach with 12 houses.

A comparatively unexplored reason for the consistency with which the department of justice is attacking independent circuits, three of which have faced anti-trust actions in the last six months, is revealed by the same source.

Following institution of the government's equity action in New York in the summer of 1938 against all majors, considerable attention was focused on that phase of the suit seeking divorcement of theatres by producer-distributor defendants. A series of conferences between department officials and defendant attorneys, in addition to an extended exchange of correspondence on the matter divulged a fundamental weakness in the suit's divorcement demands, it is said.

This is claimed to have stemmed from the sudden recognition, plus more than a little coaching on the sidelines, that even should the government win its point in this direction the parent companies controlling affiliated circuits would simply divest their interests to partners, or sell blocks of theatres to favored operators, preferably existing independent chains.

Such an eventuation, it is held, was seen as completely nullifying the intent of the divorcement phase of the suit. From that point on the department studied various means of circumventing such a situation and, it is said, concluded that a series of anti-trust actions against existing independent chains would remove a future strengthening of their interests by acquiring the divested theatres of affiliated circuits.

Co-operative Theatres is a booking and buying corporation, of which Fred DeLodder is president. It has been in existence for about ten years, being made up entirely of small independent operators who pay membership dues.

Historic Twist in Trust Suit

Buffalo—Two administrations are indirectly playing a part in the government's anti-trust suit against Schine and the majors. Hiram Owens, who signed an affidavit for the department of justice relating his experiences and difficulties in building a theatre at Corbin, Ky., is a graduate of Harvard University in the class with President Roosevelt.

John Lord O'Brian, representing five major companies, was a former assistant attorney general in charge of the anti-trust division in Washington during the Hoover administration.

Nation 90% Dual, Schine Thinks

Buffalo—J. Myer Schine, who admits he has deals pending for four theatres, states "it is estimated 90 per cent of the theatres throughout the country are playing duals" in his affidavit in the government suit.

"We are trying, even now, to run singles whenever and wherever we can. Policies in small towns are not cut and dried. They are tried out and tested with the public determining," he states in defining the policies in his situations.

The Schine circuit currently operates 146 theatres in 72 situations, chiefly small towns.

QUALITY MUST FLOW WITHOUT ANY ABATEMENT, MPTOA DIRECTORS VOTE TO ADVISE HOLLYWOOD

Quality Maintenance Sans Letup Viewed as Best Way to Hold Trade

By RED KANN

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.—Induced by published newspaper stories which may have led the public into believing production cuts are planned as well as by the effect of a drop in quality on their grosses, MPTOA's board of directors will urge Hollywood to maintain present standards at all costs. The decision, a highlight of the annual board meeting at the Greenbrier, took shape on Tuesday in the form of a resolution presented by Mitchell Wolfson of the Wometco circuit of Miami.

The action confirmed BOXOFFICE's exclusive forecast that the Second World War and its impact on output would rank well up front among the topics thrown on the conference table.

MPTOA men believe the most effective means of holding present attendance levels can be reached through maintenance of quality without letup. They declared themselves as subscribing to the conviction that, if quality is reduced, the step would result in further damage to thriving foreign markets and inestimable harm in the home market. They expressed concern over published statements regarding economies and pointed out that, even in the event cuts do not develop, the impact will be damaging if the public is given any reason to suspect the industry has such a plan in mind. As one means in the direction of a sustained public interest and, perhaps, better boxoffices, distributors will be asked to key their national advertising closer to release dates.

To Name Fact Finders

A fact-finding committee to discuss and to analyze with producers the exact extent of losses or frozen remittances from abroad likewise is in the making. Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, will name the personnel under clearly defined duties later.

As appeared inevitably the outcome, the situation in Europe played a significant part in the two-day session. Concern was voiced over the effect on the domestic market of the neutrality bill which rules out shipments of films to belligerent countries unless copyright rights to titles are first relinquished. If they are not, prints cannot leave the country, thereby posing a situation which virtually will drive American companies out of business in warring countries and place an additional burden on the native exhibitor in the effort to recoup millions normally collected abroad.

The MPTOA will actively campaign in Washington in an endeavor to convince members of congress of the need for an exemption which will permit the free flow of American film exports.

Third phase tying in the domestic with the international situation took expression in the form of a resolution urging the theatre operator to maintain his patriotism, but to be wary of propaganda which may tend to propel, or involve, this country in the war. Propaganda, as such, was not defined although the attempt was made, but, in general, it was determined to rest the issue on the discretion of the individual exhibitor.

Neely Bill Scored

In a move to break down "unfavorable" publicity involving the industry, the directors decided to urge each of its units to organize a speaker's bureau the members of which are to make appearances before clubs and semi-public organizations. Where state units may not include men qualified as speechmakers, the idea is to draft sympathetic or associated bankers and lawyers for the job. No specific ground to be covered was outlined, but onslaughts on the Neely bill loom well within the agenda.

The bill itself was severely attacked in another resolution on the ground it constituted a first step toward industry regulation by government. The fear was also expressed its enactment might lead to the formation of pressure groups seeking censorship in various communities and a control over the exhibitor by dictating to him what films he should or should not play.

Radio appearances of film players, in series, were condemned as a quick means of dissipating the boxoffice value of such players. While it was ruled that spot appearances within reason were not objectionable, it was also decided to advise Hollywood against the more extended practice. In this connection, Kuykendall remarked, "Stars yell when the studios put them in two or more pictures a year. Yet they accept amateurly and poorly written radio scripts on a frequent appearance basis which, in the final analysis, can only mean their washup at the boxoffice."

See Cancellation Hike Neely Blow

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.—If all distributors will grant unrestricted 20 per cent cancellation and divorce shorts sales from features, MPTOA believes that exhibitor and public demand for the enactment of the Neely bill will collapse on the ground it will not be considered "required legislation." The directors, therefore, passed a resolution urging such action. Direct representations to sales managers will follow.

To Urge Units Organize "Speaker's Bureau" to Fight Bad Publicity

On the strength of reports from Oklahoma, Texas and Washington, the directors determined to gird themselves against the alleged lobbying of 16mm equipment manufacturers for state censorship laws. Several directors brought to the meeting reports that this activity was being drummed up so that the small-gauge equipment men could use funds piling up from censorship fees to develop sales of projectors to schools and educational institutions.

Those distributors who had refused to license features for television broadcasts were commended.

Continuance of the campaign against Ascap was determined until the state of Washington bill ruling off the composers' organization was finally determined. Two court decisions have thus far sustained the measure, although MPTOA men declared they are fully aware of the fact that the final decision in the state has not been made and that the litigation, no doubt, ultimately will have to be determined by the U. S. supreme court.

Revivals, whether in their original or revised form, presented a problem on the strength of a complaint lodged by Frank C. Cassil of St. Joseph, Mo., who said a 16mm print, purchased by the University of Kansas through the Modern Film Museum, was being shown simultaneously with a regular theatre run of the "uncensored" version currently marketed by Universal. An appeal will be addressed to distributors to control occurrences of a similar nature.

Officers Are Returned

As anticipated, Kuykendall and other incumbents were returned to office without opposition, Frank C. Walker of the Comerford circuit was named general counsel, replacing Edward G. Levy who is now serving a prison term in Connecticut for complicity in a recent public funds extortion case in Waterbury. George P. Aarons, secretary of the UMPTO of Eastern Pennsylvania, was named assistant general counsel. This is a new post which carries with it a suggestion that Aarons will meet the burden of the work while Walker will collaborate. Leonard Goldenson of the Paramount theatre department was named to the board of trustees, succeeding Y. Frank Freeman who for some months now has been prominently identified at the company's studio. The shift, incidentally, was made at Paramount's request.

Officers who attended were Mitchell

(Continued on page 11)

A *Record* NEVER EQUALED BY ANY COMPANY IN ANY SEASON....

grows greater every month!

★AUGUST

STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE

Smash headliner of the new season's lead-off hits!

★SEPTEMBER

THE RAINS CAME

...The picture that topped "Jesse James"!

★OCTOBER

HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE

...The picture the industry has taken to its heart!

★Now NOVEMBER...


DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S
production of
DRU
ALON
MOU
starrin
Claudette COLBE
with
EDNA MAY OLIVER · EDDIE COLLIN
JESSIE RALPH · ARTHUR SHIELD
Associate Producer Raymond Griffith
Directed b


in Technicolor
MS
THE
AWK
Henry FONDA
HN CARRADINE · DORRIS BOWDON
OBERT LOWERY · ROGER IMHOF
reen play by Lamar Trotti and Sonya Levien
HN FORD
WHEN TORCH AND TOMAHAWK SPREAD THEIR TERROR... AND FRONTIER WOMEN FOUGHT BESIDE THEIR MEN! From Walter D. Edmonds' biggest of all best-sellers ... the great novel of adventure and romance when America was young!

All who have seen "DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK" acclaim it bigger than any of its great 20th Century-Fox predecessors this season . . . .

So you can confidently plan the maximum in play time . . . .

And campaign "DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK" to your public with repeated holdovers in mind!



THE GREATEST RELEASE SCHEDULE IN 20th CENTURY-FOX HISTORY...NOW WHEN BIG PICTURES COUNT MOST!

20th CENTURY FOX

THE KEYSTONE OF YOUR FUTURE

ADMISSION PRICE LEVEL MUST BE PRESERVED TO AVOID NICKELODEON RETURN, MPTOA VIEW

Rodgers Code Faith Holds; How To Adopt It Snag, He Admits

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.—William F. Rodgers, lone distributor representative at the MPTOA board meeting, continues to maintain faith in ultimate code adoption, but readily concedes "when or how it would be applied I am not prepared to say." He envisions such adoption being followed by the creation of a national agency through which many misunderstandings would be adjudicated.

Making it clear he talked as a Loew's representative only, his views on trade practices developed as a result of a question. "In respect to the suggested code," he said, "I do not believe the government or the trade as a whole realized just how many exhibitors actually wanted a code. I can assure you from my contact with exhibitors that by far the majority wanted a code and I believe still want one. Those who expressed uncertainty were only seeking an opportunity to further explore possibilities. As evidence of this, I need only to remind you of the resolution passed a short time ago by the Allied unit in Michigan which requested not only government permission, but asked its national organization and the distributors' committee to further negotiate for the establishment of means to settle disputes. I do not know of any method of satisfaction except through arbitration. Of course, in view of the government's position distributors are now powerless to act."

Rodgers again voiced opposition to the Neely bill, warning MPTOA directors: "You will need to emphasize to your representatives at Washington just what its enactment would mean to you and that its application would not solve all problems its proponents would lead some to believe. I said so before, and I repeat it again, the bill would result in detriment to those who have prospered in this industry by the very system they seek to destroy. You know, and so do I, that under the present basis of selectivity, an exhibitor who says he was forced to play this or that film is merely seeking an alibi to satisfy someone who does not understand the mechanics of the business."

MPTOA maintains those distributors who have adopted the code highlights have not gone as far as they could and fails to understand why the remaining five of seven distributors who subscribed to the document thus far have failed individually to announce acceptance. Kuykendall repeats that signatures are not required, contending merely a declaration by the distributor of intent is sufficient.

Want Flow of Quality Without Abatement

(Continued from page 6)

Wolfson, Miami, and A. Julian Brylawski, Washington, vice-presidents; Morris Loewenstein, Oklahoma City, secretary, and Fred Wehrenberg, St. Louis, chairman of the board. Directors present included M. A. Lightman, Memphis; William Benton, Saratoga Springs; Frank C. Cassil, St. Joseph, Mo.; H. V. Harvey, San Francisco; A. C. Hayman, Buffalo; Sol Hyman, Huntington, W. Va.; Oscar C. Lam, Rome, Ga.; Arthur H. Lockwood, Middletown, Conn.; Benjamin Pitts, Fredericksburg, Va.; Lewen Pizor, Philadelphia; Roy L. Walker, Lampasas, Tex.; Charles E. Williams, Omaha; R. X. Williams, Oxford, Miss., and Lyle M. Wilson, Roanoke Rapids, N. C. J. D. Dennison, Monroe, Mich., a Butterfield partner, represented E. C. Beatty, general manager of that circuit. David Palfreyman was on hand for the Hays organization. Sideliners included Ona Johnson, secretary of the MPTO of Oklahoma, and Sol Davis, associated with Loewenstein in the Republic franchise for the Oklahoma territory.

Contend Economy Moves Create Print Shortage

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.—Economy moves taking the form of reduced numbers of working prints are making the position of the subsequent runs in many sections of the nation increasingly difficult, a number of MPTOA directors representing widely scattered sections stated while here for their annual board meeting.

Clearances in a number of situations provide enough of a headache, they state, but the condition grows more aggravating when there fails to be on hand a sufficient supply of prints to fill dates once the subsequent finds the booking is available to him. Thus, in effect, clearances are set back further.

In the far west, according to H. V. Harvey of San Francisco, board member from Northern California, the problem is a genuine one. The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners which the Oregon exhibtior association now has joined is studying the issue and hopes for a solution, although Harvey declined to indicate what the potential plan provided.

Warn First Runs Holding Key and Ask Caution To Avoid Slashing

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.—Admissions must be maintained at current levels if the theatre industry is not to slide back to the nickelodeon days, a cross-sectional viewpoint gathered by BOXOFFICE from directors of the MPTOA in annual session here reveals.

A number of delegates openly expressed concern over the future of the price structure and warned against any "foolhardy and shortsighted" shifts by first runs which would compel all houses behind them to make adjustments downward as a direct consequence.

Hand in hand with this opinion went another which indicated a scattered desire to increase scales, but those who voiced this slant agree this is not the time to attempt any hikes.

Men from those areas where duals are the rule did not hesitate to register disapproval of the practice, but, almost in the same breath, hastened to declare the public wants them and, thus, continues to get them.

"There is a definite market for cheaper pictures. In many instances, audiences prefer them to the so-called A's. As long as that situation prevails and regardless of how I may personally view the condition, it should be pretty obvious that I'm going to hit it as close to the demand as I can," remarked one director who had considerable company on this analysis.

Against High Rental Drives

Around the leave-strewn paths of the Greenbrier and in its sumptuous corridors, emphasis was placed, and then reiterated, on opposition against any wholesale distributor drive for increased rentals. These MPTOA directors were very definite on that score, insisting they are carrying all the traffic they can now bear. They recognized, in a general way, the effect of shrinking foreign returns on the industry, but argued it might be well for the industry to keep a continued eye on Hollywood.

"Sixteen men were paid about $22,000,000 last year," pointed out one of them. "Now that's a whale of a lot of money. I don't argue down their value, but I do argue like hell that no group of 16 men could have actually earned that amount of money. If the companies in New York are seriously trying to effect economies, will you please tell me why those getting such enormous salaries don't step forward and volunteer to take a substantial slash. These men presumably are among the leaders of the industry. Well, why don't they act like leaders, that is, if the economies talked about are really essential. Besides, they give most of their salaries to the government, anyway."

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

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SALT LAKE CITY—167 South State St., Viola B. Hutton.
SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Nathan Cohn. Telephone Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2321 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Telephone MAin 7716.
WASHINGTON—1426 G. St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY, ALTA.—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Telephone Walnut 5519.
REGINA, SASK.—The Star, Andy McDermott.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—161 Princess St., D. Fetherston.
TORONTO, ONTARIO—242 Millwood Road, Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER, B. C.—615 Hastings, C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

WE SEE by the papers Pete Harrison regards Frank Capra as a one-man subversive influence. Recognizing "the right of the citizen to express his opinion freely," Pete asserts there are "certain moral obligations" which should be observed. Presenting the nation, or its congress, in what he views as a bad light transgresses one of them. Therefore does Capra stand accused of lack of good taste for the story of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

"He has presented the United States senate as a body the members of which are elected to their office by the support of crooked politicians to whom they remain subservient during their term of office," Harrison writes and finds it deplorable that impressions like this should get afloat and abroad. Actually, Capra did nothing of the sort. He did not encompass the entire senate body at all, but for dramatic and narrative purposes centered the corruption angle on one man who recants at the close by dousing himself with a super-generous effort at whitewash. And successfully, too.

We have been trying to figure out why Pete is excited to a point where he calls upon Allied to pick on the nice and honest Mr. Smith as a catapult from which to launch renewed attempts at enactment of the Neely bill. Little being immune from Hollywood story ingenuity, why should senatorial immunity go untouched? Why gloss over crookedness if it should be lodged in high places like the senate? That very rarefied atmosphere suggests itself to us as a more urgent reason for doing it. Besides, the effect abroad will not be as catastrophic as Harrison fears it; every nation has its political foibles and all nations are suspect in the functioning of some phases of their political parties.

Viewpoints such as this of Harrison's are shortsighted and potentially even more serious since they evidence a from-within-the-industry desire to further muffle a method of expression which requires more, not less, freedom. Presumably the country may laugh at stock jokes about senators and congressmen, but Hollywood may not touch them.

"Mr. Smith," actually, is one of the finest expressions of faith in country that the studios have launched. Those who will insist it is the outstanding instance will get no violent argument from us. Capra's method of obtaining results merely varies from the rest. By pounding away at the evils, of which any individual allegedly alert must be aware, he forcefully drives home the good.

Country and code thereby come out victorious and the populace is amused.

Tales From the Hills

Bill (Hopalong Cassidy) Boyd says he has discovered a new use for moth balls. They keep branch eating deer away. This phenomena in natural science came about when Boyd discovered many grape vines and small trees had been nibbled clean on his ranch in Ventura which is in California where such amazing things take place. So he hit upon the idea of tying moth balls to vines and trees remaining and says the odor keeps the deer at a respectable distance.

Great care ought to be exercised about spreading this information. Exhibitors are apt to try the idea in their lobbies on Stinkeroo Nights.

Subversive

Lana Turner's favorite color is red, not because of her flaming locks but became she thinks it is lucky. Therefore, she has painted her entire living room that color, the publicity wonder boys do tell. "Since being spotted by a talent scout while wearing a red sweater and sipping a strawberry ice cream soda, the petite redhead has been loyal to that color, even driving a fire engine-red roadster," they also tell.

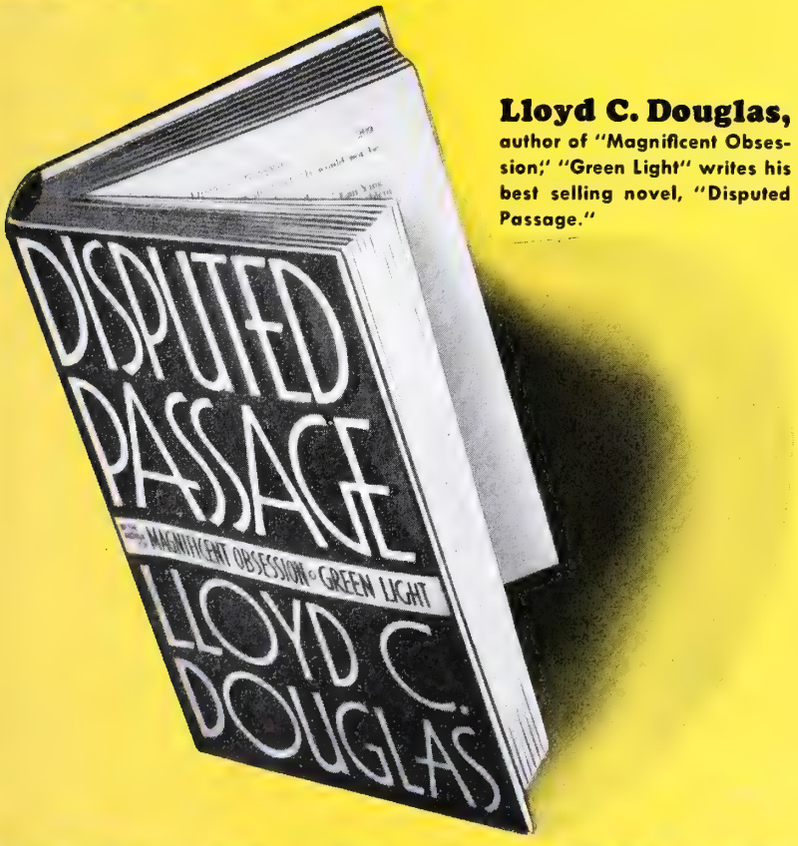
Copy of this at once to Congressman Dies at Washington. Communistic, that's what.

Sneaking Up

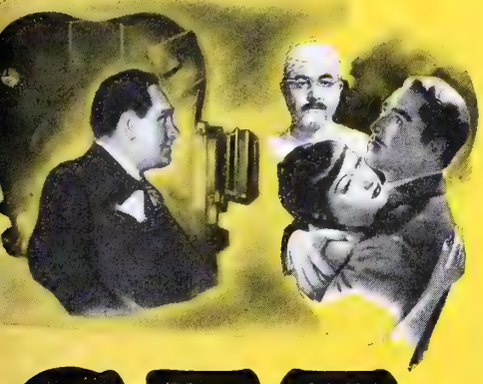
Richard Denning is a Paramount actor. Dorothy Fogelquist is his heartbeat. Denning misses Dorothy, it seems, and now plans a quick trip to Seattle to see her. "A trip to Banff is in their itinerary and Denning hinted marriage is not improbable," the press agent obliges.

Just a hint. That's all.

WHEN BEST SELLERS GET TOGETHER



Lloyd C. Douglas, author of "Magnificent Obsession;" "Green Light" writes his best selling novel, "Disputed Passage."



Frank Borzage, of "A Farewell to Arms" and "Seventh Heaven" fame, produces and directs Paramount's "Disputed Passage," starring Dorothy Lamour, Akim Tamiroff and John Howard.

Paramount's "DISPUTED PASSAGE"
"Absorbing entertainment . . . a best seller read by millions. Entire cast exceptionally fine with Tamiroff giving a performance that will long be remembered."—*Showmen's Trade Review*

Paramount's "DISPUTED PASSAGE"
"Really one of the fine pictures of the year. Frank Borzage has given a flawless job of direction. Top acting honors must be justly divided by the three principals." —*Joe Blair, Hollywood Motion Picture Review*

Paramount's "DISPUTED PASSAGE"
"Deservedly takes its place in the fore rank with the other screenings of Lloyd Douglas's novels. Akim Tamiroff is magnificent. John Howard gives what is easily his best performance to date and Dorothy Lamour, too, is at her best." —*Hollywood Reporter*

Paramount's "DISPUTED PASSAGE"
"Paramount has brought the popular best seller to pictures with all of its force intact."
—*Dorothy Manners, Los Angeles Examiner*

Paramount's "DISPUTED PASSAGE"
"Will probably score a large hit. Miss Lamour's beauty is a radiant facet of her role. 'Disputed Passage' commands attention."
—*Edwin Schallert, Los Angeles Times*

"Paramount's 'DISPUTED PASSAGE'
is in the best tradition of both Lloyd C. Douglas, whose name is synonymous with fine literary endeavor, and Frank Borzage, who has accounted for some of the screen's most notable efforts. Tamiroff's characterization another long step upward in a career ascending by leaps and bounds. Howard's best performance. Miss Lamour commendable in first real dramatic role." —*Motion Picture Daily*

Paramount Pictures

...It's Always Box Office Weather!

'Mutiny' Encouraging, Mono. Ups 'Winkle'

KANSAS CITY—Encouraged by the reception given "Mutiny in the Big House," members of Monogram's advisory committee decided to budget "Rip Van Winkle" at $350,000. Jean Hersholt is being sought for the lead. A number of other picture budgets have been upped 50 per cent or more.

The committee meeting here comprised W. Ray Johnston, president; Scott R. Dunlap, vice-president in charge of production; Edward A. Golden, vice-president; George W. Weeks, general sales manager; Ray Olmstead, Los Angeles; Charles Trampe, Milwaukee; Steve Broidy, Boston; and John Mangham, Atlanta. Trem Carr, board member, also stopped in at the session.

After the meeting, Weeks stayed over for a conference with Forest Judd, Des Moines; Sol Francis, Omaha; Lon Fidler, Denver. From there he went to Oklahoma City and Dallas. Johnston and Golden headed for New York.

Four Wallace Mysteries Added by Monogram

NEW YORK—Strengthening its release schedule, Monogram has acquired four Edgar Wallace mystery features produced by GB in England. Titles are being changed for this market. The company recently added "The Fight for Peace," produced by Warwick, and "The Gap," from GB, which is now known as "Raiders Over England."

Skouras and Zabel Near End of Drive Tour

LOS ANGELES—Spyros Skouras and Edward Zabel arrive early next week after making two-day stopovers in Milwaukee, Kansas City, Denver, Seattle and San Francisco where they held pep meetings on the fourth annual National Theatres drive. J. J. Sullivan, film buyer for FWC, arrived from the east last week and will head back to New York again in another three weeks. Skouras plans to spend about a week here conferring with Charles Skouras and other FWC executives. Zabel will remain only a few days.

Prior to his departure from New York, Skouras held a meeting at his headquarters with home office field drive leaders. Various ideas were exchanged. Charles A. Buckley, local counsel for the circuit, is in New York for conferences with Richard E. Dwight of Dwight, Harris, Caskey & Koegel, counsel for National Theatres and 20th-Fox, and Felix Jenkins, general counsel for the distributor. Dwight and two aides recently spent about two weeks here in connection with the government's contempt proceedings against FWC and majors.

Cut Columbia Dividend

NEW YORK—"Due largely to disturbed European conditions," Columbia has declared half of the usual preferred dividend of 68¾ cents.

Pioneers to Spread Across Nation

New York—Picture Pioneers, Inc., originally calculated as an organization of film veterans in the New York industry 25 years or more will spread its wings shortly across the nation. First step in this direction developed at the Pioneers' fall party here a few days ago when the first batch of out-of-towners was initiated. They included J. J. Fitzgibbons and Leo Devaney of Toronto and Morris Josephs of New Haven.

What the camera caught as the Picture Pioneers made merry is recorded on page 23.

Denies Two Seeking Ostrer GB Share

NEW YORK—Reports M-G-M and 20th-Fox were reconsidering purchasing the Ostrers' interest in GB in a move designed to liquidate frozen assets in England were scotched by Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's.

He said this was furtherest from his thoughts at this time. His principal interest centers about making "good" pictures which he feels will maintain business levels.

Both M-G-M and 20th-Fox own a substantial interest in the British company and although there have been reports during the past year or so of reopening negotiations for additional stock none has proved reliable.

Sidney to Stay West for Production, Says Schenck

NEW YORK—Louis K. Sidney, former WHN head, will continue in production on the coast for M-G-M, Nicholas M. Schenck said on his arrival from Hollywood. Sidney had been reported returning to his former duties in the east, but Schenck explained Sidney likes production and will continue doing that. Sidney has been producing musicals since M-G-M dropped its identification with the "Good News" radio program more than a year ago.

Herbert L. Pettey has been active operating head of WHN since Sidney's departure for the coast more than two years ago.

Zukor to a Mexico City Exhibitor Celebration

HOLLYWOOD—Adolph Zukor will represent Paramount at a special exhibitor celebration in Mexico City, November 26 and 27. Following this, Zukor will head for New York with a visit scheduled for Cuba shortly thereafter.

In keeping with the policy of strengthening foreign exhibitor contacts, Zukor and John W. Hicks jr., head of the foreign department, will tour South America in January.

Long Runs and Higher Prices, 'Wind' Plans

NEW YORK—Extended runs at increased admission prices will be the policy for M-G-M's $4,000,000 "Gone With the Wind" in each key situation, according to plans being discussed by home office executives. The picture will run three hours and 40 minutes. Minimum playing time and admission scales will be set up on the basis of each situation.

The premiere is scheduled for Loew's, Atlanta, December 16. The length of the run and price range has not yet been set. The plan to follow with openings in Los Angeles and New York has temporarily been abandoned. However, all indications point to the film going into the Capitol and not the Astor. Home office executives view the Astor as too small, and because the picture would probably run a year or more, this would hold up the Greater New York and surrounding areas.

Currently at the Astor is "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," which is being withdrawn in the next week or so. It is understood negotiations are under way for an independent picture to follow, but nothing is set. The Loew circuit has been clamoring for "Chips" for some time. This also is true with other important independent accounts who have been complaining that the picture has been shown outside of New York City for the past few months while they were being held up by the Broadway showing.

David O. Selznick, producer and partner in "Gone With the Wind," was scheduled to arrive from the coast the end of the week. He will be asked for suggestions although he has no say on sales policy, which is entirely in M-G-M's hands.

The same morning Nicholas M. Schenck returned from the coast, he conferred with distribution and Loew circuit heads relative to plans for "Gone With the Wind." Reaching no decision, William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, postponed the contemplated Chicago session for the weekend for divisional and district managers.

Cohen Promises to 'Blast' Allied Heads and 'Others'

NEW YORK—Max A. Cohen, head of Allied of New York, promises "to blast" national Allied leaders and "others" at the statewide meeting called for November 1 at Syracuse. There will be no star chamber sessions, he states, and anyone, including the press, can attend.

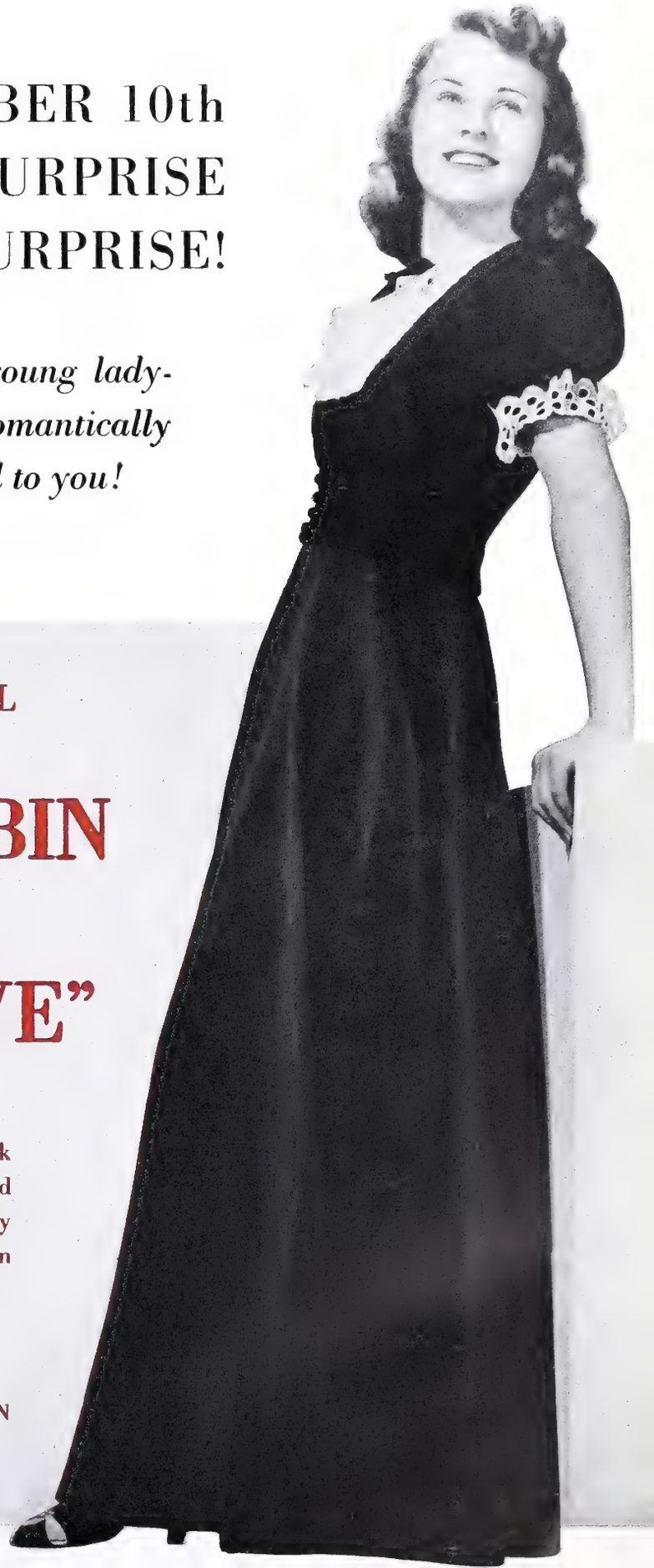
Recent statements by Col. H. A. Cole, national Allied president, that Cohen "exceeded his authority" in ousting E. Thornton Kelly, former secretary-treasurer of the local unit, will be answered. Cohen will also discuss the recent change of heart by Abram F. Myers, general counsel of national Allied, in paying tribute to certain companies adopting various principles of the code after Myers fought the ratification of the trade practices finally outlawed by Thurman Arnold.

PRODUCT MEMO
from UNIVERSAL

"FIRST LOVE"
"TOWER of LONDON"
"LITTLE ACCIDENT"

Watch NOVEMBER 10th *for the* YEAR'S SURPRISE SCREEN SURPRISE!

A Deanna grown to young lady-loveliness... to mean romantically more... to her fans and to you!



The NEW UNIVERSAL
presents

Deanna DURBIN

in

"FIRST LOVE"

★

with Helen Parrish • Robert Stack
Eugene Pallette • Lewis Howard
June Storey • Leatrice Joy
Marcia Mae Jones • Charles Coleman

★

Directed by Henry Koster
Produced by Joe Pasternak

A HENRY KOSTER PRODUCTION


History dubbed this hunch-backed plotter "A monster in silks!"
A royal thug, blood-brother to the devil himself, who laid the loyalty of men, the love of women low, that he might work his twisted plans to horrible perfection!

IN the story of this diabolical, misshapen figure, the screen presents a spectacle of unequalled magnitude...the wide-swept furies of a nation driven to maniacal revolt... the shadow of a bestial-faced executioner...a populace screaming for revenge!



UNIVERSAL presents

"TOWER of LONDON"

ATIONAL
ELEASE
CT. 27th

Starring **Basil RATHBONE**

with **BORIS KARLOFF**

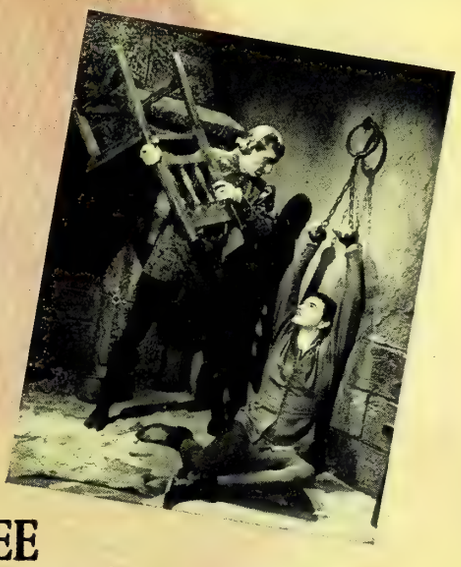
BARBARA O'NEIL · IAN HUNTER

VINCENT PRICE · NAN GREY

John Sutton, Leo G. Carroll, Miles Mander,
Lionel Belmore, Rose Hobart

Original screenplay by Robert N. Lee
Produced and Directed by Rowland V. Lee





a
ROWLAND V. LEE
production

WOO WOO! Watch them clamor for Baby SANDY'S Glamour!



SPECTACLE! Sumptuous bath-tub scenes (apologies to Mr. DeMille)



MYSTERY! SUSPENSE!





LOVE DIVIDED!



BEAUTY SHOW for the T. B. M.

SANDY SELLS SEATS!

Critics, fans, young and old—
You'll find them all Sandy-sold!

***NEW* UNIVERSAL presents**

HUGH HERBERT "LITTLE ACCIDENT"

with **FLORENCE RICE · RICHARD CARLSON**
JOY HODGES · ERNEST TRUEX · FRITZ FELD
and **BABY "SANDY"**



LIFE looks at SANDY
and all America falls helplessly in love with her!



Original screenplay by Paul Yawitz and Eve Green
Developed from the play by Floyd Dell & Thomas Mitchell
Produced and directed by CHARLES LAMONT

NATIONAL RELEASE OCT. 27th

BOXOFFICE Records Shows Top Grossers

NEW YORK—"Alexander's Ragtime Band" and "Jesse James," both 20th Century-Fox films, with ratings of 190 and 161 per cent, respectively, are the top grossers of the 1938-39 season, it is revealed in BOXOFFICE RECORDS, a BOXOFFICE publication now out.

With 100 per cent representing normal, 120 features of a total of 392 from 11 companies which played five or more first runs during the season did better than average business. Of these, 42 represent returns of 115 per cent or beyond.

M-G-M leads the group of 42 in the cream of the crop with 14 releases, while Warner is next with nine. Following in order are 20th Century-Fox with five; Paramount, four; UA and Universal tied with three each, and Columbia and RKO in a dead heat with two each.

For her appearance in three films, Alice Faye heads the list of feminine draw personalities with a percentage of 138. The films were "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Rose of Washington Square," and "Tail Spin."

Spencer Tracy, for his appearance in "Boys Town," tops all male stars with a percentage of 160.

In the producers' analyses, honors go to Frank Capra for a single film, "You Can't Take It With You," which tallied 160 per cent.

Henry King is in first place among the directors at 175 per cent for "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and "Jesse James."

Republic, with 23 western releases and the largest number of features in this division, heads the category with a rating of 101 per cent.

Frank Morgan, on the basis of three films, leads the male featured ranks with a rating of 133 per cent, while Helen Westley, likewise with three performances to her credit, is in first place in the feminine division with 131 per cent.

Richard Sherman, for his original story of "Alexander's Ragtime Band," leads this division with 190 per cent, with Kathryn Scola, for her screenplay of the same film, taking first honors in the scripters' ranks with 190 per cent.

Of a total of 82 westerns released during the 1938-39 season, but 12 surpassed the average of 100 per cent. Republic's Gene Autry, with a rating of 109 per cent, is first in the cowboy star list, and the same company's "Wyoming Outlaw" is in the top money bracket among the "gallopers" with 124 per cent. Republic, incidentally, takes the first nine places of the 12 that average above 100 per cent. There were only 16 producers turning out westerns during the period, as compared with 28 during the 1937-38 season.

Foreign Film Shipments 25% Under Last Year

NEW YORK—Film shipments abroad have dropped 25 per cent as compared with last year, according to shipping firms. Many countries are now closed to films and, where shipments are being made, the number has been reduced considerably because of the war, it is stated.

BOXOFFICE FLASHES

Majors Name Counsel in State Probe

Dallas—George Wright, who defended distributors in the famous Interstate case, has been designated to represent major companies in the state's investigation of the Interstate circuits, Jefferson Amusements, J. B. Long circuit and local exchanges. Two members of the state attorney general's office started the investigation early this week by appearing in the local exchanges and circuit offices, demanding all books and records be made available.

New York—The Texas investigation by the attorney general's office came as a complete surprise to home office executives, it being the first of its kind affecting the industry. Attorneys for the various companies met at the Hays office Tuesday and discussed the situation and were at a loss to explain the reasons for the move.

Differ on Ruling in Vineland Case

Philadelphia—Difference of opinion centers about the interpretation of the request by Federal Judge William H. Kirkpatrick in connection with the Landis, Vineland, N. J., anti-trust suit against major companies and Warner circuit. Senator Harry Shapiro, for the plaintiff, states the judge ordered a settlement or he would rule in favor of his clients. Former State Attorney General William A. Schnader, representing distributors, disagrees and holds the judge recommended a settlement out of court without indicating how he would rule.

New York—William Schnader, attorney for distributors in the Vineland, N. J. anti-trust suit, in which three days were spent taking testimony, conferred with home office counsel the latter part of the week to discuss the recommendation by Federal Judge Kirkpatrick. Although nothing has been definitely established, there is an indication in some quarters the case may be removed from the Philadelphia court calendar by an agreement resulting from a get-together out of court.

See South as One of Three Trust Targets

Jacksonville—Intensive activity by the department of justice in the southern area recently indicates one of the three new anti-trust suits being prepared by the department of justice will be launched in the south. Some observers point to the Sparks circuit as the probable target. There has been some talk of Malco as a likely defendant, but the general impression veers to Sparks if, and when, the government starts a suit in these parts.

RKO-Tri-State Des Moines Pool Off

Des Moines—Warmly denied when BOXOFFICE first reported the probability, the operating pool involving RKO and Tri-State Theatres in Des Moines has been dissolved. This according to G. Ralph Branton, Tri-State general manager. The washup becomes effective November 2. RKO will operate the Orpheum from New York, with Emil Franke continuing as manager. He managed the house prior to the combination. BOXOFFICE predicted the dissolution exclusively in its issue of August 5. Tri-State officials strongly denied the report at the time.

Verifies Texas a Leader

Pittsburgh—Col. H. A. Cole, Allied president, has been reading BOXOFFICE. At the annual convention of the MPTO of Western Pennsylvania, he stated Texas leads in new theatre construction. BOXOFFICE's quarterly survey of October 14 stated, "Texas, Colonel Cole's state, is unusually active in all departments, leading the field by a wide margin. There are 17 new projects in various stages of development."

New Detroit Chain Forming

Detroit—With acquisition of the Echo, a spokesman for Wesley B. Schram and Louis Goldberg states a new circuit is being formed with an aim for 10 to 12 houses in the next three months.

Canadian Chain Construction Halting

Toronto—The European war has resulted in a decision by various circuits to cease new theatre building activity after completion of the various structures in work. Building has been brisk since the first of the year.

Nathanson Offered Radio Helm

Ottawa—N. L. Nathanson has been offered the post of chairman of Canadian Broadcasting Corp., succeeding Leonard W. Brockington, who quits October 31. No salary is attached to the job.

15,000,000 to Pay $1,000,000 Freight

Wausau, Wis.—Declaring pictures cannot be produced for limited groups, Dr. Ervin E. Deer, Evanston, Ill., MPPDA representative, in an address here stated 15,000,000 people must see a $1,000,000 picture to repay for the cost of making it.

Chains Fight N. Y. Pari-Mutuels

New York—Major and independent circuits have banded together in a concerted drive to defeat the pari-mutuel amendment by distributing throwaways asking voters to "No" the amendment on November 7. In states where pari-mutuel betting is legalized, theatres are reported to have taken it on the chin.



THE F

A
BORIS MORROS
PRODUCTION . . . *Directed by A. Edward Sutherland*

ORIGINAL STORY AND SCREEN PLAY BY RALPH SPENCE, ALFRED SCHILLER, CHARLES ROGERS, HARRY LANGDON

RKO RADIO PICTURES

GAIN..AND FUNNIER THAN EVER



. . . in the kind of a show they've always wanted to make! . . Different in story slant! . . Better production values!..New gags—and a comedy-thrill sequence to leave your folks a-quiver! ...This time it's LOVE that gets 'em—and ho, for the Foreign Legion in order to forget! . . Then comes the skyride in a runaway plane . . . hi, HI, HILARIOUS . . . and the box-office altimeter going up, up, UP!

Stan LAUREL Oliver HARDY

ING DEUCES



with

JEAN PARKER · REGINALD GARDINER

No Trials Before New Year Seen in East

(Continued from page 5)

they might be eliminated. Leo Spitz, former head of RKO and now special counsel for the company in Chicago, represented RKO and Universal. The government filed its briefs October 19 and the remaining defendants have until November 18 to answer. Special Master Edgar Eldredge will study the briefs and then submit a report to Judge Charles Woodward.

In the contempt charges against FWC, the answers by defendants have been put over until November 13. The judge in this case has been sitting on another hearing and will not be available until the new date, which gives distributors and circuit executives an extra month to round up the necessary data for their answers. A demand for a bill of particulars will be made at the November 13 hearing. Charles A. Buckley, FWC attorney, left for Los Angeles over the weekend after conferring with local attorneys for about a fortnight. Allan Ashburn of Newland & Ashburn is handling the case for the circuit on the coast with Alfred Wright representing 20th-Fox, Former Judge Myers of O'Meoveny, Tuller & Myers for Paramount, Loeb, Walker & Loeb for M-G-M and Universal, Loyd Wright for UA, Mendel Silverberg for RKO and Freston & Files for Warner. Spyros Skouras is due in Los Angeles within a few days for meetings with FWC executives on the case. Albert Law and Harold Collins are handling the government's arguments.

Various Motions Pending

Various motions in connection with bills of particulars are pending in the Griffiths' action in Oklahoma City and the Crescent suit in Nashville. Prominent local counsel have been retained in both cities by distributors.

With the government filing briefs in the Schine case in Buffalo, distributors have until next week to answer. Frederick H. Wood of Cravath, de Gersdorf, Swaine & Wood is assisting Willard S. McKay, local Schine counsel, while John Lord O'Brian is representing all distributors with the exception of 20th-Fox, Columbia and UA. John Caskey of Dwight, Harris, Caskey & Koegel has been acting for 20th-Fox, Irving Moross, Columbia and Edward C. Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, UA attorneys, for this company.

Notwithstanding the fact the "Big Stick" has introduced 18 affidavits in the Schine case, it is understood those taken from William Smalley of Cooperstown and Michael Boumansour of the Plaza, Malone, N. Y., may not be entered, but instead these men will appear as witnesses for the plaintiff and render a verbal account of developments in their situations.

Almost 70 affidavits have been filed altogether by both sides. Among those for the government are: Max Fogel and William Tishkoff of the Murray, Rochester, N. Y.; Carl Brenton Moore, Ohio, Van Wert, O.; Leo Kessel, Broad and Palace, Lancaster, O.; Charles E. Dickinson jr., Palace, Lockport, N. Y.; Hiram H. Owens, who has the Palace in construction at Corbin, Ky.; John Buchmann, Star, Delaware, O.; Joseph Herman Felter, Moose, Norwalk, O.; Ralph T. Kemper, State, Shelby, O.; Emerson W. Long, Memorial, Mt. Vernon, O.; John Bahas, Ohio, Ashland, O.; Hubert P. Wallace, Capitol, Auburn, N. Y.; Richard DeToto, Seneca, Seneca Falls, N. Y.; Louis DePillo, Park, Geneva, N. Y.; Max A. Cohen, president of Allied of New York and head of Cinema Circuit which operates 20 theatres in Greater New York, and E. Thornton Kelly, ousted secretary and treasurer of the local Allied unit. About 30 more are on file with the department, but no mention has been made on the plan to be followed on them.

Among the affidavits submitted by distributors are those of William F. Rodgers, general sales manager for M-G-M; E. K. O'Shea, eastern district manager for the same company; Carl Leserman, assistant to Gradwell L. Sears, Vitagraph president; E. L. McEvoy, former eastern division manager and now mideast district head for RKO; Herbert Greenblatt, former RKO Cleveland head and now in charge of Pittsburgh; Charles Boasberg, Buffalo RKO manager, and Stanley C. Jacques, Cincinnati chieftain for RKO; J. J. Unger, eastern division manager for Paramount; Dave Miller, district manager for Universal with headquarters in Cleveland; William Sussman, eastern division manager for 20th-Fox; E. C. Grainger, Feiber & Shea, general manager and formerly eastern division pilot for the same company; William C. Michel, executive vice-president; I. J. Schmertz, Cleveland manager; Sidney Samson, Buffalo manager for 20th-Fox; Paul N. Lazarus, contract manager for UA, and Sidney Lehman, Buffalo manager for the company.

Previously, the government indicated the three new suits contemplated would be filed by October 1. Inquiries now reveal they will be instituted "shortly."

Murphy Now Approves Arnold's Quotes

New Haven—The reason for Thurman Arnold shying clear of the press for interviews and "quotes" on specific situations has finally come to light.

On his recent trip here when he appeared before the Jewish Community Center, Arnold revealed all interviews must be submitted to Attorney General Frank Murphy for approval. Which means questions must be submitted in writing and approved by Murphy before being answered.

"In the Making" Now Regular Feature

Beginning with this issue, and on the last page of the BOOKING CHART as a regular feature, is the Hollywood department known as "In the Making." Flashing the production starts and completions for all the majors and more active independents, it gives titles, casts and technical credits on all feature pictures.

'Reason' Trust Guide, Arnold Declares

NEW HAVEN—Reporting the receipt of hundreds of consumer complaints daily in Washington, Thurman Arnold, "trust buster" and head of the anti-trust division under Frank Murphy, attorney general, states the department of justice "does not seek to destroy any combinations which can justify their existence in the interest of wide or cheap distribution of goods."

What the department is concerned about, he held, is to "see that legal privileges granted to groups in highly organized society are not unreasonably used." The statements were made in an address before the Jewish Community Center here.

He adds, determination of the reasonableness of the practices of the combination is best accomplished by case technique of common law, which the department is following.

That the war gives aggressive combinations excuse and opportunity to operate in such a manner as to tend to destroy industrial democracy was pointed out by Arnold. He contends the most important problems of a neutral nation in war time are the long range prevention of the dislocation of our economy by war boom industries, and the problem of profiteering. In the latter connection, he reported receipt of the hundreds of consumer complaints.

Trio Claiming $1,194 in Grand Nat'l Bankruptcy

NEW YORK—Three creditors whose claims total $1,194 are listed in an involuntary petition in bankruptcy filed in federal court by Grand National. The creditors and amount of each claim are: Hap Hadley, artist, $750; Passantino Printing Co., $192; and Keystone Photo Engraving, $272. The trio alleges that while insolvent the company transferred property and funds amounting to over $3,000 to E. W. Hammons, president, or to relatives, in preference to other creditors.

Hammons, who was in Washington Tuesday, notified the home office of an RFC agreement to increase a proposed loan to the company to $450,000. Attorneys working on a reorganization plan are expected to have it ready in time for the hearing on the bankruptcy petition, November 2.

Justice Mandelbaum on Wednesday named Simon H. Rifkin temporary GN receiver.

Cuts? He's After 100% Increase

New York—An important sales executive of a major company approached his superior the other day and asked that his pay be doubled. What with the numerous anti-trust suits pending and making out affidavits, he said, "I should get a salary from the lawyers and also one from the company."

Picture Pioneers Turn Back the Celluloid Pages





Old-time films and old-time singing on display as veterans of 25 years' service and more hold their fall shindig in New York. Symptomatic of the fun are these candid photos. Above left, Herman Wobber of 20th Century-Fox gets in the middle of a two-man vocal contest involving two Loew executives—Marvin Schenck and Leopold Friedman.
Not a wailing wall on the right. It's merely an attack on the soup course, high and low notes furnished by David Chatkin, Monarch Theatres; Fred Rothenberg and, on the end, Vincent Trotta of Paramount.







More side show: Harry Thomas, obviously having fun. Charles C. Moskowitz of Loew's and Leon D. Netter of Paramount on their feet for the national anthem. William F. Rodgers of Metro giving the camera his usual smile while Joseph R. Vogel, Loew executive, seems a bit wary. Or surprised.





Before the steak: Max J. Weisfeldt, Columbia; Patrick A. Powers, a real veteran; Edward M. Saunders, M-G-M, and A. C. Hayman, Niagara Falls exhibitor get on their favorite subject, variously reported to concern films. Man in glasses is Jake Wilk of Warner. On the right, Jack Cohn, Columbia, and Judge Ferdinand Pecora.





—Photos for BOXOFFICE by Metropolitan

The smiling three on the left are Jules Levy, former general sales manager of RKO; Charles Moses, and J. J. Fitzgibbons, Famous Players Canadian. The large group includes Morris Josephs, Universal; Fitzgibbons again; ditto on Cohn and, finally, Leo Devaney, RKO.

A BRAND NEW ROLE FOR

Joe Turns Copper in a



(Reproduced above is the smash full-color 24-sheet poster)

Here's the funniest Brown picture eve

A GRAND LAUGH STAR!

Whopper of a Comedy!



SPOOKS!

Screen play by RICHARD FLOURNOY
ALBERT DUFFY · BRIAN MARLOW
Directed by EDWARD SEDGWICK

A COLUMBIA PICTURE

filmed...a hilarious, hair-raising vehicle!

"JAMAICA INN" LEADS GROSSES IN TWO CITIES

AVERAGE IS 100%

BOSTON

Fenway—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox); **Hawaiian Nights** (Univ)..... 70
Memorial—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO) 160
Metropolitan—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **Pride of the Bluegrass** (WB) 90
Orpheum—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 110
Paramount—Same as Fenway 85
State—Same as Orpheum 95

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**The Man They Could Not Hang** (Col), 1st half 110
Broadway—**Streets of New York** (Mono), 2nd half 80
Carolina—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para).....100
Imperial—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 100
State—**Behind Prison Gates** (Col), 1st half... 90
State—**Guilty Trails** (Univ), 2nd half.....100

CHICAGO

Apollo—**They Shall Have Music** (UA)..... 85
Chicago—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), plus stage show; picture moved to Apollo for 3rd wk. 100
Garrick—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para); **Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono) 100
Oriental—**Hotel for Women** (20th-Fox); plus stage show; continued loop run 90
Palace—**Rio** (Univ), plus stage show 85
Roosevelt—**Four Feathers** (UA), held 2nd wk...100
State-Lake—**Winter Carnival** (UA), plus stage show; continued loop run 90
United Artists—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), held 2nd wk. 140

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), held.....130
Capitol—**They Shall Have Music** (UA).....100
Keith's—**Espionage Agent** (FN) 120
Lyric—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), revival 130
Palace—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100

CLEVELAND

Allen—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), 2nd wk.....125
Hippodrome—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox).110
Palace—**Espionage Agent** (FN); Stage: Vaudeville with Harriet Hoctor, Marie Wilson, Bob Oakey, Sue Ryan 75
State—**The Real Glory** (UA) 105
Stillman—**Winter Carnival** (UA) 65

DALLAS

Capitol—**Death of a Champion** (Para), 1st half. 80
Capitol—**The Witness Vanishes** (Univ), 2nd half 85
Majestic—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Cavalcade of Texas** (SR) 100
Palace—**Marx Bros. at the Circus** (M-G-M)....100
Rialto—**Rio** (Univ), 1st half 90
Rialto—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox), 2nd half 110
Tower—**The Women** (M-G-M) 100

DETROIT

Adams—**U-Boat 29** (Col); **Hidden Power** (Col) 115
Cinema—**The Great Waltz** (M-G-M); **M** (Para), reissues 100
Fox—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **The Under-Pup** (Univ) 105
Michigan—**The Old Maid** (FN); **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (WB) 125
Palms State—**Four Feathers** (UA), after 1 wk. at Michigan; **Flight at Midnight** (Rep)..... 95
United Artists—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M)..... 90

DENVER

Aladdin—**The Old Maid** (FN), after a wk. at the Denver 110
Broadway—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Way Down South** (RKO), after a wk. at the Orpheum 75
Denham—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para).....130
Denver—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox).....110
Orpheum—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO)..... 90
Paramount—**They Shall Have Music** (UA); **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox)..115
Rialto—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN), after a wk. at the Paramount; **The Witness Vanishes** (Univ) 110

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**New Frontiers** (Rep); **Smuggled Cargo** (Rep) 70
Circle—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **Everything's on Ice** (RKO) 70
Indiana—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **The Escape** (20th-Fox) 85
Loew's—**They Shall Have Music** (UA); **Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M) 85
Lyric—**Chicken Wagon Family** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 110

Top Hits of the Week

JAMAICA INN (dual)—New Haven..205
JAMAICA INN—New York City.....180
BABES IN ARMS (dual)—Los Angeles 175
NURSE EDITH CAVELL (dual)—Boston 160
GOLDEN BOY—Salt Lake City.....150
HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE—Kansas City 150
THE WOMEN (dual)—Omaha.....150
ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT—Pittsburgh 145
BABES IN ARMS (dual)—Portland..140
HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE (dual)—Milwaukee 140

EXTENDED RUNS

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, 23rd wk., New York City.

The Women, 4th wk., Seattle; 4th move-over wk., Portland, Ore.; 3rd wk., Minneapolis.

The Rains Came, 3rd wk., Chicago.

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), held over 130
Midland—**The Real Glory** (UA); **Behind Prison Gates** (Col) 120
Newman—**What a Life** (Para) 95
Orpheum—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **The Spellbinder** (RKO) 85
Tower—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 100
Uptown—Same as Esquire 150

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox) 150
Downtown—**The Real Glory** (UA); **Waterfront** (WB) 125
Four Star—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
Hillstreet—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO) 120
Hollywood—Same as Downtown 125
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet 90
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para); **Harry Owens** Orchestra on stage 200
State—Same as Chinese 175

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **What a Life** (Para) 120
Riverside—**The Witness Vanishes** (Univ); Major Bowes' Revue 135
Strand—**The Women** (M-G-M); **Road to Glory** (20th-Fox) 90
Warner—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO); **Hell's Kitchen** (WB) 110
Wisconsin—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox)..140

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**U-Boat 29** (Col); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB) 95
Century—**The Women** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.....100
Esquire—**Life and Loves of Beethoven** (Foreign) 90
Gopher—**Espionage Agent** (FN)..... 85
Minnesota—**Sabotage** (Rep), plus stage show..100
Orpheum—**The Old Maid** (FN) 100
State—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para)..... 90
World—**They Shall Have Music** (UA).....100

NEW HAVEN

College—**Winter Carnival** (UA); **Conspiracy** (RKO) 115
Loew-Poli—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Behind Prison Gates** (Col) 105
Paramount—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **Quick Millions** (20th-Fox), held 5 additional days.....205
Roger Sherman—**On Your Toes** (FN); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB) 65

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Million Dollar Legs** (Para) 95
Globe—**Hotel for Women** (20th-Fox) 65
Liberty—**Coast Guard** (Col) 90
Orpheum—**Espionage Agent** (FN) 100
Saenger—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox).....125
State—**Eternally Yours** (UA) 125
Tudor—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para)..... 95

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M); 22nd wk., held 90
Capitol—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 95
Criterion—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M).....120
Paramount—**What a Life** (Para), plus stage show 100
Radio City Music Hall—**Intermezzo** (UA), 2nd wk., plus stage show 105
Rivoli—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 180
Roxy—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 115
Strand—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN), 2nd wk., plus stage show 100

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**Beau Geste** (Para) 90
Liberty—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para); **Death of a Champion** (Para) 120
Midwest—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox)....125
Plaza—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN), 4 days..... 70
Plaza—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M), 4 days..... 70
State—**Winter Carnival** (UA); **Scandal Sheet** (Col), 5 days 100
Tower—**The Women** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....120

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN); **No Place to Go** (FN) 130
Omaha—**The Women** (M-G-M); **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (WB) 150
Orpheum—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **Indianapolis Speedway** (WB) 110

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**Eternally Yours** (UA) 110
Boyd—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....120
Earle—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M), with Martha Raye on stage 115
Fox—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 90
Karlton—**The Star Maker** (Para), 2nd run.... 90
Keith's—**Intermezzo** (UA), 2nd run..... 90
Palace—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), 3rd run...115
Stanley—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 120
Stanton—**Beau Geste** (Para), 2nd run.....105

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Rio** (Univ) 60
Barry—**The Mummy** (Univ), reissue; **The Raven** (Univ), reissue 80
Fulton—**The Under-Pup** (Univ) 100
Penn—**Beau Geste** (Para) 130
Senator—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), reissue 145
Stanley—**Espionage Agent** (FN); Major Bowes 5th anniversary stage show 80
Warner—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para); **Everybody's Hobby** (FN) 70

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**The Real Glory** (UA); **No Place to Go** (FN) 130
Liberty—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO) 110
Mayfair—**The Women** (M-G-M), 4th move-over week 100
Orpheum—**Streets of New York** (Mono); **Calling All Marines** (Rep); Johnny O'Brien and Harmonica Hi-Hats on stage 90
Paramount—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Night Work** (Para) 120
United Artists—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **The Witness Vanishes** (Univ) 140

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ).130
Centre—**The Man in the Iron Mask** (UA).....115
Paramount—**Golden Boy** (Col) 150
Studio—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox).....125
Utah—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN); **Career** (RKO) 110

SEATTLE

Fifth Avenue—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Television Spy** (Para) 100
Liberty—**The Real Glory** (UA), 2nd wk..... 90
Metropolitan—**Wajan** (SR) 75
Music Box—**The Women** (M-G-M), 4th wk..... 90
Orpheum—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO)..100
Palomar—**Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB); Thurston's Magic on Stage 90
Paramount—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Death of a Champion** (Para), 2nd wk..... 90



The MPTOA Directors, Meeting at White Sulphur Springs, Oblige—

—Cummins Photo

On their feet and left to right: Lyle M. Wilson, Roanoke Rapids, N. C., president of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina; R. X. Williams, Oxford, Miss., president, MPTO of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee; M. A. Lightman, Memphis, chairman of the board of Williams' organization; M. A. Lightman jr., and the only non-director in the group; William Benton, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; president of the Albany zone, MPTO of New York; Morris Loewenstein, Oklahoma City, president, Theatre Owners of Oklahoma; Sol Hyman, Huntington, W. Va., president, West Virginia Theatre Managers' Association; Lewen Pizor, Philadelphia, president, UMPTO of Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware; Frank C. Cassil, St. Joseph, Mo., president, Kansas-Missouri Theatres Association; Arthur H. Lockwood, Middletown, Conn., president, MPTO of Connecticut, and H. V. Harvey, San Francisco, president, Independent Theatre Owners of Northern California.

Seated and in the same order: A. C. Hayman, Buffalo, president, MPTO of Western New York; Benjamin Pitts, Fredericksburg, Va., regional representative without specific organization; Roy Walker, Lampasas, Tex., president, MPTO of Texas; J. J. Dennison, Monroe, Mich., who represented E. C. Beatty and the Butterfield circuit of Detroit; A. Julian Brylawski, Washington, president, MPTO of the District of Columbia; E. L. Kuykendall, Columbia, Miss., who was re-elected national president; Fred Wehrenberg, St. Louis, president, MPTO of Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois; Charles E. Williams, Omaha, president, MPTO of Nebraska and Iowa; Oscar A. Lam, Rome, Ga., member of executive board and director, Southeastern Theatre Owners Association, and Mitchell Wolfson, Miami, vice-president of the same group.

Say 6,077 Theatres Were Represented

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.—Approximately 6,077 theatres, affiliated and independent, were represented at the annual meeting of the MPTOA board at the Greenbrier this week, according to information furnished, on request, by those in attendance.

The largest single group, composed of the national circuits, had no direct representation at the sessions, but David Palfreyman, exhibitor contact at the Hays association, stated he was authorized to act for them. This aggregation, which sends its dues directly into the MPTOA treasury, totals 1,823 paying members, he estimated, and gave this breakdown:

Loew's, Inc.	137
Paramount	700
RKO	100
National Theatres	460
Warner	426
Total	1,823

All of Loew's, RKO, National and Warner holdings are members, but 500 theatres of Paramount affiliates and partnerships are not, including Saenger, A. H. Blank and Great States among others.

By individual tally, the following directors stated their association embraced these theatres, their highest totals making up the final results:

Mitchell Wolfson and Oscar A. Lam for the Southeastern Theatre Owners Association—800.

Morris Loewenstein for Theatre Owners of Oklahoma—250.

Lyle M. Wilson for the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina—400.

Sol Hyman for the West Virginia Theatre Managers' Association—124.

J. J. Dennison for the Butterfield circuit of Michigan—105.

Fred Wehrenberg for the MPTO of eastern Missouri and southern Illinois—125 to 140.

Robert X. Williams for the MPTO of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee—350.

William Benton for the Albany zone of the MPTO of New York—25.

Lewen Pizor for the UMPTO of eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware—394.

Frank C. Cassil for the Kansas-Missouri Theatres Association—411.

Arthur H. Lockwood for the MPTO of Connecticut—65.

H. V. Harvey for the Independent Theatre Owners of northern California—250.

A. C. Hayman for the MPTO of western New York—250 to 300.

Benjamin Pitts, representing no specific organization in Virginia—20.

Roy Walker for the MPTO of Texas—450 to 500.

A. Julian Brylawski for the MPTO of the District of Columbia—60.

UMPTO Opposes Neely Bill

Philadelphia—A message voicing opposition to the Neely bill will be issued Thursday by the UMPTO here, it was decided at a directors' meeting this week presided over by Chairman Charles Segall.

Cites Purpose Coast Exhibitor Confabs

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.—Oregon's exhibitor unit has joined the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners which now embraces four associations banded together for the airing and possible solution of joint problems, according to H. V. Harvey of San Francisco, MPTOA director who attended the two-day board meeting at the Greenbrier. The other three are Washington, which embraces Alaska, Northern and Southern California.

The Conference concluded a meeting in Los Angeles prior to Harvey's departure east. Others are slated at the rate of one every three months at which two representatives of each unit will be present. The plan, which Harvey tells BOXOFFICE is working well, does not bear on the individual identity of each association which is to be maintained. Problems affecting the western area are the sole concern.

Says Nebraska Crop Failure Makes Theatre Going Tough

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.—For the sixth consecutive year, Nebraska crops have failed and, in the doing, have made the going tougher for theatres in that state, declares Charles E. Williams, president of the MPTO of Nebraska and Iowa.

"Where crop expectancies ran to 25 or 30 bushels an acre, actual harvesting showed 15 to 20. Land which once sold anywhere from $125 to $130 an acre is now available from $25 to $40."

ITO "Bravos" Cohen; "Brrrps" Cole, Myers

NEW YORK—"Bravo to Max Cohen and brrrp to Colonel Cole and Abram Myers," goes an editorial in *The Independent*, official publication of the ITOA, headed by Harry Brandt, in an article castigating national Allied's leaders, titled: "Unmitigated Brass."

"Displaying a complete reversal of the stand adopted in the past, Cole last week praised the arbitration clauses that the distributors included in the present season's sale contract," says the statement, adding that Myers shortly thereafter declared that "parts of the trade practice code were all right. If this is so, then all that happened at the Minneapolis convention must have been a bad dream, or else Cole and Myers have good reasons to suddenly become softened in their attitude toward the majors.

"More startling, however," it continues, "than either of these two statements is the colossal gall of Cole in stating that the only way in which New York Allied could become part of national Allied would be for it to get rid of Max Cohen as its president. In a country which is proud of free speech and a free press, this sort of dictatorial attitude is hardly able to be stomached. Cole's sole reason for asking Cohen's removal is that Cohen disagreed with several policies of the national organization.

" . . . With the leaders of national Allied, however, any differing opinion is not tolerated and the person who is daring enough to utter treasonable statements in public is promptly ganged upon and all efforts are directed toward his removal.

"New York Allied should be proud of its president, Max Cohen, and should and will support him and retain him as its president. He has proven himself a free-thinking man and worthy of heading his organization," the article concludes.

Waits for Metro and Warner to "Deliver Goods" Under Codes

PITTSBURGH — Warner's and M-G-M's new sales policies may be all right, but the MPTO of Western Pennsylvania is going to wait a while for results before officially commending the two companies on their moves, it was decided at the organization's 19th annual convention, but only after bitter debate.

Two divergent viewpoints on the matter were expressed by Abram F. Myers, Allied general counsel, and Col. H. A. Cole, president, in convention addresses.

Cole, among other things, said he felt the two companies were due the thanks of independents for their new sales policies in which are incorporated vital parts of the now-defunct industry code.

Myers, whose belief ultimately prevailed, in effect urged the convention "to make the companies deliver the goods" before sending any commendatory messages.

"Women" Hit With Critics

HOLLYWOOD—"The Women" has been selected by film editors of the Scripps-Howard newspapers as the "Picture Hit" of September.

"First-Run" Vaude Is His Extended-Time Plea Reply

NEW YORK—Harry Brandt has an answer to Joseph M. Schenck's plea for extended playing time. It is vaudeville.

"I'd like to know how I could be expected to extend pictures at the Flatbush where I play about 18th run," Brandt expostulated. "But I do know how to get a first run at the Flatbush, and that's vaudeville."

Brandt admits two of the four houses that recently turned to stage attractions to replace second features are not coming up to expectations. However, he says he is determined to build the two weak spots until they pay, and may extend the policy if grosses in other straight film units of the circuit "continue to drop."

He declares inquiries are coming into his office daily from many sections of the country, where independent exhibitors are anxious to learn the reaction to vaudeville programs.

Albany Area WB Houses Have Long Practiced Schenck Plan

ALBANY—Warner theatres in this area long have practiced Joseph M. Schenck's idea on extended playing time, according to Charles A. Smakwitz, district manager, who states:

"Zone Manager M. A. Silver emphasized the necessity for extension of playing time at the recent meeting of managers for our 26 houses upstate. Some extension is practical and we will do all we can to give it to producers. However, pictures must be strong in this territory if runs are to be extended and the theatre still show an all-over profit. You can not play a picture more than a week in Albany, the biggest city of the area. If you do, the gross drops the eighth day and to an even greater extent the ninth. Thus, continuation is likely to rub out a profitable week's business. Our first runs in Troy and Utica usually split the week, four and three days. Strong pictures can be held a week in those cities, but not the majority.

Other sources believe certain Schine first runs should be able to extend playing time, now limited to two or three days. The suggestion was made that the problem posed by Schenck could possible be solved by returning to a single feature, extended run policy, with most of the "B" films eliminated.

Wilby-Kincey Meet First Stop in Netter Tour

NEW YORK—Leon Netter is planning to leave next week for North Carolina to attend the annual meeting of North Carolina Theatres, Inc., operating company for the Wilby-Kincey circuit, Paramount affiliate, which is tentatively scheduled for Greensboro. From there his itinerary includes a visit to the Comerford headquarters in Scranton, the United Detroit Theatres in Detroit, and Minnesota Amusements in Minneapolis. The trip will take a week to 10 days.

Karl Hoblitzelle of the Interstate circuit was scheduled to leave over the weekend for Dallas after 10 days here conferring with Barney Balaban and other executives.

Theatre Chains Unite Against Racing Bill

NEW YORK—Major and independent circuits have combined forces in an effort to defeat the proposed amendment on parimutuel betting which comes up for a vote November 7. Throwaways are being distributed in all quarters because exhibitors fear a serious setback to business if the amendment is passed.

Former Gov. James V. Allred of Texas is quoted on the reverse side of the throwaways anent the evils of such a measure. His quotation reads:

"During the 17 months since this law (legalizing race track betting) was enacted, Texas has witnessed and suffered every evil . . . attendant upon gambling. The very foundation of morality and the character of our people is being undermined by legalized, commercialized, and advertised gambling. Within its shadow stalks every kind of racketeering. The tout, the thug, have been brought within the law, and invaded the realm of decency. Embezzlements, suicides, swindling, and social disasters have followed in the dire chain of events.

"The consequences are uniformly destructive. Public officials have been indicted for embezzlement, traceable, I understand, to losses at the race track. Trusted employes in private business institutions have checked up short. Merchants and business men find it more difficult to collect their accounts than before the passage of the act. Uniformly they report that employes and customers alike pour not only their savings but their current earnings into legalized gambling institutions."

A Drive Within a Drive For Geo. Skouras Chain

NEW YORK—A drive within a drive is being held by the Skouras circuit during the last two weeks of the 10-week G.P.S. drive, according to William White, assistant to George P. Skouras. Each manager who hits the cumulative expectancy for the final two weeks will receive a $50 bonus in addition to the other awards he may be in line for during the regular 10-week period.

Discussion of the plan had been mulled over by White for some time and is now in effect. While the drive is showing good results, White states it also has created a situation where ideas, talked over at the Monday managers' meetings, have actually been put into operation.

WB Production Berth Expected for Sax

HOLLYWOOD — Sam Sax, who was in charge of Warner production in England until recently, recalled because of the cessation of activity for the European war, is expected to be given a producer's berth here upon the return of Jack L. Warner from New York. Sax has been here about a week, reading scripts and studying production methods in anticipation of his new post.

Busy on Settlement Of Vineland Action

PHILADELPHIA—Attorneys for the Landis Theatre, Vineland, and for the Stanley-Warner circuit and the major distributors were still far from consummating an out-of-court settlement in the Landis' anti-trust suit, as BOXOFFICE went to press.

Such an "amicable settlement" was advised by U. S. District Judge William H. Kirkpatrick. In an unprecedented move, he called the attorneys in, and said it would be "well" if a settlement was made out of court, because he was of the "opinion that the plaintiff (Landis Theatre) was entitled to some redress."

Judge Kirkpatrick has had the matter under consideration for two months, following a hearing that saw a parade of all local major exchange managers to the witness stand, and a host of affidavits from Vineland citizens supporting the complaints of the theatre's owner, the Cumberland Holding Co., headed by Eugene Mori.

State Senator Harry Shapiro, attorney for the plaintiff, told BOXOFFICE he had not heard from the defendants' attorneys five days after Judge Kirkpatrick made his suggestion.

"I am not going to let this matter go beyond the end of this week (October 28)," he asserted. "If we get no action by then, we are going to ask Judge Kirkpatrick to issue a decree."

The intentions of the defendants' attorneys could not be learned. Morris Wolf is representing Vitagraph, former Attorney General William A. Schnader the other exchanges, and former Congressman Benjamin Golder the Stanley-Warner exchange. Ted Schlanger, S-W Philadelphia circuit head, would not comment.

There was a slight disagreement between Shapiro's report of the conference with Judge Kirkpatrick, and the Judge's version. Shapiro said, right after the conference, that Kirkpatrick announced he intended to issue a preliminary injunction in favor of the Landis if no agreement were reached. Kirkpatrick later said he had not gone that far, but had said he thought the plaintiff was "entitled to some redress."

20th-Fox Files Writ for Tax Assessment Cut

NEW YORK—A writ of certiorari has been filed by 20th-Fox in supreme court against the N. Y. tax commission for a reduction of $215,000 in assessments for 1939-40 made on three pieces of property owned by the company. Judge Julius Miller has set December 4 for a hearing. The property is on Tenth Avenue and also on W. 56 Street where the company maintains its headquarters.

The tax commission has filed a return on a writ by Astor-Bijou-Morosco Theatres Realty Co., which complained of assessments for 1933-34. The commission asked the writ be quashed on the grounds nothing has been proved to indicate that the assessments were erroneous.

And the Melody Lingers On

New York—When Warner produced "Four Daughters" it started something that may take a few hundred years to finish.

The latest of the series, "Four Wives," is notable, among other things, for four infant girls who are prominently cast, according to Charlie Einfeld. The infants are under exclusive contract, he adds, as well as:

"We plan to follow the careers of the four baby girls as part of the series. You know, we may all be 'A. K.'s' with long grey beards and another generation will probably be around while this thing is still going on."

Columbia Would Try Five Suits in One

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Aaron J. Levy has set November 8 as the date to hear an application of Columbia Pictures to consolidate five stockholder actions against the company, its officers and directors.

The stockholders, all minority holders, are Betty Davis, Benedetto La Presti, Samuel Shapse, Sadie and Jennie Britton. Officers of Columbia named as defendants include Jack and Harry Cohn, Nate Spingold, Saul Bornstein, Jack Kerner, Abe Schneider, Charles Schwartz, Marienne Burkan, Sam Briskin, Abe Montague, and A. H. Giannini.

The suit asks a cancellation of bonuses, charging high and excessive salaries to officers, unwarranted deals, and severe losses to the stockholders. An accounting is sought.

See Texas Film Exchange Probe As Tax-Possibility Search

NEW YORK—Attorneys for some film companies indicate the investigation being conducted in Dallas by the state attorney general's office is most likely designed to find out if the industry can withstand more taxes to make up the state deficit. The rice, oil and sugar industries have gone through similar investigations, the film business being the twelfth on the list.

Two representatives from the attorney general's office in Dallas early in the week demanded all books of the important circuits and exchanges opened for inspection.

GN Receiver Rifkin Bonded at $10,000

NEW YORK—Samuel H. Rifkin, appointed temporary receiver for Grand National by Federal Judge Mandlebaum, will function under a $10,000 bond.

Hap Hadley, artist and one of the crediting petitioners in the sum of $730, declares in his petition the company has liabilities of over $500,000 and realizable assets of about $40,000. He says the company operates 29 exchanges throughout the country with a payroll of $7,500 weekly. Considerable money is owed to employes and several months' rent, he contends.

The company's assets consist of 58 bank accounts and about 60 pictures, as well as a large number of films purchased from Educational Pictures. A California studio is also included in assets. Since a weekly income derives from each of these exchanges, the receiver is placed in charge and will operate them. A stay was also granted to prevent any of the landlords from expelling the company from any of its offices for non-payment of rent.

Another charge declares that, in the last few years, various corporations have been formed by officers and more particularly Earle W. Hammons, president. It is charged these companies have had the use of all employes of Grand National, as well as studio equipment, use of the studio and use of the distribution of films manufactured by these corporations, for which they paid nothing or an amount not commensurate with the value or the cost of operations which were borne by Grand National.

Conrow, Carrington Back A New Counting Device

NEW YORK—L. W. Conrow, president of Altec, and G. L. Carrington, vice-president, have formed Conrac, Inc., in which they hold similar titles, to manufacture an electrical mechanism for counting patrons entering theatres. Headquarters are in Newark. H. M. Bessey is secretary-treasurer. Directors include these men as well as Fred G. Adams, Louis S. Allen, P. C. Kemp and Gilbert L. Kerr. Altec will distribute, install and service the attendance machines.

To Helm in Phoenix, N. Y.

PHOENIX, N. Y.—The newly-remodeled Strand here is now being managed by Milton Friedman for James Constantino.

INTER-OFFICE BOXOFFICE The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry COMMUNICATION

To: Red
From: LW

Date: Wednesday
Place: New York

As far as I recollect, the Hays office has seldom deemed the situation so serious that five board meetings were necessary to discharge the duties of members. And from the tone of things, even five sessions may be insufficient. As witness the official press release following the fourth meeting:

"There was a general discussion.

"Will meet again Friday."

Italy Yearns for U. S. Films; Pettijohn May Be Emissary

NEW YORK—With Italy yearning for American pictures and the American companies sympathetic, there is a definite possibility moves toward a reconciliation will be launched shortly.

Although nothing has progressed beyond the talking stage at Hays office meetings, foreign managers are mulling over the suggestion that C. C. Pettijohn, general counsel, be delegated to go to Italy as the industry's representative to negotiate.

Italy, according to one foreign manager, is feeling the shortage of American product and theatre business has fallen off considerably. The country has 4,049 houses which does not make the government's problem any easier.

ENIC, the government monopoly, has sent out feelers of better prices for pictures. It is doubtful whether this will tempt the companies since operation by a government monopoly is diametrically opposed to the American method of selling pictures.

"We cannot afford to do business with the monopoly," says this foreign manager who begs off from the use of his name. "Even if we receive a good offer for the first year, there is no telling what they will pay for pictures the following year."

"And more important," the executive points out, "is that once we have anything to do with ENIC, regardless of how just the offer might be, the government monopoly idea may spread elsewhere throughout the world."

This executive acknowledges the need for Italy to maintain its exchange. "Why, before we walked out of the country, we were only allowed to take out 15 per cent of what we grossed. We did business, however, until the monopoly was established."

From all this, it is apparent the majors are willing to play ball with Mussolini, but will not brook distribution of its product by ENIC.

No New York Worry Over Italy's World Conquest Plans

NEW YORK—News that Italy plans to increase production in an effort to make a dent in world markets hardly causes a ripple among the foreign department executives of the major companies.

According to Rome dispatch, Italy considers herself the only serious competitor of Hollywood now that French, English and German films are out of the running because of the war.

General reaction from a number of keen observers is inclined to minimize any chances of Italy realizing her ambitions along that line.

"We know that Italy at present cannot supply enough pictures for her own theatres," is one executive's comment. "I don't know how they are going to do it especially with most of her manpower under colors."

Another, who has traveled through Italy, is more emphatic. "If Cinecitta had three times the facilities and equipment it would not make any difference," he declares. "Outside of Italy, there is no place where Italian films figure in playing time with the exception of this city and situations where there are Italian colonies such as Brazil and Argentina."

Majors Wrestle With Cash Curb Proposals

LONDON — American distributors are striving mightily to turn the tide against proposed British restrictions on revenue which, if carried out, would reduce the income of the companies to a maximum of $10,000,000 the first year of the war and probably less than $5,000,000 the second year.

There is growing belief in government circles the present struggle will be drawn out for a considerable length of time and, with that, there is a vital need for protecting the dollar exchange.

The British are bending every effort to maintain the pound sterling over the $4.00 mark. Accordingly, restrictions are being carried out with that end in view.

Distributors still are sticking to their original counter demand which would allow 100 per cent withdrawal the first year. Estimates place the amount close to $30,000,000.

When this figure is reached, the distributors propose to retain 75 per cent, or approximately $22,500,000.

While discussions continue with the board of trade, a survey of theatre circuits shows attendance to be off only 10 per cent at present. Business for distributors is reported to be about 80 per cent of the pre-war figure.

Distributors see little chance of fulfilling the quota. It is quite likely some scheme may be worked out whereby the American companies set aside a sum of money to be used for production on a much smaller scale and as loans to British producers in place of the quota.

Figure Foreign Business at 75 Per Cent of Normal

NEW YORK—Foreign business is 75 per cent of normal, according to home office executives, who figure that the British theatre and distribution business is off about 10 per cent, but with the reductions because of the various rate of exchanges, another 15 per cent is added, bringing the total to 25 per cent.

Columbia Drops Plans for Buenos Aires Meeting

NEW YORK—Present state of European conditions has caused Columbia to abandon its plans temporarily for a meeting of South American managers at Buenos Aires. J. A. McConville, foreign department head, expects to set a new date shortly.

Latin America Taxes Concern of Majors

WASHINGTON—Foreclosed from important European markets because of the war, American film distributors are turning to Latin America and are seeking aid from Washington in securing protection against excessive taxes and quotas in the countries south of the Panama Canal.

The great importance which the distributors now attribute to the South American markets was disclosed before the committee for reciprocity information during hearing on a projected reciprocal trade agreement with Argentina, and probably will be pressed again when the committee, on December 5, takes up for consideration a similar treaty with Uruguay.

A dark picture of distress in Europe was painted for the committee by Harry Levine of RKO, who, with David Lewis, Argentine representative of Loew's; Joseph Rosthal of M-G-M, and Franklin S. Irey of 20th Century-Fox, attended the hearings on the Argentine pact.

Levine told the committee that the war has completed the disorganization of the Central European markets, that quotas in Great Britain were another cause of concern and that exchange control throughout the world was a most serious problem. The net result of this combination of adverse factors, he said, has been to deal the distributors a severe blow and has necessitated curtailment of employment in some studios.

Eyes Southward

Under these conditions, the RKO representative said, the industry, to secure the 35 to 40 per cent of its return which it banks on from foreign distribution, is turning toward Latin America. But, he told the committee, the industry needs protection there and, he warned, if the return from foreign markets is seriously cut the producers no longer will be able to turn out the high type of films to which the American audience is accustomed.

Levine listed a number of points on which the industry sought protection, and inferentially charged Argentina with bad faith in that, during the course of the long-drawn-out preliminary negotiations for the trade agreement, it enacted a tax of five per cent upon remittances from Argentine exhibitors to distributors in the United States, and is now seeking to levy a surtax on such remittances.

The industry, he said, wants to be protected against arbitrary quotas in Argentina; wants films recognized as essential articles of commerce, that they may avoid luxury taxes; and is anxious for import duty concessions, he pointing out that the Argentine tariff has been increased 550 per cent since 1930. The Argentine duty, he testified, is the highest of any of the Latin American countries.

Neither quotas nor high taxes are necessary to protect Argentine film producers, Levine asserted, explaining that Argentina produces only about 50 films a year, which receive wide distribution. On the other hand, he said, the country imports from 350 to 400 American feature films annually.

$30,000 in Japanese Imports Hang Fire

NEW YORK—American distributors in Japan have yet to exhaust the $30,000 set aside for import permits in the agreement with the government which was to have expired December 31, 1938, according to Roy Brauer, formerly manager for Japan and China for Universal.

Brauer, who was with the domestic sales force for 14 years and at one time Des Moines branch manager, is awaiting a new assignment from his foreign chief, J. H. Seidelman.

The Japanese government has been slow in allowing the importation of pictures, Brauer declares. Only $22,500 has been used which means the companies can export to Japan another 50 features to complete the quota of 200 set aside there.

In response to a question concerning the reason for Japan leading the foreign quota standings of most of the companies, it is Brauer's opinion good business is caused by the fact the companies only export their best pictures since they are restricted to approximately 25 each.

"Naturally each company is sending over its best product. And there is no need to point out that motion pictures are the best and cheapest entertainment the Japanese have," he states.

Brauer reports a committee of American distributors is negotiating with the Japanese home office in an effort to obtain a renewal of the agreement to import more pictures.

He thinks the change of cabinets in which the power has shifted somewhat from the military to the naval faction may prove more helpful in future negotiations.

Japanese production, he says, is maintaining the same level, but a shortage in raw stock is noticeable.

20th-Fox Players Will Be At 'Mohawk' Premieres

NEW YORK—A group of players from the 20th Century-Fox studios will supplement the elaborate preparations being made for the five simultaneous world premieres of "Drums Along the Mohawk," November 2 in five towns in the Mohawk Valley.

Jane Withers, Lynn Bari, Joan Davis and Arleen Whelan will be on hand for the showings at the Glove, Gloversville; Rialto, Amsterdam; Proctor's, Schenectady; Palace, Albany, and Olympic, Utica.

Herman Wobber Goes West For Studio Conferences

HOLLYWOOD—Herman Wobber, general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, arrives here Monday for studio conferences. He will be joined by Moe Levy, Kent Drive leader. Following discussions, Wobber and Levy will visit exchanges on the final swing of the drive.

On his way to the coast, Wobber conducted meetings at Denver, Salt Lake and Seattle, with members of the Vancouver branch attending the Seattle meeting.

Schines Deny Any Conspiracy; Ask End of Injunctive Move

BUFFALO—Contending there is no proof of "any combination or conspiracy between defendant distributors and Schine" and that "the government has failed to make out a *prima facie case*," attorneys for the Schine circuit filed briefs Friday in federal court asking the petition for a temporary injunction by the department of justice be denied.

A comprehensive discussion of the affidavits is embodied in the 80-page printed brief, which states "there is no proof in the moving affidavits of any combination or conspiracy between any of the distributor defendants and Schine as charged in the petition." In this connection, the brief asserts "on the basis of the affidavits alone, it is apparent that, in those situations wherein the distributor defendants have preferred to license their feature motion pictures to the Schine defendants, such licensing has been on a 'local competitive basis.' Such being the case, it is plain there is no warrant whatsoever for attempting to convert normal every-day licensing agreements made between distributor defendants and Schine for the exhibition of motion pictures of the former into conspiracies in restraint of interstate commerce."

After discussing various government affidavits, the brief continues: "The government has failed to make even a *prima facie* case of either the use or misuse of so-called circuit buying power, and the record as a whole discloses the absence of either. For these reasons alone, application for a temporary injunction should be denied."

It is pointed out that the circuit has pending a number of important deals "which would seriously injure both the Schine defendants and the present operators of such theatres" if an injunction were granted.

In respect to closed theatres, the brief adds, "Some are closed temporarily for renovation and repairs and it would be the height of injustice to enjoin their reopening. In the case of other closed theatres, business conditions will determine whether or not they shall be reopened. To prevent by injunction the reopening of a closed theatre in a town where business improvement suggests its profitable operation would be a manifest injustice. Such questions of business policy are inappropriate for the decision of a court."

There are four deals pending where, according to the brief the "owners have solicited the Schine circuit acquire them. In none of these cases has there been any threats or misconduct upon the part of the Schine defendants whatsoever, and, in all, the proposed sellers sought out the circuit, being desirous of selling for reasons of their own."

Seek Way to Ship To Belligerents

WASHINGTON—Major industry interests are endeavoring to have Section 2, Paragraph C of the much-argued neutrality bill amended to eliminate its application to "copyrighted articles of artistic or literary works." If this is done, which does not now appear likely since the committee on foreign relations is rigorously opposed to exceptions, the shipment of American films to belligerent nations may continue without halt.

As the bill stands now, however, exports are not possible unless complete relinquishment of the rights of the owner, which, in the case of films, is the copyright, is made. If the industry should agree to this abandonment of copyright, its control over its own product would be entirely removed. This, in turn, will throw its product into public domain since the United States never became a party to the Berne copyright convention and throw open all avenues without control to piracy wherever any unscrupulous individual may undertake to practice it.

The expectation here is that the neutrality bill will be enacted without alteration of this pivotal clause insofar as films are concerned, but that an amendment along outlined lines will be made subsequently.

"Mr. Smith" Not Funny to Senate Majority Leader

WASHINGTON — "Silly and stupid" is Senator Barkley's appraisal of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." The majority leader says the film "makes the senate look like a bunch of crooks" and would give a false impression throughout the country.

Abram Myers in an Allied bulletin deplores "Mr. Smith" as a "boner," declaring the "only bright spot is the suggestion it may aid in passing the Neely bill at the regular session in January." He urges exhibitors playing the film to run a special trailer stressing that the story, character and incidents are purely fictional and "in no sense reflect actual conditions in the capital of our nation."

UA-B&K Chicago Deal Discussions Continue

NEW YORK — Discussion on a UA-B&K deal for Chicago are continuing, according to Leon Netter, Paramount theatre executive, who conferred with Jack Goldhar, UA district manager with headquarters in Chicago, during the latter part of the week. The deal is for one year and is now nearing completion, it was indicated after the talks.

Charles S. Levin

NEW YORK—Charles S. Levin, 73, partner in the Cameo and former treasurer of 20th-Fox, is a suicide. He was reported in ill health for some time.

BROADWAY

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK will be host to about 400 Loewites when he tenders a Thanksgiving party to the circuit's managers, assistant managers, their wives "or girl friends," at midnight, November 23, at the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf-Astoria. It will be the first affair of its kind in the circuit, promises to last all night, has already been endowed with more party favors than you'd find at a half dozen parties, will feature hours of entertainment and dancing and "special events" designed to set a new high in amusement. To give a hint of the magnitude of the occasion, here's the lineup that has swung into action: General chairman, Oscar A. Doob; chairman on arrangements, Gene Picker; production head, Dominick Barreca; floor and favors committee, Seymour Mayer; in charge of special events, William A. Downs; decorations chairman, Lawrence Beatus; reception committee, Gene Meyers; seating, Maurice Seidlitz; music, Harry Karasik; dinner committee, S. H. Meinhold; program chairman, George Schenck.

"Gettin' high class," Jim Mulvey observes of Harry Gold, mouthing a new cigarette holder. "Dontcha believe it," apologizes Gold, "I'm only having my teeth fixed" . . . E. W. Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers, is sporting a new front molar . . . Scarlet lipped and chapeauxed Elaine Barrie taking the play away from Dick Powell, as hundreds of autograph hounds surround the Paramount stage door tired of waiting for the crooner's signature . . . Monroe Stein and J. J. Thompson at opposite table ends of the Astor's Ess and Fresserie, with one of the Cocalis circuit theatre's landlords in the middle . . . Milton Klinger, clerk in Lynn Farnol's office, has left the company . . . Fay Rothman, Louis Weinberg's secretary, entrains for two weeks of Florida, Thursday . . . Lillian De Costa, right hand to Al Wilkie, thinks and acts nothing but golf in her spare time . . . Ken Aneser of the Warner advertising staff is a daddy for the second time. The new arrival will be named Nancy Ann.

Mrs. Sam Citron heads for Hollywood, Tuesday night, and in January will visit Arrowhead, which is an annual routine . . . Ed Gross, who recently signed Buck Jones, is here negotiating a release . . . Jack Skirball is due in shortly from the coast to start work on "Angela 22." He has signed Loretta Young and Herbert Marshall for the leads . . . Tom Mix is visiting the big town . . . Jack Cohn is reported interested in Maurice Schwartz for at least one picture. The Jewish star spent six months on the M-G-M lot without an assignment and drew $2,000 a week for the period. Hidden in the wood pile on the M-G-M deal is said to be the refusal of Schwartz to change his name for screen purposes . . . George Seitz has arrived from the M-G-M studios for a vacation . . . Spencer Tracy is in Detroit conferring with Henry Ford and other Edison authorities on plans for "Edison, the Man," which M-G-M will produce with Tracy as star . . . Bee Howell is at the Strand with Hal Kemp and his orchestra.

The former Mrs. Elek John Ludvigh is now Mrs. William Engel. She was married to the doctor the other day by Justice Morris E. Barison in the Jersey City court house, the ceremony being followed by a luncheon at the Colony restaurant. The couple is now honeymooning in the Adirondacks . . . Jack Haley is p-aing at Harry Brandt's Windsor in the Bronx . . . Vincent McFaul, Paramount partner in Buffalo, was a home office visitor . . . Roy Haines has dropped eight pounds in recent weeks and is in fine shape . . . Lynn Bari is here from the coast as is Broderick Crawford . . . Nate Goldstein of Springfield, Mass., lunched with Leon Netter and Jack Goldhar, UA midwest district manager, at the Astor, Thursday. Leonard Goldenson, just back from his honeymoon, was in the party.

One of the nicest, noisiest and nourishing gestures around here in some time was the farewell party at Tony's to Ruth Sherburne, secretary to Norris Wilcox, personnel head at UA. The fun started at lunch and carried on most of the afternoon. Miss Sherburne is taking a position with the Fifth Avenue Employment Agency. Among the 50-60 present were Arthur and Manny Silverstone, Paul Lazarus, Tom Mulrooney, Walter Gould, Fay Gillis, Louise Phesay, Len Daly, Ann Carmody, Tess Michaels, Howard Le Sieur, Ruth McDonald, Mary Ramsey, Frances Harris, Gene Aiello, Helen O'Dea, Herb Jaediker, Terry Corso, Nan Sutherland, who has replaced Miss Sherburne, and Margie Burns. Also Carolyn Barrett, who, with Milton Smith largely conceived and executed the party; Lee Clair, Bud Kennedy, Ray Keller, Mimi Tucker, Lucille Peters, Kitty Kweller, Molly Prince, Jo Russo, Tom Walker, Sue Harkins, Joe Gould and Selma Peters.

Best Proof That a Press Agent Never Sleeps Department: The Warner Club unit at the Strand decided to hold an Election Eve party in the clubrooms atop the theatre the evening of November 6. So the staff got busy and appointed some committees to provide the necessary refreshments, entertainment, music, etc. These included Robert Crandall, Richard McCloskey, Leon Seligman, Arthur Kron, Harry Townes, Barnett Biro, Daniel Burke jr., and Henry Sherman. After much deliberation it was agreed that the party should be called a Gay Nineties Night. Irving Windisch got wind of this, and now the party is known as Roaring Twenties Night . . . Rube Jackter and Lou Weinberg, as did many others, spent the weekend in Pittsburgh, mostly between the Variety Club banquet and the Carnegie Tech-Notre Dame game . . . Joan Blondell is here from the coast . . . The Columbian Club held its



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

The Fitzgerald's Back—

Geraldine, promising young Warner player, as she arrived from Ireland on the Manhattan. *She is pencilled in next for a leading role in a remake of "Disraeli" in which George Arliss originally starred for the same producer.*

Mr. Cohen Goes to Washington

Washington

Dear Boxoffice:

Well, here I am in the nation's capital. And if you want to know why U. A.'s Mr. Cohen goes to Washington, the answer is, this is just an intermezzo—and I mean a simple vacation, not a romantic interlude.

With Congress in bloom and the Dies committee in ferment, Washington is as exciting as a blitzkrieg and as full of belly laughs as the housekeeper's daughter.

Incidentally, this visit gives me a splendid opportunity to pursue my hobby: Studying the flora and fauna of the "hock-mir-a-cheinicks." Washington is their native habitat; and in the few days I've been here, I have added several rare specimens to my unique collection—three Senators, a couple of Cabinet members and one foreign ambassador.



It occurs to me that "hock-mir-a-cheinick" may be Greek to you. Well, it isn't Greek at all—it's a Yiddish colloquialism. A person who "hocks-a-cheinick" (literally, "knocks like a teapot") is one who spouts a lot without making sense. In plain English, a guy who "talks through his hat."

But don't get me wrong—I love Washington!

Eternally yours,

SAMMY COHEN.

annual dinner dance at Ben Riley's Arrowhead Inn at Riverdale, Friday.

Rosana Kennedy, "hello" girl at the local RKO exchange and sister of Dorothy, Loew home office receptionist, is recovering from pneumonia at Post Graduate Hospital . . . Izzy Rappaport of the Hippodrome, Baltimore, was in town during the week on bookings . . . Perry Charles arrived from the coast Thursday to assume his new duties on Howard Dietz's staff. He looks fine and much improved in health. California has a habit of doing that . . . Harry C. Arthur, accompanied by his brother, Jimmy, his attorney, are in town from St. Louis and plan to leave Thursday. Harry says name acts are being booked into the Fox, St. Louis, when available, but vaudeville is not a continuous policy at the Grand Ave. house . . . Isabel Austin, Homer Harman's secretary at the Roxy, leaves Thursday night for Atlantic City, the first lap on a two-week vacation. From there she will head for State College, Pa., to visit relatives . . . Those flowers in C. C. Moskowitz's office make a colorful picture. And by the by, his secretary, Sylvia Sewards, has a new hobby, but we're not telling.

Joseph Bernhard, Warner circuit head, and Harry Goldberg, publicity director, were in Milwaukee for a theatre meeting . . . Joe Lee of 20th Century-Fox observes the football season has had a direct bearing on sales: "The film buyers are all running—but the other way" . . . Eddie Cantor has gone to Washington for a week's engagement after standing 'em up in Loew's Metropolitan, Brooklyn, seven days.



—Metropolitan Photo

P. S. No. 146 Graduate—

In which Claire Trevor returns to home ground. She's in New York from Hollywood after co-starring with John Wayne in "Allegheny Uprising" and later goes to Pittsburgh as honor guest of the Allegheny Centennial Celebration and for premiere of the film.

Erif Defends Mox From Ali

Hollywood

Dear Editor:

To dignify such a poisoned mind that writes of war with a copy of Joe Miller's Jokebook in the other hand with an answer is worse than committing Harry Carey, who is always a good boxoffice draw in my theatre. However, just for the record, Ali Gaga should be exposed for the menace he is to society. Imagine, at a time like this when my father, Mox Shobbus, is probably subsisting on canned ham and eggs in the Foreign Legion he should speak of reclining in a mountain retreat!

I hope you recognize the pairofdox in that mountain retreat Gaga speaks of; you know, an American Berchtesgaden—get it? If I thought he was capable I would even suspect him of making a non-aggression pact with someone, but the best pact he'd get would be from his grocer not to deliver any more birds' nests in place of shredded wheat.

It would be a great break for humanity if that tragic clown, that professional fraud, that model of coarse bestiality and living monster in the service of the most lunatic, infamous degradation that universal history records was given a fake one-way passport on an Egyptian submarine.

Mind you, I don't think anyone gives a blllp about Gaga's serpentine mouthings, but who is he to call my father a dope? I'm sure you appreciate my position.

Remaining yours,

ERIF SHOBBUS.

W. P. Montague, assignment editor for Paramount Newsreel, was on the Dixie Clipper when the plane headed for Lisbon, Portugal, on the first leg of a month's trip that will take him to most of Europe's capitols in the interest of war coverage . . . Lee Patrick is here from Hollywood to do a stage play . . . David Niven is in town from the coast after a visit with friends in Virginia . . . Harry Buxbaum has let it become known that he would appreciate it if all further reference to colleague Moe Sanders would take the form of Morris Sanders. Sanders is arrangements' committee chairman for the Motion Picture Associates annual charity ball at the Hotel Astor, November 25. Serving with him are Morris Kurtz, Joe Lee, Seymour Florin and Dave Kane.

The A. W. Smiths are expecting an heir in March . . . Charlie Einfeld is sporting the very latest in portable radios. It's not much bigger than a cigar box and is carried over the shoulder . . . Vincent G. Hart, a member of the MPPDA legal staff for the past ten years, has resumed the general practice of law in association with Norman C. Nicholson and Lewis M. Lawton, with offices in Radio City . . . Ted O'Shea, Tom Connors, Leo Spitz, Bob Gillham, Harry Brandt and Bernie Brooks among the 58,496 *who witnessed the New York Giants trim the Chicago Bears . . . Harry Black, division manager of Fabian's Staten Island theatres, is the "father" of* 65 *kids. He is sponsoring a local P. A. L. band unit to be known as Fabian's Melodears . . . Charlie Bowers of the Strand managerial staff is bringing home the bacon in the form of quarry that his trusty* 16*-gauge shotgun is leveling at an upstate game preserve . . . Tim Whelan, Columbia director, has returned to Hollywood after a stopover in Indiana . . . Ben Kalmenson, Warner western and southern sales manager, is on a tour of the company's branches in the west and midwest for about three weeks.*

On the lighter side: The Cole Porters entertained the Jack Warners at dinner in the Towers of the Waldorf-Astoria. Among the guests were Alfred Duff Cooper, former British First Lord of the Admirality, and Mrs. Cooper, the former Lady Diana Manners, the Jay O'Briens, the John C. Wilsons, Prince and Princess Dimitri Djorjadzi, the Duchesse Grammont, Mrs. Harrison Williams, Mrs. Charles Feldman, Elsa Maxwell, the Duc di Verdura, Captain Alastair Mackintosh, Baron Hubert Le Jeune, Andy Lawlor and Baron Hubert Pantz.

The George Wests were hosts at a cocktail party for Arthur Levey, London representative for Monogram, of which West is a franchise holder. The guests included Mrs. W. Ray Johnston, the Arthur Silverstones, Mrs. Edward Golden, Ruth Golden and her fiance Larry Witten, the Louis Liftons, the Lou Guimonds, Sybil Duse of London, Mr. and Mrs. G. Levey, Madeleine S. White, Mrs. Nellie Witting, Mr. and Mrs. W. Finkelstein, Lester Alden, Everett Roller, Mr. and Mrs. M. Salomon, Shirley Salomon and Al Gettler.

Sol M. Wurtzel, executive producer at 20th-Fox, was the guest of honor at a luncheon given by Sidney R. Kent, president, at the Union League Club. Occasion was the celebration of Wurtzel's 25th year in the industry. Home office executives who attended were: W. C. Michel, Herman Wobber, Truman Talley, Spyros Skouras, Charles E. McCarthy, Sidney Towell, William Kupper, William Sussman, William Gehring, Joseph Moskowitz, William Eadie, Alan Freedman, Felix Jenks, E. P. Kilroe, Joseph Pincus, Les Whelan, Roger Ferri, Irving Maas and Frank Underwood. The producer leaves for Hollywood, Tuesday.

Budd Rodgers wasn't as lucky as Jack Hoffberg at the NYU-Carnegie Tech game. It seems both spotted two $10 *bills on the field after the fracas but Hoffberg was quicker on the arm work than his fellow distributor . . . Monty Proser has gone back to the coast and says he'll be back in about a week . . . Leonard Goldstein is in from the coast . . . Wally Howes of Trans Lux has been lunching at the Astor all week . . . Barney Balaban had Karl Hoblitzelle as his guest early in the week in the Hunting Room . . . Al Lewis,*

(Continued on next page)

BROADWAY

(Continued from preceding page)

coast producer, is visiting these parts . . . O'Henry Briggs and Bob Benjamin are back from the coast, having entrained as far as Chicago from which point they continued on by plane . . . Dick Bladen of Paramount's studio staff returned early in the week on the Manhattan *after spending several weeks in London with Dave Rose.*

W. Ray Johnston has returned from Kansas City where he spent a few days on business. He owns part of the Monogram exchange in that city . . . Sam Burger, roving foreign representative for M-G-M, flew Saturday to Miami where he boarded another plane for South America . . . Luise Rainer got back on the *Rotterdam* the other day after making a picture abroad . . . Jean Lenauer, Jack Burstyn, Joe Malcolm and Ira Simmons made an interesting foursome the other afternoon at Bob Goldstein's Tavern, discussing foreign pictures and their values in the American market . . . Harry Brandt converted the Central into a foreign house Friday, discontinuing the first run dual policy which will be picked up by the new Pix he is opening on 42nd St. The switch is a test. If it clicks it will be continued. If not, the Pix will exhibit foreign imports and the Central will revert to twin bills.

A wrenched back kept Universal's foreign chief, J. H. Seidelman, away from his desk for a few days . . . Lou Pollock and his wife are motoring to Florida where Lou hopes to snare some sailfish . . . Roy Brauer, former Universal manager in Japan, is here awaiting a new assignment . . . Frank Capra has returned to the coast along with a bundle of those rave notices . . . It's a five-and-a-half-pound son at the Luther Adlers. The mother, Sylvia Sidney, is at the Woman's Hospital, Bronx . . . Arthur Levey, London representative of Monogram and associated with Scophony, Ltd., is stopping at the Buckingham . . . Rutgers Neilsen is taking sun lamp treatments these days to get over his cold.

Two days before Leopold Friedman was married, he fell off a horse in Central Park and injured his right arm . . . Arthur Willi, RKO talent scout, returns from Pittsburgh Monday where he has been visiting colleges, theatre groups and the shows in a hunt for new faces . . . Joe Vogel says he has seen "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" six times and has wept at each performance, so much has the picture stirred his emotions . . . Marvin Schenck and his committee have succeeded in securing Jascha Heifetz for an appearance at the Night of Stars benefit, November 15, at Madison Square Garden. The famous violinist canceled a concert engagement to be on hand. Major Bowes also will appear for the first time on any charity show. George M. Cohan has promised to attend as well as numerous others . . . Weekend coast departures: Ned E. Depinet, Barret McCormick and Jules Levy, the latter on his own behalf, the first two on RKO business and conferences with George J. Schaefer.

Ben Goetz left for the coast Thursday by train, which is very unusual for this member of the Goetz family, who prefers the air lanes. But having just recovered from an operation, he couldn't afford risking the chance of hitting air pockets . . . John Harris and Harry Kalmine were in from Pittsburgh Wednesday on preparations for the annual Variety event in the Smoky City Sunday. Kalmine spent the latter part of the day with Harry Maier, Warner vaudeville booker, who lined up the show. Kalmine expected 1,000 to attend from all over the country . . . Henry Reiner of National Screen celebrates his seventh wedding anniversary October 30. It's going to be a double celebration for Lawrence, his oldest son, will be six on the same day . . . Max Felder opened the Ace, Bronx, and Charles Oppenheim the Town, Brooklyn, Friday, with Joe Hornstein handling the rejuvenation jobs.

Bill Heineman, Universal western division head, left for Montana over the weekend on his annual hunting trip to the Bitter Root Mountains. When November 1 comes around every year nothing can keep him away from the hunting expedition. With him on the current trip are the following exhibitors: Fred Mercy jr. of the Mercy circuit, Yakima, Wash.; Rex Thompson, Community, Port Orchard, Wash.; Ned Edris, partner with John Hamrick in Tacoma, Wash.; Clarence Severson, Liberty, Wolf Pt., Mont.; "Rotus" Harvey of the Harvey circuit, San Francisco; Bucky Harris, Park, Butte, Mont., and Joe Blumenfeld, Blumenfeld circuit, San Francisco. After two weeks in the mountains which border the Idaho line, Heineman will head for Seattle, November 14, then Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City and Denver. He is due back in New York about December 1.

Stoneman Suit Versus Paramount Dismissed

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Louis A. Valente has dismissed the $75,000 suit of David Stoneman, Boston attorney against Sam Katz, Sam Dembow jr., Felix E. Kahn, Ralph Kohn, Marion Coles, and Frederick Metzler, all former directors of Paramount Publix, Inc.

The suit claimed a conspiracy on the part of the directors to deceive the plaintiff into entering a lease with Paramount's guarantee. It was claimed the directors showed Stoneman a Paramount financial statement of 1930 which omitted millions of dollars of losses.

As a result, Stoneman states he entered into an agreement with a Paramount subsidiary, whereby he leased the Empire, Portland, Me., to the subsidiary, backed by the parent company's guarantee. When Paramount went into the courts several years later, there was a default on the lease. It was the plaintiff's contention he would not have entered into the agreement had he been shown accurate figures.

Protection Over Reporters Now

New York—Louis Schine is extending his protection demands to include the press these days. While in town the latter part of the week, a BOXOFFICE reporter approached him, but before the newsman could say anything Schine upped, "I have nothing to say."

Came back the reporter, "Can I quote you on that?"

"No," was the one-word reply.

Jack Bellman, Republic Buffalo manager, spends his weekends with his family in the Bronx . . . Barney Balaban and his family met with an unusual experience the other day when the party, en route to Westchester to visit their oldest son in school, were stalled in their car near Ossining. Unable to continue, the party started thumbing their way home and, believe it or not, were successful . . . Ernie Emerling of Loew's tells the story with smiles now that it's over, but when a stranger entered his office the other day and threatened to commit suicide unless he was given a dollar, Emerling experienced a real case of the jitters . . . Bill Scully returned early in the week after visiting five Universal offices in connection with the exhibitor-sponsored testimonial drive for Nate J. Blumberg. Frank J. A. McCarthy returned the latter part of the week after making a like number of exchanges.

On Nate Blumberg's personal recommendation Mort Spring was way down front in the Music Box mezzanine for a look-see at "The Man Who Came to Dinner" . . . Elihu Glass, vaudeville manager at Fabian's Liberty on Staten Island, expects to become a daddy any day now . . . Geraldine Fitzgerald, Virginia Welles and Albert Parker among the arrivals on the Manhattan *from Europe . . . Norman H. Moray, Vitaphone sales manager, is on a three-week tour of midwest branches . . . "Chick" Lewis has gone to the coast . . . Proud as a peacock is Leo Brecher, whose landlordship of the Golden Gate Ballroom, new million dollar Harlem venture, permits him the privilege of scanning nightly attendances that run from three to four thousand. Irving Lippe is the manager of the spot.*

Harry M. Warner has accepted an invitation to become a member of the Committee of Awards of *The American Hebrew,* which annually gives a medal to the man or woman who has contributed the most towards better understanding between Christians and Jews in America. He joins a group including President Roosevelt, John Dewey, Bernard H. Baruch, Eddie Cantor, David Sarnoff, Mayor LaGuardia, Lowell Thomas and others . . . Roy Disney has been in town for a few days in connection with "Pinocchio" . . . Among familiar faces during lunch hour at Freeman Chums are John Held jr., Jim Englander, Hal Burrows, Ted Ireland, Lou Lifton, Manny Reiner, Irving Shiffrin, Blanche Livingston, not forgetting a sizeable slice of the trade paper

gentry . . . J. Cheever Cowdin is looking over Universal problems on the coast.

A. DeRosa, manager of Loew's Paradise, did a standup business the night he held the amateur contest in conjunction with "The Star Maker" . . . Earl Hudson, in charge of United Detroit operations, has been in town for a few days . . . Dick Powell was mobbed in his taxi which was halted in traffic by autograph hounds after the first opening show at the Paramount . . . Austin Keough is back from a quick trip to Dallas . . . Susan Hayward was guest of the commissioner general for Brazil Thursday at the Brazilian Pavilion in the World's Fair.

Loew's neighborhood theatres are fast becoming the proving grounds for Hollywoodians who are breaking in new vaudeville acts before going on to main stem, de luxe house engagements. Ann Rutherford is making a five-day swing of the circuit's Brooklyn houses. The itinerary provides for five personal appearances in that many theatres each evening. Edmund Lowe unfolds a new act at the circuit's Premier, October 31, follows with another one-night stand at the Oriental and moves into the State, November 2. Chester Morris has concluded a tryout series of p. a.'s at Jefferson City and Newark, N. J.

Bankruptcy Petition By GN Is Dismissed

NEW YORK—Federal Judge Mandelbaum, Friday, dismissed the voluntary petition in bankruptcy against Grand National and discharged Simon Rifkin as temporary receiver. The judge launched a scathing denunciation of the "negligent manner" in which Grand National handled the petition.

Saul Rogers, attorney for Grand National, and Earle W. Hammons, GN president, told the court that despite the filing of the petition, the following day he received a letter from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation authorizing a loan of $450,000. He also revealed the company will receive $150,000 from Electrical Research Products, Inc., and $1,000,000 for production from Felt & Co. Hammons said that the loans should be in the Grand National treasury by November 1.

It was stated by Rogers that he might deem it necessary to place Grand National under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy act, which would mean voluntary reorganization. Hammons declared he did not believe this would be necessary.

N. Y. Allied Backs Cohen; Accepts Kelly Resignation

NEW YORK—At a special board meeting of Allied of New York, recently ousted by the national organization, the 13 directors present unanimously adopted a resolution providing continuance of the organization and tendered Max Cohen, president, and other officers a confidence vote. The financial report was ratified. The resignation of Thornton Kelly, executive secretary who attempted to reorganize the group as an Allied affiliate, was unanimously accepted.

PHILADELPHIA

IN AN attempt to "improve coordination" in the Stanley-Warner circuit here, the three zone managers have been sent into the field and given a smaller number of theatres to handle. Some of the houses formerly in the zones of each will be divided among the eight district managers. In effect, there will be 11 district managers now, supervising the 113 houses in the circuit, all responsible directly to Ted Schlanger, Philadelphia circuit head. The three zone managers moving out are Skip Weshner, Jack Flynn and A. J. Vanni. Weshner, incidentally, has been ill at home for a week.

Pop Korson, Masterpiece, was a World's Fair visitor . . . The Ellis' Tower, Camden, will reopen soon, with flesh shows coming directly from the Fays, appearing four days a week . . . Iz Barowsky's New Jewel has finally opened . . . The Warner exchange has changed its screening time from Monday afternoon to Friday evening, to accommodate exhibitors who sleep all afternoon . . . Harry Slatko, once associated with the Nixon Grand here, is reported having trouble with the law in Florida . . . The Hamid-Morton circus, with Clyde Beatty slinging his lions around as usual, will open November 13 at the 103rd Cavalry Armory.

William Scully, Universal sales manager, joined George Schwartz, exchange manager, in a confab with Allied men about sales policies . . . Herbert Lewis, formerly of the New Jewel, is now handling the Lorraine for Affiliated . . . Jack Beresin marked the 25th year of what he called wedded bliss on October 25 . . . George P. Aarons, UMPTO secretary, hopped off to Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, to represent Berlo Vending in a tax controversy with the State . . . A number of exhibitors are reported scouting around town for theatres to lease or buy, and having trouble finding any. Who said business was bad?

Dot Burrison, pretty Metroite, went to New York to see the NYU-Carnegie Tech game. She came back with enough football lingo to keep up with those boiling hot fans, Joe Farrow, office manager, and Ben Hayney, booker . . . S. E. Applegate, Metro, took a brief rest at Warm Springs . . . Jack Goldman, Keith's, rigged up a miniature revolving stage for "Hollywood Cavalcade" . . . All S-W managers are brushing up on biting-the-apple, pinning-the-donkey and other sophisticated pastimes for the Halloween parties they're all going to run for the kid patrons.

The S-W publicity staff is happy about getting the world premiere of "Elizabeth and Essex," and promises a bagful of stunts to justify the honor . . . The Keswick advertised "The Under-Pup" with a promise to refund entry price to everybody who didn't agree it's a great show . . . The Crime Prevention Ass'n attended a screening of Monogram's "Mutiny in the Big House," which doesn't sound like a good method for crime prevention . . . Leon Behal, oldest film salesman on Vine Street, is now juggling dishes at Quality Premiums.

Paramounters were host to Lieutenant Jarrett, Moorestown, N. J., vet, who makes a hobby of collecting wartime equipment, at a screening of the short in which he appears, "Unusual Occupations" . . . Clara Kraftsow, Paramount cashier, is at home ill . . . Ulrik Smith, sales manager, is beating up dust on long tours on the road . . . "Skilly" Beattie, booker of the Albany Paramount exchange, dropped in to visit his brother George, Scranton salesman . . . Earle Sweigert is up to his ears—and that's pretty far—working on a special campaign for "Disputed Passage." He hopes to have some of the performers come to town.

Sherwood Theatre's opening, scheduled for October 29, has been postponed indefinitely . . . Jack Lynch, Walton Roof's impresario, and Murray Diamond, Metro premiums, are new Variety Club members . . . John McGee, Lion, at Red Lion, took advantage of a Boy Scout exposition to arrange a tieup with several pictures; got the scout masters to offer prizes for essays on the films . . . Bill Israel, Earle, is attracting the jitterbugs with a recording machine (promoted) blaring all day in the lobby.

Charles Steerman, Cinema Arts, reports he settled his quarrel with the Operators' Union by a compromise agreement, involving hiring of two union operators, but also part-time employment of his son, Harold, who also holds a union card . . . Maurice Schwartz has made the logical addition to his coffee giveaway. The patron now gets, with his bag of ground coffee, a bag of doughnuts . . . Ham and eggs is expected any day . . . UMPTO men held a luncheon meeting at the Bellevue Stratford to discuss the new ruling of the censor board about emergency seals. They said the exhibitor, as usual, will have to pay the added license costs.

University of Pennsylvania students crowded the Earle to hear their Glee Club and Glenn Miller collaborate on college songs . . . Al Reh, Stanley, who's making a big thing of the Dr. I. Q. program, sponsored by Milky Way, sent free samples of the candy to Warner executives—without even making them answer questions! . . . Elmer Hollander, Stanton, is getting a boost from local aviation enthusiasts in ballyhooing "20,000 Men a Year." Abbie Wolf, society flyer, is circularizing his club members, and Ralph McClarren, Franklin Institute, is lending equipment for a lobby display.

Audio Films Completes Twelve Commercials

NEW YORK—Within the past three months, 12 commercial films were completed at the Eastern Service Studios by Audio Films. Currently, according to Audio, more than $2,500,000 in new production is scheduled for the studio.

BALTIMORE

SMART showmanship by Ted Routson, Hippodrome publicity chief, was used on "U-Boat 29" by inserting ads in advance of showing in Baltimore dailies with just the words "U-Boat 29 is coming to Baltimore." Newspapers were swamped with phone calls . . . Henry Hornstein, Diane, is on the sick list, being replaced by Lee Goldsmith . . . Norman Ansel, Lennox, was a first nighter at Ford's last week . . . Miss Ruth Greene, Little, who recently returned from the Fair, was televised at the RCA exhibit there.

Last Wednesday was Bill Hicks' nite at the Variety Club . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Rome weekended at Atlantic City . . . Barry Goldman, Regent, and wife have just returned from the Fair . . . Morris A. Mechanic, New, awarded cash prizes to members of the Amateur Press Club of Baltimore, for the best dramatic criticisms written on "Hollywood Cavalcade" . . . William Meyers, De Luxe and Echo, recently returned from a fishing trip, reports no fish.

Cliff Jarrett is celebrating his second year as assistant manager of the Hippodrome . . . The Show Boat has just pulled into Baltimore. Ed Wyatt, Preston, was on hand to greet his uncle who is the Show Boat skipper . . . Gov. O'Connor's traffic safety commission is preparing trailers for safety campaigns to run in theatres over the entire state . . . Francis Susie, chief of service at the Hippodrome, will wed on November 18 to Miss Ann Witt, formerly a Baltimore stardust rockett . . . Tipster Al Vogelstein says he has quite a few sure things for the coming races at Pimlico. Take note.

Alexander Gifford, Baltimore News-Post *Globe trotter, was a speaker at the Variety Club's luncheon last Saturday . . . Leroy Miller, Grand, was seen having luncheon at the Variety Club . . . The Durkee Westway case will be continued in federal district court on November* 5 . . . *Charles Corby, manager of Moe Cohen's Lexway, will manage the Clover Theatre after Cohen takes it over December* 1 . . . *Donald Schmeizel, two-year-old son of Phil Schmeizel, operator of the Leader Theatre, was lost the other day and wound up at the police station where newspaper photographers took his picture. Phil arrived a little late for work after finding Donald.*

Bill Hicks, Hampden, is now featuring singing slides with vocal accompaniment with Don Roberts at the organ . . . Motion Picture Projectionists Union held its 12th anniversary banquet at the Savoia restaurant Wednesday midnight last week . . . Wilbur Brizendine, Rialto, won the weekly contest for Rome theatre managers . . . Frank Hornig jr., Horn, has just come back from his honeymoon, looking very good . . . Jack Wheat, Earl Theatre, Ellicott City, is sporting a new Buick . . . Seen at the Races at Laurel, Md., last week: Harry Brown, Rivoli; Charley Nolty sr. and wife, Durkee Enterprises; Al Levin, Irvington; Sam Soltz, Howard, and Harry Vogelstein, Baltimore Poster Co.

For slow horses see ex-Jockey Dave Kaiser of Maryland Display Co. For further information see Harry Cahn, RKO salesman . . . Robert Goodman, manager of the Ideal, just returned from his vacation; where he went nobody knows . . . Dick Shamus, Realart, was on the sick list, but now is recovered . . . Harry Silver, Overlea, was also laid up with a very bad cold. It's this famous Baltimore weather. One day it's 90, *the next it is* 50.

Partners Add House

LEWISBURG, W. VA.—In addition to the new Lewis, the E. R. Custer-Floyd Price interests have added the Princess, 450-seat house, to their operations here. P. L. Dysard formerly held the Princess. Both houses will be supervised by Fred L. Helwig.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

DANGER FLIGHT (Mono)—That intrepid adventurer of the airways, Tailspin Tommy, who stepped out of the funny papers to become one of the most popular figures in current series pictures, flies again in this, the last of the Paul Malvern productions on the '38-'39 schedule. Cast is substantially the same as in previous chapters. John Trent and Marjorie Reynolds are co-starred. Directed by Howard Bretherton.

JEEPERS CREEPERS (Rep)—Hillbilly antics featuring the Weaver Brothers and Elviry in which the religious simplicity and faith of the Pineville natives finally circumvents the crass materialism of an unscrupulous coal operator. Roy Rogers is lost in this one although he is supplied with a horse. Maris Wrixon is the attractive daughter of the coal baron. Frank McDonald directed.

LITTLE ACCIDENT (Univ)—Aside from Baby Sandy, who again commits grand larceny by stealing the show away from Troupers Hugh Herbert and Florence Rice, this adds up as pretty lightweight fare. However, the infant phenomenon, now definitely a star, supplies enough entertainment to overcome story shortcomings. Charles Lamont produced and directed.

ON DRESS PARADE (WB)—The Dead End Kids are at military school but this time only one, Leo Gorcey, is the tough lad of the streets who needs reforming. It is a surefire plot which has Gorcey finally learning to love the service at military school after numerous amusing and melodramatic mishaps. It is also lavishly endowed with cliches that the studio likes to toss into a film of this type. As usual, the Kids perform like good troupers. William Clemens directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

WASHINGTON

RAY BELL, Loew publicist, is once again riding the trophy train, having been awarded a first place plaque by the *Motion Picture Herald* for outstanding showmanship during the last quarter . . . Ellison Loth, Waynesboro, is anticipating the installation of new bowling alleys . . . Cecil Ward, Bassett, has moved to his new home, with Sam Tabor being honored as a dinner guest . . . Ridley Green of Chase City visited the Row . . . Frank LaFalce, Warner theatres publicity director, is vacationing . . . C. E. McGowan, Warner theatres contract department, has returned from a home office conference . . . Mrs. Norma Newnam of the same office celebrated her four years at Warner with a dinner party.

Ann Rutherford took time from her p. a. at the Capitol to visit the local Metro exchange. In meeting the entire staff she was surprised with a gift book of the nation's capital, with Buddy Hall doing the honors. In being chosen the "Sweetheart of Sigma Nu," and "doing the town" in general she intimated that her visit here would definitely be a memorable one . . . The 20th-Fox exchange is holding second place in the current feature drive, and first place in the short drive . . . Sergt. Boswell, for many years the film buyer at the Marine Barracks, Quantico, is preparing to leave December 1, *with Sergeant Richards replacing him . . . Henry Hiser, Bethesda, was presented with a 7½-pound baby girl . . . Monogram's Buddy Hansen weekended with his family in New York . . . Sara Young, 20th-Fox, took in the Fair . . . RKO's Edith Hislop is resigning November* 10.

Warner theatres honor roll for outstanding exploitation lists the following managers: Edward Purcell, Strand, Staunton, for campaign on "Man From Music Mountain" and "Oregon Trail;" Jack Fretwell, State, Harrisonburg, on "The Rains Came;" Lou Kusner, Apollo, Martinsburg, on "The Women;" Don Nichols, Virginia, Harrisonburg, on "Tell No Tales;" Lamar Keen, Capitol, Winchester, on "Star Maker;" Frank Shaffer, Dixie, Staunton, on "The Old Maid;" Walter Cersley, Uptown, on extensive neighborhood advertising; George Payette, Maryland, Hagerstown, on "Stanley and Livingstone;" Claude Rand, Kennedy, on program advertising in neighborhood periodicals.

Twelve of the Warner Neighborhood theatres held their annual Hallowe'en parties with special showings Saturday, prizes being awarded for the best costumes . . . Metroites weekending in the Big City: Dorothy Berman, Connie Carpou, and Buddy Hall . . . L. Lea, Schoolfield, is preparing to take over the Broadway, Danville, same to be known hereafter as "The Lea" . . . Johnnie Garst, Martinsville, is running a daily "after-school" matinee . . . "Red" English, Alta Vista, took in the Fair . . . Al Pratt, Warner theatres sound man, had more than fisherman's luck recently and returned with a kettle full.

ALBANY

HARVEY ENGLISH, of English circuit with headquarters in Hancock, visited Filmrow . . . Seth Field, Schine booker, and Frank Williams, Benton picture setter, seen together on the Row . . . Clarence Goodemote, of Cozy Theatre, Broadalbin, is a football fan. The reason: his son is playing on Broadalbin High School eleven . . . Ernie Dodd, Lake Placid exhibitor and a recent Filmrow caller, is another football fan who is said to travel to New York and Syracuse to witness college contests.

Charlie Arron, Metro auditor, due here from the home office . . . Bill Gaddoni, chief M-G-M booker in Albany, suffered a sinus attack during his vacation home in New Rochelle . . . Lou Weinberg, Columbia eastern sales executive, was in and out with Branch Manager Joe Miller during a visit to territory.

Bernard Kranze, RKO manager, was in New York working on a deal for Fabian theatres in Albany, Troy, Schenectady, Catskill and Cohoes, and for Walter Reade houses in Saratoga Springs and Hudson . . . Bill Benson, former RKO salesman here and now drumming Universal films in the New York territory, called on his former fellow workers . . . Andy Smith, new eastern sales manager for RKO, is well known in Albany territory. Visited it many times while general sales manager for UA and also while serving with First National . . . George Weeks, Monogram general sales manager, made his first stop at the exchange since it was opened several months ago in Theatre Display Co. headquarters, 1076 Broadway. Weeks and Franchise Holder Harry Berkson of Buffalo are working on a deal with Schine circuit.

Ward Craig, manager of the Fabian house in Catskill, probably will not take planned fall cruise to Bermuda—a prize which he won in a Metro short subject exploitation contest. The war makes it too risky . . . Charles Gordon's Olympic, Utica, one of five theatres in this section to have a preview of 20th Century-Fox's "Drums Along the Mohawk," November 2, is an independent house. A change in booking schedule was necessary to set the production at the Glove, Gloversville, and Rialto, Amsterdam. Those Schine houses usually have Sunday openings.

Bernard H. Mills, former Republic franchise holder, will be feted by exchangemen, chain executives and exhibitors, at a luncheon in Ten Eyck Hotel October 30. More than 100 are expected to attend. Si Fabian, Lou Golding, Fabian division manager, and M. A. Silver, New York State manager of Warner theatres, are carded to speak. Myer Schine and William E. Smalley may add a few words. Mills, who has won a host of friends in some 15 years of operation in the Albany territory, is understood to have obtained, with his partner, Jack Berkowitz of Buffalo, world distribution rights to a revised version of "Ten Nights in a Barroom." Committee for Mills luncheon consists of: Arthur J. Newman, Albany manager for Republic Pictures; Dick Hayes, Paramount salesman; George Jeffreys, Universal salesman, and Ben Smith, Pam-O salesman.

Smalley Theatre in St. Johnsville, Mohawk Valley village of 2,275 population, reopened after a complete remodeling. House was closed for two months. The house in Walton, on the Southern Tier, was refurbished recently and others redone. Bill Smalley operates 13 theatres in the Albany territory.

Pam-O Exchange, owned by Eleanor Paradies of Buffalo, has taken over distribution in Albany and Buffalo territories of 12 Film Alliance pictures from Budd Rodgers of New York. Arthur Greenblatt, general sales manager, has been here working on circuit deals. The block has been sold already to the Fabian and Warner theatres. One of the pictures, "Dead Men Tell No Tales," was on last week's bill at the Grand, a Fabian first run. Ben Smith, veteran salesman, works for Pam-O in the Albany territory.

He Deftly Recovers Street-Car Ride

Richmond, Va.—It was a real problem that confronted Stewart Tucker, manager of the State here, the other night, but he solved it.

A 12-year-old patron tearfully explained to him that, while watching the picture and holding a dime for carfare in his hand in order not to lose it, the elbow of a departing patron pushed it into his nose.

Mere suggestion of a doctor frightened the boy still more. So out came a pair of sharp-pointed pliers and Tucker, deftly and surely, recovered a street-car ride.

Virginia Censor Board's Profits Last Year Top

RICHMOND, VA.—The annual report of the Virginia state board of censorship, which has just been released, shows that the board made more money last year than any year since its inception in 1922. Receipts were $36,540, compared with last year's $37,732.75, but the expenses this year were less, showing a balance of $17,253.43 which was turned into the state treasury. Last year new equipment was installed, making a net profit of $16,090.15.

Original films, numbering 1,404, were screened with a footage of 4,931,000 feet. Last year 1,501 films were screened with a total footage of 5,000,418. During the year four pictures were rejected in toto, and 41 scene and dialogue deletions were ordered in a total of ten films.

Colonel Peter Saunders, chairman of the board, stated that "The Wages of Sin" and "The Birth of a Baby" were two of the films rejected. Judge Gunn of the circuit court screened both of these pictures on appeal from the producers and permitted "The Birth of a Baby" to be shown, but upheld the board on "The Wages of Sin."

RICHMOND

ANN RUTHERFORD, M-G-M player, made personal appearances here at Loew's last Sunday to capacity crowds. She was introduced by Eddie Weaver, organist, who made such a good job of it that Carter Baron and Allen Sparrow took him to Norfolk the following day to do the same m. c.'s . . . Brock Whitlock, local boy now assistant manager of Loew's Capitol in Washington, visited briefly . . . Pat Leary and Trip Caldwell, projectionists, went on another fishing trip last week, with better luck than last time.

Bob Eagan, manager of the Park, has been out sick for several days but is now back feeling hale and hearty . . . According to Harold Wood, the MPTO of Virginia mid-winter convention will be held here at the John Marhall Hotel the latter part of January . . . Two bandits held up Keith Caudle, relief manager of the National, in his office but he could not open the safe for them as he did not know the combination. After taking all the cash he had on him, four dollars, they left the theatre by a rear door and walked into a squad of policemen who were checking up on a car parked in the rear alley. The bandits were identified as the same who held up Charlie Yerby and Pete Stainback at Loew's a week before, and are being held for the grand jury.

Neighborhood Theatres' newest house, the Buckingham at Arlington, has been opened under the personal management of John Duffus, who was moved over from the Ashton. Joseph Mullen, who has been managing the Bellevue here since its opening two years ago, was sent up to the Ashton and Percy Pollard, assistant manager of the Capitol, promoted to manager of the Bellevue. Conrad McRee, assistant manager of the State, is now doing relief duty at the Capitol, Bellevue and Brookland . . . Otis Bugg, projectionist at the National, who recently returned from a motor trip down into Mexico, is still talking about his recent accident in Louisiana when his car ran off the road and turned over, causing several hundred dollars damage, in addition to injuring his wife and her sister.

William Jones, operator of the Warsaw Theatre in Warsaw, has been appointed Commonwealth's attorney for that county . . . Jim Owens, RCA's smiling salesman, was in town last week calling on Bill Attmore, RCA engineer . . . With the changing over to Thursday openings by Wilmer and Vincent's Colonial, all first runs are now opening on Thursday . . . Tom Pitts is advertising a Midnight Horror Show for Hallowe'en Night at the Patrick Henry . . . Carroll McKinney, projectionist of the Fairfax in Kilmarnock, is passing around the cigars. The occasion is the birth of a daughter.

Consolidated Profit

NEW YORK—Consolidated Film Industries and its subsidiaries report a profit of $218,140 after taxes and charges for the quarter ended September. This compares with $218,768 for the same quarter last year. The nine months' profit this year was $574,258.

Disney, Technicolor, RKO After Suit Dismissal

NEW YORK—Walt Disney Productions, Technicolor, Technicolor M. P. Corp., and Radio Pictures will seek a dismissal on November 10 of the triple damage suit of Walt I. Whitman against them.

Whitman claims the "wilful infringement" of his patent on third dimension photography in "Snow White" and "Pinocchio."

The dismissal will be sought on grounds of failure to state a cause of action.

Universal and Warner Frolic for Halloween

NEW YORK—Employes of the Universal exchange held a Halloween party Friday night with costumers, music and an a la carte free for all the highlight of the affair. Plans are under way to hold similar affairs annually. Warner also staged a get-together of employes of its various companies at the home office the same night.

New Era Realty Acquires Sites for Bronx House

NEW YORK—Two plots, with an area approximating seven city lots, have been purchased on the southerly side of Hugh J. Grant Circle in the Bronx as the site for a theatre. New Era Realty Corp. is the purchaser. The property is directly opposite Parkchester, the large apartment community which is being built by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

Fifth Arbitrator in Wage Dispute Still Unknown

NEW YORK—Although Judge Crane of the appellate court was expected to name a fifth arbitrator in the wage dispute between Local 306 and major circuits, no such action materialized during the week.

Embassy Newsreel Theatre Marks Decade in Trade

NEW YORK—The Embassy Newsreel, reputed to be the first newsreel theatre in the world, celebrates its tenth anniversary Thursday. A special two-reeler has been compiled by Fox Movietone News from the program shown on the opening day.

Selznick Flies Back to Coast From New York

NEW YORK—David O. Selznick, producer of "Gone With the Wind," flew back to the coast over the weekend after a few days here discussing sales and exploitation and publicity ideas for the $4,000,000 picture.

Stimulate a Drive

NEW YORK—Stimulus is being given the Universal testimonial drive sponsored by exhibitors with the release of seven features in the next three weeks. The pictures are "The Road Back," "Little Accident," "Tower of London," "Call a Messenger," "Legion of Lost Fliers," "First Love" and "One Hour to Live."

Industrial Horizons Brighter Upstate

ALBANY—Brighter signs continue to appear on the business horizon of upstate New York as gleaned from official state reports, newspaper items and talks with film salesmen.

The state department of labor announces that for the second consecutive month, the number of industrial building plans submitted to it for approval reached a record for a corresponding period during the 16 years the system has been in operation. A total of 128 plans, representing contemplated investments of $1,522,765, were submitted in September. This exceeded the previous high of September, 1937, by 10. September, 1939, plans topped the average for the previous 15 years by 66 per cent. It was 11 more than that of September, 1938, and called for an expenditure of $273,765 greater than last year. The $1,522,765 outlay provided in last month's plans was $92,134 more than the average figure for September. The highest amount of cost for September industrial construction plans was $4,696,439, back in 1926; the lowest was $261,300, in 1933. The August figure this year, when 139 plans were submitted, was $1,801,615.

Lead in Investments

Rockland and Westchester counties, near the metropolitan area, led in value of investments for the 35 counties from which plans were received by the Labor Department last month. From Rockland County four plans were submitted involving estimated costs of $367,000. From Westchester, 13 plans representing expenditures of $227,000 came in. Leaders further upstate were: Oneida (which includes Utica), $88,000; Erie (which takes in Buffalo), $84,170; Cattaraugus and Allegheny (on the southwestern tier), $76,305 and $65,000, respectively; Rensselaer (Troy), $66,400; Monroe (of which Rochester is county seat), $63,520; Genesee (adjoining Monroe), $40,000. Fulton (in which Glovers-Schine headquarters, is located) filed industrial plans costing $28,220. Onondaga county (Syracuse area) was down for $25,100; Albany for $19,000, and Schenectady, for $1,800.

Plans for four new buildings to be used as places of public assembly and for five, in the same class, undergoing alterations were filed. The new structures were small, cost being estimated at $29,110. The expense of altering the other five was set at $35,400. Significant or not, $559,000 was to be spent in altering factories and $291,800 in erecting new factories. In classification, food products plants led as to number, metal, chemical, photographic, textile, leather, paper, oil, printing, optical and china products followed in that order. Plans for 47 new mercantile establishments costing $471,050 and for alterations to 23 at an expenditure of $77,000 were submitted.

Although Schenectady was near the bottom in filing plans for industrial buildings, other news from that city was cheering. General Electric Company reported an increase of more than 30 per cent in orders filled for six months, compared to the same period in 1938. It also announced receipt of additional government contracts. American Locomotive Company, Schenectady's second big concern, released word it had received an order to supply the Erie Railroad with four 100-ton, 600-horsepower Diesel electric switching engines. The company awaited confirmation of word it would share in an order for 17 locomotives for Brazil. Continued employment boom at the Watervliet arsenal is said to have hypoed theatre business in that city.

Both newspapers and film salesmen tell of a steady employment increase in paper and pulp mills, scattered through the northern territory. Other kinds of factories have or are getting ready to handle orders. Fort Edward, where Lou Fisher operates a theatre, is one of the International Paper Company towns in which employes are back on full time. The "stagger crew" system is in full use. In Corinth, an addition is to be built for the reported manufacture of glaze paper. Ollie Mallory has a theatre there. Salesmen state that the paper mill employment pickup has also been noted in Hudson Falls, Glen Falls, Ticonderoga, Ausable Forks, Norfolk and elsewhere. In Norfolk, St. Lawrence county, Amos Curry's theatre is profiting from heavy pulp mill employment.

Warner Files Suit Seeking Reduction in Taxes

NEW YORK — Warner Brothers Pictures and Warner Brothers Theatres have filed suit in the supreme court against the N. Y. Tax Commission, seeking a reduction of $1,260,500 in assessments for 1939-40, from the figure of $2,926,500 as set by the board for three pieces of property in New York.

The first involved is the Warner Theatre on Broadway, which was assessed at $750,000. The film company claims the proper amount to be $400,000. The second is the Hollywood, also on Broadway, which was assessed at $1,150,000, with Warners claiming the proper amount to be $600,000. Lastly is the Warner warehouse at 617-627 W. 54th St., and a rear lot on West 55th St., which was assessed at $1,026,500, instead of the figure Warners claim it should be, or $666,000.

Justice Julius Miller set December 4 as a date for a hearing.

Rex Clearance Suit May Be Settled Out of Court

PHILADELPHIA—Negotiations are said to be going on out of court to settle the dispute between the Rex Theatre Amusement Co., Inc., and Million Dollar Productions over clearance rights. The Rex owners, Isadore and Milton Borowsky, allege that a contract giving them first run on Million Dollar's colored films last season was violated to give first run to Morris Wax's Pearl, which is located in the same neighborhood as the Rex.

A petition for injunction was filed by the Borowskys last summer against the producer and Wax, but the matter has not yet come to a hearing. From present indications, it may be settled before the preliminary hearing takes place.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER

(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

42-Hour Work Law Is Taken in Stride

A year's experience with the complexities of the federal wage-hour law enabled Hollywood to absorb, more or less in stride, the inauguration of the 42-hour maximum work week which went into effect October 24, cutting down the 44-hour maximum set when the law originally became effective a year ago. Most crafts holding producer contracts—such as the Society of Motion Picture Artists and Illustrators, art directors, makeup artists and others—have been operating on a 40-42 hour week. The IATSE, representing some 12,000 studio workers; the painters, teamsters, machinists and other technicians, are all on an hourly basis, most of them specifying a basic week of from 36 to 40 hours.

Hence the Hays office labor unit is exercising only slight supervision over changes being made in the individual studios to conform with the reduced weekly maximum. In all, a Hays attache estimated, not more than 1,000 studio workers will be affected—most of them white-collar workers, including secretaries, stenographers and clerks, who have been putting in a 44-hour week. As was the case when the original law went into effect, groups classified as "professionals"—including, largely, actors and directors—and "executives" are untouched by the legislation's provisions.

The shortened week and its effect on the pay of assistant cutters, sound effects cutters and apprentices was discussed at a membership meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors. The senior group holds a producer contract specifying a 40-hour week, but these provisions do not hold for other members of the organization.

Only a few personnel changes in the major studios were recorded. William Hebert, until recently publicity-advertising director for Selznick International, has been set by Howard Dietz, Metro's advertising-exploitation chief, to handle the Atlanta and New York openings of S-I's "Gone With the Wind," which Metro is releasing. Hebert planed for New York for conferences with Dietz.

Ruth Cummings has completed a term-writing contract at M-G-M and checked off the lot. The Warner studio publicity staff has added Robert Josephs as a unit man. He was formerly with Republic.

Labor Situation Again Is No. 1 Problem of the Film Capital

With personnel and production readjustments to cope with the war situation gradually dwindling into the background, labor troubles are again taking precedence as the film capital's major problem.

No. 1 on the list is the controversy concerning studio painters and their demands for a 15 per cent wage increase. Producers were given until October 28 to meet with the craft's negotiating committee, headed by Herbert Sorrell, the business manager, and take definite action. In a mass meeting earlier, the painter committee was authorized by a vote of 421 to 88 to call a strike "if, when and where it is deemed necessary" to enforce the union's demand. Producers, through Pat Casey, labor negotiator, are pleading business has been "tremendously affected by the war and are urging that the painters defer any drastic action until December 5, when five other American Federation of Labor Crafts have producer conferences scheduled to discuss wage increases.

AMG Again Defers Action

The Artists Managers Guild, in a general meeting October 23, again deferred action on the franchise plan drafted by the Screen Actors Guild under which agents must be licensed in order to represent SAG members. Another AMG meeting was called for October 30 to give the lengthy agreement further study. A similar announcement came from the original meeting October 18, at which time agents pleaded that they required more time to scrutinize the draft. Continuing its probe into charges that extras have been forced to "pay off" in order to obtain employment, the SAG has offered immunity to any players disclosing pertinent facts, even if the witness himself is involved. The Guild board declared it is "not prejudging the investigation or making any implication as to the facts," and added that it wants "the truth and let the chips fall where they may."

The Screen Writers Guild named a complete slate of officers for its annual election November 8. Candidates for president are Mary C. McCall jr. and Sheridan Gibney; for vice-president, Sidney Buchman and Wells Root; secretary, E. E. Paramore jr. and Dwight Taylor, and treasurer, Dore Schary and Boris Ingster. Forty-two have been named as candidates to fill 21 vacancies on the executive board. These include Melville Baker, John Balderston, Ralph Block, Charles Brackett (incumbent president), Buchman, Jerome Chodorov, Lester Cole, Richard Collins, Delmer Daves, Philip Dunne, Gibney, Don Hartman, David Hertz, John Huston, Ingster, Paul Jarrico, Aben Kandel, Curtis Kenyon, John Larkin, S. K. Lauren, Leonard Lee, Gladys Lehman, Leonard Levinson, William Ludwig, Miss McCall, Richard Maibaum, Mortimer Offner, George Oppenheimer, Paramore, Gertrude Purcell, Fredric Rinaldo, Root, Robert Rossen, Schary, George Seaton, Milton Sperling, Jo Swerling, Dwight Taylor, Dalton Trumbo, Harry Tugend, Nathaniel West and John Wexley.

Other labor developments:

The Society of Motion Picture Film Editors has submitted demands to Walt Disney for a 100 per cent Guild shop and substantial wage increases for cutters and librarians. Pact does not affect animators, designers or other employes now members of Disney's Federated Screen Cartoonists. Board of directors of the SMPFE scheduled a meeting for October 25 to discuss progress of negotiations and to study the effect of the new 42-hour weekly minimum work week on present studio contracts.

Still awaiting signatures of producers are the closed shop contracts drawn up for the Screen Readers and Screen Publicists Guilds.

The IATSE's technicians' local 683 has opened a campaign against all laboratories which have not signed agreements with the union, and has served notice on major studios to withdraw their work from such labs until unionization agreements have been signed.

Makeup artists, local 706, scheduled its annual election of officers for October 25. Bert Hadley sought re-election as president, competing against four other candidates. Executive board of the Society of Motion Picture Art Directors met to discuss a rough draft of its proposed studio working agreement.

The scheduled Screen Directors Guild meeting has been postponed until October 30 because of the absence of President Frank Capra and Mabel Walker Willebrandt, SDG attorney.

Gene Markey Assigned to Produce "End of Trail"

Gene Markey has been assigned to produce 20th Century-Fox's "End of the Trail," a cavalcade of westerns which will follow the general format of "Hollywood Cavalcade." Production will be filmed in Technicolor from a script by Milton Sperling. Leading character will be a composite of all the noted celluloid sagebrush heroes—William S. Hart, Hoot Gibson, Buck Jones, Tom Mix, et al.



IRVING CUMMINGS

DIRECTOR

"HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE"



Mayflower Shifting Activity to U. S.

A reorganization of Mayflower Pictures, Ltd., as an independent American production company is being planned by Charles Laughton and Producer-Director Erich Pommer, who founded the corporation in England and made three pictures there. Laughton and Pommer, who have been conferring here for the past several days, announced the move as an outgrowth of the European war, which has brought the English film industry to a virtual standstill.

So far no plans for distributing future product has been worked out. Paramount had contracted for American distribution on Mayflower's English-made pictures, two of which—"The Beachcomber" and "Jamaica Inn"—have already been released. The last, "St. Martin's Lane," will be screened here in a few weeks.

A release through RKO Radio has been secured by a new independent unit formed by Lee Garmes, producer-director-cameraman, according to an announcement by President George Schaefer. Garmes will film "And So Goodby" at Eastern Service studios in Long Island, recruiting Edward Sutherland to direct. Cast will be headed by Jean Parker, Richard Carlson, Charles Winninger and Binnie Barnes. Garmes and Sutherland head east November 1.

First in a series of all-Negro pictures has begun shooting at Talisman studios under the banner of the newly-formed Argus Pictures, with Arthur Dreifuss producing and directing. Features are slated for state-right release.

Sol Lesser has leased office and production space at the Samuel Goldwyn studio for the making of "Our Town," first in a series of films for United Artists release. Picture, based on a play by Thornton Wilder, goes into work early in January, 1940. Lesser heretofore has been headquartering at Selznick International.

Fine Arts attaches expect President Franklyn Warner to return from New York shortly, where he has been huddling with E. W. Hammons, president of Grand National, concerning the financial status of the latter company and the possibility of renewing an FA-GN affiliation. Meanwhile both FA and GN locally are standing idle.

Also expected in from New York is Jules Levy, until recently chief of sales for RKO Radio, who is negotiating the formation of a new independent distribution firm.

A One-Reel Sports Reel Is Bought by Warner

"American Saddlehorses," a one-reel sport film produced by Del Frazier, has been purchased by Warner and is being scored by the studio orchestra, under Leo Forbstein's direction, with John Deering doing the narration. Picture features "Douglas King," a five-gaited horse. Written and directed by Frazier on location at Mount Whitney, in color, the reel will be given distribution through Warner exchanges.



Back to Awards—

After spending two years in England in charge of color control work at Technicolor's British plant, Mrs. Natalie Kalmus returns to Hollywood to find two BOXOFFICE *Blue Ribbon Awards awaiting her for her contributions to the success of "Sweethearts" and "The Wizard of Oz," both filmed in Technicolor process. Awards were made when the National Screen Council voted each film the best release during the months of January,* 1938, *and September,* 1939, *respectively.*

Major Studios Keep Production Level

Starting 11 features and sending six others to the cutting rooms, Hollywood's major studios show a production balance of 44 features in work, continuing the high picture-making speed they have attained in recent weeks.

Columbia launched an untitled western starring Charles Starrett and "Cop From Hell's Kitchen" and completed "The Incredible Mr. Williams" to emerge with four in production. Metro likewise is filming four, none a new starter. Monogram has one in production on location in Utah, "Under Western Stars," having finished both "Roll, Wagons, Roll" and "Yukon Flight."

Six are in work at Paramount, including "The Light of Western Stars" and "Buck Benny Rides Again." RKO Radio gunned "The Marines Fly High" and wrapped up "That's Right, You're Wrong" to equal Paramount's production total of six. Republic has two in production, having started "The Narrow Path" and completed "Cowboys From Texas."

Twentieth Century-Fox lists seven in work, including a new starter, "The Californian." Hal Roach gunned an untitled Laurel-Hardy four-reeler and Walter Wanger has launched "The House Across the Bay," both for United Artists release, and giving UA a total of four.

Universal's total dropped to three with completion of "Destry Rides Again." No new starts are listed. Warner, after some delay, launched "Virginia City" to chalk up a seven-picture total.

Hollywood Throwing Off War "Jitters"

From all outward aspects, Hollywood's wartime production and operational procedure is paralleling the somnolence currently characterizing European hostilities, outbreak of which nearly three months ago had industry moguls running around in agitated circles.

The dearth of developments in the film capital with reference to the international situation is, furthermore, being taken by local railbirds as evidence that for the time being, at least, a firm-footed program has been established and that executives are looking to the future with a more optimistic eye.

This was solidified with the arrival of Ned E. Depinet, sales chief, and S. Barret McCormick, publicity-advertising director, at the RKO Radio studio to scan seven finished or nearly-completed features, representing an investment of some $7,000,000, which President George Schaefer characterizes as the company's most pretentious fall and winter lineup in history. Another arrival, whose interpretation of the European production scene is surprisingly optimistic, was Irving Asher, who has been producing in England for Columbia release. Asher declared, before embarking on conferences with Harry Cohn, that unless drastic developments occur, he will return to London early in December to resume picture-making. The British government, he asserts, is anxious to keep film production alive as a means of bolstering public morale.

This reaction was in direct opposition to that of Charles Laughton and Erich Pommer, who announced earlier that production abroad is now virtually impossible, and that for that reason they will reorganize their Mayflower Pictures as an American independent unit.

On the optimistic side, also:

Extras earned approximately $239,000 in September, an increase of some $17,000 over August, according to a Central Casting report.

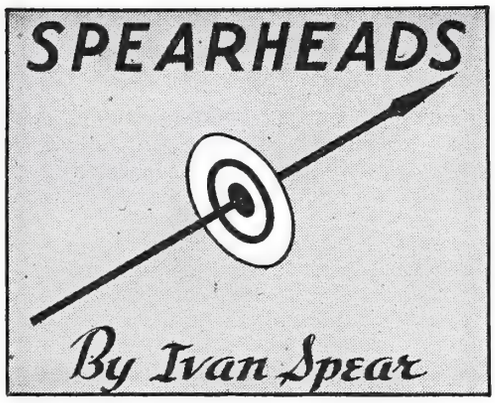
The war notwithstanding, Universal is going ahead with its construction program to the extent of announcing it will build a new six-story office building, two sound stages, new cutting rooms and a set storage building. Work will start shortly after the first of the year under the supervision of David Garber, operations manager. Likewise, Republic is remodeling its administration building and casting office.

Having suspended activities in its "B" production unit until December 1, Warner is concentrating on its program of short subjects under the supervision of Gordon Hollingshead. Seven writers are preparing scripts for "Robert E. Lee," "Clara Barton and the Red Cross," "Fremont, the Pathfinder," "Daniel Boone," "The Discovery of America," "Teddy Roosevelt and His Rough Riders" and "Pony Express," all historical featurettes.

Highlights of the feature production front:

Universal is launching a new "horror" cycle, having scheduled "Friday, the Thirteenth," co-starring Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff, and "The Electric Man" to follow the recently-completed "Invisible Man Returns."

Twentieth Century-Fox's slate of "A" features swings into full action again November 27 with the start of "Johnny Apollo," co-starring Tyrone Power and Dorothy Lamour. Before that date five lower-budgeted efforts will go before the cameras.



IN THE face of war-time economies, and despite the studied efforts of Hollywood's first-line rumor-mongers to create an impression to the contrary, a look at the records proves beyond doubt that Technicolor is occupying a more important place on 1939-40 production and release schedules than at any time since the perfection of the color process.

First, the facts:

There were nine Technicolor features released during the 1937-38 season; nine were included among 1938-39 releases; while definite commitments have already been made for 13 features on the 1939-40 schedules to be filmed in Technicolor. This number will probably be increased as more detailed plans for forthcoming productions are perfected. Further, a recapitulation of current shorts schedules reveals a comparable increase in the use of the process in that field.

If the foregoing figures are not sufficient to convince the skeptics that the Technicolor star is definitely in its ascendancy, a list of the important color pictures which are set for release during the next two months should certainly be impressive. They include: "Gone With the Wind," "Drums Along the Mohawk," "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex," "Untamed," "The Bluebird," "Typhoon," "Dr. Cyclops," "Pinnochio," "Gulliver's Travels" and "Queen of Destiny."

Two principal factors have apparently entered into the consensus decision of producers to use more color, albeit the general trend is toward lower production costs wherever and whenever they may be utilized without seriously jeopardizing quality. The cost of Technicolor photography is constantly being lowered, due to the fact that color cameras are faster, resulting in the cutting of shooting schedules. Also, it has been established beyond doubt that, because of their longer projection life, Technicolor prints cost but little more than those done in black-and-white, in which material and workmanship of equal quality are used. Secondly, and probably of greater importance than the cost factor, is the realization that certain good pictures can be made great pictures only through the use of Technicolor. As a typical illustration, consider Warner's "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex," which obviously owes much of its appeal to the fact that the pageantry, pomp and lavish trappings of Elizabethan England, as well as the unusual makeup of its star, Bette Davis, are brought to audiences in their natural hues.

Another point may be illustrated by further reference to the same feature. Producers are manifesting much better judgment in the selection of the features to be enhanced through the use of Technicolor. There was a time when the process was applied willy-nilly and usually with the idea of trying to bolster the drawing power of weak pictures about the success of which the front offices were apprehensive. The present trend is to limit its use to films in which the natural colors of their locale is an important feature.

Hence, the interests of motion picture entertainment will be best served if the production brains continue to manifest the good judgment reflected in the decision to increase, rather than decrease, the use of Technicolor during a season which is undoubtedly one of the most crucial in the industry's history.

➞

If there is any truth—and there probably isn't—in recent publicity releases, Metro is considering the life of Major R. B. Neyland, football coach at the University of Tennessee, as a subject for a forthcoming feature. Director Clarence Brown, a Tennessee alumnus, planed south to see the team play Alabama and, reportedly, to confer with Neyland on the idea.

If the fact that a film executive is an alumnus invests a football coach at his alma mater with enough color to make him picture subject material—and Neyland certainly ranks below Alonzo Stagg, Howard Jones, Pop Warner, Jock Sutherland, the late Andy Smith and others in this regard—then there should be plenty of color in the lives of the klabiash coaches at Omsk State and the University of Minsk.

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Folsom prison is resuming motion picture showings for inmates after a 12-year absence.

In the interests of prison reform, let it be hoped that some of our present-day offerings are not substituted for solitary confinement.

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Broadcasts Leo:

Herbert Stothart, now scoring "Balalaika," is using a group of the largest drums available in Hollywood. One is 20 feet in diameter, requiring two men to handle drumsticks.

The publicity department on detached service, perhaps.

Hors D'oeuvres and Hash

Left-overs comprised the major portion of the cinema fare of Hollywood's growing army of film reviewers, since many of the features which were submitted to critical reaction during the week had previously been shown in New York or were seen locally at their regular openings.

Included in the celluloid hash as the most formidable ingredients were United Artists' "Eternally Yours," RKO Radio's "Allegheny Uprising" and Paramount's "The Cat and the Canary." Of these, Walter Wanger's "Eternally Yours" wins the doubtful honor of being the week's best. A zestful melange of homey and sophisticated romantic comedy, its rapidly-paced script —an original by the redoubtable team of Gene Towne and Graham Baker—weaves adroitly through a background of magicians, rabbits-in-the-hat and other now-you-see-it-now-you-don't sleight of hand elements. Bolstered by Wanger's usual tasteful production embellishment, suavely directed by Tay Garnett and exerting both mass and class appeal, it should establish satisfying boxoffice takes.

Disappointingly meager in plot content, "Allegheny Uprising" will probably find the cowboy-and-Injun trade its most enthusiastic customers. Locale is an interesting, but obscure, incident from American history in pre-Revolutionary times, scripted with a rather heavy hand by P. J. Wolfson, who attempted to redeem his story shortcomings by mounting it on a major production scale. William A. Seiter's direction, is characteristically effective despite the handicaps under which he labored—among them an awkward and slender romantic thread which contributes nothing to the story development and will hardly satisfy the femme patronage.

The veteran mystery-chiller, "The Cat and the Canary," balances suspense and comedy nicely and provides a substantial quantity of light entertainment. Production by Arthur Hornblow jr., Elliott Nugent's direction and performances throughout are above reproach.

* * *

Other miscellaneous contributions to the preview pot-pourri included Metro's "Bad Little Angel"—basically a Sunday School lesson in celluloid, capturing a quaint mid-Victorian atmosphere, but unfortunately spreading the Pollyanna spirit on a bit thick for comfortable digestion by average audiences. Little girls and old ladies undoubtedly will like it, but for others the sanctimonious character imparted to Moppet Virginia Weidler, in the title role, by Dorothy Yost's script, will hold no interest. Little Miss Weidler does, however, display genuine talent and self-assurance. Albert E. Levoy produced and William Thiele wielded the megaphone.

Columbia presented Joe E. Brown, specialist in broad comedy, in a farce at its very broadest, "Beware, Spooks!" Dyed-in-the-wool Brown fans, and others who do do not care for subtlety in their humor, will find it a thoroughly pleasing piece of merchandise. Richard Flournoy, Albert Duffy and Brian Marlow, who did the script, strove for and captured a large measure of slapstick and hokum tailored to Brown's talents in most respects. Robert

(Continued on page 41)

Action on Progressive Front Well Paced

While plans for a general membership meeting for the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League are being laid for the near future to more thoroughly discuss the disclosures of Fascist activities in the Los Angeles area made at an emergency session October 12, other liberal organizations in the film colony are temporarily usurping the spotlight.

Newest group to join the coterie of progressive units is the Hollywood Theatre Alliance, styled a non-profit community dramatic project, which has established headquarters at the old Writers Club and is preparing to launch production of a satirical, political review. Among the sponsors of the group are George Cukor, Garson Kanin, Kenneth Macgowan, Will Rogers jr., Mrs. Edward G. Robinson, Mrs. Claude Rains, Sigmund Romberg, Ira Gershwin, Lewis Milestone, Walter Wanger, Frank Tuttle, Jo Swerling and other prominent industry figures.

A round table conference on peace, with representatives from most Hollywood liberal organizations appearing, was scheduled for October 28 at Occidental College under the auspices of the Southern California Union for Concerted Peace Efforts, in which such film folk as Director W. S. Van Dyke, Melvyn Douglas, Virginia Bruce and others are interested.

Associated Film Audiences sponsored the opening showing at the Esquire Theatre of "The City," made for the American Institute of Planners by Pare Lorentz and Lewis Mumford and heretofore shown only at the New York World's Fair. Film deals with slum clearance and the nation's housing problem.

Featured speaker at a meeting of the American League for Peace and Democracy was Martin Berkeley, screen writer and playwright. He discussed "The Writer and the War." Highlight of a meeting of the Musicians Democratic Committee was the appearance of James Roosevelt, son of the President, who spoke on "Democracy in America."



"This Hears You"—

Adolphe Menjou gives Kay Kyser the lowdown on movie mikes preparatory to the film debut of Kyser's College of Musical Knowledge in RKO's "That's Right, You're Wrong."

Federal Men Leave for Huddle With Murphy

Albert J. Law and Harold Collins, special department of justice investigators, have departed on an unexpected and largely unexplained trip to Washington, D. C.

Belief was expressed by a member of their local staff that Collins and Law have a "heavy date" with Atty.-Gen. Frank Murphy to discuss the findings they garnered during a recent whirlwind investigation in which a number of independent distributors and exhibitors were examined. Opinion is that the data obtained will be used to supplement the government in its recently-filed contempt suit against Fox West Coast and nine major distributors, as well as in the federal anti-trust proceedings now on the docket in New York.

It was the exhaustive probe conducted locally for more than a year and a half by Law and Collins that led the government to institute its action against FWC and the other defendants, in which it charges they have been violating the 1930 consent decree with reference to the Sherman anti-trust ordinances. It was not known whether the two G-men would return here in time to be on hand when the show cause hearing, scheduled for November 13, takes place. At that time defendants in the federal suit must appear.

Name Death Valley Scotty "Virginia City" Advisor

Death Valley Scotty, mystery man of the desert, who reputedly possesses a fabulously rich gold mine, has joined Warner as technical advisor on "Virginia City," the Errol Flynn starrer dealing with early gold mining.

Studio attaches insist Scotty refused to accept the salary attached to the position and quote him as saying he would take the assignment "just to help you fellows out." He leaves with the production unit next week for Cameron, Ariz., where exteriors will be filmed.

Lupe Velez on P. A. Tour; "Spitfire" Is Finished

Having completed work in "Mexican Spitfire" for RKO Radio, Lupe Velez has pulled out for San Francisco to launch a 12-week personal appearance tour, for which stops in key cities throughout the country have been scheduled.

Warner has recalled Ann Sheridan from her p. a. engagements in New York and Washington, D. C., to prepare for her next film assignment—a featured part in "And It All Came True." Miss Sheridan was gone for nearly a month.

Leo Carrillo begins a six-week p. a. trek in Kansas City, October 30. Other scheduled stops include Philadelphia, New York and Detroit, in addition to small cities in the east and midwest.

A week's engagement at the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco, beginning November 8, is on the calendar for the Ritz Brothers, who just returned from a two-week p. a. stretch in New York.

New Goulding Assignment

Warner has assigned Edmund Goulding to direct "We Shall Meet Again," in which Merle Oberon and George Brent have the leads. Picture starts early in November.



His Book a Film—

The author of "The First Rebel," Neil Swanson, precedes his talk before the Associated Press Managing Editors Ass'n with a glance at his work. The novel has been brought to the screen by RKO as "Allegheny Uprising."

Hollywood Is Behind L. A. Chest Drive

Determined to maintain its reputation for open-handedness, established through participation in the drive in past years, the film colony is already making elaborate plans for raising funds during the Los Angeles Community Chest campaign, which gets underway this year on November 8.

H. M. Warner has been appointed chairman of the motion picture division and a committee comprising James Cagney, of the Screen Actors Guild; Charles Brackett, president of the Screen Writers Guild, and J. P. McGowan, of the Screen Directors Guild, was selected to work with Warner during the campaign. The tri-Guild committee will appoint members of their crafts at each studio as contact officers.

Organizational meeting was attended by Warner, Y. Frank Freeman, Sam Katz, William Goetz, George Schaefer, B. B. Kahane, Walter Wanger, Cliff Work, Matty Fox, Ralph Morgan, Cagney, Mischa Auer, Charles Starrett, McGowan, Garson Kanin, Brackett, Robert Rossen, Milton Sperling, Jane Murfin, Jack Natteford, Louis Meltzer, Fred W. Beetson, M. C. Levee, Joseph I. Schnitzer and Edward Selzer.

To Use Technicolor Inserts In "Life of Dr. Ehrlich"

To heighten the pictorial value of sequences depicting the German scientist's experiments with aniline dyes, Warner will utilize Technicolor inserts in the black-and-white "Life of Dr. Ehrlich," starring Edward G. Robinson.

Hollywood Personnelities

Story Buys

—Metro
"Remember the Day," a play by Philo Higley and Philip Dunning. Edward Chodorov will produce.

—Monogram
"Front Page Lady," by Charles Williams, to Sherwill Productions as the second in a series of four films to be made for Monogram release.

—Paramount
"The Sun of Glory," by J. Robert Bren and Gladys Atwater, to Cecil B. DeMille following "Northwest Mounted Police." Story deals with the development of the southwest.

—Producers Pictures Corp.
"One of the Finest," by Thomas Van Dycke and Henry Blankfort jr. Robert T. Shannon is doing the adaptation.

Options

—Columbia
GEORGE SEATON joins writing staff in the William Perlberg production unit.

—Sol Lesser
FRANK CRAVEN signs two-way contract to collaborate on script as well as act in "Our Town," the Thornton Wilder play.

—Metro
WILSON COLLISON given extension of his writing contract.

—Paramount
MICHAEL RAND, Pasadena Community Playhouse actor, joins contract list.
BETTY MORAN, actress, held for another term.
BETTY McLAUGHLIN, stock player, given contract extension.
ALBERT DEKKER held for another acting term.
ANDREW STONE, producer-director, given new one-year contract. He has just completed "The Great Victor Herbert."
WESSEL SMITTER signs one-picture writing deal. He is the author of "F. O. B. Detroit," a novel purchased by the studio some time ago.

—20th Century-Fox
MARJORIE WEAVER handed contract extension. She is now on a six-week trip during which she will be crowned queen of the annual Tobacco Carnival in Louisville, Ky.

—United Artists
BOBBY WEBB handed new contract as casting director.

—Warner Bros.
CREIGHTON HALE given new term acting contract.

Scripters

—Famous Productions
BARNEY GLAZER to "Tortilla Flats," the John Steinbeck novel, which will be Harry Edington's second production for Universal release.

—Metro
MELVILLE BAKER to "Escape." Lawrence Weingarten will produce.
JACK JEVNE to "Strange Honeymoon," from his own original.
KARL LAMB to "Somewhere in Poland," an original by Gustav Machaty, which the latter will direct.

—Paramount
HOWARD J. GREEN to "The Monster," from an original by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur.

—RKO Radio
ROWLAND LEIGH and RAY HARRIS teamed with Director GREGORY LA CAVA on "The Primrose Path."
LYNN ROOT to "Little Orvie." William Sistrom will produce the Booth Tarkington story.
SANYA FOSS to "Passport to Life," her own original. Garson Kanin will direct.

—Harry Sherman
NORMAN HOUSTON to "Hold Your Horses," final "Hopalong Cassidy" on the season's schedule for Paramount release. It goes before the cameras about December 1.

—Stephens-Lang Productions
IAN McLELLAN HUNTER and RING LARDNER jr., to the second "Dr. Christian" picture for RKO Radio release.

—20th Century-Fox
MILTON SPERLING to an untitled "cavalcade of westerns" in which the evolution of the sagebrush dramas from early silent days to the present will be traced.

—Universal
WILLIAM CONSELMAN to an untitled screenplay as the next Bing Crosby starrer. David Butler will produce and direct.
SAM ROBINS to an untitled original screenplay for Producer Ben Pivar.
LESTER COLE to "The House of Seven Gables."
HAROLD SHUMATE to "Charlie McCarthy, Detective."

—Warner Bros.
NORMAN REILLY RAINE to "City of Conquest," forthcoming James Cagney starrer.
JERRY WALD and RICHARD MACAULAY to "Torrid Zone," which will co-star George Raft and Ann Sheridan.

Technically

—Metro
WILLIAM DANIELS to photograph "The Shop Around the Corner," which Ernst Lubitsch is producing and directing.
KARL FREUND assigned to handle special camera work on the Robert Montgomery starrer, "Earl of Chicago."
JERRY BRESLER set as unit manager on "Congo Maisie."
FRED ZINNEMAN directing "The Adventures of Stuffie," a Pete Smith Specialty. Les White is the photographer.
WADE RUBOTTOM assigned as unit art director on Ernst Lubitsch's "The Shop Around the Corner."
EDDIE WOEHLER doing advance preparatory work on "Arouse and Beware," which Edward Chodorov will produce.
HORACE HOUGH set as assistant director on "The Shop Around the Corner."
ROBERT PLANCK to photograph "Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep," Clark Gable-Joan Crawford co-starrer.
CHARLES HUNT to chore of unit manager on "Edison, the Man."
HARRY McAFEE set as art director on "Young Tom Edison."
JOSEPH RUTTENBERG substituting for OLIVER MARSH as photographer on "Broadway Melody of 1940" while Marsh is home recuperating from an illness.
SID SIDMAN set as assistant director on "Pound Foolish," a "Crime Does Not Pay" short which Felix E. Feist will direct for Producer Jack Chertok.
PAUL WRANGELL signed as technical advisor on "The Flag Speaks," a Technicolor two-reeler.
GEORGE GIBSON, art director, given new contract.

—Paramount
ERNEST SCHOEDSACK returns from New York vacation to resume editing "Dr. Cyclops."
BARTON ADAMS set as assistant director on "Buck Benny Rides Again."
EVERETT DOUGLAS to edit "The Biscuit Eater."
JOSEPH LEFERT assigned as assistant director on "The Way of All Flesh," rolling in November with Louis King piloting.
EUGENE HORNBOSTEL assigned as business manager on "The Way of All Flesh."

—RKO Radio
KENNETH HOLMES replaces JAMES ANDERSON as assistant director on "Mexican Spitfire," Anderson having suffered a sprained ankle.
ED KELLY and DAVE TODD set as assistant directors on Gregory LaCava's "The Primrose Path."

—Hal Roach
ART LLOYD photographing the untitled Laurel-Hardy four-reeler.
JACK REYNOLDS set as assistant to Director Gordon Douglas on a Laurel-Hardy four-reel comedy.

—Universal
STANLEY CORTEZ awaiting assignment after completing photography on "Laugh It Off," an Al Rogell production.
JAMES VALENTINE to handle camera on the W. C. Fields-Mae West co-starrer, set to roll immediately.

—Warner Bros.
GORDEN HOLLINGSHEAD to supervise production of "Kiddie Revue," a short subject, slotted for a winter start.
IRVING RAPPER directing dialogue on "The Life of Dr. Ehrlich."

Cleffers

—Columbia
CHET FORREST and BOB WRIGHT complete six songs for use in "Passport to Happiness," Tony Martin starrer which Irving Starr is producing.

—Metro
EDWARD WARD set to score both "Young Tom Edison" and "Congo Maisie."
HERBERT STOTHART, BOB WRIGHT and CHET FORREST complete "Shadows in the Sand," a tune to be used in "Balalaika."
WERNER HEYMAN to score "The Shop Around the Corner." Ernst Lubitsch is producing and directing.
FRANZ WAXMAN set to score "Florian," forthcoming Winfield Sheean production.

—Paramount
DR. WILLIAM AXT, borrowed from Metro, completes scoring of "Untamed," using the studio orchestra conducted by IRVING TALBOT.
Four songs by RALPH RAINGER and LEO ROBIN spotted in Max Fleischer's first feature-length cartoon, "Gulliver's Travels."

—Producers Corp.
PERCY GRAINGER and FAY FOSTER signed to write songs for "Kingdom Come," the new company's first picture, in which John Charles Thomas will be starred.

—RKO Radio
ROY WEBB scoring "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

—Universal
FRANK SKINNER scoring "First Love," which stars Deanna Durbin.

—Warner Bros.
MOE JEROME and JACK SCHOLL complete song numbers for "Royal Rodeo," a Technicolor short.

Spearheads

(Continued from page 39)

Sparks produced in standard program pattern and Edward Sedgwick directed with his eye toward the laugh-at-any-price goal.

Two others made aviation the foundation of their appeal. Twentieth Century-Fox based "20,000 Men a Year" on the government's plan to train civilian fliers for use in national defense but, aside from some exploitable tieups and good in-the-air scenes, muffed rather badly in transferring it to the screen. Chief fault is the run-of-the-mill script furnished by Lou Breslow and Owen Francis, who based their adaptation on an original by Frank Wead. The story's lack of dramatic qualities obviously hampered Alfred E. Green in his direction. Production was supervised by Sol Wurtzel.

Monogram's "Danger Flight," newest in the "Tailspin Tommy" adventures, measures up favorably with its predecessors, although an involved screen play by Byron Morgan and Edwin C. Parsons, undertaking to trace two motivations, somewhat hampers proceedings. The series' legion of juvenile fans will undoubtedly overlook such minor criticisms, however, which is probably all that matters. Paul Malvern made his production dollars count and Howard Bretherton's direction strikes the correct action tempo.

* * *

No less than three items on the preview menu came from the Warner soup kitchen. "On Your Toes" lacks the fast pace usually associated with one of the Burbank plant's musicals, and its boxoffice success must depend largely upon the exploitation efforts undertaken in its behalf by showmen who have booked it. Highlight of the film is the sparkling ballet work by Zorina and Eddie Albert's refreshing comedy. Robert Lord produced and Ray Enright directed.

Authentic shots of the Memorial Day racing classic at Indianapolis and a liberal dosage of thrills mark "Indianapolis Speedway" as entirely adequate action fare despite the unoriginal story motivation. Lloyd Bacon directed for Producer Max Siegel.

Of inferior quality is "Smashing the Money Ring." Another in the studio's endless string of prison pictures, it is crippled by a poorly-presented story in which gun-play predominates. Terry Morse directed for the Bryan Foy production unit.

Depinet & McCormick View New Product

Principally to view a number of pictures either fully completed or in their last stages of production, Ned E. Depinet, distribution chief, and S. Barret McCormick, publicity-advertising director, checked in at RKO Radio from their New York headquarters. Advertising and selling campaigns on such pictures as "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," "Pinnochio," "Allegheny Uprising" and "Vigil in the Night" are being studied in conferences with President George Schaefer, who has indicated he will spend at least another two weeks on the coast. The films under scrutiny represent an investment of some $7,000,000.

Another arrival, who spent only a short time here before returning east, was Monroe Greenthal, sales and exploitation manager for United Artists. He planed in for conferences with various UA producers on forthcoming product.

Scheduled to check in October 30 at 20th Century-Fox are Herman Wobber, sales head, and A. M. Levy, head of the annual Sidney R. Kent Drive. They will spend a week conferring on campaigns for current product and viewing recently-completed films. Wobber and Levy plan stopovers in Denver, Seattle, Salt Lake City and San Francisco.

Surprisingly optimistic concerning conditions abroad, Irving Asher, who has been producing for Columbia release in England, came in for a six-week stay, during which he will establish headquarters at Columbia. Asher will confer with Harry Cohn anent the advisability of returning to London. He plans to remain in Hollywood for at least six weeks.

S. Charles Einfeld, Warner publicity-advertising chieftain, trained out for New York for homeoffice conferences. Frank Capra has returned from Washington, D. C., where he attended the premiere of his last Columbia picture, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Signed recently to a term contract, Robert Foulk, New York stage director, has reported to Warner. He has been preparing "The Woman Brown," which Warner will produce on Broadway this season and, later, film.

"Mr. Smith" Not Funny to Senate Majority Leader

WASHINGTON — "Silly and stupid" is Senator Barkley's appraisal of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." The majority leader says the film "makes the senate look like a bunch of crooks" and would give a false impression throughout the country.

Topline to Tamiroff

Paramount has assigned Akim Tamiroff one of the top roles in "Down Went McGinty," which will mark the directorial debut of Preston Sturges, who also authored the story. Paul Jones is producing.

Cinémarks

Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn LeRoy, Groucho Marx, the Harpo Marxes and Mr. and Mrs. Irving Brecher all checked in after New York vacations and short holidays at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia . . . Ernest Schoedsack, Paramount director, is also back in town after a sojourn in New York.

*

Metro's Traveltalks producer, James A. FitzPatrick, is back at the studio after a trip east during which he garnered background material for his current "All-America" travel series . . . Richard A. Rowland is in Lincoln, Neb., conferring with Bess Streeter Aldrich, author of "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," which Rowland is bringing to the screen for United Artists release . . . Director S. Sylvan Simon and Lou Strohm, location manager, spent the weekend in Kernville scouting backgrounds for Simon's next Metro assignment.

*

Mickey Rooney has been dispatched to Dearborn, Mich., to study exhibits at the Thomas A. Edison Foundation in preparation for his forthcoming assignment as "Edison, the Boy" at M-G-M . . . Dorothy Lamour made a quick trip to Detroit to appear at the world premiere of Paramount's "Disputed Passage."

*

Mr. and Mrs. John Garfield are off on a motoring vacation through northern California, Oregon and Washington . . . Director George Seitz of Metro left for New York on a two-week holiday . . . Annual production season for the Metro studio club's drama group gets underway November 13 when "Heavy Sugar" is presented at the Assistance League Playhouse. Cast includes Frances Wondershek, Joe McFall and Lou LaCava. Joe Luckie is the director.

*

Loren L. Ryder, Paramount sound director, hosted Edgar Varsee, composer and orchestra conductor, at the studio for luncheon . . . Warren Duff has returned to his screen writing duties at Warner after a vacation in the Northwest.

*

After visiting his wife, Lois January, who is in a Broadway show, Abe Meyer has returned to his desk at the Music Corp. of America . . . Lew Schreiber, 20th Century-Fox's casting director, has pulled out for a three-week vacation in New York. He'll also look over the current crop of plays and talent.

*

Abem Finkel, Warner writer, and his wife have headed for New York, whence they embark on a South American holiday. Finkel obtained a leave of absence from his scrivening duties at the studio.

*

Hugh Reticker, Warner art director, described the designing and set construction on "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" to the cinematography class at the University of Southern California . . . Spencer Tracy has gone to New York to gather data on Thomas A. Edison in preparation for his next assignment at M-G-M. He was accompanied east by Howard Strickling.

*

Darryl Zanuck was honored guest at a testimonial dinner given him by the Masquers. William Collier sr. was master of ceremonies . . . Special "Women's Day" guests at the San Francisco Fair were Universal's Gloria Jean, Kenneth Brown and Billy Lenhart, who appeared in "The Under-Pup." Their mentor was John Joseph, studio advertising-publicity chief . . . David Bader, associate in the Lichtig-Englander agency, checked back at his desk after a business trip to New York.

REVIEW FLASHES

DANGER FLIGHT (Mono)—That intrepid adventurer of the airways, Tailspin Tommy, who stepped out of the funny papers to become one of the most popular figures in current series pictures, flies again in this, the last of the Paul Malvern productions on the '38-'39 schedule. Cast is substantially the same as in previous chapters. John Trent and Marjorie Reynolds are co-starred. Directed by Howard Bretherton.

LITTLE ACCIDENT (Univ)—Aside from Baby Sandy, who again commits grand larceny by stealing the show away from Troupers Hugh Herbert and Florence Rice, this adds up as pretty lightweight fare. However, the infant phenomenon, now definitely a star, supplies enough entertainment to overcome story shortcomings. Charles Lamont produced and directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Ratoff Replaces Cummings On Sonja Henie Starrer

To allow Irving Cummings sufficient time to prepare for his directorial chore on "Johnny Apollo" at 20th Century-Fox, Gregory Ratoff is taking over the megaphone on the Sonja Henie starrer, "Everything Happens at Night." He is directing the two skating sequences which will complete the production, Cummings having finished work on the dramatic scenes.

"Johnny Apollo" gets the starting gun November 27 with Tyrone Power, Dorothy Lamour and Edward Arnold heading the cast.

McDonnell New Studio Manager

William S. Hollman, Columbia studio manager for the past eight years, has been succeeded by H. A. McDonnell, comptroller.

PCCITO Taking Brief Breathing Spell

LOS ANGELES—A brief breathing spell is being taken by the newly-formed Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners following the board of trustees' session last week at which the group's program was amplified in detail and officers were elected.

The PCCITO represents the memberships of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., the ITO of No. Calif. and Ariz. and the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the Pacific Northwest. Robert Poole, executive director of the southern ITO, was named executive secretary of the conference and Hugh Bruen has taken office as treasurer.

First issues of a monthly periodical to be published in the interests of the conference's 2,000 member-theatres is now in preparation under the supervision of Nathan Tanchuck.

Reverend Hastings Main Speaker at MPTO Meet

SEATTLE—The MPTO of Washington held its annual convention here October 27 at the New Washington Hotel, with the Rev. J. Warren Hastings, well known in local theatrical circles, as main speaker.

Guest of honor was Gov. Clarence D. Martin, and a "surprise" guest was Roy Rogers, Republic's singing cowboy, who came in from Pendleton, Ore., where he was making a personal appearance.

Following a luncheon, the women attending the convention were entertained at the Northwest Film Club. A midnight jamboree at the Orpheum wound up activities. The public was invited to the jamboree.

Lemucchi Opens Arvin on Site of Burned House

ARVIN, CAL.—Dick Lemucchi opened his new Arvin Theatre, a 650-seater, October 18. The showcase was constructed on the same site which had been occupied by his old Arvin until it burned to the ground last July.

Among those on hand for the opening day were Guy Gunderson and E. W. McLean, of the United Artists exchange in Los Angeles, and most of the office staff of the Filbert Supply Co., which equipped the theatre.

'Nazi Captive' Premiere in West at Cinema in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—West coast premiere of "I Was a Captive of Nazi Germany" is set for Louis Berkhoff's Cinema Theatre. Picture was produced by Albert Mannon and is being distributed by Bert Goldberg and Port. It is the screen version of the actual experiences of Isobel Lillian Steele, American girl, who spent four months in Moabit prison, Germany, on a charge of espionage.

PORTLAND

SPONSORS of the Northwest Auto Show, opening an eight-day run October 29 in the Pacific International livestock pavilion, went to town in publicizing its feature attraction, "Paramount on Parade," an "all-star Hollywood musicale," bristling with names. Parkykarkus, Wini Shaw and Fred Keating top the bill featuring 13 headline acts, Wini being a former Portlander. Billy Taft and Dorothy Dayton, a dance team; the Biltmorettes trio, Mayta Palmera and Ruth Seeley lend support. The LeRoy Prinz extravaganza was billed as the finest show of its kind ever brought north.

Getting the most fun out of the organ concerts of five-year-old Phil Carlin jr., at the Paramount was Manager Herb Sobottka who interviewed the youngster on the stage each night. Perhaps it was his theatre upbringing (his father is the local showhouse owner of the same name) but little Phil was a "natural" before the mike, as well as at the giant Wurlitzer. The interview the first night was unrehearsed, with both ad libbing, and Phil was a knockout. Herb stuck to the same questions after that, but the youngster, as likely as not, would come up with an entirely new answer and grin when he stopped the emcee cold.

Stopped cold also were the kidders on Filmrow when Kenny Ames of the Ames Theatre showed up with a swollen and highly colored optic. No walking into doors for Kenny. The injury was inflicted, he explained to Millicent Smith and Agnes MacRae, by "a French heel at ten paces" . . . Sammy Siegel, United Artists exploiteer, was down from Seattle superintending promotion of "The Real Glory," doing a belated first run at the Broadway . . . The sincere sympathies of Filmrow folk went to Mrs. G. W. Monroe of Kalama, Wash., with news of the recent death of her husband, following a long illness . . . Jack Kloepper and Jack O'Brien absent last week, attending a sales meeting in Seattle.

Herb Sobottka reports a brief visit by B. Marcus Priteca, the theatre architect of Los Angeles and Seattle . . . Don Beckman of Western Poster, another Seattleite, also guested . . . Harold Lake, J. J. Parker auditor, is among the late vacationers, visiting in San Francisco . . . The Broadway entrance has a sparkling new Dodge inside and a ditto doorman outside. Latter is Russell Phelan . . . Betty Mount reports a telephone call from the airport by Ben Fish, western division manager for United Artists, flying from Los Angeles to Seattle.

Hershel Fox, formerly ad sales manager for 20th Century-Fox here, has been named booker, succeeding Vern Whitcomb, whose death saddened Filmrow last week . . . Ted Gamble, taking in the football game at Eugene the 21st, lost none of his admiration for the University of Oregon Webfoots as a result of their heartbreaking 12-7 defeat by Gonzaga. The Spokane boys were just too tough an assignment following three games in as many weeks against the best from California, Ted reported.

The week saw pilgrimages to Filmrow by Rae Peacock, Onalaska; Ronald Kuhn, Lebanon; Ed Callahan, Seaside; Harry Percy, White Salmon, Wash.; W. Harrington, Bingen; William Ripley, Longview; W. A. Long, Oregon City; Don Watrous, Forest Grove; Everett Clauson, Hillsboro; Ray Henderson, Rialto, Albany; Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Stockdale, Enterprise; L. E. Spraker, Stayton, and Mr. Schmitt, Fort Stevens.

It appears at our deadline that Vic Meyers, Washington's band-leading lieutenant governor, and Jack Bain were a little previous in advertising the grand opening of their new Hollywood Ballroom at 40th and Sandy for Thursday, October 26. With 48 hours to go they had not applied for their license, and the zoning ordinance requires either a ten-day period for objections to be filed, or the written consent of 75 per cent of adjacent property owners. Hollywood district business men, naturally, appeared to favor the project, but objections were reported to be in the offing from community clubs and residents . . . Mose Mesher returned from a trip to Seattle and Vancouver, during which he was best man at the wedding in Seattle of his brother, Irwin. Irwin is executive secretary of the Washington Agents' Insurance League.

Parker Circuit Starts Yearly Campaign

PORTLAND, ORE.—The J. J. Parker circuit launched its annual "Greater Movie Season" campaign October 21, heralded with a special four-page newspaper section. Radio and outdoor advertising augment the intensive newspaper campaign, to continue throughout the runs of four consecutive attractions at the Parker houses.

The Broadway opened with "The Real Glory," to be followed by "The Roaring Twenties," "First Love" and a fourth to be selected from among four or five outstanding releases. At the United Artists, "Babes in Arms" will be followed by "A Day at the Races," "Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex," and "Ninotchka." All or most of the films will be transferred to the company's third house, the Mayfair, where a long list of leading stage attractions has been booked.

Two novel tie-ins featured the promotion of "The Real Glory." Portland carriers of *Liberty* magazine, which gave the picture four stars, distributed heralds announcing the local showing, and were entertained at a special showing at the Broadway. Tommy Luke, leading florist, put in a special window tying in with the story angle of the hardboiled soldier who collects the exotic blooms in the picture. Luke also furnished orchids for the boxoffice girls.

Republic Assigns Joe Kane

HOLLYWOOD—Republic has assigned Joe Kane to produce and direct "Days of Jesse James" as the next Roy Rogers western, going before the cameras November 11.

LOS ANGELES

NATIONAL Theatre Supply is remodeling its office interiors . . . Ben Judell's "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" was given a trade showing at the Paramount exchange . . . Coast Pictures has acquired local distribution rights to "Mademoiselle Ma Mere," starring Danielle Darrieux, from J. H. Hoffberg Productions . . . "When Germany Surrendered" has been booked into the Fox Rosemary Theatre, Venice, for a two-day run beginning November 10 . . . Bud Meyers of Coast Pictures is away from the office on sick leave.

Booking visitors: I. Colton, Castle Theatre; Phil Greenbaum, Mecca; Jack Zachen, Rosebud; Frank Ullman, El Centro; Lorraine Valuskis, in from Bell; Hugh Bruen, Whittier; Kurt and Max Laemmle, Glassell and Franklin theatres; Jack Drew, Lake; Wade Loudermilk, Buckeye, Ariz.; August Finn, Times; Ben Peskay, Palms; Sam Decker, Avalon; Bob Whitson and Herman Lewis, W-L circuit; Bob Dunnegan, Rio and Liberty, Blythe, Ariz.; Jack Berman, Eastland circuit; Irving Carlin, Carlin-Sinker circuit; Bud Gore, La Mar, Manhattan Beach.

Art Sanborn opened his new El Monte Theatre in El Monte October 19. House is equipped with Simplex sound and projection equipment, installed by National Theatre Supply . . . Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, came in from Seattle and Foster Blake, new U salesman, returned from his first trip through the territory.

Mike Newman is back at his Columbia desk after handling the opening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" in San Francisco . . . Hi Peskay of Majestic Pictures headed for the Bay city on a sales trip . . . Sam Milner left for San Diego on a selling jaunt for Universal.

Jerome Safron, Columbia's western district manager, planed to Salt Lake City on one of his periodic business jaunts . . . The Burbank Theatre, downtown burlesque house, has reopened after a long siege of darkness . . . Ray Olmstead, partner of Howard Stebbins as Monogram franchise holder, returned from Kansas City, where he attended a meeting of various Monogram franchisemen throughout the country.

The Metro exchange staff held a "victory" dinner-dance October 23 at Earl Carroll's, celebrating the fact that the office placed first in the mid-summer championship drive sponsored by George T. Hickey, western district supervisor . . . "Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence" and "Too Busy to Work," 20th Century-Fox pictures, were screened for Fox West Coast executives at the circuit's projection room . . . George Alderman is handling local sales on "Bond Day," a new boxoffice stimulant, for this area. Stunt calls for issuing so-called "bonds" and "trading" stamps, which are redeemed weekly at varying figures from one to as high as 50 dollars.

Marquee for the new Aero Theatre in Santa Monica will be furnished by Fred Young of B. F. Shearer Co. Rumor around Filmrow is that the new showcase is being backed by Donald Douglas of the Douglas Aircraft Co., whose main plant is in the beach town . . . Bookers included Fred Hershon, of the Trojan; George Bromley and Alex Mounce, Campus Theatre; Chester Black of the Pico Drive-In; Mac Sinift, Daly and Delmar; Jules Wolf of the Lincoln; Bernard Leavitt, El Miro, Santa Monica; Reuben Snadow of the Hub; Paul Glick, Canoga, Canoga Park; Ralph Grunaur, Balboa Theatre, Balboa; Gene O'Keefe, formerly owner of the Maywood, Maywood, which was purchased recently by Fox West Coast.

Mel Hulling, Pacific Coast district manager for Monogram, flew in from San Francisco for conferences with Ray Olmstead, who holds the west coast franchise. Olmstead had just checked in after attending a meeting of Monogram distributors in Kansas City . . . Harry Nace jr., booker for the Publix-Nace circuit, in from Phoenix . . . "Professor Mamlock" and "Victoria the Great" opened a run at Louis Berkhoff's Cinema Theatre.

Ken McKaig, United Artists salesman, off to Las Vegas on a selling trip . . . George Calderas, manager of the Globe Theatre, San Pedro, came in to do some bookings. House is owned by Bryan Foy, Warner producer . . . In for a six-week stay is Lou Adler, United Artists' traveling auditor.

Remodeling has been completed on George Bourke's Nuart Theatre in Sawtelle . . . Booking visitors included: C. A. Simon, Needles, Needles; Tom Tobin, Jewel; Kelly Seligman, Dorkel; Ivan Rowley, Ward's, Pismo Beach . . . Ben Fish, United Artists western district manager, off to Denver on business.

Francis Bateman's Republic exchange is getting hopped up about the national playdate contest which got under way October 22 and continues to Jan. 27, 1940 . . . Fred Gage, United Artists salesman, checked in from a selling trip . . . Frank Harris is back at his desk at B. F. Shearer Co. after attending the funeral of his mother in Sheridan, Wyo.

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LOS ANGELES

Mal St. Clair Assigned

HOLLYWOOD—Mal St. Clair will direct 20th-Fox's "Young as You Feel," next "Jones Family" picture, which rolls November 9. Joseph Hoffman and Stanley Rauh scripted.

DENVER

FRANK H. LITTLE, 81, first western division manager for the old Edison Motion Picture Co., died in a Denver hospital following a ten-day illness with pneumonia. Little became interested in the film business in the 1890's and moved to Denver in 1899. He brought the first Passion Play film to Denver, where it was shown in 1904 at City Park. Little retired in 1927. He is survived by his wife, Attie, whom he married in Chicago 54 years ago.

Rick Ricketson, division manager for the Intermountain sector of National Theatres, has just returned from a swing around the northern end of the territory, during which he attended a managers' meeting at Pocatello, Ida., helped reopen the Ute Theatre at Montrose, Colo., and then visited at Leadville, Colo. Returning home he made plans for the meeting Thursday of district managers, bookers and nearby theatre managers, which was to be attended by Spyros Skouras, en route from the east to the west coast. It is his annual swing around the country.

Robt. Garland, Fox Theatre southern district manager, who lost his left arm in an amputation due to an auto accident, is improving rapidly, and expects to leave the hospital before the end of November. He has had a long siege, going through 12 blood transfusions, but nevertheless he is planning to be back at work by the first of the year.

Harold Woods, manager of the Valencia and Rialto, Walsenberg, Colo., announces that he is the daddy of a seven-pound, eight-ounce baby boy, named Donald Scott. All concerned are doing nicely . . . Louise Mullen of Denver is making most of the towns in the Fox Intermountain circuit, giving her dramatized book review of "Rebecca." Charging 40 and 50 cents, the dramatization is proving successful, and many have requested Fox for more of the same.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Davis of Denver and Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Way of Laramie, Wyo., went east to pick up a new car at Detroit for the Davises. After attending one of the big football games there they return to Denver via Canada. Davis is northern district manager for Fox Theatres while Way is city manager at Laramie . . . Ed Kirkmeyer, city manager for Fox at Helena, Mont., and Miss Nellie Grant of Denver were married as the culmination of a college romance, both attending the University of Colorado at the same time.

Earl Collins, United Artists exchange manager, and Fred Lind, salesman, teamed up for a swing around the northern part of the territory . . . Air-conditioning and remodeling of the RKO exchange will be completed within a week or ten days. In the rebuilding, Joe Ashby will get a nice big office with all the trimmings, the salesmen are provided with a swanky office and the front office is all being dolled up with new furniture. The recreation rooms on the second floor will be a joy to the entire force. Just next door Universal is air conditioning the exchange, and doing over the private office of Jack Langan, manager.

"Hell's Harbor" Reissue Rights to Leichter

LOS ANGELES—Mitchell Leichter, independent producer and distributor, has acquired reissue rights to "Hell's Harbor," made by Inspiration Pictures in 1930 for United Artists release, and will re-edit and cut it to eight reels. Film stars Lupe Velez and Jean Hersholt and was directed by Henry King.

Leichter will begin work on it when he returns from a trip through the territory disposing of distribution rights to "She Goes to War," also an Inspiration-UA film. He is supplying a complete new line of accessories and press books.

Collegiate Contest Staged For "Dancing Coed"

LOS ANGELES—Tying in to the day-date bookings of "Dancing Coed" at Grauman's Chinese and Loew's State theatres, a special collegiate dancing contest was staged October 26 at the Florentine Gardens in Hollywood. Event was sponsored by publications at the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles. Judges included Fred Datig, Metro casting director, and S. Sylvan Simon, who directed the Lana Turner starrer.

Funeral Services Held for Ned Holmes, Exploiteer

LOS ANGELES—Services were held at Hollywood Cemetery chapel for Ned Holmes, 70, exploiteer for Warner on the Pacific Coast for the past three years and a veteran theatrical and film press agent and exploitation man. He died October 20 of a heart ailment and is survived by his widow and daughter, Phyllis.

Rites for Connie Mitchell Held in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—Last rites were held here Wednesday at Olivet Cemetery for Connie Mitchell, popular theatrical agent and treasurer of the AFA local here since its organization three years ago. Mitchell died here early this week. His age was reported as 42.

Espy District Is Second In Fourth NT's Drive

LOS ANGELES—Moving up from third place, Cullen Espy's Fox West Coast District No. 1 now is in second in National Theatres' fourth annual business drive. Espy's district covers the entire city area. The drive has seven more weeks to go.

Pancake Due Back

HARLEM, MONT.—Stanley Pancake, owner-manager of the Harlem Theatre here, is expected back next week after a vacation which took him to both coasts. He visited both World's Fairs and a brother in Virginia.

SEATTLE

THE Theatre Employes Union, Local B-22, will meet in special session soon to discuss working condition phases to be included in their contract with employers, according to George Hood, business representative. Negotiations are under way for new contracts by all unions affiliated with the Theatrical Federation . . . This week saw the passing of Mark Kilbourne, veteran film player well known in the Northwest. He was 75 . . . This week also saw the death of Mrs. Mena Tooze at her home in Sherwood, Ore. She was the mother of Jim Hone, executive secretary of the MPTO of Washington.

Biggest preview of the week was held at the Montlake Theatre at 11 in the evening. Picture was "When Germany Surrendered," a film showing actual shots and scenes from World War I . . . Danz Sterling theatres, with many houses downtown, are featuring large signs reading: "No Discount on Canadian Money" . . . Mike Lyons of the Show Box will next feature Sally Rand and her revue of 25 girls . . . To call attention to his Newsreel Theatre, Manager Fax Duncan of the Blue Mouse arranged for a special can of newsreels to arrive by plane. The newspapers snapped pictures of two ushers receiving the can from the pilot.

Seen on the Row was Charley Perryman, who shoots "News of the Day" for Metro . . . Lou Smith, associate producer of Paramount's "Rulers of the Sea," spending a weekend here and contacting newspapers . . . The George Blairs went over to Vancouver to spend a few hours with relatives . . . The Al O'Keefes of Universal and the L. J. McGinleys were entertained as dinner guests at the penthouse of Senior and Mrs. Mercy in Yakima . . . Ben and Florence Shearer, with a few dinner guests, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

Maury and Mrs. Saffle, Wally and Mrs. Rucker, and Marge Burk making up a party at the Washington-Washington State game . . . Seattle, about to install a new system of transportation, is offering some of her street cars for sale. The commissioner expects they will be bought up for use as "diners" or hamburger stands. How about hitching two or three together and making a novelty theatre with lots of exits on the sides? . . . A pleasant visit this week with Clyde Robinson, in charge of associated student publications of the University of Washington. Clyde is really one boy who likes to help everyone and has made many friends among the theatre gang . . . Mickey DeLeo of Port Townsend is still on federal grand jury duty.

Tummy flu is taking its toll in this town. Lots of cases but not serious. Latest victim is Tony Silvaggio of Republic . . . S. Mukai has remodeled his Atlas and reopened with his former double-bill policy . . . Jay Porter is back from the fishing trip near Randall and with lots of fish to prove his stories . . . George Eder, the Vashion Island exhibitor, back from a trip through southwest Washington . . . Dorothy Shearer and Elaine Gwinn seen together in one sorority group attending the Pullman football game . . . Evelyn Oxtoby has returned to California after a short visit with her mother . . . Eva Lukan is visiting with her daughter and son-in-law, the Bill Cunninghams, in Portland . . . Mike Barovic was just fooling about the two-week trip to Idaho. He only spent three days.

Iris Shartin celebrated her birthday on Friday the 13th, then added a preview party next day as an extra celebration . . . Word from San Francisco has Butch Wingham wearing a new suit of dark green with white pin stripe. Hard to believe when the fellow was only known in Seattle to appear in dark blues and other very conservative colors . . . Mel and Mrs. Sohns and son, Billy, lunching on the Row and telling of progress on the new theatre in Burien at Lake Burien . . . J. T. Sheffield is back from his visit to the studios and Salt Lake and Denver, and making plans for further activities for the Northwest Film Club, of which he is president . . . Joe Rosenfield, city manager for Evergreen Theatres in Spokane, here for a few days, booking . . . Mac Rubenfeld back from his sales trip through the territory.

Al Baker on the Row from his Mount Baker Theatre in Bellingham and chumming with friend Jack Rosenberg . . . Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Weskil in from Sand Point, Ida., and attending previews . . . Diana Walton lunching on the Row with her mommy and friend, Mrs. Jimmy O'Neal. Her mommy is Marion, wife of Eddie Walton . . . Charles Laidlaw in from Dayton and Ed Halberg in from Port Angels . . . Charlie Greime of Wenatchee writing that he has booked Roy Rogers for an appearance . . . Ivan Novikoff telling an enthusiastic group that one of his pupils, Serge Tavasieff, will be seen with the Don Cossack choir coming to Seattle soon . . . Jack Shallow jr. now doing publicity for the Safety Council of Seattle.

Tommy Thomas, program director for KIRO, has lost himself a secretary and won a bride. The couple were tied at a private ceremony. The bride is Helen Flaten, well known in radio circles here and Tommy's private secretary the past six months. The couple are now enjoying a "quickie honeymoon" in California . . . Frederick Mercy jr., making a special trip by plane to San Francisco and expecting to spend a few days there.

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S' FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCANA: The opera season, headed by Lily Pons, Lawrence Tibbett, Tito Schipa, et al., continues to hold the entertainment spotlight here . . . Leo Carrillo was a natural as special guest of the Cavalcade of the Golden West at the Exposition the other night. Introduced as "a grand and glorious Californian," he responded with a bow and sweep of his sombrero worthy of his Spanish ancestors.

Jimmy Moore, ex-chief test director for RKO, was here the other day attempting to raise financial backing for "The First Nighter" radio series, to which he has the screen rights, and which he plans to adapt for a string of shorts. A prospective backer is Bob "Seabiscuit" Howard.

J. McNear and Dick Stevens were supposed to reopen the long-dark Tivoli this week with a series of locally-produced musical comedies, but the American Guild of Variety Artists stepped in and halted proceedings because, according to the AGVA, the producers refused to post bond covering the first week's salaries. It is now reported the house will open with a first-run 35-cent policy.

Ramblings on the Row: Mel Hulling, Monogram district manager, on a plane trip to Los Angeles . . . Bob Lippert and Doc Henning at Pacific Premium have taken a lease on the large building at 128-130-132 *Hyde, next to their present location. These boys report that business is swell with them . . . Supply and equipment houses hint that several new houses and remodelings are planned for this area, but they're keeping on the "QT" just where and by whom the houses are planned.*

Dick Stevens is leaving the Liberty, burlesque house, for the Tivoli. Stevens was associated with the Pantages here years ago . . . The RKO exchange is undergoing remodeling . . . A. S. Hatch has taken over the theatre at Half Moon Bay . . . Sam Levin is opening the American at Kingsburg, November 2. Formerly the King's, the house was remodeled at a cost of $10,000. Eric Wilson will do the booking.

Around town we saw: Walter Kofeldt, Tower, Santa Rosa; Peter Garrette, Yolo, Woodland; J. Blanco, Sunnyvale; A. R. Pollock, Calistoga; Granville McPherson, Portola, an infrequent visitor; Dan Nunan, Turlock; Lou Rosenberg, San Luis Obispo; George Smith, Willetts; Sam Levin, Kingsburg; John DiStasio, Liberty, Sacramento; Harry Oastler, American, Winnemucca, Nev.; Warren Stokes, Eastwood, Oakland; Lawrence Goldsmith, Hopkins and Allendale, Oakland; Bunny Lustig, Tower, Santa Rosa; Bill Cook, Garberville; Mike Newman, dynamic Columbia exploiteer, and Jerry Safron, district manager of Columbia.

There's plenty of activity around the Columbia exchange, with "U-Boat 29" booked solid in this territory. The film set all time records in openings at the Eureka at Eureka and at the Sierra, Stockton. Opening day's business at the Orpheum here set a two-year record.

The uncensored version of "Ecstasy" is running at the Egyptian . . . Bob Howard, local socialite, was wed to Andrea Leeds at Del Monte, Wednesday.

The news from Oakland: As it was reported he would here last week, Jack Redmond has connected with the Golden State circuit, taking over management of the Diamond . . Jimmy Reed has moved from the Gateway to the Fruitvale . . . The new Granada was opened by John Peters, Thursday. A $100,000 rebuilding job was done on the house, which was destroyed by fire some time ago.

The San Francisco Universal exchange continues to hold third place behind Los Angeles and St. Louis in the exhibitor-sponsored testimonial drive . . . A Warner preview of "The Roaring Twenties" was well received Monday night.

J. J. Parker Recognizes IA's Employes' Union

PORTLAND, ORE.—Ted Gamble, resident manager for J. J. Parker Theatres, announced his company has signed a contract recognizing Local B-20 of the IATSE, theatre employes' union, as sole bargaining agent for doormen, cashiers, maids and ticket salesmen. The agreement affects the Broadway, United Artists and Mayfair theatres.

Union officials said they anticipated no difficulty in negotiations now underway with the management of the Orpheum, only major house in Portland now unsigned. An agreement with Hamrick-Evergreen was recently negotiated.

The union contract with Parker establishes a 40-hour, six-day week and will result, Gamble estimated, in an increase of approximately 10 per cent in the total payroll of all employes.

Leichter on Selling Trip For "She Goes to War"

LOS ANGELES—Having completed re-cutting and editing of "She Goes to War," produced by Inspiration Pictures in 1929 and originally released by United Artists, Mitchell Leichter, independent producer and distributor, is scheduled to leave on a selling trip through key cities in the territory. He will dispose of distribution rights to the film on a state-right basis.

Leichter is also distributing "Sudan," African jungle adventure film.

Screen "Beast of Berlin" For Executives of FWC

LOS ANGELES—Producers Pictures' "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," story of the underground anti-Nazi movement in Germany produced by Ben Judell, was screened for executives, buyers and bookers of the Fox West Coast circuit.

Plans in Santa Monica

SANTA MONICA—Louis Rothman has announced plans to build a 600-seat house, to be operated by the newly-formed Aero Theatres Corp.

SALT LAKE

HERSHEL STEWART, in charge of FWC operations here, reports a notable climb in employment of railroad men at Pocatello, Idaho, a rail center. Cheering news, too, comes from Montana where the Anaconda Copper Co. has reached an agreement with the miners unions and the mines of Butte, Great Falls and Anaconda have reopened. In contrast to the generally optimistic reports, are those from Nampa, Boise, and Caldwell, Idaho, where the crops are selling at prices under cost of production, and adversely affecting theatre business. Fox is keeping its houses at Caldwell and Boise open, but Publix has closed for the time being.

Rick Ricketson, FWC division manager, is due for a visit here, while on an inspection tour of the circuit. Fred Glass is on a similar tour through Montana and Idaho.

Cash Night is a new game now playing in the Fox houses and at the Capitol, here . . . Idaho has set November 30 as the official Thanksgiving Day. Montana and Utah have not yet decided.

A test case to determine whether the game "Ten-O-Win" is a lottery was instituted in Salt Lake City recently when County Attorney Harold Wallace filed a lottery complaint against the Intermountain Theatres, Inc., doing business as the Capitol Theatre.

A cargo of motion picture films was destroyed when an express truck, delivering into Burley, Ida., caught fire. Exhibitors in Rupert, Jerome and other communities thereabouts were obliged to book substitute product.

Lawrence Jones, operator of the Star and Aldea theatres at Malad, Ida., has earned considerable publicity with his entry of a float depicting film progress, in a civic parade. Descriptions of the parade were broadcast from Ogden over KLO.

J. T. Sheffield of the Sheffield-Republic exchanges is a visitor here . . . Earl Hunter of the Star Theatre at Ririe, Ida., in booking . . . Paul McElhinney, Republic booker, is on a sales trip into Duchesne county . . . Wayne Theriott, local Paramount booker, is back from a west coast vacation.

Manager Sam Gardner of the local M-G-M office reports a very successful sales trip through Montana . . . Hallowe'en Spook shows are the order of the day at most of the leading theatres here . . . Manager Tony Hartman and Salesman Joe Soloman of UA report successful business trips in Idaho.

Helen Knutson succeeds Mrs. Ackerman, who resigned recently, as manager's secretary at Universal . . . The reopened Victory Theatre is drawing splendid crowds, reports Manager Chet Price.

Fox Intermountain Theatres are staging a Bob Garland Week October 29-November 4 in tribute to their southern district manager. Bob was critically injured in an auto accident August 28, and has been confined to a hospital ever since.

Explains Why Films Must Reach Many

WAUSAU, WIS.—Dr. Ervin E. Deer, Evanston, Ill., a representative of the MPPDA, who has been speaking before various groups in Wisconsin, addressing a joint meeting of the ladies of the Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs at the Hotel Wausau here, said that 15,000,000 persons must see a million-dollar picture to repay a producer for his cost of production.

"You can see then why picture's can't be put out for limited groups," Dr. Deer said. He added that "They Shall Have Music," with Jascha Heifetz, had been a "dismal flop" financially.

Double features, Dr. Deer explained as the industry's "sale method" of combating the depression drop in business. He predicted "if block booking is eliminated, picture costs will go up and the little fellow, for whom most of the clamoring is being done, will be closed."

B&K Attorneys Prepare Answer to Government

CHICAGO—Defense attorneys are working on answers to the brief filed by government attorneys in the criminal contempt case being tried in federal court here. Charged are Barney Balaban, B&K and all the majors except Columbia.

It appears that the government attorneys agree with attorneys for RKO and Universal that those companies should be omitted as defendants in the contempt case. Therefore, it was recommended to the master, Edgar Eldredge, that he in turn recommend to Judge Charles A. Woodward those two companies be dropped as defendants.

While the government attorneys during the hearing before Master Eldredge admitted that no conspiracy was charged against the defendants, the brief contends that B&K and Paramount "coerced" the other major film companies, outside of Columbia, into restricting product to B&K loop houses for first run. It adds that when the McVickers and State-Lake came under B&K operation, the clearance of these two theatres improved.

The usual charge of a monopoly by B&K of first-run houses in the loop was again filed in the brief.

About 200 instances of alleged violations of the contempt decree are cited in the brief of some 50 pages.

Edgar Eldredge, special master in chancery, had heard testimony for numerous months in the case, sitting for Federal Judge Charles Woodward. After renewal of the hearings on September 5, the defense suddenly rested its case without offering evidence on September 18, after the government attorneys—Robert Wright and Seymour Simon—had agreed that the justice department was not trying to prove any conspiracy.

The government's brief again reiterates all of its charges of violation of the 1932 consent decree and says that B&K owns control of the loop and that that control, "enabled it (B&K) arbitrarily to delay the first exhibition of pictures" in Chicago.

A long list of films was appended to the brief that the government contends were available for distribution generally throughout the country from 30 to 131 days before they were shown in Chicago.

Myers, Cole ATOI Speakers; Roy Harrold Is President

INDIANAPOLIS — The Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, in convention Monday and Tuesday, heard Abram Myers, general counsel of Allied, speak at Monday's business session. Col. H. A. Cole, Allied's national president, addressing Tuesday's business session and banquet, spoke briefly on the code, Neely bill and Allied affairs in general.

Three resolutions were passed Tuesday: (1) Protesting Paramount using stars on radio broadcasts; (2) paying tribute to the late William Luckett, Scottsburg; (3) expressing appreciation to the retiring officers. The convention was declared the most successful in the organization's history.

The banquet, attended by 250, was addressed by the following: Raymond Townsley, Indiana American Legion commander; Harry Geisel, American League baseball umpire; Dick Reed, news commentator.

Officers elected: Roy Harrold, Rushville, president; Earnest L. Miller, Indianapolis, vice-president; Harry Markum, Indianapolis, treasurer; Don Rossiter, executive secretary, and Norma Todd, secretary. Directors: District 1—Maurice Rubin, Michigan City; Alex Manta, Indiana Harbor; H. Lisle Krieghbaum, Rochester; V. U. Young, Gary. District 2—I. R. Holycross, Anderson; Leonard Sowar, Muncie; William Studebaker, Logansport; Sam Neall, Kokomo. District 3—Carl Niesse, Harry Markum, Earnest Miller and A. C. Zaring, all of Indianapolis. District 4—Walter Easley, Greensburg; Roy Harrold, Trueman Rembusch, Franklin; Joe Schilling, Connersville. District 5—Sam Switow, New Albany; H. H. Johnson, Madison; Oscar Fine, Evansville; Harry Vonderschmitt, Bloomington. Alternate directors: Paul Meloy, Shelbyville; Pete Mallers, Ft. Wayne; Percy Dickson, Wabash; Frank Sanders, Indianapolis, and Ruth Kixmiller, Bicknell.

An elaborate Sollie Childs French Follies floor show was presented after the banquet.

Chances Waning for Special Session

MADISON, WIS.—Film leaders are viewing with pleasure reports that Governor Heil is leaning away from calling a special session of the state legislature to enact tariff measures to balance the budget for the biennium.

Charles McKeown, financial advisor to the governor, has announced that a survey of the state finances is being made to learn whether there is necessity for calling a special session.

The study contemplates a possibility that business conditions might be much improved and that receipts from the revenue laws already on the statute books might yield more money than was expected.

It was indicated that the cash balance in the state general fund would be protected against depletion by withholding temporarily any large payment of state aids that would put the fund in the red.

Before *sine die* adjournment on October 6, the legislature named an 18-man interim committee to report back to a special session with a revenue program. Reports were that the special session would be called in November, but to date the interim committee has held no meetings, lending further support to the belief that no special session will be forthcoming.

Gazzolos Re-enter Theatre Operation in Chicago

CHICAGO—Frank A. P. Gazzolo and his son, Dudley, for a quarter of a century theatre operators in Chicago, have reentered the scene again as motion picture theatre owners. They opened this week the old Imperial Theatre, at Madison and Western. The house has been a grind house for years. The Gazzolos took the house over some months ago, closed it, and since then have spent $50,000 remodeling it for its reopening on Friday of this week.

Signs Two-Way Pact

HOLLYWOOD—Frank Craven has signed a two-way pact with Sol Lesser, to collaborate on the script as well as act in "Our Town," the Thornton Wilder play.

Golden Reports Monogram Business in a Climb

CHICAGO—Eddie Golden of Monogram Pictures, en route back to New York, stopped off between trains in the Windy City, Tuesday, long enough to relate that Monogram is finding business much better in most spots.

"Our 'Mutiny in the Big House,' opened well in all of the 30 key spots in the country," said Golden. "As a result we are planning to spend more money on better pictures in forthcoming product."

He said that current plans now call for the production of "Rip Van Winkle" in Technicolor with an attempt being made to get Jean Hersholt to play the name role. A cast of famous midgets will be used as the gnomes.

Solons No Like Film; May Retaliate, View

CHICAGO—Using a report that the Senate was peeved at the depiction of itself in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," the Chicago *Sunday Tribune* hauled its own pet peeve—that of block booking which it contends brings films late to Chicago—onto the pages of the newspaper under the headline "Insulted Senate Prepares to Hit Back at Movies."

Highlight of the column-long story the *Tribune* carried was that the Senate was moved to retaliate against the alleged slur, by giving support to Senate Bill 280, the measure banning block booking and which its opponents have contended would be disruptive to the distribution system.

Blending its own viewpoint with a description of the "Mr. Smith" showing, the newspaper elucidates:

"The bill passed the Senate last July 17, and it is now pending before the committee on interstate and foreign commerce in the house. There it might have remained throughout the next session because of pressure from the motion picture lobby, but something happened last Tuesday night in Washington."

The story goes on to tell how the film opened and that "in no time at all senators were writhing in their seats" as the hero of the film comes to Washington "to find a sorry state of affairs . . ." Then the *Tribune* goes on to say: "Resentment in Congress was high the following day. The indignation might have produced nothing but violent conversation if some legislator had not remembered the anti-block booking bill. Very quietly in the last few days several senators have organized to put that measure over by using their influence in the house.

"The bill, which Hollywood protests will work havoc with the industry's profits, is aimed at the present practice under which exhibitors are required to lease all of an offered group of films in order to obtain any desired film in the group. It would also make illegal the practice known as blind selling, under which films are leased without the exhibitor having any opportunity to ascertain their content."

Reported Senatorial Reaction Stimulates an Editorial

CHICAGO—Following up its "expose" of the United States Senate's supposed hurt feelings over Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," the Chicago *Tribune* editoralizes as follows, under the title, "A Preview for the Senate."

"A movie publicity undertaking has kicked back at its promoters in a way that might have been expected by any enterprisers who had given a second thought to the idea. The producers of the motion picture, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," decided that they could start it off with a bang if they gave an invitation preview to the members of congress and government officials. All of Washington loves a bid to a party of any kind and the house was filled.

"The senators present were soon hot under the collar. They observed the unfolding of a naive story of a young man, pure in heart, appointed to a seat in their midst who soon discovered that he was being used as an innocent in a great fraud about to be perpetrated by his senior senator and the governor of his state, with the acquiescence of the other conscript fathers. The scenes on the senate floor were in high degree uncomplimentary to the honesty, intelligence, and decency of the legislative body, whose members had been invited to see the production.

"It was an extraordinary Hollywood idea that the political gentlemen would enjoy seeing a film which attributed scandalous conduct and general lack of public morals to them. Some of the senators while sitting through the picture recalled that the movie industry has been lobbying against a bill which would prohibit block booking and what is known as blind selling, by the terms of which films are leased without freedom of selection by the exhibitor.

"The bread and butter letter which the senators may send in acknowledgment of the invitation to the party may be written with the passage of this bill as a hint that previews of political unscrupulousness in the United States senate should not be given to United States senators."

The paper's comments caused considerable interest on Filmrow, with the camps about evenly divided on whether or not it would hurt the industry, whether it would help or hurt the picture, and whether it was or wasn't a publicity stunt.

Weisner Plans Exchange

MILWAUKEE—Max Weisner, long a familiar figure on Filmrow here, is opening an independent film exchange shortly.

Extend Stock Player

HOLLYWOOD — Paramount has extended Betty McLaughlin, stock player.



A Flying Star—

Conversation with her many friends in Chicago almost caused Dorothy Lamour to miss her plane for Detroit and the world premiere of "Disputed Passage," her most recent starrer. Air line Hostess Junette Hill flanks the star.

Victory Spurs Fight On Milwaukee Bingo

MILWAUKEE—With Circuit Judge Charles L. Aarons enjoining the Bahn Frei Hall here from holding Bingo games on the ground that they constitute gambling and a public nuisance, Benjamin J. Miller, counsel for Charles W. Trampe, head of Film Service, Inc., who instituted the action against the hall, declared October 24 that unless other halls voluntarily discontinue the game, action against them, as well as churches sponsoring Bingo, will be started.

In his decision, Judge Aarons waived the defense contention that because Bahn Frei Bingo games were sponsored by benevolent and patriotic societies, and because the proceeds were devoted to worthy purposes, there was no "commercialized gambling" and thus no "public nuisance."

"Counsel for the defense seem to have overlooked the fact that the societies referred to are not defendants in this action," Judge Aarons said. "The defendant, Edward F. Zrimsek, made it plain that the largest part of his income was derived as a result of the Bingo games. It cannot be denied that this is a type of commercialization of gambling.

"But omitting the commercial features as applicable to the defendant, it cannot be successfully maintained that the purpose to which the gains from gambling are devoted can furnish absolution of the violation of the gambling statutes. If the rule should prevail that the donation of the profits of gambling to charity or other worthy objectives operates to condone the offense, then in each case of violation the court would have to base its judgment upon the result of an inquiry as to what is done with the gains of an unlawful enterprise.

"Obviously such an interpretation of statutes pertaining to criminal offenses would not only be contrary to the statutory language, but would practically emasculate the statutes. Religious, benevolent and charitable societies should be the last to aid in producing such a result.

"Judges of courts are bound to enforce the laws as they have been enacted by representatives of the people. It has long been the public policy of this state to protect the people from the loss of their sources of livelihood by the tempting lure of gains to be attained by chance. Such policy is defeated if the enforcement of laws prohibiting gambling is made dependent upon the manner in which the manager of the game devotes the profits thus unlawfully obtained."

The court added it was not implying that gambling for pleasure "as a social pastime, in places other than a public place" would be regarded as a public nuisance. "The Bahn Frei situation differs markedly from such practice, for it involves open solicitation of the general public, the admission of all who will pay the price and the attraction of large numbers of men, women and children."

Judge Aarons also ruled against the defense contention that the matter of Bingo at Bahn Frei was not a matter for the

civil court, but rather for the criminal court.

After explaining that a court of equity had ample power to enforce a decree abating a nuisance, Judge Aarons said:

"In view of the contention that prosecution under the criminal statutes would furnish an adequate remedy, it should be borne in mind that the premises in question were used for the operation of Bingo games for a period exceeding one year, and for four or five nights a week and two afternoons. Although a police officer passed the place three or four times a day, and made it a practice to go into the hall while the Bingo games were going on, he looked only for 'disorder,' and finding none, made no arrests. Although plain violations of a criminal statute were being committed almost daily, no prosecutions were instituted."

The judge continued that a court of equity could not enjoin an act "merely because it is criminal." There is no question of the court's jurisdiction, however, "when there is such a continuity of violation, committed openly, as to constitute a public nuisance," he declared.

In his findings, Judge Aarons said prizes at Bahn Frei games ran from $2.50 to $150 a night and prize winners received certificates which they exchanged for cash or merchandise in Zrimsek's tavern in the same building. He found Bingo tables set up not only in the halls, but in the barroom. Children were not allowed to buy tickets, but were admitted and could play if their parents gave them cards.

After listing these findings, the judge said that "the conduct and operation of these games in these premises is clearly within the fair scope of the definition of gambling."

The decision marked the second victory of a group of theatre and small business men who have declared war on Bingo in Milwaukee. Last summer the group succeeded in halting Bingo games at Milwaukee's midsummer festival. They complain that the playing of Bingo is a business deterrent.

Proponent Now Opposes Union Receivership

ST. LOUIS—Stating that he had made a mistake in signing an affidavit as a plaintiff in the receivership suit involving Local No. 143 of the Moving Picture and Projection Machine Operators, Frank Long, a projectionist, has filed a motion in the circuit court requesting that he be permitted to withdraw as a plaintiff. He also asked that he be reinstated as an intervenor in opposition to the receivership.

The intervenors have supported the administration of the affairs of Local No. 143 by John P. Nick of the IATSE and Clyde A. Weston, former business agent of the union. Nick and Weston were deposed from the management of the union by Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley last April, and the union was placed in the hands of receivers.

Wanger Retitles "Coffin"

HOLLYWOOD—"Send Another Coffin," Walter Wanger production, has been changed to "City for Sale."



A First Nighter—

Bill Hollander, B&K publicity chief in Chicago, attends the Detroit premiere of Paramount's "Disputed Passage."

John Nick's Re-Trial Opens November 6

ST. LOUIS—The retrial of John P. Nick, International vice-president of the IATSE, on a charge of extortion in connection with the alleged payment of $10,000 by certain motion picture theatre owners to State Representative Edward M. Brady on the same day in October, 1936, that a new wage scale and working agreement contract was signed with Local No. 143 of the Moving Picture and Projection Machine Operators Union will open on November 6.

The charge of extortion is punishable upon conviction by imprisonment of from two to five years.

Representative Brady, who was granted a severance, will be tried later on the same charge.

The retrial was made necessary on October 18 when Circuit Judge Robert L. Aronson, acting upon his own motion, declared a mistrial because one of the jurors, Robert W. Cox, had discussed the case the previous night with one of the state's witnesses, Clarence Groeteke, co-owner of the Webster Theatre.

Both Cox and Groeteke were reprimanded by Judge Aronson in open court. In addition the judge ordered that Cox be stricken from the list of jurors and ordered his juror fees of $9 forfeited. Groeteke was deprived of his witness fees amounting to $4.50.

Judge Aronson has related the gist of the conversation that took place between Cox and Groeteke at the Webster Theatre when Cox approached Groeteke and said: "Hello."

"What are you doing here, I thought they had locked you up" was Groeteke's response, as he was under the impression the jurors were being kept together during the entire trial, as is done in murder cases.

Groeteke expressed the opinion that the trial would probably be over the next day, October 18, and Cox said he thought it would last a week. Cox then remarked: "Tomorrow Brady is supposed to go on the stand and that will take quite a bit of time.

Groeteke then asked Cox if it was the first time he had served on a jury and Cox said "Yes." Groeteke then remarked: "Now you can realize what we business men have to go through."

Cox replied: "Well, between you and me, there isn't much evidence in this case; they haven't much of a case."

Groeteke said he realized it was "a clear case of circumstantial evidence" and added that "these people don't come with a photograph copy of themselves and say 'I'm so and so, and I'm the man that demanded the money.' It comes to us from an agent."

Defense Attorney Sigmund M. Bass who had objected to declaring a mistrial because of the Webster Theatre incident, then asked that a new jury be impaneled immediately and the retrial of the case start at once. Judge Aronson said he saw no reason why this could not be done, but Circuit Attorney Franklin Miller asked for the delay to November 6. He said that the state will have new and additional matter to present which his office was working on.

"It has just come to the prosecutor's office," he said. "I want to assure the court that it is not merely corroborative, but new matter. I should like to ask for reasonable time for preparation of this material."

Nick told reporters he was dumbfounded because a mistrial had been declared and expressed confidence he would have been acquitted had the trial continued.

Chicago Film Council Terms Three Mature

CHICAGO—The reissue of "All Quiet on the Western Front," (Univ); "What a Life," (Para); and "U-Boat 29," (Col), are listed for mature audiences in the first half of October ratings of the Chicago Better Films Council.

The family listing includes: "Night Work," (Para); "The Man They Could Not Hang," (Col); "Three Waltzes," (French); "The Rains Came," "News Is Made at Night," (20th-Fox); "Bulldog Drummond's Bride," (Para); "Behind Prison Gates," (Col); "Dust Be My Destiny," (WB); "Nurse Edith Cavell," (RKO), and "A Royal Divorce." "The Rains Came" is listed as "outstanding."

Chicago, Milwaukee Zone Heads Meet Bernhard

CHICAGO — Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Theatres, conducted an all-day meeting for Chicago and Milwaukee zone managers on Tuesday. He returned to New York without making comment on any current problems of the industry.

MILWAUKEE

WARNER-SAXE'S SAVOY, north side neighborhood house, has started an early bird admission policy of 15 cents from 5:30 to 6 p. m. and two bits thereafter . . . Venice Realty Co., owner of the building housing the Venetian Theatre here, is calling in its outstanding first mortgage bonds for payment at par with accrued interest. No interest will be paid on the bonds after November 1.

Fox's Downer Theatre on the east side presented the first run showing of Dennis Morgan's first starring picture, "The Waterfront" . . . Both E. J. Weisfeldt, managing director of the Riverside here, and his son, Donald, have been temporarily shelved. Donald injured his knee in a bicycle accident and his dad sprained his leg bowling.

Grand in Oshkosh announces a new policy of 15 cents for main floor seats and a dime in the balcony . . . T. M. Ellis and G. A. Turner of the Wisconsin Theatre Enterprise, Inc., gave a theatre party for workers on the Community Welfare fund campaign at the State in Beloit.

The Rialto bowling team from Kaukauna dropped a 2,803 to 2,650 decision to a Seymour five there last week . . . Badger in Merrill staged a special school matinee on a Tuesday afternoon last week with free ice cream to the first 275 kids.

Palace in Superior staged a doughnut dunking championship contest on the stage . . . F. S. Norton, manager of the Strand in Oshkosh, arranged for the giving of a special guest ticket to residents of the city for 50 years or more.

The Lincoln in Kenosha on its giveaway nights offers a choice of dishes or silverware to ladies and men . . . Stanley Lambert, manager of Warner's Rialto in Racine, was interviewed over WRJN. Lambert discussed old-time film and the 50th anniversary of motion pictures.

Superior Theatre's economics party in Superior was a big success. Feature was Rene Alexous Boursier, nationally known French chef, and the awarding of several merchandise prizes . . . Russ Leddy, manager of Fox's Orpheum in Green Bay, addressed the Woman's club in De Pere on "Movies and Your Children."

Eskin Theatres, Inc., has leased the Pastime at Kiel from Edwin L. Berth. The new operators take over November 1 . . . Leo E. Miner, manager of the Elago and Majestic, at Rice Lake, was married recently to Miss Carol Johns at Chillicothe, Mo.

Investigate Sign Trade

ST. LOUIS—The federal grand jury investigation of union jurisdictional disputes and alleged racketeering, and their effect on interstate commerce, turned October 23 to the Neon sign business in St. Louis. The grand jury has completed the first phase of its work, an inquiry into the jurisdictional row of union carpenters and machinists at Anheuser-Busch, Inc.



Back From Sweden—

That's Bruce Cabot returning the smile he is getting from Air Hostess Martha Zanover as he pauses in Chicago en route to the coast. The star, who is back from a vacation in Sweden, cut short by the war, has a picture to make for Warner and one for Columbia.

"Show Cause" Order In Restraint Bid

ST. LOUIS—Circuit Judge Julius R. Nolte in the St. Louis county circuit court at Clayton, Mo., on Tuesday, October 24, issued an order to show cause why restraining orders should not be issued to prevent picketing at the Fox Theatre, a de luxer operated by the Eden Theatre Co., and seven of the suburban and neighborhood houses of the St. Louis Amusement Co.

The application of the plaintiffs for immediate temporary restraining orders against the defendants was denied by Judge Nolte. In his orders Judge Nolte made it very clear to the clerk of the court that there would be no temporary restraining order. This means that there will be no court interference with the picketing now in progress at the eight theatres.

Named as defendants were Robert Tomsen, president of Local No. 143, seven other officers of the local and 28 individual members of the union. All of the defendants are supporters of the faction in Local No. 143 that supported the receivership suit in the St. Louis circuit court that resulted in Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley issuing orders last April that deposed John P. Nick, vice-president of the IATSE and Clyde A. Weston, then business agent of Local No. 143, and chief lieutenant of Nick, from control of the union's affairs.

The petition covering the Fox Theatre situation, filed by the Eden Theatre Company and Fanchon & Marco Service Corp., reviewed the factional fight in the ranks of Local No. 143 which resulted in the ouster of Nick and Weston by Judge Oakley last April. This petition alleged that the new officers of Local No. 143 early this month notified the plaintiffs that the working privileges of the projectionists employed at the Fox would be suspended because they had crossed the picket lines of the union maintained at the other theatres operated by the St. Louis Amusement Co.

It was further alleged that the union officials had contended that the Fox Theatre projectionists should be fired and replaced, but that the plaintiffs refused to comply, whereupon a picket line was established and since has been maintained at the Fox Theatre.

ST. LOUIS

THT police on October 23 reported that Joseph Spitale, 25 years old, an odd jobs man at the Garrick Theatre, had signed a confession that he was the individual who dropped a stench bomb in the balcony of the rival burlesque house, the Grand Theatre, the night of October 20. The police said that Spitale contended he planted the fluid in the Grand at the order of his boss, Joseph Edward "Big Tim" Michaels, a concessionaire at the Garrick, and that Michaels had paid him 25 cents extra to drop the bomb. Michaels has denied the charge. Spitale would not identify Michaels when confronted with the concessionaire.

Sales tax collections in Missouri during September totaled $1,801,695, or approximately $14,000 less than in August.

Four of the six "Dead End Kids" passed through St. Louis, October 18, en route to New York City on a personal appearance tour. In the party were Leo B. Gorcey and his wife, who before her marriage was Kay Marvis; Huntz Hall, Renard Punsly and Gabriel Dell. They were on their way to appear on the Kate Smith broadcast from Radio City the night of October 20.

Pete French, St. Louis naturalist and explorer who recently returned from a trip to South America exhibited motion pictures of his journey to that Continent in the Stix, Baer & Fuller Auditorium four times on October 21. French acted as a narrator of the film, which showed life among the bush Negroes of Dutch Guiana. It was al cuffo.

Local motion picture theatre owners the latter part of this week are scheduled to preview a new motion picture regarding life insurance to determine whether it is suitable for exhibition in their houses. The matter to be considered is whether it is educational or commercial.

Rob Hi-Way Cashier

ST. LOUIS—A bandit held up Mrs. Bertha Grob, cashier of the Hi-Way Theatre, 2705 North Florissant Avenue, the night of October 22, escaping with $51 in currency.

Adapting "Little Orvie"

HOLLYWOOD—Lynn Root is adapting "Little Orvie," Booth Tarkington story, for Producer William Sistrom at Universal.

Cooperating With Screen Time in Chicago Drive

CHICAGO—All motion picture theatres in Chicago area are cooperating with the Community Fund of Chicago drive by showing a trailer of Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy urging support for the Community Fund.

The industry itself will take a prominent part in solicitation of funds among its members, the filmites' goal this year being slightly more than last year's, $26,000. Jack Kirsch, chairman for this year again, headed a group at the opening meeting Monday night, which included John and Dave Balaban, Dave Wallerstein, Jack Shumow, Elmer Upton, Abe Platt, Jim Booth, Gene Rich, Lou Abramson, Christ Otto, and Beth Morganstern. The advisory committee of the amusement group consists of John Balaban, Clyde Eckhardt, Edwin Silverman and Kirsch.

Pledges totaling more than $600,000 were announced from the larger individual contributors and corporations at the opening meeting. The entire goal this year is $3,611,000 for the 187 Chicago charities representing Protestant, Jewish, Catholic and non-sectarian organizations.

Carriers Sustain Lead of Chicago Film Bowlers

CHICAGO—The surprising Film Carriers team is still leading the Chicago Film Bowling League, having defeated Warner Bros. twice last week. A three-way tie for second place has developed. Twentieth Century-Fox surprised Paramount by winning two out of three; Photoplay defeated National Screen twice, while Universal broke its losing streak by defeating Republic once.

Max Dreifuss of Republic was high with a series of 596. Jack Kirsch of Republic's team continues to lead the individual bowlers with an average of 158.8.

The standings:

	Won	*Lost*
Film Carriers	10	5
Paramount	9	6
National Screen	9	6
Photoplay	9	6
Republic	7	8
20th Century-Fox	6	9
Warner Bros	6	9
Universal	4	11

Ben Judell's Step-Mother Dies in Milwaukee at 74

MILWAUKEE—Mrs. Rose Judell, 74, stepmother of B. N. Judell, died at her home here following a short illness. A native of Latvia, Mrs. Judell came to Milwaukee in 1897. She was active in the affairs of the Congregation Beth Israel. Survivors besides the independent producer include a son and a daughter, six other step-children and 18 grandchildren.

Plans House in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, MO.—W. J. Buchholtz is now making plans for the new house he plans to build on a site he purchased here recently.

CHICAGO

AL RULE, producer of "When Germany Surrendered," being distributed by Johnny Mednikow, was in town on his way east.

Bill Hollander was home the first part of the week, suffering from a bad cold.

Warner screened for exhibitors "The Roaring Twenties," on Monday.

Dan DeBaugh, Chicago manager for Ringling Brothers, is the new grand master of Illinois Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M.

Seymour Simon, special assistant in the department of justice, has been assigned permanently by Attorney General Frank Murphy to the Chicago office. Simon has been handling the government's criminal contempt case here with Robert L. Wright. However, he expects to work on other cases outside the film industry, which is the reason for his permanent post here.

Ben Kalmenson, Warner district manager, was here on Monday.

Through here over the weekend, and arriving on the Santa Fe Super-Chief were Norma Talmadge, Irving Berlin, Hugh Herbert, and Claire Trevor. Miss Trevor, with her mother and agent, Harry Wurtzel, were en route to New York, Baltimore and Washington, prior to her appearance in Pittsburgh, November 3, for the world premiere of her RKO picture, "Allegheny Uprising."

Ann Sheridan stopped off in Chicago, Saturday, en route back to the Warner studio after personal appearances in the east.

Oscar Doob, Loew's advertising ace in the east, is passing this one out about the new Greta Garbo in her latest picture, "Ninotchka." It reads: "1939—the year of the Garbo Thaw."

It was another birthday anniversary for M-G-M's personable hello girl, Frances Kiel, this week. By the way, ask Frances about the telephone gag on page 461, column four, of the telephone directory.

The Lawndale Theatre of Charlie Nelson was held up and robbed of an undetermined amount this week . . . The B&K Employes' Club held a skating party at the Broadway Armory Wednesday. The club's election was held on Friday.

Declares Some Churches Violate Bingo Rules

MILWAUKEE—Building Inspector Leon Gurda has issued a statement declaring that some churches sponsoring Bingo games in their auditoriums here are not only violating the city and state fire codes by permitting crowding of passageways, but have defied orders of city inspectors to comply with safety instructions issued by the city building inspector's office.

The report says that sponsors of Bingo games in private commercial halls had complied with the safety instructions issued by Gurda's office.

Richmond Heights Theatre Opening Is Postponed

RICHMOND HEIGHTS, MO.—The grand opening of the $300,000 Esquire Theatre on Clayton road near Big Bend boulevard, that was scheduled for the night of October 18 has been indefinitely postponed because of unforeseen disruption of the interior finishing plans. Harry Greenman, manager of the theatre, said that the work is being pushed. He indicated that the opening probably will be within the next two weeks. Chief cause of the delay was the task of installing hundreds of mirrors which will cover the walls and ceiling of the lobby, part of a lavish ornamental scheme that is being carried out with a unique lighting system throughout the house.

B&K Ties Golden Jubilee With Circuit's 22nd Year

CHICAGO—B&K has large 40x60 posters in all of its theatre lobbies commemorating the golden jubilee of the films coincident with the circuit's 22nd year in business. The posters all begin with "22 years leadership in motion picture theatre progress."

Each poster has various facts concerning B&K, all starting with "Do You Know ——." Each poster also carries, "B&K leads in entertainment, motion pictures' golden jubilee," together with a drawing of the Academy award "oscars."

William Luckett Services Held at French Lick

INDIANAPOLIS—Funeral services for William Luckett, 36, operator of the Luckett Amusement Co., with houses in Austin, Paoli and Scottsburg, were held at French Lick, Ind., Sunday afternoon.

Luckett died at the home of his father, T. N. Luckett, operator of the Dream Theatre at French Lick, following a heart attack. Surviving are his wife, his parents and two children.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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INDIANAPOLIS

LILLIAN GORELICK, billing clerk at the local United Artists, left Friday to accept a similar position in the Chicago office. The office force gave a farewell party last week presenting her with a traveling case. Mrs. Francis Banta will replace Miss Gorelick at UA as billing clerk . . . Bert Stearn, district manager from Cleveland, was a visitor to the local UA office this week.

Madison, Ind., will be the host to the fifth annual Tobacco Festival this Thursday at which time a Queen will be crowned. Herb Johnson, of the Madison and Ohio theatres there, is planning some good programs for the expected crowds.

Mrs. Edward Steinmetz jr., wife of the Civic Theatre director, was entertained with a tea last Friday. Guests included members of the theatre affairs committee and personal friends of the Steinmetzes who were married last summer.

Indianapolis was host Friday night to two film stars, Olympe Bradna and J. Carrol Naish, both under contract to Paramount, who arrived here in conjunction with the showing of "Disputed Passage." The two stars were accorded a reception in the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

The Kalafat Bros. opened their new Gala Theatre at Garrett, Ind., at a party for friends last Thursday. The formal opening to the public was on Saturday. The theatre was completely equipped by National Theatre Supply Co.

Art Baker, manager of the Circle, played host to a group of nurses of the local Methodist Hospital at the first showing of "Nurse Edith Cavell." P. S. And he loved it, too.

Carl Brenkert, president of Brenkert Lamp Co., manufacturers of projection machines, was in Indianapolis this week and visited along Filmrow . . . Mrs. Florence Wigton, operator of the Wigton Theatre in LaGrange, recently re-equipped her theatre . . . Carl Shalit, district manager for Columbia out of Detroit, was in the city on business last week.

Ted Nicholas, manager of the Lyric Theatre, was all wound up in plenty of trouble last week. His star attraction for the coming week, Glenda Farrell, canceled out on five days' notice because of a bad case of bronchitis and caused Ted quite a headache. But that not being enough, he booked in a troupe of roller skaters who do their act on a pedestal and then received word the next day that they had been injured in a fall and so that was canceled. But he finally got his show booked and is now breathing easier.

Harold Wenzler, general sales manager for Cine Grand Films, producers of the film "Unashamed," returned to Indianapolis this week to handle the return engagement of his film at the Cozy Theatre operated by Rex Carr. The film previously played for eight weeks straight at the same theatre.

Many reservations have been received for the 13th annual convention of Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana according to Don R. Rossiter, executive secretary. Among outstanding speakers will be Col. Harry Cole, president of Allied; Abram F. Myers, general counsel of Allied; Harry Geisel, American League baseball umpire; Raymond Townsley, Indiana State American Legion Commander, and Dick Reed, news radio commentator. All Filmrow has been invited to attend Monday's jamboree and the Tuesday's evening banquet.

The local Variety Club will hold a big Film Ball and buffet supper in the Antlers Hotel on Saturday, November 4. At that time a special announcement of the club's new quarters will be made. The club has been without headquarters for the past several months since selling their house to a local firm for a dinner-dance club.

Rudy Stieler, operator of the New Royal Theatre in Evansville, is at home recuperating after an emergency appendectomy . . . Marc Wolf, general manager of Theatrical Managers, Inc., and his wife, Bee, are the proud owners of a new home. They will be neighbors to Wade Willman, manager at M-G-M.

Miss Estelle Nale, in the office of RKO, will be married Saturday, October 28, to Bert Nelson of Indianapolis. The future Mrs. Nelson will continue at her post at RKO.

SPR'GFIELD

DUKE ELLINGTON'S orchestra will make a personal appearance on the Orpheum Theatre stage November 5.

Bob Zwerman, manager of the Tivoli Theatre, has returned from a week's vacation spent in Olney helping his folks move into their new home.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Peters of the Confection Cabinet Corp., St. Louis, were weekend visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown. Mr. Brown is treasurer of the Orpheum Theatre.

"Charles Bickford in 'One Hour to Live,' and 'No Place to Go,'" read the theatre sign in front of the Tivoli Theatre last week.

Edmond Metzger, manager of the Strand Theatre, is buying pots and pans and has a twinkle in his eye. His associates report that he and a certain young school teacher are about to take the "fatal step."

Edward Walker, manager of the Havana Theatre at Havana, Ill., is the owner of a new Mercury automobile. His associates believe that business must be good because he is also flashing a new pair of brown shoes.

Producing Steinbeck Novel

HOLLYWOOD—John Steinbeck's "Tortilla Flats" is the basis of Harry Edington's second production for Universal release. Barney Glazer is adapting the novel into screen form.

Sombre Interlude

INDIANAPOLIS—Don K. Smith, manager at the local National Theatre Supply Co., recently was involved in a very dramatic incident. It seems Smith was visited late one evening by a gentleman who inquired about all sorts of theatre equipment for a new venture he said was to be erected in or near Fort Wayne. So Smith, the ever alert salesman, played host to the gentleman that evening, ending up by giving him his card and a small loan to get him back to Fort Wayne.

Several days later Smith had occasion to be in Fort Wayne and decided to look up the gentleman but found that he was very much unknown there; so Smith just marked the former incident up to good deeds for the day and returned to Indianapolis.

Then a night or so later in the wee small hours, a policeman knocked on the Smith apartment door and inquired if this was the home of the manager of the supply house on Illinois St. and Mrs. Smith replied that it was.

The policeman sympathetically told Mrs. Smith that her husband had been killed in an automobile accident right outside of Indianapolis just a few hours before and would like to have her come and make positive identification.

Mrs. Smith informed the officer there must be some mistake as her husband was at that moment asleep in an adjoining room.

As the victim had only Mr. Smith's card in his pocket at the time of his death, it was naturally assumed that it was his own. Mr. Smith then identified the gentleman as one who had called on him the week before.

"Women" Section

DECATUR, ILL.—Norman Pyle, M-G-M exploiteer, and Paul Witte, city manager for Great States Theatres, set a special eight-page section on "The Women," with the Decatur *Advertiser* here. The picture played an outstanding engagement at the G. S.-Lincoln Theatre here.

Club Sponsors Bicycle Tour

CHICAGO—The Women's Film Industry Club of Chicago will sponsor a tour to Turkey Run, Ind., for its members and their friends the weekend of November 4 and 5. When the girls get there, they will conduct a bicycle tour in the surrounding territory.

Vaude May Go Nov. 9

CHICAGO—Tentative, unconfirmed date for withdrawal of vaudeville from the RKO Palace here is November 9, with the straight picture policy scheduled to start the following day.

Reopen at Drakesboro, Ky.

DRAKESBORO, KY.—J. W. Hays has reopened the Home Theatre here after a shutdown of nearly a year.

On "House of Seven Gables"

HOLLYWOOD — Universal has assigned Lester Cole to the script of "The House of Seven Gables."

Can't Hear Extended Time Plea in Iowa

DES MOINES—Most Iowa exhibitors bristle at Joseph Schenck's "longer run" suggestion.

Leo F. Wolcott of Eldora, Ia., speaking as president of the Allied Theatre Owners of Iowa and Nebraska, Inc., says:

"Exhibitors have always carried their share and more of the burden of maintaining this motion picture industry. Increases in film rental terms have been exacted under this or that pretext for many years until we have now arrived at a point where reductions should be made if theatres are to exist as an outlet for film productions. In any number of small town theatres today production and distribution is taking 35 to 50 per cent of the gross receipts. It is quite evident, therefore, that exhibition will be able to absorb very little, if any, of the loss of revenue caused by the European conflict.

"Replying to Joseph N. Schenck's request that exhibitors employ greater showmanship, introduce new ideas and get every bit of revenue from every picture engagement, I can only say that those exhibitors who have not done exactly this and more during the last several years are no longer in this business. With respect to extended playing time, I believe it is entirely possible the occasional outstanding attraction can be played profitably in the larger cities for two or more weeks, but in the smaller towns our actual experience proves extended playing time merely means spreading the business out over the additional time and taking this time away from other pictures.

Proved Decency Is Profitable

Several years ago the public raised its voice against the smut and indecency then so rampant in pictures. Despite many statements that it could not be done, production has clearly demonstrated ever since that an unlimited number of great boxoffice attractions can be made without indecent subject matter. We have great faith in the ability of production to likewise meet the present emergency. We believe they will eliminate Hollywood waste, extravagance and those super-salaries so eloquently reported in the trade and daily press; that distribution will fully develop in Central and South American markets and that there will be delivered to the theatres ever bigger and better boxoffice attractions at less cost.

"A suggestion: If a theatre employe makes too many mistakes, if he has to do a thing over and over again, we fire him. We cannot have waste and inefficiency in exhibition. And a word of warning: Theatre business in this territory is bad. The admission price hike so blithely suggested by Hollywood is certainly not the answer. Nor are 'quickies' and 'cheaters.' A saying as old as this business: 'There are very few ailments in this business which cannot be cured by bigger and better pictures.'"

Bob Dawson of the Rozoda Theatre in Redfield, says:

"I think pictures are already held for as long as it is profitable. Holding them over any longer would merely mean the same take with more overhead."

Elmer Burch of Kellerton and Tingley:

"Producers make too many pictures. Why don't they cut out the 68-minute stuff and make all big pictures? That would help solve the problem. I make my profit on these pictures."

Abe Frankle, Casino Theatre, Des Moines:

"I think Schenck's idea is all off. As far as small theatres are concerned, pictures are run too long already."

Harry Hierstiener, Family Theatre, Des Moines:

"Schenck's suggestion won't solve the problem for the distributor, the producer, or the exhibitor. Good pictures will get extended and repeat runs on their own merits. Anyhow, with block booking, how can exhibitors extend runs? They have a stop picture and with extended runs they get behind with their regular commitments. What's gained for one is lost for another. Let's get together and make all extended-run pictures and forget the B's and C's . . . then we'll really have something for everyone."

Says Exhibitors in No Mood For Criticism of Policies

KANSAS CITY—"Exhibitors, already absorbing about all of the Hollywood waste they can stomach, are in no mood for criticism of their operating policies, and particularly do they resent the implication from any source that they have not exercised sufficient showmanship," retorts an important local exhibitor in reply to Joseph M. Schenck's suggestion for extended playing time.

"What producers may not know, but what exhibitors certainly realize, is that in recent years showmen have had to exercise exceptional showmanship or fall by the way. The theatre trail throughout the midwest is littered with exhibitor bones who failed to bring extraordinary ingenuity into their operations. In this small space between Broadway and Vine there is exemplified every day a degree of business sagacity as a requisite to existence that would enrich the most inefficient producer beyond his wildest dreams, if applied to his business.

"If producers would do more asking and less telling, the domestic market could be made to produce more revenue than the world market before the present crisis and whatever of foreign income accrues would be pure velvet. For my part, I'm playing the milked-out, overly protected, double-feature goaled product for every dime it is worth. I have to to live."

Northwest Allied Tentatively Abandons Twin Bill Fight

MINNEAPOLIS—Northwest Allied States temporarily is dropping its fight to put through a city ordinance limiting continuous screen entertainment to two hours and 15 minutes in order to outlaw double features. The measure had been opposed in the city council by the Minnesota Amusement Co. which uses twin bills at one of its downtown houses.

President W. A. Steffes of Northwest Allied explains that the reason for the abandonment of the fight at this time is the necessity of concentrating efforts to block the issuance of new theatre licenses applications for which now are pending in the council.

With the city now greatly overseated and most exhibitors having a hard struggle to make both ends meet, Steffes points out that this is the more vital problem and that ranks should not be split at a critical time.

The Minnesota Amusement Co. is joining Northwest Allied in opposing further theatre construction here. Despite the unfavorable theatre conditions, there are an unusually large number of individuals and companies not now connected with the show business anxious to build and operate showhouses and several of the applications are before the council for consideration.

The proposed anti-double feature ordinance that was referred by the council to its ordinance and legislation committee has been tabled.

Nabes in Minneapolis Hurt by Stage Shows

MINNEAPOLIS—There's more stage fare here and underlined than for many years, making it tougher for the houses—particularly the neighborhood spots—that have to go it on straight pictures. The fact that business generally is depressed aggravates the situation.

The Minnesota Theatre has stage shows every week and the Orpheum, too, is using more of them than for some time past. The Gayety has its burlesque roadshows.

No less than two theatres—the Lyceum and Alvin—are booking legit roadshows. The Lyceum has more booked than at any time in recent years. There are four of them scheduled for the Alvin in addition to an old-time melodrama, "Gold in the Hills," now in its fifth week at that house.

Some of the other opposition for the showhouses includes football, hockey, weekly wrestling matches and boxing cards, not to mention the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra concerts, the University concert course, night club shows and beer parlors.

Bixler Operating Cozy

WHEATON, MO.—The Cozy Theatre here, which changed hands about a month ago, is now operated by H. B. Bixler, formerly of Los Angeles. Ray Mathis previously operated the house.



At the Nebraska State House—

All eyes on C. C. Pettijohn, MPPDA general counsel and film industry good-will ambassador. Pettijohn came to Lincoln to address the Nebraska Federation of Women's clubs, convening here. The party with him are sitting on nothing less than the governor's desk. From left to right are Pettijohn, Governor Cochran, Regina Molseed, film board of trade secretary in Omaha; C. E. Williams, president of Nebraska MPTO, and Bob Livingston, the Capitol owner-manager in Lincoln.

Pettijohn Turns Nebraska Club Women Against Neely Bill

LINCOLN—The Nebraska Federation of Women's clubs voted in convention here to withdraw all support of the Neely Bill in Congress.

The man who changed their minds with a 20-minute talk was C. C. Pettijohn, general counsel of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, who came on from New York to conduct a test.

Pettijohn, long used to Washington, and the weight pressure groups load on representatives in Congress, has pleaded with industry heads that the film business could very profitably spend some time of its high officials in touring the country to prove that it is doing a good job, and is not guilty of most of the charges made against it.

He told the assembled delegates that the Neely Bill was offered on the floor of Congress by a man who was guided in the move by officials in the CIO. He said the Neely measure was communist in origin, and strictly a ruse by which the public was to be hoodwinked into fighting an intra-industry union's jurisdictional problem.

He said the terms "block booking" and "blind-buying" were rough terms tacked to such ordinary business processes as wholesale selling, and advance contract for output.

Before Pettijohn could swing the club into line for a vote, a lone woman made a stand to have the idea tabled, making the point that although Pettijohn had said much about the economic soundness of the motion picture industry being guaranteed by block booking, he had offered nothing to prove block booking guaranteed moral, mental and spiritual soundness for the nation's young. She believed selling completed pictures, one at a time, would be an aid in the latter direction.

"I'm glad you made that point," said Pettijohn. "Selling pictures, completed, and one by one, would be a costly and outlandish process. It would also reduce the number of pictures made. But, aside from that, I believe women's clubs the nation over, owe the industry a vote of confidence for having done a marvelous job of cleaning itself up. Meantime, selling pictures one by one and the merits of that idea, can be best described by telling you that every dope picture, nudist picture, your 'Elysias,' 'Ecstasy,' and 'Birth of a Baby' pictures, were all sold one by one, outside the block booking arrangement. I don't think the women's club, or any pressure group, wants to go to bat for that kind of motion picture."

He was given a rousing hand.

C. E. Williams, Nebraska MPTOA president, and G. Ralph Branton, general manager of the Tri-States-Par theatres of Iowa and Nebraska, backed his statements, as big and small men in the exhibition field. Besides those three men, the motion picture industry was represented on the speakers platform by Evert Cummings, district manager of Tri-States, Omaha; Regina Molseed, film board of trade secretary, Omaha, and Barney Oldfield, motion picture editor and radio chatterer, Sunday *Journal* and *Star* and KFOR, Lincoln.

Immediately following the women's club session, C. C. Pettijohn and Governor Cochran were guests at a luncheon at the Cornhusker. It was attended, besides the speaker's stand crew, by Bob Huffman, Lincoln Theatres Corp. city manager; Howard Federer, general manager of the Nebraska Theatres, Inc.; and George O. Monroe, Colonial, all of Lincoln; D. V. McLucas, and Joe Scott, Omaha exchange men, and several of Lincoln's leading business men.

The way was smoothed for Pettijohn with the politicos here by Bob Livingston, Capitol manager.

Des Moines Orpheum To Revert to RKO

DES MOINES—The Orpheum, managed by Tri-States Theatre Corp. the last three years under an agreement with RKO Radio, will return to RKO operation November 2.

Emil Franke, manager of the Orpheum for Tri-States, will continue as manager of the theatre, with William Sutton as his assistant. Franke was also manager before the defunct agreement was made three years ago.

G. Ralph Branton, general manager of Tri-States Theatres, announced the move with the following statement:

"By mutual agreement between Tri-States Theatre Corp. of Des Moines and RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., of New York City, the operating agreement between these organizations will be dissolved, and after Thursday, November 2, the Orpheum Theatre in Des Moines will be operated out of New York City by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.

"For the past three years, the Orpheum has been operated as a Tri-States theatre."

The dissolution was announced in BOXOFFICE on August 5, but at that time Branton said the joint operation arrangement would continue through 1941.

Franke said the Orpheum will be operated as a Class A theatre with present admission prices. New seats are planned in the balcony.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is scheduled as the first picture under the new management, opening there November 3. Franke expects to feature RKO, Columbia and First National productions.

Tri-States continues its operating partnership with Paramount on other theatres.

Tri-States operates the Des Moines, Paramount, Roosevelt, Strand, Garden, Uptown, Hiland and Ingersoll theatres here and has theatres throughout Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois.

The joint operating arrangement with RKO was set up in August, 1936, and at that time was scheduled to be in force five years.

Jensen to New Post

MASON CITY, IA.—I. C. Jensen, who has been in Mason City for the past ten years, is now assistant manager of the Cecil Theatre, replacing M. H. Nichol who has moved to West Union to go into the garage business.



Sitting Pretty—

The young ladies so comfortably seated by Bob Hope and Bing Crosby are Priscilla Jean Neudigate and Barbara Marie Hunt of Belle Plaine, Kas., winners of a contest staged by O. F. Sullivan of the Civic Theatre at Wichita. The award was a trip to Hollywood with their parents, a visit to the Paramount studios and a talent audition.

Several Films Held In Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—Although business conditions here are far from good, there have been an unusual number of holdovers during recent weeks, attesting to the product strength.

Among the pictures that have run two or more weeks downtown are "The Old Maid," "When Tomorrow Comes," "They Shall Have Music," "Stolen Life," "The Rains Came" and "Beau Geste." "The Women" and "The Wizard of Oz" ran three weeks.

Irwin Dubinsky Replaces Brother in St. Joseph

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—Appointment of Irwin Dubinsky as manager of the Dubinsky Brothers theatre properties in St. Joseph, which include the Missouri, Electric and Orpheum theatres, and transfer of H. William (Bill) Dubinsky, head of the houses the last two years, to the central offices of the theatre chain in Kansas City, have been announced by Ed Dubinsky Durwood, general manager.

Irwin Dubinsky, fourth of the Dubinsky brothers, comes here from Leavenworth where he had charge of the Dubinsky properties. Twenty-three years ago he was associated with his brothers in St. Joseph when they played stock in the old Tootle Theatre here.

Barney was manager of the St. Joseph properties until he was injured in a car wreck several years ago. He has been in Tucson, Ariz., recovering from an illness that followed his injury.

Minnesota Theatre Bargain Bills Seen as a Menace

MINNEAPOLIS—General theatre warfare threatens here as the result of loop developments which has the 4,000-seat independently operated Minnesota Theatre inaugurating cash gift nights, double features and other added attractions to augment big stage shows and feature pictures at 20-30-40 cents and the Orpheum offering stage shows with name attractions and major screen product at 40 cents top, instead of the former 55 cents.

Independent neighborhood exhibitors assert they can't compete with such entertainment bargains and they are considering admission price reductions and Bank Night seven days a week, including Sundays.

A Weekly "Preview"

The Minnesota double features on Thursday nights, giving a "preview" of its succeeding week's picture along with its big regular show which includes an 18-piece orchestra, singer, master of ceremonies, 12 girl dancers and four vaudeville acts. On Monday night it brings in ten additional vaudeville acts. "Ten-O-Win," started with a $350 pot, is used every Tuesday. There's a cash quiz for patrons Thursday nights and dancing in the big lobby on Friday nights, with a special play made for college and high school patronage.

Manager Bill Sears of the Orpheum says the 40-cent scale—the same as is charged at his house and at the State and Century for straight films—will not hold for all stage shows. For the bigger and more costly attractions, such as Spitalny's "Hour of Charm" and Kay Kyser, for example, the admission goes back to 55-cent top.

Baffled by Laws

DES MOINES—Baffled by Iowa laws is Paramount's Leon Benson. He was agog at Indianola's "no Sunday movie" law—agogger when he discovered Exhibitor Bill Eddy had been showing films there every day for three years and "nobody said anything about it."

Then Benson landed in Des Moines and was told that the Iowa law barred liquor-by-the-drink. He was set to trek down to the state store for a bottle but changed his mind after stopping in a tavern on the way. He got his bourbon and plain water mixture just as efficiently as though he were ensconced in Nick's place, around the corner from the Paramount lot.

V-Shaped Neon Marquees For Fox Circuit Units

KANSAS CITY—Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., has installed or is installing new V-shaped, 2-faced marquees with 4-line silhouette attraction boards (animated marquees) at the following theatres: Kennedy, Kirksville, Mo.; Gillioz, Springfield, Mo.; Strand, West Frankfort, Ill.; Midland, Pittsburg, Kas.; Strand, Emporia, Kas.; Peoples, Chanute, Kas. According to L. E. Pope, purchasing agent, the marquees are being furnished by the Claude Neon Federal Southwest, Wichita, Kas. New sound is being installed in the Electric, Springfield, Mo.; Uptown, Muscatine, Ia., and Strand, Ft. Madison, Ia.

Two More Kansas Units To Baker Enterprises

KANSAS CITY—The Baker Enterprises (George and A. F. Baker) last week took over the operation of the Mainstreet Theatre, Oakley, Kas., and the Crystal Theatre, Ellis, Kas., from L. C. Snyder. The Bakers also operate the Ritz, McPherson, Kas., and the Rustic, West Yellowstone.

Roy Sager, formerly at the Ritz, McPherson, will manage the Crystal at Ellis under the new setup. Charles Balls, who has been handling the Oakley house, will continue there.

Nate Sandler to Operate Rialto, Missouri Valley

MISSOURI VALLEY, IA.—Nate Sandler of Des Moines, who handles the theatre at Northwood, Ia., has taken over operation of the Rialto here. The house was previously operated by Central States Theatre Corp. of Des Moines. Ownership will remain the same.

M. B. Warrick will continue as manager and no changes in personnel are contemplated.



Publicist at Premiere—

Charlie Winchell, publicity chief of the Minnesota Amusement Co., is a visitor to Detroit to attend the world premiere of Paramount's "Disputed Passage."

OMAHA

EXHIBITOR sidelights: This week we turn the spotlight on Harold G. Dunn, hefty owner of the Jewel at Valentine, Neb. Harold is an expert on baseball and football, having refereed both games. Last week he attended four football games in four different towns in two days. Furthermore, he's quite a fisherman.

Mort Troxell, friendly Nebraska exhibitor, wants the world to know that while he operates theatres at both Dewitt and Wilber, Neb., he would like to have people say he's from Wilber, a metropolis of 1,352 *persons. Dewitt has but* 534 . . . *Joe Rosenberg has a very red face and you can ask anyone on Filmrow the reason.*

A. C. Anderson, new exhibitor at Sloan, Ia., was in town on business . . . Other visitors to Davenport St. included: O. H. Lehman, Royal, Sibley, Ia.; Stuart Nesbit, Plainview, Neb.; Howard Federer, Lincoln; Paul Haeker, Parrot, Alma, Neb.; Wally Dupree, Woodbine, Ia.

Congrats to Walt Green of Fepco for his snappy little publication about his firm and employes . . . A. D. St. Clair has taken over the Grand at Wymore, Neb., formerly operated by Frank Hollingsworth . . . Harry Lankhorst jr. announces the name of the Tivoli at Hawarden, Ia., has been changed to the Sioux.

Congrats this week to: Madeline Speake, RKO cashier, a birthday; Joyce Andersen, United Artists, wedding anniversary; Goldie Clements, Paramount, birthday; Marie Gamerl, Warner, birthday; Bob Ballantyne, birthday.

Eddie Forester, former manager of the Omaha Theatre, says in a letter to BOXOFFICE *that he's living near Hollywood among the big names in the writing field. What's even better, Eddie has been very successful in selling stories to magazines since he left here.*

Joe H. Feldhans, exhibitor at Schaller, Ia., had a birthday recently . . . Also DuWayne Hartzell, Rivoli, Charter Oak, Ia., and wedding anniversaries for Ed Morris, Princess, Eagle Grove, Ia., and Henry Rehfield, Iowa, Bloomfield, Ia. . . . A birthday for George Bergh, New Sharon, Ia., and for Aubrey Fitzgerald, Princess, Miller, S. D.

KAYCEE

ONE of the most interesting—and least comforting—news items that has appeared in a long time came out of Oklahoma City the other day, to the effect that a patron of a theatre was awarded $1,000 damages when a jury decided that lack of oxygen in a theatre caused him to fall, fracturing his jaw and knocking out several of his teeth. Perhaps this sort of thing comes from the movies' now well defined policy of giving each patrons who buys an admission everything but the cashier. Maybe it comes from the publicity given some Hollywood players' income tax payments. Whatever its cause, it isn't particularly funny. The exhibitor might think about its implications.

On the Row: George Shilkret and W. G. Forest, Rex, Joplin, Mo.; Frank Anderson, Kirksville, Mo.; R. F. Fite, Eris, Eldorado, Kas.; Louis Griefe and son, Frederick, Windsor, Mo.; C. B. Kelly, Wakeeney, Kas.; Walter Lovan, Park, Eldorado Springs, Mo.; Ralph Larned, LaCrosse, Kas.; Mrs. John Brandt, Oregon, Mo.; Frank Dodson, Golden Bell, Ellsworth, Kas.; Roy Mathis, Granby, Mo.

Cecil Vaughan, who used to be manager here for Pathe, and who was for 19 years in the theatre and film business in the middle west, was on Filmrow the other day. Widely and well remembered in the industry, he now is sales manager of the Myra Deane Co., Kansas City, which sells its products over the world.

Louis Sosna of Moberly, Mo., was on the Row Friday, and for the first time in history was not looking for his brother Sam, who has the Sosna at Manhattan, Kas.

Miss Ethel Pate is the name of the new girl at Monogram.

Emory Scott, assistant to Stanley Schwahn, city manager at Lawrence, Kas., for Commonweath, was married October 17. *Congratulations!*

Writes Tom Edwards of the Ozark, Eldon, Mo.: "Friday, November 10th, brings three big events to Miller County . . . 1st is Gene Autry in "In Old Monterey" . . . 2nd is "Pack Up Your Troubles," and 3rd is the opening of the quail season. I don't know which is the most important to me, but I do know that I like to hunt quail. However, I only want to hunt on farms where I am welcome," so Tom offers—as he has in the past—to trade passes for hunting privileges. "If you have some quail on your farm that you would like to have scared but seldom hit, please drop me a post card," he writes in his *News*.

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Pair Confesses Holdup of Des Moines Varsity

DES MOINES—Detectives Tuesday night reported George O'Halloran and William L. Heard have confessed to the $55 holdup of the Varsity Theatre here Saturday evening.

O'Halloran denied participation in the robbery when first arrested, but confessed after Esther Hughes, 19-year-old cashier, identified him as the man who confronted her with a shiny revolver and took the money.

O'Halloran, who implicated Heard in the holdup and also in the robbery of three houses in Des Moines Friday night, said Heard stood guard about 20 feet from the boxoffice of Elias Garbett's 25th street Varsity Theatre "to cover my getaway."

Sunday New Year's Eve Break for Theatres

MINNEAPOLIS—Theatres here may get a New Year's eve break because the occasion falls on a Sunday and, according to law, night clubs cannot sell liquor, mitigating against the usual celebrations in the dine-and-dance emporiums. This undoubtedly would swell showhouse attendance because there'd be more home parties and many of such celebrants would take in a show first.

Book Night Franchise to Burke for Two States

DES MOINES—Tom Burke, formerly with National Screen Service, has the Book Night franchise for Iowa and Nebraska.

Burke has been in Des Moines for about three weeks, introducing the plan to Iowa exhibitors. He says much interest is being shown here in the scheme, because of its success in the New York, Cleveland, Minneapolis and St. Louis territories.

Klein, Loefler and Stern Switch Jobs at RKO

MINNEAPOLIS—Changes at RKO has Larry Klein, office manager, assigned to the post of city salesman, replacing Joe Loefler who takes over the southern Minnesota territory. Al Stern, who has been covering southern Minnesota, returns to his former duties as office manager.

Change in Garner

GARNER, IA.—Operation of the Avery Theatre here was to be taken over on November 1 by Mr. and Mrs. Gran of Sioux Rapids. They purchased the house recently from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Marks.

Buys RCA for New House

MARIONVILLE, MO.—A new RCA sound system will be installed in the theatre being built here by Charles L. Martin, who also operates the Republic at Republic, Mo.

MINNEAPOLIS

DAVE and Irving Gillman, local independent exhibitors, have the sympathy of Filmrow in the loss of wife and mother who passed away at the Mayo clinic, Rochester, Minn., following an operation. Mrs. Gillman was a sister of Harry Dickerman who operates two Minneapolis theatres . . . Frank Mantzke, Universal branch manager at Milwaukee, and Fred Finnegan of the 20th-Fox office staff, Chicago, were here for the thrilling Minnesota-Ohio State football game.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included George Schroeder, Elsworth, Minn.; Harry Simon, Walker, Minn.; Laurel Lano, Long Prairie, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Jack Wright, Red Wing, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Stan Smith, Sisston, S. D.; George Severn, Baudette, Minn.; Paul Perizzo, Blue Earth and Winnebago, Minn.; E. P. Parsons, Renville, Minn.; E. E. Thune, Kenyon, Minn.; Clint Noreen, Fredric, Wis.; George Miner, Rice Lake, Wis., and Lyle Webster, Spooner, Wis.

Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, off for a swing around the country in his capacity of S. R. Kent drive leader . . . W. J. Heineman, Universal western division manager, flew in from New York to hold a sales meeting here . . . Joe Loefler, RKO salesman, in the market for a new auto. All exhibitors, who also are car dealers, have a chance to make two deals, he says . . . Frances Peterson, M-G-M bookers' secretary, took the marriage vows, but will retain her position. The lucky man is Arthur W. Bonk . . . Charlie Weiner of Monogram visited North and South Dakota accounts. His "Mutiny in the Big House" won much favorable comment at the Minnesota the past week.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," Columbia smash, is set for an indefinite run at the Orpheum here, starting November 23 . . . Cedric Adams, Star-Journal columnist, went to Detroit, Mich., for the premiere of Paramount's "Disputed Passage" . . . Morrie Abrams, M-G-M exploiteer, back from Fargo, N. D., and Alexandria and Fergus Falls, Minn., where he worked on "Babes in Arms" and "The Women."

"Hy" Chapman of Columbia attended sales conference in Chicago . . . W. A. Steffes and Bennie Berger in Pittsburgh for the Carnegie Tech-Notre Dame football game and Variety Club annual banquet this weekend. Steffes' spoken drama season at the Alvin Theatre opens November 10 with Jackie Coogan in "What a Life." Taylor Holmes in "On Borrowed Time," will follow November 29 . . . Jean Hersholt, well known film actor, came on from Hollywood to help launch the local Community Fund drive this week. Among other things, he addressed a luncheon of exchange managers at the Twin City Variety Club.

Jack Thoma, Columbia exploiteer, in the Twin Cities. Came up from Chicago to help sell "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" to the St. Paul and Minneapolis public . . . Lester Coleman, Paramount home-office booking auditor, a visitor . . . Sol Torodor, local independent exhibitor, transporting friends in his auto to the "Disputed Passage" invitation preview, had a blowout eight blocks from the theatre and missed part of the picture.

Minor sore throat epidemic at Warner Bros. . . . L. E. Goldhammer, RKO district manager, back from a two-week swing over his territory and reports business good all along the line . . . Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, in town . . . Two old-time mellers, "Murder in the Old Red Barn" and "Gold in the Hills," enjoying long runs here. Former is in its fourth week and latter in its fifth at the West Hotel Moorish Room and Alvin Theatre, respectively . . . Ben Blotcky, Paramount head, acted as chef at the Paramount Pep Club outing. Johnny Fritcher and Ernie Lund helped him prepare the steaks. The club elected Lund, president; Joe Prill, secretary-treasurer, and Bill Donald, Audrey Lutz and Ed Cutter, directors.

Abe Kaplan, independent exhibitor, among the local film bunch that will attend the Minnesota-Michigan football game at Ann Arbor next Saturday . . . Rud Lohrenz, Warner district manager at Kansas City, and Sid Rose and Art Anderson, Omaha and Des Moines' branch managers, respectively, here to work with

DM Variety Liquidates; Charity Work Holds

DES MOINES — The Variety Club has liquidated here. Quotas will not be required of members in the future, but the charity work of the organization will be continued.

The club turned over $631 to the city of Des Moines to apply on an iron lung. Additional funds will be donated soon.

Fire in Booth

KANSAS CITY—A fire Wednesday night in the projection booth of the Tivoli Theatre here, operated by Stanley Schwartz, did an estimated damage of $1,000 to equipment. Static sparks from a film rewinder were said to have started the blaze.

Harold Fields on the Pioneer Iowa circuit deal.

M-G-M starting advance newspaper advertising campaign for "Babes in Arms" . . . Charles DuRae, Ten-O-Win distributor, after conference with Gordon Greene, Minnesota Theatre managing director, departed for Peoria, Ill. . . . Big stage attractions underlined for Orpheum include Spitalny's "Hour of Charm" and Kay Kyser . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bolnick in New York as guests of Harry Sherman, the unit show man. Ted is one of Eddie Ruben's right-hand men.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

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EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

Independent Theatre Owners Association
1214 Brush Creek Road — VAlentine 2770
E. E. Webber jr., Pres. John Wolfberg, Sec.

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
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Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: HIland 2694

DES MOINES

HERE'S that analysis of Don West's flowing signature which we promised you: Don is a hopeful, ambitious, and optimistic cuss. He's sensitive and so sympathetic he wants to drop a jitney in every beggar's tincup (but he's so generous, he's always fresh outa nickels). Don's interests are many, he's as affectionate as a kitten, but he's got a temper like a streak of greased lightning. He has a strong sense of self-preservation, which leads him to apply every cold remedy on the shelf at the tiniest sign of the sniffles. He has a keen mind, but he can't concentrate worth a hang when a blonde in two-thread chiffon hose walks down the street (but who can)?

Now take Chick Friedman, there's a reticent, undemonstrative guy (according to his handwriting). He's an ardent sportsman, and will bet his shirt (if he's been tipped off to the winner ahead). He's a musical soul, tender-hearted, and kids instantly go for him. Chick has a sense of humor and a love of ornamentation (that accounts for all those glad rags he wears). He's more orderly than your dear old maiden aunt, conventional, and very cautious (so we don't believe those stories that Chick's been looking in jewelry store windows).

There are a number of tales abroad about how Morris Smith acquired that new Chevrolet he's been driving. Some say he got it in a slot machine, some swear it came in a box of crackerjack, while still others maintain he won it on a punch board. Morris won't say, and Mrs. Morris doesn't care, just so he leaves the Buick for her to drive.

Pete Dana of Kaycee was seen burning a little midnight oil over the Universal adding machine—he just couldn't wait 'til morning to do that checking up . . . Jerry Spandau has gone back to Omaha for a little more proboscis paring. (We hear her name is Esther, Jerry, and we're wondering if you're doing your shopping at Woolf's now?).

If you'd happened out along Highway 88 the other A. M., you'd have met a couple of footsore travelers in search of gas . . . Since their six-mile hike, Lou Elman and L. E. "Nicky" Goldhammer have purchased themselves roller skates. Sid Rose is wandering along the Row in an expectant mood—he hopes it's twins. Coach Lou Levy is gaining weight again. His football winnings are going to his head . . . Art Anderson's gone a-hunting.

That sky-blue-pink description we got on the Row of L. M. McKechneay's new Buick had us guessing, but McKechneay says it's just two shades of blue and the only one of its kind in town . . . Saturday evening (no, Sunday morning) we were out at the Hollywood club with Clayton and Rufus Blair, Paramount's high-powered mumbo-jumbler who's been everything from an able seaman to a rah-rah boy at Oregon U. We noticed that Bing Miller was having himself a tremendous time at the next table, and we saw the nonchalant McKechneay stroll in just as we were leaving.

Nate Sandler's boy, Bob, had charge of Dad's day pep activities at Iowa City recently . . . Alfred Lunt tamed the shrew at the Shrine here Tuesday for 3,500 DM persons . . . we met him after the performance, but we're no shrew (that's what we think) . . . They say Filmrowers are going via special train to the Notre Dame game November 11.

We told the truth, so help us, about who gave us that black eye, and every body heh-hehed disbelievingly . . . Now Paramount's Jack Daley pulls that old fell-in-the-bathtub yarn to explain his broken wrist, and everybody believes him! Anyhow, Leon Benson was through here in Daley's place. He's working ahead of Lloyd Douglas, the author of "Disputed Passage." We heard ex-preacher Douglas speak to the Simpson College students at Indianola, and he worked in a rather self-conscious commercial for the pic. (We saw him later in the Fort coffee shop in DM, drinking beer all by his lonesome.)

"Nicky" Gets Nicked

SIGOURNEY, IA.—While visiting here last week with Lou Elman, Des Moines RKO branch manager, L. E. "Nicky" Goldhammer, district manager from Minneapolis, got a shave and a close one according to him.

It was all Lou's fault for telling the barber wielding the razor that he was shaving Edward G. Robinson.

Nicky, who really does resemble Robinson, found himself swamped by admiring fans and autograph hounds. He lost his temper, his vest buttons, and any envy he ever entertained of film stars.

Plan Rebuilding in La Belle

LA BELLE, MO.—Business men met here recently at the Masonic dining room to discuss rebuilding of the local theatre which was destroyed several months ago by fire.

Old Rialto to Norman

CHEROKEE, IA.—G. R. Norman of Storm Lake has purchased the old Rialto Theatre building here.

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

JO. DOOP of Adel didn't mean it that way, but he paid us a high compliment when he called this column "small town stuff" the other day. After all, Doopie, we're not writing this for New Yorkers, but for exhibitors who make their living in small towns inhabited by small town people. These exhibitors are too smart to go around saying "theatre" with an oxford accent to a guy who's been gee hawing the horses all day. We lived in DM (an overgrown small town) all our life but we had to move to Lee Henry's Stuart, Ia. (pop. 1,500) for a couple of years to discover how kindly folks really are. No, Doopie, "small town stuff" is *the* stuff.

A. R. Thompson, formerly of Owatonna, Minn., and who recently took over the theatre at Lake Mills, Ia., has also bought the house at Audubon, Ia.

Exhibitors who know Barney Oldfield in Lincoln, Neb., should appreciate Rufus Blair's (temporarily escaped from Paramount's Hollywoods) description of the gum chewing white spotter. Rufus compares Barney to an aurora borealis struck by lightning!

Bert Smith of Des Moines has opened a house in Kellogg. Bert has been helping his brother-in-law, George Storms, a portable circuit man in these parts.

Joe Smith (Joe speaks with a slight accent, you'll recall) phoned a certain lady exhibitor and talked eloquently about his product for some 15 minutes. Suddenly remembering that he'd failed to say who he was, he asked if she knew who was speaking.

"Sure, anybody's know who's speaking," she replied, "but what I'd like to know is whatinell have you been saying?"

We wish Hod Engbertson of Decorah would tell us why Lou Elman is so concerned about Hod's moose hunt in Canada?

Nobody seems to know where the Paramount Theatre's dapper new manager, Eddie Dunn, is vacationing. Since he came here from Waterloo, though, we'll guess he's gone back like all good Waterloons.

Leon Benson, here from Hollywood for Paramount, didn't know how typical of Bill Eddy was the story he told us about hunting the Indianola exhibitor in his home town. Benson telephoned Bill's house and they said he could be found at either the barber shop or the beer parlor. Benson tried the barber shop first (not knowing Bill); then he tried the beer parlor. There (knowing Bill) they told him that Bill wasn't in at the moment, but to stick around because he undoubtedly would be. Benson and Bill finally held their conference in the beer parlor.

Don't ever ask Rudy "Tarzan" Elman of the Amuzu here in DM why he's called that. From the way he acted when we asked, we wouldn't put it past him if he'd throw you to the ground, put his foot on your chest and then give the cry of the bull ape!

Almost Fictional

LINCOLN—Jules Rachman, the Omaha exhibitor who shot his two cousins and business partners, Harry and Sam Goldberg, on Dec. 2, 1932, in their theatre office, comes up before the Nebraska pardon board November 8. It is his second try for freedom.

That picture—on November 8—will be almost fictional.

When Rachman was a theatre operator, among the men he aided and salaried, were Harry Swanson and Walter Johnson. These two men are now members of the pardon board, as secretary of state and attorney general. It will be the first time for him to face Johnson, who used to distribute handbills and throwaways for his theatre, but Swanson was a member of the previous pardon trio which heard and refused his case.

Rachman has been the operator of the prison theatre ever since he stepped behind the gate Feb. 13, 1933. He books all pictures, has played some 650 during his stay, and buys them all, big or little, for $7.50 each. Rachman practically wrote the present honor system, as it stands and operates, at the Nebraska penitentiary.

He produced a dozen "home-talent" productions in the early days of his imprisonment, but has done none during the last few years.

Rachman is the industry's outstanding penal case, and his freedom, by parole or commutation of his 15-year sentence, will probably be opposed as usual by the surviving Goldberg brother, Ralph, now a theatre operator in Omaha.

In the past few months, many letters have been received asking that he be again put up for hearing before the pardon board. He has several offers of jobs in various phases of the amusement business and has expressed preference of getting out of the immediate Nebraska territory altogether, if released.

K. C. Benton Reopened as Commonwealth Affiliate

KANSAS CITY—The Benton Theatre, formerly the Chief and operated several years by Fox Midwest Theatres, opened Friday as a Commonwealth Theatres affiliate after about ten months of darkness. It flies the banner of the Kansas City Benton Theatre, Inc., and will be guided by Lee Miller, manager of Commonwealth's Ashland here. Miller will operate both houses, with Tom Garrison as house manager of the Benton. Garrison was Benton manager under Fox Midwest and also has managed the Vista.

Located at Independence Avenue and Benton Boulevard, the Benton has been completely redecorated and the front has been remodeled.

Film Explosion Causes a Fire in Utica Theatre

UTICA, NEB.—R. P. McGill's Empire Theatre was fired when a spool of film exploded in the booth. The audience filed out in orderly fashion, and no one was hurt. The booth was gutted, and the front badly damaged.

LINCOLN

THE week's distinguished guest on Filmrow was Charlie Pettijohn, the film industry's fixer, who did a good job of setting the producers right with the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs. Evert Cummings, Omaha, who no one would ever think could be fussed by celebrity, locked his car to go to lunch with Charlie, and left the glass down in his front car doors . . . . Regina Molseed, film board of trade secretary, holds the unusual record of being the first woman, at least in Gov. Cochran's three terms, to sit on the governor's desk for a picture.

D. V. McLucas is always remembering how he handled Anna Sten's personal appearance in Nebraska when she was with United Artists. Maybe it's because he can't forget it . . . Maxie Baer, in town to referee a fight, says to watch the papers, because "Uncle" Joe Jacobs is trying to set him a match with Tony Galento. Meantime, Maxie says he's under contract in Hollywood to make five pictures a year for the next five years, and he draws $1,000 *a week,* 26 *weeks each year for so doing . . . Barney Oldfield,* Sunday Journal *and* Star *columnist and KFOR chatterer, did his* 500*th broadcast, October* 19*, and is still going . . . Jules Rachman, the Omaha exhibitor in prison here for murder, is happier than he has been for three years, with the prospect of coming up before the pardon board in November, for his second clemency try.*

Unusual sight of the week: G. Ralph Branton delivering an address from a church pulpit . . . Most sentimental in the exhibition field: C. E. Williams. Movie business is the gospel with him . . . Carl Rose, York, denied this week that his youngster forward passed Mrs. Rose's goldfish bowl (full) to him, incomplete . . . Nevins Lynn never did write and say whether his assistant was a father or a mother . . . Don Monroe, up in Canada to hunt deer, hid his gun crossing the line for fear they'd think he was a Nazi suicider, doing a one-man invasion . . . Bob Livingston bought that new car and paid them cash. He must be solvent.

Klara Cook, the office right hand of the Lincoln Theatres Corp., called this week to raise hob about an item saying she had been replaced. "Can't a gal take a vacation?" she asks . . . Vincent J. DiFiore is almost an "office wife." He's married to his work so much, he has a column of figures added on the wall at the head of his bed at his hotel. Or maybe they're telephone numbers . . . Ed Vaughan never answers the phone before 10 *o'clock because he knows everybody knows him better than that, so it must be the wrong number . . . Bill Knight, if he puts on one more pound, is going out for the football team . . . Harold Hellerich, a sweetheart of a guy, is now manager of the Liberty.*

Monroe Rubinger, bearing tidings that there's a Warner Bros. rumor about that "Elizabeth and Essex" is a good picture, was in town for three days. Took in the Baylor-Nebraska game, paid for a lot of people's feed, and had a bang time . . . Bob Huffman sent Mance Lofgren on the film business' version of a snipe hunt. Had him drive to Omaha to pick up a print for a screening, and after Lofgren was well on the way, the print arrived by express.

Avoids Alarm

MINNEAPOLIS—While few in the audience were aware of it, a dead man, Herbert W. Wakeford, 70 years old, who had been stricken with heart failure, sat through two showings of "Good Girls Go to Paris" at the Mohawk Theatre, Twin City neighborhood house.

Through most of the second show, a detective sat behind the body to prevent it from falling from the seat. The police officer was assigned the gruesome duty after the coroner decided that course was best, so that the audience in the theatre would not be alarmed.

A woman patron, seated beside the victim, saw him slump over and notified the management. Slipping quietly into the theatre, a police surgeon made an examination of the body in the dark, pronounced Wakeford dead and called the coroner. The detective took up his watch, his eyes on the screen and one hand gripping the corpse's coat.

Percentage Demands Are Resisted in Twin Cities

MINNEAPOLIS—Twin City independents again are resisting percentage demands for new season product, but indications are M-G-M once more will succeed in selling four releases on the sharing basis, as in the past. In fact, it already has closed a number of Minneapolis and St. Paul deals, and, in all instances, the contracts have called for the four percentage pictures. As far as can be learned, it will not make any other deal.

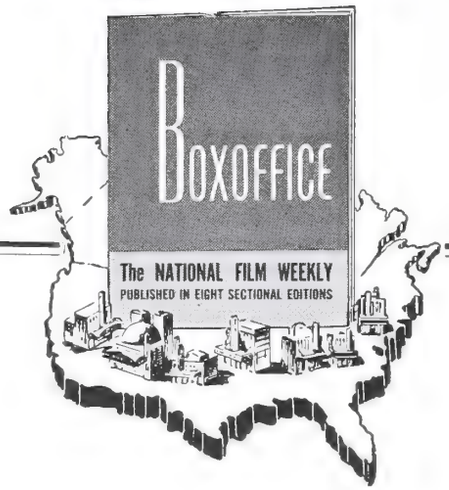
Warner Bros. also wants four percentage pictures in the top group of eight and there's considerable exhibitor squawking. Paramount, too, is talking percentage. Like last year, 20th-Fox has a flat or percentage deal for the Twin City exhibitors, but demands the same rental as last year, although the theatre owners assert that because of declining grosses and lower production costs they're entitled to reductions.

Columbia wants percentage for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." Out-of-town it is demanding and receiving 40 per cent. What will happen in the Twin Cities remains to be seen.

Wm. Warner Salesman In Southern Missouri

KANSAS CITY—William Warner, for many years in charge of the Warner branch here, has been reassigned as salesman in the southern Missouri area. Warner succeeds Roy Palmquist, resigned.

Ray Miller, manager, also has named L. F. Durland, former Monogram manager, as booker to replace Charles Oliver. Oliver left Universal after a number of years on Filmrow with various companies, to go into business with a brother in Springfield, Mo.



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DETROIT EXHIBITORS MAP OUT OFFENSIVE AGAINST DUALS; ASSOCIATED TAKES LEAD

Concerted Action a First Goal; Slight Price Cut Considered

By H. F. REVES

DETROIT—Plans for breaking the universal dual bill policy of the Detroit area by reverting to singles and in some cases reducing prices slightly are reaching maturity. The idea itself has, of course, been discussed for years, but definite action by representative exhibitors has reached the point where one of the largest circuits, Associated Theatres, informs BOXOFFICE it will adopt the policy in four suburban houses in less competitive situations with the coming of new product.

Other exhibitors contacted are unanimously in favor of the move, and indications are that this attempt may be successful. The one real difficulty is in the necessity of getting all exhibitors in a given zone to follow suit.

The present move is not officially sponsored by any exhibitor group, but exhibitor leaders are back of it, and are starting the experiment on a small scale and watching results cautiously, as indicated by Associated's announcement. In stating this new plan, Alex Schreiber, head of Associated, says:

"I think single bills should be generally adopted. It is a crime to play some of the type of pictures now coming through on double bills. Exhibitors lose plenty of money by dualing some of these big boxoffice attractions.

Singles on Weekends

"I'd like to see singles come in at least for weekends, with double bills during the middle of the week. For the midweek bills, we could use the weaker pictures that producers have already started to make, keeping the better pictures such a policy would bring, for the single bill weekends.

"With the high film rentals that exchanges now are demanding, we feel that we are better off to eliminate a couple of companies' product, and we feel that we won't need so many pictures. We definitely expect to start with the coming season's product in our Wyandotte and Trenton situations (four theatres).

"It is impossible to play doubles profitably on all your changes with the rentals demanded today. The net result is that we usually pay from 60 to 90 per cent of our gross out in film rentals during the middle of the week. And with high film rentals on the two Class A pictures at the end of the week, we can't make any money.

"I have been trying to get some of the exhibitors to agree to this policy for a long time. The quicker more exhibitors follow suit, the sooner it will be an incentive to the producers to make better pictures. And I think they would rather make one A than seven D pictures."

Another operator of a local circuit, who does not wish his name used, says: "The money is not coming in commensurate with what we are spending. It will be better to try single bills than resort to some silly expedient as an alternative.

"Reactions of patrons now indicate they will welcome single bills. Even if we try the idea and it fails, we can still go back to doubles and not be any worst off."

Another small circuit operator, Sol Krim, tells BOXOFFICE:

"Single bills are our only salvation. On some new pictures coming from major studios, the scenery and story are almost identical with some produced as recently as four years ago. Only the titles and the stars have been changed.

Patron Fed Up for Week

"When a patron has to sit in a theatre for three or four hours, he is fed up for a week. Give them one feature and a well-balanced program of shorts, and leave them still a little hungry for pictures—and they will be back two or three times a week.

"In poorer neighborhoods, on the one day a week when we have a chance to make some money, patrons stay in the house up to four hours, and we don't get turnover.

"Singles would solve the situation of the exhibitor in a competitive situation, because there would be enough good pictures to go around, for him and his competitor.

"The exhibitor can even afford to take in less money and still make more, by the lesser film rentals for singles. Double bills would be a great thing—if you could patent them for your own theatre only!"

Rosenberg Heads W. Pa. MPTO For Fourth Successive Time

PITTSBURGH—M. A. Rosenberg was unanimously re-elected president of the MPTO of W. Pa., Inc., which in the future will be known as the Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania, at the 19th annual convention of the organization Tuesday in the Roosevelt Hotel. Rosenberg had announced his desire to retire from office, but after demands by the membership, he reconsidered. It is his fourth successive term.

Fred J. Herrington, who observed his 30th anniversary as an independent exhibitor leader at the convention, was unanimously re-elected secretary. E. T. Beedle of Canonsburg was named vice-president, succeeding William L. Brown, who has withdrawn from the industry. Joseph Gellman, treasurer for a dozen years, was renamed. Beedle, in being named vice-president, created a fifth vacancy on the board of directors.

Dr. C. E. Herman, chairman of the board, was re-elected, as were William R. Wheat jr. and Israel Roth. Two new members elected were Charles R. Blatt and George J. Corcoran. The latter and Glenn Carruthers tied in the balloting and, by mutual consent, Corcoran was named fifth member of the board. William D. Davis, whose term as a director expired, was not a candidate.

Feature address was delivered Tuesday by Abram F. Myers, general counsel and chairman of the board of national Allied, who arrived here that morning from Indianapolis where he had addressed Allied of Indiana on Monday.

Myers spoke at length on the change that has taken place in the industry during the past two years. He stated that at no time in the past 15 years has the position of the independent exhibitor been stronger than at present. Many threats by building opposition houses have disappeared and the invasion by affiliated chains in various parts of the country having vanished, he said. As proof he asserted that most of the new theatres being constructed were by independent interests.

"Don't Need a Code"

On the proffered concessions of certain producer-distributors, the Allied counsel stated they were a good beginning in that direction. The late code, Myers said, was not designed by distributors to cure "evil" trade practices, but to gag agitators. The distributors don't need a code if they want to play fair, he stated, adding that exhibitors are now seeking evidence of whether the voluntary action on "merchandising policies" are as represented. The concession program is a wholesome development, the apparent effort to relieve the situation having much merit, but Myers cautioned exhibitors in signing contracts.

Myers reporting on a recent statement by Will H. Hays regarding television, stating that it would not be a bad idea for exhibitors to start a special fund for such installation when and if it comes.

On the economic front, Myers reported there was evidence of increased prosperity especially in centers of heavy industries and that increased boxoffice revenues might be expected.

Ray Branch, president of Allied of Michigan, and one of the first speakers Tuesday, brought greetings from his organization.

H. M. Richey, former Allied of Michigan

(Continued on next page)

Schram & Goldberg Expansion Move Heralds New Circuit

DETROIT—Formation of a new circuit is announced by a spokesman for Wesley B. Schram and Louis Goldberg, who now operate the Columbia and New Bijou. It was predicted that the new interests will have 10 to 12 local theatres within the next few months. Houses will be divided between grinds of the type of their two downtown locations, and neighborhood theatres.

First actual move of expansion has already been made, with the acquisition of the Echo on Oakland Avenue from M. Robbins, who is leaving to move to California. Schram and Goldberg, the spokesman said, will spend about $10,000 on this house in order to completely remodel it. About half of this will be spent on the front of the house.

Further expansion plans have not been disclosed as to specific houses, but the circuit is understood to be looking over existing theatres for possible acquisition.

Broder Adds Times Square To Detroit Downtown Row

DETROIT—Detroit has another operating downtown theatre—the second addition within a month—with the opening of the Times Square, closed for several months, by Jack Broder, owner of the Rainbo and the Time, the latter now under construction. This marks Broder's first downtown venture since giving up the Colonial about two years ago.

The house has been completely reseated, with new equipment, including sound, installed by National Theatre Supply Co. Only the main floor is being used at present.

Thomas Paul, a newcomer to show business, is a partner in the venture, and is in charge of the house management, with Broder devoting much of his time to his other amusement interests. Hank Garrish, formerly of the Loop Theatre, is house manager.

Policy of three changes a week has been established, with the innovation of "four features for one admission" by the lap-over of shows on the three change nights—Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Sole Spanish Film Outlet Is Closed in Detroit

DETROIT—Chester Brown has closed the Latin Theatre, formerly known as the Brooklyn, marking the passing of Detroit's only theatre devoted to Mexican and Spanish films. The house was small and one of the oldest in the city, and, according to Brown, is unsuitable for further use as a theatre. Too, the theatre is located on Michigan Avenue, which is about to be practically closed for several months for widening, with probably disastrous effects on business in the neighborhood.

Rosenberg Again Is W. Pa. MPTO Head

(Continued from preceding page)

leader and now in charge of exhibitor relations for RKO, complimented this territory on the few grievances which come to his attention. He urged continuation of the "constructive relationship."

First guest speaker was Sidney Samuelson, executive secretary of Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania and one-time president of national Allied. He urged close cooperation between the two state Allied units and suggested they arrange a joint meeting for some future date. He also suggested that "Allied" be made a part of the official name of the western Pennsylvania group.

From BOXOFFICE, Samuelson read a statement issued by C. C. Pettijohn, MPPDA counsel, who was quoted as saying before a convention of Women's Clubs in Lincoln, Neb., that "Most pressure groups are sore spots on democracy which exposure will eventually destroy." From the recently-published book, "The Pressure Boys," he read particular paragraphs referring to Will Hays, MPPDA head, and the industry in general.

Col. H. A. Cole of Dallas, national Allied president, traced the evolution of exhibitor organizations in the industry concurrent with the development of trade "evils." Foreseeing a rosy future for independent exhibitors, he emphasized the importance of complete cooperation with the department of justice in the prosecution of the various anti-trust suits now pending. In two years, Cole ventured, the present sellers' market will have been reversed into a buyers' market.

He predicted success for the Neely bill and said he felt Warner and M-G-M were due the thanks of independent exhibitors for their new sales policies incorporating vital parts of the now-defunct industry code.

Herrington covered the organization's achievements in forestalling harmful legislation. He also touched on non-theatricals, which, he said, were causing the trade an increasing amount of competition.

Rosenberg reviewed his three-year stewardship of the local Allied unit. He briefly sketched its "democratic" makeup and operation, its success in legislation, and pointed out the savings which have accrued to members through organized business relationships with Alexander Film Co., Save Electric Corp. and Lloyds, the insurance house.

"Your organization," he declared, "is always on the alert, through its officers, for any emergency which may affect your business, even as the sleeping watchdog protects you from any impending danger because those who may attempt to harm you know that he is there."

Then he pointed a way for the organization in the future.

"May I suggest that we pledge ourselves to carry on the work as outlined by national Allied in a national way; that we continue our efforts in local and state matters; that we give particular attention

Convention Sidelights

IN PITTSBURGH

M-G-M was well represented, the "friendly company" having three girls identified with "Leo" sashes and distributing cigarettes, candy kisses, blotters and book marks. The company had a silk banner displayed in the reception hall and various members of the M-G-M family were present at the open session. Charles Baron, exploiteer in the local area, was the official representative of Leo. At the banquet M-G-M furnished carnations, a couple hundred of them.

Superior M. P. Supply Co. and National Theatre Supply Co. were represented by special displays of modern equipments. Art Morrone and Vince Josack of Superior were present as were E. B. Morton, Walter Dyck and E. M. Hartley of NTS, the latter coming from New York.

Mrs. Martha Guthrie of Grove City was the first lady delegate to put in an appearance. She always turns up and is most welcome, of course.

Buffet luncheon Monday noon was a surprise, not having been scheduled, and was a treat. The bar was open until the first business session was called and was reopened at adjournment Monday afternoon. And stayed open.

Mrs. Sidney Samuelson of Philadelphia was greeted by many local friends. She has attended many national Allied conventions with Sid.

Danny Davis, secretary of Allied's newest unit, the Independent Theatre Owners of West Virginia, took notes on what the guest speakers had to say.

Ansel Knoweles of Alexander Film Co. was in attendance from New York and June E. Baker of Huntington, W. Va., district manager, was around renewing acquaintances. Knoweles got a big hug and kiss from Miss Mathilda Kiel, assistant MPTO secretary, and Baker got only a pleasant handshake.

James Jaffurs, Wilmerding theatre owner, seemed interested in the deliberations. It was the first exhibitor convention which he has attended. Another "first" was J. T. Birocco of Clarion.

Much credit is due Charles S. Philbrook, who served as general convention chairman. Thanks, too, are due to Carl Poke and his entertainment (and refreshment) committee, and to members of the various other committees.

to the current local and national problems arising out of the European war; that we at all times keep our heads clear; that we have a sense of duty and fairness towards one another in all branches of the industry, and that we continue to support this organization for the good that it has accomplished and the influence that it has been in guiding and protecting not only us as theatre owners, but also other branches of the industry, as a check in their dealings with us."

Rosenberg concluded by expressing thanks to the executive officers "who have so ably cooperated during the past three years."

Richard D. Marks, president of the newly-formed ITO of West Virginia, pledged cooperation with the local unit and with national Allied, while Danny Davis, secretary, extended greetings on behalf of the organization.

The convention, after considerable debate, rejected a resolution by George Corcoran that Warner and M-G-M be commended for their new sales policies, and, instead, adopted a "show me" attitude.

Formal resolutions of thanks went to Colonel Cole, Myers, Samuelson, Charles S. Philbrook, convention chairman; and Robert F. Klingensmith of BOXOFFICE.

Named as members of a constitution committee were Bennett Amdur, Beedle, Harry Walker, Sam Fleishman and Carruthers.

The convention concluded with a banquet.

Among those who registered:

Charles S. Philbrook, Sheraden; Fred J. Herrington, Pittsburgh; E. T. Beedle, Canonsburg; Harry Rachiele, Sharpsburg; S. M. Rodnenok, Oakmont; Israel Roth, Pittsburgh; Jerry Roth, Pittsburgh; Bart Dattola, New Kensington; Harry Fleishman, Pittsburgh; Norman Fleishman, Pittsburgh; Elmer Fleishman, Pittsburgh; Joseph Petty, Pittsburgh; William R. Wheat jr., Sewickley; Dr. C. E. Herman, Carnegie; Floyd A. L. Bender, Millvale; Sam Gould, Pittsburgh; Carl A. Poke, Pittsburgh; Harry W. Walker, Crafton; Morris Finkel, Pittsburgh; Alex S. Moore, Pittsburgh; Gilbert Gellman, Swissvale; Joseph Geilman, Duquesne; Sam Fleishman, McKees Rocks; Art Morrone, Pittsburgh; A. W. McCormick, Beaver; Lew Lefton, Pittsburgh; Milton Lefton, Pittsburgh; Peter Antonopolos, East Pittsburgh; William J. Walker, Crafton.

Danny Davis, Clarksburg, W. Va.; Andrew Battiston, Irwin; E. M. Hartley, New York; Ira H. Cohn, Pittsburgh; Morris Roth, Pittsburgh; J. G. Carruthers, Grove City; Lou Vogel, New York; Mark Goldman, Pittsburgh; R. F. Klingensmith, Pittsburgh; William D. Davis, Pittsburgh; James Jaffurs, Wilmerding; Archie Fineman, Pittsburgh; Saal Gottlieb, Pittsburgh; Lou Marks, Pittsburgh; J. B. Mundstuk, Pittsburgh; Bennett Amdur, Pittsburgh; Mrs. Martha Guthrie, Grove City; Rudolph Navari, Verona; Milton Brauman, Pittsburgh; M. S. England, Pittsburgh; A. J. England, Pittsburgh.

Steve Rodnenok jr., Oakmont; Mr. and Mrs. George W. Josack, Pittsburgh; Fred A. Beedle, Canonsburg; George J. Corcoran, Monongahela; James H. Alexander, Pittsburgh; George W. Collins, Pittsburgh; Jack Judd, Pittsburgh; M. A. Rosenberg, Pittsburgh; June E. Baker, Huntington, W. Va.; Ansel Knoweles, New York; J. T. Birocco, Clarion; Tony Aquilina, East Brady; H. L. Stahl, Oil City; Frank Panoplos, Clairton; R. V. McCalmont, Pittsburgh; Burtus Bishop jr., Pittsburgh; Charles Baron, Pittsburgh; Francis Fleishman, Pittsburgh; Dave Rosenfeld, Pittsburgh; John Oglietti, Leechburg.

Jack Rosenfeld, Pittsburgh; Samuel Navari, Universal; E. H. Goldberg, Pittsburgh; Samuel Richman, Pittsburgh; Jacob Richman, Pittsburgh; Anthony Antonopolos, East Pittsburgh; William Naidenoff, Pittsburgh; Max Shulgold, Pittsburgh; M. A. Malanos, East Pittsburgh; Norman C. Huhn, Pittsburgh; Newton Williams, Pittsburgh; W. E. Dyck, Pittsburgh; Charles R. Blatt, Somerset; Jacob Soltz, Pittsburgh; A. A. Weiland, Pittsburgh; E. B. Morton, Pittsburgh; Peter Alderman, Pittsburgh.

Names and Medium Still Linger

Pittsburgh — Films in color were shown at a convention of motion picture engineers here 20 years ago this week. The conventioneers suggested an uplift movement in which "movies" would be thrown in the discard to be replaced by "cinema." "Operators" was considered undignified, and the men in the coops were to be called "projectionists," and the coops, "projection chambers."

Drop Silverman Plaint

PITTSBURGH—A false pretense charge against Martin Silverman, attorney formerly retained by various film distributing companies, has been dropped before Justice of Peace Margaret Morgan in Sewickley. Silverman is under four months' sentence in federal court on a perjury charge in connection with the posting of bail bonds.

"Cavalcade of Westerns"

HOLLYWOOD—Milton Sperling has been assigned to write an untitled "cavalcade of westerns" for 20th-Fox in which the evolution of the sagebrush dramas from early silent days to the present will be traced.

Judell Buys Story

HOLLYWOOD — Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp. has bought screen rights to "One of the Finest," a story by Thomas Van Dycke and Henry Blankfort jr. Robert T. Shannon is on the script.

Resolution for consideration of the

M. P. T. O. of W. Pa., Inc.,

in convention assembled . . . . .

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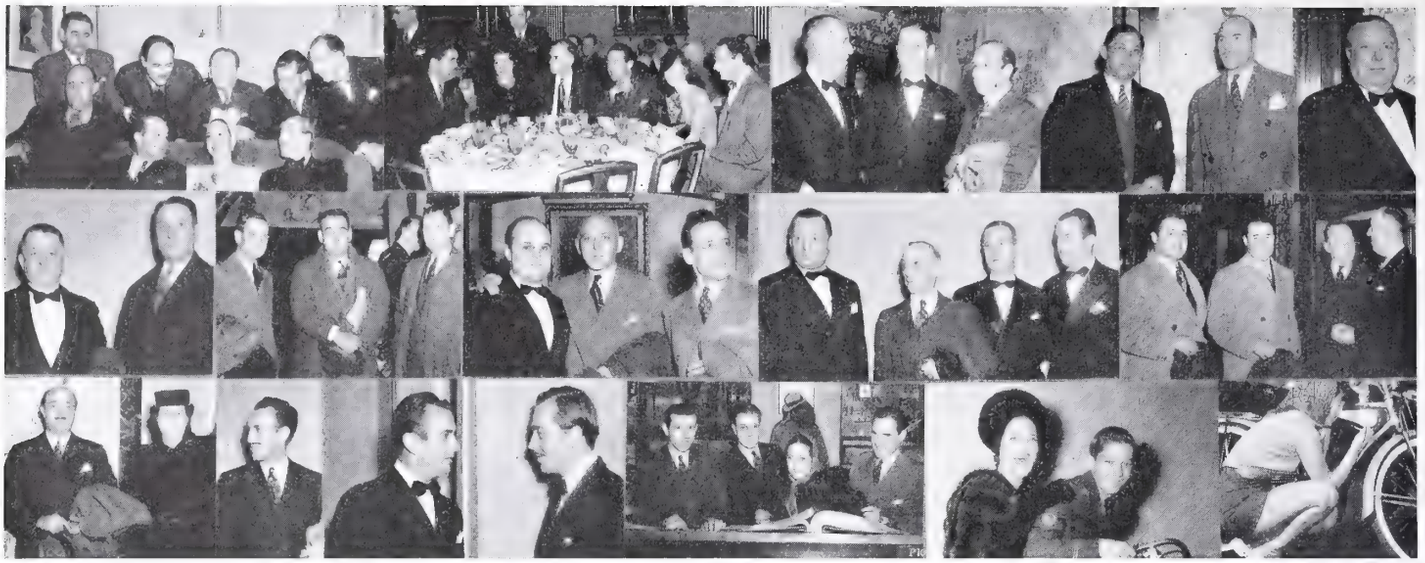
Sam Fineberg

Jim Alexander

Hymie Wheeler

Lou Hanna

REPUBLIC PICTURES OF PITTSBURGH



At the Premiere of "Disputed Passage" in Detroit—

TOP ROW, left group, several exhibitors pose with Dorothy Lamour and John Howard. In front, they are: Dave and John Balaban, B&K, Chicago, and Lamour and Howard. Back row: Charley Kurtzman, Loew's, Pittsburgh; Joseph Feldman, Warner's, Pittsburgh; Bill Hollander, B&K, Chicago; Charlie Winchell, Minnesota Amusement Co., Minneapolis, and Harry Browning, M&P Theatres, Boston. The second group is composed of members of the executive committee of the National Film Critics of America and Paramount players. Left to right around the table: Keith Wilson, Omaha World-Herald; *Olympe Bradna; Merle Potter, Minneapolis* Times-Tribune; *J. Carrol Naish; Susan Hayward, and Buck Herzog, Milwaukee* Sentinel. *Thence across the top column without interruption: Earl Hudson, United Detroit Theatres; Miller Dunckel, state of Michigan treasurer representing Gov. Luren Dickinson; John Balaban, Chicago; Lew Wisper, Wisper & Wetsman circuit; Cem Merritt, Windsor exhibitor, and J. O. Brooks of Butterfield Theatres.*

MIDDLE ROW: Howard Smith, United Detroit circuit; Cliff Geisseman, of Altec; Charlie Perry, president Detroit Variety Club; John Harris, Pittsburgh, national Variety Club president; Jim Balmer, Variety national treasurer, also of Pittsburgh; Asher Shaw, UDT; Frank Wetsman, Wisper & Wetsman circuit; Dan Lewis; Allen Usher, Paramount district manager; Bob Peltier, Mt. Clemens exhibitor; Bob Corbin, UDT managing director of the United Artists and Michigan theatres; John Howard, Paramount Detroit manager; the Goldberg twins, Irving and Adolph, Detroit; Jim Sharkey, RKO branch manager in Detroit, and Earl Hudson, UDT executive.

BOTTOM ROW: Jack and Mrs. Goldhar, district manager for United Artists; Dave Newman, Detroit exhibitor; John Howard, the actor (right) and John Howard, Paramount Detroit manager, do a bit of profiling; Dorothy Lamour visits the Paramount exchange and poses with Bookers Wilford Embach, Jim Velde and Ellwood Dwyer; Dorothy with her "Number One" fan, Western Union messenger Donald Lind, and the bicycle she presented to him; and in the windup scene Dorothy does the autographing honors on Donald's bicycle.

Detroiters Celebrate 'Passage' Premiere

By GENE RICH

DETROIT—There's something about a world premiere, when rightly handled, that will get even a large metropolitan city all hopped up over kleig lights, first-nights, film stars, and what-have-you.

And that's just what happened to Paramount's world premiere of "Disputed Passage," at the Michigan Theatre here.

The night of the "big event" found Detroiters waiting for everything; and they got everything for which they were waiting.

They got plenty of film players, headed by "glamorous"—and we use that word with full knowledge of its meaning—Dorothy Lamour. Other Paramount players here were John Howard, also of the cast of the picture; Robert Preston, J. Carrol Naish, Joe Allen jr., Susan Hayward and Olympe Bradna. Detroiters got a good look at them as they paraded in the "Stars and Cars" parade from the Book-Cadillac Hotel to the Michigan Theatre, winding past thousands of persons in downtown Detroit.

Tying in with the premiere was the Detroit automotive industry which "premiered" its 1940 cars two days prior to the opening of the Detroit automobile show in this parade. There was every type model of new car furnished by all the manufacturers, with a few old-time automobiles thrown in for contrast.

From the social side there were luncheons, dinners and receptions. Preceding the premiere was a buffet-supper served by Paramount for visiting newspaper men, the stars, and socialites of Detroit. In the afternoon the local Variety Club entertained at a luncheon at the Statler Hotel. There was constant interviewing of the Paramount players by the film critics.

But, behind all this there is the story of weeks of preparation on the part of Paramount and United Detroit Theatres' men to interest a metropolitan city in a world premiere. There was a definite reason why Paramount premiered "Union Pacific" in Omaha; "Man About Town," in Waukegan, Ill; and why Warner went to Dodge City, Kas., for the premiere of "Dodge City." But no such reason could be hung on to the premiere showing of "Disputed Passage," except that Detroit needed and wanted a world premiere.

It was after conferences between Paramount's Robert Gillham, advertising and publicity head; Carl Krueger, working out of Cliff Lewis' studio publicity offices on the west coast, and Earl Hudson of United Detroit Theatres, that a logical tieup with the automotive industry was found. When this tieup was once set, things started to buzz.

Krueger handled all of Paramount's plans in Detroit, ably assisted by Hudson's local publicity staff. The Michigan Theatre for the day of the premiere became a theatre with 16 managers, as Robert Corbin, managing director of the Michigan and United Artists theatres, headed a committee of all U. D. T.'s 15 other house managers, in following through on various exploitation angles. There were tieups with restaurants, drug stores, night clubs, radio stations, newspapers and the Retail Merchants Association. Trains and buses offered special "premiere" excursion rates to Detroit for the affair. Street decorations were set up.

For the first time in the history of the city of Detroit, a street was torn up for the event. That street was the one in front of the Michigan Theatre, Bagley Avenue, where special stanchions were set up to aid police in handling the crowds.

The entire event was handled under the direction of Gillham. Handling the Detroit automotive industry tieup and other plans were Krueger and Hudson. Assisting Krueger a few days before the premiere were Mervyn Hauser, from the studio; Herb Berg, Lew Nathan and Gep Evans, of the home office. Aiding Hudson were Alice Gorham of the U. D. T. publicity department, and Corbin with his 15 managers.

"Passage" in Detroit

Ermine, sables and orchids galore flocked through the doors of the Michigan Theatre here as all Detroit society turned out for the premiere of "Disputed Passage." Many film folk also attended . . . Incidentally, Detroit's mounted police flocked through the doors of the theatre, too, believe it or not, when the pressure of the crowds inside the lobby became too much for the first-nighters to make their way through.

Paramount's "romance" between "Dotty" Lamour and Robert Preston, who appear opposite each other in the forthcoming "Typhoon," was kept alive in great gobs by Carl Krueger and his staff, while the film players were here.

Mrs. C. J. McKinney (the former Ethel Norris of the stage), wife of a wealthy Detroiter, gave a reception for the visiting players, newspaper men and others the evening before the premiere, at the Detroit Athletic Club.

One of the major stunts pulled was the sending of six Boston debutantes to the premiere via airplane. Boston newspapers cooperated in the stunt, called "The Smart Set Goes to a Premiere." Harry Browning of M&P Theatres, Boston, assisted in the stunt.

Dorothy Lamour spent one of the busiest 24 hours of her life while here. She arrived by plane the afternoon of the premiere. She presented a Western Union boy, assigned to the premiere headquarters, and designed as her Number 1 fan, with a new bicycle; posed for innumerable pictures; talked with reporters; visited with society debs; went shopping; visited the Paramount exchange together with the other players, and returned to the west coast the next afternoon.

Carl Krueger was dubbed "Blitzkrieg" Krueger by the Detroit newspaper men.

John Howard, the Detroit exchange manager, and John Howard, the actor, had a lot of fun out of the fact that they had the same names.

Akim Tamiroff, scheduled to be here too, could not make it, being confined in a Hollywood hospital with an eye infection.

Actor John Howard took time out the day of the premiere to witness a delicate brain operation at Detroit's Harper Hospital; an operation similar to the one Tamiroff performs on him in "Disputed Passage."

The trade press had excellent cooperation from Herb Berg, sent on from New York to handle the trade press, and Lew Nathan, Paramount's photographer, who can snap good pictures faster than anyone we ever saw.

Among the film folk at the Variety Club luncheon for the stars and women who worked on the Variety Club Tag Day, were: Carl Hudson, Claire Gardner, Asher Shaw, Lew Wisper, Frank Wetsman, Dan Lewis, Ollie Brooks, Bernard Brooks, Bill London, the Krim Brothers, Fred Schader, Charlie Perry, Ed Kirchner, Pearl Sprott, Bill Carlson, Fred DeLodder jr., Dave Newman, Frank Downey and Jim Sharkey, all of Detroit; Johnny Harris of Pittsburgh; John and Dave Balaban, and Bill Hollander of Chicago.

John Herman, Paramount News cameraman from Cleveland, took motion pictures of the premiere and crowds that were shown following the picture.

Crowd estimates varied, as usual, from 25,000 to over 100,000. Our figure was 50,000.

Max Baumgartner, pastry chef of the Book-Cadillac Hotel, presented Dorothy Lamour, with a portrait in chocolate on a sugar base.

More Kleig lights were in front of the Michigan Theatre the night of the premiere as the stars drove up in the new 1940 cars that we have ever seen before outside of a Hollywood premiere. Photographers' flashlight bulbs flashed incessantly. The film players spoke briefly to the thousands from a raised platform in front of the theatre.

Paramount had a huge Greyhound bus available at all times to take visitors where they might be going.

Dorothy Lamour, incidentally, is still plenty boxoffice, if the demonstrations she received from the thousands are any criterion whatsoever.

The Paramount boys didn't pass up a single bet. They even had little Olympe Bradna "adopt" Detroit as her home town.

CINCINNATI

COL. ARTHUR FRUDENFELD, general manager RKO Theatres, was re-elected Chief Barker of Queen City Variety Club at the annual election. J. J. Grady, branch manager of 20th-Fox, was elected first chief barker and Andy Niedenthal, second chief barker; Ralph Kinsler, branch manager of Warner Bros., was elected treasurer; Sol Greenberg, secretary.

Maury White has been appointed chairman of the motion picture division for the Jewish relief fund, with Billy Bien and Lee Goldberg, assistants. Hendrik Van Loon was guest speaker at the opening of the drive at the Netherland Plaza here, October 22.

Jay Goldberg, son of Big Feature Rights' prexy, has been appointed promotion manager for *The Badger*, University of Wisconsin publication, has been elected to the senior council and appointed publicity director of the college band, all of which activity will serve him well in a future motion picture industry career.

Wedding bells will ring for Warner's Harry Brinkman and Miss Ruth Sears, November 11.

Lou Libson, brother of Isaac and Abe Libson, motion picture executives, died suddenly of a heart attack, October 18, at the Keith's Theatre, here, where he was an operator

Neil Hubbard visited the Row with his son. Hubbard is opening the New Kentucky Theatre, at Vanceberg, Ky., on November 1 . . . Other callers were Fred Rowlands and Homer Bloss. Gene Hensley, Montgomery, W. Va., drove through in his new Pontiac.

Freddy Krimm, formerly connected with the Columbia Theatre, Dayton, now is managing the Classic at Dayton, for Herb Byrd.

Estelle Schilferth and Henry "Chick" Cordes, M-G-M's winners of a trip to the west coast in their recent annual drive, are now sojourning in California, visiting the studios and the Fair.

Ferd Midelberg, Logan and Midelberg theatres, Logan, Ohio, is leaving for Florida for an extended rest and to catch up on his golf. Charley Crawford, Palace and Beckley theatres, Beckley, W. Va., prefers hunting for a sport, and within one hour after the hunting season opened, bagged the limit of squirrels . . . W. Va. Exhibitor Gene Hensley is studying for a pilot's license, under the tutelage of Archie Clemens, expert flier and theatre owner.

John Allen, M-G-M, is chairman of the Cinema Club's Sunshine Fund campaign, tickets for which are now on sale. A radio will be disposed of December 23, in the Variety Club rooms for the benefit of this fund. The next meeting of the Cinema Club, of which Rudy Knoepfle of Republic is president, will be held in the Variety Club rooms October 28.

The first of the PDC Jack London releases, "The Torture Ship," is now available. Lee Goldberg of Big Feature Rights announces they have closed a number of important contracts with RKO, Publix, Chakeres circuit and others on the PDC releases, and are opening to a fine start.

Big Feature Rights have appointed William McCabe to the sales force for southern Ohio. J. R. McRaven is the new Indianapolis sales manager. McRaven served eight years with Metro. Eva Newman is a new addition to the local office.

WANT TO RENT

Operating or Closed Ohio State Small Town Theatre. By capable, financially responsible showman. B-1173, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

PITTSBURGH

THE J. H. Rankins of Bridgeville are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. They flew to New York and are taking in the World's Fair.

J. B. (Pop) Kane is "hot" on the numbers, spotting "hits" every week or so. Harry Schmitt has called the turn a number of times too and Dario (Danny) Castelli is still another on the same list . . . Banned several times, Allied Pictures' "Uncivilized" has finally passed the state board of censors . . . Paramount's newly decorated and furnished screening room is a honey. New booking counters were recently installed in the general office, which just about completed the extensive remodeling of the building . . . National Theatre Supply Co., is equipping the new theatre at Durbin, W. Va., for R. B. Summerson, according to E. B. Morton, NTS manager. National also is equipping the new Elk Theatre, Clay, W. Va., for Clemens & Hensley.

New girl at the 20th-Fox exchange, in the cashier's department, is Mary Kathryn Fleming . . . Marty Terner, suffering violent headaches, went to his doctor and a checkup revealed a sliver of steel in his left eye, which was removed last Friday . . . Republic closed circuit deals last week for new season's product with Warner Bros. theatres and Harris Amusement . . . John H. Harris was in New York over the weekend assembling talent for the Variety Club's 11th annual banquet, October 29 . . . Prominent Mr. Smiths of this city were guests at a private screening of Frank Capra's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," which is the Alvin's new attraction.

Theatrical Democratic Ass'n, Inc., 5806 Mignonette Street, is progressing under Harry Gerson of the Belmar Theatre, president; Louis Indo, of the IATSE operators wage committee, vice-president, and William Watterson jr., of the Belmar Theatre, secretary-treasurer . . . Milt (Columbia) Broudy's romance is at St. Petersburg, Fla., 'tis rumored . . . Jules Green, former WB manager at the new Squirrel Hill Theatre, who had been in California for several months, has returned here and is managing WB's Belmar Theatre.

Sam Jacobson, former local film salesman who has been in the building and construction business for several years, reports that the Jacobson Construction Co. has remodeled the Paramount Theatre, Brighton Road, for the Mervis Brothers.

T. B. Klaiban, the well-known screen resurfacing man, has been kept busy of late at many theatres in the area. Among the recent jobs of screen resurfacing are the local Alvin and Stanley; the Union, Maple Heights and Sun, Cleveland; Capitol, Penn, Mischler and Olympic, Altoona; Bellevue, Bellevue; Hippodrome and Beaver, north side; Rialto, Fifth Avenue, city; three Notopoulos theatres, Aliquippa; Garden, city.

Florence Fisher Parry, *Press* columnist, writes that the Harris Palace Newsreel Theatre, Diamond street, is "an answer to prayer! Now what we want next is a move on the part of some local exhibitor to substitute Newsreels for the second picture of a double feature program."

Charles Eagle, manager of the Stanley, has reported back on the job after an absence of four months caused by illness . . . Dave Franz, the promotional advertising man and distributor of Coat O' Fur Nyte, was a Filmrow visitor the other day . . . Variety Post American Legion's next show at the Veterans' Hospital, Aspinwall, Wednesday evening, November 1, will feature many acts and will be headlined by personal appearances of Edward Everett Horton, who will be appearing here at the Nixon that week, and Billy Conn, the prize ring's white hope.

Frank Panoplos had arranged to go duck hunting the first day of the season and could not serve on Monday as chairman of the grievance committee at the exhibitor convention . . . Loew's Penn and Boggs & Buhl store have organized a Mickey Rooney-Judy Garland Fan Club in connection with the local showing of "Babes in Arms," which is such a great hit that the theatre was forced to open at 9:30 a. m.

Dave Miller, New Universal district manager, was here on business at the local exchange the other day, and Edgar Moss, 20th-Fox district manager, was another visitor on Filmrow . . . John Jaffurs, Wilkinsburg High School's grid star linesman, is the son of James Jaffurs, Wilmerding exhibitor.

George Moore, 20th-Fox sales representative, who completed his 100 per cent sales of the K-7 product (1939-40) some weeks ago, is still leading the way for salesmen of the company on individual sales negotiated. Austin Interrante, another local sales representative of this company is in second place on the national list. The Pittsburgh branch is leading the sales department in every phase of the K-7 selling task.

Harry Feinstein of the Warner circuit office announces the following shifts in house managers: Martin Shearan, from the Cameraphone, has been named as manager of the Palace, Tarentum, which Warner recently leased from Michael Manos; Manager Laucks of Mt. Oliver, is now at the Cameraphone; Charles Shannon, formerly of the Belmar, is now at the Brookline. The Boulevard Theatre, also at Brookline, is now operating on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Ben Kalmenson, former local Vitagraph manager who is now Warner's southern and western sales manager, was here over the weekend . . . The Carl M. Sherkels of Houtzdale are parents of a daughter born several weeks ago. Two sons in the family welcomed the new arrival. Mother and daughter are doing well.

Max Schaffel, former exhibitor, who is operating the Circle Cafe, Diamond street at the point, has not lost his interest in theatres. We stopped in the Circle the other evening with the old veteran, Harry Reiff, for a couple of beers and talked shop with Max . . . Warner theatres have inaugurated the fall and winter cooking schools in cooperation with the Sun-Telegraph, *the initial "cook" drawing* 2,500.



CLEVELAND

BILL SHEEHAN of the M-G-M booking department has resigned to prepare himself for a career on the stage. He left here last Saturday for New York where he has enrolled in the American Academy of Dramatic Art for a two-year course . . . Phil Harrington, M-G-M office manager, has appointed Student Booker Ralph Landsnaes as successor to Sheehan and has promoted Jerry Weitzel from ad sales to the booking department, making four bookers instead of the previous three. Dorsey Brown and John Coyne are the other two . . . Bill McMannis, shipper, steps into the job of ad sales manager.

Ray Brown, Warner southern district manager, was in town the beginning of the week to go over various matters pertaining to exhibition with Dick Wright, northern district manager . . . Eddie Miller, manager of Warner's Hippodrome, is diligently studying cruise folders . . . Dave Miller, Universal district manager, was in Columbus during the week putting his final okay on several 1939-40 *product deals.*

Frank Drew, M-G-M branch manager, states that wherever it has played in the territory, "Babes in Arms" has outgrossed "Boys Town," which is the current M-G-M exhibition measuring stick . . . Louis F. Eick, the theatre impresario of Martins Ferry, paid the exchanges a visit last week . . . Phil Harrington, M-G-M office manager, was laid up last week with a cold.

Jack Shea of the Shea circuit was one of the week's New York visitors along Filmrow . . . Lester Zucker, Columbia branch manager, was busy all week reading the territorial returns of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" which played at the Hippodrome in Cleveland, and also in Lima and Canton—all to exceptional business.

Tom Jefferson, Paramount exploitation man here on a visit from New York, is one of the clan of the famous American statesman whose name he bears.

Victor Schram, former local independent film distributor, is traveling the Texas-New Mexico territory for Movie Cash Coupons, the same deal that Mike Special and George Rich, local representatives, have sold to the Community circuit.

J. S. McLeod, M-G-M exchange maintenance supervisor, was a guest of the local exchange during the week just past . . . J. Francis Stein of the Windsor Theatre, Canton, made one of his infrequent trips around the exchanges one day last week.

It is unofficially stated that Ray Stone of Huron, will shortly recondition and reopen the Dreamland Theatre, Milan, which has been closed for years . . . Fred Schram of the Empress Theatre, Whitehouse, was seen visiting around the offices . . . Mrs. Meyer Fine, wife of the head of Associated Circuit, is in the convalescent stage following a recent operation at Mt. Sinai Hospital . . . Jack Lykes, manager of Lowe's Stillman, was granted special permission by the Notre Dame team committee to distribute score cards—with Stillman Theatre imprints—the day before and the day of the Notre Dame-Navy football game held here last Saturday.

Miss Eva Urdang, secretary to M. B. Horwitz, theatre circuit owner, has returned from a two weeks' vacation that included a visit in Boston and the New York World's Fair . . . Miss Ruth Weingart has been added to the Big Feature Rights Exchanges, Inc., joining Miss Vera Diamond, as assistant secretary to Carl Scheuch and Bernie Rubin.

1,500-Seater in Dayton For War Veterans

Dayton—A 1,500-seater for war veterans will be built here on the site of Memorial Hall, it is announced by C. W. Spofford, superintendent of the Military Home. Construction will begin the first of the year.

Included will be special accommodations for men in wheel chairs, Spofford said. The project will cost $200,000.

Pioneer Remembers It's Jubilee Time

PITTSBURGH—Golden Jubilee of motion pictures, suggested by industry leaders as an institutional advertising campaign, was a bust here.

As far as could be determined, there were no special screen or lobby displays, outdoor paper, advertising or reading copy in newspapers and other local publications. There were no radio programs or theatre contests. There was nothing, in fact, to indicate that motion pictures were invented 50 years ago.

Nobody seemed interested.

Then, the other day Alexander Parke, the real movie pioneer, wrote of a few of his early experiences in the motion picture industry, which Florence Fisher Parry published in the Pittsburgh *Press*. Mrs. Parry described Parke as poet as well as a pioneer. Parke wrote, in part:

"This is the tale of a prince disguised as a beggar who wandered through life despised and ridiculed, but who, when his true power was revealed, was hailed and crowned a King. Today he reigns supreme." Parke was writing of the "movies," and how it came about that Pittsburgh was the cradle of this miracle.

Showmen would have nothing to do with motion pictures when they made their appearance. But in Mr. Parke's language:

"So with limited capital, no encouragement, scant background and black odds against them, little obscure businessmen, like ships in the night, without buoy or beacon, sailed on. With no port in view, they followed the winds. In the east there was no horizon, but toward the west there was the sun. The reflection of its rays brought hope. They moved slowly and with caution."

Parke "unreeled his 40 years in motion pictures" for BOXOFFICE last year.

COLUMBUS

PER expectations the Variety Club Barn Dance was a terrific party. Apparently the entire town turned out for the affair. And as a result the Children's Hospital is to get expensive apparatus used in fighting infantile paralysis.

P. J. Wood, secretary of the ITOO, announces that the annual convention, previously set for November 13-14, *has been postponed for at least two months. Conflicting dates caused setting the sessions back.*

Connie Bennett's opening at the Palace really brought in the out-of-town theatre men. Among those catching the show on Friday were Nat Holt, RKO Great Lakes manager; Mike Cullen, Loew's western division manager; Nate Platt, B&K booker; Sam Weisbord, Wm. Morris Agency, and Joe Kempler, Shea circuit.

Universal's Harry Young was in Pittsburgh for the Variety Club party. Harry, incidentally, is now betting on O. S. U. after losing three weekends in a row . . . And a pat on the back for "our boys" at the V. C., Earl Hicks and Oliver Jackson, for "service with a smile."

C. Harry Schreiber and Lou Holleb were in Cleveland, Monday, on business . . . Johnny Jones followed the team to Minneapolis last weekend.

The Johnny Fryes, he's the RKO treasurer, are anticipating, so the boys have set up a collection box for the "Papa Frye Fund."

Congratulations to Woodie Weiler, former student assistant at Loew's Broad, who has been promoted to the regular assistant manager spot. Johnny Stiffler moves over from the Ohio to become student assistant.

Cleveland Exhibitors Pact With IATSE Unaltered

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n held an organization meeting at which President Ernest Schwartz and Labor Chairman George W. Erdmann made their official report to members of negotiations with the IATSE which resulted in the scale and working conditions remaining the same for another year.

Touney Plans New House

WAUSEON, OHIO—P. R. Touney, owner of the Princess Theatre, is understood to have leased a store room on the town's main business stem. He plans to convert it into a 300-seat motion picture theatre.

T. B. KLAIBAN
Motion Picture Screen Resurfacing Co.
White and Silver Screens
Guaranteed Workmanship—Reasonable Prices
Satisfied Customers for Twelve Years
604 WARD AVE., GIRARD, OHIO
Phone: Girard, Ohio, 361-J

DETROIT

TWO charming visitors from Illinois graced the famed premiere—the Misses Jane Handy and Marajen Stevick. Latter is connected with the Champaign *News-Gazette* and is one of the three ranking women golfers of Illinois.

Art Robinson has arranged for shows for shut-ins at the Lapeer State Home to be given every Saturday by Variety. His other shows this week were at the Crippled Children's Home at Farmington, and the German Protestant Home, Detroit.

W. J. Turnbull, Clarence Williamson, and S. C. Waldron of National Theatre Supply, weekended hunting pheasants in the Thumb, had three flat tires on Waldron's car in 100 miles.

S. P. Farber, representative of Trailer-Made, is contacting the local circuits now . . . Lloyd Hammon and Doug Smith turned up with twin checked suits.

E. V. Smith of RCA Photophone and Jacob Boodman have voted to take Saturdays off . . . Seen at the preview of the Detroit Auto Show—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schrader, Harold Robinson and party, and Hoyt Morris.

Jack Moule, manager of Barney Kilbride's Beverly, has his first pair of cheaters—looks less than ever like his brother, Tom.

Jack Bell of the Billposters Union is starting plans for the first convention to be held here in 35 years, in 1941 . . . Bill Carlson is arranging a big show for the Moslem Shrine Bowling League, including a stag frolic Wednesday night.

The Moss interests, erecting the new Van Dyke Theatre, got an O. K. from the city council for their marquee and projecting signs.

Benton D. Manchester, noted engineer, has been made general manager of Conditionaire, Inc., specialists in theatrical air conditioning . . . Jack Ferentz has been "induced" into the Past Commanders' Club, American Legion.

Mrs. Don Widlund, wife of the Jam Handy veteran, is reported in Medical Arts Hospital, N. Y. C., for an operation . . . Pete Brock is now out of the hospital.

Theatrical Post, American Legion, was all set to parade Friday in the Navy Day festivities . . . The Krim Brothers' Lasky is slated for some remodeling.

William B. Chatman of Columbia Premiums has his Movie Coin Club deal starting at the Cohen Brothers' Capitol, November 1 . . . Julius D. London is installing a new heating system in the Booth Theatre.

John Berdys, third defendant in the Senate Theatre robbery of August 21, was convicted by a jury of armed robbery. All three will be sentenced November 3.

Mickey Rooney was to be a Detroit guest this week, to get the real Thomas A. Edison atmosphere from Henry Ford's famed Greenfield Village—properly known as Edison Institute—for his forthcoming role.

Ike Katz, general sales manager of Paramount Premium, was a visitor from Washington. He is planning to open up this territory for Paramount in the near future.

Jess Veldman, 20th-Fox cashier, is back from partridge hunting in the upper Peninsula, with tales of a narrow escape . . . Roy Reed, roadshow distributor, was a Detroit visitor . . . Col. L. T. Lewis is handling Reed's "Mad Youth" and other films for the territory and is busy working on a big circuit deal . . . Saul Korman has recovered from a severe cold.

Harold Morrison, the Columbia shipper, became the father, Wednesday, of an eight-pound boy, his first . . . Censor Charley Snyder tried his first cigarette in 20 years—he's back to cigars.

Helen Plachta of the Film Building is due to be married October 28, and will be back in two weeks. Her colleague, Helen Denton, is going to have to do double duty . . . Sylvia Schiffman has it all planned.

Ben Wachnansky hears filmites whistling "Little Sir Echo" as he goes by these days . . . Bill Flemion of Excellent was off on a trip to New York . . . Lew Arozian, describing a dark, heavy-set stranger seen in the building, said, "he looked like a new dish premium man."

Freddie Schader is passing out those blue and yellow Dunkers Pins . . . Hal Berdun, of the Del-Ray Booking Office, has moved to make room for the return of Al Cox . . . Alban J. Norris, Michigan Film Library, has moved headquarters back to Rosemont Road . . . George McArthur puts in his spare time making those little figures out of towels.

Dave Flayer of the Amo, off to Rochester, Minn., for a general checkup . . . Bill Schuttenhelm, Globe Theatre, donated a flock of baskets to Florist Frank Lorenzen . . . Add near-twins—Bill Schuttenhelm and Rex White of the Detroit *News* . . . Sol Krim thinks dishes would be a swell giveaway for Monday luncheons.

John Howard, Paramount manager, turned in $265.75 profit on the Variety Golf tournament . . . Earl Hudson is starting dancing classes for youngsters at five theatres—Regent, Varsity, Ramona, Annex, and Norwest.

The Goldberg and Komer circuit is completing remodeling of the Punch and Judy Theatre . . . S. A. Peterson, of the Johns-Manville Corp., reports several new theatre jobs recently, showing a decided business pickup.

Joseph S. Renick and Thomas Napoletano are organizing the Acme Theatre Supply Co. on West Vernor Highway . . . Charlie Perry is promoting those little statuettes of the famed "Barker."

Joseph G. Portell of the Greenwood and Virginia is leaving about November 1 for Miami, where he will reopen his ballroom for the season, returning to his Detroit theatres in the spring.

Jimmy and Joan Johnson—their dad is the w. k. manager of the Tiffin Hotel—entertained Variety Saturday night . . . Max Blumenthal displayed unexpected talents as a master of ceremonies, pinch-hitting for Bill Carlson, who was "under the weather."

Henry H. Lueders has moved the United Booking Office from the United Artists Theatre Building to the Insurance Exchange—the old Film Exchange . . . John W. Todd of the Gus Sun office is back from a visit to the World's Fair.

Albert Emery, late of the Michigan, has rented a safe deposit vault for his new horse system . . . Ben Cohn recently installed air conditioning in the Crystal Theatre . . . D. J. Wilson, manager of the Redford, used to live way on the other side of town—Connors Avenue—but now he's moved out to Redford . . . Adolph Goldberg of the Royal Oak takes Mondays off.

Detroit's own "Babes in Arms"—the WXYZ Children's Theatre of the Air—were guests at a special screening of M-G-M's film of that name; may use some of the numbers from the film for their radio hour.

Bea Mattingly, John Howard's secretary, moved down to the Book Cadillac Hotel to help Carl Krueger and other Paramounteers on arrangements for that "Disputed Passage" premiere.

Eve Ross, former producer at the Fox, is starting her own production studio on Poe Avenue, and has one line of girls now

H. Robinson Heads Barkers in Detroit

DETROIT—New officers for 1940 were elected by Variety Club this week. Harold C. Robinson, manager of Film Truck Service, is new chief barker. Other officers are: John Howard, Paramount branch manager, first assistant chief barker; Lew Wisper, circuit operator, second assistant chief barker; David Newman, manager of the Pasadena, property master, and Jack Saxe, treasurer of Monogram Pictures, dough guy.

Variety's drive for funds for indigent school children, to provide free lunches and clothing, has brought in about $33,500 to date, Chairman Edgar E. Kirchner, told BOXOFFICE, and more money is on the way.

To further the drive, Kempf's Model City and Swiss Village—the latter being the only piece of P. T. Barnum Show property still in active use—have been booked into Convention Hall, playing as a sort of sideshow to the Automobile Show. Admission is free, and donations are being solicited for the event. Fred Schader is handling the publicity on this.

in the Bowery . . . William R. Goodheart, president of the Music Corporation of America, was a visitor here with Mannie Sachs, from New York.

Mrs. Maurice Caplan, widow of the late Chief Barker of Variety, is donating projection equipment to the new Jewish Community Center, in memory of her husband, who headed Metropolitan Motion Picture Co.

Moe Dudelson, UA branch manager, is recovering from stomach poisoning . . . UA's Harry Lotz reports his mother-in-law has gone back to her home in western New York state.

Harry Lotz says Booker Ben Zimmer is interested in white horses . . . Syd Bowman, UA, makes the headlines with, "If there was any news, I wouldn't know it."

Vince Kolby, RKO poster clerk, is in the hospital . . . Rose Price is manager of the new Price Theatre Premiums office, just opened in the basement of the Film Exchange Building.

Al Bondy of Select Attractions, New York, was a guest of Max Blumenthal at Variety's Frolic, Saturday night . . . Ben Cohen of the Hollywood has sent his yacht on to New York, where he will join it in a week, for a trip to Florida, instead of sailing himself right from Detroit as first planned.

J. Howard Harris, salesman for McArthur Theatre Equipment, has left to manage the Chicago office for International Seating Co.

Four "Dead End" kids—Lee Gorcey, Huntz Hall, Gabriel Dell, and Bernard Punsley—were in town for a three-day appearance at Ray Schreiber's Colonial . . . Lloyd Hammond likes that new odor around his studio—his brother has a new pipe, with the old one down the drain . . . Mrs. Hal Burriss is getting acquainted with BOXOFFICE, *says Hal is the busiest man in filmdom.*

Mickey Rooney, in the Film Building, Monday, was busy giving autographs . . . Max Blumenthal has an air cooling system now operating in his booth . . . Ernest H. Forbes, Oliver Theatre Supply, was a visitor to projection booths of the Film Building . . . Anne O'Donnell was in sole charge of Excellent Pictures.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Roy Taylor of the Southlawn, Grand Rapids, is reported reopening the closed Liberty under a new name . . . Harry Lush has installed new sound equipment in the P-A Theatres, of Plymouth and Northville.

James Helsdon, manager of Butterfield's Majestic at Port Huron, was held up in his office by two bandits and robbed of $2,000 receipts.

Paul O. Brake, who was manager for Butterfield at Battle Creek, has been made field man, covering the entire circuit on special contacts. Howard Sweet, manager of the Franklin at Saginaw, takes over Brake's job at Battle Creek.

Miss O. M. Cox of Butterfield received a brace of pheasants, had them thawing out by the window . . . Beryl (Obie) O'Bryan is starting her usual winter heating trouble early.

Lee Carrow of the Lee, Carson City, and Jack Thompson, Paramount salesman, discovered a fire in the Methodist Church, turned in the alarm, and helped carry out the organ and piano, while the building burned to the ground.

Frank Guy is installing new sound in the Strand at Tecumseh . . . Frank Lorenzen was in from Highland Park to visit George McArthur, Monday.

H. C. Himmelstein of the Rialto and State, Grand Rapids, was in Monday, visiting Grand National . . . Harry Hobolth, the Imlay City circuiteer, was another Monday visitor.

Garbarino Files Suit Against Partners

CLARION, PA.—A bill in equity has been filed here with the clerk of court in Clarion county for L. Hayes Garbarino by A. A. Geary, his attorney, the document alleging that partners of the plaintiff, James Aquilina, T. A. Aquilina and J. T. Birocco, now operating the Garby Theatre here, have refused to disclose the operations of the partnership since Garbarino was forced out as manager on August 7. The Garby Theatre opened about two years ago and at that time the organization did business as the Garby Theatre, Inc. On March 31, 1939, the corporation was dissolved and the four stockholders became partners. The building is stated to be owned by Birocco and the Aquilinas.

According to the bill, Garbarino still remains a one-fourth owner of the equipment, and has been repeatedly ignored by the three defendants on making requests to examine the books of the partnership. Garbarino further alleges that since he was ousted as manager, no dividends have been paid. The case will come up at the next term of court, when equity cases are heard.

Shout of "Fire" Panics Detroit Show Patrons

DETROIT—Panic at the Colonial Theatre, operated by Raymond Schreiber, resulted in back injuries to one patron, and undetermined injuries to others Sunday about 2:30 p. m. Cause of the panic was a cry of "fire," when someone discovered smoke in the auditorium, coming from some paper ignited in the men's washroom.

Actual damage was practically nil from the "fire," but several persons were apparently injured when the patrons, said to number only about 150 at the time, jammed the aisles and exits in their rush.

Premiums Increase in Popularity

DETROIT—Theatre premiums are enjoying better business this fall than last, according to Mrs. Hal Burriss of Coulter Premiums, Inc. Glass and silverware are two of the new items being offered in leading neighborhood houses.

A Play to Metro

HOLLYWOOD—"Remember the Day," a play by Philo Higley and Philip Dunning, has been purchased by Metro as an Edward Chodorov production.

Variety Outlines Active Calendar for November

PITTSBURGH — Following the Variety Club's 11th annual banquet, a number of social events have been planned for the month of November. The Monday dinner schedule has been lined up as follows:

November 6: William Finkel, King for the Day. His guests will include Bill Kern, Carnegie Tech grid coach and members of Kern's staff. Variety Post American Legion meeting is scheduled following the dinner.

November 13: Harold Lund, King for the Day. Ross Federal Service will be on the job.

November 20: William J. O'Brien, King for the Day. It's Ascap night, by permission of the copyright owner.

November 27: Dave Kimelman, King for the Day. Paramount will be on parade.

Family Night parties, on Saturdays, are announced as follows:

November 4: Vitagraph Night, with Harry Seed and all the Warner Bros.-First National gang.

November 11: United Artists Night, with A. J. Weiner and his UA crowd.

November 18: Republic Pictures Night, another "Roundup" with Jim Alexander and his Republicans. (Democrats admitted).

November 25: RKO Night, with Herb Greenblatt and company.

Banquet Honors Ira Cohn And Associate Officers

PITTSBURGH—Eleventh annual banquet of the Variety Club's Tent No. 1, Sunday evening, October 29, in the William Penn Hotel, honors the retiring chief barker, Ira H. Cohn, and his associate officers, Harry Seed, Jules Lapidus, Al Weiblinger, M. N. Shapiro, Harry Feinstein, C. C. Kellenberg, Jake Soltz, C. J. Latta, Joseph Misrach and Al Weiss. Scores of out-of-town guests were here a day in advance of the big event to take in the Carnegie Tech-Notre Dame grid game.

Overcrowding Complaint Quashed in Louisville

LOUISVILLE—"Unfounded" was the reply of Capt. John Krusenklaus, superintendent of the Fire Prevention Bureau, to a complaint that patrons of local first runs were endangered by overcrowding at Sunday night performances.

"As long as the aisles and stairs are clear, standing near exits is no violation of the safety provisions of the building code," he said. "You can get a lot of people in at the rate of one to every three square feet as the law provides."

New Chore to Ratoff

HOLLYWOOD—Next directorial assignment for Gregory Ratoff at 20th-Fox will be "I Am an Adventuress," an original by Nunnally Johnson, in which Madeleine Carroll plays the lead.

"The Great Victor Herbert"

HOLLYWOOD—"The Great Victor Herbert" is the new title of Paramount's "The Gay Days of Victor Herbert."

Reseating, Overhauling Aid Supply Business

DETROIT—Reseating and general modernization of theatres is giving the bulk of business currently reported by supply companies in the territory. The major contracts for the larger number of new houses currently being erected in some cases are being delayed till work is further along, so that total spending for theatre construction is considerable at this time.

Long Sign Co. has just completed a new marquee and marquee signs on Saul Korman's Grant Theatre, on the east side, and also on the Casino, operated by Victor Petriks and John Tatu.

National Theatre Supply, getting a fair share of the new houses being opened here currently, installed sound, projection, seating, carpeting and marquee in F. H. Guy's new Bliss at Blissfield, and in Cass Beechler's "B" at Charlotte. They also put in projection, sound and carpeting at Willard Johnson's Flint Theatre at Flint.

C. le Vasseur, sign and theatre front specialist, is installing new neon sign and marquee on the King Theatre (lately the Fredro) for Joseph B. Krul, and also on the new VanDale Theatre at Van Dyke, Mich., for William Schulte.

Contract for reseating the 530 main floor seats of the Punch and Judy Theatre in Detroit's exclusive east side suburb of Grosse Pointe was awarded to George W. Carr of International Seating Co. This ten-year-old house, with its higher priced loges in the balcony, draws some of the best class trade in the city, and is the only house consistently offering single bills.

Carr's company also received the contract for reseating the 1,433-seat Alhambra, operated by Barney Kilbride, and is making the installation in George Sampson's Esquire, and in Walter Shafer's Garden at Garden City. He has just completed work on Willard Johnson's new Flint Theatre at Flint.

Equipment Installations Soar in Detroit Area

DETROIT—National Theatre Supply is installing sound, projectors, screen, and carpeting in Wisper & Wetsman's new 2,000-seat, $200,000 Harper Theatre, on the east side. Marquee, to be one of the largest in the state, is being erected by Walker and Co., while American Seating Co. has the seating contract. Charles N. Agree is architect. A feature of the house is indirect ceiling lighting.

Johns-Manville Sales Corp. has been more active in the theatre field here than for sometime past, doing the work on two new Butterfield theatres—the Gladmer at Lansing and the Garden at Flint, as well as a special installation of acoustical treatment in the projection room of the new Butterfield theatre in North Lansing.

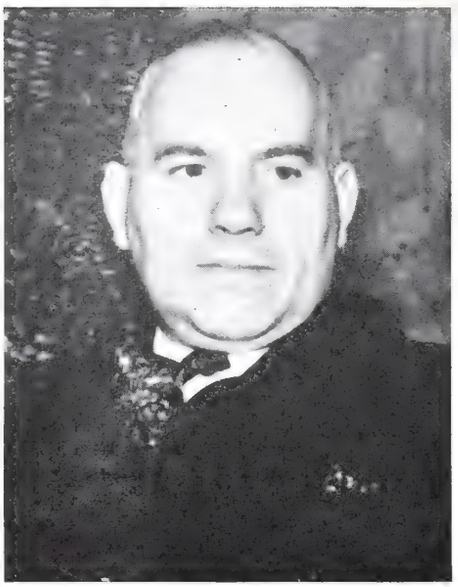
Johns-Manville has also just completed acoustical installation in the lobby of the Punch and Judy at Grosse Pointe for Komer and Goldberg, improving the acoustical qualities of this super-deluxer.

American Refrigerating Company has completed installation of air conditioning equipment in the Crystal Theatre for the Ben Cohn circuit.

Iron Fireman Corp. is installing a new type heating and ventilating system in the Booth Theatre for Julius D. London.

Conditionaire, Inc., has the contract for a well-circulating system of air conditioning in the Northtown, under construction at Flint for A. Eiseman and Associated Theatres.

Unique marquee, featuring indirect colored Neon lighting behind structural glass, is to be installed by American Electrical Displays of Kalamazoo on the Cameo in Detroit for George Flucksa and William Stoica. Deal was sold by S. C. Waldron through National Theatre Supply.



At the Fair—

Charles Truran of the Park and Penn theatres at Meadville, Pa., as he visited the RKO Radio exhibitors World's Fair lounge in the New York home office.

French Films Oust Russian As Detroit Foreign Fare

DETROIT—Shift of interest in foreign films is strikingly indicated by policy of the Cinema Theatre in dropping all Russian films for the time being, according to a statement made to BOXOFFICE by Manager Mac Zipperman. In the past, Russian films have constituted a large percentage of the Cinema's product, perhaps a quarter of the house's product in recent months.

An increasing popularity of French pictures is leading Zipperman to revive two films which formerly played the house—"Crime and Punishment" and "La Maternelle." The former French following at the Cinema was weak, and neither film did very well at the time of first booking, Zipperman said, but the revived interest in French films is expected to make this double bill a good boxoffice attraction.

The present shift in taste evidently follows war sympathies, with feeling generally unfavorable about Russian, but definitely committed to France.

Polish Film Loss Alters Golden State Policy

DETROIT—With sources of film supply cut off, the Golden State Film Co., which has specialized in Polish pictures, is turning to comedy shorts and sensational features for new business now, according to Henry Richards, manager of the company.

Lefton Reports Boom For Republic

Cleveland—Nat L. Lefton, who has steered the Republic boat in this territory for the past five years, states that his business in the Cleveland and Cincinnati offices is from 35 to 40 per cent ahead of last year.

Butterfield Circuit Holds Spotlight at Lansing

DETROIT—The Butterfield circuit, operating six times as many houses as any other Michigan circuit, was honored on two occasions at Lansing. First was the opening of the Gladmer Theatre, originally the old-time legitimate center of Michigan's capital, now entirely rebuilt into a modern theatre.

President Edward C. Beatty and other Butterfield executives—Edmund C. Shields, Laurence E. Gordon, J. O. Brooks, K. F. Anderson, and Paul Brake—attended the opening. Willard H. Thompson is returning as manager.

The same group, augmented by Frank H. Butterfield, manager of the Strand; Fred Martin, manager of the new Northtown; Richard Barkman, manager of the Lansing; Harry Hayden, the Capitol, all of Lansing, and Verne Sicotte, manager of the State at East Lansing, attended the dedication of the new Butterfield Room at the Lansing Press Club the evening before the opening. Beatty and Shields spoke in tribute to the late Col. W. S. Butterfield.

Gerson Gets British Film Booked by Two Circuits

CLEVELAND—Nate Gerson of Real-Art Pictures, who recently opened a new exchange, announces that "The Return of the Frog," a thrill picture, has been booked to play the Warner and RKO circuit throughout the territory. It opens at Warner's Lake Theatre, Cleveland, for a week's run starting October 28.

"The Crisis," depicting Germany's acquisition of Czechoslovakia, also is being booked in the territory following a successful two week's engagement at the Penn Square Theatre in Cleveland.

Remodel Ironton Grand

IRONTON, OHIO—Under the direction of George Little, the Grand Theatre here, is being redecorated and new appointments added, in preparation of the fall and winter season.

Shafer Adds Fifth

IRVINE, KY.—W. R. Shafer of this city has added the Cozy Theatre, at Morehead, to his management. This makes five houses that Shafer now operates.

New House in Eaton

EATON, OHIO—Clark C. Rader of the Rader Circuit at Wilmington has purchased a site here for a new 525-seat theatre to cost $52,000, on which work is scheduled to begin immediately.

Plans in Brockway

BROCKWAY, PA.—A new theatre is planned here by Joseph B. Kosco. Seating capacity will be 500 and the approximate cost will be $25,000.

Modernize at Ellwood City

ELLWOOD CITY, PA.—Majestic Theatre is being modernized.

Kilbride and Lane Start Extensive Remodeling

DETROIT—Barney Kilbride and Alfred Lane are spending about $50,000 in remodeling their Alhambra Theatre, which has been for years one of the principal north Woodward Ave. theatres. C. Howard Crane and Associates are architects, and James Moynes Co., of Milwaukee, general contractors.

Work, now under way, is scheduled for completion about December 1. The house will be closed for about a week near the end of the construction schedule.

A public garage adjoining the theatre is being taken over in part to provide additional space, particularly for a new stairway to the balcony, and a new location for toilet rooms. Seating is being installed by George W. Carr of International Seating Co., and carpeting, screen, sound, drapes, and other equipment by National Theatre Supply.

Ban on Emergency Seals Brings Pittsburgh Huddle

PITTSBURGH — Managers of the various film exchanges met here the other day to discuss the state censor board's action in eliminating the "emergency seal" formerly granted at the nominal fee of 25 cents. Censor fees are $2 per single reel for seal and the "emergency seals" were formerly issued for a period of three weeks for prints brought into the state from other exchanges.

The new ruling will add a great increased cost to local film distribution, all managers reported.

Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, chairman of the Pennsylvania censor board, was here from Philadelphia in regard to the matter. She stated that the auditor general and the attorney general had decreed that "X" seals issued for a nominal fee for a certain number of original seals, which custom has been prevalent in the past, has no justification under the act of May 15, 1915, P. L. 534, as amended. The censor board recently advised that no further "X" seals would be issued on any basis.

See Resumption of Bingo For Charity in Detroit

DETROIT—Apparently alluding to the recent blanket ban on Bingo in Detroit, Mayor Richard W. Reading, in a formal statement, asked that "common sense" be used in enforcing the state's gambling laws.

The mayor's statement is seen in local film circles as opening the way for resumption of Bingo games for bona fide charitable purposes.

Three Order RCA

DETROIT—Orders for RCA sound systems have been placed by Joseph B. Krul, operator of the New Home, a neighborhood house here formerly known as the Home; Ruth Cassady and Fred Fairchild, for the theatre they are building at Inez, Ky., and by Mrs. Ethel Michaels, who is remodeling the Rex, Pittsburgh, which she recently acquired.

Group Meets to Form Film Study Club

CLEVELAND—A meeting of the motion picture chairmen of the affiliated clubs of the Federation of Women's Clubs was held recently at the home of Mrs. E. F. Carran, president of the Federation of Women's Clubs for the purpose of forming a group whose purpose shall be the study and reviewing of motion pictures.

This plan, which has been in the making for several months, involves approximately 30 independent groups, whose chairmen will meet in the Federation headquarters on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 a. m. This group does not take the place of the motion picture division of the Federation, but supplements it by widening its scope of activity.

The New Motion Picture Study Group, as it is called, is under the general chairmanship of Mrs. W. J. McLachlan assisted by Mrs. W. V. Magee, both past presidents of the Cleveland Cinema Club, and aims to emphasize adult motion picture appreciation.

The first Federation Day Assembly took place on Wednesday afternoon, October 18, in the Statler Hotel Ballroom. It was under the direction of the American citizenship department and the motion picture department. Speakers were Mrs. Harold Burton, wife of the mayor, who spoke on "Youth" and Robert Stephan, radio editor of the *Plain Dealer* whose topic was "Adventures in Hollywood."

Mrs. W. V. Magee, vice-chairman of the motion picture department of the Federation of Women's Clubs, is now in Hollywood where she will investigate the work of the women's organizations there.

Jump in Tax Revenue

COLUMBUS, OHIO—Revenue from the state three per cent admission tax amounted to $1,193,000 during the first nine months of 1939, as compared to $1,110,000 during the same period last year.



Fair Visitors—

Also visitors to the RKO Radio World's Fair lounge in New York, are Mr. and Mrs. David M. Fineman of the Regent Square Theatre at Edgewood, Pa.

Mich. Paralysis Fund Gets Portion of Rogers Drive

DETROIT—A check for $1,760 was presented to the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation of Michigan, by the Will Rogers Memorial Commission this week.

Presentation was made by an industry committee headed by Frank J. Downey, M-G-M branch manager, and state chairman of the Rogers Fund; Edward C. Beatty, president of Butterfield Theatres; Earl Hudson, acting head of United Detroit Theatres; Carl Buermele, general manager of Cooperative Theatres; Frank Wetsman, circuit operator; Raymond E. Moon, general manager of Mutual Theatres, and Ray Branch, president of Allied Theatres of Michigan.

The money represents that portion of the national contribution to the Rogers Drive which is being turned back to local institutions.

United Artists in Detroit To Thursday Changes

DETROIT—The United Artists Theatre here, for the past two weeks, has changed programs on Thursday instead of Friday, the move being based on convenience of booking.

United Detroit Theatres officials term the change experimental, to determine the effect of a new opening day on the box-office. Other local first runs are continuing Friday openings.

"M" Ban Reversed

DETROIT—The production "M" has been okayed by Censor Charles W. Snyder for showing at the Cinema Theatre here, reversing the original ban on release of the film in Detroit. Action was taken originally largely because of the close resemblance of the subject matter of the film to the Goodrich murder case, which had then just occurred here. The application of the film is no longer timely, Snyder said, and there was, accordingly, no reason for refusing approval.

Stage Shows at Akron

AKRON, OHIO—The Palace here, which has been adhering to dual first run film policy for several weeks, launched its stage-film season recently with the third edition of "Hollywood Hotel," with Martha Raye, of the screen, heading her own variety unit currently. Tom Long is manager.

Booth Takes Back Ellsworth

ELLSWORTH, PA.—The Ellsworth Theatre, operated for the past year by John Lund and his son Werner, has reverted to J. Booth, former operator.

Son to Canton Showman

CANTON, OHIO—A son was born October 19 to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Scott in Mercy Hospital here. Father is assistant manager of Loew's Theatre here.

Set a Gala Stage for RKO Pitt Premiere

PITTSBURGH—Loew's Penn will premiere RKO's "Allegheny Uprising" November 3, and elaborate plans are in preparation for the event, which local RKO representatives state will outrank recent film celebrations at Dodge City, Springfield, Omaha and Scranton. Claire Trevor and John Wayne, stars of the frontier spectacle, are among celebrities expected to attend the premiere which will attract several governors, senators, congressmen, assemblymen, civic and religious leaders and well-known sports figures. A national network will broadcast the highlights from the lobby.

Citizens of Old Allegheny (now Pittsburgh's north side) staged a game battle to obtain the world premiere for Old Allegheny at the Heinz Auditorium, but, having lost the argument, the Allegheny Centennial Committee is cooperating in every way.

Newspaper critics by the score will be on hand for the huge celebration which includes many events in addition to the initial showing of the picture.

Wagon trains will ballyhoo the opening throughout western Pennsylvania and various dignitaries will be photographed with rifles and coon-skinned caps. Balls and barbecues are planned and streets will be roped off for street dancing. Historic pageants are being arranged at old Fort Duquesne, Fort Necessity and at General Braddock's grave.

Neil H. Swanson, former managing editor of the Pittsburgh *Press*, and now on the staff of the Baltimore *Sun*, author of "The First Rebel," from which "Allegheny Uprising" was adapted, will be among the honor guests. Special exploiteers will be here in advance of the premiere, according to S. Barret McCormick, RKO's publicity director, who was here this week.

Circuits Buy Metro

CLEVELAND — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has closed new season contracts with every Cleveland independent circuit, Frank Drew, branch manager, reports. Included are the Associated, Community, Gusdanovic, Washington and Scoville, Essick and Reif circuits.

M-G-M Club Elects

CLEVELAND—The M-G-M Club has resumed its activities for the winter. At the opening meeting the following officers were elected: Ann Vickers, president; Dorsey Brown, vice-president; Marie Flynn, secretary, and Effie Baxter, treasurer.

Acquires Star in Bluffton

BLUFFTON, OHIO—George Carmack, formerly of Findlay, is now operating the Star Theatre here which he acquired recently from A. T. Worthington.

Warner Retitles "Timber"

HOLLYWOOD—"Timber" has been retitled by Warner as "King of the Lumberjacks."

Contracts With Two Crafts Are Signed in Detroit

DETROIT — Renewal of agreements with Local 5, International Association of Operating Engineers, has been completed, according to M. McCusker, business agent of the union, by all major theatres. Contract with the Fox was of the automatically-renewable type, while those for larger neighborhood houses, such as the Eastown, Hollywood, and RKO Uptown, were renewed sometime ago.

Final negotiations were with United Detroit Theatres, where minor changes in conditions are to be worked out on a somewhat "experimental" basis. No changes were made in wages, hours, or general working conditions, McCusker said, and, while the changes may slightly affect the downtown houses, it is not anticipated they will be worked out until next year.

The contracts are retroactive to September 1.

Local 38, IATSE, has also signed renewals with all larger theatres employing stagehands. This contract has been shifted from a two-year to a one-year basis, according to Ed King, business agent of the union, because the uncertainty of war conditions made any longer contract undesirable at this time. No changes in either hours or working conditions were made, King said.

LOUISVILLE

PARAMOUNT press agents got in some good work when Actors John Howard, Olympe Bradna and J. Carrol Naish came to town for personal appearances at Johnson Musselman's Rialto in connection with the showing of "Disputed Passage." The party also took in the Kentucky-Georgia football game, and then went for a round of social engagements. Handling the publicity were Ralph Ravenscroft and Robert Hussey.

W. R. Shafer has added another theatre to his chain—the Cozy at Morehead, Ky., which formerly belonged to the firm of Battsen and Willett. This makes two for Shafer at Morehead. His other there is the Trail.

W. M. Quinn, executive at the Falls City Theatre Equipment Co., is a versatile fellow. The last time we heard of him in a role other than business executive, he was appearing in a minstrel show. Now it's radio. He's doing a fifteen-minute talk every two weeks over Louisville's Station WAVE.

Among last week's visitors were Dick Suggs, owner of the State at Clay, Ky., and A. R. Breeden, who operates the Midway at Midway, Ky. . . . The Alhambra, Campbellsville, Ky., has a new operator—Harold Gibbons—working for Paul Sanders.

"Babes in Arms" certainly did some business at Loew's. They had to put on extra help for the ushers. No promotion stunts were spared. For instance, pointed out B. Ethridge Fry, assistant to Manager George Hunt, the message went right into the home of 7,000 milk customers of one Louisville dairy by way of bottle collars.

Projection operators have signed a new three-year contract . . . The new Vogue, Settos-owned theatre now building in suburban Louisville, is the first in these parts equipped for television. Although at first expected to open about November 1, it will not be in shape for opening before the last of that month.

Many Communities to Vote on "Blue Laws"

PITTSBURGH—Sunday show referendums will come before voters of a number of communities at the November 7 election.

Among local communities which will ballot on the subject are Roscoe, Washington county; Koppel and Freedom, Beaver county; Coalport Borough and Bigler township, Clearfield county; Black Lick, Cambria county; Shingle House, Potter county. Other Sunday movie referendums will be conducted at Bristol township, Bucks county; Forty Fort, Luzerne county; New Philadelphia, Schuylkill county; Wellsboro, Blossburg, Mansfield, Elkland and Westfield, Tioga county; Mifflinburg, Union county; Mount Penn and West Reading, Berks county.

General Electric Shifts Its Equipment in Warren

WARREN, OHIO—Eighty employes and equipment for manufacturing projection and motion picture studio lamps will be moved at once from the Ohio Lamp Works of the General Electric Co. here, to the Nela plant at Cleveland, it is announced by W. M. Miller, manager of the Warren plant.

Space in the Warren plant will be filled with other manufacturing equipment and the working force will continue at its present level. A company spokesman said the change was made for technical reasons.

Charles Lykes Rites

CLEVELAND—Charles Lykes, 63, father of Jack Lykes, manager of Loew's Stillman Theatre, who died of a heart attack last Thursday, was buried on Saturday in Canton, where he and Mrs. Lykes made their home. Also surviving are three daughters.

Slug and Rob Theatre Manager

PITTSBURGH—Jules Green, on the job as manager of the Belmar Theatre, Homewood, for only a week, was slugged with the limb of a tree and robbed of $153, theatre receipts, late Friday night. He was treated at Pittsburgh Hospital for head laceration.

Host Notre Dame Eleven

CLEVELAND—The Notre Dame football team was entertained with a private showing of Paramount's "What a Life," through the courtesy of Col. Harry E. Long, Loew division manager; Harry Goldstein, Paramount district manager and "Duke" Clark, Paramount branch manager.

No "Milking" Benefit If Misses "Cream"

BOSTON—"There is no advantage in milking a situation if the exhibitor gets none of the cream," Frank Lydon, eastern regional vice-president for Allied, says in commenting on Joseph M. Schenck's recent plea for extended playing time.

"If given a quality feature at reasonable terms," Lydon contends, "most exhibitors will stretch the playing time on it for purely mercenary reasons. By the same token, if the cost of the feature is unreasonable and the lion's share of the gross reverts to the distributor, the exhibitor will liquidate his obligation as quickly as possible in order to make way for a more profitable, although perhaps less entertaining, program.

"Furthermore," Lydon goes on, "there is a limit to the amount of money any given situation will tender to our trade. If that limit is reached through extended time on a so-called 'tremendous' attraction, there is an adverse reaction on the next succeeding attraction, regardless of its merits.

"In the final analysis, the results rest with the sales policies of the film companies. If these policies are right and reasonable, the exhibitors will give extended time and expend increased selling efforts. If the opposite is the case, exhibitors' tendencies will naturally revert toward self-preservation.

"Exhibitors will do well," Lydon concluded, "to bear the Schenck statement in mind and file it for reference when future film company financial statements are issued."

"A little judicious pruning in executives' salaries would offset any MPPDA deficiencies caused by the war," opines a New England executive who declined to be quoted by name.

"I shouldn't think that companies that made so many millions during the past few years would get hysterical at this time," observes Philip Smith, operator of a New England and New York theatre circuit and owner of a growing open-air chain which already includes ozoners in Cleveland and Detroit.

"Suppose that they don't make any money for a while. Exhibitors haven't made any money these recent years while the producers have been amassing fortunes.

"Exhibitors will pay more money for films when times get better," Smith said. "They can't be expected to pay higher rentals now. The only way for exhibitors to make more money is for the companies to begin making better pictures."

Saying that the past year has been one of the poorest in several seasons from an exhibitor's standpoint, Smith argues that "90 per cent of the theatre owners in the United States will be compelled to go out of business if any drastic increase is made in rentals."

Would Save on The Margin

Boston—"I've been making cuts in almost every department," a surburban exhibitor tells us, "and now I'm considering cutting down to 16mm films."

Effect of European Collapse Hinges on Quality—Portland

PORTLAND, ORE.—The effect of closed European markets upon the industry in this country will hinge primarily upon the extent to which producers maintain present standards of quality in the films released. That is the consensus among exhibitors in the Portland area.

Queried regarding a recent statement by Joseph M. Schenck urging exhibitors to extend normal runs of films, local theatremen take exception to the contention that "responsibility (of assuring continued production of big pictures) now lies entirely with exhibitors."

Reluctant to be quoted directly but speaking freely off the record, exhibitors declare emphatically that they have arrived at the maximum cost insofar as film rental is concerned and that it is up to the producers to deliver product to justify the terms covering most theatres in this territory.

The feeling is expressed that producers now are being forced by the international situation to do what should have been done several years ago to relieve the burden on domestic theatres: to trim superfluous production costs and cut a lot of high salaries that, exhibitors argue, "doesn't make sense while production companies are showing huge profits and all theatres, particularly independents, are hard pressed for money to keep up their properties."

To sum up, Portland exhibitors declare their willingness to do their share to ease the problem of the production companies by lengthening the runs of deserving pictures. They point out, however, that in the final analysis, it is merit, no less than showmanship, that determines the maximum run of a picture and that merit is the producers' problem. They also contend that production companies, as a result of their tremendous profits, have a cushion to ease the situation which is presumed to exist at present, whereas theatres, because of rising costs—particularly film costs— have been unable to set up such an operating reserve.

Allied of Connecticut Directors Announced

NEW HAVEN—New members of the board of directors of Allied Theatres of Connecticut were announced at a special meeting at the Hofbrau Haus by Dr. J. B. Fishman, board chairman, and Maurice Shulman, vice-chairman.

They include: Maurice Bailey, Whalley, New Haven; Harry Lavietes, Pequot, New Haven; Samuel Hadelman, Capitol, Bridgeport; Morris Jacobson, Strand Amusement Co., Bridgeport; Charles Repass, Crown, Hartford; Jack Schwartz, West End, Bridgeport; George Comden, Fine Arts, Westport, and Leo Schapiro, Guilford Theatre.

Arthur Howard and Frank Lydon, Allied regional directors, addressed the meeting on new season product and distributor sales policies.

A Story to Sherwill

HOLLYWOOD—"Front Page Lady," by Charles Williams, has been purchased by Sherwill Productions as the second in a series of four films to be made for Monogram release.

BRIDGEPORT

MANAGER MORRIS ROSENTHAL of the Majestic has been named Lieut.-Col. of the theatrical division for the Community Chest drive . . . Ralph Mauro, who handles Western Electric sound in this territory, and his wife, Lillian, mark their 10th wedding anniversary, October 28.

The staff of the Majestic tossed a midnight stage party for departing assistant manager, Robert Munzner . . . Lester Al Smith is house manager for the Jules Leventhal attractions at the Lyric.

The American started a Royal etched gold dinnerware deal and then launched a gold band ovenware giveaway . . . State, Torrington, is playing vaudeville on Wednesdays as well as Sundays.

The Post-Telegram *carriers from suburban towns were guests of Morris Rosenthal at the Majestic . . . Bonnie Jackson, chief of staff at the Loew-Poli, keeps a check on the house temperature with a tiny thermometer worn under the lapel of her jacket.*

Extensive alterations are under way at the Levine circuit's Hippodrome . . . Lou Anger is decorating the interior of his Colonial and enlarging the rest rooms . . . Sam Hadelman is remodeling his Shelton Theatre in Shelton. A new shell is being built around the theatre and, when finished, there will be a new entrance and the seating capacity will be increased.

Ushers at the Capitol are appearing in natty new uniforms . . . New doormen include Vincent Vizzeo at the Park City and Al Masek at the Capitol . . . Arthur Vining has joined the usher corps at the Globe and Frederick Scinto has taken a similar position at the Capitol.

The George Comdens of the Fine Arts, Westport, will observe their second wedding anniversary in November . . . More than 300 persons were turned away on the opening night of "Tobacco Road" at the Lyric and most of the overflow found their way to the vaudeville show at the Globe.

Theatre staffs are showing more interest in bowling this season than has been displayed in recent years. Theatres where teams already have been organized and are active include Majestic, Globe, Hippodrome, Rialto, Park City and Strand.

NEW HAVEN

FOUNDATION of the new 600-seat Wethersfield Theatre was started this week, following issuance of a construction permit to the Sisson Realty Co. . . . The Shulman interests, operators of the Webster and Rivoli, Hartford, now have both Wethersfield and the Windsor-Plaza in construction . . . Modern Theatre Equipment Corp. has booth equipment contract for the Lockwood-Gordon, 500-seat Windsor, set for opening shortly after November 1.

Lee Malcarni's 460-seat Deep River Theatre had a delayed opening on Sunday, October 22. The completely remodeled house, formerly Pratt's, is the talk of the territory. Unusual red brick front resembles an authentic colonial home, down to the windows and curtains. No marquee. Restrooms have white leather walls. Deep River, which is listed as a post office, not a town, is the largest part of Saybrook, which has a population of 2,380.

Just as organization Bingo is reported on the wane and exhibitors can worry less about it, comes the pot-o'-gold radio program to keep patrons home on Tuesday nights on the hope they may win $1,000 if they are home when their telephone rings . . . Pickwick Theatre, Greenwich, may be rented to the Elks for weekly Bingo . . . Kash Kwiz, an idea similar to Professor Quiz, is building up at the Poli, Waterbury, and, if satisfactory, may be tried at other Poli houses.

Local B-41 of exchange employes is planning a Thanksgiving dance with vaudeville acts for special entertainment. President Jack Mullen and other officers and directors will meet soon to work out the details . . . New Haven Metroites celebrated the end of feverish plugging which won them sixth place in the national drive, with a Victory Dinner at Oakdale Inn. William F. Rodgers, Tom Connors, Maurice N. Wolfe, Tom Donaldson, John B. Byrne and Harry Shaw were among those expected to make speeches.

George Weber, Metro checking supervisor, travels with the Yale football team to Ann Arbor to take official pictures of the Yale-Michigan game . . . Katherine Sullivan of the United Artists office is ill at New Haven Hospital . . . World's Fair visitors were Leo Schapiro, of the Guilford Theatre; Tom Kelly, Guilford assistant; William Hutchins, National Theatre Supply manager . . . Billy Sirica of the Lido, Waterbury, getting to Meadow St. on crutches after a handball court injury to his ankle six weeks ago . . . Jane Cotter of Boston, Morris Nunes' niece, is the new Progressive Premium secretary . . . Bob Schwartz and Bill Sirica reported visiting relatives in Troy frequently . . . Rocco Longo of the Community, Oakville, returned to his home after a gallstone attack caused his removal to the hospital.

Harry Shaw is on the job, but complaining of a cold and aches . . . Morris Mendelsohn, Poli attorney, took time out because of a severe cold . . . Fred Van Doren, operator of the Hamilton, Waterbury, has broken ground for a 600-seater and two stores at the opposite end of town . . . Natale DiFrancesco is talking about a Christmas opening of the 490-seat Cheshire . . . Modern Theatre Equipment will reseat the Glastonbury with International. The house will also be redecorated . . . B. E. Hoffman reports remodeling of Warner offices will be completed by November 1.

Joseph Faith spent several days in New York looking over the vaudeville market for possible Sunday night shows at the Mayfair, Terryville. The Mayfair had Sunday night shows two years ago . . . Sammy Kaye and the Inkspots reported to have broken the single-day house record at the State, Hartford . . . Arena hockey program will force Sunday vaude shows to discontinue regular schedule November 5, but special shows will be spotted in, beginning November 18. Policy as to continuation of silent Saturday specialty shows undecided . . . After two years, the Globe, Bridgeport, says goodbye to amateurs, and substitutes Surprise Stage Frolics on Saturday nights.

Poli, Meriden, substitutes vaude for Swing Nights with local bands on Thursdays . . . The Poli, Waterbury, may use the same bills on Wednesdays . . . "Hot From Harlem," all-colored show, inaugurated new shows at Waterbury this week, Eubie Blake starring . . . Meriden had a variety show . . . Jitterbug vs. waltz contest announced for the New Haven showing of "Dancing Co-Ed" called off at the eleventh hour. Union disagreement said to be the reason . . . First Arena stage show outside the Sunday schedule was the Battle of Music, Lucky Millinder vs. Jerry Blaine orchestras last Friday . . . The Roger Sherman will have midnight Spook Show on Hallowe'en at regular prices . . . The Poli, Worcester, and Majestic, Bridgeport, continue to plan Jitterbug Contests with "Dancing Co-Ed" . . . New balcony floors are finished at the 1,907-seat Globe, Bridgeport, and 1,719-seat Palace, Hartford, and Palace main floor seats installed.

Warner has booked "Torpedoed" for Danbury, Ansonia, New Britain, Bristol, Torrington, New London, Norwich and Norfolk. Bijou, New Haven, and Poli, Waterbury, also have the picture. Warner advertising capitalizes on the amazing coincidence that the *Royal Oak* was borrowed for the picture, in which it is torpedoed . . . "Hollywood Cavalcade," a holdover at the College, New Haven, and Elm Street, Worcester . . . "The Real Glory" spent three weeks at the Regal, Hartford . . . "Jamaica Inn" at the Paramount was the best downtown grosser last week, held over five extra days . . . At the 11-week mark, New Haven 20th-Fox exchange is in first place in the national drive, with Captain Earl Wright still lending oral and moral support at frequent staff meetings. Wright will address the Foremen's Club, December 6, on the history of the industry and interesting facts about the business.

Glowing reports received from Tim O'Toole, Ben Lourie, I. H. Rogovin and I. Levine who attended the Bar Mitzvah party of Gerald, son of Lou Astor, at the Mt. Vernon estate . . . Herbert MacIntyre, northeastern district manager of RKO, in for a visit with Barney Pitkin and the Army game . . . Beatrice Pohlman, Elizabeth Heslin and Roberta Ellston of the New York Metro office came in to see the Yale-Army grid fight . . . Charlie Lazarus, Metro booker, visited the World's Fair and the home office on his recent vacation . . . Irving Beck is the new student booker at the Metro, New Haven office . . . Charlotte Wright of New Hampshire saw her first college football game with Uncle Earl Wright of 20th-Fox Saturday . . . Robert Long, traveling auditor, and Ben Wolf, student auditor, in from the Big City . . . Lou Brown, Loew-Poli publicity chief, spent a few days at the home office.

Harry Bernstein of Loew's real estate department seeing some of the houses on the circuit . . . Also Harry Moskowitz, of general construction and maintenance . . . Leonard and Mrs. Picker (he is Columbia's attorney) were Harry Shaw's guests at the Yale-Penn game . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" has November 2 bookings at the Poli, New Haven, Bridgeport and Worcester . . . Adolph Johnson has sold his ovenware deal to the State, Torrington, and china deals to Glastonbury and Devon . . . N. C. Wrisley's swirl'n circle deal will be the first giveaway in the Cascioli Forest Theatre, reported ready for a Thanksgiving opening. Wrisley has also sold his Priscilla ovenware to the Lyric, New Haven.

Women and Children's Work Time Realigned

BOSTON—Important changes have been made in the Massachusetts Women and Children employment law, effective as of October 18, 1939. The new act stipulates that no children or women shall be employed or permitted to work in a motion picture theatre, or other theatre more than nine hours in any one day and if the work so performed by such child or women is not continuous, but is divided into two or more periods, the work of such person shall be so arranged that all such periods of work fall within a period of not exceeding 10 hours.

In no case can the hours of labor exceed 48 in a week, and if any child or woman shall be employed or permitted to work in more than one such place, the total number of hours of such employment shall not exceed 48 hours in any one week. It was under this law that complaints were filed against Jane Withers appearing at Boston Garden's Food Exposition.

Attach Equipment

MILFORD, CONN.—Equipment of the Milford Drive-In Theatre has been attached in a suit by Theatre Service & Supply Co. of Boston. The writ cites a note executed by the theatre corporation on which there is an unpaid balance of $3,815 and subsequent purchases of supplies amounting to $365.

BOSTON

HARRY OLSHEN, Columbia salesman, took a ribbing from the film district boys this week. He was calling on Nathan Yamins in connection with a picture deal. Harry finished his business and left Yamins' office with his arms full of papers and hands loaded down with brief cases. A strong gust of wind caught a brief case and dumped its contents—signed exhibitors' contracts—all over the street and sidewalk. One local wag said, "I'd give anything to see Harry appear in a Columbia comedy. In fact, I'd even buy the picture." And poor Harry's face was rose-colored for several hours after that incident.

Frank Lydon and Arthur K. Howard of Independent Exhibitors, went to New Haven for the meeting of the Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut. The product situation was discussed at the gathering. Discussion was continued on the possibility of the amalgamation of services of the Independent Exhibitors and Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut.

Steve Broidy, Monogram, flew to Kansas City for the annual meeting of Monogram's franchise holders. He returned by way of New York . . . Al Margolies, national publicity director for United Artists, spent one day helping Jack Granara and Joe Ehrlick, RKO publicists, prepare a special press campaign for the showing of "Intermezzo" at RKO Keith Memorial.

George Clark, Boston American *staff writer, is doing George C. MacKinnon's Wisdom Box gossip column in the* Daily Record, *while MacKinnon vacations in New York. The latter is busy pushing his latest song, "Sassin' the Boss," accepted by Broadway Music Co.*

Edna May Oliver spent several days at the Ritz-Carlton. It was strictly a social visit. Miss Oliver originally came from this section. A general press meeting was held by the RKO office . . . Jack Saef and Mario Daru, Paramount-Fenway press agents, anticipate a special campaign on the new Zorina picture, "On Your Toes," due here November 1.

Jack Myers was tendered a belated "bachelor" dinner at the Statler Hotel after his recent marriage . . . Globe Theatre reports greatly increased grosses after introduction of the new burlesque-picture policy.

The next meeting of the Independent Exhibitors will be held on November 21 . . . Jane Withers, child star appearing at the Boston Garden in connection with the New England Food Show, was cited by the Boston authorities for working at night, even though promoters secured permission. She made numerous personal appearances around town during the week.

Martin Sheridan, Monogram publicity and advertising man, is arranging a special screening of "Mutiny in the Big House," for Father Michael J. Ahearn, of Weston College, and other prominent Catholic clergymen and laymen.

Raymond Massey of the screen, returns to the legit theatre at the Boston Opera House in "Abe Lincoln in Illinois." Bert Wheeler and Pert Kelton, also from Hollywood, make Boston appearances in "Nice Goin'" . . . Unseasonably cold weather caused a sharp drop in drive-in theatre grosses all over New England and New York State . . . Steve Broidy will take an active part in the Associated Jewish Philanthropies drive that is now getting underway.

Ben Domingo plans a day's drive over the Mohawk Trail as a sojourn from his managerial duties at RKO Keith Memorial and Boston theatres . . . Nat Furst returns to Boston every Friday after cleaning up his duties in New Haven as Monogram's representative.

Dick McKay, whose family owns several theatres in Rutland, Vt., visited the Paramount publicity department to report that his brother, Douglas, passed the Vermont bar. Dick's father was formerly a partner of Sam Pinanski and Martin Mullin of M&P . . . Clarence Robinson, Paramount stagehand, is on the road to recovery after a severe heart attack.

Jerry Callahan, Monogram's Maine salesman, is recuperating in a Middlebury, Vt., hospital, from an automobile accident. His car was badly wrecked after he hit a tree while avoiding a crash with another car. Jerry was merely shaken up and bruised . . . Ed Charboneau of Concord Theatre, Concord, N. H., has purchased new stage equipment.

The Bellevue Theatre, Central Falls, R. I., National Theatre, Boston, Liberty, Providence and Rialto, Lowell, all acquired new projection and lighting equipment from the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. during the week.

Garbose Brothers have taken over the Orange Theatre in Orange, Mass. . . . Boston Cinema Club, composed of bookers, will nominate new officers at 60 Church St., on November 8 . . . Lt. A. Vernon McCauley Post of the American Legion, known as the theatrical post, held the installation of new officers at the Copley Plaza.

Nathan Oberman, M-G-M booker, passed out cigars to friends and associates. The occasion was a girl baby . . . Florence Scully and Mary Brashear, M-G-M office employes, are vacationing.

Phil Seletsky, M&P's chief booker, is father of a nine-pound boy . . . Jack Granara, RKO publicity chief, tied up "Nurse Edith Cavell" with a feature story by Martin Sheridan, Monogram ad man, in the Boston Sunday Herald . . . *Abe Weiner, former United Artists salesman in Boston, is now with UA's Pittsburgh office. He returned recently for a several days' visit.*

Roy E. Heffner of Bank Night is filing a flock of new cases in Maine after being awarded a judgment for $1,345 against the Reading Theatre Corp. . . . Heffner returned from a week's hunting trip in Maine with a brown bear, partridge and ducks. He saw plenty of deer but couldn't shoot them because the closed season was still on.

Henry W. Kahn, general sales manager of Film Alliance of the United States, Inc., came on from New York to plug "Torpedoed," the timely picture featuring the Royal Oak, *British battleship that was recently sunk. He contemplated several first run deals and reports excellent business. Kahn is also handling "Bombed."*

Irving Smith, former Boston newsreelman with RKO and Universal, is now enjoying the west coast air and sunshine.

VALLEN CURTAIN CONTROLS and TRACKS

Now At The

Playhouse .....Montpelier, Vt.
High School .....Conway, N. H.
High School .....Plymouth, N. H.
Concord Theatre .....Concord, N. H.
High School .....Tilton, N. H.
Boston University ..... Boston, Mass.

They Must Have What Others Lack

CAPITOLIZE....
THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

PORTLAND

THE San Carlo Opera Co., consisting of 125 singers, musicians and dancers has been chosen to open the Maine Civic Theatre, formerly Keith's Theatre, on November 20. The opening of the theatre for a 43-week season to include legitimate road shows, dramatic stock, vaudeville and other attractions, is the result of a movement sponsored by local businessmen in conjunction with the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

The Colonial Theatre, a subsequent, launched "Pay Night" this week, an attraction somewhat resembling "Bank Night." The same theatre is stimulating Friday night business by holding amateur contests.

Chief non-theatrical attraction for the week: The Portland Auto Show being held at the Exposition Bldg., October 23 to 28, inclusive. Three automobiles are being given away during the week.

Chelsea Waldron, business representative for MPMO, sold his home on Ocean Ave. recently and purchased a new house on Hillside Ave., South Portland . . . New uniforms have arrived at the State Theatre—light blue and navy, trimmed with red and gold . . . Subbing for Mary Siteman, State Theatre candy girl, who is convalescing from an emergency appendectomy at the State Street Hospital, is redhaired Marguerite Johnson.

The uncensored version of "All Quiet on the Western Front," a re-issue playing at the Empire Theatre, is meeting with considerable favor . . . The Theatrical Guild of Portland will hold open house in the lobby of the Maine Civic Theatre November 2, just prior to the opening of the theatre's first sponsored performance. Mrs. H. Leroy Caston is in charge of the affair.

Mrs. Harry Botwick, wife of the State Theatre manager, left October 23 for New York to attend the national convention of Senior Hadassah. Mrs. Botwick is the newly elected president of the local chapter and was one of two delegates to attend the convention from Portland.

The Colonial Theatre held a benefit Italian show, screening both American and Italian pictures, Sunday, October 22.

To give a personal touch to the display advertisement heralding the opening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," at the Strand Theatre, Leo Young, manager, topped the ad with a signed recommendation, declaring the picture to be the "finest" and "greatest picture to come out of Hollywood."

The Portland Theatre, a subsequent, is using silverware to lure patrons inside on Mondays and Tuesdays . . . Passing a red light in Waterville the other day cost Lester Hughes, Paramount salesman out of Boston, only two dollars. Cheap if you forget about the kidding that went with it.

HARTFORD

RUDY FRANK, State publicity plugger, comes forward with the report that the appearance of bandster Sammy Kaye on the stage of the Harris Brothers' theatre broke all previous Sunday records by about $200 . . . Frank Morin, manager of the downtown WB Regal, also reports business is "very good."

Thirty-two free passes for the Loew-Poli were given to patrons of the Hartford Courant *"Cooking School" while the school was at the Bushnell . . . Phil Spitalny broadcast his regular Sunday evening General Electric program from the stage of the State when he was in town.*

Don Adrenotta, head usher at the Loew-Poli, is on his vacation . . . Bingo news: Hartford's Foot Guard Hall is now charging patrons 40 cents for admission on Friday nights . . . Louis Cohen, manager of Loew-Poli Palace, reports a lot of good comment on the new seats installed last week.

Paul Sheehan, usher at the Embassy, New Britain, has resigned. He is succeeded by Marty Gwasdow . . . Firemen's Ass'n of Southington held a benefit performance at the Colonial in that town . . . Joe Lundy is once more doorman at the Cameo, Waterbury, after having been on the go in different pursuits for about three years.

Lou Holtz, author of "Well, All Right," was to have started a vaude show Friday at the State . . . Proven Picture Theatre management reports great success with "Wednesday Review Days," a day set aside weekly for two request films . . . George Landers, manager of the E. M. Loew's, was in New Haven.

Fire drills for the service staff are held on Sundays at the Loew-Poli . . . More Loew-Poli news: T. Vonn is a new officer at the Loew-Poli, taking D. Piro's former place . . . Palace manager, Louis Cohen, celebrated his 20th wedding anniversary . . . Jack Simons was in New York last Wednesday to see the Fair with his daughter. Jack, however, found it "too cold," and left in mid-afternoon.

M&P Allyn Theatre doings: Manager Walter Lloyd reports business holding up . . . Cersosimo, stage manager, is at St. Francis Hospital. It's stomach trouble. Management hopes to have him back in about three weeks. Meanwhile, Jack Bonee, stage hand, is taking his place . . . Manager Jim McCarthy, downtown WB Strand, attended the Hartford area Warner managers' conference at the Bond last Friday afternoon. Presiding were I. J. Hoffman, Dan Finn and Max Hoffman, from New Haven; Henry Needles, Hartford . . . Manager Dave Sugarman of the Farmington Avenue Colonial, a Warner unit, had as guests members of the Army football squad. They saw "Bachelor Mother."

Schulman Completes Plans For New Bridgeport Unit

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—A. M. Schulman, operator of the Black Rock Theatre, has completed the financing and plans for a 1,000-seat theatre in the Black Rock section. The plans were designed by Charles Abramowitz of New Haven.

Ground will be broken for the new house as early next spring as weather permits, and the theatre is expected to be ready for occupancy by early fall.

PROVIDENCE

AFTERMATH of a recent Sunday matinee panic in the Empire Theatre here in which several youngsters were injured was an interpretation, by City Solicitor William A. Needham of Providence, of state laws prohibiting admission to theatres and other amusement places of children under 10 years of age unless accompanied by person at least 18 years or older. Prosecution was also threatened to violators of this ruling. Decision is expected to work the greatest hardship on neighborhood theatres where Saturday matinee trade is to a large extent comprised of young children, most of them in charge of brothers or sisters below the 18 year age limit.

The same day the ruling on child admission to theatres was given out in Providence (October 20), the Providence bureau of police and fire also declared that effective January 1 a ban would be enforced on raising funds for charity by selling tickets or certificates of chance or offering door prizes. This order will affect religious, fraternal, veteran and civic club organizations as well as any theatre in the city.

Providence gets a bit of stage fare this week with "The Old Homestead" playing the Playhouse for a six-day run and the Albee relinquishing its usual film program Wednesday night to permit Eva Le Gallienne to come in with "The Master Builder" for a one-night stand.

Rhode Island amateur and semi-professional magicians honored Jack Gwynne, headline act at Fays this week, Tuesday, October 24, by attending the evening performance in a body.

Strand Theatre lobby has installed a modernistic candy concession stand.

RKO-Albee's revivals "Of Human Bondage" and "The Lost Squadron" this week are doing surprising business . . . Loew's State looks likely to beat "Boys Town" record gross with "Babes in Arms" this week.

R. I. theatres don't anticipate such heavy competition from Narragansett race track during the 11-day meet which opened Monday as in spring and summer. Fallish touch in the air will give heated theatres an advantage over the open race track grandstand.

Annette Muriel Kaufman, daughter of Resident Manager Sam Kaufman of Fays, was an October bride, wedding Hyman Shore of this city.

Tax Threat Hangs Over Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS — With 11 gubernatorial candidates (excluding the present incumbent) and 160 candidates for the state legislature committed to repeal of the state's one per cent sales tax, political leaders already are casting about for a means of counterbalancing the loss in revenue which will occur if the levy is revoked.

Most prominently mentioned in this regard is an additional one per cent tax on amusements, including theatres, which now bear a one mill assessment on gross intake.

It is also suggested that a one cent tax be levied on theatres which have cut prices to five and ten cents to escape payment of taxes. Several neighborhood houses and three downtowners are just under the tax wire in admission prices.

May Pare Louisiana Tax on Exchanges

NEW ORLEANS—Louisiana's heavy personal property taxes, fixed against local film exchanges here without regard to size at $50,000 for each exchange, seemed likely to undergo a thorough paring here this week.

As a result of compromise conversations held between Rosen, Kammer, Wolf and Farrar, attorneys for the exchanges, and attorneys for the tax commission, it would appear that the film companies may win out on their proposal to allow for progressive depreciation on film stock.

The compromise conversations followed filing of suit by the exchanges. At first the state was willing to accept the film companies' valuations of film at $15 a reel, but refused to allow for depreciation. Under the present plan, the state will allow depreciation for every three months of life up to a year, after which a reel will have a fixed value of 30 cents. Newsreels, assessed at $15 during the first month of their life, will become obsolete and non-assessable after a 30-day period. All film used for service outside of Louisiana will be non-taxable, a fact which hitherto had caused a heavy assessment on the exchanges.

If the compromise is accepted by the state, it will mean that no large exchange will be assessed more than $25,000, or half of what the state originally assessed. United Artists, which stocks less film than any other major, will be assessed around $8,000.

Audits of 1937 stock will have to be made as a basis for payment of the 1938 assessments, and audits of the 1938 stocks will serve as a measuring stick for the 1939 assessment.

Ritz Is Renovated

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—The Ritz has installed new sound equipment, according to W. J. Coury, manager. Also installed were 1,000 new seats and new carpets on the main floor and mezzanine.

Att'y General's Investigators Probe in Dallas Exchanges

DALLAS—As from no man's land and as a surprise to the entire industry in Texas, investigators from Attorney General Gerald Mann's department took charge early this week of records and correspondence in major film company exchanges and proceeded to find "what they could find" in the way of violations of existing Texas anti-trust laws.

At least two strangers were found working in each of the major offices and those who did not know imagined they were from the home office.

Attorney General Mann has made noticeable strides against oil and other natural resources companies and now goes into the film business which ranks as a major industry.

Attorney General Mann said that it was his duty to investigate various lines of industry from time to time and to file suits where his department found the anti-trust laws were being violated. The attorney general said the current film investigation was merely routine.

While all investigations are in supposed secrecy, it is understood that perusal of R&R, Griffith and Interstate records are under way. O'Donnell, of Interstate, said, "We are cooperating fully."

See Texas Film Exchange Probe As Tax-Possibility Search

NEW YORK—Attorneys for some film companies indicate the investigation being conducted in Dallas by the state attorney general's office is most likely designed to find out if the industry can withstand more taxes to make up the state deficit. The rice, oil and sugar industries have gone throught similar investigations, the film business being the twelfth on the list.

Two representatives from the attorney general's office in Dallas early in the week demanded all books of the important circuits and film exchanges be opened for inspection. The investigation, or survey as some lawyers would rather term it, is expected to take several weeks.



This in New York—

When Gene Autry brought his horse to a party given him at New York's International Casino, the star's Oklahoma friends, Morris Loewenstein, secretary of MPTOA; Miss Ona Johnson and Sol Davis, Republic's Oklahoma manager, posed with him on the Casino's mezzanine.

Georgia Appellate Rules Against Sunday Shows

ATLANTA—In a far-reaching decision, the court of appeals has ruled it is illegal to operate a motion picture theatre anywhere in Georgia on Sunday.

The appellate court upheld Superior Court Judge James C. Davis of the Stone Mountain circuit, in denying a new trial to C. H. Rogers, M. R. Brewster and J. R. Heager, operators of a theatre in Avondale estates, near here, who were convicted of violating the state law banning Sabbath labor.

The theatre, owned by Southern Theatres, Inc., showed films on Sundays, but gave all proceeds to the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children. In turn, the hospital reimbursed the theatre operators for actual expenses.

The court held operation of the theatre was not work of necessity or charity such as would be allowed by law on the Sabbath.

Texas Allied Convention Details Await Cole

DALLAS—While much preparation points to the Texas Allied convention to be held at the Baker in Dallas on Monday, Tuesday, November 6 and 7, final details were lacking as we go to press due to the absence from Dallas of Col. H. A. Cole, who has been in the east on organization matters and is expected back before the end of the week.

As is well known, Col. Cole is president of both the Texas and national Allied organizations. The Texas program of events will be announced immediately on Cole's arrival.

Scripts "Somewhere in Poland"

HOLLYWOOD—"Somewhere in Poland," an original by Gustav Machaty, is being scripted by Karl Lamb for Metro.

R&R Anniversary Is Made Civic Event

DALLAS—The trade from New York to Hollywood took hats off to Harold B. Robb and Ed H. Rowley as they celebrated their 30th anniversary from the starting point last week in Big Spring, Tex.

The two "country boys," as they represent themselves, opened Dallas offices prior to 1920, after their going operation in Big Spring, started in 1909, and coupled later with San Angelo, and other western spots.

Among the first towns which they acquired and which still are in the fold are Sweetwater and Hillsboro. From these situations and others, the R&R partnership was well on its way in 1916.

During the early days of expansion, as the trade knows, there was nothing rosy in the R&R setup or its outlook. There were mostly dark days with few bright interims during the first period of their organization, but after all, informants say theirs has been the most perfect and lasting partnership in the history of any business.

Big Spring was alive with banners on the streets, and the R&R houses—Ritz, Lyric and Queen—did offer the best that the distributors had to offer.

People of the Big Spring area, who had been there for 30 years and who remembered Harold Robb, Ed Rowley and Yuill Robb as younger men, were admitted as guests of the three Big Spring houses during the week.

Special Paper Issued

Probably nowhere has a more pretentious special edition of a newspaper been issued as was done by the Big Spring *Herald* in honor of the Robb & Rowley celebration. To describe that edition tells the vital points in the R&R history.

On the front page were oversized pictures of Harold Robb, Rowley and Yuill Robb. The history started there from the inheritance of Big Spring from their father, the late I. B. Robb. Later the Robbs and Rowley got together on a roof garden picture proposition in San Angelo, and that association has lasted until now, and stronger than ever.

The section, which carries some 30 eight-column pages, recites all the history and presents early photos of R&R operations as compared to their present day methods. Paramount, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, United Artists, the R. E. Griffith Theatres, Republic, Bill, Claude and Lloyd Rust, and Warner Bros. all took congratulatory ads.

The State National Bank in Big Spring, American Seating Co. and R&R affiliated theatres also congratulated.

The affiliates and partners who were in the special issue were: Benton Amusement Co., Benton, Ark.; Wallace R. Kauffman, manager; four Sweetwater theatres, Henry Rogers, manager; Matin and Texas at Mt. Pleasant, Ray and Shelton Gerhard; Magnolia Amusement Co., Magnolia, Ark.; Brenham Amusement Co., W. A. Stuckert, manager; Ralph Noble, city manager of R&R theatres in Little Rock; Taylor Amusement Co., Howard Bland and Howard Hoke; Corpus Christi Theatres, Inc., Bruce Collins; Resort Amusement Co., Dunn and Courtney; Proctor and Marsh, Muskogee, Okla.

Others were Sam Stokes with three houses in McAlester; Colorado Amusement Co., A. E. McClain, manager; Stanley H. Swift, Cameron; J. J. Poag, Del Rio Theatres; H. E. Hardgrave, Sherman; K. N. Greer, Cisco; T. Miller Davidge, Durant Theatres.

After the celebration proper had died down, Harold, Ed and Yuill invited film men to Big Spring for a barbecue at the big Cecil Wassons Ranch.

The film men from Dallas included Burt King; Herman Biersdorf; Harvey Leuthstrom; Gottschall, of National; Wallace Walthall; John Franconi, Lloyd Rust; and others in various lines of the industry.



New Modern Theatre in Texas—

JACKSONVILLE, TEX.—This is the new Jackson Theatre here operated by Lee M. Threet of Lufkin, which is a link in the fast-growing Lee Threet Theatres circuit which maintains a Dallas office.

The Jackson, ultra-modern and streamlined, was conceived from a study of types in the Modern Theatre Section of BOXOFFICE. At night its front is a brilliance in multi-colors. On either side of the sign "Jackson," square glass panels are aglow in one color. The sign itself reflects another. The "V" marquee provides still another color tone.

Note the huge marquee letters which may be seen uptown for three blocks. The building was constructed at a cost of $25,000. Furnishings and equipment cost a like amount.

The Jackson shows second runs at 10 and 15 cents, and its capacity is 700. All of Threet's operations, which now include Lufkin, Livingston and Overton, in addition to Jacksonville, are of the modern type.

With an associate he has let a contract for a new theatre at College Station, Tex. Also with an associate, he has let another contract and construction is now under way on a new downtown theatre for Port Arthur. Within a short time he will start building new theatres in Beaumont and Marshall.

On "Primrose Path"

Hollywood—Rowland Leigh and Ray Harris are teamed on the script of RKO's "The Primrose Path," to co-star Ginger Rogers and Joel McCrea and which Gregory LaCava will produce and direct.

Recent Equipment Sales By NTS Dallas Office

DALLAS—Recent equipment sales reported by the local branch of National Theatre Supply follow: Simplex sound systems to Star, Amarillo; Lyric, Odessa; Timberland, Diboll; Palace, Bryan; Mecca, Jacksboro; Texan, Lufkin; Campus, College Station, and Sabine, Port Arthur; projectors, pedestals, projection lamps and generator to the Timberland, Diboll; mechanisms, pedestals, rewind and lenses to the Mecca, Jacksboro; lamps, screen, carpet, padding, reels and lenses to the Dittman, Brownsville; lamps, generator and screen to the Palace, Lamesa; and lamps and rectifiers to the Plaza, Denton.

More Commercials

DETROIT—Commercial film production is picking up, according to report of Walter Alley, script manager of Brobuck, Inc., who reports that the present six-month period, ending December 31, will be the largest in the history of the company.

MEMPHIS

FRANK J. McCARTHY, Universal's eastern sales manager, together with Harry Graham, district manager, spent several days in Memphis with their local manager, Jimmy Prichard. Monday morning, Jimmy drove them to Nashville, Tenn., where they called on Tony Sudekum of the Crescent Amusement Co.

R. B. Cox of the Batesville Theatre, Batesville, Miss., and who is also the local postmaster, has just returned from a postmasters' meeting in Washington, D. C.

Exhibitors seen along the Row: Jack Marshall, Tony Sudekum's city manager in Dyersburg; John Shannon, Maxon, Portageville; Jack Wilbanks, Walnut, Miss.; J. W. Crabtree jr., Paramount, Clarendon, Ark.; Burris & Henley Smith, Imperial, Pocahontas; Charles Collier, Shaw; C. H. Collier and George Hale, Drew; B. F. Jackson, Ruleville; W. A. Poole, Prescott; S. T. Lyles jr., and Bob Smallwood, Ritz, Oxford and L. F. Haven, Forrest City, Ark.

C. W. Tipton was in the past week and purchased new chairs for his house in Carraway. He also operates theatres in Manila and Monette . . . Steve Stein of the Met Theatre in Jackson, Tenn., has just returned from a trip to Washington, D. C.

Charles Monts, who lives in Plantersville, Miss., and who operates theatres in Nettleton and Shannon, Miss., was in the past week advancing his bookings. This was his first trip on the Row in many weeks . . . Memphis Filmrow met its Community Fund quota 100 per cent this year.

Paul Shaffer, manager of the Star Theatre at Marked Tree, Ark., and who is one of the star fishermen in this territory has for the present time put away all thoughts of lures and reels and is now busy studying infant care and formulas. The reason for this is that on October 18, "Paul Thomas" arrived at the Shaffer household. Papa Paul says it will only be a matter of a few weeks until he will have another fishing partner as the son now weighs eight pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Pattie of the Temple and Rex theatres at Leland, Miss., paid Filmrow their first visit in several months, as they have just recently returned from Michigan, where they spent the summer . . . L. R. Allen of the Commonwealth Amusement Co. of Kansas City and K. K. King, city manager in Searcy, Ark., were in advancing their bookings this week.

P. E. (Honey) Morris, who has for the past 15 years operated the Regent Theatre in Indianola, Miss., has completed plans for an additional theatre, which will be ready by November 16. This house will have approximately 500 seats, will have the latest type equipment, including air conditioning and modernistic in design. This house when completed will represent an investment of about $20,000 and will be known as "The Honey" Theatre.

E. O. Reeves of the Dixie Theatre at Fulton, Miss., was an unusual Filmrow visitor . . . G. W. Haynes of the Strand Enterprises, Memphis, has just returned from a business trip to Nashville, Tenn.

W. Levi Chisholm leased the Orpheum Theatre in Fulton, Ky., and after extensive improvements opened same on Friday, October 13. This is to be a first-run operation . . . H. R. Mitchell of the Linden, Linden, Tenn., paid Filmrow his initial booking trip this week and, incidentally, while here advised he wanted to subscribe to BOXOFFICE, *as he felt it would be a great help to him in this new venture.*

Dave Flexer, who operates the Varsity at Amory; Tower at Sardis, and the Ritz at New Albany, and who has made his home in New Albany for the past several years, recently moved to Memphis to open an office. Mrs. Flexer and the baby came up this past weekend, and they will make their home on Central Ave. . . . Miss Juanita Adair of the Baldwyn at Baldwyn, Miss., was on the Row advancing her bookings.

C. E. Peppiat, branch manager for United Artists out of New Orleans, together with Milton Dureau, his salesman, spent several days in Memphis this week working their nearby accounts . . . Odis Taylor of the Uptown at Dresden, Tenn., advised this week that this brother and sister who were seriously injured recently in an automobile accident, were improving, but that his little niece was still unconscious.

John Mangham, president of Monogram Southern, paid the local office a visit this week. He and Mike Carmichael, his manager, called on several local accounts . . . M. A. Lightman of Malco Theatres has just returned from White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., where he attended the board of directors meetings of the MPTOA. He was also in Pittsburgh for the Variety banquet.

Hy Sanders, who is manager for R&R's New and Roxy theatres in Little Rock, was on Filmrow this week for the first time in over a year, where he was busy renewing old acquaintances. Sanders for a number of years operated the suburban theatres in Little Rock as the Sander-Wheeler Corp.

Leroy Renfro jr., R. E. Abramson of Holly Grove, Ark., were in this week getting bookings set for their Grove Theatre, which they took over from J. W. Crabtree on October 11. Leroy formerly operated this theatre, but leased it January 1. He advised that extensive remodeling had been done to the building and new seats installed. This is Abramson's first venture in the show business.

Claire Hilgers Building Albany, Ga., House

ATLANTA—Claire Hilgers announces he is building a 600-seat theatre at Albany, Ga. Plans are now being drawn by Corgan & Moore, theatre architects of Dallas, Tex. A ten-year lease has been signed on the ground. Hilgers plans to open the house by Christmas. It will be situated on Broad St.

Scripts "Passport to Life"

HOLLYWOOD—"Passport to Life," which Garson Kanin will direct for RKO, is being scripted by Sanya Foss from her own original.

New Sound for Capitol

FAYETTEVILLE, TENN.—New RCA sound is being installed at the Capitol here, which is operated by Cumberland Amusement Co.

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

IN THE MIDDLE AND ALL AROUND YOU'LL FIND *Simplex* PRODUCTS BEST FROM PROJECTOR TO SOUND

The Exhibitor Who Has, Gets— Plenty at the Box Office

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

CALLED on Ray Newman, who operates the Pastime at Sandersville, Ga., and found him in bed with a cold. Visited a while and he informed me he had a new sound system. Hope you are well again by now, Ray.

Ran across Porter Lassiter, 20th-Fox salesman, working East Georgia and he tells me business is excellent. He was accompanied by Mrs. Lassiter.

Had a brief chat with Charlie Bridges, general manager of Dixie Amusement Co. of Swainsboro, Ga. He said he would vacation in the home town, Miami, Fla., the latter part of this month and visit his parents.

Hobson Johnson, general manager of Pal Amusement Co. with headquarters in Vidalia, Ga., tells me plans have been drawn for a new Pal Theatre at Wadley, Ga. He took me out to the estate of his boss, M. F. Brice, who is building a private theatre on his place, and while there, had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Brice. Johnson formerly managed the Pal Theatre at Millen, Ga., and was recently promoted to manager of the entire setup.

Called around to say "hello" to Art Barry, city manager at Macon, Ga., for Lucas & Jenkins, and was told the circuit had just held a meeting of Macon employes, numbering about 60, at the Grand Theatre. It was attended by E. Whittaker, district manager, and Willis Davis, personnel manager. Had a few minutes conversation with that grand oldtimer, Harry Glenn, who manages the Ritz for Art.

Dropped in on Al Rock, managing the Martin-Thompson Princess at Fort Valley, Ga. Told me his recent home talent show was a grand success. It was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Al says he was both the producer and master of ceremonies.

Martin-Thompson theatres have made quite a few personnel changes of late. Willard Baxley has been transferred from the Princess at Baxley, Ga., to the Princess at Eastman, Ga.; Johnny Harvard, from the Eastman house to Baxley; Billie Yarbrough, from McRae to Hawkinsville; Ted Munson, from Hawkinsville to Perry, and Rhett Milam, from Perry to McRae.

Ross Burns, managing the Dixie at Sylvania, Ga., tells your correspondent he is expecting a blessed event (apologies to Winchell) in January. It'll be their first, and he says he has no choice. Our best wishes.

Mrs. W. B. Smith of the Erin at Tennille, Ga., has a morning show for employes of her husband's cotton mill who work the night shift. If they don't have cash, she accepts tokens issued by the mill for purchases at their commissary.

And to Frank Miller, that genial showman at Augusta, Ga. Was cordially received by him and son Frank. Talked of the new Miller which he hopes to have open by December 15. It will seat 1,700—1,120 downstairs, 580 in the balcony. Miller intends to use name bands and the better road shows as much as possible, believing that "flesh" is on the way back to public favor.



CHARLOTTE

VISITORS on Filmrow: Percy Wells, formerly of Wilmington and now of Asheville, George Hughes of Albemarle, Francis White of Asheboro, H. B. Harrill of Smithfield, Glenn Davis of Louisburg, J. C. Holland of Lyman, S. C.; Louis Mitchell of Elkin, G. G. Mitchell of Newton, W. D. Van Derburg of Pageland, S. C.; Robert Bryant of Rock Hill, S. C.; O. T. Kirby of Roxboro, G. W. Carpenter of Valdese, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Ormond, Ayden.

North Carolina Amusements, Inc., will open the Roxy at Albemarle soon. C. G. Lawing will be in charge . . . The Saluda at Saluda has been taken over by Mrs. Neil G. Abel from Albert Berelowitz. New sound and booth equipment has been installed.

Emil Bernstecker, city manager of North Carolina Theatres, Inc., is chairman of the annual Red Cross roll call . . . J. Brecheen, who has been local manager of RKO, has been transferred to Atlanta. N. J. Colquohoun of Atlanta takes the vacancy here.

Lyle M. Wilson, president of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, was in Charlotte working on plans for the December convention. Program committee appointed consisted of F. H. Beddingfield, chairman; Roy L. Smart and Ben Strozier.

Oscar Morgan, Paramount division manager from New York; Harold Wilkes, district manager from Atlanta, and Jack Kirby, Atlanta manager, were visitors in Charlotte . . . Henry Cook from Walterboro, S. C., was on the Row last week. Ditto Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Davis from Morganton.

Byron Slaughter of the Paramount sales force and Bernard J. Ross, Paramount office manager, were injured in an automobile collision last week. Slaughter, seriously injured, is showing slight improvement. Ross is improving rapidly.

"Frog" to Sack

DALLAS—For distribution in the 11 southern states, Sack Amusement Enterprises has acquired rights to "The Return of the Frog" described as "Europe's double-thrill horror show," according to Alfred Sack, president of the company.

A Chip Off the Old Block

New Orleans—Jack Dicharry jr., acting manager of the Circle, New Orleans' newest theatre, is a true chip off the old block.

Like his father, who operates the Lincoln in the upper section of the city, he can be seen every evening, weather permitting, in front of the house with a smile for his patrons.



—Duke Photo Co.

Spreading Happiness—

Ann Rutherford, appearing in "Gone With the Wind," and Mrs. C. G. Lawing, wife of an exhibitor, seem quite happy over something or other BOXOFFICE *has to say. The picture was made during the star's visit to Charlotte.*

AUSTIN

THERE'S been a lot of activity at the Texas Theatre lately. Jesse Melinger, the genial manager, says Julius Kubala is the new doorman. There are three ushers working at this next-to-the-University-of-Texas house, and all three of 'em are Juniors: John Shepherd jr., Diez Callahan jr. and George Brundrett jr.

The new cashier at the Texas is Eloise Engle. She replaced Deen Hebert, who was switched to the same job at the State, downtown. But getting back to the Texas, that house is sporting a new screen, rebuilt projectors and steel reflectors.

Charles Root, skipper of the Varsity, and Dick Waite, assistant manager of the Paramount, among the excited fans at the Arkansas-Texas grid game . . . Harold Eichenbaum, No. 1 man of the local Interstate art shop, the proud papa of a baby boy. Harold jr. arrived October 5.

Louis Novy, Interstate city manager, announces that Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne will return to the Paramount stage December 28 in "The Taming of the Shrew."

Local theatre managers have been showing Vincent Lopez shorts quite consistently the past month or so. Lopez plays a one-night stand this week on the campus of the University of Texas . . . Jake Jarmon, 16mm camera bug, has been burning up a lot of footage on the campus.

To Meg "All Came True"

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has assigned Anatole Litvak to direct "And It All Came True," co-featuring George Raft, Ann Sheridan and John Garfield.

DALLAS

L M. THREET, head of Lee Threet Theatres, is back from a trip to Nueva Laredo, Mex., where he purchased Spanish tile to use in theatres he now has under construction at Bryan and Port Arthur . . . L. C. Baxley left for Houston where he says he is working on a theatre deal.

J. Preston Tate, the hustling exhibitor of Santa Anna and a partner in the Strand at Honey Grove, who is also in the wholesale produce and tobacco business at Comanche where he lives, has left a local hospital recovered from a recent operation.

Walter Stoeppleman made a trip in the Beaumont territory and up north through east Texas in the interest of Boxoffice Insurance, a stimulating plan which he developed and has been distributing to theatres the past several months.

After selling his interest in Nocona Theatres back to the Lutzer Bros., Joe Vaughn plans to open a new theatre in Hillsboro. On the Row Tuesday with his wife and family, Joe said he plans to open about November 1 and that remodeling of his building is now well under way.

The L. B. Browns of Gatesville were Dallas visitors. They registered at the Hilton. L. B. walked two blocks to Filmrow several mornings to book for the Regal and Ritz. Mrs. Brown went in another direction to shops seeking out latest fashions in ladies wear. L. B. said she really bought the merchandise. This was the Browns' first visit in a number of months.

R. E. Blevins, who recently leased the Village at Collinsville from E. L. Black, was on the Row booking. He is making a go of the venture and says he may buy the house soon. While in town, he subscribed to BOXOFFICE.

Jerry Stout, who has been with the Lutzers and Frank Benson at Bowie for several years, is now manager of the Ritz at Nocona for the Lutzers.

Many friends of the Charninskys are glad to learn that Mrs. Louis Charninsky has recovered from a recent serious illness, and, of course, no one is happier than the Elm Street manager.

Much credit has been given to Duke Evans, who with his brother, Rufford O., produced this year's Variety *Spieler* of 20 pages on book stock and of tabloid size. The sheet was crammed full of advertising. The word from Variety is that the *Spieler* cleared over $1,000.

W. E. Miller, owner of the Lyric at Flatonia for the past 10 years and who makes it a point to visit Filmrow at least once each year, did just that last week. He visited the exchanges, equipment dealers and chatted with quite a number of people.

George W. Weeks, general sales manager of Monogram, came down from Kansas City Wednesday for a visit to John Franconi and Ed Blumenthal, of the Dallas exchange. He left Thursday for St. Louis. Weeks was particularly enthusiastic over Monogram's big picture, "Mutiny in the Big House," and glad to learn it had been set in at all Interstate and Jefferson circuit houses.

Audrey Cox and Mrs. Cox, who have the very desirable account at Lamesa with two theatres, were on the Row this week.

By the way of special mention: Claude Graham, projectionist in the theatres at Sherman, Texas, went out to Big Springs for the R&R 30th anniversary. Graham started with R&R. Needless to say he was an honored visitor at the celebration.

Mrs. Lorraine Cornett, formerly with Republic, now is with a new company, Texas Film Exchange, doing office and stenographic work.

Ben Hill, the wide-awake exploiteer and advertising man in this section for United Artists, also handled the personal appearance here of John Charles Thomas, last of the Metropolitan hold-outs, who sang recently in recital at McFarland auditorium. Ben not only aided in packing the assembly but put it on the AP wire that Thomas would make a picture next year, the first of a series by an independent company, which will release the lot through United Artists.

Adapts McCarthy Story

HOLLYWOOD—"Charlie McCarthy, Detective," with Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd, is being adapted by Harold Shumate for Universal.

The Queen Feature Service, Inc.
Quality Theatre Equipment & Supplies
1912½ Morris Ave. Phone 3-8665
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SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERB—JUMBO
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A Trial Will Convince You of Our Popcorn's Super Quality
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BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
315 S. HARWOOD **BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC.** DALLAS, TEXAS

OKLA. CITY

WHEN one of the *Daily Oklahoman* reporters came back from Pawhuska, Okla., he had something to say about the theatres there. The Circle A, built like a ranch, with an old hitching post, with two large wagon wheels used as chandeliers, amazed him most. He noted, too, that burned in the wood front of the house were all the registered brands of cattlemen in the Osages. A. M. Abbott, who owns the Circle A, is a ranchman himself.

C. E. Barber, manager of the Washita Theatre at Chickasha, broke out last week with one of those Personal Recommendation advertisements for a film and he really rode all the horses. Film was Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

The Isis Theatre has installed a new signboard atop the marquee and new marquee letters . . . The Ritz at Muskogee played radio station KVOO's Saddle Mountain Round-Up gang on a recent bill. Station is at Tulsa.

The Kemble Theatre at Wagoner was used last week for a showing of "Christmas Carol" under local PTA sponsorship . . . All plans for new theatres locally seem to be holding off with several who had planned to take the plunge holding back to see what comes from the European War.

George Sumner is all set for a new film supply house here and will have full information available shortly . . . Morris Loewenstein due back in from an eastern trip which with Sol Davis was part vacation and part business attending the MPTOA sessions at White Sulphur Springs.

Tip: Marvin Krause has a brand new Pontiac . . . probably glad to show it off if you want to get somewhere . . . WKY is putting one of its shows starring Lee Norton on the Criterion stage for its regular broadcasts. Previously these stunts have been good attractions, we understand.

J. Eldon Peak of the Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co. feeling 100 per cent okay after recovering from his operation . . . Hardly a week passes but what yours truly hears a complimentary remark about K. Lee Williams . . . so here's a tribute to a swell guy.

George Friedel, 20th Century-Fox booker, is doing some right smart bowling here and winning local publicity through accounts of his 20th-Fox bowling team exploits in the local newspapers. Money well spent, we say.

The State Theatre is now back on single bills—putting aside its double-bill two change per policy to start singles with Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." Price upped from 25 to 40 cents. Opening looks like much more than single week run here for "Mr. Smith."

Jimmy Birge gave special splurges to M-G-M's "Drunk Driving" short last week at the Criterion and profited thereby . . . The city was in the midst of a safety campaign, having gone 108 days without fatal traffic accident and set a record for cities in its class.

You may also jot down that Pat Patchen has rid himself of his w. k. jallopy and now has a new automobile. Is it automobiles or suits? Time will tell!

Jackie Coogan came in last week for stage appearance in "What a Life" company with Bert Stern, former Standard Theatres advertising manager, doing the presentation.

Build Profits—Patronage with
PARAMOUNT PREMIUM CO.
IKE KATZ, Sales Mgr.
210 H. St. N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Interstate Group to Study Speech

Dallas—Employes in the general office of Interstate circuit have formed a study club in public speaking and have secured as their mentor Miss Marion Woodward, who is instructor of public speaking at the Dallas Technical High School.

The Interstaters will meet once a week in the circuit's screening room. They have named their new organization the "Interstate Forum." The ten charter members include Besa Short, P. K. Johnston, Lynn Harris, James Dickinson, L. Reynolds, Harry Sachs, Debs Reynolds, Dolores Walker, W. P. Armstrong and James Gardner.

A Mistrial Is Declared In Infringement Suit

CHARLOTTE — A mistrial has been declared in the $250,000 copyright infringement suit of LeGette Blythe against Loew's because of the illness of a juror.

Mistrial was ordered by Judge E. Y. Webb, holding federal district court in Statesville, after he had been informed the jury was unable to report after having the case under consideration since Thursday, in a trial that began October 10.

Court attaches here explained the judge later could decide the case without a formal jury verdict on the basis of the evidence presented during the long trial. Judge Webb explained last week that, since it is a suit in equity, the jury was serving largely in an advisory capacity.

Others familiar with the case explained, that if the judge should find for the plaintiff the case probably would be placed in the hands of a referee to decide what amount the defendant should pay. It is generally expected that the losing side will appeal to a higher court.

Blythe charges that Loew's illegally used original material from his novel, "Marshal Ney: A Dual Life," in producing the M-G-M short, "The Bravest of the Brave."

SANTONE

L. C. LIVINGSTON, stage manager of the Joy, reported to police that six costume gowns and a make-up kit were stolen from the dressing rooms of the theatre one night last week. Tol J. Teeters, manager, said that he believed that the thief had hidden in the showhouse before the place was closed for the day and later made his exit down a fire escape.

"A Cavalcade of Texas," the Technicolor film subject of the Lone Star state which was produced by James FitzPatrick and shown at the Majestic Theatre last week, lauds the glories of his vast empire of the great Southwest in the matter of geography, crops, scenery, cities and historical interest. The picture is of feature length and runs 50 minutes.

Oswald DeCaillet, 33, erstwhile theatreman, well-known artist-cartoonist, and recently connected with a local hotel staff, died here October 13, from an attack of kidney trouble. His mother, Mrs. Katherine DeCaillet, survives. He was a native of Geneva, Switzerland.

LeeRoy Handley, assistant manager of the Majestic Theatre, back from three weeks' layoff, and H. W. Kier, head of National Films, Inc., here, took in the Dallas State Fair last week . . . In town October 19, was Bernard Halvor Brager, jr., Paramount salesman out of the Dallas office to attend the funeral services of his aged father here.

Katherine Haley has been added to the chorus lineup at the Joy Theatre . . . Phillip Handley of the Texas Theatre service staff is in Arizona visiting a sick uncle . . . The Harlandale Junior-Senior PTA sponsored a showing of "Man of Conquest" at the Harlandale Theatre Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock . . . Now Ed. E. Collins is all set for those pigskin parades. He won a radio in the recent Dallas Variety Golf tournament.

Corinne Miller, lately with KTSA as a fashion reporter, and now in Hollywood competing as a finalist in the girl's division of the "Gateway to Hollywood" contest, appeared on last Sunday's "Life Is So Dull," CBS program.

Leon Max Oppenheimer, operator-manager-owner of the Prince Theatre, independent picture house, told BOXOFFICE here recently that his business has increased over 50 per cent during the past 12 months. He recently put his playhouse into tip-top shape to the tune of $300.

We will now take time out to put in a good word for Sylvan Barry, assistant manager and treasurer of the Empire Theatre here. He is one of the few theatremen in these parts who actually designs his own fronts, paints them and makes them stand out and really sell the picture to the public. Whenever a G-Man picture comes along, Sylvan can always rate the necessary equipment to sell his seats, because his dad is one of San Antonio's guardians of the law.

William C. "Buster" Bryan has qualified for the finals in the Jesse Lasky "Gateway to Hollywood" contest.

TENNESSEE

THE NEW FOX Theatre, Smithville, had a most auspicious opening on October 16. An entertainment program of local talent began with a talk and prayer by a local minister. A capacity crowd attended the opening.

The Princess Theatre, Nashville, on October 21, had the first of a new type of Saturday morning program for children. It is called a "Junior Safety Club" and the first program featured talks by local city officials on safety. About 2,000 kids literally jammed the theatre. Gene Russell of the Princess promotion staff organized the club and served as master of ceremonies . . . Paramount Theatre has a successful "Popeye Club."

The Crescent Amusement Co. announces a successful opening for the New Capitol Theatre at Princeton, Ky., formerly the Savoy, owned and operated by Malco-Memphis Theatres. The president of the local Kiwanis Club served as master of ceremonies for the dedication. Thomas J. Simmons, who came to Princeton from Clarksville, Ark., two years ago, is manager of the Capitol.

B. Branner Smith and two other defendants, charged with defrauding the Bijou Theatre, Knoxville, out of $612 over a period of 18 months, may be paroled after refunding the money to the theatre. Smith and his associates had charge of ticket sales for the Negro section of the Bijou.

Crescent Amusement Co. faces a $5,000 damage suit in circuit court, filed by Margie B. Phelps, who claims to have been permanently injured by a fall on the tile of the lobby of the Woodland Street Theatre, Nashville. A brain concussion and injuries to hip and elbow is claimed. The suit seeks to prove that the theatre was negligent in not having a carpet on this portion of the lobby.

Dallas Golf Scores

DALLAS—Net scores by players in the Variety Club fall tournament at Lakewood Country Club follow:

Norman Hodge, 62; Charles Meeker, 65; Joe Lewandos, C. J. Zern, 68; "Scrubby" Reynolds, 69; Jake Elder, W. G. Underwood, 70; Sanford Hodge, C. L. McCoy, H. S. Shoemaker, 71; L. B. Godschall, Herb Turpie, Charles Kelly, 72; "Dutch" Cammer, Eddie Collins, C. C. Caldwell, Duncan Hamric, N. Aranson, Dick Foy, 73; Matt Dowling, John Adams, 74; L. J. Weber, Bob Foster, Herschel Crawford, 75; Burt King, Jake Lutzer, R. J. O'Donnell, J. O. McClanahan, 76; George Harris, Neal Houston, Oscar Morgan, Leaman Marshall, R. E. Davis, Jerry Jobe, Red Cummings, Jack Russell, 77; Duke Evans, L. C. Griffith, 78; Ed Sullivan, Rufford Evans, Charles Freeman, 79.

W. V. Adwell, Jim Webb, Bill O'Donnell, Clyde Houston, 80; Paul Baccus, George Wilse, Ben Bedford, Ted DeBoer, Bennie Bickers, 81; Jimmie Lovell, J. C. Chatmas, Eddie Zimmerman, George Heck, 82; "Ching" Allen, Jack Chalman, C. C. McClintock, R. E. Griffith, B. C. Gibson, 83; Sebe Miller, Sol Sachs, Chas. Jordan, Tracy Fishburn, 84; Joe Jack, C. M. Miller, Raymond Willie, 85; Paul Kay, Hiram Parks, R. E. Helms, H. Kittle, D. A. Dixon, Lynn Stocker, H. J. Pettigrew, E. S. Olsmith, I. Adelman, Bob Jones, 86.

Don Douglas, Damon Bostick, 87; Eddie Barr, Frank Starz, Leroy Bickel, 88; Mike Rice, 89; Dick Hyland, Lou Schneider, H. Biersdorf, J. E. Gribble, 90; C. H. Weaver, Lon Fidler, 91; Jack Corgan, Lloyd Rust, Elmer Zrenner, 92; Joe Estes, Paul Short, 93; George Chatmas, Fred Jack, 94; Mitchell Lewis, J. L. McKinney, 96; Ray Beall, 97; Hugh Braley, 99; Dave Cahn, W. J. Zeidlick, Lafe Pfeiffer, 100; George Schepps, 102; Ainsley Wood, 104; R. D. Teagarden, Herman Craver, 105; Jean Finley, 107; Jack Gruben, 116.

Results of the Calcutta Pool:

Player	Buyer	Am't Won
Norman Hodge	Ben Ferguson	$350.00
Charles Meeker	Wallace Walthall	200.00
Joe Lewandos	Jake Lutzer	150.00
C. J. Zern	B. C. Gibson	100.00
"Scrubby" Reynolds	I. Adelman	60.00
Jake Elder	I. Adelman	40.00
W. G. Underwood	I. Adelman	30.00
Sanford Hodge	R. E. Griffith	30.00
H. S. Shoemaker	I. Adelman	20.00
L. B. Godschall	B. Ackers	20.00

Prizes ranged from a camera set, shotgun, stove, suit of clothes and wristwatch on down to a blanket, thermometer, hunting knife and small poker chips.

Nine dubs cut for two prizes allotted to that group, and the victors were R. D. Teagarden and Jean Finley.

Prizes customarily awarded to the ladies during dinners following tournaments, went to Mrs. Fred Jack, fur hat and muff; electric cooker to Mrs. R. I. Payne; a radio to Mrs. A. Aronson, and a carving set to Miss Dorothy Matson, daughter of C. W. and Mrs. Matson, Rockdale, Tex.

ATLANTA

THE Lumpkin (Ga.) Theatre is now under management of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Smith.

Jimmie Campbell, Paramount salesman, is receiving condolences on the recent death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Goldsmith.

Frank Merritts of Birmingham was a recent Row visitor.

The Ringo Theatre at Ringgold, Ga., is now open under management of E. W. Zoonstein.

Savannah's new Drive-In Theatre on East Victory drive reports good business.

Horace Wright has resigned from RKO and Randolph Elliott has resigned from Universal.

Harold Wilkes journeyed to Charlotte last week.

Norman Colquohoun, former RKO manager in Charlotte, is now traveling for the company out of the Atlanta office.

Dave Prince spent a few days in Charlotte last week on business.

To Remodel the Star

TEAGUE, TEX.—The Star, a local unit of the Long Circuit managed by Floyd Faubian, will be remodeled, according to circuit officials. Another Long house here, the Ritz, is due for reopening.

"Irene" Next for Wilcox

HOLLYWOOD—Next Herbert Wilcox production for RKO, to star Anna Neagle, will be "Irene," the stage musical acquired by the studio some time ago.

Returns to Folly

NEW ORLEANS — Edward Schambach, manager of the Grenada here, has been returned to the Folly, in nearby Algiers, by the United circuit. He was manager there before taking over the Grenada.

NEW ORLEANS

THE LOCAL chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has been forwarded a $750 check by the Will Rogers Memorial Fund . . . Ellis C. Irwin of the censor board has been elected president of the Beth Israel Congregation here.

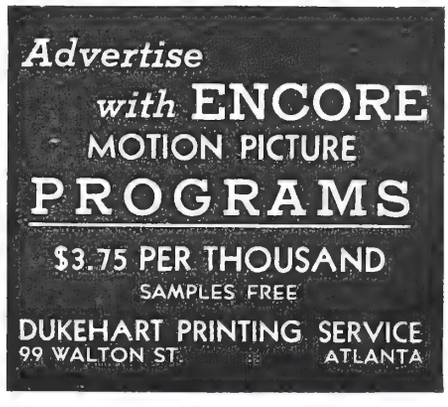
Tony Paton (Anthony Patorno in New Orleans) has a bit part in Universal's "Test Driver" which will be released in December . . . A. H. Moss is operator of the Lincoln (colored) Theatre at Laurel, Miss. . . . After a visit to Nashville to confer with a chain owner, L. V. Seischnaydre is saying nothing; he just looks wise and smiles.

James FitzPatrick, producer of Metro's Traveltalks, tells BOXOFFICE he has bookings in 17,000 theatres and that the sound track is translated into five languages . . . While theatre managers are wolfing because they are forbidden by law to crowd patrons into their houses, a circus that played here sold 1,000 more admission tickets than its seating capacity by spreading a canvas on the ground.

Art Lewis, writer for 20th Century-Fox, is here from Hollywood on an extended visit with relatives and friends. He is accompanied by his mother and sister. He says the situation on the coast is in a disorganized state, and that production is being curtailed.

Private clubs and associations have a new fad—exhibiting a feature film for their members and guests while they eat and enjoy liquid refreshments. The Deutsches Haus, a German association, Sunday night used as an opener for a series during the winter "Girl of the Limberlost." A local brewery sponsored the film. "Black Gold" is underlined for the coming week—same sponsor.

Dorothy Lamour is planning to eat her Thanksgiving dinner in New Orleans with her folks—but did not state which one. Maybe she will eat two dinners in the city which is equally divided on the holiday . . . House Manager Clifford LaFrance of the Liberty is getting ready for "Birth of a Baby," opening November 2.





Texan Visits Hollywood—

J. W. Scott, of the Jefferson Amusement Co., Port Arthur, Tex., visits Pat O'Brien on the set of "The Fighting 69th" at the Warner studio.

Oklahoma Is Divided On Schenck Appeal

OKLAHOMA CITY—Exhibitor response to Joseph M. Schenck's statement urging exhibitors to display greater showmanship and introduce new ideas as well as extended playing time on good films is rather mixed.

Standard Theatres has for some time been following Schenck's advice in extending playing time on top films, as has T. B. Noble, managing director of the State Theatre.

Walter B. Shuttee, general manager of Standard, stated some time ago that under present conditions good grosses could be secured only on top films. For that reason Standard has been holding moveovers in the Tower and Plaza theatres on films which pass the 100 per cent average mark in downtown Midwest and Criterion runs. Noble has always had a policy of extended runs on topnotch films.

Some independent exhibitors comment adversely on Schenck's statement, while many others approved his suggestion.

"It's just the old shell game," one independent observed. "Deals are coming up and it is this year's excuse to get bigger and better percentages and bigger and better rentals. Every year it is something . . . this year the war situation."

However, most film opinion in the area is behind Schenck's stand favoring no letup in quality of product from Hollywood and standing ready to cooperate insofar as purses and resources permit.

Charleston Already Getting Maximum Playing Time

CHARLESTON, S. C.—Albert Sottile, general manager of the Pastime Amusement Co., which operates a group of theatres here, makes the following statement of his reaction to the recent Schenck appeal:

"In our particular operation, every possible ounce of boxoffice value that a picture may possess is being duly extracted in the very manner that Schenck suggests, and to be more liberal with our playing time is out of the question."

Sottile for years has been among the leading figures in the North and South Carolina exhibitor association.

Lightman in Appeal to Conserve "A" Pictures

MEMPHIS—M. A. Lightman, president of Malco Theatres, Inc., in his address at the annual convention of the MPTO of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee made a plea to those present to "not dissipate your A pictures." He advised further: "With the present European crisis, the industry is bound to curtail the production costs on pictures, which will probably mean fewer A pictures, and my advice to you as fellow exhibitors is to 'protect the A pictures we have now and those coming up within the next six months—never play two A pictures the same week, regardless of how good they are, and by all means give them the maximum playing time—where you have been playing your A pictures Sunday and Monday, play them Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.'

"This," he concluded, "is our only solution to the crisis we now are facing."

Can't Hear Extended Time Plea in Iowa

DES MOINES—Most Iowa exhibitors bristle at Joseph Schenck's "longer run" suggestion.

Leo F. Wolcott of Eldora, Ia., speaking as president of the Allied Theatre Owners of Iowa and Nebraska, Inc., says:

"Exhibitors have always carried their share and more of the burden of maintaining this motion picture industry. Increases in film rental terms have been exacted under this or that pretext for many years until we have now arrived at a point where reductions should be made if theatres are to exist as an outlet for film productions. In any number of small town theatres today production and distribution is taking 35 to 50 per cent of the gross receipts. It is quite evident, therefore, that exhibition will be able to absorb very little, if any, of the loss of revenue caused by the European conflict.

"Replying to Joseph N. Schenck's request that exhibitors employ greater showmanship, introduce new ideas and get every bit of revenue from every picture engagement, I can only say that those exhibitors who have not done exactly this and more during the last several years are no longer in this business. With respect to extended playing time, I believe it is entirely possible the occasional outstanding attraction can be played profitably in the larger cities for two or more weeks, but in the smaller towns our actual experience proves extended playing time merely means spreading the business out over the additional time and taking this time away from other pictures.

How a Hobby Grew

MEMPHIS—A hobby started in 1919 with a 95-cent kodak has paid big dividends to Earle Crotchett, one of the ace cameramen in the newsreel field. At the time Earle purchased this 95-cent kodak he was employed as a railroad clerk in Little Rock, and he bought same to occupy his spare time. He liked photography so well that the next year he purchased a $30 film pack camera—then wanting more action he secured a Graflex and went into the picture business. He tried his hand at motion pictures first during the 1927 flood and after that he put aside other equipment. Crotchett freelanced until 1931 when he became a "lens scooper" for Universal Newsreel. He is stationed at Memphis, but his business of lens scooping keeps him on the move continually. He has spent only four weeks of this year at his home. His territory comprises 12 southern states. He has just returned from Little Rock where he made pictures of the Arkansas Livestock Show and Rodeo. His pictures of the Arkansas-Mississippi State football game at Memphis on October 7 were called "The football pictures of the week" by Graham McNamee, sports commentator, who in his description of the game said, "The thrill of the week comes from Dixie." He knows Arkansas well, having been associated with the Little Rock *Gazette* as photographer. He says his biggest story was the Goodwin plane disaster a few years ago. He has just returned from Knoxville, where he covered the Tennessee-Alabama game on October 28.

C. E. Kenner to Supervise Three for Gortatowsky

ALBANY, GA.—C. E. Kenner has been appointed city manager of three theatres here operated by Gortatowsky Bros. The houses are the Albany, Liberty and Ritz.

The Ritz, now closed, will be reopened by October 30 as a second run. The seating capacity is 800.

Kenner will continue as manager of the Albany.

Reidsville Theatre Open

REIDSVILLE, N. C.—The new Reid has been opened here with Bill Hendrix as manager.

Construction Rivalry Gets the Brakes

TORONTO — The paradox has developed that the war has brought about a truce. Rival theatre interests have come forward with the information that further theatre construction has been halted and that no projects will be undertaken following the completion of new units, the war situation being the reason for the decision.

Definite announcement that no more construction is contemplated has been made by N. A. Taylor, general manager of 20th Century-Fox, Toronto, which recently reopened the Century Theatre at Kitchener, Ont., and is completing the Community Theatre at Trenton, Ont., which is an important base of the Royal Canadian Air Force. This company is an independent theatre group.

It is understood that Famous Players Canadian Corp. has no theatre expansion program and the latest addition to the chain is the Regent Theatre at Brockville, Ont., recently constructed by local contractors.

Ray Lewis is currently opening the Pylon Theatre, Toronto, and the Weiss Construction Co. is building a theatre on the northwest outskirts of the city as a speculative move, it is understood. Tony Allevato of Rouyn, Que., has completed the Alexander Theatre at Wallaceburg, Ont., while H. J. Sutherland is rushing his latest theatre at Mitchell, Ont., and Les Gregory has just opened the Geneva at Orillia. Wth the possible exception of a new theatre in the vicinity of Camp Borden, Ont., a military center, other projects appear to be scarce.

Theatre building has been brisk this year but a lull is now predicted—at least until the people have adjusted themselves to war conditions. If the war is prolonged, unemployment disappears and new industrial communities spring up, as predicted, new theatres are likely to appear in strategic trade locations, but the present policy appears to be one of wait and see.

Enlistments Abate While Present Recruits Train

TORONTO—Further enlistments for foreign service from the staffs of theatres and film exchanges are not being recorded because present Canadian units required for overseas duty have completed their establishments and a further call for recruits has not been made.

The suggestion has been thrown out that prospective soldiers should stay with their civilian jobs until new units are called up or authorized, or reinforcements are required. This does not signify lack of action on the part of Canadian military authorities because many forms of training are in full swing and the development of the Active Service Force is proceeding according to scheduled program. Many theatre and exchange employes are obviously waiting for the word and another wave of enlistments will come in due course.

Early Levy on Gross Receipts Confronts Ontario Theatres

TORONTO—The 375 theatres of Ontario face the early prospect of a war tax in the form of a percentage levy on gross boxoffice receipts to be imposed by the Provincial Government in lieu of the amusement ticket tax which was imposed in 1916 and was continued in increasing degree until June 1, 1937, when it was abolished by Premier M. F. Hepburn on the ground that the revenue was no longer required, that it had been a burden on the working class and that it had proved to be an expensive tax to collect.

The second Great War has changed all, however, and the hint has been thrown out that the Ontario legislature, at its session starting in January, will take steps to revive the ticket tax but without the use of special tax tickets which had been printed by the government for years under the previous regulations. The elimination of the tax tickets will add to the revenue, it is pointed out, but, on the other hand, the absence of the government tickets will make it difficult for the exhibitors to impress patrons with the knowledge that perhaps 10 per cent of the admission price is a direct tax by the Province. In some brackets of the previous tax schedule, the government collected as high as 20 per cent on the face value of a ticket and the tax coupon showed the difference.

The imposition of a new amusement tax will terminate the gentlemen's agreement under which the theatres of Ontario gave assurance that admission prices would not be increased after the tax had been abolished. This promise to Premier Hepburn has been observed for more than two years in spite of advancing costs, particularly in recent months when coal, advertising, supplies and other charges have increased. There is also the rate of exchange to be taken into consideration, with necessary imports from the United States being affected by the rate of exchange with the American dollar being at a premium of more than 10 per cent. This fact, coupled with the war tax on boxoffice receipts, will bring a substantial advance in admission scales and whether or not the public will be able to absorb the difference is a matter of conjecture. It is believed that the theatres will suffer even with the desire of the people to seek entertainment as a relief from war worries.

CBC Chairmanship Is Offered Nathanson

OTTAWA—The prospect of the Dominion's leading man in the moving picture business becoming also Official No. 1 in the broadcasting world is presented in the announcement that the position of chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. has been offered to N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., in succession to Leonard W. Brockington of Winnipeg who has been head of the CBC since its formation in 1936. The latter steps out of office October 31.

Nathanson is a member of the board of governors of the government-sponsored network which spans the country and has important alliances with the three big chains in the U. S. and also the British Broadcasting Co. With its control over private stations, the CBC is virtually a monopoly.

If the Famous Players' president becomes the executive head of the CBC, there is the probability that the Canadian radio programs would definitely become more attractive in their entertainment value and that increased showmanship would be evident, with a sharp decline in the way of speeches.

No salary is attached to the chairmanship of the CBC, the incumbent receiving a grant of $1,500 per year for personal expenses in connection with scheduled meetings in the Canadian Capital. Members of the board of governors comprise: Nathanson; General Victor Odlum of Vancouver; J. Wilfred Godfrey of Halifax; Adrien Pouliot of Quebec; Canon W. E. Fuller of Campbellton, N. B.; Alan Plaunt of Ottawa; Mrs. Nellie McClung of Victoria and Rene Morin of Montreal. Chairman Brockington has declined to accept a further term because of business duties arising out of the war.

Two-in-Booth Demand Compromised in B. C.

VANCOUVER—Finally, a decision has been rendered in the controversy between the exhibitors and the projectionists regarding the employment of two fully licensed men in every booth. An order in council now provides that two shall be employed where the theatre is open to the public for more than 40 hours per week. This ruling will relieve many rural and suburban houses of what they termed an onerous and unnecessary expense, and will help them to carry on more easily under the present somewhat reduced boxoffice returns.

The union claims that this will result in 118 men being put out of employment, with a consequent loss in wages of $195,000 per year, but outsiders with knowledge of the hours played by theatres throughout the Province, say that 40 or 50 is closer to the mark.

Buy Yarn for DeMille

HOLLYWOOD—"The Sun of Glory," a story of the development of the southwest by J. Robert Bren and Gladys Atwater, has been purchased by Paramount as Cecil B. DeMille's next production vehicle following "Northwest Mounted Police."

The Little Log Cabin Theatre



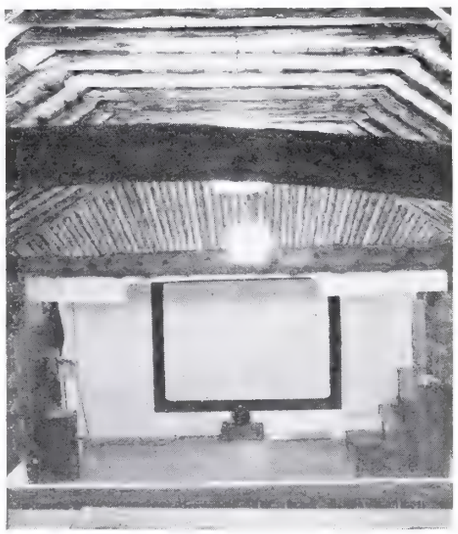
—B. C. Gov't Travel Bureau

The Little Log Cabin Theatre at Lillooet, B. C., is unique, and fits perfectly into the traditions and landscape of that section.

In the boom days of the Cariboo gold rush it was a horse barn, but when the Murrays began to plan, and do things up there, they kept that log building in mind, and finally transformed it into an attractive community center and motion picture theatre, which has now been exhibiting for the past two years. In the remodeling, no attempt was made to deviate from just what it was—a sturdy log structure—and only such material as was close at hand was used: Heavy timbers from a dismantled railway bridge were incorporated into the addition for screen and stage; the Fountain Indians searched high and low for a tree with a natural camber for the principal rafter, and the haymow proved to be just the right height for the projection booth.

The building is 22x64 feet with a 20-foot ceiling. At the rear there is a roomy stage which is used for concerts and meetings, when there is no show on. Pictures are exhibited twice a month to full audiences. In the booth there is a Powers projector with sound attachment which has proven highly satisfactory and both sight and sound are good, despite the fact that the interior finish is entirely of wood and no attention was given acoustics.

This theatre is somewhat of a side issue with the Murrays who publish three weekly papers in the district, which Murray represents in the Provincial legislature at Victoria.



Steady Reopenings; Production Watchfulness Marks England

By THE LONDON OBSERVER

LONDON—What's going on in the amusement world on this side of the Atlantic? Montreal managers and cinema fans, their interest in British films stimulated this year by the emergence of such successes as "Pygmalion" and "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," and encouraged by the recovery of Gracie Fields from her severe illness, are hoping that the war will not—as seemed likely for a while—give British films such a setback that they will no longer be in demand on this side. There is a reason quite apart from imperialistic sentiment for wishing British films to maintain the high standard they have recently attained, and that is that they put Hollywood on its toes, and thereby improve the output of American films.

Closure of the British motion picture houses was short-lived, but they still are operating under restrictions, particularly as regards hours, and some of them fear that if the hours are not extended they may be forced out of business. First to light up towards the end of the first week of war was the Coliseum at Aberystwyth in Wales, owned and operated by a woman, Mrs. O. M. Gale, who, between pictures, showed slides indicating the location of the nearest air raid shelters, and asked the audience to march out to a gramophone tune if sirens screeched. All over Britain, theatres refuse to admit patrons who do not carry their gas masks. Reopening of the theatres in London had their popularity attested by the forming of queues 100 yards long outside popular houses.

Recalling that Hollywood gained its predominance during the last war when European studios were halted, Michael Balcon, producer of over 200 British pictures, has appealed for the maintenance of the Quota Act so that British producers will have a chance against Hollywood competition.

Producers are genuinely alarmed over the future of British studios, and they intend to frame a resolution to be presented the British Board of Trade asking that assurance be given them that their films will be shown on the basis of the existing Films Act. The following plea was voiced by a well known British producer:

"We know that representatives of American film companies have sought to get a complete suspension of the Films Act whereby British cinemas have to show a percentage of British films. We hope and believe that this representation has been unsuccessful, and we hope that, on the contrary, there will be a greater demand for British films in wartime than in peace. "It is certain that there will be a shortage of films from Hollywood, and we hope that the sums of money collected for the rentals of American films in Britain will be directed to the making of films here."

Outstanding amongst the projected British films is a dramatization of Hitler's book, "Mein Kampf," which Reginald Fogwell, associate producer of "An Englishman's Home," intends to start immediately at Denham. Said Mr. Fogwell: "I intend to show the course of European events in the last 15 years by a plain recital of what has happened. We do not need to exaggerate or color our story. It is there for the whole world to see." Mr. Fogwell will use actual newsreels and supplement them where necessary by reconstructions of historical episodes such as the Reichstag fire, the Nazi blood purge, and the assassination of Dolfuss.

The most important films on general releases throughout the United Kingdom just now are "The Four Feathers" and "Q. Planes," both starring Ralph Richardson, and revivals of "The 39 Steps," "The Drum" and "I Was a Spy."

Staffs Trained in A. R. P.

Theatre owners in the west end of London who have been forced to close at 6 p. m. are agitating to be allowed to remain open until 10 p. m., as is the case with theatres in other districts. Some estimate that under the 6 p. m. closing they are losing from $5,000 to $10,000 a week. If they are forced to close on account of their losses about 2,000 workers will be unemployed.

Staffs of motion picture theatres throughout Britain have been trained in Air Raid Protection (known as A. R. P.) and the theatres all show signs pointing to nearby air raid shelters, while many of the buildings are protected by sandbags and their windows screened against flying splinters. Under the system which the staffs have been studying a theatre seating 2,000 to 3,000 people can be cleared in two and a half minutes, managers state.

Veteran theatregoers in London had a few sad hours lately when the furniture of the old Gaiety, original home of musical comedy, was sold by auction. Stalls which cost three dollars a night when a show was on were sold for 25 cents, and mirrors and dressing room furniture went for ridiculously small sums. An elbow chair, used by King George V and the present King, went for $6 and the whole Wilton carpet, which covered the floor of the dress circle, was bought for about $55. Seventeen dollars was top price for the crimson plush curtains which hung in the boxes. Souvenir hunters picked up all kinds of articles at unprecedented bargain prices, the war having distracted attention from the sale.

The motion picture star most in the public eye recently was Maureen O'Sullivan, who left Foynes by Clipper for the

United States en route back to Hollywood to see her husband, John Farrow, scenario writer, and her four-month-old son, Michael. Mr. Farrow is an officer in the Royal Naval Reserve and Miss O'Sullivan hurried back in case he should be called up. Another actress in the news was 21-year-old Joy Rogers, who was with an English revue company in Germany and was in a hospital recovering from an operation when war broke out. It is reported that the Nazis, whom her performance pleased, have promised to send her home to England safely.

The value of entertainment as a gloom chaser in wartime is thoroughly appreciated by the British military authorities, and "Ensa," the Entertainment National Service Ass'n, formed from theatrical and musical professional organizations, has been revived under the chairmanship of Sir Seymour Hicks, comedian, and will form troupes to visit armories and military camps. It will also entertain the evacuated children.

Ten mobile cinemas have left for remote camps to give shows to the troops, and the Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, has been taken over by the entertainments branch of the Army, Navy and Air Force Institutes as the first wartime entertainment center in a camp area.

But even whiling away the hours at cinema, dance halls and vaudeville theatres, Britons must not forget that war to the death is being waged. They are reminded of it in many ways, but notably by the heavy black type warnings in their newspapers:

"IF YOU GO TO THE CINEMA TONIGHT, DON'T FORGET YOUR GAS MASK."

Preparations Readied for Film on the "Mounties"

MONTREAL—Associate Producer William H. Pine took a flying trip to Calgary, Alta., to make preliminary arrangements for the filming of Cecil B. DeMille's "Royal Canadian Mounted." Previously he had talked with Canadian government officials in Ottawa, and with Commissioner S. T. Wood, head of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Regina. Frank Calvin, head of DeMille's research staff, has been in Regina to gather historical data for the picture.

DeMille also will make a preliminary trip to Canada before he begins production to talk to officials and to survey possible location sites. He will send a large location troupe to western Canada shortly. The picture will be filmed in Technicolor.

Concert Party to Perform For Soldiers of Canada

MONTREAL—Across Canada this winter, memories of the "Dumbells" show, product of the first Great War, are to be revived.

A concert party will tour the country staging free entertainment wherever Canadian Active Service Force units are quartered. Public performances also will be included in the itinerary, the proceeds going to the soldiers.

Demand Modification Of Juvenile Curb

MONTREAL—Public sentiment, which for a time approved the exclusion of juveniles under 16 from theatres in the province of Quebec—a ban originally inspired by the Laurier Palace fire and panic which took 76 lives—has swung around to a demand for modification such as admission of children to special shows when accompanied by adults.

Already the provincial government has made two exceptions to the rule, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "The Wizard of Oz"—in both cases with conspicuous success.

The movement for a less stringent law receives strong editorial support from the Montreal *Gazette* in the following leading article:

"Provincial authorities acted wisely in relaxing the rule which excludes children from moving picture theatres and permitting them to see the screen version of the 'Wizard of Oz.' The rule dates back to the Laurier Palace Theatre fire of some years ago and was passed at a time when the horror of that holocaust had, not unnaturally, affected the viewpoint of the public and their legislators.

Law "Unnecessarily Rigid"

"Since then, it has become abundantly apparent that the law is unnecessarily rigid, not only in its application to picture theatres which have been rendered virtually fireproof, but in denying to the juvenile population opportunities of seeing very fine pictures which afford innocent amusement as well as, in many instances, educational help.

"When 'Snow White' came to this city there was an insistent demand that the children be allowed to see it, and the authorities quite rightly acceded to that demand. In that instance, and in the showing of the 'Wizard of Oz' children were admitted in the custody of adults. On both occasions, however, the law was simply ignored under an understanding with the provincial government, and this is not a desirable procedure, although it will have to be followed until there is an opportunity of amending the act. That the law should be amended is apparent in the force of the argument which makes occasional suspensions necessary in the public interest.

"A great many pictures have been shown in local theatres in recent years which were admirably suited to child audiences as well as to grownups . . . More such pictures are on the way. Children, properly escorted, should be allowed to see them and until there is another Legislative Assembly sitting at Quebec, this can be done only by means of special consent. In the long run, however, neither the public nor theatre managements should be obliged to depend upon such occasional consent and the next Legislature should, as one of its earliest tasks, revise the existing law so that all pictures which are considered suitable for juvenile consumption can be shown to children, a matter which can be very easily arranged by regulation under the present censorship.

"This is the practice in Great Britain where consideration for the welfare of children is no less keen and no less general than it is in this country. A judicious revision of the law will mean wholesome entertainment for thousands of youngsters who, under present conditions, are obliged to spend their leisure hours in environments which are far less happy and which, in a great many cases, are distinctly harmful."

"Elizabeth and Essex" Uncut for Britain

Toronto—Prints of "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" to be released by Warner Bros. in Canada will be 150 minutes, screen time, it is divulged, because the full-length production will be seen in British countries.

On the other hand, an abridged version is being released in the United States which has a running time of 100 minutes. What part of the story has been deleted for American consumption has not been revealed.

Toronto Skater Will Tour With Henie's Carnival

TORONTO — Although Stewart Reburn, Toronto figure skating champion, has not been signed for a role in Sonja Henie's new picture, "Everything Happens at Night," he has been booked to skate with the Norwegian star on a carnival tour this winter, he has announced locally. Reburn appeared with Miss Henie in "Second Fiddle" and the latter was big boxoffice in Toronto and other Canadian cities because of his popularity, but Sonja is skating solo in the feature in which she is now working.

Sonja Henie's carnival is not playing any Canadian city in its coming tour for several reasons, it is stated. One is the exchange discount on Canadian money; another is that the Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, has given an exclusive contract to the Toronto Skating Club and a third is that the Toronto Musicians Union forced the company to hire 100 players instead of 25 for its last engagement here, it is stated.

F-P Corp. Makes Two Managerial Changes

OTTAWA—Two important changes affecting Ottawa theatres have been made by Famous Players Canadian Corp. Harry Wilson, assistant manager at the Capitol for four years, has been appointed manager of the new Regent Theatre at Brockville, Ont., which has been leased by the chain after reconstruction following near-destruction by fire two years ago when it was an independently-owned house.

Vernon Hudson has been appointed manager of the Avalon, Ottawa, in succession to C. Holmes who has resigned to take over the management of the Pylon Theatre, new independent house in Toronto to be operated by Ray Lewis who recently acquired the Avenue in Toronto.

TORONTO

B W. SILVER, general manager of Colonial Pictures, Ltd., held a special screening for exhibitors of "Gambling With Souls" which had just been released by the censor board for showing in Ontario.

Sincere regret was expressed on all sides over the news of the bereavement suffered in the death of her mother by Miss Dorothy M. Wilson, executive assistant to Manager Gordon Lightstone of Regal Films, Ltd., Toronto branch, for many years. Mrs. Elizabeth A. Wilson died in the Western Hospital, Toronto, surviving relatives being her husband, daughter and two sons.

A personal letter was received from Gloria Jean, Universal's child star, by Eddie Guest of Toronto, thanking everybody for the "fine time" she had in the Ontario capital on the occasion of her personal appearance at the Imperial Theatre for the premiere of "The Under-Pup."

The first Jewish feature to be presented in Toronto since the outbreak of war is "The Light Ahead" which is playing the College Playhouse for one week starting October 30. This is an independent house operated by Morris Becker . . . Manager Charlie Querrie had a packed house at the Palace Theatre for the annual midnight show of the Toronto East Lions Club at which no less than 218 merchandise prizes were distributed. Proceeds were for community purposes.

A visitor in Toronto was Lord Marley, deputy speaker of the British House of Lords, who owns a silver claim in the northern Ontario mining country. The only son of Lord Marley is Hon. Godfrey Aman, a British film director, who has become an officer in the Royal Artillery.

Frank O'Byrne of the Associated Screen News, Toronto, claims that he qualifies as a war cameraman—after being on the firing line for the lively scrap which featured the Argonaut-Ottawa football game at Varsity Stadium. He got in plenty of shots for the news weeklies.

Harry Dahn, Toronto theatre executive, was greatly perturbed over the loss of a silver cigarette case which had been presented to him by Harold Lloyd after the latter had made a personal appearance at the Capitol Theatre, Montreal, more than a decade ago. Dahn made a search of the Toronto film exchange building—and found it where he had left it.

Roly Young, critic of the Toronto Globe and Mail, *has been elected a governor of the Newspaper Film Critics of America which held its convention in Detroit a few days ago.*

A few out-of-town exhibitors found time to take the run into Toronto to check with exchanges. These included Howard Hager, proprietor of the Regal Theatre at Hagersville; Tom Ross, Royal Theatre, Bowmanville; Nicholas Trebish, Capitol Theatre, Meaford; Frank Giaschi, King George Theatre, Huntsville; G. J. Borneman, Muskoka Theatre, Gravenhurst; Abe Rappaport, Hollywood Theatre, Campbellford, who reported a big summer season at both his hotel and theatre; Simon Meretsky, theatre impresario of Windsor, and Ted Soucie, who came all the way from Kirkland Lake in the northern Ontario mining area which is busy turning out gold for the war.

H. J. Sutherland of St. Mary's, owner of a group of theatres in western Ontario, paid a hurried visit to complete final details for the early opening of his new theatre at Mitchell, which is the first cinema for that town.

Despite the scarcity of sugar because of the war, Manager W. M. Armstrong of the Hudson Theatre, Mt. Pleasant Road, had a bag of candy for every patron last Saturday afternoon as a tieup for the Our Gang comedy, "Feed 'Em and Weep," the feature being "Dodge City."

August Bridle, veteran film reviewer of the Toronto Star, *was made happy by the safe return of his son who was a survivor of the destruction of the* Athenia *by torpedo, his arrival home being seven weeks after the disaster.*

George Oullahan, advertising manager of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., entertained a number of his friends at dinner at the National Motor Show in the Automotive Palace here. Among the ten guests were Gordon Borneman, theatre owner of Gravenhurst, and Miss Erma Hague, daughter of Clair Hague, Canadian Universal general manager.

The staff of the Casino Theatre, Toronto, organized a special benefit midnight show for a fellow employe, Paul Brandeaux, who was critically injured in an airplane crash. Brandeaux is making a surprising recovery in St. Michael's Hospital where he will be a patient for many months, it is declared.

"Four Feathers" has been going strong as a wartime feature. It was held for a second week by Manager J. C. Brady at the Madison and Manager Hy Freedman of the Circle Theatre, independent neighborhood houses . . . Jay Smith, manager of the Avenue Theatre in Toronto's north end, has installed one of the largest automobile parks of any local theatre.

Harry Wilson, latest recruit to the managerial ranks of Famous Players in his appointment as manager of the new Regent Theatre at Brockville, Ont., is a native of Ottawa where he attended Ottawa College and was prominent in football, hockey and basketball. He is married, has two children and is 25 years of age. He started as an usher.

Count Nicholas Ignatieff, son of a former Russian government minister under the Czar and a moving picture production expert of Europe, has enlisted as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Engineers for foreign service. He had escaped from Europe and secured a teaching job in Canada but decided to go to war. In spare time he has been taking pictures of troops in Toronto barracks which will be made into a film.

The U. S. Embassy in Berlin has forwarded information that Thomas Reilly of St. Thomas, Ont., has been interned in Germany where he was on a tour when hostilities broke. Reilly is a theatreman and son of Capt. James Reilly, former conductor of music.

The North Toronto Business Men's Association, of which he had been an officer for several years, gave Vern Hudson, manager of the Capitol Theatre, a big sendoff with appropriate mementos when he left for Ottawa to become manager of the Avalon Theatre in succession to Chris Holmes who has been appointed manager of the Pylon Theatre, Toronto, which is being opened by Ray Lewis. Hudson had organized a special midnight frolic for the association at the Capitol for November 3 and this will be staged anyway.

Bob Crosby, brother of Bing Crosby, declared that he was "waiting for the word to enlist for overseas service" when he arrived in Toronto to fill a danceband engagement. If the United States went to war, he would throw away the baton for a rifle and get busy.

Jack Purves of the Eglinton Theatre has adopted the student admission price policy with 15 cents for the adolescents except on Sunday and holiday nights, but a strict regulation is that a school identification certificate must be presented at the boxoffice to qualify for the special ticket. Adult prices are 25 and 35 cents.

Announcement from Ottawa is that W. H. Cuzner, president of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Nova Scotia, has been appointed warden of the Air Raid Precautions Committee at Sydnay Mines, N. S., where he owns the Strand Theatre.

The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Provincial Chapter, at their convention in Peterboro, Ont., re-affirmed support of British pictures, declaring that Empire ideals are more important than ever before because of the war for democracies.

Unhorsing Proceeds

OTTAWA — The Canadian government seems to be trying to de-glamorize the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who have figured in heroic roles on screen and in story for many years.

First came the announcement that 100 constables of the R. C. M. P. had been assigned to the First Canadian Division for service in France but that they would serve as "traffic cops" in the battle areas.

Next followed the news that the famous steeds of the Mounties, now eating their heads off in stables in Ottawa, would be hired out to civilians at the nominal price of $1 per month for the duration of the war, subject to recall. This is in line with the mechanization of land forces No longer will a Mountie and a horse seem inseparable except in the maintenance of historic tradition on the screen.

MONTREAL

EVENT of the week in the Canadian film world is the appointment, already foreshadowed in BOXOFFICE, of John Grierson, Scottish film expert, as the Canadian government film commissioner, in which capacity he will put into effect the National Film Act which he inspired. Grierson visited Canada early this summer and then went on to Los Angeles en route to Australia and New Zealand where he has been making a study of the film situation.

No changes in the Canadian administration of RKO followed announcement of the retirement of Jules Levy and appointment of Andy Smith as eastern general sales manager. Leo Devaney, Canadian general manager, came to Montreal this week from Toronto in connection with the United Amusement Corp. circuit deal for 1940.

Two exhibitors from Ste. Agathe, where they run rival shows, arrived at Filmrow to book coming attractions. They are Miss Simone Pare of the Alhambra and Alex Adilson of the Roxy. Other exhibitors noticed included George Champagne of the Auditorium and Roxy, Shawinigan Falls; P. Senecal of the Goerge's, Ste. Therese, and J. Robert of the Cartier and Palace, Granby.

"In Name Only," RKO film banned by the Quebec board of censors a few weeks ago, has now been approved by that body, and is scheduled to be shown at the Capitol, Montreal, the week of October 27.

Fashion in films always attracts women patrons. They are now promised a "ribbon" reel dramatizing the importance of ribbon accessories in transforming simple dresses into high fashion costumes. Vyvyan Donner, fashion director of Fox Movietone News, is the producer. Her inspiration was a visit to a large mill manufacturing ribbons.

"Staggered" closing times are an idea from Derby, England. The object is to avoid overcrowding streets and tramways . . . Amongst the offers of voluntary service received by the Canadian government registration bureau, under the chairmanship of Dr. E. H. Coleman, is one from a motion picture distributor offering to supply films of every description. Thirteen entertainers seek to brighten the leisure hours of soldiers, and a skiing champion offers to instruct the troops in that useful winter sport.

So vast was the crowd which thronged the town hall at St. John's, Que., to witness filing of nomination papers by candidates in the provincial elections, that the authorities had to hire the Capitol Theatre to accommodate those who wished to attend, and who were estimated to number 1,200.

Eugene Lefebvre, manager of the Theatre Francais, of the United Amusement chain, added to the feature films a new stage show entitled "Hooray for Life," featuring "beautiful girls, an earful of music, and an hour of fast moving stage entertainment." The music was provided by Mike Napoli and his "Napoleons of Classic Swing Music," and the show was produced by Flo Nickerson.



Mood Shot—

Here are The Three Musketeers of The Famous Players, caught by the camera in a happy mood. Left to right, they are Frank Gow, supervisor of B. C. suburban theatres; Larry Bearg, western district manager; Victor Armand, chief technical engineer for Canada.

Cinema de Paris has concluded a sixth week of "Louise," musical picture in French, starring Grace Moore, and the added attraction, "Sommes-nous Defendus?" showing the Maginot line . . . System has been running "Life and Loves of Beethoven" . . . His Majesty's announces the Montreal concert series, for which the artists engaged include Marjorie Lawrence, Ezio Pinza, Mischa Elman, Rose Bampton, Robert Casadesus and Marian Anderson.

Standing of the Filmrow Bowling League is as follows: Paramount, first; Regal, second; Columbia and Consolidated Theatres tied for third place . . . Late arrivals of out-of-town exhibitors include: Mel Lodge of the Clubhouse, Asbestos and Richmond theatres, Richmond; Ralph Berzan of the Rivoli, Coaticook; Charles Auclair of the Drummond, Drummondville, and Ambrose Nolan of the Pix, Aylmer.

Lloyd C. Pearson, sales manager, and H. S. Walker, chief engineer of Dominion Sound Equipments, attended the four-day convention of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers at the Pennsylvania Hotel, New York . . . Competition for motion pictures in the form of musical entertainment gets keener as winter approaches. Heavy bookings are announced for the Montreal Orchestra's symphony series. The first concert will take place at His Majesty's Theatre, Sunday afternoon, November 5, when Eugenia Buxton, famed young American pianist, will be featured, and Dean Douglas Clarke will conduct the orchestra.

WINNIPEG

A BOWLING league has been formed by members of the film fraternity in Winnipeg. The league bowls every Thursday at midnight at the Victoria Alleys. Represented are teams from the Capitol, Gaiety, Uptown, Lyceum theatres and from the Famous Players and Western Theatres, Ltd., offices. Officials of the league are Leno Toraldo, Uptown, president; E. Turner, Gaiety, vice-president; B. Beach, Western Theatres office; L. Norrie, Uptown, treasurer.

Here for a weekend visit were J. J. Fitzgibbons, R. W. Bolstead and Geldsaler of the FP head office.

A. E. Zern left early this week for an inspection trip of the western territory of his division . . . Harry Woolfe, RKO manager, who has been ill, is back at work.

Al Simmons, formerly of the Tivoli house staff, is now acting manager of the Roxy . . . Johnny Ceilon is managing the Tower.

Sam Rosenblatt has been appointed supervisor of north end suburban houses for Western Theatres, Ltd.

Among recent visitors: H. Bercovich of the Rex, Regina; J. Zaitzow of Melville, Sask.; Harry Hurowitz and family of the Tivoli, Sask.

Portrait of a very busy man: Don Gauld torn between two telephone extensions. Due to the absence of a photographer the moment is lost to posterity.

Selling Seats in Winnipeg

HAROLD BISHOP, manager at the Capitol, publicized "The Women" by arranging a screening for the buyers of T. Eaton Co. and Hudson's Bay Co., as well as for the radio fashion commentators. The tie-ups resulted in seven windows at Eaton's and three at the Bay. In addition displays were arranged in the leading beauty parlors of the city. Ten thousand heralds were distributed through the medium of *Liberty* magazine and newspapers carried large ads, a teaser campaign and a special feature story.

At the Metropolitan Don Gauld highlighted a campaign on his current "U-Boat 29" with a scale model of a British destroyer and a four-foot square map of the British Isles and the Orkney Islands, locale of the film. The model was displayed in the windows of a downtown restaurant. Newspaper ads featured reproductions of headlines appearing in the local papers and tied up with the sinking of the Royal Oak, *which is featured in the film. All English and Scottish societies were contacted. Gauld also effected a tieup with the* Free Press *which set up a bulletin board before the boxoffice on which was displayed the latest news and photographs as they came in to the paper.*

Eddie Newman achieved record breaking crowds for "The Man They Could Not Hang" at the Lyceum by putting stress on street publicity and sensational ads.

VANCOUVER

AT THE first annual meeting of the Vancouver branch of the National Film Society, held at the Stanley Theatre, the president, Prof. D. O. Evans, impressed upon the members the necessity of guarding the freedom of the films as a vital democratic institution. The principal film shown at this meeting was "North Sea," picturing life aboard a Scotch trawler. The society plans, as an educational measure, a series of documentary films, plus enough others of a lighter nature to make the meetings interesting, yet informative.

C. W. Gough of Bridge River has bought J. L. McDonald's interest in the theatre at Hedley, B. C., which will now be managed by him and his son. Following this purchase, he came down to the city to check up on the theatre's commitments and arrange additional bookings.

Stan Kennedy was in and out of the offices on Filmrow last weekend arranging bookings for the Mall, his new theatre at Esquimalt. He plans to open on November 6.

The Stanley, Miss Scriven manager, recently had new lamps installed by the Theatre Equipment Supply Co.

Joe Archer, former manager of the Universal Vancouver office, tarried awhile when on his way to visit Tom Shields, Olympia Theatre, who is in St. Paul's Hospital near by, and is reported as recovering slowly but surely from his recent illness.

J. M. Millman, Kitsilano Theatre, and Quagliotti Romano, Colonial Theatre, met in the Paramount office and reviewed present conditions from a background of long and wide experience.

The Orpheum Theatre, Ivan Ackery manager, has inaugurated a stageshow program, to be put on every Friday, thus reverting, in a measure, to the original policy of this house which used to run vaudeville as its principal attraction, with motion pictures secondary.

"Nurse Edith Cavell" was the subject for the late evening preview at the Kerrisdale Theatre last week.

Adapts "The Monster"

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has assigned Howard J. Green to adapt "The Monster," from an original by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur.

Neutrality Clips Out In Canada

Montreal—Peace or neutrality propaganda in newsreels is unwelcome to the Canadian government at the present time, American producers have been unofficially warned, and it is understood they will eliminate any such matter before sending the clips to Canada.

Views of the German army in action and of fighting in the last war also are regarded with disfavor.

John Grierson Named Film Commissioner

OTTAWA—The expected has happened in the appointment of John Grierson of London, England, formerly of the film branch of the general post office, as Dominion film commissioner of the recently-created national film board, his selection "on a temporary basis" being announced by Hon. W. D. Euler, minister of trade and commerce, who sponsored the national film board bill in its stormy passage through Canadian Parliament. Grierson recently arrived in the Dominion, for his third visit within a year, with the announced intention of going to Australia for a film survey but his voyage across the Pacific has apparently been indefinitely postponed.

Grierson, who is said to have inspired the board, gets the only salaried post in the new government bureau, the six executive positions of which comprise three civil servants and three others, none of whom has been associated with the moving picture industry of Canada in spite of the fact that the defined scope of the board can materially affect the distribution and exhibition of pictures. Surprise is expressed in some quarters that the commissioner appointment did not go to Capt. F. C. Badgley, M.C., who has been director of the Canadian government motion picture bureau since 1927 and has given valued cooperation to the industry on numerous occasions.

Personnel of Board

The complete board is as follows: J. G. Parmelee, deputy minister of trade and commerce; R. S. Hamer, department of Agriculture; Col. V. I. Smart, deputy minister of transport, all of Ottawa; Dr. Walter C. Murray of Saskatoon; C. G. Cowan of Ottawa and Edmond Turcotte of Montreal.

Dr. Murray is the former president of the University of Saskatchewan, director of the National Film Society of Canada and president of the Canadian Film Co. which looks after the distribution of the Society's library of films. Cowan is an official of the British-American Bank Note Co., Ottawa, and vice-president of the National Film Society. Turcotte is a newspaperman who represents the French-Canadian minority on the board. The National Film Society has 67 films in four traveling libraries, these having been purchased from sources in Canada and other countries with funds provided by the Imperial Relations Trust of England. The pictures are released at stated fees from depots maintained in Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Toronto.

Mr. Grierson is a Scotsman by birth and has resided in England and the United States where he was employed as a newspaperman. He was born in Deanston in 1898 and was educated at the University of Glasgow from which he proceeded to the U. S. A. to engage in research in psychology at different colleges. He investigated film methods in various countries for the Empire marketing board, London, becoming its film officer in 1928, transferring to the general post office in 1933 when the latter absorbed the film branch of the board. He has been identified with the production of a number of documentary films.

The first intimation of the proposal to organize a government film board in Canada came when Grierson made a trip across Quebec, Ontario and the Prairie Provinces one year ago. He returned to Ottawa from England last January when the bill was about to be introduced before the Canadian House of Commons after which he journeyed back to England. His next arrival in Canada was late in August when he was reported on his way to Australia. During his visits he conferred with Hon. W. D. Euler on a number of occasions but declined to give very much information to the press.

At a recent meeting in Ottawa of the National Film Society, references were made to the commercial sponsorship of documentary films to be produced in Canada and O. C. Wilson, organizing secretary of the Society, is making a tour of the Maritime Provinces and the Canadian West to prepare a program under a grant received this year from the Rockefeller Foundation. The Society has undertaken the appointment of committees for the grading of pictures "for the use of teachers and others." Announcement has been made that the Society has secured the cooperation of the provincial departments of education in the classification of pictures for Ontario.

It is understood that the National Film Society will play an increasingly important role in the screen affairs of the Dominion following the establishment of the national film board with Grierson as film commissioner. It is understood that the salary of the commissioner will be $6,000 per year, this amount having been mentioned in connection with the warm debate on the floor of the Canadian House of Commons when the bill was under consideration.

Frown on Extended Time Proposal

Montreal—The suggestion that exhibitors should strain themselves further to give pictures longer runs meets with disfavor from most managers of other than first-run houses.

One who expressed himself with force and originality, declared he would like to have it understood that independents and second and third run chains should have the right to cancel any film which was given longer than a two-week run in St. Catherine Street houses.

Dearth of Pennies

TORONTO—Theatres having odd-cent admission prices are on the spot in Toronto and other Ontario centers. For some strange reason, the war has brought a famine in pennies and bank supplies are at the vanishing point although plenty of other coins are available. A suggested reason for the situation is that many thousands of U. S. one-cent pieces have been shipped back to the states for larger denominations which demand a premium.

Wartime Revival Wave Hits Screens of Ontario

TORONTO—An old feature, "The Count of Monte Cristo," and the still older "Folies Bergere," have hit the screen once more under the wartime revival wave among Ontario theatres. For the second time in almost as many weeks, "Folies Bergere," starring Maurice Chevalier, played an engagement in Ottawa when it was shown on a double bill at the Imperial along with "Monte Cristo." "Folies Bergere" previously played the Elgin, Ottawa, with a revival of "The Informer."

Mrs. W. Roland Winter

MONTREAL—Mrs. W. Roland Winter, former London, England, actress, widow of the late Judge Winter, of the district court in Calgary, died there October 16. Mrs. Winter, recognized as Alberta's foremost dramatic critic and first directress of the Calgary Little Theatre Ass'n in 1923, was awarded the Canadian drama award at Ottawa three years ago in recognition of her contribution to amateur drama in Canada.

Col. Harry Day

MONTREAL—Col. Harry Day, Socialist M. P. for Southwark Central, England, died on his 59th birthday in a Quebec hospital.

Well known in the show business, he was at one time manager for Houdini. He married Kitty Collyer, an actress, who survives him with a son and daughter.

CALGARY

ART GILBERT, shipper at Regal Films, is recovering from a serious bout of illness. He has been off duty the past two weeks . . . Jack Walsh, a veteran on Filmrow, has now donned the Canadian uniform. He joined up a few days after recruiting started. Another film man in uniform is Louis Segal, Columbia shipper here.

Rumor has trickled through Filmrow that I. F. Shacker, mayor of Hanna and circuit owner in Alberta, beams with a youthful glow since his marriage to that beautiful Syrian lady.

Calgary theatremen report that business, which slackened during the first two weeks after the war broke, is rapidly coming back. Boxoffice receipts are steadily climbing and promise to pass usual fall business. A garrison city and training center for air pilots, Calgary's theatre auditoriums are dotted with uniforms these days.

J. B. Barron, owner of the Grand Theatre, is back from a trip to Montreal and Toronto. He states that the only definite roadshow engagements he has made are with the American Ballet Caravan for November dating and the Maurice Colbourne company from London. Barron has introduced a novelty in giveaways. He gives out gift coupons which may be exchanged for a large variety of articles.

Glen Peacock, controlling the downtown Isis here, has opened a camera supply in his basement, catering chiefly to moving picture camera fans. Last year, Peacock started showing local news shots. From this has sprung the supply shop, as many amateurs came to him for advice and supplies. A sideline that promises to take up much time, he is training a man to handle it.

Appellate Court Rules for 20th-Fox in Song Suit

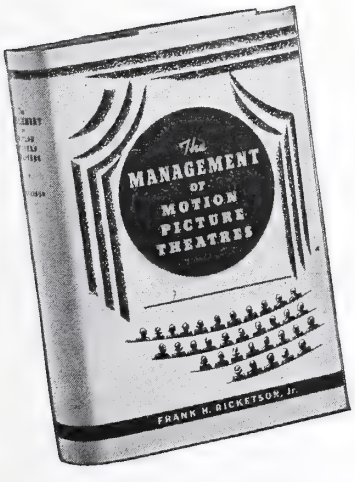
MONTREAL—The appeal of Francis Day and Hunter, Ltd., music publishers, from an Ontario court decision favoring 20th Century-Fox was dismissed by the judicial committee of the Privy Council in London. "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" (the song title, not the man) started all the trouble.

The action arose from an alleged infringement of the copyright on the title. Delivering judgment, Their Lordships commented that to break the bank was a hackneyed expression, and "Monte Carlo is, or was, the most obvious place at which that achievement or accident might take place."

"The motion picture, it is true, is what is called a talkie film," the judgment said. "But not a word of the song was repeated in any form except the title thrown on the film at the outset."

Costs were assessed against the appellant.

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MT534 Mirrors
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M-G-M (10) **77 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 27, '39**

A Sunday School lesson in celluloid, eminently suitable for children and old ladies, quaintly mid-Victorian in character but with the Pollyanna spirit laid on a bit too heavily for average audience enjoyment. Little Virginia Weidler shows genuine talent and self-assurance in the title role, albeit the demands of the part are somewhat cloying at times. A period picture of the 1870's, it finds Virginia a runaway from an orphanage, who has a tremendous and unshakeable faith in the Almighty and an equally firm belief that she brings a "jinx" to anyone who considers adopting her. Story tells of her unsuccessful efforts to overcome her "jinx" when adopted by kindly Ian Hunter, small-town newspaperman, who promptly loses his job after a run-in with the town skinflint, Guy Kibbee. William Thiele directed.

Virginia Weidler, Gene Reynolds, Ian Hunter, Guy Kibbee, Elizabeth Patterson, Reginald Owen, Henry Hull.

Bad Little Angel F — Comedy Drama

Columbia (1031) **67 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 16, '39**

A highly colored tale about the sensational type of journalism that probably will flabbergast hard working newspapermen. To audiences, it will be less astounding but just another run of the mill picture. Otto Kruger, the publisher, suffers as much from the script as his own private life; his acting reflects it. The story has Kruger, who has built his tabloid sheet by selling scandal and lies, going to jail for a long sentence because when he can tell the truth, he is forced to lie to protect those he loves. Way back when, a former sweetheart of Kruger's had a baby, and when she married successfully, she re-adopted the child. The boy, Edward Norris, does not know Kruger is his father, revolts against his journalistic methods and later helps convict him. Nick Grinde directed.

Otto Kruger, Ona Munson, Edward Norris, John Dilson, Linda Winters, Nedda Harrigan.

Scandal Sheet F — Drama

Metropolitan (SR) **59 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Poor series, this present Bob Steele group, which is being hawked states-right. Obvious one-take appearance of the completed film detracts even farther than the trite story and slow pace. Steele is a bronc-riding cowhand, whose ability along those lines is contested by Ted Adams, and there's a lot of money put up on the outcome. Size of the stake attracts road agents Charles King and Gordon Roberts, and they kidnap Steele, so he barely gets to the rodeo in time to come out winner. Romance is with Carolyn Curtis, and the two warring ranchers are Frank LaRue and Juanita Fletcher. Acting is bad, and camera lighting is also away off. It will be hard for most action house managers to get away with it, even though western fans are not particular as a rule.

Bob Steele, Carolyn Curtis, Frank LaRue, Juanita Fletcher, Charles King, Gordon Roberts, Ted Adams.

Mesquite Buckaroo F — Western

RKO Radio (006) **81 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 27, '39**

An interesting but obscure incident from pre-Revolutionary American history furnishes the plot on which this feature is constructed. Its greatest assets are production scope, spectacle and action, which indicates its best market will be among that sizeable contingent which still relishes cowboys and Indians—regardless of era—in its screen fare. John Wayne and Claire Trevor are starred, but find themselves considerably handicapped through a rather heavy-handed screenplay and dull dialogue. Wayne fails to show the flashes of talent which marked his more recent appearances, while the part assigned Miss Trevor is atmospheric rather than contributory to the general theme. The slender thread of romance injected as a relieving factor will hardly satisfy the woman trade. William A. Seiter's direction is characteristically effective.

John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Brian Donlevy, George Sanders, Robert Barrat, Eddie Quillan, John F. Hamilton.

Allegheny Uprising F — Outdoor Drama

Columbia (——) **65 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 28, '39**

Those who like their comedy utterly devoid of subtleties and confirmed Joe E. Brown fans will find his latest vehicle a prize package of guffaws, since it specializes in slapstick and hokum at their very broadest. The veteran comic this time is seen as a bungling patrolman who, at the very time of his marriage to Mary Carlisle, is dismissed from the force for overlooking an obvious chance to capture Marc Lawrence, the leader of a dangerous narcotic ring. Joe and Mary go to Coney Island for their honeymoon, where Joe identifies a passer-by as a member of the dope gang and sets out a-sleuthing. Mary is kidnaped and Joe trails her to the "Spook House," one of the carnival concessions, where Lawrence is hiding out, and captures him, thus regaining his police job. Edward Sedgwick directed.

Joe E. Brown, Mary Carlisle, Clarence Kolb, Marc Lawrence, Don Beddoe, George J. Lewis.

Beware Spooks! F — Comedy

Standard (SR) **60 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Designed for family trade, this film is one of the poorest homespun vehicles of the past few years. Falldown is not so much the story as the cast, although the screenplay is no bright and shining bit of writing. Grant Mitchell, married to Betty Roadman, an ambitious woman who makes him out to be a great man in her back fence gab, has two daughters, Evelyn Venable, a society scribbler, and a youngster, Alicia Adams. Kicker in the story is that the financier about whom Mitchell's wife has built up a phoney school-day friendship comes to town, and since Mitchell barely knows him, an actor, really a bank robber, is hired to impersonate the financier. The film is carried by Benny Rubin and Vince Barnett, who chew at each other for the only comedy. Louise Beavers strains against poor lineage.

Grant Mitchell, Evelyn Venable, Benny Rubin, Vince Barnett, Robert Whitney, Kenneth Harlan, Betty Roadman.

Headleys at Home F — Comedy Drama

20th Century-Fox (013) **82 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 27, '39**

Based on the recently-announced government project whereby civilian fliers will be developed to aid in this country's defense, this will serve as adequate fare for the more enthusiastic aviation fans, particularly juveniles. However, the excellent topical idea, which offered numerous possibilities for an exploitable and generally entertaining feature, was rather badly muffed in its transcription to the screen, with the result that average audiences will probably find it a bit boresome. Thespic talent with which it has been endowed is above average, with Randolph Scott and Preston Foster sharing the honors and Margaret Lindsay showing to advantage in the feminine lead. Story finds Scott, a reckless old-time pilot, becoming head of an aviation training school for collegians under government sponsorship. Alfred E. Green directed.

Randolph Scott, Preston Foster, Margaret Lindsay, Robert Shaw, Kane Richmond, Mary Healy, George Ernest.

20,000 Men a Year F — Action Drama

Credo (SR) **87 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Known to Yiddish theatre followers as a stage classic of sorts, "Mirele Efros" is now brought to the screen. It still contains the various elements that endear a dramatic story to Yiddish audiences, particularly the heart tugs engendered by the exploitation of a good soul by a mean one. Here there is the daughter-in-law versus the mother-in-law conflict with the former showing a deplorable lack of appreciation for the benefits that have accrued from her marriage to the son of a wealthy widow. There is a grandson and at his bar mitzvah all is forgiven and forgotten. The role of the mother-in-law affords Berta Gersten ample opportunity for the type of histrionics women relish. Bright spot of the proceedings is Michael Rosenberg's comedy delivery. He is surefire for laughs. Josef Berne directed.

Berta Gersten, Michael Rosenberg, Ruth Elbaum, Albert Lipton, Sarah Krohner, Moishe Feder.

Mirele Efros F — Drama

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THEATRE .....

STREET ADDRESS .....

TOWN ..... **STATE**.....

NAME ..... **POSITION**.....

SELLING ANGLES: **"Mesquite Buckaroo"**

To sell "Mesquite Buckaroo," all associations should be with Bob Steele's past. Copy should use idea that he has been a favorite western star for years, etc., because any reference to this vehicle is apt to kickback, if pressed too hard. Highlight of the picture is a processed-in clip of interesting rodeo shots, which do all the saving done for the film.

CATCHLINES:

He Wagered He Was the Best Bronc Rider, But Had to Fight Free of Kidnapers to Prove It.

He Won a Rodeo Contest, But Had to Bulldog Road Agents Who Beat Him to the Prize Money.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Headleys at Home"**

Salvation, when and if, for this film will be in sale to the family trade, which would find most effective ads in connection with family crossroads—the corner store, the drug counters, and circularizing women's organizations. Since comedy is at hands of Vince Barnett, a pharmacist, and Benny Rubin, the village doc, a possible pill-maker-local sawbones combination for laughs and quotes to give it local flavor and a build up in the small towns.

CATCHLINES:

His Only Wish Was to Be a Small Town Banker, But His Wife Talked Him Out of It—and How!

He Was an Unusual Bank Robber—Digging Himself Into a Hole, and the Banker Out of One.

"The record part of the PICTURE GUIDE is the best bookkeeping system that I have ever used."

NATHAN FLEXER,
New Waverly Theatre,
Waverly, Tenn.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Scandal Sheet"**

A herald representing a miniature tabloid should be effective in conveying the newspaper theme on the film. Another good stunt would be to get out a mimeographed "scandal sheet" for the neighborhood which would carry friendly items about merchants and other personalities. An attempt should be made to tie up with a local radio station if it has a "street" broadcast by an inquiring reporter and have him ask questions such as: "Would you sacrifice your life to shield your son from scandal?"

CATCHLINES:

Baring the Secret Scandal of a Ruthless Blaster of Lives!

The Only Story He Couldn't Print . . . It Was His Own.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Beware Spooks!"**

Joe E. Brown is the name to sell. Tie up with grocers handling the product plugged on his weekly radio program. Stage a midnight "spook" showing and distribute inexpensive falsefaces and noisemakers to those attending. From some nearby carnival try to borrow some trick mirrors and other paraphernalia for a lobby layout. As throwaways, issue certificates designated as "laugh insurance" guaranteeing your patrons "a solid hour of mirth."

CATCHLINES:

Joe E. Brown, the Pride of the Force, Who Always Got His Man—Once in a While.

Calling All Comedy Fans . . . Joe's a Policeman Now . . . And Ready to Run You In for Wearing a Sour Puss.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Mirele Efros"**

Since the exploitation is restricted to the Yiddish speaking populace, the appeal of the play and its background should be emphasized through publicity in the columns of the Yiddish papers. Many communities have Jewish-American weeklies whose columns should be available for cuts and stories in English. A direct mail campaign should be used with the letter containing an English and Yiddish synopsis of the film. All YMHA's and other Jewish organizations should be contacted and posters placed at their headquarters. A benefit showing for Polish Jews might enlist the aid of the leading Jewish people in town.

CATCHLINES:

The Trials and Tribulations of Mother Love.
A Great Stage Play Comes to the Screen.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Bad Little Angel"**

Give Virginia Weidler stellar build-up and list, in support, Ian Hunter and Guy Kibbee. Older patrons should be reminded that Lois Wilson, once a favorite, makes her first appearance in several years. The picture is based on a book by Margaret Turnbull, author of the famous "Five Little Peppers" series, a fact which should be stressed in exploitation and in tieups with libraries. Stimulate family trade by advertising the film's wholesomeness and offering a special "family rate" for parents and children.

CATCHLINES:

You'll Find Quaint Charm and Irresistible Humor in This Tender Story of a Little Girl Whose Bad Luck Turned to Good.

She Thought Herself a Jinx . . . But Brought Faith, Courage and Hope to Everyone She Met.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Allegheny Uprising"**

The little-known historical period in which this is laid provides a wealth of exploitation possibilities. Make over the theatre front and boxoffice to resemble a pioneer stockade and fort, and dress attendants in "Daniel Boone" buckskins. Try to borrow such colonial relics as flintlock muskets, powder horns, etc., for a lobby display. Hold special screenings for history students of local schools. Point out in advertising that the picture brings back the John Wayne-Claire Trevor star team first seen in "Stagecoach."

CATCHLINES:

A Fighting Picture of Fighting Times . . . The Red-Blooded Saga of America in the Making.

They Fought to Build America . . . In the Midst of Danger and Disaster . . . Life and Death . . . Love and Hate.

SELLING ANGLES: **"20,000 Men a Year"**

Hold a special screening for heads of patriotic and service organizations, aviation officials, etc. Offer prizes for the best letters on preparedness for peace through the building of a large aviation corps. Prepare a lobby display consisting of newspaper headlines regarding the government's air-training project. Tie up with various junior airplane model-building clubs, perhaps sponsoring a "meet" at a local field. Consult local airport officials regarding possible exploitation stunts.

CATCHLINES:

Hot From the Headlines to Blaze New Screen Thrills . . . With a Roaring Drama of America's Modern Men With Wings.

One Hundred and Twenty Million Americans Salute Them . . . These Flying Collegians Who Are the Future Defenders of a United Nation.

Short Subject Reviews

World's Fair Junior

Vitaphone (Broadway Brevity) 20 *Mins.*

There's an adage that children should be seen and not heard, which this reviewer heartily endorses. That explains somewhat the fault of this kiddie revue. There are a flock of nice youngsters who weakly ape their professional betters with juvenile attempts at song, dance and comedy routines. The mamas and poppas may be proud of the efforts of their respective offsprings, but the short does not register as satisfactory entertainment. A likeable lad, Skippy Curle, acts as the master-of-ceremonies. More than a score of youngsters are put on display.

Acres of Plenty

RKO Pathe (Reelism) 9 *Mins.*

As a result of John Steinbeck's now famous novel, "The Grapes of Wrath," considerable interest has been focused on large California farms and conditions of the migratory workers. This reel depicts the operations of large scale farming, using the 4,500 acre El Soyo farm as an example. It, however, glosses over any seamy side and presents the picture in a more optimistic hue.

Blamed for a Blonde

RKO Pathe (Radio Flash) 16 *Mins.*

This comedy contains a generous allotment of laughs as a result of Roy Atwell's doubletalk comedy style and a script with a number of good lines. Atwell gets into trouble when he purchases a set of aluminum kitchenware for his wife. There is a blonde salesgirl who is the cause since she is supposed to demonstrate each set by cooking dinner for the purchaser. The jealous wife and gossipy neighbor complicate matters. The blonde, Marian Martin, incidentally is very attractive.

Ice Cutters

RKO Pathe (Sportscope) 9 *Mins.*

Right on time with a well-done short about ice hockey. The various component factors which make up the sport are carefully explained. Slow motion camera is used to bring out important details. The reel winds up with shots of a practice game between the championship McGill University ice hockey squad. The short is blessed with exceptional camera work which makes it a fine program addition.

Hunting Hounds

RKO Pathe (Sportscope) 9 *Mins.*

An exciting action reel which shows how they ride with the hounds out west. Instead of chasing the wily and harmless fox, these folks go after wildcats. When the hounds catch up with their quarry, to make things more dangerous, the men bag the wildcat with a noose. All of this is filmed with striking effectiveness.

SHORT OF THE WEEK

The Monroe Doctrine

(Historical Technicolor Featurette)

Vitaphone **16 Mins.**

What the Monroe Doctrine means to America's foreign policy and how it has shaped its diplomatic course in the past, is graphically explained in this handsomely mounted short subject. A fine cast headed by Grant Mitchell, James Stephenson, Sidney Blackmer and Charles Waldron portray the leading roles. Incidentally, there is a swell bit of acting by Blackmer as Theodore Roosevelt. Most of the action is concerned with the events which influenced President Monroe to deliver his now historic message. Then it covers briefly the administrations of Polk, Fillmore, Lincoln, Cleveland and Roosevelt and how they upheld the Monroe Doctrine. The emphasis here is more on the exposition of the timely theme than on the dramatic. Nevertheless, it is a superior brand of shorts material.



Stranger Than Fiction

Universal (No. 68) 9 *Mins.*

Continuing the collection of unusual bits from here and there. The reel opens with a peek at an amazing pipe collection. Then there is a Negro who makes hunting horns. Next is a half calf and half deer. Oddest of all is the woman who makes herself at home at her mausoleum. Here is a chap who uses discarded license plates to cover the roof. A beauty parlor for men and a chap who has his name tattoed on his legs in all languages conclude the interesting short.

Fresh Fish

Vitaphone (Merrie Melody) 7 *Mins.*

Laughs are plentiful in this amusing Technicolor cartoon which spoofs the adventures of the deep sea fishermen. The animation is gay and colorful and the cartoonists prove that not all the queer fish walk around on land. All this transpires as the professor seeks out the "Whim Wham Whistling Shark."

Information, Please

RKO Pathe (No. 2) 10 *Mins.*

Here is a thoroughly enjoyable reel, witty and entertaining for all. Gene Tunney is the guest expert along with the old reliables, John Kieran, F. P. Adams and Oscar Levant. Clifton Fadiman asks the questions which cover a variety of subjects. Tunney shows well as a Shakespearean expert. The others are good for their quota of laughs.

An Organ Novelty

Vitaphone (Vitaphone Variety) 9 *Mins.*

The popular organists, the Jesse Crawfords, introduce their young 13-year-old daughter, Jessie. She follows in her parents' footsteps with professional ease and authority. It should please those who like organ music. Heard on the program are "My Darling," "My Blue Heaven," "My Buddy" and "I Know That You Know."

Naughty Neighbors

Vitaphone (Looney Tunes) 7 *Mins.*

The entertainment content of this cartoon does not measure up very strongly. Porky Pig signs a pact with Petunia Pig to end the ancient family feud. But hostilities break out again until Porky arrives on the scene with some laughing gas.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Movietone News, No. 11: Scenes of action on the Polish front; the General Fritsch funeral; Brest Litovsk; Danzig; U. S. army tests new guns; styles in accessories; Army ties Columbia; Pitt and Penn win.

News of the Day, No. 209: U. S. army stages show; history making drama on the Polish front; New York opens new airport; the football roundup; the Roch Hunt steeplechase.

Paramount News, No. 14: Poles parade in New York; the North Beach airport; school bus crashes; Gehrig gets new post; U. S army tests guns; Army ties Columbia; Pitt wins.

RKO Pathe News, No. 26: Army displays power; North Beach airport opened; the auto show; Gehrig gets new post; Notre Dame and Pitt win; Stanford and UCLA tie.

Universal Newsreel, No. 815: Army tests guns; city dedicates new airport; the auto show; Poles parade in New York; town draws line for loafers; Irish, Pitt and USC win.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Movietone News, No. 12: Detailed account of the fall of Warsaw; the French army on German soil and scenes at the Maginot line; U. S. fleet celebrates Navy Day; fur fashions at the auto show; Lew Lehr.

News of the Day, No. 210: Fall of Warsaw in detail; news pictures of French on western front; the war at sea; U. S. Navy Day

Paramount News, No. 15: War sidelights from London; Maxie Rosenbloom marries; Billings released from jail; dance contest at World's Fair; Giants vs. Eagles; Minnesota vs. Purdue; Navy Day.

RKO Pathe News, No. 27: Fleet celebrates Navy Day; Billings is freed; new bombers for Allies; map refugee aid; U. S. newsmen see French advance; UCLA vs. Stanford; Pitt beats Duke.

Universal Newsreel, No. 816: French move to stop Nazis on western front; newsmen see Maginot line; Navy Day celebration; test giant bomber; planes ready for England; Cornell vs. Princeton; collegians in traditional mud battle; Arkansas rodeo.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia

Blind Alley

Fair program picture, not much drawing power. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town, rural patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State Theatre, Lewellen, Neb.

City Streets

Played the Louis vs. Pastor fight with this picture and got by. Average business for the two days. Feature wouldn't gross film rental alone. Tues., Wed. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. Colored patronage. Population: 20,000. Capacity: 500.—W. C. Mathews, Frolic Theatre, Bessemer, Ala.

Let Us Live

Did very well, but played it too late to realize anything out of it. Wednesday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Neighborhood patronage. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Spoilers of the Range

Good western, no better than the other Starrett pictures, but they keep on bringing in the customers and that's what pays the bills. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State Theatre, Lewellen, Neb.

First National

Angels Wash Their Faces

Another natural for these kids and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Step on it and reap the harvest. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Each Dawn I Die

An excellent picture of this nature with a new angle. Went over okay for Sunday date. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Kid From Kokomo

A good picture, but I should have played it on Friday-Saturday instead of Sunday-Monday. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. A. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Grand National

Singing Cowgirl, The

A western that holds its own, somewhat lacking in comedy, but at that my patrons seemed satisfied. Dorothy Paige sings well. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15. Neighborhood patronage. Population: 2,000. Capacity: 275.—John S. Erickson, Rex Theatre, Kingsford, Mich.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Boys Town

One of the greatest pictures ever made, this was a repeat and it proved to pay fairly well. Every theatre should play this at least twice. Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earl Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Hardys Ride High, The

Still brings them in, but they are getting to be all alike. Sun., Mon. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. A. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Invitation to Happiness

Nice little picture. Fred MacMurray and Irene Dunne make a fine team. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 200.—C. A. Kelley, Rex Theatre, Custer City, Okla.

Maisie

Good picture. Has all it takes to please most any audience. Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Family patronage. Population: 7,000. Capacity: 1,000.—W. R. Paarr, DuPage Theatre, Lombard, Ill.

On Borrowed Time

A rather fantastic conglomeration which takes plenty of imagination on part of your patronage to get it over. Just fair from entertainment angle. Barrymore a little under par in this. Bobs Watson so durned ugly when he cries, my audience got comedy not intended in one scene. Credit for outstanding performance should be given Henry Travers. Sun., Mon. Admission: 25-15. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 300.—John W. Crabtree, Paramount Theatre, Clarendon, Ark.

Sergeant Madden

The type of picture Wallace Beery should appear in, although he has lost some of his following after those "dumb" roles he used to have. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. A. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Stablemates

This was a return showing of this picture, but it did not pay. There are so few pictures that can be repeated with a profit. Sunday. Weather: Hot. Admission: 20-17½. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Tarzan Finds a Son!

Good kid picture. Did well in matinee. Best of Tarzans. Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Family patronage. Population: 7,000. Capacity: 1,000—W. R. Paarr, DuPage Theatre, Lombard, Ill.

Tarzan Finds a Son!

Tarzan may be silly to a lot of folks but the picture packed them in just the same. Some grand scenes under water. Fri., Sat. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way Theatre, Sheridan, Ore.

Wizard of Oz

A beautiful colored picture and Judy Garland sure made a big hit with everyone. Quite a few kiddies got scared of this picture and left before it was over. In showing this picture, I turned all lights out except exit lights, making theatre a bit darker and in doing this it makes the color from picture much brighter. I recommend trying this on a color picture. Fri., Sat. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Monogram

Barefoot Boy

Although I ran this picture rather late, I am glad I ran it. It is one of the few that you can feel sure has pleased your audience almost 100 per cent. Of course it is not a big picture, but it is down-to-earth. If you are in a small town and haven't played it, play it! Thurs., Fri. Weather: Hot. Admission: 20-15-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo Theatre, Dubach, La.

Paramount

Man About Town

Jack Benny's best and a picture that will more than satisfy. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Our Leading Citizen

Perhaps not a world beater but certainly as good as the average Bob Burns' picture. Pleased my customers and that's about all the argument I am interested in. I slipped by not knowing more about the picture myself before I played it. It has a story that can be exploited. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 250.—Everett Clapp, American Theatre, Sidell, Ill.

Star Maker, The

An unusually good kid show that did slightly better than average. The only thing that kept this from really being tops was a weak story. Majority of my customers said, swell. It'll please Bing Crosby fans, music lovers and your Sunday customers. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Small town and rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 250.—Everett Clapp, American Theatre, Sidell, Ill.

RKO Radio

Bachelor Mother

If you don't mind thinking below the belt a little, this is swell entertainment. Niven and Rogers are a well-matched team. About average business. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Career

This picture must be commented on from two angles. I believe picture just average and I believe all that sold it was "Lasky's

Contest." Would like to say good luck to John and Alice. Tuesday. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Five Came Back

Not good—not bad. Didn't make any money with it and didn't lose any. Took care of overhead two days, which is "sumthin." Picture rather draggy in spots but pleased generally. I guess we all have "contracts" we have to play. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 300.—John W. Crabtree, Paramount Theatre, Clarendon, Ark.

Five Came Back

Rather an odd picture but did better than average business. Patrons seemed to like this one. Mon., Tues. Weather: Rain. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Love Affair

Entertaining picture, wonderful acting, but didn't draw as expected. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State Theatre, Lewellen, Neb.

Tarnished Angel

Can't say much for this one. Weak story and no draw. Played to poor business both days. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. Colored patronage. Population: 20,000. Capacity: 500.—W. C. Mathews, Frolic Theatre, Bessemer, Ala.

Way Down South

Not a bad picture for Bobby Breen fans. Not above average, but a boy with a wonderful voice. Mon., Tues. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Republic

Fighting Devil Dogs (Serial)

A very good action and mystery serial which held up all the way through. Had plenty of excitement from beginning to end. Admission: 15-5. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 400.—Bill Browder, Strand Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Man From Music Mountain

Played this one on a return engagement and did better business on it than on most first run westerns. Autry always goes over good in this community. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-5. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 400.—Bill Browder, Strand Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

20th-Fox

Boy Friend

This is up to the standard Jane Withers' attraction. Should please 75 per cent of your customers. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Hotel for Women

A very good picture, well acted, but failed to click at the boxoffice even with road-show bally. Tues., Wed. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Return of the Cisco Kid

This was A-1 for us. Warner Baxter shows his ability in this one. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Second Fiddle

Up to the usual high standards set by 20th Century-Fox musicals. Business a little better than midweek average. Tues., Wed. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Second Fiddle

A swell show that did me a very nice business. Sonja Henie and Tyrone Power make a very nice team. Customers very well pleased. Mon., Tues. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Home town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500. — J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Stanley and Livingstone

Spencer Tracy very good, also a very well-directed picture. I wish we had more players like Tracy for he is one of my best draws. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Susannah of the Mounties

Although Shirley has lost her drawing power with us, this was a nice show and all enjoyed it. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way Theatre, Sheridan, Ore.

Young Mr. Lincoln

Very good picture. Our patronage goes for this type. Very good comments. Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Family patronage. Population: 7,000. Capacity: 1,000.—W. R. Paarr, DuPage Theatre, Lombard, Ill.

United Artists

Captain Fury

UA finally sent me a picture that suits my customers and the weather is too hot for me to do any business! This is a good picture for any rural community, especially Saturday night. McLaglen sure pleases the paying customers when they give him a chance. Sun., Mon. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 250.—Everett Clapp, American Theatre, Sidell, Ill.

Man in the Iron Mask

A great picture, well acted and directed and deserves top billing. Will please majority. Thursday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Universal

East Side of Heaven

A real swell little picture. One of Bing's very best. Helped a lot by this adorable "Sandy," everyone commented. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way Theatre, Sheridan, Ore.

Freshman Year

A good, very good program filler. Received many favorable comments on this feature. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15. Neighborhood patronage. Population: 2,000. Capacity: 275.—John S. Erickson, Rex Theatre, Kingsford, Mich.



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Title .....

Company .....

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Date Played..... *Weather*.....

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Type Patronage..... **Admission Scale**.....

Town ..... **State**.....

Population.....

How Did It Do at Your Boxoffice?--Mail This Coupon Today

All Childress Knows Of This Invitation

CHILDRESS, TEX.—Here's how G. R. Layton, manager of the Gem Theatre here, marketed the revival of "All Quiet on the Western Front." The letter reprinted below was published in both a daily and weekly newspaper and distributed as a throwaway from house to house in Childress.

The letter, labeled, "copy of letter to Adolf Hitler," follows:

"Adolf Hitler,
Berlin, Germany.
Dear Mr. Hitler:

"You must be very busy these days with the drums of war rolling on every side, and we know you hardly have time to open your mail, but we think we have something here that will interest you.

"We are not going to offer any advice on how to win the war, or how to gather up the remaining few loose strings of central Europe's destiny, but we want to give you something for nothing. And that is the reason we think our offer will interest you.

"You are accustomed to grabbing what you want without paying for it, and now that England and France have at last said no to one of your demands, we thought you might welcome our gratis offer.

"On September 16-17-18 and 19 the Gem Theatre at Childress, Texas, U. S. A., will show the screen version of Erich Remarque's immortal novel 'ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT.'

"Perhaps the last few years have been filled with too many other duties to allow you to do much reading, so you may not be familiar with this great book or its screen version. It has been called the most powerful war story ever told, and those of us connected with the motion picture business are still hailing it as the most impressive war picture ever made. It tells the German side of the World War. So we thought you might like to see it.

"We know that this is short notice, and you with so many other things to do, but we thought you might be able to get away. If you can, we'll guarantee you a reception as cordial as we give our regular customers. We might arrange an escort to accompany you into our city and naturally everyone will line up along Commerce street, just like they do when you ride down Unter-den-Linden in Berlin. A few of the newspaper boys will probably be there to ask a few questions, but the fanfare won't be much different from that which you are accustomed . . . maybe on a smaller scale.

"So all in all it's a pretty amusing night we're offering you, and we sincerely believe that after you have seen 'ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT' you will be willing to admit that the world would be a lot better place in which to live if you would withdraw your troops from Poland and stop this second world war.

"Enclosed is a complimentary ticket, good for any of the four days, September 16, 17, 18 and 19 on which the picture will be shown.

Sincerely,
G. R. LAYTON,
GEM THEATRE.

Street Parade in Hartford Promotes "Mr. Smith"

HARTFORD, CONN.—Manager George Landers, E. M. Loew's, arranged a parade on Hartford's Main St. in connection with the current opus at the house, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Highlights of the parade included more than 500 people in uniform marching for about an hour bearing signs proclaiming the Frank Capra production.

Landers had a school band in the parade, together with theatre service staff members.

Stunt led to free space in local press, and much comment by the mouth-to-mouth method.

A ballot box was placed in the lobby with this sign: "If you were Mr. Smith and went to Washington would you vote to change the observance of Thanksgiving and why?" The winner received a turkey.

Selling Seats

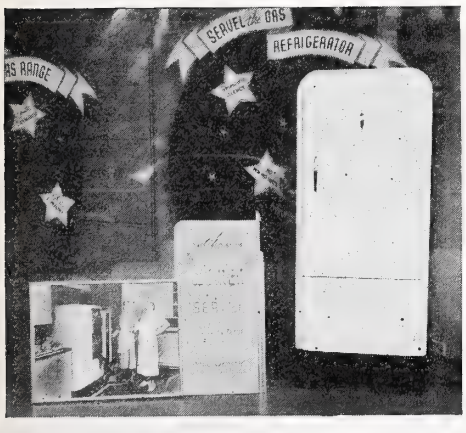
A $75,000 Outlay by Paramount for Two

NEW YORK—A national newspaper and magazine ad campaign which will reach over 20,000,000 people is being undertaken by Paramount for "Disputed Passage" and "Rulers of the Sea," Robert M. Gillham, director of advertising and publicity, announces.

Opening shot in this $75,000 exploitation coincided with the world premiere of "Disputed Passage" in Detroit on October 19, with a full page, four-color ad appearing in the *American Weekly* on October 22. This ad appeared in 23 key city papers reaching 7,000,000 people. In addition to this national coverage, "Passage" will be backed by extensive local co-operative newspaper advertising with ad release breaking day and date with the film's opening in various cities.

On "Rulers of the Sea," the ad schedule calls for full pages in color in 15 publications with a combined circulation of 15,000,000 and approximately three times as many readers. This campaign will break November 18 with full page color ads in *Collier's, Liberty* and *Saturday Evening Post* and followed by a similar ad in *Life* on November 20. The following fan publications will also feature advertisements on "Rulers of the Sea" in their December issues: *Hollywood, Motion Picture, Movie Story, Screen Book, Modern Screen, Movie Mirror, Photoplay, Picture Play, Screen Guide, Silver Screen and Screenland.*

Your stunts and tieups are welcome to this department. Send in your exploitation activities.



Window for "Women"—

Detroit's gas company gave this window to sell "The Women" and refrigerators. At the lower left is a blowup of a scene from the film. Credit Robert Corbin, manager of the United Artists Theatre, where the film had its run, and Warren Slee, Metro exploiteer, with the tieup.

Short Subject Ballyhoo Pays in Hollywood



HOLLYWOOD—Ever so often it pays to ballyhoo a short subject, Manager Dave Martin of the Fox Paramount informs. For the issue of March of Time dealing with the "The Movies March On," Martin employed Emile Malenak, a well-known figure on the streets here. With signs fore and aft, Malenak proved to be a big attention-getter. Other routine channels were used to sell the attraction. Martin is the gent on the right.

Law Enforcement Officials Attend Special Preview

MADISON, WIS.—Day before the advertised "world's premiere showing" of "Mutiny in the Big House" at the Capitol Theatre here, Ed Benjii, manager of the house, conducted a special preview showing for police officers, county officers, clergymen and penal authorities.

This was followed by advertising carrying "Madisonians' comment on 'Mutiny in the Big House,'" including expressions from police officials, members of the board of control and others engaged in law enforcement work.

For "The Old Maid"

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—The Carolina, as part of its campaign on "The Old Maid," promoted a huge cake from a local bakery and dubbed it "Bette Davis' Wedding Cake." Inserted in the cake were about 200 prizes including ten dollars in dimes, sterling silver lockets, theatre tickets and various trinkets supplied by the theatre.

Boxing Glove Appeal

DETROIT—Unique exploitation is being used by the Times Square Theatre for "The Champ." A row of boxing gloves has been hung up on a string over the box-office, and is proving a sure eye-catcher. House caters a great deal to a male audience, in its downtown location, and the gloves are sure attention-getters.

NUGGETS

WARNER has completed a tieup with National Dairy and Kraft Cheese for the exploitation of forthcoming big releases. Posters and streamers will be used by approximately 30,000 retail dealers who will participate in the campaign. National Dairy will place paper collars on its milk bottles to plug the films.

●

A novelty mailing piece which when opened gives animation to a skating figure of little Irene Dare for "Everything's on Ice" is a unit in the mailing campaign distributed by RKO.

●

Fifteen hundred units of the Abraham Lincoln Ass'n of Springfield, Ill., will cooperate with RKO in the popularizing of the forthcoming "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

●

In a tieup with a local skate store, Manager Dave Martin of the Fox Paramount, Hollywood, raffled off a pair of Sonja Henie ice skates during the run of "Second Fiddle."

●

Citizens of Springfield, Ohio, obtained their glimpse of "The Man in the Iron Mask," when manager M. H. Chakeres had a man with a papier mache mask purchased from UA and a robe rented from Wittenburg College parade the street prior to the opening of the film.

●

Cards plugging "Bachelor Mother" were handed out by street photographers in Victoria, B. C., to those of whom they took pictures. Other tieups made for the film by J. M. Robertson, manager of the Capitol, were with various stores on baby products.

●

A wheelchair under an old apple tree was a unique lobby display at the Utah Theatre in Salt Lake City for the run of "On Borrowed Time." A placard read: "Meet Mr. Brink in the Tree for Life."

●

"The Star Maker" was sold in Albany in a campaign around Danny Giagni, a native son who dances in the picture. Fabian's Palace held a tap contest with about 25 girls and boys taking part. Dancing lessons and theatre tickets were prizes.

Sell "Beau Geste"

VICTORIA, B. C.—"Beau Geste" received a splendid advertising campaign both in newspaper and window card displays for its run at the Capitol. On the opening night, a military parade was arranged with a detachment of the 1st Canadian Scottish Brigade which, headed by their pipe band, marched from the Armories to the theatre to attend the opening performance. As the people of Victoria are very military-minded at present, the parade created much attention.



Kitchen on Stage—

This kitchen stage setup was arranged by the Providence (R. I.) Gas Co. at the RKO-Albee Theatre in Providence for the finals of the Beef Stew Contest staged in conjunction with the showing of "Fifth Avenue Girl" at the house. Recipes submitted were judged by a committee of three prominent club women. The prize-winning dishes are shown in the photo being warmed for "taste judging" by the chef of a big hotel, a policeman and a fireman.

Harris Uses Black Friday In Cleveland Campaign

CLEVELAND—Milt Harris, director of publicity here for Loew's Theatres, turned Friday the 13th from a jinx to a lucky day for those who received cards bearing the same numbers as appeared in the windows of a downtown drug store chain. The cards, publicizing "The Real Glory," were passed out on Euclid Ave. by pretty girls during rush hours. All were placed inside envelopes bearing the imprint, "Friday the 13th May Be Your Lucky Day."

Goodwill From Hobby

ATLANTA—How an exhibitor's hobby has turned into institutional advertising of an unusual and great goodwill-gathering kind is being talked about on Filmrow here.

The exhibitor is M. G. Lee of Cuthbert, Ga., operator of houses at Cuthbert and Dawson, Ga., and Eufala, Ala.

His hobby is flowers, and so Lee donates flowers daily to the city hospitals, barber shops, drug stores and other places where the public gathers.

Known as the "flower man," Lee has won an amazing amount of goodwill for himself and his theatres through this novel idea. He raises the blooms at his own nurseries in Cuthbert. Many persons visit the nurseries.

Rhyme Contest for "Intermezzo"

CLEVELAND—Using the rhymes in the "Intermezzo" pressbook, Milt Harris of the Loew's State sold the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* the idea for a contest used during the run of the film.

The rhymes were used by the *Plain Dealer* to acquaint the contestants with a typical verse and then offered its readers to submit as many as they wished. A cash prize went to the winner and tickets for the theatre to runnersup.

Cooperation was extended by the Ohio chapter of the American Institute of Decorators which gave "Intermezzo" a special award for the unusual interior sequences. A direct mail campaign was also directed to more than 150 women clubs.

The Hotel Statler used double side stand-up cards on each table in the cocktail lounge for the entire engagement, announcing a new "Intermezzo" cocktail as refreshing as "'Intermezzo, a Love Story,' coming to the Loew's State."

Members of the Swedish vice-consulate and the Swedish American society attended as guests of Ingrid Bergman and the management. The event was fully covered by the newspapers.

A Nifty Newspaper Tieup Is Pulled for "Babes"

PHILADELPHIA—A special newspaper stunt, originated by Everett C. Callow of the Warner circuit publicity department, attracted considerable attention for "Babes in Arms" when it opened at the Boyd.

The front page of the first 30,000 copies of the Philadelphia *Daily News,* a tabloid, carried the banner "Babes in Arms Take Philadelphia by Storm." Page three was devoted to copy about the picture.

When the initial batch of papers came off the press, the circuit's own distribution organization was on hand and rushed the papers to all important points where it was distributed free. By 10 a. m. all copies were handed out.

"Fifth Avenue Girl" Walks The Streets of Atlanta

ATLANTA—A publicity-getting contest was held here in connection with the run at the Fox of "Fifth Avenue Girl."

Cash prizes were offered by the theatre, in cooperation with the Atlanta *Constitution,* to the persons who "tagged" the "Fifth Avenue Girl" on downtown streets. She wore a costume similar to the one worn in the film by Ginger Rogers.

Map "Our Town" Ads

HOLLYWOOD—The advertising agency of Calkins & Holden has been appointed by Sol Lesser to draft a national advertising campaign for "Our Town," 1938 Pulitzer prize play that Lesser will film for release through United Artists.

How Theatres Can Aid The Red Cross Drive



WASHINGTON—"Theatres have always cooperated with the American Red Cross, both when necessity demands the raising of special funds as well as during the annual Roll Call period," says Douglas Griesemer, director of public relations, and suggests the following methods by which exhibitors may cooperate in the 1939 Roll Call conducted November 11 to 30:

Display in their lobbies the several colored posters to be obtained from local Red Cross chapters.

Make arrangements with the local chapters to show the special Roll Call trailer that stars Norma Shearer.

Display the 100 per cent poster if all theatre employes join the Red Cross.

The goal this year is 1,000,000 new members. As usual, the theatres are expected to do their part.

Named Exclusive Licensors For "Thief of Bagdad"

NEW YORK—UA has signed an agreement with Bud Fox enterprises appointing them exclusive representatives of the license division of N. A. Resnik and will license manufacturers and other commercial enterprises wishing to capitalize on the film.

"Mr. Smith" Comes To New Orleans

New Orleans—In these hectic days of political broadcasts and cleanups, Vic Meyers of the Orpheum pulled a nifty for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" by spotting an announcement at the bottom of the radio log in a local paper inviting the public to "Hear Jefferson Smith, The Peoples' Candidate, Tonight at 7:15 over WDSU." At the appointed time, the radio reporter announced the playdate of the Capra film at the Orpheum, and reviewed its highlights.

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

A

A Call on the President (M-G-M)
A Child Is Born (WB) Aug. 5.. 415
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M) Feb. 18 923
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26 005
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue Sept. 30.
All Women Have Secrets (Para)
Allegheny Uprising (RKO) Oct. 28 006
Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever (M-G-M) July 15 944
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5 367
Another Thin Man (M-G-M)....
Arizona Kid (Rep) Oct. 7..... 951
Asking for Trouble (GB).....8012
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col), reissue.....1072

B

Babes in Arms (M-G-M) Sept. 23 9
Bachelor Mother (RKO) July 1 932
Bad Lands (RKO) July 29..... 933
Bad Little Angel (M-G-M) Oct. 28 10
Beau Geste (Para) July 29....3902
Behind Prison Gates (Col) Aug. 5 9033
Beware, Spooks! (Col) Oct. 28...
Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16... 3
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col)...
Blondie Takes a Vacation (Col) July 22 9010
Blue Bird (20th-Fox)..... 025
Bulldog Drummond's Bride (Para) June 24 3844

C

Call a Messenger (Univ) 20
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16 912
Career (RKO) July 1.....
Cat and the Canary (Para) Oct. 7 3909
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 12 006
Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (20th-Fox) 021
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3 948
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox) Aug. 19 002
Chip of the Flying U (Univ)...
Coast Guard (Col) Aug. 19....9008
Colorado Sunset (Rep) Aug. 5.. 846
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2..... 935
Covered Trailer (Rep) .....
Cowboy Quarterback (FN) July 8 366
Crashing Through (Mono).....3936

D

Dancing Co-ed (M-G-M) Sept. 30 3
Danger Flight (Mono).....3816
Daughters Courageous (FN) June 24 360
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO) Sept. 9 002
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2 3901
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21.4058
Destry Rides Again (Univ).....
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21 3908
Dr. Cyclops (Para) .....
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) 015
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

Each Dawn I Die (FN) July 22. 356
Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (20th-Fox) July 29.... 001
Escape, The (20th-Fox)..... 010
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30.. 462
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7...
Everything Is Rhythm (Astor).
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 946

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14 6
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38 3831
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2. 986
Fighting Mad (Mono).....
First Kiss (20th-Fox) 020
First Love (Univ) .....
First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34..... 062
Five Little Peppers (Col).....9017
Flight at Midnight (Rep) Sept. 2 9111
Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14.... 010
Forgotten Woman (Univ) July 8 3031
Four Feathers (UA) June 24...
Frontier Marshal (20th-Fox) July 29 951
Full Confession (RKO) Aug. 26. 003

G

Girl and the Gambler (RKO)...
Girl From Rio (Mono).....3825
Golden Boy (Col) Aug. 19.....9002
Good Girls Go to Paris (Col) June 24 9005
Goodbye, Mr. Chips (M-G-M) May 20 945
Great Victor Herbert, The (Para) .....
Green Hell (Univ) June 10.... 926
Gulliver's Travels (Para).....

H

Happy Ending (Para).....
Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26 24
He Married His Wife (20th-Fox) 023
Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence (20th-Fox) Oct. 7..... 019
Hell's Kitchen (WB) June 24... 312
Henry Goes Arizona (M-G-M).. 2
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30..... 009
Hero for a Day (Univ).....4035
Heroes in Blue (Mono).....
Hidden Power (Col) May 27....1025
His Girl Friday (Col).....
Hobby Family (FN) Aug. 26... 376
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox) Oct. 7 007
Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16 .....
Honeymoon's Over (20th-Fox).. 024
House of Fear (Univ) May 20..3038
Housekeeper's Daughter (UA) Sept. 16 .....

I

I Stole a Million (Univ) July 22
Incredible Mr. Williams (Col)...
Indianapolis Speedway (WB) July 15 315
In Name Only (RKO) Aug. 12.. 936
In Old Monterey (Rep) July 29. 847
Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday (20th-Fox) 022
Intermezzo, A Love Story (UA) Oct. 7 .....
Invisible Man Returns (Univ)...
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20 3841
Irish Luck (Mono) Aug. 26....3826
Island of Lost Men (Para) July 29 3848
It Could Happen to You (20th-Fox) June 3 950

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8.....3906
Jeepers Creepers (Rep).....

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21... 961
Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16. 411
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col).9034

L

Lady Dick (FN) 471
Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12 947
Laugh It Off (Univ).....
Law of the Pampas (Para) Oct. 21 3955
Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ)... 53
Llano Kid (Para) .....
Little Accident (Univ).....
Lost Squadron (RKO) reissue.. 994

M

Magnificent Fraud (Para) July 1 3847
Main Street Lawyer (Rep)..... 905
Man About Town (Para) June 17
Man From Montreal (Univ)....
Man From Sundown (Col) Aug. 5 9208
Man From Texas (Mono).....3865
Man in the Iron Mask (UA) July 8
Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19 9018
Marshal of Mesa City (RKO) Oct. 7 081
Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mickey the Kid (Rep) July 1.. 814
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7....4044
Million Dollar Legs (Para) July 15 3846
Miracles for Sale (M-G-M) Aug. 5 946
Missing Evidence (Univ) Oct. 7..
Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation (20th-Fox) Nov. 19 952
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14 1101
Mr. Wong at Headquarters (Mono) .....
Mr. Wong in Chinatown (Mono) July 22 3807
Mutiny in the Big House (Mono) Oct. 21 3803
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24 4051
My Love for Yours (Para).....

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26..... 419
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB) July 15 324
Naughty But Nice (WB) June 10 311
New Frontier (Rep) Aug. 19.... 868
News Is Made at Night (20th-Fox) July 8 953
Night Work (Para) Aug. 12...3849
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14..... 7
No Place to Go (FN) Sept. 23... 469
No Power on Earth (Univ)....
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26 001

O

Of Human Bondage (RKO) reissue 993
Oklahoma Frontier (Univ) 4059
Oklahoma Terror (Mono) Oct. 7.3856
Old Maid, The (FN) Aug. 5..... 452
On Borrowed Time (M-G-M) July 8 942
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14.... 463
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para) Sept. 30 3903
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16 30
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug.5
Our Neighbors—the Carters (Para) 3911
Out of Singapore (Astor).....
Outpost of the Mounties (Col)..1201
Overland Mail (Mono).....3857

P

Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14..... 014
Parents on Trial (Col) July 8..9032
Phantom Strikes (Mono) .....
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23 418
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7..... 402

Q

Queen of Destiny (RKO) Nov. 26, '38 061
Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 004

R

Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16 011
Range War (Para) Aug. 12.....3954
Real Glory, The (UA) Sept. 23..
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29.3859
Reno (RKO) 008
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30 9209
Riders of Destiny (Mono) reissue
Riders of the Frontier (Mono) Sept. 9 3866
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30 .....
Road Back (Univ) reissue.....
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36..... 061
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21. 403
Roll, Wagon, Roll (Mono).....
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23 3910

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14..... 913
Sagebrush Trail (Mono) reissue
Saint in London (RKO) July 1.. 929
Scandal Sheet (Col) 1031
Second Fiddle (20th-Fox) July 8
Secret of Dr. Kildare (M-G-M)..
She Married a Cop (Rep) July 1. 815
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox)..... 018
Should Husbands Work? (Rep) July 22 816
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 23.....3815
Smashing the Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21 470
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26. 825
Spellbinder (RKO) July 15..... 931
St. Martin's Lane (Para).....
Stanley and Livingstone (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 003
Star Maker (Para) Aug. 19....3851
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2 008
Stranger From Texas (Col).....1202
Stronger Than Desire (M-G-M) July 1 941
Stunt Pilot (Mono) July 8.....3814
Submarine Patrol (20th-Fox) Nov. 5 909
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21.. 012

T

Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3 939
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14....3907
That's Right, You're Wrong (RKO) 011
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M) Aug. 26 948
They All Come Out (M-G-M) July 8 943
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29 3865
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30 1015
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30.... 004
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M) Sept. 23 4
Timber Stampede (RKO) June 24 985
To the Rescue (GN)..... 328
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox).. 016
Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5 326
Tower of London (Univ) .....
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16.....4052
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23 4017
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28 013

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2..... 10
Unexpected Father (Univ) July 22
Untamed (Para) .....

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
Ware Case, The (20th-Fox) July 29 8014
Washington Cowboy (Rep)..... 848
Waterfront (WB) July 1 325
Way Down South (RKO) July 22 947
We Are Not Alone (WB-FN)...
West of Carson City (Univ)...
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ) Aug. 19 3003
Winter Carnival (UA) July 22..
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19. 949
Woman Is the Judge, A (Col) July 8 9025
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2.. 1

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939, Unless Otherwise Specified.

◎Indicates short of the week.

◎Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

A Star Is Shorn (17).....Apr. 21
All-American Blondes..(..)..Oct. 20
Boom Goes the Groom (17½).....Mar. 24
Mutiny on the Body (17).....Feb. 10
Now It Can Be Sold (17)...June 2
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17).....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Teacher's Pest (..).....Nov. 3
The Chump Takes a Bump (18).....May 5
The Sap Takes a Wrap (15½).....Mar. 10
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18).....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..).....Aug. 11

COLOR RHAPSODIES

Crop Chasers (8).....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (..).....Oct. 20
Happy Tots (7).....Mar. 31
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7).....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7).....May 26
Mountain Ears (..).....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7).....June 30
Peaceful Neighbors (8).....Feb. 26
The Gorilla Hunt (8).....Feb. 24
The House That Jack Built (7).....Apr. 14

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (..).Nov. 17
Big Town Commuters (9).....Feb. 3
Historic Cities of India (..)..Oct. 27
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions)..(..).....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10).....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)...Oct. 27
Sojourn in India (..).....July 7
Morocco (10).....Aug. 11

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 7 Parade of Hits (9)....Mar. 24
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11)...Apr. 21
No. 9 Songs of the West (10).....May 19
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16
Third Series
No. 3 (..) College Songs.....Oct. 13
No. 4 (..) Stephen Foster Song Nov. 17
No. 6 Moon Songs (10).....Feb. 24

FABLES CARTOON

Park Your Baby (..).....Sept. 1

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

No. 1 Charles Goodyear (10½)..Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10).....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (11).....Oct. 12
No. 1 (10½).....Feb. 22
No. 2 (10½).....Mar. 23
No. 3 (11).....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6
Krazy's Bear Tale (7).....Feb. 17
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6).....May 12
Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6

MUSIC HALL VANITIES
(New series)

A Night at the Troc (10).....Mar. 2
Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10)...May 19

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..).....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7).....Apr. 28
Scrappy's Added Attraction (6).....Feb. 3
Scrappy's Rodeo (6).....June 2
Scrappy's Sideshow (7).....Mar. 3

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 18)

No. 1 (..).....Sept. 15
No. 2 (..).....Oct. 20
No. 6 (10½).....Feb. 17
No. 7 (10).....Mar. 17
No. 8 (9½).....Apr. 8
No. 9 (10).....May 12
No. 10 (10).....May 26
No. 11 (10).....June 29
No. 12 (10).....July 28
(Series 19)
No. 1 (..) Art of Make-Up...Sept. 22
No. 2 (..).....Oct. 27
No. 3 (..).....Nov. 24

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10).....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (9½).....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5
Jai Alai (..).....Nov. 3
Jockeys Up (10½).....June 2
Navy Champions (9½).....Mar. 17
Odd Sports (10).....Feb. 10
Technique of Tennis (8½)...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½).....Apr. 7
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½).....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17).....June 30
Three Sappy People (..).....Dec. 1
We Want Our Mummy (17).....Feb. 24
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16).....May 19

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (..) Smithsonian Institute.....Oct. 20
No. 2 Inside the White House (11).....Feb. 21
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10).....May 26
No. 4 Library of Congress (10).....Aug. 4

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (..).....
Help Wanted (21).....June 10
Money to Loan (21).....Mar. 11
While America Sleeps (21).....Apr. 15

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11).....Sept. 2
Colorful Curacao (9).....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Imperial Delhi (8).....Feb. 18
Java Journey (10).....Mar. 18
Picturesque Udaipur (8).....May 13
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10).....May 13
Ice Antics (9).....Feb. 11
Love on a Tap (11).....Mar. 18
Prophets Without Honor (11).....May 20
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11).....May 27

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15
Somewhat Secret (21).....Mar. 25

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)

◎Art Gallery (9).....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11).....July 15
Jitterbug Follies (9).....Feb. 25
◎Little Gold Fish (8).....Apr. 15
Mama's New Hat (9).....Feb. 11
◎The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9).....June 10
Wanted No Master (8).....Mar. 18

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY

Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Auto Antics (10).....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11).....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29
Dog Daze (11).....July 1
Duel Personalities (10).....Mar. 11
Joy Scouts (10).....June 24
Tiny Troubles (10).....Feb. 18

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia..June 24
Story of Alfred Nobel (11)..Feb. 18
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11).....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10).Mar. 18
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia.....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9).....July 1
Football Thrills of 1938 (..).Sept. 16
◎Heroes at Leisure (10)....Feb. 11
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cure (Sepia) (9)....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).....Apr. 8

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9).....Mar. 18
Dark Magic (10).....May 13
Home Early (9).....May 27
How to Eat (10).....June 10
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7)....May 12
Rhythm on the Reservation (7).....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7).Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7).....June 9
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8).....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES
(New Series in Cinecolor)

Ecuador (10).....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10).....May 26
Peru (9).....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10).....Sept. 8
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10).....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Music Through the Years (11).....Feb. 3
Jan Garber and Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10).....May 5
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10).....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10).....June 2
Richard Himber and his orchestra.
Three Kings and a Queen (11).....Apr. 7
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10).....Oct. 20
Circus Co-Ed (10).....Mar. 10
Farewell Vienna (10).....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10).....Apr. 14
Public Hobby Number One (11).....Sept. 22
Swans (10).....May 19
That's Africa (10).....Feb. 10

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 7 (10).....Feb. 3
The Mexican Charro at play, plumed birds and all about accordions.
No. 8 (10).....Mar. 3
No. 9 (10).....Apr. 7
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11).....May 5
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and song of the year.
No. 11 (10).....June 2
Three stories about water
No. 12 (10).....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

◎Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22).....Apr. 7
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7).....June 16
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7).....July 28
Leave Well Enough Alone (7).....Apr. 28
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

No. 4 (10).....Mar. 10
No. 5 (11).....May 12
No. 6 (11).....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-I (11).....Sept. 15

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10).....June 9
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12
Good Skates (10).....Apr. 14
Ice skating with champions.
Hold Your Breath (10).....Feb. 17
Depicting a novel underwater track meet.
Hydro-Maniacs (10).....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10).....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES

The Blue Danube Waltz (10).Sept. 29
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

No. 1 (11).....Oct. 13
No. 4 (10).....Feb. 3
No. 5 (10).....Apr. 14

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

Autograph Hound, The (8)..Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9
Donald's Cousin Gus (7).....May 19
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8).....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Practical Pig (8).....Feb. 24
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
Society Dog Show (8).....Feb. 3
Mickey Mouse enters Pluto in the Society dog show and Pluto does not win.
The Pointer (8).....July 21
◎The Hockey Champ (7)....Apr. 7
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15).....May 19
Clock Wise (16).....Mar. 24
Father-in-law's grandfather clock drives Edgar nuts as he unsuccessfully tries to get rid of it.
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Swing Vacation (19).....Feb. 24
Sales Slips (17).....July 21

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Home Boner (20).....Mar. 10

Moving Vanities (17).....May 5
Ring Madness (19).....June 30

MARCH OF TIME

No. 7 (19) .....Feb. 17
Young America and Mexico's New Crisis.
No. 8 (18) .....Mar. 17
No. 9 (19) .....Apr. 14
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20) .....May 12
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19) .....June 9
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22) .....July 7
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18) .....Aug. 4
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19) .....Sept. 1
Soldiers with wings.
No. 2 (19) .....Sept. 29
The Battle Fleets of England.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11).....May 12
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11).....Apr. 14
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.
Readin, Ritin and Rhythm (10) .....Feb. 17
Samovar Serenade (10).....Mar. 17
Codolbon & His Gypsy Orchestra, Moscow Choir, Karavaeff, Luba Malina.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11) .....Sept. 8
No. 2 (11) .....Oct. 6

PATHE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16)....Oct. 20
Dog-Gone (16) .....Apr. 21
Marriage-Go-Round (18).....July 28
Plumb Crazy (16).....Feb. 3
Pat C. Flick as a plumber causes considerable commotion on a job.

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Devil Drivers (9).....June 16
Hunting Hounds (9) .....Sept. 29
Kennel Kings (9) .....Aug. 11
Riding the Crest (9).....July 14
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9).....May 19
The golfers show how it's done.
Snow Falls (9) .....Feb. 24
A ski picture that's different.

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Ranch House Romeo (17).....Apr. 7
Sagebrush Serenade (19).....June 16

REELISMS (New Series)

Air Waves (10) .....Mar. 10
Gold (9) .....Feb. 10
Nevada Unlimited (8).....Sept. 15
Pack Trip (9) .....Aug. 18
Pilot Boat (9) .....Feb. 3
Soldiers of the Sea (9).....Apr. 7
Swinguet (8) .....May 26
Television (9) .....May 5
World of Tomorrow (9).....June 23
Zoo (9) .....July 21

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19).....July 21
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) Aug. 18
Filming the Fleet (11).....Oct. 27
Sand Hogs (10) .....May 12

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10).....Sept. 1
Clocking the Jockeys (11)....Nov. 24
Hunting Dogs (11) .....Mar. 3
Inside Baseball (11) .....Apr. 14
Sports Immortals (11).....June 23

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11) .Aug. 4
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11)..Nov. 10

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts, No. 3 (11) .....Mar. 31
Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..)..July 7
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10) .Sept. 15
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..)..Dec. 22

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10) .....Sept. 29
Muscle Maulers (11) .....Apr. 14
The Silly Season (..).....Dec. 8

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..) .....May 26
Isle of Pleasure (11).....Feb. 3
Mystic Siam (10) .....Mar. 17
Tempest Over Tunis (11)....June 9
The Evergreen Empire (..)..Oct. 13
Viking Trail (10) .....Feb. 17

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..).....June 16
A Mouse and a Million (..)...Nov. 3
Africa Squawks (7) .....June 30
Barnyard Baseball (7) .....July 14
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) May 5
Frozen Feet (7) .....Feb. 24
Gandy Goose and G-Man Jitters (7) .....Mar. 10
Hook, Line and Sinker (7)..Sept. 8
Nick's Coffee Pot (7).....May 19
Nutty Network (7) .....Mar. 24
Sheep in the Meadow (7)....Sept. 22
The Cuckoo Bird (7) .....April 7
The First Robin (..).....Dec. 29
The Golden West (7).....Aug. 25
The Hitch-Hiker (..).....Dec. 1
The Old Fire Horse (..)....July 28
The Orphan Duck (7).....Oct. 6
The Prize Guest (7).....June 2
The Three Bears (6).....Feb. 10
The Watchdog (..).....Oct. 20
Their Last Bean (7).....April 21
Two Headed Giant (7)....Aug. 11
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) Nov. 17

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7)..Sept. 4
Bird on Nellie's Hat.....June 19
Bola Mola Land (7).....May 29
Charlie Cuckoo (7).....Apr. 30
Crack Pot Cruise (7).....Apr. 10
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8) .....Oct. 9
Little Tough Mice (7).....Mar. 13
Magic Beans (7) .....Feb. 13
Nellie of the Circus (7).....May 8
One Armed Bandit (7).....Mar. 27
Silly Superstition (7).....Aug. 28
Slap Happy Valley (7).....Aug. 21
Snuffy's Party (7) .....Aug. 7
Stubborn Mule (7) .....July 31
The Birth of a Toothpick (7) .....Feb. 27
The Sleeping Princess (..)..Nov. 20

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 60 (10) .....Feb. 20, '39
No. 61 (9) .....Mar. 13
No. 62 (9) .....Apr. 10
No. 63 (9) .....May 15
No. 64 (9) .....June 26
No. 65 (9) .....July 17
No. 66 (9) .....Sept. 25
No. 67 (9) .....Oct. 16
No. 68 (9) .....Nov. 13

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19) .....Mar. 15
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17) .....Apr. 12
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18).....July 12
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Pharmacy Follies (18).....May 17
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18).....June 14
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17).....Aug. 9
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7) .....Aug. 15

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 59 (9) .....Feb. 6
No. 60 (9) .....Mar. 6
No. 61 (9) .....Apr. 3
No. 62 (9) .....May 1
No. 63 (9) .....June 5
No. 64 (..) .....July 3
No. 65 (9) .....Aug. 7
No. 66 (8½) .....Sept. 18
No. 67 (9) .....Oct. 9
No. 68 (9) .....Nov. 6

TWO REEL MUSICALS

An Old Spanish Custom (..)..Nov. 15
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17).....Sept. 6
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Swing Hotel (18) .....Oct. 18
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21).....Sept. 6

UNIVERSAL NEWS
Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (20).....Mar. 25
A Swing Opera (20).....July 22
Broadway Buckaroo (20).....June 3
Home Cheap Home (20).....Mar. 18
Projection Room (20).....Mar. 4
Rollin' in Rhythm (20).....Apr. 15
Seeing Red (20).....Aug. 26
Seeing Spots (20).....Apr. 29
Slapsie Maxie (17).....Sept. 10
Sophomore Swing (20).....Jan. 21
Small Town Idol (20).....Feb. 11
Sundae Serenade (20).....Feb. 25
You're Next to Closing (20) .....May 13
Wardrobe Girl (20).....June 17

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

For Your Convenience (10) .....May 20
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10) .....Sept. 30
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10) .....Feb. 25
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4..Apr. 22
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (9) .....June 10
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10) .....Aug. 5
Modern Methods (9).....July 15
The Roving Camera (10)...Mar. 25

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7) .....Apr. 1
Jeepers Creepers (7).....Sept. 23
Naughty Neighbors (7).....Oct. 7
Polar Pals (7) .....June 3
Porky and Teabiscuit (7).....Apr. 22
Porky's Hotel (7) .....Sept. 2
Porky's Movie Mystery (7)..Mar. 11
Porky's Picnic (7).....July 15
Porky's Tire Trouble (7).....Feb. 18
Christopher Columbus jr. (7) .....May 13
Scalp Trouble (7).....June 24
Wise Quack (7).....Aug. 5

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10) .....Apr. 29
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10) .....Mar. 18
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (10) .....Apr. 8
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10) .....Aug. 12
Jerry Livingston & Orchestra (10) .....Feb. 4
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10) .....May 20
Leith Stevens & Orch. (10) .....June 10
Rita Rio & Orch. (10).....July 1
Rubinoff and His Violin (10)..Nov. 11
Russ Morgan & Orchestra (11) .....Feb. 25
Swing Styles (10).....Sept. 2
Vincent Lopez and Orch. (10) .....Sept. 30
Will Osborne & Orch. (..) .....July 22

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

A Day at the Zoo (7).....Mar. 11
Bars and Stripes Forever (7).Apr. 8
Believe It or Else (7).....June 3
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7) .....Apr. 22
Dangerous Dan McFoo (7) .....July 15
Detouring America (7).....Aug. 26
Fresh Fish (7) .....Nov. 4
Goldrush Daze (7) .....Feb. 25
Good Egg, The (7).....Oct. 21
Hare-um Scare-um (7).....Aug. 12
Land of the Midnight Sun (7) .....Oct. 7
Little Brother Rat (7).....Sept. 2
Little Lion Hunter (7).....Oct. 7
Naughty But Mice (7).....May 20
Old Glory (10).....July 1
Prest-O Change-O (7).....Mar. 25
Robinhood Makes Good (7)..Feb. 11
Sioux Me (7) .....Sept. 9
Snow Man's Land (7).....July 29
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7)...May 6

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (20).....Aug. 12
Lincoln in the White House (21) .....Feb. 11
Quiet Please (18) .....July 1
Sons of the Plains (19).....July 30
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20).....May 20
The Monroe Doctrine (16)..Oct. 14

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10)....Feb. 18

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (10).....Apr. 15
Dean of the Pasteboards (10) .....May 27
Gadgeteers (10) .....Feb. 18
One Day Stand (10).....Aug. 19
Sword Fishing (10).....Oct. 21
Tax Trouble (10) .....Mar. 18
Vote Trouble (10).....Sept. 9
Witness Trouble (10).....July 29

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11)..Mar. 4
Chained (11).....Apr. 1
Haunted House (11).....June 3
High Peril (12) .....Feb. 18
Lives in Peril (11).....July 7
Three-Minute Fuse (11).....July 29
Verge of Disaster (10).....Aug. 26
Voodoo Fires (11) .....May 6

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician .....May 6
12 chapters.

Secret of Treasure Island...Mar. 17
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.

The Shadow .....Nov. 24
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters .....June 10
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.

Dick Tracy's G-Men .....Sept. 2
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.

Lone Ranger Rides Again....Feb. 25
15 Chapters. Robert Livingston, Jinx Falken, Chief Thunder Cloud.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers (..).....Apr. 11
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.

Oregon Trail (15 chapters)...July 4
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol ❶ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ❂ indicates color photography.

	JULY 1	JULY 8	JULY 15	JULY 22	JULY 29	AUGUST 5
COLUMBIA	[29] Drama 9032 **Parents on Trial** (57) Parker-Downs; R-July 8 [30] Comedy 9005 **Good Girls Go to Paris** (73); R-June 24 J. Blondell-M. Douglas		[15] Western 9208 **Man From Sundown** (59) Starrett-Meredith R—Aug. 5 [10] Drama 9025 **A Woman Is the Judge** (60) Hudson-Kruger; R-July 8	[20] Comedy 9010 **Blondie Takes a Vacation** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 22	[28] Action Drama 9033 **Behind Prison Gates** (62) (For. Escape From Alcatraz) Brian Donlevy Jacqueline Wells R—Aug. 5	[4] Action Drama 9008 **Coast Guard** (72) Randolph Scott Frances Dee R—Aug. 19
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	[30] Drama 941 **Stronger Than Desire** (77) Virginia Bruce Walter Pidgeon R—July 1	[7] Drama 942 ❶**On Borrowed Time** (99) Lionel Barrymore Bobs Watson R—July 8	[14] Drama 943 **They All Come Out** (70) Rita Johnson Tom Neal R—July 8	[21] Comedy 944 **Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever** (87) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone R—July 15	[28] Drama 945 **Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (114) Robert Donat R—May 20	[4] Drama 946 **Miracles for Sale** (70) Robert Young Florence Rice Henry Hull R—Aug. 5
MONOGRAM	[1] Action Drama 3814 **Stunt Pilot** (62) John Trent Marjorie Reynolds R—July 8			[21] Western 3865 **Man From Texas** (60) Tex Ritter R—Aug. 12		[1] Mystery 3807 **Mr. Wong in Chinatown** (70) Boris Karloff Grant Withers Mary Reynolds R—July 22
PARAMOUNT	[30] Melodrama 3844 **Bulldog Drummond's Bride** (57) John Howard Heather Angel R—June 24	[7] Musical 3845 **Man About Town** (85) Jack Benny Dorothy Lamour R—June 17	[14] Com. with Music 3846 **Million Dollar Legs** (63) Betty Grable Jackie Coogan R—July 15	[21] Action Drama 3847 **Magnificent Fraud** (78) Akim Tamiroff Lloyd Nolan Patricia Morison R—July 1	[28] Drama 3848 **Island of Lost Men** (64) Anna May Wong R—July 29	[4] Comedy 3849 **Night Work** (62) Mary Boland Charles Ruggles R—Aug. 12
REPUBLIC		[3] Drama 814 **Mickey, the Kid** (66) Bruce Cabot-Tommy Ryan R—July 1	[15] Musical Comedy 815 **She Married a Cop** (65) Phil Regan-Jean Parker R—July 1		[26] Comedy 816 **Should Husbands Work?** (62) Gleason Family Marie Wilson R—July 22	[31] Western 846 **Colorado Sunset** (64) Gene Autry-S. Burnette R—Aug. 5
RKO RADIO	[30] Mystery Drama 929 **Saint in London** (70) Geo. Sanders Sally Grey R—July 1 [30] Western 985 **Timber Stampede** (58) G. O'Brien - M. Reynolds R—June 24	[7] Melodrama 930 **Career** (78) Anne Shirley Edward Ellis R—July 1	[14] Drama 993 **Of Human Bondage** (83) (Reissue) Leslie Howard-B. Davis [14] Drama 994 **Lost Squadron** (79) reissue Joel McCrea-Richard Dix	[21] Musical 947 **Way Down South** (62) Bob Breen-Alan Mowbray R—July 22	[28] Melodrama 931 **Spellbinder** (70) Lee Tracy-Barbara Read R—July 15	[4] Comedy 938 **Bachelor Mother** (81) Ginger Rogers David Niven R—July 1
20TH-FOX	[30] Comedy Drama 950 **It Could Happen to You** (72) Stuart Erwin Gloria Stuart R—June 3	[7] Melodrama 952 **Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation** (65) Peter Lorre Virginia Field R—Nov. 19	[14] Musical Comedy 949 **Second Fiddle** (85) Sonja Henie Tyrone Power R—July 8	[21] Action Drama 953 **News Is Made at Night** (71) P. Foster-L. Bari R—July 8 [21] Mystery Drama 8014 **Ware Case, The** (72) Clive Brook-Jane Baxter R—July 29	[28] Outdoor Drama 951 **Frontier Marshal** (70) Randolph Scott Binnie Barnes R—July 29	[4] Comedy Drama 001 **Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women** (82) Ann Sothern James Ellison R—July 29
UNITED ARTS					[28] Comedy **Winter Carnival** (90) Ann Sheridan Richard Carlson R—July 22	[4] Drama ❶**Four Feathers** (109) Ralph Richardson June Duprez R—June 24
UNIVERSAL	[30] Melodrama 3038 **House of Fear** (66) William Gargan Irene Hervey R—May 20	[7] Drama 3031 **Forgotten Woman** (68) Sigrid Gurie Donald Briggs R—July 8	[14] Comedy 3008 **Unexpected Father** (78) (For. Sandy Takes a Bow) Baby Sandy-Mischa Auer R—July 22	[21] Drama 3007 **I Stole a Million** (78) George Raft Claire Trevor R—July 22		
WARNER-F.N.	[1] Com.-Music WB311 **Naughty But Nice** (90) Ann Sheridan Dick Powell R—June 10	[8] Action Drama WB312 **Hell's Kitchen** (81) Dead End Kids Margaret Lindsay R—June 24	[15] Action Drama WB325 **Waterfront** (59) Denis Morgan Gloria Dickson R—July 1	[22] Drama FN360 **Daughters Courageous** (107) Lane Sisters John Garfield R—June 24	[29] Comedy FN366 **Cowboy Quarterback** (56) Bert Wheeler Gloria Dickson R—July 8	[5] Melodrama WB315 **Indianapolis Speedway** (82) Ann Sheridan Pat O'Brien R—July 15
MISCELLANEOUS		[2] Drama Astor **Out of Singapore** (74) Noah Beery-M. Love				

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AUGUST 12	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 16
	[17] Melodrama 9018 **Man They Could Not Hang** (64) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 19	[22] Comedy Drama 9017 **Five Little Peppers** (60) Edith Fellows [23] Western 9209 **Riders of Black River** (59) C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	[30] Wild Horse 9034 **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (65)	[5] Drama 9002 **Golden Boy** (100) Stanwyck-Holden R—Aug. 19 [7] Mystery Drama 1025 **Hidden Power** (60) Jack Holt-Gert. Michael R—May 29	[14] Western 1201 **Outpost of the Mounties** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredith (63)
[1] Drama 947 **ady of the Tropics** (91) edy Lamarr obt. Taylor —Aug. 12	[18] Comedy Drama 948 **These Glamour Girls** (79) Lew Ayres-Lana Turner Anita Louise R—Aug. 26	[25] Comedy Fantasy 949 **Wizard of Oz** (102) Judy Garland Frank Morgan R—Aug. 19	[1] Comedy Drama 1 **The Women** (134) Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 2	[8] Melodrama 5 **Blackmail** (79) Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16	[15] Drama 4 **Thunder Afloat** (94) Wallace Beery Chester Morris Virginia Grey R—Sept. 23
	[15] Drama with Mus. 3825 **Girl From Rio** (62) Movita-Warren Hull R—Aug. 12 [16] Western 3866 **Riders of Frontier** (58) Tex Ritter R—Sept. 9	[25] Western 3856 **Oklahoma Terror** (52) Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 [22] Melodrama 3826 **Irish Luck** (61) F. Darro-D. Purcell R—Aug. 26			[12] Action Drama 3815 **Sky Patrol** (61) John Trent Marjorie Reynolds R—Sept. 23
[1] Comedy Drama 3850 **ur Leading Citizen** (90) ob Burns usan Hayward —Aug. 5	[18] Melodrama 3865 **This Man Is News** (75) Barry K. Barnes V. Hobson R—July 29 [18] Western 3859 **Renegade Trail** (58) William Boyd R. Hayden R—July 29	[25] Musical Comedy 3851 **Star Maker** (94) Bing Crosby Louise Campbell R—Aug. 19	[1] Melodrama 3901 **Death of a Champion** (66) Lynne Overman Virginia Dale R—Sept. 2	[8] Western 3954 **Range War** (66) Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden R—Aug. 12	[15] Drama 3902 **Beau Geste** (114) Gary Cooper Ray Milland R—July 29
[0] Western 868 **ew Frontier** (56) hree Mesquiteers —Aug. 19	[14] Western 847 **In Old Monterey** (70) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—July 29	[21] Action Drama 825 **Smuggled Cargo** (61) Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay R—Aug. 26	[28] Drama 9111 **Flight at Midnight** (66) Phil Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner R—Sept. 2	[6] Western 857 **Wall Street Cowboy** (66) Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9	
[1] Western 933 **ad Lands** (65) . Barrat-N. Berry jr. —July 29	[18] Drama 936 **In Name Only** (92) Carole Lombard Cary Grant Kay Francis R—Aug. 12		[1] Melodrama 935 **Conspiracy** (59) Allan Lane-Linda Hayes R—Sept. 2	[8] Western 986 **Fighting Gringo** (60) Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2 [8] Drama 003 **Full Confession** (72) V. McLaglen-S. Eilers R—Aug. 26	[15] Comedy 002 **Day the Bookies Wept** (65) Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9
[1] Comedy Drama 002 **hicken Wagon Family** (65) ane Withers eo Carrillo Marjorie Weaver —Aug. 19	[18] Adventure Drama 003 **Stanley and Livingstone** (100) Spencer Tracy Nancy Kelly Richard Greene R—Aug. 5	[25] Comedy 004 **Quick Millions** (61) (The Jones Family) Jed Prouty Spring Byington R—Aug. 5	[1] Detective Drama 005 **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (85) Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26	[8] Melodrama 006 **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (73) Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore R—Aug. 12	[15] Drama 011 **The Rains Came** (103) Myrna Loy-Tyrone Power George Brent R—Sept. 16
[1] Melodrama **Man in the Iron Mask** (110) ouis Hayward oan Bennett —July 8	[18] Drama with Music **They Shall Have Music** (120) Andrea Leeds Joel McCrea Jascha Heifetz R—July 15				
[1] Drama 3003 **When Tomorrow Comes** (90) Charles Boyer rene Dunne —Aug. 19			[1] Comedy Drama 10 **Under-Pup** (88) Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey R—Sept. 2 [1] Outdoor Drama 4051 **Mutiny on the Black Hawk** (66) R—June 24 R. Arlen-A. Devine	[8] Musical Comedy 24 **Hawaiian Nights** (64) Downs-Carlisle; R-Aug. 26 [8] Western 4058 **Desperate Trails** (58) John Mack Brown Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight R—Oct. 21	[15] Drama 4017 **Two Bright Boys** (70) Jackie Cooper Freddie Bartholomew R—Sept. 23 [8] Musical 4044 **Mikado** (92) Kenny Baker; R-Jan. 7
[2] Comedy WB326 **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (59) ane Wyman Allen Jenkins R—Aug. 5	[19] Drama FN356 **Each Dawn I Die** (92) James Cagney Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan R—July 22	[26] Comedy FN376 **Hobby Family, The** (54) Irene Rich-H. O'Neill R—Aug. 26 [26] Drama FN367 **Angels Wash Their Faces** (96) Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5	[2] Drama FN452 **The Old Maid** (95) Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins R—Aug. 5	[9] Com. Melo. WB419 **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (60) Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas R—Aug. 26	[16] Drama FN461 **Dust Be My Destiny** (88) John Garfield Priscilla Lane R—Aug. 19

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	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14	OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28
COLUMBIA	21 Drama 1015 **Those High Grey Walls** (82) Walter Connolly Iris Meredith R—Sept. 30		7 Action Drama 1010 **U-Boat 29** (77) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23		19 Comedy Drama 1101 **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (125) Jean Arthur James Stewart; R-Oct. 14 16 Drama 1031 **Scandal Sheet** (67) O. Kruger-O. Munson	24 Comedy **Beware Spooks!** (65) Joe E. Brown Mary Carlisle R—Oct. 2 29 Drama **Miracle of Main Street** (..) Walter Abel-Margo
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM		29 Comedy Drama 3 **Dancing Co-ed** (81) **Lana Turner** **Richard Carlson** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 6 **Fast and Furious** (73) Ann Sothern Franchot Tone R—Oct. 14	13 Musical Comedy 9 **Babes in Arms** (97) Mickey Rooney Judy Garland R—Sept. 23	20 Comedy 8 **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14	27 Comedy Drama 1 **Bad Little Angel** (77) Virginia Weidler Henry Hull R—Oct. 28
MONOGRAM		30 Documentary 3831 **Fight for Peace** (68) R—Apr. 23, '38	1 Outdoor Drama 3936 **Crashing Thru** (56) **James Newell** **Jean Carmen**		20 Western **Riders of Destiny** (..) (Reissue) John Wayne 20 Western **Sagebrush Trail** (..) (Reissue) John Wayne	1 Action Drama 381 **Danger Flight** (..) **John Trent** 25 Drama 380 **Mutiny in the Big House** (84) C. Bickford-B. MacLane R—Oct. 21
PARAMOUNT	22 Comedy 3903 **$1,000 a Touchdown** (71) **Joe E. Brown** **Martha Raye** R—Sept. 30	29 Comedy Drama 3904 **Honeymoon in Bali** (96) **(For. My Love for Yours)** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16	6 Comedy 3905 **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23	13 Drama 3906 **Jamaica Inn** (106) Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**	20 Drama 3907 **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14	27 Drama 390 **Disputed Passage** (87) Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff John Howard R—Oct. 21
REPUBLIC	21 Melodrama 912 **Calling All Marines** (65) Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16	29 Western 951 **Arizona Kid** (61) **Roy Rogers** **Sally March** R—Oct. 7	6 Western 961 **Kansas Terrors** (57) **Three Mesquiteers** R—Oct. 21	13 Action Drama 913 **Sabotage** (69) **Arleen Whelan** **Gordon Oliver** R—Oct. 14		27 Action Drama **Jeepers Creepers** (..) Roy Rogers Weaver Bros. & Elviry
RKO RADIO	22 Comedy Drama 934 **Fifth Avenue Girl** (80) **Ginger Rogers** **James Ellison** R—Aug. 26	29 Drama 001 **Nurse Edith Cavell** (95) Anna Neagle George Sanders **R—Aug. 26**	6 Musical 946 **Everything's on Ice** (65) Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9	13 Drama 004 **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis Virginia Vale R—Sept. 30		27 Drama 01 **Sued for Libel** (..) K. Taylor-L. Hayes R—Oct. 21
20TH-FOX	22 Comedy 008 **Stop, Look and Love** (57) Jean Rogers William Frawley **R—Sept. 2**	29 Drama 009 **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30	6 Drama 010 **The Escape** (60) Kane Richmond Allan Duff	13 Musical 007 **Hollywood Cavalcade** (96) Alice Faye-Don Ameche R—Oct. 7 13 Drama 061 **Road to Glory** (101) (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter	20 Comedy 018 **Shipyard Sally** (80) Gracie Fields S. Howard 20 Comedy 014 **Pack Up Your Troubles** (75) Jane Withers R—Oct. 14	27 Action Drama 01 **20,000 Men a Year** (82) R. Scott-M. Healy R—Oct. 28 27 Documentary 06 **First World War** (78) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34
UNITED ARTS.	22 Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story** (65) **Leslie Heward** **Ingrid Bergman** **John Halliday** R—Oct. 7	29 Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) **Gary Cooper** **Andrea Leeds** R—Sept. 23		12 Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) **Loretta Young** **David Niven** R—Oct. 7		26 Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughte** (80) **Joan Bennett-Wm. Garg** **Adolphe Menjou** R—Sept. 16
UNIVERSAL	22 Melodrama 4027 **The Witness Vanishes** (66) E. Lowe-W. Barrie	29 Drama **Rio** (77) **Sigrid Gurie** **Basil Rathbone** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 4035 **Hero for a Day** (66) Anita Louise-Dick Foran 29 Drama Reissue **All Quiet on the Western Front** (93) L. Ayres R—Sept. 30	13 Drama 4052 **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16	20 Western 4059 **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) **Johnny Mack Brown**	27 Comedy **Little Accident** (65) Sandy Henville Florence Rice 3 Melodrama **Tower of London** (..) **Basil Rathbone** **Boris Karloff**
WARNER-F.N.	23 Comedy FN469 **No Place to Go** (57) **Fred Stone** **Gloria Dickson** **Denis Morgan** R—Sept. 23	30 Melodrama WB415 **A Child Is Born** (79) Geraldine Fitzgerald Gladys George Jeffrey Lynn **R—Aug. 5**	30 Melodrama FN462 **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30 7 Melodrama WB418 **Pride of the Blue Grass** (65) R—Sept. 23 E. Fellows-J. McCallion	14 Musical FN463 **On Your Toes** (94) Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14	21 Melodrama FN470 **Smashing the Money Ring** (56) Ronald Reagan Margot Stevenson R—Oct. 21	28 Drama WB40 **Roaring Twenties** (104) James Cagney Priscilla Lane R—Oct. 21
MISCELLANEOUS						

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NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9
Comedy **londie Brings Up Baby** (..) enny Singleton rthur Lake			23 Comedy Drama **Incredible Mr. Williams** (..) Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas	30 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday** (..) Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy	
Western **1202** **ranger From Texas** (..) harles Starrett					
Comedy Drama **7** **notchka** (110) reta Garbo elvyn Douglas —Oct. 14	10 Drama **Secret of Dr. Kildare** (..) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore	17 Drama **A Call on the President** (..) Ann Sothern Walter Brennan	24 Comedy Drama **Another Thin Man** (..) William Powell Myrna Loy		
Western **3857** **verland Mail** (..) **ck Randall**	5 Action Drama **Fighting Mad** (..) James Newell		25 Western **Roll, Wagons, Roll** (..) Tex Ritter	1 Action Drama **Murder on the Yukon** (..) James Newell	5 Mystery Drama **Mr. Wong at Headquarters** (..) Boris Karloff
Mystery Drama **hantom Strikes** (..) nnie Hale ilfred Lawson	7 Drama **Heroes in Blue** (..) Dick Purcell Bernadene Hayes				
Western **3955** **aw of the Pampas** (72) **m. Boyd** —Oct. 21	10 Melodrama **3909** **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7	17 Drama **3910** **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	24 Comedy **3911** **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (85) Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter	1 Drama **Happy Ending** (..) Pat O'Brien Olympe Bradna	8 Western **Llano Kid** (..) **Tito Guizar** **Gale Sondergaard**
	10 Drama **905** **Main Street Lawyer** (..) Edw. Ellis Anita Louise	17 Comedy **Covered Trailer** (..) Gleason Family 15 Western **848** **Washington Cowboy** (..) Gene Autry-S. Burnette			
Comedy **010** **ying Deuces** (65) **aurel & Hardy** —Oct. 14	10 Outdoor Drama **006** **Allegheny Uprising** (81) **John Wayne** **Claire Trevor** R—Oct. 28	17 Drama **005** **Meet Dr. Christian** (63) J. Hersholt-D. Lovett R—Oct. 21	24 Musical **011** **That's Right, You're Wrong** (..) Kay Kyser and Orch. Adolphe Menjou Lucille Ball	1 Drama **008** **Reno** (..) Richard Dix Gail Patrick	
Western **081** **arshal of Mesa City** (61) eo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7					
Drama **019** **eaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) an Rogers-Glen Ford —Oct. 7	10 Drama **015** **Drums Along the Mohawk** (..) **Claudette Colbert** **Henry Fonda**	17 Comedy **016** **Too Busy to Work** (..) Jones Family	24 Comedy Drama **020** **Day Time Wife** (..) Tyrone Power Brenda Joyce	1 Melodrama **021** **Charlie Chan in City of Darkness** (..) S. Toler-L. Bari 1 Melodrama **022** **Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday** (..) G. Harker-A. Sims	8 Drama **023** **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly
Melodrama **20** **ll a Messenger** (66) Armstrong-R. Kelly ttle Tough Guys	10 Action Drama **30** **One Hour to Live** (60) Charles Bickford R—Sept. 16	17 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again** (..) Marlene Dietrich **James Stewart** 3 Melodrama **53** **Legion of Lost Flyers** (64) R. Arlen-A. Devine	24 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns** (..) N. Grey-V. Price 24 Western **Chip of the Flying U** (55) Johnny Mack Brown	1 Comedy **Laugh It Off** (..) Constance Moore Johnny Downs	8 Action Drama **Man From Montreal** (..) Richard Arlen Andy Devine
Drama Reissue **ad Back** (69) chard Cromwell	10 Comedy with Music **First Love** (..) **Deanna Durbin**				
Com. Drama **WB411** **d Nightingale** (58) hn Payne-Jane Wyman —Sept. 16	11 Drama **WB402** **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7	18 Com. Drama **FN471** **Lady Dick** (..) Jane Wyman-Dick Foran	25 Drama **FN** **We Are Not Alone** (..) Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson		
					BOOKING CHART Concluded on Following Page

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In The Making

DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 30	STARTING	COMPLETED
			Too Many Husbands—Jean Arthur, Fred MacMurray, Melvyn Douglas. Director: Wesley Ruggles. Producer: Wesley Ruggles. Screenplay: Claude Binyon. **Untitled**—Charles Starrett, Lorna Gray, Bob Nolan, Sons of the Pioneers. Director: Sam Nelson. Producer: Irving Briskin.	**The Incredible Mr. Williams**—Jo Blondell, Melvyn Douglas, Ruth Do nelly, Donald MacBride. Directo Alexander Hall. Producer: Evere Riskin.
			Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep—Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, Melvyn Douglas, Peter Lorre, Paul Lukas, Paul Fix. Director: Frank Borzage. Producer: Joseph Mankiewicz. **Congo Maisie**—Ann Sothern, Ian Hunter, Rita Johnson, John Carroll. Director: Harold Bucquet. Producer: J. Walter Ruben.	
15 Western **Pioneer Days** (..) Jack Randall				**Roll, Wagons, Roll**—Tex Ritter, Muri Evans, Reed Howes, Tom Londo Director: Al Herman. Producer: E ward Finney. Original Screenplay: Vi tor Adamson, Edmond Kelso, Rog Merton.
15 Drama **All Women Have Secrets** (..) Joseph Allen jr. Jean Cagney	22 Technicolor Cartoon **Gulliver's Travels** (..)	29 Drama **The Great Victor Herbert** (..) Allan Jones Mary Martin	**The Way of All Flesh**—Akim Tamiroff, William Henry, Judith Barrett, Norma Nelson. Director: Louis King. Producer: William LeBaron.	
			The Narrow Path—Charles Bickford. Director: John H. Auer. Producer: Robert North. Original: Robert Presnell.	
			The Marines Fly High—Richard Dix, Chester Morris, Lucille Ball, John Archer. Director: George Nichols jr. Producer: Robert Sisk. Screenplay: Jerry Cady.	**That's Right, You're Wrong**—Kay Kys and Orchestra, Adolphe Menjou, Lu cille Ball. Director: David Butler. Pr ducer: David Butler. Screenplay: Wi liam Conselman, James V. Kern.
15 Comedy Drama **024** **Honeymoon's Over** (..) Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver	22 Fantasy **025** **Blue Bird** (..) Shirley Temple Sybil Jason			
			The House Across the Bay—Joan Bennett, Gladys George, Etta McDaniel. Director: Archie Mayo. Producer: Walter Wanger. Original: Myles Connolly, Screenplay: Kathryn Scola.	
15 Western **West of Carson City** (..) Johnny Mack Brown Bob Baker 15 Melodrama **Missing Evidence** (64) P. Foster R—Oct. 7	22 Melodrama **No Power on Earth** (..) Victor McLaglen Jackie Cooper	29 Drama **Green Hell** (..) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett		**Destry Rides Again**—James Stewar Marlene Dietrich, Brian Donlevy, Un Merkel, Charles Winninger. Director George Marshall. Producer: Joe Pa ternak.
			Fugitive From Justice—Roger Pryor, Sheila Bromley, Morgan Conway, John Gallaudet, Lucille Fairbanks, Joe Devlin. Director: Terry Morse. Producer: Bryan Foy.	

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"ONE VOWEL, BUT IT'S A WHALE"

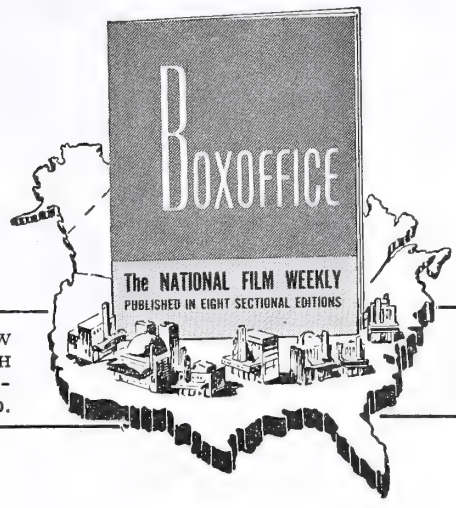
An Editorial

M-G-M IS ON THE MARCH!

No company—ever—at any time has had so many hits and the Parade will continue throughout 1939-40. As ever it is M-G-M, the solid rock upon which your true security rests, that electrifies the industry with optimism when courage and fortitude are most needed. Here are pictures to play and to promote for long, successful engagements. Hooray for Leo! Friendly company indeed!



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ONE VOWEL, BUT IT'S A WHALE

THEY manage to be complementary, not complimentary, of each other.

Joseph M. Schenck makes a suggestion about extended playing time to give the distributor a better break. Around the country there is some agreement, but also a roar and a howl easily decipherable as the voice of many exhibitors informing Schenck to stick to production. Nice, comradely business.

Gradwell Sears issues forth with a merchandising plan that reads and sounds a great deal like the quietly reposing code. Some exhibitors are impressed. Others declare they don't believe it. Still others insist they want to be shown. There's mutual trust.

Seven distributors, having agreed on the highlights of a code, learn from Washington they cannot proceed unless willing to face the possibility of criminal prosecution. But having agreed, only two of them are officially across the line with a declaration of the same ideas individually implemented. The brace, of course, is Warner and Metro in the order of their decision.

MPTOA's directors meet at White Sulphur Springs, review the code, remember those seven distributors and wonder at large why the remaining five thus far are so silent about openly placing into operation the very conditions they had earlier adopted. It's a large-sized wonder, too.

One of those directors did some talking, but a number agreed on this:

> "Sixteen men were paid about $22,000,000 last year. Now that's a whale of a lot of money. I don't argue down their value, but I do argue like hell that no group of sixteen men could have actually earned that amount of money. If the companies in New York are seriously trying to effect economies, will you please tell me why those getting such enormous salaries don't step forward and volunteer to take a substantial slash? These men presumably are among the leaders of the industry. Well, why don't they act like leaders, that is, if the economies talked about are essential. Besides, they give most of their salaries to the government anyway."

At one of the meetings there, the following observation was made, and by a theatre operator who deplored it:

"If the distributors seek something, exhibitors automatically oppose it on the theory it will be a bad thing for them."

This catalogue of deportment in the industry might run on without end and the job of assembling the data would be all too unfortunately easy. Thus we end it here with these scattered evidences of continued cross purpose, misunderstandings and suspicions.

The exhibitor is the producer's customer, yet the producer regards him with scorn when he regards him at all. The exhibitor depends upon the producer, but wishes he were a couple of other fellows although it isn't clear just what that would solve. There is inter-dependence, of course, but it operates at the end of a sword sharpened and ready for the lunge.

How far the industry can progress under a chronic condition as acute as this is not easy to figure out. Equally as difficult is it to dope out how the business has reached its current estate.

There will be issues, some current like block booking and theatre divorcement, and others, the complexion of which is yet to come, on which no quick agreement will be likely. It would be far too idealistic a state to imagine in this realistic sort of business.

But this much, at least, is certain: The perpetual split in the ranks, so sharply and so clearly defined, is a weakening influence that makes the industry the easiest of targets for outside attack. Today, practically any outside group, if it has significance or noise, can make the mighty celluloid colossus run to cover with its tail dragging fearfully between its gargantuan legs.

The film giant is susceptible to all sorts of censorship groups, to complaining firemen and undertakers who protest the manner the screen depicts them. It bends a wobbly knee to radio commentators. It makes itself subservient to newspaper columnists. It takes it beautifully on the chin on all and sundry counts and, as matters stand, does so advisedly because it knows it cannot muster its own citizenry to repel the common invader.

Constantly, therefore, as the industry goes through its clever and dumb foibles, it becomes increasingly apparent that there is a huge job to be undertaken. It is a task calling for diplomacy and tact, for understanding and fair play, for a unity of forces on the inside if the pressure groups on a whole array of outside fronts are to understand they cannot kick this business around and get away with it any longer.

Kann

WARNER PREPARING FOR SOLID "A" PROGRAM; WOULD SEEK MORE TIME AND BETTER TERMS

Not This Season Goal; Reports of Cut in List Premature

NEW YORK—Inside story behind the disbandment of the Bryan Foy production unit at the Warner studio in Burbank is a plan whereby the company ultimately will drop "B" product for full-time concentration on the "A's." The objective will not be attained this season and may not even next, but, by the time the 1941-42 season rolls around, the shift will be ready.

The Foy unit has been responsible for the 12 "B's" which Warner flatly announced would be low-budget pictures when its lineup for this season was divulged. Seven of the dozen have been completed and the remaining five, no doubt, will be started in a couple of months.

Long-Term Plan

The 100 per cent "A" program encompasses Warner's vision of its future. On the strength of last year's product performance and the current season so far, plus releases set between now and the early part of 1940, headmen there are of the opinion the organization is finally beginning to reflect its full stature. They say they propose nurturing the growth and, as part of the maturing process, believe the company is within a season or two, at the most, of full development in which "B" product ought not play a part.

Earlier reports that the second-string releases would be dropped, or cut short, this season and thereby reduce the program to approximately 38 releases now turn out to be premature. It is probable that the plan for the future will call for about 48 releases.

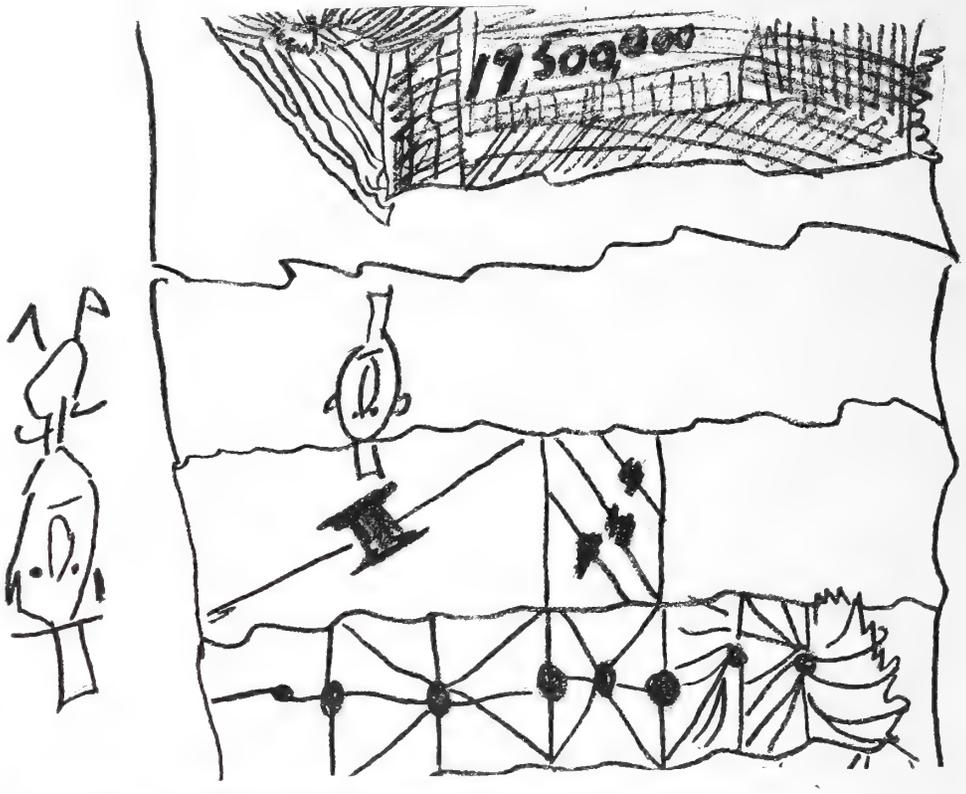
To Nurture the Growth

It is pointed out that any changeover process such as the one in mind, cannot be accomplished in a handful of weeks. It reputedly entails the acquisition of important literary properties in the further development of a backlog of material and it ties with a foothold in the theatre which explains why the Warner organization is the most active of the major companies in the financing of New York stage plays.

By eliminating the "B" lineup, the money spent on them allows itself to be spread over the remaining "A's," not necessarily equally but as production requirements may dictate. On the distribution end, greater playing time and, of course, better terms will be sought, the theory there being the stepped-up values in the product will make both possible with, and acceptable as well to, the exhibitor.

Arguments Soon in Brice Suit

CHICAGO—Fanny Brice's $750,000 suit against 20th-Fox has been sent back to the state superior court. Arguments in the case are expected immediately.



Doodling, With Millions in the Balance—

Perhaps even more rare than a perfectly executed income tax blank is the specimen reproduced above. It developed at a high-powered conference in New York. Exhibit A is the Depression vs. Hollywood, this White Paper unquestionably is the first sign of a returning prosperity.

When producers—and this a producer's handiwork—turn to expressing themselves in terms of eight figures (see apparition upper center) there can be no mistaking the times. The erudite reader may conclude the producer could have been pixilated. But here's Webster: "Pixilated: Balmy; an early American expression derived from the word pixie, meaning elves."

It might fit. Reader's choice.

Mutual Support Pact in House May Unite to Pass Neely Bill

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—Effort may be made by the anti-block booking group in the House to bring into the picture a not inconsiderable number of members who are also interested in regulation of the oil industry, including the divorce of retailing from production, in a mutual support pact in support of the Neely bill. While such an agreement would not be without its contradictions, it might accomplish quite a bit.

Administration leaders in the House, for a variety of reasons, are anxious not to have motion picture or oil control legislation come up during the 1940 session. Representative Clarence F. Lea of California, chairman of the House interstate commerce committee, is expected to demand that no action be taken on the Neely bill until exhaustive hearings have been held, then to postpone those hearings as long as other business can be offered as more important and, if hearings are held, to delay reporting the bill as long as possible in the hope that the session will end before it can be voted upon.

But, regardless of whether any action is taken on the measure, the film industry is expected to be a subject of much discussion during the session, and some of the attacks, in all probability, will be based upon the career of the mythical Mr. Smith who went to Washington.

Hollywood's version of the life and activities of a United States senator, thus, may have unfortunate repercussions next year. "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"

(Continued on page 10)

NOT DISTANCE, BUT THE QUALITY OF SHOW IS GAUGE OF RURAL PATRONAGE, SURVEY SHOWS

Cites Value of Small Town Theatres to The Industry

NEW YORK—"It's not how far, but how good is the movie" concludes the Curtis Publishing Co., publishers of *Country Gentleman*, in a survey of the film habits of potential audiences in and around Oneonto, N. Y. While the survey was limited to that one community, the publishing company expresses its belief the conclusions may be regarded as bearing directly on thousands of similar situations throughout the nation.

Oneonta, with a population of 12,500, was selected because "it is isolated, is in a good farming section and because farm and small-town families have fewer forms of entertainment than people in the big cities." Schine Enterprises operates the only two houses in the town, the Palace and Oneonta, supervised by Harry Rose, with combined seating capacity of 1,850. Top scale at the Palace is 25 cents, with 40 cents the high at the Oneonta. To get the desired information, questionnaires were distributed at two Thursday and two Saturday performances. Of a combined adult attendance of 3,117 at the four shows, 1,694—or 54.3 per cent—replied.

This is what came out:

"1—That rural people consider the movies their best entertainment.

"2—That rural people are of tremendous importance to smalltown theatres . . . and to Hollywood.

"3—That smalltown theatres spend their own big money to attract and increase the attendance of rural people.

"4—That these smalltown theatres need the help of the producers.

"5—That smalltown merchants have a real appreciation of the fact that a good share of their volume comes from outside the city limits . . . and that the movies are important to them because they bring them business.

"6—That distance from the theatre is no bar to attendance by rural people.

"7—That no matter how you look at it, the profit margin of the smalltown movie operator comes from the country."

And here are the results of the seven-point survey:

Q.—(1) How far do rural people travel to see a motion picture?

A.—Miles	People Traveling	Pct.
40 and over	28	4.6
30 and over	37	6.1
25 and over	63	10.3
20 and over	135	22.2
15 and over	253	41.5
10 and over	409	67.2
5 and over	536	88.0
No answer	19	
Outside Oneonta	609	

Two-thirds of the out-of-town audience traveled 10 miles, or further. Two gallons of gas, one coming, one going.

Tracy No. 1 Man; Bette Davis Top Female, "Fortune" Says

NEW YORK—Spencer Tracy is the public's favorite film actor and Bette Davis, its favorite among women, according to a survey conducted by the Elmo Roper organization for *Fortune* which includes the results in its current survey. Tracy replaces Clark Gable and Miss Davis, Shirley Temple who led the pack in a similar survey published in the magazine's issue of July, 1937.

Significant in the returns is a 21.8 per cent bracket for those who "never go" to pictures and a 29.1 per cent equation for those who, in answer to the question "Who is your favorite movie actor (actress)?" replied, "Don't know."

Fortune presents its findings in the following chart:

Rank July 1937		*Present Rating Actor*	*Actress*		*Rank July 1937*
	Spencer Tracy	5.6%	4.6%	Bette Davis	
1	Clark Gable	5.1	4.4	Myrna Loy	4
	Tyrone Power	2.1	3.4	Jeanette MacDonald	3
4	Wallace Beery	2.1	2.8	Irene Dunne	
7	Lionel Barrymore	2.0	2.6	Norma Shearer	2
	Paul Muni	1.9	2.3	Shirley Temple	1
2	Robert Taylor	1.9	1.7	Janet Gaynor	6
6	Gary Cooper	1.5	1.5	Ginger Rogers	
3	William Powell	1.3	1.3	Claudette Colbert	
9	Nelson Eddy	1.3	1.3	Joan Crawford	7
	Errol Flynn	1.3	1.0	Alice Faye	
	Charles Boyer	1.2	1.0	Kay Francis	8
	Gene Autry	1.1	1.0	Greta Garbo	5
	Ronald Colman	1.0	1.0	Carole Lombard	
	Bob Burns	1.0	1.0	Barbara Stanwyck	
	.....	.....	1.0	Loretta Young	
	All others*	18.7	13.2	All others §	
	Don't know	29.1	33.1	Don't know	
	Never go	21.8	21.8	Never go	

And then observers:

"All others (*) include in this order mentions of Don Ameche, Bing Crosby, James Cagney, Cary Grant, Mickey Rooney, Leslie Howard, Charles Laughton, Warner Baxter, Edward G. Robinson, George Arliss, Lewis Stone and a multitude of others.

"Leading these also-rans (§) are Sonja Henie, Hedy Lamarr, Dorothy Lamour, Deanna Durbin, Jean Arthur, Joan Blondell, Mae West, Katharine Hepburn, Jane Withers and Helen Hayes.

"Thus, up from nowhere, or nearly nowhere, have risen new leaders, the rugged Tracy, the (**) exophthalmic Davis—and the urbane and knowing Loy. And down from their heights have tumbled Taylor and Temple—each, perhaps, a peculiarly lush manifestation of glamour as it is found in their respective age and sex. Among the male cinema darlings of two years ago only Clark Gable survived near the pinnacle he used to occupy. As a footnote on sex it is worthy of note that lusty Gable stands first with women who think the philandering male is wicked, and Shirley Temple is still their ruling queen.

"These ratings should matter a good deal to Hollywood where the audience appeal is at every moment so closely linked with salaries in large, round figures. But they don't matter nearly so much to the general public as one might suppose according to the answers to the next question.

"If you had to give up either going to the movies or listening to the radio, which one would you give up?

Going to the movies	79.3%
Listening to the radio	13.9%
Don't know	6.8%

"Among the breakdowns it appears that not a single group of people by class or occupation or age or sex votes less than 70 per cent for giving up the movies rather than the radio. So our real hero may be Charlie McCarthy rather than Spencer Tracy, our true love Gracie Allen."

**Exophthalmic, referring to exophthalmia, medical term pertaining to protrusion of the eyeball.

Q.—(2) How often do they go to a film show?

A.—	People from Outside Oneonta	Oneonta Residents
Three or more times a week	55— 9%	241—22%
Twice a week	174—29%	398—37%
Once a week	295—48%	366—34%
Two or 3 times a month	19	20
Once a month or less	39—14%	29— 7%
No answer	27	31
	609	1,085

Eighty-six per cent of the out-of-town audiences goes to film shows once a week or oftener.

Q.—(3) Where (in what size town) do they generally go to film shows?

A.—98.5 per cent of Oneonta residents generally go to Oneonta theatres; 84 per

(Continued on page 10)

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

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Notes to You from Red Kann

TIME and the film will tell. But one of the interesting bits of enterprise undertaken in recent Hollywood, and already well publicized, is the changeover in the Marlene Dietrich personality for "Destry Rides Again." Ivan Spear, our favorite west coast correspondent, describes this forthcoming Universal as a "super sagebrusher." In it, Marlene plays the part of a hard-boiled entertainer in an early western dance hall.

How reminiscent, if at all, of "The Blue Angel" in a different setting this will turn out to be ought to be showing up pretty soon now. That film was made by Ufa in Berlin back in '29 with Emil Jannings the lucky stiff caught in La Dietrich's toils and suffering pleasantly to the bitter end. It was also the film which Joe Von Sternberg directed and the job that got Marlene her Paramount contract.

Dietrich thereafter in Hollywood was never the Dietrich she showed herself to be in "The Blue Angel." Of course, there has been a code since then and the coast has to be careful about exposing the limbs every woman possesses, but which Dietrich owns in the unmistakably twice blest manner. At any rate, she revealed them in that famed German film and, as you now read, the memory lingered on.

However, the answer was something else. She played a hard-boiled entertainer in "The Blue Angel" as she does now in "Destry." She was earthy and baudy then and, while she can't be baudy now, sex remains sex and Dietrich has her share. In its long series of pictures Paramount naturally never made any pretense about hiding Marlene's appeal, but the billows of feminine splendor in which she was dropped resulted in an almost perfect job of suffocation. Dietrich was turned into something awfully elegant and that might have been the mistake.

After a fashion then and, despite the wide shift in settings, the indications are Dietrich is returning to the type of role that first launched her spectacular rise. Not knowing what the outcome will be, it will be interesting to observe, nevertheless.

Capra Defines It

Michael Mok, during an interview with Frank Capra for the "New York Post," asked for a definition of the theme of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" which appears to have created an unscheduled ripple or two along the Potomac. Said Capra, and we like it very much indeed:

"The theme is that American democracy is indestructible, no matter to what buffeting it may be exposed. Plenty of people are going to call it an unpatriotic picture. They will pretend to believe that the buffetings are the theme. Those are the people who are attacked in the picture. They will scream in futile self-defense."

"Mezzochromatic"

Garbo, it seems, possesses a voice of medium depth with vibrant timbre and colorful overtones. "Aside from a medium deep voice, her vocal cords create a secondary vibration or series of overtones which add color. Her voice is like a harmonic on a violin string in which two separate vibrations blend into a single note," explains Conrad Kahn, a studio engineer through the facilities of the M-G-M publicity department. That, his conclusion is, makes Garbo a "Mezzochromatic."

Well?

It is also divulged to a panting public that Garbo works best when the temperature on the stage is 70 degrees. Any deviation is noticed by her immediately with results that Metro doesn't talk about but hints at rather darkly.

They seem to have their troubles in Hollywood.

No Particulars

In "The Farmer's Daughter," Martha Raye plays an "up-to-date, streamlined farmerette."

No further information is available. About her or the traveling salesman.

Mathematical

"Never let it be said that Hollywood directors and screen writers are not opportunists," Roach publicity wisdom sets forth.

It's like confirming two plus two equals four.

In Capsule

Credited to James Thurber who writes for "The New Yorker" is this description of Hollywood:

"It reminds of a boat about to dock. On it are passengers who never expect to see one another again."

"CAT and CANARY'... Sparkling Comedy Murder Mystery"

"A topnotch comedy murder mystery that will stand up as the first feature on any bill. Good screenplay, careful production, fine job of direction, plus Bob Hope . . . carries wholehearted interest from the opening gun to the final fadeout."

. . . *Hollywood Reporter*





"Take it from me . . . it's the "Cat's"!

The CAT AND THE CANARY

starring **Bob Hope • Paulette Goddard**

with John Beal • Douglass Montgomery • Gale Sondergaard • Elizabeth Patterson • George Zucco

Screen Play by Walter DeLeon and Lynn Starling • Based on the Stage Play by John Willard • A Paramount Picture • Directed by ELLIOTT NUGENT

Paramount Pictures

Gov't Insists Upon First Run Figures

NEW YORK—Although cooperating in some respects, such as cutting the time in half, or more, for periods covered in the interrogatories, the government is standing pat on its request for revenues of all first-run operations.

Attorneys who met with Paul Williams, assistant to the attorney general, early in the week pointed out the impracticability of such a demand, holding that, while it is possible to grant the request in some respects, it could not be done without a definition from the government on certain types of theatres.

Defense counsel explained that in practically every situation there is a theatre which plays "sloughs" first run for a part of the week, going to duals second run for the balance. These houses are not regarded as first runs in the true sense by distributors, but Williams nevertheless, is insisting that the theatres be classified as first runs and their revenue over a period of years furnished.

In instances where information is sought for ten years or more the time has been cut to five. Where the original demand covered five years, this has been reduced for three, or less. And where the first request was for information for the past three years, the government has indicated it will be satisfied with only one year.

See Six-Month Reply Job

Major company lawyers are of the opinion that, unless further compromises are made by the government, it will take six months to answer the A to Z quiz.

It is figured in some quarters that half of the information sought in the interrogatories had been previously furnished "The Big Stick." As far back as three years ago when preliminary investigations were being made in all home offices, it is stated information dealing with corporate structures had been turned over to FBI men. Particularly is this true, it is held, where the government asks for the 20 largest stockholders. In a majority of the cases, the first 20 stockholders are brokerage houses which seek to keep the identity of of the stock owners secret.

Further, it is stated, the government can go into any brokerage house, or look into the files of SEC for the financial structures, officers and other data. As to officers of one company holding stocks or bonds in other film firms, it is pointed out the government asked these questions before and answers were given.

Another stickler in the interrogatories is the request for pictures playing first-run houses and when they would have become available for subsequent runs. It is held clearances in every key city and situation vary. Then, it is added, why should a major circuit playing another company's picture keep check on each subsequent run? Greater New York and Chicago are viewed as operating under complicated booking systems by the circuits which would take months to explain if every picture were analyzed along the lines demanded by the government.

The time period covered on production questions has been cut considerably after attorneys explained that, of the eight majors today, only two of the original companies are now in existence, the others being an outgrowth of mergers and reorganizations and records of their activities have long since been lost or disposed of because of inconsequential value.

Williams is reported to have admitted to distributors he did not make up the A to Z quiz, that two assistants in Washington propounded the questions. He is also said to have agreed that many of the questions could not be answered.

While Williams was expected to bring back a decision on a number of questions distributors sought to have eliminated, he is understood to have told attorneys this week he had not given them any thought. This means all questions will have to be answered in one form or another.

November 15 has been set for another meeting with Williams at which time a further adjournment will be sought. Attorneys working on the list of interrogatories are meeting with all sorts of difficulties. No direct answers have been prepared and none will be until a final determination is reached with Williams on those that can be entirely or partially eliminated.

Urge Interim Code or Conciliation

Syracuse—Allied of New York in a state-wide session here struck out in a three-point resolution for recognition from distributors and the national government of a committee to seek adoption of fair trade practices to obtain "beneficial relief pending the outcome of the main government suit" against the majors. This with the approval of Thurman Arnold, the government's "trust buster," if necessary.

If the committee plan fails, the exhibitor group hopes to convince Arnold and the department of justice that rejection of the proposed industry code is "ruining" independents. Should Arnold stand pat, the New York organization, as a last resort, will demand that distributors set up permanent conciliation boards in New York, Albany and Buffalo.

Washington Hears 3 New Suits Near

WASHINGTON—With Washington officials refusing either to affirm or deny them, reports persist that the department of justice in the near future will file at least two and possibly three more suits against independent theatre chains.

Most generally named as next targets of trust-buster Thurman W. Arnold are the Cooperative Theatres of Detroit, Wometco, in Miami, and the Sparks circuit, Jacksonville.

Department of justice officials admit that so far not all of the cases envisaged by Arnold when he said ten or a dozen would be necessary to clean up the industry, have been filed. Informed persons outside the department say merely to watch, and intimate that more cases will be brought as the head of the anti-trust division, now concentrating on other industries, gets around to them.

Meanwhile it was made know by Attorney General Frank Murphy that the department will seek to secure still more evidence in the Los Angeles cases and, if it proves what is desired, will immediately ask for indictments for tax evasion.

Although it had generally been considered that the Los Angeles grand jury proceedings had been concluded and it was reported that Special Assistant Charles Carr, in charge of the matter, had come to Washington, Murphy discloses that further grand jury proceedings are contemplated.

It is known that Carr shipped a lot of material to Washington for consideration, including a transcript of the grand jury testimony, but Murphy says no decision has yet been reached as to whether any indictments shall be sought.

Farnsworth, Ex NRA, Now Williams' Aide

WASHINGTON—Appointment of William P. Farnsworth, assistant to Sol A. Rosenblatt when the latter was NRA code administrator, as special attorney in the anti-trust division to aid Paul Williams in the prosecution of various film cases has been announced by Thurman Arnold.

Farnsworth Appointment A Surprise to Trade

NEW YORK—William P. Farnsworth's appointment as assistant to Paul Williams on pending anti-trust cases against the industry is a surprise in local legal quarters. Farnsworth succeeded Sol A. Rosenblatt as NRA code administrator during Blue Eagle days and held the post for about a year and a half. He sat in on numerous Code Authority hearings.

In some quarters it is held Farnsworth's knowledge of the intricacies of the industry will help speed up pending cases. There is some question now as to what will become of David Podell who has been assisting Williams on the all-industry suit.

Vineland Suit Is Termed Far From Settlement

PHILADELPHIA — The Landis, Vineland, N. J., anti-trust suit against major distributors is far from settlement, it is learned, and strenuous representations will be made to Federal Judge William H. Kirkpatrick by William Schnader, attorney for distributors, next week.

Schnader and Morris Wolf, his assistant, conferred with home office counsel in New York last week where the recommendation of Judge Kirkpatrick was discussed, particularly the interpretation of it by Senator Harry Shapiro, counsel for the plaintiff. Schnader has been in Harrisburg all week on another case, not dealing with the industry, and is expected to appear before Judge Kirkpatrick early next week.



JUST PUBLISHED!
Box-Office Magazine's Report for Season 1938-39!

NOW THE COMPLETE STORY OF LAST SEASON HAS BEEN TOLD!

(and you know who's far ahead of the entire field in 1939-1940!)

Quality, Not Distance, Is Rural Show Gauge

(Continued from page 5)

cent of the outside families generally go to Oneonta theatres.

Q.—(4) Where (in what size town) do they occasionally go to film shows?

A.—Of 787 persons who replied: 141 go to Cooperstown, 95 go to Sidney, 76 go to Albany, 70 go to Binghamton, 36 go to Delhi, 19 go to Morris, 38 go to New York City, 31 go to Stamford, 11 go to New Berlin, 25 go to Norwich, 18 go to Cobleskill, 17 go to Walton, 14 go to Worcester, 20 go to Schenectady, 15 go to Syracuse, 21 go to Utica, and 5 go to Rochester.

"The list," the report states, "is convincing evidence that good roads and the automobile have put rural America on wheels. They'll go to see what they want to see."

Q.—(5) Do rural families pass by the smaller theatres and go to movies in larger towns?

A.—Thursday	Pct. From Outside Oneonta
Afternoon	21.1%
Evening	25.8%
Saturday	
Afternoon	28.2%
Evening	49.5%
Combined	
Four performances	36.0%

Q.—(6) Were they going to another film show that day? How many asked for a weekly program?

A.—Ten per cent said they were going to another movie the same day. Thirty-seven per cent asked for a weekly program.

Q.—(7) Are movies a factor in bringing rural people to the large centers more frequently? Do movies make these people more accessible to merchants?

A.—The Oneonta Department Store says: "When it comes to the movies as a drawing card in Oneonta, I think they have to share the honors with us. The character of the crowds who come in as a result of the movies varies none from the total outside population. Seventy per cent of our business comes from outside Oneonta." The Wilbur National Bank: "Better than 50 per cent of our depositors are from outside of town. Of course, merchants should feel the effect of the movies on their business, but we in the bank do not." The Diana Restaurant: "It's hard to say what effect movies have on our business, but I am certainly conscious of doing business with people who have either been to or plan to go to the movies." The Bern Furniture Co.: "I can't say whether the movies help us. Maybe they draw business and if they were not here we'd probably feel the effects. We more or less take the movies for granted. About 66 per cent of our business comes from out of town."

Mutual Support Pact May Pass Neely Bill in House

(Continued from page 4)

may be a hit throughout the country, but its premiere before members of Congress elicited no rave reviews from senators or congressmen.

Comments of senators who saw the picture ranged from a laconic "fantastic" to a charge that it shows the Senate "composed of one honest man and 95 crooks."

Many Washington familiars who have seen the picture, say it is apparent Hollywood has no conception of the dignity and decorum of the Senate, nor even of ordinary rules governing admission to, and conduct in, the galleries.

For the most part, the senators who have discussed the film hold no resentment, attributing its "deficiencies" to the well-known (in Washington) disregard by Hollywood of everything that stands in the way of drama, but in the House there is reason to believe the picture has been added to an already long list of arguments for enactment of the Neely bill.

Reporter Gets Tour-All Free

NEW YORK—A BOXOFFICE reporter who hasn't seen much of these here United States, threw a list of big cities at Donovan Hall of Ross Federal and asked for a capsule description of each city. Here they are, to judge whether he's been to your home town or not.

Boston—A mixture of traffic jams, historical markers, accents, and a very scary waterfront.

Buffalo—Millions and millions of factories and Niagara Falls.

Chicago—The White Sox playing the Cubs in a high gale, while surf from Lake Michigan showers spray over the loop.

Cincinnati—The Ohio River, Watervleit, and a radio in every room.

Cleveland—The real dividing line between East and West.

Denver—Cold dry air and mountains too tall to believe in.

Detroit—Motor magnates denting the fenders of rival machines outside of the Book-Cadillac Hotel.

Indianapolis—A motor speedway making a big loop around the business district.

Kansas City—Rivals Maine as the eastern-most part of the U. S.

Los Angeles—Sailors, a funny white sunlight, and ultra highspeed traffic.

Milwaukee—Evenings from seven to eleven spent drinking wonderful beer and singing German songs over and over again.

Minneapolis—Cold winters and a high percentage of Harvard men.

Philadelphia—Streets named for trees and the longest city blocks in the world. Confusion between "Main Line" and Germantown.

Pittsburgh—Smoke, yes, but more of it coming from the big black cigars of big prosperous men than from factory chimneys.

St. Louis—Steamboats crowded with stevedores, none of whom is singing "St. Louis Blues."

Salt Lake City—Just what the name implies, a lake with water so salty you can float railway cars on it.

San Francisco—Nob Hill and Chinatown and the Golden Gate, separated only by some of the world's best restaurants.

Seattle—Tall men lumbering into town, and Bremerton.

Washington—Cheap taxicabs, and men in black Homburgs in the Mayflower lobby.

Warner in 75 Spots Opposes FWC Chain

LOS ANGELES—While the majority of the circuit will play the lineup under terms of a master agreement nearing the signature stage, Warner product will run opposition to Fox West Coast in approximately 75 situations, ranging as far north as the Canadian border and east to Milwaukee.

These are the accounts sold away from the Skourases while the recent fight with Gradwell L. Sears was at its height. Nowhere north of San Francisco will a FWC house play the Warner program. Portland, Seattle, Bellingham and other situations are among those sold away. In Northern California, opposition deals were made in Oakland, Stockton, Sacramento and other cities. In the southern part of the state, Warner first runs play at the Downtown, Los Angeles and Warner Hollywood, as in the past, but in strong FWC situations such as Fresno, Santa Barbara, Bakersfield, San Diego, Huntington Park and Long Beach the opposition gets the product. Sears sold away heavily in Kansas and in Wisconsin, as well.

The deal sheets, setting up terms and conditions of the playoff, are set. These funnel into the master agreement which ties the entire deal into one bundle and is now viewed largely as a routine matter.

More Than Half Million Cash in the RKO Till

NEW YORK—RKO's cash on hand, as of September 30, was $517,543, according to a statement filed by Irving Trust, RKO trustee, in an application for an ad interim allowance. Of this, $200,922 had been set aside for administration expenses.

Irving Trust seeks $65,000 and William J. Donovan, the bank's attorney $75,000 for services from October 1, 1938 to September 30, 1939. They had received $310,000 and $192,500, respectively, from July 1, 1934.

Both mention they are asking less than they think their services are worth, due to the cut in RKO's consolidated income because of the war. Among figures revealed by the reports were that some $55,512,250 in claims were filed against RKO, of which $25,079,151 have been allowed. Of this amount, $6,360,872 was allowed by the court. The balance consists of the Rockefeller Center claim and what is due on various debenture agreements.

Judge Bondy set November 10 for a hearing.

MPTOA Fact Group Duty And Personnel Later

NEW YORK — MPTOA's proposed fact-finding committee plan is still alive, but its personnel and outlined duties will be designated after study by Ed Kuykendall, he stated before returning to his home in Columbus, Miss.

While here, he named an insurance committee to seek adjustment in sprinkler and liability rates, the latter on the basis of seats, not attendance.

Flash! Flash! Flash!

YOUR NEXT BIG SERIAL IS COMING FROM COLUMBIA!

THE SHADOW

OTHER COLUMBIA SERIALS IN PREPARATION ARE:

"TERRY AND THE PIRATES"

Based on Milton Caniff's daily and Sunday Famous Artists Syndicate strip.

•

EDGAR WALLACE'S "THE GREEN ARCHER"

The greatest story of the most celebrated of all mystery writers.

•

"DEADWOOD DICK"

The Western hero who has thrilled generations comes to the screen.

Bringing to the screen the fabulous crime smasher of radio and "The Shadow" magazine...in

15 SIZZLING CHAPTERS 15

Breathlessly awaited by the millions who listen to "The Shadow's" exploits every Sunday afternoon over 175 radio stations from coast to coast...and who follow his adventures in the big circulation "The Shadow" magazine!

PROTECT YOUR BOX-OFFICE!
CONTRACT FOR THEM NOW!
COLUMBIA PICTURES CORP.

BOXOFFICE FLASHES

Resume Anti-Trust Hearing November 6

BOSTON—Following the current recess, hearings in the long-pending anti-trust action filed by Morse and Rothenberg against Maine and New Hampshire Theatres Co. are expected to resume in federal court November 6.

Chicago Ind'P'ts Start Buying

CHICAGO—Following stalemates, indications are independents here are launching new season's buying on terms generally higher than last year's.

Canada Expects Tourist Flood

TORONTO—Exchange in favor of the American dollar, plus almost total elimination of ocean travel, leads theatremen here to belief the Dominion will witness a flood of American visitors with beneficial effect on boxoffices.

Milwaukee Tightens on Bingo

MILWAUKEE—Police department orders public halls to discontinue Bingo following Circuit Judge Charles L. Aarons' decision ruling game illegal. Exhibitors hopeful restrictions will extend to churches as well.

Worried by Detroit Cash Giveaways

DETROIT—Exhibitors here declare Tuesday night business is off and attribute drop to cash given away on Horace Heidt air show, sponsored by "Tums."

Ascap Faces Wisconsin Fight

MILWAUKEE—Launched to battle Ascap in court, the Tavern Music Protective Ass'n is being scrutinized with interest by theatremen. Eventually, they may unite forces to further the one issue.

Chicago Cooperative Talked

CHICAGO—Independent exhibitors, in series of conferences here, reported discussing possibility and advisability of forming buying combine.

McCarthy on Coast Again

HOLLYWOOD—Charles E. McCarthy, 20th Century-Fox advertising director, here from New York to map campaign plans for "The Bluebird."

GN Staff in New York Coasting

NEW YORK—Virtually all but a handful of Grand National home office employes are on a two weeks' leave of absence. Those affected were informed by letter over the weekend.

"Red Book" to Make Film Award

NEW YORK—An annual award based on artistic film achievement, has been announced by the editors of "Red Book" magazine.

Majors Slap Play Pact: Drafting a New One

NEW YORK—Despite reports to the contrary, the basic agreement between the Dramatists Guild and producers for a resumption of the deal whereby Hollywood would back plays again has been tossed out and a new set of terms is being drafted by major attorneys.

While declining to discuss details, a source close to the situation states the pact as drawn and presented at a session here "is absurd and ridiculous." This informant declares the agreement is "miles away" from the proposals that were accepted in principle, orally, during a number of meetings between representatives of both sides.

Meanwhile, a new draft is being drawn by the companies and will be presented to the guild at a future meeting.

Korda May Fly to Gotham For Annual UA Meet

LONDON—As soon as Alexander Korda completes work on "The Thief of Bagdad," he will leave for New York to attend the annual UA stockholders' meeting which usually takes place in mid-November. He may fly over for the first time.

Ben Judell to Fight Refusal Of Code Seal for "Hitler"

NEW YORK—Asserting Production Code Administration refused a seal without having seen the film and on the basis of its title, Harry Rathner, local representative for Ben Judell, tells BOXOFFICE he will protest and fight the action against "Hitler—Beast of Berlin."

Whether or not Joseph I. Breen, PCA head now in New York, will step into the situation at this end remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, the New York state censor board has banned the film on the ground it is (1) sacrilegious, (2) tends to incite riot and (3) tends to incite to crime. This decision will be appealed, Rathner says. Contrariwise, Pennsylvania, he points out, passed the picture without a cut.

Cohn, Giannini West

NEW YORK—Harry Cohn, president of Columbia, and Dr. A. H. Giannini, a director of the company, left for the coast during the week after discussing plans for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at informal meetings with home office executives. Cohn came on from Hollywood for the special showing in Washington, while Giannini's trip was a vacation with his wife and son, Bernard, and the latter's recent bride.

Democracy Argument, Frank Capra Holds

BOSTON—Frank Capra declares "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is designed to "idealize American democracy, not to attack it" in a telegraphed statement to the *Christian Science Monitor* which sought comment in answer to Washington criticism. The producer states, in part:

"To the many books and plays written about Washington no objections have been raised. A play called 'Both Your Houses' called all congressmen crooks in no uncertain terms and yet it won the Pulitzer Prize. A book called 'Nine Old Men' made a travesty of our sacred Supreme Court yet no senatorial wrath was heaped upon it.

"Now, because a very mild motion picture comes along suggesting there are a few political chicaneries, a few senators become hot and bothered. True, certain crooked men are castigated in our picture, but not our institutions. One senator is the tool of a political machine but not the whole senate.

"The picture makes a plea for the Golden Rule to be used in politics as well as in other human relations. It pleads for the eradication of certain political evils, for better government. Vigilance is the eternal price of liberty. Just because certain world powers today are against democracy, does that mean we must stop being vigilant about our own democracy?

"I believe our American democratic form to be the highest expression of government ever to exist. It does not have to be ashamed of itself, it does not have to hide its ideals because certain power-made dictators have made cracks about us. Have we sunk so low that we are afraid of what Hitler says about us?

"The ideals upon which our country was founded are bigger than the dictators; bigger than all the politicians who look for personal advantages; yes, bigger than the honorable senators who make our laws.

"Primarily, 'Mr. Smith'—is a comedy drama made for entertainment. We did not stint time or money to obtain the finest technical advice both as to reproduction and procedure. Our technical adviser had been head of the Senate press gallery for over 30 years. Secondarily, we tried to inject love for American ideals as a theme. I think some of the senators have lost their sense of humor and can't see the woods because of the trees. After all, didn't the senate find it necessary to pass the Hatch bill?"

Myers Urges Exhibitors "Explain" Via Trailer

WASHINGTON—To those exhibitors who will play "Mr. Smith," Abram F. Myers of Allied suggests the following foreword in announcements, programs or trailers:

"The management, in common with all good Americans, has faith in the uprightness of our chosen representatives and in the integrity of the press and, consequently, it presents this feature as entertainment, and not as propaganda. The story, characters and incidents are purely fictional and the picture, in no sense, reflects actual conditions in the capital of our nation."

And now . . . . .

No. 2 of YOUR FOUR-STAR HIT PARADE!

★ ★ ★ ★

The Only Picture Made This Year Which Offers Direct, Positive, INTIMATE Tieups With Every Patriotic Group in the Nation !

★ ★ ★ ★

A GLORIOUS IDEA; NOBLY PRESENTED!

★ ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ ★

A VITAL SUBJECT; A MAGNIFICENT PICTURE!

★ ★ ★ ★

Original Screenplay by
William A. Ullman, Jr.
Directed by
SHERMAN SCOTT,
who gave you
Hit No. 1—
"Hitler—Beast Of Berlin"

Aroused American Motherhood Fighting Valiantly to Keep its Sons Free of the Poisons of Hatred Distilled in Overseas Propaganda Agencies and War Camps!

A
Four-Star-Spangled Special Production
★ ★ ★ ★

A Thrilling Patriotic Picture of Heroism, Devotion and Sacrifice

Your Entertainment Headquarters

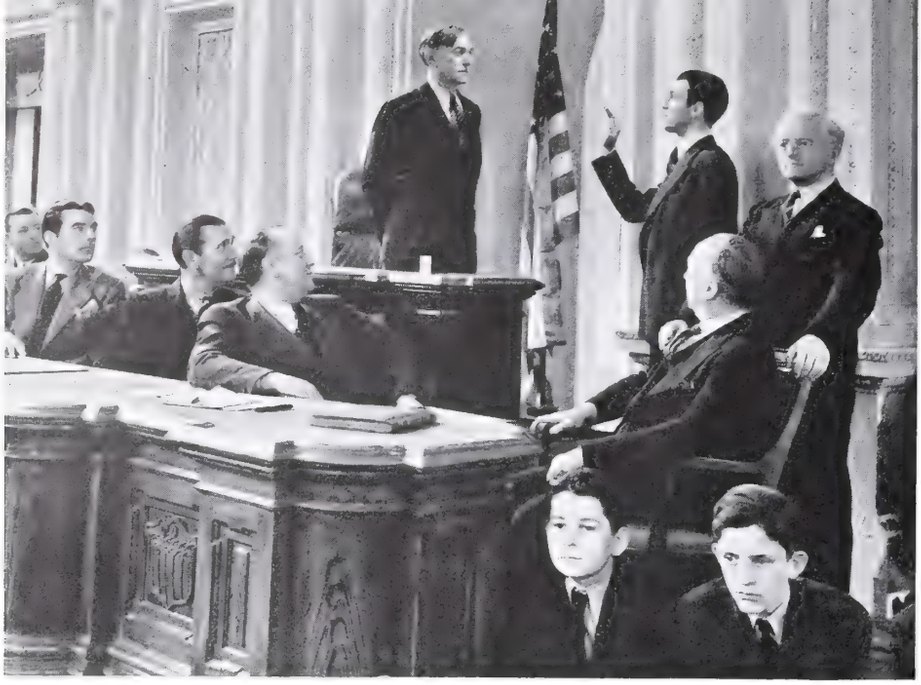
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Exchanges Everywhere



Columbia's "Mr. Smith" Wins October Blue Ribbon Award

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," a Columbia production, has been selected by an overwhelming majority vote of the National Screen Council as the oustanding picture of the month and winner of the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for October. Another Columbia Capra production, "You Can't Take It With You," which won the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for October, 1938, also was selected as the 1938 Academy Award winner.

Frank Capra, who directed the winning film, has received three previous BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Awards of Merit for his direction of "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town" (April, 1936), "Lost Horizon" (Sept. 1937), and "You Can't Take It With You" (Oct. 1938).

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" presents James Stewart in the title role as an idealistic, patriotic young man, who is appointed to the United States Senate on the death of a machine wheelhorse. When his secretary puts him wise to the fact that he is a tool of a vast political machine, he takes things in his own hands and starts a campaign to wipe out the corruption.

Cast of Characters

Saunders .....JEAN ARTHUR
Jefferson Smith.....JAMES STEWART
Senator Joseph Paine
.....CLAUDE RAINS
Jim Taylor.....EDWARD ARNOLD
Governor Hopper.....GUY KIBBEE
Diz Moore.....THOMAS MITCHELL
Chick McGann....EUGENE PALLETTE
Ma Smith.....BEULAH BONDI
Senate Majority Leader
.....H. B. WARNER
President of the Senate
.....HARRY CAREY
Susan Paine.....ASTRID ALLWYN
Mrs. Hopper.....RUTH DONNELLY
Senator MacPherson
.....GRANT MITCHELL
Senator Monroe.....PORTER HALL
Senate Majority Leader
.....PIERRE WATKINS
Nosey.....CHARLES LANE
Bill Griffith.....WILLIAM DEMAREST
The Hopper Boys
BILLY WATSON, DELMAR WATSON, JOHN RUSSELL, HARRY WATSON, GARY WATSON, BABY DUMPLING
Carl Cook.....DICK ELLIOTT
and
H. V. KALTENBORN

Production Staff

Executive Producer....HARRY COHN
Director .....FRANK CAPRA
Screenplay .....SIDNEY BUCHMAN
Original Story.....LEWIS R. FOSTER
Assistant Director
.....ARTHUR S. BLACK
Photography
.....JOSEPH WALKER, A.S.C.
Film Editors
.....GENE HAVLICK, AL CLARK
Art Director.....LIONEL BANKS
Montage Effects
.....SLAVKO VORKAPICH
Musical Score.....DIMITRI TIOMKIN
Musical Director....M. W. STOLOFF
Sound Engineer.....ED BERNDS
Gowns.....BY KALLOCH



This Award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 200 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

CODE RECONSIDERATION POSSIBLE PROVIDING IT IS DISAVOWED AS A DEFENSE INSTRUMENT

Dept. of Justice Makes Concession Pursuant To Brandt's Plea

WASHINGTON—First requisite for reconsideration by the department of justice of the position it has taken on the proposed trade practice code would be inclusion of a stipulation that the pact will not be used as a defense in government proceedings.

This was made clear by Attorney General Frank Murphy, following a conference with Harry Brandt of New York, president of the ITOA, and his attorney, Milton Weisman, who asked that the department withdraw its objections to the code to pave the way for reopening of negotiations between distributors and exhibitors.

Following the meeting the attorney general said he had explained that the code could not be considered unless such a stipulation was incorporated and indicated in unmistakable terms that the department will not permit itself to be foreclosed from vigorous prosecution of the suits it has already initiated as well as any it may institute in the future.

"The department's position is that the code can not be approved without a stipulation that it shall not be used as defense in any proceedings," he said. "The government cannot approve anything that would interfere with its present litigation or prejudice its position."

Negotiations at Standstill

Negotiations for industry-wide acceptance of the code have been at a standstill since August 17, when Assistant Attorney General Thurman W. Arnold publicly disapproved of the document, although some of the distributors since have sought to put certain provisions of it into effect with respect to their own customers.

In his statement of disapproval, Arnold declared that "various specific provisions of the code are directly challenged by the government in the pending litigation against the major companies," and reaffirmed his major contention, that exhibition must be divorced from production.

At the same time, he held that the conditions of which the department complained in its New York suit would not be remedied by the code and asserted flatly that the department expects to show that the structure on which it was based is in clear and open violation of the Sherman act.

"The code assumes that the present organization of the motion picture industry is legal and that divestiture of exhibition and distribution is unnecessary," he said. "It therefore completely ignores the position taken by the government in the pending litigation against the major companies. It also ignores the repeated statements of

(Continued on next page)

N. Y. Allied Strikes for Plan to Reopen Code; Has Alternate

By LEONARD WEISBERG

SYRACUSE—In a bold reaffirmation of its "open door" policy that caused its expulsion from national Allied, a "unified" Allied of New York, in statewide session here, struck out in a three-point resolution to bring distributors into line for immediate relief from "onerous" trade practices.

Adoption of the resolution was brought about in an atmosphere abundant in expressed unity. Enthusiasm of the 40-odd members present later was interpreted by Max A. Cohen, president, as an answer to the national organization, which challenged and sought to win the sympathies of the group. Cohen was given a standing cheer when he remarked: "New York Allied has the opportunity of becoming the strongest independent exhibitor organization in the country. The turmoil of the last four months (with national Allied) has served to vindicate the principles under which this organization was conceived."

Committee Is Ready

A six-man committee, the same group which participated in the ill-fated distributors' trade practice code negotiations, will begin at once on the machinery of the resolution. This will take the form of (1) seeking from distributors a code of fair trade practices, with approval by Thurman Arnold "if necessary," (2) an appeal to the "Big Stick" to reconsider its rejection of the trade practice code, and, in the event both approaches fail, (3) a demand that distributors set up permanent conciliation boards in New York, Albany and Buffalo.

After a brief discussion it was decided to include in the resolution that "New York Allied, as a body, is behind the government suit."

Leading up to adoption of the resolution, Cohen gave his interpretation of the bleak outlook for independents who "require beneficial relief pending outcome of the government suit." He observed Arnold "does not wish to burden the independent," but the justice department chief's "rejection of the code makes us victims of such trade practice abuses that we have not heretofore experienced."

A survey taken by him, Cohen said, of the trade practices distributors agreed to discontinue "are empty phrases. This is the prospect we face for the next three years. If we fail to get the ear of the distributors this time we are going to march on Washington and tell Arnold he is hurting independent exhibitors. We will impress on him that anything he does for us will not hurt the government suit. Assuming, however," Cohen went on, "that we get no hearing from the distributors or Arnold, New York Allied has the right to demand unfair trade practices and evils be abolished so far as New York state is concerned. The distributors could not buck a united front. We don't intend to be driven out of business."

When a member remarked that Arnold probably will not "care about" one local area, such as New York, Cohen answered: "Any strong, highly principled trade association in any industry has a right to demand fair trade practices."

The committee to negotiate with distributors and Arnold include Cohen, Ray Pashley, Interlaken; Mitchell Connery, Ravena; Sidney Grossman, Syracuse; Rap Merriman, Syracuse, and Herman Lorrence, Cattaraugus, alternate.

Most of the morning was taken up with an open discussion and criticism of distributors in selling expensive pictures apart from regular contracts. Into this category fell Columbia, for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," RKO for "Pinocchio," Universal for three films to be produced by Harry Edington and Paramount for "Gulliver's Travels." The following resolution was adopted: "Resolved, that this organization is opposed to the practice of distributors (in the classification of pictures) of classifying any pictures above the 'A' group, it being the consensus of opinion and accepted formula that 'A' represents the best product from every standpoint."

Rap for Neely Bill

When Cohen observed the practice is becoming prevalent among all companies of late, and that "majors are gearing themselves to go into specialized production of from 20 to 25 pictures tops with less headaches and more revenue at the end of the year," Abe Stone of Albany interposed with: "Maybe our only salvation is the Neely bill. Instead of only eight majors we'd have 28 to choose from. Then maybe the rope wouldn't be so tight around our necks."

Stone went on to say: "There is plenty of capital and brains waiting to break into production. If playing time is not gobbled up by the eight majors we'd have more open competition."

Cohen's answer to Stone went something like this: "Passage of the Neely bill would make the first runs the boss, but would be a detriment to the subsequent runs, who need a constant flow of product. The Hollywood producers control and

(Continued on next page)

"Fewer, Better Pictures, Oust 'Quickies,'" Opines Branch

DETROIT—Solution to the shrinkage of revenue because of the war is not in paring top executive salaries, cutting production costs and curtailment of expenses but the production of quality product, fewer and better pictures and elimination of "quickies," in the opinion of Ray Branch, president of Allied Theatres of Michigan.

"More and more people are being driven away from our boxoffices every day," he adds, "because there is a lack of quality to hold them." He asks that producers "stop making quickies, stop running double and triple bills and settle down to where we were a few years ago and deliver something worthwhile to the public and we won't be long getting them back."

In a letter headed "Let's do something for the boxoffice," Branch states:

"We give the public too much chance to compare value. Invariably it is necessary to either run two poor pictures together, or play one cluck with a good one. If either picture is bad it gives the public a chance to make comparison, and if you think the public does not know its pictures you're crazy.

"If the production must be cut, why not cut it by making less pictures. And if the exhibitor must cut his film rentals, why not run half as many pictures? Either of the above will work and neither will suffer losses. The public is fed up on quickies and we all know it, but we don't do a thing about it. Either the producer or the exhibitor must take the first step. If all producers were to serve notice on the trade that they will cut down the number of pictures and make more good ones, the change would be most welcome. Or if exhibitors would refuse to buy more than half of the present output, it would soon correct the situation. But the latter would never work because as long as pictures are made, they will find distribution.

"Let's get practical," he suggests, "and take advantage of an excuse for correcting this sad state of affairs right now and blame it on the war at least. It would give us a plausible excuse for not being able to carry on this vicious practice until it ruins completely what has taken so many years to perfect."

Branch concludes by saying, "I am sure some producer has the courage to start the ball rolling, and it would not be long until everybody would follow suit."

Would Reopen Code or Set Up Conciliation

(Continued from preceding page)

monopolize talent so that new companies can't break in. Jesse Lasky tried to build new stars with an expensive experiment on the 'Gateway to Hollywood' radio program and I would like to know how well you members fared with 'Career'."

There was general and audible agreement that "Career" was a disappointment after the buildup the film received.

Connery joined the discussion with the view he finds no fault with films in top allocations, but cannot reconcile the prices distributors ask for second and third allocations. It was his belief production of "lower allocated" pictures be left to independent producers; that this would cost small exhibitors less than comparable releases by majors, "and let the majors concentrate on specialized production."

The thought was then simultaneously injected by several members that the demand for double feature shows is largely responsible for the treatment accorded many lower bracketed films.

Sam Tishkoff of Rochester, at this point, declared: "Let the future take care of itself. There is no law that says we must show duals. Perhaps in due course there will be a transfusion in this industry to single bills."

It was decided to table further discussion on the organization's position on the Neely bill. Meanwhile, members are to receive copies of the bill and after studying it will make their sentiments known at a future meeting.

A police department order in Buffalo prohibiting the playing of money games was reported by Minna Rosen, which, in the words of Cohen, "smacks of racketeering." Mrs. Rosen declared she is being threatened with arrest if she continues games while six private operators using theatres that were dark, and charging $1 admission, are not molested. These operators feature a "vaudeville" show in connection with Bingo, she said.

Cohen recommended, and the membership voted for, the appointment of Edward Souhami as attorney and field representative to succeed E. Thornton Kelly, resigned. Souhami has long been asociated with Harry Kosch, who has been forced to relinquish his post as Allied counsel due to ill health.

"Beast of Berlin" Is Screened for CLU

NEW YORK—With the passage by the National Board of Review of "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," Harry Rathner, eastern representative for Ben Judell, screened the film for members of the Civil Liberties Union for their reaction and advice in handling the picture, which has been banned by the New York Censor Board. According to Rathner, he is willing to make certain eliminations, if suggested within reason and if these deletions will influence changing the censor verdict.

Rathner feels happy over the comments made by the Pennsylvania board when it passed the film. The board said it did not agree with the New York group that the picture was "inhuman, sacriligeous and incites to crime." Rathner said the action by the Pennsylvania group, coming out in the newspapers with its disagreement, is the first time a censor board in one state has criticized another in a nearby state.

Commenting on the Hays refusal to grant a purity seal because of the title alone, Rathner states "we call the acts perpretated by Hitler beastly. That is why we called the film 'Hitler—Beast of Berlin'."

"Beast of Berlin" Deemed Documentary in Pa.

PHILADELPHIA—There is no chance of misunderstanding the content of "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, chairman of the state censor board, indicated in approving the picture. She disagreed with the New York censor charge the film is sacrilegious and incites to crime.

"It is largely documentary," she said, "and I feel that only those who are interested in its message will go to see it. Surely from the title no one will think it is a musical comedy."

Disavowal as Defense Code Re-Study Basis

(Continued from preceding page)

prosecution policy with respect to the moving picture industry made by the department.

"The proposed code is, in effect, an elaborate set of trade practice provisions superimposed upon a combination of producers, distributors and exhibitors which the department contends is an illegal and unreasonable restraint of trade."

Extends Coast Stay

NEW YORK—Charles A. Buckley, counsel for FWC, is extending his stay here in order to confer with Spyros Skouras, who arrives from the coast by plane Monday.

Can't Buy Off "Mr. Smith"—Cohn

Chicago—If an offer is made to buy the negative of Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," as Film Radio Gossiper Jimmy Fidler said in a recent broadcast would be attempted, there is no chance it will be considered, Harry Cohn, Columbia president declared emphatically in a stopover here.

Must Pay for Unauthorized Run of "Birth of Nation"

NEW YORK—Federal Judge Alfred C. Coxe has found for Epoch Producing Corp. and Thomas Dixon, in their action claiming unauthorized exhibition of "The Birth of a Nation," and will refer the case to a special master to determine damages.

The action was settled during trial as to the Esquire Amusement Corp., Max A. Cohen, and Skouras Theatres Corp. Those who will have to account for profits and damages will be the Treo Film Exchange of New York, Major Film Exchange, David M. Sohmer, the Stone Film Library, and Marion T. Stone.

HISTORY REPEATED

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BROADWAY

HARRY McDONALD, RKO circuit district manager in New England, was in town several days conferring with John J. O'Connor, Freddie Meyers and Max Fellerman . . . Walter Reade jr. has completed an upstate tour, which he does every once in a while, the trip including Albany, Hudson, Kingston and a few other cities . . . Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman will leave the coast in a fortnight to join Louella Parsons on a personal appearance tour . . . Joe Schenck is still about town. Ditto for Joe Moskowitz who got up in the wee hours of a Sunday to meet Lew Schreiber, 20th-Fox talent head on the coast . . . Harry Gold and Arthur Silverstone have been making the rounds of UA exchanges in New England . . . Harry Brandt has dropped vaudeville from the Audubon in Washington Heights and indications are the policy will be discontinued also at the Carlton, Jamaica.

Jake Wilk is making a swing through the middle west on company business. In the meantime, his secretary, Grace Goldberg, is keeping very busy . . . Charles Stern was in Buffalo all week on the Schine deal . . . Edmond O'Brien, who plays opposite Maureen O'Hara in "Hunchback of Notre Dame" was a visitor at the RKO publicity offices. His next appearance will be in John van Druten's play "True Story?" which gets under way as soon as a leading lady can be found . . . Arnold Picker was among those who attended the Yale-Dartmouth game at New Haven . . . Lora Hays Lenauer celebrated another birthday the other day . . . Dave Lewis, M-G-M manager for Argentina, planes back to Buenos Aires, Wednesday.

Alec Gottlieb hit town from the coast and lost no time spotting all comers 13 points for Columbia to take Cornell . . . Lou Smith, Paramount associate producer, is on a two-week trip to key cities on special screenings for "Rulers of the Sea." The junket takes him to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Louisville, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and St. Louis . . . Nate Blumberg was down with a very bad cold all week . . . Hank Linet finally caught up with "Pins and Needles" . . . Even days before Joseph Pasternak arrives from the coast he has been tagged with a new monicker. It seems that his latest production, "Destry Rides Again," is notable, among other things, for a cute tune that answers to "Little Joe, the Wrangler." The "Little Joe" portion has stuck.

Mike Marco came on from the coast to confer with F&M executives for a few days . . . Jack Skirball is in town and preparing to go into immediate production with "Angela 22" . . . Isabel Austin, Homer Harman's secretary, has gone to Atlantic City for a few days, it being vacation time for her . . . Lou Diamond sat in the third row, off the aisle at the Kay Kyser broadcast, the first since the band leader returned from Hollywood . . . Rose Kaplan, assistant to Pete Fishman, Brooklyn booker at 20th-Fox, is ahead $8,000, her luck being the best ever in the last week when she won that sum in a lottery by the Elks, Haverstraw, N. Y. Fishman also collected $400 because he sold the winning number . . . And while on the subject, Pete Lewis of the New York Film Board has been playing number 133, which is where he lives in the Bronx, and gave it up after seven months without a sniff. Last week the number showed up, but Pete wasn't on it.



Vacation Bent—

Joan Blondell, eyes fixed on the camera, reaches New York from the coast where she has just completed a role in "The Amazing Mr. Williams" for Columbia.

Lep Friedman and his bride return Monday from a honeymoon in White Sulphur Springs . . . The Three Stooges are back on the Columbia lot making a series of shorts and will return east shortly to re-enter the cast of George White's "Scandals" . . . Hal Hode spoke before the faculty and student body of the motion picnight, the topic being "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" . . . Ed Finney, former ad and publicity man now an independent producer for Monogram, has gone and done it. He has taken as his bride the former Betty Bourke . . . Lee Garmes will produce "And So Goodbye" for RKO in the east which Edward Sutherland will direct. Both producer and director have left for the coast with Adele Comandini, co-author of the story, for conferences with George J. Schaefer who, by the way, is due back about November 15 . . . Eugene Widhoff, RKO artist of many years, was tendered a luncheon the other afternoon at Hickory House prior to his departure for Tucson where he will spend several months on a leave of absence.

Howard Strickling, M-G-M studio publicity head, accompanied Spencer Tracy from the coast for a brief jaunt and then left for Detroit where he stayed for a few days before returning to the studio . . . Lana Turner, scheduled to arrive from Hollywood during the week, canceled, due to her mother being ill . . . Claire Trevor was queen for a day at the World's Fair just before the big show closed . . . Harold Hendee, research director for RKO, gave a lecture before the Charlotte Cushman Club of Boston during the early part of the week . . . P. J. Wolfson, screen author of "Allegheny Uprising," is vacationing here and plans to visit Quebec before returning to the studio . . . Gracie Rosenfield, eastern talent and publicity representative for Hal Roach, is showing

Gaga Makes Poison Pen Charge

New York

Dear Editor:

After reading Erif Shobbus' renewed attacks on me, all I can say is that I am filled with pity and compassion for the poor upstart and his lame attempts to carry on the poison pen tradition of his benighted, subsequent run father. To me, he's just the little man who wasn't there. And he still expects us to be deluded into believing that Mox joined the French Foreign Legion. That his father is a French Heel, I'll concede; beyond that, nothing.

Little Erif is one of five children. If only Mox had had a 20 per cent elimination clause in his marriage contract, I wouldn't be pestered with the badly aimed arrows of a fallen archer. How aptly named is the little punk. In the Bronx (or South Yonkers as Mox used to affect) his name means Friday. Get it? Erif Shobbus, Mox's Man Friday. (Mox always fancied himself a second Winchell because he once wrote "Snooping Along Southern Boulevard" for the Bronx *Home News* and was always overly addicted to scallions).

Advise Erif, the little moron, to stick to his theatre and learn to be the great showman his father was not. I'm even willing to give him these helpful hints on theatre operation:

(1) If he must run Bank Night, let someone else besides his cousin, Sam, win once in a while. That's nepotism.

(2) When he announces "Special Preview Tonite," he shouldn't show that composite film of all the trailers he kept.

(3) Have him cut out announcing "Seats on all Floors" when the house is filled and then tell the customer that he meant the patron's seat, not the theatre's.

(4) Have him take down that one sheet that his father put up in 1936 announcing as a coming attraction "Gone With the Wind."

(5) Tell him to cut out quadruple features, or he'll get in trouble with the "Bureau of Missing Persons."

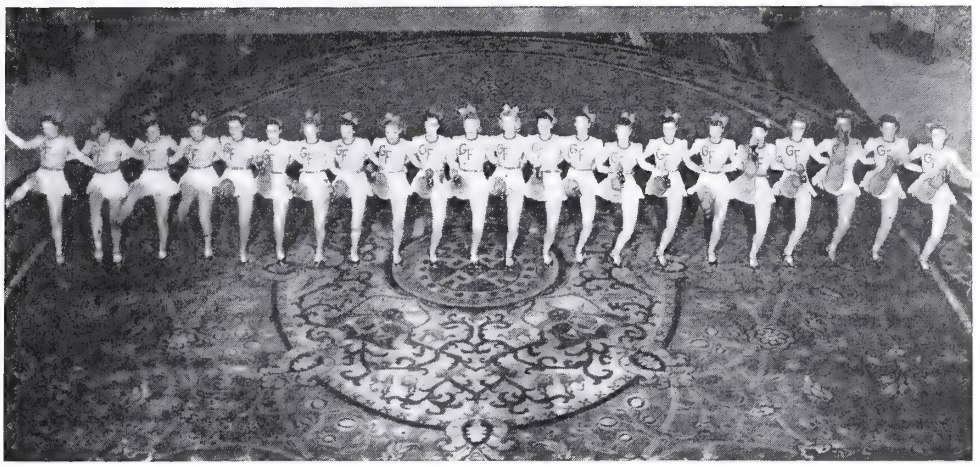
If he'll take this advice, maybe his theatre won't look as if there's a quarantine sign on the boxoffice.

ALI GAGA.

Gwen Collings, secretary to Frank Seltzer on the coast, the town on her maiden visit here . . . Herbert Drake, Orson Welles publicity man, is in Hollywood on a six-week business trip.

Norma Shearer finally left for the coast Thursday after spending several months in the east visiting friends and relatives . . . Mark Lawrence, who appears in "The Housekeeper's Daughter," left over the weekend for the Universal studios where he has a one-picture assignment . . . Barret McCormick's staff pulled a swell stunt Wednesday night when the local trade boys were invited to attend Kay Kyser's broadcast . . . Edmond O'Brien, having completed a role in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," is back in the east and will divide his future time between the stage in New York and the studios on the coast . . . W. G. Van Schmus, managing director of the Music Hall, has accepted the chairmanship of the motion picture division in the roll call of the New York chapter of the American Red Cross. He did a swell job last year and this year promises to be a repeat . . . Hank Linet is holding down the fort now that Lou Pollock, Universal advertising and publicity head in the east, is basking in the Miami sun.

Si Fabian denies Murray Stahl, who operates three New Jersey houses, is making a booking-buying deal with the Fabian circuit . . . Louis Nizer, secretary of the New York Film Board, invited all members to his home Wednesday night for the regular meeting of the organization. With the recent newlyweds as host, cocktails were served with a buffet dinner . . . H. W. Dodge, Altec coast district manager, has completed a trip to Seattle. Stan Pariseau, Los Angeles manager, has wound up a two-week trip to northern California. Barclay Ardell and Frank Morgan of Billings, Mont., spent their vacations in the east . . . Henry Koster and Dan Kelley, the latter Universal casting director, flew in from the coast to look over talent and plays . . . Ann Sheridan is the new "Red Cross Girl." She appears in a special trailer for the annual roll call . . . Nell O'Day, new Warner find, has left for the studios and reports to work Monday . . . Irene Scott, Aileen Brenon, Lenora Korenstein and Frances Kane represented the female group from the Paramount office on the "Battle of Sexes" broadcast the other night. From the same organization, the male contingent comprised Fred LeRoy, Sam Palmer, Charles Brouda and Harry Nadel. Frank Crummit and Julia Sanderson gave each wrist watches after the program.



Gae Foster Girls Romp on Roxy Rug—

—Jack Partington jr.

High stepping, as all may see, on new lobby covering at the big New York first run. The new carpeting, manufactured at the Mohawk Mills at Amsterdam, N. Y., is supposed to be the largest oval rug woven in one picture piece, is 40 feet wide by 78 feet long and cost $15,000. The original was walked over and across by over 70,000,000 patrons in 12 years, the management's adding machine concludes.



The Boys and Girls Turn Out—

—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

The occasion for the slightly crowded gathering at Tony's, pictured here, is a double-barreled party in honor of Ruth Sherburne, who, as secretary to Norris Wilcox, UA's personnel manager, terminated an 18 months' association and did it on her birthday. With the aid of a magnifying glass it may be possible to identify, clockwise along the outer rim, Tom Walker, Walter Gould, Frances Harris, Milton Smith, Lee Claire, Wilcox, Miss Sherburne, Rose Hubert and Alice Kennedy. Seated, left to right, are Gretchen Marx, Margie Burns, Bob Robinson, Carolyn Barrett (much hidden), Gene Aiello, Mimi Tucker, Luise Phesay, Tom Mulrooney, H. L. Fessenden, Sue Harkins, Robert Starkey, Selma Peters, Dorothy Mannes, Martha Anderson, Richard Vossbrinck, Terry Corso, Virginia Morris, Len Daly, and, on the opposite side of the table from back to front, Ruth McDonald, Bud Kennedy, Kitty Kweller, Paul Lazarus, Lucille Peters, Miriam Rosenfeld, Mary Natler, Fred Dedon, Gloria Burger, Nancy Sutherland, Bob Gildersleeve, Milton Klinger, Tom McCabe, Fay Gillis, James O'Connor, Mary Ramsey, Ann Carmody and James Farrell.

Joe Friedman, general manager for Columbia in England, and continental supervisor, sneaked in on the *Statendam* and is stopping at the Parc Vendome Hotel while in town . . . Lou Schreiber, head of 20th-Fox's casting department, is here on vacation with his wife . . . Joseph D. McElhinney, 20th-Fox salesman in the Salt Lake City branch, leaves shortly to assume his new post as manager for the Dutch East Indies office . . . Louise Rousseau, assistant to Frank Donovan, RKO Pathe director, has returned from the coast . . . Another coast visitor is Joe Breen, stopping at the Vanderbilt . . . May Rose Carneghi, secretary to Aubrey Schenck, who was away on a vacation, was out a few more days because of illness . . . Algonquin luncher: Dave Palfreyman amidst a group of fellow lawyers . . . Walter Gould is minus three molars after a session with the dentist . . . Les Whelan, 20th-Fox foreign publicity director, has a new and larger office, as a result of the domestic publicity staff moving next door.

Johnny Murphy has that cold which always comes on him with a change in weather . . . There is a grapevine move for a junior Picture Pioneer club for men in the industry 15 years, or thereabouts . . . Monroe Greenthal has returned from a quickie trip to the coast . . . Grad Sears, after a one-day illness, is back at his office . . . Bill Rodgers thought the sunshine at White Sulphur might drive out his cold. That's why he stayed one day after the recent MPTOA directors' meeting. But there was no sun and the cold lingers on . . . There's a chance Murray Silverstone will be traveling west again in

(Continued on page 18-E)

Razzberries--An Inalienable Right

NEW YORK—Long-suffering movie-goers have at last found a case which has set a precedent for retaliatory action on their part.

In a local court it is listed as White vs. Fisher.

It seems that Fisher was catching up on the films he missed. That happens, believe it or not, with people outside the business. He was viewing "Mutiny on the Bounty" (an M-G-M free ad) at a neighborhood house.

The plaintiff White was seated directly behind him. She had seen the picture three times. White sports a malacca cane, as a rule, and the day, or night in question, was no exception. Throughout the screening she was audibly explaining the plot and its developments to her companion. She punctuated her remarks by tapping the cane on Fisher's seat.

When Fisher requested her to cease and desist, she merely threw a stare at him, just like the kid in a Benchley short (another free plug for M-G-M, but now that Benchley has been signed by UA—But this has nothing to do with the story, so—).

Fisher decided to forego the saga of Captain Bligh and stalked out. As he came abreast of White he let go with a resounding Bronx cheer. And with the cheer he was arrested.

In court Magistrate Masterson ruled that Fisher was within his rights in laying down a barrage of razzberries as an expression of his annoyance.

The moral of this story, and it is true, is for exhibitors to have signs posted in red letters, like smoking signs, advising patrons to please refrain from emitting a Bronx cheer.

Calm of Mohawk Valley Shaken As "Drums" Throb a Premiere

ALBANY—Natives of Mohawk Valley were shaken out of their proverbial calm Thursday as 20th Century-Fox took possession in Albany, Utica, Amsterdam, Schenectady and Gloversville for simultaneous world premieres of "Drums Along the Mohawk."

This city took the lead as Governor and Mrs. Lehman, members of the governor's staff, Mayor Thacher and prominent city officials attended the Palace for the opening.

From Hollywood came Lynn Bari, Joan Davis, Arleen Whelan and Arthur Shields, all of whom made personal appearances on the stage.

The event had all the aspects of a Hollywood opening. The front of the theatre was ablaze with arc lights, and electric light poles along Pearl Street were decorated with flags and shields as were most of the stores in the vicinity.

Receptions by state and city officials, press luncheons and dinners were the rule in all the towns including personal appearances by the Hollywood contingent.

Clicks Well in Utica; Some Seats Went for $2.50

UTICA—A capacity audience which paid $2.50 for seats gave "Drums Along the Mohawk" a fine reception at its Olympic premiere Thursday night. Arc lights flooded the theatre and there was a broadcast from the lobby in which Jane Withers and Mayor Corrou participated.

Jane, who made a personal appearance, was guest of honor at a tea and reception in the afternoon given by clubwomen. Walter D. Edmonds, author of the novel on which the picture is based, came from Cambridge, Mass., to attend.

School Holiday Decreed For Gloversville Event

GLOVERSVILLE—It was "Drums Along the Mohawk" Day here Thursday as this city took the 20th-Fox Hollywood party to heart with a banner parade from the railroad station to the Kingsborough Hotel. The group was guests of honor at a luncheon attended by the chamber of commerce, city officials and members of the Schine organization.

A school holiday was declared in honor of the event with two afternoon performances at the Glove, one at 2 p. m. and the other at 3:45 p. m. The players appeared at both showings.

Schenectady Goes to Town For Its "Drums" Premiere

SCHENECTADY—The "electric city" turned on the juice Thursday night to give "Drums Along the Mohawk" a brilliant premiere at the Proctor's. Joan Davis, Lynn Bari, Arleen Whelan and Arthur Shields made a brief appearance.

Street Parade Heralds The Event in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM—A street parade heralded the opening of "Drums Along the Mohawk" at Schine's Rialto. Lynn Bari, Joan Davis, Arleen Whelan and Arthur Shields were guests of honor at a dinner given by the chamber of commerce. They made personal appearances at 7:15 p. m. and were whisked away in an automobile caravan for Schenectady immediately following.

Artistic Film Merit Will Be Rewarded by Redbook

NEW YORK—Editors of *Redbook* magazine will present an award to an individual or an organization that, in their estimation, contributes most to the improvement of the artistic standards of the industry during the preceding year.

Announcement of the selection will appear in the January issue, out on December 1. *Redbook's* Motion Picture Award of the Year will consist of a handsome trophy, which will be passed on from winner to winner, and of a smaller copy of that trophy, to be retained permanently by the winner.

Efforts to Up New York Production Gain Aid

NEW YORK—Campaign of the American Federation of Labor unions to bring an annual total of $25,000,000 worth of production back to the metropolitan area shows signs of making headway following a conference with Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia.

Silence greeted the results of the first session which was attended by Sal Scoppa of the Motion Picture Technicians Union, Charley Dowens of the Cameramen's Union, Local 644, IATSE, and Tom Murtha of the Central Trades and Labor Council.

It is understood that Mayor LaGuardia clearly expressed his desire to carry the project to fruition. At the last SMPE convention, the Mayor invited the producers to return to this city.

Wm. L. Ainsworth Heads ITPA of Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—William L. Ainsworth of Fond du Lac, Wis., is the new president of the Independent Theatres Protective Ass'n of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc. He was named to the office by the new board of directors elected at the organization's two-day meeting October 31 and November 1. A. C. Gutenberg of Milwaukee is vice-president, Max Krofta of Racine, secretary, and Harold J. Mirisch of Milwaukee, treasurer. All comprise the board of directors plus the following: William S. Smith, Menomonie; August C. Berkholtz, West Bend; Ben Marcus, Ripon; John P. Adler, Marshfield; Ross Baldwin, Milwaukee.

Pabst to Germany

NEW YORK—W. G. Pabst, producer of "Kamaradschaft" and "Don Quixote" has returned to Germany and has put himself at the disposal of the German government.

Lady Luck Visits West 44th Street

NEW YORK—Lady Luck, who hasn't put in an appearance in these parts for some time, went a little bullish at the 20th Century-Fox exchange.

Not long ago Moe Sanders, office manager, arranged to permit a representative of the Haverstraw, N. Y. Lodge, 878 B. P. O. E., to solicit subscriptions among the personnel for a Hospital and General Charity Fund, which offered $20,000 in cash to lucky ticket holders.

Among those who offered to sell tickets were Pete Fishman, Brooklyn and Long Island booker. He sold the last ticket in his book to Rose Kaplan, his assistant.

Miss Kaplan walked off with the first prize of $8,000. Fishman collected $400 for selling her the winning ticket. Sanders won their undying gratitude. And Harry Buxbaum, branch manager, drew a request for the pair to journey to Haverstraw to collect the cash, which he granted.

Resuming Shipments Of Film to Spain

NEW YORK—American companies are resuming the shipment of product to Spain with Universal, RKO and M-G-M leading the field in obtaining permits for export.

Although business there shows signs of flourishing, American companies will not be allowed to take money out. The idea is to continue operations until the country is in better shape with the hopes of obtaining some revenue in the future.

One of the decrees passed in Spain states a distributing company, in order to import 20 films, must either produce one Spanish picture or finance the production of one. It further specified that the revenue from the film in Spain could not be withdrawn and the government was to collect 50 per cent of gross of the picture in Latin America and elsewhere.

From indications, the law is flexible enough to enable the companies to comply without meeting all the rigid requirements.

Other companies are expected to follow suit. Ben Miggins, 20th Century-Fox continental manager, is now in Spain making a survey which his company regards as "particularly important."

Foreign managers unanimously agree that it will take years before Spain can be considered as a source of revenue. As one executive sees it: "It does not hurt to build goodwill for the future."

Nearly $2,000 Is Collected For Refugee Relief Fund

NEW YORK — Industry employes have contributed $1,949 to the fund for all refugee children under the sponsorship of the Foster Parents' Plan for War Children. Goal of the organization is $100,000 to send trucks, food, clothing and medical supplies to France for children of the war-torn nations.

Plans for an industry drive were formulated at a meeting at which representatives of all companies except Universal were present. Already 709 children have been "adopted" by prominent Americans through the plan. They include Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Helen Hayes, Tallulah Bankhead, Efrem Zimbalist and Orson Welles.

20th-Fox's Profit for 39 Weeks Is Off $1,469,506

NEW YORK—In comparison to the same period last year, net profit of 20th-Fox for the 39 weeks ended September 30 fell off $1,469,506. The company reported an operating net profit of $3,152,595 for the 39 weeks as compared with $4,622,091. For the third quarter ended September 30, the consolidated net profit was $827,069. This compares with $1,101,275 for the second quarter and a profit of $1,202,433 for the third quarter of last year. After allowing for preferred dividends, the 39-week profit is equivalent to $1.20 a share on the outstanding common.

Facing Loss in Neutrality Law, Films Get 11th Hour Relief

WASHINGTON—Relieving motion pictures destined for showing in belligerent countries of all restrictions imposed on other merchandise, the neutrality resolution approved by the Senate now is before the House for final consideration before being sent to the White House for signature by President Roosevelt.

A highly disturbed industry, foreseeing the loss of at least two very important markets in the event the neutrality measure was adopted as originally written, was given relief through the efforts of Senator Hiram W. Johnson (Rep., Cal.), who offered an amendment relieving "copyrighted articles or materials" from the cash-and-carry provision, under which foreign buyers of American merchandise would be required to take title to the goods before they could be shipped to belligerent nations and combat areas.

Only a brief explanation by Senator Johnson and a momentary discussion of the possibilities that other commodities than films might take advantage of the exemption was required before the Senate, without a formal vote, approved the change.

The amendment, the California Senator explained, is intended to serve the motion picture industry, "which is placed in a peculiar position by the pending measure.

"It cannot do as commanded by the joint resolution, and become a party to the cash-and-carry plan," he said, "because the films which it packs in small compass and sends to various places are always leased. They are copyrighted so that they cannot be disposed of otherwise than by lease. So they attempt to get from under the particular cash-and-carry provision in order that they may transact their business."

Senator Johnson told Floor Leader Barkley, in response to a question, that while the amendment applies to copyrighted matter, it does not apply to all such material, since books and other copyrighted articles are sold rather than leased, while motion pictures cannot be sold.

Ode to a Baby, New-Born

New York—Here are congratulations, wired by Sammy Cohen and Len Daly of UA's foreign department, to Charles Gartner, former confrere and now a member of Paramount's coast publicity staff, upon learning of the birth to Gartner's wife of a baby daughter, eight pounds, ringside:

"When we brag of our outfit—that good old UA,

"We're as proud as a swan on the water.

"When we praise our productions we're equally proud

"Of our own and your 'Housekeeper's Daughter'."

More Bad News From Japan for Producers

NEW YORK—Japan supplies more bad news for the already harassed foreign managers who hear the new film law which goes into effect there January 1 restricts an exhibitor to only 50 foreign pictures during 1940.

Home office executives are awaiting further advices from their respective managers since, as one observer points out, an important qualification may be lost in the translation.

How the restriction of foreign films applies is yet to be determined. Since the tendency in Japan is toward centralization and monopoly by the two largest circuits, Toho and SY, it is believed each circuit may exhibit 50 imports which would bring the total to 100.

There is no telling whether this refers to the independent exhibitor. In the meantime, a committee of distributors in Tokyo is meeting with government officials to clarify this most disturbing phase of the law.

A glance at the latest version of the new law shows it to be replete with all sorts of regulations tending to make operations in Japan more difficult.

No provision for the transfer of funds which the companies have tied up in Japan could be found, however, after a study of the various articles. Permits will be necessary in order to do business and the managers will have to fill out all sorts of documents to obtain these licenses.

As reported previously, there will be strict government control over all phases of the industry by the home office ministry. Among other things, the government will subsidize national production to a large extent.

Brauer Quits Universal

NEW YORK—Roy Brauer, formerly with Universal as manager for Japan and China, has resigned.

Peter Witt Is Advertising Manager for Standard

NEW YORK—Peter Witt has been named publicity, advertising and exploitation manager for Standard Pictures. He also will be in charge of obtaining product for distribution. He has been with Samuel Goldwyn as personal European representative and later with UA as exploiteer. Previously he was managing director of the Near East for 20th-Fox and a director of Reunion Films, Ltd., London.

Lack Has Mohawk

NEW YORK—The Lack Carpet Company here has been named the distributor in the metropolitan area of the Mohawk carpet lines, announces Harry Lack, president of the company.

Points Out Limits Of S. A. Market

By DAVID GOLDING

NEW YORK—Latin America is by no means a panacea for the industry's ills caused by the shrinkage of foreign markets, declared Nate D. Golden, head of the motion picture division of the chamber of commerce, who exploded a few preconceived notions expressed at the AMPA's luncheon forum on "What Is Wrong With American Methods in Latin America?"

He said there was little the industry could gain further from Latin America, which he claimed is a limited market for American pictures.

In describing the market as it exists today, Golden told AMPA: "We have 75 per cent of the playing time in 21 countries. We have lost ground in the last three years, but only five per cent."

Fifteen per cent of the remaining playing time, according to Golden, is taken by foreign films and 10 per cent by Latin American productions.

He does not think the market will be the saviour of the industry. "The best we can do is pick up 10 of the 15 per cent formerly held by other foreign pictures."

Referring to assertions made by previous speakers that the industry was in danger of losing the Latin American market, Golden stated plainly: "American pictures are the bread and butter of foreign exhibitors."

Warns Against Production

He warned the industry against entering into production in Latin American countries.

"I don't think it is wise for any company to go down to Latin America and create an important industry for a Latin American country. I contend when the industry is forced to produce pictures in foreign countries, it is the first step to opening the door to quotas, restrictions and other barriers."

Good-will can be created by different methods, Golden maintains. He believes the companies should send more often to Latin America their top-flight stars. Also, he added, companies which make short subjects could find rich material by sending camera crews to Latin America to film the customs of the people.

One mistake the companies did make, Golden said, was the sending of their representatives to Latin America who proclaimed the market was a "cure-all."

"That resulted in bad publicity which bounced back quickly," he remarked.

First speaker was Eddie LeBaron, orchestra leader and a Spanish producer, who warned of the loss of the market because distributors do not know what Latin American audiences want. He suggested more Spanish pictures as a remedy.

Distributors in Puerto Rico were criticized by Armando Miranda, theatre executive, who charged them with "collusion" and said exhibitors regarded the film board as "the big bad wolf."

He called the "high pressure" methods of American distributors "fourth degree booking" in referring to block booking, which brought a laugh from the listeners.

Miranda pointed out that Italy and Germany have been making propaganda pictures in Spanish which have been making headway. "We must protect against it," he warned. "We don't care for it. You people can prevent the propaganda from spreading by sending us A-1 product."

The Money Keeps Tingling On

New York—While negotiations are being continued in London between American distributors and the British Board of Trade on restrictions over remittances and quota operations, all major companies are receiving full returns from exhibition activities in England. There is still no definite word on the possible outcome of the palavers abroad and while the discussions continue there is no "freezing" of funds. The only losses being sustained by American companies are from theatre returns and rediscount rate.

RKO's Underwriting Plan December 5

NEW YORK—Further delay to December 5 on submission of RKO's underwriting agreement has been agreed to by Federal Judge William Bondy. The judge, who was somewhat irate at previous hearings, accepted the word of Attorney Richard Jones, representing Atlas, that a new agreement will be in by that date.

Jones disclosed that on October 26, Atlas had submitted an agreement to the RKO board of directors. After some consideration, it was decided to postpone final decision on the offer until George Schaefer, RKO president, returned from the coast about the middle of the month.

Objections to the postponement were voiced by George L. Schein of the stockholders' protective committee, who was told by the court to secure a better offer than the one Atlas will submit from his stockholders, and it will be approved. Schein hinted that if Atlas found the agreement not to their liking the 30,000 stockholders might believe differently.

The same instructions were given to Sam Spring who appeared in his own behalf before.

Spring asked the court to toss out the plan. Finding little sympathy there he suggested he might be able to get a better underwriting agreement than the one Atlas will offer if given the same representation on the board the investment company has. Judge Bondy told him to secure the agreement, and he would then consider that end of the question.

Should the agreement be approved by the RKO board prior to December 5, a special meeting will be held in court with all interested parties notified.

Spanish Film to UA

NEW YORK—UA has acquired "La Justicia de Pancho Villa," Spanish film, for all of Latin America, including Mexico.

Says Grand National Re-Birth Is Near

NEW YORK—Simultaneously with the filing by GN of a voluntary petition for reorganization under the Chandler Act, Earle W. Hammons, president, declares he is prepared to build up the company's distribution facilities with 120 additional salesmen in the field within the next three months. On his assumption the "red tape" of the latest legal proceedings are consummated without undue delay, Hammons says he has four or five pictures for the exchanges at once and has three producers lined up for immediate production.

The company listed its assets as $1,518,418 and its liabilities at $549,403. It is interesting to note that the largest portion of the assets, $1,040,543 are trade marks and re-issue rights of negatives which are valueless if the company liquidates or discontinues operations.

The plan of reorganization which accompanied the petition contemplates payment in full to all creditors. General unsecured creditors will receive a sum equal to 25 per cent of their claims 45 days after confirmation, 15 per cent seven months after confirmation, 10 per cent 10 months after confirmation, 25 per cent more in 14 months and the last 25 per cent in 18 months. Loans to Educational Pictures, GN's parent company, will provide financing for the payment of debts.

Judge Samuel Mandelbaum on Friday referred the reorganization proposal to referee Peter B. Olney jr. for examination.

Owe Taxes in 21 States

Among liabilities are $34,229 owed in taxes to 21 states.

Creditors holding securities are owed $102,708. There are 21 of these either through corporations or individuals holding $1,000 or more in property. Unsecured creditors are owed $393,412. The largest of these is Educational Pictures, $94,603. Educational Studios are owed $38,096 for rent and advances. Hammons is owed the most in salary claims with a debt by the company of $43,414. Hollywood Studio creditors are under $4,000.

On the credit side is a $60,000 leasehold in California, and promissory notes and stock in other corporations totaling $77,258.

Stock in trade consists of 322 one reelers, 632 two reelers, one three reeler, 62 features and 35 westerns. Studio fixtures, trucks, cars, furniture, and machinery are valued at $103,000. The company also lists 130 other concerns or persons owing $97,922. Many of these are identical with those to whom GN owes money.

Jack Warner Says Releases Set for Next Six Months

NEW YORK — Warner releases for the next six months have been set, Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of production, stated on his departure for the coast after spending several weeks in the east conferring with home office executives.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 18-A)

the next couple of weeks . . . Harry C. Arthur has gone back to St. Louis bringing with him another cocker spaniel for one of his Mound City friends . . . Bette Davis has returned to Hollywood after a vacation in the east.

One thing Dr. A. H. Giannini did while in the east was to spend two days at the Fair. Last Monday night he was the guest of Nicholas M. Schenck for dinner and the following evening David Bernstein was host to the banker. Before the "doc" left town he met Arthur Kelly in front of the UA home office building and pointed to the perisphere and trylon erected in Times Square by M-G-M as an information booth. "See that," Giannini said, "Well the perisphere is a California orange and the trylon is an oil well in our part of the country." Which gives you an idea how the "doc" feels about the Fair . . . David A. Levy played host to Universal exchange employes Hallowe'en night, restricting the party to "a family affair" with no outsiders permitted . . . William Hebert and Perry Charles, recently on the coast, are now handling special publicity on "Gone With the Wind" for Howard Dietz . . . Maureen O'Hara is making personal appearances in Portland and Seattle in conjunction with "Jamaica Inn," in which she plays opposite Charles Laughton.

The Mel Heymanns entertained Ann Rutherford at "The Little Foxes" and International Casino, where Carter Barron of Washington joined the party . . . Jack Cohn had the "boys" into his office for a little celebration on account of he hit the half century mark against Father Time. Among those present were eight bottles of champagne, escorted by Max Schlesinger, Harry Cohn, Abe Schneider, Abe Montague, "Doc" Giannini, who literally sat on a hidden sound amplifier, Charles Schwartz, Nate Spingold, Louis Barbano, Jack Koerner, Rube Jackter, Irving Moross, Lou Weinberg, Leonard Picker, Louis Astor, Maurice Bergman, Max Seligman, Mort Wormser, Leo Jaffe, Max Weisfeldt, Hannah Kass, Eve Ettinger and Sylvia Kossack.

Arthur Silverstone was in Boston and New England, familiarizing himself with UA exchange operations there . . . R. M. Savini, president of Astor Pictures, is due back from the coast late in the week . . . Instead of returning directly to Hollywood, Jack Warner is at White Sulphur Springs for a short vacation . . . Pete Mayer is due back from London in a few weeks and is his family pleased! . . . Charlie Einfeld returns west November 11 or 18, but, on either count, in time for Thanksgiving . . . Ben Kalmenson, western and southern sales manager for Warner, is back from a business trip to Chicago, Minneapolis and Pittsburgh . . . Carl Leserman has returned from Hollywood, where he concluded the Warner deal with Fox West Coast . . . W. A. Graeper of Portland, Ore., and Mrs. Louis J. Finske, wife of the J. H. Cooper circuit district manager, were among the last out-of-towners to visit Paramount's World's Fair lounge.

Charles E. McCarthy, director of 20th Century-Fox advertising and publicity, and Louis Shanfield, head of his art department, are in Hollywood to prepare material for "The Bluebird" and other forthcoming releases . . . Lynn Farnol is spending all of his weekends working like a trojan on his reconstructed house in the country. It's near Stamford . . . Mrs. David Rose and her daughter arrived from London on the Washington *Wednesday. She is the wife of Paramount's managing director of British production . . . Hal Kemp and his orchestra are booked for the next Paramount "Headliner." It will be made at Eastern Service Studio in Astoria . . . Lou Smith is in from the coast in connection with "Rulers of the Sea" and will visit key cities on first run dates.*

Bob O'Donnell visited New York after attending the annual Variety festival in Pittsburgh over the weekend. Ditto L. C. Griffith. Charles Casanave says the show was one of the best yet . . . Ted Curtis left for Hollywood Tuesday night. He had been hoping David O. Selznick would be on the same train, but it just didn't happen. Selznick kept changing his departure schedule day by day . . . Marvin Schenck and C. C. Moskowitz sloshed through 18 holes of golf the other Saturday. No sooner did they finish when Old Man Sol came out. The rain ruined what was supposed to be a good golf game and the sun took the edge off business in theatres for the rest of the day. There just ain't no justice, says Messrs. Schenck and Moskowitz . . . Archie Weltman has been discharged from the Medical Center after an operation.



In Which Ned Depinet Goes Scholarly—

The RKO executive, forgetting circuit sales, et al., visits Kay Kyser on the "That's Right, You're Wrong" set in Hollywood. The strange regalia is the cap and gown usually worn by Kyser during his College of Musical Knowledge broadcasts.

"Essex" Attracts

PHILADELPHIA—The premiere showing here of "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex," Warner's Technicolor film, attracted 8,200 patrons to the S-W Boyd Theatre. In the evening, the house was set off by a battery of lights, and prominents were interviewed from the lobby over station WDAS.

Depinet Returns From RKO Studios Full of Optimism

NEW YORK—Optimistic over his visit to the RKO studios, Ned E. Depinet on his return stated seven major pictures are finished and four others are set to go into production shortly. The seven completed are "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," "Pinocchio," "Allegheny Uprising," "That's Right, You're Wrong," "Swiss Family Robinson" and "Vigil in the Night." The quartet set for camera action are "Primrose Path," "Heart of Darkness," "Irene" and "My Favorite Wife."

Canadian Control Board Eases Trade Restrictions

OTTAWA—The foreign exchange control board of the Canadian government has made a further easement in the wartime regulations governing international trade which brings another concession for film distributors in the Dominion.

The latest ruling, announced by the department of national revenue, provides that a special wartime license is no longer required for shipments between Canada and other countries where the value of the goods does not exceed $25, no restriction being placed on the number of such shipments within a period of time.

In other words, the extra red tape has been deleted on small shipments of accessories, supplies or materials and office routine is correspondingly reduced.

Palace to Single Bills

NEW YORK—The Palace will adopt a single feature policy for the run of "Allegheny Uprising," which opens November 8 as a first run on Broadway.

PHILADELPHIA

STANLEY-WARNER'S de luxe houses have all quietly raised their night prices to the same level they occupied before the unprecedented price slash at the beginning of the summer. Top rate is now 68 cents including tax, instead of 57 cents . . . Daytime admissions don't change . . . William I. Greenfield's Sherwood has opened with Charles Cox doing the managerial chores . . . Ditto Harry Felt's Park, Highland Park, which has got new RCA sound equipment and other renovations . . . Mel Koff and Karl Munzer are putting up a new house on Main Street, Darby, which, it is said, will be an 850-seater, costing $150,000. Dave Supowitz doing the architecting.

Marian Lenhart, 20th-Fox ad sales department, is still hearing the echoes of last week's wedding bells . . . Dot Burrison, Metro, revealed she celebrated a birthday last week, but didn't say which one . . . Metroites were thrilled by a visit of Victor Moore, William Gaxton and 20 other members of the "Leave It to Me" cast, who visited the exchange for a screening of "Ninotchka." Papa Lynch gave strict orders nobody was to stare at the visitors—but he wasn't obeyed to the letter . . . Florence Averell, however, kept her calm. She's used to celebrities. She bumped into Joan Blondell in New York the week before.

Pop Korson, Masterpiece, is beaming like a midsummer sun since the Pennsylvania censors okayed "Hitler—Beast of Berlin." Just a couple of pals, Korson and Hitler . . . Lucita Murray, Columbia, is back at work in the contract department after a two weeks' illness . . . Ben Blumberg, Lane, celebrated the theatre's first anniversary with awards to winners of a local popularity contest, a kiddie's matinee, Hallowe'en party with candy giveaways, free flowers for the ladies and cigarettes for the men. The only ones he left out were the family cats.

Dom Lucente's Hallowe'en party at the Alhambra got a big response through a tieup with the neighborhood schools . . . Lee Kline, Orpheum, took advantage of the big Auto Show to ballyhoo "The Star Maker." He had a 16mm trailer in a booth, with Bing Crosby yodeling "In My Merry Oldsmobile" . . . Ideaman McGee of the Lion, Red Lion, Pa., ran a hair-do style show on his stage as a buildup for "The Women" . . . Ray Robbins, Karlton, got into political science classes at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple U. to publicize the historical short, "The Monroe Doctrine."

George Graves, Carman, informs us his suit against Stanley-Warner and some of the distributors isn't due to come up in court until February . . . Sol Getzow, Ogontz, put the spotlight on his veteran doorman by having him celebrate his 76th birthday on the stage.

Moe Verben, the Showman's Club go-getter, reports he has signed up more than 50 members in his current whirlwind drive . . . Among the latest to join the honorable organization are such pillars of society as Harry Felt, Park; William Goldberg, Studio; John Golder, Hollywood; Sam Rosen, Monogram; Lou Rovner, Belgrade; Joseph Suskin, Quality Print; Nate Milgram, Star; Marty Balaban, Mayfair; Ben Thomas, Fox, and Dave Supowitz, well-known architect.

William Yurasko, Sedgwick, is puffing after a strenuous round of activities to celebrate the house's 11th anniversary . . . George Nonamaker snared acres of space in the local paper with publicity stunts for Rosita Royce, the girl with the doves . . . The Warner Club has picked its officers for the year: Maurice Gable, president; Irv Blumberg, Joseph Feldman, Floyd Bretz, vice-presidents; Helen Mahoney, secretary; J. Ellis Shipman, treasurer; and the following blue-blood board of governors—Ted Schlanger, chairman; Jack Flynn, Skip Weshner, A. J. Vanni, Stanley Smithers, Dorothy Burd, Joe Nevinson, Abe Goldsmith, James McHugh, Gil Fradeneck and Sid Ulan.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

FIRST LOVE (Univ)—Gifted Deanna Durbin attains young womanhood without missing a stride in the entertainment and money-making pace which has marked the several features she has made under the inspired producer-director guidance of Joe Pasternak and Henry Koster, respectively. If comparisons are possible, it's probably her all-time best.

LAUGH IT OFF (Univ)—A simple musical that breezes along, measuring up nicely as a companion feature. The story is on the weak side but the film has its moments of gayety and comedy. Edgar Kennedy, Constance Moore, Johnny Downs. Albert Rogell produced and directed.

LLANO KID, THE (Para)—Tito Guizar's name and songs and a fundamentally sound western story with a Mexican flavor are combined by Producer Harry Sherman to provide what should be highly popular fare for juvenile audiences and western fans, and at least acceptable entertainment for all age classifications. Tito Guizar, Gale Sondergaard, Alan Mowbray. E. D. Venturini directed.

OUR NEIGHBORS—THE CARTERS (Para)—Another in the family picture field that has the homespun atmosphere, humor and pathos which has made this type popular. Overproduction and too many maudlin sequences, however, burden this offering. Fay Bainter, Frank Craven, Edmund Lowe, Genevieve Tobin. Director: Ralph Murphy.

THAT THEY MAY LIVE (Mayer & Burstyn)—War, and what it stands for, receives a severe lashing in this unusual French film which is spun from a simple tale from the realm of fantasy. Film carries English subtitles. Victor Francen, Line Noro, Marie Lou. Abel Grance directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

WASHINGTON

EDDIE CANTOR took time out from his p. a. at the Capitol to launch the world premiere showing of Universal's "First Love," starring Deanna Durbin, at Keith's. Eddie commented that he was happy to do this chore because of all his proteges Deanna rates as his "first love." Further, that it was a pleasure to step out of his way for Bernie Kreisler because of their long friendship.

Bill Hoyle, Lichtman publicist, was presented with a 7½ lb. baby girl at Garfield Hospital, Mrs. Hoyle being the former Betty Gray, who was chosen by Walter Winchell as Uncle Sam's prettiest in the local bureaus . . . The parade of stars continues at a merry pace what with Eddie Cantor packing them in at the Capitol, Claire Trevor "doing" the town in a day, and Jack Haley and Mary Carlisle billed at the Earle . . . Metro's Mrs. Frances Naftal resigned November 4 and was tendered a farewell dinner party . . . She will be replaced by Mrs. Sylvia Barr . . . Mrs. Carlton Duffus is visiting with her parents in Chicago.

RKO's Steady Knox is sporting a new car . . . Sidney Bowden of the Wilder circuit visited the Row . . . Tom McCaskey of Williamsburg was in also . . . The social club of 20th-Fox held a Hallowe'en party in the exchange after hours and everyone did their bit of gobbling with plenty on hand for all . . . Metro's Phil Bobys celebrated his 14 wedding anniversary October 31 . . . Earle Taylor is improving in health . . . Sam Goldberg in from Brunswick.

Wade Pearson, Neighborhood district manager, is convalescing from an operation in Alexandria Hospital; with no rooms available Wade was billeted in the maternity wing. Are you wondering, too? . . . Metro's Mrs. Esther Blendman and Mrs. E. Wyatt have returned from their Hollywood trek . . . Home office executives visiting the local Universal exchange included William A. Scully, general sales manager; Leo Abrams, short subject manager, and Tom Murray, manager of branch operations.

Calls Va. MPTO Meet

RICHMOND, VA.—Harold Wood, secretary of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Virginia, has called a meeting of the board of directors to be held in Richmond at 1013A East Main on November 8. Those expected to attend include: W. F. Crockett, president; Benjamin T. Pitts, vice-president; Sam Bendheim jr., treasurer, and the entire board of 25 members. Chief topic of discussion will be the time and place for the mid-winter convention.

Moves on "QQ"

PHILADELPHIA—James F. Ryan, assistant city solicitor, has moved in court to have "QQ," new "movie quiz" game described as a likely successor to outlawed Bingo games, declared illegal under lottery laws.

Yeshiva Dinner Dec. 17

NEW YORK—The annual dinner by the Yeshiva College is slated December 17 at the Hotel Astor. Many prominent persons in the industry will attend.

No Action in Albany On Pari-Mutuel Bill

ALBANY—Exhibitors in this territory are apparently lackadasical, although concerned, over the passing of the pending pari-mutuel bill which goes to a vote November 7. The general feeling is that passage of the measure is assured and it would be unwise at this time to start a campaign against it.

A Concerted Campaign By MPTO of New York

BUFFALO—Members of the MPTO of New York met early in the week to outline a concerted campaign against the pari-mutuel bill which would legalize "dog and race tracks" and other forms of gambling in the state. Options for dog and race tracks are reported to have been taken by syndicates in Buffalo, Batavia, Syracuse, Elmira and Rochester.

"If this amendment passes," the organization warns, "it would take at least five years to have it repealed. It will ruin your business."

A four-page pamphlet has been sent out by the organization in the drive to defeat the bill.

Independent and Major Circuits to Fight Bill

NEW YORK—Independent and major circuit operators have been secretly enlisting support to fight the pari-mutuel amendment bill. There is considerable concern over the pending measure here because it is felt theatre business will be the first to feel the effects of legalized gambling. A plan to get prominent speakers to talk from the stages of theatres did not materialize. In its stead a circular and word of mouth campaign has been adopted.

Religious Weekly Attacks Ads for "On Your Toes"

ALBANY — Warner Theatre executives countered an attack launched by the *Evangelist,* local Catholic diocesan weekly, upon the ads used to advertise "On Your Toes," by pointing out that the ads—one and two column cuts of Zorina—were national advertising approved by the Hays organization.

The paper urged a boycott of the film—which the Legion of Decency, incidentally, rated "Class A, unobjectionable for adults"—as a protest against the ads.

Republic Acquires Boston Franchise From Rifkin

BOSTON—Republic Pictures Corp. will operate the local exchange from New York headquarters, under a deal whereby the film company acquired the local franchise from Herman Rifkin, veteran New England independent distributor. Rifkin has substantial theatre holdings and it is reported he plans to concentrate on their operation.

A Mystery Trips Up "Dick Tracy"

Wilmington, Del.—Ralph Byrd, the "Dick Tracy" of the screen, was the victim of a crime here late this week and he had to call on local police to help him out.

While stopping here for the night en route to Salisbury, Md., for a personal appearance, thieves apparently entered Byrd's car and made away with a traveling bag and a number of theatre contracts.

Somewhat disillusioned, he outlined his latest mystery to Capt. Thomas Buckmaster of the Wilmington police, requesting them to investigate.

BALTIMORE

CLAIRE TREVOR, screen and radio star, stopped off last Wednesday in Baltimore to spend the day as a guest of I. M. Rappaport and Ted Routson of the Hippodrome. Miss Trevor was tendered a cocktail party and a press luncheon at the Variety Club in the Belvedere Hotel at noon, and after the luncheon was taken for a sight seeing tour of the city, and to Annapolis to see the Naval Academy. At night she made a personal appearance on the Hippodrome stage.

J. L. Rome and Joe Grant flew to Pittsburgh last week to attend the annual Pittsburgh Variety Club dinner and take in the football game there . . . Wilbur Brizendine, Rialto, is on the sick list . . . Morris Mechanic, New, has taken over the buildings in the rear of the theatre on Clay St. and plans to build a swanky men's smoking room and ladies' lounge . . . Edwin C. Hill, noted newsreel and radio commentator, was in town . . . Moe Cohen, Lexway, went to New York last week . . . Deepest sympathy goes to the family of Phillip Schmeizl, operator of the Leader Theatre, who died suddenly last week.

Andy Dottesweich, Altec Service, is down from Philadelphia visiting the monumental city . . . Flash: Thieves crack safe of the new Durkee Senator. Manager Joseph Schlee reports loss of about $130.00 . . . Walter "Pop" Silverburg, Park, will be guest of honor Wednesday night at the Variety Club.

Seen at the Laurel Race track last Saturday were Bill Hicks, Hampden; Al Vogelstein, Balto Poster Co.; Al Cohen, Pennington; and many others . . . Mr. Grey and Mr. Almond of United Artists, from Hollywood, visited Baltimore last week.

Guest speaker at the Variety Club luncheon last week was Ted R. McKeldin, former Republican nominee for mayor . . . Rome theatres exploitation contest was won this week by R. Marhenke, manager, Broadway.

Standard-Allied Deal

NEW YORK—Standard Pictures has closed a franchise deal with Allied Pictures, Inc., of Philadelphia for its 1939-40 product.

Court May Act for Landis, Vineland

PHILADELPHIA—U. S. District Judge William H. Kirkpatrick plans to issue a preliminary injunction—barring unforeseen developments—on Monday in behalf of the Landis Theatre, Vineland, it is learned.

Judge Kirkpatrick so informed attorneys for the theatre, the Stanley-Warner circuit and the major distributors at a private conference, it is reported. The conference followed by a week the judge's suggestion to both sides to settle the anti-trust suit out of court, but no agreement was reached.

Informants said all the lawyers agreed the case ought to be speeded to the circuit court of appeals. Present at the conference were State Senator Harry Shapiro for the Landis; former Congressman Benjamin M. Golder for the S-W circuit; Morris Wolf for Vitagraph and former Atty.-Gen. William A. Schnader for the other distributors.

Associates of Attorney Shapiro said the preliminary injunction will enable the Landis to get the pictures it wants. The theatre's owners had charged that the distributors combined with the S-W chain in denying the Landis its "normal rights" to obtain films. However, they said, they will continue to press for a "permanent settlement" of the Vineland situation.

Schlager and Green Confer On Second in Series

CHICAGO—Sig Schlager and George Green of the newly formed Producers Corporation of America were here this weekend conferring with the star of their initial production, John Charles Thomas. The singer was filling engagements here with the Chicago City Opera. Here with Schlager and Green was Mildred Cram, who will write the story for the second production in which Thomas will appear for Producers.

They said the initial production, to be adapted from Adela Rogers St. John's "Kingdom Come," will be budgeted around $400,000, with Stephen Avery Morehouse to do the screenplay. While in New York next week they plan to discuss possible terms with Tallulah Bankhead to appear with Thomas. They also are considering Elsa Lanchester for the role opposite Thomas. The love-interest will be taken care of by a juvenile pair. Percy Grainger will write new music for the picture.

Production on "Kingdom Come" will start January 4, with Schlager and Green expected to complete a major company release shortly. They are dickering now with UA, RKO and one other major, Green said.

Sub for N. J. Meeting

NEW YORK—Allied of New Jersey did not hold its scheduled meeting Tuesday in Newton and instead will have a get together Thursday at Harry Hecht's Ritz restaurant at Passaic. Business will be the menu in the afternoon.

RICHMOND

BOB EAGAN has been booking in some special stage attractions at the Park. Last week he played Gene Durnal and his Rio Grande Rangers and this weekend he has Max Terhune of the "Three Mesquiteers" . . . Leroy Anderson, popular local photographer, who has just returned with his bride from honeymooning in Hollywood, wrote a big story about his visit to the Fox Studios which was carried in the *News Leader* column conducted by Elizabeth Copeland . . . Sidney Gates, well-known Norfolk theatre manager, was a recent visitor to town.

The Theatre Duckpin League was reorganized into a six team league last week after Loew's followed suit of the Lee team and withdrew from the midnight league because some of the boys "couldn't take it." With the new setup under way, the State, Colonial and Brookland-Bellevue are tied for first place, with the State team holding both team records and Eugene Whitaker holding the individual game and set records . . . William Byrd, who was doorman of the Colonial for several years was killed when a stove in his kitchen exploded. His wife was seriously hurt, but Henry Reid, usher of the Byrd, and his girl friend, who were in the same room, escaped without a scratch.

After playing day and date with the Byrd, the State held over for a second week "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" . . . Cornelia Otis Skinner played a one-night stand at the Lyric, followed by a week's booking of the sex show, "School of Love" . . . Floyd Stawls, manager of the Carillon, who has been taking flying lessons for some time, has secured his private pilot's license . . . The newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad McRee, are now making their home at 2618 Floyd Ave. Conrad is assistant manager of the State . . . Carter Barron, Loew's district manager, visited with Allen Sparrow, manager of the local house . . . Tom McCaskey, manager of the RKO Williamsburg, gave a special showing of the Warner short, "The Bill of Rights," for the staff of the Restoration.

Miss Regina Meagher has been selected by Jesse Lasky to accompany him to Hollywood to compete for a contract to be awarded one woman to be starred in a picture to be produced by RKO . . . Minnie Kyger, completely recovered from her recent operation, is back presiding over the boxoffice at the Park . . . The Lincoln Theatre Corp., of Marion, has bought a lot in Narrows and will start immediately on a new theatre there . . . Leo Beresin, Philadelphia official of the Berlo Vending Co., was visiting with Mercer Stillman, local representative.

Elbert Grover, RKO salesman, was here last week . . . Bill Attmore, RCA engineer, has bought a new plane . . . E. R. Wilson, who is managing the Star Theatre in Crewe, also has gone into the bowling alley business . . . Emerson Henry, member of the National service staff, fractured his arm when he fell on the alleys while bowling at Haskins. Sam Johnson substituted a week for him . . . Fredric March and his wife, Florence Eldredge, are resting at the Farmington Country Club at Charlottesville.

Bernard Mills Testimonial Gets Big Trade Turnout

ALBANY — Chain executives, exchange managers and their staffs, exhibitors and house managers totaling 126 attended a testimonial luncheon at Ten Eyck Hotel to Bernard H. Mills, former Republic franchise holder in Albany territory. The gift to the popular veteran was a wrist watch. Speakers: Jack Berkowitz of Buffalo, Mills' partner; Moe Silver, New York state zone manager of Warner Theatres; Lou Golding, Fabian division manager; Arthur J. Newman, Albany manager for Republic Pictures; Rev. William R. Charles, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul's, largest Catholic parish in Albany, and Rabbi Solomon D. Goldfarb of Sons of Israel Synagogue. Frank J. A. McCarthy, eastern Universal sales manager; George Lynch and Lew Goldstein of Schine circuit, Gloversville; William E. Smalley, Smalley circuit; Steve Tarbell, Smalley booker, and Harry Berkson, Monogram franchise holder in Buffalo and Albany, were among the diners. Filmrow was heavily represented.

Warner Shuffles Three Managerial Berths

ALBANY—M. A. Silver, boss of Warner theatres in upstate New York, made managerial changes in three houses. Murray Lafayette moved from Avon, a first run in Utica, to Haven in Olean, succeeding Al Beckerich, resigned. Arnold Stolz, who had been working in the Warner Philadelphia zone, took Lafayette's place at Avon. Edward Yarborough, formerly with RKO circuit in New York, took over management of Keeney, Elmira. E. M. Westfall retired as warden there. He and Beckerich were among the managers transferred from other cities in September, when the annual huddle was held at zone headquarters in Albany. Westfall was at Haven, Olean, and Beckerich at Palace, Jamestown, prior to that reshuffling. Avon is in district supervised by Charles A. Smakwitz. Haven and Keeney are in Ralph Crabill's territory.

Suggest Fifth Arbitrator

NEW YORK—Suggestions for a fifth arbitrator in the Local 306 dispute with major circuits are being made to Appellate Judge Crane by committees for both groups.

Monogram Sells Danville Chain

NEW YORK—The Danville Enterprises at Washington, D. C., have made a deal with Monogram for the producer's new product, reports George W. Weeks, general sales manager.

New Seats for Capitol

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD.—The Capitol Theatre here is installing new General seats purchased from Lust Theatre Supply of Washington.

Phillips Confers in Chicago

NEW YORK—Louis Phillips, Paramount home office attorney, was in Chicago again during the week conferring on contempt proceedings against B&K.

ALBANY

BILL SHARPE, home office ad sales supervisor, was at the Paramount exchange for a visit . . . Schuyler Beattie, Paramount booking manager, stopped at Washington, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, on a vacation automobile tour . . . Welden Waters, Paramount salesman, weekended in Boston . . . An exploiteer will be here to work on "Gulliver's Travels" and "The Great Victor Herbert," scheduled for December release . . . Bill Gaddoni, chief Metro booker, still confined by illness to his home in New Rochelle. Bob Morrell, student booker from Cleveland, assisting Ralph Ripps in Gaddoni's absence . . . Moe Silver, upstate boss of Warner theatres, hopped to Buffalo . . . Professor Paul Benedict, who books pictures for Morris Central School auditorium, was a recent Filmrow visitor. Films are screened in school as a community affair, Morris having no theatre.

Mrs. Ben Hobbs operates the theatre in Dannemora, site of famed Clinton Prison, and the house in Ellenburg, near Chateaugay. Dannemora now plays Friday and Saturday shows; Ellenburg, Saturday and Sunday . . . Mohawk Mills, Amsterdam, shipped to New York by truck "the largest oval carpet in the world," according to one who saw the accompanying sign. Incidentally, Mohawk is said to be working three shifts daily . . . Larry Cowan, manager of Fabian's Grand and a lieutenant in U. S. Naval Reserve, was on Albany committee for Navy Day . . . Mrs. Katherine Hickey, Warner Theatres office switchboard operator, has been ill.

Frank J. A. McCarthy, Universal eastern sales manager, visited the local exchange in a swing around branches of his territory. McCarthy attended, with Branch Boss Joe Engel, the dinner for Bernard H. Mills, former Republic franchise holder in Albany.

George Lynch, chief buyer for Schine circuit, and Lew Goldstein, head booker, were on Filmrow with Seth Field, Albany territory date setter. Lynch and Goldstein came down from Gloversville for testimonial to Mills. So did Harry Berkson, Monogram franchiser, from Buffalo. Bill Kraemer, Field's predecessor and now at the Schine Washington, D. C. office, in Gloversville for a meeting over weekend.

Emma Decker, secretary in Ross Federal Service Albany office, vacationing . . . Palace, Hellman Theatre in Troy, held a Halloween party at 3 p. m. Saturday, with free gifts to all children attending. State, Rosenthal house in Troy, offered to every kid at Sunday performances a false face and Halloween hat. Strand, a Schine link in Amsterdam, ran attractive copy on a Halloween matinee. Giveaway was a 64-page magazine of comics.

New RCA Sound for Two

NEW YORK—The State, Hempstead, L. I., a Frank Moscato house, and the Washington, 800-seater at Washington, N. J., have contracted for new RCA sound systems.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

A Quiet Spell Marks West Coast Probe

For the time being all is quiet on the several western fronts where various branches of the film business are being engaged by the long arm of the federal government.

Charles Carr, assistant U. S. attorney general, assigned by Atty.-Gen. Frank Murphy to head the investigation into alleged evasion of income taxes, conspiracy, bribery and several other charges by major studio executives, returned from Washington where he conferred with Murphy, indicating the action—if any—resulting from the recent summoning of numerous studio heads before the grand jury, may be expected shortly.

Albert J. Law and Harold Collins, special department of justice investigators, who conducted the exhaustive probe for more than a year and a half into averred violations of anti-trust laws by Fox West Coast and the major distributors, are still in the nation's capital whence they went last week ostensibly for the purpose of conferring with Murphy.

High Production Level Is Being Maintained

Production held to the high levels which have prevailed during the past month with an average of 44 to 46 features before the cameras during the week.

Columbia launched "Double in Diamonds" to bring its total to four. Metro gave the gun to the Mickey Rooney-Virginia Weidler starrer, "Young Tom Edison," and "Lover Come Back" to keep the cameras grinding on five features. Monogram held level with one in work.

Production went up two at Paramount with "Triumph Over Pain" and "Way of All Flesh" getting under way, bringing the number to eight. RKO Radio broke even, with "Mexican Spitfire" going to the cutting room and "Primrose Path" starting. Republic added the Higgins family opus, "Money to Burn," to the two already in work.

Twentieth Century-Fox wound up "Swanee River" to bring the number of features going at that studio down to six.

Edward Small gunned "My Son, My Son," bringing the total of the various United Artists producers to five before the cameras.

Universal brought its total to six by adding "Charlie McCarthy, Detective," "Road to Romance," and an untitled West-Fields starrer to those already in work.

Warner kept production on an even keel by gunning the Merle Oberon feature, "We Shall Meet Again," and finishing "Granny Get Your Gun," which left six in production.

See Slowing in Film Factories And Pickup in Payroll Purge

By IVAN SPEAR

Straws upon which Hollywood railbirds are want to pounce as indications of which direction the production wind will blow suggest that there will be a material slowing of the celluloid mills during November and December while the personnel purge, which first manifested itself with the declaration of the European war, is apparently due to bite even deeper into the ranks of studio employes.

While some dopesters are prone to blame additional current pruning of payrolls on wartime economies, a survey of the studios reveals that it is more attributable to the unprecedented high rate of production maintained by the film factories throughout the spring, summer and early fall. Because of this, more product has been finished at the end of the first three months of the '39-'40 season than at the end of the same period in any previous releasing year.

Rush to Obtain Surplus

In anticipation of stormy days with which the film industry was bound to be confronted, producers rushed to get a surplus of product on the shelves, as would sensible business men in any line. Labor difficulties with the attendant probability of pay increases, and the resultant increase in production costs, and premonitions of the war in Europe were the goads that kept the plants going at their peaks.

As a consequence the usual summer production slump which Hollywood normally experiences was not in evidence this year. However, not enough film is consumed, even in normal times, to keep the studios operating at capacity throughout the year, and there is even less chance of year-around peak production with the European market curtailment.

First evidences that the slump which normally would have come during the summer months will probably be felt during the closing months of the year are seen at Warner and 20th Century-Fox. At the former studio, at which personnel was rather drastically cut following the declaration of war abroad, further and current layoffs were explained by studio spokesman as resulting from a natural slowing up of activities because of the fact that at the Burbank plant only 11 of the entire feature list for the 1939-'40 season remain to be made. The thinning of ranks at Warner is affecting virtually all departments. Workers are being given written notices to report back to the lot on January 2.

The new purge at 20th Century-Fox first hit in the drapery department where 15 workers were given layoffs with indications that other departments will be affected similarly. Here, again, the curtailment is explained as resulting from a natural letdown in production between now and the new year because of the advanced state of production schedules.

Similar situations and in varied degrees have developed and are developing at the other film plants.

Minor personnel changes:

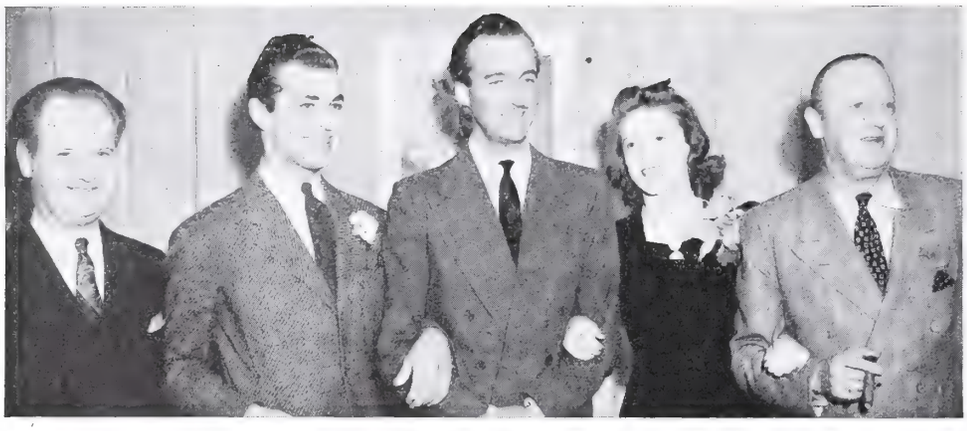
After four years at Warner's, Gloria Dickson, actress, was to leave the lot Saturday at the conclusion of her contract.

William S. Holman, studio manager at Columbia for the past eight years, settled his contract and left the lot. H. A. McDonnell, who was studio comptroller under Holman, has been promoted to the managership.

Producers Pictures has signed Joseph O'Donnell as western story editor for the three series of sagebrushers the company will film at its Prescott, Ariz., location studio.

Central Casting reported that extras experienced a job slump in October, with the number of calls received falling approximately 3,000 short of the September figures. Group hardest hit was dress extras who got less than 900 calls, as compared with the July peak which exceeded 3,000.

Giving her notice of resignation to take effect December 1, Ruth Mack, head of the call bureau for Producers Association, will leave after eight years service. Miss Mack plans a three-month South American vacation.



Two Aspire for Film Fame—

Members of the "Gateway to Hollywood" program heard each Sunday over CBS, these smiling faces are, left to right, Bobby Brown, director of the talent quest; Henry Stambaugh, Toledo candidate; David Niven, supporting star; Mary Dugan, Nashville candidate, and Jesse Lasky, creator of the novel program.

Gaining Small Labor Yardage, Studios Thrown for New Loss

While one small gain toward the goal of ultimate labor peace in Hollywood was recorded, the yardage will be of small benefit to the producers who were apparently thrown for another loss in their struggles against the complex employe-employer relationships situation.

An issue of many-months' standing was finally settled when the long-pending pact between the Artists Managers' Guild and the Screen Actors Guild was ratified and its provisions launched toward application.

The ten-year franchise agreement provides for licensing of agents by the SAG and makes membership in the AMG a desirable qualification for obtaining such a license. Further provisions are:

All disputes between the two groups are hereafter to be settled through an arbitration secretary.

Contract runs until Dec. 31, 1943, but negotiations for extension of the deal may be taken up any time after July 1, 1942, and the SAG agrees not to attempt to alter maximum agency commissions before that date.

An actor may cancel his contract with an agent if the latter does not provide him with a minimum of 18 working days out of a possible 120, but on the other hand he is given no recourse if he accuses the agent of being over-zealous on his behalf.

No agent is permitted to assign his contract with a Thespian to another, and in all disputes, SAG members are required to accept decisions of arbitration committee as final.

Agents may be fined a maximum of $5,000 for violation of any of the provisions of the pact.

In opposition to this blossoming olive branch were two acute developments as concerns pay scales for labor unions. The first came when E. J. Mannix, chairman of the producers labor negotiating committee, went on record with another vehement protest against the recently-granted ten per cent wage increase for members of the IATSE and a demand that the pay boost be rescinded.

Mannix in his letter to William Bioff, chairman of the joint negotiations committee for the IATSE, wrote, in part:

"On September 25, the companies producing motion pictures granted to the crafts represented in the IATSE a ten per cent increase in basic wage rates.

"At the meetings which preceded the granting of this increase, we attempted to show you the inevitable and tremendous effect of the closing, or part time closing, of theatres in the warring countries, the depreciation in the value of English money, the embargo on the export of money by many countries, and the many detrimental changes to our business taking place not only in the war zone, but throughout the world. We asked you then for a postponement of our negotiations until conditions clarified so that we could prove the validity and seriousness of our problem.

"We pointed out to you that the crafts you represent were enjoying wage scales which, in practically every instance, were not alone higher than that enjoyed by workmen, outside the motion picture industry, in like crafts in Los Angeles, but were higher than in any part of the United States. Without regard to the fate of this business, without regard to the ultimate effect on the jobs of the very people you represent, you callously and with the argument of threatened force, insisted on an increase. You threatened everything from picketing the homes of our executives to the closing of our studios and the motion picture theatres of America.

"Forced to choose between these threats and the granting of your demands, denied a decent time for the development and presentation of facts and arguments to you, we yielded and granted your demands. Even in the short time that has now elapsed, we realize more fully the disaster which your ill-considered action must cause this industry. The foreign situation is even more threatening and difficult than at the time of our negotiations. The granting of your demands has loosed a flood of demands from other employe groups for wage increases and changes in working conditions which collectively are impossible to grant and must mean absolute ruin.

"We feel that all the evil consequences that at our last conference we pointed out to you, would result from granting your demands, have come to pass. We feel that had you waited, you could not, no matter how little concern you had for this business, have made the threats that you made, or insisted upon a wage increase. Now that the world situation, conditions of our business and the result of your actions have become apparent, we appeal to your sense of fairness and decency, to your interest in preserving jobs in a going industry for the men you represent, to recede from your demands and to voluntarily relinquish the increase heretofore granted you, and by so doing to become a constructive force for the preservation of this business rather than the element that destroys it."

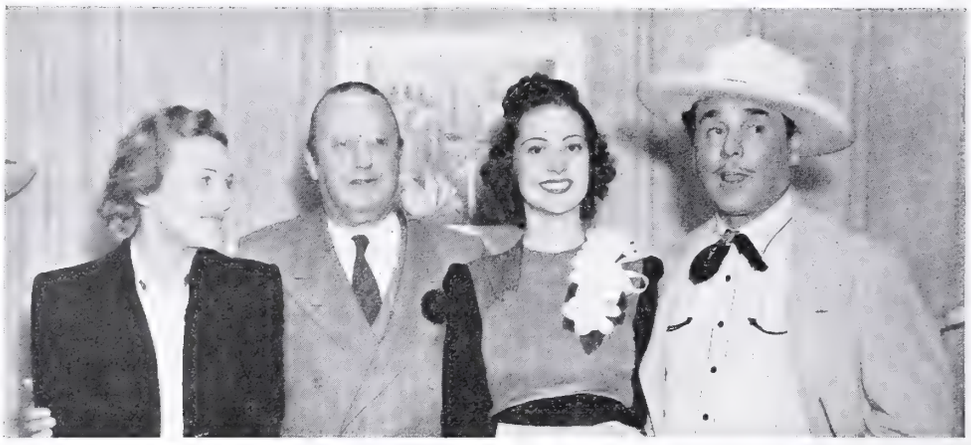
While no reply to the communication had been forthcoming, every indication was that the IATSE officials would turn a deaf ear to the producers' plea.

Albeit the Mannix letter was given wide publicity in the film capital, its arguments that wage increases to technicians at this time would prove ruinous apparently had no effect on the Studio Painters, whose demand for a 15 per cent wage increase and determined threat of a strike in case such boost is not granted constitute the film manufacturers' biggest current labor problem. Final showdown on the demand again was postponed, with Friday set as the definite deadline, representatives of the daubers refusing the producers' request that action be delayed until after the general producer-labor basic agreement conference to be held in the east early in December. The painters chose to stand pat on their strike threat declaring that the walkout would be called in case their demands were not met and claiming that their threatened strike action had been approved by the Los Angeles District Council of Painters as well as their international affiliation.

Other labor developments:

Producers kept members of the Screen Publicists Guild standing first on one foot and then another for a week while the praisers awaited a reply as to whether or not the pact agreed on by both sides, October 9, would be inked. Publicists claimed nothing was to be gained by further conferences, but finally agreed to send representatives to meet with the producers' committee.

Organizational efforts commenced in two additional fields with American Federation of Labor activities extending to studio office workers, and Laboratory Technicians Local 683 signing contracts with all local laboratories with the exception of Mercer. RKO Radio, only major with which Mercer does business, has been told to notify the laboratory business will be withdrawn unless a contract is inked.



Newcomer at the Gates—

Here is Juanita Keys (second from right), who is the Little Rock, Ark., aspirant for a long-term RKO contract offered in the "Gateway to Hollywood" talent contest conducted by Jesse L. Lasky. The lineup includes Madeleine Carroll, left, guest performer on the Lasky show; Lasky; Miss Keys and Leo Carrillo.

HISTORY REPEATED

PLUS-X, Super-XX, and Background-X have established themselves firmly as the favorite raw films of the industry. In doing so they have repeated the history of Eastman films of other days. And they have done it through the same means: unmatched photographic quality, completely trustworthy uniformity. Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y. (J. E. Brulatour, Inc., Distributors, Fort Lee, Chicago, Hollywood.)

EASTMAN

PLUS-X
for general studio use

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for all difficult shots

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for backgrounds and general exterior work



Gene Towne Tells a Story—

On an RKO set of "Swiss Family Robinson," Producer Gene Towne (center), tells a story while Director Edward Ludwig, Star Thomas Mitchell, Don Ehlers (a production assistant) and Graham Baker, Towne's associate in The Play's the Thing Productions, listen in.

Cinémarks

Producer Edward T. Lowe's daughter, Elizabeth Lowe, turned out to be a high flier recently when she married Airline Pilot James Gaskill in Las Vegas. The couple will live in Beverly Hills . . . Wallace Beery said the duck hunting was good at Brigham, Utah. He got the limit before he returned home.

*

George Schneider, Metro's music research chief, is back in the hospital at Santa Monica. He was rushed there suffering from a relapse following his recent appendectomy . . . E. B. Coleman, who brought Ruth Evelyn Foote, "Queen" of the Texas State Fair, in from Dallas for screen tests, plans an early departure for New Orleans to attend an exhibitor conclave.

*

Funeral services were held last week for Nelda T. Fazenda, mother of Louise Fazenda and mother-in-law of Hal B. Wallis. Mrs. Fazenda died at the age of 81 following a long illness.

*

Funeral services for Fritz Feld's father, Heinrich Feld, were held last week. The elder Feld died at the age of 72 after a six-month illness.

*

Temporarily deserting his Lucas, Ohio, farm, Louis Bromfield is to arrive the first of the week for a scripting chore at 20th Century-Fox . . . Bill Pierce, Monogram's publicity chief, spent the week vacationing . . . It was China's only feminine stage producer, Princess Liling Ai, who was guest of honor at the luncheon given by Arthur Lubin at the Universal commissary.

*

Clarence Brown headed for Detroit from San Francisco to have a look at Henry Ford's museum.

*

A cake with all the trimmings, gifts from the cast and a specially-recorded song by the set workers were features of the surprise birthday party given Director Mark Sandrich on the set at Paramount . . . Paul Sloane, Paramount writer-director, has trained out for San Antonio, Tex., and New York City on vacation.

*

Louis B. Mayer planed to Louisville, Ky., on business in connection with his racing stables . . . Scouting new plays and other material, Kenneth MacKenna, Metro story editor, is spending a few days in New York . . . Also holidaying there is Edward Dmytryk, Paramount megaphonist . . . Lee Bowman, Metro player, planed out for New York for a short vacation between assignments.

*

Director Otto Brower, Sid Bowen, unit man, and a camera troupe are in Utah filming exteriors for 20th Century-Fox's forthcoming "Brigham Young" . . . Mickey Rooney has reported back to M-G-M after acquiring data in Detroit for his role in "Young Tom Edison."

*

Kurt Neumann is spending his weekends in Hollywood, and the remainder of his time at June Lake. He no sooner returned from fishing there, than he went back for some duck shooting . . . Mr. and Mrs. William A. Wellman are on a three-week fishing trip in the Shasta Cascade region.

*

Del Mar will call Pat O'Brien for a brief vacation this week as soon as he winds up his current chore for Warner . . . Producer Jack Coyle told the Rotary Club of Joplin, Mo., all about "Religion and the Screen" in a talk in that city . . . Claude Binyon now is doing his scripting in Palm Springs.

*

Henry Koster and Dan Kelly planed out for New York for a look at some stage shows . . . Spencer Tracy and Howard Strickling were to return from that research trip to New York . . . Dave Butler plans to plane out for New York the first of the week, and will make a side trip to the premiere of "That's Right, You're Wrong" before returning.

*

Playoff between Madeleine Carroll's Tigers and Lloyd Nolan's Hammer Heads topped the Halloween party held by 250 Paramount Studio Club bowlers at the Sunset Bowling Alleys. Y. Frank Freeman's Juicers, low team in the league, was presented with the booby prize for losing 19 games, winning 5.

Hate Mongers' Moves Reported by Ruben

To unmask "native enemies of American democracy," a special meeting of the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League was convened at the First Unitarian Church on Sunday. Highlight was a detailed account of terroristic anti-Semitic activities allegedly led by Father Coughlin and the "Christian Front," in New York, given by J. Walter Ruben. H. S. Kraft, screen writer and member of the League's executive board, presided.

Other liberal Hollywood extra-curricular activities were divided between peace efforts and a "Ham and Eggs" discussion.

Representatives from most of Hollywood's liberal organizations attended the round-table peace conference at Occidental College under the sponsorship of the Southern California Union for Concerted Peace Efforts, which numbers W. S. Van Dyke, Melvyn Douglas, Virginia Bruce, and others among its members.

"Movies and the War" was discussed at the general meeting of Associated Film Audiences at the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Sunday evening. Program included a showing of "The Shame of a Nation," story of the sufferings of the German people following the last World War, and a talk by Screen Writer Martin Berkeley on the manner in which film was used as propaganda during the same conflict. John Howard Lawson, author and screen writer, handled the gavel.

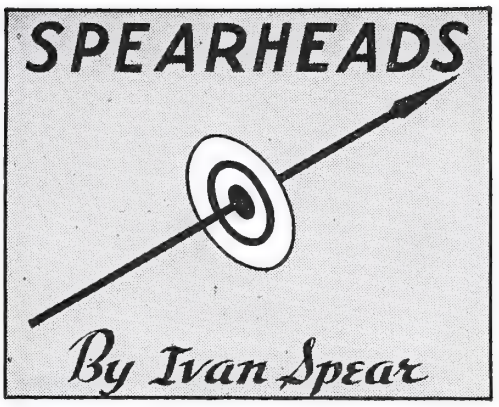
Under the aspices of the Motion Picture Democratic Committee, speakers for and against the proposed "Thirty Dollars Every Thursday" amendment to the California state constitution were presented at Hollywood High School auditorium. Screen Writer Dudley Nichols was chairman.

Film Two Ritters

After filming two Tex Ritter sagebrushers on location near Kanabe, Utah, a Monogram troupe returned to Hollywood the first of the week. Westerns were "Westbound Stage" and "Roll, Wagons, Roll."

Roach 4-Reeler Titled

"Two's Company" has been picked by Hal Roach as the title of the Laurel-Hardy four-reeler now in production. Camera work was expected to be finished this week.



THAT "come home, Charlie, all is forgiven" announcement from the Warner tom tom beaters, and concerning the olive branch which the dove of peace has so lovingly deposited in the composite lap of Carl Leserman and Fox-West Coast's Charles Skouras, should engender red faces among many film capital reporters and a few Southern California independent exhibitors. In which connection, this space is no exception.

It was early in June that Gradwell L. Sears, Warner general sales manager and Leserman's superior, startled Hollywood's news outlets with a vitriolic declaration to the effect that the FWC circuit was decidedly persona non grata so far as the product of the Burbank studio was concerned.

No, indeed, the West's leading circuit couldn't have those bell-ringing Warner features—not by a long shot; and certainly not "at these prices." Why? Mr. Sears et al. were very dissatisfied with the manner in which Warner product had been presented by the Skouras theatres. There had not been enough "A" playing time, not enough extended runs, not enough money, not enough high-powered and approved exploitation. In fact the only thing of which there had been enough was the double featuring of certain of the best Burbankian efforts with pictures of comparable importance (almost) from other lots—and there had been much too much of that.

From that date forward the Warner sales organization would sell away from Fox West Coast houses in every situation.

The manner in which the press went for this announcement and its indicated repercussions is now history. Exhibitors —independent, of course—by the score were interviewed as to their reactions to the earth-shaking Sears pronunciamento. The selling-away process was reported in its minutest details, the news of which was eagerly supplied by studio publicists; including such tidbits as the fact that an independent situation in Ventura—and another equally remote—had been definitely closed—and was Skouras gnashing his teeth. Then, too, there was the widely-publicized junket which sent an aggregation of ten Warner contract players on a ten-day trip through Northern California to help non-affiliated showmen who had purchased Warner product "to properly exploit it in their respective territories." And so on ad infinitum.

And now that "Warner Bros. concluded negotiations with Fox West Coast Theatre under which Warner Bros.-First National product goes into the circuit's 580 theatres" (again an official announcement) there is little for the Hollywood reporters to do but sit back and lick their burned cat's paws—of which, fortunately, surprisingly few are to be found among the independent theatre operators who were to benefit so materially because of the drastic break between the Warner and Skouras organizations.

→

Russell Birdwell and Associates breathlessly relay the information that Dick Powell's personal appearance at the New York Paramount Theatre enjoyed the biggest opening that showhouse has had in five years, which startling fact left the film capital as cold as a casting director's heart, so far as the amount of space it commanded is concerned. Incidentally, it was the first intimation Hollywood news outlets have had that the Birdwell organization is handling the public relations of the erstwhile film crooner.

Cagey Russell might, at long last, be leading with his chin—or the chins of his associates. There can be no doubt that Powell is extremely eager to crash his way back into pictures. If he doesn't (and, parenthetically, there was apparently no mad rush of producers to Powell's New York dressing room with contracts in one hand and hat in the other) his failure might be a serious blow to Birdwell's thus-far spotless reputation as the Behemoth of Build-up.

Hedda Hopper refers to Paramount Producer Bill Thomas as "an ex-vaudeville star." Can she be referring to his tenure as publicity director at Columbia?

→

Astor Pictures, local independent exchange, is releasing a feature titled "U-Boat 67," featuring Alan Hale, which was made independently about four years ago under the title "The Sea Ghost." The re-issue, strangely enough, coincides with the successful showing of "U-Boat 29," English-made Columbia release. Aside from the ethics—if any—which might be involved, the situation certainly will prove slightly confusing to those who wish to shop for undersea-warfare pictures. Nor will this confusion be lessened when Warner re-issues "Submarine D-1." Attending a submarine film will resemble playing roulette—select a number and hope you pick a winner.

→

In view of "Hopalong Cassidy Rides Again," "Destry Rides Again," "Buck Benny Rides Again," etc., etc., it was a mortal cinch that Warner would title the first picture in the revived "Tugboat Annie" series "Tugboat Annie Sails Again."

→

In commenting on the announcement that RKO Radio is readying a re-make of "Enchanted Cottage" for Ginger Rogers, Louella Parsons, with characteristic subtlety, intimates doubt that "the 1939 audience will like this play which is really a fantasy," and expresses "hope there are still those who will find this beautiful story pleasing for we can't all be materialists."

No, we can't, can we, Louella? But $7,500 a week for a personal appearance tour should alleviate the mental agony which an esthete usually suffers when forced to associate with the sordid, money-grubbing crowd.

→

Warner publicists announce that explosives costing a total of $60,000 are being used for the night battle sequences of "The Fighting 69th."

Which, regardless of its impression on audiences, should certainly sound like quite a blast to the janitors, stenographers, waitresses and publicists who were handed the blue slip during the inauguration of the recent "no-curtailment-of-personnel" wartime adjustment at the Burbank studio.

A Trudging Trio

The critics—genus Hollywoodus—were afforded a rather unusual opportunity to sleep in beds because the preview week saw only three features unfurled for their individual and collective edification. And if there were any members of the free-lunch snatching fraternity who did not possess beds—a circumstance not entirely unknown in the cinema center—they could still have done right well in the sleep department since there was nothing in any of the trio to disturb their shut-eye in the comfortable theatre seats.

* * *

Universal's "Little Accident," aside from Baby Sandy, who again steals the show away from such established troupers as Hugh Herbert, Florence Rice and Edgar Kennedy, adds up as lightweight fare. However, the infant phenomenon supplies enough entertainment through her irresistible antics and amazing camera presence to overcome the story (credited to Paul Yawitz and Eve Greene) shortcomings and lift the vehicle into the acceptable class. Charles Lamont produced and directed.

* * *

Two of the offerings displayed the stamp—but rubber—of the popular, and perhaps overworked, "family picture." Latest adventures of the Jones Family supplied the motivation for 20th Century-Fox's "Too Busy to Work," in which a few too many intermingling story elements, and a great deal too much broad slapstick stamp it as a sub-standard entry in the veteran series, which is apparently finding the task of cooking up new situations a bit tough. Lion's share of the load this time is carried by rubber-legged Joan Davis. The original (at least the credit sheet so called it) screenplay was from the joint typewriters of Robert Ellis, Helen

(Continued on next page)

GN Is Granted 30-Day Respite by Creditors

Grand National creditors granted the company a 30-day breathing spell after listening to Trustee Loyd Wright's explanation of Earle W. Hammon's plan for refinancing the present Grand National Pictures.

Wright announced the Reconstruction Finance Corp. had guaranteed, in writing, to supply GN with $450,000, providing an additional $150,000 could be raised to put Hammon's plan into effect. He said that Erpi is committed for $100,000 of the latter figure, which leaves but $50,000 to be obtained. Creditor approval of the move is necessary before the RFC cash can be released, and they voted not to reach a decision before the end of a 30-day period.

Meanwhile, state incorporation papers were filed by two groups, Laurel and Hardy Feature productions and Sports World Pictures, Inc. Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, and Ben Shipman, Laurel's attorney, were named incorporators of the first company, which requested permission to issue 1,000 shares of no par value stock.

Backed by eastern interests, the second venture was granted permission to issue 100 shares of no par value stock, according to papers filed by Sam Wolf, attorney. The firm is reportedly the first formed here for the exclusive purpose of filming Pacific Coast sports. Directors are L. Ryan, Leo Shapiro, and Irving Cohen.

Franklyn Warner, Fine Arts head, is readying "Land's End," the second of his scheduled three for RKO Radio release, for the cameras, having recalled Arthur Hall, who wrote the original treatment, to do the final script. First of the trio, "Isle of Destiny," which was filmed in Cosmocolor, is now in the cutting rooms. "Land's End" is to go into work by the end of the month.

Change in shooting location has been announced by Lee Garmes for his "And So Goodby." Original plans called for shooting at the Eastern Service Studios, in New York, but Garmes decided against the heavy expense of shipping an all-Hollywood cast to New York, and is currently arranging for local rental space to film the feature for RKO release. Cast includes Jean Parker, Richard Carlson, Binnie Barnes, Maria Ouspenskaya, Charles Winninger, C. Aubrey Smith, and Harry Carey.

The Towne & Baker production for RKO release, "Tom Brown's Schooldays," is set to go in the works by the middle of December, after the pair wind up shooting on their first feature for same releasing system, "Swiss Family Robinson."

Position of the recently-incorporated Frank Capra productions is still in the conference stage with Capra and Robert Riskin spending most of the week with their attorneys planning the active launching of the enterprise.

While vacationing in Kansas City, Jack Coyle took up the option on the Alf James yarn, "West of the Mississippi," which he plans to produce here.



Huddle Over Script—

It's the script of "Vigil in the Night" over which Writer Fred Guiol, left, and Producer-Director George Stevens are huddled. The cast of the RKO romantic drama, adapted from A. J. Cronin's latest novel, will include Carole Lombard, Brian Aherne and Anne Shirley.

Directs Next Starrett

Joseph H. Lewis has been signed to direct the next Charles Starrett western for the Irving Briskin unit at Columbia.

"Mohawk" Premiere Impressive Affair

After a dull preview period, as compared with the previous several months during which a gala formal premiere was a weekly or semi-weekly event, Hollywood again had an opportunity to brave the lines of autograph hounds at the press showing of 20th Century-Fox's "Drums Along the Mohawk," which, while not formal, was probably the most impressive event of its kind in several weeks.

Guest of honor for the occasion was Kate Smith, who was brought to the film capital with her radio troupe of 11 from New York by the exploiteers from the Fox Hills plant, and met at the station in Pasadena by Darryl F. Zanuck, Don Ameche, and 3,000 fans. After lunching at the studio and receiving the press, the Southern Songbird was commissioned an honorary colonel in the American Legion. On the "Kate Smith Hour," coast-to-coast radio show, the day following the premiere, principals of the cast of "Drums Along the Mohawk" aired a condensed version of the film.

Hollywood executives who reserved seats for the showing included Zanuck, Charles Rogers, Hunt Stromberg, Lucien Hubbard, Walt Disney, Walter Wanger, Samuel Goldwyn, James Roosevelt, Milton Bren, Hal Roach and Ernst Lubitsch.

Landers Assigned

Lew Landers has been signed to direct "Honeymoon Deferred" for Universal, which Producer Ken Goldsmith has announced he will put in work next week pending the assembling of a cast.

Title West-Fields Film

Universal has tentatively titled the Mae West-W. C. Fields feature, currently being filmed with Eddie Cline directing, "My Little Chickadee."

• REVIEW FLASHES •

FIRST LOVE (Univ)—Gifted Deanna Durbin attains young womanhood without missing a stride in the entertainment and money-making pace which has marked the several features she has made under the inspired producer-director guidance of Joe Pasternak and Henry Koster, respectively. If comparisons are possible, it's probably her all-time best.

LAUGH IT OFF (Univ)—A simple musical that breezes along, measuring up nicely as a companion feature. The story is on the weak side but the film has its moments of gayety and comedy. Edgar Kennedy, Constance Moore, Johnny Downs. Albert Rogell produced and directed.

LLANO KID, THE (Para)—Tito Guizar's name and songs and a fundamentally sound western story with a Mexican flavor are combined by Producer Harry Sherman to provide what should be highly popular fare for juvenile audiences and western fans, and at least acceptable entertainment for all age classifications. Tito Guizar, Gale Sondergaard, Alan Mowbray. E. D. Venturini directed.

OUR NEIGHBORS—THE CARTERS (Para)—Another in the family picture field that has the homespun atmosphere, humor and pathos which has made this type popular. Overproduction and too many maudlin sequences, however, burden this offering. Fay Bainter, Frank Craven, Edmund Lowe, Genevieve Tobin. Director: Ralph Murphy.

THAT THEY MAY LIVE (Mayer & Burstyn)—War, and what it stands for, receives a severe lashing in this unusual French film which is spun from a simple tale from the realm of fantasy. Film carries English subtitles. Victor Francen, Line Noro, Marie Lou. Abel Gance directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

SPEARHEADS

(Continued from preceding page)

Logan and Stanley Raub. John Stone served as associate producer in the Wurtzel unit and Otto Brower wielded the mythical megaphone.

* * *

Paramount's contender for honors in the home and fireside category was "Our Neighbors—The Carters," produced by Charles R. Rogers with far less distinction than marked his other and initial effort on the Marathon Street lot. The feature specializes in the homespun atmosphere, humor and pathos which have contributed so substantially to the popularity of others of its ilk, although overproduction and too many maudlin sequences seriously handicap its effectiveness. Enough material and situations, little of which reflects originality, are included in the screenplay, by S. K. Lauren, to have provided for at least two features. Consequently the entertaining moments of the film—and they are many—are sandwiched between layers of extraneous footage. Ralph Murphy directed.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

WHAT IS YOUR RATING BASED ON BOXOFFICE GROSSES FOR THE 1938-39 SEASON

?

WHAT PICTURE SCORED THE TOP MARK

?

WHO ARE THE TOPS AMONG THE STARS

?

AND WHO LEADS THE FEATURED PLAYERS

?

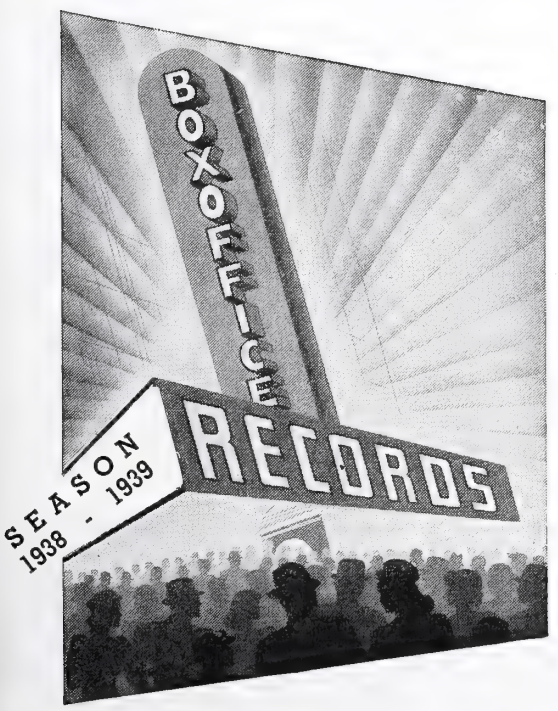
WHAT DIRECTOR LEADS THE FIELD

?

These And Many Other Questions Are Answered in

BOXOFFICE RECORDS

The Evaluator of Personalities



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Here's my dollar. Send me a copy of the NEW BOXOFFICE RECORDS for 1938-39 season.

Name .....

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City..... State.....

Hollywood Personnelities

Options

—Paramount
ROBERT PAIGE, stock player, held for another term.
SUSANNA FOSTER, actress, handed new contract.
LILLIAN CORNELL, radio singer, given new one-year contract, and assigned to "Buck Benny Rides Again."
RUTH ROGERS, actress, held for another term.
VIRGINIA VAN UPP given extension on writing deal. Her next chore will be on "In Old Virginia."
—Edward Small
KEN GAMET joins writing staff on term ticket.
—20th Century-Fox
BETTY GRABLE given term acting contract.
—Warner Bros.
NELL O'DAY, stage player, given term contract.

Scripters

—Columbia
LOUIS MELTZER to "Escape to Glory," Bill Perlberg's next.
JOE LEWIS to an original western for the Irving Briskin unit. Charles Starrett is slated for the lead.
—Metro
NORMAN Z. McLEOD, COREY FORD and ALASTAIR MACBAIN to "The Canterville Ghost." Milton Bren will produce.
—Monogram
PAUL JARRICO set for additional dialogue for "Rip Van Winkle."
—Paramount
IRVING REIS to "Portrait of a Mother." Jack Moss will produce.
—Republic
SCOTT DARLING to "The Girl From God's Country."
LIONEL HOUSER to "The Narrow Path," Charles Bickford starrer.
—Edward Small
KEN GAMET to "South of Pago Pago."
—20th Century-Fox
BORIS INGSTER to "The Shipmaster."
LOUIS BROMFIELD to "Marching as to War," a Salvation Army story.
—Universal
LESTER COLE and HAROLD GREENE to "House of Seven Gables."
ARTHUR T. HORMAN to "Road to Romance."
DICK MACK to "Charlie McCarthy, Detective."
ROY CHANSLOR to "The Devil Is Yellow," which Milton Schwarzwald will produce.
—Warner Bros.
CASEY ROBINSON to "No Time for Comedy."
GUY ENDORE to "January Heights."
ULRICH STEINDORFF busy on "The Story of Alfred Nobel."
JOHN WEXLEY to "City of Conquest."
JAMES HILTON to "Villa on the Hill."

Story Buys

—E. B. Derr
"Beautiful Joe," dog classic by Margaret Saunders.
—Samuel Goldwyn
"MacIntosh," by W. Somerset Maugham. George O'Neill is doing the script.
—Metro
"Dawn's Early Light," by Dorothy Thompson and Fritz Kortner. Story deals with early American historical characters.
—Paramount
"I Wanted Wings," saga of peacetime Army flying by Lieut. Beirne Lay jr. The author will collaborate on the screenplay with Lieut.-Comm. Frank Wead, and Arthur Hornblow jr. will produce.
"Ghost Music," by Billy Wilder and Jacques Thery. It is being prepared as a Bing Crosby starrer.
—20th Century-Fox
"Wedding Ring," Beth Brown's best seller, to Director Henry King.
—Warner Bros.
"Out of Gas," South Seas story by James Norman Hall and Charles Nordhoff.
"January Heights," by Polan Banks, as a starring vehicle for Miriam Hopkins.

Cleffers

—Metro
WERNER HEYMANN assigned to do musical scoring on "Earl of Chicago."
HARRY LINK, professional manager for Leo Feist, Inc., arrives to discuss the music in "Balalaika" and other new films with studio executives.
WERNER HEYMANN and SAM MESSENHEIMER complete a song titled "A Rainy Day" for use in a forthcoming film.
—Paramount
Five songs set for use in "The Road to Singapore," the Bing Crosby-Bob Hope-Dorothy Lamour feature, by ARTHUR FRANKLIN, musical advisor. Three were written by JOHNNY BURKE and JIMMY MONACO, while Burke wrote the lyrics on two others composed by VICTOR SCHERTZINGER, who is directing the film.
DR. ERNEST TOCH recording background music for "Dr. Cyclops."
JIMMY McHUGH, completing songs for "Buck Benny Rides Again," leaves for New York to work on a forthcoming stage musical.
—RKO Radio
ANTHONY COLLINS, composer-director, scoring "Swiss Family Robinson."
PAUL SAWTELL scoring "Mexican Spitfire."
—Republic
JOHNNY MARVIN has tunes, "Girl of My Dreams," "Luna Manana," and "Goodbye Little Darling," in collaboration with Gene Autry, set for "South of the Border."
ART WENZEL completes song number, "Come to the Fiesta," for "South of the Border."
—Walter Wanger
"A Hundred Kisses From Now" purchased from GEORGE BROWN and IRVING ACTMAN for use in "House Across the Bay," starring Joan Bennett.
WERNER JANSSEN re-signed as musical director following resignation from Baltimore Symphony orchestra.

Technically

—Columbia
LIONEL BANKS returns to art director post after trip through south.
—Metro
WILLIAM VON WYMETAL assigned as technical director on "Florian," the Winfield Sheehan production.
HUGH BOSWELL assigned as assistant director to W. S. Van Dyke II on "Lover Come Back to Me."
ARTHUR LONERGAN to do sketches for "Florian."
ART SMITH named unit manager on "Arouse and Beware," which Edward Chodorov will produce.
The Rev. Father JOHN O'DONNELL hired as technical advisor for Latin musical score used in "Lover, Come Back to Me."
PHIL ANDERSON set as film editor on Pete Smith short, "The Adventures of Stuffie."
ROBERT KERN to edit "Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep."
WILLIAM DANIELS to photograph "Shop Around the Corner."
BOYCE HOUSE signed as technical advisor on "The Lady Comes to Burkburnett," which Sam Zimbalist is producing.
CHARLES LAWTON jr. to photograph "Congo Maisie."
AL AKST assigned as film editor on "Pound Foolish," which Felix Feist is directing.
MEL BROWN set as unit art director on "Arouse and Beware," Civil War picture which Edward Chodorov will produce.
—Paramount
JOSEPH YOUNGERMAN handling second unit of "Buck Benny Rides Again." He is filming chase and action sequences.
VICTOR MILNER assigned to photograph "At Good Old Siwash," which Theodore Reed is directing.
—RKO Radio
FRANK REDMAN to photograph "The Marines Fly High."
Lieut. Com. ALFRED BOLTON placed as technical advisor on "The Marines Fly High."
DEWEY STARKEY set as assistant director on the Richard Dix starrer, "The Marines Fly High."
—Selznick-International
MAJOR W. A. BAGLEY signed as technical advisor for sequences in "Rebecca."
—20th Century-Fox
VIRGIL HART, HENRY WEINBERGER, JAY DEPNIE, JOHN ROGERS, HAL HERMAN, JERRY BROWN, JOHN JOHNSON all assigned as assistant directors to handle 750 extras on "Little Old New York."
—Universal
CHARLES H. CLARKE set as unit art director on "The Big Guy" by Art Supervisor Jack Otterson.
RALPH M. DELACY to chore as unit art director of "Framed" under Art Supervisor Jack Otterson.
MARTIN OBZINA assigned as unit art director on untitled Mae West-W. C. Fields production by Art Supervisor Jack Otterson.
RICHARD H. RIEDEL doing unit art work on "Charlie McCarthy, Detective."
WILLIAM MELLOR, cameraman, doing trick shots on "The Invisible Man Returns."
—Walter Wanger
SAMMY LEE to direct song and dance numbers for "House Across the Bay."
—Warner Bros.
WILLIAM GILMORE BEYMER signed as technical advisor on "Virginia City."
FREDERIC LINDSLEY, Occidental College professor, signed to do narration for "Old Hickory," a historical featurette.
GEORGE AMY set to edit "Virginia City," forthcoming Errol Flynn starrer.
GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD to supervise production of "Clara Barton and the Red Cross," Technicolor featurette, rolling shortly.
STANLEY FOX signed as technical advisor on "The Life of Dr. Ehrlich," Edward G. Robinson starrer.
NOEL SMITH to direct second unit of "Virginia City."

Schaefer Ends 4-Week Stay in Hollywood

After arranging the balance of the company program for the remainder of the season, George Schaefer, RKO Radio president, concluded his four-week Hollywood stay, and left for New York. He was preceded on his eastward trek by Ned E. Depinet, distribution chief, and S. Barret McCormick, advertising and publicity director, who had checked into Hollywood principally to view number of pictures, either completed or in final production stages.

Herman Wobber, 20th Century-Fox sales head, flew in from New York to look over the current product at that studio and for conferences with Darryl Zanuck, Joseph Schenck and William Goetz. Wobber was to be joined by A. M. Levy, head of the annual S. R. Kent Drive, and the pair planned stopovers in Denver, Seattle, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco on their return trip.

Frank Capra trained in from New York with Mrs. Capra.

Following his New York holiday, Sol M. Wurtzel checked in at 20th Century-Fox to start work on four pictures set for November starts. Four the production executive will guide are "Young as You Feel," "Shooting High," a Cisco Kid picture, and a sequel to Elsa Maxwell's "Hotel for Women." Wurtzel was accompanied west by James Ryan, casting executive.

Technicolor President Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus returned to work after making a six-month tour of Europe and the east.

James Roosevelt left for two weeks in the east which he will divide between New York and Washington.

Al Lichtman, Metro's executive and producer, is spending ten days in New York on business.

Judell Resumes Production On 'The Invisible Killer'

Ben N. Judell's Producers Pictures Corp. resumed action on its feature productions with "The Invisible Killer" going before the cameras at Grand National Studios. With Grace Bradley and Roland Drew in the leading roles, the picture is being directed by Sherman Scott, who handled the same chore on "Hitler—Beast of Berlin."

Shooting script on "Gold Star Mothers," second of Judell's nine announced four-star specials, has been completed by William A. Ullman jr., and the feature will follow "The Invisible Killer" before the cameras. "Gold Star Mothers" has as its theme the same doctrines expounded by the recently-organized Legion of American Mothers.

A "Raffles" Sequel

Having received David Niven's assurance he will return from England as soon as possible, Samuel Goldwyn has assigned Director Sam Wood to prepare "Raffles, Amateur Cracksman," as a follow-up to the recently-completed "Raffles." Niven will repeat in the title role.

Colorful Reopening For S. F. Tivoli

San Francisco—The Tivoli, the "west's most famous playhouse," staged a colorful reopening here Friday night after having been dark many months. The house, under the direction of the Walker Theatres Corp. will feature a combined stage show and first run picture each week and is the first of a chain of similar houses to be established on the coast during the next few months.

Principals of the operating company are: Nathan Smith, president; Nathan Hoffman, vice-president; M. P. Walker, secretary; Helen Bee, treasurer; J. R. McNair, general manager; John J. Cluxton, district theatre manager; Richard P. Stevens, house manager; and Jean Evol, producer.

The Tivoli will run a matinee and two evening shows daily, with a 25-cent price prevailing in the afternoon, and 35 cents at night. Stage entertainment includes a 12-piece orchestra and will introduce "operavues," comprising excerpts from operettas and major musicals.

Pre-opening publicity included large amounts of free newspaper publicity, newspaper advertising and radio broadcasts.

Casino in San Francisco Sold to Markowitz Group

San Francisco—One of the largest sales of a theatrical property in recent years took place this week when the Casino Theatre was sold to Peter H. Markowitz, representing a San Francisco theatrical group.

The property had been held in trust by a local bank for a family of which "Bronco Billie" Anderson of film fame is a member. The theatrical syndicate intends to refurnish and redecorate the house, and when work is completed the total investment will approximate $500,000.

Hippodrome in Los Angeles Leased to Popkin-Ringer

Los Angeles—The Hippodrome Theatre on Main Street has been leased by Adolph Ramish to the Popkin-Ringer circuit. The house, dark for several months, opens shortly, completely remodeled. It is a 2,200-seater.

George Finch Opens New Coronet, San Diego

San Diego—George F. Finch has opened his new Coronet Theatre, a 650-seat house. Filmery is being operated in conjunction with Finch's Metro Theatre in the same district.

Leserman Visits S. F.

San Francisco—Carl Leserman, Warner's assistant general sales manager, was here this week while on a coast inspection tour. He was accompanied by W. E. Calloway, Warner's west coast district manager, of Los Angeles.

Advisor on "Dr. Ehrlich"

Hollywood—Stanley Fox has been signed as technical advisor on "The Life of Dr. Ehrlich," Edward G. Robinson starrer for Warner.

Warner Hit on Two Fronts for Adding to Wiltern Clearance

Los Angeles—Action of the local Warner exchange in granting to the Wiltern Theatre, recently acquired Warner Circuit house, an additional seven days clearance over all other 40-cent houses in the city drew fire from two fronts—a mild request for "immediate conciliation" from the Independent Theatre Owners of Southern California and Arizona and a vehement protest from its more militant contemporary organization, the Allied unit.

Over the signature of James C. Quinn, Allied secretary, a letter was addressed to Gradwell L. Sears, Warner sales chief. Quinn, as secretary of Allied, charged:

"Their (Warner Bros.) decision to sell the Wiltern Theatre pictures on the basis of 21 days after the Los Angeles first run closing at a 40-cent admission price—calling it an exclusive second run in the whole city of Los Angeles, is nothing but a fraud and a subterfuge."

Quinn, in behalf of Allied, further charged that all subsequent price breaks, the 35, 30, 25, 20 and 15-cent houses would be thrown back a full week.

"To say that this territory has been stunned by this arrogant action of your local office," the letter continues, "is to put it mildly indeed. Why you will attempt to tear down and break up our zoning schedule after all the years of hard labor in setting up these zones and accomplishing progress in distributor-exhibitor relationship is unfathomable. Surely we do not believe that any of the top executives of your company would countenance such a slashing attack on the methods of zoning and booking pictures in this territory. Aside from the fact that it might benefit you slightly in the additional profits you might make at the Wiltern Theatre, it seems that the alienation of exhibitor good-will would be too big a price to pay."

Quotations from a Warner tradepaper advertisement, pledging friendship and cooperation towards independent exhibitors, fill the concluding paragraphs.

"How," is the Allied query, "can you go on record with such an advertisement and then turn around and break up the entire zoning and clearance schedule in Southern California?"

Announcement from the ITO office indicated that after ten days of "conciliation" Warner Bros. had agreed to adhere to the NRA zoning and clearance schedule for all subsequent run bookings in this area on its 1939-40 product.

PCCITO Is Flooded With Congratulatory Wires

Los Angeles—Widespread interest created by the recent formation of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners is attested by the growing flood of congratulatory telegrams which inundate the Conference office.

"Bob" Poole, executive secretary, characterized the organization as a "tremendous force for good," and said that "the sincerity and honesty of purpose emanating from the activities of the trustees and officers of the Conference could result in one thing, namely, the establishment of a new era in the exhibition of motion pictures."

The PCCITO is composed of the memberships of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the Pacific Northwest, and the ITO of No. Calif.

Fox West Coast to Observe Both Thanksgiving Dates

Los Angeles—The national turmoil over Thanksgiving Day and when to observe it holds no fears for Fox West Coast. Under terms of a decree issued by President Charles W. Skouras, the circuit is overlooking no bets by scheduling special holiday programs—at special holiday prices—on both November 23, date designated by President Roosevelt, and November 30, which has always been observed as Turkey Day in the past.

L. A. Undisturbed by New Wage-Hour Law

Los Angeles—Inauguration of the new phase of the federal wage-hour law has failed to bring about even a mild ripple of reorganization along Filmrow, or among the staffs of local theatres, either chain or independent.

The 42-hour maximum work week, which went into effect October 24, cutting down the 44-hour top, set when the act originally became effective a year ago, found conditions in both exchange and exhibiting circles already exceeding the federal requirements.

Exchange employes are represented by Local B61 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, which already had in effect a contract stipulating a 40-hour maximum work week.

Spokesmen for both the Whitson-Lewis and the Galston-Sutton houses explained that only houses offering a daily matinee could be affected by the new regulations, as most theatre men work but three hours a night plus two matinees a week. Officials at Fox West Coast declared likewise that the new stipulations would not cause any changes in their theatres.

Signs Point to Fall Upturn

San Francisco—The highest retail index in the country, increased bank loans and deposits, together with the nation's leading employment rate, point to good fall and winter business here.

SEATTLE

THIS issue's column is batted out from Spokane, the typewriter through the courtesy of Howard "Mac" McBride, genial owner of the Granada Theatre. Ray Howes, the house manager, just finished showing us the layouts and stories on his latest invention, the "Koop Kamp." Anyone who drives a coupe can attach the camp on the rear end and it gives the driver a six-foot bed to sleep in. Just the thing for boys on hunting and fishing trips.

The Liberty is handling long lines with "The Wizard of Oz" which pleases Ernie Rose very much . . . Stopped in for a chat with Bill Evans and his wife, of the Post Street Theatre, and met Tommy Thomas, advance man for a magic show soon to play the house. Both Bill and Tommy have arranged for lots of local tieups . . . On the way to Spokane stopped in Wenatchee just in time to see Charley Greime of the Vitaphone Theatre who was just leaving with his wife and daughter to attend the MPTO annual convention in Seattle. Charley is a great BOXOFFICE *fan.*

Ran into Buck Seale of the Spokane Orpheum, who was acting as transportation agent for a gang of musicians brought into Wenatchee to play for the Harry Savoy unit at the Liberty . . . Rex Thompson, exhibitor from Port Orchard, passed through here on his way to Missoula, Mont., where he joins Otis Harvey of San Francisco and Bill Heineman of Universal for a hunting trip . . . Word from Seattle tells that the Arabian Theatre was broken into and robbed. The State Theatre here in Spokane was also held up but the bandit was captured and the money recovered.

The right of the Seattle central labor council to place pickets in front of the First Avenue Theatre was in dispute in the superior court. Operators of the theatre, Henry Moorman, Mrs. Hannah Morgan and Carl Paysen, contended that they have no dispute with their employes. A temporary restrainer against the Moving Picture Operators of the United States and Canada Local 154, *J. G. Brown and James McNabb, secretary and business agent respectively of the American Federation of Labor local and against the council was granted recently. The theatre operators are seeking to have this made permanent.*

The newsreel theatre in Seattle has discontinued its policy and has reverted back to "move-overs." The house, the Blue Mouse, is one of the Fox-Evergreen group . . . John Danz of Sterling chain has changed the name of his State Theatre to the Rivoli and now is featuring vaudeville. Murray Peck is master of ceremonies.

Herman Wobber, western sales manager for 20th Century-Fox, is visiting the exchanges in this territory . . . George Hickey to Palm Springs to lose a cold before coming north . . . Jack Rosenberg demonstrating his culinary skill with potato pancakes and Beverly Parker with her hubby's interference whipping up a rarebit in an impromptu cooking contest on the Row after a preview . . . Barbara Tegtmeyer, billing clerk at Paramount, in the hospital for an appendectomy.

R. J. Cadman holding a reunion with Howard McBride. They both worked for the same company 20 years ago . . . George Smith, Paramount division manager, in from the South, and on a hunting trip with Al Rosenberg . . . Word from Hollywood tells of the passing of Ned Holmes, veteran theatrical publicist, and for the past few years with Warner . . . Marian Pinck visiting from Minneapolis and a guest of the Bill Shartins . . . John Hamrick, Frank Newman, Al and Jack Rosenberg, Frank Christie, and Vic Gauntlett to Portland for a meeting with Spyros Skouras.

C. A. Paisley has opened his new Roxy in Coeur d'Alene . . . L. J. McGinley tells that Butch Wingham will come from San Francisco for a visit this Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Falborg over from Wilbur for a couple of days . . . Eddie Milne, former general manager of the Pantages circuit, is in Spokane and is managing the Blackstone magic unit . . . Arthur Lake and Penny Singleton, of the "Blondie" pictures, are scheduled for a personal appearance in Portland and Seattle in the near future.

"Theatres of Tomorrow"

featuring the beautiful Burch Super Showman popcorn machine, candies of all kinds, and smiling service by

"Courteous Theatre Trained Assistants"

won't force inconveniences upon their clientele. Greasy Gus might object, but its your duty to your customer, and they'll thank you.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

Believe Fair Will Repeat Four Months Next Year

SAN FRANCISCO—It is the consensus along Filmrow that the Fair, which has cut deeply into theatre receipts the past several months, will do a four-months' repeat performance in 1940. The reasons for this reluctant opinion are:

1. Just about everybody except the film industry favors a 1940 Fair.

2. The newspapers have come out strongly for a Fair in '40, with many front page editorials being run.

3. Over $700,000 of the necessary $1,650,000 to insure reopening has been raised, and oil and transportation companies, which are sure to be large contributors, are yet to be heard from. Also, Mayor Angelo J. Rossi has pledged a tentative $250,000 for the city of San Francisco.

4. The Fair closed in a blaze of glory, with record crowds the rule rather than the exception. It reportedly has operated $700,000 a month in the black the past two months, and its sponsors feel it will show a nice profit next year.

Dan E. London, president of the "Fair in '40" group, announced that a definite date for a final decision from his group has not yet been set.

Reopening of Fair Next Year Almost Certainty

SAN FRANCISCO—Reopening of the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1940 became almost a certainty Wednesday when the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce pledged itself to organize Bay Area business and civic groups into a drive to secure the necessary funds to insure a repeat performance of the 1939 extravaganza on Treasure Island.

Close on the heels of this announcement came a dispatch from Washington that President Roosevelt will urge Congress to appropriate $1,500,000 for federal participation in the 1940 Fair.

SALT LAKE

HERSCHEL STEWART and Fred Glass, FWC executives, are back from a conference held with Spyros Skouras and Rick Ricketson at Denver.

A committee of nine representatives of the local district federation of Women's Clubs will preview major films this winter as part of a plan to encourage better productions, according to Mrs. W. R. Carter, committee chairman.

Manager H. C. Fuller of the local RKO exchange is working in the Montana territory around Missoula . . . E. S. Winward, assistant manager, is finishing up his vacation by shooting some deer.

J. T. Sheffield, Republic franchise holder throughout the west, was a visitor here en route to Seattle headquarters.

A stay of sentence has been granted Elmer Erwin, convicted of robbing the Roxy Theatre on September 30 . . . Several 20th Century-Fox technicians filmed background scenes here for use in the new production "Brigham Young."

A broadcast titled "Interviews with Theatre Managers" is an innovation sponsored by Intermountain Theatres, Inc. Manager Earl Baughman utilized his broadcast time to publicize the Hallowe'en show he offered at the Utah.

Manager Tony Hartford, UA chief here, enplaned for Butte, from whence he and Salesman Walt Millar will work the eastern part of Montana.

Walt Hull, who operates the Hull circuit in six Nevada towns, reports the sale of his Carson Theatre at Carson City to G. L. Sanford . . . "Joe-K" Joe Koehler, exhibitor from Twin Falls, Ida., was in town to attend to some bookings and the Shrine Ceremonial.

Manager "Buck" Wade of Universal reports a highly satisfactory trip into Montana.

FWC Transfers Martin To Inglewood Post

INGLEWOOD—Dave Martin, former manager of the Paramount in Hollywood, a Fox West Coast house, has been transferred to the United Artists here.

DENVER

SI GERTZ is now managing the Plaza for Dave Cockrill . . . Rocco De Paolo is planning to reopen the East in Trinidad soon. N. W. Sawaya recently took over the Strand there and reports are that Fox plans to start construction on a new theatre about the first of the year.

Changes made in Gibraltar Enterprises: Buster Morris, transferred from the Teton at Powell, Wyo., to manage the Mesa at Douglas, Wyo; Harold Johnson moves from Mesa to the newly-acquired houses at Glenwood Springs, Colo. Everett Haxby, manager of the Bluffs at Scottsbluff, Neb., has been made assistant to William Boston, manager of the Gibraltar properties there; Harry Rodel, who has been managing the Crystal at Mitchell, a Harry McDonald house, has been made manager of the Bluffs at Scottsbluff. Morris Rock has been placed in charge of exploitation in Bridgeport, Morrell and Gering, all in Nebraska.

Richard Hildreth, traveling auditor for 20th Century-Fox, is here directing an enlarged office force in making out voluminous reports required by government . . . N. Cornett is opening up Mora, N. M., with a new house, the first time the town has had a theatre. The place has 1,500 population . . . N. B. Oliver is reopening the Ritzy at Mogollon, N. M. This gives him three houses in the state.

Theatres in Durango, Ignacio and Mancos, Colo., have reopened after being closed for some time due to a mild infantile paralysis scare . . . The Shoshoni at Ft. Washakie, Wyo., has been closed for the winter by Floyd Rains . . . Robert Garland is receiving visitors and is much improved following the amputation of his arm, necessitated by an auto accident recently.

The new Fos at Longmont, Colo., is expected to be ready for opening by December 15. It will seat 750 and is the third house in that town of 7,000, all under the control of Fox. However, only one of the houses is operating at present . . . Sam Feinstein of Lusk, Wyo., was in town looking as good as ever following his auto accident of some time ago. Sam and his huge cigar used to be a familiar Filmrow sight. He used to manage exchanges and also was a salesman before joining the ranks of exhibitors.

Delegates to the regional convention of IATSE at Salt Lake City this weekend included Dorothy Elmore, Fox; Paul Gundy, Warner Bros., and Lee Cronk, Paramount.

Altec Engineer Don Cameron of Colorado Springs, Colo., announces the arrival of an 8-pound daughter in the Cameron family.

LOS ANGELES

EMIL UMANN of the Regina is home ill with the flu, meanwhile the Beverly Hills house was packed the first of the week when it opened with a triple-feature horror bill . . . New exhibition company, with B. H. Lustig, Sylvan Covey, and Herman Sims as directors, has received permission to issue its 1,500 shares of no par value stock.

After talking over Monogram product and distribution with Ray Olmstead and Howard Stubbins, Mel Hulling, San Francisco franchise holder, planed home . . . Mel Levinson of Metro Premium was to plane to Chicago Wednesday for conferences with I. Zussman, president of the company.

"Intermezzo" is scheduled to go into the Four Star on November 8, for an indefinite run replacing "Hollywood Cavalcade," which will move to Carthay Circle after a six-week stay . . . "The Slipper Episode" opened Tuesday, October 30, at the Cinematheatre . . . and "Mayerling" is set for a September 19 start at the Elite in Beverly Hills.

Business called George Alderman, Film-Row Bondday representative, to San Francisco for a couple of days . . . Bill Kohler of Astor Pictures gave "Hell's Angels" a fitting finale when he showed the feature for the last time in its present form to residents of the Old Soldiers' Home in Sawtelle.

The Swan circuit is remodeling its Regent Theatre . . . Alex Mounce and George Bromley will open their Campus Theatre shortly on a 15-cent admission scale . . . Libby Boone, former ad sales manager for Paramount, dropped in along the Row. He has been recuperating from a serious illness at Olive View Sanitarium, and must take another six-month layoff before he can go back to work.

Along the theatre opening, closing, building and remodeling front: Milt Arthur, head of South Side Theatres, is planning a new house to be called the Fifth Avenue, located in the southwest part of Los Angeles . . . Jack Drew, operator of the Temple and Lake, is starting a third house in Pomona and is planning a fourth to be built here . . . Bob Elder has closed his Arlington, in Arlington, for remodeling . . . Ditto Ned Calvi, Rex Theatre, Hawthorne, and the Fox West Coast Rivoli here in town.

Jimmy Brinton has been named manager of Fox West Coast's new Academy Theatre, opening in Inglewood, November 7 . . . "Ecstasy" is going into its third week at Harold Glass' Gordon Theatre.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
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LOS ANGELES

Harry Wallen, manager of the Paramount Theatre downtown, has returned from a northern California vacation . . . Ed Peskay checked in from New York for huddles with his brother, Hi, owner of Majestic Pictures, and Harry Denny of the same office. Denny planned to leave November 3 for Chicago and New York on business.

In for bookings: Vincent Russo, Casino Theatre, San Diego; Harry Goldfarb, National, National City; Roy Pierson, Lone Pine, Lone Pine; B. V. Sturdivant, Orpheum, Yuma; Irving Carlin of Carlin-Sinker; Lew Clark of the Dome, Ocean Park; Al Olander, Vogue Theatre, Montebello; Ben Peskay, Palms Theatre; George Burke of the Tivoli and Newark in Sawtelle, and Phil Greenbaum, Mecca Theatre.

Carl Leserman, Warner assistant sales manager, and W. E. Calloway, district manager, left on a selling trip to San Francisco, Portland and Seattle.

Bill Quinn, who is handling distribution on two Symphonic Films short subjects, "Triumphal March From Aida" and "Overture From Rosamond," screened them at the Four Star Theatre . . . Wally Hamburg, assistant manager at Loew's State, has been shifted to the Egyptian in Hollywood.

Kurt Laemmle passed cigars along the Row, along with the news that he is the father of a six and one-half pound girl born at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

Filmrow visitors included Sam Abarband, former Republic publicity man, and Frankie Darro, who spent most of his time at the Monogram exchange.

William E. Jones, manager of the Keystone Theatre and a 30-year veteran of the exhibition business became critically ill and was hospitalized . . . John Ludwig has announced he will open the Meldan, at Melrose and Van Ness, as soon as he gets his product set.

Install General Seats

TRINIDAD, COLO.—N. W. Sawaya of the Strand is installing new General seats.

LOS ANGELES FILM ROW DANCE
Sponsored by
LOCAL B61 IATSE
Friday, Nov. 10
at DIANA BALLROOM
Pico at Norton
Featuring
SLAPSIE MAXIE ROSENBLOOM
in person with
STAN KENTON and HIS MUSIC
Door Prize—Gilfillan Radio
Admission 50 cents each
Dancing 9-1:30

PORTLAND

THE Hamrick-Evergreen diggings swarmed with biggies last Friday, drawn by the visit of Spyros P. Skouras, president of National Theatres, who came, accompanied by Eddie Zabel, for a conference with H-E executives. Down from Seattle for the meeting were Frank L. Newman sr., John Hamrick, Hal Rosenberg, Vic Gauntlett and Al Ahlskog. Al Finkelstein, Roy Brown and Mose Mesher of Portland sat in. Pandro S. Berman, the Hollywood producer, fishing at Grants Pass, in southern Oregon, learned of Skouras' visit, packed his rod and hurried up to meet him. Skouras left by plane for L. A. after the meeting. Newman and Finkelstein went fishing with Berman.

Visiting Ted Gamble, J. J. Parker manager, last weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Al J. O'Keefe and Ben Fish of Los Angeles. O'Keefe is division manager for Paramount and Fish manages the western district for Universal . . . Here also from L. A. was George Smith, Paramount division manager . . . Conservative Herb Sobottka, after four years, more or less, as manager of the Paramount Theatre, has decided he likes Portland. He has purchased a new house—a modest, three-bathroom Cape Cod cottage.

Add defense weapons against branch-eating deer for Bill Boyd's Maginot line around his grape patch: charged barbed wire, Roman candles, shotguns loaded with salt, firecrackers and stench bombs. Central Washington orchardists have tried them all in their annual war with the Cascade Mountain mule deer. They also tried moth balls. None of them worked.

Al Foreman and his Orpheum staff are busy with preparations for the stage appearance of Sally Rand and her Treasure Island Revue, scheduled to open a week's run November 13. Sally will bring 25 girls . . . Sylvia Haycox and Earl Hunt both are on the injured list at the Hamrick-Evergreen office. Sylvia nursed a sprained ankle after inadvertently sliding down a hill while on a weekend fishing trip. Earl carries his left hand in splints after nicking a tendon with a piece of glass.

Scouts report Jack Flannery, of National Screen Service, here from Seattle . . . Mary Greeley, Al Finkelstein's secretary, weekended in Seattle to catch a football game . . . Eino Hemmila, in from Medford, seemed okay after his recent illness . . . Ray Stumbo of the Hollywood Theatre, Salem, is back after attending the American Legion convention in Chicago.

City councilmen were to ponder this week or next the application of Jack Bain for a license to operate his new Hollywood ballroom, following the payment of fees. The promoters obtained the consent of 80 per cent of adjacent property owners and a conditional okay from city dance hall inspectors. Approval by the fire marshal and the building division still is needed. Two nearby churches were on record opposing any possible beer or liquor outlet in connection with the ballroom.

Portland Tuesday entertained Maureen O'Hara, here with her mother, Mrs. Rita at the Liberty in connection with the showing of her new picture, "Jamaica Inn," with Charles Laughton. Dave Hazen, the *Oregonian's* ace interviewer, apparently a divergence between Irish wit and his own, for the published wisecracks were Dave's. Maureen also was heard over four leading radio stations before going on to Seattle. Ed Churchill of the Paramount publicity office accompanied the star. Oh, yes, she said American football wasn't rough enough.

Night life is increasing as the days grow shorter. Skating rinks, roller and ice, are getting a play with special music, costume parties with prizes and, in some cases, motion picture showings. Something new here, an indoor tennis court which recently opened, staged an exhibition match between Portland's top racqueteers, Wayne Sabin and Elwood Cooke, last week.

Premier Pictures, Inc., filed suit in circuit court to restrain Mayor Joseph K. Carson jr., Chief of Police Harry M. Niles and the motion picture censor board from interfering with a local showing of the anti-Nazi film "Crisis." The picture, a series of newsreels taken in Germany and Czechoslovakia, was banned by the censor board in September as "propaganda."

Local B61 Anticipates Big Turnout for Dance

LOS ANGELES—With advance ticket sales indicating that nearly every Filmrow worker will attend, officials of Union Local B61 International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes are anticipating a highly successful Filmrow dance, when the union-sponsored affair is given November 10 at the Diana Ballroom.

Entertainment will be offered by Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom, sometimes boxer and erstwhile film comedian; Gary Breckner, radio commentator, and Stan Kenton and his orchestra. Dancing is scheduled from 9:00 p. m. to 1:30 a. m.

Circuits Buy Monogram

NEW YORK—The Fox West Coast Theatres in Los Angeles and the Fox Intermountain Theatres and C. H. Davison, in Salt Lake City, have signed for Monogram's new product, announces George W. Weeks, general sales manager.

Tele-View Books "Unknown Soldier"

LOS ANGELES—"The Unknown Soldier Speaks," four-reel documentary plea for peace, is booked into the Tele-View, Hollywood newsreel house, for four days commencing November 4.

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCANA: Exhibitors and exchange managers are hopeful boxoffice receipts will show large increases now that the exposition has closed . . . A "man on the street broadcast" over station KYA from in front of the Telenews Theatre Thursday and Friday drew large crowds on Market St. The broadcast, sponsored by the newsreel house, dealt with the coming November 7 election here. Telenews will commence every hour on the hour news broadcasts from a studio in its recreation room this week over radio station KSFO and KROW. A UP ticker has been installed to provide last-minute flashes.

The opening of the Downtown in Oakland by Volcano LaMarre and M. Michel has been definitely set for November 8 . . . Fox West Coast has booked Monogram's "Mutiny in the Big House" for this area . . . Columbia reports "U-Boat 29" and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" are booked solid through December in the Bay area . . . Fresh paint was much in evidence around the Golden Gate this week.

After having given its employes two weeks' notice, it now looks as if the Regal, second-run Market St. house, will remain open . . . It's rumored along the Row that Morris Gallos will take over Nasser Bros.' Majestic here . . . Howard Butler, Monogram salesman, has left for a trip through the Sacramento valley . . . C. M. Van Horn of Redwood Theatres, Inc., has spent the last two weeks in Ft. Bragg and Dinubia straightening out some business affairs . . . Rotus Harvey of the Harvey Amusement Co. has returned from an MPTOA meeting in Virginia. His brother Rudda is on a Montana hunting trip with several California exhibitors and Bill Heineman, Universal division manager.

Around the Row we saw: Frank Enea, Enean, Pittsburg; Abe Karski, Laurel, Oakland; Morris Saffle, Metro division manager; K. A. Roberts, Chiliquin, Ore.; Barney Gurnette, Santa Cruz; and Gerald Hardy, Fresno.

Cecil Pace will reopen the Rodeo at Rodeo soon . . . One of the busiest men along the Row every time we go into see him is Charlie Rohl, Metro poster clerk . . . N. Edward Beck, new p.a. for Metro here, has been well-received by exhibitors in this territory. Beck has been with Metro for four years and previously spent a long stretch with Publix . . . Previews this week included "Little Accident" at Universal and "Dead End Kids on Dress Parade" at Warner's.

Johnny Hester has moved from San Jose to take over the managership of Julian Harvey's Roxy at Pleasanton . . . Loran Kimes has been promoted to manager of the Harvey Portola in Portola, succeeding Roy Summers, who has been transferred to Angel's Camp . . . Sam Nathanson of Coast Picture Corp. is in town looking for a S. F. location for his firm . . . "Disputed Passage" and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" are doing some of the biggest business seen here in quite a while . . . Redecoration of the Warner club room has been completed . . . A local girl, Marian Booth, is being feted this week for the title she gave the current United Artists showing, "Intermezzo—A Love Story."

REPORT SENTIMENT GROWING IN CHICAGO FOR INDEPENDENT BUYING AND BOOKING COMBINE

Independent Army Is on March; Offensive on "Wabash Front"

By GENE RICH

CHICAGO—"Somewhere on the Wabash Front"—(Via Grapevine News Service)—The long-awaited offensive by the independent army's outposts has finally begun in earnest.

For many weeks now, the major companies' commanders (branch managers, to you) have stood by their guns giving moral support to their lieutenants. Neither army made any advances, with each satisfied to maneuver for only small areas and to engage the enemy for only brief periods.

Propaganda has been scattered profusely, but every allegation has been denied by both sides.

The major commanders have stuck by their guns since the campaign began early in September. Following numerous communiques from their war offices on what plan of action to pursue, nearly all of them have taken up a policy of watchful waiting, hoping to draw the independent army out into the open. While some skirmishes have taken place, no serious casualties were reported.

However, now that the smoke of battle from artillery fire between the majors and front-line outposts (B&K, Warners, Essaness and maybe a couple others) has cleared away, leaving the majors almost as impregnable as before, the independent army's leaders have determined upon a different line of action. Now it is to be hand-to-hand battling, with every man for himself.

The independents have gone into action and are cornering the major lieutenants at every opportunity. Even the reserves are in action and considerable gas has been unloosed by both sides.

With fighting in the last week becoming more intense, numerous casualties are expected before the middle of November. Neutral observers, however, feel that by then an armistice will have been signed and life will go on as usual.

New Season Film Buying Opens Up in Chicago

CHICAGO—Numerous independents in the last week have started talking terms with exchanges, with the result that the anticipated flood of buying has started.

There is no rigid schedule of prices, with each situation being handled individually. The general trend, however, is toward higher rental figures, either in the form of more percentage pictures or higher flat figures per contract.

Sales Outlook Is Bright for Independent Companies

CHICAGO—The independent film companies are coming into their own this season. With the majors seeking higher rentals and more playing time for top pictures, independent exhibitors are buying one or two less of the big companies. However, since duals are the rule in the Chicago territory and exhibitors need more than the product of three or four major companies, they are filling out their needs by buying independent contracts.

Allied Pointing the Way: Michigan Co-Operative Seen as a Model

CHICAGO—Indication that independents here are viewing with growing conviction a cooperative buying and booking combine as the way out of their problem-beset course, trails the meetings of state Allied members here during the past couple of weeks.

It is thought that if such a venture is launched, it will be modeled after Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan, an outstanding example of this type of organization.

Running along with this report is the suggestion that admission prices may be revised all along the line from pre-release houses down to subsequents and that film rental reductions be sought. Another topic discussed freely is a campaign for the return of money giveaways patterned after Bank Night.

A general discussion was held at the Allied board meeting this week, but no definite results were announced by Jack Kirsch, president.

Hear Ray Moon May Head Chicago Combine

NEW YORK—Ray Moon, one of the organizers and long an executive of Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan, is reported in home office circles here to have been conferring this week with Chicago independent exhibitors in connection with a booking and buying combine in the Windy City. Reports are that Moon may head such a setup if it becomes effective. He recently resigned from Co-Operative and has organized an out-state Michigan combine.

New Sound for Ashland

ST. LOUIS—The 700-seat Ashland, formerly known as the Rex and operated by Thomas M. Curley, is being outfitted with a new RCA sound system.

Formulate a Wage Scale For Exchange Employes

CHICAGO—Representatives of the film exchange employes union were to meet here late this week with branch managers to formulate a new wage scale for the current season.

Final agreement on terms was to be taken by the local union's representatives, John Smith and Neal Bishop, to the national convention of the "B" local groups being held November 4 in Indianapolis. It was understood the union would seek an increase in all classes of "back-room" employes' salaries.

Irene Rich to Visit Purdue

LAFAYETTE, IND.—Irene Rich will accompany her daughter, Frances, to Purdue University here, when the latter's six bas reliefs will be unveiled in the University's Union Hall, next week.

B&K Managers Meeting Set Nov. 7 and 8 in Chicago

CHICAGO—The B&K two-day meeting for managers is now set for Tuesday and Wednesday, November 7 and 8, at the Blackstone Hotel. Beside the managers, district managers of Great States—Ralph Lawler, Izzy Weinschenk, Roy Rogan and Tom Ronan—also will attend.

Tentative plans also call for distributor leaders who may be in Chicago at the time to speak at the meeting.

Paramount Extends Writer

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has extended the writing contract of Virginia Van Upp. She is now working on "In Old Virginia."

Does Dialogue for "Winkle"

HOLLYWOOD—Paul Jarrico has been set for addition dialogue duty on Monogram's "Rip Van Winkle."

Four Companies Lead Chi Sales Parade

Chicago—Selling continues brisk at all exchanges.

A survey by BOXOFFICE shows that four companies are bunched together, heading the sales parade. Universal, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, and M-G-M all have well over 300 out of 500 possibilities closed in the greater Chicago area.

Much farther behind come Columbia, RKO, Warner and United Artists.

Reopen Defense Fund Probe in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—In an effort to bolster his cases against John P. Nick, International vice-president of the IATSE, Clyde A. Weston, former business manager of Local No. 143 of the Moving Picture and Projection Machine Operators Union, and State Representative Edward M. Brady, Circuit Attorney Franklin Miller has reopened the grand jury investigation into the defense funds raised by motion picture theatre owners in 1936 and 1937 at the time when the annual negotiations in regards to a new contract between the theatres and operators were under way.

It will be recalled that on the day when Circuit Judge Aronson declared a mistrial in the state's case against Nick on a charge of extortion in connection with the alleged payment of $10,000 by certain motion picture theatre owners to Representative Brady in October, 1936, Circuit Attorney Miller objected to an immediate new trial of the case on the grounds that his office had come into possession of new information bearing on the extortion charges against Nick. The case was then reset for Monday, November 6.

The new turn of the investigation is the probing into the income tax returns of Nick and his wife, Mrs. Clara Nick for 1936 and 1937 and also similar reports made by Representative Brady and Weston.

May Proceed With Nick Case

Deputy State Assessor F. York Allen was directed to produce not only the state income tax returns for 1936 and 1937, but also copies of federal income tax returns, as well as Brady's amended return for 1936. The data as to Weston is for the year 1937 only.

The extortion charges in regards to 1936 are directed against Nick and Brady, while another case against Nick relative to alleged payments by the theatremen in 1937 also involves Weston.

Both cases are scheduled to come up on November 6 before Judge Aronson, but it is probable the state will elect to proceed with the 1936 case against Nick only, since Brady has been granted a severance.

The indictment against Nick and Brady is based upon the alleged extortion of $10,000 from the theatre owners in 1936, while the second indictment against Nick and Weston alleges they extorted $6,500 from the owners in 1937 when a new contract with the operators was up.

Circuit Attorney Miller tried unsuccessfully to obtain Nick's federal income tax return prior to the recent trial on the first extortion case.

In the event new evidence is obtained, the state can indorse additional witnesses on the indictment.

Local 143 Votes Funds To Fight Injunction

ST. LOUIS—Members of the AFL Operators Union No. 143, at a special meeting held on October 25, voted to use the funds necessary to employ counsel and fight efforts of the St. Louis Amusement Co., Fanchon & Marco Service Corporation and the Eden Theatre Company to obtain an injunction against 37 officers and members of Local No. 143.

The injunction suit was due to come up for trial before Circuit Judge Nolte in the St. Louis county circuit court in Clayton, Mo., on Thursday, Nov. 2. The plaintiffs are seeking to stop picketing at the Fox Theatre, a deluxer at Grand and Washington boulevards, and seven neighborhood houses.

Since the filing of the injunction suit one of the theatres originally involved in the picketing, the Dakota, has changed hands, being no longer operated by the Fanchon & Marco interests. The new owner, George Wood, formerly manager of the St. Louis Theatre, flag ship of the St. Louis Amusement Company fleet, has signed a new contract with Local No. 143 and the pickets have been withdrawn.

A women's auxiliary group of about 75, composed of families of the members of Local No. 143, has set up a special committee to aid in the picketing of the theatres now affected by the controversy between the Fanchon & Marco interests and the new administration in Local No. 143.

In the meantime members of Local No. 143 are making a house-to-house canvass, in the districts served by the Fanchon & Marco theatres to present the union side of the controversy.



Chicago Visitors—

Irving Berlin and his wife, the former Ellen Mackay, pause in Chicago en route on a flight to New York.

"Adult" Permit Is Given To "A Child Is Born"

CHICAGO—Warner's "A Child Is Born," formerly nixed by the local censor board, has been given an adult-only pink slip permit. It will probably open in the loop shortly.

Two other adult-only permits have been issued to Superior's "Bella Donna" and to the French film, starring Danielle Darrieux, "Mademoiselle Ma Mere," which opens shortly at the Sonotone.

St. Louis MPTO Will Talk With IATSE

ST. LOUIS—Apparently united against demands for the negotiation of individual and separate contracts, the labor committee of the MPTO of St. Louis and Eastern Missouri was set to meet late this week with representatives of the IATSE ushers and attendants' union, one of the local theatrical groups still dominated by John P. Nick, IA vice-president.

Meanwhile, pickets have been posted at the O'Fallon and Bremen theatres, Kaimann circuit units, by the union.

Clarence H. Kaimann, principal owner of the O'Fallon and Bremen theatres, is one of the chief witnesses for the state in support of its charge of extortion against Nick. A retrial of the case against Nick is scheduled to start on November 6 in the circuit court for criminal causes.

The ushers, ticket takers, cashiers and porters at the two theatres were ordered to strike on Saturday night, October 28, and pickets at the same time took the posts in front of the houses. Kaimann said that not all of the employes obeyed the strike order. The two theatres have a total of ten IATSE members.

Representatives of the ushers' and attendants' union and the labor committee of the St. Louis unit of the MPTOA unit here have been negotiating on the union's demands for increased wages since the early part of August. The wages at present range from 35 cents to 40 cents an hour and the union is demanding a flat scale of 55 cents an hour.

No Union Statement

Union officials have not issued a statement in connection with the strike.

Kaimann said that early on Saturday he received a letter from the union in which he was asked to enter into a separate agreement covering his employes. He said that he had agreed with other theatre owners not to sign a separate agreement and refused to comply with the union's demands.

"We were in process of negotiating a new agreement," he said, "when this strike was suddenly called and they started to picket the theatres."

Louis Ansell, chairman of the theatre owners labor committee, confirmed Kaimann's version of the situation. He added that the union also sought to make its organization an employment agency and to compel the theatre owners to accept any worker the union might send. This would deprive the owners of the right to hire the persons they wanted, even the cashiers who handle their funds. The owners said they wouldn't stand for that.

About 60 theatres, employing from 250 to 300 members of the union, are affected by the present negotiations.

Several weeks ago when the union started to picket the Kaimann houses the owners of the O'Fallon and the Bremen filed injunction proceedings against the ushers and attendants and the stage hands union. That suit was dropped by stipulation of counsel when Kaimann agreed to use his influence to have the labor committee of the owners negotiate a new agreement.

Better Films Council Marks Tenth Year

ST. LOUIS—More than 100 men and women representing the industry and the various women's organizations affiliated with the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis gathered at the Congress Hotel at noon on Friday, October 27, to honor Mrs. Arretus F. Burt, founder of the council.

It was the tenth anniversary for the Council, which has become a model for similar organizations throughout the land. On Oct. 6, 1929, Mrs. Burt called together 11 women of St. Louis and St. Louis county for the purpose of formulating a film council, the purpose of which would be to promote the production, exhibition and public demand for motion pictures which adhered to high moral and artistic standards of entertainment.

Later the group conferred with Fred Wehrenberg, president of the local MPTO, and through his co-operation the support of the theatre owners in the area was assured.

Today the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis is composed of 29 affiliate organizations with more than 550 units representing 250,000 citizens of Greater St. Louis.

"The necessity for such a council was realized," Mrs. Burt said in commenting on the growth of the organization, "when a national survey revealed that the theatres of St. Louis were showing only 40 per cent of the pictures indorsed by a national reviewing group and that St. Louis ranked last in selective programs for children."

The eleven women who attended the initial meeting called by Mrs. Burt were Mrs. Jasper Blackburn, Mrs. Thomas C. Craig, Mrs. Charles Ellis, Mrs. George Ferber, Miss Marjorie Graham, Mrs. A. B. Harrington, Mrs. Charles Houts, Mrs. E. A. Kieselhorst, Mrs. Charles Lambur, Mrs. Edgar Littman and Mrs. Norman Windsor.

Mrs. John Franklin Noble is the present president of the council, while Mrs. Burt is the honorary president.

The first officers of the council were: President Mrs. Burt, Vice-President Mrs. Harrington and Secretary Miss Graham.

In framing the council's work two courses were open—negative criticism and force, or cooperation with persuasion, and a constructive program, the council chose the latter—cooperation with the industry while maintaining its independence.

On December 21 the theatre owners of St. Louis and the council held a joint luncheon and each contributed constructively to the plan of procedure.

Under Wehrenberg's leadership the theatre owners offered to use the previews of the national groups in selecting pictures for the Friday Family Night shows and other programs; to show clean short subjects or features with all recommended films and to use cleaner advertising. The managers of the local film exchanges also agreed to cooperate.

The beneficial effects of the Council's influence was soon apparent. Shortly thereafter the state convention of exhibitors voted to inaugurate Family Night programs and Wehrenberg arranged to present the resolution to the National Convention of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America where it was adopted. The St. Louis Council proved that cooperation could obtain the improved conditions which various political boards of censorship had failed to force through.

The council aided by cultivating film taste and discrimination by patrons. In short when the women asked the theatres to show better films they did all in their power to make the cleaner shows pay at the boxoffice. This encouraged the theatremen to continue their cooperation until today the St. Louis council is the model for the country.

At the dinner Wehrenberg, Harold W. "Chick" Evens, manager of Loew's, the Ansell Bros., Harry Crawford, manager of the Ambassador Theatre and various leaders in the Better Films Council paid tribute to Mrs. Burt and her great work. She was presented with a silver service as a token of appreciation.



—Photo by Candid Illustrators

Rogers Fund Aids Polio Fight—

Holding a check for $2,000 from the Will Rogers Memorial Fund to the National Children's Infantile Paralysis Foundation is H. J. Lorber, Chicago head of the foundation. The industry committee that presented the check is composed of, from left to right, Harold Robner, Warner Theatre executive, New York; Jack Kirsch, Allied; Jimmy Coston, Warner midwest zone manager; John Balaban, head of B&K; Frank Smith, manager of the RKO Palace; and Jack Osserman, RKO branch manager. The sum represented part of the proceeds realized by Chicago theatres during the Rogers fund drive.

Buys Polan Banks Story

HOLLYWOOD—"January Heights," a story by Polan Banks, has been purchased as screen material by Warner Bros.

Joe E. Brown Gives A Press Release

Indianapolis—Joe E. Brown, screen comedian, appearing at the Circle Theatre this week, had lots of fun in Indianapolis when he decided to write his own interview for the newspapermen.

He told the press he would feel much more at ease, "if I were sure you were going to use this as an interview and not as an obituary."

Collection Restraint Bid By F&M Is Countered

ST. LOUIS—Attorneys John S. Leahy, Lambert E. Walther and Harold F. Hecker have filed their answers in the circuit court to the suit of Fanchon & Marco, Inc., and two of their subsidiaries, seeking an injunction to restrain the attorneys from attempting to enforce the payment of $42,800 in notes given to them in payment for legal fees.

The three attorneys in their answer make a general denial to all of the allegations contained in the plaintiffs' petition. It denies that the plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction or to an accounting for legal fees already paid Leahy, Walther and Hecker. The payments already made total $42,000.

The answer points out that the notes were given in adjustment of a claim for legal services rendered to Fanchon & Marco, Inc., and associated concerns.

Film Listings Corrected By Chicago's Council

CHICAGO—Corrections were reported this week by the Chicago Better Films Council in its latest listings, published last week in BOXOFFICE.

The new list shows "What a Life," "Night Work," both Paramount, and "U-Boat 29," Columbia, the only family rating pictures. All the others should have been listed for mature audiences.

20th-Fox Screens Two for Trade

CHICAGO — Twentieth Century-Fox screened two features for local exhibitors at its exchange. They were "Here I Am a Stranger," and "Stop, Look and Love."

ATOI Sidelights

By DON R. ROSSITER

INDIANAPOLIS—Mrs. Percy Dickson of Wabash was truly the lucky one. She took home three prizes from the ladies big Bingo game Monday afternoon . . . Harry Kornblum and Oscar Fine headed the delegation from Evansville . . . Al Borkenstein and John Micu of Fort Wayne arrived for the convention with Douglass Haney of Albion in tow . . . Sam and Harry Switow of Louisville on hand as usual having the time of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Walters of Lafayette taking time out at the Jamboree to unload all their prizes—they were the lucky ones at the mid-summer convention too . . . Abram Myers arrived in a big hurry, his train being several hours late, but his many Indiana friends found time to chat with him just the same . . . Some of the ladies couldn't take it at the Jamboree when Rollo Clark, one of Ripley's Believe it or Not subjects, who was one of the side show attractions, bit off the rim of a drinking glass, chewed it up and swallowed it with apparent relish, then proceeded to eat a fish hook, razor blades and a lamp chimney. With no intentions of being rude they just walked away rather than face more of his nature defying tricks.

Many exhibitors found the Chuck-o-luck game to their liking maybe because Major Joe, the cute little midget, was ballyhoo man for same. One lady was heard to remark, "Look at that little boy with the big cigar" . . . Oscar Fine of Evansville won the genuine baked enamel "thunder mug" in the fish pond; passed it on and Joe Finneran of Elwood, ever resourceful, filled it with the foamy liquid and passed it around the crowd.

The manufacturer's representatives were well pleased with the strolling troubadours who entertained the convention delegates by passing from exhibit to exhibit and pausing at each just long enough to play a number or two with the crowd following and stopping too. Many manufacturers representatives remarked that the exhibits there were greatly enhanced by the music.

The ball room of the Hotel Antlers was turned into a carnival between 7:30 and 9:30 p. m. and such novel entertainment at a convention proved to be just the different note that everyone enjoyed . . . Everything found at a carnival but the sawdust floor was featured; side shows, paddle wheels, horse racing game, dart throwing, candy wheels, fish pond, etc., and to add to the din and glamour of the occasion was hot music by a Negro band . . . Marc J. Wolf did himself proud as the barker for the side shows and his wife, Bee, was the very comely cashier, luring all filmdom from their money.

The exchanges along Filmrow were very well represented at both the Jamboree party on Monday night and on Tuesday night at the banquet—Fred Greenburg, manager at Warner's, was very enthused over remarks made by one of the speakers, R. B. Townsley, state commander of the American Legion, speaking on Americanism, putting in several plugs on Warner Bros. patriotic shorts . . . Claude McKean and wife; Frank Reimer and wife and Jack, all of Warner's office, were there too . . . G. L. Heinrich and Donald Cox, bookers at RKO, were in attendance.

Jerry Adams, Bill Schwartz, Harold Marshal, and Foster Gauker accompanied their manager, Wade Willman, from Metro . . . Larry Shubnell, booker at Columbia; Joe Bohn and wife from Big Feature Rights exchanges; Milton Ettinger of Universal; also J. H. Stevens, manager, headed the delegation from Paramount; Harry Hayes of United Artists was among those present as well as Harry Gorman from Republic; National Theatre Supply was well represented by D. K. Smith and wife and Art Truc; RCA Mfg. was represented by William Trunick and Floyd Brown and wives; Movie Poster Service delegation was headed by Ted Leibtag, manager and wife and Abe Madison.

N. C. Weinberg, the Bingo man and originator of the Jitterbug craze in Indiana, assisted the ladies committee by taking charge of the huge Bingo game Monday afternoon. Leo Yassenoff, president of the F and Y Building Service of Columbus, Ohio, was in attendance to take charge of his exhibit . . . Irving Mack, of Filmack in Chicago, was a pleasant surprise visitor and his many Indiana friends were very glad to see him . . . Fred Dunakin, Ronald Ferguson and George Hepfinger, representatives of American Seating Co., Grand Rapids, were very genial hosts to delegates . . . Ed Shriver, P. Wooley and V. A. Carpenter, represented Altec Service . . . Irving Goldman of Confection Cabinet Corp., Chicago.

Roscoe Ates, well-known stage and screen star, gave an impromptu performance at the banquet which was well received by the Indiana showmen . . . An amusing gag was played on the guests when Dave Manly, well-known "Auction Night" promoter, was introduced as Prof. Von Richter of Germany. He really fooled them all with his sad story of being expelled from Germany. Some had tears in their eyes until he exposed himself, when he received a big hand.

Roy Harrold, the president elect, outdid himself with his speech when he had everyone in stitches with his timely remarks . . . Maurie Rubin, retiring president, was most surprised by the gift of an inscribed wrist watch presented by Toastmaster Marc Wolf in a very touching address.

Sam Switow, seated in the first row for the floor show was enthralled by the fan dancer . . . Carl Niesse, as usual, was the village cut-up, heckling everyone with a raspberry and trick matches.

Public Halls Must Stop Bingo Games

MILWAUKEE—As a result of Circuit Judge Charles L. Aarons' decision holding Bingo illegal, the police department has ordered public halls here to discontinue the games.

In response to the question as to whether the police had taken any action to halt playing of Bingo in churches, Chief Joseph T. Kluchesky said he had nothing more to say in that connection at this time.

Judge Aarons' decision was handed down in the case brought by Charles W. Trampe, head of Film Service, Inc., against the Bahn Frei hall here.

It is reported hall owners are raising funds to appeal the decision to the state supreme court with the hope of continuing to hold Bingo games while the appeal is pending. Hall owners are protesting the fact that they have been forced to discontinue the games, while churches, which pay no taxes, are permitted to continue.

The Milwaukee *Journal,* in an editorial captioned, " 'Charity Bingo' Is Gambling," asks churches and clubs, as well as law enforcement officials, what they are going to do about the situation resulting from Judge Aarons' decision.

Throughout the state, where Bingo games continue to flourish, little comment has been evoked by the court's ruling.

At Wausau, Fire Chief Arthur A. Buss regarded the decision with favor. "The playing of Bingo has been steadily increasing in Wausau," Chief Buss said, "being played not only in schools and lodge halls, but also in taverns. This means bringing many people together, and in many cases the gathering places have been crowded to double their capacity.

"The city of Wausau will have its name in headlines all over the country one of these days and they will tell of a disaster in which many persons lost their lives when trapped by fire in an over-crowded building. We have been lucky so far, but if more caution is not used, we must sooner or later face disaster," Chief Buss said.

In Racine county, Dist.-Atty. Richard G. Harvey jr. indicated no action would be taken against Bingo as a result of the Milwaukee ruling. "Undoubtedly the Milwaukee judge is correct on the law. We have not of our won volition started any action against charity Bingo games. Nor have we had any complaints. This office doubts that Racine county residents want games of chance for charity outlawed," Harvey said.

Extends Operation

INDIANAPOLIS—Earl Cunningham, general manager of the Fountain Square Theatres, has announced that the Granada will now be open seven days a week and the schedule will be split up in two shows. The one at the beginning of the week ordinarily will be a revival and the last part will be a first run neighborhood. The theatre has only been operating two days a week.

A Festive Spirit at Warner Club Affair

CHICAGO—A festive spirit predominated at the eighth annual Hallowe'en supper dance of the Chicago Warner Club in the Panther Room of the Sherman Hotel. More than 600 club members and friends frolicked during the night.

The Panther Room was bought out for the affair, with music furnished by Harry James' orchestra.

Noted having a good time were Hank Markbreit of the Chicago *Times;* Herb Elisburg, Essaness; Jack Kirsch, Allied; Tom Flannery, Whiteway Sign; Henry Herbel, Tom Gilliam and Bill Brumberg, Warner Pictures; Johnny Smith and Neal Bishop, operators' union; Maurice Rubin, Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, and Alex Manta, Jack Rose and Al Raymer, Indiana-Illinois Theatres; John Semadalis, Jimmy Coston, Warner Theatre zone head; and Larry Stein, Warner advertising head here.

Charlie Ryan, assistant Chicago zone manager and president of the Warner Club, was one of the busiest men in the place, keeping things moving swiftly. He was assisted by his district managers, Harry Turrell and Herb Wheeler.

Frank Williams, Warner booker, and Mrs. Williams celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the party. The 18th wedding anniversary of Lou Reinheimer and Mrs. Reinheimer also was observed.

The dance floor was so crowded, the dancers had to work in shifts. Eddie White, one of Chicago's better-known comics, had the crowd in stitches. Johnny (Scat) Davis, currently at the Blackhawk with his orchestra, stole part of the show when he came in for a brief visit with the Warnerites. "After all, why shouldn't he," quipped Larry Stein. "You know, he's made plenty of Warner pictures and that should make him popular." Davis signed many souvenir programs.

Carl Marx, the College Inn clown, was up to his old antics. And the "Boogie Woogies"—Meade Lux Lewis, Albert Ammons and Pete Johnson—had the crowd in hysterics with their jiving music on two pianos.

Arnold Lund Has Plan to Save Illinois Millions

CHICAGO—Arnold Lund, operator of the Riverside Theatre, Riverside, Ill., a Chicago suburb, who is a state representative, is in the news again with his suggestion of a method whereby he believes Gov. Henry Horner might slash the Illinois state budget for the next two years by $57,637,000.

Lund, during the last session of the state legislature, introduced an anti-double-feature bill that would have limited film programs to two hours and 15 minutes in length. The bill passed both houses, but was vetoed as unconstitutional by Horner.

The Riverside exhibitor has been mentioned as a Republican candidate for secretary of state.

CHICAGO

MARLOWE CONNOR and Bennie Cohen won top awards in M-G-M's "Tarzan" exploitation contest for Warner managers. Connor, manager of the Avalon, won the $25 award for "A" houses, with second money of $12.50 going to Al Blasko of the Paramount, Hammond. Cohen, manager of the Frolic, won the $25 award for "B" houses, with second money of $12.50 going to Robert Kennedy of the Oakland.

When reading about the lawsuit against him in BOXOFFICE *the other day, Elmer Benesch got a laugh. "After all," he cracked, "you know I'm only the landlord, and I'm only interested in getting the rent."*

Hal Tate, film commentator on station WJJD, is a member of the committee for the second annual AFRA Antics of the Chicago local of the American Federation of Radio Artists. The shindig will be held November 10 at the Sherman Hotel.

Peggy O'Neil, youngster skating in the Roller Derby at the Coliseum these days, has been offered an M-G-M test.

Nell O'Day, who has been signed by Warners after her performance in Pearl Buck's "Flight Into China" on Broadway, was here this week en route to the west coast and her first Warner picture, to be announced later . . . Another visitor was Kay Kyser, who has completed his RKO assignment in "That's Right, You're Wrong."

Johnny Mednikow was smiling this week as B&K used "When Germany Surrendered" at the Garrick Theatre. Incidentally, Duke Hickey did a swell job on last-minute publicity (the picture was set in a day before it opened). He had Al Rule, the producer, on two radio programs during the week.

The two Filmrow girls' teams bowling this season are composed of the following maple-splitters: Allied Bowlerettes: Edith Balaban, captain; Marge Brown, Sylvia Riseman, Virginia Gildhorn and Beth Morganstern; M-G-M Rollers: Ila Elwood, captain; Caroline Cebula, Regina Biesiada, Josephine Denker and Jean Newberry.

Rudy Vallee, en route back to the west coast for more picture work, was a Santa Fe Chief passenger on Monday.

Eddie Cantor plans to be a busy man while here at the Chicago Theatre. He'll appear at the AFRA Antics and is scheduled to visit several B'nai B'rith meetings during the week.

Joseph Seiden, producer of the Yiddish film, "Kol Nidre," was in . . . Harry Denny, former Grand National manager in Chicago and now with Majestic in Los Angeles, is visiting Max Facter, Great States booker.

Nathan Popkins, Chicago artist and father of Mrs. Art Telser, former secretary to Neil Agnew while he was Chicago branch manager of Paramount, died this week. He was 62 years old.

Joan Davis and Arleen Whelan, 20th Century-Fox starlets, passed through this week en route east for appearances in connection with the New York premieres of "Drums Along the Mohawk."

Mrs. Richard M. McClure, president of the Chicago Better Films Council, is expected to make one of her infrequent talks before the Women's Film Industry Club meeting on Tuesday, November 21, at the Congress Hotel.

"Mirele Efros," the Credo Films Yiddish picture, which Irving Franklin is distributing in the middle west, has been getting rave reviews from local critics, during its present run at the Sonotone Theatre.

Ruth Barrows, formerly secretary to Sam Traynor of the Bailey Circuit, Princeton, Ill., has taken over operation of the Ladd Theatre, closed for the last six months, at Ladd, Ill.

Hank Porter of Photoplay Advertising has been taking a lot of ribbing as "Herr Von Porter," ever since that guy Hitler took over his native Poland.

Anderson Judges Agree In Beauty Queen Choice

ANDERSON, IND.—Miss Claudia Lanxton, 17, a pretty brunette, reigned as parade queen at Anderson's annual Hallowe'en festival after having been chosen from a group of 16 girls in a city-wide contest on the stage of the Paramount Theatre in Anderson, operated by Harry Van Noy and I. R. Holycross.

An unusual twist in the selection came about when all three judges of the contest seated in different parts of the theatre, chose Miss Lanxton from the group of 16 on the first ballot. Van Noy, who has had many a contest on his stage said this was the first time such a thing happened and the selection was over in about five minutes.

Paramount Retitles One

HOLLYWOOD — Paramount has retitled "Happy Ending" to "The Night of Nights."

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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MILWAUKEE

ELISSA LANDI, stage and screen star, appeared in two lectures here last week, one before the Woman's Club of Wisconsin and the other under the sponsorship of the Women's Court and Civic conference.

Marie Wilson appeared at the Riverside here on a bill which included the flicker, "A Woman Is the Judge," which was directed by Nick Grinde, University of Wisconsin graduate and fiance of hers. Also appearing in person at the theatre was Roscoe Ates.

Newspaper advertising of Ed Schuster & Co., Inc., operator of three local department stores, carried a box last week urging people to see "The Wizard of Oz" at Warner-Saxe's Garfield, Modjeska and Uptown theatres. Copy invited the public to get their "Wizard of Oz" records, books and Judy Garland dresses at Schuster's.

Franklin Theatre, north side nabe house, has announced a new gift offer of dinnerware and bake set pieces each Thursday and Friday . . . H. J. Mirisch's Oriental and Tower theatres here are offering "Kwiz Kash" each Friday night with $75 *or more in prizes.*

An unsuccessful attempt was made to rob the Peerless Theatre, north side nabe house. Unable to open the safe, the burglars took two fountain pen sets and a camera. At Manitowoc, an attempt to break into the Mikadow was unsuccessful.

The Kenosha, Kenosha, formerly offering vaudeville on Saturdays and Sundays, is now playing flesh on Saturdays only with a new twin bill film show opening on Sundays and continued the remainder of the week, according to Manager E. R. Brennan.

Dr. W. H. Finney, proprietor of the Grand and Times theatres in Clintonville, observed the 25th anniversary of the former house recently with a free show for kids . . . Latest houses to inaugurate Book Nights are the Capitol in Madison and the Dells in Wisconsin Dells.

Joseph Jensterle, projectionist at the Rivoli in Cedarburg, has purchased an engraving plant and the local newspaper is one of his first customers.

The Orpheum in Madison recently did a heavy business with three old revivals on one program—"The Sheik," "The Firefly" and "Orphans of the Storm."

Fred Reeths jr., for the past nine years manager of Warner's Sheboygan Theatre at Sheboygan, has resigned. He was presented with a wrist watch by the employes of the circuit's Sheboygan, Rex and Majestic theatres in Sheboygan.

Distributor for Alliance

CHICAGO—Special Attractions will handle the 12 feature films to be made by Alliance Films Corp. for the 1939-40 season in the Chicago and St. Louis territories.

Indianapolis Esquire to Open November 3

INDIANAPOLIS—The new Esquire Theatre, 30th and Illinois Sts., was to open November 3, Joseph Cantor of the Cantor Neighborhood Theatres announced this week.

The $20,000 theatre replaces the Old Garrick Theatre. It has been equipped with the latest type sound and projection equipment.

The new Esquire Theatre was built with a reversal of the usual practice. The interior of the theatre was planned first and then walls were rebuilt around the inner design, Cantor pointed out.

Don Wright, who for three years has aided Cantor in the management of the Rivoli and Emerson, will manage the Esquire. Wright began as an usher 11 years ago and has worked in official capacities at the Fountain Square Theatre and the Indiana Theatre before becoming associated with the Cantor chain.

Sylvan Goldfinger Manager Of Telenews in Chicago

CHICAGO—Sylvan Goldfinger, veteran theatre manager who has been with several Chicago circuits and who has just returned from the west coast, has been named manager of the Telenews Theatre. The house is expected to open about December 1.

Frank C. Singleton has been named assistant to Goldfinger.

Rem in Remington Slated To Open on November 4

REMINGTON, IND.—The Rem Theatre, entirely subscribed to by merchants of Remington, opens here November 4 under the management of Harold A. Heyer.

As part of his opening campaign, Heyer arranged with M-G-M's exploiteer in Chicago, Bill Bishop, to have a large postcard mailed from M-G-M's Culver City studios offering best wishes to the new theatre. The card was signed by Lionel Barrymore and other Metro stars.

New Theatre in Muncie to Wait Until Next Spring

MUNCIE, IND.—Mrs. A. L. Kitselman has postponed until next spring plans for construction of a new suburban theatre here at University Ave. and Martin St.

Finish Exterior Work On Tanner in Pana

PANA, ILL.—Exterior construction work on the new Tanner Theatre here has been completed. Work is now progressing rapidly on the interior.

Crichlow Awards Building Contract at Roxana, Ill.

ROXANA, ILL.—The contract for the construction of Albert Crichlow's new motion picture theatre here has been awarded to J. J. Wuellner & Son, Alton, Ill. Crichlow resides in Alton.

The plans for the new building, prepared by O. W. Stiegemeyer, call for a two-story building, 56x155 feet, to contain the theatre auditorium, a lobby, store and living quarters.

ST. LOUIS

HARRY GREENMAN, manager of the new Esquire Theatre at Richmond Heights, Mo., has announced that its grand opening will be on Wednesday, November 8. The proceeds of the ticket sales for the opening night will be contributed to the United Charities campaign. Mayor Charles A. Shaw of Clayton, chairman of the county division of the campaign, and Mayor Brainerd W. La Tourtette of Richmond Heights are in charge of the opening night program.

Two men, one armed with a pistol, held up Mrs. Edna Kaimann, cashier of the Salisbury Theatre, in the boxoffice of the theatre at 8:30 *p. m., October* 25. *One of the men snatched a* $10 *bill lying on the counter, then both fled to an automobile parked nearby and escaped.*

Major Bowes' "World Fair Revue" opened a week's engagement at Fanchon & Marco's Fox Theatre, on Friday, November 3.

"Betrayal," a French film, was shown at the S'Renco Art Theatre, October 29, 30 *and* 31 *and November* 1. *It received favorable newspaper reviews.*

"Babes in Arms" is in a second big week at Loew's. "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" was held over at the Ambassador.

The St. Louis and St. Louis county chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., has received $562.50 *from the Will Rogers Memorial Commission for local needs.*

Folks along Filmrow and connected with the various motion picture theatres in the area who drive automobiles, have complained that their efforts to cooperate with the state officials in renewing their state drivers' licenses have resulted in the state cheating them out of many days of driving rights. Instead of renewing the licenses from the expiration date of the old licenses, the state officials, apparently too lazy to do any checking up, have simply dated the new licenses on the day the applications were made.

Sam Reider, manager of the Grand Opera House, which recently reopened after being dark for almost nine years, except for intermittent periods, says the burley house represents an initial investment of $15,000 *and is giving employment to* 80 *persons, the weekly payroll averaging* $3,500. *The venture wasn't helped any by the stench bomb that was planted in the balcony on the opening night. City Judge James F. Nangle has granted a continuance until December* 1 *in the trial of Joseph E. Michaels, who operates concessions at the Garrick Theatre, a rival burlesque house and who has been charged with peace disturbance and destruction in connection with the stench bomb affair. Michaels has denied the charge.*

Services for Louis Damm

INDIANAPOLIS—Funeral services for Louis Damm, operator of the Damm Theatre in Osgood, were conducted in that town Thursday afternoon.

INDIANAPOLIS

THE OLIVER THEATRE, operated by Nathan Tamler, suffered a small loss by fire last Wednesday evening. The fire was confined to the projection booth and several feet of film was burned.

Abe Kaufman, former salesman for Universal in Indiana, and now operating the Lyceum Theatre in Terre Haute, recently remarked that he decided to go into the exhibition end of this business just to see how long he could stay open losing money every week. Said he heard about others doing that for so long he thought he, too, would try it.

The mother of Jerry Adams, salesman for Metro, passed away last Wednesday in New Rochelle, New York. Adams left to attend the funeral.

Herbert Gibson, "Hoot" to his friends, was recently appointed booker for the new Indianapolis Cooperative Theatres, booking and buying combine. "Hoot" was for many years booker and in the poster department at the local RKO exchange. He replaces Otto Ebert at Cooperative.

Joseph Holloran, assistant manager at Loew's Theatre, reports broken house records on "Babes in Arms" for the first week and its holdover for another week.

William Wallace, booker at Warner Bros., has been ill and confined to his home the past week.

The Warner Club, composed of employes of the Warner exchange, report a very good time at their picnic and weiner roast held this week at Woolens' Gardens, Indianapolis.

The reorganized Pep Club, composed of Metro exchange employes, held its first party in the new club rooms in the Metro building last week.

The mother of Jack Finkelstein, operator of the Paramount Theatre here, is dead after a short illness. She is also survived by Mrs. Louis Markun, wife of the former operator of the Rex Theatre and cousin of Harry Markun, well known local theatre operator.

Butler University's all-coed color guard and Miss Magnolia DeHart, drum major, appeared on the stage of the Lyric Theatre Friday evening in connection with homecoming activities now in progress on the local campus. The color guard appeared with Will Osborne's orchestra as a part of the regular show, together with Dick Carson, Butler freshman, who recently won a week's engagement at the Lyric as the result of an amateur contest conducted by the Olsen Theatre Enterprises.

Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Bair left last Sunday for Florida where they will spend the winter months in their home at Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Bair is secretary of the Olsen Theatre Enterprises, operating six theatres here.

Homer Schenck, new owner of the Lyric Theatre at Waterloo, Ind., made one of his rare visits to Filmrow last week . . . Everyone is wondering if Guy Hancock, at the RKO office, is married or not. Bets are that it took place two weeks ago.

The Indianapolis Bookers' Club were guests of Foster Gauker, office manager at M-G-M, this week and entertainment was furnished by Joe Smith of the Affiliated Theatres.

Paul Muni arrived in Indianapolis, Monday, to appear in "Key Largo," which had its first performance on English's stage. He was accompanied by his wife and the Maxwell Andersons (the author).

Ted Nicholas, manager of the Lyric, has many screen and stage stars scheduled for personal appearances. This week he is featuring Esther Ralston with Will Osborne and his band.

Fight Against Ascap by Taverns Gets Trade Eye

MILWAUKEE—Exhibitors here are watching with interest the organization of the Tavern Music Protective Ass'n of Wisconsin formed for the purpose of fighting through the courts fees assessed by Ascap.

The group is enlisting the aid of tavern men throughout the state as well as night club operators, hotel men and musicians. It charges that Ascap fees are discriminatory and in some cases "illegal."

The association charges that Ascap is unqualified to operate under state law, which requires that it be licensed to do business and to pay fees of 5 per cent of its gross revenue to the state. Ascap, the group asserts, has no set schedule of fees for its licensing of tavern men for permission to play copyright music in their establishments and for dances.

As yet, theatremen have shown no indication to join the association in its battle.

This Week We Meet . . .

W. E. (DOC) BANFORD

CHICAGO—This is the silver anniversary of the Chicago branch manager for M-G-M, W. E. (Doc) Banford, in the film business. For, it was back in 1914 that Doc began as a combination auditor-salesman for the old United Film Service in New York. "Those were in the 'good ol' days," he jests, "that you were a handy man, and had to take care of at least two or more jobs if you wanted to hold on."

Doc Banford is no newcomer, however, to the Windy City. Shortly after he went with the old Mutual Film Corp. in New York, he joined the V. L. S. E. Co. (forerunner of Vitagraph) and was sent to Chicago as assistant branch manager. That was in 1916 and he remained with that company for two years.

He is one of the oldsters of the M-G-M organization. Doc became a member of the old Goldwyn company upon its inception shortly after 1917. He remained here for over a year as branch assistant in the old quarters at 207 South Wabash. Those were in the early days when the film companies were all located in the loop district.

Banford left the Windy City in 1919 and remained away almost 20 years before returning. All of that time he was with the same company or its direct descendants. He first went to Salt Lake City for Goldwyn as manager of the office and was transferred two years later to the Seattle office. He advanced rapidly and became district manager with headquarters in Minneapolis in 1923. His territory included Minneapolis, Omaha, Des Moines, Kansas City and Denver.

Doc remained with the organization when it was merged in 1924 and became Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, going to Des Moines as branch manager. He remained in the Iowa city for 12 years.

During that time he was instrumental in hiring many young men as shipping or poster clerks who have since advanced to bookers, salesmen, home office representatives and other posts. "We have always held to the idea that men should be employed who have executive ability, men who are capable of being advanced within our organization," he said.

In 1934, Banford was instrumental in being one of the founders of the Des Moines Variety Club and was its chief barker for two years until he was transferred to St. Louis in 1936 as branch manager for M-G-M. He continued an active interest in Variety and still retains his St. Louis membership.

Banford came to Chicago in April, 1938, succeeding Felix Mendelssohn, who retired. Having always been one of M-G-M's top branch managers, Doc was one of nine winners of the 1938 sales and billing drive, all of whom made a tour of Europe as guests of the company last fall.

Always absorbed in his work, Banford has had little time for hobbies and he frankly admits he has none. He was married in New York back in 1913 and has one daughter.

There is an interesting story back of his having been nicknamed "Doc." That occurred during his early days in Chicago with V. L. S. E. Ed Auger, now with RCA-Photophone in New York, was traveling representative for V. L. S. E. One day Auger dropped into the Chicago office, stuck his head in Banford's door, and yelled, "Hi, Doc, you ready to go to lunch." Banford didn't take to the nickname immediately, so Auger conspired with all V. L. S. E. branch managers and others to address Banford's letters "Doc." And it has stuck to this day.

New Projectionist Pact Forward in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—Negotiations between local independent exhibitors and the projectionists' union toward drafting a new contract are reported progressing favorably, according to Harry Perlewitz, acting business manager of the ITPA.

The union's two-year contract with Milwaukee county theatres expired October 31, and circuits are expected to ratify an agreement with the union shortly.

A settlement has also been reached in the union's strike at the Tosa Theatre in Wauwatosa. Projectionists picketed the house after the union charged that Ross Baldwin, manager, had broken his contract agreement with the union.

'Seventeen' to Premiere in Indianapolis in January

INDIANAPOLIS — The world premiere of Paramount's "Seventeen," adapted from the Booth Tarkington story and starring Jackie Cooper and Betty Field, will be held here about the middle of January. Indianapolis is the home of the noted author. Exact date of the premiere depends upon the return of Tarkington from his summer home in Maine where he is at present.

Locale of "Seventeen" is a small town just a few miles from the Indiana capital. Civic organizations and officials of Indianapolis promise enthusiastic support for the premiere.

Essaness Plans a Formal Reopening for Liberty

CHICAGO—Essaness is planning a formal reopening for the Liberty when the new front of the house is completed in about 10 days. Meanwhile, the house is continuing open during remodeling.

The circuit reopened the Julian on Thursday with the Danish film, "Life on Hegn's Farm," after the house had been closed for five days.

Throwaway by Roche

CHICAGO—Dan Roche, press agent for Joe Vicedomini's World Playhouse, Michigan Avenue art theatre, got a laugh from patrons when he made up a small throwaway on the current French film there, "40 Girls and a Baby." Roche's copy included the following:

" 'Forty Girls and a Baby' was designed as an unfailing remedy for present-day sufferers who may be allergic to any of the following everyday complaints common to all of us . . . Please remit, redouble five spades, oomph, jitterbugs, shiny nose, IOU, Drive Slowly, fore, crooners, two seats in the 17th row, hold the wire, what do you know? COD, pull over to the curb, poddon—wrong number, sorry—we're just out, drop a nickle, this is station BORE, and others too numerous to mention . . . Instant relief from these complaints will follow a dose of '40 Girls and a Baby;' should there be a relapse—repeat the dose."

BOWLING

IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO — It's a four-way tie for first place in the hotly-contested Film Bowling League here.

Paramount took two from Republic with Herman Busch shooting a 548 series. National Screen took two close games from Film Carriers. Photoplay defeated Warner twice with John Knaffle of Photoplay rolling 557. Universal took three straight and sunk 20th Century-Fox into last place, mainly because of Universal's Bill Lyman, who shot a series of 610.

Standings to date:

	Won	Lost
Paramount	11	7
National Screen	11	7
Film Carriers	11	7
Photoplay	11	7
Republic	8	10
Universal	7	11
Warner Bros.	7	11
20th Century-Fox	6	12

Standings in the Warner Theatre League:

	Won	Lost
Yannigans	17	7
Capitol	15	9
Avalon	15	9
Avalon Cubs	15	9
Beverly	14	10
Cosmo	12	12
Ogden	11	13
Highland	11	13
Stratford	10	14
Hammond	9	15
Jeffery	8	16
Dead Enders	7	17

Ted Turrell is leading the bowlers with an average of 175. Other leaders: Jones, 174; Busch, 172; Biltgen, 169, and Shire, 167.

Hallowe'en Parties Staged for Kids

MILWAUKEE—Kids had a field day in many Wisconsin cities October 28 when exhibitors staged special Hallowe'en shows for the youngsters.

Locally, Warner-Saxe Theatres staged kiddie parties at its Garfield, Uptown, Modjeska, Milwaukee, Egyptian, National, Lake, Savoy, Princess and Juneau theatres. In addition to special screen attractions, gifts were distributed at most of these houses.

Harold J. Mirisch featured an 18-unit Hallowe'en Jamboree at his Tower and Oriental theatres here. The program included eight stage contests, costume parades, five Walt Disney cartoons, Our Gang comedy, "The Wizard of Oz" and free masks.

The Times, west side neighborhood house, promoted a Hallowe'en party which included pie-eating and apple dunking contests with prizes to the winners.

In Madison, the Orpheum Theatre, showing "Hoosier Schoolboy," plugged its affair as Mickey Rooney's Hallowe'en party. Kids attending were treated to free jack o'lanterns and candy. The Capitol in the same city offered free prizes to the children appearing in the best Hallowe'en costumes, together with free ice cream cups to all attending.

The Strand in Manitowoc gave away free popcorn and karmelkorn, while the Lloyd in Marinette presented free candy. In Green Bay, the Bay combined its Hallowe'en party with a Navy Day celebration giving away free candy bars and special prizes to the funniest and cleverest dressed kids. Manager Russell Leddy was host to city and county school patrol boys at a Donald Duck Hallowe'en party at Fox's Orpheum Theatre in Green Bay with admission by belts and badges.

Also offering prizes for the best Hallowe'en costumes was the Jeffris Theatre in Janesville. Program here consisted of six cartoons and two features with free ice cream to all attending.

The Rex in Sheboygan featured pie eating and cracker contests with prizes for all contests and best costumes. Free cracker jack was given to every youngster attending.

A city-wide Yo-Yo contest was staged by the Orpheum Theatre, Kenosha, in connection with its Hallowe'en party. Three Yo-Yo champ sweaters were given free to winners in the contest, while all kids attending were given taffy apples. The Gateway in the same city offered prizes for the best Hallowe'en costumes.

William Exton, manager of the Roosevelt in Kenosha, remembered the adults, too, in connection with the observation and as a special Hallowe'en feature served free doughnuts and cider in the lobby of the house. "C'mon . . . See a show and dunk with me!" advertising copy read.

Warner's Rialto in Racine offered free masks to the first 300 kids attending its Hallowe'en party.

Development of Sound Is Traced by RCA Expert

INDIANAPOLIS—The development of sound equipment in the motion picture industry during the last decade was detailed by Carl Reifsteck, chief engineer of the RCA Mfg. Co., before the members of the Indiana University Club here last week.

An increasingly prominent role for sound equipment in the modern world was envisioned by Reifsteck. Its use by the legit theatre, to carry players' voices to all parts of a house; an increasing use on the battlefields of the current European war to transmit orders, and the wiring for sound, along with visual education, of all school rooms in the near future, were among the predictions ventured by Reifsteck.

Services for John James Conducted in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—Funeral services were conducted Monday for John James, 68 years old, a theatre owner here for the past 25 years. He died of pneumonia at DePaul Hospital following a two-week illness. He and his nephew, Tommy James, owned the Douglass and Strand theatres. Funeral services were at St. Nicholas Green Orthodox Church. Interment was in St. Matthew's Cemetery. His wife, a son and several grandchildren survive.

"All Quiet" Chalks Up Chicago Area Records

CHICAGO—The contention that no war pictures are wanted by the public, is being exploded by the business being reported for Universal's reissue of "All Quiet on the Western Front," its distributor points out. The picture did almost a $7,000 week at the Garrick Theatre when it played at the B&K loop house recently. Similarly, it has been chalking up records in all houses in smaller towns in the Chicago area, as well as doing much better than average in suburban houses in the Windy City.

Booking Service Expands

ST. LOUIS—Jack Harris, head of the Harris Booking Service, is now serving the Capitol and New theatres of Malcolm Reed in Pinckneyville, Ill.; R. K. Meyer's Hull Theatre, Hull, Ill.; Nat Jarrald's Mars Theatre, Martinville, Ill.; George Busher's Main Theatre, Altamont, Ill.; the State Theatre, Alton, Ill.; the Ohio Theatre, Golconda, Ill., operated by Vic Davis, and the Vista Theatre, Centralia, Mo., owned by Emil Bedermeyer.

Seeks a Dismissal of Tri-States Action

OMAHA—Ralph D. Goldberg, veteran exhibitor and circuit owner, has filed a 25-page answer in federal district court here asking for dismissal of a suit started by Tri-States Theatres to keep Goldberg from reopening the State Theatre.

Meanwhile, work of modernizing the long-shuttered State continues. Booth equipment and seats have been installed, marquee rebuilt and new signs wired and the house is practically ready to open.

Goldberg's answer admits the State Investment Co. intends to lease the State to "some individual or corporation" for use as a picture theatre, but denies intent on the part of Goldberg or his enterprises to become the operators. Tri-States maintains that Adolph L. Kaplan (who Goldberg says will run the house) "is in Goldberg's pay."

In Goldberg's answer, Tri-States is accused of threatening to build theatres to compete with several independent suburban theatres unless they go out of business or sell to Tri-States "as the World Realty Co. was forced to sell the World (now the Omaha) Theatre."

The Tri-States petition had pointed out that the World Realty Co. holds 99-year leases on both the State and the Omaha theatres. The petition says the realty firm agreed in 1934, when Tri-States sublet the Omaha for 10 years, to keep the State dark during that period.

Goldberg declares that the World Realty Co. was coerced into transferring the Omaha to Tri-States, that the larger circuit is attempting to interfere with interstate commerce and to maintain a monopoly of first-run theatres in Omaha. It has been whispered on Filmrow that Goldberg may have an anti-trust suit up his sleeve.

The local circuit owner denies the contention of Tri-States that Omaha has more theatres in the downtown district than is justified by the city's population. Tri-States declares the main business section is overseated.

The State will be ready to open soon after the first of November. Another interesting development in the Tri-States-Goldberg fight has been the announcement that Tri-States will open the Paramount, seating 3,000, on November 10 for at least one week on a stage-film policy.

The State is approximately half-way between the Omaha and Orpheum, both Blank-operated, while the Paramount is four blocks from the center of the main business sector.

Shift Sage to Marceline To Manage Two Houses

KANSAS CITY—Jack Sage, formerly assistant manager for Griffith-Dickinson Theatres at Chillicothe, Mo., has been shifted to Marceline, Mo., where he succeeds Byron Truex as manager of the Chief and Uptown.

Prosperity Night for Nebraska Favored by Attorney General

LINCOLN—First leniency in the attorney general's office in Nebraska toward cash giveaways by theatres was brought about this week when Attorney General Walter Johnson endorsed Prosperity Night.

Prosperity Night steps daintily around the opposed portions of the Bank Night scheme.

The idea is this: People are asked to register in the lobby of the theatre making the giveaway on the day or evening of the awarding of the prize. In that section, it appears to be much like Bank Night.

The difference is in the method of award. No ticket has to be bought, presence in the theatre is not demanded, there is no time limit on claiming the prize, the winner need not be outside the theatre, or claim it even on the night of the award. When the name is drawn, it wins.

Lobby Traffic Gain Seen

For this reason, Attorney General Johnson took the stand that under the Nebraska law, a lottery violation must have three elements—prize, chance, and consideration. Johnson believes the idea is merely a cash donation, no consideration involved, and done strictly to gain a lobby traffic for the theatre during which time the registrants will be subjected to the temptation of the advertising posters, and might incidentally be promoted into buying tickets.

His ruling makes the point that the pictures will have to be good under this arrangement, or the theatre won't gain any patronage from the move at all. He feels that Prosperity Night will promote good films.

Johnson differs from his predecessor in office, Dick Hunter, who always held that a person's time was worth something, and even though he did not spend money, or stick around the theatre even, he was still out something to make a trip by the theatre, stand in line, and expend the effort to sign his monicker for the registration.

This move is being watched by showmen, who think it shows a slight softening of the attitude hitherto ironclad in Nebraska against any kind of giveaways. On the other hand, it was under Attorney General Johnson that Job Night was slapped down as a mere dodge, too closely related to Bank Night, to get under the strict Nebraska lottery wire.

First Giveaway Not Frowned On

This is the first giveaway not to get a frown. After Bank Night was ruled against, tested, supreme courted and bounced, at regular intervals the attorney general made his position clear in opposition to Screeno, Bingo, Work Night, Job Night and any of the other close relatives of Banko. At present, being worked in Nebraska, is a scheme called Check Night, on which there has been no ruling yet.

Johnson made the Prosperity Night ruling after a request from Maynard Grosshans, county attorney in York, Neb.

Iowa Trade Shows Concern Over AAA

DES MOINES—Exhibitors all over Iowa definitely are concerned about the AAA program in this state for 1940. Corn, hogs and grosses are virtually one and the same thing here.

County AAA committees have been elected for the 1940 program and a series of meetings is beginning this week on the subject of setting acreage allotments for the coming year.

Officials of the AAA expect that corn acreage allotments will be somewhat below those in effect this year. Talk before the outbreak of the war was that a reduction of ten per cent would be asked for 1940.

The report of increased supplies both of old and new corn as compared with previous estimates has led to the belief that the AAA will proceed with plans for a reduced acreage allotment for next year.

Plans for a program of production control for 1940 are proceeding in spite of the assumption on the part of some farmers that the war-time situation would help absorb the surplus production and existing supplies of grain and livestock products.

Prof. T. W. Schultz of Iowa State College pointed out in Des Moines last week that present supplies are large, war orders have not materialized as yet and that prospects for early price rises are none too good.

He said that history of the last war indicated no price increases for farm products during the first two years of the war and warned against the belief that expansion of farm production would be good business.

Cliff Linblad Conducting Pioneer Theatres Drive

CARROLL, IA.—Cliff Linblad of the Iowa and Grand theatres in Atlantic, has been elected to conduct the annual Harold Field drive for Pioneer Theatres circuit.

A pep meeting here October 27 started the drive off with a bang. In addition to Frank Rubel, vice-president from Des Moines, those attending included Ray Hillary, Royal and Spirit theatres, Spirit Lake; Art Farrell, Rapids Theatre, Rock Rapids; Don Smith, Earle and State, Carroll; Percy Long, Iowa and Howard, Jefferson; Art Downard, Webster at Webster City; Harold Auchenbauch, Isis Theatre of Webster City; Bill Arts, State at Carroll; Marion Parkinson, Spencer and Frazier theatres, Spencer; Gordon McKinnin, Perry and Foxy theatres, Perry.

Permits for Building Await on Four Minneapolis Theatres

MINNEAPOLIS—The city council license committee has under advisement applications for permits to build and operate four new neighborhood theatres here. If the aldermen show a disposition to let down the bars it's reported there will be a veritable flood of additional applications.

Strange part of this development is that it comes in the face of adverse theatre business conditions, with grosses apparently in a long-range down trend, operating costs continually rising and numerous allegedly objectionable trade practices that are claimed to hamper profitable independent theatre operations. Nevertheless, several of the applications before the committee were made by local independent exhibitors.

Permit Opposition Asked

However, one of these exhibitors, W. R. Frank, head of a large independent circuit, asked the committee to oppose his permit. He explained that he had filed it only for "protection" against threatened competition from Irving Gillman in his section of the city. Gillman owns and operates the sure-seater Esquire downtown.

Those who appeared before the committee and opposed the issuance of any more permits included W. A. Steffes, Northwest Allied president; Theodore Hays of the Minnesota Amusement Co., Randy Merriman, Minnesota Theatre manager, and Ben Friedman and Frank Woskie, independent exhibitors.

They argued that the town now is greatly overseated and that present investments will be jeopardized if any more new theatres are built. Steffes pointed out that his Alvin Theatre is dark much of the time and asserted distributor representatives should unite with the exhibitors in opposing new theatres. They could do this, he said, by pointing out the unavailability of product for new theatres. He asserted they should protect their present customers.

Merriman asserted that the Minnesota Theatre is now being operated at a loss and probably would have to close, throwing 90 people out of work, if any more new neighborhood theatres are built.

Councilmen Express Opinion

One alderman expressed the opinion "there's no reason why there shouldn't be at least six theatres to a block" and said "exhibitors aren't entitled to any monopoly any more than those engaged in any other line of business." Still another council member asserted "seven blocks is too far to walk to a theatre in cold weather."

After hearing the heated arguments, the committee voted to defer action on the applications until November 8. While this fight is in progress Northwest Allied will not push its efforts to obtain a city ordinance that would outlaw double features.

Variety's Movie Ball Now an 'Institution'

KANSAS CITY—After eight years of increasingly successful promotion, the annual Movie Ball, sponsored now by Variety Club, has gained the momentum of an "institution" without losing the sharp flavor of gaiety and good humor which has always characterized it.

The 1939 edition of the Movie Ball, which will be published at Pla-Mor Friday, November 10, looks easily the best one yet. There will be more and a greater variety of activity than ever before.

Under the guiding hand of Earl Jameson, general chairman for the fourth year, the ball will get under way at 9 o'clock. Music, furnished by Arlie Simmonds orchestra, will begin at 10, and the floor show goes on at approximately 10:45. From 11:30 to two a. m., the jitterbugs will mix it up with those who like it a little slower on the feet.

The grand finale of the show will be the appearance, in two numbers, of the Popeye kids band of Kansas City, Kas., sponsored by George Baker, chief barker of Variety. The band, which has about 80 members, appeared last year.

The floor show will present 50 minutes of the best vaudeville talent available in town, headline acts from the Brush Creek Follies (a KMBC show), top-notchers from the Tower, and the stars from the Hotel Phillips' Cabana Room and the Muehlebach Grill.

Present plans call for an interspersing of clown acts throughout the evening, a quick developing photo place that takes and finishes off a picture in less than five minutes, favors, popcorn, etc. A special stage is being moved in for the floor show, which will enable everyone in the Pla-Mor ballroom to see it.

Gib Jones of RKO and Charley Lewis of Republic-Midwest will handle the hat check concession as in the past.

Most important of all are the hostesses—the poise and personality of Filmrow—who will (as they always have done) make the guests, inside or out of the film and theatre business, feel definitely at a party.

Hostesses are June Medcalf, Variety Club; Virginia Gaylord, Universal; Betty McGuire, Fox Theatres; Nadine Simpson, Film Delivery; Margaret Totten, Warner Bros.; Alice Benson, Monogram; Margaret O'Toole, RKO; Grace Clemens, National Screen Service; Reba Withers, 20th-Fox; Katherine Wheeler, Metro; Betty Bowley, Grand National; Minnie Schmiedgen, United Artists; Louise Williams, Columbia; Gladys Penrod, Paramount; Hazel Ralph, Commonwealth Theatres, and Pauline Siegrist, Republic.

Proceeds of the ball will, of course, go to the crippled children's fund and the motion picture relief committee sponsored by Variety Club.

20th-Fox "Force" Policy Opposed

MINNEAPOLIS—Some of the independent exhibitors are up in arms against 20th-Fox, claiming unfair allocation of unsatisfactory pictures in the upper brackets to raise total film costs in the new contracts and alleged evasion of the 20 per cent cancellation privilege which they say they were led to believe they would receive.

Exhibitors in question claim that it's unfair to "force" such pictures as "Hollywood Cavalcade," "Here I Am a Stranger" and "Sherlock Holmes" into the upper brackets because "they're not delivering at the boxoffice." This latter contention is vigorously denied by 20th-Fox.

Fault also is being found with the Shirley Temple releases on the alleged grounds that their boxoffice returns are not commensurate with the prices asked for them.

Mrs. Dolia Deutsch Takes Over Princess and Kaw

TOPEKA, KAS.—Mrs. Dolia Deutsch of Kansas City, Kas., sister of Simon Galitzki, has taken over both the Princess and Kaw in North Topeka and is operating them. This leaves Galitzki with the Coed and Novelty in Topeka.

Call Labor Regional Meet At Des Moines Nov. 4

KANSAS CITY—At Des Moines, November 4, film exchange workers' union delegates from the middle west will meet to elect a representative for conferences in New York with distribution executives on the new film workers' contract. A two-year contract is expiring. The Des Moines meeting will be in charge of Felix Snow, IATSE district man here, and will be attended by delegates from here, Omaha, Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Des Moines. Other meetings are being held over the country for the same purpose, and there will be seven representatives to go to New York.

Proving Outstanding Pictures Draw

Minneapolis—It's the same old story. Despite depressed trade conditions, outstanding pictures continue to do sensational business here. The one now clicking in a big way is "Babes in Arms" at the State where it was held over, the same as "The Women" a short while ago. Like "The Women," after its State fortnight "Babes in Arms" will move over to the Century for a continuation of its loop first-run. These two M-G-M pictures have the year's best boxoffice performances to their credit.

Gets Western Cavalcade

HOLLYWOOD—Gene Markey has been assigned to produce 20th-Fox's "End of the Trail," a cavalcade of westerns which will follow the general format of "Hollywood Cavalcade."

Ninth Annual

MOVIE BALL

PROCEEDS GO TO CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S FUND & MOTION PICTURE RELIEF COMMITTEE

Sponsored By The Variety Club

BIG FLOOR SHOW

The Greatest You Will Ever See!

PLA-MOR BALLROOM

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

9 P. M.

Minneapolis Paper Assails "Smith"

MINNEAPOLIS—The Minneapolis *Times-Tribune* joined several other metropolitan newspapers in editorially assailing "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" because of its reflections on the honesty of U. S. senators. The editorial claims the film does not paint a true picture and it predicts that it may precipitate passage of the Neely anti-block booking bill. Says the editorial:

"Reports have it that members of congress did not appreciate the Hollywood version of the United States senate shown in the movie 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington,' which had its premiere there recently. Those who have seen the movie will be little surprised at this. Accurate in every physical detail in reproducing the senate chambers, the picture strays from the truth in portraying 'the greatest deliberative body in the world' in action. Its lampooning of the senate and picturization of every politician as a crook are hardly conducive to strengthening the people's faith in our system of government.

"It is indeed regrettable that the producers of this picture, who went to such great lengths to re-create the setting of the drama, should give so little attention to the accuracy of its plot and action. As in so many Hollywood productions, verisimilitude is sacrificed for dramatic effectiveness and fiction takes the place of fact. The average American is already too prone to look upon men in public life with suspicion, without this visual 'testimony' of their universal corruption. That there are corrupt politicians no one will deny, but to brand all men in public life with the stigma of crookedness and graft is a calumny which can have no good effect. Instead of improving conditions, it can only serve to deter honest men from entering politics.

"'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington' may have an effect which its producers did not foresee. Whether it is just coincidence or an expression of senatorial resentment is difficult to determine, but a sudden revival of interest in Senator Neely's bill for the prohibition of block booking of movies is reported. Perhaps the senators are sincerely interested in espousing the cause of the independent motion picture exhibitors who favor this bill, but 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington' will not make them look with any great favor upon movie producers. Hollywood's lampooning of Washington may turn out to be an expensive boomerang."

DES MOINES

THE GRRRRRRRR department: Frank Gaskill (Metro's little boy, Junior) is reported gunning for us, but we're not worried because we happen to know he can't hit the side of a barn. Effie Judd says we should know we can say a lotta things we can't print, but Effie should know we print a lotta thinks we wouldn't think of sayin' (being a lady). Chick Friedman denies (verbally) any matrimonial intentions, and says we shall be the first to know when he really has some (now whadda ya s'pose he meant by that?).

Nobody ought to kick about skip day at Drake last week . . . the kids all went downtown to the pictures . . . but everybody felt like kicking about the over-promoted, over-attended auto show which not only showed autos but had an orchestra, gals to sing, dance and show off the latest fashions. Ken Clayton spoke to the Grinnell College Cyclone *staff about pitchers and stuff Tuesday . . . Wednesday he furrowed his brow over the "drawma" for the DM Women's Club . . . the dear ladies thought he was sooooo cute (they're right).*

Tom Gorman, RKO man outa Chicago, made a monkey of Emil Franke with an old organ . . . Tom declared there was one on the Hotel Chamberlain balcony when he was stationed here at Camp Dodge 20 years ago . . . Emil said he'd never seen it . . . but Tom took him up, and there it was . . . Opal Judd is a very dutiful Monogram employe . . . she had a dream about a cowboy the other night and Tex Ritter was it (she wouldn't have dared mention it, if it'd been Roy Rogers).

Ben Lass is going to start playing wtih dolls (not the kind you think) . . . National Screen is selling some four-foot talking Santa Clauses called "Little Sanda." . . . Joe Smith has two new pairs of shoes and a new Buick . . . and he's shopping for a baby buggy . . . Ruby Willey has the new baby . . . little J. Warren weighed seven pounds, twelve and three-fourths ounces to be exact, and that makes Bill Morgan over at Film Transportation an uncle again.

Harry Holdsberg studied the menu Sunday in the Bishop Cafe window . . . we think he decided against it . . . G. Ralph Branton waited patiently out front for somebody before Coogan's "What a Life" performance here Sunday . . . Dr. Cuthbert Smith stopped us in the lobby to give us his version of how to pick a wife . . . he says to get one who looks as if she wouldn't ask for much alimony when she divorced you.

Ben Kalmenson, Warner's western sales manager, was through here recently . . . Don West is doing a nice job of bowling these days and also of keeping Art Anderson's ego down with ping-pong beatings . . . Paul Walsh is the Vitagraph star at this game . . . Mary Benjamin's daughter was operated on recently . . . We stopped in to see Jerry Spandau's new nose . . . he showed us his profile, admitted he's shopping at Wolf's, and let us look at a specially-built Elgin watch money clip.

Since writing the original story on Art Anderson's latest luncheonette antics, we've discovered a new angle . . . the sack BOXOFFICE and Gene Malone saw Art carry into the luncheonette did contain a sandwich just as Buck "Wilmer" Tidwell from NY said, but according to Omaha's Sid Rose, who accompanied Art, Mr. Anderson isn't eating the sacked sandwiches, he's SELLING them!

It's three away for Patricia Russell at Warner's . . . Joe Ancher's got a telephone bill big enough to pay France's war debt . . . she lives in New Jersey and Joe hasta say those three little words via the Bell System all the time . . . Joe's planning on abandoning his local feminine entourage for the New Jersey gal soon.

It's a Warner girl and a Filmrow boy . . . some say it was because the president changed Thanksgiving . . . others say they decided they argue too much over the merits of their respective product . . . at any rate they've changed their minds about the day . . . There was an office party at Warner's November 3.



A Universal Picture—

Enjoying Universal's newly decorated offices in Des Moines are, left to right, Salesman Joe Smith, Branch Manager Jerry Spandau, Salesman Olie Olson, Salesman Dannie McCarthy, and Booker Jack Foster.

Assign Edmund Goulding

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has assigned Edmund Goulding to direct "We Shall Meet Again," in which Merle Oberon and George Brent have the leads.

KAYCEE

GRETCHEN BROWN of Commonwealth on Tuesday celebrated the 22nd anniversary of the day she came to Kansas City from Brunswick, Mo., "in wooden shoes and braids" to go to work for the Kansas City Feature Film Co. at 2024 Broadway. Gretchen has been connected with the film and theatre business ever since.

On the Row this week: John Kongs, Royal, Seneca, Kas.; Mrs. L. D. Metcalf, Gaiety, Ash Grove, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Kaufman, Osceola, Osceola, Mo.; Lloyd Lenhart of Clinton, Mo., and Wendell Lenhart of Trenton, Mo.; George Lehman, Plaza, St. Joseph, Mo.; Nick Kotsis, Holden, Mo.; F. L. Lowe, Sterling, Kas.; Harry Till, Hamilton, Mo.; Rex Barrett, mayor of Columbia, Mo., and Robert M. Shelton, mayor of Warrensburg, Mo.; Stanley Schwahn, Lawrence, Kas.; Harold McCracken, Karyl, Milan, Mo.; George Sproule, Ft. Scott, Kas.; Lee Sproule, Rex, Newton, Kas., and Ritz, Winfield, Kas.; Frank Anderson, Kirksville, Mo.; Gus Diamond, Salina, Kas.

"Jeepers Creepers" had its premiere at Springfield, Mo., the Electric, last week, in the Missouri Ozarks which gave the world the picture's stars, Weaver Brothers and Elviry.

The Fox Miller at Wichita, Kas., promoted a "screwball" show for Hallowe'en, with upside down ads and everything. Very good.

Variety Club was a busy spot this week. On Tuesday evening, the Cinema Club (those young fellows are always full of energy) held its Hallowe'en party; Wednesday evening, the Paramount Pep Club, Paramount employe organization headed by Walter Clark, partied with a screening, dinner and what spooks were left over from October 31; Thursday evening, the Commonwealth organization (with Opal Winter handling arrangements) took over the clubrooms for dinner and "then what—?" and on Friday the National Screen Service held its employes' party.

The Apollo is first-running a couple of Grand National films the week of November 11, "Exile Express" and "Panama Patrol" . . . Johnny Scott of Republic-Midwest notes that November 4, the date of the Frances Smith nuptials, is "Sadie Hawkins" day.

Alex Schniderman of Quality Premiums had as his guests Tuesday Van Schwartz and Alvin Goodwin of the Chicago office.

Frank J. Murphy of Denver is here with the print, "Horrors of War," which is being distributed through the Royal Film Exchange, managed by William Pincus.

Ward Scott, district manager for 20th-Fox, was prevailed upon recently by C. P. Shaner of the Dixie, Odessa, Mo., to take a 50-cent chance on a pony, in connection with a special promotion at the theatre. Ward is one pony ahead of the parade.

The "girls" at Republic-Midwest and Commonwealth Theatres—and the alumnae of those two organizations—last Saturday gave a luncheon and shower at the Brookside Hotel for Frances Smith, Republic worker, who is to be married this Saturday to Edward Bradford. Attending were Miss Smith, Dorothy O'Brien, Laura Austin, Frances Ukele, Marjorie Crawford, Hazel Ralph, Opal Winter, Florence Flynn, Marjorie Moore, Marguerite Ingolsby, Gretchen Brown, Agnes Kiefer, Barbara Daniles—all of the alma mater, and Josephine Sieve and Virginia Gaylord of Universal, alumnae.

Marjorie Crawford, on the 'phone at Republic-Midwest, is taking a leave of absence. Lovina Grunden will fill in for her.

L. E. Pope, purchasing agent for Fox-Midwest Theatres, Inc., has bought a 100-foot homesite at Forty-ninth street terrace and Hudson road, in the Country Club district.

Speaking of purchases, the most unusual one of the week was that made by Paul Reinke, manager of the Madrid, and Frank Tracy—a Stinson "105" 'plane for student instruction, sight-seeing trips, etc. Up we go!

Early-in-the-week visitors were M. A. Otto, Pleasanton, Kas.; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bessier, Humboldt, Kas.

Did you see the dirt about Norris Cresswell? It was printed in Tom Collins' column in the *Journal*, Thursday (October 26).

Whether it was edible or not is a moot question, but the handsome birthday cake in the lobby of the Midland the past week was a real symbol. It meant that Loew's has 12 years under its belt in Kansas City. The belt "buckle" is John McManus, manager of the ace first run.

O. L. Christian opened his new 265-seat theatre, the Uptown, at Blue Mound, Kas., Friday, November 3. Christian, who operated in Blue Mound ten years ago, in the days of discs, has houses in Melvern and Lane, Kas. He spent about $5,000 remodeling a building for the Uptown.

Walter Abranz, veteran Universal shipper, is confined at Wesley Hospital following an appendectomy.

It was a big party the Cinema Club had at Variety Club Tuesday night. The "youngsters" indulged in pie eating and other forms of sports, including, so we hear, a swapping of hats on rather an important scale. In case anyone turns up with a hat he doesn't want, he may be able to trade it with some of the other lads who attended the affair.

Edward Auger, assistant general manager of the RCA, Camden, N. J., was here mid-week visiting Don Davis. He departed for a swing around the south. Auger reported a tremendous improvement in business generally and in the theatre (and sound) business particularly, over the country.

Blame Beer Parlors For B. O. Slump

MINNEAPOLIS—Beer parlors, night clubs and saloons now are getting a goodly share of the blame here for slumping theatre grosses. There are some 600 of them and nearly all furnish entertainment of some sort or other. They're cutting deeply into business at the showhouses, according to conclusions reached by a local group of independent exhibitors following a survey just made by the theatre owners.

While business conditions generally are at a low ebb, on account of unemployment, curtailed WPA and relief expenditures, and a tightening of purse strings due in large part to declining purchasing power, the increased non-theatre opposition is taking a sizeable toll, the survey reveals.

Numerous people now absenting themselves from the theatres which they formerly attended were interviewed for the survey. Many said that, instead of going to the pictures, they now find their entertainment at night clubs, beer parlors and cafes, the exhibitor group declared.

Other non-theatre opposition which has greatly increased during the past few years and which is making the going tougher for showhouses is the radio and sporting events—the latter more numerous than ever before, according to the survey. What's more, it's declared, there's no relief from these types of opposition and the future for the theatre business continues gloomy, it's asserted.

Adapts "Road to Romance"

HOLLYWOOD—Universal's "Road to Romance" is being adapted by Arthur T. Horman.

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MINNEAPOLIS

FILM exchanges here and exhibitors generally are to be congratulated on their splendid cooperation with and liberal response to the Community Fund. Eddie Ruben was in charge of the film industry's drive for funds and did his usual efficient job . . . Reports come from "Blue Boy Shartin," formerly Warner salesman here and now manager of the Seattle branch, that business is terrific on the coast . . . Max Torodor, local independent exhibitor, is visiting in New York. While there he'll combine business with pleasure by trying to buy some Polish pictures to show here.

Sam Zuckman, Mound Theatre owner, insists that the new contemplated St. Paul showhouse is still three miles away as the crow flies . . . "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, is so enthusiastic and wrapped up over the new Capra picture, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," that he talks about filing for Congress . . . Still another exhibitor—Paul Mans—opening a bowling alley . . . Joe Podoloff's baby cutting teeth. He's 20th-Fox branch manager.

Joe Floyd, Eddie Ruben's manager at Sioux Falls, S. D., in town discussing bookings . . . Kelly Evidon, Warner ad sales manager, was an honored guest at North High School's homecoming . . . Leo Aved left his Empress Theatre, neighborhood house, for a vacation, the first time since he acquired the house six years ago. The vacation consisted of a one-day visit with his sister-in-law in Rice Lake, Wis. . . . Bob LaPiner, head of the Minnesota Amusement Co. public relations department, was interviewed over WCCO regarding his hobby—building air-conditioned bird houses . . . While here for the Community Fund Drive, Jean Hersholt addressed a luncheon meeting of film men at the Twin City Variety Club.

Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, spent the week here . . . Ernie Lund resigned as Paramount booker to join the United Artists sales staff . . . Harold Kaplan and Harold Field have closed new-season product deals for their St. Louis Park Theatre with M-G-M, 20th-Fox, United Artists, Paramount, Universal and RKO . . . W. H. Workman, M-G-M branch manager, recovered in health and doing full-time duty again . . . Charlie Weiner of Monogram visiting northern Minnesota accounts.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included J. O. Juvrud, Roseau, Minn.; Bill Haswell, Waterville, Minn.; Charlie Connought, Olivia, Minn.; Don Anderson, Pine Island, Minn.; and Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn. . . . Ben Kalmenson, Warner western division manager, in from New York with H. M. Herbel, district manager, for sales meeting . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" has started an indefinite engagement at the Orpheum here. It's in the midst of a two weeks' run at the St. Paul Orpheum.

Morrie Abrams, M-G-M exploiteer, back from Aberdeen, S. D., and Ortonville, Minn., where he worked on "The Women" and "Babes in Arms" . . . Film salesmen had to burrow through five inches of snow in northern Minnesota the past week . . . Joe Loefler, RKO salesman, having trouble making up his mind what sort of a new car he wants . . . W. J. Heineman, Universal western division manager, here for sales meeting . . . Joe Podoloff, 20th-Fox branch manager, visited North Dakota accounts.

"All Quiet on the Western Front" gave the Gopher Theatre one of its biggest weeks ever . . . Frank Mantzke, Universal branch manager at Milwaukee, formerly stationed here, a red-hot Gopher fan, had to miss the Minnesota-Ohio State homecoming football game due to the press of business. Fred Finnegan, now with 20th-Fox in Chicago, also had to make a last minute change of plans and pass up the encounter.

Arnold Dobrin back on his Paramount advertising department job following a tonsillotomy . . . Jack Thoma, Columbia exploiteer, up from Chicago to help sell the Twin City public on "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" . . . Ben Blotcky of Paramount, chief barker-elect of the Twin City Variety Club, seen tripping the light fantastic with the wife at the Hotel Nicollet Minnesota Terrace.

Some heartaches among the film bunch now that Ruth Petty, queen of syncopated song, has concluded her six-week Minnesota Terrace engagement and moved on to Chicago. She may be back soon for a week at the Minnesota Theatre . . . R. C. LiBeau, Paramount district manager, up from Kansas City . . . Rufus Blair in from Hollywood in the publicity interests of Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels" and "The Great Victor Herbert." A young Minneapolis girl, Marie Larson, now known as Mary Martin, protege of Merle Potter, *Journal* Film editor, has a prominent role in the "Herbert" picture.

Columbia held an invitation screening in St. Paul of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and many notables attended . . . Lou Smith, associate producer with Frank Lloyd of "Rulers of the Sea," visited acquaintances here.

Larkins' Madelia Has Debut

MADELIA, MINN.—The new Madelia Theatre was opened here by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard L. Larkin. Many film men from the Twin Cities attended.

Job for Death Valley Scotty

HOLLYWOOD—Death Valley Scotty, desert recluse and reputed owner of a fabulously rich gold mine, has been signed by Warner as technical advisor "at no salary" on "Virginia City."

Steffes Gets "Fixed"

MINNEAPOLIS—A "dirty" trick was played by practical jokers on W. A. Steffes, Twin City Variety Club chief barker and Northwest Allied president.

These "friends," for the fun of it, arranged to have Steffes called for jury duty and they "fixed" it with the judge so that he couldn't be excused.

As a result, Steffes missed out on the annual Pittsburgh Variety Club banquet and the Carnegie Tech-Notre Dame football game, for which he had purchased tickets and planned to attend.

OMAHA

ED J. SCHOENTHAL, Sun Theatre, Holdrege, Neb., is a patron of the fine arts and also like to play golf . . . Walter Gunther, Palace, Syracuse, Neb., is a baseball fan . . . Lawrence E. Burkey, Ritz, Deshler, Neb., is an expert at ping pong. How about a match with Charlie Lieb, Metro peddler, or John Winn, Grand National booker, Lawrence?

Paul Walter, Ritz, Eldon, Ia., spends his summer swimming and his winter traveling, when he can get away . . . Leslie Roth, State, Estelline, S. D., is a golfer . . . Henry Rehfield, Iowa, Bloomfield, Ia., enjoys going fishing, and who doesn't, Henry? . . . H. P. Borah, Bryant, S. D., will be out hunting ducks, this kind of weather.

Hollis Silkensen, Silkys, Dell Rapids, S. D., says "work" is his favorite sport . . . More golf addicts: L. A. Bramson, State, Elk Point, S. D.; Horn and Morgan, Star, Hay Springs, Neb.; Harold Conroy, Roxie, Shelton, Neb.

Joe Steeg, Time, Primghar, Ia., is a woodworking expert. He likes to hunt, too . . . Ray Brown, Harlan, Ia., says the theatre business is his hobby, but he likes a game of golf now and then . . . Art Miller, Lyric, Atkinson, Neb., devotes his spare time to helping American Legion junior baseball.

Harold Hall, Elkader, Ia., catches a few fish now and then . . . More golf addicts: Ed Morris, Princess, Eagle Grove, Ia., who is also a fisherman; Carl Parsons, Avon, Keota, Ia.; Larry Day, Clarion, Ia. . . . Ralph Falkinburg, Majestic, Lexington, Neb., helps his wife raise fancy flowers.

Roy Syfert, Ainsworth, Neb., has been busy shooting pheasants the last few days . . . Leo Wolcott, Grand, Eldora, Ia., says it's golf for him . . . Floyd Wolfe, Lynch, Neb., veteran exhibitor, likes hunting and fishing . . . Earl Arehart, Strand, Milford, Ia., wishes that baseball were played the year around.

Rubel Hutchings, Allen, Neb., says work is his favorite sport . . . Mike Moran, Strand, Heartwell, Neb., spends a lot of time hunting . . . Hubert Schrodt, Grand, Estherville, Ia., likes to swim, but it's getting a little cold, he says . . . Dr. Frank E. Rider, Chateau, Wauneta, Neb., likes to pull in a few fish when he's not pulling teeth.

Bruce Merrill, Lyric, Edgar, Neb., started building theatre equipment as a hobby and now it's a business with him . . . Other followers of Izaak Walton include: Vern Hagemann, Waverly, Ia.; Elias Kleinsasser, Met, Freeman, S. D.; Clare Mosher, Casino, Sac City, Ia., and Minerva Robertson, Joyo, Coleridge, Neb.

Charlie Williams, prexy of MPTO of Nebraska and Western Iowa, likes a good card game . . . Robert Lee, LeeRoy, Wallace, Neb., is a baseball fan. (He's only 17 years old.) . . . E. S. Tompkins, Winfield, Ia., enjoys golf in the summer and hunting during the winter . . . Ted Mendenhall, Paramount boss, says he would enjoy hunting your BOXOFFICE scribe, if the latter doesn't stop ribbing Ted about his summer mansion.

Esterley and Potter Buy Mary Lue From Wiber

KANSAS CITY—C. E. Esterley and C. H. Potter, both operators of suburban theatres here, have taken over the operation of the Mary Lue Theatre from Morris Wiber. Esterley and Potter will install a new marquee, new screen, and make other improvements. The change was effective November 1.

Esterley Is Reseating State, Kansas City

KANSAS CITY—The State, C. E. Esterley's suburban house here, is being reseated with approximately 500 new chairs by American Desk Manufacturing Co. of Temple, Tex., represented here by Frank Bowen.

The Crystal at Ellis, Kas., and the Mainstreet at Oakley, Kas., recently taken over by Baker Enterprises, are also being reseated by the same company with approximately 800 for the two houses. Frank Meade is completely reseating the Parma at Kingman, Kas.

Kaycee Bowlers Reduce Participating Teams

KANSAS CITX—Because of the difficulty of filling up team quotas regularly, the Variety Club Bowling League has reduced the number of teams playing from eight to six, and has revamped the personnel of the teams, according to Leon S. Abraham, RKO, president of the league.

Under the new setup, following are the teams and captains, effective this week (November 3):

Dubinsky Brothers, Bill Dubinsky, captain; Film Delivery, Earl Jameson; Don Davis, R. W. Regan of 20th-Fox; Finton Jones, Johnny Scott of Republic-Midwest; Cinema Club, Charley Siebenthaler of Independent Poster Exchange, and National Screen Service, Larry Biechele.

Bill Pritchett of Film Delivery practically tore the pants off the boys—and the records—the other night (October 27) when he bowled 234, 213, and 212 for a total of 659.

Raises Admission

WICHITA, KAS.—The Kansas Theatre, operated by W. P. Huston, will change its policy from a ten-cent admission to 25 cents. The house will be reseated and a new marquee installed in the near future.

Porta Manages Plaza

GREENFIELD, Mo. — The Plaza Theatre here is now being managed by H. T. Porta for E. A. Peterson, who acquired the house recently.

Weeks Installs RCA Sound

DEXTER, Mo.—C. H. Weeks is installing a new RCA sound system in his 650-seat Weeks Theatre here.

New Projection Equipment

PIERCE CITY, Mo. — The Strand here, managed by Jack Stephenson, has been outfitted with new projection equipment.

LINCOLN

RUTH JOHNSON, Howard Federer's office right hand, took a couple of days off and made a football weekend of it at Manhattan, Kas., for the K-State-Nebraska grid tussle . . . Joe Philippson is reportedly due in these parts to talk, among other things, to the union to line the boys up for a 10-week stage show trial. Understanding is that the Oklahoma City end of the J. H. Cooper holdings Philippson represents, has already gone on the books for three days of flesh weekly.

Note to Harry Shumow: Joe Jacobs says the Blondie series is going to brush-off the Hardys within a year . . . Bob Livingston has been taking everybody for a ride in his new deep-breathing jitney, except film peddlers. For them, he signals a bus. It's all to keep film rental down . . . We regretfully turned down Frank Hollingsworth's invitation to be present at the opening of his New Pix Theatre in Beatrice, because of a previous engagement. Understand he got away very nicely, and that the house is a beaut.

B. M. Montee, Rivoli manager, Beatrice, was in Lincoln for a Sunday, but was missed. Brought his Mrs. along . . . Chick Boyes Players, tent repertoire company, was opposition all summer to the shooting gallery houses here, but has now swelled into a 14 town circle out of Hebron, Neb., and is 14 times as much film theatre opposition . . . Tip to Bill Diers, legislative speaker of the house, banker, grocer, showman, in Gresham, Neb.: K. L. Ayers, of Lincoln, who wants to buy your theatre—maybe—should have been to see you by now.

One of the biggest collection of showmen to gather in Lincoln in a long time is expected here late in November for the pardon board session at which Jules Rachman's case will be heard . . . Richard Rowland, the United Artists producer who will do Bess Streeter Aldrich's story, "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," is slated to come to Lincoln for a gab session with her before going on with casting. So far, Barbara Stanwyck and Archie Mayo, the director, have been set . . . George O. Monroe stacked 'em in for a pair of midnighters on "Marihuana" at his Colonial.

Mrs. Ruth Brugh, Robert Taylor's mother, has been visiting here . . . Pinky Tomlin's piano player, Claude Kennedy, says he's quitting the band business to marry Jeanne Darell, who used to sing with the outfit. She's now in Hollywood . . . Cares of approaching fatherhood are not noticeable on M. E. Lofgren, who attends to business as serenely as if nothing was going to happen.

It's Capt. Barney Oldfield now. The Sunday Journal *and* Star's *film columnist, and KFOR Hollywood chatter, was promoted to captaincy, as of October* 19. *Commission is in the infantry reserve.*

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't
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EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

Independent Theatre Owners Association
1214 Brush Creek Road — VAlentine 2770
E. E. Webber jr., Pres. John Wolfberg, Sec.

K. M. T. A.
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Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: Hlland 2694

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

Walt Peterson of Hampton shamefacedly reports that it took his sister to make Charles Peterson of the Lido and Windsor theatres a proud grandfather of a grandson. (Walt has three daughters, Sue, Sally and Sandra . . . he says he's gonna keep the "S" motif and name the fourth one "STOP.") The puffed-up grandpappy, Charlie, doesn't care who nor why just so he has the grandson.

Edna Rector (we haven't got hold of her married name yet), who operates the Star at Sioux Rapids, Ia., is taking over the Avery in Garner from Charlie Marks.

We understand that Carter English of the Majestic and Ritz theatres in Centerville, is campaigning for shirts to cover the backs of the local bowling team. Carter hopes each DM exchange will buy a fancy shirt showing the name of the exchange and some promotable star.

When Harold Auchenbauch finally put a few lights on his Isis in Webster City some time ago after resisting a high pressure salesman for eight weeks, he claimed an old lady coming across the street was blinded by them and sued him for damages.

That sleepy-looking fellow you saw tottering down the Row the other day was A. O. Ludwig (papa) of Adair . . . he's been walking the floor for weeks with a colicky new bambino.

How come we never run into the one exhibitor who has the reputation of visiting the Row more often than any other? He's Max Maxon from the Strand in Jewell.

Bing Miller in at Columbia brags that they're having the best biz in years, and Bill Kubitzki at Monogram can prove that "Hell's Angels and "Sky Devils" is the biggest combination hit of its kind.

Paul Anderson, who runs the Beaver Theatre in DM, is opening the Dallas at Dallas Center. This house has been dark for some time.

Jake (or Jay) Schlank, UA salesman, was cooling his heels on a Universal desk Saturday. He tells us that in his opinion two of the best operators in eastern Iowa are women. Who? Couldn't you guess he meant Beulah DeNune of Tipton and Mrs. J. Newbold of Keosauqua?

The Stewart Bros. of Fairfield sold the Farmington, Ia., house to Jack Ferris who was managing it for them. The Stewart Bros. own theatres in Hedrick, Milton, Clarence, and Maxwell.

George Norman of the Vista Theatre in Storm Lake can tell a very interesting tale about Ralph Olson of Universal and M-G-M's renowned exploiteer, Speed Lambert (so can we).

Mrs. Ed Hahn of Panora has been very ill . . . the Elmer Burchs of Kellerton and Tingley lost their little boy this month at the Methodist Hospital here in DM.

Barney Brotman of Moline and Rock Island doesn't seem interested in collecting that buck he won from Bing Miller on the World Series . . . mind if we do it for you, Barney?

Now we know. Art Farrell of the Rapids in Rock Rapids is the guy who implied via postcard to Ken Clayton at the *R&T* that Hollywood plots are stinkeroo.

Nine years ago, the last United Artists picture Bill Eddy played in Indianola was "Man in the Iron Mask." Now he's started UA product again with whaddaya think? "Man in the Iron Mask!"

Howard Pollard bought the Dows, Ia., theatre from Frank Carter.

S. N. Fangman will be happy to know that the old seats from his Rialto in Boone are happily installed in the DM Kendall Community Playhouse. There's a nice big "R" on every aisle seat.

Did you know that Johnny Huebner is a C.P.A. in Strawberry Point when he isn't running the show at Roland, Ia., which he opened a few weeks ago?

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Card bought the house at Gilmore City from H. O. Huddleston of Hampton.

H. G. Moore is doing a bang-up job of remodeling on the theatre he's opening in Radcliffe, Ia. Now all 700 inhabitants can look at a picture in comfortable, pleasant surroundings. The town has had only portable shows for some time.

Ralph Olson of Universal has been enthusing over Stuart Peake's Pastime in Maquoketa . . . he says when Stuart gets done, it's going to be one Iowa's finest houses.

Mr. Green from Minneapolis is remodeling the Polkadot in Fort Dodge for opening soon. The theatre has been closed for some time.

Joe "Roxy" Jacobson of the State Theatres in Dubuque and Davenport is the most rabid Iowa fan known to man. He's still worn out from playing every position on the team during that Iowa-Indiana game.

Iowa salesmen are talking about Sam Schlaes' pear trees. Reason: Sam leased two trees and now he has so many pears he burdens each peddler who hits the Orpheum in Moline, Ill., with a bushel of the fruit. Chick Friedman has no idea what to do with his.

Foster "Bing" Ingram, manager of Nate Sandler's Northwood, Ia., theatre, moved recently . . . and now that he's got a private entrance . . .

Twin City Variety Club Has a Full Calendar

MINNEAPOLIS—The Twin City Variety Club is going in for entertainment in a big way for the remainder of the year, according to an announcement by W. H. Workman, secretary.

On Saturday nights, there's open house in the clubrooms with a free midnight lunch. On Friday this week, before the Minnesota-Northwestern football game, there also was open house.

Throughout November, special entertainment will be provided every Friday and Saturday night.

Other events planned include open house the day before Thanksgiving, a turkey raffle on the night of the Minnesota-Wisconsin football game, November 25, a Christmas party for the children and open house the days before Christmas and New Years.

Theatre Rivalry to Bring Big Shows to Minny

MINNEAPOLIS—More big name stage attractions will come to Minneapolis this winter than at any time in recent years as a result of a fight between the 4,000-seat independent Minnesota Theatre and the Mort H. Singer Orpheum, part of the loop Minnesota Amusement Co. pool, to get the greatest boxoffice draws obtainable in opposition to each other.

The Minnesota Theatre has John Boles this week while Phil Spitalny and his "Hour of Charm" comes to the Orpheum next week. Other underlined Minnesota Theatre bookings include the Marcus Show, Edmund Lowe and Esther Ralston, Eddie Peabody and Milt Hirth. The Orpheum has been angling for Kay Kyser and both houses are trying to land the Eddie Cantor unit.

Schoonover Will Manage Storm Lake Theatre

STORM LAKE, IA.—Frank Schoonover of Des Moines will become manager of the new Lake Theatre here when it opens in November.

Schoonover was manager of the Lincoln Theatre in Des Moines for three years and of the Varsity one year. The Storm Lake house, which seats 600, is operated by the Lake Theatre Co., with Storm Lake, Fort Dodge, and Des Moines persons as stockholders.

Downard at Helm of Two

GRUNDY CENTER, IA.—Art Downard, former manager of the New Grundy here, is now in charge of the Webster and Isis theatres at Webster City. He was succeeded here by John Marshall of Des Moines.

Double Seating Capacity

MAQUOKETA, IA.—Four hundred seats, making a total of 800, are being added to the Pastime Theatre here in an improvement program which will cost an estimated $14,000.

Varied Release Dates Vex So. Michigan

DETROIT—Fewer Michigan exhibitors suffer from the problem of different release dates in various exchange zones than those in almost any other state—but the problem does bother southern Michigan exhibitors. It is brought to the fore in an interview with D. Lee McLain of the Rex Theatre at Morenci.

The lakes and rivers surrounding the lower peninsula mean that only the exhibitors in the few cities near the southern border are troubled by this problem. Morenci, with a population of 2,100, is only a mile from the Ohio border, southwest of Adrian. McLain reports that Ohio release dates, particularly on the bigger pictures, seem to run consistently ten days to two weeks ahead of his own. Nearest Ohio competition is at Wauseon, where an independent house has no stronger buying power than the Rex.

McLain, who took over this house about two years ago, after living in the territory for many years, is a brother-in-law of Herbert R. Fox, who operates the Fox at Mason.

He is planning to enlarge the present house, now 271 seats, to about 550, by adding space adjoining the building, probably next spring. This will give a house adequately proportioned to the population of Morenci, which is the center of a prosperous farming community.

Unconfirmed Reports Hint Two New Detroit Houses

DETROIT—Reports of two projected new theatres in Detroit are current, in neither case confirmed as yet. First reported house is supposed to be on Oakland Avenue, about a block from the Echo which was taken over only a week ago by Schram and Goldberg. According to the report, a group of existing stores may be torn down to make way for the new house.

The second projected house is to be on Warren Avenue, near the eastern city limits, although definite location was not available.

Turkey Day Opening for New Ligonier Theatre

LIGONIER, PA.—The new Ligonier Theatre, nearing completion for Alex Alexas, will be opened Thanksgiving Day, November 23, according to present plans. The new house, remodeled from a garage property, will have a seating capacity of more than 700. Opening attraction will be Paramount's "Man About Town."

Clair Transfers Burgettstown Arco to Keith Chambers

BURGETTSTOWN, PA.—The Arco Theatre, operated for many years by George Clair, has been transferred to R. Keith Chambers. Effective date of the change was November 1.

Chambers comes here from Wheeling, W. Va., where he had been connected with the Nikitas Dipson circuit for two years. The Arco Theatre will undergo extensive remodeling under the new operator, one of the first major items being the installation of a modern front.

George Clair said that he was retiring from theatre operation for the present and that he had no definite plans for the future.

Eleventh Banquet by Variety No. 1; Land to Churchman

PITTSBURGH—Presentation of a deed for 30 acres of land adjoining Camp O'Connell, near Wexford, to Rev. Lawrence A. O'Connell of Epiphany Church, was one of the highlights of the 11th annual banquet of the number one tent of the Variety Clubs here. The surprise event was only one of the "show stoppers," however.

Retiring chief barker Ira H. Cohn, in whose honor the event was staged, introduced baby George Variety Barker III, fifth infant to be adopted by the local club. Cohn passed the boy to C. J. Latta, new chief barker, as a symbol of the club's charity work. With the adoption of the child, each of the 150 members became a foster father to see that he is well provided for. First two children adopted by local barkers were girls., Catherine Variety Sheridan, I and II.

Harry Kalmine, zone manager for Warner theatres, was in charge of the presentation of the gift to Father O'Connell. The local club assisted the priest in his Camp O'Connell activities during the summer. Frank J. Harris introduced former Governor Harold Hoffman of New Jersey as toastmaster.

Rev. Father E. J. Flanagan of Boys Town, recipient of the first annual humanitarian award of the Variety Clubs of America, delivered an oration.

Guests included Rudy Vallee and his father, Edward Everett Horton, Pennsylvania Senators James J. Davis and Joe Guffey, Bill McKechnie of the Cincinnati Reds, Coach Bill Kern of Carnegie Tech, Pittsburgh Pirates' new manager, Frankie Frisch, and others.

Around 1,000 were in attendance, with many visiting barkers and friends present from New York and other eastern and mideast cities.

Among motion picture industry guests were: Rube Jackter and Lou Weinberg, New York, and Sam Galanty, Washington, D. C., of Columbia Pictures; Charles Reagan, New York; Harry H. Goldstein and Duke Clark, Cleveland; Earle W. Sweigert, Philadelphia, and Eddie Fontaine, Washington, D. C., of Paramount Pictures; Ned Depinet, H. M. Richey and Cress Smith, New York, Nat Levy, Philadelphia, of RKO; William Sussman, New York, Edgar Moss, Philadelphia, George Roberts and I. Smertz, Cleveland, Sam Wheeler, Washington, D. C., and Sid Sampson, Buffalo, of 20th-Fox; Bert H. Stearn, Cleveland, of United Artists; William Scully, New York, and Dave Miller, Cleveland, of New Universal; Benjamin Kalmenson, New York, of Warner Bros.

Among vaudeville acts presented, with Jack Durant as ring master, were Ella Logan, Betty Bruce, Bob Williams and "Red Dust," Abbott and Costello and others, including Rudy Vallee. Orchestras of Gray Gordon, Glenn Miller, Eddie Brandt, Jerry Mayhall and Al Freemont were on duty during the great floor show.

Substitute Sponsors at Pitt Variety Nights

PITTSBURGH—Monarch Pictures, under Lew Lefton, substitutes at the Variety Club November 4 for Vitagraph night. Harry Seed and his Vitagraph crowd will replace the RKO night which had been scheduled for November 25. RKO will get a later date for a family night party at the club. United Artists' Family Night is November 11.

William Finkel, king at the November 6 dinner, will have as his guests Bill Kern, Carnegie Tech football coach, and members of the Tech staff. Harold Lund is king at the November 13 dinner.

Joseph Delisi Remodels Nanty Glo Capitol

NANTY GLO, PA.—Capitol Theatre, operated by Joseph Delisi, has been remodeled and newly draped with 900 yards of velour, the decorations having been furnished by American Theatrical Valance Co. Tom Bello is manager.

Ready New Pearlsburg House

PEARLSBURG, VA.—C. A. Lucas, operator of four houses, is speeding completion on the interior of a new 660-seat house here which he expects to have open by November 23.

Next Chore for Meltzer

HOLLYWOOD—Next scripting chore for Louis Meltzer at Columbia is "Escape to Glory."

Two More Major Deals Set by Co-operative

DETROIT—Two more deals have been negotiated by Co-operative Theatres with M-G-M and 20th Century-Fox for all houses of the booking combine, giving these two majors distribution in the largest group of neighborhood theatres in the Detroit territory.

Negotiations are generally slow this year, in the opinion of both exhibitors and distributors, due primarily to reluctance of exhibitors to meet the higher prices for pictures sought in many cases by distributors.

This makes four major products definitely set for Co-operative, with former contracts reported for United Artists and Universal. Negotiations with RKO were understood to be under way this week, but nothing was signed.

Assigned to "Shipmaster"

HOLLYWOOD—Boris Ingster will adapt "The Shipmaster" for 20th Century-Fox.

Federal Drive on Tax Evasions Underway

PITTSBURGH—A drive against proprietors of theatres, cabarets and other places of amusement evading the federal amusement tax has been launched by agents of the department of internal revenue, according to William Driscoll, collector for the department.

Convictions on charges of embezzling government funds have been secured in other parts of the country, and the Pittsburgh office will launch its campaign against violators in western Pennsylvania.

Some proprietors have been found guilty of collecting admission taxes from patrons of amusement places and then diverting the funds to their own use.

Other violations of the act include failure to file returns, keep proper records and failure to collect admission taxes.

Lord's Day Alliance Gears For Sabbath Show Fight

HARRISBURG, PA.—With but a few referendums on Sunday shows before voters of Pennsylvania November 7 (where the issue has not been tested before), the Lord's Day Alliance already is planning its campaign against such film exhibitions next year at this time. Rev. William B. Forney, executive secretary of the alliance, states the big fight will come in 1940 when this organization will have the issue on the ballot in many districts where Sundays shows were approved in 1935.

Referenda on the issue can be held every five years, under terms of the state law. Forney already has announced that the subject will come before voters of Philadelphia. At present, it is not known whether there will be organized opposition to Sunday shows in Pittsburgh and other of the large cities of the state.

Pittsburgh Warner Club's Annual Dance Nov. 12

PITTSBURGH—Warner Club's annual supper dance will be held Sunday evening, November 12, in the ballroom of the William Penn Hotel. Maurice Spitalny and his NBC orchestra will furnish music for the dance which will be started at 9 o'clock.

Supper will be served at 11:30 o'clock, according to Harriet Pettit, secretary to Harry M. Kalmine, Warner theatres zone manager, who is in charge of arrangements for the annual party. Reservations, which will be accepted to November 6, cost 75 cents for members and $1.50 for guests, both prices including tax.

Lido to Relight

PHILIPPI, W. VA.—The Lido Theatre, dark for a number of months, has been leased to John Koczak, operator of the Robey, St. Marys, W. Va. The local house will open in about two weeks, probably under a new name.

Associated Ready to Start Solo Bills

Detroit—Plans for first weekend single bills in the territory, as part of the joint move to eliminate duals are completed by Associated Theatres for the Wyandotte Theatres. Honor of the first films selected for single featuring went to "Each Dawn I Die," and "The Rains Came."

Term Pitt Licensing Ratio "Exorbitant"

PITTSBURGH—A resolution protesting the Pittsburgh licensing ratio of theatres as "exorbitant" and urging remedial measures, has been passed by the Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania at its recent meeting.

The organization contends that the license charged by the city of Pittsburgh is not based on a proper ratio in regards to the seating capacity of the various theatres.

"Hitler—Beast of Berlin" Passed in Pennsylvania

PITTSBURGH—"Hitler—Beast of Berlin" passed the Pennsylvania censor board without eliminations this week, Lew Lefton, manager of Monarch Pictures announces. The Producers Distributing Corporation's picture is in great demand, Lefton stated.

It tells of anti-Nazi activities in Germany and of the brutality of the concentration camps. It is adopted from Shepard Traube's narrative "Goose Step."



Payment in Kind—

The autograph reads "To John—(John L. Hermann, Paramount news cameraman)—Many thanks for your grand news reeling—sincerely, Dorothy Lamour." The picture was taken at the world premiere of "Disputed Passage," held in Detroit.

$500 Contributed to Fight Bigelow Plan

CLEVELAND—Members of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n have voted to give $500 to a local fund to be used to defray expenses in a fight to defeat the Bigelow amendment and also to permit "minute men" to speak from the stages of their theatres against the proposal.

The Bigelow plan provides that $50 be paid each month to every single individual over 60 years of age and not gainfully employed, and $80 to couples above 60 without work. It is estimated 640,000 persons will be eligible for the payoff as each month rolls around, if the "prosperity" plan succeeds.

Akron Operators Union Celebrates 25th Year

AKRON, OHIO—Several international officers attended the silver jubilee banquet of Akron Local 364, motion picture machine operators' union, at Hotel Portage here last week. John A. Shuff, business representative of the local, was chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements for the event.

Five of the operators who signed the charter application 25 years ago, were in attendance at the banquet.

Among the out of town guests were George E. Browne of New York, IATSE president; E. J. Tinney of Youngstown, international field representative; Harland Holmden of Cleveland, third international vice-president, and Bud Silverman of Bellefontaine, Ohio, representing the Schine theatre chain.

Commercial Auto Films Seen by Over 50,000

DETROIT—Continued public interest in commercial pictures was strongly shown at the Detroit Auto Show, when over 50,000 people saw the show in the "Little Theatre" there in seven days. A theatre seating 870 people was provided, but even this proved inadequate, and night shows consistently had standees as well.

The project was sponsored by Packard, who showed "The Way Ahead," and Oldsmobile, who showed "Hydromatic Drive." A scenic film, "Michigan Highway Adventures," was the third item on the bill, sponsored by the Michigan state highway department.

Two members of the Fox Theatre staff were in charge of operation, Paul Williams as manager, and Leo Pouliot as doorman.

Legion Post Active

DETROIT — Russell Johnson Theatrical Post of American Legion will resume fall and winter activities early in November. The post furnished musical programs for the entertainment of patients at the Marine Hospital on September 19, October 10 and October 17.

CLEVELAND

HARRY REINHART, owner of the Mozart and McKinley theatres, Akron, while on vacation in New York, learned that he became a grandfather. It happened when a girl was born to the Jerry Reinharts. Jerry is manager of the Mozart.

Bob Bial of Art Guild Studios spent the weekend in New York collecting new ideas for the benefit of exhibitors hereabouts . . . Gregory Vogae, Columbia feature booker, celebrated the advent of fall by shaving off his very new moustache.

Irving Hanower, Columbia auditor, is a visitor this week at the local Columbia exchange . . . John Pekras, the Elyria theatre circuit owner, was busy last week greeting friends around the Film Bldg. which he visits very seldom these days.

"Davie" Davidson, who has a service badge for his long affiliation with the local 20th-Fox sales department, is back in town after spending a year loafing in Florida and California. The rest was fine, "Davie" reports, but he is anxious to join the army of workers again, so don't be surprised if he shortly announces a film connection.

Arnold Gates, manager of Loew's Park Theatre, Cleveland, was called to Gallipolis to attend the funeral of his father, Judge Gates, who died after a brief illness . . . Mrs. Abe Kramer, wife of one of the officials of Associated Circuit, is at Mt. Sinai where she is reported to be resting comfortably following an operation. Mrs. Meyer Fine, wife of the president of Associated Circuit, who underwent an operation at Mount Sinai Hospital the previous week, is said to be doing as well as can be expected.

Al Gregg, Republic publicity man, has adopted the propaganda theory of the value of repetition. Every day for three weeks, important accounts and prospective accounts have received a "Do You Know" postcard containing just one item of interest about Gene Autry. The response, Gregg states, is most satisfactory.

Manny Pearlstein of the Warner publicity staff had, on the main downtown section of Euclid, two boys on the tallest stilts you ever saw, advertising the twin horror program playing at Warner's Lake Theatre, "The Return of the Frog" and "The Demon Barber." They gave out Schaeffer razor blades in envelopes with the imprint, "Use Schaeffer blades for the shave of a lifetime—See 'The Return of the Frog' and 'The Demon Barber' at the Lake for the thrill of a lifetime." The stunt attracted crowds everywhere.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" joins that small group of pictures which wins a holdover engagement at Warner's Hippodrome. Columbia Branch Manager Lester Zucker also announces that the picture played an extended run at the Quilna Theatre in Lima . . . Art Guild Studios of Cleveland has won the contract to remodel the Virginia Theatre, Carrollton, which Harry Reinhart recently purchased from R. E. Bishop.

Jimmy Shrake, who was managing the Clark Theatre, is doing a similar job for Olympia . . . Mrs. Hoy Russell of Millersburg was in town the other day and says that plans for her new theatre, delayed on account of the illness of the architect in charge, now are being completed and bids for the general contract will be out most any time.

Manager I. J. Schmertz of the 20th-Fox exchange states that his office has closed 1939-40 contracts with all Cleveland circuits . . . Moe Gross, the tailor, has moved from the Film Bldg. to 2320 Superior Ave. . . . Lou and Mrs. Walters report a wonderful time at the SMPE convention in New York last week.

Frank Porozynski of the Victory Theatre thinks business has remained at a standstill until the neutrality bill was disposed of in Washington. Although thousands have been absorbed into private industry within the past two months, spending is practically at a standstill, in his opinion, on account of the uncertainty as to how long present jobs will continue.

Fred Meyer, publicity director at the Cleveland Public Library, who has increased the library book distribution through cooperation with motion pictures, is doing a weekly broadcast.

Mike Levin entertained 1,500 children of the neighborhood public and parochial schools one day last week with a free show, sponsored by the Safety Department of Cleveland and the PTA.

"Chick" Taylor, manager of the Shaw-Hayden Theatre, is back from a two-weeks vacation . . . Jack Shulman and Abe Schwartz have put "PAY-ME," new theatre game sold by Sidney Garfinkle, into their Lexington Theatre.

That sporty new convertible Pontiac coupe that you see running around town belongs to Everett Steinbuck, manager of Loew's State. He and Mrs. Steinbuck went up to Pontiac, Mich., one day last week to get it hot off the rack.

Herman Schlom Cleveland Visitor After 20 Years

CLEVELAND—Herman Schlom, producer for Republic Pictures, and Mrs. Schlom spent a few days in town brushing up on memories and renewing friendships which were interrupted when he left Cleveland in 1920 to seek a career in pictures. Schlom produced for Universal for 14 years, was with Monogram for a short period and is now with Republic. This was his first visit to Cleveland since he left 19 years ago. With his wife, he will spend six weeks vacationing in the east.

Boyer Closes Ozoner

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO—Boyer's auto theatre, only house of its type in the district, located north of here at the intersection of Routes 250 and 21, has closed for the season. The theatre will be reopened again in the spring, operators announce.

A Writer Joins Small

HOLLYWOOD—Ken Gamet has joined the writing staff of the Ed Small production unit on a term ticket.

CINCINNATI

WALTER CONNOLLY, visiting the home folks here, is being much feted.

Filmrow thrilled to romance October 28, when Allen Shapiro, Warner's, Cleveland, and Florence Handy, UA office of that city, eloped to Cincinnati where the nuptial knot was tied, and the happy couple much congratulated.

Another wedding in the offing is 20th-Fox's Ed Burkart, ace representative, to Ann Ollinger of 20th-Fox personnel. The couple will be married November 25 and will take up residence in Arcadia place, Lakeside Park, Ky.

J. W. France and Charles Holland have taken over the Rockford Theatre, Rockford, Ohio . . . Gene Hensley has opened the Plaza, Clay, W. Va. . . . Ray Fritz of Co-Operative Bookers announces this concern will do the buying for Manny Marcus' new Clifton Theatre here.

Universal's Dave Miller, district manager, is here for a confab with Col. Paul Krieger and the local force. W. A. Scully, general sales manager, arrived for a meeting . . . Others seen at the Row were Clark Raider of Wilmington and Newark, W. C. Meyers, Mt. Olivet; Mrs. Herman Dugle, Manchester; Max Goldberg, Falmouth, Ky.; Mrs. Fon Sexton and son, Alfon of Ironton and Ashland, and W. D. Smith, Nelsonville, Ohio.

W. D. Smith is reported opening the Vinton Theatre, McArthur, Ohio . . . Peter Rosian, Universal special representative, will travel out of Cincinnati office for the time being.

Monogram is releasing six new Ken Maynards and one Gene Austin western for November . . . Big Feature Rights are releasing the new Alliance feature, "North Sea Patrol."

P. L. Drysard has sold his theatre, the Princess at Lewisberg, W. Va., to Gene Custer.

Exhibitors attending Paramount's double bill preview, "Disputed Passage" and "Seventeen," were high in their praise of the new features. A large audience saw the screenings at the RKO Orpheum.

Fire from burning grass of undetermined origin destroyed considerable shrubbery on Ed Burkart's country estate. A fire department extinguished the blaze before the house was badly damaged.

R. J. Schmid and son of Celina were in this week. Mr. and Mrs. R. Smith, Huntington, were also in.

Scripts "Narrow Path"

HOLLYWOOD — "The Narrow Path," Charles Bickford starrer for Republic, will be scripted by Lionel Houser.

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DETROIT

JAY HAAS, national ad sales manager of Paramount, was a visitor from Hollykood . . . Carl Krueger, who has been in town several weeks arranging for the "Disputed Passage" premiere, left Monday, driving back alone to Los Angeles, hoping to arrive in time for his son's first birthday.

M. Robbins, after selling out the Echo to Schram and Goldberg, has left for a six weeks' stay in California . . . Alexander Zesser of the Ritz, is still keeping in touch with his old days in repertory.

J. S. Nelson has taken over eastern Michigan and northern Ohio territory for Burch Mfg. Co. of Kansas City and is busy introducing their popcorn machine to the Detroit trade . . . Frank Barbaro has registered the name of the Bowery Theatre but doesn't think he will use it.

Mort Grass is returning to activity in the premium field, will have offices in the Duhl Bldg. . . . Clark C. Coulter, head of Coulter Premiums, has been out of the city.

H. Goodman has succeeded M. S. Benaderet as manager of the Outdoor Neon Corp., theatre sign specialists . . . Pearl Sprott has to have a system with those coats in the new style.

Sam Jack Kaufman has a suave selling style . . . Herschel Leib, late of the Fox, is with him in the new office . . . Hal Berdun has invented what he calls the electro-bass-clarinet—try listening . . . Betty Bryden was off duck hunting on her own farm—with two lakes on it.

Jake Sullivan, veteran of several local houses, has been made manager of the new Van Dyke, being erected by Irving Moss . . . Fred DeLodder, circuit owner, has purchased the building housing the Your Theatre, which he has long operated, and is remodeling.

Harry Leib now has one finger that has learned how to typewrite . . . Charlie Roth was in Chicago with his partner, Cecil Berdun, in Cleveland at the same time.

W. J. Turnbull, National Theatre Supply chieftain, says it's time to change to gabardine . . . Harold Sandelman plays the Lone Wolf, checking up on trade news for lunch.

G. M. Studebaker's cheery smile must be one reason so many watch him eat lunch over at the Exchange Dining Room . . . Jess Veldman, 20th-Fox cashier, is justly proud of his son's record in his accounting work.

Harold C. Robinson, Variety's new chief barker, is back from the police chiefs' convention at San Francisco . . . John Howard played golf with John Howard at Oakland Hills—both work for Paramount—one is Detroit manager, the other is the star. The latter left to drive back to L. A.

Lou Smith, associate producer to Paramount's Frank Lloyd, arrived in town with a special print of "Rulers of the Sea," screened for the film critics.

It's Buddy Fields who is our well-informed special correspondent on Theatrical Post activities . . . Parke Agnew, M-G-M booking auditor, is in from N. Y. C. for a couple of weeks.

Pete Simon, the trailer-maker, is collecting autographs of stars for his daughter . . . Bill Schuttenhelm of the Globe did not plant that woman's head in the trash can in front of his Globe Theatre as a publicity stunt; police think some careless medical student was responsible.

Leonard Schechter is busy booking "When Germany Surrendered" in neighborhood houses now . . . Bob Fisher expects to have a new film for distribution soon.

Spencer Tracy was the second M-G-M star to visit Henry Ford and the famed Thomas Edison collection he has here this week. Warren Slee, the ever-ready exploiteer, was busy on contacts for Tracy.

Art Robinson, as Variety Welfare head, turned in a really detailed report; ask Charlie Garner . . . Milton Cohen, RKO salesman, is getting acquainted with the postal regulations.

Jacob Boodman was going around shaking hands, wanted to make sure everyone got to Helen Plachta's wedding . . . H. Kahn, of the Film Alliance, was a visitor from New York to Excellent Pictures.

Hollywood Cavalcade

ONE WILD NIGHT, I dreamed I was a FRONTIER MARSHAL, from KENTUCKY, and was hunting A MAN FROM TEXAS and A GIRL FROM MEXICO. I went, via UNION PACIFIC, to CAFE SOCIETY, in DODGE CITY. A STUDENT NURSE there told me THE GIRL FROM MEXICO, was actually MAISIE, THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER, who SMUGGLED CARGO, on a PACIFIC LINER, to HONOLULU. So I gave up the case and turned it over to the HOMICIDE BUREAU.

INSPECTOR HORNLEIGH, and a ROOKIE COP, came CRASHING THROUGH, and started GOING PLACES, via STAGECOACH. IN OLD MONTANA, they arrested THE MAN FROM TEXAS and THE GIRL FROM MEXICO, and she said: LISTEN, DARLING, A GIRL MUST LIVE! I AM THE LAW, YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH MURDER, and you're going UP THE RIVER, answered INSPECTOR HORNLEIGH. Then THE MAN FROM TEXAS said: THEY MADE ME A CRIMINAL, but I AM NOT AFRAID, we are TRIGGER PALS, and I was A HERO FOR A DAY! A STAR REPORTER got the INSIDE STORY, and they were EXPOSED, for the SUNSET MURDER CASE!

Then I awoke and decided IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD in which to live. —W.H.S.

Lloyd Douglas, the author of "Disputed Passage," lectured at the Fisher Theatre's Town Hall . . . Elissa Landi, screen actress and writer, was another Detroit lecturer . . . Bill Potts, M-G-M checking supervisor, back from a stay in Texas, is being permanently transferred to Chicago . . . Harold Sandelman says he is leaving his popular brother, Jack, behind.

Mrs. Cully Buermele and Mrs. Charles Perry made a three-day trip to Chicago, visited Mannie Gottlieb while there . . . Hal Burriss lost that 20 pounds by shooting with his bow and arrow . . . Harris Silverberg, Carl Buermele, Art Robinson, Eddie Heiber, Charlie Perry, and Dave Newman made that trip to the Notre Dame-Navy game at Cleveland . . . Lou Wisper and Frank Wetsman were in New York, going to the Pittsburgh Variety banquet on their return.

Clark Baker, Columbia auditor, lost his father, Jay Baker, 71, suddenly, from an internal hemorrhage, at his home in Kansas City . . . Saul Korman, owner of the Grant, was found hiding in a phone booth . . . Irving Belinsky has new blue uniforms for his staff.

At the Variety Luncheon:

Charlie Perry was sole guest at the head table, till Alex Schreiber rushed back from the Pittsburgh Variety banquet to keep him company . . . Sol Krim has got so he can spear bagels on the first try.

Harold Robinson, new Chief Barker, made his first official appearance on the air . . . Robinson had about 20 of his drivers from Film Truck Service as his guests.

Sol Berns, booker, again demonstrated his abilities as script writer . . . Perry was suffering from head congestion, result of the rainy weather.

Dave Flayer of the Amo was back from his checkup at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., feeling good, thinks exhibitors in Rochester have a bonanza . . . Bob Fisher of Excellent Pictures and Saul Korman of the Grant were busy discussing plans for "The Beast of Berlin."

Tom McGuire of Co-Op was back with Bill Robinson and the truck drivers . . . Police Commissioner Heinrich Pickert and Inspector Bill Rock were among the late arrivals.

Bill Carlson, coming from Pittsburgh, and Dave Newman were the last of "the gang" to arrive—it was a rainy day . . . Garnet R. Garrison produced a complete dramatized radio script for the program, which went over the air, by the Wayne University Broadcasting Guild.

Jack Douglas and his mustache were back at the mike once more.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Pinckney is the scene of Wilding Production's latest, "The Scarecrow Takes Up Magic," slated for a special showing at the town . . . Harry R. Lush operates the Penniman-Allen Theatres at Plymouth

and Northville, but he lives at Dearborn.

Col. G. L. McCoy, Columbia salesman, was in Cleveland Monday . . . Ray Cloud, western Michigan salesman for Columbia, was in the office for a week assisting as booker-auditor in the absence of Clark Baker.

Joseph Miskinis, Dearborn circuit operator, and Mrs. Miskinis, were at Grand Rapids, attending the funeral of Mrs. Miskinis' mother . . . The Goldbergs and Komers have a new stainless steel marquee on their Punch and Judy at Grosse Pointe.

Walter Shafer, the Wayne-Garden City exhibitor, is planning to open a skating rink at Wayne. He may have year around ice skating.

Ray Branch has returned from the Western Pennsylvania MPTO convention at Pittsburgh . . . Pete Schram of Kalamazoo was a visitor in Detroit Wednesday.

Event of the week: William A. Cassidy of Midland, circuit operator, was married at Father Charles E. Coughlin's Shrine of the Little Flower at Royal Oak to Dolores Bloesing of Detroit. John Howard, Paramount branch manager, was best man. The newlyweds left for California and will return about January 1.

Harry Lush of Plymouth and Northville is back from up north with his bag of pheasants and ducks.

Hunting Club Formed by Associated Managers

CLEVELAND—Now that the fishing season is over, a group of Associated Theatres circuit managers have formed a hunting club. Not feeling quite so agile with guns as with fishing rods, the boys right now are confining their exercise to shooting clay pigeons. With just a little more practice, they expect to be experts before the rabbit season is over. Members now enrolled are Ralph Redmond of the Jewell Theatre, Stuart Cagney of the Imperial, Urban Anderson of the Capitol, Bill Banks of the Detroit and Tom Whyte of the Garden.

Waxman Opens Office

DETROIT—A new office is being opened in the Film Exchange Building by Clive Waxman, for the Junior Hobbies Club of Michigan. The Hobbies Club idea, which is finding popularity in New York, consists of a series of 36 booklets, each devoted to a different hobby.

Star and Author Visit

CLEVELAND—John Howard, co-star in Paramount's "Disputed Passage," was, with Author Lloyd Douglas, an honor guest in his home town here last week. Howard, who has been away for five years, spent his time with friends and relatives. Douglas appeared at the Higbee Bookshop where he autographed his books.

Heidt Giveaways Hurt Films

Detroit—Local exhibitors already are reporting drop in trade at early shows Tuesday evening, as a result of the big cash giveaways on the Horace Heidt program, sponsored by "Tums." With as much as $1,900 given away—last week was typical—people are staying at home on the one in 100,000,000 chance that their phone may be called for the big cash prize—which is not awarded if no one answers the phone.

BOWLING

PITTSBURGH—New Universal took the lead in the Filmrow Bowling League, with Columbia and Republic tied for second place. Earl Friedman of RKO, with a 201 score, copped the weekly $1 award for high individual honor. Standing of the teams:

	Won	Lost
Universal	12	3
Columbia	11	4
Republic	11	4
Loew's	9	6
All Stars	8	7
20th-Fox	4	11
Monarch	3	12
RKO	2	13

New high team score for one game: Universal, 740.

Republic Bowlers Lead In Detroit League

DETROIT—Republic Pictures cinched the top position in the Film Bowling league for the first time this season. Amusement Supply team successfully ousted Monogram from the bottom position.

National Theatre Supply Is Nightingales' Leader

DETROIT—W. J. Turnbull's National Theatre Supply team climbed easily into the lead of the Nightingales Bowling League, with Amusement Supply more surely than ever imbedded in the cellar.

CINCINNATI—Filmrow Bowling League results for week ending October 28:

	W	L
Warner, Capt. Brunetti	13	2
Para., Capt. Spencer	13	2
20th-Fox, Capt. Shepherd	9	6
RKO, Capt. Trautenberg	5	10
M-G-M, Capt. Wiegel	4	11
RKO Theatres, Capt. Goetz	1	14

Games are held on Tuesdays at 6 p. m. at Mergards downtown alleys.

Distribute Polish Films

DETROIT—The Polish Variety Bureau has been established here as exclusive distributor for Michigan and several states in this section, for the last Polish films to be produced in Poland before the outbreak of the war there, according to Stanislawaw Leskiewicz, head of the bureau.

Does "Portrait of Mother"

HOLLYWOOD—Irving Reis is adapting "Portrait of a Mother" for Producer Jack Moss at Paramount.

Detroit Picture Council Has Trade Cooperation

DETROIT—Extensive plans for 1939-40, that call for considerable cooperation from the industry itself, are included in the annual program of the Greater Detroit Motion Picture Council which has just been released. The council has 41 member organizations, representing leading civic groups.

The industry's contribution toward realization of the council's program begins December 1 when Censor Charles W. Snyder will talk on "Likes and Dislikes of Censorship." Miss Eleanore Hutzel, in charge of the women's division of the police department, will speak on "Regulations on Motion Pictures for Children."

On January 5, David M. Idzal, managing director of the Fox, has the topic, "Problems of the Theatre Manager" and a representative of Earl Hudson's UDT publicity staff will cover "Merchandising Motion Pictures."

The next meeting, called for November 3, will be devoted to the question of motion pictures in education.

Detroit Community Fund Seeks Filmrow Support

DETROIT—Detroit filmdom will be asked to contribute to the Detroit Community Fund Drive, November 6-22, by a committee headed by Alex Schreiber of Associated Theatres. The 80 or more institutions which will benefit from this drive include about the same children's institutions as those which Variety Club is now showing special films for, incidentally.

Others on the film committee are: Sydney Bowman, United Artists; Jerry Schneider, Stratford Theatre; Harris Silverberg, National Screen Service manager; Charles Garner, roadshow distributor; Barney Kilbride, circuit owner; Joseph D. Lenahan, Mills Mutual Agency; Ralph Ruben, manager Amusement Supply Co.; Sam Seplowin, Republic Pictures manager; and Mike Colton of local 38, IATSE.

Ralph Redmond Aids PTA Xmas Fund With Show

CLEVELAND—Ralph Redmond, manager of the Jewel Theatre, an Associated Theatres circuit house, cooperated with the neighborhood PTA to put on a free show for the benefit of the PTA Christmas Fund. "Heidi," a Shirley Temple picture, was contributed by the local 20th Century-Fox Film exchange and "Mexicali Rose" through the courtesy of Republic Pictures. The operators donated their services and every cent taken in at the boxoffice was turned over to the PTA.

Industry Contributes To Pitt Polio Fund

PITTSBURGH — Theatre executives here have presented a check in the amount of $1,916 to Mayor Cornelius D. Scully. The money, part of that collected in the Will Rogers Memorial Fund Drive, will be given the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Foundation on Infantile Paralysis.

PITTSBURGH

CENTER THEATRE, formerly the Lando-Grand, reopened two months ago by Steve Dascalos, is dark . . . Filmrow's new comedian is Jim Alexander, of all people! It is generally conceded that he "stole the show" at the recent exhibitor banquet.

Meeting of the directors of the AMPTO of W. Pa., November 3, brings to mind the result of a recent resume of meetings over a period of several years, showing that Dr. C. E. Herman, Col. Billy Wheat and Frank Panoplos have the best records of attendance. Secretary Herrington is ever present, of course.

Louis Ponsetto of the Strand, Apollo, reports excellent results from distributing fan photos, each week's program being imprinted on the back . . . John Perry, operator of the Ritz, Belle Vernon, in Fayette county, is a candidate for the position of high constable at the November 7 election. He's been constable for eight years and chief of police for five . . . Mrs. O. A. Kihchel of the Princess, Jeannette, was present at the family home in McKeesport when her father died . . . Floyd A. L. Bender, Millvale exhibitor, may throw a beer party for Filmrow friends, he reports. Looks like he'll be getting hitched early in 1940.

Al Glazer, who was missing from the exhibitor convention, returned Friday from a two-week vacation in the east . . . Abram F. Myers, Allied leader, said at the AMPTO convention banquet that it was probable that someone could fill the shoes of rotund and jolly M. A. Rosenberg (who was drafted by unanimous demand to remain as exhibitor organization president), but that no one could fill his pants!

A. J. and M. S. England, who conducted "Lucky" at the recent exhibitor convention banquet and distributed a dozen or more fine prizes, also presented ash trays to all in attendance, the souvenir being Salem china, which they distribute . . . Standard Garage at Arch and Peters street, Uniontown, is being remodeled for a skating rink and dance hall; John Christoff and Mike Chabalie are erecting a new roller skating rink building at Hays and Ornsby avenue, Mt. Oliver, at a cost of $20,000 . . . Pittsburgh Playhouse, which reopened last week, has a new balcony, also a new lobby and there are other improvements and additions . . . Garland West, treasurer of the ITO of W. Va., reported that the organization's executive committee held a meeting last Thursday.

Pittsburgh city council has passed an ordinance increasing licensing fees for pin-ball machines from $1 to $25 per year, but there is no indication when it will be effective; Ambridge has been purged of pin-ball machines on order of Burgess P. J. Caul . . . Personal appearance of the Dead End Kids for the week of November 3 at the Stanley was cancelled and the theatre is presenting an all-screen show featuring the Marx Bros. "At the Circus." Stage shows will be resumed the following week . . . Harold Lund visited New York last week with Dick Powell . . . Harry Seed, Vitagraph manager, will go to New York November 4 for the unveiling of a monument to the memory of his father.

John H. Harris held his annual costume party Saturday night at Duquesne Garden . . . John Walsh, Mannie Greenwald, Gabe Rubin and some other theatre and film men took a look at Producers Distributing Corporation's "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," which Monarch Pictures will handle.

Jim Alexander is a grandpop again, his daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Bright, having given birth to an eight-and-a-half pound son . . . George Fox of the accessory department of 20th-Fox and the former Miss Marie Friedley are honeymooning in the east . . . Sylvia Zeisel was hostess at a Hallowe'en costume party at Bakerstown last Saturday which was attended by members of the M-G-M Pep Club . . . Herb Greenblatt, RKO manager, is excited about the premiere of "Allegheny Uprising" at Loew's Penn November 3, for which performance the admission is $2.50. Another uprising in Old Allegheny is KDKA's new 718-foot tower antenna at Allison Park which will be dedicated November 4 and 5 and which will tie in with the RKO's roaring epic of pioneer days when Pittsburgh was "'way out west."

Miss Emmaline Fineberg, former secretary of the film board, who recently joined the RKO staff, has resigned duties there . . . Scores of New York and other out-of-town film executives were here last Saturday to attend the Carnegie Tech-Notre Dame grid contest. They were guests at a stag party that evening at the Variety Club and attended the 11th annual banquet of the club the following evening. Among the reservations were such names as Herbert J. Yates, James R. Grainger, Eddie Grainger, Ned E. Depinet, William F. Rodgers, Sidney R. Kent, Herman Wobber, Neil F. Agnew, Eddie Golden, Nate J. Blumberg, Dave Palfreyman, Sam Galanty, Harvey Day, Gradwell L. Sears, William A. Scully, Ed Kuykendall, W. J. Clark, Edgar Moss, Jack Cohn, George Dembow, Rube Jackter, Robert O'Donnell, George Roberts, A. E. Lichtman, Jules Levy, Cress Smith, Max Cohen, F. G. H. McCarthy, Ted O'Shea and many others.

At AMPTO Banquet

PITTSBURGH—In addition to those listed last week, the following were among others present at the AMPTO convention banquet:

Mr. and Mrs. William Finkel, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Shearer Mr. and Mrs. John J. Maloney, Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Shapiro, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Kauffman, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Kellenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Levy, N. M. Katz, Billy ZeVan, E. M. Stuve, George Elmo, Divid Kimelman, Robert Caskey, Paul Reith, David Silverman, Herbert Greenblatt, Sol Perilman, Peter Quiter, Francis Guehl, Harry Rees, William Scott, A. I. Weiner, James O'Keefe, Davie jr., Rosenfeld, Martin Seed, W. H. Bicket, Hymen M. Wheeler, Lou Hanna, Cecil Myslwiec, Sara Eichelberger, Josephine Beck, Florence Bass, Betsy Levy, David Barnholtz, Jules Lapidus, A. Josephs, Miss Mathilda Kiel, Mrs. Charles S. Philbrook, Mrs. F. J. Herrington, Mrs. Israel Roth, Mrs. Harry Fleishman.

Mrs. Samuel Gould, Mrs. Carl A. Poke, Mrs. Arthur Morrone, Mrs. Lew Lefton, Mrs. Milton Lefton, Mrs. Ira H. Cohn, Mrs. Archie Fineman, Mrs. A. S. England, Mrs. George W. Collins, Jack Rosenfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Simon, Mrs. Jack Judd, Mrs. M. A. Rosenberg, Mrs. Burtus Bishop, Mrs. Samuel Richman, Mrs. William Naidenoff, Mrs. Peter Alderman of Pittsburgh; Mrs. E. T. Beedle, Canonsburg; Mrs. Harry Rachiele, Sharpsburg; Mrs. S. M. Rodnenok, Oakmont; Mrs. Bart Dattola, New Kensington; Mrs. William R. Wheat jr., Sewickley; Mrs. Joseph Gellman, Duquesne; Mrs. Samuel Fleishman, McKees Rocks; Mrs. Peter Antonoplos, East Pittsburgh.

Mrs. William J. Walker, Crafton; Mrs. J. G. Carruthers, Grove City; Mrs. James Jaffurs, Wilmerding; Mrs. George Corcoran, Monongahela; Mrs. Frank Panoplos, Clairton; Mrs. N. A. Malanos, East Pittsburgh; Mrs. Charles R. Blatt, Somerset; Sam Neaman, Natrona; Mr. and Mrs. Sidney E. Samuelson, Philadelphia; Ike Katz, Washington, D. C.; Col. Harry A. Cole, Dallas, Tex.; Abram F. Myers, Washington, D. C.; Ray Branch, Detroit, Mich.; H. M. Richey, New York; Mrs. Danny Davis, Clarksburg, W. Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Marks, Clarksburg, W. Va.; Mr. and Vincent, Carnegie; Harry Stahl, Sharon.

Ike Browarsky, owner of the Hippodrome, Theatre, Beaver avenue, was a witness Monday before the federal grand jury which is probing Pittsburgh building costs. When subpoenaed last week it was rumored that a new film investigation was under way here, but this was proved to be false. Scope of the U. S. department of justice inquiry is all-inclusive, with the secrecy veil on the building quiz now lifted. Transactions of the late John R. Frankel, counsel for several local A. F. L. unions, which included the IATSE operators' union, will be aired in the probe, it is understood.

Joe Vilella, program manager of KQV, is assembling vaudeville units from local radio talent and other acts not suitable for broadcast purposes . . . Miss Peggy Latta, daughter of the C. J. Lattas, and William Francis Diebold became wife and husband last Friday morning in the rectory of St. Paul's Cathedral and are now honeymooning in the east. Bride's father is the newly elected chief barker of the local Variety Club . . . Jack Downey, junior manager at the State, Wilkinsburg, has quit the theatre business for a position with the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp. His sister Alice is cashier at the Metropolitan, Bloomfield, managed by John Reilly . . . Ed Kelley, missing from Filmrow, was laid up this week with lumbago.

J. A. Gribble, circuit exhibitor with main office at Bellwood, presented Ralph Byrd, "Dick Tracy" of the screen, on the stage of his Greencastle and Shippensburg theatres . . . Bob Clark, ad sales manager at the Paramount exchange, chairman of the cultural affairs committee of the junior chamber of commerce, appeared on the "What's Your Future" program of WCAE at noon last Sunday. Clark is interested in the vocational guidance program . . . Lou Marks, student salesman at the M-G-M branch, has been transferred to Cincinnati . . . Louis J. Allemann was here in charge of exploitation for the world premiere of RKO's "Allegheny Uprising" and Carl Rigrod was on the job as copy writer. Very much on the job, too, were Joe Feldman and James Totman of the local Warner staff and Charles Kurtzman of Loew's Penn . . . Arthur Willi, RKO talent scout, was another visitor this week.

Joe Fleshin, formerly of Monarch Pictures here, has returned to the territory as a representative of Alexander Film Co.

He has been working the Columbus, Ohio, area for this Colorado Springs outfit . . . Ben Burke is selling a lot of Christmas cards to Filmrow friends . . . Charles Steinhauser, assistant manager of the WB Schenley Theatre, on Sunday evening captured and subdued a "toy pistol" bandit who held up Miss Elizabeth Schivick, cashier, and started down Forbes St. The young theatre man, son of Si Steinhauser, *Press* radio editor, tackled the thief and held him until police arrived. The loot, $32, was returned to Harry Thomas, manager of the Schenley.

A hundred city policemen donned coonskin caps in the style of Daniel Boone in honor of the world premiere of "Allegheny Uprising" . . . Lou Vogel of National Screen Service was the only film man who addressed the recent AMPTO convention. At one of the business sessions he spoke on trailers and service and thanked the exhibitors for their cooperation.

Filmrow Relief Fund committee will announce its annual drive next week. Be among the first to support and contribute to this fund. Charity begins at home—help those of our industry who are in need . . . John Howard, Paramount star, was a surprise guest at the Variety banquet . . . Jack Judd, NSS manager, has been busy playing Santa Claus. He is offering a fine novelty Santa doll which talks, via two-way amplification system, for theatre lobby stunts . . . Sperling & Lowe, Moundsville, W. Va., exhibitors, here on business, state that work is progressing on their new theatre at Cameron, W. Va., which is unnamed at present. The latter received our felicitations on his recent marriage.

Death of Louis J. Engel Shock to Many Friends

PITTSBURGH—Death of Louis J. Engel, 39, October 24, was a shock to his many friends in the industry. A former film sales representative, he was identified here as branch manager for Quality Premium Distributors. Engel had been ill only a few days and his death followed a heart attack.

He leaves his wife, Nettie Weis Engel of the Columbia Pictures office, his mother, two sisters and a brother. Services were conducted at the Ralph Schugar Chapel and interment was at Beth Shalom Cemetery.

Pitt Arcade Is Reopened; $100,000 for Remodeling

PITTSBURGH — The Arcade Theatre on Carson St., remodeled at a cost of around $100,000, reopened Monday under the management of William Finkel. Installation of a new balcony has increased the seating capacity to 1,400.

A porcelain enamel front, 80 feet long, has completely modernized the exterior together with a five-color marquee. The auditorium plan provides a control of entrances and exits.

COLUMBUS

HARRY JENNINGS is now operating the Majestic and Princess theatres in London. He is associated with a circuit that has houses in Ohio and West Virginia. Virgil Price was formerly owner of the London theatres.

After months of talk McArthur is soon to have a theatre. W. Smith, Nelsonville exhibitor, is remodeling the town hall there, and will open a modern 300-seater in the very near future. Smith has operated the Orpheum in Nelsonville under lease for some time.

In town from Cincy for the Cornell game were Ralph Kinsler, Warner boss; Allen Moritz, Columbia manager, and Dinny Dinerman, RKO press agent.

Business went to the dogs last week in Logan—only this time it meant prosperity inasmuch as the national coondog trails were held there, bringing in thousands of visitors.

We cannot recall seeing a crowd quite equal to the one at Loew's Ohio Friday night. Nearly as many people were outside as were in. It was the occasion of the OSU football rally, with a million-dollar "stage show" topped by NBC's Bill Stern. Picture was "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Our congratulations to Ethel Chesbrough and Walter Miles, who were married last Wednesday. She heads a circuit bearing her name; he is connected with the Ohio Censor Board.

Clancy Isaacs, RKO publicity in New York, is due in town next week in connection with "Allegheny Uprising." This will be his first visit to Columbus since joining RKO some four months ago. He is a former OSU cheerleader.

Incidentally, local theatre and newspapermen missed both "Allegheny Uprising" and "Disputed Passage" world premieres. Seems the boys would rather stay in town for the football games.

You just cannot keep the Variety Club boys down. Already they are planning their annual charity skating party—and that's where we draw the line! Our posterior portions were not meant for extemporaneous contacts with a wooden floor!

Free Exhibition in Pitt On Highlights of Films

PITTSBURGH—A revival of the "highlights of 40 years of motion pictures" was brought to the public this week and continues the week of November 6 in Kaufmann's auditorium where daily changes of program are exhibited twice daily at 11:30 a. m. and 2 p. m.

Presented by the Motion Picture Group, Allegheny County Federation of Women's Clubs, a cycle of 70 films covering the period from 1895 to 1935, from the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the "old-time movies" were shown to the accompaniment of old-time Nickelodeon piano music.

No admission is charged for these exhibitions, according to Mrs. W. G. Kerr, chairman of the sponsoring committee.

Benjamin Jaffe Rites

PITTSBURGH—Funeral services for Benjamin Jaffe, 28, who died of a heart ailment October 30, were held Wednesday from the family home at 5670 Phillips Ave. He was the son of George Jaffe, operator of the Casino Theatre, and was manager of the theatre before his illness a year ago. Surviving besides his father is his mother.

Like Vaude at New Philadelphia

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO—Vaudeville and stage bands once a week, in addition to the film program, are bringing a substantial increase in patronage at Shea's Union Theatre, reports Manager Gill Gillam.

Louis Bromfield Assigned

HOLLYWOOD—Louis Bromfield is adapting "Marching as to War," a Salvation Army story, for 20th Century-Fox.

Greensboro Exhibitor Faces Damage Suit

GREENSBORO, PA.—Lawrence Lowstutter, operator of the Vox Theatre here, was named defendant in a $10,000 trespass action filed by counsel for the administrators of the estate of the late Sue H. Black, 74, who died as a result of injuries allegedly received from a fall in the theatre.

In the statement of claim, it was alleged by the plaintiffs, Samuel I. Black, Edward D. Black and James A. Black, that the aisles of the Vox Theatre were inadequately lighted and that on the night of March 6, last, Mrs. Black, when leaving the last row of seats which are said to be six inches above the aisle, fell and fractured her hip. It was charged that the injuries she received resulted in her death on April 6.

Lowstutter is charged with carelessness and negligence in failure to have the aisles of his theatre properly lighted. He says he is ready to answer the charges, feeling that he will be completely exonerated.

Theatre and Lecture Hall Is Opened in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—The theatre and lecture hall at the Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science, which was opened to the public this week, is a modern auditorium with seats for 250 spectators.

RCA sound reproducing equipment is installed, being one of 14 sound systems in the building.

The building represents an expenditure of $1,100,000. "Talking exhibits," which utilize many automatic phonographs, are among features of the Planetarium.

Find More Hearing Aids in Churches Than Theatres

PITTSBURGH — More churches here are equipped with ear phones for the hard of hearing than theatres. Approximately 60 churches in the city area have such installations, according to the Pittsburgh League for the Hard of Hearing. Miss Ella Price is local league president.

Seed With Berlo

PITTSBURGH—Martin Seed has been named as a special representative for Berlo Vending Co. which has many candy machines in theatres of the territory. Son of Harry Seed, Vitagraph branch manager, the new Berlo representative is engaged to Miss Eleanor Wolken of this city. Nathan H. Lazier is district manager for Berlo.

Cowboys on Tour

PITTSBURGH — Roy Corrigan and Max Terhune of Republic's original "Three Mesquiteers" are being booked for personal appearances in the local territory. Roy Rogers, another western star for Republic, also comes to this territory at an early date for his second p. a. tour of the mideast.

Form New Exchange

CLEVELAND — Motion Picture Theatre Ticket Exchange has been incorporated in Columbus. Named as incorporators are Vincent M. Arnold, Flora J. Schultz and Lilyan Saltzman, all of Cleveland.

Regular Seats for Elite

LAINGSBURG, MICH.—Regular theatre seats have been installed in the Elite here, replacing those of the bench type. The Elite was closed for a week recently on account of an infantile paralysis epidemic.

Two Order RCA Sound

PITTSBURGH—RCA sound has been ordered for the new Harris-Manos Theatre, to open late this month in Jeannette, Pa., and the Park at Highland Park, Pa., operated by Harry Felt.

Detroit Projector Firm Kalajian's

DETROIT—Detroit Projector Corp. has been taken over by Harry Kalajian, who bought out his partners, Louis S. Uhler and Robert Coffee. Expansion of the business is planned.

Rickards Promotes for Industrial

DETROIT—Herbert Rickards, formerly with Jam Handy, has joined the staff of Industrial Pictures, Inc., in charge of promotion and publicity.

Blatt Bros. Buy Monogram

PITTSBURGH—The Blatt Brothers circuit here has signed with George W. Weeks, Monogram general sales manager, for his company's new product.

Mort Grass Premiums Expand

DETROIT—Mort Grass Premiums is expanding its theatre premium business and expects to move into new quarters, with some new lines shortly.

Nothing Like Company

ALLIANCE, OHIO—Ray Wallace, who operates three theatres here, took along his personal "bodyguard" to the 11th annual Variety Club banquet at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh. Accompanying Wallace as his guests were Mayor Floyd Senn, Safety Service Director V. J. Packer and F. R. Reardon, business director of the operators and stagehands union. The only reason the chief of police did not accept Wallace's invitation to the shindig was because he thought somebody ought to stay home and look after the town.

Wallace, who has made an enviable place for himself in the local exhibition field, is entitled to wear a badge along with other civic officials. This is to identify him as chairman of the police commission of Alliance, an honorary office he has held the past 12 years.

LOUISVILLE

LOUIS B. MAYER and Mrs. Mayer were in town for the opening of the fall race meeting at Churchill Downs. One of his horses, "Success Story," won the fourth race. From here, the Mayers went on to another Kentucky track, Keeneland, where other of their horses were quartered. Commenting on the effect of war on the film industry, Mayer said, "We can't tell yet just how badly it's going to affect us; we can't even get a telephone call through to Europe."

This is one on Henry Ries, manager of the Ideal Theatre in Louisville. He excitedly told police that three white youths had robbed him of $68 *while he was on his way home from the theatre a few nights ago. Then he went through his pockets again, and found that the trio had overlooked* $67, *and had gotten away with only* $1 *and a set of keys.*

The Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. reported a screen epidemic sweeping in. Within a week, new ones were installed in the Seville at Owensboro, Ky.; the Capitol Theatre in Louisville and Raymond C. Thomas' theatre at Fort Branch, Ind.

An old school building at New Haven, Ky., has been converted into a theatre by Father Gettelfinger of St. Catharine's Catholic Church there. Father Gettelfinger formerly operated a community theatre at Vine Grove, Ky. He expects to open the new one this month.

Joe Goldberg of Big Feature Rights, just back from a swing through his Tennessee territory, said he went on the air while in Knoxville. It seems that Joe happened to encounter one of those "man on the street" programs going out over WNOX, and the interviewer hooked him.

Samuel Weinberg, who operates the Crescent and Shelmar theatres in Louisville, is back on the job after confinement in the Jewish Hospital in Louisville.

Joseph W. Bohn, Indianapolis office manager for Big Feature Rights, and W. H. McRaven, Indiana representative for the same concern, were in Louisville the other day, the latter in the interest of booking "Hitler—Beast of Berlin."

A new theatre is going up at London, Ky. It belongs to O. J. Minnix and A. K. McClure, who also operate the Southland, just two doors away from the new place. They haven't made up their minds whether both houses will be kept open.

The new Viv Theatre at Corbin, Ky., opened recently . . . Ira Dyer, who operates the Uptown Theatre at Tompkinsville, Ky., has rebuilt his home, which was gutted by fire recently.

A. H. Kaufman, formerly of Louisville, has opened a theatre at Terre Haute, Ind. . . . W. H. Mayfield, Celina, Tenn., who used to barnstorm in Kentucky and Tennessee with a portable film outfit, has settled down. He owns two theatres now—the Clay at Celina and the York at Red Boiling Springs, Tenn.

Mike Brown, co-owner of the new Ritz at Burkesville, Ky., has erected a new theatre at Livingston, Tenn. His Burkesville partner is Haskell Nevins.

Lee W. Moffett of the Seville Theatre at Owensboro, Ky., is vice-president of a new Kentucky-Tennessee exhibitors' organization . . . D. A. Darwin, who operates the Palace Theatre at Monterey, Tenn., has added the Roxie at Gainsboro, Tenn., to his string.

Theatres Cooperate

HARRISBURG—Pennsylvania theatres are exhibiting sound films on "how not to hunt," issued by the state game commission. The pictures are distributed to theatres with the assistance of the National Youth Administration, Harrisburg branch, and are part of the commission's campaign to reduce hunting accidents.

Handles New Lamp

PITTSBURGH—Superior M. P. Supply has been appointed representative for the new "Cyclex" projection lamp, manufactured by the C. S. Ashcraft Co. The new product was displayed by Art Morrone, manager of Superior, at the exhibitor convention in the Roosevelt Hotel.

Alliance Reopening

ALLIANCE, OHIO—The Ohio Theatre, sole downtown independent, has reopened here on a policy of dualing subsequent runs. Competing houses are the Tri Theatres, Inc., trio.

Convertible Unit at Van Dyke

DETROIT—A heating and ventilating system with provision made for the addition of a summer cooling system later, is being installed in the new Van Dyke Theatre, now under construction in northeast Detroit.

Guthrie Presents Lecturer

NEW LONDON, OHIO—J. O. Guthrie of the Karolyn Theatre last week presented Phillip Johnson, world traveler, just returned from Germany and Russia, in a 15-minute talk on European conditions.

Paramount Tops Product Survey

Boston—Arthur K. Howard, business manager of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., announced the figures of the October product survey for New England and New Jersey, comprising 134 theatres not including circuits of four or more houses.

Position	Company	Contracts	Flat	Per Cent	Same	Paid More	Less
1	Paramount	60	40	20	40	2	6
2	United Artists	50	46	6	44	2	....
3	Fox	42	30	12	24	6	6
4-5	Universal	40	22	12	16	18	2
4-5	Metro	40	0	40	8	24	2
6	Columbia	26	20	6	18	4	4
7	Vitagraph	22	0	22	4	10	4
8	RKO	4	2	2	2	....	2

Twenty-three per cent of the theatres reporting did not buy any pictures. The majority have bought one and two companies.

38 Films Are Passed Without Deletions

BOSTON—The Bureau of Sunday Censorship approved 38 feature pictures, cartoons and newsreels with no deletions. Eugene M. McSweeney, commissioner of the department of public safety, announced that two films, "Black Limelight," and "Torpedoed," were approved with deletions. Scenes in a bungalow showing Lily's bathing suit and strap dropping in front, were eliminated from "Limelight" while "damn" was cut from "Torpedoed."

Among the features passed without cutting were "Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex," "Rulers of the Sea," "Scandal Sheet" and "Merry Wives of Windsor."

Ten vaudeville acts were approved while four were disapproved. Nine acts were passed after modifications were made.

Hippodrome at Bridgeport Undergoes Remodeling

BRIDGEPORT—Renovation of the Strand Amusement Co.'s 998-seat Hippodrome Theatre is in full progress, with matinees cut out for the present. The work will require a complete shutdown of several days some time next month, and is expected to be finished in December. The repairs, which are in accordance with plans by Charles Abramowitz, architect, include reseating, air-conditioning, new wall finishes and floor, lighting, lobby, aluminum doors, new front, and additions to the booth equipment. Decorations will be in the modernistic manner.

This is one of several large-scale renovation jobs in the territory since this summer, including the Rialto, Windsor Locks, the Fairmount, New Haven, Devon Theatre and Deep River Theatre.

Renews RCA Service Pact Third Successive Year

BOSTON—For the third straight year, Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., operating 17 houses in the New England area, has contracted for RCA service.

Nathan E. Goldstein, president, signed the renewal pact for the circuit, with John Mauran, local service manager, representing RCA.

New Paradise in Millbury Damaged by Explosion

MILLBURY—An explosion in the new Paradise Theatre, Elm St., destroyed the projection room and shattered glass in adjoining buildings. Barney Feldman of Winchendon, owner of the house, said he knew of no labor trouble at the theatre, which was built recently at a cost of $50,000 and seats about 700 persons.

Police Chief Fred Vultur said two bombs exploded. State police from the Grafton and Holden barracks were called in to aid Capt. Charles van Amburgh, state police ballistics expert, who is investigating the nature of the bombs.

No one was inside the theatre at the time, 3:30 a. m., according to the police chief, but a basement door had been forced and there were marks on a window and two other doors, indicating attempts had been made to force them.

Both bombs exploded in the projection booth. Ceilings fell on seats. Plaster and interior decorations were badly damaged. Total damage was about $15,000.

E. M. Loew to Build New Night Club in Boston

BOSTON—Phil Berler, E. M. Loew executive, announces that the circuit head is planning to enter the night club field. Loew enterprises now include "A" and "B" film houses, vaudeville and burlesque.

Loew plans to build a new night club on Broadway, across from the Mayfair, Berler reports. The location is just around the corner from three other clubs, the Coconut Grove, Brown Derby and Latin Quarter. Site is now occupied by a parking lot.

Broadbrook Is Dark

BROADBROOK, CONN.—The New Broadbrook Theatre is closed, and its operator since last summer, Oscar Hausner, has abandoned the house. Nathan Lampert of the "borscht" circuit is the owner.

Loew-Poli Bowlers Victors

HARTFORD—Members of the Loew-Poli bowling team have reported that the team won out in a bowling match between the Loew-Poli boys and the Warner unit, the Strand. Bowling is held weekly.

Boston & Connecticut Allied Units Closer

NEW HAVEN—At a special luncheon meeting at the Hofbrau Haus, Tuesday, Allied Theatres of Connecticut affiliated itself with the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., of Boston, the New England Allied branch headed by Nathan Yamins as president and Arthur K. Howard as business agent. Although the Connecticut group retains its entity and designation, complete cooperation is pledged between the units for the purpose of strengthening the position of both. Any possible interchange of information and assistance will be furthered toward this end. Affiliation with national Allied remains unaffected.

Recently elected officers of the Connecticut Allied group are A. M. Schuman of the Black Rock, Bridgeport, president; Charles L. Repass, Crown, Hartford, first vice-president; Joseph F. Reed of Washington Depot and Bantam, second vice-president; Barney Calechman, Howard, New Haven, treasurer; Lawrence C. Caplan, executive secretary; Dr. J. B. Fishman of the Fishman circuit, chairman of the board of directors. Maurice Shulman of the Rivoli and Webster, Hartford, and the Plaza, Windsor, now under construction, is vice-chairman of the board.

A field representative from Boston will visit the New Haven exchange area soon in the interest of membership.

Bank Night Suit Victory Contested by Pouzzner

BOSTON—Reading Theatre Corp., operated by Morris Pouzzner, has filed a bill of exceptions in superior court, Cambridge, contesting Roy E. Heffner's Bank Night suit victory in Middlesex court. This is the first step required to take the case to the supreme court.

Invitations Sent to N. Y. For Allied's Regional

BOSTON—Frank Lydon announces that invitations have been sent to a number of New York State exhibitors to attend the Allied eastern regional meeting at Philadelphia on November 13. Lydon, regional vice-president, will attend with Abram F. Myers.

M&R Suit Hearings Resume Nov. 6

Boston—Hearings in the Morse & Rothenberg circuit anti-trust suit against major distributors and Maine & New Hampshire Theatres Co. will be resumed on November 6, according to George S. Ryan, attorney for the plaintiff. Recess was called several weeks ago after several months of hearings in federal court.

PORTLAND

THE Portland Sagamores, a fixture in the city's sports world for the past seven years and local exhibitors' most telling competitors during the fall months, has canceled the remainder of this season's schedule and will play no more football until 1940. The Sunday games have proved to be extremely popular in the past but, due to the legalization of Sunday picture shows, a series of injuries to players, and the increasing popularity of inter-collegiate football, this year's attendance has been so poor that cancellation of the season's schedule was imperative, Coach Blaine Davis said. Heretofore an average of 3,500 per game has obtained, but this year attendance dropped to 1,600. Plans for 1940 remain vague, according to Davis.

With the competition from the Sagamores ended and the Portland Automobile Show past, exhibitors might hope to relax were it not for such attractions as the following waiting just around the corner: The Elks Circus comes to town next month; the Maine Civic Theatre opens November 20, with seats priced at $2.75 tops, $1.10 low at evening performances, and $1.65 tops, and 55 cents low at matinees instead of the 75 cent and 40 cent prices reported when the theatre was being promoted. On top of this, the Portland Community Concert series opened this week.

To offset these events first-run houses are planning heavy and unusual campaigns to sell their fall product. The State Theatre, under Harry Botwick's management, has booked such productions as "Babes in Arms," "Disputed Passage," "Rulers of the Sea," and "Elizabeth and Essex," for November and December and has already begun plans for their exploitation. The Strand, under Leo Young's guidance, did excellent business with "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," and is going overboard on "The Women" which opened there October 29.

Even subsequents are pepping up their promotional campaigns, with the Maine Theatre taking the lead with its work on two horror films, "The Return of the Frog" and "The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." The feature of the campaign was a challenge aired over WGAN, during a sidewalk broadcast in front of the theatre, offering a prize of $5.00 to anyone who dared to sleep all night in a cemetery after seeing the dual horrors. An eight-foot, illuminated cut-out display, constructed in the lobby a week in advance of opening date, compelled attention by virtue of its blinking red eyes set in a skeleton's skull. Other features of the promotion included the distribution of 100 one-sheets within a 10-mile radius of Portland; display and reader ads in local sheets; a whispering campaign; spell-o-tax on mirrors in lobby, and special marquee strips. Manager John Divney reports business was doubled on the two-day showing.

The Maine State Teachers' Convention, held in Portland this week, resulted in improved business at all first-runs and many of the subsequents . . . The Motor-In Theatre at Saco, operated by a Mr. Moore from Biddeford, has closed until next April . . . The Enterprise Mattress Co. is the new sponsor for the State Theatre's sidewalk broadcast aired over WCSH each Tuesday evening. The programs will continue throughout the winter.

Condolences to Peter Marcoux, operator at the State Theatre, whose wife died this week . . . Peggy Seyford, State cashier, is ill with a cold . . . John T. Loftus of Standard Theatre Supply, Boston, was among the week's visitors.

William Moore, about 60, of Somerville, Mass., was stricken with a heart attack October 28, and died while driving his automobile on the Boston road at Oak Hill. The car left the road, struck a tree and overturned. Joseph Breton, a passenger in the car, was uninjured. Both men were employed at the Casco Theatre here, where extensive remodeling is being done, and were returning to their home for the weekend.

Linda Ware, who made her screen debut with Bing Crosby in "The Star Maker," and Henry Armetta, beloved comedian, will appear at the Maine Civic Theatre here November 22 to 25 inclusive, is a Hollywood revue.

"Birth of a Nation" Run Canceled by Protest

NEW HAVEN—The Arena has cancelled its one-day engagement of "The Birth of a Nation" because of the protest on the part of New Haven Negroes that the Ku Klux Klan is glorified in the picture. The protest read:

"We regard the picture as inimical to racial goodwill and one that definitely glorifies the Ku Klux Klan. It is a terror-breeding picture throughout and no parts could be deleted so as to leave the remainder unobjectionable."

The Arena has been running Saturday revivals of silent films.

Columbia Theatre Goes to Straight Film Policy

BOSTON—George Solomon is converting the Columbia Theatre, former burlesque house, into a straight film house. Opening will be made in a week or ten days, according to Solomon who leased the theatre from Ben Welansky.

R. I. Uptrend as Jobs Increase

Providence—All Rhode Island theatres are experiencing increased business these days, attributed in part to increased employment in state industries. According to the state director of labor's latest reports, employment in 288 manufactories reporting to that bureau was up 1.8 per cent last month (September) over August totals and 8.6 per cent over September, 1938. Payrolls of local manufacturing plants advanced 3.7 per cent over disbursements in September a year ago.

PROVIDENCE

SOCIETY brought its ermines and sables out of the moth balls and turned out in full force for the first of four one-night stands scheduled for the RKO-Albee this season. Opening bill was Eva Le Gallienne in Ibsen's "The Master Builder." Very arty and highbrow fare, though the next three shows on the list are designed to appeal to the "man on the street." The Providence Junior League is sponsoring the local presentations.

"Babes in Arms" held over for a second week at Loew's State after topping records of "Boys Town," "Rosalie" and the personal appearance of Judy Garland earlier this year. The film probably will go into the Carlton for a third week's run. Extra late shows Saturday and Sunday nights were necessary to accommodate crowds.

Manager Eddie McBride of Loew's State gave his sidewalk daytime interview Hallowe'en a touch of the holiday spirit by stringing apples from his marquee and having passersby try to bite 'em while the radio announcer describes the contest to listeners-in. Apple bobbing in tubs of water set on the sidewalk and similar stunts also were features of the 15-minute broadcast. At night similar Hallowe'en stunts were staged on the theatre stage as a feature of the late evening show.

"The Old Homestead," stage show at Playhouse all last week, did only fair business, with the modern generation generally passing up the old melodrama, oldtimers alone going for the tear-jerker.

Manager George French of RKO-Albee and house publicity man Bill Morton, tied up with Morse's Show Store in the downtown area on a Cinderella stunt in connection with Deanna Durbin's "First Love." The store is displaying a classy new shoe, with stills and appropriate cards, in the window, offering four pairs of shoes to the first four misses whose feet fit the shoe. Next 50 with same size tootsies get ducats to the Durbin film.

Albees revival of "Of Human Bondage" did so well that the house is reviving another oldster, "All Quiet on the Western Front."

About 400 orphans from St. Aloysius Home, St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, St. Mary's Home, Jewish Children's Home, Salvation Army Day Nursery and crippled children from the Rhode Island Hospital were guests of Loew's State management at a special morning showing of "Babes in Arms" last Friday.

Newport's famous retreat of the 400, the Casino Theatre, has gone movie. William F. Whitehouse, representing the theatre's board of governors, signed a lease with Hyman Pastman of Charlestown, Mass. Pastman plans to install a heating system in the house and will open it in November as a neighborhood film theatre. The new operator also will probably permit Newport Players Guild (little theatre group) to stage its productions there this winter. Next summer the house will likely be occupied, as formerly, by Actor-Managers, Inc., for its summer season of stage productions.

BOSTON

MORE than 350 persons, including many from the film district, attended the ninth annual dinner and installation of the Lt. Vernon A. Macaulay Post of the American Legion at the Copley Plaza. Mayor Tobin headed a long line of state and city officials . . . Both the Graphic Circuit and E. M. Loew signed new contracts for 20th Century-Fox 1939-40 product . . . William Broidy, younger brother of Steve Broidy, Monogram's Boston franchise holder, is ill at Beth Israel Hospital.

Charley Ross of the Windsor Theatre, Windsor, Vt., came to town this week . . . Josephine Kahn, cashier at Universal, resigned . . . H. W. Stithan, theatreman from Hartland, Me., made one of his infrequent trips to Boston . . . C. F. Moody has taken over the Opera House at Princeton, Me. . . . Braintree Theatre at Braintree, Mass., now operated by Gordon-Lockwood, reopened after a seven-week shutdown. This house was formerly the Lyric.

Jane Withers visited most of the local college fraternity houses while in town. She will attend the world premiere of "Drums Along the Mohawk" at Schenectady, N. Y. . . . Eddie Reed, manager of the Strand in Providence, was rushing around the district, trying to squeeze in three screenings in one afternoon . . . Jerry Callahan, Monogram's Maine salesman, who was involved in an auto crash, is out of the hosptial and back in the office. His car was completely wrecked. When he saw the crash coming, Jerry braced himself against the steering wheel. This folded over completely, the windshield was smashed, and the motor was pushed back at least two feet. Jerry is now awaiting a new car.

Pauline Winston, biller at Columbia, is now vacationing in New York City . . . Arthur K. Howard, business manager of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., made a tour of New England cities. He reports better business in many spots, due to upturn of mill employment . . . Father of Vera Palady, stenographer at RKO, died recently.

One of the Skirball brothers visited the Grand National office, coming on from New York . . . Rev. Michael J. Ahern, S. J., of Weston College, Mass., attended a special preview of "Mutiny in the Big House," at 20th Century-Fox. He was well pleased with Charles Bickford's performance as a prison chaplain. Reverend Ahern stayed on to see a screening of "Drums Along the Mohawk."

The Columbia Club held its annual Hallowe'en party at the Brown Derby. About 25 members of the club first attended a screening of "Babes in Arms" at the office, before going to the night club for their merrymaking. Bernard Levin is president of the organization.

Charles Williams, formerly associated with the Franklin Park and Uptown theatres, died recently . . . A special trade showing of "Hitler, Beast of Berlin" was given by Harry Asher at 20th Century-Fox . . . Herman Rifkin, Republic prexy, is in New York again . . . Several Republic salesmen are on the lookout for theatres which they wish to purchase in view of the European war going into its third month. They look for greatly increased business following repeal of the embargo act by the House.

"Nurse Edith Cavell" was yanked from Keith-Memorial after three days of second week. "Intermezzo" was substituted. The co-feature, "The Under-Pup," includes two youngsters who steal the show. Boston theatregoers nicknamed them "The Katzenjammer Kids," because they look like angels and act like little pests. Incidentally, nobody knows who they are.

Viola Ferguson of M-G-M's accounting department is vacationing . . . Nat Oberman, M-G-M booker, is enjoying his holiday at home with Mrs. Oberman and their week-old baby . . . Imperial held a press party for John Clein, producer of "Mill on the Floss," who stayed at the Ritz-Carlton.

Peter Latchis, enterprising operator of the Memorial at Brattleboro, Vt., among other houses, is building a new hotel in that city. It will be up-to-date in every respect, setting a new high in small-town hotel accommodations . . . Lou Smith, associate producer of Paramount's "Rulers of the Sea," which Frank Lloyd directed, visited Boston. William Erbb, local Paramount Exchange manager, acted as host. Smith's new epic stars Douglas Fairbanks jr., Will Fyffe and Margaret Lockwood.

Add to film district visitors George Traynor and George Legannis of Standard, and Sidney Weill . . . Chris Buckley of the General Stark Theatre in Bennington, Vt., dropped everything to go off on his fall fishing trip . . . Ernest Whitford, manager of the Gayety, has been transferred to an E. M. Loew theatre in Springfield . . . Bruno Weingarten of the Court Square Theatre, Springfield, is now at the Larcum in Beverly.

W. D. McGee is new manager of the Gayety, E. M. Loew's local burlesque house that is doing so well . . . Edward Green of M&P Theatres is at Beth Israel Hospital for a general checkup . . . Raymond Massey, appearing in person in "Abraham Lincoln in Illinois," at the Boston Opera House, is attracting very little cash through the boxoffice. Persons attending the show report great difficulty in hearing the actors in the large theatre.

Gertrude Rittenberg of the E. M. Loew office staff is back on the job after vacationing at Grossinger's in the Catskills, N. Y. . . . Ralph Ripley, manager of the Codman Square Theatre, has been out sick for the last three weeks . . . Charles Bassin, in charge of the 16mm department of Standard Theatre Supply Co., has resigned.

Helen Twelvetrees put in a week with Guy Palmerton's Players at Salem . . Richard C. Welch, projectionist for the Graphic Circuit at the Comique in Camden, Me., returned from a vacation trip with Mrs. Welch, their six-month-old son, Robert, and Mrs. Welch's father. The party covered the World's Fair and visited Mrs. Welch's brother and family at Central Valley, N. Y.

Harry Reiners, RKO special publicity representative, is spending four days in town in the interest of the company's 1940 product . . . Twenty members of the Dorchester Swedish Club attended Keith Memorial to honor Ingrid Bergman, appearing in "Intermezzo." Stunt was planned by Jack Granara, RKO publicist.

Harold Hendee, RKO director of research, spoke before members of the Char-

(Continued on page 59)

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CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

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NEW HAVEN

PLANS are in order to start construction of a 1,200-seat colonial theatre and five stores by A. M. Schuman in the Black Rock section on a site acquired last year. The digging will begin on March 1.

Deep River's New Era *newspaper left no doubt in the minds of its readers in a large surrounding area that the new* 440-*seat Deep River Theatre was news . . . Front page, rear page and most of the middle welcomed the new little showplace. Louie E. Pratt built the old house which has been transformed in the Colonial manner with pressed brick exterior, leathered sidewall, natural birch and plush seats, air-conditioning, Western Electric sound, etc.*

The management gives William J. Hutchins of National Theatre Supply a big hand in its newspaper welcome . . . Also Arthur Richards of Bill-Art Studios, New York. Although the original plan called for 500 seats, only 440 were installed for maximum passing room. Only eight seats are in the center block to permit easier access. Deals have been signed with all major companies.

Essex Square Theatre, Inc., whose business manager is Lee Malcarni, counts this as its fourth project. It built the Essex Square and Clinton, and acquired the Paramount, Westbrook, now dark. Louie Pratt, who remains as resident manager, operated in the Town Hall when pictures were in their infancy. Pratt's was built in 1921.

Lou Anger has secured a permit and completed plans for a new house on Park Ave., Bridgeport . . . Fred VanDoren's new 600-seater, first house on the west end of Waterbury, is now under way with all financial arrangements completed, and is promised for February opening . . . The D. C. Hesses in town for an infrequent visit, say their 658-seat Groton Theatre will be ready November 10 . . . Rocco Longo of the Community, Oakville, is casting about for a new theatre building site in the town, and may start construction next spring.

The new Windsor Theatre, Inc., commences business with $4,500. *Incorporators are E. Mignon Clark and Marshall Bonever of New Haven, and Miriam T. Peck of Derby . . . Charles Leach, former Gaumont British representative here, is now manager of Ross Federal Checking in New Haven . . . Jack Mullen, B-*41 *exchange employes president; Kathryn Fitzgerald, business agent, and Bob Hoffman represent New Haven at an Albany meeting of the union Saturday morning.*

Herman Miller, Metro cashier, celebrated his tenth year with the New Haven branch November 2. Miller has lost his hair on the job, but never his head . . . Harry Shaw's remarks at the recent Metro Victory Dinner at Oakdale reported to have surpassed even his own high standard as an after-dinner speaker. He had high praise for the cooperation and efficiency of the various members of the local exchange staff.

Joe Faith started Sunday vaudeville at the Mayfair, Terryville, on November 5, *with Dixie Dunbar as headliner. A headline and four additional acts will be put on each week . . . The Roger Sherman tried a midnight Spook Show on Hallowe'en for the first time, admission* 50c *all over the house . . . The Bijou turned them away during the four-day engagement of "Return of the Frog" and "Demon Barber of Fleet Street."*

Best Wednesday business in many a month at the Poli, Waterbury, with the opening of the new weekly vaudeville policy . . . This house also went to town with its Hallowe'en party Monday night, with merchandise, cash and guest ticket prizes awarded for amateur acts, apple-ducking, etc. . . . Lyric, Hartford Hallowe'en party Saturday had prizes for best costumes, for baby milk bottle, shoe finding, balloon-blowing and other contests.

Harry Shaw reports all four-day houses expect to hold "Babes in Arms" and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" a full week. All one-week towns will hold over at least one extra week . . . "Intermezzo" was a holdover at the Regal, Hartford . . . The Bridgeport Life *wagered mistakenly that "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" would be kept in the cans until after election. . . . Pity the plight of Eddie Ruff, who would like to smile at the good business "Jamaica Inn" is doing, but can't because he's had two front teeth extracted.*

The Moosup Theatre has signed up for its first giveaway in seven years, Wrisley's Priscilla ovenware . . . Rivoli, Hartford opening with Progressive Premium Queen Elizabeth maroon dishes reported surpassed any other giveaway . . . Dick Cohen is ready with his aluminum display at the new Connecticut Films office . . . Exhibitors would like to celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey giveaways, but authorities object thus far . . . Complications arose last year when permission was given and later rescinded . . . Plaza, New Haven, starts Wrisley's Rosella golden chinaware November 7 and 8.

Always considerate, Sam Rosen left his keys in his new Buick convertible coupe and the burglar drove right out of the garage with no trouble at all . . . The payoff: For days Sam had been leaving the car out all night, but this night he had tucked it carefully into the garage . . . Michael Daly of the Daly circuit in Connecticut and Massachusetts is campaign manager for Joseph B. Griffin, Republican candidate for Mayor of Hartford.

Determined to Avoid Gallery Status

Rochester, N. H.—A new type of parking was forced into existence in East Rochester where the once-a-week films shown in the Opera House inspired the younger generation to self-expression with pea-shooters. Future shooting, will, however, be confined to the westerns on the screen as the boys have been warned to leave their "shooters" at home or park them at the boxoffice.

Tim O'Toole, Columbia manager, could write a book on "A Day at the Fair" . . . Leo Ricci of the Capitol, Meriden, says it can now be officially told that he visited the Fair . . . All previous reports to be declared null and void, as the plans never materialized Nick and Mrs. Del Rosso of Watertown have done the Fair twice.

John B. Findlay of the Strand, Mystic and United and Central, Westerly, attended father and son day at Choate School in Wallingford, where young John is making a crew record for himself . . . Late callers at the Capitol, Waterbury, are trying to fathom the mystery of what Mike Sirica does between 9:30 *when he leaves to make a bank deposit and* 11, *when he returns . . . Emil Feldberg believes in his talking Santa Claus.*

Ed Morey, Republic district manager, visited in town . . . Donat Blaine of Baltic was a rare visitor on the Street, reporting increase to six-a-week schedule. Blaine is now individual owner, having severed relations with Berens . . . Lily, Plainfield, has gone to four days a week, instead of six . . . Harry Moskowitz of the Loew construction department, New York, is a frequent visitor these days.

Work on the Globe, Bridgeport, reseating is in progress and the Bijou, New Haven, balcony will be reseated within the week. American chairs were used . . . Children's Museum, Hartford, has started its second season of favorite film revivals Saturday night series, sold by season ticket, with "Pygmalion" and varied shorts. They give them buttons, and the children come in droves . . . Rooney-Garland fan clubs have been successfully organized with election of officers, and distribution of buttons at the Poli, Waterbury, Bridgeport and Springfield. In some towns merchants defray the cost of the buttons and newspapers cooperate.

Bob Russell received an orchid in the Loew Down, house organ, for inspiring an editorial in the *Journal-Courier* on "They Shall Have Music." "Here," said ye Ed, "is an immortality which other ages have missed. The closeups and camera movement give a mobility to vision to match the flow of the music" . . . George Weber, official football photographer for Yale, traveled on the special to Ann Arbor . . . As did Elwood Russell, son of Bob Russell, who is an important member of the Yale band.

Tex Fletcher, personally appearing with "Six Gun Rhythm" in Hartford, revealed to Julian Tuthill of the Times *that you can check on whether the riding sequences are being faked by watching the horse's tail. If that adjunct is sticking out straight in the wind, the horse is really traveling fast, but if it hangs more or less limp, it's a fake.*

Sick list: Mrs. Harry Shaw was incapacitated by a fall in the Taft Hotel last week . . . Katherine Sullivan of United Artists expected back at her desk soon after a hospital stay in New Haven . . . Mrs. Ben Simon is recuperating at home after several weeks in the hospital.

BOSTON

(Continued from page 57)

lotte Cushman Club on October 31. His talk was first of a series of four to be given on the theatre. William Faversham, noted actor, is listed next, to be followed by Elinor Hughes, drama critic of the Boston Herald.

Ben Pickett, formerly with the Community in Dedham and a Snyder house in Providence, is resting comfortably at the Boston Sanitarium for Tuberculosis . . . "Torpedoed" has been booked first-run by Roy E. Heffner into the Paramount and Fenway from November 9 through 15. Publicists Jack Saef and Mario Daru are working on a special campaign for this timely film.

RKO Boston, the only local vaudeville house, was moved back to a Friday opening on November 3. This means that stage shows will remain only three days. The three burley houses are doing bang-up business and are cutting into the stage show house's grosses . . . Miriam Harris, stenographer at Universal, was married recently to Sidney Gould . . . Shirley Rachman is a new member of the Universal office staff.

Gerald Partington, chief of service at RKO Keith Memorial, was rushed to Massachusetts Memorial Hospital after an attack of appendicitis . . . Latest reports at RKO Boston have it that Kay Kyser and his Kollege of Musical Knowledge may visit this city for a full week's engagement . . . Pauline Glaser of Universal is vacationing at sunny Bermuda . . . Mary Coogan, also of Universal and on vacation, is in bed with the grippe.

George Fornell, formerly employed by several local theatres, is now associated with his brother, Philip, in the photo-finishing business . . . A. J. Herman, Universal division manager, spent a full week in town, checking on business conditions . . . Steve Broidy, Monogram, reports that $350,000 *will be the budget for "Rip Van Winkle," scheduled to contain Technicolor sequences. The budget for the rest of the* 1940 *product has been upped* 50 *per cent. The Jackie Cooper feature will be allowed* $50,000 *additional. Broidy reports further that Monogram plans to compete with the big eight companies for first-run bookings in key cities.*

Jack Shea, Universal booker, has been on a business trip to New York . . . The Capital Theatre at Montpelier, Vt., a new house, will be in action by November 15 . . . Capitol Theatre Supply just installed a new projector at the Bellevue Theatre, Central Falls, R. I. and the Eagle Theatre, Lubec, Me.

Nick Hernkind of the M&P accounting department was rushed to the hospital after a supposed attack of appendicitis. He's now back at his job, the attack turning out to be only a false alarm . . . Yvonne Jamieson is vacationing with her family at Marlboro, Mass. She is a clerk at M&P . . . Next meeting of the Projectionists Union, local 182, *will be held November* 7 *. . . No results have been announced yet of the meeting of Film Exchange Workers, local B4, held recently at the Bradford.*

Joe Allen jr., Paramount player, stopped over in town long enough to say "hello" to Harry Browning at M&P Theatre offices. Allen had been making a series of split-week personal appearances in the east.

A Flying Yarn

HOLLYWOOD—"I Wanted Wings," a saga of peacetime army flying by Lieut. Beirne Lay jr., has been purchased by Paramount. The author will collaborate on the script with Lieut.-Comm. Frank Wead, and Arthur Hornblow will produce.

Hearing Test

BOSTON—Republic salesmen were telling of the great popularity of "The Lone Ranger." A school teacher in a small Rhode Island school was busy testing the children's hearing.

She would say "Hello," then move back from the student. About 15 feet away, she whispered, "The Lone Ranger." This little boy stood still for a few seconds, then yelled "Hi Ho Silver, Away!" The entire class then joined in, bringing the principal to the door to see what was causing the near-riot. The teacher never mentions "The Lone Ranger" any more.

MONOGRAM

NEWS OF THE WEEK



Busy is the word for Harry Lavietes, operator of New Haven's Pequot Theatre for more than two score years. Harry is also an inventor of no mean repute, holding a patent on his invention of a printing machine producing four different colors on cellophane. He operates his printing establishment alongside of the theatre. Harry is former president of the Exhibitors' Association of Connecticut. Outside of work, his chief interest is in the camp for Underprivileged Children at Madison, Ct., sponsored by him. More than 600 children are given free vacations in the country. The camp accommodates 125 youngsters at a time. We salute the generosity and philanthropic interests of this Connecticut exhibitor.

★ ★ ★ ★

At the right we introduce Emil Dufault, now managing the new Glendale Theatre in Worcester, Mass. He received his first training at the Mystic Theatre in Mystic, Ct., a circuit house. This past summer, Emil managed the Ride-In Theatre at Sturbridge, Mass. He particularly liked the fact that he didn't have any matinees to handle, showings being made only at night. Toughest job with the outdoor theatres, he explained, is the planning of the actual layout to keep non-payers from seeing the screen. The Glendale is operated by Levenson brothers.



★ ★ ★ ★

The new world war doesn't mean a thing to Monogram for we are going right ahead with our big program for 1940. "Crashing Through," first in the new Renfrew of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police series, is ready, as is "Mutiny in the Big House," which arrived a few days ago. Fourth in the popular Tailspin Tommy series is "Danger Flight," scheduled for an October 25 release.

Steve Broidy

MONOGRAM PICTURES, INC.

39 CHURCH STREET • BOSTON

HARTFORD

BINGO has a new sponsor in the D.B.S. Hall which offers the game every Thursday night. Foot Guard Hall has been having the game Friday evenings and charging 40 cents admission.

Building news: Report has it that a theatre and music building will rise shortly in Williamstown, Mass., for that town's Williams College . . . Theatre in Wethersfield is scheduled to be up in the spring of 1940 *. . . What with all the theatre building going on hereabouts why hasn't anyone ventured to build a theatre in West Hartford which boasts of only one, for all its nearly* 30,000 *population?*

Last Friday was the State of Connecticut's Teachers' convention, held at Hartford's Bushnell Hall. Many kids, with the day off from school, were seen going in several of Hartford's downtown theatres.

Downtown Regal, Warner unit, has its balcony closed until 1 *p. m. each day. Downstairs quarters appear to be sufficient until then.*

The Strand will change from Wednesday opening days to Friday opening days in a few weeks, according to Jim McCarthy, manager of the Warner unit.

M&P Allyn Theatre held a Hallowe'en Midnight Show on Tuesday . . . Frank Morin, manager, Regal Theatre, reports that business is "good" . . . M&P Allyn Theatre's stage manager, James Cersosimo, has returned from the hospital where he was laid up for some time.

George Landers' parade on Main St. last fortnight seems to have hit the spot, judging from the fact that George has had the film stay over for another week First day brought SRO business

Loew's Poli doings: Pete Leonard is a recent addition to the service staff at the theatre . . . Harry Shaw, division manager, was in from New Haven last Thursday . . . Eddie Downs, service staff, reports that he'll soon be joining the Little Theatre of Hartford, a group of non-professional actors . . . Assistant Manager Wally Cooper, together with the Mrs., traveled to the Mohawk Trail last Tuesday on a day off . . . New addition to the theatre's service staff is Jimmy Papas . . . Tommy Vonn, formerly with the Connecticut General Life Insurance Co., Hartford, is a new member of the service staff . . . Joe Powers, night watchman, will shortly observe his 38*th year at the theatre.*

Louis Cohen's 25th wedding anniversary, reports have it, went over big at the banquet held in the showman's honor.

Management of the Loew-Poli here has announced that the theatre will sponsor a football team, composed of house employes. Captain, according to present plans, is slated to be Eddie Downs, service staff member. Theatres in the Hartford area invited to get in touch with Joe Powers at the Loew-Poli in order to arrange for a game.

Threatening Letter Writer Charged With Extortion

BOSTON—The federal grand jury returned an indictment against a threatening letter writer who made demands for cash upon Jack C. Goodwin, managing director of the Metropolitan Theatre.

In one count, Ralph E. Paxton, 31, of Broadway, Saugus, was charged with attempting to extort money by use of the mails. He wrote Goodwin demanding payment of $2,500 in small bills under threat of creating a panic in the Met.

15 Simultaneous Openings For Monogram's "Mutiny"

BOSTON—Steve Broidy, Monogram manager, announced opening of "Mutiny in the Big House" at 15 New England theatres simultaneously. Among the theatres to feature this film on November 10 will be the Trans-Lux in Boston; Empire in Fall River; New Bedford and Portland; State in Hartford; Majestic in Providence, and Palace in Stamford. Special publicity campaigns will be worked out.

W. Massachusetts Theatres Contest Creates Rivalry

BOSTON—A 10-week contest based on grosses and expenses is creating much interest and red-hot rivalry among managers in the Nate Goldstein Western Massachusetts Theatres Corp. Present standings show William Powell, manager of the Paramount in Springfield, in first place. Lou March of the Strand in Westfield is close behind in second place.

To Equip With RCA

BOSTON—New RCA sound has been ordered for the Strand, Lawrence, Mass., and the Park, South Berwick, Me., which is being reopened by Harvey L. Hingley, previously in the garage business at Marblehead, Mass.

Motion Before House

MANCHESTER, N. H.—The Manchester Union advocates a return to the early days of motion pictures, as far as putting actual "motion" in them is concerned.

In an editorial on the subject, the newspaper said:

"Back in the late Ford Sterling's heyday, the movies didn't go in much for art. They depended upon action, of which there was enough in the Keystone Comedies—or in the Pearl White serials—to go 'round, and then some.

"Just now the movies are seeking new appeals and new business. Perhaps the success of Walt Disney, who features action, and the memory of Ford Sterling may suggest that motion still is an asset in a motion picture, and that it can be had without sacrifice of good acting, direction and story material."

BRIDGEPORT

MANAGER MATT SAUNDERS of the Loew-Poli, a former circus man, was praised by Loew home officials for his advance campaign on "At the Circus."

The Lyric has been leased for burlesque with pictures and vaudeville on Sundays.

Harry Rose landed a newspaper picture of workmen starting the installation of 1,900 new searts at his Globe.

Manager Sam Hadelman of the Capitol is back from a trip to Washington, his wife's home town.

Henry Bradley, always willing to cooperate with theatre managers, has resigned as general manager of the *Times-Star* and gone to St. Joseph, Mo. He will be missed by the showmen.

New ushers this week include John Podgorski at the Globe, Marlowe Evitts at the Majestic and Justine Prusin and Mary Basik at the Loew-Poli.

A one-night jitterbug contest on the stage of the Majestic in connection with "Dancing Co-Ed" drew heavily.

Tony Massella, assistant manager at the Globe, was the only local manager getting down to the Yale-Army football classic.

Matinee admissions at the Warner Theatre have been reduced to a quarter except on Sundays.

Electric physician's call box and paging system at the Loew-Poli was the subject of a feature story in the Sunday Post.

Matt Saunders served as a member of the committee for Hallowe'en party staged by the police department for the city's children.

That double horror show, "Dracula" and "Frankenstein" has turned up once more. This time at the Park City where it did nice business for two days.

New sound has been installed at the West End Theatre by Altec.

Michael Carroll, manager of the American, has recovered from a minor leg ailment that made the going hard for several days.

James H. Castigan jr., former doorman at the Strand-Palace, is seeking election to the board of aldermen. His brother, Thomas, is an usher at the Park City.

The school teachers from this section of the state took over the Loew-Poli for a morning convention.

Conn. Baptist Convention Terms Bingo "Gambling"

HARTFORD—The Connecticut Baptist convention, which held its annual meeting at the Central Baptist Church here some days ago, described Bingo as "gambling," and moved to discourage even social playing of the game in Connecticut.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN CONNECTION with its showing of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," the State in Manchester offered 20 free tickets in a "Washington Landmarks Contest" staged in co-operation with the Manchester *Union-Leader*. The newspaper scattered the names of capital historic spots through its classified advertising columns.

Manager A. M. Graves of the Lyric at White River Junction entertained more than 425 Windsor county 4-H Club members at a show during their roundup in that town. He co-operated with the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club in treating the youngsters.

Theatremen in Portsmouth face the prospect of two Thanksgiving Days this year. Nearly 3,700 civilian employes at the Navy Yard, representing a large share of the adult population in that section, will observe President Roosevelt's date, November 23, while Gov. Francis P. Murphy has clung to tradition in proclaiming November 30.

Mrs. Abbie Dunlap of Antrim has been appointed motion picture chairman of the New Hampshire Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The front section of the old Latchis Theatre on Middle St. in Milford has been torn down.

The Capitol in Concord has joined the list of New Hampshire film theatres adding stage shows.

RCA Sound at Ridgefield

RIDGEFIELD, CONN.—RCA sound is being installed in the new 700-seat house that is being built here. The theatre will be operated as part of the Prudential circuit.

Readies Starrett Starrer

HOLLYWOOD—Joe Lewis has been assigned to do an original western yarn as Charles Starrett's next starring vehicle for Columbia.

Whalen Is Rewarded

SALEM—Michael Whalen, stage and screen star, was presented with an official Boston police press card as a result of his portrayal of Barney Callahan in the "Roving Reporters" film series. The presentation was made by Mayor Edward A. Coffey of this city.

Mayor Coffey pointed out that Whalen's characterizations of reporters had so differed from the portrayals that have made newspapermen appear dissolute and dissipated, that the screen star had materially aided the field of journalism.

After the presentation, Whalen visited Salem High School where he related some of his Hollywood experiences before 1,700 students. He is appearing in a revival of "Petticoat Fever" at the Empire Theatre with the Guy Palmerton players who opened a season of the Salem Drama Festival.

This Week We Meet . . . .

A. M. SCHUMAN

Some men wait a lifetime for fame, but Al Schuman is the president of Allied Theatres of Connecticut at 44—and young at that, though the job may make an old man of him. Employing the canvasser method on the question "How does a man get to be president" in a small, compact territory where everyone knows everyone else, alas, too well, we found the Allied membership chose Schuman unanimously for president because it considered him not only thoroughly capable, but thoroughly likable. Moreover, he is an independent exhibitor of considerable experience and accomplishment in the territory. We asked Schuman to make a statement—bare all—for our gallery of great and famous people in the New England film territory.

"Being endowed with the gift of gab," he said, "I could tell you a very colorful story, in minutest detail, of the trials, tribulations and adventures I've lived through until finally I became an exhibitor, but that would necessitate your giving over the entire BOXOFFICE to my story, and, although I think such an act on your part would create a bigger demand for BOXOFFICE, I am, like all great men, rather a modest person and very considerate, as well as humble." We assured Mr. Schuman the world was waiting for this story, and he must conquer his modesty and give—at least, the highlights of his past.

It all began, then, in the city of Odessa. As Al remarks, it was Russia then, it's now Ukraine, but by the time we go to press it may be Turkey, or even Germany. At any rate, by the time he was 11, his family had come to these United States and he was enrolled in the first grade of the Arsenal School in Hartford. It took him just three months to accommodate his European schooling to his new milieu; then he skipped from first to seventh grade, in two months to the eighth and that same year was graduated with highest honors. His high school career was equally remarkable, and in three years he was the recipient of a high school diploma.

What jobs led up to his exhibitor career, the prexy has not revealed, but they evidently taught him a thing or two. By 1920, he promoted the first neighborhood theatre in Hartford—the Lyric. Schuman insists he had plenty of liabilities at that time, but no assets. The theatre and business block were nevertheless successfully completed, at a cost of approximately $459,000, and every contractor was paid in full. The how of that venture Schuman prefers to keep a secret, intimating, however, that since he had no financial resources, it was a tax entirely on the brain cells. With this beginning, and plenty of hard work in the next ten years, by 1930 he had become president and general manager of five theatres, the Lyric, Lenox, Colonial, Rialto, in Hartford, and the Central, West Hartford. In July, 1930, his corporation leased these five neighborhood houses to Warner for a period of 15 years.

For a year Schuman sat back, looked around, and enjoyed a recess. Then he became associated with Joseph A. Davis, former branch manager for Warner Bros. in New Haven, in the operation of the Colonial Theatre, Southington, Conn. Meantime, he also acquired the 490-seat Black Rock Theatre, Bridgeport, which he continues to operate at present, although he has sold out his interest in the Colonial. The Black Rock he characterizes as a "swell little house," which affords him a great opportunity for "mental exercise, as it is a perpetual headache. But don't gather from that that I am going backwards," he hastens to add. "My vitality and resourcefulness are still at their best." Which leads us to expect great things in Allied and in the future of A. M. Schuman.

When the president is not presiding, or operating his theatre, or being a family man, he is indulging in two major hobbies. In a burst of enthusiasm he confided, "Gee, I like pinochle!" And one has to be a person of no mean accomplishments, he says, "to beat some of the distributors and salesmen, as they are pretty well trained in taking an exhibitor into camp." His second hobby is absorbing every news dispatch, speech and comment on the international situation. He is "trying to fathom, analyze, decipher and diagnose the mysterious mental mechanics of such personalities as Hitler, Chamberlain, Daladier and Stalin and figure out when, if ever, they will leave the people in all lands alone to work out some semblance of law and order and a little happiness for themselves and their families."

The president philosophizes on the motion picture industry, too, but he's saving these observations and suggestions for the next meeting of Allied, and further quotations in BOXOFFICE.

Report Milford Drive-In Appeal Is Withdrawn

HARTFORD—It has been learned here from usually reliable sources that the Drive-In Theatre, Milford, withdrew its appeal some days ago for a hearing before the State of Connecticut's supreme court of errors on the matter of the injunction forbidding the theatre from using any sound equipment that could be heard for more than 250 feet from the boundary line of the theatre's property. Some time ago, however, the theatre closed for the winter.

The equipment of the Drive-In was attached recently by a deputy sheriff in behalf of the Theatre Service & Supply Co., Boston, which claims that the theatre owes it a balance of $3,815, on a note executed on May 15 and $364.90 for supplies, admission tickets, and other material. Action has been announced as returnable to November term of the supreme court.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

ADVERTISING

MT481 Main signs and marquees
MT482 Signs, Neon
MT483 Signs, structural glass
MT484 Signs, travel word
MT485 Attraction boards
MT486 Letters, attraction board
MT487 Letters, changeable silhouette
MT488 Price signs, boxoffice
MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
MT498 Transformers, Neon
MT499 Ladders, safety
MT500 Moving words projector

AIR CONDITIONING

MT505 Air conditioning plants—complete
MT506 Heating systems
MT507 Refrigeration
MT508 Air washers
MT509 Blowers
MT510 Air circulators
MT511 Fans, exhaust
MT512 Grilles and registers
MT513 Temperature control devices
MT514 Air conditioning accessories
MT515 Motors, multi-speed fan
MT516 Motors, constant speed
MT517 Air filters
MT518 Air diffusers, high velocity
MT519 Cooling coils

DECORATIONS and FURNISHING

MT520 Architectural service
MT521 Decorating service
MT522 Seating service
MT523 Theatre chairs
MT524 Chair covers
MT525 Theatre carpets
MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

MT569 Expansion Bolts
MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
MT584 Fireproofing compounds
MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

PROJECTION

MT591 Projectors, complete with sound
MT592 Projectors, standard
MT593 Projectors, semi-portable
MT594 Projector pedestals
MT595 Projector parts
MT596 Lamps, suprex type
MT597 Lamps, reflector arc
MT598 Lamps, high intensity
MT599 Lamps, incandescent projection
MT600 Arc regulators
MT601 Arc controls
MT602 Control panels
MT603 Rectifiers, copper-oxide
MT604 Rectifiers, tube type
MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

MT641 Cleaning compounds
MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber link matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

SOUND

MT661 Sound systems, complete
MT662 Sound heads
MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT685 Screens, moving picture
MT686 Lighting, stage
MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, viterous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

MISCELLANEOUS

MT715 Accounting systems
MT716 Change makers
MT717 Safes, boxoffice
MT718 Tickets
MT719 Ticket choppers
MT720 Ticket issuing machines
MT721 Ticket registers
MT722 Ticket holders
MT723 Pop corn machines
MT724 Uniforms, staff

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Trade Investigation Near End in Texas

DALLAS — The Texas attorney general's department was drawing its investigation of the motion picture industry to a close this week.

The inquiry, we were told, was finished at the Columbia exchange in three days, but in other quarters the probe went the full week with possibility that it may go into the next.

The state men were unusually closed mouthed as to evidence secured, or as to any other nature of the investigation.

The investigators were in complete charge of all exchange and major circuit files. As the state lawyers picked out bits of correspondence or records here, a film company lawyer made note of it. George W. Wright, who represents most of the exchanges, had a man to make notations in each exchange of whatever the state picked up. Mike Rice, another prominent attorney, representing at least one circuit and two or three film companies also had his men on hand.

The investigations were not without their humor. At one place a copy of the defunct code was picked up. In another instance a letter written by a circuit man to an exchange, using harsh terms, and quite evident all in fun, was one of the confiscated documents.

In another case, one circuit employe, who happened to be a member of the family, objected that his petty cash was not enough. His method of increasing the allotment was to suggest a union of all theatre managers of the circuit to demand that increase. Whereupon, a circuit official wrote a city manager that whenever this organizer came through his town, the "agitator" should be boycotted and that no members should be allowed to join that union.

Outside of major exchanges, the investigators have been down to Beaumont for a look through the files and records of Jefferson Amusement Co.; have been through the Robb & Rowley office and are understood to have followed the same procedure at the R. E. Griffith and Interstate general offices.

A French Film Program For Varsity in Austin

AUSTIN—A completely revised program of French films will be presented at the Varsity beginning November 6 under the auspices of the Alliance Francaise, University of Texas French-language group. The first program will be composed of "Generals Without Buttons" and "La Maison De Moliere."

Smith Re-assigned

DALLAS—A. G. "Smitty" Smith, with National Theatre Supply since formation of the company, and lately a technical engineer stationed in New Orleans, has arrived in Dallas with a new assignment to travel the east Texas territory under J. I. Roberts, manager of the Dallas branch.

Katsaris and Winter Speed Completion of Drive-In

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.—Nearing completion on Highway 9 near the city limits is a drive-in theatre, said by the owners, Pete and Nick Katsaris and George Winter, to be the first house of its kind in Texas.

Total cost of the project will run approximately $45,000.

Located on a leased plot of ten acres, the nucleus of the theatre is a towering structure 50 feet high and 40 feet wide.

A series of 11 ramps is being built of earth as far back as 1,000 feet from the screen. It is estimated that this arrangement will provide space for 300 cars. Tentative plans call for running three shows a week in addition to a midnight show on Saturday.

Morrilton, Ark. Council Boosts License Rate

MORRILTON, ARK.—An ordinance changing the annual license charge on film theatres here from a flat rate of $100 a year to 40 cents per chair was passed at a meeting of the city council last week. The new rate will become effective January 1, 1940, and is expected to increase the revenue approximately $100.

WB Lineup to Martin

ATLANTA—The Martin circuit, operating 39 situations in Georgia, Alabama and Florida, has closed for Warner's entire new season output of features, shorts and trailers.

Bryant Lets Rock Hill Contract

ROCK HILL, N. C.—Robert E. Bryant has let the contract for the construction of a 750-seat theatre which will be completed in the spring.

High Court Upholds Billboard Ad Tax

OKLAHOMA CITY—The state supreme court has upheld constitutionality of the 1937 sales tax law and its application to gross proceeds from billboard advertising, a good deal of which is used by theatres.

George L. Knapp, head of the Knapp Advertising Agency, has been assessed an additional $1,801 and $245 in interest and penalties for the period March 1 to Aug. 31, 1938. He had reported only $391 as sales tax and claimed an exemption on contracts with out-of-state residents.

He alleged the law is discriminatory because it exempts newspaper and periodical advertising from the two per cent levy. The court held the legislature may tax one class and exempt another and also that the classification may be based on the differences between the kind of labor employed, cost of production and the like.

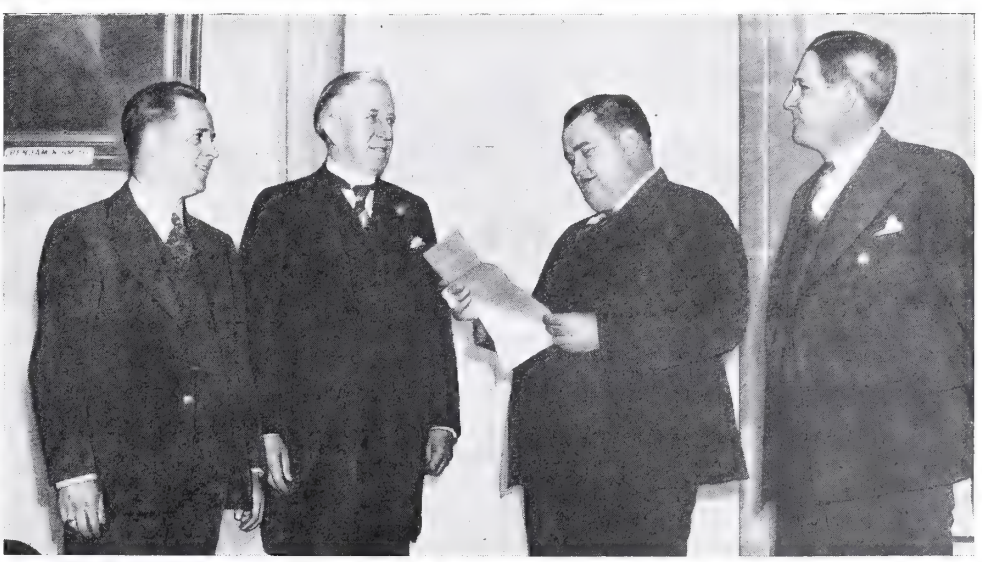
Stay of Execution Granted In Plaintiff's Award

OKLAHOMA CITY—Federal Judge A. P. Murrah has granted an order staying execution of the judgment given Gerald Whistler of Topeka, Kas., in his suit against Standard Theatres Corp., operators of the Midwest Theatre here.

Whistler last week was awarded $1,000 by a federal court jury for damages based on an alleged accident in the Midwest last June.

Wishart Out of Hospital

LUMBERTON, N. C.—W. S. Wishart of the Carolina Theatre has returned home after two months of hospital treatment for a broken thigh resulting from a fall on the sidewalk along the theatre.



A Governor Is Summoned—

Sheriff J. R. "Fats" Tanner reads a summons to Governor Hoey of North Carolina to appear in Rocky Mount on November 15 for the world premiere of RKO's "That's Right, Your Wrong," starring "North Carolina's No. 1 Boy," Kay Kyser. Hal Orr, manager of the Center, where the premiere will be held, is on the left, while looking on proudly at the right is T. S. Avera, executive vice-president of the Rocky Mount chamber of commerce.



Celebrating O'Donnell's Birthday—

Interstate employes in San Antonio fete their boss, William O'Donnell, with a surprise party on his birthday. The party was held in the penthouse on the Majestic Theatre roof. William Brown, of the Texas Theatre staff, snapped the photo.

NEW ORLEANS

THE Joy Theatre in Mamou, La., which was recently destroyed by fire, opened its new theatre building with RCA sound and cushioned seats, November 2, to more than satisfactory attendance . . . Ralph A. Martin, skipper of the Pelican Theatre in Homer, La., was in New Orleans this week telling the city folks of the wonders of that thriving little city, and also of his theatre . . . All exchanges closed at noon, November 1, All Saints Day being a religious and legal holiday in Louisiana.

W. H. Cobb of Joys' Theatres, Inc., and Ralph Reed of Rex Poster Exchange had a most successful fishing trip last week, reporting a catch of 200 *trout and red fish. All of the executive staff is wondering when they will go again . . . Roland J. Hoffman is now associated with Ritz Theatres, Inc.*

Many film employes are straining their necks and watching the skies to see Willis Houck fly over Filmrow in New Orleans in his new Stinson airplane . . . September sales of radio time gained 38.8 per cent over September, 1938, throughout Louisiana. Sales increased 14.1 per cent from August, 1939. A year ago sales rose 27 per cent in September from August. Many motion picture houses are using the broadcast system to acquaint listeners of their current programs.

Cornelia Otis Skinner, daughter of Otis Skinner of the flesh days, while in New Orleans last week took time out to brand Hollywood as a "cheap and tawdry place with only common people in power."

The Famous Theatre, Joe Alsina's pride, was the only house in the city that gave Navy Day even a nod. The feature was "Pride of the Navy" . . . In civil district court in New Orleans United Artists won a $5,702 judgment against the C&C Enterprises for alleged breach of film contract. The houses affected were located in Bunkie, DeRidder, Leesville, Many, Rodessa, Tulluah, Winnfield, Zoller and a few minor towns. The C&C Enterprises some time ago was taken over by the Saenger people in Louisiana—but the original C&C folks were sued just the same.

Trade Notables Are Expected by Allied

DALLAS—The list of speakers before the Texas Allied convention in session at the Baker Hotel on Monday and Tuesday will be sparkled with notables, according to confirmations of the invitations received during the week from Col. H. A. Cole, president of both the state body and national Allied.

W. A. Scully, in charge of Universal distribution, New York, said he would be here. H. M. Richey, former independent exhibitor in Michigan and now with RKO, is slated for an address. Al Steffes, vice-president of the national organization and president of Northwest Allied, will be on hand at least for the first day.

James R. Grainger, Republic president, told Colonel Cole he would be present for the sessions.

Fireworks, never before contemplated, are designed for the two days' session. It is gathered that government action, the present Texas inquiry and other kindred questions will be thoroughly aired.

One exhibitor, without previous knowledge of convention planners, said he is going to insist on a resolution for a bill to tax chain theatres, both independent and affiliated.

Committees named for the convention are as follows:

Program, F. H. Beddingfield, Charlotte, chairman; Roy L. Smart, Charlotte and Ben L. Strozier, Rock Hill, S. C. *Resolutions,* Montgomery S. Hill, Greensboro, chairman; Roy Rowe, Burgaw; George Parr, Lancaster; Albert Sotile, Charleston, S. C. *Reception,* Mrs. Runa Curtis, Liberty; Mrs. C. H. Albrecht, Newberry, and Mrs. H. T. Green, Manning, S. C. *Publicity,* Robert E. Bryant, Rock Hill, S. C., chairman; H. E. Buchanan, Hendersonville, and E. L. Hearne, Albemarle. *Membership,* H. R. Berry, Hartsville, S. C., chairman; O. I. Kirby, Roxboro; S. S. Stevenson, Henderson; George Carpenter, Valdese.

ARKANSAS

JOHN OXFORD, manager of the Paramount, Helena, won first place in a golf tournament at Hot Springs during the district Kiwanis convention there recently . . . Bob Jackson, who has been associated with the directing side of Sonja Henie revues and pictures, is in Little Rock for a few days visiting his parents . . . Aylene Tate and Maurice Farmer were married at Waldron, October 16. Farmer is manager of the Pines Theatre.

E. B. Wacaster, operator of the Ozark at Ozark, plans to make a number of improvements in the way of remodeling the building and adding new equipment . . . As announced several weeks ago, the K. Lee Williams Theatre Corp. took over the Wright Theatre at Gurdon, October 15. *R. B. Hardy of Prescott has been named manager of the house. Extensive remodeling of the house is planned. Daily matinees are planned along with Sunday night shows and a Saturday night preview.*

Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Stacy, manager and cashier of the Wakea Theatre at Waldo, have resigned and left for California where they will visit for a month or more. They went to Waldo with the opening of the Wakea. Chester Connor, who also came to Waldo at that time and installed the equipment, has been named manager. Miss Elizabeth Neil will serve as cashier.

The Paramount Theatre, Hot Springs, recently celebrated its fourth anniversary. A 43*-pound birthday cake was served to patrons during the evening.*

Jack Arnold, Little Rock, is handling the road showing of "Forgotten Men."

The Crescent Theatre, Little Rock, gave away two bank night awards Thursday night. The theatre offers three awards each Thursday night, but this was the first time in four years that more than one award was given away.

New Colored House

WAYCROSS, GA.—H. G. Williams of Fitzgerald is opening the Rainbow Theatre here, colored house seating 400. Opening is planned for November 15. New equipment has been bought from National Theatre Supply.

Trio Robs Interstate Office

AUSTIN, TEX. — Three armed bandits Sunday night at 10 o'clock robbed the local Interstate office of $3,000 and escaped. The trio tied manager Louis Novy and three employes who were checking the Paramount's weekend receipts.

Sliman Installs New Sound

NEW IBERIA, LA.—P. A. Sliman is installing new RCA sound in his Evangeline Theatre here.

Rosser Builds in Clinton

CLINTON, N. C.—R. P. Rosser is building a new house here. Rosser owns two other theatres in Sanford.

MEMPHIS

EXHIBITORS seen along the Row: Mrs. Lela Flippin and daughter, Juanita Williams of the Grand at Cardwell, Mo.; Jack Watson, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; G. H. Goff, Parsons, Tenn.; John Staples, Piggott, Ark.; W. A. Rush, Houston, Houston, Miss.; O. F. Collins, Capitol, Paragould, Ark.; C. N. Eudy, Ackerman, Miss.; Ralph Bacus and W. C. Riley, Colored Theatre, Brownville; Mrs. John Shannon, Shannon, Portageville, Mo.; Bill Malin, Lura, Augusta; G. H. Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale; M. M. Buchanan, 'Bama, Athens, Ala.

Harry Balance, southern district manager for 20th-Fox, spent several days in Memphis with his local manager, Tom Young. This is his first trip to Memphis in something like a year.

The goblins and spooks held sway at Jimmy Scheibler's party Saturday night, when he roasted "Porky," his prize pig, and entertained the RKOlians in grand style. Everyone was there and report a grand time with the exception of Al Avery, branch manager, who was confined to his home due to an acute attack of gall stones. He says he can't understand why anyone should ever have to be sick on Halloween, especially when Jimmy picks that time to have one of his famous parties.

R. B. Hardy of the K. Lee Williams circuit was in advancing his bookings for Gurdon and Fordyce, Ark.

Eric Linden and Bernice Claire played the Ellis Auditorium in "Golden Boy," two days the past week to capacity crowds at all performances.

Eddie Gibbons of the 20th-Fox ad sales department, and also Ed Williamson of the booking department are both driving new Ford V-8s these days.

Joe Applebaum of the Roosevelt at Hollandale, Miss., was a very unusual Film-row visitor this week.

F. T. Murray, manager of branch operations for Universal and who is making a swing of the southern branches, spent a couple of days in the Memphis office, prior to his departure to Charlotte.

Jess Norman of the Best at England, Ark., and who has just recently recuperated from a serious illness, had the misfortune of turning his car over recently when returning from England to his home in Little Rock. Fortunately he escaped without serious injury.

W. F. Sonneman, who operates theatres in Fayetteville, Springdale and Bentonville, Ark., spent a couple of days in Memphis this week booking, and advised that his business was good, and his chief worry was the "Arkansas Razorbacks," who just could not play football this year.

W. W. Davis of the Ritz at DeWitt, Ark., who has been absent from the Row for quite some time, we understand, is home fighting the malaria and he won the first round.

Al Wilson of the Bay at Red Bay, Ala., and who does not get into Memphis very frequently was busy on the Row looking for pictures that would do exceptionally good business. He advised that was the kind he was going to have to run to offset the damage that Mrs. Wilson was doing to the bank account, as she was down town shopping.

Mrs. Margaret Higginbotham, who operates the Ozark Theatre at Hardy, Ark., as well as a circuit of other theatres in Arkansas and Oklahoma, was in this week buying pictures for the coming year, as well as purchasing new equipment for her various houses.

Harry Martin, film critic for the Commercial Appeal *in Memphis, has just returned from a trip to the hospital, where he was given a general checking over.*

Elmer Sedine, auditor for RKO, is now visiting the Memphis office . . . Mike Carmichael, branch manager for Monogram Southern, has just returned from a business trip to Atlanta where he was in conference with John Mangham.

Norma Baer, secretary to Columbia's branch manager, and Bob Williams of the ad sales department at 20th-Fox, were married Saturday, November 4, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Memphis. The young couple were to be attended by Marjeanne Baer of the Universal office, sister of the bride, and Eddie Gibbons of Fox. After a short honeymoon they will return to Memphis and their respective desks.

W. H. Dyes, Amity salesman out of Atlanta, spent several days in Memphis this week on accounts.

"Flophouse" Trio

ENID, OKLA.—Dr. Jay B. Nash, professor of physiology at New York University, told 1,000 teachers attending the Northern Oklahoma Educational Ass'n convention here that the radio, motion pictures and trashy literature are "America's three flophouses."

Speaking on America's use of her leisure time, Dr. Nash criticized the three mediums as stifling thinking and formation of new ideas because they "demand and monopolize the minds of our citizens."

His subject, "Is America Ready to Make Her Choice," he said was suggested by a statement made to him in Germany in 1932, when the German youth was being advised to follow Hitler because they "are not ready to make a choice, and we don't believe America is either."

Theatre Attendance Rises in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS—Film salesmen arriving home for the weekend report a general increase in business for the exhibitors in this territory. In the oil section in and around Shreveport more than unusual activity is reported, while in the sugar cane district the houses are crowded in sections set aside for colored labor.

Business in the metropolitan area is gradually increasing, due in a measure, it is said, to the fact that people are shutting off their radios and attending motion picture houses owing to the overcrowding of the air with political talks and war news.

Top Role to Tamiroff

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has assigned Akim Tamiroff one of the top roles in "Down Went McGinty," which will mark the directorial debut of Preston Sturges, who also authored the story.

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Poor Pictures Will Be Good

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

DALLAS

R MUNOZ JR. has taken over the old Dittman at Brownsville and expects to reopen about November 4. He formerly was in the employ of John Fanning, the Interstate city manager there.

Denison will soon have another new picture show if plans of Miss Lillian Walker mature. She operates the Savage Theatre in Durant, Okla., and on her visit to the Row this week said she plans to open a Negro theatre at Denison.

Gene Nelson, who worked for Charlie Hefley when the latter had the Bison in Oak Cliff, was a visitor from California last week. He says he is still with Hefley on the west coast handling "Show Ball" and various other concessions. With Nelson was an old friend, E. L. Pack, manager of the Astor across the Trinity for R&R.

W. S. (Bill) Hurst, who has sold Columbia films in Texas for the past number of years, has finally accomplished his ambition to operate a theatre. Effective over the weekend, he has leased the Ritz in Denton from E. L. Black. Bill quits Columbia this week and moves with his family to Denton to take over the Ritz. In the Hurst family are Mrs. Hurst and five children, three girls and two boys.

J. B. Underwood, Columbia branch manager, said he had not and would not replace Hurst at this time. He said the selling season was about over and that it may be some time before he added a salesman to his present staff.

J. O. (Buddy) Harris is remodeling his newly-acquired Ritz Theatre at Celina, and will be ready for a reopening within the next few days. He bought that property from the J. T. McClures. Evidently Buddy is a Texas exhibitor and will expand his interests in that direction. He owns the theatre at Midlothian.

Joe Vaughn, about to open the Star at Hillsboro, was on the Row this week handling last details for that event. In his final plans he ordered BOXOFFICE for the coming year. Joe provides the third theatre for the town. R&R long has operated two houses, the Texas and Ritz, there.

A. H. Truitt, former drygoods man, will open his new Star Theatre at Amarillo about December 1, it was learned in Dallas this week. His company is named the North Amarillo Amusement Co., Inc. Truitt's theatre apparently is in a peculiar location as film men are at a loss to classify it as a downtown or neighborhood proposition.

L. C. Baxley, who is closing his Dallas office to go into exhibition at Houston, was back in town after several days in the Bayou city. He exhibited a bill of sale whereby he owns equipment for the venture, showed a contract for remodeling a building, but declined to give the location of his house at this time. Baxley said it would be three or four months before his Houston theatre is opened.

The Variety Club is going in for Family Nites, or at least get-togethers on a wider basis of friendship. Friday nights are "Bingo Nites" and there will also be other diversions. Something new is that a host and hostess are named for these events, first being Bill and Marion Underwood.

Henry L. "Sharky" Gross, former film salesman, but in recent years employed as property man for a large drive-in establishment, was buried Tuesday in Pleasant Mound cemetery. He was 40 years old.

Alfred Sack, president of Sack Amusement Enterprises, leaves this week for California where, in addition to conferring with producers, he will take a rest at Lake Arrowhead and at Catalina. The Sack office has acquired a two-reel subject called "Birth of the Movies," showing history from then to now and incidents surrounding Tom Mix, Bill Hart and Charley Chaplin. This subject, said Sack, has been sold to Interstate 100 per cent.

Speaking of celebrations, nothing seems to have surpassed the East Texas Yamboree as held a few days ago in Gilmer. In the parade was a 30-foot float, designed and entered by C. H. Cox, owner and operator of the Crystal Theatre. The parade was two miles long and took hours to pass. There were 30,000 people in town, and needless to say, Cox had one special show after another to attract and accommodate these visitors.

S. G. Fry of Tyler has purchased the Royal at Canton, which he is remodeling and re-equipping. This will augment his circuit to six.

Paul Short, National Screen Service district manager, and Joe Estes are back from a swing through Louisiana. Paul called on circuit heads at New Orleans and Joe put in punches for special Christmas trailer advertising.

The F. A. "Doc" Allens have a baby girl, born a few days ago in Baylor hospital.

We are glad to learn that William "Bill" Rau, formerly connected with the Paramount Pictures branch office at Dallas, has taken over the managerial reins of the Community Theatre in Comfort, Tex. This is the only house in that Hill Country town and Bill is a go-getter in show business and he should have very little trouble in making his new venture in the industry pay for itself.

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A Story on America

HOLLYWOOD—"Dawn's Early Light," a story dealing with early American historical characters by Dorothy Thompson, noted columnist, and Fritz Kortner, has been purchased by Metro as the basis for a motion picture.

Jack Lilly and Employe Introduce New Sign

DALLAS—A changeable letter sign for marquees or anywhere else about a theatre, has been perfected by a man in the employ of A. W. (Jack) Lilly, at Greenville, and he and Lilly have secured a patent on the device, according to first-hand information received in Dallas. The letters give the effect of a Neon sign without the use of those tubes, it was said. Within recent days Lilly has shown photos of the sign all across the Carnation in Sulphur Springs and the Colonial in Greenville. The sign arrangement already has created quite a sensation in the southwest and at the present time there is much negotiation for national distribution of the product.

A sample and a demonstration of the new type sign will be shown at the Allied convention Monday and Tuesday.

Hear Elissa Landi

SAN MARCOS, TEX.—Elissa Landi opened the Celebrity Series here with a lecture in the new auditorium of the Southwest Texas Teachers College. Miss Landi was the first of five speakers booked here for the season by local clubs and schools.

Fordyce Dallas Opens

FORDYCE, ARK.—The remodeled Amuse-U Theatre was opened October 25 by K. Lee Williams under its new name, "The Dallas." Gerry Doig is manager of the theatre. A. E. Crowder jr., is assistant.

Two Buy Sound

DALLAS—RCA new sound equipment has been purchased by J. B. Vaughn for his newly acquired house at Hillsboro, Tex., and by Joy N. Houck for the Joy Theatre, being erected at Mamou, La.

Third Holdover in History

OKLAHOMA CITY—The Criterion here, for the third time in its history, held over a picture for a second week. It was M-G-M's "Babes in Arms." Ordinarily, good grossing pictures at the Criterion are shifted to either the Plaza or Tower.

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
315 S. HARWOOD **BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC.** DALLAS, TEXAS

SANTONE

THE Aztec Theatre has changed its opening day to Thursdays instead of Friday . . . Fred Larned, Paramount film salesman, was a recent visitor from the Dallas exchange.

Billed as the "Broadway Follies," the Broadway Theatre presented its first stageshow one night last week. Business was tripled, according to Henry Bergman, manager . . . The Majestic last week opened the fall season with Segar Ellis and his stage band.

Pre-Halloween Spook and Horror midnight show at the Majestic Theatre, Saturday, included two pictures, "The Bride of Frankenstein" and "Dracula's Daughter" . . . All four suburban houses held owl showings that night, too. They were as follows: Broadway—"The Shadow Strikes," "The Invisible Enemy;" Harlandale—"Desert Patrol," "The Mystery House;" Highland—"Exiled in Shanghai," "The Shadow Strikes," and Uptown—"The 13th Guest," "Escape by Night."

Back from recent trade trips to Dallas and the Valley is Senor J. J. Jimenez of the Latin-American Film Exchange here. J. J. reports that his latest Azteca Film release is titled "Cementerio de la Aguila" (The Cemetery of the Eagle). Recent bookers to the Soledad Street film market were Rubin Frels of the Uptown Theatre, Victoria, and Luno Zapata, tent show manager, Sinton, Tex.

Addenda: Halloween Midnight Show Tuesday—The Empire Theatre, charging 25 cents for all seats, presented Joe E. Brown's "Beware, Spooks!" in keeping with the spirits. Interstate here celebrated two Halloweens during the week.

The management of the National Theatre, which is now being modernized, is having a contest among the Latin-American colony of San Antonio to select a suitable all-Spanish talking picture to reopen this house, probably the latter part of November. Several Mexican film players will be brought here to make personal appearances for this gala occasion.

Phil Handley back from that Arizona trip . . . I. A. Martin, Interstate warehouse manager, has returned from a "grand opening" in the hospital . . . Oliver "Buzzo" Thomas, pilot of the State Theatre, is back in harness after losing 22 pounds during that recent battle with food poisoning.

In Stockdale, Monday, were Bill O'Donnell, city manager of Interstate here; Johnny Floore of the Texas here; Jackie Chalman, publicist, and Homer LeTempt of the Aztec Theatre, who looked over the theatre situation there.

Starting Wednesday, November 1, the Broadway, Alamo Heights' only theatre, began the new and fascinating game known as "Buzzo" which was originated by Oliver Thomas, manager of the State here. The inducement will be a weekly feature hereafter.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Keeler and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Mueller of the local projectionists union here, attended the State Federation of Labor Convention in Galveston last week . . . Bernie Head, agent for the A. B. Marcus show, "A Night at the Moulin Rouge," which plays the City Auditorium, November 8-9, was a recent visitor . . .

Robert Bell's "Hawaiians" goes into the Texas Theatre, November 4, for an engagement . . . Emily Williams of the Interstate city offices says she is taking up flying . . . The Gleam reopened for the season Tuesday night with Lester Oman's "Little People" . . . Charles Freeman of Dallas is booking the acts for the Majestic's Silver Jubilee Show which plays here the week of November 11 . . . New Republic serial, "Dick Tracy's G-Men" opens Saturday at the State and the first 250 kids attending that morning will get a free bar of "Streamliner" candy . . . Tito Guizar, Mexican film star-tenor, makes his initial appearance here at the Auditorium, November 10.

20 Years Ago
IN SANTONE

YOUR correspondent was a member of the Princess Theatre staff then . . . Marcus Loew, vaudeville magnate of national operations and S. A. Lynch, one of the most influential figures in the motion picture field of the Southwest, secured an option to purchase theatrical holdings in San Antonio embraced by the Empire, Royal and Princess theatres. The playhouses were controlled by William J. Lytle and associates who operated them at that time. The option was good until Dec. 1, 1919, and the deal was consummated then.

Pictures shown at the downtown flicker houses were such films as: Empire—"The Love Burglar" starring the late Wallace Reid; Royal—"The Perfect Lover" with Eugene O'Brien; Princess—"Adele" featuring the radiant star, Kitty Gordon; Pearl—"Secret Service" with Robert Warwick; Queen—"The Midnight Man" featuring the late James J. Corbett, and Grand Opera House—"The Career of Katherine Bush," Elinor Glynn's amazing romance starring Catherine Calvert.—LES KETNER.

Out Dropped $10

ENID, OKLA.—It seems something like this pops up once in a while and nobody can offer an explanation.

Paul West, assistant manager at the Aztec, opened a letter the other day and out fell a $10 bill. With it was a note:

"This money is to pay for making dishonest entrances to some local theatres in the last ten years."

As a further element of mystery, the note was crudely printed with a pencil while the envelope was addressed in perfect Spencerian in ink.

AUSTIN

HI, YO SILVER! The house staff of the Varsity went horseback riding Sunday, and some of the boys are still saddle sore. Fine Texas cowboys they turned out to be! . . . Wally Mayfield of the Varsity staff got his leg bunged up playing football.

And speaking of football, Charlie Root, skipper of the Varsity, just can't seem to get enough. He went to see the Texas and Rice freshmen teams play, and then he caught the Texas-Rice grid classic. Jesse Melinger, Texas Theatre manager, and Dick Waite, assistant manager of the Paramount, were in the stands, too.

To get back to Charlie for a moment. He's an officer in the University Business League and he took an active part in planning the organization's annual banquet. Dana X. Bible, University of Texas football coach, gave a running commentary on the moving pictures of the Texas-Rice game, which were exhibited at the dinner.

Louis Novy, city Interstate manager, delighted with the business that followed the Texas-Rice game . . . English class at local high school is writing a scenario for "Ivanhoe" and casting it with film stars who best fit the characters in the novel . . . Junior high school is shooting a 35mm picture of school life.

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TEXAS, OKLA., ARK., MISS., LA., TENN., GA., FLA., ALA., and NO. and SO. CAR.

ATLANTA

VARIETY CLUB of Atlanta, Tent No. 21, will hold the first of a series of monthly luncheons Monday, November 6, in the Dixie ballroom of the Henry Grady Hotel, where the Club maintains its attractive quarters. Roy Avey, M-G-M branch manager, will be "King for a Day."

A. C. Bromberg, genial head of Republic, and Mrs. Bromberg, have returned from a two-week trip to New York, combining business and pleasure. While in New York, the Brombergs saw several shows and attended the World's Fair.

Colonel Thomas E. Orr of Albertville, Ala., and his able assistant, Hammond Green, were Row visitors last week.

H. R. Mitchell, manager of the new house which opened recently in Linden, Tenn., reports smooth operation.

Paul C. Bryan, one of the Bryan brothers, and J. C. Hearn, were scheduled to open their house at Blue Ridge, Ga. Bryan formerly operated the Parking Palace on Piedmont Ave., Atlanta. He then roadshowed for a while, and now takes over the building formerly occupied by the Blue Ridge Theatre, which has moved into a new home.

John W. Mangham returned to Atlanta last week after attending the Monogram franchise holders' committee meeting in Kansas City. It was decided in view of advantageous conditions Monogram will increase budgets on its top pictures. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram; E. A. Golden, vice-president, and George Weeks, sales manager, attended the meeting. Conferring with Mangham were M. L. Stevens, Charlotte; W. G. Carmichael, Memphis, and J. Harris Spann, New Orleans.

Filmrowers were grieved to learn last week of the death of N. W. (Bill) Remond, operator of the Scenic Theatre in Lake Wales, Fla., and known and loved for many years in film circles. Remond died of a heart attack at his home on October 28. He had been in Lake Wales for the past five years. Many years ago he was associated with Montgomery Enterprises, operating theatres in Atlanta, Jacksonville and other cities. He was also formerly associated with the S. A. Lynch enterprises. In his late 60's, Remond was an ardent football fan and scouted officials for the Southeastern Officials Ass'n. He was a rabid Georgia Tech fan and a close personal friend of the Jackets Coach Alexander. His wife survives.

The Jolly Club will hold its Thanksgiving dance Friday night, November 24, at Peachtree Gardens.

The recent death of Miles Metzger, 42, former Paramount treasurer for the state and president of the Travelers Trade Bureau of Tennessee and Alabama, was a shock to his many friends along Filmrow. Metzger was formerly a famous athlete, star center on the nationally known Celtics basketball team. He was a World War veteran.

Hendrik Willem Van Loon's "The Fight for Peace," documentary war film, was previewed at the Capitol Theatre last week, prior to its run at that house . . . Fred Mathis, Monogram salesman, and Miss Corinne Grimsley will be married in December at Cordele, home of the bride.

R. C. Graham of Alexander Preview spent a day in Albany last week.

Robert Strickland of Strickland Industrial Films, journeyed to north Georgia on business last week.

Sam Berry of Southland Theatre Equipment is touring Alabama.

Ira Stone, RKO office manager, spent several days in the territory.

Tom Miller has been assigned to the Tennessee territory as salesman for Universal.

Ray Newman and his son from Sandersville, Ga., were seen along the Row.

Denny Dixon, Gadsden, Ala., city manager for the Sudekum circuit, paid the Row a rare visit last week.

An unconfirmed rumor says a new colored house is to be built in Andalusia, Ala.

Joe B. Meyer reports work on the new theatre building under construction by the Wilby Theatre Enterprises on West Doyle Street, Toccoa, is progressing rapidly. The house will be ready early in December, it is anticipated.

Row visitors: Hugh Manning, Etowah, Tenn.; Curtis Ware, Royston, Ga.; Bill Ailig of Tampa, Fla.

Jeff Davis, UA branch manager, was out in the territory last week . . . Jessie C. Cox announces the appointment of W. J. Brooks as manager of the Roxy Theatre, Lithonia, Ga. Bill formerly operated the Lithonia DeKalb Theatre for many years. Cox also said new chairs and booth equipment have been installed in the house.

J. U. McCormick, of Amity Exchange, went out of town on business last week . . . Mrs. Willie Belle Pinson, operator of the theatre at Sylvester, Ga., is fourth entry in the race for council in the December 6 election . . . Albert Flores of Dallas has assumed duties as booker in the Atlanta office of Sack Amusement Co.

Construction forces are busy erecting a new marquee at the Lyric Theatre in Waycross, Ga. The new front will support Neon lights instead of individual globes. It is planned to erect a Lucas & Jenkins sign in lights. Construction is not expected to interfere with regular picture programs.

Oscar Lam, Riley Davis and Sid Reams plan a two-day bird hunt this week with Hal Macon at Statesboro . . . Bill McKinley, of Martin & Thompson circuit, has been made manager of the Princess Theatre in Hawkinsville, Ga., succeeding Billy Yarbrough, who resigned. Yarbrough is associating himself with a turpentine company in McRae . . . John Jenkins has returned from a three-weeks' trip to West Virginia and the Carolinas.

The new Drake Theatre, which opened this month in Pearson, Ga., is clicking strongly . . . Robert Mochrie, formerly with UA and here from New York, has assumed duties as new district manager at RKO. J. B. Brecheen, former branch manager, has returned to Charlotte as branch manager . . . William R. Griffin, of the Lyric Theatre, Cullman, Ala., premiered in the south Monogram's "Mutiny in the Big House" last week in a highly successful manner.



Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

YOUR roving correspondent completed a most pleasant visit with the trade on Atlanta's Row and enjoyed the hospitality of the Variety Club as the guest of Sid Reams and Riley Davis, who rendered this wanderer much assistance.

Joy Houck of Joy Theatres, New Orleans, is up in the air these days due to the purchase of a new plane. He recently flew it to Atlanta on a business trip.

Benton Bros. Film Delivery Service of Atlanta has purchased two new trucks and advise they intend to acquire more equipment in the near future.

Miles Metzger, formerly Lucas and Jenkins treasurer, died recently in Atlanta.

Mitchell Wolfson, Wometco Theatres of Miami, and Oscar Lam of Rome, Ga., drove through to White Sulphur Springs for the MPTOA board meeting.

Claire Hilgers is reported building a new theatre at Albany, Ga. . . . Manning and Wink of Marietta, Ga., are constructing a new theatre, also two new store buildings and a bank in this town.

It is understood that George Wilby is building new theatres at Jacksonville, Fla., and Toccoa, Ga.

R. Covington, operating the Lyric at Sumter, S. C., is spending a belated vacation with friends in Atlanta.

H. J. Williams is opening a new theatre for colored at Fitzgerald, Ga.

Called to see L. J. Hollister of American Seating Co. but found him out of town and talked to our old friend F. M. Slygh who told me of the new Avion chair recently put on the market. C. M. Bolen is state manager for Georgia.

B. P. Neal, who operates the Villa Rica Theatre at Villa Rica, recently underwent an operation but has practically recovered and is able to be on the job most of the time now.

T. R. Harris, managing Oscar Lam's Grand at Tallapoosa, Ga., is installing a new generator and making certain other changes.

Arthur and Mrs. Bromberg are in New York on a combination business and pleasure trip.

Theatrical Printing Co. of Atlanta has doubled its floor space by acquiring space in the rear of their present location.

Fred McLendon is constructing a new theatre in Brundige, Ala., to be known as the Brundige. The house will seat 360 down, 160 upstairs, and will be ready to open about Christmas.

The Variety Club of Atlanta has adopted the "king for a day" policy. Roy Avery of Metro was the first chosen.

Called around Birmingham to see some of the boys but found a number of them out of town and have a sneaking idea the football game was the reason.

Gratifying Weekend for Atlantans in Alabama



ATLANTA—The successful Izaak Walton devotees pictured above were guests over a recent weekend of Col. Thomas E. Orr's on a fishing jaunt to the dam at Guntersville, Ala. In the party, from left to right stand Riley Davis, Sam Wilson, Col. Orr, Sid Reams, Roscoe Reams and Jack Barrett. The catch, which includes trout, jack salmon, and shad, was made with rod and reel using artificial lures.

After the fishing the party was hosted at a buffet supper at the colonel's home in Albertville, Ala.

OKLA. CITY

MORRIS LOEWENSTEIN and Miss Ona Johnson are back on duty at the Majestic Theatre here. They, with Sol Davis, have returned from the east where they vacationed. Loewenstein also attended the MPTOA board meeting at White Sulphur Springs.

H. K. Buchanan of the Allied Film exchange here is one gent who really looks ahead to the big fights. Buck has states rights on fight films.

The boys are all talking about L. C. Griffith's low golf score in the Dallas Variety tournament—but brother R. C. wasn't far behind either. And who was it that won $30 on L. C. in the Calcutta pool?

Wallace Walthall in town for a combined business and pleasure visit . . . Charles W. Clark, 20th-Fox exchange generalissimo, has a new Chrysler.

Sam Caporal is considering remodeling his Yale Theatre on Capitol Hill here. The Yale is one of the oldest local houses. Sam got his start just prior to its construction with an open-air nickelodeon.

Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. is sponsoring two new programs on KCRC, Enid, giving away tickets to Enid theatres as prizes in contests of a question nature.

The Criterion Theatre is being used each Thursday night for WKY's broadcast of a unit show. Swap deal calls for daily plugs on the house's pictures as the program runs five times a week . . . Bob Steele, western star, is in town making personal appearances with his company, at a local niterie.

Territory Topics

ALABAMA

ATHENS—The Ritz, owned by Muscle Shoals Theatres, Inc., has been extensively remodeled.

JASPER—Newsreels of the Walker county fair were a recent added attraction at the Jasper here.

SPRINGS—Fred McLendon has reopened the remodeled Lilfred Theatre.

FLORIDA

AVON PARK—Fire in the projection room of the Avon did damage estimated at $500, according to Reuben Moore, district manager for Mullins Theatres.

KISSIMMEE—The J. G. McPhersons have redecorated their Arcade Theatre here.

ORLANDO—Hollis Mitchell has been engaged to direct this season's productions for the local Little Theatre.

ZEPHYR HILLS—The Earle Fain circuit has taken over the local theatre and remodeled it.

NORTH CAROLINA

ASHEVILLE—The front entrance of the Plaza will be remodeled at a cost of $7,500.

DUNN—Stewart-Everett circuit has taken over the Piquant, Angier, it is reported here.

HICKORY—Mr. and Mrs. Ray Clouse have moved to Atlanta where he has assumed duties as manager of the theatre seating division of Southern Desk Co.

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLESTON—W. W. Boddie jr. has been named publicity director for the Dock St., it is announced by Managing Director Charles Meredith.

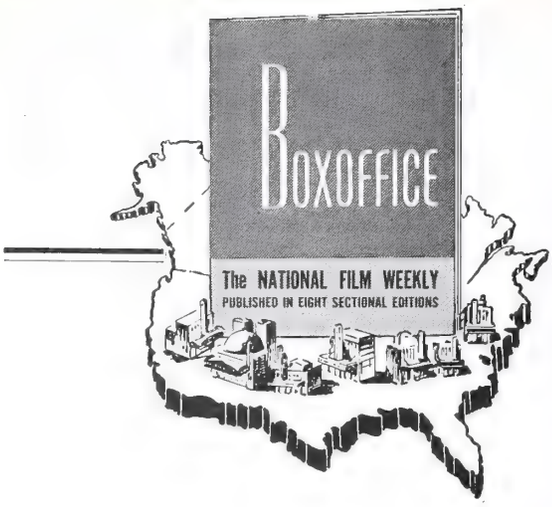
COLUMBIA—The Town Theatre's drive for members is coming along, reports Mrs. Mabel B. Kalmakoff, business manager.

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Published in February . . . the middle of the season . . . BOXOFFICE BAROMETER reports on all that has happened during the first half of the season and definitely, authoritatively, tells about what is to come during the rest of the picture year. The only annual published expressly for service to theatre owners and managers . . . the only annual that completely blankets the industry.

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Triumph of Liberals Brings Out Smiles

By ROY CARMICHAEL

MONTREAL—What does the change of government in Quebec province mean to the motion picture industry? The election results and their possible consequences are the topic of discussion wherever distributors and exhibitors meet. Filmrow apparently views the situation with optimism, for smiles were to be seen on all faces the morning after election day, and there was no need to speculate as to how this or that man voted.

Premier Maurice Duplessis, it is conceded on all sides, even by his own supporters, used extraordinarily bad judgment in calling an election during wartime when he had two and a half years of his term to run. Still worse was his interpretation of the sentiment of his French-Canadian compatriots when he thought that the raising of a cry against conscription which is a dead issue, and the lining up of the province against the Dominion, would unite the electors of the province behind him. It did unite them—against him. From the point of view of everyone, except Premier Duplessis, his cabinet and the union-Nationale members who supported him, nothing better could have happened than this opportunity to demonstrate that the French-Canadians of Quebec are loyal Canadians and loyally support the Empire in the war against Nazi aggression.

Overwhelmingly for Liberals

French-Canadians, English-speaking Canadians, and the large Jewish population of the cities, voted overwhelmingly for the Liberal candidates, with the result that there was a complete reversal of the position of the two parties.

The standing in the Legislature now is: Liberals, 67; National-Union, 16; Independents, 2. Before dissolution it was: National Union, 71; Liberals, 11; Nationalists, 5; Independent National Union, 3. Most of the members of Premier Duplessis's cabinet were defeated, but the prime minister held his own seat at Three Rivers. The new Liberal administration is headed by Adelard Godbout, who was premier for only three months when defeated by Duplessis.

The administration of Premier Duplessis has been noted for its hostility to the motion picture industry, and, in particular, for the severity with which it applied the law against admission of juveniles under 16 to motion picture theatres. This law was enacted several years ago following the disastrous fire in the Laurier Palace Theatre, Montreal, when over 70 children lost their lives. It was supposed to be a measure to insure the safety of the children at a period when fireproof theatres were not general, as they are now. The Liberal government interpreted it in that manner, but when Premier Duplessis and his Union-National government came into power, ultramontane influence was quickly perceptible in the arguments produced by the administration whenever motion picture people appealed for modification of the law or leniency in its application.

Overlooking altogether the fact that the law was passed to insure the physical safety of the children, the Duplessis government ruled that the exclusion of children from theatres was necessary to protect—not their lives—but their morals. The influence of the Roman Catholic priesthood was there apparent, and from time to time clerical opposition not only prevented revision of the ban on juveniles, but caused the prohibition by the censors of notable films which adults wished to see, notably "The Life of Emile Zola."

Advent of the Liberal government need not be expected to have any immediate effect on the motion picture industry, but that it will eventually is the hope and expectation of the trade, who believe the new administration will be Liberal in deed and not in name only.

Chain Tax Proposal Is Up in Toronto

Toronto—The civic assessment committee has brought in a recommendation for the consideration of the city council for the establishment of a chain tax which would derive further civic revenue from any corporation operating a number of units or branches, this levy to be in addition to the usual municipal business tax which is based on property assessment. The report also provides for a special tax on holding companies which engage in business through subsidiary firms. This move would add to the taxation of theatre chains. It is intended to bring about an increase in revenue for war purposes.

Two Ontario Towns to Fight "Fast Time"

TORONTO—A fight looms on the question of Daylight Saving in connection with the municipal elections in at least two Ontario cities which are scheduled for December 4. Incidentally, the forthcoming civic elections are to be the last in Ontario for the duration of the war under an order laid down by the Provincial Government as an economy measure so that any balloted decision on this occasion will have effect until the conclusion of hostilities.

Brantford, Ont., has never had Daylight Saving because the question has always been voted down by the citizens. However, the referendum is coming up again in December and already the opposition is organizing its arguments.

In Smiths Falls, the council passed a by-law providing Daylight Saving last summer for the first time there but the measure was adopted only after a vigorous fight. A bitter contest is promised for the coming municipal campaign because opponents of "fast time" have announced that candidates will be brought out for every seat in council to block any further attempt to change the clocks.

Daylight Saving was introduced during the First Great War throughout the Dominion to conserve electric power and to enable all industrial plants to take advantage of all possible daylight but it was continued in many municipalities for the benefit of outdoor sports in spite of protests by women's, school, rural and theatre organizations who regard "late daytime" as an evil.

Increase in Canadian Tourist Trade Seen

TORONTO—The tourist business is attracting the attention of Canadians as a war sideline, with travel on the high seas somewhat discouraged for coming months, perhaps years.

It is the opinion of theatre chain executives that tourist traffic between the United States and Canada will increase by leaps and bounds because of the hostilities. With this in mind, consideration is being given to the prospect of many U. S. visitors around Thanksgiving Day, now that Americans realize that no special difficulty attends entry into the Dominion, the Dominion Government having given assurance that every facility and courtesy will be extended to tourists—with the exception of enemy aliens. J. J. Fitzgibbons, vice-president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has expressed great confidence in the future of international touring on this continent and has urged the company managers to encourage tourists.

Among the reasons advanced for a big increase in the tourist business are the following:

The Canadian dollar is at a 10 per cent discount and U. S. tourists get the difference.

Border regulations now in effect make it easy for tourists to make purchases and take back all types of merchandise up to $100 per person in a stated period.

American tourists are curious to see Canada in a state of war and get quite a kick out of viewing Canadian soldiers, particularly the Highlanders.

Pleasure trips to Europe are out of the question but Canada is sufficiently distinctive to provide that foreign touch.

There is undoubtedly a desire on the part of Americans and Canadians to show their neighborly friendship under present circumstances.

More money in circulation through touring in Canada means better business for Canadian theatres and the net increase goes back, ultimately, to film producing companies in the U. S., thus tending to offset Hollywood's losses in European countries.

Incidentally, tourist traffic from the U. S. reached an all-time peak last July and August when, according to official government statistics, a total of 6,082,257 visitors was recorded, compared with 5,740,512 for the same months of 1938.

Termer to Betty Grable

HOLLYWOOD—Betty Grable has been handed a term acting ticket at 20th-Fox.

TORONTO

LILLIAN GISH, star of the silent days, spent several days in Toronto visiting Ann Huston, sister of Walter Huston, a Toronto contribution to screen, stage and radio. While here, Miss Gish was taken out to see the Huston farm near Orangeville, Ont. Regarding the film world, Miss Gish declared the best picture she ever saw was the German feature, "The Last Laugh," starring Emil Jannings. Her preference for a German picture while in Canada during a war with Germany did not arouse a ruffle of comment, by the way. Incidentally, she went to a supper dance, she said, just to get a glimpse of war pilots in the uniform of the Royal Canadian Air Force—thus proving again that the Colonel's lady and Judy O'Grady are always the same.

In Toronto on a business trip, P. J. Nolan, veteran independent exhibitor, announced he would not be a candidate for the office of Mayor of Ottawa in the municipal elections to be held December 4. Nolan, who operates two theatres there, has been both mayor and alderman on a number of occasions . . . The baby daughter of Harvey Hunt, head office booker of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has recovered nicely from an operation, the child having previously been ill for some months.

Chain theatre managers and executives turned out in force for a surprise party for Vern Hudson just prior to his departure for Ottawa to assume management of the Avalon Theatre. Hudson was spirited away from his Toronto home on an excuse and when he returned he could hardly get inside the front door for the mob. After the presentation of a radio, the gang partied until a very late hour and a good time was had by all . . . Robert Rennie of the Winnipeg office of Warner Bros. spent some time in Toronto during the course of his annual vacation trip.

George Oullahan, advertising manager of Empire-Universal, was the guest star on a program of Station CKCL, Toronto, which was a part of the ballyhoo campaign for the engagement of "The Under-Pup" at the downtown Tivoli, in which everyone who wrote a letter to the radio station received a fanphoto of Gloria Jean. Some of the boys along Toronto's Film-row sent appropriate applause cards to Oullahan.

James R. Nairn, director of publicity at Famous Players' headoffice, and Larry Graburn, formerly of Halifax and Vancouver, have been appointed co-editors of the company's monthly house organ, the circulation of which is restricted to the chain managers across Canada . . . Larry Ritza of the Ottawa Valley Amusement Co., Renfrew, Ont., was a visitor for the first time in many weeks and took advantage of the occasion to describe a 7½-lb. bass which he had caught recently. The company operates independent houses at Renfrew, Pembroke, Arnprior and Almonte.

Most everybody around Famous Players is a keen supporter of the Toronto Argonaut football team which has won the gridiron title three years running and is now tied for first place in the standing. One reason for the office enthusiasm is that the secretary-treasurer of the chain, T. J. Bragg, is a member of the executive of the football club.

A lady manager at Toronto exchanges was Miss A. Elliott, who supervises the operation of Fred Guest's three theatres in Hamilton, Ont., the Delta, Empire and Queen's. Guest spends a large portion of the year in Vancouver, B. C., where he has other theatre interests, and the direction of the Hamilton houses is largely in the hands of Miss Elliott.

The Toronto branch office of Regal Films was stripped of all mural decorations including the usual array of exploitation features and special posters. The branch was neither moving nor storing away the pictures because of a possible air raid but to enable the premises to be redecorated and renovated.

Sandy MacPherson, former theatre organist of Ontario, has sent word to Toronto film friends that he is the only one left in London, England—that is of the staff of the British Broadcasting Corp. Other artists and program officials had been evacuated to the country but he had to remain in the city because the big studio organ could not be moved. He even sleeps at the studio because of the difficulty in getting around at night. Born in Paris, Ont., he played in various theatres before going to England.

One of the biggest window tieups in Toronto was that secured by Loew's for "The Women" when the Robert Simpson Co. department store devoted eight large windows to displays of women's apparel, including copies of clothes worn in the picture and appropriate references. The film atmosphere was further carried out by the display of moving picture cameras, studio flood and spot lights, microphone beams, camera dolly and other equipment before which window dummies were placed in settings resembling the picture's scenes.

Harry J. Allen, general manager of Grand National, has appointed Frank Goldhar, formerly with Columbia, as manager of the Montreal branch in succession to Harry Kaufman, resigned . . . Frank O'Byrne, Toronto manager of Associated Screen News, has been in Montreal on business and A. W. Perry, general manager of Empire-Universal, has also visited the Quebec territory.

Manager Al Sedgewick of the Belsize, Toronto, recently observed his ninth anniversary with Famous Players. He was formerly manager of the Tivoli and Bloor theatres . . . Players and officials of the Toronto Church Girls Softball Ass'n flocked to the Oakwood Theatre for their annual theatre party with Manager Bob Eves doing the honors as reception committee.

The opening of "They Shall Have Music" at Loew's, Toronto, was timed for November 2, the day after the star of the picture, Jascha Heifetz, appeared in a concert at Massey Music Hall, Toronto . . . Jim Davidson, head salesman of Superior Films, spent the week in a tour of eastern Ontario theatres. He reported that "Sky Devils" is getting quite a call now on account of the war.

Harry Simons, proprietor of the Palace, Matachewan, was in town from northern Ontario. The theatre seats 463 and is open six days a week, the population of the new mining town being over the 1,000 mark . . . A. C. Stock was also in from the oil town of Petrolia where he is the manager of the Iroquois Theatre . . . Harold Braden was an exchange visitor from Hamilton where he presides over the destinies of the Kenwood, Kenmore and Regent theatres. T. D. Maitland, proprietor of the Maitland at Ingersoll, was here as well as Miss Marion Nolan of the Nola and Rexy Theatres, Ottawa.

Leon G. Turrou, formerly of the U. S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, was a recent visitor in Ontario points. He was the author of the story on which the film, "Confessions of a Nazi Spy" was based and had been in England for personal appearances in connection with presentation of the picture at London cinemas . . . Manager Lloyd Mills had the Canadian premiere of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at his Elgin Theatre in Ottawa.

Tom Mascaro, manager of the Granada at Hamilton, Ont., has already trotted Santa Claus out for a street ballyhoo when he distributed cards for a film attraction —with the notation that he would have to hurry back to toyland after seeing the picture . . . James P. O'Loghlin, general manager of 20th Century-Fox, is back in Toronto after an extensive inspection trip to the Atlantic Coast where he experienced a "blackout" at the ocean port of St. John, N. B.

J. J. Fitzgibbons, vice-president of Famous Players, and R. W. Bolstad, comptroller, have been engaged in a tour of the Canadian West to discuss the new conditions resulting from the war, the situation having changed considerably since the season's program of theatre operation was announced and discussed at the company convention at Niagara Falls last July.

Pylon, Downtown Toronto, Makes a Formal Debut

TORONTO—The Pylon Theatre in downtown Toronto was formally opened by Mayor Ralph C. Day in a brief ceremony in the presence of representative citizens and a group of officers of community organizations all of whom received cash donations from Ray Lewis, owner and builder of the new house, with whom is associated Theodore M. Sterling of Toronto. The manager is Chris Holmes, who, until recently, had been with Famous Players Canadian Corp.

MONTREAL

THIS column extends its congratulations to Dr. Guibord, proprietor of the Theatre Nationale, Grand'Mere, Que., elected Liberal member of the Legislative Assembly, at the Quebec provincial elections, October 25.

There was much rejoicing in the local film center when the results of the provincial election became known, as the Duplessis government which went down to defeat, had, under clerical influence, applied with unexampled stringency the ban against admission of juveniles to theatres. The film managers and the industry generally are hopeful that some modification of the law will be introduced under the new Liberal government, particularly as they will have a spokesman in Dr. Guibord.

After only a few months stay in Filmrow as province of Quebec manager for Grand National Films, Harry Kauffman has resigned. He is succeeded by Frank Goldhar of Toronto, who, at one time was a member of the local staff of Columbia Pictures of Canada, Ltd. . . . John Levitt of Regent Films reports that the Province of Quebec Board of Censors has passed the anti-Nazi film, "Professor Mamlock," which will be shown here at the Orpheum, and is expected to have a long run.

Filmrow visitors include Alfred Perry Canadian general manager of Empire Universal; Leo Devaney and Joe O'Loghlin from Toronto; George Gray, Wonderland Magog; George Champagne, Roxy and Auditorium, Shawinigan Falls, and Messrs. Brock and Laurie of the Princess, Cowansville.

Appointment of John Grierson as Canadian film commissioner will in no way affect the position of Capt. Frank Badgley, director of the Dominion Government Motion Picture Bureau, declared Captain Badgley in denying a rumor that he had resigned. He added he could not understand how or where such a rumor originated . . . Advertising and window tieups with two of the leading St. Catherine St. stores were effected by Phil Maurice, manager of Loew's Theatre, where "The Women" has completed a second week.

A rumor that the British Ministry of Information had refused an offer by an Anglo-American agency, with worldwide distribution facilities, to distribute free of charge any British newsreels made by the Ministry, was referred to in the House of Lords by Lord Strabolgi, who said he heard that the Ministry planned its own distribution organization at a cost of $250,000 *a year. Lord Templemore, replying, said the president of the British Board of Trade had assured the film producing interests that changes would only be made after consultation with them, and Lord MacMillan, Minister of Information, denied receiving an offer to distribute newsreels but said he would be happy to consider such an offer.*

One of the most enterprising rural theatres is the Plaza at Tilbury. It has just negotiated a tieup with local merchants by which customers can obtain free tickets for a "Linen and Wool Shop Theatre Party." At various times recently the theatre has linked up attractions outside of the usual run . . . Montreal's Italian colony is hopeful of seeing Italian films in Montreal theatres. Italy, it is reported, plans to increase film production. Because the French and British, as well as the German film industries, have been affected severely by the war, Italians believe their country can become a serious rival of Hollywood.

"They Discover America" is the title of a film boosting bus travel, shown by E. W. Eversden of the Provincial Transport Co. to a gathering in Westmount of the Catholic Women's League.

The Capitol staff has shown its patriotism in marked fashion. Leslie Dowbiggin, manager, informs BOXOFFICE that six of the uniformed employes have volunteered and been accepted by local regiments and two more have applied and are under consideration. The men enlisted are: Bruce Mackay, Royal Canadian Dragoons; G. Snow, Joe Hart and Sergt. E. Adnum, of the 7th Medium Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery; Walter Harris, Medical Corps, and L. Lang, Royal Montreal Regiment.

Mystery Surrounds Death Of Gertrude Small, 56

TORONTO—Still another chapter has been written in the strange annals of the Small family of Toronto in the tragic and mysterious death of Gertrude Small, aged 56, whose body was found in the Nottawasaga River, Georgia Bay District, a few hours after she had been married to a theatre electrician, Warren Bell, whose coat containing the marriage license was found floating in the water some distance from the woman's body. The fate of Bell was not immediately established.

Gertrude Small was a sister of the late Ambrose J. Small, owner of the first big chain of theatres in Ontario who vanished 20 years ago only a few minutes after he had received payment of $2,000,000 for his theatre holdings. His main Toronto theatre, the Grand, was eventually torn down, the wreckage being searched for some trace of the magnate, and the site of the theatre was dug up with a steam shovel for some clue. The search continued for years throughout Canada, the United States and Mexico but without result, the last person believed to have seen him alive being a newsboy in front of the theatre from whom he bought a paper.

Deaths of former business associates, arrests, prosecutions and disputes over money matters, legal action to upset a part of the Small will after he had been declared dead and now the mystery surrounding the death of a sister all count up to make a bizarre and sinister story about which millions of words already have been written. Once more the criminal specialists have swung into action to find out what happened to Gertrude Small and the whereabouts of her youthful husband. The famous "Small Case" is once again on the front pages.

VANCOUVER

TOM SHIELDS suffered a relapse and passed away Sunday, October 22. As owner and operator of the Olympic he had held an enviable place in Vancouver's amusement world for a number of years, greatly liked for his forthright manner and outstanding reliability. His son, Tom junior, has aided his father in the management of the theatre for some time past, and will continue its operation, inspired by the established reputation of the house.

The Independent Theatre Owners' Ass'n is endeavoring to obtain permission to remain open after midnight on Saturdays, whenever it may be necessary to do so in order to finish the screening of a picture being run. Thus far, they have not had a definite answer from the city council who suggests that it is controlled by the Lord's Day Act.

The promotion of Frank Vaughan to western district manager of E. U. probably will involve some change in the Vancouver office and there is much speculation as to whom the district manager will be.

Jimmy Fitz-Henry, doorman of the Strand Theatre, beamed on everyone last week for the stork had lighted on his roof and left a wonderful boy—so Jimmy says—who, as Terence Raymond Fitz-Henry may serve future theatre patrons as the perfect doorman.

L. A. Allen is back from his eastern trip and again occupying the private office in the Grand National quarters on Filmrow. Sonny is full of enthusiasm concerning impending releases by his company.

Norman Duncan went gunning for the gunners to see a hunting film at the Strand Theatre with possibly better success than many of the hunters, for he brought out good audiences.

Bud Barker Is Training for Royal Canadian Air Force

TORONTO—Bud Barker of the head office staff of Famous Players here is the latest representative of the Canadian film business to prepare for the role of warrior on the battle fronts. He is in training as a pilot for service with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Associates in the Famous Players organization, including head office officials and theatre employes, made a belated presentation of a portable radio to Lieut. Ted Doney of the Canadian Active Service Force as a token of esteem. The former manager of the Capitol at St. Thomas joined the colors immediately after the declaration of war, making the move so quickly that his friends had no time to organize a send-off party but the remembrance has now been forthcoming.

Leo Devaney a "Pioneer"

TORONTO—Leo M. Devaney, general manager of RKO, has been admitted to membership in the Pioneers Club of the Film Industry in New York City.

CALGARY

EDDIE ZORN, western district manager for Famous Players Canadian, paid a three-day visit to Calgary. While here he conferred with the managers of four houses controlled by his company. Zorn states business in the western prairies is on the uptrend, with Alberta showing greatest improvement. All units under his control report increased boxoffice returns, with Saskatchewan and Alberta promising exceptional fall business. Previously located at Calgary as Alberta manager, Zorn renewed many friendships while visiting the City of the Foothills.

Boxoffice uptrend in Calgary got a serious setback for two days during the blizzard and 12-inch snowfall which tied up traffic on October 23 and 24. With snow drifts blocking roads to the city, streetcars disorganized and buses stalled, theatres were empty during the storm.

Two of Calgary's best suburban theatres are throwing open their doors once weekly to Canadian soldiers. These free matinees are run in cooperation with officers in Calgary Garrison, so that different units alternate each performance. Current programs are shown on afternoons houses are closed. Motion picture projectors and theatre staffs give services free.

Little Theatre here, amateur dramatic club, has started a series of monthly variety shows for Canadian soldiers.

Manslaughter Charged

TORONTO—T. R. Godfrey, well-known Toronto theatre man and radio star and son of a high court justice, was arrested on a charge of manslaughter when the automobile he was driving on the Lake Shore Road killed two pedestrians and injured a third on a dark night recently. Godfrey, who had also been active in dramatic stock as a member of the Cameron Matthew Players and John Holden Players, was given his temporary liberty on $10,000 bail.

His Son in Service

TORONTO—Milford Elliott denies a recent BOXOFFICE report that he has forsaken his film censorship duties in the province of Ontario to become a dispatch rider in His Majesty's Forces for war services. He adds, however, that his son, Gordon, formerly with RKO Distributors and the Fox Theatre here, has joined the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps as a driver or dispatch rider.

Loses Roll of Film

MONTREAL—John Phillips, staff photographer for *Life*, had a half-exposed roll of film taken from him on Quebec election day in front of the committee room of Louis Fitch on Mount Royal Ave., after he had snapped a picture of "local voters" brandishing iron bars and sticks in the air.

It's a Mad Game, This Censoring

Montreal—Censors now are censoring one another. A film of troops embarking for service abroad was taken by the British Post Office Film Unit under official supervision. Approved and censored, it was released for showing. One newsreel company thought the film should be shown in France. A copy was prepared and submitted. The British censors refused to give this official film an export permit.

Tribute to James Whitham, For 30 Years an Exhibitor

TORONTO—Special tribute was paid to James Whitham of Cornwall, Ont., on the occasion of his 30th anniversary in the theatre business, a feature of which was a souvenir edition of the Cornwall *Standard-Freeholder* giving a historical record of his business career.

Early in November, 1909, James Whitham opened Cornwall's first cinema with a seating capacity of 95. He is now the head of the Palace Amusement Co., Ltd., operating the Capitol and Palace theatres in Cornwall as units of the Famous Players chain. The Capitol seats 1,261 and the Palace has accommodation for 749, the population of Cornwall being 12,000. Incidentally, work is proceeding on the construction of a third theatre, the Uptown, because of recent strides by the community as an industrial center.

The Cornwall theatres are under the direct management of Clarence G. Markell, son-in-law of James Whitham, whose son, Ben Whitham, is an executive official at the Toronto head office of Famous Players. Special screen programs were provided for the Cornwall theatres in observance of the Whitham anniversary, with the chain company using special space in the newspaper to extend congratulations to the pioneer.

Last Rites for Mrs. George Ganetakos in Montreal

MONTREAL—Last rites for Mrs. George S. Ganetakos, 52, who died in St. Petersburg, Fla., after a short illness, were held here at the Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola where the Rev. R. Kennedy, S. J., celebrated the requiem mass, assisted by the Rev. F. Elliott and the Rev. T. J. Walsh.

The wife of the managing director of United Amusements, Mrs. Ganetakos was the former Veronica Mary Franklin. She was born and educated here and was a member of Loyola Paris.

She is survived by her husband, a son, John G. Ganetakos; a daughter, Mrs. W. H. Giles, and two grandchildren, all of Montreal.

Alliance Release Channel

TORONTO—The 12 feature films to be made by Alliance Films Corp. for the 1939-40 season will be released in Canada, Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces by Colonial Pictures, Ltd.

MARITIMES

MR. AND MRS. J. A. WILLIAMS of the Chipman Theatre, Chipman, N. B., are building a new theatre in their town and expect it will be ready for use the early part of the winter . . . Harold F. Parker, manager of the Capitol, Yarmouth, N. S. has joined his regiment for military service. His position at the theatre has been taken by C. K. Dowley.

Irving Sourkes of Montreal, a salesman with Vitagraph, Ltd., traveling this territory for a while . . . Nancy MacDonald, stenographer with Empire-Universal, recently underwent an operation at the General Hospital and is recovering quite nicely. During her absence, her place is being taken by Mrs. Paul McGrattan, who, when she was Mary Leahey, was biller at Empire-Universal.

Recent visitors to Filmrow included F. Gordon Spencer of the Prince Edward Theatre, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Harold E. Gaudet of the Capitol Theatre, Summerside, P. E. I.; Fred Gregor of the Majestic Theatre, New Waterford, N. S.; T. J. O'Rourke of the Gaiety Theatre, Minto, N. B.; Carl Nelson of the Community Theatre, Parrsboro, N. S., and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Williams of the Chipman Theatre, Chipman, N. B.

Imperial Milestone Recalls Ottawa's Cinema History

OTTAWA — The celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Imperial Theatre in downtown Ottawa has recalled much of the colorful history of the early cinema days in the Canadian capital. The theatre was originally one of two houses operated by the late Harry Brouse, a showman of the old school whose bluff characteristics only added to his distinctiveness. His other theatre was the Family in which he presented vaudeville, burlesque and dramatic stock in addition to pictures.

Brouse was a close associate of another Ottawa pioneer, Ben Stapleton, now living in retirement, whose son, D. B. Stapleton, is engaged in the active management of the Centre Theatre. Brouse and Stapleton were two original franchise-holders of the producing company, Associated First National Exhibitors, securing the perpetual rights for Canada in First National. When Brouse died about ten years ago, the probate of his will revealed an estate with a cash value of $850,000. For some years the Imperial has been operated by Famous Players and the manager is Isser Singerman.

Concession to Soldiers

TORONTO—As a contribution toward the welfare of officers and men enrolled in the Canadian Active Service Force, Manager Dave Rubin of the Westdale Theatre, Hamilton, Ont., has announced a 20 per cent reduction in the admission price to all soldiers and accompanying ladies for any performance for the duration of the war.

20th-Fox (015) **103 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 10, '39**

In "Drums Along the Mohawk," Darryl F. Zanuck has scored another boxoffice winner with mass appeal assured. From Walter D. Edmonds' best seller, John Ford has delivered a beautiful pictorial record of the plight and hardships of the Mohawk Valley pioneers during the American revolution. Henry Fonda and Claudette Colbert deport themselves effectively as the newlyweds who come to the valley to settle. The Indian raids are too much for them and they lose their home, a child in birth and most of their friends before the British surrender. The color work is a treat to the eye, particularly the scenes showing the dash by Fonda to Dayton for help as three Iroquois chase him. Comedy relief is interspersed nicely. But, all told, it is a drama that will stand on its own anywhere. In all departments, it is tops.

Claudette Colbert, Henry Fonda, Edna May Oliver, Eddie Collins, John Carradine, Dorris Bowdon, Jessie Ralph.

Drums Along the Mohawk F Historical Drama

Universal (——) **65 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Aside from Baby Sandy, who again commits grand larceny by stealing the show away from such established troupers as Hugh Herbert, Florence Rice and Edgar Kennedy, this adds up as pretty lightweight fare. However, the infant phenomenon, now definitely a star, supplies enough entertainment through her irresistible antics and amazing camera presence to overcome the story shortcomings and lift the vehicle into the acceptable class. There is just enough plot to fill in the gaps between Sandy's appearances on the screen—a plot in which she is abandoned by her father, Ernest Truex, to the tender mercies of Hugh Herbert, editor of a "baby care" column in a newspaper. Through a complication of events Florence Rice, Herbert's daughter, is forced to pose as Sandy's mother. Charles Lamont produced and directed.

Baby Sandy, Hugh Herbert, Florence Rice, Richard Carlson, Edgar Kennedy, Ernest Truex, Fritz Feld.

Little Accident F Comedy

Republic (——) **69 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 27, '39**

It would have been better if this film were content to confine itself to the hillbilly antics of the Weaver Brothers and Elviry and the kindly folk of Pineville. Instead, it drags in a nefarious plot of an unscrupulous coal baron whose crass materialism is circumvented by the religious simplicity and honesty of the natives. Roy Rogers is lost, despite the fact he is supplied with his trusty steed. He delivers a couple of song sequences nicely with Maris Wrixon as the attractive inspiration. The impression, however, remains the studio is missing a good bet by not exploiting Rogers' talents more wisely and ambitiously. The script is poor since the various elements introduced into the story refuse to jell. Among other things, there is even the ominous shadow of an economic conflict. Frank McDonald directed.

Roy Rogers, Weaver Brothers and Elviry, Maris Wrixon, Billy Lee, Thurston Hall, Lucien Littlefield.

Jeepers Creepers F Drama with Music

Warner Bros. (——) **62 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 18, '39**

The Dead End Kids, good troupers all, are at military school but this time only one, Leo Gorcey, remains the tough lad who needs reforming. It is one of those surefire plots which has Gorcey attending the academy because John Litel, who runs the school, promised a dying friend to look after his son. There are a number of good gag situations which Gorcey carries off in fine style when he arrives at the school. He also gets his first screen haircut. As a result of Gorcey's behavior, Bill Halop suffers a broken leg in a fall from the dorm window. That and a few other things awaken within Gorcey a love for the school and the service. The production also is lavishly endowed with a number of corny cliches which the studio likes to toss in a film of this type. William Clemens directed.

Billy Halop, Bobby Jordan, Huntz Hall, Gabriel Dell, Leo Gorcey, John Litel, Douglas Meins, Frankie Thomas.

The Dead End Kids on Dress Parade F Comedy Drama

20th-Fox (016) **64 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 17, '39**

A few too many intermingling story elements, and a great deal too much broad slapstick stamp this as a sub-standard entry in the veteran "Jones Family" series which is apparently finding the task of cooking up new situations a bit tough. Lion's share of the load this time is carried by rubber-legged Joan Davis, while the Jones Family conducts itself in characteristic style. Pa Jones mayor of Maryville, is so busy dedicating new fish ponds and raising funds for a county hospital that his drugstore is going in the red. To bring him to his senses, Mrs. Jones launches upon a career in the little theatre, neglecting her household duties to do so. There are also assorted bank robbers and civic grafters mixed up in the deal. Otto Brower directed.

Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Joan Davis, Chick Chandler Kenneth Howell, Andrew Tombes, Irving Bacon.

Too Busy to Work F Comedy

Film Alliance (SR) **68 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Slipping quite comfortably into that charmed circle of "bests," this French film carries a round half-dozen awards well. It offers exhibitors running foreign films a host of saleable, compelling qualities, chiefly through frank, philosophic, soul-searching drama. With a fog-soaked waterfront for locale, the film starts slowly, envelops a splendid cast with vivid story values and fades on a sorrowful note. Jean Gabin and Michele Morgan give laudable performances. Largely somber, always painstaking in approach, it tells of Gabin, an army deserter and implied murderer, seeking refuge in a harbor hut. There he meets and falls in love with Miss Morgan, who is escaping her foster-father. Their love is short-lived; Gabin is killed by a gangster he had earlier thwarted in his advances toward Miss Morgan. Directed by Michael Carne.

Jean Gabin, Michele Morgan, Michel Simon, Pierre Brasseur, Perez, Genin, Legris.

Port of Shadows A Drama

20th-Fox (024) **70 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 15, '39**

This one will hit the spot with family audiences and probably newlyweds, for it tells the story of a newly married couple and particularly the wife, who is "taken in" by a fast click of leeches and barnacles. The husband is led to take funds from his boss and loses his job as a result. But it is the wife who comes through with an idea that sets the family right and reinstates her husband with the boss. There is nothing gaudy about the story. It is simple and to the point, bringing to the fore the foibles that may befall newlyweds if they don't watch their step. Stuart Erwin and Marjorie Weaver coordinate nicely and it might not be surprising to find them in a series along the same line. Eugene Forde did a smooth job in the direction. Production was under the supervision of Sol M. Wurtzel.

Stuart Erwin, Marjorie Weaver, Jack Carson, Patric Knowles, Russell Hicks, June Gale, E. E. Clive.

The Honeymoon's Over F Melodrama

Monogram (3816) **61 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

That intrepid adventurer of the airways, Tailspin Tommy, who stepped out of the funny papers to become one of the most popular figures in current series pictures, flies again in this, the last of the Paul Malvern productions on the '38-39 schedule. While the picture stacks up favorably with its predecessors on most counts, Tommy's tailspinning is somewhat handicapped by an involved screen play which undertakes two motivations without benefit to either. To offset this, however, is the additional exploitation asset which results from the junior air scout idea on which the plot is partially based and which will widen the picture's appeal to the juveniles who are already sold hook, line and sinker on the group. Cast is substantially the same as in previous chapters. Directed by Howard Bretherton.

John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone, Jason Robards, Tommy Baker, Dennis Moore, Julius Tannen.

Danger Flight F Melodrama

Criterion (SR) **56 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

The Laurie Yorke Erskine character, Renfrew of the mounties, is furthered in adventure by this piece, scenarioed by Sherman Lowe. James Newill, some fair shakes as a singer, is in top spot, with able assistance from Warren Hull, the latter coming off second best only by nature of his part. Jean Carmen, and her brother, working with a gang, seek to loot a gold shipment in the northwest, to use the money to pay off their dead father's indebtedness. They feel they aren't really stealing the gold because it comes from a mine being worked by Milburn Stone, who they think swiped the property. Chain of circumstances paints the kids pretty black, there's a series of double crosses, but it lacks a lot as entertainment. In the action spots, its mounty character will help carry the opening day, after which the flicker will be strictly on its own.

James Newill, Warren Hull, Milburn Stone, Jean Carmen, Stanley Blystone, Robert Frazer.

Crashing Thru F Action Drama

SELLING ANGLES: **"Jeepers Creepers"**

Weaver Brothers and Elviry are well-known to followers of hillbilly music. Along this line, stage a "Barn Dance" night in which amateur talent is invited to participate with prize going to the best exponents of rustic songs and dances. Rogers should not be overlooked in the advertising. It would be wise to give him equal billing and, in some spots, top mention. A music store window display would be a good place to plant stills of the feature players. The record "Jeepers Creepers" should be plugged on broadcasts and wherever possible.

CATCHLINES:

Meet the Weaver Brothers and Elviry for Real Mountain Music.

A Village in the Grasp of a Ruthless Coal Baron.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Port of Shadows"**

Considerable value lies in wide exploitation of Jean Gabin, particularly in situations where he gained distinction in his lead role in "Grand Illusion." Miss Morgan is a comparatively new personality who cannot be oversold. Then there is the matter of six awards for the film, its director and leading players. Much can and should be said about its emotional qualities, but this effort should be along "frankly adult" lines. There is some masterful photography that should be reproduced both for shop window distribution and lobby effects. Every effort should be made to interest intelligent audiences and persons of French extraction. Don't overplay the waterfront locale; this may give the implication of an adventuresome sea tale.

CATCHLINES:

New Hopes Flaming in Two Drifting Lives.

Tender . . . Frankly Adult.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Crashing Thru"**

Now that winter is coming on, hunting and snow sports displays are being brushed off and stacked in windows hardware and sporting goods houses will be good places to tie up for spotting interest with those who go for the outdoors. Renfrew stories make him the best known mounty character, so book counters should be accessible display possibilities. Bear down on music angle, too, because James Newill, the star of this piece, packs a fancy warble, several pegs above the average. Best to hope for here is an opening, because the neighbors will soon find out and there'll be nothing anyone can do to save it.

CATCHLINES:

Mounties Not Only Get Their Men, But Renfrew Gets a Girl, as Well.

A Tale of Ill-Gotten Gold . . . Stolen Twice Before Falling Into Possession of Its Owners.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Little Accident"**

Baby Sandy's name should dominate the marquee, with Florence Rice and Hugh Herbert listed in support. Place a giant photographic enlargement of Sandy above the marquee. Spell out the picture title in black letters attached to diapers. Conduct a diaper-pinning contest for fathers on the stage and give free admission to the babies' mothers. Contact local Universal exchange for information on the various commercial tieups which have been arranged for Sandy.

CATCHLINES:

Baby Sandy . . . The Goo-Goo Glamour Girl . . . And Hugh Herbert . . . The Woo-Woo Man . . . In the Season's Comedy Hit.

The Screen's Newest Blonde Bombshell . . . Who Doesn't Have to Have "Oomph" to Win Your Heart . . . That's Baby Sandy.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Too Busy to Work"**

Cash in on the established popularity of past pictures in the "Jones Family" series. Start a "Jones Family" club among theatre patrons of that name and promote a newspaper contest based on famous Joneses in history —John Paul, Bobby and others. Send postcards to all the Joneses in town. Tie up with furniture stores and real estate agents to exploit the "typical American home" as exemplified by this film family.

CATCHLINES:

More Trouble . . . And More Laughs . . . With Filmdom's Favorite Funsters, the Jones Family.

The Joneses Are in a Jam Again . . . In Their Latest and Funniest, Adventure.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Danger Flight"**

This provides an opportunity to sponsor the formation of a "Tailspin Tommy Junior Air Scout" club for juvenile aviation enthusiasts. Promote a model aviation meet as one of the club's first enterprises. If a local newspaper carries the Tailspin Tommy comic strip, run an advertisement for the picture in connection with it. Obtain cooperation of a local airport in preparing a lobby display of airplane equipment, including motors, propellors, parachutes, etc.

CATCHLINES:

Tailspin Tommy Rides the Skyways Again in a Thrill-Packed Story of Robbery in the Air.

Adventure Above the Clouds as a Group of Air-Minded Youngsters Aid Tailspin Tommy in His Most Exciting Flight.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Drums Along the Mohawk"**

Because of the popularity of the novel, book stores and libraries should work hand in hand on tieups and displays. Study guides are available by checking the press book. Indian headbands should be distributed to children. Hold special matinees for the youngster who will eat this up. Have men parading the streets as Indians. Also have your ushers and doormen dressed in uniforms similar to those worn in the picture. Convert your boxoffice and lobby into log cabins and have a papier mache fort built for the top of the marquee. Distribute copies of the book to a limited number of prize essay contestants a tieup which can be worked in conjunction with schools and other institutions.

CATCHLINES:

Pioneers of the Mohawk Valley Brave Indian Raids to Carry On . . . Torch and Tomahawk Cannot Stop Two Brave Lovers From Their Goal.

SELLING ANGLES: "The Dead End Kids on Dress Parade"

For the opening, arrange to have an American Legion band or some other military-looking group parade to the theatre. Boy Scout groups and similar organizations should be induced to join the parade. If there is a military school nearby, have the students march to the theatre in formation and then attend as guests of the management. Five kids can be hired to march the streets wearing military uniforms and banners with appropriate copy for a street ballyhoo gag.

CATCHLINES:

They Need the Army With the Dead End Kids at Military School.

A Steady Parade of Laughs.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Honeymoon's Over"**

Have a young couple seated in an open sedan, at far ends of the back seat, with a sign on the back of the car reading "The Honeymoon's Over." Watch the nuptial columns in your local paper and send out teasers to prospective brides and grooms and recently-married couples. If there is a sob sister on one of your local papers contact her to see the picture for comments. Place window cards in gift shops and make use of your mailing lists to good advantage.

CATCHLINES:

When They Started on a Spree, the Honeymoon Was Over . . . A Lesson to All Newlyweds . . . Your Newly Acquired Friends May Make for a Happy Marriage and Vice Versa . . . They Bought a New Car and That Started Them Along a Bumpy Marital Road.

Short Subject Reviews

Birth of the Movies

Alliance Films 22 *Mins.*

An interesting documentary that deals with the beginnings of the motion picture to its present state. Exhibitors can easily utilize the short as part of a campaign for the industry's golden jubilee now current. The short was made in England and shows the development of camera equipment. There are clips of celebration for Queen Victoria and early newsreels. Then a glimpse of stars such as Mary Pickford, Charles Chaplin and Tom Mix. A scene from "Camille" with Sarah Bernhardt is happily included.

A Dog Is Born

(Grantland Rice Sportlight R9-2)

Paramount 10 *Mins.*

This splendid subject about dogs takes its place with some of the finer efforts that have come from the Grantland Rice catalogue. It tells the story of a litter of shepherd puppies from the time they are a few days old until they have reached the locale for which each was trained. For instance, one pup becomes a Hollywood star, another is used to herd cattle, another is assigned to police work and still another becomes a blind man's guide. The reel closes with a very interesting bit showing how dogs are judged in competition.

Moments of Charm of 1940

Paramount (Headliner A9-3) 11 *Mins.*

As long as there must be band shorts this might as well set the standard for quality, versatility, good taste in handling and solid production values. Firstly, there are few orchestras that can boast the radio following of the Phil Spitalny aggregation of 30 girls. Their musical arrangements are distinguished and their soloists outstanding. There's a proper share of "sweet" music, novelty, a bit on the classic side and a touch of "hot stuff."

Merry Wives of Windsor

(Symphonic Series D9-2)

Paramount 9 *Mins.*

This is a screen gem for audiences that appreciate serious music. Additionally, the selection of the overture from one of the world's great operas should serve to extend the range of popularity this subject deserves. Played by the National Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Frederick Feher, the piece is a straightforward effort, sans trick photography.

Bows and Arrows

Columbia (World of Sports) 9½ *Mins.*

The widening popularity that archery seems to be enjoying should enhance the entertainment value of this swell subject. In a succession of trick shots that are performed with almost incredible accuracy, Howard Hill, recognized in sports centers as the world's greatest archer, unfolds his bag of tricks with an ease that beggars description.

SHORT OF THE WEEK

Uncle Sam—the Farmer

RKO (March of Time, No. 3) 18 Mins.

America's major economic problem, agriculture, comes in for comprehensive and topical treatment by the alert March of Time editors. It was the last war that was largely responsible for the plight of the farmers and the department of agriculture is carefully watching that the Second World War does not equally harm the farmers of this nation. Considerable attention is paid to the efforts of the department of agriculture, which regularly employs 75,000 men and women, in carrying out its task of preserving and improving the billions of acres of fertile soil that is one of the country's greatest assets. A typical Ohio farm family is chosen from among the 32,000,000 Americans who comprise the farm population to illustrate how the government helps the farmer. In a sense, it is an inspiring object lesson.



Ted Fio-Rito and His Orchestra

Paramount (Headliner A9-2) 11 *Mins.*

Popular dance music, expertly presented is the entertaining attraction here. The subject offers its own share of something "different" with the presentation of a few hits written by Fio-Rito in previous years, one number especially designed for "listening" and a montage bit synchronized to the leader's musical version of a horse race.

Rubinoff and His Violin

Vitaphone (Melody Master) 10 *Mins.*

Naturally, the attraction in this short is Rubinoff. He makes the most of it with his renditions of "Fiddling on the Fiddle," "Give Me a Moment, Please," "When Day Is Done," "You Know What I Know" and "Dark Eyes." The arrangements of his orchestra are easy on the ear. The vocals are by Jane Claire and there is a dance specialty by Jack Holland and June Hart.

Natural Wonders of Washington State

M-G-M (FitzPatrick Traveltalk) 10 *Mins.*

A gorgeous one-reeler in Technicolor about the scenic highlights of the state of Washington. The impressive snow-capped peaks and crystal clear lakes make a beautiful camera subject. The climax of the reel is a shot of the sun rising over Mt. Ranier. It is about time America rediscovered Washington.

The Fresh Vegetable Mystery

Paramount (Color Classic) 7 *Mins.*

Crime invades the vegetable patch in this amusing cartoon fantasy. When a mysterious party makes off with the carrot's offsprings, the cops (Irish potatoes) track down the suspect. The villain turns out to be a gang of mice who sound like the "Dead End" kids.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Movietone News, No. 13: Queen Wilhelmina opens parliament; Belgium princess launches ship; Franco at religious festival; Mussolini lays cornerstone; Churchill's son marries; Dutch ship hits mine; medals for French soldiers; mid-ocean transfer of injured sailor; the Harding arrives; Yale trims Army; Buckeyes beat Gophers; Tennessee beats Alabama; Notre Dame licks Navy; Penn beats Harvard; Santa Clara upsets UCLA.

News of the Day, No. 211: Harding in sea drama; flaming ship filmed; Churchill's son marries; air raid precautions; Mussolini quiet; "Babs" Hutton returns; Tennessee takes Alabama; Notre Dame sinks Navy.

Paramount News, No. 16: Harding arrives with 63 injured; Buckeyes beat Minnesota; Yale and Tennessee win; newsreel men at the front with new uniforms; goings on behind the front lines.

RKO Pathe News, No. 28: Harding lashed by hurricane; England wages war on home front; Churchill's son marries; medals for French soldiers; Clipper completes Pacific survey flight; Pennsylvania and Giants win.

Universal Newsreel, No. 817: Harding arrives; the City of Flint; on the western front; Churchill's son marries; Il Duce hails young fascists; Yale, Tennessee and Ohio State win.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Movietone News, No. 14: France's navy takes to sea; British troops cross channel; the Royal Air Force in France; Major General Windsor; Lebrun visits the front; the French Alps; hair styles; Lew Lehr; North Carolina regatta; California lumberjacks; timber toppers.

News of the Day, No. 212: French battle fleet in action; the Royal Air Force hidden bases; Holland looks to dikes; Siegfried line quiet; NYU wins over Carnegie; the horse show.

Paramount News, No. 17: Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Hoover at Girl Scouts convention; Browder indicted; endurance fliers; harvesting in France; washing day on Siegfried line; the Royal Air Force; French messenger dogs; the Alpine regiments; behind the scenes of Giant-Bear football game.

RKO Pathe News, No. 29: British Tommies at front; war stiffens European frontiers; Allied notables "do their bit;" world's highest road completed; prevue on winter fashions; girl gridders.

Universal Newsreel, No. 818: Royal Air Force in France; war headache to map maker; salmon run on; timber toppers; shock absorber a life saver; axe throwers vie for crown; girl gridders.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia

Blondie Meets the Boss

Very good. I think this series has great possibilities. Played on "Cash Nite" to almost a record crowd. Very good directing and excellent acting by the entire cast. Tuesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-15-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo Theatre, Dubach, La.

Blondie Takes a Vacation

One of a good series. Well liked. Population: 500. Capacity: 150.—H. C. Allison, White Cloud Theatre, White Cloud, Mich.

First Offenders

For small houses, fine! Double bill it. Our patrons liked it immensely. Mon., Tues. Weather: Fine. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Girls' School

Poor. No draw. Fri., Sat. Weather: Mild. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000.—Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

First National

Dark Victory

Bette Davis in a great picture that can be called special. Would advise playing in any theatre. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Kid From Kokomo

This would be a swell picture if they hadn't added that slapstick climax. We'll admit it did go over with our Saturday patrons but why spoil it with impossible situations? Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-25-20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Broadway Serenade

Jeanette MacDonald in another Metro special that did a noisedive at the boxoffice. I didn't see the picture, but I understand it wasn't so hot. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Goodbye, Mr. Chips

Comment ranged from "lousy" to "wonderful." Greer Garson is definitely star material. Donat, of course, did his usual perfect job of acting but the English broad "A" killed it here. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

Ice Follies

This was played while I was away and I did not see the picture anywhere. Those in charge of the theatre said it was fair. Business was off on the attraction. Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Very hot. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Lady of the Tropics

This picture failed to draw or please. Has a tragic ending. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Miracles for Sale

A program picture that pleased. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Pygmalion

This, according to the critics, is great. I can't see it. In fact I couldn't see anything to the story. The dialogue was very hard to understand. They talk too fast in England in more ways than one. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Pygmalion

Swell. The talk was a little hard to understand, but soon we got used to it and certainly no one could ask a finer performance than that given by Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller. She was a grand player and we want more of her. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-25-20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Sergeant Madden

Just a program picture, not the special that Metro would lead you to believe. I would consider it a good Saturday action feature. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Test Pilot

Another repeat that folded, this feature wasn't so hot in the first place, but somehow I thought at this time it would be okay for return. Saturday. Weather: Hot. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Vacation From Love

A real good comedy. Good for any situation. Play it. Good for business. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fine. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Monogram

Song of the Buckaroo

Ritter is coming to the top in westerns. He is well toward the top in my town now, and this picture helped to put him there. I had quite a few compliments on this picture. Personally, I think it one of the best westerns of the year. Saturday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-15-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo Theatre, Dubach, La.

Trailing North

This was sold to me as a western. There is nothing western in it, and there is also no entertainment in it. Even on Saturday, where almost anything goes, I don't think I had one satisfied customer. Saturday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-15-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo Theatre, Dubach, La.

Paramount

Arkansas Traveler

This is a repeat and am I sorry. They sure turned it down. Bob Burns is okay, but not for repeat. Thursday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Bulldog Drummond's Secret Police

A weekend action picture with thrills. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Gracie Allen Murder Case

One of the funniest pictures I have ever seen. Gracie is a scream. I didn't do much business on it, but those who came seemed to enjoy it. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Rain. Admission: 20-15-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo Theatre, Dubach, La.

Heritage of the Desert

Another top notch western ranking with Hopalong and will please all western fans. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

I'm From Missouri

Good. Lots of humor but due to hot weather business was off. Friday. Weather: Hot. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Invitation to Happiness

One of the best boxing pictures I have ever played. The ones that came gave it their okay. Title kept some away, I think. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

Man About Town

It is without doubt the best of the Bennys and Rochester gets the orchids for making it the best. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

Million Dollar Legs

Just another picture. Played on money night and got by. Tuesday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Thunder Trail

The Hopalong Cassidy pictures always go over here. This was no exception. Saturday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-15-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo Theatre, Dubach, La.

Union Pacific

A grand picture. Give us more like it. Sun., Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 200.—Mrs. M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Union Pacific

Another epic western that should get extra playing time, that is if you are able to buy it right. So far this is the only big feature Paramount has delivered. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill

Union Pacific

A fine picture that did a grand business. Sunday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Republic

Man of Conquest

Fine picture, grand music with good cast. Thursday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Mountain Rhythm

Gene Autry always gives us business. This picture was very satisfactory to the Autry fans. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Night Riders

Just a so-so western. Wed., Thurs. Weather Fair. Population: 500. Capacity: 150.—H. C. Allison, White Cloud Theatre, White Cloud, Mich.

Western Jamboree

Autry will get the countryside out in any weather. This one better than some of the others. Fri., Sat. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way Theatre, Sheridan, Ore.

20th-Fox

Alexander Graham Bell

A great picture and it will more than please if you can get them in. The costume photos kept people out of the theatre. Don Ameche, Loretta Young both do a marvelous job and deserve a lot of praise. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Arizona Wildcat

Just fair. Jane Withers hasn't been doing the business for us she used to do. Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Chicken Wagon Family

Good picture and good business. Jane continues to draw and please. Tuesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Jones Family in Hollywood

A nice family picture that should please all ages. This is swell for Saturday. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Jones Family in Hollywood

Better than average business on this one but nothing exceptional. We think it was as good as any of this series. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-25-20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Quick Millions

Very good comedy. Pleased all. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Second Fiddle

Very good, but patrons getting tired of same old stuff from this excellent star. Wed., Thurs. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Wife, Doctor and Nurse

This is old, but nevertheless one of the best comedies in a long time. Warner Baxter does the best acting of his career in this. Friday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Wild and Woolly

This is old, but we picked it up and are not sorry. It is one of Jane's best. Play this by all means. Wed. Weather: Hot. Admission: 20-17½-10. General patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 189.—Earle Williams, Tivoli Theatre, Knoxville, Ill.

Universal

Unexpected Father

Forget about all but Sandy and advertise this kid big. She'll steal the show and your patrons' heart. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 200.—Jack Wright, Strand Theatre, Bastrop, Tex.

Warner Bros.

Dodge City

Excellent picture. Grand entertainment for the family. It's a B. O. for anyone. Sunday. Weather: Mild. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Oklahoma Kid, The

The general opinion of the boys in overalls was that Jimmy (Cagney) made a pretty good bad man and they liked it very much. The customers in the tailor-made suits didn't like it so well. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage.—W. O. Woody, Stockton Theatre, Stockton, Mo.

Sweepstakes Winner

Here was one cluck and no excuse for such stuff. But we played it and took our licking. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-25-20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.



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EVANSTON, ILL.

The Town House
LOS ANGELES

A. S. Kirkeby
Managing Director

The Gotham
5th Ave. at 55th St. NEW YORK CITY

Selling Seats

PRACTICAL IDEAS BY PRACTICAL SHOWMEN

Varied Exploitation For "The Women"

TOLEDO—A real bangup campaign on "The Women" was put across by Manager Wally Caldwell of the Loew's Valentine.

Exploitation consisted of 18x36 cards on an entire fleet of delivery trucks of a dry cleaning firm, 5,000 napkins distributed to leading restaurants, 5,000 bookmarks to libraries and also inserted in laundry bundles, 3x5 "Good Morning" cards slipped under doors of leading hotels and 1,000 imprinted production heralds inserted in the gas company mailing.

On downtown street corners, Caldwell had placed large rubberneck sugar barrels with a one foot extension added. The flat top contained five four-inch peepholes, brightly painted with copy on both sides reading "For Men Only" (Don't tell 'The Women'—Because It's All About Men—At Loew's."

Postal Telegraph messenger boys delivering wires also distributed miniature telegrams with provocative copy about film.

Caldwell paid particular attention with plugs and commercial announcements emanating from eight different local programs. A mailing list was utilized. The theatre front and lobby were decorated well in advance bearing attractive teaser copy on the film.

For "The Wizard of Oz," Caldwell had three service staff men costumed in exact reproductions of the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow and the Lion. The trio paraded downtown three days in advance of the film. The campaign on this film also utilized all channels in an extensive manner.



—Metropolitan Photos

All for "Pinocchio"—

These eye-stopping window cards were placed in a busy newsdealer's window in New York to aid in selling Good Housekeeping *magazine which is serializing Walt Disney's "Pinocchio." Several thousand newsstands employed these cards as well as jacket wrappers, standees, posters and tack-up cards.*

Lobby Attraction

PORTLAND—Up-to-the-minute war news has proved a timely lobby attraction at the State Theatre here. A projection machine, throwing slides on a Trans Lux-style screen, was promoted by Manager Harry Botwick at no charge to the house. Botwick interspersed news items with slides on current and coming programs.



Striking Display for Prison Film—

An arresting window display used by Sam Rosen of the Philadelphia Monogram exchange to convey the dramatic conflict of "Mutiny in the Big House." The display shows the interior of a prison containing stills and cutouts of the picture.

Open Letter to Critics

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—Newspaper advertising for the run of Paramount's "Honeymoon in Bali" at the Alabama Theatre here was in the form of an open letter to Critics Vincent Townsend of the *News* and Ray Glenn of the *Post*.

Captioned "We Challenge You," text of the open letter follows:

"You write criticisms of every motion picture we play, and we find you're pretty hard to please. You are unbiased and fair in all your judgments. In view of this we are offering you gentlemen an opportunity to win a brand new fall hat, purchased at any men's store in town!

"We'll hold a special preview of the picture 'Honeymoon in Bali', co-starring Madeleine Carroll and Fred MacMurray, any time this week at your convenience. If after seeing the picture you do not agree with us that 'Honeymoon in Bali' is everything we claim it to be, if you think our opinion about it is wrong, if you decide that it is NOT A DEFINITE HIT . . . THAT IT IS NOT ONE OF THE BEST PICTURES TO COME OUT OF HOLLYWOOD IN A LONG TIME . . . THAT IT IS NOT WARMLY ROMANTIC . . . RACILY SPICED . . . AND NOT ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST COMEDIES, WE'LL BUY THE HATS!

"AND PASTE THIS UNDER YOUR PRESENT HAT: You are going to lose this bet, gentlemen, but, we know you will be glad you did, because 'Honeymoon in Bali' is a rare treat, acclaimed by every single movie critic in the nation as a 'LUSCIOUS PIECE OF ADULT ENTERTAINMENT!'

"IS IT A BET?

"With best wishes,

"Most sincerely,

(Signed) "F. S. FALKENBURG, Mgr."

Large Magazine Breaks Set for "Hunchback"

NEW YORK—Magazine campaign for "Hunchback of Notre Dame" by RKO's publicity department will be far reaching in scope as a result of the demand for material from various types of publications. Art and story copy placed has been timed to build interest through the release date.

Layouts have been arranged for *Life, Pic, Look* and *Collier's*. *Pic* will devote an early cover to Maureen O'Hara and *Look* will give six pages to the picture in its issue of December 5. *Life's* own photographer, Peter Stackpole, made shots on the "Hunchback" set.

Fan magazine breaks are headed by a 10,000-word fictionization in *Screen Romance*. Displays varying from two to six pages will be included in seven other magazines.

Eight Albany Area Towns Covered for "Wizard"

ALBANY, N. Y.—Eight towns in the Albany area were visited by Captain Volney Phifer with the carriage and two ponies used in "The Wizard of Oz." Metro is staging kiddie contests in each spot visited, the stunt being a decided small town clicker.

A tieup is made with local newspapers, youngsters between 12 and 14 entering for the privilege of riding in the carriage. Those whose measurements most closely fit the duplicates of costumes worn by Judy Garland and others in the picture were adjudged the winners of the contest.

Submarine Lobby Display Exploits "U-Boat 29"

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—"U-Boat 29" was a publicity natural for Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic Theatre. He contacted Simon Lake, the inventor of the modern submarine, in nearby Milford and obtained all sorts of submarine material for his lobby.

Lake came out with a statement, landed in the press, that he is working on a giant undersea craft capable of carrying 7,500 tons of cargo. A model of this boat was loaned for the lobby. Pictures and models of the submarine *Protector* designed by Lake for the Russian government for use during the Russo-Japanese war early in the century, were on display as well as German maps showing where ships were to be sunk during the World War, photographs of the launching of submarines at the old Lake Torpedo Co., and other material.

Radio Interview on U-Boats Plugs Columbia Feature

RACINE, WIS.—Warner's Rialto Theatre here promoted a swell plug for "U-Boat 29," when it arranged for the appearance over WRJN, local station, the night before the flicker opened at the house, for an interview with Dr. George Forwark, local dentist, concerning activities of U-boats in the last World War. Staff Announcer Bruce Beichl interviewed the doctor and the Rialto urged listeners to tune in on the 15-minute program in its newspaper advertising.

Wisdom & Herd Promote Three Films Profitably

HOLDENVILLE, OKLA. — J. H. Wisdom, manager of three Griffith houses here, and Kenneth Herd, his exploiteer, arranged three well-paying publicity stunts for as many pictures at little cost to the circuit.

A cooperative advertising stunt with a bolded letter in each of 21 ads spelling out "Stanley and Livingstone" didn't cost Wisdom a cent.

For "Dark Rapture," a slightly-clad Negro bearing playdate copy, attracted much attention on the streets.

The entire front of the Grand was covered with tropical brush for "Tarzan Finds a Son!" Large display boards with scenes from the picture also were spotted around the front.

Father and son week begins November 6. Promote special shows on that date.

Electric Sign Keeps Patrons Posted

Charleston, S. C.—An electric sign in the lobby of the Lincoln here keeps patrons posted on the day's program. The sign, in flashing red lights, also keeps them informed as to what part of the program is playing at the time.

D. I. Thomas, manager of the Lincoln, is the inventor of the sign. He has applied for a patent.

First Solo Feature in Years Played Up

Oshkosh, Wis.—F. S. Norton, manager of the Strand Theatre here, in single fecturing "Babes in Arms," called attention to the fact that it was the house's first single feature bill in two years. "During the past five years there has been much discussion relative to 'single' or 'double' features in the theatre. If you want single features bring 'the family' to see 'Babes in Arms'; it'll be your happiest entertainment!" advertising copy declared.

Jitterbug Contest Held By Fabian Theatres

NEW YORK—The Fabian Staten Island theatres conducted a successful jitterbug contest to select local champion teams. The stunt was planned and executed by Harry Black, division manager, and Edgar Goth, director of publicity.

Following a series of eliminations at the various theatres, the grand finals were held at the St. George. The first three winning teams were selected to dance at the Liberty as part of a vaudeville bill at salaries of $75, $50 and $25 respectively. A loving cup also was awarded to each member of the winning team.

Several Tieups All Set for "Information Please"

NEW YORK—A number of tieups are available to showmen playing RKO's "Information Please" series. Canada Dry Ginger Ale, sponsors of the radio program, are distributing special displays to all their dealers in the United States and Canada advertising the film version. Among these are colorful pieces attached to tops of ginger ale and soda bottles. Another hookup is with book stores carrying "Information Please," published by Simon and Schuster.

A War Display Sells "Thunder Afloat"

ST. LOUIS—A realistic display of implements of war keynoted the campaign here for "Thunder Afloat" worked up by Jimmy Harry, Loew publicist, and Assistant Wally Heins with the cooperation of the Missouri Naval Reserve unit, stationed here.

Secured from the MNR for display on the sidewalk in front of the theatre, were a torpedo, a sea mine, a depth charge and a "Y" gun, which is used in dropping "ash cans" on subs. Officers and a detachment of members of the MNR attended the first showing of "Thunder" in full uniform.

Manager "Chick" Evens kicked in with another attention-getter during the annual Veiled Prophet parade, which is similar to New Orleans' Mardi Gras, by distributing 25,000 tabloids tagged "Pictorial News" among the thousands who jammed the streets in the vicinity of the theatre. A black-lettered headline, "German U-Boats Shell American Cities," screamed across the front page which also carried scenes from the picture. The other three pages were devoted to theatre and picture copy.

The *Star-Times*, in addition to its regular review, ran a two-column picture layout captioned, "Yes, This Is a War Picture!"

"Thunder Afloat" Parade Is Held on "Navy Day"

DETROIT—Tying in with "Navy Day," October 27, United Detroit Theatres circuit arranged a parade to plug "Thunder Afloat." About 250 gobs formed the nucleus of the body which marched down main streets. Heading the parade was a band. Ushers of UDT houses were recruited to carry "Navy Day" banners.

Book Review Matinees Click

CLEVELAND—Marvin Samuelson, manager of Warner's Colony Theatre, reports that interest in his weekly book review matinees is growing steadily.



A Front for a War Film—

An idea, submitted by Manager Eddie Selette of the Warner Albany, on how to decorate the theatre front for "All Quiet on the Western Front," which is being released nationally. Manager Selette said he used this military theme a year ago and it proved to be an effective crowd-stopper.

"MR. SMITH" DOUBLES PAR IN OKLAHOMA CITY

AVERAGE IS 100%

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**News is Made at Night** (20th-Fox) 90
Broadway—**Frontier Marshal** (20th-Fox) 100
Carolina—**The Women** (M-G-M) 110
Imperial—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 110
Imperial—**Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M).....110
State—**Bulldog Drummond's Bride** (Para)..... 90
State—**Chip of the Flying U** (Univ).....100

CHICAGO

Apollo—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 3rd loop wk. 85
Chicago—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 85
Garrick—**Television Spy** (Para); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox) 80
Oriental—**Golden Boy** (Col); **Bachelor Mother** (RKO), continued loop runs, plus stage show. 90
Palace—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), plus stage show, held 2nd wk. 100
Roosevelt—**Four Feathers** (UA), 2nd wk..... 90
State—**Miracles for Sale** (M-G-M), plus stage show. 90
United Artists—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), held 3rd wk. 100

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), held. 130
Capitol—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., held. 130
Keith's—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M).....120
Lyric—**U-Boat 29** (Col) 120
Palace—**Eternally Yours** (UA) 110
Shubert—**Full Confession** (RKO), plus stage show. 110

CLEVELAND

Allen—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 90
Hippodrome—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col) 135
Lake—**Torpedoed** (SR); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB). 90
Palace—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox), Stage: Sammy Kaye & Orchestra and five acts of vaudeville 80
State—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M) 135
Stillman—**What a Life** (Para)..... 65

DALLAS

Capitol—**The Escape** (20th-Fox), 1st half..... 90
Capitol—**Konga, the Wild Stallion** (Col), 2nd half 90
Majestic—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M).....125
Palace—**Eternally Yours** (UA).....110
Rialto—**Hawaiian Nights** (Univ).....100
Tower—**They Shall Have Music** (UA)..... 90

DENVER

Aladdin—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), after a week at the Denver.....100
Broadway—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO), after a week at the Orpheum..... 85
Denham—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 2nd wk..120
Denver—**The Real Glory** (UA).....100
Orpheum—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M).....155
Paramount—**The Under-Pup** (Univ); **Mutiny on the Blackhawk** (Univ).....110
Rialto—**The Old Maid** (FN), after a week at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Hero for a Day** (Univ) 105

DETROIT

Adams—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), after a wk. at Fox; **The Under-Pup** (Univ).....120
Cinema—**It Happened One Night** (Col); **Crime and Punishment** (Col), revivals..... 90
Fox—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **The Witness Vanishes** (Univ) 105
Michigan—**Disputed Passage** (Para); **Hidden Staircase** (WB) 120
Palms-State—**The Old Maid** (FN), after a wk. at Michigan; **Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M), after a wk. at United Artists 110
United Artists—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M).....100

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Straight Shooter** (Rep); **Sky Patrol** (Mono) 75
Apollo—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **The Escape** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 75
Circle—**On Your Toes** (FN); **Espionage Agent** (FN) 70
Indiana—**Disputed Passage** (Para); **Television Spy** (Para) 80
Loew's—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Scandal Sheet** (Col) 175
Lyric—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN), plus stage show 115

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), holdover 90

Top Hits of the Week

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON Oklahoma City 200
BABES IN ARMS (dual)—New York City 175
BABES IN ARMS—New York City....165
MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON (dual)—Omaha 160
BABES IN ARMS—Denver.....155
HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE—Pittsburgh 155
THE MAN THEY COULD NOT HANG—Milwaukee 150
MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON New Orleans 150
BABES IN ARMS—Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia....140
MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON New York City.....140
THE ROARING TWENTIES (dual) Portland 140

EXTENDED RUNS

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, 24th wk., New York City.
End of a Day, 7th wk., Filmarte, New York City.
Harvest, 5th wk., World, New York City.
Babes in Arms, 3rd wk., Philadelphia.
Hollywood Cavalcade, 3rd wk., Los Angeles.
The Rains Came, 3rd loop wk., Chicago.
Rasputin, 3rd wk., 55th St., New York City.
U-Boat 29, 3rd wk., New York City.
The Women, 3rd wk., Oklahoma City.

Midland—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Scandal Sheet** (Col) 140
Newman—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 85
Orpheum—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN); **No Place to Go** (FN) 70
Tower—**The Under-Pup** (Univ), plus stage show 110
Uptown—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), holdover 80

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 90
Downtown—**The Real Glory** (UA), 2nd wk.; **Indianapolis Speedway** (WB) 100
Four Star—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk. 100
Hillstreet—**U-Boat 29** (Col); **Rio** (Univ).....100
Hollywood—Same as Downtown 100
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet 90
Paramount—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 2nd wk., plus Harry Owens Orchestra on stage..100
State—Same as Chinese 90

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ); **Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M) 125
Riverside—**The Man They Could Not Hang** (Col), plus stage show 150
Strand—**Beau Geste** (Para); **Honeymoon in Bali** (Para) 100
Warner—**The Real Glory** (UA); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB) 130
Wisconsin—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox)..110

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Those High Grey Walls** (Col); **Everything's on Ice** (RKO) 90
Century—**The Old Maid** (FN), 2nd wk..... 90
Esquire—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ), 2nd wk. 100
Gopher—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), reissue 125
Minnesota—**Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono), plus stage show, Roscoe Ates 90
Orpheum—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M), plus stage show, Marie Wilson 100
State—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox) 90
World—**They Shall Have Music** (UA), 2nd wk.. 95

NEW HAVEN

College—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Behind Prison Gates** (Col), 2nd wk.....115
Loew-Poli—**Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M); **They Shall Have Music** (UA) 90
Paramount—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **Quick Millions** (20th-Fox) 5 days, 2nd wk.....100
Roger Sherman—**Intermezzo** (UA); **The Under-Pup** (Univ) 135

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN)..... 95
Globe—**The Star Maker** (Para)..... 90
Joy's Rio—**Fight for Your Lady** (RKO)..... 85
Liberty—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ). 100
Lyceum—**On Borrowed Time** (M-G-M)..... 90
Orpheum—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), held for 2nd wk.....150
State—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M).....125
Saenger—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox)....125
Tudor—**Indianapolis Speedway** (WB) 95

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M), 23rd wk... 75
Capitol—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M) 165
Criterion—**Those High Grey Walls** (Col)..... 95
Globe—**U-Boat 29** (Col), 3rd wk.....100
Paramount—**What a Life** (Para), 2nd wk., plus stage show 85
Radio City Music Hall—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), plus stage show.....140
Rivoli—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 2nd wk.....115
Roxy—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., plus stage show 90
Strand—**On Your Toes** (FN), plus stage show.. 90

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M).....140
Liberty—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN); **No Place to Go** (FN).....125
Midwest—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), 5 days 60
Plaza—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 90
State—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col)...200
Tower—**The Women** (M-G-M), 3rd wk..... 95

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Behind Prison Gates** (Col).....160
Omaha—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Quick Millions** (20th-Fox) 110
Orpheum—**Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M); **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox).....100

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**Eternally Yours** (UA), 2nd wk.....100
Boyd—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.....140
Earle—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox), plus **Glenn Miller's** orch. on stage.....150
Fox—**On Your Toes** (FN) 80
Karlton—**Beau Geste** (Para) 75
Keith's—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox).... 85
Stanley—**At the Circus** (M-G-M) 100
Stanton—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 135

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox) 155
Barry—**Hell's Angels** (SR), reissue; **Troop Ship** (UA) reissue 100
Fulton—**Two Bright Boys** (Univ); **Hawaiian Nights** (Univ) 80
Penn—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO) 85
Senator—**U-Boat 29** (Col) 115
Stanley—**Winter Carnival** (UA); Henry Armetta stage show 115
Warner—**Beau Geste** (Para), 2nd d. t. wk.....100

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB); **Two Bright Boys** (Univ) 140
Liberty—**U-Boat 29** (Col); **Chicken Wagon Family** (20th-Fox). 100
Mayfair—**The Real Glory** (UA); **No Place to Go** (FN), both 2nd wk. transfer.....110
Orpheum—**Way Down South** (RKO); **Torchy Plays with Dynamite** (WB)..... 90
Paramount—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.; **Full Confession** (RKO)..... 85
United Artists—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.; **The Witness Vanishes** (Univ), 2nd wk..110

SALT LAKE CITY

Center—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO).....110
Rialto—**Each Dawn I Die** (FN), 2nd run; Gaiety Girls Revue 105
Studio—**The Man in the Iron Mask** (UA), 2nd wk. 110
Utah—**Blondie Takes a Vacation** (Col); **Coast Guard** (Col) 110

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

A

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M) Feb. 18 923
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26 005
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue Sept 30.
All Women Have Secrets (Para)
Allegheny Uprising (RKO) Oct. 28 006
Amazing Mr. Williams (Col)....
Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever (M-G-M) July 15 944
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5 367
Another Thin Man (M-G-M)....
Arizona Kid (Rep) Oct. 7..... 951
Asking for Trouble (GB).....8012
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col), reissue.....1072

B

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Bachelor Mother (RKO) July 1 932
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Balalaika (M-G-M) .....
Barricade (20th-Fox) .....
Beau Geste (Para) July 29....3902
Behind Prison Gates (Col) Aug. 5 9033
Beware, Spooks! (Col) Oct. 28...
Big Guy (Univ) .....
Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16... 3
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col)...
Blondie Takes a Vacation (Col) July 22 9010
Blue Bird (20th-Fox)..... 025

C

Cafe Hostess (Col) .....
Call a Messenger (Univ) 20
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16 912
Career (RKO) July 1.....
Cat and the Canary (Para) Oct. 7 3909
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 12 006
Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (20th-Fox) 021
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3 948
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox) Aug. 19 002
Chip of the Flying U (Univ)...
Cisco Kid and the Lady (20th-Fox) .....
Coast Guard (Col) Aug. 19....9008
Colorado Sunset (Rep) Aug. 5.. 846
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2..... 935
Covered Trailer (Rep) .....
Cowboy Quarterback (FN) July 8 366
Crashing Through (Mono).....3936

D

Dancing Co-ed (M-G-M) Sept. 30 3
Danger Flight (Mono).....3816
Daughters Courageous (FN) June 24 360
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO) Sept. 9 002
Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (WB) Nov. 4 .....
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2 3901
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21.4058
Destry Rides Again (Univ).....
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21 3908
Distant Fields (RKO) .....
Dr. Cyclops (Para) .....
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) Nov. 4..... 015
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

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Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (20th-Fox) July 29.... 001
Emergency Squad (Para).....
Escape, The (20th-Fox)..... 010
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30.. 462
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7...
Everything Is Rhythm (Astor).
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 946

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14 6
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38 3831
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2. 986
Fighting Mad (Mono).....
First Kiss (20th-Fox) 020
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First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34..... 062
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G

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Girl From Rio (Mono).....3825
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I

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Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20 3841
Irish Luck (Mono) Aug. 26....3826
Island of Lost Men (Para) July 29 3848

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8.....3906
Jeepers Creepers (Rep) Nov. 4..

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21... 961
Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16. 411
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col).9034

L

Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12 947
Laugh It Off (Univ).....
Law of the Pampas (Para) Oct. 21 3955
Legion of the Lawless (RKO)..
Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ)... 53
Llano Kid (Para) .....
Little Accident (Univ).....
Lost Squadron (RKO) reissue.. 994
Lucky Texan (Mono) .....

M

Magnificent Fraud (Para) July 1 3847
Main Street Lawyer (Rep)..... 905
Man About Town (Para) June 17
Man From Montreal (Univ)....
Man From Sundown (Col) Aug. 5 9208
Man From Texas (Mono).....3865
Man in the Iron Mask (UA) July 8
Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19 9018
Marshal of Mesa City (RKO) Oct. 7 081
Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mickey the Kid (Rep) July 1.. 814
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7....4044
Million Dollar Legs (Para) July 15 3846
Miracles for Sale (M-G-M) Aug. 5 946
Missing Evidence (Univ) Oct. 7..
Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation (20th-Fox) Nov. 19 952
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14 1101
Mr. Wong in Chinatown (Mono) July 22 3807
Mutiny in the Big House (Mono) Oct. 21 3803
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24 4051
My Love for Yours (Para).....

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26..... 419
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB) July 15 324
New Frontier (Rep) Aug. 19.... 868
News Is Made at Night (20th-Fox) July 8 953
Nick Carter, Master Detective (M-G-M) .....
Night Work (Para) Aug. 12...3849
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14..... 7
No Place to Go (FN) Sept. 23... 469
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O

Of Human Bondage (RKO) reissue 993
Oklahoma Frontier (Univ) 4059
Oklahoma Terror (Mono) Oct. 7.3856
Old Maid, The (FN) Aug. 5..... 452
On Borrowed Time (M-G-M) July 8 942
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14.... 463
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para) Sept. 30 3903
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16 30
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug.5
Our Neighbors—the Carters (Para) 3911
Out of Singapore (Astor).....
Outpost of the Mounties (Col)..1201
Overland Mail (Mono).....3857

P

Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14..... 014
Phantom Strikes (Mono) .....
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23 418
Private Detective (WB-FN).....
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7..... 402

Q

Queen of Destiny (RKO) Nov. 26, '38 061
Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 004

R

Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16 011
Range War (Para) Aug. 12.....3954
Real Glory, The (UA) Sept. 23..
Remember? (M-G-M) .....
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29.3859
Reno (RKO) 008
Return of Dr. X (WB-FN).....
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30 9209
Riders of Destiny (Mono) reissue
Riders of the Frontier (Mono) Sept. 9 3866
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30 .....
Road Back (Univ) reissue.....
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36..... 061
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21. 403
Roll, Wagon, Roll (Mono).....
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23 3910

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14..... 913
Sagebrush Trail (Mono) reissue
Scandal Sheet (Col) Oct. 28....1031
Second Fiddle (20th-Fox) July 8
Secret of Dr. Kildare (M-G-M)..
She Married a Cop (Rep) July 1. 815
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox)..... 018
Should Husbands Work? (Rep) July 22 816
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 23.....3815
Smashing the Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21 470
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26. 825
Spellbinder (RKO) July 15..... 931
St. Martin's Lane (Para).....
Stanley and Livingstone (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 003
Star Maker (Para) Aug. 19....3851
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2 008
Stranger From Texas (Col).....1202
Submarine Patrol (20th-Fox) Nov. 5 909
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21.. 012

T

Taming of the West (Col).....
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3 939
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14....3907
That's Right, You're Wrong (RKO) 011
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M) Aug. 26 948
They All Come Out (M-G-M) July 8 943
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29 3865
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30 1015
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30.... 004
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M) Sept. 23 4
To the Rescue (GN) 328
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 016
Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5 326
Torture Ship (P-D-C) .....
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16.....4052
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23 4017
Two Thorobreds (RKO) .....
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28 013

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2..... 10
Unexpected Father (Univ) July 22
Untamed (Para) .....

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
Ware Case, The (20th-Fox) July 29 8014
Washington Cowboy (Rep)..... 848
Waterfront (WB) July 1 325
Way Down South (RKO) July 22 947
We Are Not Alone (WB-FN)...
West of Carson City (Univ)...
West of the Divide (Mono).....
Westbound Stage (Mono).....
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ) Aug. 19 3003
Winter Carnival (UA) July 22..
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19. 949
Woman Is the Judge, A (Col) July 8 9025
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2.. 1

Y

Yukon Flight (Mono) .....

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939, Unless Otherwise Specified.

⊙Indicates short of the week.

⊙Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

A Star Is Shorn (17).....Apr. 21
All-American Blondes..(..)..Oct. 20
Boom Goes the Groom (17½).....Mar. 24
Mutiny on the Body (17).....Feb. 10
Now It Can Be Sold (17)...June 2
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17).....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Teacher's Pest (..).....Nov. 3
The Chump Takes a Bump (18).....May 5
The Sap Takes a Wrap (15½).....Mar. 10
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18).....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..).....Aug. 11

COLOR RHAPSODIES

Crop Chasers (8).....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (..).....Oct. 20
Happy Tots (7).....Mar. 31
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7).....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7).....May 26
Mountain Ears (..).....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7).....June 30
Peaceful Neighbors (8).....Feb. 26
The Gorilla Hunt (8).....Feb. 24
The House That Jack Built (7).....Apr. 14

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (..).Nov. 17
Big Town Commuters (9).....Feb. 3
Historic Cities of India (..)..Oct. 27
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions)..(..).....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10).....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)...Oct. 27
Sojourn in India (..).....July 7
Morocco (10).....Aug. 11

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 7 Parade of Hits (9)....Mar. 24
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11)...Apr. 21
No. 9 Songs of the West (10).....May 19
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16
Third Series
No. 3 (..) College Songs.....Oct. 13
No. 4 (..) Stephen Foster Song Nov. 17
No. 6 Moon Songs (10).....Feb. 24

FABLES CARTOON

Park Your Baby (..).....Sept. 1

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

No. 1 Charles Goodyear (10½) .Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10).....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (11).....Oct. 12
No. 1 (10½).....Feb. 22
No. 2 (10½).....Mar. 23
No. 3 (11).....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6
Krazy's Bear Tale (7).....Feb. 17
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6).....May 12
Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6

MUSIC HALL VANITIES
(New series)

A Night at the Troc (10).....Mar. 2
Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10)...May 19

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..).....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7).....Apr. 28
Scrappy's Added Attraction (6).....Feb. 3
Scrappy's Rodeo (6).....June 2
Scrappy's Sideshow (7).....Mar. 3

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 18)

No. 1 (..).....Sept. 15
No. 2 (..).....Oct. 20
No. 6 (10½).....Feb. 17
No. 7 (10).....Mar. 17
No. 8 (9½).....Apr. 8
No. 9 (10).....May 12
No. 10 (10).....May 26
No. 11 (10).....June 29
No. 12 (10).....July 28
(Series 19)
No. 1 (..) Art of Make-Up....Sept. 22
No. 2 (..).....Oct. 27
No. 3 (..).....Nov. 24

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10).....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (9½).....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5
Jai Alai (..).....Nov. 3
Jockeys Up (10½).....June 2
Navy Champions (9½).....Mar. 17
Odd Sports (10).....Feb. 10
Technique of Tennis (8½)...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½).....Apr. 7
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½).....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17).....June 30
Three Sappy People (..).....Dec. 1
We Want Our Mummy (17).....Feb. 24
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16).....May 19

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (..) Smithsonian Institute.....Oct. 20
No. 2 Inside the White House (11).....Feb. 21
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10).....May 26
No. 4 Library of Congress (10).....Aug. 4

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (..).....
Help Wanted (21).....June 10
Money to Loan (21).....Mar. 11
While America Sleeps (21).....Apr. 15

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11).....Sept. 2
Colorful Curacao (9).....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Imperial Delhi (8).....Feb. 18
Java Journey (10).....Mar. 18
Picturesque Udaipur (8).....May 13
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10).....May 13
Ice Antics (9).....Feb. 11
Love on a Tap (11).....Mar. 18
Prophets Without Honor (11).....May 20
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11).....May 27

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15
Somewhat Secret (21).....Mar. 25

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)

⊙Art Gallery (9).....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11).....July 15
Jitterbug Follies (9).....Feb. 25
⊙Little Gold Fish (8).....Apr. 15
Mama's New Hat (9).....Feb. 11
⊙The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9).....June 10
Wanted No Master (8).....Mar. 18

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY

Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Auto Antics (10).....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11).....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29
Dog Daze (11).....July 1
Duel Personalities (10).....Mar. 11
Joy Scouts (10).....June 24
Tiny Troubles (10).....Feb. 18

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia...June 24
Story of Alfred Nobel (11)..Feb. 18
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11).....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10).Mar. 18
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia.....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9).....July 1
Football Thrills of 1938 (..).Sept. 16
⊙Heroes at Leisure (10)....Feb. 11
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cure (Sepia) (9)....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).....Apr. 8

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9).....Mar. 18
Dark Magic (10).....May 13
Home Early (9).....May 27
How to Eat (10).....June 10
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7)....May 12
Rhythm on the Reservation (7).....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7).Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7).....June 9
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8).....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES
(New Series in Cinecolor)

Ecuador (10).....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10).....May 26
Peru (9).....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10).....Sept. 8
Moments of Charm of 1940 (Cinecolor) (11).....Oct. 27
Phil Spitalny and Girl Orchestra.
Music Through the Years (11).....Feb. 3
Jan Garber and Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10).....May 5
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10).....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10).....June 2
Richard Himber and his orchestra.
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10).....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Three Kings and a Queen (11).....Apr. 7
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10).....Oct. 20
Circus Co-Ed (10).....Mar. 10
Farewell Vienna (10).....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10).....Apr. 14
Public Hobby Number One (11).....Sept. 22
Swans (10).....May 19
That's Africa (10).....Feb. 10

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 7 (10).....Feb. 3
The Mexican Charro at play, plumed birds and all about accordions.
No. 8 (10).....Mar. 3
No. 9 (10).....Apr. 7
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11).....May 5
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and sons of the year.
No. 11 (10).....June 2
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10).....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

⊙Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22).....Apr. 7
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7).....June 16
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7).....July 28
Leave Well Enough Alone (7).....Apr. 28
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

No. 4 (10).....Mar. 10
No. 5 (11).....May 12
No. 6 (11).....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-I (11).....Sept. 15

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10)....June 9
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12
Good Skates (10).....Apr. 14
Ice skating with champions.
Hold Your Breath (10).....Feb. 17
Depicting a novel underwater track meet.
Hydro-Maniacs (10).....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10).....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES

The Blue Danube Waltz (10).Sept. 29
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.
Merry Wives of Windsor (9)..Oct. 27
Philharmonic Orchestra of U. S. A.

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

No. 1 (11).....Oct. 13
No. 4 (10).....Feb. 3
No. 5 (10).....Apr. 14

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

Autograph Hound, The (8)....Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9
Donald's Cousin Gus (7).....May 19
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8).....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Practical Pig (8).....Feb. 24
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
Society Dog Show (8).....Feb. 3
Mickey Mouse enters Pluto in the Society dog show and Pluto does not win.
The Pointer (8).....July 21
⊙The Hockey Champ (7)....Apr. 7
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15).....May 19
Clock Wise (16).....Mar. 24
Father-in-law's grandfather clock drives Edgar nuts as he unsuccessfully tries to get rid of it.
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Swing Vacation (19).....Feb. 24
Sales Slips (17).....July 21

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Home Boner (20).....Mar. 10

Moving Vanities (17).....May 5
Ring Madness (19).....June 30
Truth Aches (19).....Nov. 3

MARCH OF TIME

No. 7 (19).....Feb. 17
Young America and Mexico's New Crisis.
No. 8 (18).....Mar. 17
No. 9 (19).....Apr. 14
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20).....May 12
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19).....June 9
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22).....July 7
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18).....Aug. 4
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19).....Sept. 1
Soldiers with wings.
No. 2 (19).....Sept. 29
The Battle Fleets of England.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11).....May 12
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11).....Apr. 14
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.
Readin, Ritin and Rhythm (10).....Feb. 17
Samovar Serenade (10).....Mar. 17
Codolbon & His Gypsy Orchestra, Moscow Choir, Karavaeff, Luba Malina.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11).....Sept. 8
No. 2 (11).....Oct. 6

PATHE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16)....Oct. 20
Dog-Gone (16).....Apr. 21
Marriage-Go-Round (18).....July 28
Plumb Crazy (16).....Feb. 3
Pat C. Flick as a plumber causes considerable commotion on a job.

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Devil Drivers (9).....June 16
Hunting Hounds (9).....Sept. 29
Kennel Kings (9).....Aug. 11
Riding the Crest (9).....July 14
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9).....May 19
The golfers show how it's done.
Snow Falls (9).....Feb. 24
A ski picture that's different.

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Ranch House Romeo (17).....Apr. 7
Sagebrush Serenade (19).....June 16

REELISMS (New Series)

Acres of Plenty (9).....Oct. 13
Air Waves (10).....Mar. 10
Gold (9).....Feb. 10
Nevada Unlimited (8).....Sept. 15
Pack Trip (9).....Aug. 18
Pilot Boat (9).....Feb. 3
Soldiers of the Sea (9).....Apr. 7
Swinguet (8).....May 26
Television (9).....May 5
World of Tomorrow (9).....June 23
Zoo (9).....July 21

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19).....July 21
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) Aug. 18
Filming the Fleet (11).....Oct. 27
Sand Hogs (10).....May 12

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10).....Sept. 1
Clocking the Jockeys (11)....Nov. 24
Hunting Dogs (11).....Mar. 3
Inside Baseball (11).....Apr. 14
Sports Immortals (11).....June 23

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11)..Aug. 4
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11)..Nov. 10

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts, No. 3 (11).....Mar. 31
Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..)..July 7
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10).Sept. 15
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..)..Dec. 22

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10).....Sept. 29
Muscle Maulers (11).....Apr. 14
The Silly Season (..).....Dec. 8

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..).....May 26
Isle of Pleasure (11).....Feb. 3
Mystic Siam (10).....Mar. 17
Tempest Over Tunis (11)....June 9
The Evergreen Empire (..)..Oct. 13
Viking Trail (10).....Feb. 17

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..).....June 16
A Mouse and a Million (..)...Nov. 3
Africa Squawks (7).....June 30
Barnyard Baseball (7).....July 14
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) May 5
Frozen Feet (7).....Feb. 24
Gandy Goose and G-Man Jitters (7).....Mar. 10
Hook, Line and Sinker (7)..Sept. 8
Nick's Coffee Pot (7).....May 19
Nutty Network (7).....Mar. 24
Sheep in the Meadow (7)....Sept. 22
The Cuckoo Bird (7).....April 7
The First Robin (..).....Dec. 29
The Golden West (7).....Aug. 25
The Hitch-Hiker (..).....Dec. 1
The Old Fire Horse (..)....July 28
The Orphan Duck (7).....Oct. 6
The Prize Guest (7).....June 2
The Three Bears (6).....Feb. 10
The Watchdog (..).....Oct. 20
Their Last Bean (7).....April 21
Two Headed Giant (7)....Aug. 11
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) Nov. 17

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7)..Sept. 4
Bird on Nellie's Hat.....June 19
Bola Mola Land (7).....May 29
Charlie Cuckoo (7).....Apr. 30
Crack Pot Cruise (7).....Apr. 10
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8).....Oct. 9
Little Tough Mice (7).....Mar. 13
Magic Beans (7).....Feb. 13
Nellie of the Circus (7).....May 8
One Armed Bandit (7).....Mar. 27
Silly Superstition (7).....Aug. 28
Slap Happy Valley (7).....Aug. 21
Snuffy's Party (7).....Aug. 7
Stubborn Mule (7).....July 31
The Birth of a Toothpick (7).....Feb. 27
The Sleeping Princess (..)..Nov. 20

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 60 (10).....Feb. 20, '39
No. 61 (9).....Mar. 13
No. 62 (9).....Apr. 10
No. 63 (9).....May 15
No. 64 (9).....June 26
No. 65 (9).....July 17
No. 66 (9).....Sept. 25
No. 67 (9).....Oct. 16
No. 68 (9).....Nov. 13

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19).....Mar. 15
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17).....Apr. 12
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18).....July 12
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Pharmacy Follies (18).....May 17
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18).....June 14
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17).....Aug. 9
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7).....Aug. 15

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 59 (9).....Feb. 6
No. 60 (9).....Mar. 6
No. 61 (9).....Apr. 3
No. 62 (9).....May 1
No. 63 (9).....June 5
No. 64 (..).....July 3
No. 65 (9).....Aug. 7
No. 66 (8½).....Sept. 18
No. 67 (9).....Oct. 9
No. 68 (9).....Nov. 6

TWO REEL MUSICALS

An Old Spanish Custom (..)..Nov. 15
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17).....Sept. 6
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Swing Hotel (18).....Oct. 18
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21).....Sept. 6

UNIVERSAL NEWS
Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (20).....Mar. 25
A Swing Opera (20).....July 22
Broadway Buckaroo (20).....June 3
Home Cheap Home (20).....Mar. 18
Projection Room (20).....Mar. 4
Rollin' in Rhythm (20).....Apr. 15
Seeing Red (20).....Aug. 26
Seeing Spots (20).....Apr. 29
Slapsie Maxie (17).....Sept. 10
Sophomore Swing (20).....Jan. 21
Small Town Idol (20).....Feb. 11
Sundae Serenade (20).....Feb. 25
You're Next to Closing (20).....May 13
Wardrobe Girl (20).....June 17

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

For Your Convenience (10).....May 20
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10).....Sept. 30
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10).....Feb. 25
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4..Apr. 22
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (9).....June 10
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10).....Aug. 5
Modern Methods (9).....July 15
The Roving Camera (10)...Mar. 25

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7).....Apr. 1
Jeepers Creepers (7).....Sept. 23
Naughty Neighbors (7).....Oct. 7
Polar Pals (7).....June 3
Porky and Teabiscuit (7).....Apr. 22
Porky's Hotel (7).....Sept. 2
Porky's Movie Mystery (7)..Mar. 11
Porky's Picnic (7).....July 15
Porky's Tire Trouble (7).....Feb. 18
Christopher Columbus jr. (7).....May 13
Scalp Trouble (7).....June 24
Wise Quack (7).....Aug. 5

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10).....Apr. 29
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10).....Mar. 18
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (10).....Apr. 8
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10).....Aug. 12
Jerry Livingston & Orchestra (10).....Feb. 4
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10).....May 20
Leith Stevens & Orch. (10).....June 10
Rita Rio & Orch. (10).....July 1
Rubinoff and His Violin (10)..Nov. 11
Russ Morgan & Orchestra (11).....Feb. 25
Swing Styles (10).....Sept. 2
Vincent Lopez and Orch. (10).....Sept. 30
Will Osborne & Orch. (..).....July 22

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

A Day at the Zoo (7).....Mar. 11
Bars and Stripes Forever (7).Apr. 8
Believe It or Else (7).....June 3
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7).....Apr. 22
Dangerous Dan McFoo (7).....July 15
Detouring America (7).....Aug. 26
Fresh Fish (7).....Nov. 4
Goldrush Daze (7).....Feb. 25
Good Egg, The (7).....Oct. 21
Hare-um Scare-um (7).....Aug. 12
Land of the Midnight Sun (7).....Oct. 7
Little Brother Rat (7).....Sept. 2
Little Lion Hunter (7).....Oct. 7
Naughty But Mice (7).....May 20
Old Glory (10).....July 1
Prest-O Change-O (7).....Mar. 25
Robinhood Makes Good (7)..Feb. 11
Sioux Me (7).....Sept. 9
Snow Man's Land (7).....July 29
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7)...May 6

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (20).....Aug. 12
Lincoln in the White House (21).....Feb. 11
Quiet Please (18).....July 1
Sons of the Plains (19).....July 30
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20).....May 20
The Monroe Doctrine (16)..Oct. 14

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10)....Feb. 18

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (10).....Apr. 15
Dean of the Pasteboards (10).....May 27
Gadgeteers (10).....Feb. 18
One Day Stand (10).....Aug. 19
Sword Fishing (10).....Oct. 21
Tax Trouble (10).....Mar. 18
Vote Trouble (10).....Sept. 9
Witness Trouble (10).....July 29

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11)..Mar. 4
Chained (11).....Apr. 1
Haunted House (11).....June 3
High Peril (12).....Feb. 18
Lives in Peril (11).....July 7
Three-Minute Fuse (11).....July 29
Verge of Disaster (10).....Aug. 26
Voodoo Fires (11).....May 6

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician.....May 6
12 chapters.

Secret of Treasure Island...Mar. 17
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.

The Shadow.....Nov. 24
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters.....June 10
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.

Dick Tracy's G-Men.....Sept. 2
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.

Lone Ranger Rides Again....Feb. 25
15 Chapters. Robert Livingston, Jinx Falken, Chief Thunder Cloud.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers (..).....Apr. 11
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.

Oregon Trail (15 chapters)...July 4
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol Q indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊛ indicates color photography.

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

JULY 8	JULY 15	JULY 22	JULY 29	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 12
	[15] Western 9208 **Man From Sundown** (59) Starrett-Meredith R—Aug. 5 [10] Drama 9025 **A Woman Is the Judge** (60) Hudson-Kruger; R-July 8	[20] Comedy 9010 **Blondie Takes a Vacation** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 22	[28] Action Drama 9033 **Behind Prison Gates** (62) (For. Escape From Alcatraz) Brian Donlevy Jacqueline Wells R—Aug. 5	[4] Action Drama 9008 **Coast Guard** (72) Randolph Scott Frances Dee R—Aug. 19	
[7] Drama 942 **QOn Borrowed Time** (99) Lionel Barrymore Bobs Watson R—July 8	[14] Drama 943 **They All Come Out** (70) Rita Johnson Tom Neal R—July 8	[21] Comedy 944 **Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever** (87) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone R—July 15	[28] Drama 945 **Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (114) Robert Donat R—May 20	[4] Drama 946 **Miracles for Sale** (70) Robert Young Florence Rice Henry Hull R—Aug. 5	[11] Drama 947 **Lady of the Tropics** (91) Hedy Lamarr Robt. Taylor R—Aug. 12
		[21] Western 3865 **Man From Texas** (60) Tex Ritter R—Aug. 12		[1] Mystery 3807 **Mr. Wong in Chinatown** (70) Boris Karloff Grant Withers Mary Reynolds R—July 22	
[7] Musical 3845 **Man About Town** (85) Jack Benny Dorothy Lamour R—June 17	[14] Com. with Music 3846 **Million Dollar Legs** (63) Betty Grable Jackie Coogan R—July 15	[21] Action Drama 3847 **Magnificent Fraud** (78) Akim Tamiroff Lloyd Nolan Patricia Morison R—July 1	[28] Drama 3848 **Island of Lost Men** (64) Anna May Wong R—July 29	[4] Comedy 3849 **Night Work** (62) Mary Boland Charles Ruggles R—Aug. 12	[11] Comedy Drama 3850 **Our Leading Citizen** (90) Bob Burns Susan Hayward R—Aug. 5
[3] Drama 814 **Mickey, the Kid** (66) Bruce Cabot-Tommy Ryan R—July 1	[15] Musical Comedy 815 **She Married a Cop** (65) Phil Regan-Jean Parker R—July 1		[26] Comedy 816 **Should Husbands Work?** (62) Gleason Family Marie Wilson R—July 22	[31] Western 846 **Colorado Sunset** (64) Gene Autry-S. Burnette R—Aug. 5	[10] Western 868 **New Frontier** (56) Three Mesquiteers R—Aug. 19
[7] Melodrama 930 **Career** (78) Anne Shirley Edward Ellis R—July 1	[14] Drama 993 **Of Human Bondage** (83) (Reissue) Leslie Howard-B. Davis [14] Drama 994 **Lost Squadron**(79)reissue Joel McCrea-Richard Dix	[21] Musical 947 **Way Down South** (62) Bob Breen-Alan Mowbray R—July 22	[28] Melodrama 931 **Spellbinder** (70) Lee Tracy-Barbara Read R—July 15	[4] Comedy 932 **Bachelor Mother** (81) Ginger Rogers David Niven R—July 1	[11] Western 933 **Bad Lands** (65) R. Barrat-N. Berry jr. R—July 29
[7] Melodrama 952 **Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation** (65) Peter Lorre Virginia Field R—Nov. 19	[14] Musical Comedy 949 **Second Fiddle** (85) Sonja Henie Tyrone Power R—July 8	[21] Action Drama 953 **News Is Made at Night**(71) P. Foster-L. Bari R—July 8 [21] Mystery Drama 8014 **Ware Case, The** (72) Clive Brook-Jane Baxter R—July 29	[28] Outdoor Drama 951 **Frontier Marshal** (70) Randolph Scott Binnie Barnes R—July 29	[4] Comedy Drama 001 **Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women** (82) Ann Sothern James Ellison R—July 29	[11] Comedy Drama 002 **Chicken Wagon Family** (65) Jane Withers Leo Carrillo Marjorie Weaver R—Aug. 19
			[28] Comedy **Winter Carnival** (90) Ann Sheridan Richard Carlson R—July 22	[4] Drama **QFour Feathers** (109) Ralph Richardson June Duprez R—June 24	[11] Melodrama **Man in the Iron Mask** (110) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—July 8
[7] Drama 3031 **Forgotten Woman** (68) Sigrid Gurie Donald Briggs R—July 8	[14] Comedy 3008 **Unexpected Father** (78) (For. Sandy Takes a Bow) Baby Sandy-Mischa Auer R—July 22	[21] Drama 3007 **I Stole a Million** (78) George Raft Claire Trevor R—July 22			[11] Drama 3003 **When Tomorrow Comes** (90) Charles Boyer Irene Dunne R—Aug. 19
[8] Action Drama WB312 **Hell's Kitchen** (81) Dead End Kids Margaret Lindsay R—June 24	[15] Action Drama WB325 **Waterfront** (59) Denis Morgan Gloria Dickson R—July 1	[22] Drama FN360 **Daughters Courageous** (107) Lane Sisters John Garfield R—June 24	[29] Comedy FN366 **Cowboy Quarterback** (56) Bert Wheeler Gloria Dickson R—July 8	[5] Melodrama WB315 **Indianapolis Speedway** (82) Ann Sheridan Pat O'Brien R—July 15	[12] Comedy WB326 **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (59) Jane Wyman Allen Jenkins R—Aug. 5
[2] Drama Astor **Out of Singapore** (74) Noah Beery-M. Love					

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

AUGUST 19	AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 23
7 Melodrama **9018** **Can They Could Not Hang (64)** Boris Karloff **R—Aug. 19**	22 Comedy Drama **9017** **Five Little Peppers (60)** Edith Fellows 23 Western **9209** **Riders of Black River (59)** C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	30 Wild Horse **9034** **Konga, the Wild Stallion (65)**	5 Drama **9002** **Golden Boy (100)** **Stanwyck-Holden** **R—Aug. 19** 7 Mystery Drama **1025** **Hidden Power (60)** **Jack Holt-Gert. Michael** **R—May 29**	14 Western **1201** **Outpost of the Mounties** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredith (63)	21 Drama **1015** **Those High Grey Walls (82)** Walter Connolly Iris Meredith R—Sept. 30
18 Comedy Drama **948** **These Glamour Girls (79)** Lew Ayres-Lana Turner Anita Louise **R—Aug. 26**	25 Comedy Fantasy **949** **Wizard of Oz (102)** Judy Garland Frank Morgan **R—Aug. 19**	1 Comedy Drama **1** **The Women (134)** Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell **R—Sept. 2**	8 Melodrama **5** **Blackmail (79)** Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16	15 Drama **4** **Thunder Afloat (94)** Wallace Beery Chester Morris Virginia Grey R—Sept. 23	
5 Drama with Mus. **3825** **Girl From Rio (62)** Movita-Warren Hull **R—Aug. 12** 16 Western **3866** **Riders of Frontier (58)** Tex Ritter R—Sept. 9	25 Western **3856** **Oklahoma Terror (52)** Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 22 Melodrama **3826** **Irish Luck (61)** **F. Darro-D. Purcell** **R—Aug. 26**			12 Action Drama **3815** **Sky Patrol (61)** **John Trent** **Marjorie Reynolds** R—Sept. 23	
18 Melodrama **3865** **This Man Is News (75)** Barry K. Barnes V. Hobson R—July 29 18 Western **3859** **Renegade Trail (58)** William Boyd R. Hayden R—July 29	25 Musical Comedy **3851** **Star Maker (94)** Bing Crosby Louise Campbell **R—Aug. 19**	1 Melodrama **3901** **Death of a Champion (66)** Lynne Overman Virginia Dale **R—Sept. 2**	8 Western **3954** **Range War (66)** Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden **R—Aug. 12**	15 Drama **3902** **Beau Geste (114)** Gary Cooper Ray Milland **R—July 29**	22 Comedy **3903** **$1,000 a Touchdown (71)** **Joe E. Brown** **Martha Raye** R—Sept. 30
14 Western **847** **In Old Monterey (70)** Gene Autry Smiley Burnette **R—July 29**	21 Action Drama **825** **Smuggled Cargo (61)** Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay **R—Aug. 26**	28 Drama **9111** **Flight at Midnight (66)** Phil Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner **R—Sept. 2**	6 Western **857** **Wall Street Cowboy (66)** Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9		21 Melodrama **912** **Calling All Marines (65)** Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16
18 Drama **936** **In Name Only (92)** **Carole Lombard** Cary Grant Kay Francis **R—Aug. 12**		1 Melodrama **935** **Conspiracy (59)** Allan Lane-Linda Hayes **R—Sept. 2**	8 Western **986** **Fighting Gringo (60)** Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2 8 Drama **003** **Full Confession (72)** **V. McLaglen-S. Eilers** R—Aug. 26	15 Comedy **002** **Day the Bookies Wept (65)** Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9	22 Comedy Drama **934** **Fifth Avenue Girl (80)** Ginger Rogers **James Ellison** R—Aug. 26
18 Adventure Drama **003** **Stanley and Livingstone (100)** **Spencer Tracy** Nancy Kelly Richard Greene **R—Aug. 5**	25 Comedy **004** **Quick Millions (61)** **(The Jones Family)** Jed Prouty Spring Byington **R—Aug. 5**	1 Detective Drama **005** **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (85)** Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26	8 Melodrama **006** **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (73)** Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore **R—Aug. 12**	15 Drama **011** **The Rains Came (103)** **Myrna Loy-Tyrone Power** George Brent R—Sept. 16	22 Comedy **008** **Stop, Look and Love (57)** Jean Rogers **William Frawley** **R—Sept. 2**
18 Drama with Music **They Shall Have Music (120)** Andrea Leeds Joel McCrea Jascha Heifetz R—July 15					22 Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story (65)** **Leslie Howard** **Ingrid Bergman** **John Halliday** R—Oct. 7
		1 Comedy Drama **10** **Under-Pup (88)** **Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey** **R—Sept. 2** 1 Outdoor Drama **4051** **Mutiny on the Black Hawk (66) R—June 24** R. Arlen-A. Devine	8 Musical Comedy **24** **Hawaiian Nights (64)** Downs-Carlisle; R-Aug. 26 8 Western **4058** **Desperate Trails (58)** John Mack Brown Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight R—Oct. 21	15 Drama **4017** **Two Bright Boys (70)** Jackie Cooper Freddie Bartholomew R—Sept. 23 8 Musical **4044** **Mikado (92)** Kenny Baker; R-Jan. 7	22 Melodrama **4027** **The Witness Vanishes (66)** E. Lowe-W. Barrie
19 Drama **FN356** **Each Dawn I Die (92)** James Cagney Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan R—July 22	26 Comedy **FN376** **Hobby Family, The (54)** Irene Rich-H. O'Neill R—Aug. 26 26 Drama **FN367** **Angels Wash Their Faces (96)** Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5	2 Drama **FN452** **The Old Maid (95)** Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins **R—Aug. 5**	9 Com. Melo. **WB419** **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (60)** Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas R—Aug. 26	16 Drama **FN461** **Dust Be My Destiny (88)** John Garfield Priscilla Lane **R—Aug. 19**	23 Comedy **FN469** **No Place to Go (57)** Fred Stone Gloria Dickson Denis Morgan R—Sept. 23

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

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	SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14	OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28	NOVEMBER 4
COLUMBIA		7 Action Drama **1010** **U-Boat 29** (77) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23		19 Comedy Drama **1101** **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (125) **Jean Arthur** James Stewart; R-Oct. 14 16 Drama **1031** **Scandal Sheet** (67) Otto Kruger R—Oct. 28	24 Comedy **Beware Spooks!** (65) **Joe E. Brown** Mary Carlisle R—Oct. 28 29 Drama **Miracle of Main Street** (..) Walter Abel-Margo	2 Western **120** **Stranger From Texas** (. Charles Starrett
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	29 Comedy Drama **3** **Dancing Co-ed** (81) **Lana Turner** **Richard Carlson** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy **6** **Fast and Furious** (73) Ann Sothern Franchot Tone R—Oct. 14	13 Musical Comedy **9** **Babes in Arms** (97) Mickey Rooney Judy Garland R—Sept. 23	20 Comedy **8** **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14	27 Comedy Drama **10** **Bad Little Angel** (77) Virginia Weidler Henry Hull R—Oct. 28	3 Comedy Drama **Ninotchka** (110) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas R—Oct. 14
MONOGRAM	30 Documentary **3831** **Fight for Peace** (68) R—Apr. 23, '38	1 Outdoor Drama **3936** **Crashing Thru** (56) **James Newell** **Jean Carmen**		20 Western **Riders of Destiny** (..) (Reissue) John Wayne 20 Western **Sagebrush Trail** (..) (Reissue) John Wayne	1 Action Drama **3816** **Danger Flight** (61) John Trent R—Nov. 4 25 Drama **3803** **Mutiny in the Big House** (84) C. Bickford-B. MacLane R—Oct. 21	31 Western **385** **Overland Mail** (..) **Jack Randall**
PARAMOUNT	29 Comedy Drama **3904** **Honeymoon in Bali** (96) **(For. My Love for Yours)** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16	6 Comedy **3905** **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23	13 Drama **3906** **Jamaica Inn (106)** Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**	20 Drama **3907** **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14	27 Drama **3908** **Disputed Passage** (87) Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff John Howard R—Oct. 21	3 Western **395** **Law of the Pampas** (72) **Wm. Boyd** R—Oct. 21
REPUBLIC	29 Western **951** **Arizona Kid** (61) **Roy Rogers** **Sally March** R—Oct. 7	6 Western **961** **Kansas Terrors** (57) **Three Mesquiteers** R—Oct. 21	13 Action Drama **913** **Sabotage** (69) **Arleen Whelan** **Gordon Oliver** R—Oct. 14		27 Action Drama **Jeepers Creepers** (69) Roy Rogers Weaver Bros. & Elviry R—Nov. 4	
RKO RADIO	29 Drama **001** **Nurse Edith Cavell** (95) **Anna Neagle** George Sanders **R—Aug. 26**	6 Musical **946** **Everything's on Ice** (65) Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9	13 Drama **004** **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis **Virginia Vale** R—Sept. 30		27 Drama **012** **Sued for Libel** (..) K. Taylor-L. Hayes R—Oct. 21	3 Comedy **010** **Flying Deuces** (65) **Laurel & Hardy** R—Oct. 14 3 Western **081** **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7
20TH-FOX	29 Drama **009** **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30	6 Drama **010** **The Escape** (60) Kane Richmond Allan Duff	13 Musical **007** **Hollywood Cavalcade** (96) Alice Faye-Don Ameche R—Oct. 7 13 Drama **061** **Road to Glory** (101) (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter	20 Comedy **018** **Shipyard Sally** (80) Gracie Fields S. Howard 20 Comedy **014** **Pack Up Your Troubles** (75) Jane Withers R—Oct. 14	27 Action Drama **013** **20,000 Men a Year** (84) R. Scott-M. Healy R—Oct. 28 27 Documentary **062** **First World War** (78) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34	3 Drama **019** **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford R—Oct. 7
UNITED ARTS.	29 Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) **Gary Cooper** **Andrea Leeds** R—Sept. 23		12 Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) **Loretta Young** **David Niven** R—Oct. 7		26 Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughter** (80) **Joan Bennett-Wm. Gargan** **Adolphe Menjou** R—Sept. 16	
UNIVERSAL	29 Drama **Rio** (77) **Sigrid Gurie** **Basil Rathbone** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy **4035** **Hero for a Day** (66) Anita Louise-Dick Foran 29 Drama Reissue **All Quiet on the Western Front** (93) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 30	13 Drama **4052** **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16	20 Western **4059** **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) **Johnny Mack Brown**	27 Comedy **Little Accident** (65) Sandy Henville Florence Rice R—Nov. 4	3 Melodrama **20** **Call a Messenger** (66) R. Armstrong-R. Kelly Little Tough Guys 3 Drama Reissue **Road Back** (79) Richard Cromwell
WARNER-F.N.		30 Melodrama **FN462** **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30 7 Melodrama **WB418** **Pride of the Blue Grass** (65) R—Sept. 23 E. Fellows-J. McCallion	14 Musical **FN463** **On Your Toes** (94) Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14	21 Melodrama **FN470** **Smashing the Money Ring** (56) Ronald Reagan Margot Stevenson R—Oct. 21	28 Drama **WB403** **Roaring Twenties** (104) James Cagney Priscilla Lane R—Oct. 21	4 Com. Drama **WB411** **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman R—Sept. 16
MISCELLANEOUS					22 Melodrama **P-D-C** **Torture Ship** (..) Lyle Talbot Irving Pichel Jacqueline Wells	29 Drama **P-D-C** **Hitler—Beast of Berlin** (..) Roland Drew Steffi Duna Greta Grandstedt 29 Melodrama **P-D-C** **Buried Alive** (..) Beverly Roberts Robert Wilcox

JULY, 1940						
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SEPTEMBER, 1940						
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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

)VEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16
Comedy **ie Brings Up Baby**) Singleton r Lake		23 Comedy Drama **The Amazing Mr. Williams** (..) Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas	30 Drama **Cafe Hostess** (..) Preston Foster Ann Dvorak	17 Drama **Fugitive at Large** (..) J. Holt-P. Ellis 7 Western **Taming of the West** (..) B. Elliott-I. Meredith	
Drama **mber?** (..) t Taylor Garson	17 Drama **Secret of Dr. Kildare** (..) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore	24 Comedy Drama **Another Thin Man** (..) William Powell Myrna Loy		8 Comedy 2 **Henry Goes Arizona** (..) Frank Morgan Virginia Weidler	15 Drama **Nick Carter, Master Detective** (..) Walter Pidgeon Rita Johnson
Action Drama **ting Mad** (..) s Newell Drama **es in Blue** (..) Purcell adene Hayes	15 Mystery Drama **Phantom Strikes** (..) Sonnie Hale Wilfred Lawson	25 Western **Roll, Wagons, Roll** (..) Tex Ritter	1 Action Drama **Yukon Flight** (..) James Newill	10 Western **Reissue** **West of the Divide** (..) John Wayne 10 Western **Lucky Texan** (..) John Wayne	15 Western **Pioneer Days** (..) Jack Randall
Melodrama 3909 **and the Canary** (71) Hope ette Goddard)ct. 7	17 Drama 3910 **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	24 Comedy 3911 **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (85) Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter	1 Drama **Happy Ending** (..) Pat O'Brien Olympe Bradna	8 Western **Llano Kid** (..) **Tito Guizar** **Gale Sondergaard**	15 Drama **All Women Have Secrets** (..) Joseph Allen jr. Jean Cagney
Drama 905 **n Street Lawyer** (..) . Ellis a Louise	17 Comedy **Covered Trailer** (..) Gleason Family 15 Western 848 **Washington Cowboy** (..) Gene Autry-S. Burnette				
Outdoor Drama 006 **gheny Uprising** (81) **n Wayne** **re Trevor** Oct. 28	17 Drama 005 **Meet Dr. Christian** (63) J. Hersholt-D. Lovett R—Oct. 21	24 Musical 011 **That's Right, You're Wrong** (..) Kay Kyser and Orch. Adolphe Menjou Lucille Ball	1 Drama 008 **Reno** (..) Richard Dix Gail Patrick	8 Melodrama **Two Thorobreds** (..) Jimmy Lydon Joan Brodell	
Drama 015 **rums Along the ohawk** (103) **udette Colbert** **ry Fonda** Nov. 4	17 Comedy 016 **Too Busy to Work** (64) Jones Family R—Nov. 4	24 Comedy Drama 020 **Day Time Wife** (..) Tyrone Power Brenda Joyce	1 Melodrama 021 **Charlie Chan in City of Darkness** (74) Sidney Toler-L. Bari 1 Melodrama 022 **Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday** (..) G. Harker-A. Sims	8 Melodrama **Barricade** (..) Alice Faye Warner Baxter	15 Comedy Drama 024 **Honeymoon's Over** (70) Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver R—Nov. 4
Action Drama 30 **e Hour to Live** (60) arles Bickford -Sept. 16 Melodrama 53 **rion of Lost Flyers** 64) Arlen-A. Devine	17 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again** (..) Marlene Dietrich **James Stewart** 10 Comedy with Music **First Love** (..) **Deanna Durbin**	24 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns** Nan Grey-Vincent Price 24 Western **Chip of the Flying U** (55) Johnny Mack Brown	1 Comedy **Laugh It Off** (63) Constance Moore Johnny Downs	8 Action Drama **Man From Montreal** (..) Richard Arlen Andy Devine	15 Western **West of Carson City** (..) Johnny Mack Brown Bob Baker 15 Melodrama **Missing Evidence** (64) P. Foster R—Oct. 7
Drama WB402 **vate Lives of Elizabeth nd Essex** (100) tte Davis-Errol Flynn -Oct. 7	18 Com. Drama WB **Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (62) Billy Halop **Bobby Jordan** R—Nov. 4	25 Drama FN **We Are Not Alone** (..) Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson	2 Mystery Drama **Return of Dr. X** (..) Wayne Morris Priscilla Lane Humphrey Bogart	9 Comedy Melodrama **Private Detective** (..) Jane Wyman Dick Foran	
					BOOKING CHART Concluded on Following Page

In The Making

DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 6	STARTING	COMPLETED
	25 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday** (..) Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy			**Two-Fisted Ranger**—Charles Starrett, Lorna Gray, Bob Nolan, Sons of the Pioneers. Director: Sam Nelson. Producer: Irving Briskin.
22 Comedy **Judge Hardy & Son** (..) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone	29 Drama with Music **Balalaika** (..) Nelson Eddy Ilona Massey		**Lover, Come Back to Me**—Jeanette MacDonald, Nelson Eddy, Billie Burke. Director: W. S. Van Dyke II. Producer: Robert Z. Leonard. Original: Sigmund Romberg. **Florian**—Robert Young, Helen Gilbert, Reginald Owen, Charles Coburn. Director: Edwin L. Marin. Producer: Winfield Sheehan.	**A Call on the President**—Ann Sothern, William Gargan, Lewis Stone, Marsha Hunt, Tom Neal, Walter Brennan. Director: Robert Sinclair. Producer: Edgar Selwyn. Original: Damon Runyon.
22 Western **Westbound Stage** (..) Tex Ritter				**Yukon Flight**—Jimmy Newill, Lou Stanley, Dave O'Brien. Director: Ralph Staub. Producer: Phil Krasne
22 Technicolor Cartoon **Gulliver's Travels** (..)	29 Drama **The Great Victor Herbert** (..) Allan Jones Mary Martin	5 Action Drama **Emergency Squad** (..) William Henry Louise Campbell	**At Good Old Siwash**—William Holden, Judith Barrett, Vaughan Glaser. Producer-Director: Theodore Reed. Original: George Fitch.	
			Money to Burn—James, Lucile and Russell Gleason, Tommy Ryan. Director: Gus Meins.	
22 Drama **Distant Fields** (..) Barbara Read Alan Marshall	29 Drama **Hunchback of Notre Dame** (..) C. Laughton-M. O'Hara 29 Western **Legion of the Lawless** (..) Geo. O'Brien		**The Saint's Double Trouble**—George Sanders, Helene Whitney. Director: Jack Hively. Producer: Cliff Reid. Original: Leslie Charteris. Screenplay: Michael Kanin. **The Primrose Path**—Ginger Rogers, Joel McCrea, Henry Travers, Marjorie Rambeau. Producer-Director: Gregory La Cava. Original: Victoria Lincoln.	**Mexican Spitfire**—Lupe Velez, Leon Errol, Donald Woods, Linda Hayes. Director: Les Goodwins. Producer: C. Reid. Screenplay: Joseph A. Fields.
22 Fantasy 025 **Blue Bird** (..) Shirley Temple Sybil Jason	29 Outdoor Drama **Cisco Kid and the Lady** (..) Cesar Romero Marjorie Weaver	19 Drama 023 **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly		
22 Melodrama **Big Guy** (..) Victor McLaglen Jackie Cooper	29 Drama **Green Hell** (..) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett		**Untitled**—Mae West, W. C. Fields. Director: Edward Cline. Producer: Lester Cowan.	
			We Shall Meet Again—Merle Oberon, George Brent, Pat O'Brien. Director: Edmund Goulding. Producer: David Lewis. Screenplay: Warren Duff, Milton Krims, Howard Koch.	**Granny Get Your Gun**—May Robson, Claude Rains, Jane Bryan, Ann Todd, Lya Lys. Director: Vincent Sherman. Producer: Bryan Foy. Screenplay: F. Gamet. **Invisible Stripes**—George Raft, Humphrey Bogart, Jane Bryan, Paul Kelly, William Holden. Director: Lloyd Bacon. Producer: Lou Edelman.
			Invisible Killer—Roland Drew, Grace Bradley. Director: Sherman Scott. Producer: Ben Judell (Producers Pictures Corp. Original: Carter Wayne. Screenplay: Joseph O'Donnell.	

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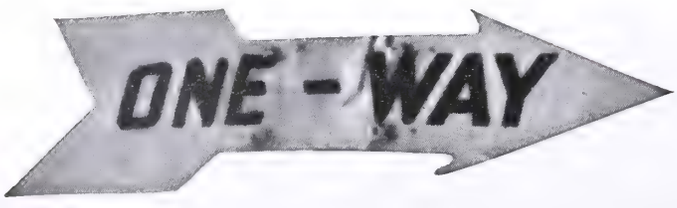
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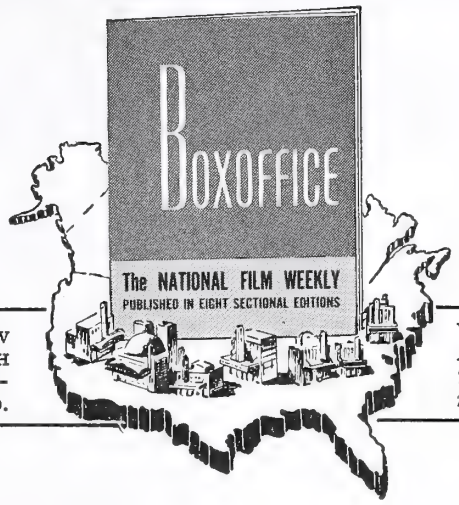
POMONA, CAL.—The greatest musical that M-G-M or any company ever made was sneak-previewed here this week. The picture is "BALALAIKA". It is Nelson Eddy's best role since "Naughty Marietta" and it launches a glamorous personality in Ilona Massey. Audience reaction tremendous!

More in our next issue of TODAY!



M-G-M

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HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

ON THE matter of the one vowel and the whale of a difference it makes, there is that comment offered bluntly, but boldly, by Charles C. Pettijohn not so long ago at an exhibitor-exchange managers' round table at the Omaha Variety Club. What he then said has been reported in the news columns, but repetition might add further emphasis. Now Pettijohn:

> "The whole approach to closer relationships is wrong. Every branch manager and his salesmen have been taught to believe that every exhibitor is a crook. On the other hand, exhibitors have the idea that the manager and salesmen are a bunch of hijackers. There's the trouble."

He also pointed out how pressure groups, frequently and innocently aided by various organizations unfamiliar with the workings of the industry, are developing into one of the most dangerous threats confronting it and urged that something be done within the business "and done quickly" by way of solving exhibitor-distributor problems. "I'd like to see the arbitration board brought back. There is no excuse for lawsuits in this district (he might have said business) if the branch managers and exhibitors are allowed to work out their own problems," was other Pettijohn comment further along the line.

Far easier said than done. Compulsory arbitration was ruled out some years ago by court dictum. The voluntary form rattles in its own loose framework since it cannot function unless all necessary hands signify willingness to accept. Getting all necessary hands in this business to agree on any one step, large or small, is more than a mere job, as past and current history only too well divulges.

Some consideration has been accorded conciliation, or mediation, because of the success which the railroad brotherhoods and, subsequently, the United States Department of Labor have met in adjudicating wrangles which do not fall within the province of courts of law. The system employs permanent mediators, trained in the work, who do not let go until both sides reach a conclusion which obviously the disputants must accept since it is of their own making.

It may not be generally known and, if it is, probably acquaintance with the effort has been lost in the rush of succeeding events. But two or three years ago the MPTOA had distributors on the verge of accepting such a plan. Four or five cities, purposely scrambled geographically to make the conclusions reasonably assured, had been selected as test tubes. Actually, in Philadelphia a board had been drawn up, an office picked, a secretary hired—all of this, of course, with the consent and the cooperation of the local exhibitor association. However, one distributor objected for his own studied reasons and, not content with his solo opposition, threatened to raise hallelujah with brother distributors unless they changed their minds. In the face of this sort of goings on, the plan was abandoned.

It must be said in fairness no one could have told whether or not conciliation would have worked and whatever you may be reading on this page now is not to be construed as necessarily unfurling any editorial fanfare on behalf of this particular method. That is not the point. What was important was that a potentially important experiment, heading in the direction of bringing some peace out of wholesale turmoil was killed before it had an opportunity to show how good, how bad or how average it might have turned out to be. Suspicion, distrust and special interests once again very successfully won the day.

This sounding board, many times now, has struck for harmony and business quiet in this industry which cannot seem to move itself out of the uproar class. The current state of affairs is juvenile and that puts it mildly. The current state of affairs is damaging and that's old stuff, too.

Yet this nonsense of pulling in opposing directions at the one time is slowly, but inevitably, straining the muscles and tearing the ligaments. One of these days, and, unless the proverbial good luck of the business continues to obtain, these indecisions will finally tear the body completely asunder.

Kann

DISTRIBUTORS ARE SIDETRACKING CODE UNTIL MURPHY OR ARNOLD MAKE OFFICIAL STAND

Requisite in Advance Is Passed to Advocates Of Pact Revival

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—Distributors are not taking any official cognizance, or action, on Attorney General Frank Murphy's statement to Harry Brandt, president of the ITOA of New York, to the effect the department of justice will sanction the code in the event it is not employed by the defendants in the all-industry suit, now pending in the local courts.

For the time being, at least, major company sales chieftains are holding in abeyance answers to Max A. Cohen, head of Allied of New York, who has sent all distributors, including Monogram and Republic, letters requesting meetings with his group for the purpose of promulgating a code of fair trade practices for New York state.

Sales heads for all major companies met at the Hays office during the week for a general discussion of latest developments in connection with the "dormant" code. No action was taken, either officially or otherwise.

At the session, Gradwell L. Sears, president of Vitagraph and general sales manager for Warner, acted as chairman. He has been chairman of the distributors' labor committee. The union question also came up.

No Official Knowledge

After the meeting, Sears told BOXOFFICE "we have no official knowledge of the statement Attorney General Frank Murphy made to Harry Brandt. The only thing we know is what appeared in the trade papers. Neither Murphy nor Thurman Arnold has been in touch with us or our counsel to discuss the code; hence we can do nothing about it."

As for the Cohen letters, Sears said: "I don't know how we, the distributors, can work on a code for New York state. After all, we operate our business in interstate commerce. We will first have to consult our attorneys on the matter and will be guided by what they say. I don't know if we can do anything about it or not."

Brandt has been noncommunicative since his return from Washington with Milton C. Weisman, attorney for the local exhibitor unit. However, he has hopes of another meeting with Murphy.

No reaction has been received from Washington to the resolution passed a few weeks ago by Allied of Michigan. This is the only bona-fide Allied unit which has come out for reopening code negotiations. A copy of the resolution had been sent to the department of justice. Whether Ray Branch, president of the unit, will go to Washington to follow through is not known. However, there has been considerable interest in the fact that an Allied member, officially recognized, should break away from the hard-and-fast policy adopted by other affiliated organizations throughout the country.

To BOXOFFICE, Cohen stated: "We are going to ask Arnold to lay off. We need relief now. The code has nothing to do with the government suit. That is one thing, the code is another. I can't see how giving us the code will affect the suit. After all Allied of New York filed the greatest number of complaints with the government and if it asks for the code, that should mean something."

An attorney for one of the majors asserts "there is no legal connection between the code and the all-industry suit. The former will make available concessions to exhibitors, while the latter is to determine theatre divorcement and the validity of block booking."

With Arnold's threat "to further prosecute" still hanging over their heads, sales managers admit they will do nothing about the code. "We have worked on it for more than a year and a half, given of our time and effort to have the whole thing kicked over with a warning of a jail sentence if we proceed," one executive asserted.

Another lawyer expressed his sentiments about renewing efforts to revive the code by asking: "How can you? It's like a man with a shotgun who has you up against a wall and vows to shoot if you move."

Although he would not be quoted, a sales executive summarized the whole thing by saying: "This is a pretty democratic country of ours. After the government calls you in and tells you to correct the abuses of the industry you go ahead. When you are ready to eliminate the things that happened 18 years ago, the department of justice later informs you it is not cricket."

Work on M-G-M Pact

Attorneys now are working on the new M-G-M contract which will embody the various code concessions announced by William F. Rodgers, general sales chief. It is understood most all of the concessions announced, in addition to others not mentioned, will be incorporated. It is stated forcing of shorts, trailers and news and several other items cannot be included. It is held the company has not made score charges on pictures other than percentage output for the past several years, hence there is no need for its inclusion.

M-G-M salesmen have been selling along these lines for months and not one complaint has been registered with the home office, it is stated. It also is pointed out that when the company's policy was publicly announced, salesmen were warned not to make any misrepresentation; that any man who put the company in an embarrassing position would be summarily dealt with.

Sears states that where complaints of forcing shorts and trailers have been called to his attention and an investigation proved the exhibitor to be right contracts for these subjects have been cancelled. He added, "By the same token, I expect fulfillment of the preferred playing time provision."

Film Exchange Union Deals Up for Negotiation Shortly

NEW YORK—With the two-year contract expiring at the end of the month, representatives of film exchange unions throughout the country are understood to have met this week and appointed a committee of seven regional delegates to sit down with distribution heads for the negotiation of new contracts.

Several territories, one of which is said to be Pittsburgh, are reported to have requested the meeting with sales managers and home office exchange supervisors. Although distributors have not been officially advised of the plans for the forthcoming session, it is understood an IATSE executive, probably John Gatelee, who represented the IA at the previous meetings, will call the meeting. During the protracted meetings two years ago, each exchange center was worked out individually and it is presumed this will be the same procedure for the palavers expected to take place within the next few weeks.

The same harmony which prevailed at the previous sessions is expected at the forthcoming sessions which will be held as soon as the union delegates get together on dates. In all probability the negotiations will be carried on here. Lou Krouse, a vice-president of the IA, also sat in on a number of the meetings two summers ago.

Paramount Absent; Here's Why

New York—Neil F. Agnew, general sales manager for Paramount, could not attend the Hays office meeting when the code came up for a general discussion. He and other home office executives were paying their last respects to E. Paul Phillips, theatre executive killed in an auto accident in Minnesota, at services at Stapleton, Staten Island. Every other company was represented at the meeting.

FIGHTING FOR CODE IS LOST CAUSE, MAJOR COUNSEL CONTENDS; WASHINGTON IS BLAMED

Says Arnold Inconsistent In Stand; Charges Plan To Wreck, Not Build

By LEONARD WEISBERG

NEW YORK—Independent leader proponents of a plan to reopen negotiations for a code applicable to either New York state or the country at large are fighting a lost cause if they expect major attorneys to give the go ahead signal to sales heads.

This is the inference, as distinguished from a flat assertion, of a legal source who played a leading role in distributor-exhibitor conferences that terminated when Trust-Buster Thurman Arnold rejected a proffered code for the industry.

Both Harry Brandt, ITOA head, and Max A. Cohen, president of Allied of New York, are endeavoring to win the ears and sympathies of Arnold as well as distributors toward resumption of efforts to set up a trade practice formula to alleviate conditions among independents during the "Big Stick's" anti-trust crusades in New York, Oklahoma City, Buffalo, and Nashville. While Brandt is working through Attorney General Frank Murphy, Cohen is aiming his initial efforts at distributors.

Cohen informs BOXOFFICE he is none too optimistic over the reaction his plan might generate among home office sales executives. He is asking for another chance to formulate a code. "I almost feel the answer I'll get is that distributor lawyers will not permit them to go ahead as long as Arnold holds his present views," Cohen asserted.

Brandt was told by Murphy a requisite for withdrawal of the department's objections would be a stipulation that any form of code would not be used by distributors as a defense in anti-trust proceedings instituted or others to follow. The ITOA head has not indicated where, or how, he intends to follow up his first step with Murphy insofar as getting support from distributors is concerned.

With this picture before him, as well as the benefit of extended conversations with Arnold to bolster his views, the attitude of the legal source asked to comment on the outlook for possible reconsideration of a code is this:

"I don't see a chance for renewal of negotiations. Murphy's statement after he was visited by Brandt does not make sense. He will not come out and say it is lawful to go ahead with a code, but he does say it is unlawful to attempt this if a code is used in defense of the government suits.

"American industry has in Arnold a man who is attempting to change the entire economic structure. He wants to break it up into little pieces. He is doing it with oil, coal and the movies. Look at his speeches and press releases and I challenge you to point out where he really wants to help the little fellow.

"For instance, his big suit in New York seeks dissolution of theatres by divorcement. Just what has this to do with the Schine suit? Arnold rejected the code because he said it is fundamentally unlawful; that it maintains the block booking system. Now it looks as though he is trying to talk himself out of that spot or is using some one else to do it for him."

Four Pending Deals Would Add 12 New Units to Schine Circuit

BUFFALO—J. Myer Schine has four deals on for the acquisition of 12 theatres in Ohio and New York, the negotiations contingent on the federal court's disposition of the government's temporary injunctive moves. In addition, the circuit has a theatre under construction. In the event the deals go through, the independent chain's new total will be brought to 159.

Largest of the takeover deals is with J. Real Neth, who operates the Markham, Clinton, Eastern, State, Cameo and Lincoln in Columbus, Ohio. The exhibitor recently suffered a broken leg in an accident and has been ill since. He has made up his mind to retire and be relieved of the responsibility of the six houses.

The next important transaction is with John Pekras, who has four in Elyria, Ohio, one of which operates part time only. He is 64 and is anxious to retire.

Morris Zimmerman of the Majestic, Rochester, N. Y., has been ill since last May and wants to quit the business if he can get a buyer. Schine has a deal practically set for the upstate New York unit.

The Majestic, Nelsonville, Ohio, is the last deal. S. S. Steenrod and Harriett E. Hoodlet operate and own the property. Belpik Theatre Co. is the Schine subsidiary discussing the takeover.

A decision on the temporary injunction is expected soon. Briefs by counsel for Schine, in answer to the government's briefs, have been filed denying all allegations of conspiracy and monopoly and holding the department of justice has failed to make out a *prima facie* case.

Although the government lists 18 affidavits by exhibitors in support of its complaint, attorneys for the Schine circuit

(Continued on page 15)

See Fifth Delay on A to Z Quiz

New York—Paul Williams is expected from Washington Monday for further conferences with distributor counsel on elimination of various questions in the government's interrogatories in the all-industry suit. There is a possibility William P. Farnsworth, newly appointed assistant to Williams, may sit in on the session which is to be held prior to Wednesday, the new time limit for answering. It is hinted an additional extension of two or three weeks may be agreed upon in view of the wealth of material yet needed from the field before defendants can properly answer. The delay, if stipulated, will be the fifth since the quiz was filed.

Weekends in East

NEW YORK—Harry M. Goetz, co-producer with Max Gordon of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," spent the week in the east, coming on specially for the opening of the new Gordon-Goetz play in Boston.

Five RKO New Ones Total $6,200,000

Hollywood—RKO has more than $6,200,000 invested in five productions, one of which is now being released. This is "Allegheny Uprising," which is estimated at approximately $900,000. "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" represents the largest investment, figured at $2,500,000. "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," which cost the company $250,000 for the rights, is said to total $1,000,000, the same figure for "Vigil in the Night." The Orson Welles production, "Heart of Darkness," by Joseph Conrad, is figured at $700,000 to $800,000.

Schine Tells How He Runs 'Em

Buffalo—Says J. Myer Schine in his affidavit in the government anti-trust suit:

"Of the towns mentioned in the complaint, there are 13 towns, involving 20 theatres, where we have partnerships. In one of these towns the theatre is managed by our organization with the cooperation of the local exhibitor. In all of the remaining towns, the original local exhibitor continues in charge of the theatre and operates with our cooperation."

GOVERNMENT FIGURES 342 FIRST RATE FILMS RELEASED BY 7 MAJORS FROM 1935 TO 1938

Contends Chicago Suit Defendants Released 89 to 95 Per Cent

CHICAGO—If the calculations by government statisticians is any guide for accuracy, seven major companies (Columbia is not included) had a total of 342 first-class pictures in the four years 1935-'38, according to a department of justice brief filed in connection with the contempt proceedings against B&K. Of this number RKO and Universal had a combined 43 pictures, or 51 per cent, while the other five producer-distributors had 279 pictures or 325 per cent of the total.

The government is a stickler for percentages, as indicated by various briefs and petitions filed in its anti-trust cases here and in New York, Buffalo, Nashville and Los Angeles.

Breaking the percentages down, the department of justice mathematicians claim 87 first-class films were released during the calendar year 1935; 10 pictures, or 11 per cent were released by RKO and Universal, and 73 films, or 84 per cent were released by M-G-M, Paramount, 20th-Fox, Vitagraph and UA.

For the calendar year 1936 there were 79 first-class pictures released, 14 films or 18 per cent by RKO and Universal, and 58 pictures or 74 per cent by M-G-M, Paramount, 20th-Fox, Vitagraph and UA.

The greatest percentage year, according to the government, was 1937, when 96 first-rate films were distributed, seven, or seven per cent by RKO and Universal and 84 or 87 per cent by the five other companies mentioned.

There were 80 high-grade products in 1938, 12 or 15 per cent by RKO and Universal and 64 pictures or 80 per cent of the total by the remaining five companies.

To go into the matter further, the brief states the distributor defendants in the contempt proceedings released 89 to 95 per cent of the first-class pictures during each calendar year from 1935 to 1938 and M-G-M, Paramount, 20th-Fox, Vitagraph and UA during each of the four years contributed a total of 74 to 87 per cent.

Latin American Survey to Take Hummel 4 Months

NEW YORK—Joe Hummel, Warner foreign manager, will be gone four months on his first Latin American survey in present capacity. Hummel, who is now en route to South America on the *Brazil*, plans to visit every company branch in about 19 countries.

If the situation presents itself, Warner may acquire the operating interest in certain South American theatres, Hummel said before leaving. He added he would have more to say about it when he returned.

Gov't Suit Date Anybody's Guess

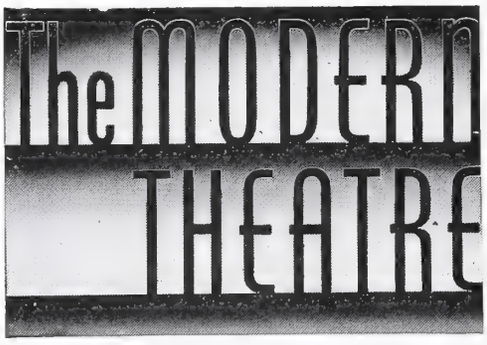
New York—Speculation as to when the all-industry suit will come to trial varies in different quarters. Some say distributors will be ready in March. Others indicate it will be impossible before June and that in this event no session will be held during the summer; hence the case will go over to the fall.

There are those attorneys who are of the opinion the trial may last a year; others say two years. At any rate, the major concern among the majors at the moment is getting a clarification of the interrogatories. Until that time, it is held, it is anybody's guess (1) when the trial will get under way and (2) how long it will take, if it ever gets under way in the first place.

To Roadshow "Blue Bird"

NEW YORK—Scheduled for release during Christmas Week, 20th-Fox has withdrawn the Shirley Temple picture, "The Blue Bird," from national release. Instead it will be sold as a roadshow.

In This Issue . . .



ADVERTISING: *"Manifestations of Merchandising on Our Modern Theatre Fronts"*

•

HOUSE APPEAL: *"San Antonio's New Broadway Creates Its Own Business Conditions"*

•

PROGRESS: *"A Cluster of Genius Behind the Magic of Moving Pictures"*

•

BUILDING TRENDS: *"Relation of the Modern Theatre to Low-Cost Housing Projects"*

•

ILLUMINATION: *"Merchandising Your Entertainment with Colored Light"*

•

PLANNING: *"A Case of Competent Planning to Meet a Peculiar Condition"*

•

AIR CONDITIONING: *"Now to Get the Horse Trading Out of Our System"*

•

CINE' CLINIC: *"A New Projection Arc Light System for Average Sized Theatres"*

. . Start Reading on Page 25

RKO Claims Pathe Not Predecessor

LOS ANGELES—Contending the company is not a successor to Pathe, attorneys for RKO are seeking a dismissal of the complaint filed by the government in its contempt proceedings against FWC and majors. Counsel for RKO holds the company acquired certain assets from Pathe and the latter still is in existence.

With a hearing set for Monday, Bertram Shipman, of Mudge, Stern, Williams & Tucker, New York law firm representing FWC and National Theatres, arrived early in the week and was followed by counsel for other companies. John Howley, of Donovan, Leisure, Lumbard & Newton, representing RKO, is due from the east.

Arguments will be held Monday on motions for bills of particulars and a date set for taking evidence. The indications are a request will be made to postpone the case.

RKO is not a defendant in the Crescent suit in Nashville and the Schine suit in Buffalo because it is under the jurisdiction of the federal court. In cases of this kind, the court must enter special orders, but as yet the government has not made such a move, although one is expected soon.

Farnsworth Headquarters In New York Office

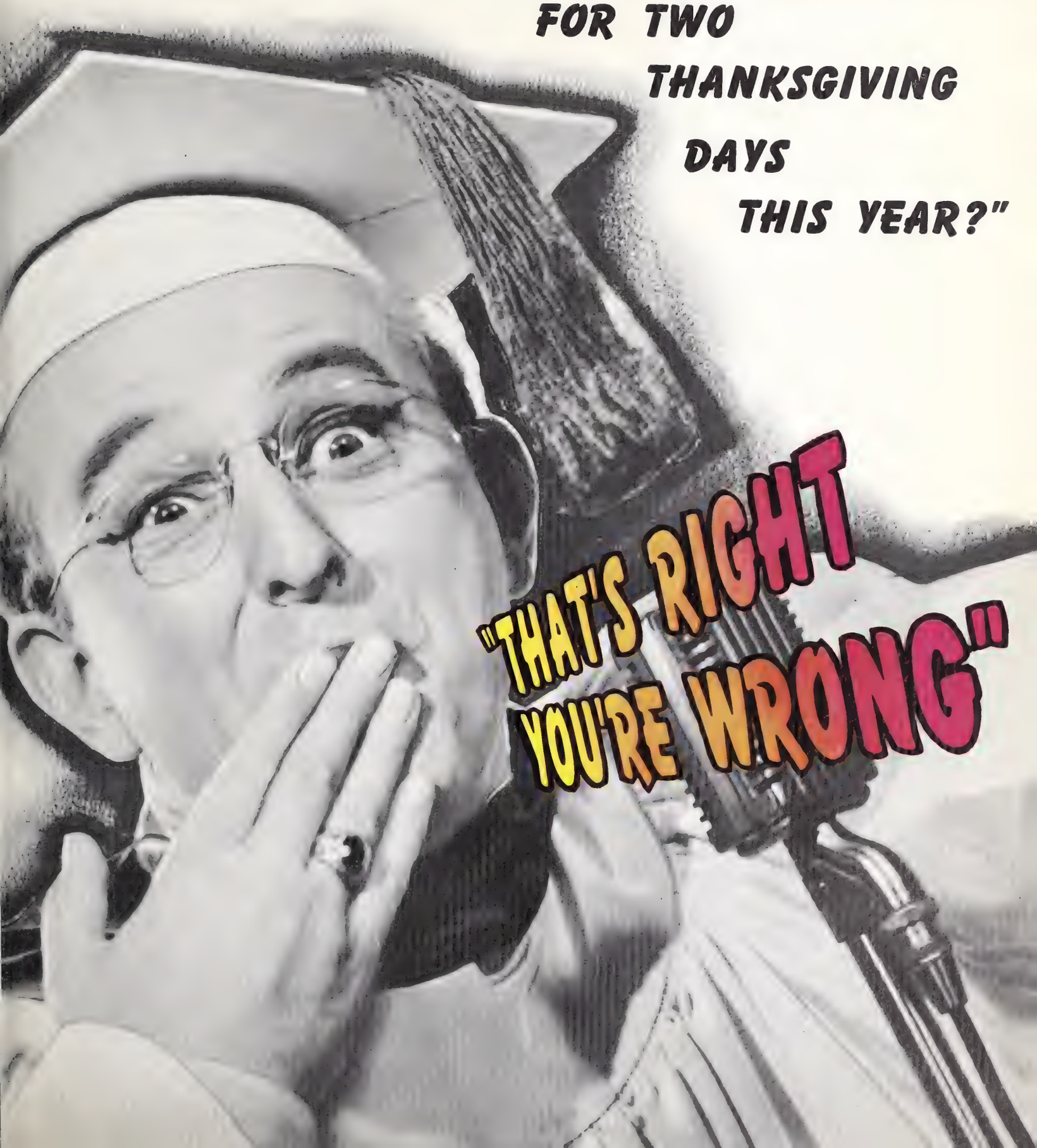
NEW YORK—William P. Farnsworth, who recently joined the department of justice as assistant to Paul Williams on pending government suits, will make his headquarters at the local federal building. The move is seen as favorable by distributor attorneys who have been contacting Williams in Washington, up to now, for talking over pertinent matters on the various cases.

Paul Phillips Rites

NEW YORK—Funeral services have been held for E. Paul Phillips, Paramount home office theatre executive, killed in an auto accident at Waseca, Minn., at Cooke's Funeral Home, Stapleton, S. I. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips; a daughter, Barbara; his father and mother; a brother, and three sisters.

"STUDENTS!"

"WHAT'S THE ONE BIG REASON FOR TWO THANKSGIVING DAYS THIS YEAR?"



RKO RADIO SAYS IT'S

KAY KYSER

THE OLD PROFESSOR HIMSELF...AND

ADOLPHE MENJOU

IN

"THAT'S RIGHT—YOU'RE WRONG"





WITH

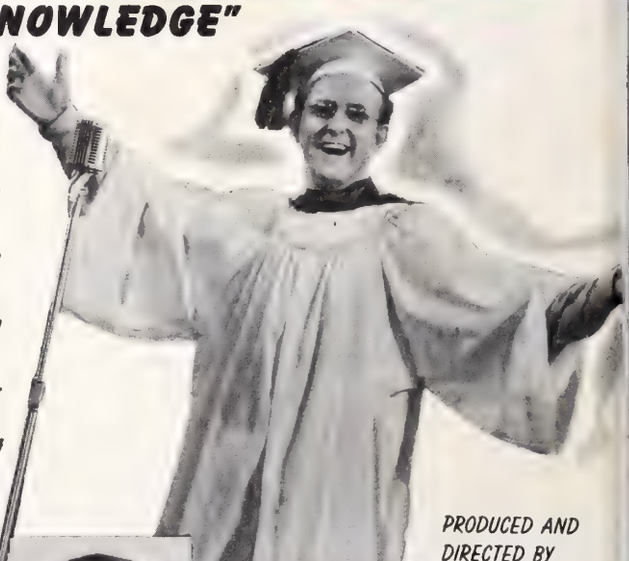
MAY ROBSON • LUCILLE BALL • DENNIS O'KEEFE
EDWARD EVERETT HORTON
ROSCOE KARNS • MORONI OLSEN

AND **KAY KYSER'S BAND** FEATURING

GINNY SIMMS • HARRY BABBITT
SULLY MASON • ISH KABIBBLE

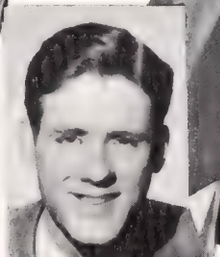
AND **"THE COLLEGE OF MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE"**

The Old Professor himself...with the biggest bunch of great picture names you ever spilled over your marquee...in a laugh-swing-story sensation built for the biggest business your theatre can play to!











PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY
DAVID BUTLER
SCREEN PLAY BY
WILLIAM CONSELMAN
AND JAMES V. KERN

RKO RADIO PICTURES

LIT1

EXHIBITORS CHEER SPECTACULAR BALLYHOOS; 65% SEE TANGIBLE RESULTS, SURVEY SHOWS

"Dodge City" and "Union Pacific" Type Stunts Win Field Support

Spectacular ballyhoo for productions has exhibitor favor overwhelmingly throughout the country and is approved by a comfortable margin in the various separate territorial regions, with the exception of the New York area. Here the opinion that it is not of value, dominates.

These are the sentiments revealed by the responses to the BOXOFFICE survey that questioned the trade: "Do you see any tangible results in spectacular ballyhoos such as Warner staged for 'Dodge City' and Paramount for 'Union Pacific?'"

The portion of the nation's theatremen who approve the high-powered exploitation by producers totals 65 per cent. Of the 35 per cent who find little benefit in this exploitation the general opposition centers on the plaint that its value is lost by the time the subsequents get the picture.

With the sole exception of the New England territory, the percentage of spectacular ballyhoo adherents seems to run in proportion to their geographical distance from the two recent outstanding examples of it referred to in the survey question. "Union Pacific" premiering in Omaha, and "Dodge City" in the Kansas town of that name, the western and midwestern areas appear to have benefited most, while the eastern, mideast and southern zones secured less results in varying degrees. Another outstanding recent premiere exhibitors contend increased grosses on the picture concerned was the debut of RKO's "Career" in Des Moines. It is pointed out, also, that this production had a sustained nationwide buildup via the Jesse Lasky "Gateway to Hollywood" talent search.

As a general rule, threading through the replies was the evidence that the power of the ballyhoos to pull in the patrons slides according to the distance the playdates move away from the fanfare; that first runs in large and small towns alike that play immediately after the debut experience extraordinarily good business, certainly attributable in no small part to the buildup.

The exhibitor consensus, then, is that the ballyhoos are worth what they cost, provided they don't add too much to the film rentals of the pictures so favored.

And for particular data in that consensus, the following gleaned from the replies.

Super-Stunts Fine If Don't Cost Him

I'm all for the "Dodge City" type of oompah on pictures that can stand up under the pressure, and as long as the distributors don't try to stick me for the expense. The buildup for "42nd Street" made a bally convert out of me, and I think one of the things wrong with this industry now is that it doesn't make enough noise where enough people can hear and see what it's got for sale.

MISSOURI EXHIBITOR

Thinks It's Good Idea, But He Plays 'Em Too Late

Okay for the first run, no doubt, but by the time my circuit competitor lets me get the picture the ballyhoo power is all gone. It would be a wonderful thing if producers could take a picture like "Union Pacific," give it a terrific start and get clearance cut in half all down the line just to see what the thing would gross. That might even solve the clearance problem for keeps.

NEW YORK EXHIBITOR

Sees Results in Vicinity Of the Ballyhoo Only

Locally, where the stunt is pulled, it helps greatly. Generally, and in spots removed from the premiere, no.

GEORGIA EXHIBITOR

Says Exhibitors Have to Foot the Bill, Anyway

What's the difference? We exhibitors have to pay the bill in the final analysis, and it's a question as to whether we get enough increase in gross to offset the hike in rentals.

MONTANA EXHIBITOR

Says the System Hurts; Wrings Product Dry

We have a very small theatre and it seems that we often make more money on pictures that do less ahead of us. The big ballyhoos drag them in above us and by the time the films reach us they have been wrung dry. Not good for the little subsequent run.

MASSACHUSETTS EXHIBITOR

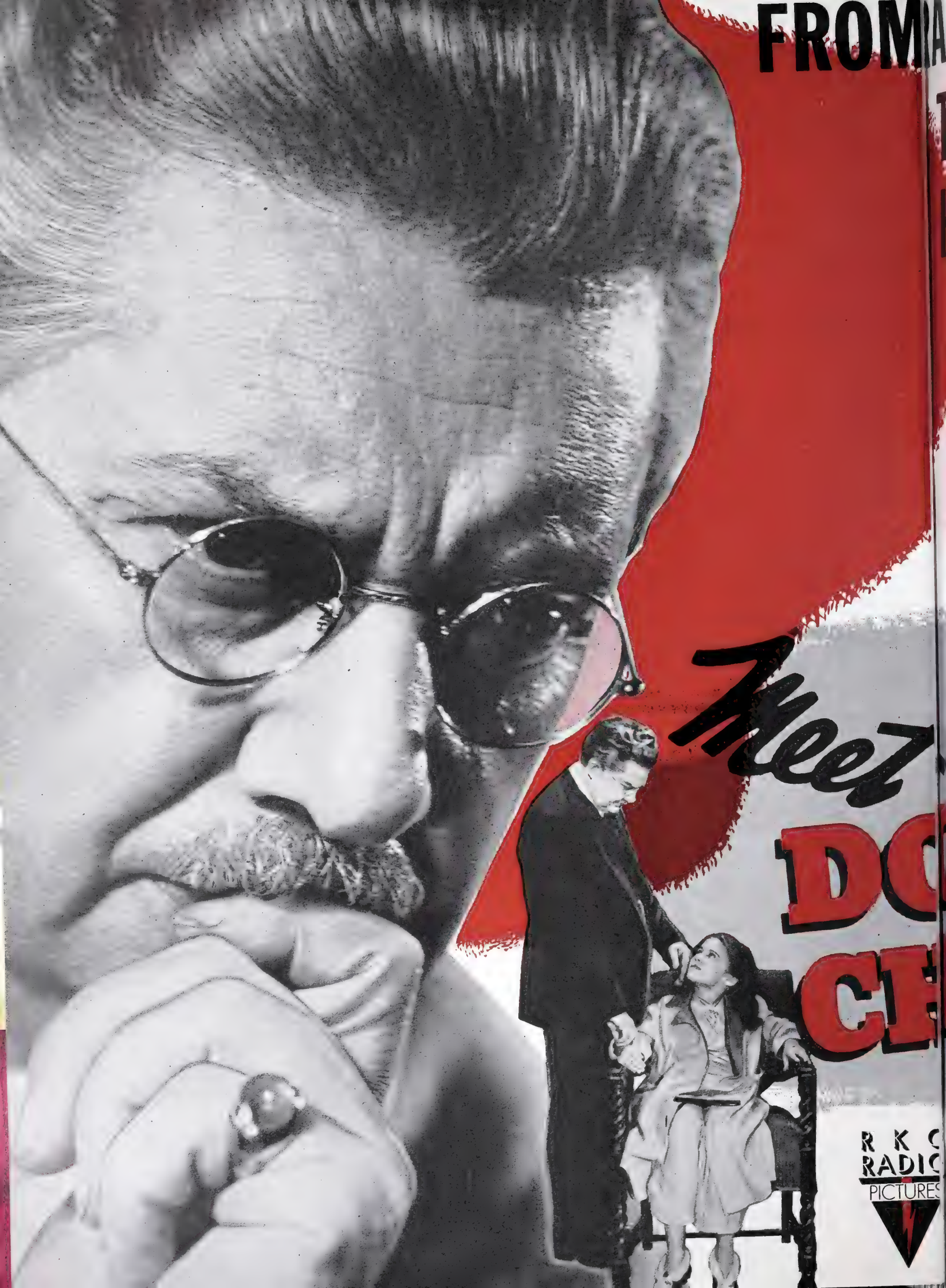
And culled in phrases that are almost as revealing as more complete discourse:

Their B. O. records prove such is worth the price . . . Swell, but on outstanding hits only . . . Okay when the show is the McCoy; death if it isn't . . . A few a year is enough . . . Good for first, second and third runs. Milked for late runs . . . Decidedly good . . . Good only for first-run houses . . . Spectacular ballyhoos cheapen other product . . . Good picture, good ballyhoo, good results . . . I'd rather have better press books . . . If they do it for the neighborhood and suburban houses it's a waste of money . . . Very slight.

How They Voted on "Super-Ballyhoo"

Area	*Pct. "Yes"*	*Pct. "No"*
EASTERN	46	54
Delaware	0	0
Maryland	0	0
New Jersey	50	50
New York	71	29
Eastern Pennsylvania	33	67
Virginia	29	71
NEW ENGLAND	72	28
Connecticut	100	0
Maine	83	17
Massachusetts	75	25
New Hampshire	0	0
Rhode Island	0	100
Vermont	100	0
SOUTHERN	59	41
Alabama	33	67
Arkansas	60	40
Florida	67	33
Georgia	50	50
Louisiana	100	0
Mississippi	50	50
North Carolina	43	57
Oklahoma	71	29
South Carolina	75	25
Tennessee	33	67
Texas	67	33
MIDEAST	62	38
Ohio	76	24
Kentucky	50	50
Michigan	62	38
Western Pennsylvania	71	29
West Virginia	50	50
CENTRAL	66	34
Illinois	60	40
Indiana	73	27
Eastern Missouri	50	50
Wisconsin	82	18
MIDWEST	75	25
Iowa	73	27
Kansas	93	7
Minnesota	67	33
Western Missouri	64	36
Nebraska	96	4
North Dakota	50	50
South Dakota	86	14
WESTERN	76	24
Arizona	100	0
California	60	40
Colorado	100	0
Idaho	80	20
Montana	67	33
Nevada	100	0
New Mexico	0	0
Oregon	56	44
Utah	0	100
Washington	75	25
Wyoming	100	0

Opposition Comes Mainly From Subsequents Too Far Back on Scale


FROM
Meet
DO
CH
RKO
RADIO
PICTURES

ADIO TO THE SCREEN COMES THE CHARACTER MILLIONS HAVE LEARNED TO LOVE!

Direct from the CBS network program that's held its popularity for years . . . the most lovable fighter who ever gentled a town into the hollow of his hand! . . . Foe of sickness, friend of the weak, champion of youth in trouble—and in love! . . . Now on the screen in a deep-as-your-heart drama gay with laughter, bright with romance, alive with excitement!



JEAN HERSHOLT

in

CTOR RISTIAN

With

DOROTHY LOVETT
ROBERT BALDWIN
ENID BENNETT • PAUL HARVEY
MARCIA MAE JONES • JACKIE MORAN

PRODUCED BY WILLIAM STEPHENS • DIRECTED BY BERNARD VORHAUS
Screen Play by Ian McLellan Hunter, Ring Lardner, Jr., Harvey Gates

THE FIRST OF A GREAT NEW SERIES!

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

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VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

IF RAY BRANCH read this publication last week, he may have found the producer he was seeking.

The president of Allied of Michigan which recently cracked the national Allied line by passing a resolution for continuance of code negotiations has been relieving his chest about problems current in the mystic maze, also known as the film business. One beef, and Branch was quite emphatic on it, dealt with quickies. He was urging the producers to cut a lot of them out in language like this:

> "We give the public too much chance to compare values. Invariably it is necessary to run two poor pictures together, or play one cluck with one good one. Either is bad because it gives the public a chance to make comparisons and, if you think the public don't know their pictures, you're crazy. If production must be cut (here he was referring to producers' statements made after war broke out) why not cut it by making less pictures and, if the exhibitor must cut his film rentals down, why not run half as many pictures? Either of the above will work and neither will suffer losses. The public is fed up on QUICKIES (his caps) and we all know it, but we don't do a thing about it. Either the producer or the exhibitor must take the first step. If all producers will serve notice on the trade that they are going to cut down the number of pictures and make more good ones, the change will be most welcome. Or, if the exhibitors would all refuse to buy more than half of the present output, it would soon correct the situation. But the latter would never work because so long as they are made, they will find distribution."

It ought to be apparent Branch feels pretty keenly about this. A bit more now:

> "Let's get practical and take advantage of an excuse for correcting this sad state of affairs right now and blame it on the war. At least, it would give us all a plausible excuse for not being able to carry on this vicious practice until it ruins completely what has taken so many years to perfect. I am sure that some producer has the courage to start the ball rolling and it wouldn't be long until everybody followed suit."

The producer now looks like Warner. Its "B" unit, with seven pictures on the season's lineup finished, has been disbanded. The company, at the outset, openly announced a round dozen of its total 48 would be low bracketeers. Whether the five to go will be made is a trifle on the uncertain side, but the probability is the list will go through the mill on schedule.

If the necessary lineup of story and play material required to keep an all-"A" schedule of 38 to 48 pictures can be rounded out—and what with rivalries and the vast difficulty of finding such material—the plan now is to make the Warner output strictly a one letter affair beginning and ending with "A" for the 1940-41 season.

Plannings and plottings have a checkered career in this business. At the season's quarter, any talk about things to come nine months ahead has to be surrounded completely by latitude. There is also the war. On the other hand and strictly in keeping with the company's production methods, Warner is virtually set now up to January and again expects to have the entire current schedule completed months ahead of the year's close.

The point about this is that the job of peering into the following season is not as remote as it might appear and that, therefore, the time is fairly well at hand to determine if the discussed idea about kicking out the "B's" is to go through.

Should it, the impact on other companies will make interesting observation. You're not going to get this department into any forecast about similar actions in other quarters. That's guesswork. However, it is not guesswork to suggest that a change of this nature, if it is really to mean "A's" and not economical "A's," will be religiously watched for possible adoption by other companies.

And that's as far as we go.

Plus and Minus

A poke and a compliment in "Fortune's" last survey in which films came in for attention:

"Having gone thus far with sex, the survey turned to another phase of U. S. living that goes on and on with little reference to the affairs of state and that is the daily lives of millions."

WHY THE BIG GRIN?

Has the cat swallowed the canary?



NOPE...

just been reading the RAVES on Paramount's

Paramount Pictures

"The CAT and the CANARY"

turn please...



The Reviews ARE THE CAT'S!

"A combination of mystery and comedy that will chill you to the marrow, then leave you limp with laughter. Bob Hope's best picture!" *—Jimmie Fidler, famous newspaper and radio columnist*

"The outstanding chiller of the year. Bob Hope at his best!" *—Robbin Coons, Associated Press*

"The best mystery in years!" *—Erskine Johnson, King Features Syndicate*

"One of the most successful whodunits of this season." *—Film Daily*

"Top-notch comedy murder mystery . . . first feature on any bill." *—Hollywood Reporter*

"Bob Hope and Paulette Goddard a solid click in 'The Cat and the Canary'." *—Ed Sullivan, famous New York Daily News columnist*

"A wedding of laugh and thrill so neatly contrived as to equal, virtually, a new film formula, inducing shrieks of terror and shrieks of laughter." *—Motion Picture Daily*

Paramount Pictures



Paramount's

"The CAT and the CANARY"

starring **Bob Hope** and **Paulette Goddard** with **John Beal**

Douglass Montgomery • Gale Sondergaard • Elizabeth Patterson • George Zucco

A Paramount Picture • Directed by ELLIOTT NUGENT • Screen Play by Walter De Leon and Lynn Starling • Based on the Stage Play by John Willard

Republic National Plan Seen Growing

NEW YORK—With the acquisition of Herman Rifkin's interest in the Boston and New Haven exchanges, Republic now operates seven of its own branches, indicating the plan of Herbert J. Yates to develop a company along the lines of First National is gradually being realized. Rifkin had been a franchise holder since the start of the company and now is devoting his time to other affairs.

Yates for some time has been mulling over the First National system for Republic and, while there are no reports of other deals pending, it is believed he will eventually build up his own exchange system to be operated from the home office here.

Some time ago, he bought out the interest of Floyd St. John, Los Angeles and San Francisco franchise holder. When the company held its last series of regional meetings, it became apparent Republic would not renew arrangements with Jack Berkowitz, who owned the Buffalo branch and a half interest in Albany with Bernie Mills. Berkowitz also was a partner of Sam Seplowin in Detroit, which is in the Republic fold with Seplowin as manager under supervision of the home office.

Jack Bellman, former eastern district manager, is at the helm at Buffalo. All other district managers have been suspended on a three-month leave.

James R. Grainger, president of Republic's distributing company, for the past year has been spending most of his time in the field closing important deals with the assistance of local franchise holders. He recently held a session with eastern sales forces on a 14-week drive which terminates January 27. Attending the meeting were Herman Gluckman, franchise holder for New York and Philadelphia; Bellman, Buffalo; Morris Epstein, New York manager; Arthur Newman, Albany; M. E. Morey, Boston; Sam Seletsky, New Haven; Max Gillis, Philadelphia; Sam Flax, Washington franchise holder; James Alexander, Pittsburgh franchise holder; Max Margolis, Cincinnati; Nat Lefton, Cleveland franchise holder, and Sam Gorrel, Cleveland manager.

Griffith and Attorney Back to Oklahoma

NEW YORK—L. C. Griffith, operating head of the Griffith circuit in Oklahoma City, and Attorneys Jed Dudley of Oklahoma City and George Rice of Dallas, have returned to their headquarters after "coordinating work on the government suit" in the oil city with home office distributor counsel.

Various major lawyers met with the representatives of the Griffith circuit and discussed numerous phases of the pending suit. Federal Judge Vaught has before him a motion by defendants for a bill of particulars which is expected to be decided shortly.

Prognosticators Are At It Already

New York—The horoscope for the next presidential election is in full swing in these parts. There are some local exhibitors, ingrained in politics, who predict William Douglas, 44, Democrat from Denver, will be the successor to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He is a former Yale professor and has been head of SEC under the present administration. Thurman Arnold, trust buster, also hails from Yale where he left a law professorship to take over his present duties.

Other industry spokesman are figuring Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan, is the likely candidate to become chief executive of the U. S.

The elections are a year off, but the prognosticators are at it already.

Gov't May Use More Lawyers

WASHINGTON—With the appointment of William P. Farnsworth as aide to Paul Williams in the various pending anti-trust suits, it is probable other attorneys will be brought in if it appears likely two or more trials are to be held simultaneously.

Several weeks ago, BOXOFFICE indicated from New York the department of justice was seeking an outstanding attorney for the all-industry suit. Several names were mentioned. The appointment of Farnsworth, who has a fairly good knowledge of the film business, having been NRA code administrator for more than a year, succeeding Sol A. Rosenblatt, is seen as a prime move in the department's desire to secure the services of attorneys familiar with the industry.

Again sources close to the department of justice flatly, and with considerable vehemence, deny there is any intention to relax on the big suit and direct all the guns on either the Schine suit or the Griffith action pending in Buffalo and Oklahoma City.

Major Lawyers "Amazed" at Unfamiliarity With Industry

NEW YORK—Attorneys for distributors working on the government's interrogatories for the past few weeks have been amazed at the lack of knowledge department of justice men have of the workings of the industry. This is based on the questions asked in the A to Z quiz, many of which are described as "ridiculous." It is held that someone familiar with the operations of the industry would never propound many of the questions, for not only are they "unreasonable," but also "unheard of." This is said to be substantiated by the conferences held and to be held with Paul Williams on the proposed eliminations in the interrogatories.

Four Schine Deals Would Add 12 Units

(Continued from page 5)

have filed 42, while distributors have 17, making a total of 77.

The affidavits on behalf of the defendant circuit are as follows:

J. Myer Schine, president Schine Chain Theatres; John A. May, comptroller of Schine Chain Theatres, and president of other Schine corporations; Louis Lazar, supervisor of Ohio and Kentucky; Saul Silverman, Ohio district manager and partner in Tiffin; Edward M. Byrne of Byrne, Byrne & Lowery, Syracuse attorneys; Edward J. Conboy, Auburn, N. Y., building inspector; Eugene C. Donovan, president of Auburn Trust Co., Auburn, N. Y.; David Nolan, inspector for the New York state labor department; Earl A. Race, secretary of Auburn Chamber of Commerce; Louis W. Schine, officer and director of all Schine companies; Joseph M. Schwartzwalder, city manager for Schine in Auburn; Frank W. Spreter, owner of Auburn Theatre Equipment Co.; Morris Zimmerman, owner of Majestic, Rochester; Joseph J. Doyle, lawyer of Seneca Falls, representing Strand, same city; C. F. Marsh, treasurer Seneca Falls Savings Bank.

J. Real Neth, owner of six Columbus, Ohio, theatres; Henry Bieberson, operator of the Strand, Delaware, Ohio, who sold a half interest to Schine; John Pekras, Elyria, Ohio; Urual Buck, State, Fostoria, Ohio, who sold partnership interest to Schine; Harry C. Devin, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, attorney, who dealt with Schine on a lease for the Memorial, same city; Rex M. Lamb, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, member board of trustees of Knox County Memorial Bldg.; James C. Platt, Mt. Vernon, who sub-leased the Lyric to Schine; S. P. Upham, director First-Knox National Bank, Mt. Vernon, Ohio; C. Pratt Ward, Mt. Vernon agent for Aetna and other insurance companies; Clinton N. Williams, past secretary Citizens Bldg. & Loan Assn., Mt. Vernon; Harriett E. Hoodlet, Nelson, Ohio realtor; S. S. Steenrod, owner-operator, Majestic, Nelsonville, Ohio; William Selman, who, with two partners, built the Forum, Norwalk, Ohio, and sold a partnership interest to Schine; Edward P. Mott who sold an interest to Schine in Wooster, Wooster, Ohio Theatre formerly the Lyric.

Max Euster, vice-president Corbin, Ky., Hippodrome Co., owner of Hippodrome, leased to Schine; R. B. Gillespie, vice-president First National Bank of Corbin, Ky., and director-treasurer of Corbin Theatre Co. at time of sale to Schine; M. A. Gray, attorney and director Corbin Theatre Co.; F. B. Heath, president F. B. Heath Lumber Co. and director of First National Bank of Corbin; Charles C. Lincoln jr. of Marion, Va., president Lincoln Theatre Co., operator of a number of theatres in Virginia; Sam Kaplan, partner, Schine Theatre Corp., Maysville, Ky. He had the Washington and Hollywood theatre companies now merged with Schine; J. Barbour Russell jr., who discussed sale of his Lexington, Ky., theatre with an FBI man; C. O. Brown, owner, operator Brown Amusement Co., which has the Manring and Brownie in Middlesboro, Ky., leased to Schine. Howard J. Douglass, secretary, Middlesboro, Ky. Chamber of Commerce; R. K. Judy, cashier, Middlesboro National Bank; Charles E. Brohawn, mayor and principal stockholder in the Cambridge (Md.) Theatre Co., which sold Schine three theatres in the town; Walter L. Weatley, president, Federalsburg Amusement Co., Federalsburg, Md., who also heads Talbot Theatres, Inc.; William D. Wilckens, retired New Castle, Del., business man, who helped finance the Plaza, Milford, Del., theatre for James E. Lewis.

No Immediate Successor To Goetz in England

NEW YORK—M-G-M does not plan an immediate successor to Ben Goetz, who has resigned as managing director in England.

Dual reason given for his leaving is "postponement" of production in England and a serious illness that prompted a doctor's order for complete recuperation before resuming activity.

When asked who would be in charge should the cessation of war bring about a resumption of English production, M-G-M executives here hinted Goetz may be sufficiently recovered to take over his former post.

In the event Goetz has no such inclination, Victor Saville is mentioned as a possible candidate.

Two Thar

But NO T



Thanksgiving, Nov. 23

BETTE DAVIS
and
ERROL FLYNN
in
"The Private Lives of ELIZABETH and ESSEX"
In Technicolor
with
Olivia de Havilland
DONALD CRISP • VINCENT PRICE
ALAN HALE • HENRY STEPHENSON
Directed by MICHAEL CURTIZ
Screen Play by Norman Reilly Raine & Aeneas MacKenzie • Based on the Stage Play by Maxwell Anderson • Produced by Theatre Guild, Inc.
Music by Erich Wolfgang Korngold
A Warner Bros.—First National Picture

JACK L. WARNER
In Charge of Production

HAL B. WALLIS
Executive Producer

FOR BOTH THANI

ksgivings

URKEYS!



Thanksgiving, Nov. 30

PAUL MUNI
in
"WE ARE NOT ALONE"
By the Author of "Mr. Chips"
with
JANE BRYAN • Flora Robson
UNA O'CONNOR • RAYMOND SEVERN
Directed by EDMUND GOULDING • Screen Play by James Hilton & Milton Krims • From the Novel by James Hilton • Music by Max Steiner • A Warner Bros.—FirstNat'l Picture

THANK SQUARE-SHOOTING WARNER BROS.

R GIVING YOU BOTH THESE SENSATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

VING PLAYDATES! WHAT A PRODUCT STORY IT TELLS!

Average Family Pays 2.5% for Recreation

WASHINGTON — The average American family spends 2.5 per cent of its income on recreation but the average single person has to spend 3.7 per cent to offset the advantages of a home.

In those proportions, the American people in 1935-36 spent $1,643,000,000 on recreation, it is reported by the national resources planning board. No estimate is given, however, as to what part of this sum went through the windows of the nation's boxoffices.

Of the total spent for recreation, $1,216,000,000 was by families and $427,000,000 by single persons, the board's survey showed.

While, as stated, no figures were given for expenditures for motion picture theatre attendance, the exhibitors of the country undoubtedly received most of their income from families and individuals in the lowest and middle thirds in the economic picture.

Thus, it is estimated that families with incomes of less than $1,000 a year spent $135,000,000 for recreation in 1935-36 and single individuals in the same class spent $87,000,000. Families with incomes of $1,000 to $5,000 spent $817,000,000 and similarly situated single persons $283,000,000, and families with incomes in excess of $5,000 spent $264,000,000 and single persons $57,000,000.

New Feature Hits Trade Fancy

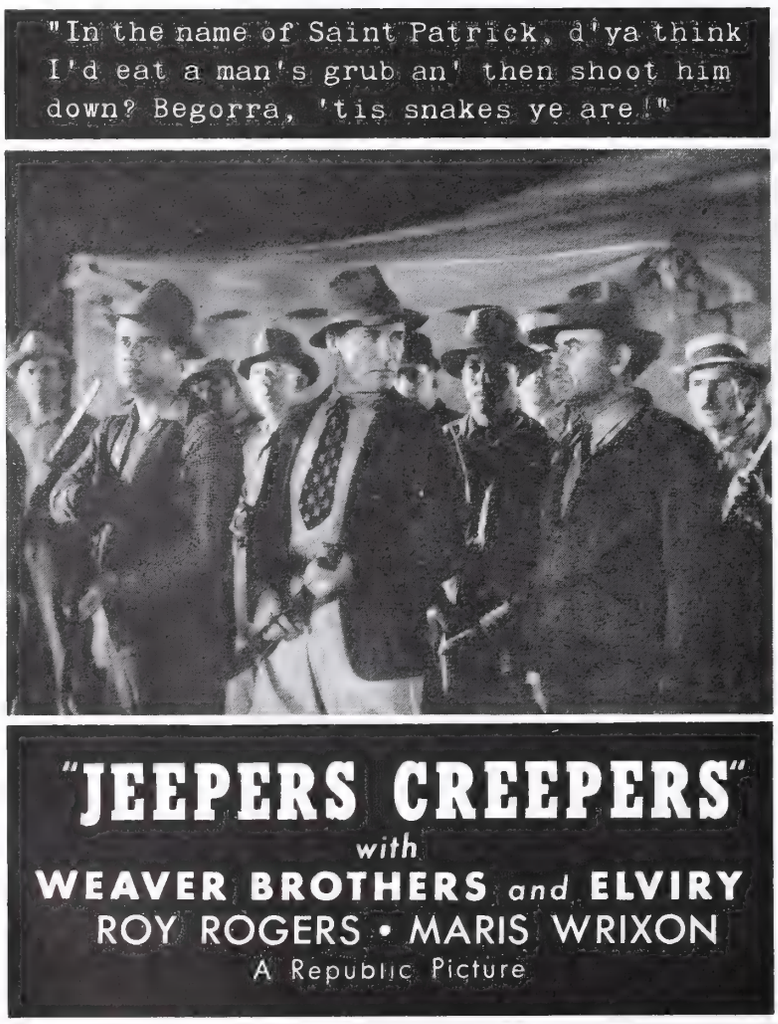
The mailbag disgorges quick appreciation from exhibitors for the new BOXOFFICE feature, the "In the Making" department on the last page of the Booking Chart each week. Turn to it regularly for latest dope on feature pictures starting and completed at the studios.

Majors "Not Ready Yet" For Shift to the East

NEW YORK—Despite Mayor LaGuardia's efforts to bring large scale production to the east, producers' representatives argue they are "not ready yet" for such a move.

Various factors are held to preclude an eastward shift, such as getting seasoned writers, important players and technical crews. While producers agree the money strings are in New York, they hold the production brains are in California. Also they ask what would become of the enormous investments in Hollywood if producers were to pack up and transfer bulk production to the east?

Some interests are inclined to believe the move to the east is being sponsored by the local cameramen's union, and in this connection they point out coast unions will never permit such a move, if they can prevent it.



May Ask 75 Per Cent For "Wind" Dates

NEW YORK—Definitely in line with, but not a confirmation of, a report carried by BOXOFFICE two months ago are M-G-M home office sales conferences centering about a possible 75 per cent "asking price" for "Gone With the Wind."

Characterizing the discussions said to be lending weight to such a formula is the feeling that if a few recent releases have been profitable to exhibitors in the 40 per cent bracket, "Wind" could and should bring the figure now being mulled. While the sales policy is still in the conversation stage the following facts are being considered for the final decision.

The "release cost" will be well over $5,000,000. This takes in about $3,900,000 for production alone. Then there is the matter of some 700 Technicolor prints, each of which would run in the neighborhood of $1,000. The cost of publicity, between the advance material handled by Selznick-International and the current and future by M-G-M, is estimated to add another $500,000. A factor bearing heavily on the sales policy is theatre turnover of the film, which is expected to run close to three and a half hours. The length is seen as limiting thousands of theatres which normally run twice a day to a single show, and those that manage three performances on a continuous policy to two shows.

It is the latter consideration reputedly lending weight to a pre-selected roadshow policy of continous performances at a flat $1 scale for evening and 75 cents matinees, although this has not been determined. Meanwhile, the world premiere at Loew's Grand in Atlanta on December 15 will be followed by a two-a-day reserved seat run. The house normally runs continuous shows. The coast premiere is tentatively set for the Carthay Circle in Los Angeles, somewhere between December 20 to 23.

If the Capitol in New York is finally selected, as is expected, to house the film about five M-G-M releases normally slated for the M-G-M Loew showwindow will be available for outside booking. Of these, "Judge Hardy & Son" is being mulled as a possible Music Hall tenant for Christmas Week, with "Balalaika" as a follow up for New Year's Week for the same house. "Wind" is presently figured to hit the Capitol around Christmas to catch the out-of-town holiday trade. "The Secret of Dr. Kildare," "Henry Goes Arizona" and "Nick Carter, Detective" will probably be offered to other Broadway first runs. "Dancing Co-ed" is currently at the Capitol, to be replaced with "At the Circus" on November 16 for two weeks. "Another Thin Man" is the followup, which, with an anticipated three weeks, would bring "Wind" in next.

Selznick Flies to Coast For Huddle on "Wind"

HOLLYWOOD—David O. Selznick flew in from New York over the weekend after attending conferences with Nicholas M. Schenck and other Loew executives on plans for "Gone With the Wind." The producer will attend the premiere at Loew's Grand, Atlanta, with all of the important stars in the film.

"DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK"

SWEEPS INTO HOLDOVER WEEKS

—AT ROXY, NEW YORK, after topping "Jesse James" record...

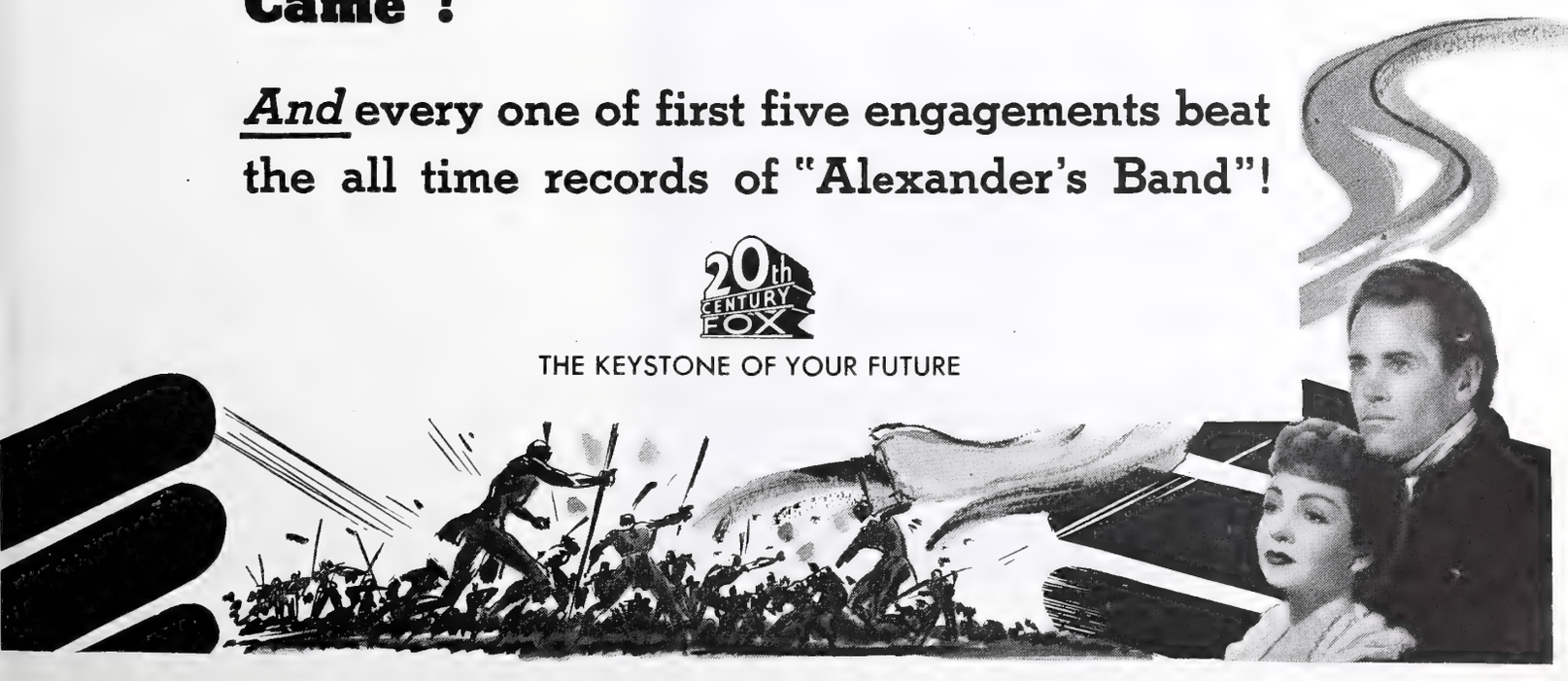
—AT BALTIMORE, after beating "The Rains Came" high mark...

—AT PHILADELPHIA, after first five days out-gross "The Rains Came"!

And every one of first five engagements beat the all time records of "Alexander's Band"!

20th CENTURY FOX

THE KEYSTONE OF YOUR FUTURE



BOXOFFICE FLASHES

Keep the Increase

HOLLYWOOD—Declaring there must be "careful scrutiny" of salaries paid producers and talent groups before IATSE unions relinquish the present wage scale, the supervising organization rebuffed the producer request that IA renounce the 10 per cent wage hike the studios charge was secured by threat of a strike. The IA conference was attended by every AFL union except the painters, and the crafts pledged themselves to retain the increase and obtain similar boosts for other AFL groups.

Pension Plans Lose

SAN FRANCISCO—Two states decisively turned down old-age pension plans which would have heavily taxed their working citizenry, including the film trade, when California voters swamped "Ham and Eggs" ($30 every Thursday for unemployed over 50) and Ohio beat back the Bigelow plan ($40 to $50 monthly for unemployed over 60). The ITO of Ohio and the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n actively engaged their forces against the Bigelow "prosperity" plan.

Warrants Plea Denied

MILWAUKEE—District Attorney Herbert J. Steffes turned down Chief of Police Joseph T. Kluchesky's request for warrants charging six operators of fraternal Bingo with violating state gambling laws.

Cleveland Protest

CLEVELAND — Exhibitors charge widespread Keeno gambling causing slump in attendance at time when boxoffice should be picking up. With employment reaching new high, theatre owners up in arms over competition offered by churches and Keeno Clubs.

Distributors to Fight

PHILADELPHIA—Distributors are planning fight to finish on the temporary injunction granted Landis, Vineland, N. J., by Federal Judge Kirkpatrick, claiming no evidence has been introduced or produced to prove a conspiracy by majors in selling Warner circuit.

Second Nick Mistrial

ST. LOUIS—December 11 has been set as the new date for the trial of John Nick, IATSE vice-president, on charges of extortion following the second mistrial here. A mistrial was declared when Circuit Judge Aronson announced Juror Edward H. Davis had concealed the fact he was acquainted with Nick's family. The juror was sentenced to a week in the city jail for contempt of court.

Detroit Approves "Hitler"

DETROIT—Sergeant Charles W. Snyder, Detroit film censor, approves "Hitler—Beast of Berlin." His comment: "I can see nothing in this film which is indecent or obscene."

Virginia Likewise

RICHMOND—Virginia board of censors pass "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," following similar action by Pennsylvania board.

Banned in Chicago

CHICAGO—The local film censor has rejected a permit for "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," on the ground that it is propaganda against Germany and features brutalities. As the United States is a neutral country it is felt it couldn't sanction such a picture, the ruling goes. Ben Judell, the producer, plans to fight the decision.

Racetrack Gambling Legal

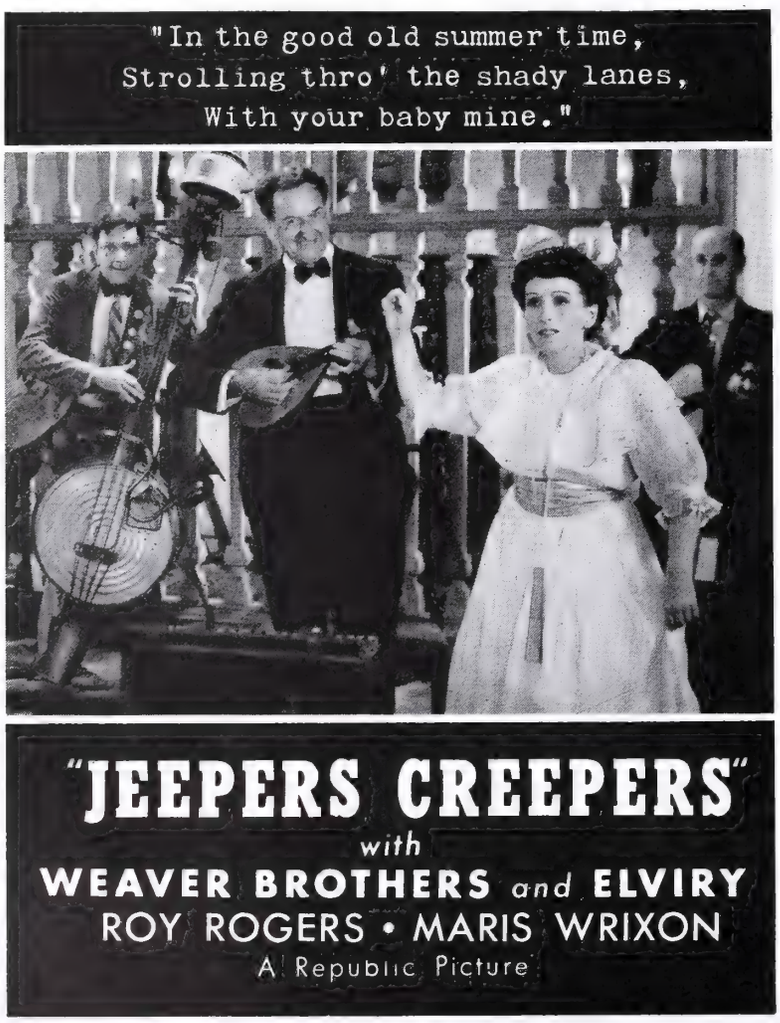
NEW YORK—In the face of church, civic body and exhibitor opposition, the parimutuel amendment, legalizing racetrack gambling in the state was passed by a majority vote of 600,000. The MPTO of New York and independent and major circuits actively opposed the measure.

RKO Head Returns

NEW YORK—George J. Schaefer, RKO president, expected back Monday or Tuesday following short fishing trip off Carolina shores.

Delay Schreiber Suit

DETROIT—Federal District Court postpones suit of Raymond Screiber, operating Midwest Theatres, against Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan, for 30 days.



Contends No Basis for Goldberg Omaha Suit

NEW YORK—Commenting on the anti-trust suit filed by Ralph D. Goldberg, who recently acquired the State, Omaha, against Tri-States, Mort Singer and major distributors, an attorney for one of the defendant companies said there is no basis for the action. The lawyer adds Goldberg took over the State under the premise he would convert it into a commercial business enterprise.

"Now that he is reopening the house, Goldberg expects to get second run pictures with clearance over all other Omaha theatres after most of the second run accounts have been sold by the majors," the lawyer said.

Alperson Quits Ezell; Gets "Tillie" Rights

NEW YORK—E. L. Alperson has severed his partnership with Claude Ezell, who has a number of boxoffice stimulants in addition to an interest in the Republic franchise in Dallas, and has acquired the rights to "Tillie's Punctured Romance," which has been cut to four reels, re-edited and music added. While in town during the week, Alperson sold the foreign rights and also turned the picture over to a group for handling in the domestic market.

Johnson Delegated For Union Parley

ALBANY—Lou Johnson, head shipper of the M-G-M exchange in New York and president of Local B-51, has been elected unanimously to represent exchange unions from New York, Albany, Buffalo, Boston and New Haven in negotiations with distributors for a new contract shortly. The current two-year deal expires the end of the month.

Three representatives from each of the territories met at the De Witt over the weekend and soon will send their demands to Johnson. He will sit in with six other delegates from other parts of the country, each making their demands for new contracts. With Johnson from New York were Lew Brown and Dave Newman.

No date has been set for the distributor conference. Neither has an IATSE delegate, who will attend as adviser, been named.

B-51 Votes to Continue Johnson & Brown Terms

NEW YORK—Lou Johnson, M-G-M, president, and Lew Brown, Paramount, vice-president, have unanimously been nominated to continue their office in Local B-51. Elections will be held December 4 at the Capitol Hotel.

Dave Newman and William Lytle are candidates for financial secretary-treasurer; Gerard Lee and Herman Berland, corresponding secretary; August Kubat and Harry Bernstein, sergeant-at-arms. Of the 17 names proposed for the grievance board, eight will be elected. Of the five up for the board of trustees, three will be selected.

A regular meeting of the local film exchange organization will be held Tuesday.

No First Run Policy for Palace, Says O'Connor

NEW YORK — Reports that the Palace would go to a permanent first run policy on Broadway are denied by John J. O'Connor, vice-president and general manager of the RKO circuit. The opening of "Allegheny Uprising" there Wednesday night was followed by a report that "That's Right, You're Wrong" would be the next attraction. This was stated to be without foundation.

New Radio Suit

WILMINGTON, DEL.—Charges of patent infringment involving an "electrical system" in home and auto radio receivers, are made in a suit filed in the U. S. district court here against RCA Mfg. Co., Inc., by Edward H. Loftin of Boonton, N. J.

Postpone Loew Board Meet

NEW YORK—The regular board meeting of Loew's, scheduled for Wednesday, has been postponed indefinitely and indications are no session will be held until December 6.

Allen's Radio Quiz Vetoes Duals

New York—Fred Allen turned his regular quiz on the air over to the double bill situation the other night. It was ad lib stuff and the three persons interviewed on the question all agreed they were bad for one reason or another, principally the show being too long. The preference was for a single feature, comedy and newsreel.

FWC Contempt Case Hearing on Dec. 4

LOS ANGELES—Preliminary hearings on the government's contempt proceedings against FWC, scheduled for Monday, have been postponed to December 4, by agreement between counsel and Federal Judge Beaumont, who has just returned from Fresno where he has been sitting on another case. This is the second delay.

No significance is attached to the adjournment, it is pointed out. November 13 would mark the first day of the new motion court and important hearings, such as the FWC, are not usually held on the initial day.

Buckley Delays Departure For the West Coast

NEW YORK—Charles A. Buckley, counsel for FWC, and attorneys representing legal firms identified with distributors have delayed their departure for the coast in view of the second delay in getting the hearings under way in the government's contempt proceedings against the circuit and majors.

Skouras Finds Business But "Slightly Better"

NEW YORK—Theatre business is only "slightly better," Spyros Skouras finds after a trip to the various divisions of National Theatres. He attributes the rise to normal conditions and not to the war boom. He was gone two weeks.

Skouras, however, looks for a steady improvement in most spots. In the middle west, Skouras said there were signs of stirring industrial activity but as yet there has been no favorable reaction reflected in attendance.

Boxoffice receipts, according to Skouras, have suffered in the far west as a result of the unusual weather conditions which have prevailed there.

Skouras made stops at Milwaukee, Kansas City, Denver, Seattle and Los Angeles. He was accompanied by Eddie Zabel and John Healy.

Particulars Plea Arguments December 4 in FWC Case

LOS ANGELES—Arguments on a motion for a bill of particulars will be heard December 4 in the FWC case, but actual trial is not expected to get under way for months, it is stated in legal circles here.

Richard Dwight and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Caskey & Koegel, attorneys for National Theatres and FWC, will arrive here shortly after Thanksgiving.

Professor Is Named Fifth Arbitrator

NEW YORK—Selection of Professor Milton J. Handler as impartial arbitrator in the local 306 circuit wage dispute has been made on recommendation of the union, it is learned. When the name was submitted to the circuits and Judge Frederick Crane of the appellate court of New York, an agreement was reached immediately. Under terms of a 10-year master contract, new wage scales are set every two years and failure to reach an agreement shifts the matter to arbitration.

Handler is a law graduate of Columbia of the class 1927, following which he became secretary to Judge Harlan Fisk Stone of the U. S. supreme court. He then returned to Columbia as an instructor and after a short time was promoted to assistant professor. Shortly thereafter he was appointed general counsel of the labor board under the NRA Wagner Act. He is now professor in Columbia.

He has been consultant in numerous labor matters and is regarded as an expert on labor and the Sherman law, the latter covering trade regulation, which includes anti-trust and unfair competition. He also has been consulted in several important anti-trust cases. He is a trustee of the Majestic Apartments and is married to Marion Kahn, daughter of Judge Louis Kahn of the city court of New York.

Arbitration hearings are expected to be delayed for about a week or ten days due to one of the circuit lawyers being tied up in another case. Among those who will sit in on the hearing with Professor Handler are Joseph D. Basson, president of Local 306; Bert Popkin, delegate, and Matthew Levy, counsel. Charles C. Moskowitz and Leslie E. Thompson are the circuit delegates, in addition to the following attorneys: Irving Greenfield, Loew's; Monroe Goldwater, RKO; Arthur Israel, Paramount; Norman Steinberg, Roxy Theatre; Harold Berkowitz, Warner; Burton A. Zorn, Proskauer, Rose & Paskus, attorney for exhibitors and formerly counsel for the State Labor Relations Board.

In connection with the union's suit for back pay, major circuits have filed a notice of appearance and are now awaiting papers to be served before answering. It is expected that with disposition of the current dispute, the suit will be withdrawn by mutual consent.

Selznick Due Back

NEW YORK—David O. Selznick is due back from the coast the first week in December for conferences with home office M-G-M executives to make final arrangements on the "Gone With the Wind" opening at Loew's Grand, Atlanta. The picture will be shown twice a day with 75 cents top for matinee and $1 for evening performances.

Report New One for Liberty

LIBERTY—Reports are current a new 850 to 900-seat theatre will be constructed here with opening scheduled for the middle of April. The builder is not divulged.

More Hope Concerning British Let-up on Money Curbs

NEW YORK—Demeanor of some of the foreign managers is gradually exuding more hope as the discussions in England over the restrictions on films revenues drag on without any definite action on part of the British government.

This does not mean major companies will escape unscathed. They all are reconciled to an embargo on currency since, it should be said, foreign managers recognize the necessity of the British government in maintaining the sterling exchange.

There are certain basic arguments which the distributors, through Joseph P. Kennedy, are putting to Sir Oliver Stanley, head of the board of trade, which, it is understood here, have made a definite impression upon the British official.

For one thing, and with this the British industry agrees, if Hollywood is expected to produce quality productions, Great Britain must shoulder its share of the burden since the receipts from British exhibition goes back into production in Hollywood.

Films, in time of war, are as much a necessity as a luxury. Every effort is being made to keep the supply of film flowing to British theatres. In a sense, the American companies are performing a service, it is argued, to the British public by continuing to provide productions of a superior quality.

With revenue from England in the neighborhood of $30,000,000 annually for the major companies, immediate concern of the foreign managers is how much of that sum can be salvaged from the proposed restrictions.

The British government has suggested that 20 per cent be the limit to which film remittances may be made to this country.

Impression gathered here is that negotiators in London have made progress along these lines and the British government has relented somewhat from its original stand. To what degree, has not been disclosed since foreign managers have become more tight-lipped than usual.

It is understood the cloak of reticence has been adopted by foreign managers on orders from the Hays office which believes statements emanating from this country might prove harmful as long as negotiations are in progress.

Film Fans Despite Their Habitat

New York—Motion pictures are first in popularity among soldiers back of the Maginot Line, according to a New York "Times" dispatch from Paris, following experiment on how best to entertain the troops. Cards are second and games like dominoes third.

As relief from the monotony of resting, films have proved not only the most popular but also best for the mental and moral distraction of the men. Portable motion picture units are being used over a wide area now.

See Neutrality Act Foreign Mart Aid

WASHINGTON—Improvement in the foreign market for American films is foreseen in Washington as a result of the passage of new neutrality legislation by Congress.

With motion pictures specifically exempted from the cash-and-carry provisions of the measure, except for a stipulation that any losses incurred by the industry in its trade with belligerents will not be considered a basis for any action by the government, and with production in most of Europe severely restricted by war conditions, it is believed American films will be more readily accepted by most foreign governments than they have for a number of years.

Confronted with a situation in which business with the belligerents would be entirely impossible under the cash-and-carry provisions, the motion picture industry was given relief through an amendment to the neutrality measure offered by Senator Hiram Johnson (Rep., Cal.) and adopted by the Senate without debate. When the measure went to conference, the House conferees offered no objection to retention of the amendment.

So far as the motion picture industry is concerned, the neutrality legislation will have practically no effect on foreign business. Other than the barrier to the filing of claims for losses in belligerent countries and the general prohibition on the transportation of passengers or merchandise to such countries or through "combat areas" by American vessels, there are no strings on the export of films.

Merchandising Keynotes Drive

NEW YORK—Merchandising of Warner's fall and winter product and plans for the next annual Sears Drive highlighted a three-day mid-season sales meeting of district managers.

Home office executives attending were Albert Warner, G. L. Sears, Carl Leserman, Joseph Bernhard, Charles Einfeld, Mort Blumenstock, Roy Haines and Ben Kalmenson.

District managers at the meetings were: Ed Schnitzer, New York; Wolfe Cohen, Toronto; Bob Smeltzer, Washington; Fred Jack, Dallas; Cal Calloway, Los Angeles; Henry Herbel, Chicago, and Rud Lohrenz, Kansas City.

The Music Hall has booked "We Are Not Alone" for an early showing. It is the first of the company's releases to get a date at the de luxe house since "Dark Victory."

Roxy Dividend

NEW YORK—A regular quarterly dividend of 37½ cents has been declared on the outstanding preferred stock by Roxy Theatres Corp., payable December 1 to stockholders of record, November 17.

RCA Nine-Month Profit Slightly Under Last Year

NEW YORK—RCA reports net profit of $4,066,425 for the nine months ended September 30, after interest, depreciation, amortization of patents and federal income taxes. This compares with a net of $4,141,205 for a comparable period in 1938. Net profit for the quarter ended September 30 is reported at $1,088,907, comparing with $810,857 in 1938.

B. F. Keith and Subsidiaries Net Is Cut in Half

NEW YORK—B. F. Keith and subsidiaries report a net profit, after all charges, of $156,571 for 39 weeks ending September 30, as compared with $368,281 for the same period in 1938.

Keith-Albee-Orpheum and subsidiaries report net profit of $476,540, equal to $7.41 on 64,304 shares of seven per cent cumulative convertible preferred stock, for 39 weeks ended September 30. This compares with a net of $596,049, or $9,26 a share, for the same period in 1938.

For the 52 weeks ended September 30, B. F. Keith and subsidiaries show a net profit of $540,301 after all charges including settlement of lease obligations of $400,000.

KAO, for 52 weeks, shows a net of $877,486, also after all charges, equal to $13.65 per share on preferred stock.

RKO Revamp Fight Taken To U. S. Supreme Court

WASHINGTON—The fight of RKO bondholders against the amended plan of reorganization approved by the circuit court of appeals has been carried to Washington, where a petition for review of the proceedings has been asked of the supreme court.

The issue was carried to the high tribunal by holders of "fully secured" bonds of the company who charge that under the reorganization they will be forced to accept less protected and inferior securities.

Under the reorganization, the court was told in the petition, the fully secured bondholders may be relegated to an equity position and, in approving the plan, it is charged, the circuit court ignored their rights.

This is the first time, the court was told, in which this issue has been submitted to it for determination under the provisions of Section 77-B of the bankruptcy act and, accordingly, the case should be reviewed.

The supreme court also has received a petition from M-G-M for review of a lower court decision in the "Letty Lynton" copyright case brought by Edward Sheldon and Margaret Ayer Barnes, the company charging that the circuit erred in rendering a decision which reversed the district court and held it liable for royalties which, the supreme court was told, will be difficult of determination.

See Slump in Wake of Pari-Mutuel Success

NEW YORK—Admitting now that defeat of the pari-mutuel amendment was impossible in the light of circumstances surrounding it, major and independent circuit operators foresee a slump in business as soon as the racetracks get under way in various sections of the state.

Some exhibitors hold that as long as there are good pictures there is nothing to fear; that it is only when the better type of product is scarce that legalized gambling and other forms of games can be regarded as worthwhile opposition.

In this connection, comparison is made with the strong lineup of outstanding legitimate shows, each doing landslide business. If anything, some exhibitors say, there is more to fear from the Broadway show mart than from gambling.

Those who look upon the passage of the pari-mutuel bill with despair are wondering what methods syndicates operating tracks will employ to pull in patrons. Some, it is believed, may admit prospective customers free in order to get them in the gambling spirit. This kind of opposition is held too much for theatres to compete with and may result in an extensive use of cash giveaways in theatres, some predict; others are conservatively withholding opinion until the effects of the amendment are felt at the boxoffice.

Move to Eliminate Games From Essex County

EAST ORANGE, N. J.—Following a request by Schuyler G. Harrison, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Civics of the Oranges, W. A. Wachenfeld, prosecutor for Essex county, is making an investigation of games in a move to eliminate them. Harrison stated the games were illegal and drawing money away from legitimate forms of entertainment. The investigation is not designed to interfere with churches or charitable organizations.

Nine Months Earnings for Paramount $2,840,000

NEW YORK—With $710,000 tallied for the third quarter, Paramount's net earnings for the nine months ended September 30 totaled $2,840,000. The results include operations from foreign subsidiaries at the current rates of exchange. Earnings for the quarter ended October 1, 1938 were $650,000, including $495,000 as Paramount's share of combined undistributed earnings for the quarter of partially owned non-consolidated subsidiaries, and $233,000 profit on the purchase of debentures of the company. For the nine months ended October 1, last year, earnings aggregated $1,876,469, including $1,600,000 share of undistributed earnings of partially owned non-consolidated subsidiaries and $245,000 profit on debenture purchases.

Blumberg Heading for Coast

NEW YORK—Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, leaves for the coast November 24 on a periodic visit and checkup. He will be gone a few weeks.

Laurel and Hardy Films Set for Full Length

NEW YORK—All of the Laurel and Hardy subjects, originally scheduled for four reels, will be made and released in full feature length through UA, it is learned. Although Hal Roach planned "A Chump at Oxford" as a four reeler for this market, he added an additional two reels for the foreign market. After looking over the six-reel subject he decided to release it that way in this country.

"Two's Company," second of the Laurel and Hardy series, is now in production and will be full feature length. Roach will make the entire nine pictures announced in the UA program. "1,000,000 B. C." now is in work and will be completed shortly.

Triple-Threat Celebration Underway in Bronx

NEW YORK — The Consolidated Forum, Bronx, is sponsoring a Tri-Anniversary Jubilee during November. Occasions being celebrated are: "Motion Picture's 50th Year," "The Theatre Manager's 25th Year in Motion Pictures with Consolidated Amusement Enterprises" and "Forum Theatre's 17th Year."

The celebrations are assuming the spirit of a local civic event with many tributes to Manager Louis Gianazza for his long years of service.

Astor Pulls Quarter Million With 'Chips'

NEW YORK—The 26-week run of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" at the Astor grossed well over a quarter of a million dollars.

The figure is closer to $275,000, which means the 1,200-seat house played to capacity for almost ten weeks. This at a scale of 25-35-55 cents for weekdays, and slightly higher over weekends and holidays. M-G-M's rental cut is in the neighborhood of $125,000.

Harry J. Gell President Of Transatlantic Films

NEW YORK—Harry J. Gell, former Central European head for 20th-Fox, has joined Transatlantic Films as president with Eugen Sharin continuing as treasurer and general manager. Other officers include Robert Renys, secretary, and Gustav Garvin, vice-president and foreign head.

Many Lodge Prospects

NEW YORK—More than 100 potential members are said to have signified their intention to attend the charter presentation meeting of the newly formed Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith, which takes place in the Sun Room of the Hotel Edison, November 16.

'Wind' May Run Simultaneously At Astor and Capitol Theatres

NEW YORK—"Gone With the Wind," M-G-M's $4,000,000 picture, may be shown simultaneously on Broadway at $2.20 top at two-a-day at the Astor and at $1.10 top, continuous performances, at the Capitol.

That's one of the various plans being given serious consideration by Nicholas M. Schenck, Joe Vogel, C. C. Moskowitz, William F. Rodgers, Howard Dietz and the rest of the committee which is deciding the policy of each pre-release run.

The New York plan is anything but definite. Currently, it is expected to open December 21. Whether the Astor-Capitol combination will be followed or dropped in favor of continuous showings at the Capitol at 75 cents for matinees and $1.10 evenings is one of those things to be determined shortly.

After six months, "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" took leave of the Astor over the weekend with Loew's renting the house to Standard Pictures for a minimum of three weeks. "Mill on the Floss" opens Tuesday on the same policy as "Chips," with Loew management being continued under the arrangement. This would bring the end of the "Floss" run far enough before the contemplated "Wind" premiere to allow M-G-M sufficient time to prepare the house for a two-a-day policy.

One of the arguments favoring the dual showing at different policies is that the 5,000-seat Capitol will not be big enough to handle the turnover for the three-hour and 40-minute film. If the picture were just confined to this house, it is held it may run for nine months to a year. Then, too, it is held, there are thousands and thousands who will not want to stand in line to buy tickets and would prefer the reserved seat arrangement.

If the double showing is decided upon, it is figured the New York run will be shortened and thus give M-G-M a chance to get the film in release.

Local theatres have not yet shown "Mr. Chips," although it has been played in numerous shore and summer resorts skirting the Greater New York area. Out of town the picture has played virtually all of its important runs. Loew's metropolitan circuit has been clamoring for the picture as well as independent subsequent runs. Some M-G-M sales executives do not want this to happen with "Wind," although there may be no other alternative.

The only policy set so far for the David O. Selznick production is in Atlanta where Loew's Grand will two-a-day starting December 15 at 75 cents for matinees and $1 evenings. Each situation is being treated individually.

The only home office executives who have seen "Wind" are Schenck and Rodgers, while on the coast. When the president returned from his visit he told his "family" at M-G-M and Loew's "there has never been anything like it in the history of the business."

BROADWAY

E J. SPARKS and the missus were Main Stem visitors during the week, coming on from Jacksonville for a post-Fair look-see . . . Bill Ferguson returned from Atlanta over the weekend . . . Charles E. McCarthy returned via the air lanes from the coast after a brief visit to look over several new 20th-Fox pictures . . . Lou Irwin flew in from Hollywood the other day. He didn't stay on the coast long this trip . . . Gail Patrick is vacationing here and meeting up with old friends . . . Neil F. Agnew is expected to make an important announcement in the next few days on the pending National Screen deal . . . Bill Sussman, Harry Buxbaum, Joe Lee and Morris Sanders, all of 20th-Fox, had Harry Brandt to themselves Thursday afternoon at Nick's Hunting Room in the Astor . . . Tom Walker has been bothered by a sore throat which is almost better, but not quite . . . Manny Silverstone and Morris Helprin made a trip to Port Washington the other morning in vain, but enjoyed the ride, however.

L. Jack Schlaifer is back from a trip to Minneapolis . . . Harry W. Schroeder, chief statistician of the UA foreign department, was feted by his associates on account of he had hit the 34 mark in his March Against Time . . . Joe Friedman, managing director for Columbia in England, is expected to return shortly from the coast, where he visited his family . . . The Nate Blumbergs, come December 5, will be commemorating their tenth year as permanent Gotham residents. The Universal president was RKO district manager in Chicago before he moved his family east . . . Ken Thomson, executive secretary of the Screen Actors Guild, is due in from the coast in a few days . . . Emil K. Ellis, film attorney, hasn't missed a first night of the new theatrical season . . . Irene Lee, Warner coast story editor, is in town to look over the current crop of stage plays . . . Bill White of Skouras is wearing a bandage on his right hand because he brought the limb into contact with the raw edge of a shaving mug . . . Ruth Weisberg of Warner publicity has a couple of fingers in splints because a steel casement window got in her way.

Bow and Arrow Department: Ben Griefer, house manager at the Paramount under Bob Weitman, has presented Elaine Conheim with a solitaire ring for the usual reason. The groom-to-be has been with Paramount for more than ten years . . . Ted Krassner, booker and film buyer for Cinema Circuit, will wed Jacquelyn Lasoff in January. Meantime there's a lot of shopping for furniture . . . An inter-department romance is that of Howard Fessenden and Margaret Bretz, co-workers in the UA accounting department. Their engagement was signalized with a luncheon at the Hotel Taft on Friday.

Dave Blum is electrifying his newest chicken coop at his Naughright, N. J. farm . . . Sam Dembow still makes that 6:15 to Westchester every night without fail . . . Jay Eisenberg is breathing easier these days now that his father and mother are ensconced at Miama Beach for the winter . . . Edmund Lowe flew to the coast and Universal studios after finishing a week of personal appearances at Loew's State. However, he has seven more weeks lined up, the first in Minneapolis, December 1, after he finishes his Hollywood commitment . . . Morris Epstein, local Republic branch manager, is offering prizes to his sales staff during the playdate drive now under way . . . Jay Golden and Bill Cadoret, Rochester exhibitors, were in town during the week . . . The Leo Abrams celebrate their eighth wedding anniversary Christmas.



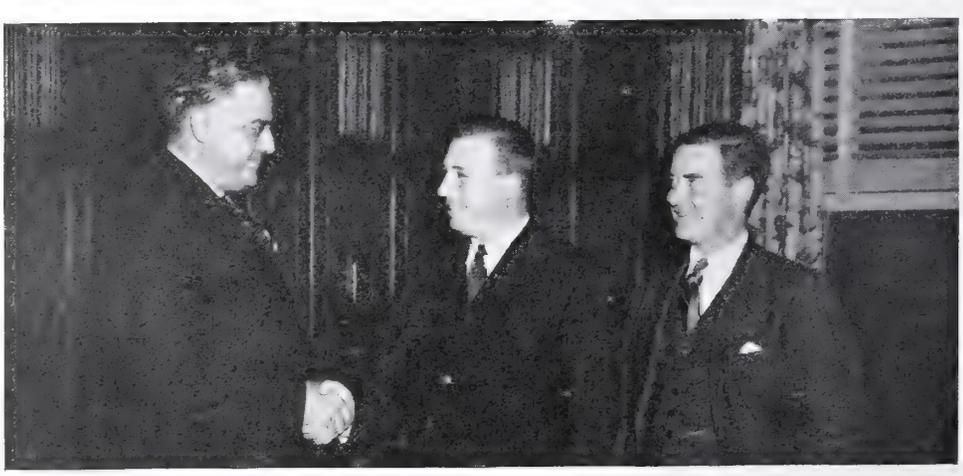
Rest, the Mission—

Henry Koster, left, director of four of Universal's Deanna Durbin films, as he arrived at the Newark airport with Dan Kelley, the studio's casting director.

Toots Shor plans to open his own restaurant at 51 W. 51st St. about New Year's. He's decided to call it the Toots Shor restaurant . . . Leo Justin and Morris Jacks were taken by surprise when Eddie Lachman, manager of their Jersey, Morristown, called up the other day to inform them he had become the father of twins. The double feature, which doesn't happen in the theatres in swanky Morristown, was the first event of its kind in 30 years for the town. Harry Roth is Lachman's father-in-law. He formerly owned the Jersey and Park, acquired by Justin and Jacks . . . Grad Sears shoots a good game of pool, but he's no match for Carl Leserman . . . Freddie Schwartz has closed with Warners for the Century circuit and says he has yet to work out deals with M-G-M and Universal . . . S. Charles Einfeld is staying on for a few more weeks.

Mike Rosen, assistant to C. C. Moskowitz on labor relations, is collecting cellophane wrappers, which is one step from match box covers . . . Bob Rubin's car tagged RR 8, has been making steady appearances in front of Loew's State lately . . . Lillian Jeffries, Joe Vogel's secretary, was thrilled when she learned of Hope Williams' marriage in London. She had known about the engagement early in March and the consummation of the courtship did not entirely surprise her . . . Bill Heineman, hunting in the Montana mountains, has promised to send venison to a number of the Universal home office boys, depending on his luck.

Marvin Schenck celebrated his 16th wedding anniversary Wednesday night by having his father and mother and his wife's father and mother as dinner guests at Dinty Moore's. This was a thrill for the Schencks and the Loew executive is still talking about it . . . Abe Leff, the exhibitor, is planning to head for Miami shores in January . . . Robert Taylor, Barbara Stanwyck, William Powell, Joan Blondell, Tallulah Bankhead and Luise Rainer will be among the film star galaxy at the Night of Stars, November 15 . . . C. C. Moskowitz has a hobby. It's amateur photography . . . Gene Picker had his son and daughter visit him at the office election day. The children caused considerable comment with onlookers believ-



Monogram Over Mexico—

W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram, signalizes the conclusion of a contract with Rafael Arzoz whereby the latter will distribute the entire Monogram lineup throughout Mexico. Norton V. Ritchey, export manager, smiles his approval. A former advertising executive in Mexico City, Sr. Arzoz is homeward bound to start his campaign.

Erif Wedded to His Business

Hollywood

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading a book called "Marriage, Morals and Mothballs," in which the question is asked: "Are bachelors social bums?"

The more I think of the question, the more I think the author must have Ali Gaga in mind. Perhaps all this time I've had the wrong perspective on this Gaga. Whereas I strongly suspected him to be the victim of someone else's vicious reasonings, I am now inclined to think his hot and cold blowings are directly traceable to a lonesome existence. Can't you just picture him asking one of the fair sex to become Mrs. Gaga? She'd probably be eating humble pie all her life and her maculated, mealy-mouthed mate would obligingly offer to make it a la mode.

True, I, too, can be charged with being a bachelor. But I am wedded to my theatre. This was an honorable calling until it was strongly hinted I was a bum. Thank goodness, though, not a social bum. The invective is a new one, "sub-bum." You see, what with the war and the big part played in it by submarines, and being a wide awake showman, I conceived the notion of a "Triple Doom Show," just to go Universal's "Double Horror Show" one better.

So I put up a terrific combination of "U-Boat 32," "U-Boat 33" and "U-Boat 35." For premiums I offered bathing caps to the women, waterproof suspenders to the men and rubber bands to all children over ten years. Everything was perfect until a delegation of matinee customers put up a terrific squawk; they wanted to know why I had held out "U-Boat 34" on them. And Ali Gaga thinks he's got me so worried; the social bum.

Your increasing friend,

ERIF SHOBBUS.

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ing they were film proteges . . . Jacob Wilk is back from a quick trip to the coast . . . Hortense Schorr was pretty much lost at the M. P. Associates' meeting the other day, being the only girl present with the exception of Joan Blondell. Incidentally, Myer Beck is handling the Powells during their stay here. Within the next few weeks they will appear in the Sunday *News* color section.

Charlie O'Reilly, who is a pent house neighbor of Nate J. Blumberg's, has a date with the Universal head as soon as the snow falls. The date has to do with throwing snow balls at each other and the first who makes a hit gets a free lunch . . . William Cameron Menzies left for the coast on the same train with Lew Schreiber, 20th-Fox studio casting head who cut his vacation short due to his daughter being ill at Beverly Hills . . . Martha Raye "quietly" breezed into town early in the week . . . Bill Scully, accompanied by the missus, checked up on Universal operations in Chicago, Milwaukee and Minneapolis during the week . . . David O. Selznick flew to the coast November 4 in his "tuck." He had been attending "George White's Scandals" and didn't have time to change before the plane left . . . Fanchon Simon, sister of Marco Wolff, visited Harry C. Arthur, Mound City head for F&M, in St. Louis during the week . . . Henry Koster was guest of honor at a reception given by Universal the other day at the Rockefeller Center Club Lounge. Lewis Howard, who appears in "First Love," also was present.

Milton Weiss accompanied Norma Shearer to the airport when she left for the coast after many months in the east. Conrad Nagel was on the same TWA plane. He is a veteran M-G-M performer and there was no dearth of old time stories during the flight west . . . Gracie Rosenfield has three sisters born on the same day, February 22, and she says Washington's birthday is an event in her household . . . Gwen Collins, Frank Seltzer's secretary, left for the coast the middle of the week, stopping off at Rochester and Chicago for a day. She reports back to work Monday. On the way east she visited Washington, meaning she covered plenty of territory on her voyage to the big town . . . E. C. Grainger has been making New England regularly now for the past few months, while Jack Shea has almost become a commuter to Pennsylvania and Ohio towns on behalf of the Feiber & Shea circuit . . . Marc Lachmann is another traveling man these days. Philadelphia, Boston and New Haven were on his itinerary in the last week for Buddy G. DeSylva, who is starring Betty Grable in a new show.

Reports to the contrary, George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart do not plan to produce the motion picture version of "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Apparently the playwrights are content to let the show have a full run both here and on the road before selling the film rights . . . Aubrey Schenck, Irv Barry and Milt Hossfeld attended the NYU-Missouri game over the weekend . . . Ruth Terry, the young actress who will appear in Walter Wanger's "City for Sale," is taking a New York vacation . . . Cheerful news from the Glen Cove estate of Arthur Loew: Louis "Lili" Chatain is well on the way to recovery. He watched the Princeton-Harvard game with the Loews the other weekend.

Jack Skirball expects to leave for the coast at the end of the week. Production on "Angela Is 22," according to Skirball, will probably start the first week in January at the Eastern Service Studios . . . Marcel Teissiere, publicity director for 20th-Fox in France, is now at the front as sergeant in the tank corps . . . With conditions the way they are, Spyros Skouras does not think he will take a vacation, he confides during a crosstown cab conversation . . . Bill Levy, pride of the UA forces in Argentine, is now living at the Astor Hotel . . . Roy Brauer, formerly Universal's manager in Japan and China, is in Oklahoma City on a special domestic sales assignment . . . Dave Lewis, M-G-M manager for Argentine, planed out for Buenos Aires Saturday night . . . Commendatore Aboaf, Italian film executive, docked on the *Rex*.

R. E. Griffith of Dallas is still around trying to make some film deals . . . Harry Buxbaum and Joe Lee in a sidewalk postmortem on the elections . . . Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck are at the Pierre . . . Gertrude Gelbin, editor of Loew's Weekly, *is back on the job after a long illness . . . P. J. Wolfson, producer of "Allegheny Uprising," has terminated his vacation in favor of Hollywood . . . Vera Zorina has gone to the 20th Century-Fox studios to appear in "I Was an Adventuress," thus causing her to drop plans for a Broadway appearance . . . Abe Kronenberg of the Warner exchange is none the worse for being thrown from his horse during a performance he engaged in at the Horse Show . . . Leon Bamberger says he has gained ten pounds since giving up cigarettes . . . Pete McCarthy of Loew's ad department is ill at his home in Far Rockaway . . . Harry Goldberg was in Philadelphia on a Warner theatre advertising meeting . . . Al Rosen, manager of the State, is reported almost as good as new and roaring to get back on the job as soon as he gets his molars repaired.*

The Leopold Friedmans note: "Thank you sincerely for your good wishes" to the BOXOFFICE staff on their recent betrothal . . . Monroe Greenthal's return from that Hollywood hegira brought out James Mulvey, Manny and Arthur Silverstone, Morris Helprin, Al Margolies, Harry Kosiner and Morris Kinzler for a Lindy lunchroom chit-chat . . . Sidney Lanfield, with "Swanee River" behind him for 20th Century-Fox, is vacationing in Gotham.

De Hosses Run on Percentage, Too

SPIKE'S BILLIARD SALON, NEW YORK—The boys in the back room, all avid readers, are wondering how they, too, might proceed against what they term monopolistic practices.

Being lovers of horse flesh, in a betting sort of way, the boys are outspoken in their criticism of recent events at the racetracks. They don't like the way the Joe Schencks and the Charlie Einfelds are pushing them around. For instance, down in Pimlico, and for the third time straight running, against nine starters, Joe Schenck came from last place to win, paying six to one. To top it off, Charlie Einfeld, in sixth post position, pulled away from six starters and "was only galloping at the end" to take the fourth race at Empire City, netting a close six to five.

The boys even think there's a little conspiracy ahoof. The dope sheets place Herbert M. Woolf of Kansas City as owner of Joe Schenck. Now, as any exhibitor knows, Woolf is a partner of Loew's in Kansas City. All of which is leading the dopesters to distraction. As aptly put by Spike himself, "And dey make us pay to see dere pitchers, too."

Film Shipments Hurt By Neutrality Act

NEW YORK—With the resumption of transatlantic shipping by English and French liners deemed slight in export circles, foreign managers have another problem confronting them as a result of the war.

The latest obstacle besetting exporters is the manner in which shipments to belligerent countries can be maintained in view of the halting of American liners' voyages to Europe occasioned by the neutrality act. For instance, the *Roosevelt* of the United States Lines had about 25 prints from all major and independent distributors consigned to European countries before the act was signed, but the ship was delayed in sailing and was held at her berth pending the Maritime Commission's approval of transfer to Panamanian registry.

According to a spokesman for Massce & Co., which handles foreign shipping for most distributors, shipments to England and France "have dropped off 85 per cent" since repeal of the embargo laws. Before the neutrality act was signed, this source points out, distributors were "flooding" the Scandinavian countries, but this has now ceased entirely since American ships are forbidden to make contact with these ports below Bergen, Norway, or north of the Bay of Biscay.

Shipments are going through to Central European countries, it is said, by way of Italy, but these are also being "hindered." The countries involved are Switzerland, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Since Russia concluded mutual assistance pacts with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, there has been "no reason" to ship to these countries because "we have not been able to get any money," it is pointed out.

Still another factor that is leading to disturbance of relations with foreign countries, it is pointed out, is the fact that all prints are now being superimposed with native languages in America, whereas this process formerly took place in England and France. The work here is said to be costing exporters a decided increase, the explanation being made that European labor is usually much cheaper.

Even in instances where shipments are

(Continued on page 24-D)

UA to Seek Dismissal of Second Folly Complaint

NEW YORK—United Artists will seek dismissal of a second complaint filed against it, and the rest of the majors, by Folly Amusement Holding Corp., operators of the Brooklyn Folly, on November 17 in federal court. Should it be denied, a bill of particulars showing how the company is involved in the anti-trust charges, will be asked, as well as time to answer.

UA claims the new complaint does not state any more specifically than the first how they violated any laws in their dealings with the theatre.

Suit seeks triple damages of $750,000 claiming the Folly was put out of business by anti-trust acts on the part of defendants.

Reports ENIC Desires a Deal With American Distributors

NEW YORK—If the American industry decides to send a representative to Italy to negotiate with directors of ENIC, the government monopoly, over the resumption of business there, they would find the proper parties very receptive, in the opinion of Roberto Dandi, director general of the Industrie Cinematografiche Italiane.

Dandi, who arrived on the *Rex*, said his visit was in a business capacity and had no official connection. He brought with him prints of four Italian films, one of which is made in Spanish, for distribution in the Latin American market.

According to Dandi, Italian theatres have not suffered because of the lack of American product.

"Of course, the Italian public loves your pictures but our boxoffices are keeping up," he states. "Receipts are practically the same as last year."

Dandi does not think it will be possible for the American companies to do business through their own offices. However, he feels, if they sold pictures on a flat rate to ENIC, an understanding could be reached.

"Naturally there are certain difficulties over currency restrictions but I am sure they could be adjusted amicably," Dandi says.

Production will increase in Italy with 100 pictures planned for 1940, Dandi reveals. The government is further helping producers by financing them.

Of significance to American companies which are guarding their interests in Latin America is the information by Dandi that Italy will also increase the number of Spanish pictures with Spanish performers.

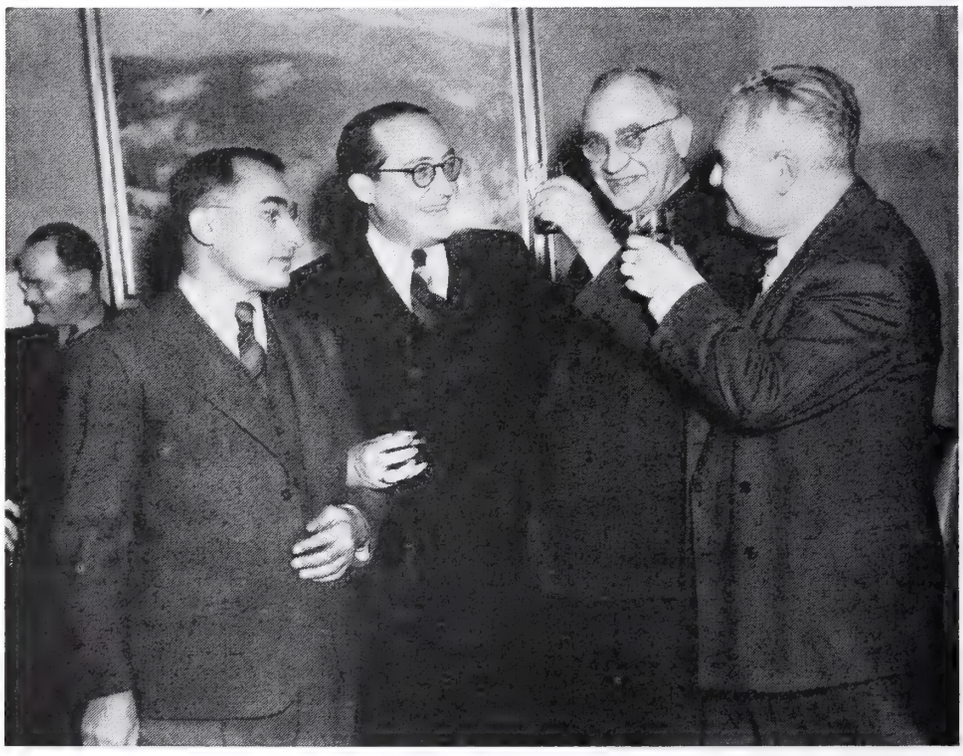
Discussing C. C. Pettijohn's visit to Italy last summer, Dandi discloses that the trip was a personal venture for the Hays office counsel.

"When he was there, he refused to talk business," Dandi states.

ICI, incidentally, is the agent for Universal pictures in Italy. Dandi says the only American pictures playing in Italy are some old Universal, UA, Columbia and RKO product which are there as a result of contracts with respective Italian distributors.

He denies he would attempt to purchase any new pictures from Universal, pointing out American companies have agreed not to distribute any pictures there as long as a monopoly is in existence.

Americo Aboaf, former Paramount manager in Italy and now an independent film executive, also arrived on the *Rex* and denies the purpose of his trip is to talk to distributors about the possibility of returning to his country. He says he will be here about a month in which time he hopes to see all the foreign managers.



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

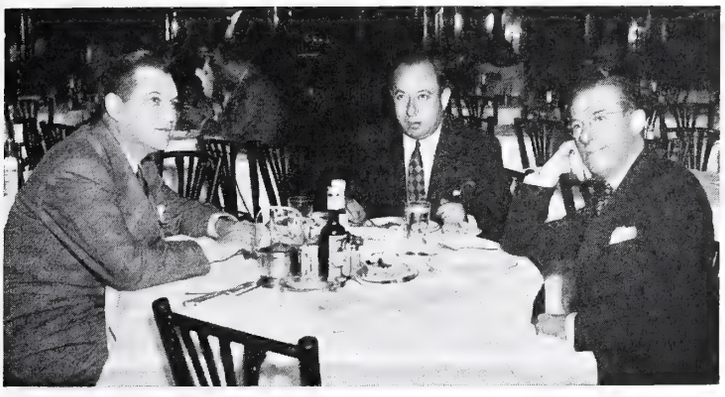
Exhibitors Join the Party—

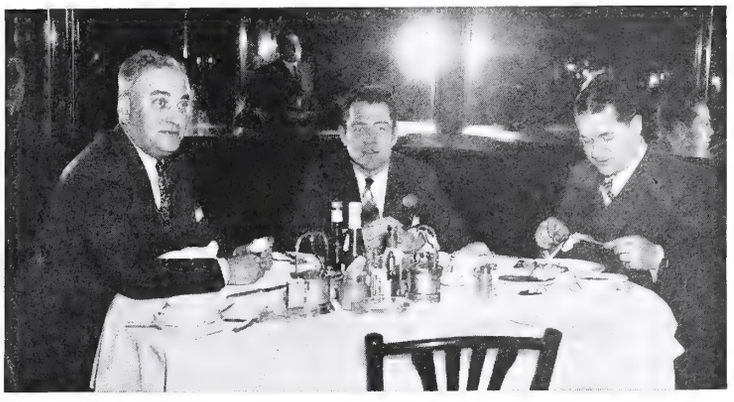
Two upstate exhibitors join in the festivities at the Universal party for Henry Koster, who directed "First Love," at the Rockefeller Center Luncheon Club. They are Jay Golden on the extreme left and William Cadoret, third from the left, from Rochester. The guest of honor is in the dark suit and Nate J. Blumberg, the host, is on the extreme right. If you are a stickler for picking out faces, the one smiling in the rear is that of Tom O'Connor, brother of John J., and also with the RKO circuit.

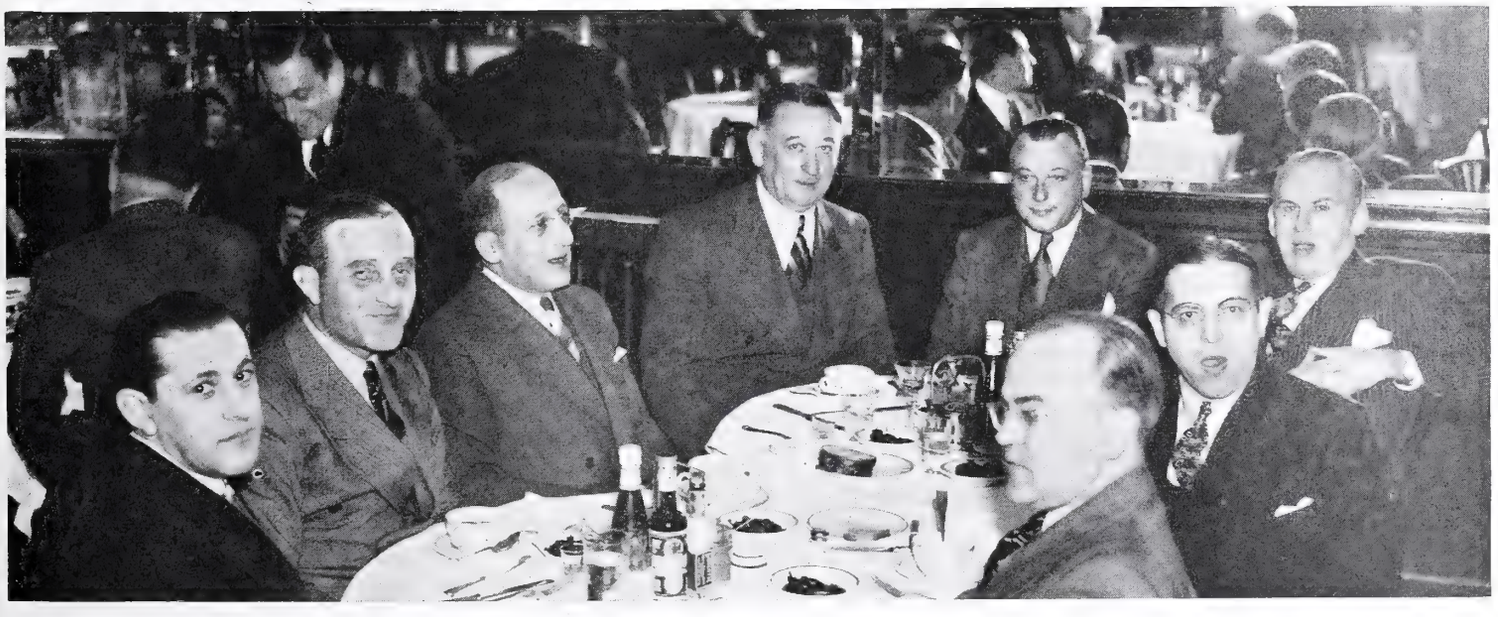
A Day at Dinty Moore's With BOXOFFICE Cameraman











—Metropolitan Photos

It was a big day at Dinty Moore's when the M. P. Associates invited Joan Blondell, Columbia star, as guest of honor. She brought her husband, Dick Powell, along. In the top left picture, Sol Trauner, Columbia salesman, looks over President Jack Ellis' shoulder while the latter gets acquainted with Powell and Miss Blondell. The meeting was a success with more than 200 on hand. In the upper right picture Gradwell L. Sears, center, breaks away for a snack from a three-day meeting with Warner district managers. He is with Fred Jack, southern district manager, left, and Cal Calloway, western district head, on the right. In the second column, left, is a Paramount trio, Charles Reagan, western sales manager; Milton Kusell, eastern district manager, and Joe J. Unger, eastern division sales manager. Second column right is a UA threesome. On the left is Lowell Calvert, eastern representative for Selznick International. Paul O'Brien of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, attorneys for UA, is in the center and Arthur W. Kelly, vice-president in charge of foreign distribution. He has the fork midway in air. The bottom photo shows a group which intended to attend the salesmen's affair but was forced to the lower floor. From left to right, Max Fellerman, Bob Wolff, Mitchell Klupt, Charles Moses, Fred Meyer, Herman Becker of Rugoff & Becker, Leo Abrams and John J. O'Connor.

A Building Fight in N. Y. Resort Town

NEW YORK—Ellenville, country resort, is the scene of a theatre building fight between Jimmy Sporado, who owns the 600-seat Shadowland there, and Scholeson & Popkin, operators of the recently-opened Center at Woodbourne, who have announced plans for an 800-seat house in Ellenville.

Saturday saw the opening of the new Kent on Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn, seating 590. Irving Sockol is president of Justin Realty Co. and Nat Steinberg is manager.

Sam Strassberg of Interboro will open the new Trylon, 600 seater at Forest Hills, L. I., the end of the month. The new venture will be opposition to Skouras.

Harry Brandt has changed the name of the Crystal to Towne, in Brooklyn.

Esekial Hausner has reopened the Palace, Morristown, N. J., which has been closed for many years.

The Skouras Terminal, Newark, is now a public auditorium.

George Goldenson is president and Morris Elson, vice-president of the Alden Rochelle, Inc., new company formed to operate the Alden, New Rochelle, which Brandt is booking.

Film Shipments Are Hit By Neutrality Statute

(Continued from page 24-B)

being maintained on Italian, Holland and Belgian ships, the cost has risen as much as 100 per cent, the Massce office declares. Under normal circumstances, most ships designated rates on a weight basis, but this has now been changed to a cubic foot computation. Whereas, for example, the cost of shipping a 10-reel film on an Italian ship previously was around $8.50, the figure is now closer to $50.

Shipping by air is being resorted to in some instances, but this is very expensive. Transatlantic planes do not take freight, being confined to transportation of mail. The limit of any one piece of mail is four pounds, six ounces, and the cost is 60 cents an ounce. In order to ship by air a reel of film must be cut in half and shipped in two separate pieces. The destination of all air mail is Lisbon. Beyond that point all shipping is at the risk of the sender. Connections from Lisbon to European points is described as "bad" by shipping authorities.

Analyses of Products to Highlight ITOA Meet

NEW YORK — Analyses of the various companies' lineups for next season will highlight the ITOA meeting Wednesday at the Astor.

Although no answer had been received by late in the week, it is expected Harry Brandt, president, will hear from Mayor LaGuardia on the organization's desire for a reduction in basic current charges. David Weinstock is chairman of the committee and it is stated that with the exception of Jersey City, New York's light and power rates are among the highest in the country.

Blue Ribbon Award Brings Coburn Wide Publicity

SCHENECTADY—Many papers in the Albany territory carried a story that Charles Coburn, director of the summer Mohawk Drama Festival at Union College, Schenectady, had received a Blue Ribbon Award plaque bestowed by National Screen council through BOXOFFICE for his performance in "Stanley and Livingstone." The fact that similar honors went to Spencer Tracy, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Nancy Kelly and Richard Greene was included in a publicity release mailed by Drama Festival press agents. The release stated that "The Council selected 20th Century-Fox's 'Stanley and Livingstone,' the thrilling story of the two great explorers of the 'Dark Continent' as the August winner of the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award." It explained the method by which NSC selected the outstanding picture of the month.

The release also quoted a letter Coburn received from Ben Shlyen, publisher of BOXOFFICE, congratulating the veteran character actor on his performance.

Philadelphia Price Boost "Satisfactory" to S-W

PHILADELPHIA—The results of the boost in night admission prices in the Stanley-Warner de luxe houses have been "entirely satisfactory," according to a S-W spokesman.

The top admission was raised October 28 from 57 cents to 68. That represented restoration of the cut made last spring. However, the cut-rate matinee prices remain unchanged.

Universal Signs Contract With Office Workers

PHILADELPHIA—Universal Film Exchange has signed a contract with the United Office and Professional Workers (CIO), the union announces.

According to the union, the contract provides an average 5 per cent pay rise and two weeks' vacation with pay each year. The contract is the culmination of more than two years of litigation before the National Labor Relations Board, which certified the union as proper bargaining agent last July 1. Contract negotiations have been going on since then.

To Announce Winners

NEW YORK—Winners in the Skouras 10-week drive just ended will be announced by the circuit within the next week or so. No new drive will be started until next March or April.

Friedmans Going Social

NEW YORK—The Lep Friedmans held their first open house Sunday. Cocktails were served to their many friends and well wishers at the Warwick.

Powells in Buffalo

BUFFALO—Dick Powell and Joan Blondell are visiting here, the former making a personal appearance.

Temporary Restrainer Is Won at Vineland

PHILADELPHIA—U. S. District Judge William H. Kirkpatrick has handed down a sweeping decision favoring the Landis Theatre, Vineland, in its suit against Stanley-Warner and the majors, and holding that a "master contract" giving preference to a chain over independents is a violation of the anti-trust laws.

As BOXOFFICE exclusively predicted last week, his decision included a temporary injunction "restraining" the defendants from continuing their practices.

However, he did not grant a permanent injunction, because the 13 defendants filed an immediate appeal to the U. S. circuit court of appeals, where the case is expected to come up in a few weeks. They also posted a $10,000 bond "safeguarding" the Landis against any possible "damage" until the case is heard.

Both sides to the dispute, BOXOFFICE was told, favor the appeal, "because we both want to get this important matter settled once and for all." Observers predicted the case would wind up in the supreme court, and would be one of the most significant trials in recent picture history.

The Landis, owned by the Cumberland Holding Company which is headed by Eugene Mori, bolstered its case with testimony and affidavits from many leading citizens, including Mayor John C. Gittone. About 100 citizens hold stock in the theatre, which was built when Vinelanders allegedly became "dissatisfied" with the way S-W was managing its Globe and Grand, the town's only theatres.

The plaintiffs directed their fire on the contracts giving first-run rights to the two Warner houses, plus clearance of at least 28 days, and emphasized that there was clearance even on pictures rejected by the S-W houses. They claimed the right to bid for product on an equal basis and to exhibit films at the same time.

Judge Kirkpatrick ruled that if the "existing course of conduct on the part of the defendants continues much longer, the Landis Theatre will in all probability be forced into the hands of its creditors; or if it survives at all, it will be as a more or less unprofitable second-class theatre, its pictures for the most part being second run pictures and undesirable first-runs rejected by its competitors, together with whatever shorts, comedies, westerns, newsreels, etc., that it will be allowed to pick up."

The present contracts tying up a distributor's product for a year represent a "combination in restraint of trade," Judge Kirkpatrick said.

The plaintiffs were represented by State Senator Harry Shapiro. The defendants, represented by Ex-Attorney General William A. Schnader, Ex-Congressman Benjamin M. Golder and Morris Wolf, are Warner Bros. Circuit Management Corp., WB Theatres, Inc., Vitagraph, Paramount, RKO Radio, Loew's, 20th-Fox, Columbia, Universal and United Artists.

Producers Closes With W&V Chain

NEW YORK—Producers Distributing has closed with the Wilmer and Vincent circuit for "Hitler—Beast of Berlin."

ALBANY

CHRIS MARKS, operator of two Utica theatres, was on Filmrow. Ditto Kingsley Ryan, Ausable Forks and Keesville showman; Henry Grossman, Hudson exhibitor; John Gardner and Sid Dwore, each running three theatres in Schenectady; Morris Silverman, Mount Pleasant, Schenectady; Vic Bunze, Casino, Waterford; Lou Bucken of Amenia; Morris Slotnik, Morris Shulman and James Pearlman, Mohawk Valley exhibitors; George Thornton, Orpheum in Saugerties and in Tannersville. Thornton closed the Tannersville house November 4, to reopen it in June.

Monogram recently shot exteriors for "Rip Van Winkle" in neighborhood of Saugerties, it is reported . . . Eddie Schnitzer, Warner-Vitagraph district manager, and Arthur Saxon, home office executive, were at the local exchange for a huddle with Paul Krumenacker . . . Harold Lewis, Lincoln, Utica, returned to his desk after a reported three weeks' honeymoon.

Sam Milberg booked "Sons of the Purple Sage," cowboy turn broadcasting on WOKO, into Ritz, Scotia, for one night, and Family, Watervliet, for two nights. Filmrow representatives at Army-Notre Dame football game: Bill Murray, Grand National assistant office manager and booker (with his wife, brother and sister-in-law); Mary Hawkins, Republic booker; and Winifred Allen, 20th Century-Fox cashier. Frank Carroll, Grand National contract department, New York, reported another onlooker.

Arthur Newman, Republic manager, and Neil Hellman, Hellman circuit, drove to Williamstown, Mass., to attend the Williams-Union tilt . . . Chris Buckley, Bennington, Vt., exhibitor, at Yale-Dartmouth contest . . . Charles Ost, National Screen representative in Albany territory, to New York for a weekend . . . Irving Altshuler and George Haupert, home office auditors, at Columbia exchange.

Jack Armm, popular Columbia salesman, and Mrs. Armm had a wedding anniversary . . . The death at Washington, D. C., of Nate Sauber, Universal manager here around 1932, sadden Filmrow.

Bernard Kranze, RKO manager, was on a swing through Utica, Oneida, Gouverneur, Potsdam and Canton . . . Abe Van Deuseh, RKO booker, is proud of four-year-old son, Bobby, a smart youngster.

Sue Universal for Using "First Love" as Title

NEW YORK—Select Theatres have filed suit in supreme court seeking an injunction, accounting of profits and damages against Universal's "First Love." The plaintiff, a Shubert unit, claims in 1926 it obtained rights to a play by Louis Vernueil entitled "Pile or Face" which was produced as "First Love." It is alleged Universal was requested to change the title of its picture, but refused to do so.

Buys Theatre Site

MARION, VA.—Lincoln Theatres, Inc., has purchased a lot at Narrows, Va., as a site for a new 600-seat house.

Sunday Shows Find A Welcome in Pa.

PHILADELPHIA—Amid the shower of ballots, the following facts stood out in the voting on Sunday shows in Pennsylvania:

Thirteen small towns voted to lift the ban against the Sunday shows. Only one town, Forty Fort, in Luzerne county (pop. 6,224) voted to keep the ban.

The voting was considered an indication of what will happen in 1940, when many more communities will vote on the question. Each community may vote on it only once in five years. Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and 170 other municipalities voted to revoke the Sunday blue law since 1935—the first year such voting was legalized—and blue law supporters say they will try to get the issue on the ballot again next year in as many of them as possible. On the other hand, motion picture interests are girding themselves for a battle to extend the open Sunday to the approximately 2,400 other communities in Pennsylvania where it is still banned.

The new open-Sunday towns—which raise the total to 185—are:

Freedom and Koppel, Beaver county; Mount Penn and West Reading, Berks; Bristol township, Bucks; Coalport and Bigler townships, Clearfield; Shinglehouse, Potter; and Bloomsburg, Elkland, Mansfield, Wellsboro and Westfield, in Tioga.

The main support for the continuation of the Sunday laws, passed in 1794, comes from the Lord's Day Alliance, headed by the Rev. William B. Forney.

Strand Damage Suit Judgment Reversed

ALBANY—With a balustrade almost three feet high around the mazzanine of a theatre, the exhibitor could not reasonably be expected to anticipate someone would fall or be pushed over it, the court of appeals here ruled in reversing a judgment favorable to three patrons involved in an accident at the New York Strand.

Nor is the exhibitor liable for injuries that people on the lower floor might suffer as a result, the court ruled.

Theatre Properly Built

The case arose when two persons were accidentally shoved over the Strand balustrade in 1936, one of them striking a patron on the lower floor, and the three sued for damages. The court recognized that a leading architect had prepared the theatre plans in accordance with specifications approved by the building department and with general theatre construction and that the Strand as built had been safe throughout years of daily use.

Discussing the case of the plaintiff struck by the person falling over the balustrade, the ruling said such accidents should not happen. "Yet," it read, "the same risk would have been run if a person had jumped over the railing. When we apply the law as I have given it to the facts, we see the accident is one of those unfortunate occurrences for which the law provides no remedy. There are many such."

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Raphaelson Suit Against Kane Up December 15

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Isador Wasservogel has set December 15 as the date of trial of Samson Raphaelson's $25,000 action for breach of contract against Robert T. Kane. The contract called for the writer's employment for ten weeks at $2,500 weekly. The New World Films' executive claims as a defense that any responsibility for the breach of contract rests with the company, and not with him as its representative.

Charges "Second Fiddle" Plagiarizes Her Play

NEW YORK—Lola Harris has filed suit in supreme court for $100,000 against 20th-Fox claiming plagiarism of her play, "Winning Ways," in "Second Fiddle." Miss Harris says she submitted the play to 20th-Fox in 1938 and it was considered for Sonja Henie. It was never returned, but the film lifts portions of her play, she claims.

Selznick Strike Out; Parleys Are Due

HOLLYWOOD—Roundtable discussion of the entire IATSE situation with producers next week is expected to trail the action of the union in calling off a strike of workers at Selznick-International studios. The strike was designed to test the status of the ten per cent wage boost as applicable to flat salary workers making more than the minimum.

Publicize "Elizabeth" With Novel Folder

NEW YORK—The Warner publicity department has prepared a folio of 24 cards in a novel folder on "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" for high schools and libraries. A limited supply is available for exhibitors. The folder measures about 10 x 12 inches, is illustrated with pictures of the cast and with appropriate text.

West Winfield Change

WEST WINFIELD, N. Y.—Bisby Hall in this town, 20 miles from Utica, now is operated as a picture house by Bill Truex. He is a brother-in-law of Gordon Moore, recent proprietor of the Hall.

Fourth Drive for Sears

NEW YORK—Warner's fourth annual sales drive for Gradwell Sears, general sales manager, starts December 24 and ends April 13, with $25,000 in prizes for winners.

Taylor, Stanwyck East

NEW YORK—Bob Taylor and his wife, Barbara Stanwyck, arrived by plane from the coast for a short vacation.

Cohn Heads West

NEW YORK—Jack Cohn, Columbia vice-president, leaves over weekend for studio conferences.

RICHMOND

DAVID KAMSKY, advertising manager for Neighborhood Theatres, and Miss Margaret Rosenberg were married last Thursday, honeymooning in New York after a boat trip from Norfolk . . . Ruth Sikkelee is now cashier at the Brookland, replacing Peggy Jackson, who went back with the telephone company . . . Fred Beiersdorf, Warner Washington branch manager, has named Leon Nelson jr. supervisor of checkers for this territory. Nelson is also golf champion of the Hermitage Club.

Al Nowitsky, manager of Wilmer and Vincent's National, who recently secured his private pilot's license, has bought himself a plane . . . Kenneth Wilkinson has joined the service staff at the National . . . Last week "Babes in Arms" was held over for a second week in the Colonial after playing Loew's; this week, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is playing a second week at the State in addition to the Capitol . . . Eddie Weaver, organist at Loew's, dressed up his organ console to look like the cab of a locomotive, and dressed himself in overalls and red bandana handkerchief for a "Song Express" novelty.

Ruth Kelch, cashier of the Grand, has returned from her first visit to New York. When asked how she liked the Fair, she stated that she was too busy sightseeing New York to get out to the Fair and is saving that for next year . . . Mildred Ament, who is cashier out at the Westhampton, has returned to work after being out for ten days with the grippe . . . Bill Attmore, RCA engineer, has returned from visiting Dahlgren and Kenbridge . . . Neal Patton, student at the Law School of the University of Richmond and former doorman at the Westhampton, is now a member of the State service staff . . . Ben Pitts, circuit operator, was in town conferring with his nephew, Tom Pitts.

The bowling matches last week were real thrillers, especially the games between the State and Brookland-Bellevue, when the State boys tied the first game and won on the roll off and won the next two by one and two pins, respectively. Keith Caudle, anchor man for the Colonial, rolled high game of 144 and Harry Nordin of the State, high set of 357. The Colonial team also set a new high game record of 539 . . . Sam Bendheim jr., Bob Coulter, Stewart Tucker, Harry Nordin, Mervin Ullman were seen at the Richmond-V.M.I. game . . . The Loew's service staff is sporting new uniforms . . . A. Frank O'Brien, city manager, Wilmer and Vincent, spent several days in Washington last week.

Harry Cohen, star salesman for Metro, was in town praising the Marx Brothers picture . . . All employes of Neighborhood Theatres have contributed to the annual Community Fund drive . . . Teaser ads were run all over the papers for the showing of "Espionage Agent" at the Colonial . . . Ben Caplon, salesman for Columbia Pictures, was a visitor . . . Bob Coulter, who looks after things up at the Byrd, is under the care of his physician.

New Trial Plea in Patent Suit Denied Crites

NEW YORK—Federal Judge Edward A. Conger has denied an application by Virgil C. Crites to toss out the findings of fact of Judge Mortimer W. Byers, and to give him a new trial and a new judge, in connection with his patent infringement suit against Albert A. Radtke, Leonard Day, Thomas A. Martin, the Radtke Patents Corp. and Warner Brothers.

Judge Byers dismissed the action on July 6. The suit charged that Radtke, while in the plaintiff's employ, developed a patent for "optically recording and reproducing sound." An injunction and damages were sought.

In attempting to secure a new trial, the plaintiff declared Judge Byers had owned 20 shares of RCA stock, thus disqualifying him. It was declared by Judge Conger that Byers had informed Crites of that before trial, and no objection had been entered.

Also, before making any decision, Byers had sold his stock for $122.

Pre-Trial Examination Requested by Disney

NEW YORK—Walt Disney Productions has applied to the supreme court for permission to examine Adriana Caselotti before trial in connection with her $200,000 action against them and RCA Manufacturing Co. The company seeks to prove the court has no jurisdiction, and that the plaintiff gave her consent to making recordings of her voice.

The singer, the "Voice of Snow White," claims RCA dubbed her voice from the sound track in violation of her contract, and made thousands of records from a master.

Astrachan Contract Breach Claim Hearing Jan. 5

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Isador Wasservogel has set January 5, 1940, as the date of trial of Lipton Astrachan's $22,400 suit against Motion Picture Export Corp. Action claims breach of a three-year employment contract whereby the plaintiff was hired as general manager of the Far East office at $10,400 yearly. The contract was breached in June, 1937, a little over a year after being entered into, and two months before the company went out of business. A general denial is the defendant's answer.

Jury Awards Tim McCoy $37,000 in Pact Suit

NEW YORK — A jury before Supreme Court Justice Edward J. McGoldrick, has awarded Tim McCoy $37,000, including $5,000 interest, for breach of contract, whereby the cowboy was to have made eight westerns for William Pizor's Imperial Pictures.

The contract was made in February, 1936, but the pictures never were produced. McCoy was to receive $4,000 each. The award was against Pizor personally, and not the company, although Pizor attempted to have the responsibility shifted to Imperial.

PHILADELPHIA

OUR agents report independent distributors are getting together to protest to Clark Films about its alleged action in accepting orders from New York distributors to transport films in this territory. A meeting at Masterpiece was attended, according to the spies, by Ed Gabriel, Capitol; Murray Beier, Preferred; Mike Katz, Hollywood, and Bill Heenan, Peerless. The story is that some New York distributors, instead of handling their films through one of the local exchanges, make a practice of sending their own salesman direct to the territory. The local independents argue Clark shouldn't play with the New York boys.

Rumors persist that the Walnut may be torn down . . . Skip Weshner, Warner, marked another milestone on the 11*th . . . Sid Bloomfield, Bell, is mourning the death of his mother . . . The Franklin, Allentown, which has been managed by Sam Friedman since the death of his brother, Jack, has now been taken over by Jack's widow, Mrs. Minnie Friedman . . . The Chestnut Street Opera House, closed all season, may reopen with "Gone With the Wind."*

Thanksgiving note: The Horlacher Social Club will raffle off 25 plump, juicy turkeys . . . John Schaeffer, former Gaumont-British man, is selling for International Pictures . . . Eli Ginsburg, formerly with Grand National, is selling independent pictures on his own now . . . Ben Amsterdam flew down to Florida to visit his brother Philip, who's seriously ill . . . George Lessy, who formerly had the Cedar, is now handling premiums with Dave Starkman . . . Wilmer and Vincent's Majestic, Mt. Penn, opened Saturday.

Max Korr, who has the Earle, Allentown, will take over the Diamond, Birdsborough, from Henry Sork, December 1 *. . . Milton Kusell, Paramount district manager, dropped in to visit Earle Sweigert . . . Reba Margolis, Paramount contract stenographer, is acting very haughty these days, what with her new pine paneled office . . . Paramounters played host to Lou Smith, associate producer of "Rulers of the Sea," at a screening attended by critics . . . The S-W ideamen worked a tieup with the* Inquirer *for "U-Boat* 29." *newspaper printed throwaways advertising the film and the* Inquirer *"for latest war news." It was the first time the paper was cracked for such a stunt.*

Vine Streeters were distressed by the Will Rogers Memorial Fund racket that was exposed here before the U. S. Commissioner. Albert F. Dokenwadel — not connected with the trade—was one of 12 Pennsylvanians held under $5,000 bail in a reported $20,000,000 scheme." They are accused of selling lottery tickets as a "benefit" for the fund; the government men said few prizes were paid and no money was given to the fund . . . Joe E. Sapsis, wideawake clothier, has more showmanship than a lot of film men. When thieves rifled his window, he put up a sign: "My suits and topcoats must be good."

The regional meeting of the Film Exchange Employes union here elected Lawrence Katz, Pittsburgh, representative to the New York confab on wage scales and working conditions. Contracts with exchanges expire November 30 *. . . A local union meeting Friday at the Broadwood will hold nominations for local officers . . . Helen Faber, Ted Schlanger's pretty secretary, is complaining about a head cold—the first in five years, she says . . . Bill Porter, Monogram, wants it known the exchange now is handling six Ken Maynards and one Gene Austin film not originally scheduled.*

Insiders report the owners of the Darby are trying to get Mel Koff to stay there and give up his plans of building an opposition house . . . The story is they're having trouble buying product . . . Jack Lexey, Broadway, made his lobby look like No Man's Land, with sandbags, machine guns, bayonets, helmets—everything but a few corpses. It was a stunt for "All Quiet" . . . The quiz idea is carried a step farther by Martin Goldenberg, State, who has started "Kiddie Kwiz Kontest," which sounds very kute. The quiz is on biographical, historical, geographical as well as strictly film subjects.

Dick Park, Harrowgate, is the kiddies' hero. He gave away toys (promoted) . . . Lew Black, Warner, Wilmington, is preparing the business for "Elizabeth and Essex" by planting a young lovely in the lobby every day in Elizabethan costume . . . Bill Huffman, Warner, West Chester, is trying out that old stunt in ads—testimonials. He gets prominents to endorse a film, runs their comments in the paper . . . Maurice Gable, Boyd, has done something like that with "Elizabeth and Essex." His "testimonial" is a big sign with several thousand signatures of persons who saw it opening day.

Some of the boys are having luck getting editorial comment. Jay King, Yorktown, got a pat on the back in a Jenkintown paper for improvements in service. Sam Phillippe, Plaza, got an article in a South Philadelphia paper on "Dust Be My Destiny" . . . Gerson Shalita, Bromley, publicized "On Borrowed Time" with a giveaway of wrist watches to the customers suggesting the best substitute title . . . Bill Israel, Earle, is getting displays in the windows of all the local Wise shoe stores. They probably figure they'll get a return in business from Bill, who does plenty of walking.







Quaker City Greets a Premiere—

When "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" bowed at the Boyd Theatre in Philadelphia, the lobby holdout illustrated at the top was a frequent occurrence. At the lower left, Mrs. Minnie Cornwell, president of the Philadelphia Federation of Women's Clubs and allied organizations, receives one of the souvenir parchment scrolls distributed in honor of the premiere. At the lower right are professional models dressed in the Elizabethan costumes of the film.

WASHINGTON

THE news of the sudden death of Nate Sauber, late Washington branch manager for Universal, deeply saddened the Row. Although a native, Nate served in several western branches before returning to Washington as salesman and subsequently as branch manager. He enjoyed a host of friends and his loss is indeed a sad one. F. J. A. McCarthy, Universal eastern sales manager, and A. J. Herman, district manager, joined the local branch managers in attending the services.

Anst. Notapolis has relinquished the Strand Theatre, Cumberland, Md., to M. Stump. Carl Sherred continues as manager . . . Sam Tabor, Universal salesman, was presented a nine-pound boy by his wife . . . Newt Carskardon has opened his new house, "The Keyser" . . . Ben Evans, Lanoconing, has remodeled the San Toy . . . Sol L. Sorkin, RKO Keith's assistant manager, recently observed his seventh year with Hardie Meakin. Hardie, incidentally, is Newyorking . . . Cecil Ward of Bassett has added a candy store to his varied enterprises . . . Curt Smith of Grundy has been confined to his home, ill.

Mrs. John J. Payette, wife of Warner Theatres' general zone manager, feted the Earle Roxyettes with a luncheon prior to their departure on a six-week vacation; Mr. Payette added to the festivities by presenting each a gift . . . Frank La Falce has returned from his vacation . . . Mrs. Macie Smith of the same office tendered a cocktail party to her co-workers at her home . . . Bill Thompson is building a new house in North Tazewell, Va. . . . . E. J. Jackson of Bluefield, Va., is making preparations for his annual deerhunt . . . Helen Pell has joined the RKO staff . . . Archie Rose of RKO is home with the grippe . . . Hunter Perry, Dominion theatres, visited while en route to New York.

The opening of "Real Glory" at the Palace was featured with the attendance of members of the Caradoa Order, a military organization founded in Manila in 1900 *and comprised of men who distinguished themselves in actual service during the Spanish-American war in the Philippines . . . Carlton Duffus, Metro exploiteer, is swinging through the territory to arrange contests on "Ninotchka" with the Warner, Publix, and Thalheimer circuits . . . Warner theatre district managers, Harry Lohmeyer, Guy Wonders, and Nat Glasser, have entered into a round-robin; a program to allow each to become acquainted with every situation in the entire territory.*

Birthday greetings to Metro's Mrs. Anna Ridgely . . . Pete Prince, Metro booker, has chosen New York for his belated vacation . . . Roy Sherman, Savoy, is being congratulated for his outstanding Hallowe'en lobby display of a fireplace, cornstalks, apples, popcorn, pumpkins and spooks . . . Rose Harris, 20th-Fox, is recuperating. Her co-worker, Ann Griffin, is entertaining her mother and sister from Minneapolis . . . H. O. Thrush, Keyser, W. Va., engaged Max Terhune of Republic's "Mesquiteers" for a p. a. . . . M. Weiner is building a new house six miles from Leonardtown, Md., in a town called Hollywood.

The Warner theatre group seen divoting at the Manor Club field day included George Crouch, Nat Browne, Louis Ribnitski, Al Pratt and C. E. McGowan . . . Charles McKinney of the Masonic, Clifton Forge, has returned to his duties following a hospitalization . . . Grace Fisher has returned to Cumberland . . . The Loew publicity staff advises plans are under way to launch a 30-minute weekly quiz program from the Capitol stage, on or about Christmas. Wherein the nation's capital feels the pulse of political activity, as well as international problems, it is expected that the I. Q. will be based on those factors.

Paramount's Dick Doyle, Jack Fruchtman, and Vince Daugherty Newyorked over the weekend to take in the Paramount pep dance at the Astor, an event that was preceded and followed with attendance at the gridiron . . . The shots of "Sweet" Lalanne in the Pennsylvania-North Carolina game highlighted the Paramount newsreel, for which commendations were extended to Newsmen Hugo Johnson, Al O'Eth and Bob Denton.

REVIEW FLASHES

ANOTHER THIN MAN (M-G-M)—The same adroit blending of comedy and mystery which characterized its predecessors promises comparable returns in popularity and profits for the latest adventure of supersleuth, Nick Charles and his irrepressible wife. While the humor is more on the broad side, the transition from subtleties should tend to widen the appeal of the picture which was creditably produced and directed by Hunt Stromberg and W. S. Van Dyke, respectively.

COVERED TRAILER, THE (Rep)—Not an earth-shaking epic, by any means, but sound and substantial program material which should hold appeal for every member of the family and chalk up a comforting margin of profit for exhibitors in most situations. Probably the best of the "Higgins Family" series thus far to be produced. James Gleason, Lucile Gleason, Russell Gleason. Gus Meins directed.

PHANTOM STRIKES, THE (GB-Mono)—Mystery melodrama whose plot hangs fire in many places and goes off half cocked in between. But an opportunity for the audience to participate in the uncovering of the guilty party, should satisfy would-be sleuths. Wilfrid Lawson, Sonnie Hale.

RENO (RKO)—A colorful history of the biggest little city in the world, from its tempestuous mining days to its current status as a mecca for divorce-seekers, this is produced on a pretentious scale and warrants top playing time. Richard Dix scores in a role comparable in strength to his triumph in "Cimarron." Robert Sisk produced; John Farrow directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

BALTIMORE

JOE FIELDS, Rivoli, sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Rawlins, have just returned from England . . . Sam Soltz, Howard, celebrated his birthday by going to Pimlico races opening day . . . Lou "Fixer Dugan" Cohen, Essex, has just returned to work after being confined to bed with a very bad cold . . . Harry Vogelstein, Balto Poster Co., was one of the judges of registration for coming elections for Baltimore . . . Rome theatres managers' exploitation contest was won last week by Ed Kimple sr., Capitol; Bob Ashcraft, Apollo, and Wilbur Brizendine, Rialto.

Rumor that a theatre is going up in Dundalk . . . A midnight spook show was run by Lawrence Schanberger, Keith's, on Halloween night . . . Max Weinberg, Little, spoke before Professional Women's Club, Wednesday . . . Deepest sympathy goes to the family of Lester E. Green sr., of Bridge Theatre, who died on November 2 *. . . Michael E. Coughlan is acting as chief inspector of Maryland State Censor Board until examinations for that post have been taken . . . Sarah Borinsky is a new member of Maryland State Censor Board staff . . . Wilbur Brizendine, Rialto, has been taken to Western Baltimore General Hospital with bronchial pneumonia.*

Oscar Baucotti, Nemo, has just remodeled his lobby and front . . . Alvin Dhome, Carroll, Westminster, Md., reports burglars forced back door of theatre last Thursday and stole money from candy machine, a few postage stamps was all that was missing . . . Morton Baker, manager Times Newsreel Theatre, announced that a bronze tablet was permanently installed in the theatre lobby Friday to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the making of the first newsreel in America. The ceremony was broadcast and filmed by Hearst cameramen.

H. Ted Routson, publicity chief for I. M. Rappaport, Hippodrome, announces that auditions are underway for the Baltimore Follies Revue of 1939, *an all Maryland revue which will grace the stage of the Hippodrome week of December* 15 *. . . Mike Segall expects to do big things with his latest picture, "Lost on the Western Front" . . . A huge benefit show was held at the Broadway Theatre, Friday, by Robert Marhenke, manager for the Polish relief refugees. Mayor Howard Jackson attended. The show was held at* 11 *p. m.*

Korda Here From London; Making Original Slate

BALTIMORE—Alexander Korda, head of London Films, arrived here via trans-Atlantic clipper when weather conditions prevented the plane from landing in Port Washington, L. I. He entrained immediately for New York, arriving there Thursday night.

Accompanied by his attorney, Basil Bleck, the producer declared his new program will be completed as announced in addition to "The Lion Has Wings," to be released by UA.

Korda flew to the coast over the weekend from New York. He is due back Tuesday for a UA stockholders' meeting which is described as "routine."

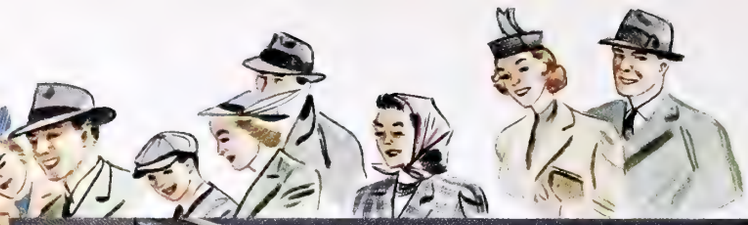
The MODERN THEATRE



V. 11, 1939

. . . AIDS TO ADVERTISING







The pay-line forms in front of bright lights and glistening colors

Pay-lines are attracted today by two things. First, a modern colorful theatre that attracts the public like a gorgeous sunset—that makes people movie-hungry just to look at it—and draws them to it like a magnet. Second, by good pictures. This is the combination that *pays today*.

An L·O·F colorful Theatrefront of Glass and Metal will give your show house that Pay-Line appeal. It's as modern as the World's Fair. It's alive with beauty—color—life—showmanship. And it's an investment in mass appeal that only a 4-Star Picture can equal.

To meet your competition—to put your show business on a Pay-Line basis—you need a new colorful L·O·F Theatrefront of modern Glass, Metal, Color and Light, *now*. It's the best investment you can make for security and profit in a day when brilliant modernization is a part of the show business.

Investigate the opportunity we offer you here. Write us for further information and our latest illustrated literature. Find out how you can cut maintenance cost to a fraction of your present cost—how you can amortize your investment little by little, month by month, on a Modernization Budget Plan. It costs nothing to get this information. Libbey·Owens·Ford Glass Company, 1311 Nicholas Building, Toledo, Ohio.

VITROLITE
the colorful structural glass

VITROLUX
for luminous color areas, signs and illumination

EXTRUDALITE
the newest development in modern storefront metal

•

For mirrors, L·O·F Polished Plate Glass, clear or in colors

Make certain your Vitrolite installation is made by a franchised L·O·F dealer

LIBBEY · OWENS · FORD

Complete Colorful Theatrefronts

FATHER DOESN'T SIT HERE ANY MORE





He's at
LOEW'S 83RD STREET
Enjoying the Floating Comfort of

U.S. ROYAL FOAM SPONGE
SEAT CUSHIONING





Loew's 83rd Street, New York
Recently equipped with 2,564 new American Seating Company chairs featuring supremely buoyant, sag-proof cushioning of
U. S. Royal Foam Sponge
(Photo by courtesy of Loew's, Inc., and American Seating Company)

There's nothing like this new foamed latex cushioning for comfort—or for *upkeep economy!* It buoys the body on millions of tiny, resilient air cushions—more like effortless floating than sitting. It's air-cooled and air-cleaned by constant, automatic circulation through its completely porous texture. And it's *sag-proof* — replacing with permanently molded units, all the inside parts that cause seats to sag and get out of shape. *Write "U.S." today for more facts.* U.S. Royal Foam Sponge is available through most good seat manufacturers, but it is made exclusively by



Trade Mark Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY · ***MISHAWAKA, INDIANA***

What patrons say MEANS BUSINESS
. . . and they're enthusiastic about American BODIFORM Restful Chairs

YOU know how quick patrons are to register disapproval and how few and far between are unsolicited compliments.

That's why exhibitors who have installed American Bodiform Chairs are frankly amazed at the flood of outspoken enthusiasm aroused by these more attractive, more comfortable chairs.

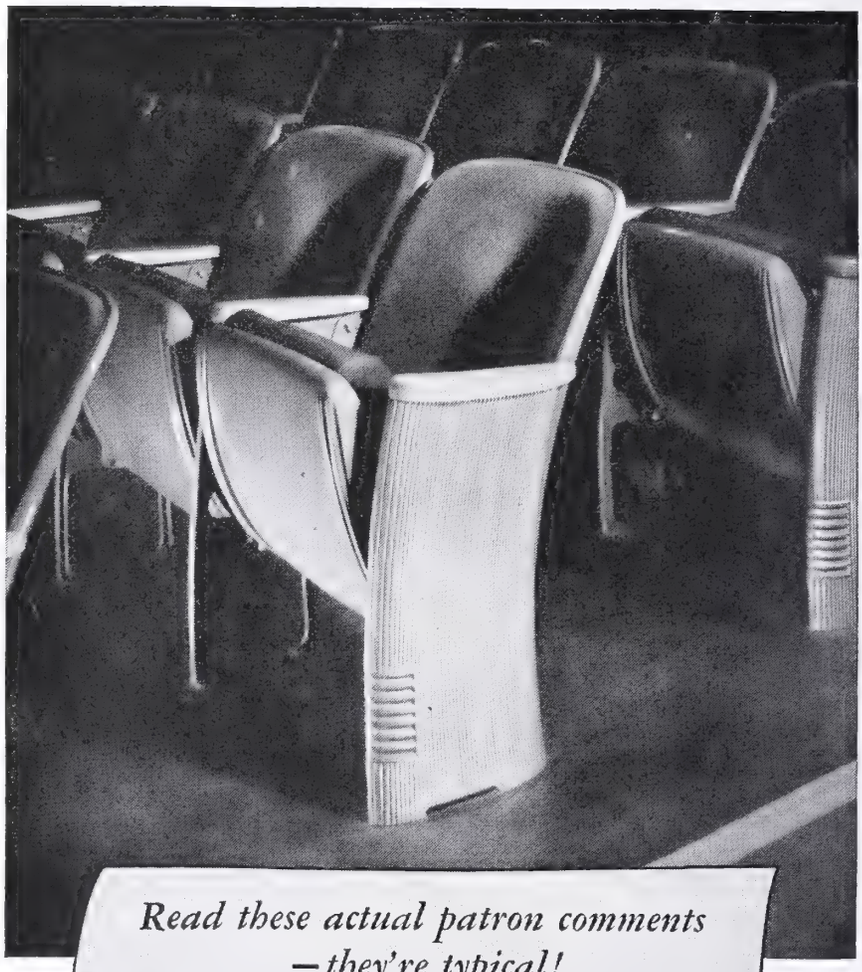
It means only one thing—American Bodiform Chairs have patron pulling power to a degree never before built into a theatre chair. And that means better business. Better get in on it yourself. Write us today for full information regarding your seating problems.

AMERICAN Bodiform RESTFUL CHAIRS

AMERICAN SEATING COMPANY · GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. · REG. U.S. PAT. OFFICE

In the low price field—see

AMERICAN Avion THEATRE CHAIRS



Read these actual patron comments —they're typical!

"Why, they're as comfortable as the easiest of easy chairs."

"What a relief to find a seat where there's no danger of snagging stockings."

"The self lift-up seats are energy savers."

"They're a perfect fit for the body—I feel rested when the show is over."

"I like the automatic seat lift which makes it easier to get out or in."

American Seating Company

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Pioneers and pacemakers in theatre, auditorium, school, church, stadium and transportation seating · *Branch Offices and Distributors in Principal Cities*

The MODERN THEATRE
MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION OF BOXOFFICE

(Title registered U. S. Patent Office)

Edited by J. HARRY TOLER

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Something to Sell Beyond the Scope of Pictures

No one who really knows show business and the psychology of public relations will dispute the oft-repeated statement that good pictures are the grist of profitable showmanship.

Good merchandise, offered consistently and kept well displayed for public attention is the basic essential to every successful merchandising plan. The nature of the commodity notwithstanding.

The picture showman—a merchant of entertainment—finds his product most variable as to quality and subject to a greater degree of critical discrimination than the merchant of more tangible commodities.

Hence the necessity for adroit window dressing, attractive packaging and adeptness in the promotion of the only other thing a theatre man has to sell—relaxation.

Likewise the necessity for personal service to patronage, involving courtesy, comfort, convenience, safety, refinement and all else that we know contributes to a completely satisfied customer who will come again.

Granted that House Appeal, where it really exists, is but slightly secondary to the feature picture and definitely essential to the full enjoyment of all pictures, why is it not given more emphasis in theatre advertising?

The much or little a showman may do to make his theatre a better place in which to see a picture is worthy of all the informative publicity it can be given. House Appeal first amply provided and then properly exploited is a powerful restorative to the regular movie-going habit.

Toler

November 11, 1939.

Manifestations of MERCHANDISING *on* OUR MODERN THEATRE FRONTS

AMERICAN business — and theatre business in particular—should thank its lucky star for the many privileges of private enterprise and of industrial initiative which are no longer allowed to even the more rational of our neighbors overseas. Continental Europe is anything but neighborly at the moment.

The blackouts of London; bomb-proof subterranean shelters; sand-bagged store fronts; air raid sirens intermittently shrieking their alarms of disaster are all contributing to the panic of the people and the distress and interruption of business. Sherman was right.

We read of these goings-on in the news. The pictures impress us with the pity of it; but hardly do we pause to thank our good patron saint that the same horrid thing hasn't happened over here. It is business, your business, every true American's business to see that it can't ever happen here.

American business—and show business in particular—can find a lot of encouragement in the fact that the enforced blackouts of European night-life and the present futility of advertising effort on the Continent are still three thousand miles away. As long as light and enlightenment, the two common characteristics of good advertising, are given to us for the promotion of good will and happiness, the security of show business will sustain.

Our Own Blackout

Yet there was a period in picture show business not so long ago when the "blackout," or at best a dangerous suggestion of it, was noticeably apparent in the nighttime appearance of the fronts of many of our own theatres. At about the time all the banks were folding up back in 1932 and for quite a spell thereafter, it was not uncommon to find theatre outdoor electrical display reduced to a positive minimum. In some cases an almost total eclipse of luminous display was created; not by war scares nor dictatorial enactment, but simply by reason of an unwarranted retrenchment in operating expenses that served only to make matters worse.



FULL PAGE advertising efficiency is approximated in this view of the Vogue, another smart and successful California Theatre, at Salinas. Light and color lend their interest to a well-balanced display to emphasize attractions listed on the two four-line attraction boards. (Photo courtesy Wagner Sign Service, Inc.)

During this painful period at least one of the leading "Loop" theatres in Chicago is known to have reduced its advertising display wattage almost 75 per cent. Significantly, that theatre, a first-run house, closed its doors within the year of its radical retrenchment. Despite favorable location and first choice of picture product, it folded up, a sacrifice to false economy. Many others followed its unworthy example and the semi-blackout of the long inherent brilliancy of theatre advertising display was altogether devastating to the boxoffice.

But how different the situation today! In the brief span of less than a decade theatres by and large have changed both face and lighting formula completely. The temporary blackout is but an unpleasant memory to theatre management and perhaps a reminder never to let it happen again. *Light* and *enlightenment* are now the most proficient and popularly used tools of moving picture showmanship.

Marquees Mean More Now

When the present wave of theatre property modernization was merely a ripple



NIGHT and DAY this upstanding outdoor display does a fine job of selling for the Esquire Theatre, in Oakland, Calif. Note and compare unusual legibility of silhouette letters under both day and night conditions. A smart combination of 10, 12 and 16-inch changeable silhouette letters is used on the curved marquee. (Photo courtesy Wagner Sign Service, Inc.)

to the interest of showmen five or six years ago, its effect was first shown in the facial beauty of attraction and point-of-sale advertising efficiency of our theatres. Ancient festooned facades were ripped off and replaced by smooth, colorful reflective surfaces to serve as backgrounds for brighter and more beautiful luminous display. Main signs were stripped of all fancy work and streamlined in border and typographical effect. More color, more motion and a scene vastly more visible and interesting to the public eye has been created.

Marquees have become more than meaningless structural ornaments for the shelter of pedestrians. They too have been streamlined, de-ornamented, scientifically slanted and redesigned for the accommodation of more light—and enlightenment—in the form of attraction boards that not only attract but tell the public what's going on.

The modern theatre front is a completely integrated advertising medium, employing all the technique of the billboard plus that of the printed page. For attractiveness and interest arousal it might be compared to a color page in *Saturday Evening Post,* which only the most affluent advertiser can afford. The flashing name sign (the headline) catches the eye at a distance and intrigues closer reading interest. The facade of the theatre (the color plate) serves as a background for the entire page. The marquee (copy panel) provides feature space for an informative lettered message. Display frames (illustrations) artistically positioned and properly lighted serve to clinch an order—at the point of sale.

As a matter of common merchandising logic, the entire front of a theatre should be considered in the light of a full page of institutional advertising, artistically arranged and well balanced in color effect and composition to attract utmost attention, arouse investigative interest and create a decision to buy that which the theatre has for sale. The entire "page" should be changed more frequently.

The Promotional Angle

Aside from its purely conventional function as a convenient port of entry to the place of business, there is no other practical reason for the existence of a theatre front than that which it can most effectively serve—an advertising medium for the promotion of a greater volume of theatre patronage.

In hundreds of typical installations of new theatre fronts and effective advertising displays made during the past year or so (a few examples of which are here and elsewhere illustrated in this issue) are to be observed many manifestations of how the new merchandising motive has infiltrated the minds of showmen. Theatre designers too have done much toward merging theatre architecture with the graphic arts in the formation and fittings of modern theatre fronts. Theatre architects have lately become skilled in the art of advertising design.

Let's now mention and briefly consider some of the commodity developments popularly accepted by theatre owners and their architects as having contributed greater attractiveness and advertising value to modern theatre fronts.

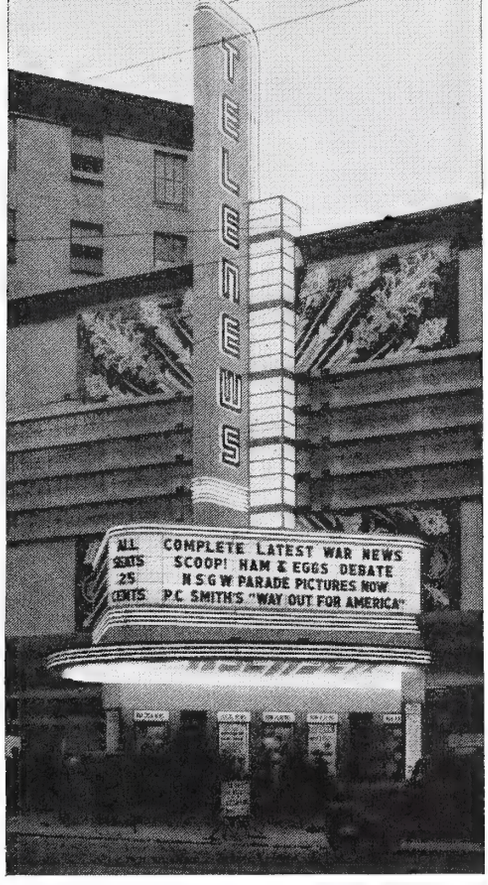
Perhaps the outstanding development of a new era in theatre display advertising and one which has undoubtedly created more interest and action in frontal improvement than any other single factor is the interior lighted changeable letter attraction board using silhouette letters. This mechanical advertising development of recent years has supplanted practically all of the older media for the promotion of interest in the program at the point of sale.

Light and Letters

The popularity of the silhouette sign letter stems from the known fact that black-on-white for either day or night display is more readable and less restrictive to vision than the reverse. The solid black letter silhouetted on a backing of opalescent glass quickly supplanted old style cut-out letters and has practically relegated painted banners to a point of oblivion in all first-class theatres.

The new cast aluminum silhouette letters, now available in a multiplicity of sizes, are being readily adapted to theatre

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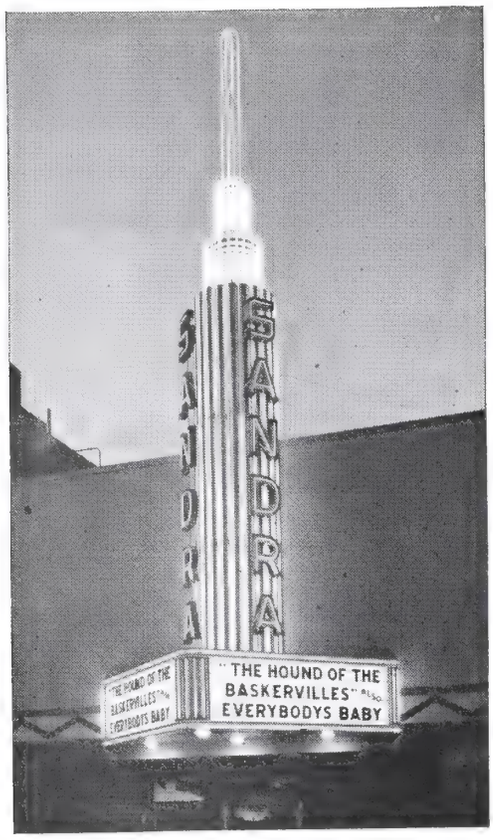


FLASH NEWS of what's going on within is not withheld from the patrons of San Francisco's Telenews Theatre. An informative advertising display in which four lines of silhouette letters on a well-formed attraction board is the selling element. (Photo courtesy Wagner Sign Service, Inc.)





SELLING COPY suitably displayed is the characteristic for study in these two canopies. The Milwaukee Theatre (top) impresses its message boldly with four lines of silhouette lettering. The Kallet Capitol, at Rome, N. Y., similarly shows the application of theatre marquees. (Photos courtesy Adler Sign Letter Co.)



HEADLINE attraction is to be noted in this tall and brilliantly lighted tower type sign of the new Sandra Theatre, in Wichita, Kans. The V-shaped marquee with a complement of silhouette letters serves its function as the selling force. Lorentz Schmidt was the architect. (Photo courtesy Adler Sign Letter Co.)

marquees of various sizes and shapes, through the provision of sectional frame units, which contain all necessary sockets and electrical elements. These sectional units which serve as shadow boxes for the scientific illumination of the message are faced with diffusing glass panels and fitted with rigid rails for the convenient attachment of the letters in perfect alignment across the faces of the attraction boards, many of which now contain as many as four or more lines running completely across and around the ends of the canopy or curving around its formation for the spacing of announcements pertaining to both current and coming attractions.

Cast aluminum silhouette sign letters are available in sizes ranging from six inches to 24 inches in height. Different sizes may be used in composing the copy on the face of the boards to provide emphasis to feature words and phrases in a manner that provides more punch at the point of sale. Accompanying pictures illustrate the effects produced with this more proficient aid to modern theatre advertising.

Next, consideration must necessarily be given the backgrounds—colorful new building materials such as structural plate glass and glass bricks, vitreous enamel, terra cotta, porcelain enamel, stainless steel, aluminum and other metallic elements that have proved so effective and economical in the formation of theatre fronts as a suitable setting for the newest effects of luminous advertising display.

Designers Deserve Credit

Then thought would naturally turn to the lighting effects and the increased application of lighting to theatre fronts. The theatre industry is now availing itself of all the latest developments for better display, including floodlighting, fluorescence, various new forms of Neonized lighting, reflector elements, color effects and effects for animation. Illumination now more correctly and economically applied and controlled serves to make the modern theatre the core of attraction in every community. Yet wattage is not being wasted because display lighting is being concentrated on points of interest rather than poured out promiscuously.

The designers of electrical display units (signs and marquees) might next be accorded praises for their provisions. Quite early in the proceedings they adopted the streamline functional technique in the design of completely integrated units that cover in most cases the smart merchandising requirements of the main sign and its related marquee. The units they contrive by careful planning and fabricate from modern structural materials are now being generally worked into the entire front elevation scheme in a manner that contributes greatly to the selling power of the entire theatre front assembly.

Insulating Boards for Modernizing Economy

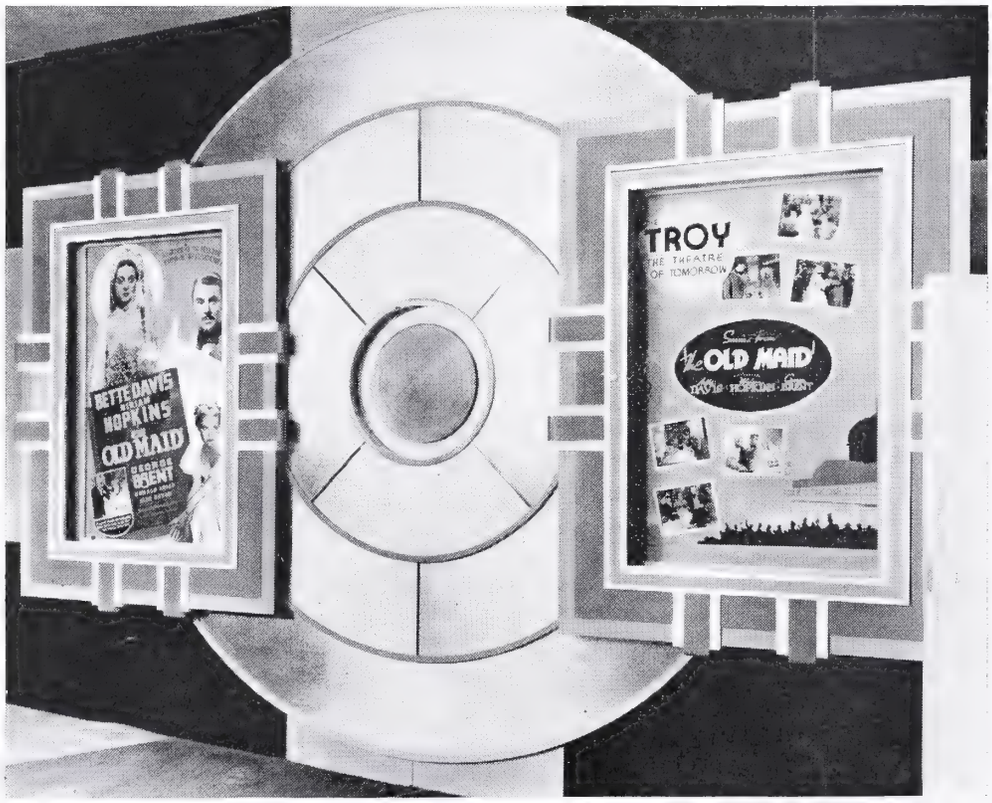
Whenever it is important that construction or remodeling costs be held to a minimum, the standard-size sheets of insulating interior finish board offer one of the most practical and economical forms of interior finish available.

Furnished in large units which may be applied to walls and ceilings with a very minimum of labor, these versatile sheets are adaptable to countless uses in construction, modernization and decoration of all types of interiors. They are particularly suitable as an inexpensive finish for large ceiling areas and either alone or in combination with other more sound-absorptive finishes.

Insulating board sheets yield readily to cutting with beveling tools and can be decorated in this manner right on the job. Their characteristic natural buff color harmonizes with practically any decorative scheme but the sheets are easily painted or stained where special effects are desired.

The constant provision of good soap in theatre washrooms leads to proper respect and prestige for the house; also, painting floors and baseboards in restrooms a light color will aid in creating a spic and span appearance.

STAINLESS STEEL "LUMBER" SOMETHING NEW

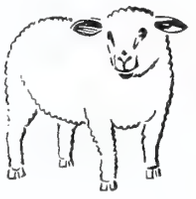


A novel theatre front application of "Ludlite Bord," at Warner Brothers' new Troy Theatre at Troy, New York. The new structural material is said to combine the advantages of stainless steel with the load carrying capacity of sturdy mineral composition backing material. Quite facile for the formation of design, it is said to be easily fabricated and most effective and economical for both indoor and outdoor applications. (Photo courtesy of Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp.)

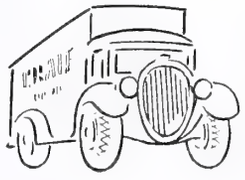
* "... it will last indefinitely"



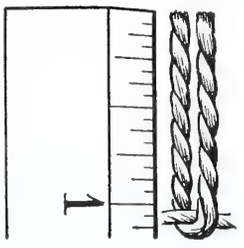
ROXY—
the "world's largest theater" lays the world's largest oval rug . . . a Mohawk Chenille! Roxy himself was quoted, "It will pay for itself in a year . . . IF it lasts that long!"



1½ TONS OF WOOL
(a lot of lamb . . . even for Broadway) were needed to make this caterpillar. This wool came from Scotland—China—Australia (and many other countries).



A TWO-TON TRUCK
and Roxy's Rotunda Rug weighed—just the same! BUT the Chenille was 58 feet long—41 feet wide—"outsize" even for a 2-ton truck, you'll agree!



1" PILE—
Deep soft pile is always a "Class A" feature in ANY theater! The 1 in. pile of Roxy's rug was plenty talked over—and walked over!



40 MILES—
that was the length of the "caterpillar". . . (Chenille strips)—a 5 weeks' weaving job for 24 Mohawk weavers. The shuttle, carrying its burden of finest imported wools, traveled 160 miles!



124,800,000 PAIRS OF FEET
had scuffed over this colossal Mohawk, 12 years later in 1939!
That's just about equal to the entire population of our whole U.S.A.!



* Rather a strong statement . . but, the Roxy Theater Manager, himself, wrote those prophetic words to Mohawk 9 YEARS AGO! They weren't strong *enough* . . . for the Mohawk Chenille that Roxy *hoped* would last a year—has lived for 12! Something like a 1200% dividend on Roxy's expectancy of its life!

P. S. Roxy's *must* have liked Mohawk's weaving and wearing. On Oct. 27, 1939, a Mohawk Chenille identical to the first Mohawk Rug was laid in the Roxy Rotunda.

MOHAWK *Theater* **CARPETS**

San Antonio's NEW BROADWAY *creates*

ITS OWN BUSINESS CONDITIONS

By **Helen Kent**

IDEALLY, a theatre should be its own best advertisement. In order that it may be regarded by its patrons as an institution of public service—not just as a gathering place to house a screen on which the general public may watch the antics of animated pictures—it must rely on its innate attractiveness rather than too entirely on the pictures it plays.

When the theatre is the possessor of a fine reputation as an individualized place of entertainment and relaxation, it is visited and revisited by patrons in spite of—not because of—its programs, which may be above or below average.

A blazoning name-sign and brilliant marquee, some gayly colored posters, a daily newspaper announcement and an occasional bizarre publicity stunt are not the only forms of advertising aid available to theatres. What of the extraordinary value of word-of-mouth advertising, which creates the stuff good boxoffice receipts are made of?

Effects Far Reaching

Consider the far-reaching good will advertising significance of an oft-repeated bit of gossip that, "The new theatre down the street has seats as comfortable as a 1940 auto." Isn't that the finest possible advertisement for the house as an institution? Or conversely, imagine the damage done by a too frequently heard statement that, "I don't go there any more because the place seems so stuffy; confidentially, it smells!" Yet this type of advertising (which can be either positive or negative) is overlooked by theatre ownership and management to an astounding degree.

Building prestige for the house itself among its patrons is the most prolific aid to theatre advertising known to showmanship. When a theatre has won and maintained a reputation for providing the best entertainment available in the finest surroundings obtainable, it then becomes its own best advertisement. And as such, more perfect boxoffice balance is maintained and the graph sheets of business remain at even keel.

To an ever increasing extent showmen throughout the country are acting on this premise by making of their theatre properties not just picture shows but real scene settings for entertainment where patrons may see and feel and enjoy relaxation and pleasant atmosphere as well as motion pictures. They're acting out their parts by modernizing their old theatres and by building new ones and by culling out the grindshow shops which in this day and age are only a drag on the motion picture industry as a whole.



Sufficiently spectacular but entirely simple and practical in its appeal for patronage, San Antonio's newest neighborhood cinema provides a composite of self-advertising value in every particular. (Photo courtesy Pettigrew & Worley, the architects).

An Interesting Example

A new house which offers a fine example of the trend in industry-wide prestige building is the recently completed Broadway Theatre located in a thriving suburb of San Antonio, Texas. This new institution of entertainment provides a great number of the characteristics which may be considered aids to advertising and as such is deemed worthy of presentation in these pages as an outstanding modern theatre project with plenty of house appeal.

The Broadway is the latest addition to several fine houses owned and operated by Interstate Circuit, Inc., in the states of Texas and Oklahoma where fine theatres are many and well patronized. Henry Bergman, well-known southern showman, manages the new theatre, which is thriving nicely on a well-balanced diet of house appeal and good program presentation.

Pettigrew & Worley, theatre architects of Dallas, Texas, designed and supervised construction of the new Broadway and it may be said that they ingeniously planned and plotted with the owner to

Points of Interest

The Broadway's foyer (top view) suggests spaciousness beyond its actual dimensions by reason of astute design and simplicity of decorative effect. Fine carpet, few but definitely functional furnishings, modern fixtures, all lend effectiveness to the house appeal. The standee area (center view) is similarly formed and decoratively treated to add further invitation. In the auditorium (lower picture) the effects are pronounced. The "stepped" ceiling combines with wall treatment for good sound reception, while air conditioning and comfortable seating contribute also to a cause for return patronage. (Photos courtesy Pettigrew & Worley, Architects).







make the house one which would be outstandingly appealing to patronage in every respect and for many years to come. Pettigrew & Worley are active members of the Advisory Board of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute and frequent contributors to the interest of this publication.

With an exterior that would do ample justice to a much larger or more metropolitan showplace, the Broadway presents a superbly inviting appearance to passing motorists and pedestrians. The building is constructed of steel, hollow tile and concrete, with white stucco walls. Its monolithic style and entire simplicity of ornamentation also bespeak the modern feeling it represents. To one side of the broad theatre entrance, the building also houses a soda fountain and refreshment shop that is well appreciated and patronized by customers of the new theatre.

The wide entranceway to the theatre is formed of porcelain enamel up to the marquee and the V-shaped attraction board and name-sign are also of porcelain enamel in two colors. The large, beckoning name-sign in a modern design set off at night by outlines of brilliant Neon was placed off-center and to one side of the entrance purposely in order to take advantage of the best possible display spot from all angles of approach to the theatre.

An Impressive Display

The marquee, which houses floodlights to illuminate the entire white stucco facade, is quite massive, with ample space for three lines of modern silhouette letter advertising copy on each of its two angular sides. It is lighted by mazda lamps both for display purposes and beneath the marquee for general illumination of the entrance lobby. Large, effectively placed poster display cases and a centrally located modern boxoffice complete the eye-appealing front of the Broadway.

Inside the theatre, patrons are introduced to an interesting modern atmosphere in which spaciousness and simplicity combine to put them at their ease in a most satisfying manner. The foyer is entered through wide double doors and a feeling of genuine hospitality is immediately manifest by the subdued modern

(Continued on following page)

decorative scheme. A wide expanse of beautifully patterned carpet sets the effective color scheme.

Walls and ceiling of this portion of the house are in plaster and decorative conventionalized panels are the only points of ornamentation for the wall surfaces. A large full-length mirror is located on the stair landing which leads from the foyer to the mezzanine floor, on which lounge rooms are situated. Chrome furniture, richly upholstered, and lighting fixtures and accessories of modern design complete the patron-appeal features of this part of the house.

The large general lounge with rest rooms adjoining is located on the mezzanine floor. It is graciously furnished and most inviting to relaxation. The toilet rooms are finished in tile for both floors and wainscots which adds a gleaming touch and is most readily kept in best sanitary condition. Fixtures in the rest-rooms are also the finest obtainable.

Entrance to the auditorium of the Broadway Theatre is gained through modern doors with porthole effect windows from the foyer to a wide promenade or standee area at the rear of the room itself. This fully carpeted area serves effectively as a transition point from the foyer to the auditorium. It is illuminated by modern indirect ceiling fixtures, and venetian blinds at the standee openings keep all extraneous light from the auditorium proper.

Comfort a Selling Point

The Broadway auditorium seats 1,031 persons, with 683 seats on the main floor and 348 in the balcony. The patrons are seated comfortably in full upholstered chairs of fine construction and beauty of appearance. Twenty seats located at various points throughout the house are equipped with hearing aid devices as an added convenience for hard of hearing patrons.

Walls and ceiling of the auditorium are of acoustical plaster, effectively but simply decorated by horizontal bands in bright colors. Two indirect sidewall plaques form the main illumination fixtures for the auditorium, although indirect reflector units on the ceiling augment them for full house lighting. Simple modern styling and design characterizes this relaxation-provoking auditorium. The entire theatre is air conditioned by refrigeration to maintain comfort the whole year-round.

A modernly equipped projection room of most generous size insures finest presentation of moving pictures in the new Broadway Theatre. The room is of fireproof construction with thorough ventilation and air conditioning. Toilet facilities for the operators also adjoin this efficient workroom. Latest projection and sound equipment was provided to maintain the high standard of presentation to which patrons of all Interstate Theatres are now accustomed.

Every bit of design cunning, every piece of material and every furnishing in the new Broadway Theatre is in itself an aid to advertising. The new house has self-advertising value to a remarkable degree and it represents a type of theatre with which the public is becoming more intimate as time goes by—an institution for the promotion of more enjoyable motion picture entertainment.

Cover Illustration

In this picture of the lobby of the lately modernized RKO Palace Theatre, at 47th and Broadway in New York City, may be observed more than the usual number of effective secondary Aids to Advertising. Interest aroused by flash of outdoor electrical display is not allowed to lapse in the modern theatre lobby . . . A study in granite, with natural white for the walls and black for the base, this lobby has a warmly inviting atmosphere under a soft glow of indirect lighting. The granite walls in the vestibule are decorated with stainless steel horizontal mouldings at seams, blending with the centered boxoffice and marquee design. Zebra wood, quite rare and expensive, is used in the inner lobby, with black marble for the base. An overhead display frame is provided over the lobby entrance doors on the inside, which has an illuminated glass background with changeable silhouette letters for the announcement of coming attractions.

The RKO Palace bears the distinction of being the first theatre in the metropolitan area to adopt the use of heavy plate glass entrance doors, which are similar to the much publicized doors of the Russian building at the World's Fair. An unobstructed view of the entire lobby from the street is thus permitted, the effect of which is particularly inviting at night. Rubber mats in the lobby vestibule are colored and laid in bold, diagonal lines, with brass separators enhancing the modern motif.

Room illumination is indirect with inverted ceiling dome, insuring proper diffusion of light and the absence of blinding glare characteristic in lobbies where direct lighting is used with powerful spotlights highlighting the advertising displays. The lighting of the interior display frames is patterned after modern showcase illumination with banks of individual reflectors at the bottom and top of each frame. All lamps are concealed. These frames are so brilliantly lighted that they are incorporated in the general illumination scheme of the lobby, taking the place of separate wall lighting fixtures usually employed for this purpose. (Photo courtesy Joseph Garry, Architect, New York City).

Repainting of Signs Peps Advertising Pull

With the ornamentation and letter copy that is used on the average sign and theatre marquee, it is advisable to employ an experienced sign painter to do any repainting. If the old paint is chalky or has lost its adhesion to the metal, the sign should be stripped or cleaned down to the bare metal. This can be done after removing Neon tubes and lamps by scraping or with commercial paint remover. If paint remover is used, the surface should be washed afterwards with naphtha to remove all traces of the paint solvent. The sign or marquee should then be refinished in the ordinary method of painting any metal surface.

If the original surface on the sign was an oil paint and repainting is done over this old paint, lacquer should not be used as it will cut through the old paint, loosening it from the sign surface. In repainting, care should be taken that no paint of any kind be placed or splashed on tubes, housings or any electrical connections. When a sign is repainted, the portion of the tubing which is to be opaque (not to show as copy or part of a design) is coated with a special glass paint or enamel. A non-conducting type of paint should be used to safeguard against the paint on the tube causing an electrical short or ground to the face of the sign.

Alpine Theatre Circuit Signs Up for Service

A service contract covering the sound reproducing equipment in the 24 theatres of the Alpine Theatre Circuit, Inc., has been awarded to RCA Photophone, according to W. L. Jones, service manager.

Most of the houses covered in the new service contract are in West Virginia, and a few are in Pennsylvania. The circuit's headquarters are in Kingwood, West Virginia.

C. A. Anderson, circuit manager, negotiated the contract with James W. Cocke, RCA district manager, and W. C. Jervis, sales representative in the Pittsburgh territory.

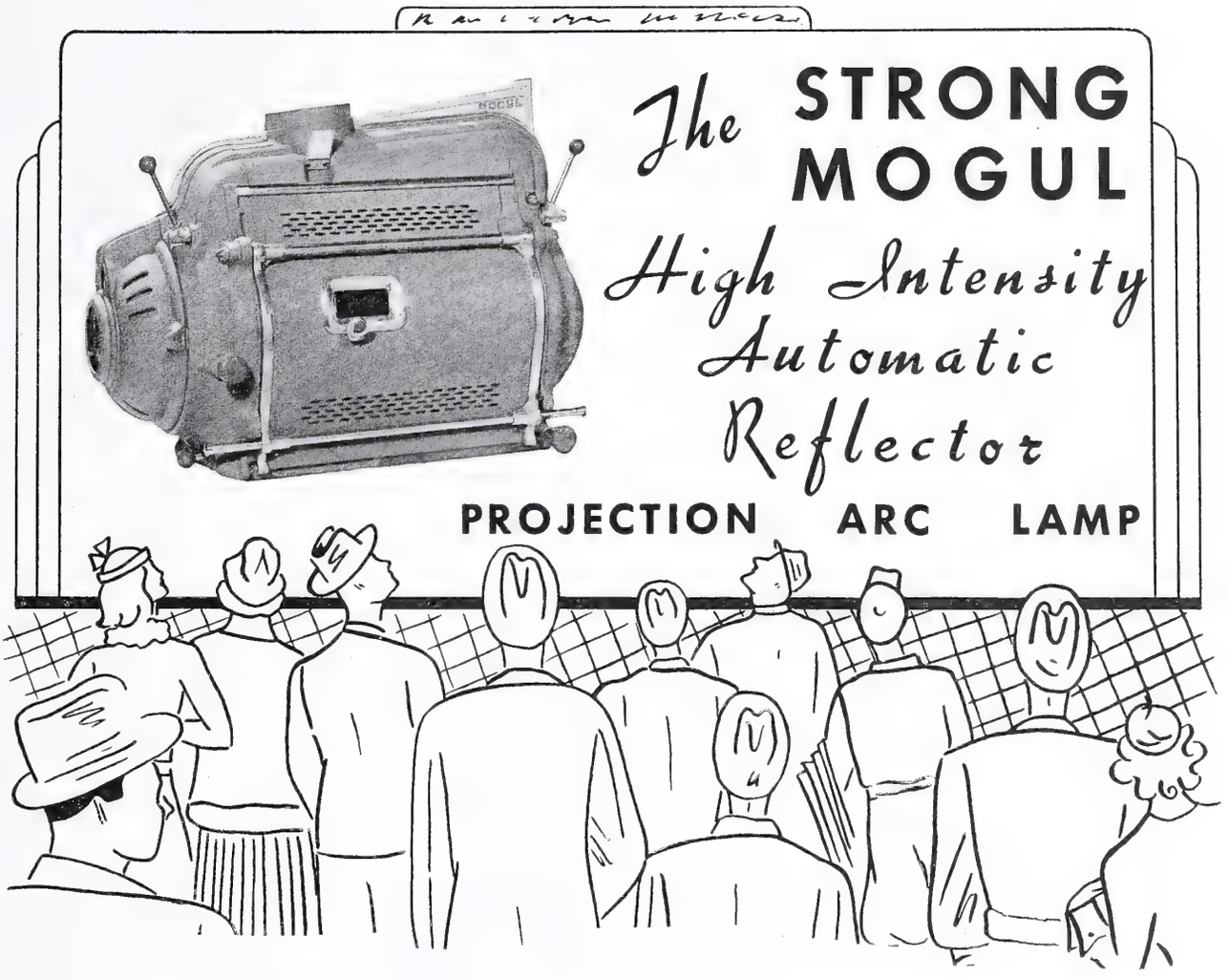
DISPLAY

The value of properly lighted posters is appreciated by every enterprising showman. In general, posters should be ten times as bright as their surroundings to stand out properly.

When mounted flat on wall surfaces they can be lighted by the same methods as pictures or wall hangings. The modern theatre architect, however, is giving greater attention to display facilities by building in permanent poster treatments. These must be designed with full knowledge of the functional requirements if the best lighting result is to be obtained.

If possible, lamps in recesses at the top of the posters should project out a distance of one-fifth the poster height. Concentrating reflectors of trough type employing the parabolic-cylindrical contour, or individual reflectors are necessary for good coverage of light when the units are mounted close to the surface to be lighted.

Transparencies may be lighted by lamps uniformly spaced behind the transparency (lamp spacing 1½ times the distance of lamp to glass) or they may be lighted by wedge-type construction. Portable posters may be lighted by carefully masked spotlights so located that people can neither face the beam nor walk through it.



A DISTINCT ADVANCE IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The Strong Mogul admits to no competition for it is in a class by itself, and provides many fundamental advantages available only in Strong lamps.

Every exhibitor should see a demonstration in his own theatre and prove to his own satisfaction all that is claimed for the Mogul. Independent Theatre Supply Dealers everywhere are glad to arrange these demonstrations.

THE STRONG ELECTRIC CORPORATION
2501 LAGRANGE STREET · TOLEDO, OHIO
Export Office: Room 2002, 220 W 42nd Street, New York City

A CLUSTER OF GENIUS *behind the* MAGIC *of* MOVING PICTURES

By **Ansel M. Moore**

WE WHO think and talk of moving pictures and sound reproduction in the strictly commercial sphere of their performance are inclined to become a bit awed in the presence of the men who have made moving pictures what they are today. The very modesty of this quite human group of scientists and explorers of photographic and phonetic phenomena, of color spectra and electrical impulse, leaves one a bit cold by contact. Perhaps it is because like Alice in Wonderland, we of the lay mind who prate of pictures and properties and publicity in terms of boxoffice business prefer to look upon the embryonic phenomena of mechanical development as dream-tales of exquisite nonsense.

But in a spirit of fairness and fulsome appreciation for what men of science have done for the boxoffices we adore, let us consider this cluster of genius behind the magic of moving pictures for its actual and much undervaluated worth to the moving picture industry.

A Meeting of Minds

Quite recently we had occasion to attend one of the semi-annual seances of these men of science, the Fall Convention of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City, October 16th to 19th. Our assignment, which was strictly a reportorial one, left us quite clammy with apprehension as to how we should act in the presence of eminent authority on subjects we undertake to write about non-technically from time to time.

We survived the ordeal remarkably well purely by a premeditated resolve not to get ourselves tangled in a maze of technicality by trying to describe demonstrations and interpret the meaning of all we heard and saw, and frankly didn't quite understand.

To us and to you theatre men, we think, the importance of these new and near approaching perfections of cinematographic science is immense; but it could hardly be enhanced further by any futile attempt of ours to fathom them for you and the effort would probably bore you to tears.

Motion picture engineers, by and large, seem to be entirely bereft of commercialism in that they prefer anonymity to acclaim. The creators of so much of the mechanical competency which is today apparent on the screens of our modern theatres are anything but sales-minded, preferring quite logically perhaps to leave the traffic in technicality almost entirely in the hands of those who fabricate and sell and service the things which engineers contrive.

It is the intent of this message to applaud the services of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. While it is difficult to completely interpret their technical findings, the result of their work shines brilliantly today on the screens and is audibly presented through the speaker systems of many well-equipped modern theatres.

A Review of Research

Therefore, with your indulgence, we shall pass over the technical features of the latest S.M.P.E. program, not however without again paying our respects to the men whose research made possible the presentation of more than fifty technical papers and numerous demonstrations covering almost every phase of the broad field of motion picture technology. In this recent conclave of engineering genius, we can safely envision still greater progress for motion pictures in the future.



National Carbon Company's E. Allan Williford, *president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, who shares credit with his committees in charge for a most successful* 1939 *Fall Convention.*



Eastman Kodak Company's Dr. Loyd A. Jones, *chief physicist of the Kodak Research Laboratories, who was awarded the Annual Progress Medal of the S. M. P. E.*



Technicolor Motion Picture Corporation's Dr. H. T. Kalmus, *who received the Journal Award of the S. M. P. E. at the recent semi-annual convention of the Society held in New York City.*

To complete the narration, please allow us to report a number of the highlights of the latest convention, mentioning briefly a few of the leading actors and guest artists on the program. We shall skip reference to the general and business sessions of the program, including election of new officers for 1940, and start with the informal get-together luncheon on Monday, October 16th, at which New York's Mayor LaGuardia, Congressman Bruce Barton and W. G. Van Schmus, director of Radio City Music Hall, were guests of honor. Introduced by the Society's president, E. A. Williford, these gentlemen spoke briefly in tribute to progress in the field of the cinema. General sessions followed.

The evening of the first day's session was given over to visiting the World's Fair, at which demonstrations of third dimensional pictures, automatic slide projectors, television and two-channel recording and reproducing with steel tape in which the visiting delegates and guests participated. A demonstration of the "Voder," a remarkable robot that creates human speech, and a general sight-seeing trip through the fair grounds were also included.

Voice Coder Demonstrated

The second day (Tuesday) proceeded with the laboratory session and in the evening a joint meeting with the New York Electrical Society, featuring a demonstration of the "Vocoder," a big brother of the "Voder," were scheduled. Christened the "Vocoder" (short for "voice coder"), the new device actually "codes" the words, expressions and tones uttered by a speaker or singer, in such a way that all sorts of "tricks" may be performed on human speech, and on vocal as well as instrumental music. It will also create intelligible speech out of non-speech sounds.

While differing fundamentally from the "Voder," which is controlled by keys and pedals "played" by an operator, the "Vocoder" stems from the same research into the possibilities of creating human speech synthetically. The newest development is entirely voice-controlled.

On Wednesday morning the projection session was held and in the afternoon further general sessions, climaxed in the evening by the semi-annual banquet at which introduction of the Society's officers-elect for 1940 was made and awards of merit were given, followed by entertainment and dancing.

The Annual Progress Medal of the Society was awarded to Dr. Loyd A. Jones, of the Eastman Kodak Laboratories, in recognition of his contributions to motion picture technology. At the same time, the Society's Journal Award for the outstand-

(Continued on page 47)



You wouldn't call this the modern way to roast that turkey

But isn't it just as old-fashioned to use an outmoded sound system on modern movies?

Here's an important fact to remember—Hollywood is now producing finer sound than ever before—because movie fans demand good sound. To properly reproduce it—and build up your business—install...

New RCA Photophone Magic Voice of the Screen

with Rotary Stabilizer plus Shock-Proof Drive

—available at low cost to theatres of every size!

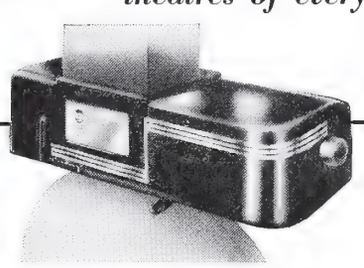
LET'S LOOK AT FACTS. You can show the finest pictures in the world—but you'll have empty seats in your theatre if the sound is poor. Because nowadays movie fans know good sound from bad—and patronize the theatre where listening is as much fun as looking.

Hollywood knows this and that's why Hollywood puts such excellent sound on its films. But how about you—are you letting an outmoded sound system hurt your takes?

It will pay you to find out about the *new* RCA Photophone Magic Voice of the Screen. For here's the equipment built for true reproduction of modern movie sound. It's the tonic your box office needs. And its low cost will surprise you, just as its many new features will delight you. Full details from your RCA Photophone representative.

• • •

Better sound means better box office—and RCA Tubes mean better sound.



Only the New Magic Voice of the Screen offers all these Features!

This splendid new equipment gives you full assurance of constant film speed by adding the amazing new Shock-Proof Drive to the famous Rotary Stabilizer! Besides this great feature, the new Magic Voice brings you new styling, new protection, new convenience, new added reserve power and many other outstanding *proofs* that it's the best value you've ever seen! Ask your RCA Photophone representative for complete information.

RCA Photophone's service organization has a low cost theatre service plan in which you'll be interested.

RCA Photophone

MAGIC VOICE OF THE SCREEN

RCA Manufacturing Co., Inc., Camden, N. J.—A Service of the Radio Corp. of America

COMELY CINEMA FOR COLLEGE BOYS AND GIRLS



RECENTLY added to the rapidly expanding campus of Oklahoma A. & M. College, at Stillwater, Oklahoma, this classy modern theatre is typical of the enthusiasm and progressiveness of youth in the colleges of the Southwest.

The Campus, designed by Corgan & Moore, Dallas theatre architects, has all the flash and style of many theatres twice its size, and the design is so flexible that the theatre may be increased in capacity as the college campus grows. Then, too, the cost of construction was kept in the low bracket so that admission prices could be kept at a minimum, thus enabling a greater percentage of the student body to enjoy the theatre built especially for them.

The new theatre is adjacent to the college and just across the street from the student "hangout." The very unusual boxoffice of glass blocks is at the corner of two streets in a most accessible spot. The boxoffice design continues over the marquee in the form of a 35-foot cream stucco tower with a face of glass blocks lighted at night with two large spotlights from behind, and just at the top of the tower is a bright red band of porcelain enamel. Other portions of the building in front are of white stucco with a red tile base that continues to the entrance doors directly behind the boxoffice.

The marquee was designed in a V-shape from the corner to be read easily from several blocks down either of the principal streets, and from the tip end of the marquee the sign goes up and continues over the top of the tower. The porcelain sign consists of two-face individual letters with a single stroke of Neon in each letter, thus making it easy to read from any direction.

Pastel shades of acoustical board were used to form the auditorium decorative scheme. Roomy, tiled rest rooms which are well ventilated are the acme of comfort and cleanliness. The latest type of equipment was installed throughout, with special emphasis placed on lighting and year-round air conditioning.

Claude Leachman, partner with Griffith Amusement Company in the enterprise, is making a definite bid for increased college patronage with his new and unusual Campus Theatre.

Clancy Co. Acquires Contour Curtain Rights

J. R. Clancy, Inc., of Syracuse, New York, announce the recent acquisition of full and exclusive rights to the original Wiedhaas patents Nos. 1,900,677 and 1,-756,043 covering the production of contour curtains.

Heretofore, contour curtains have been adaptable only to large theatres and auditoriums. A recent development by Clancy is said to provide an inexpensive type of the contour curtain adapted to and within the price reach of motion picture houses and small stages.

In keeping with the unusual architectural effects now being used to modernize the moving picture theatre, the contour curtain has introduced beautiful and striking proscenium effects that have added greatly to the interest of the modern stage.

Carrier Reopens Office In Nation's Capital

The reopening of a branch office at Washington, D. C., is announced by E. T. Murphy, vice-president in charge of marketing for Carrier Corp. Herbert Peacock previously manager of the Washington office for six years, will resume his former responsibilities there.

During Mr. Peacock's 17 years' experience with Carrier, he has handled the company's engineering and installation activities in Buenos Aires, Detroit and Cleveland. For the past year he has been in charge of work on the Pacific Coast.

Besides government interests related to air conditioning, refrigeration and heating, the new branch office will also serve industry in Virginia and Southern Maryland. United Clay Products Co. will continue to serve as the Washington distributor.

VELMO

★ ★ ★ ★

. . . for fine theatre seat upholstery Chase Velmo's a four star smash hit! Greater comfort, easier maintenance, fewer upholstery replacements, more for your upholstery dollar . . . ask about Velmo the next time you buy seats.



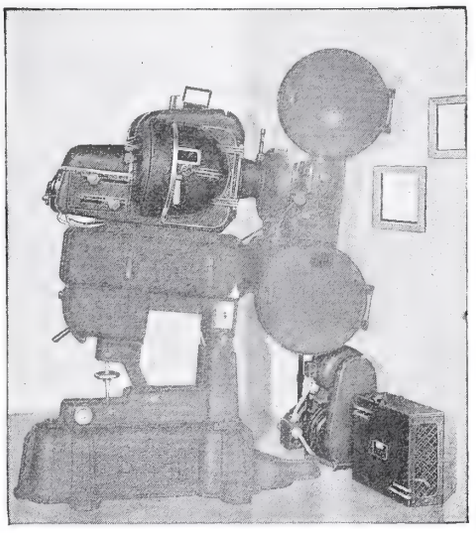
The Velmo-upholstered Avon, at Stamford, Conn., is one of the most outstanding first-run houses in the east.

CHASE L. C. CHASE AND COMPANY, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City

A REMARKABLE ENGINEERING TRIUMPH DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED BY ASHCRAFT

Cyclex

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

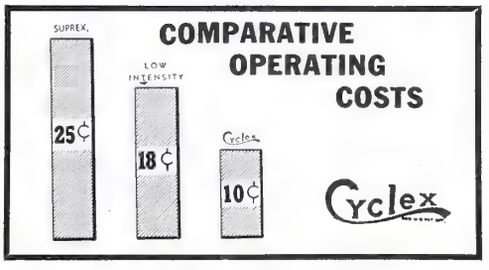


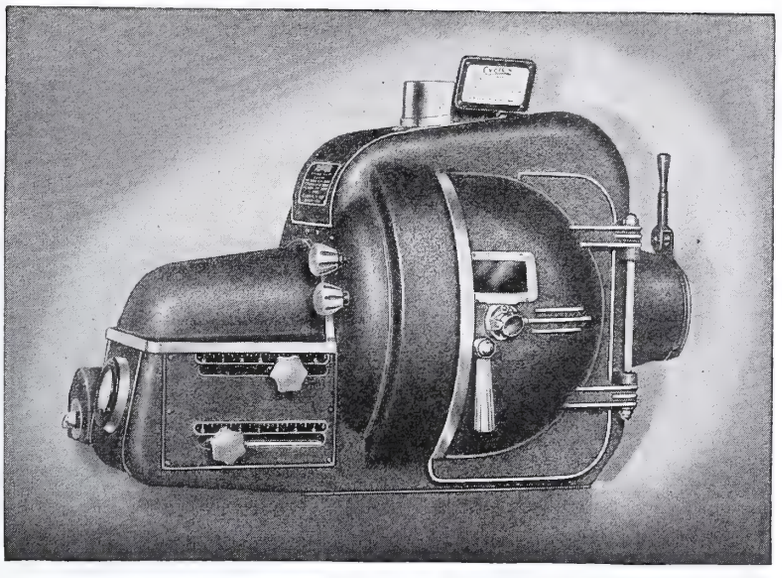
A COMPLETE NEW PROJECTION SYSTEM

LIGHT AND POWER SOURCE

Producing High Intensity Light at Less Cost than Low Intensity

• NO GENERATORS • NO RECTIFIERS •
• NO BALLAST RESISTORS •

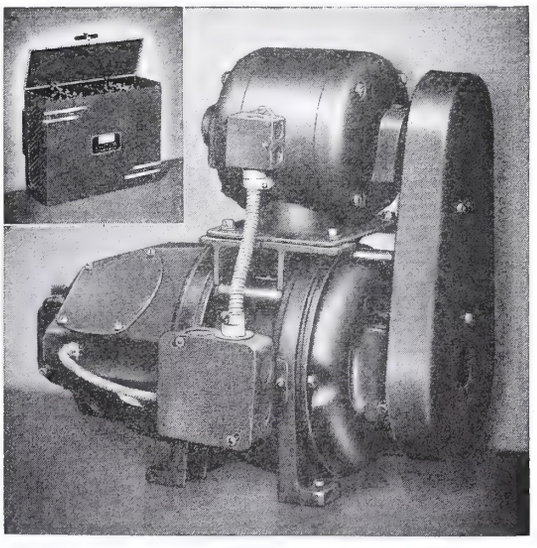




The New Cyclex **PROJECTOR LAMP**

—A Marvel of Efficiency and Simplicity

A new arc-lighting principle producing a whiter High Intensity light with a power input of only 900 arc watts. The Cyclex precision arc-control guarantees uniformity of screen illumination.



The New Cyclex **POWER UNIT**

More power, per dollar's worth of energy purchased, is converted into useful light by the Cyclex power unit than is possible with generators or rectifiers.

Designed for theatres where Low Intensity is entirely inadequate and Suprex is not necessary

ONE PAIR OF CARBONS per lamp will operate A FULL 9 HOUR SHOW

General Electric motors, used on this equipment, carry the usual G.E. guarantee.

Cyclex Is Priced Within the Reach of Every Theatre . . . Descriptive Literature on Request.

Manufactured Exclusively by

C. S. ASHCRAFT MFG. CO. *47-31 35th Street, Long Island City, N. Y.*

Relation of THE MODERN THEATRE *to* LOW-COST HOUSING PROJECTS

By **Edward Paul Lewin***



THE first motion picture theatres in this country, known as nickelodeons, were makeshift, small exhibition halls and they date back to the first years of the twentieth century. Around this time the "moving picture," as it was called in those days, invented by Thomas A. Edison in 1889, had developed beyond the experimental stage and was ready to be presented to the public in what we now, of course, consider very crude form.

At the beginning, store buildings formed the most adaptable structure to be remodeled for the purpose of housing the so-called "nickel shows;" thereby giving birth to the exhibition of a product which was to become our most popular form of amusement and recreation.

The recent death of Carl Laemmle sr. recalls to mind his start in the movie world. In 1906, this successful pioneer motion picture producer transformed a vacant store building on North Ashland Avenue in Chicago into one of the first five-cent theatres in the city. One hundred and twenty collapsible chairs, borrowed from an undertaker, were used as theatre seats.

At the start, little or no attention was paid to the comfort or convenience of the patron. Ventilation was not even thought of; toilet facilities were extremely bad or not even provided, and seats were most uncomfortable. The main object was merely to present a new product to a public that was curious about this unusual form of entertainment which gave life to photography by showing objects in motion in picture form.

A New Diversion

Previous to the appearance of moving pictures which brings us back to the horse and buggy age, people found their diversion in legitimate stage shows, opera, musical comedy, burlesque and vaudeville. Of these forms of recreation, people who came within the lower income brackets were able to avail themselves of only an occasional show, since the admission charges to legitimate shows, opera and so forth were rather high and naturally quite prohibitive to the masses. Therefore, the moving picture theatre came as a place of inexpensive entertainment that would immediately appeal to this group.

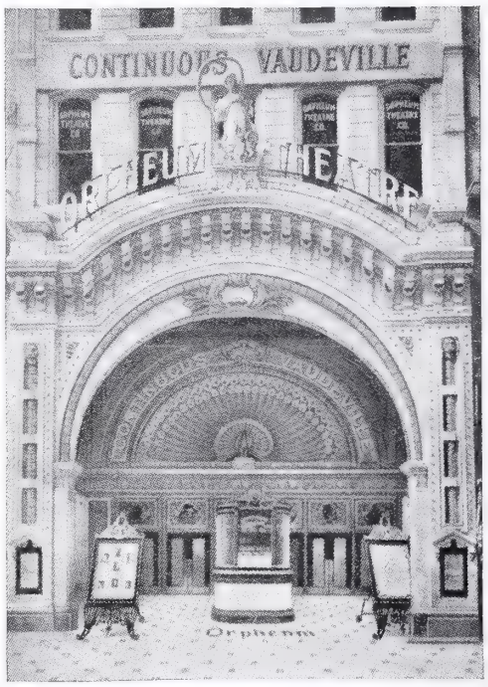
Since it was definitely a novelty at the beginning, people looked forward to this type of enjoyment and many of them attended the "nickel shows" every evening. The exhibitors were able to supply new pictures daily since production did not begin to approach the length of time required and the tremendous cost of present day motion pictures. For this reason, many of these small theatres became highly profitable enterprises, despite their character and condition.

With this "new recreation baby" to play with in its crude, original form, exhibitors were confronted with developing small theatres on a budget basis commensurate with the nickel price of admission which prevailed at that time.

And at about this time an attempt was made to add additional interest to moving pictures by employing actors and actresses who stationed themselves on the platform behind the screen out of view of the audience and attempted to speak the lines for characters shown in motion on the screen. This added feature did not prove successful and it was only tried in a few cases and discontinued. However, the ex-

**Architect; Member of the Advisory Board of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute.*





CONTRAST between the old and new in theatre building custom. Above—Chicago's old Orpheum Theatre, opened by Aaron Jones in October, 1907, as a vaudeville and picture house. Converted a year later to pictures only, it ran for 30 years until recently dismantled. At left—the Times Theatre, at Rockford, Ill., designed by the author for Rockford Enterprises, Inc., represents the current trend to community center theatres. (Orpheum Theatre photo courtesy Jones, Linick & Schaefer).

As announced in last issue, this article initiates a series of interesting discussions by Mr. Lewin on the relationship of modern theatre construction to the progress of a general crusade for improvement in housing conditions throughout the more thickly populated communities of the country.

The improvement of the construction of moving picture theatres in general since their beginning does not definitely coincide with the gradual progress in developing the present low-cost housing project. However, there is an interesting parallel between the gradual development of housing for the lower income groups and the progress of the second-run modern theatre which tenants of low-cost housing projects will patronize.

In the December 9th issue, Mr. Lewin will present a brief history of low-cost housing in the United States, comparing it with the development of the modern theatre.—Editor's Note.

periment showed that exhibitors apparently sensed the commercial value of the talking picture which ultimately was to develop into a very definite improvement in motion picture presentation that later revolutionized the industry with the introduction of sound in the late twenties.

The Added Attractions

Of course, almost immediately exhibitors sensed the possibility of adding music and entertainment in the form of piano player and a singer of illustrated song slides or possibly one or two vaudeville acts. This offered the possibility of arousing greater public interest, ultimately resulting in somewhat larger and better theatres with a ten cents admission charge. The new development was immediately labeled "dime show." It was quite an improvement over the original unsatisfactory remodeled theatre in that larger capacity houses were made necessary and in many instances new buildings were built to fulfill this added requirement.

This combination of vaudeville and pictures resulting in new theatres improved gradually and led us to about the time of the entrance of the United States into the World War. During this period of progress in motion picture theatre building, the required capacity of the houses gradually increased and we found a few 1,000-seat theatres scattered throughout the larger cities.

Larger orchestras were employed and there seemed to be a definite tendency to enlarge the magnitude of this new form of recreation. In other words, we were developing gradually beyond the so-called slums of the entertainment world and heading toward something much more interesting to our motion picture theatre patrons.

Immediately after the World War there was a definite tendency to enlarge the motion picture industry, which naturally was reflected in the construction of much larger and more pretentious theatres. Apparently the impetus given to business immediately after the conclusion of the war due to rapidly rising wages, rents and cost of living, and since there had to be some outlet for this improvement in general business, a tremendous upturn in the theatre business immediately resulted.

The Boom Period

Many large theatres were built, particularly in the larger cities. The trend was to present a performance that would justify an expenditure of between twenty-five and fifty cents and which included motion pictures, music by augmented orchestras of perhaps fifteen or twenty musicians, stage shows, individual performances and so on. Many huge and expensive pipe organs were installed. This accomplished what the motion picture patron was willing to pay for since business continued to improve. In the building of these new theatres, refinement and dignity of performance as well as much more courteous service to the patron were beginning to assert themselves.

The public's reaction which was most favorable, incited the beginning of a new era in theatre building. As new structures were being developed, new innovations were introduced, interiors were elaborated, lighting fixtures and furnishings were made much more pretentious and expensive materials were incorporated in the designs. All of this was in keeping with the progress of business during the decade following the cessation of the war. The technique of motion picture production also began to improve and the crude flicker so common to the early product immediately disappeared. Many new ideas and suggestions were incorporated in motion pictures in which stories reflecting the experiences of the war became of very much interest to motion picture patrons.

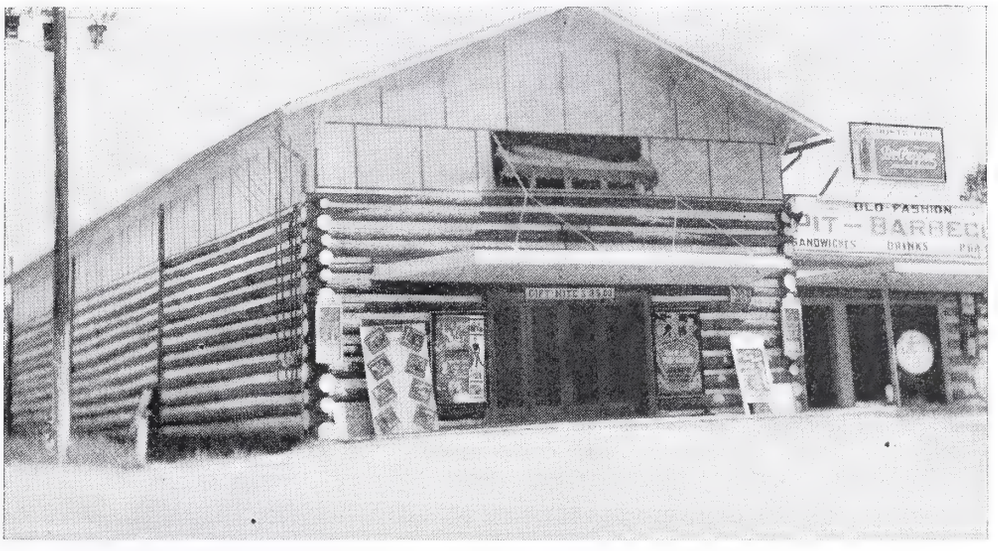
The new theatres, of course, were built with the expectation of presenting stage performances and vertical moving platforms for large theatre orchestras were installed as well as large stages which dwarfed those used for legitimate plays and which ultimately took care of such productions in the form of a combination of musical comedy, vaudeville and other stage features.

Business in the motion picture industry was certainly looking up between 1920 and 1930 and the new large theatres began to do a tremendous business. It was not uncommon in those days to see lines of people awaiting entrance to theatres presenting motion pictures and stage shows. By this time, admission prices had risen to 75 cents and in some cases a dollar, which was hitting a new high for motion picture theatre admission prices.

Of course, these pretentious theatres did not cater to the people in the lower income brackets. They still had to be content with attending smaller theatres which did not present stage shows and which in many cases were not even renovated to

(Continued on following page)

A BIT RUSTIC OUTSIDE BUT MODISH WITHIN



Exhibitor G. H. Goff, of Parsons, Tenn., rewards our research for the unusual with the above picture of his Rustic Theatre taken during the final stages of its completion.

First glance at the picture suggests (as it did to us) a backwoodsman's idea of the way to build a theatre—a sort of flashback to days when spellin' bees and barn dances were greater added attractions than are bunknights and double-features today.

But the Rustic is that way only in name and outdoor atmospheric effects. Inside, according to owner Goff, it is as modern as they make 'em. Fine carpets of distinctly theatrical pattern cover the floors and other furnishings are in keeping with latest fashions.

Probably the most unique feature of the Rustic, as explained to us by Mr. Goff, is that it is the only log cabin theatre in his section of the country. Its sound condition is perfect because says he, "the bark is on the inside," making it practically sound perfect for the performance of his modern sound system.

The Rustic seats 480 patrons and most comfortably, too. And believe it or not, it is mechanically a right modern cinema, despite the camouflage.

the extent of affording any better conveniences such as cushioned seats, improved toilet facilities and better ventilation.

Then Came Talkies

In the later twenties, an innovation that was destined to revolutionize motion pictures was perfected to the point where it could be presented to the public. Equipment for sound motion pictures was installed and talking pictures were immediately introduced in most of the larger theatres.

At the beginning, sound pictures were confined to short subjects similar to a vaudeville act and had for their characters vocalists, instrumentalists, comedians and so forth represented by stage, screen and opera stars. These pictures originally were shown in large theatres and formed an entire evening of entertainment by themselves.

The new product was of extreme interest to the public and immediately caught on and eventually led to musical synchronization of the regular motion picture. Instead of introducing sound throughout the picture, at first only small portions of it were used to bring out this new feature. Talking pictures were gradually improved and eventually led to feature length sound pictures with music, sound effects and dialogue.

The public's tremendous enthusiasm over the first all-talking picture, "The Jazz Singer," starring Al Jolson and which was presented in 1927, almost immediately doomed the silent film. The motion picture public then began to receive supreme entertainment, since stage shows and talking pictures gave the patron a diversified entertainment that they had never known before. This naturally improved the motion picture theatre business as boxoffice receipts skyrocketed to unprecedented heights.

The introduction of sound naturally necessitated some remodeling in all theatres that were to use it and at the beginning reconstruction was confined to the larger theatres. The mechanism of the projection booth naturally was affected as well as the area back of the screen which had to be enlarged to accommodate the sound amplifying and loud speaker equipment. Smaller theatres at first could not install sound equipment since expensive remodeling in most cases made it prohibitive. This meant that the poorer people again could not avail themselves of the pleasure of witnessing this interesting novelty and had to be content with silent pictures which were still being shown in the smaller theatres.

And Then the Crash

The rapid rise in the motion picture industry was destined to a definite drop in the immediate future, which came simultaneously with the crash of the stock market and the decline in business immediately thereafter. This brought us to the years of the motion picture depression, 1930 to 1936 inclusive. During this period, many of the larger theatres dispensed with their expensive maintenance, including orchestras, vaudeville and so forth and returned to medium prices by the showing of motion pictures only. Even this was more than the public could afford in some cases and many large theatres that had played to the aforementioned capacity houses were closed around 1932 and 1933 and kept in darkness for the few years that followed. Smaller theatres, in most instances, were able to carry on.

Coming with the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago in 1933 and 1934, there was a definite trend toward better business in the motion picture industry. During the year 1933, on July 27th to be exact, the editor of The Modern Theatre section of Boxoffice sensed the possibilities of stimulating theatre business in a physical way; that is, by the advocation of rehabilitation of out-of-date motion picture theatres. The period of pretentious building, as well as the years of depression, had left our smaller theatres in a dilapidated condition and it was only through rehabilitation that they were able to function again and present pictures for moderate prices in an environment that the public might wish to enjoy. Due to the cost of maintenance, larger and newer theatres which did not require rejuvenation were unable to operate at the lower prices.

A Practical Experiment

Stressing the point that house appeal was extremely important if the motion picture theatre was to survive, the editor was shown to be correct in his convictions by the immediately increased boxoffice receipts of all rehabilitated theatres. This successful venture into the modernization of out-of-date theatres was a bold experiment based on the contention that the disreputable condition of many theatre properties due to the depression was



MAKE YOUR SEATING PAY FOR ITSELF

Theatremen who have installed Ideal Chairs will tell you that the comfort they provide attracts enough EXTRA patrons to more than pay for them.

So, with an eye to the box office, you'll appreciate Ideal Seating just as you do a top grossing picture.

There's an Ideal chair for every taste and every budget. Write for catalog describing the superior features of the full line of unsurpassed values. Dealers Everywhere.



IDEAL SEATING COMPANY · GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

EXPORT OFFICE: 334 W. 44th St., New York City . . . . . Attention J. E. ROBIN

affecting boxoffice receipts tremendously.

About this time, the general public's interest in modern ideas incorporated in the Century of Progress Exposition during 1933 and 1934 inspired the idea of presenting some of these modern ideas in theatre remodeling. The contemporary architecture used during the exposition was most adaptable to theatre design because of its simplicity and the desired result was successfully obtained by the use of plain surfaces in effective color schemes accentuated by modern lighting effects.

This was quite inexpensive compared to the pretentious design and use of expensive materials incorporated in the elaborate theatres of the twenties and therefore it was possible to rehabilitate theatres at a cost that was not prohibitive. The tendency was to attain a peaceful effect by the use of simpler lines and effective colors in decorating as well as furnishings. Until the present time, this method has proved to be outstandingly successful. Further improvement and modernization were obtained by the installation of comfortable seating, and cooling and ventilating systems which provided a maximum of comfort for motion picture theatre patrons during the summer months; thus improving summer business which had always been extremely poor previously.

These ideas have been so progressive and have met with such favorable reaction from the public that almost all new theatres constructed within the past few years have incorporated this same type of architecture in their design. And the remodeling of smaller theatres, together with the erection of new second-run houses charging nominal admission prices, has benefited the people of lower incomes.

We have now reached the point where new ventilating and air conditioning systems, modern plumbing, comfortable theatre seats, proper toilet facilities, lounges and such provisions are appointments that all theatre patrons have become accustomed to and will insist upon if they are to continue attending theatres. It is for this reason that we should be convinced that low-cost housing projects, tenants of which represent the people in the lower income brackets, will not patronize anything but a modern, up-to-date theatre, to which in consideration of their new modern housing units they are rightfully entitled.

Treatment of Floors A Management Maxim

Floors clean and dry should be a watchword with theatre management. There are certain definite standards stipulated by local and state authorities as to floor space where toilet facilities, lavatories and urinals are found. Such standards are required reading. When installations are contemplated, floors must be water-tight with provision for drains. Many floor materials are easy to clean and impervious to moisture. The color of the floor is important in maintaining a sanitary appearance. Frequently "white-spotting" corners and painting baseboards a light color will aid in keeping rooms spic and span. Painting a parabola strip will tend to reduce accident hazards.

"Alexander Smith Crestwood Carpet has real box office value"



by David Supowitz

David Supowitz of Philadelphia, architect of many noteworthy houses in which Alexander Smith Crestwood Carpet is used.

"Over many years in numerous theatres I have designed, Alexander Smith Crestwood Carpet has enhanced the appearance of the interiors of the theatres and has successfully withstood the daily wear of thousands of people. Colors and designs have been worked out by the Alexander Smith representatives to meet my requirements and those of my clients. In my opinion, Alexander Smith Crestwood Carpet has *real* box office value."

David Supowitz

OTHER outstanding architects in the field of theatre design echo Mr. Supowitz's statement. Because these architects feel as enthusiastically as they do about Alexander Smith Crestwood Carpet and about the service rendered by Alexander Smith representatives, you will find Crestwood Carpet in daily use in most of the country's successful theatres. If you are planning a new theatre or remodeling an old one, let us have our representative call with samples. Then you can see for yourself both the quality of the carpet and to what lengths we go in interpreting your ideas. Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Co., 295 Fifth Ave., N.Y.

ALEXANDER SMITH
GUARANTEED BY GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

ALEXANDER SMITH CARPET

SIZE AND TYPE

The proper size and type of air conditioning system for any particular theatre can be determined only by a complete analysis of its needs. Here is a suggested and approved procedure to be followed:

1. A survey of the theatre should be made to show: (a) The heat load factors (area of windows and doors, number of people occupying space, character of construction, insulation, and so forth); (b) Present equipment, if any, which can be engineered into the new system; (c) The space available for installation.

2. An engineered plan based on the survey should be prepared to provide: (a) Adequate cooling effectiveness to meet the load; (b) Provision for unusual conditions; (c) Inclusion of present equipment into the new system; (d) Careful and accurate estimates of the operating and installation costs.

3. The installation should be supervised to insure: (a) A system that meets each specific requirement; (b) Neat, compact placing of equipment in minimum floor space; (c) All work done promptly and neatly without interruption to business.

LITERATURE

The following concerns have recently filed copies of interesting descriptive literature with *The Modern Theatre Information Bureau*. Readers who may wish copies of such literature may obtain them promptly by addressing The Modern Theatre, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

American Seating Company, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, submits a folder on American Bodiform Chairs and American Avion Chairs, the two newest lines of theatre seating offered by the company. With colorful illustrations and description of advantages, the use values of the new chairs are presented most interestingly.

C. S. Ashcraft Manufacturing Co., of Long Island City, N. Y., offers descriptive literature on "Cyclex," a complete new projection system for small and medium sized theatres where low intensity is inadequate and "Suprex" is not necessary. The new system is outlined and pictured and prices are given.

The Ballantyne Company, of Omaha, Nebraska, files a brochure outlining the technical features and practical advantage points of the new Duo-Soundmaster "80" and "90" amplifiers, most recent developments of the Ballantyne Engineering Department. Full details on final tests are given.

Carrier Corporation, of Syracuse, N. Y., presents a profusely illustrated brochure entitled "From the World of Tomorrow for the World of Today." The booklet covers temperature control installations made by the company at the New York World's Fair and elsewhere and gives valuable information on the scientific angles of air conditioning.

Dayton Safety Ladder Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, offers a catalogue on Safety Ladders which features the company's latest product development, Queen Safety Shoes. Complete details and prices are given in the descriptive literature.

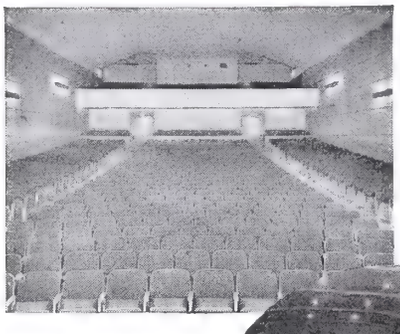
Weber Machine Corp., of Rochester, N. Y., submits a folder on the new Syncro-Magnetic Sound Head, which describes the mechanism and pictures it most completely. Features of the new development are outlined and a new magnetic filter device is explained.

Western Electric Co., of New York, N. Y., presents an announcement of the new Western Electric 31-A Horn for use in sound distribution systems. Specifications are given and details relating to its combination with other sound accessories are also presented.

NOTICE: *Manufacturers of all products adapted to theatre modernization or maintenance are invited to file latest copies of their catalogues or descriptive literature with The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.*—THE EDITOR.



WITH GENUINE U.S. NAUGAHYDE



U. S. Naugahyde is the low-cost truck seat covering that wears for years without cracking or peeling.

You can have the same tough quality for theatre seats—in appropriate color and grain combinations, of course.

That's the only difference—Theatre Seat Naugahyde *looks* delicately beautiful, *feels* exquisitely fine. But it *wears* the same as Truck Seat Naugahyde. It has the same rugged composition—*strong* leather fibres and supple rubber. The same *permanent flexibility*—nothing to dry out and cause brittleness, cracking or peeling. The same *tempered* surface that defies friction and abuse—instead of a perishable "finishing coat", extra resistance is treated right into the material.

That's why you can cover *entire seats* with Naugahyde—and depend on it to stand up at sides and front where flexing is most severe. To hold at seams where strain and wear usually do their worst. *To save you upkeep expense year after year!*

NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR LOCAL SEAT SUPPLIER—*or write us direct for swatches.*



Recent installations of Genuine U. S. Naugahyde in Minneapolis theatres by Air-loc Seat Industries, Inc., of that city. Above—St. Louis Park Theatre; right, Varsity Theatre.

UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY COATED FABRICS DIVISION MISHAWAKA • INDIANA

A Cluster of Genius Behind the Magic of Moving Pictures

(Continued from page 38)

ing paper published in its Journal during the year was presented to Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, president of the Technicolor Motion Picture Corporation. Mr. E. P. Curtis, an official of Eastman Kodak Company, made the award presentation to Dr. Kalmus.

Last year Dr. Kalmus was honored with the S.M.P.E. Progress Medal for his technicolor motion picture achievements. He received this year's Journal Award for his paper entitled "Technicolor Adventures in Cinemaland." Dr. Jones, this year's recipient of the Progress Medal, was likewise awarded the Journal Award in 1935.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith, prominent consultant motion picture and radio engineer, made the presentation of the Progress Medal on behalf of the Society and read the following citation, which accompanied the award.

"To Dr. Loyd A. Jones, in recognition of the outstanding character of his scientific researches in the field of photography, with particular reference to his investigations of sensitometric procedures; his studies of photographic processes; his contributions to precision in photographic terminology; and his determinations of the criteria of pictorial excellence achieved by photographic processes."

Dr. Jones, a native of York, Nebraska, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Nebraska University and later his Master's Degree from the same institution, and an honorary Doctorate from Rochester University. He joined the Eastman Kodak Company in 1912 as assistant physicist and has been chief physicist of the Kodak Research Laboratories since 1916.

Closing sessions of the four-day conclave were held on Thursday, October 19th, including presentations of technical papers on 16mm film production and reproduction and a particularly interesting afternoon session on the subject of sound. The next semi-annual convention of the Society is to be held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, in the spring.

Limits of space and the proximity of press-time prohibit our citing, as we would like, all individuals and star performers in this latest serialized drama of development behind the scenes of motion pictures. Suffice it to say that the S.M.P.E is filling a most important function of modern showmanship and every one of the 300 delegates, the officers of the Society and the committees in charge of affairs deserve our plaudits.

EMANCIPATOR

Assuming the role of a "modern emancipator" to his public, Fred Mindlin, resident manager of the Essex Theatre on Sheridan Road in Chicago, recently addressed his constituents on the letterhead of the owners, Pine Theatre Corporation. His proclamation reads as follows:

"Dear Sir or Madam:

"Four score and seven days ago this company brought forth the idea of a new theatre, conceived by the best artists and craftsmen, and dedicated to the proposition that most men and women are sick and tired of sitting through two lengthy feature pictures, and that they would much prefer a balanced Variety Program of a carefully selected Feature Picture plus the Essex Hour of Charm—the latest Newsreels, Travelogues, Sports Reels, Comedies, Cartoons and other short subjects.

"And now the Essex Theatre (all newly decorated, air conditioned, and with every comfort imaginable) so conceived and so dedicated is ready for its Gala Opening on Saturday, October 14th, and with your kind patronage and approval shall not perish from this earth—we hope.

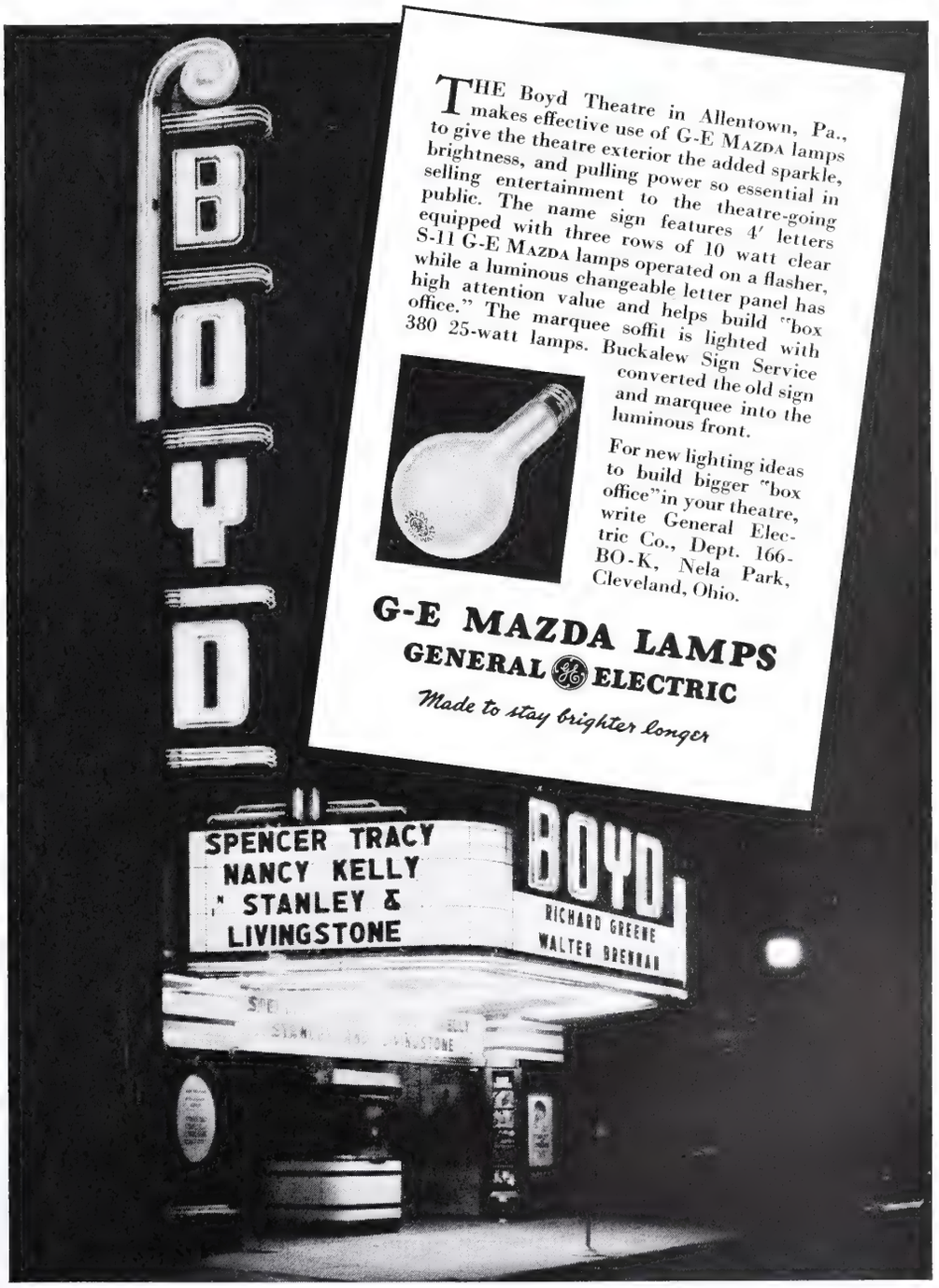
Sincerely,

"Fred Mindlin, Resident Manager."

Rather a clever bit of showmandising brought right to the point, we think.

Added Sparkle...Greater Pulling Power

with G-E MAZDA LAMPS



THE Boyd Theatre in Allentown, Pa., makes effective use of G-E MAZDA lamps to give the theatre exterior the added sparkle, brightness, and pulling power so essential in selling entertainment to the theatre-going public. The name sign features 4′ letters equipped with three rows of 10 watt clear S-11 G-E MAZDA lamps operated on a flasher, while a luminous changeable letter panel has high attention value and helps build "box office." The marquee soffit is lighted with 380 25-watt lamps. Buckalew Sign Service converted the old sign and marquee into the luminous front.

For new lighting ideas to build bigger "box office" in your theatre, write General Electric Co., Dept. 166-BO-K, Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio.

G-E MAZDA LAMPS

GENERAL ELECTRIC

Made to stay brighter longer

LIGHTING

THEATRE ILLUMINATION FOR ADVERTISING DISPLAY, ATMOSPHERE AND BETTER VISION

Merchandising Your Entertainment With Colored Light

By **W. D. Riddle***



THEATRE operators have long been lavish users of light. And the answer is simple — it helps them merchandise the thing they have to sell—entertainment. The alert theatre operator is constantly striving to find ways and means to increase his admission sales. With abundant color easily obtained today with fluorescent lamps, these sources can be effectively used to improve some of the direct advertising aids to assure maximum effect from each. These sketches suggest ways to effect a pleasing metamorphosis.

The "Name" sign, Fig. 1, when it incorporates bright color and motion has real pulling power. The sign sketched is of the wedge type. Such a sign lends itself to structural requirements, is highly efficient in utilization of the light and is comparatively easy to maintain.

The faces of the sign may be of ceramic glass with the letter strokes of a translucent blue-red, outlined in opaque black against a white diffusing background. Inside the sign are green fluorescent lamps and filament lamps. The green lamps remain lighted all the time and impart a richness to the background that rivals nature in her verdant splendor. When on alone the red letter appears black.

Then as if by Aladdin magic the filament lamps flash on, the panel becomes white and the letter becomes a beautiful ruby red. A more gradual change may be had by placing the filament lamps on dimmer-control.

Other color combinations are possible, for example, yellow letters on the glass lighted with blue fluorescent lamps with the tungsten filament lamps flashing may be just as effective.

The interior surfaces of the glass are easily cleaned from the ladder. The ladder also facilitates the changing or replacement of lamps. Entrance is made from a trap-door provided in the top or back.

The changeable letter-attraction signs on the marquee, Fig. 2, have powerful appeal when silhouetted against large bright areas of daylight, white, or color. Easy change from one color to another provides flexibility, so desirable and yet costly to obtain before the advent of the fluorescent lamp. Thanks to the new source, it is now easy to change color for special features or use appropriate colors for seasonal attractions.

Fluorescent lamps mounted vertically make the lamping of the curved corner easy. Access to the lamps is gained through hand holes in the top or bottom, or from panels in the back. Where hand holes are not used, only small sections of glass front are moved or need to be taken out to provide access to the lamps.

The soffit of the marquee, Fig. 3, can be utilized to create the bright, lively atmosphere associated with the theatre. An attractive soffit pattern helps to create a pleasing effect which goes far in creating a favorable impression and winning patronage. The illustration shows a pattern of square polished corrugated metal blocks lighted by colored fluorescent lamps to create a pleasing effect. Multiple reflections of the lamps are produced by means of the corrugated background. The visual

Nela Park Engineering Dept. of General Electric Company.

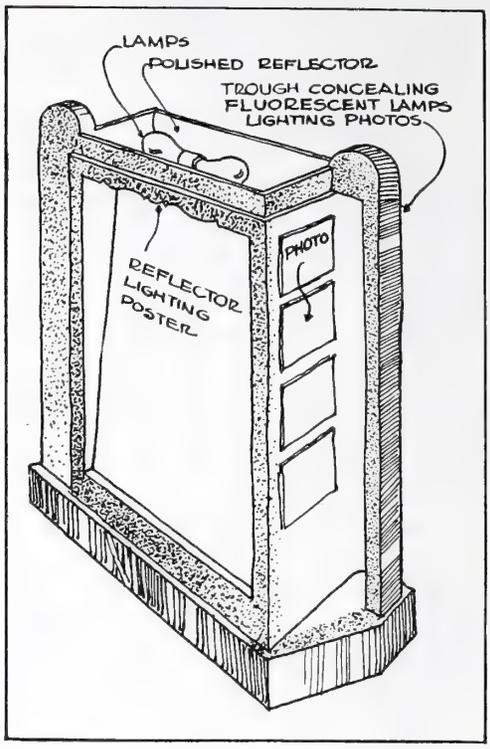


FIG. IV.

FIG. I.

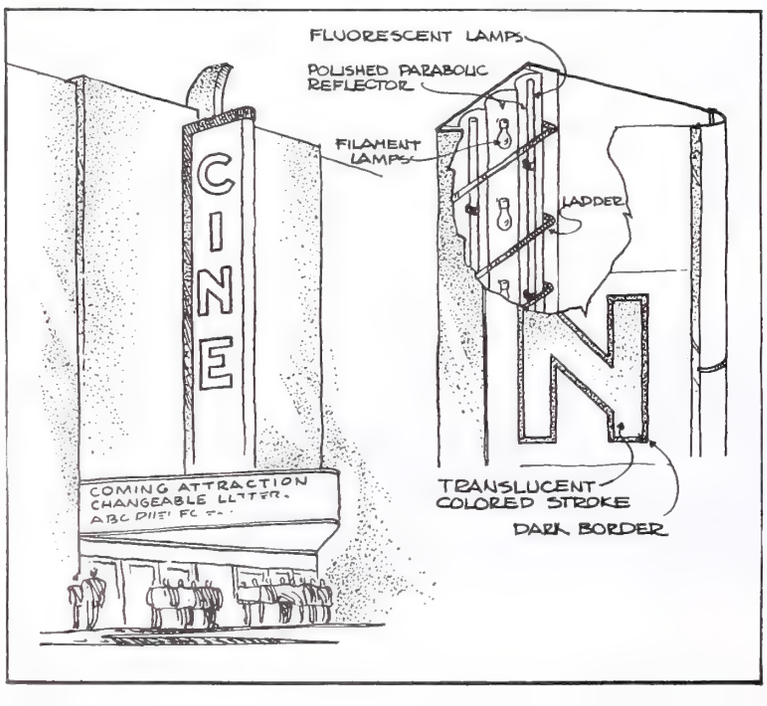
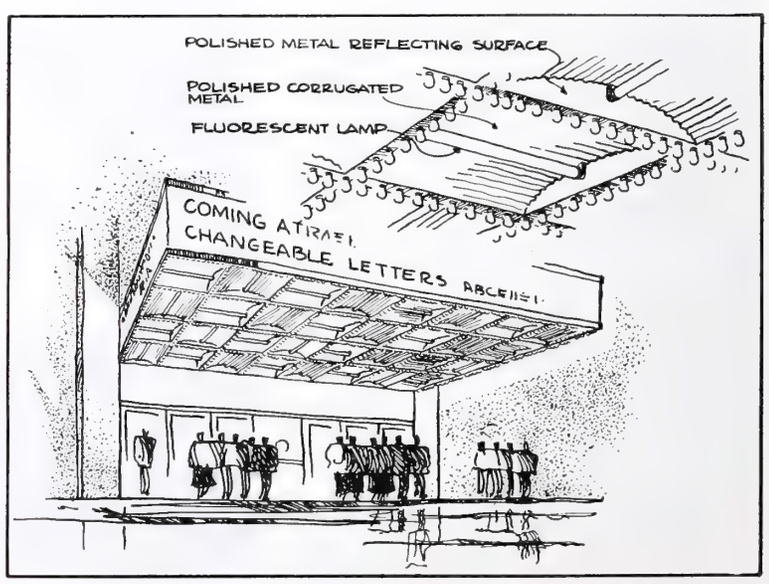


FIG. III.



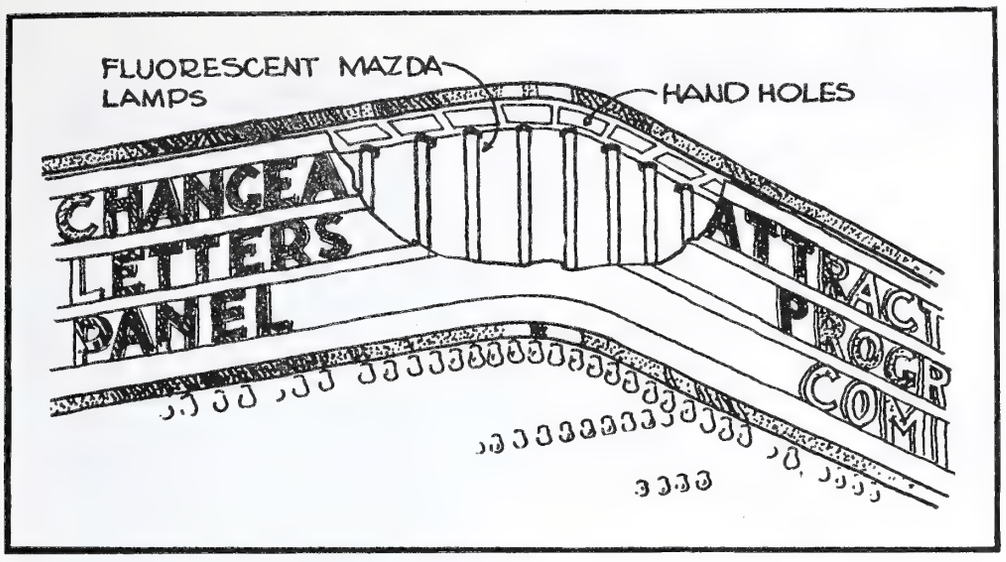


FIG. II.

illusion is of the entire block being fitted with light sources. Exposed filament lamps are part of the pattern and contribute the sparkle so necessary for the view down the street.

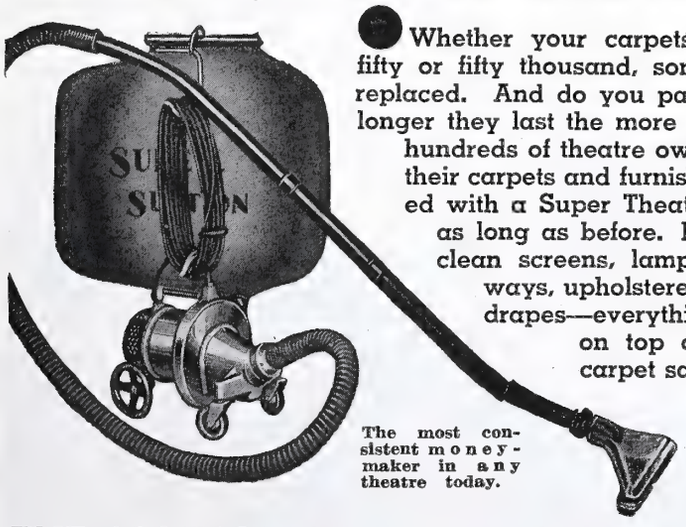
A few theatres employ the area over the entrance doors for displays to sell present or coming attractions. Lighted panels of bright color can carry a message of coming attractions that greet the eyes of those entering and leaving the theatre. Messages which are clearly visible do a good selling job. Changeable letter attraction panels, similar to those used on the marquee, afford legibility and flexibility.

Displays in the lobby, Fig. 4, can be made more attention-compelling by the use of lighted elements in color. Colored fluorescent lamps lighting shapes of plastics, parchment, or glass furnish simple means of gaining attention value. The sketch shows only one of the many ways to give these portable displays more attention value. General lighting for the space can easily be added by building in reflecting equipment at the top.

Advice on Lighting

Various contributors to this department, comprising outstanding authority on the subject of Theatre Lighting, will be glad to answer questions or otherwise assist in the correct solution of any lighting problems presented by our readers. Such inquiries, addressed to the editor of THE MODERN THEATRE *section, will be referred promptly to sources of information most pertinent to the problem presented.*

WHY SOME THINGS LAST LONGER, and PAY BIG DIVIDENDS

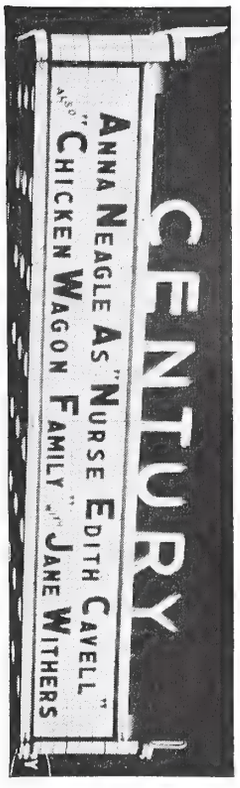


Whether your carpets and furnishing cost fifty or fifty thousand, some day they must be replaced. And do you pay a bill? Ouch! The longer they last the more money you keep, like hundreds of theatre owners who will tell you their carpets and furnishings, regularly cleaned with a Super Theatre Cleaner, last twice as long as before. More yet, their Supers clean screens, lamp houses, walls, stairways, upholstered furniture, box fronts, drapes—everything. A whole lot more on top of being a wonderful carpet saver. Free trial, in your own house, proves it all. Ask your wholesaler.

The most consistent money-maker in any theatre today.

THE NATIONAL SUPER SERVICE COMPANY

1941 N. 13TH STREET, TOLEDO, OHIO



Paramount's CENTURY Theatre
Rochester, N. Y.
Architect: CHARLES S. BURTON
Signs by: GENERAL OUTDOOR ADVERTISING CO.
Letters by WAGNER SIGN SERVICE, Inc.



These Photographs Show Two Marquees of the Century Theatre Fronting on Two Separate Streets. See the Different Methods of Handling the Same Copy on These Two Marquees—an Example of the Versatility of Wagner Multiple-Size Letters.

NO ONE BUT WAGNER IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT.

WAGNER SIGN SERVICE, Inc. 218 S. Hoyne Ave., CHICAGO • 123 W. 64th St., NEW YORK • 706 E. Hancock Ave., DETROIT • 6 Britain St., TORONTO
Pacific Coast Representative: B. F. Shearer Company

PLANNING

CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION WITH LEADING THEATRE ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS

A Case of Competent Planning to Meet a Peculiar Condition

How a summer resort situation formed the basis of calculations for the design and construction of a clever little modern theatre. . . . Pictures and particulars furnished by the architects, William I. Hohauser, Inc., of New York City.

TO ANSWER the demand for a small but modern and attractive theatre for a resort town, the population of which is only 3,000 in winter but much more than that in summer, the new Cameo Theatre was recently completed in Brewster, New York. This little town in the center of a thriving summer resort district had been utterly devoid of motion picture entertainment for some time inasmuch as the Ritz Theatre which the new Cameo replaced had been closed.

The old theatre, located on the same main street of Brewster, had long since outlived its usefulness and popularity with patrons, hence the new Cameo was welcomed with open arms by residents of the town as well as the summer transients who make business in the small town most profitable.

As an example of economical planning and construction for a peculiar situation—that of the summer resort condition which brings abrupt changes in business expectations with the seasons of the year—the Cameo is outstanding. A place of entertainment under such conditions necessarily must be as attractive as possible in order to please the transients who may be used to the grander metropolitan provisions; yet it must also be unpretentious and able to operate economically throughout the remainder of the year when the boxoffice is supported only by those who make the resort their home and place of business.

Final Result Visualized

The owner of the Cameo Theatre, Mr. Herman Sussman, who operates several houses in the vicinity of Pleasantville, New York, as well as this latest addition to his enterprise, was firm in his belief that a theatre could be built to operate profitably the year-round in a resort town; if it were constructed economically yet made to be practical and inviting to patronage. With this premise in mind, he commissioned the architectural firm of William I. Hohauser, Inc., of New York City, to draw plans and supervise construction of the new theatre.



Wm. I. Hohauser
Architect

Red face-brick with tile coping; a modern V-type marquee with twin three-line changeable letter attraction boards; stainless steel and porcelain displays; enamel bases and wood trim finished in aluminum all serve their purpose in making the Cameo's front a most effective advertising medium.



A close-up of the Cameo's front entrance showing methods of display lighting and the use of latest type changeable silhouette letters suspended on stainless steel runners backed by opalescent glass.

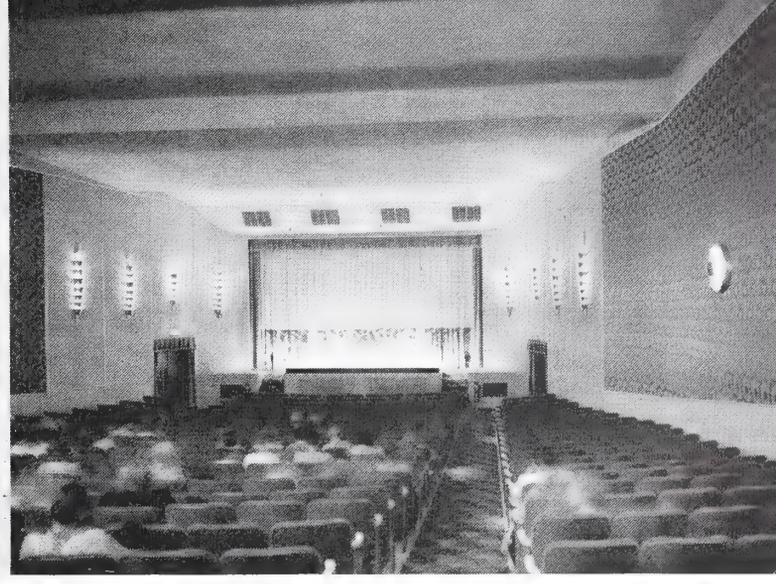
A great many innovations in economy were made in the design and construction of the new Cameo. In the first place, a seating capacity of 600 was deemed necessary in order to accommodate summer patronage and because of this condition, as well as a limited budget with which to work, the theatre planners decided to make the most of the land usage at their disposal.

Hence, the building was constructed to accommodate the United States Post Office at one side of the theatre entrance and a retail store at the other side, which may also be entered from the theatre proper. These provisions for space rental serve to reduce the cost of operation for the theatre, without detracting either from its appearance or drawing power in the eyes of patrons.

The theatre building is of compact, one-story, red face-brick construction, depending for design interest upon simple lines, a colorful entrance facing material and the modern V-shaped marquee with name-







sign surmounting. The stainless steel marquee is quite imposing, with space for three lines of changeable silhouette attraction board letters. The name-sign poised above the marquee proclaims at either side "Cameo" in metal Neon-channel letters of impressive size.

Indirectly lighted poster frames surround the entrance to the theatre in a manner that is intensely inviting to patronage yet dignified withal. A modern boxoffice is centered in the arcade-type entrance and its location is emphasized by lines of luminous tubing and rows of ceiling reflector units on the marquee soffit which lead the eyes naturally to the focal point of interest. Neatly designed tile flooring recessed to contain colorful rubber matting in this area adds another note of enhancement to the general exterior appearance of the house.

A Problem Surmounted

A study of the lobby of the new Cameo Theatre brings to attention another innovation for economy. In this portion of the house is to be noted the absorption of what might at first have appeared to be a detriment into an interest-promoting bit of design. The fact that what was done in design in this instance was the most economical solution to a bothersome problem now becomes secondary to the functional use to which the problem was put in its final form.

To explain—the surface of ground on which the theatre building is erected was found to be extremely uneven, slanting down from the street line to such an extent that the auditorium would be 15 feet below the sidewalk level. At first this was thought to be most unfortunate in that the site would require a large and expensive ground fill to bring the theatre building to a more even keel than the lot afforded.

However, to do the job most economically and yet practically, it was finally decided to arrange a series of ramps and steps from the entrance lobby to the auditorium. And what appeared in prospectus to be most unorthodox and well nigh unheard of in small theatre construction turned out to be a means of adding interest and spaciousness to the lobby and a most scientifically sight-lined floor plan to the auditorium.

In the lobby of the Cameo is to be found the beginning of a most attractive and functional decorating scheme which is carried throughout the other portions of the house. Simplicity which seems to lend spaciousness is the basis upon which the lobby scheme was built, and economy of both decoration and furnishings was the result.

Left—A sectional view of the Cameo's lobby-lounge. The standee rail of chromium-plated steel and carved glass may be seen in the background. Right—A view of the auditorium looking toward screen indicates several points of interest in the provision of comfort and convenience.

The grand stairway in this part of the house, which serves the dual purpose aforementioned, is the first note of interest to be observed by patrons. It is enhanced, as is also the entire uncluttered floor area in the Cameo lobby, by a large expanse of modern carpet in red, gold and black which sets the scheme most beautifully and luxuriously. The dropped portion of the lobby also contains entrances to rest rooms, promenade and the auditorium.

Tinted brown plaster, which was applied by trowel in a slightly textured finish, became the only wall and ceiling treatment for the lobby and its beauty and simplicity cannot be overlooked. It is claimed that a month was gained in time of completion and considerable money

(Continued on page 55)

THEATRE MODERNIZING GUIDE

Through the co-operation of our affiliated architects, leading manufacturers, their engineers, designers, dealers, contractors and others, a majority of whom are active members of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, we are prepared to assist the theatre-owner in selection and application of all commodities and services needed in remodeling and modernizing by placing him in touch with dependable sources of supply. As sponsor of the Institute, we strive to impartially relay each inquiry only to sources of reliable information. However, we do not guarantee all statements or claims made in connection with products offered.

MAIL THIS FORM FOR FREE INFORMATION

The MODERN THEATRE Planning Institute, 11-11-39
Room 334—332 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: Without cost or obligation please arrange to have data supplied to us covering the following subjects:

☐ Acoustics	☐ Decorating	☐ Screens
☐ Air Conditioning	☐ Heating Equipment	☐ Seating
☐ Amplifiers	☐ Lighting Fixtures	☐ Signs and Marquees
☐ Architectural Service	☐ Lounge Furniture	☐ Sound Equipment
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.....

Theatre ..... Seating Capacity.....

Address .....

City ..... State.....

Signed.....
(Owner-Manager)

AIR CONDITIONING

DEVOTED TO A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN THEATRES

Are You Confused?

The subject of Air Conditioning explained in common, non-technical every-day terms becomes less baffling to the man who wants to buy equipment. If you are confused regarding the application of air conditioning to your theatre, write a letter to Gordon H. Simmons, 926 N. Cass Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, outlining your conditions, seating capacity, room dimension, present equipment, etc. Give him the facts, ENCLOSE POSTAGE for reply and he'll be glad to analyze your layout and give you unbiased recommendations on your requirements.

Now to Get the Horse Trading Out of Our System

By **Gordon H. Simmons***



THE preacher told this one in church, so I can risk telling it here: When Johnny Rooster was born he had twenty sisters but no brothers. He had a high old time around the barnyard and as he grew up gained the reputation of being quite a ladies' man as well as for being the source of general disturbance in the wee sma' hours of the morning. One day when Johnny was nearly grown, the preacher came for dinner and after dinner Johnny was A.W.O.L. When his mother asked where Johnny was, his sisters said they believed he went off with the preacher. "Oh well," said his mother, "it's just as well that Johnny entered the ministry because he wasn't much good for anything else."

So maybe as some kind of preacher I am serving a useful purpose. I do a bit of crowing but I don't like competition. Especially when it is good. I have just read a masterly article in the October 15th issue of this journal, page 32, written by one Ansel Moore on the subject of how to be pure and sanitary.

Inspired by Envy

I wish I could write as well as Ansel does. I am really jealous. I met the guy once and we had lunch together. We were supremely courteous to one another, too. We had a measure of sympathy for ourselves, too, because working for the same boss we could see eye to eye on several things.

In his article he referred to me as the "Hon." Gordon H. Simmons, for which I thank him too kindly. And not to be outdone in courtesy, permit me to say that he wrote on the subject of air conditioning just as if he knew something about it. He made a point that I would like to stress; namely, that real air conditioning might not be as costly as you think it is nor as expensive as your successive attempts to get it, which so often have resulted in stark failure.

In other words, many of you have paid for a good air conditioning job without actually getting it, when all you needed to get it was intelligent direction. Under such auspices it can usually be had at a modest price, consistent with the size of your house, of course.

I have just returned from an extended trip through the country and have seen with my own eyes so-called conditioning jobs that cost as much as a proper job would have cost and most of them were almost impossible to fix, short of ripping them out and starting all over again. But there is an increasing number of you who are sending in plans for checking and naturally these jobs have a better chance of being good. Because I'm not afraid to put the double X on anything that might be wrong, and as well I try to suggest a corrective remedy.

I ask those of you who have sent in plans which have not been returned to have a little patience. In fact, a whole lot of patience. Probably your plans and the drawings I promised some of you will be in your hands by the time this article comes off the press.

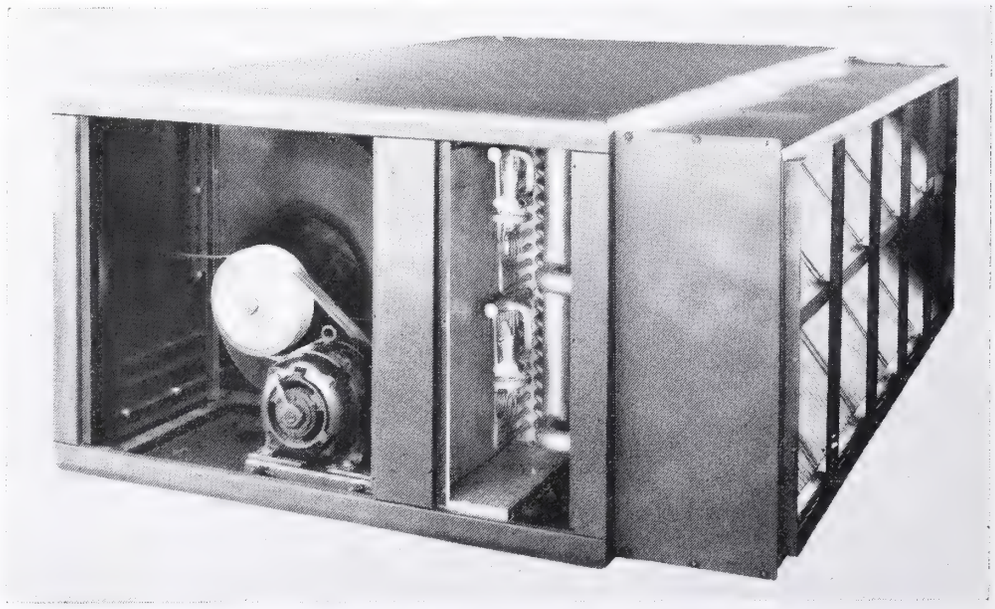
The trend today is toward the installation of all-year-round conditioning jobs. Plants that will heat and cool your customers as well as do all of the things stressed by Ansel in his aforementioned masterly article. And when such modern type installations are to be made, we don't usually put them off until spring, as might be the case with just a cooling job.

Right Time to Do It

When a house is to be remodeled or refurbished, it offers an ideal time to air condition because it can be done for less money. Workmen always make a mess cutting into walls and other places and it is quite nice to have a decorator follow them up to efface their wreckage. Besides, there is usually a plumber, electrician or some other "wrecker" on the job anyhow, and they can do the work required for less, since they are already on the job and can take it in their stride.

I have pretty well air conditioned the State of Wisconsin (that is, me and some other fellows), so now I am looking for other worlds to conquer. I think I have a better opportunity to do so by the printed word than by personal visits, which cost me money. Not that I don't enjoy them, but I can't afford too many social calls.

So, reading Ansel's article gave me an



*Air Conditioning Engineer, Milwaukee, Wis.

idea. He published a picture of what a real air conditioning system looks like, and I did not know that he is such a good draftsman. His picture showed a real piece of conditioning equipment—one used extensively in the larger houses. So I think I'll publish a picture too, one showing what the well conditioned theatre men use in smaller houses. (*See preceding page*).

Perhaps theatre owners don't know that even when a home-made job is done by them or for them, all internal parts as shown are used and the only thing supplied locally is the tin box. I believe that buying all apparatus at the factory, assembled in the tin box, is the cheapest way because it saves so much puttering around on the job. I've made installations both ways and some of the home-made jobs cost more.

Calculate With Care

For houses of from 400 to 600 seats, such apparatus is quite suitable and not too costly. Many manufacturers build it today and it has found use in lots of other places besides theatres. The trick is to select the proper size. On that point, look out!

The number of seats, the geographical location, the type of construction of the house (whether brick, wood or stucco) and whether your auditorium has a roof exposed to the heat of Old Sol are some of the factors which enter into a proper calculation to determine the size of the conditioner.

Now this same type of conditioner will heat your house too, if supplied with hot water or steam from an appropriate boiler. But you cannot buy one of these conditioners at random either, for such heating service. More figures are necessary.

This time, we don't give a hoot about the number of seats in the house. We measure the cubical contents. We determine the needed amount of fresh air required and also the lowest winter temperature encountered in *your locality*. We not only must know the construction of your walls and ceiling but their *thickness* and whether insulated or not. We have to determine the entire outside area of your building and know which are party walls or walls exposed to the weather.

Then we make what we call a "heat loss calculation" sheet to ascertain the number of B.T.U.'s we must put into your house to balance all forms of heat loss or leakage. In Milwaukee, we calculate the heat required to maintain 70 degrees inside when it is 20 degrees below zero out of doors. The conditioner is then sized according to such calculations.

Reason enough why many of you have poor jobs if you don't know how to make these calculations or your local hardware dealer doesn't either. A standing joke in the engineering profession is that apparently no two engineers will take the same data and arrive at the same conclusions. Possibly a little practical experience is required, while a lot of the younger engineers get their "larnin" out of books.

If you want to have some fun with any and all who attempt to sell you, just quietly ask them to independently measure your job and submit their data sheets to you. Of course, you don't know which one is right, but you will notice that they get different answers. Then ask me, and perhaps I'll give you an even different one.

At least, my answer will be a reasonably safe one. Because when I do any guesstimating, I make my errors in favor of a little extra capacity instead of not quite enough. Which is a good thing, too—for you.

Hazards of Horse Trading

Buy a conditioner of the correct size after proper calculations have been made and most of your troubles are over. At least, your remaining troubles will then be little ones. Should you get drafts and breezes, they can be cured without wrecking your whole system. I've eliminated lots of such ailments by mail.

But some of the best firms in this business have had trouble with you after their engineers had figured out the proper size. They have found from experience that if they are going to do any business with you they have to compromise with their engineering findings and sell you something smaller and perhaps cheaper than you should buy. You cannot buy condi-

(Continued on page 55)

SIMMONS' Q-AND-A CORNER

Problems presented herein are bona fide and are not imaginary concoctions for the purpose of misrepresenting reader interest. Original signed letters are on file for examination, subject to the approval of correspondents.

A theatre owner in South Carolina had a heating problem which he presented to us in prescribed form. There's an interesting sequel to the outcome of our negotiations, which will be presented here in the next following issue. *Please look for it next month.*

The Initial Letter: "I have been reading and enjoying your articles in Boxoffice for some time. Especially interested in the late article, 'Look at Blueprints Before You Buy,' which concerns air conditioning.

"My cooling is very simple here as we are right on the coast and, in fact, my theatre is built on wooden pilings (posts) right out over the river. The high tides come up within a couple of feet of the sills and we have an open clear six miles of salt water on the river right behind the house, then just about ten miles to the ocean. So, cooling is no problem and I simply don't need an air washer. But heating is my problem. I'm one of the hundreds of struggling independent theatre owners and I happen to live 250 miles from the exchange and my income is not sufficient for me to spend a lot of time looking over other theatres and comparing problems.

"The winters here are very mild—we have freezing weather only two or three times every winter but the cold damp air is disagreeable and we need heat most all the time from the middle of November until about the first of March. I have been here five years and have gotten along very well with one large oil burner-circulating and two coal-circulating heaters. Two are at the front-stage and one in the lobby. I have saved up a little and have just installed new chairs and now would like to get a more adequate heating system—if the price is within reach.

"Several systems are offered me: The usual radiators and steam heat, steam heat of a radiator or 'fin' and forcing the air through with the blower I now use for cooling; an automatic crude oil burning outfit with ducts to several points in the house and return cold air to be heated; and the artificial gas people are trying to install a gas outfit with gas at 15 cents per gallon and I'm afraid it will cost too much to operate—and how about the fumes, etc.?

"As you will note from my rough sketch, my house is about 38 by 85 feet; 18 feet to ceiling at front, 20 feet high at balcony but as floor has good incline—3 feet higher at back—this about takes up difference. House seats about 500, 350 on main floor and 150 in balcony. Wooden building with wallboard ceiling and rock-wool insulation overhead. I will appreciate any information you can give.—I. S."

My Reply: "I received your delightful letter of the 25th and it was like a breeze out of the Old South. You took me back in memory to the time when I was a stripling at the Citadel and even before that.

"Born in Savannah, I know where . . . is. There are no good oysters and shrimp up here, nor any whiting either. And I wouldn't mind taking my boat (if I had one) and going down the Mississippi, around the Florida Keys and then right to the back door of your theatre, bringing with me a heating system.

"Now lay off of artificial gas. It's good but expensive. Steam heat with a radiator of 'fin' type and forcing the air through with the blower you use for cooling is naturally the best system provided you already have *proper air distribution*.

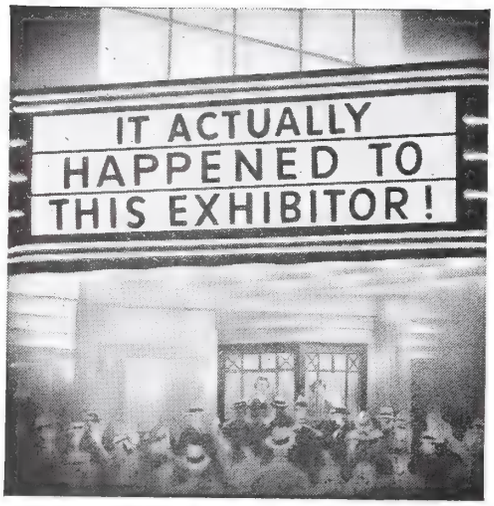
"But I could not select a single thing for you merely by studying the simple sketch you sent. If you will make up some more sketches, no matter how crude but showing plenty of dimensions, I can make you a drawing showing exactly how you should install your heating system.

"I'd need to know location of blower and the usual ducts from it to your house, showing size. A sectional elevation showing balcony in place and attic head-room (if any) is necessary.

"Show space available for boiler or warm-air furnace, should you not want to spend enough for a boiler. And tell me what kinds of fuel are offered and their price. We could use either coal or oil, depending upon their relative cost and your preference.

"Mr. R..... B....., of the Capitol Theatre at ....., wrote me recently asking for information about a cooling system. His job is of sufficient size to induce me to come to see him if invited to do so. And your town is not far away. But if you give the information asked for, I can guide you by mail. Maybe you will send me a fish as a fee.—G. H. S."

Note: The outcome will be presented in next issue.



TRUE STORIES FROM ALTEC FILES

Theatre Patrons Aware of Results of Sound Changes



NEW JERSEY—"I was skeptical about the Altec proposition to improve the sound in my circuit of theatres, as I thought our sound was excellent. However, the result is excellent-plus. The exhibitor who contemplates improving his sound is amply repaid for the expense." David Snaper, circuit owner.



BARBOURVILLE, KY.—"Your engineer, S. K. Brown, has just made the changes on my sound equipment, and I feel it my duty to write and thank your company and Mr. Brown for making it possible to improve our sound to this extent." Charles R. Mitchell, owner, Mitchell Theatre.



NEW YORK CITY—"Since you increased the power in our theatre in accordance with your Altec modification plan, the sound has been so markedly improved that even my patrons notice the difference." Otto Lederer, manager, Arcadia Theatre.



KANSAS CITY, KAN.—"I wish to take this means of thanking and complimenting you on the excellent results obtained in modifying our sound system. The result is so noticeable that even our patrons are commenting on the improved sound." C. C. Wooton, Manager, Jayhawk Theatre.

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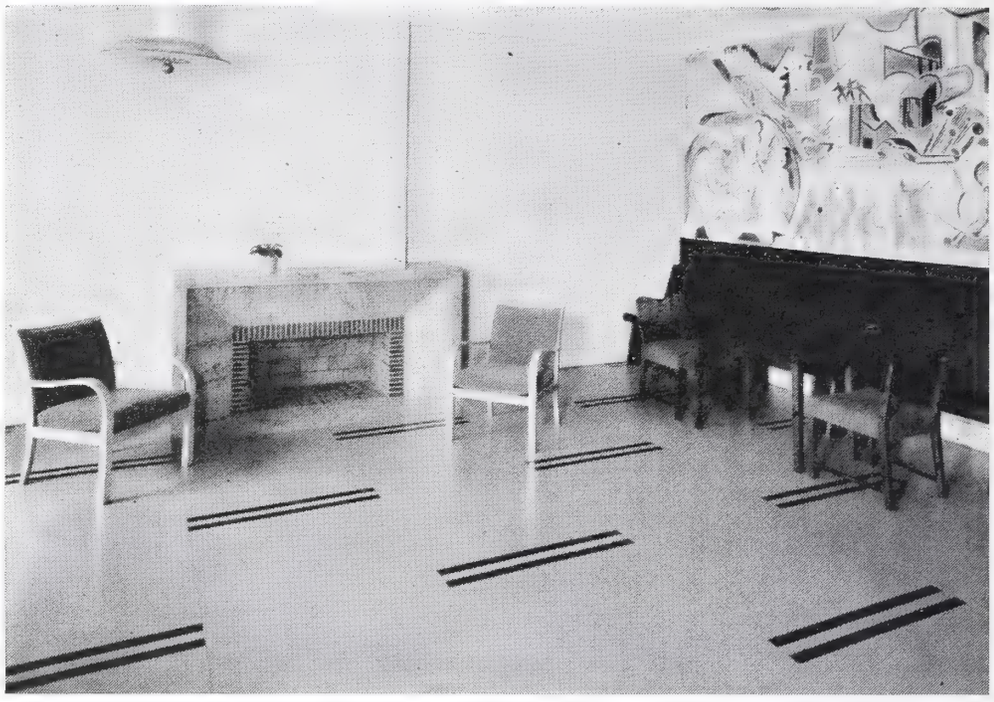
The Altec inspector in your neighborhood will gladly explain the Altec Modification Plan for the increase of power and naturalness in the sound of your theatre.

ALTEC
SERVICE CORPORATION

250 West 57th Street, New York City

THE SERVICE ORGANIZATION
OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

RUBBER FLOORING MAKES A BID FOR ATTENTION



The long sought goal of the rubber industry and building trades—a popular-priced rubber flooring product of good quality—is announced by Goodyear, and is being introduced in leading cities throughout the United States. Newspaper and tradepaper advertising as well as feature displays in department stores are backing the introduction.

Identified as medium-gauge material, this new, lowest price rubber floor covering is being manufactured in rolls of 36-inch width, 40 to 45 yards in length, gauge .095 inches; is available in seven colors. The colors are: red and white, plain black, black and white, two-tone medium gray, green and white, brown and white, two-tone light tan.

Applied in the same manner as linoleum, the new product is said to be particularly adaptable for use in theatre lobbies, rest rooms and other areas where hard finished floors are commonly in use.

Medium-gauge rubber flooring is said to have all the advantages of beauty, cleanliness, comfort, style and durability. The range of seven colors makes possible unlimited designs through combination applications. Dirt does not penetrate the surface and a damp mop is usually adequate equipment for cleaning.

It is resilient to foot traffic and can be installed to harmonize with any color scheme desired. It is both fire and stain resistant and as a consequence will retain its attractive appearance indefinitely. Combined with rubber wall coverings now in vogue, the medium-gauge floor covering makes available a wide range of original and attractive decorative schemes for all types of application.

ROXY RUG

On October 25th, a new rug was rolled into the lobby of the New York Roxy Theatre, a giant rug and son of a giant. Replacing the Chenille oval woven for the Roxy 12 years ago, this mastodonic masterpiece is still the largest carpet of its kind in the world.

Crowds gathered to watch the unloading of the two-ton monster from a specially constructed trailer which had transported it from the Mohawk Carpet Mills at Amsterdam, New York, to the Great White Way. Whistles blew, traffic jammed and the steeds of mounted policemen lunged from place to place as a heavy chain was wrapped around the rug and fastened to another truck. Slowly the two trucks pulled apart and the fifty-foot crate slid off its trailer.

Fifty-nine burly stevedores then attacked the wooden crating. Fifty-nine pairs of arms and shoulders heaved under the weight of the rug, into whose making had gone wool from 469 of the world's ruggedest sheep. "Stand back, everyone!" and the rug made its way into the lobby where it will spend its life of wear and tear. The new rug had moved into the home of its father.

The crowd by this time outside the theatre numbered 2,000. Principals among the greeters inside the theatre were the 22 girls of the world-famous Gae Foster Chorus who were given the privilege of unrolling the two-ton mastodon to appropriate music.

If rats or mice are seen anywhere on the premises, it is most likely they have infested the entire property. Modern rat bait suffocates the rodent, causing him to seek the open air to die outside.

A Case of Competent Planning to Meet a Peculiar Condition

(Continued from page 51)

was saved by this particular decorative treatment.

NOVEL MODERN FURNISHINGS

For enhancement of the plain decorative scheme, various novel furnishings and accessories were placed in this part of the house. Perhaps the most decoratively outstanding are the modern lighting fixtures for ceiling and sidewalls. They are of brass and carved glass and equipped with fluorescent lamps which cast a suffused glow over the entire area. Dull-finished chrome and leatherette upholstered furniture is placed at vantage points and the walls are ornamented by a large pink mirror and delightfully different modern pictures on hammered copper in bamboo frames. The standee rail which is visible from this part of the house is of chromium plated steel and carved glass.

The auditorium has a tinted cement plaster wainscoting and tinted plaster treatment for the front walls and ceiling. For acoustical correctness, the ceiling was stepped off in effective contour and the side and rear walls were treated with rockwool and covered with damask in an interesting modern pattern which enhances the room materially.

Comfortable seating in a complimentary design and decorative finish is the outstanding patron-appeal feature in this part of the house, and for further luxury and the provision for greater quiet, the same decorative carpet found in other portions of the house is used in the two wide auditorium aisles. Stage draperies effectively lighted concentrate interest on the proscenium area.

OTHER INTERESTING POINTS

The Cameo auditorium is lighted by beautifully modern metal indirect fixtures fitted with various colored lamps. This indirect illumination is controlled from the projection room by three sets of dimmers. The modern projection room and its latest type equipment for proper presentation of finest entertainment is another outstanding feature of the new theatre.

Air conditioning in the new Cameo consists of a ventilation system and indirect heating. A two-speed fan placed on the side of the screen platform with a series of direct grilles over the screen opening creates adequate air movement in the auditorium. Heated air for winter operation is supplied through the fresh air grilles and returned through grilles and ducts at the rear of the auditorium.

As an example of capable planning, economy in design, construction and final operation, the Cameo Theatre is truly outstanding. That nothing was sacrificed in the way of house appeal is even more remarkable. This small theatre, overcoming the obvious handicap presented by the influx of summer transients and enforced retrenchment during the winter months, will probably show a more balanced boxoffice than could be expected by any less well-planned project.

Now to Get the Horse Trading Out of Our System

(Continued from page 53)

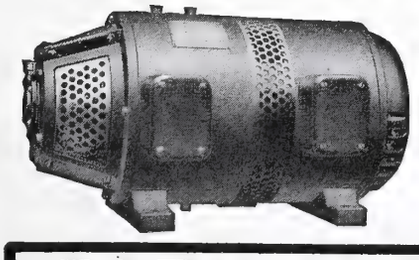
tioning equipment as you would buy films.

If I wanted to sell some of you an air conditioning system, I'd take a horse along. Not in the spirit of Jesse James; but for your own protection. And after we got tired of trying to "horse trade" to see which one of us gets which end of the horse, I'd say, "Now that we've got *that* out of our system, let's talk about air conditioning." In fact, I've become a little hoarse talking to you about this very thing already.

But maybe at that I have brought a few points of interest to your attention that have not been touched upon before—as a result of my reading Ansel Moore's superb article. Probably I've shown reason enough why many jobs don't work when the aforementioned calculations have not been made or if made were added up incorrectly. So, if you need more information, just ask me. I'm still around here.

NOTE: The opinions expressed hereinabove are the opinions of the writer and not necessarily of the sponsor, this publication, the editor, Ansel Moore, nor anybody else. Reference to the horse was from the film depicting "Horse and Buggy Days." Which you are still in, since you know nothing about "Rolls Royce" air conditioning.—G. H. S.

AS GOOD AS THEY LOOK



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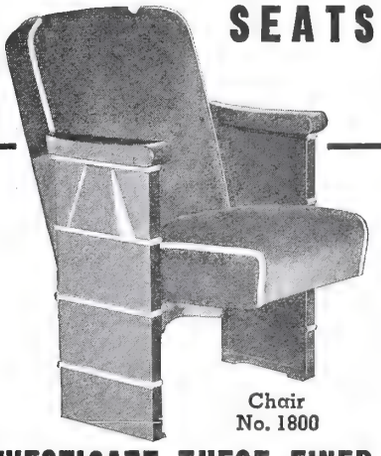
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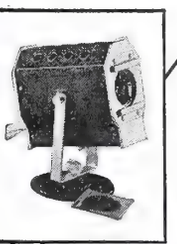
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BEST DEVICES CO., 10516 WESTERN AVE., CLEVELAND, OHIO

CINE' CLINIC

PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE MECHANICS OF PROJECTION AND SOUND

Have You a Problem?

Conductors of the CINE' CLINIC will be glad to answer questions relating to problems of projection and sound operation and practices through these columns. State your problem clearly, detailing symptoms of trouble. Answers to questions of general interest will be published in a later issue, identified by inquirer's initials only. Should you desire private information or advice, enclose stamp for reply. Address The MODERN THEATRE, Room 334, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

A New Projection Arc Light System for Average Sized Theatres

FIRST cost of equipment and subsequent economy of operation perhaps always will be a prime consideration with the owners of limited capacity theatres. Not that this class of ownership is any less concerned with quality in the projection of pictures; nor because they fail to visualize the fate of the exhibitor who allows his screen results to sag too far below standard. The condition is largely one of economics.

The average theatre owner wants the best of everything his income will afford. Yet today there are thousands of theatres of the class referred to in which equipment is still being used that is incapable of producing good projection because their owners do not feel justified in obligating themselves for more costly equipment and a consequent increase in operating expenses, already too high in many instances.

The Investment Problem

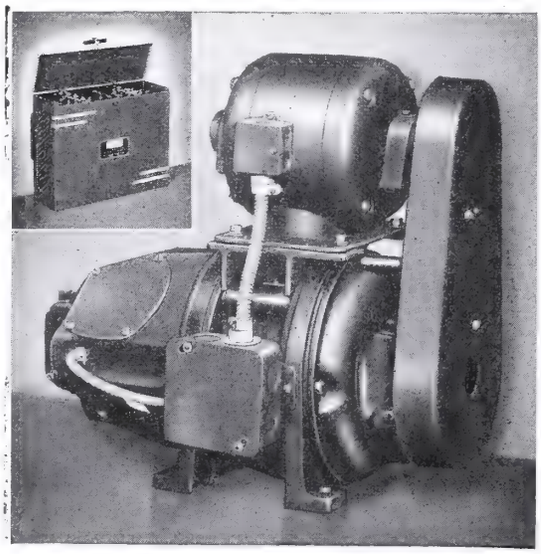
The continued though natural increase in the cost of *good* equipment has caused many owners to accept outmoded or remodeled cast-offs or merely to get along with what they have. And the condition has applied most acutely in the case of arc lamps for projection and related methods of current transformation to meet the ever-increasing demand for more and better light on the screen.

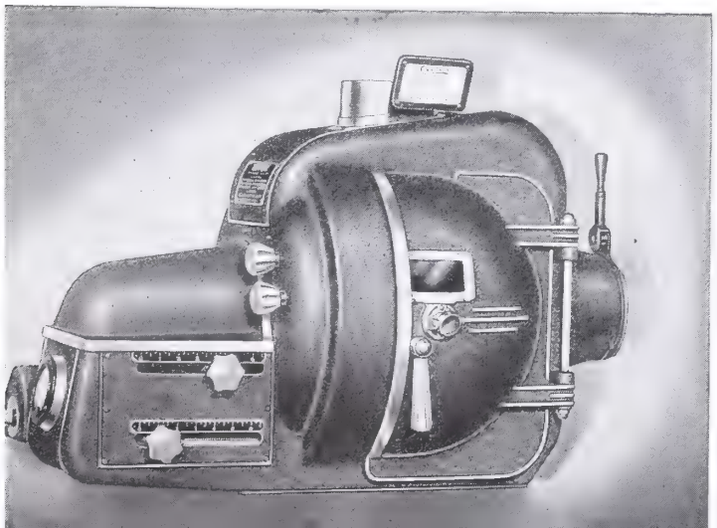
An answer to the problem, or at least some definite relief is foreseen in a new projection arc system for alternating current operation recently perfected. It is a revolutionary development—a basic theory and discovery of a method and the mechanical means of operating a projection light source directly on alternating current to produce a satisfactory white, steady and uniform light, such as has heretofore been found possible only with direct current at high amperage rates.

The new system engineered and designed by Clarence S. Ashcraft and manufactured by the company bearing his name is called "Cyclex" to designate an entirely new method of motion picture projection in which the forces of economy and efficiency seem to have been drawn closer together than ever before in the design and production of projection lamp equipment.

As explained to us by Mr. Ashcraft, the new system dispenses with all synchronizing and phase-adjusting devices and is by no means critical to speed or frequency variations, points which are subject only to technical explanation.

According to Ashcraft, the new method of employing alternating current would have little value in itself were it to rely on that point entirely. To utilize the new principle to the best advantage it was essential that a power unit be devised which could be manufactured in conformity with the economics of the system as it was developed for the average theatre. The results of that effort are embodied in the "Cyclex" power unit, which is said to be the only device by which both arcs may be operated from the same rotary unit yet at no time do both arcs receive current from it simultaneously.





Above—Power units of the new system by which common alternating current is converted into useful energy for the projection arc. At left—the new "Cyclex" lamp unit, which offers other departures from customs of the past; employing new principles in the projection of light. (Photos courtesy C. S. Ashcraft Mfg. Co.)

New Theory of Operation

Another important development was that of the new "Cyclex" arc lamp, by which from substantially reduced power input the projectionist is able to produce a greatly increased light output. "This is possible," says Mr. Ashcraft, "by reason of our new theory of inch watts, a term we have applied to the dissipation of electrical energy in the arc gap."

The foregoing new principles are cited as mainly responsible for the extraordinarily fine operating characteristics of the system, yet many other new developments are mentioned as necessary to make it a simple, efficient and dependable mechanism; such as the power unit which while allowing the maximum output of power precludes the overloading of the power unit. Mr. Ashcraft claims that the "Cyclex" power unit is practically indestructible and will actually outlast the theatres in which they are installed.

The precise but simple method of arc regulation was also referred to, in which for the first time, according to the designer, a motor without commutator or brushes is used and which draws no more power at full load than at no load whatsoever. The "Cyclex" type of relay for automatically feeding the carbons is an interesting point as it is to be noted that its operation is exact at all frequencies due to a method of combining series and differential shunt control. Some of these features, while seemingly simple, have taken many months to perfect and apply in a manner which is simple yet functionally efficient in every particular.

"Practicability," said the inventor of "Cyclex," "was foremost in our minds in the development of this equipment, knowing as we do that projectionists of varying intelligence throughout the world will operate it. Therefore, it was simplified to the utmost and made as self-operating and tamper-proof as possible. The final design of the power unit (the sixth in number) is such that it is extremely portable and easy of installation and placing,

fanciness having been supplanted by durability and simplicity which in our opinion is more practical."

LIGHT CAPACITY INCREASED

Continuing the explanation, Mr. Ashcraft said: "While I will not go into detail at this time as to the technical principles involved in a description of how "Cyclex" operates and why the system produces twice as much light as low intensity at 70 per cent of the cost of low intensity, the fact is significant to owners of theatres."

Concluding his recital of its practical points of efficiency and economy, Mr. Ashcraft said: "Cyclex is based on the coordination of light impulse frequencies. Standard practice throughout the world is the projection of pictures at the rate of 24 per second and the interruption of the light at the rated 48 times per second. We discovered a means of operating the arc so that at the standard rate an equal amount of light is passed through each and every shutter opening and a like amount of light is intercepted by each shutter blade—which, of course, is exactly the case existing when a direct current arc is employed, but we accomplish the identical result with pure alternating current. The speed of the shutter is immaterial in a way as "Cyclex" does not depend on exact speeds. However, in the case where the projection is at exactly 90 feet per minute the arc supply frequency is about 96 cycles."

COST COMPARISONS

Summarizing its points of economy in operation, Ashcraft made the following three-way comparison which he claimed was based on charted records of test operation: "(1) The arc power is reduced 50 per cent, likewise the power expense. (2) A power unit of one-half size and cost may be used. (3) The carbon consumption is directly proportional to the power input, therefore the carbon consumption is cut in half as is also the operating expense.

"The cost chart," he further remarked, "shows the extraordinary fact that Suprex costs 24 cents an hour to operate, low intensity 18 cents, and Cyclex only 9.6 cents. Cyclex will produce 11-12 foot candles on a screen 17 feet in width when 8 foot candles are now considered excellent projection and even that intensity is rarely surpassed in the major theatres."

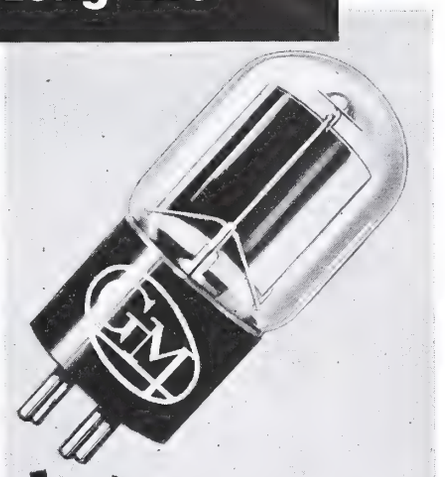
Discounting the enthusiastic claims of the manufacturer for his new equipment, it still shows likely promise of a sharp reduction in the economic resistance to projection improvement in many theatres of small capacity whose requirements prompted the new development.

Theatre Lighting Has Improved Immensely

The old way of lighting a theatre was to treat it largely as a fixturing proposition. The decorative aspect was dominant and achieved largely in the styling and ornamentation of the fixture. Tremendous chandeliers, ringed with bare lamps produced splendid examples of fixture craftsmanship but the illumination result was oftentimes harsh, garish and uncomfortable.

Today the prime concern is the illumination effect. The change was occasioned by the dominating appeal of color, its mobility and atmospheric quality. "Painting with Light" emphasizes in a phrase the newer concept. Coinciding with functional architecture there was a willingness to coordinate and integrate architectural design with lighting. This has given a fluidity to architecture, and a flexibility to lighting usage never before possible.

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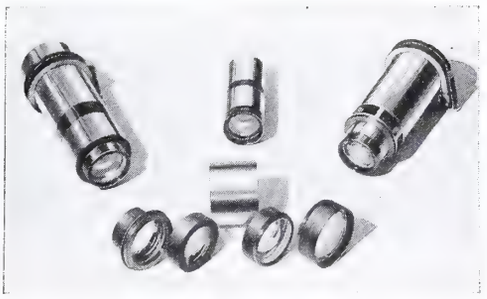
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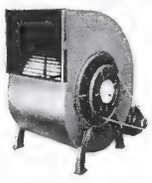
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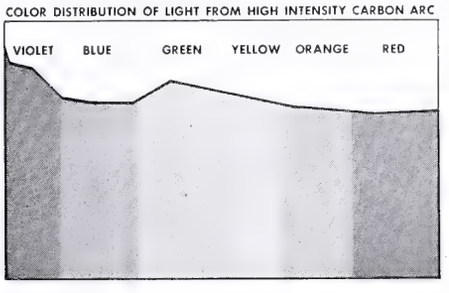
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. . . and you can't show color features in natural hues with unbalanced light



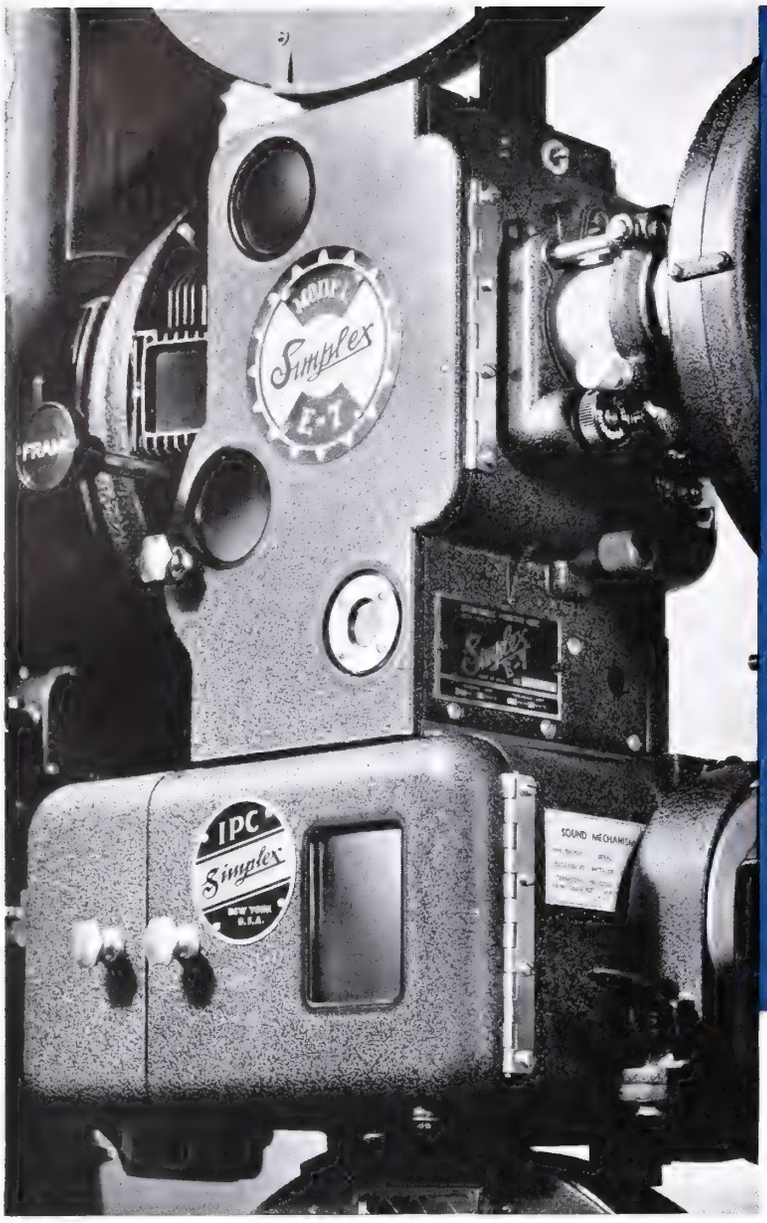
● The audience sees on the motion picture screen only those colors that are present in the projection light. If certain colors are absent from the light, the dye on the film can't put them on the screen. Excess of certain colors likewise distorts the natural hues of color features. ● High intensity carbon arc projection assures an evenly balanced light with all colors present in essentially equal intensity. This is apparent from the chart of color distribution here shown. ● This is the quality of projection light for which color film is processed. It is the only quality of light that gives *natural* color reproduction.

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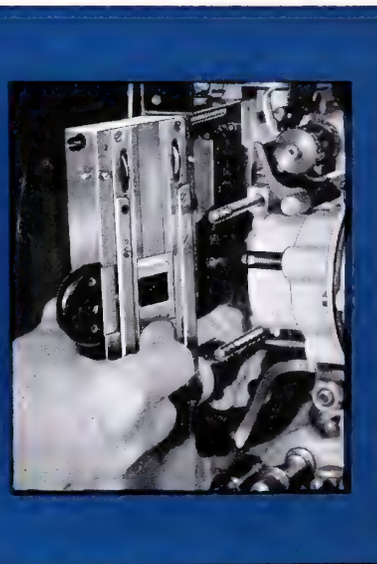
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War Fading as Major Concern of Filmdom

What with other more pressing and less remote problems—chiefly worries over labor disputes—occupying more and more attention, the European War and its effects on the film industry seem to be dwindling into comparative insignificance as a cause for furrowed brows in the screen capital.

Apparently nearly recovered from their first attack of war jitters, the major plants are solidifying winter production schedules and, for the time being at least, have called a halt to the drastic economy measures—including wholesale payroll purges—which were their first reaction to the fear of vanishing foreign grosses.

Paramount, for example, scheduled five films to go into work this month and has set six others to start during January, 1940. Warner expects to complete its entire 1939-40 short-subject program by January 1 under a schedule which calls for the making of six more shorts by that date. Program for the season comprises 18 two-reelers and 68 single-reel subjects.

By December 1 Monogram, ending a temporary lull, will have started camera work on five features, including two top-budgeters, "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Pioneers." Republic has added seven films to its schedule for the next three months, building the production pace up to a new high level for the year.

On the executive side:

Irving Asher, head of an independent production unit in England holding a six-picture releasing deal with Columbia, left for New York to confer with Jack Cohn concerning the possibility of resuming production in London, to which he called a halt when war was declared. Asher declares he has received government assurance that every cooperation will be extended because of Britain's anxiety to use motion pictures as morale-boosters. Asher spent two weeks in Hollywood.

Richard Blaydon, assistant to David Rose, manager of British production for Paramount, has checked in from abroad and will remain here indefinitely. Blaydon expressed doubt as to the possibility of resuming production abroad in the near future.

Borrows Vivien Leigh

Vivien Leigh has been loaned to Metro by Selznick International for the starring role in "Waterloo Bridge," which Mervyn LeRoy will direct.

IA Refuses to Rescind 10% Pay Hike as Labor Breach Widens

A stinging slap on producers' wrists for demanding that the 10 per cent wage increase recently granted 12,000 IATSE studio workers be rescinded, delivered at a conference between the IA and 16 other American Federation of Labor unions, served to widen even further the current breach in Hollywood's producer-labor ranks. Turning a deaf ear to pleas by E. J. Mannix, representing the film companies, that the IA's "ill-considered action" will bring "disaster" to the industry, the AFL conclave, led by William Bioff, countered with the following resolutions:

1. The present IA wage scale will be supported by every other AFL union save the painters, who are conducting a lone wolf fight for a 15 per cent wage increase for their members.

2. A solid front will be formed to gain a similar 10 per cent increase for all other AFL crafts—again excepting the painters.

3. Before any action is taken to veto the IA boost, a "careful scrutiny" of the sums paid producers, writers, directors and actors must be made.

Bioff declared the next step must be a round-table discussion between producers and talent groups for thorough study of the producers' claims that granting of the IA's demands mean "absolute ruin." The IA leader had, last week, attempted to bring about such a meeting, which blew up when the SAG, SDG and SWG informed him they "found themselves unable" to attend.

Meantime the painters' many-times-deferred "showdown" was postponed again, this time until a general membership meeting, called for November 13. At the session Herbert Sorrell, business manager of the local, will submit the producers' request that the wage demand be set back until December 6, when the basic pact parleys open in New York. Hinging on the membership's decision is the answer to whether a studio strike of painters is to be called.

The Screen Writers Guild held its annual election of officers and selected Sheridan Gibney as president, Sidney Buchman as vice-president, Dwight Taylor as secretary, and Boris Ingster as treasurer. At the same time the Screen Actors Guild installed its slate of officers for the coming year, all of whom were re-elected incumbents, including Ralph Morgan as president, James Cagney as first vice-president and Porter Hall as treasurer.

Meantime associate members of the Artists Managers Guild met to have attorneys explain the SAG franchising agreement, which has been ratified and now is in effect.

The still-unsigned producer-Screen Publicists Guild contract is due for another airing, the Guild having agreed at an executive huddle to discuss any clauses which the producers may consider unworkable. Earlier, the SPG had adopted the stand that, since the contract has been ratified, there is nothing further to consider.

Acting on a plan suggested by John P. Miles, the SPG is creating a Guild Bureau by which it hopes to provide employment for idle members. Plan calls for the bureau to take on free-lance accounts, the work to be handled on a staggered schedule by unemployed publicists who would share the proceeds on a pro-rated basis.

Other labor developments:

The IA was given a clear track in its plan to dissolve Local 37, keystone of a bitter inter-jurisdictional fight some months ago, when superior court refused to issue a restraining order enjoining the international from wiping out the local. The IA also received certification from the national labor relations board to assume control over workers in independent studios, as requested some time ago.

Society of Motion Picture Art Directors is scheduled to present demands for a closed shop contract to producers immediately. Interior decorators will submit similar demands in December. The Society of Motion Picture Film Editors voted 354 to 29 against a proposal to apply for an IA charter, and balloted to reopen negotiations with producers for a ten per cent wage increase.

Labor Troubles Again Are Discussed by Producers

Highlighted, as per custom, by a discussion of the industry's current labor troubles and the part the Hays office is playing in their settlement, the Association of Motion Picture Producers held its regular monthly board of directors' meeting.

Fred Pelton, newly-appointed labor counsellor, presented a detailed report on various labor negotiations now being carried on and the directorate approved a request by the Screen Publicists Guild for a conference anent the SPG-producer contract.

Attending were Harry Cohn, Reeves Espy, Edgar Mannix, Y. Frank Freeman, J. R. McDonough, William Goetz, Cliff Work, Matty Fox, Walter Wanger, Harry Warner, M. B. Silberberg, Herbert Freston, Jacob Karp, George Cohen, Maurice Benjamin, William Hinckle and Ross Hastings.

Pelton replaces Pat Casey as chief of the association's labor contract division, with Victor Clarke as his aide. Casey has returned to the Hays office in New York.

Los Angeles County Presents Tax Bill of $1,282,648.12

As if the European war, labor troubles and a generally unhealthy domestic situation weren't enough to worry about, Hollywood's film moguls now have a $1,282,648.12 tax bill, presented by Los Angeles county for the 1939-40 semester, staring them in the face. The levy represents an approximate five per cent tax on an assessed property valuation of $24,970,245, and reflects a tax increase of nearly $498,000 over the county take for 1938-39.

County assessors evaluated studio properties and improvements, personal property and equipment—including films in production, cameras, machinery, costumes, props and other assets—in their bill, estimating the aggregate at approximately 45 per cent of its true worth. The task of tabulating took nearly four months, county spokesmen reported.

Following is an evaluation by studios and production units:

Studio	*Assessed Valuation*	*Property Tax To Be Paid*
Columbia	$1,407,750	$ 76,219.46
Walt Disney	655,840	28,267.83
Educational	160,970	6,771.83
Electrical Research Products, Inc	217,270	15,817.90
General Service	295,560	15,734.72
Samuel Goldwyn Studios	681,700	30,129.36
Hal Roach	446,240	20,527.17
Harold Lloyd Corp.	591,580	30,768.73
Loew's, Inc. (M-G-M)	5,688,660	275,130.97
Paramount	2,303,135	126,769.81
RKO Radio	1,068,540	58,811.64
20th Century-Fox	4,585,920	256,028.70
Universal	1,239,750	44,246.80
United Artists Corp.	23,080	995.72
Warner Bros.	5,594,250	297,061.48

These figures do not include Talisman, International, Republic or Selznick International studios, on which no records are available. Deputy assessors could not say whether tax estimates on these properties are in the process of preparation or have been omitted for some other reason.

Gets Next "Renfrew"

Second in the new series of "Renfrew" pictures being produced for Monogram by Phil Goldstone will be directed by Ralph Staub. Starring Jimmy Newill, film will be titled "Danger Ahead" and will hit the cameras November 15.



Scene Building—

Hal Roach, left, gives William Gargan some pointers for a scene in "The Housekeeper's Daughter," Donald Henderson Clarke's story co-starring Joan Bennett and Adolphe Menjou.

Zanuck Finds "Advantage" In Radio-Screen Liaison

That a radio-screen liaison such as was welded for the ether dramatization of "Drums Along the Mohawk" on the Kate Smith broadcast, November 3, can be "mutually advantageous" was opined by Darryl Zanuck, 20th Century-Fox production chief, who disclosed he had received scores of extremely favorable reactions to the exploitation stunt from radio and motion picture executives throughout the country.

"Outstanding results may be obtained which are beneficial to both mediums of entertainment," Zanuck said, "if the film industry and radio work harmoniously together, each in its respective field." He cited the "Mohawk" broadcast as reaching a ready-made listening audience of millions, adding "tremendous entertainment value to both branches of show business."

Zanuck's approval of the link between radio and screen and the use of film talent before the microphones comes as a direct reversal of his previous stand on the matter. Late in 1938 the studio executive ordered Tyrone Power, Alice Faye and other 20th Century-Fox players off the air on the grounds that improper supervision of their ether stints was doing irreparable harm to their boxoffice standings as screen attractions, and declaring that radio and the screen were competitive industries, vieing with each other for public acceptance.

Walter Pidgeon on Loanout

Walter Pidgeon has been loaned to Walter Wanger by Metro for the second romantic lead in "House Across the Bay."

Payroll Purge Threat Slow to Materialize

Predictions by Hollywood dopesters that the war-inspired payroll pruning policy at the major plants will bite deeper into studio personnel during the next few months—a looked-for purge which is also attributed to the heavy backlog of completed product for the 1939-40 season—have, thus far, not been borne out to any great extent. However, studios recorded the usual quantity of major and minor shifts in executive and production personnel.

Declining an executive position offered him at the Culver City plant, Ben Goetz, for several years Metro's production director in England, submitted his resignation and announced plans to leave for Tucson, Ariz., to recuperate from a recent operation. Goetz came to Hollywood when the war abroad halted M-G-M production in England.

Clarence E. Ericksen resigned as business manager for Douglas Fairbanks sr. in order to devote his entire time to the position of business manager and treasurer for Walter Wanger. He will continue his 20-year association with Fairbanks only in an advisory capacity. Ericksen has divided his time, during the past year, between the Wanger and Fairbanks organizations.

Checking off the Warner payroll was Director William Clemens, who piloted 23 pictures for the company during the past four years. He announced plans to free-lance.

Edward Small has signed Erle C. Kenton as an associate producer, with no immediate assignment. Kenton is a veteran of the directorial field.

A consolidation of the personnel and industrial relations departments was ordered at Paramount in order to eliminate waste motion and as a minor economy measure. The change places H. E. McCroskey in charge of studio club activities and Charles Boren at the head of employer-employe relations.

Completing a writing assignment, Stanley Roberts wound up a term contract at Republic and checked off the lot.

Serial Field Again Draws Producer Larry Darmour

Re-entering the serial field after many years of straight feature production, Larry Darmour has assigned Gordon Rigby to prepare a script for "The Shadow," a chapter-play which Darmour will produce for Columbia. Cliff-hanger rolls early in December.

Addition of the serial will not conflict with Darmour's feature production schedule, backbone of which for several years has been the Jack Holt starrers.

Leisen Assigned

Mitchell Leisen has been assigned to direct "The Night of January 16" as his next for Paramount. Anthony Veiller will produce from a script by Delmer Daves.

Cinémarks

Actor John Howard has cut short his extended vacation trip in the east and returned to Hollywood.

*

Broadway Actress Nell O'Day has arrived in the film capitol with her freshly-inked Warner contract under her arm.

*

Director Dan Venturini left for New York via Mexico City, where he will stop off to discuss picture deals . . . Algernon Mason of the Paramount press department has just been elected secretary to the Southern California Small Bore Rifle League. Mason is also serving his second term in a similar post for the Paramount Studio Club Gun Organization.

*

Business called Al Rogell to New York . . . Roy Del Ruth also was to head for Manhattan to look at current Broadway efforts . . . Harold Lloyd has been made an honorary member of the Los Angeles Breakfast Club. Membership card was presented by Tom Mix . . . William Pierce has reported back to Paramount after three weeks spent researching in Chicago.

*

Mrs. Jack Cummings, wife of the M-G-M director, trained out for a holiday in Philadelphia and New York. She returns in about two weeks . . . John Arnold, head of Metro's camera department, entertained and conferred with Major L. Godard, of the U. S. Army air corps photographic division in Dayton, Ohio. They talked over the development of a new still camera color process.

*

Producer Walter Wanger is scheduled to appear before the Educational Institute November 12 to speak on "Films and the American People" . . . Norman Krasna has checked in from Del Monte, where he completed work on a script for Universal . . . Back at his desk is Paul Malvern, who has been vacationing for two weeks . . . Personnel of Erpi and General Service studios held their annual golf tournament November 5 at the Woodland Hills . . . Mitchell Leisen hosted a dinner party at his home celebrating the opening of the opera season, in which his wife Sandra Gahle sang in "Rigoletto."

*

Current Broadway shows have attracted Irene Lee, Warner studio story editor, to New York for a three-week stay . . . Also Gotham-bound was Howard Koch, Warner writer, who has just completed a scripting assignment at the Burbank plant . . . James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, George Brent and other members of the cast and crew of "The Fighting 69th" attended as guests of honor when veterans of the Old 69th Regiment, New York, of the U. S. Army held their first southern California Armistice Day reunion. Arrangements were in charge of Capt. John T. Prout and Bugler Mark White.

*

Jean Hersholt has returned to the film capital after a three-day stay in San Francisco.

Johnny Mack Brown and Allan Jones checked in after a three-week deer hunting expedition to Deer Island, Ore. . . . Recuperating from an illness, Rosanna Flaherty, of Paramount's sound department, is at Good Samaritan Hospital . . . To complete west coast tieups, Harry L. Royster, merchandising exploiteer now working on Paramount's feature-length cartoon, "Gulliver's Travels," planed in from New York

*

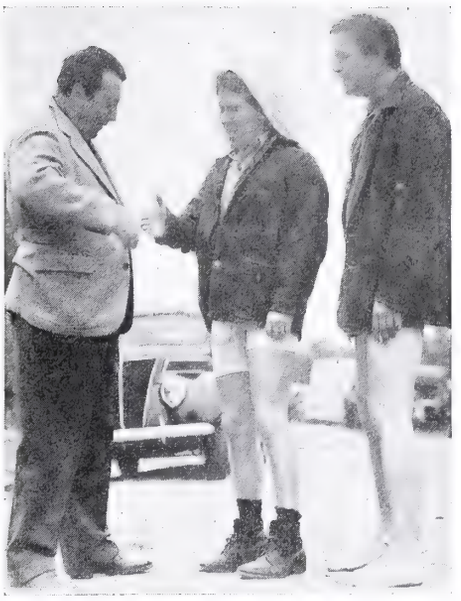
Wayne Morris is vacationing at Big Bear, having completed an acting assignment at Warner.

*

Harold Hurley, Paramount executive producer, is back at his desk after a three-month rest . . . Six motion picture notables were awarded citations for military service and "contributions to Americanism through motion pictures" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the Army-Navy Armistice Ball November 11. Honored were W. S. Van Dyke II, a major; Commander Gene Markey; Col. Lewis Stone, and Frank Capra, Alan Dinehart and William A. Wellman.

"Our Town" to Wyler

Sol Lesser has signed William Wyler to direct "Our Town," the producer's first for United Artists. Wyler is allowed to do one outside job under his current deal with Samuel Goldwyn.



How-de-doo Stuff—

A bit of cordiality during the filming of "Of Mice and Men" for United Artists release as Lewis Milestone, producer-director, intercepts Burgess Meredith and Lon Chaney jr. on location for the Hal Roach production.

Joins Cinecolor

Cinecolor has added Ed Grigsby to its personnel as a studio contact. He had been with Electrical Research Products, Inc., for several years.

6 TIMES AS MANY CUSTOMERS AS EVER BEFORE

• The industry responded to our new single-coated and 16 mm processes and other exclusive advantages of CINECOLOR with the greatest rush of business we have ever had.

SIX TIMES AS MANY CUSTOMERS as ever before are now making pictures for processing by CINECOLOR.

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CINECOLOR

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Independent Activity Holds Much Promise

Independent production during the winter and early spring will hit heights of activity not recorded for several years past, if present developments in this phase of film-making are any criterion.

Lee Garmes has filed incorporation papers in Sacramento for Academy Productions, listing himself, Adele Comandini and Harry E. Sokolov as directors. The company will produce "And So Goodbye," featuring Jean Parker and Richard Carlson, for RKO Radio release. Camera work starts November 21 at General Service studios with A. Edward Sutherland directing.

Formation of Four Bell Pictures, Inc., has been announced by Sam Katzman, former head of Victory Pictures. Katzman has turned cameras on "East Side New York" as his first effort under the new setup, the production based on a story by William Lively. Bob Hill is directing. Joyce Bryant, Leon Adams and a collection of "Little Tough Guys" head the cast. Space has been leased at the Hall Roach plant in Culver City.

Mitchell Leichter, veteran independent producer and distributor, in association with John Boyce-Smith, is planning production of eight features during the 1940-41 season, under the banner of Inspiration Pictures. Titles include "Bond Boy," "Kid From Montana," "Cave Girl," "The Stain on the Tapestry," "Love Comes Late," "School Bus," "Drum Majorette" and "It Must Be Love." All will be state-righted. Leichter is currently handling reissues of "Hell's Harbor" and "She Goes to War."

Although plans for release have not been announced, the newly-formed Frank Capra Productions has acquired "The Life and Death of John Doe" from Richard Connell and Robert Presnell. Robert Riskin, Capra's partner in the company, will begin script work immediately, although it is not known definitely whether the vehicle will be the first on schedule. Headquarters are at Selznick International studios.

Cathedral Pictures, also headquartering at S-I, has begun preparations for the second in a series of religious films under the supervision of Jack Coyle, executive producer, who has just returned from a trip through the middle west. Cathedral's initialer was "The Great Commandment," starring John Beal.

Meantime Grand National's affairs in Hollywood are at a standstill following disclosure that a petition had been filed in New York seeking reorganization under provisions of the Chandler Act. Loyd Wright, GN trustee, planed immediately to New York to confer with E. W. Hammons, president of the company. Studio is being operated on a skeletonized basis.

Grinde Assigned

Columbia has assigned direction of "Daughters of Today" to Nick Grinde. Producer Ralph Cohn will put feature in work November 15.

Expected Production Drop Underway; 42 in Work

The production drop predicted by Hollywood railbirds for the latter part of November and December is already beginning, in a slight measure, to make itself felt, the current total of features in work showing a drop to 42 from previous higher levels.

Columbia fired the starting gun on an untitled Charles Starrett western to raise its total to five. Metro placed two in work —"Florian" and "The Shop Around the Corner," giving the studio six in production. "Mr. Wong at Headquarters" took off at Monogram to end an idle spell.

Paramount started "At Good Old Siwash." Five are before the cameras on that lot. RKO Radio broke even by starting "The Saint's Double Trouble" and finishing "Married and in Love," winding up with four in work. Republic is shooting four, none a new start.

"Young as You Feel" got underway at 20th Century-Fox, while "He Married His Wife" and "Everything Happens at Night" hit the finish line, dragging the production total down to five. For United Artists, Hal Roach began filming "1,000,000 B. C." to give UA an aggregate of five.

Universal is filming five, starting "Honeymoon Deferred" and sending "The Big Guy" and "Destry Rides Again" into the cutting rooms. Warner's total is down to three with completion of "Brother Rat and the Baby."

Judell Nearly Done With "Killer;" "Mercy" Next

With "The Invisible Killer," fourth in the 1939-40 schedule, nearing completion, Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp. will next turn its cameras on "Mercy Plane," which goes into work November 14. Richard Harlan has been set to direct from a story and screen play by William Lively. Almost simultaneously "Gold Star Mothers," second in Judell's series of "Four Star Specials," will be sent into production.

First of the "specials," "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," has been booked by the Wilmer-Vincent Theatre circuit in Altoona, Johnstown, Reading, Harrisburg, Easton and Allentown, Pa., and in Norfolk and Richmond, Va., according to Judell.

Telecasting Promises New Jobs

A new channel of employment for screen and radio actors who otherwise would be idle is being provided through the heavy television broadcasting schedule announced by Thomas S. Lee, owner of the west coast's only licensed television transmitter. Spokesmen for Lee declare that the rush of applicants to Lee's production office seeking an opportunity to act has passed the 1,000 mark to date. Telecasting schedule has been expanded to nine hours weekly.

Roadshow Urge Comes With Holiday Season

With the approach of the holiday season, motion picture distributors are beginning to feel their annual urge to treat their best product to roadshow presentations, no less than three features thus far having been scheduled for advanced-price, two-a-day handling within the next two months. Additionally, and should the de luxe exhibition treatment prove satisfactory to the parties concerned, many of the studios have one or more pretentiously-budgeted offerings on hand which could lend themselves to roadshowing.

Following its premiere in Atlanta, on December 15, David O. Selznick's "Gone With the Wind" will start two-a-day showings in the southern city and, possibly, in other key spots throughout the country. Definite plans for handling the Metro release in other cities are being worked out by William Hebert with Howard Dietz, Metro advertising-publicity chief, in New York.

RKO Radio plans to roadshow "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," the first Harry Goetz-Max Gordon production, throughout the country beginning January 1. The film stars Raymond Massey and is now in its final editing stages.

Twentieth Century-Fox will offer Shirley Temple in "The Bluebird" as an after-holiday two-a-day attraction, the decision having been reached as the result of conferences between Darryl Zanuck and Herman Wobber, distribution head. Originally scheduled as a Christmas release, the Temple attraction was moved back on the release schedule in order to allow the company's exploitation staff to amplify its efforts in shaping up a campaign.

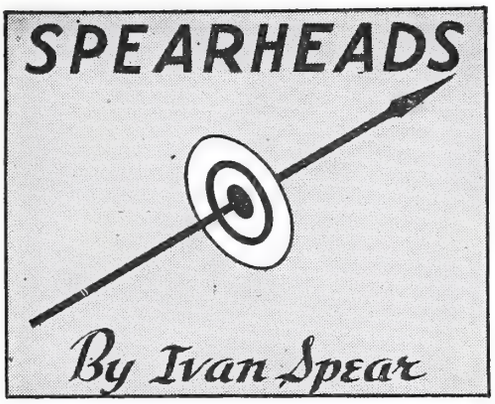
Other possibilities include Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels," first feature-length cartoon produced by Max Fleischer; RKO Radio's Charles Laughton starrer, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame;" Charles Chaplin's Production No. 6, now in work for United Artists release; Selznick International's "Rebecca;" and Metro's "Northwest Passage."

Argus Finishes First in Series of Negro Films

Argus Productions, newly formed independent unit, has completed its first in a series of all-Negro offerings, "Double Deal," and is now editing the vehicle. Dixon Harwin produced and Arthur Dreifuss directed. Jeni LeGon and Monte Hawley are featured. Distribution on "Double Deal" and subsequent films to be made by Argus will be handled by International Roadshows, Inc., headed by Bert Goldberg, Jack Port and George Randol.

MacGowan's Next

Kenneth MacGowan has been given "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" for December production at 20th Century-Fox. Nancy Kelly is only casting to date in story by Ivan Kahn.



HOLLYWOOD producers who are worried about the problem of future screen talent and its source—and those who are not giving that important question due consideration certainly should be—can find considerable material to command their attention as a result of the recent cross-country trek of Jesse Lasky. Lasky has just returned from a two-and-a-half-month tour of the United States—the first producer, in all probability, ever to get out in the field and talk with independent exhibitors, theatre chain operators, exchange heads and the public on their home grounds.

Primarily, Lasky's purpose was to audition young men and women for his new "Gateway to Hollywood" radio talent quest. His extensive hegira included stops at 16 key cities; personal interviews with nearly 10,000 aspirants for film careers; lectures at six universities and more than a dozen high schools; 162 personal appearances at theatres; speeches before 11 luncheon clubs and interviews over 31 radio stations.

From this thorough, cross-section survey, Lasky returned to the film capital with a number of illuminating reactions—chief of which was the discovery that suitable screen talent, possessed of photogenic and basically dramatic abilities, is at a seriously low ebb. While the 5,000 feminine candidates Lasky interviewed knew more about motion picture personalities and films in general than most Hollywoodians, the veteran producer discovered that there are no more "country girls." Every one is sophisticated, intelligent, well-dressed and well-mannered. Further, Lasky found a dangerous shortage of prospective leading men, particularly of handsome youngsters with film ambitions. The large share of them, Lasky discovered, are too busy trying to earn livings in other lines of endeavor. Most significant, only nine of the 4,000 men he interviewed had dramatic possibilities.

Strongest substantiation of Lasky's contention that there is very little available screen talent lies in the fact that he selected only 25 candidates to be brought to Hollywood for his program. All of them have had a dramatic background of some sort—six are community theatre performers, 11 have done radio work. These two training grounds, Lasky found, have almost completely displaced the old-time small city stock company.

Further, and for what it may be worth, Lasky offers the opinion that the south produces the most beautiful girls, while the north turns out the most handsome leading men.

Exactly 26 years ago November 14, Jesse L. Lasky, Cecil B. DeMille and Samuel Goldwyn founded the Jesse Lasky Feature Play Co., which later merged with Adolph Zukor's Famous Players to become the Famous Players-Lasky Co., out of which was born Paramount Pictures.

Today, Jesse Lasky still is pioneering, and in a manner which should earn for him the gratitude and cooperation of the entire industry.

➞

If Monogram product doesn't go places, it isn't for want of adequate transportation, what with "Westbound Stage" and "Roll, Wagons, Roll" on current release schedules.

➞

Let it be hoped that there is nothing prophetic as concerns future features and publicity releases from Burbank in the Los Angeles newspaper headline which informs, "Film Producer Warner Buys Bull and Heifer for $2,100."

➞

With Metro's "A Call on the President" being retitled "Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President," all that is necessary to put the exhibitors in tighter straight-jackets is to have it double-billed with "The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew."

➞

Columnist-Impresario Louella Parsons is apparently happy to report:

"I couldn't help but feel how happy Marion Davies will be to know that her protege, Jack Chertok, has been made a full-fledged feature producer at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer."

Isn't it just dandy that everyone can be so happy about the whole thing. Of course, there are the readers of the Parsonian platitudes who might be a bit unhappy in trying to figure out just why the Herculean effort to keep Marion's name alive in a motion picture column when the erstwhile star is as dead as a mackerel so far as films are concerned.

Melodious, Melancholy and Mirthful

While the week's preview assortment was unusually impressive from a budgetary perspective, its yield of entertainment content was disappointingly meagre.

No less than four of the seven debuting pictures boasted cast and production ramifications to attract attention extraordinary from the first-night addicts, but of that quartet only one seems assured of the unqualified "boxoffice smash" label, which sure winner, the Deanna Durbin starrer, "First Love," came from the Universal lot.

In it the gifted songbird passes from adolescence to young womanhood without a break in the entertainment and money-making stride she has maintained during past appearances in the tailor-made vehicles provided for her by the inspired producer-director team of Joe Pasternak and Henry Koster, respectively. Bruce Manning and Lionel Houser, collaborating on the screenplay, contributed no little to what, if comparisons are possible, is probably Deanna's all-time best, measuring to the highest production standards and almost certainly a top-ranker in revenue and popularity.

In "Drums Along the Mohawk" 20th Century-Fox has a stunningly spectacular historical vehicle in which Technicolor photography of the highest order—as good as any ever before attempted—and enhanced by the beauties of the natural background which it was filmed, creates a pictorial triumph. Possessing many moments of interest-commanding excitement in John Ford's characteristically lusty directorial vein, the feature unfortunately carries a somewhat thin story thread. In the final analysis, while it is unquestionably far above the average of Hollywood offerings, the latest Zanuck spectacle somehow misses attaining those heights which might have been expected considering the excellence of the book by Walter D. Edmonds, the flawless cast headed by Claudette Colbert and Henry Fonda, and Raymond Griffith's unimpeachable production investitures. Lamar Trotti and Sonya Levien wrote the script.

The usual superlatively fine performance for which Paul Muni has become renowned, and one of parallel excellence—although considerably more unexpected—from Jane Bryan highlighted Warner's "We Are Not Alone." Beautifully produced by Henry Blanke, directed with distinction by Edmund Goulding and endowed with a cast beyond criticism, the film nevertheless can, at best, be considered only an extremely sombre character study. The lugubrious tone of James Hilton's novel, adapted for the screen by Hilton and Milton Krims, probably will fail to appeal to the rank and file of theatre patrons—particularly when it is remembered that lighter or more action-laden fare apparently is in general demand because of the seriousness of current world conditions.

By a wide margin the least impressive of the four top-budgeted preview offerings on the week's lineup is Metro's "Remember?" Screenplay by Corey Ford and Norman Z. McLeod is a fumbling and clumsy mixture of what purports to be both sophisticated and slapstick comedy, short on laughs and shorter on entertainment content. The aimless story makes cinematic martyrs of Robert Taylor and Greer Garson and allows Lew Ayres to bag what few Thespic honors the vehicle affords. The effort is an unhappy debut for Milton Bren as a Metro producer and adds no lustre to McLeod's reputation as a director.

* * *

Two other contributions were of the series type—Columbia presenting "Blondie Brings Up Baby" and Republic coming through with another "Higgins Family"

(Continued on page 67)

Hollywood Personnelities

Technically

—Columbia
JULES WHITE directing an untitled short comedy featuring the Three Stooges.

—Metro
GEORGE SIDNEY handed direction of Pete Smith short, "Third Dimensional Murder."
LEN SMITH to photograph "Go West," next Marx Brothers comedy.
MEL BROWN made art director on "Arouse and Beware."
ROY ROWLAND to direction of next "Crime Does Not Pay" two-reeler, which Jack Chertok will produce.
JAY MARCHANT to make advance production preparations on "Edison the Man."
JOE NEWMAN given direction of Pete Smith subject, "Canadian Mounted Police."
SAMMY LEE to direct "Sob Sister," a "Crime Does Not Pay" short subject.
RED GOLDEN set as assistant to Director Clarence Brown on "Edison, the Man," forthcoming Spencer Tracy starrer.
CLYDE DEVINNA assigned to shoot exteriors on "The Earl of Chicago." Ray June is photographing dramatic sequences.
VAL RASET assigned to dance sequences in both "Florian" and "Lover Come Back to Me."
RICHARD ROSSON leaves to find shooting sites for "Young Tom Edison" in Sonora, Mexico.
RALPH DONALDSON, explorer, placed as technical advisor on "Congo Maisie."
WILLIAM CANNON made production assistant to Jerry Bresler on "Congo Maisie."
LOU STROHM, location manager, and ART SMITH, unit manager, to hunt shooting sites for "Arouse and Beware" near Lake Malibu.

—Paramount
WILLIAM SHEA set as film editor on "At Good Old Siwash."
JOHN GOODMAN to design sets for "The Way of All Flesh."

—RKO Radio
OTTO LUDWIG to edit "And So Goodbye," which Lee Garmes will produce.
JOE AUGUST assigned to photograph "The Primrose Path," Gregory LaCava production.

—Edward Small
HARVEY CLAREMONT joins staff as assistant casting director.
DON CASH set as makeup director on "My Son, My Son."
WILLIAM TUMMEL signed as assistant director on "My Son, My Son," on which Charles Vidor will wield the megaphone.

—20th Century-Fox
RALPH DIETRICH goes to Buenos Aires with BERT GLENNON, cameraman, and Technicolor Experts ROBERT CARNEY and PAUL UHL to film backgrounds for "South American Way."

—Walter Wanger
ALEX GOLITZEN made art director on "House Across the Bay."

—Warner Bros.
FREDERIC LINDSLEY, professor at Occidental College, records narration for "Old Hickory," a historical featurette.
SID HICKOX to photograph "Alex in Wonderland," short subject.
PETER BERNEIS set as technical advisor on "The Life of Dr. Ehrlich." He knew the scientist years ago in Bermuda. Berneis is private secretary to William Dieterle, who is directing the picture.
"Crusaders of the Red Cross" is new title for "Clara Barton and the Red Cross," historical featurette which gets the starting gun shortly with GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD supervising.

Story Buys

—Frank Capra
"The Life and Death of John Doe," by Richard Connell and Robert Presnell.

—Metro
"Flight Command," by Commander Horace Haislip and John Sutherland, to Metro as a J. Walter Ruben production.
"Osborne of Sing Sing," by Jonathan Finn and Harold Friedman. Latter signed to do screenplay.

—Edward Small
"Corsican Brothers," a novel by Alexandre Dumas for spring production.

—20th Century-Fox
"Here Today, Gone Tomorrow," by Louis Bromfield.
"Western Union," last novel completed by Zane Grey before his death.

Cleffers

—Metro
ARTHUR FREED completes song, "Our Love," to be used in "Good News," which Freed will produce.

—Paramount
PHILIP BOUTELJE to score "The Great Victor Herbert."

—Republic
SMILEY BURNETTE turned in tune, "Fat Caballero," for use in "South of the Border."

Scripters

—Metro
HUGO BUTLER to "Heritage of the Wild," from original by Nathaniel West and Gordon Kahn.

—Paramount
DORIS ANDERSON to "Angel in Furs." Claudette Colbert will star in the Dale Van Every production.
CHARLES BRACKETT and BILLY WILDER to "Battalion of Death."
ARTHUR POWELL to untitled original to be produced by Dale Van Every.
DELMER DAVES to "The Night of January 16th," from Broadway production.
LEWIS R. FOSTER to "Golden Gloves." Kurt Neumann will direct.
LENORE COFFEE to "The Way of All Flesh." Picture rolls November 14 with Louis King directing.

—RKO Radio
ARNAUD d'USSEAU to "Before the Fact," which Lee Marcus is to produce.
DOROTHY PARKER and ALAN CAMPBELL to "Passport to Life."

—Republic
DORRELL and STUART McGOWAN to "In Old Missouri," which Armand Schaefer will produce.
GERALD GERAGHTY and BETTY BURBRIDGE to "Grand Old Opry."

—Hal Roach
EUGENE SOLOW to "Captain Caution."

—Edward Small
FLORENCE RYERSON to "The Life of Rudolph Valentino."

—Warner Bros.
AENEAS MacKENZIE to "Disraeli."

Options

—Metro
DORE SCHARY, writer, handed new term contract.
WALLACE BEERY given new acting contract, marking his 13th year with the studio.

—Paramount
ARTHUR POWELL, writer, handed one-picture deal.

—RKO Radio
DALTON TRUMBO given new one-year writing contract.
EDMOND O'BRIEN draws new term acting contract.
WENDY BARRIE held for another year.

—Republic
LOIS RANSOM given new two-picture deal.

—20th Century-Fox
BORIS INGSTER, writer, inked to long-term contract.
GEORGE SANDERS, actor, has option lifted.
MARJORIE WEAVER, actress, held for another period.
DANA BURNETT joins writing staff.
H. BRUCE HUBERSTONE, director, signs new one-year contract.

—Warner Bros.
WAYNE MORRIS, actor, and JULIUS EPSTEIN, writer, given new term contracts.

Anti-Fascist Activity Is Cast Aside for Election

Probably succumbing to the general excitement over election week which has been gripping Hollywood as well as the rest of California, the film colony's liberal groups temporarily suspended their anti-fascist campaigns to troop to the polls, calling a halt for the moment to a busy fall schedule.

Last important gathering was that of the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League, held November 5, at which factual information concerning leading fascists in this territory was disclosed to League members and friends. Speakers included Producer J. Walter Ruben, Scenarist Mary McCall jr., H. S. Kraft and others.

An organizational conference to draw up a program of action and aimed at the preservation of American peace has been set for November 14 by more than 100 representatives of various liberal groups who held their initial meeting—a round table conference—November 4 under the auspices of the Southern California Committee of the American Union for Concerted Peace Efforts. Active in the work are Director W. S. Van Dyke, Melvyn Douglas, Virginia Bruce and other screen personalities.

Other liberal activity was confined chiefly to the regular and routine HANL district meetings, study classes and parties.

VFW Awards Goldwyn Citizenship Medal

For his "outstanding American citizenship" and his many contributions to the American ideal in motion pictures, Samuel Goldwyn became the first film producer thus to be honored when the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Hollywood's Bear Post No. 2386, awarded him its American Citizenship medal for 1939 in a ceremony replete with military formality and impressiveness.

The presentation was made at the 160th infantry armory, National Guard, by Horace Shidler, commander of Bear Post. Following presentation of the award the 160th infantry passed in review under the leadership of Col. Wayne Allen.

Award was made in accordance with a resolution unanimously adopted by the veterans September 23. Accompanying the medal was a citation declaring:

"This medal is in recognition of your outstanding American citizenship, your many unsolicited kindnesses to former service men and women and your contribution to patriotic and historical motion pictures."

Community Fund Group Confident of Hollywood

Confidence that Hollywood will meet and surpass all expectations in raising a generous proportion of the $3,221,720 goal set by the Community Chest in its 1939 fund-raising campaign is being expressed by those in charge of the motion picture division, headed by Harry M. Warner. Drive got underway November 8 and will continue through December 15.

Film leaders expect to raise between $400,000 and $500,000, basing their estimates on the screen citadel's reputation for open-handedness established through participation in the drive in past years. Working with Warner in the campaign are James Cagney, of the Screen Actors Guild; Charles Brackett, Screen Writers Guild, and J. P. McGowan, of the Screen Directors Guild. The tri-Guild committee has been meeting daily discussing the appointment of members of their respective crafts as contact officers in each studio.

No definite quota for the film colony, nor for individual studios in it, has been established as yet. Drive leaders declare this will be accomplished within a few days, at which time the campaign will be launched in earnest.

"Geronimo!" Premiere Is Set for Phoenix, Ariz.

Paramount has decided to give "Geronimo!" its chronicle of the Apache Indian wars, its world premiere at Phoenix, Ariz., the last week in November. The film goes into general release January 12.

A heavy national exploitation campaign, including pre-release showings in key cities, newspaper and national magazine advertising, is also being mapped for the feature, which was directed by Paul Sloane. A special exploitation staff will handle the premiere and pre-date engagements under the direction of Cliff Lewis, studio advertising-publicity chief. Sloane, top players in the cast and other stars will attend the Phoenix showing.

Teamed in "Trouble"

Fred MacMurray, Robert Preston and Albert Dekker are to be teamed by Paramount in "Trouble Enough," a historical western which Dale Van Every will produce. Frank Butler wrote the original. Vehicle is scheduled for early spring production.

SPEARHEADS

(Continued from page 65)

episode, "The Covered Trailer." Both are highly acceptable in their respective classifications. In every way up to the excellent standard set in previous entries, the latest "Blondie" adventure incorporates the same laugh-provoking elements which characterized its predecessors and also possesses an abundance of down-to-earth human elements to insure it widespread acceptance. Producer Robert Sparks and Director Frank R. Strayer can be credited with another success, no little portion of which is due Gladys Lehman and Richard Flournoy for their script, adapted from an original by Flournoy, Karen De Wolf and Robert Chapin.

Not a super-colossal saga, by any means, Republic's "The Covered Trailer" is solid program material appealing to the family trade and geared to net a tidy profit for most showmen. Probably the best of the series so far, it leans heavily upon broad and frequently riotous comedy to carry the weight. Jack Townley wrote the screenplay from an original by himself and M. Coates Webster and Gus Meins keyed his direction in the comedy tempo. Al Wilson served as production manager.

* * *

Combining a fundamentally sound western story—flavored with a dash of Mexican atmosphere—with the singing and acting abilities of Tito Guizar, Latin-American idol, Producer Harry Sherman's "The Llano Kid," made for Paramount release, should be highly popular fare for juveniles and sagebrush fans, while almost every type of audience will probably secure a full measure of enjoyment from it. E. D. Venturini directed skillfully from a script by Wanda Tuchock, her adaptation successfully capturing the flavor of the O. Henry story, "The Double-Dyed Deceiver," on which it was based.



Showman Visits Star—

Evar Halberg, showman from Port Angeles, Wash., sits himself down for a quiet chat with Wayne Morris, whom he visited on the set of "Brother Rat and the Baby" at the Warner studio in Burbank.

Towne and Baker Assign An English Director

"Tom Brown's School Days" will be directed for Gene Towne and Graham Baker's The Play's the Thing Productions by Robert Stevenson, who was imported from England some time ago by Selznick International. Picture is for RKO Radio release.

Ginsberg Quits S-I

Henry Ginsberg, vice-president and general manager of Selznick-International, has resigned. He leaves the company at the end of the year.

Directs "Road to Reno"

Charles Lamont has been set by Universal for direction of "Road to Reno," for which Arthur Horman is doing screenplay. Kenneth Goldsmith will produce.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

COVERED TRAILER, THE (Rep)—Not an earth-shaking epic, by any means, but sound and substantial program material which should hold appeal for every member of the family and chalk up a comforting margin of profit for exhibitors in most situations. Probably the best of the "Higgins Family" series thus far to be produced. James Gleason, Lucile Gleason, Russell Gleason, Gus Meins directed.

COMPLETE REVIEW on the above picture will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Reagan, Wyman Join Parsons P. A. Troupe

With the signing of Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman, Warner players, Louella Parsons has completed assembling of her troupe of Hollywood personalities who will accompany the newspaper film columnist on her eight-week personal appearance tour. Elaborate preparations are now underway for the opening one-week engagement at the Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco. The complete troupe includes, in addition to Miss Parsons, Wyman and Reagan, June Preisser, Susan Hayward, Arleen Whelan and Joy Hodges. Jack Mulcahy, 20th Century-Fox publicist, will accompany the unit and Mecca Graham will function as stage manager. Edgar Allen Woolf, Metro scripter, wrote the skit which will form the backbone of the show.

Upon completion of his assignment in Republic's Gene Autry starrer, "South of the Border," Smiley Burnette is set for another extensive p. a. tour. He opens November 19 for four days at the Atlas Theatre in Washington, D. C., and has dates in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and Ohio. Tour will be completed early in January. Burnette will be accompanied by the "Rhythm Wranglers," a musical aggregation.

Maureen O'Hara has returned to Hollywood after making p. a.'s in Yakima, Washington, Portland and other northern cities in conjunction with showings of the Paramount release, "Jamaica Inn," in which she has a featured role opposite Charles Laughton.

Other personal appearance addicts:

Hugh Herbert has been booked for a week at the Adams Theatre in Newark, N. J. The "Dead End Kids" opened in Philadelphia November 3 and are set for a week in Newark and another seven-day stand in Baltimore.

"Wind" Trailer in Form Of Color Illustrations

Acceding to exhibitor requests throughout the country, Metro's special trailer on "Gone With the Wind" will not depict a single film scene or photography of the film's stars. Teaser will contain only Technicolor reproductions of color illustrations showing the cast in costume, as drawn by Wilbur Kurtz, technical advisor on the Selznick International feature. Frank Whitbeck prepared the trailer.

Actual scenes will be withhold until a date closer to the national release.

"The Man From Bar 20" Is Readied for Early Start

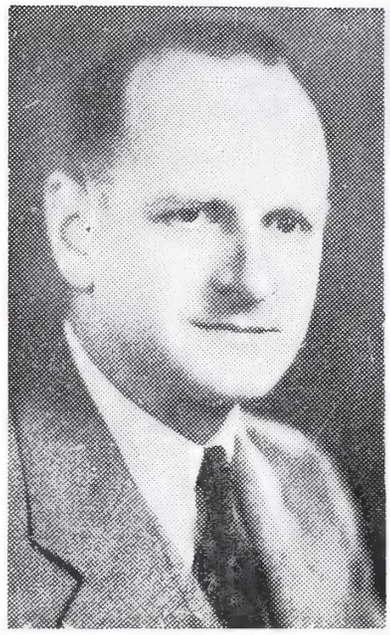
"The Man From Bar 20," first of Harry Sherman's final two "Hopalong Cassidy" westerns for Paramount release this year, is being shaped to get the starting gun immediately. Sherman hopes to complete the second and last, "Hold Your Horses," before Christmas.

Lesley Selander will direct "The Man From Bar 20" from a script by Maurice Geraghty.

Tyro in "Gloves"

Robert Ryan, former Dartmouth College heavyweight champion, has been signed to a long-term contract at Paramount and set for the leading role in "Golden Gloves," story of amateur boxing. Ryan will appear opposite Jean Cagney under direction of Kurt Neumann. William Thomas will produce from the story by Maxwell Shane.





Pacific Showmen's Choice—

Two who will aid in guiding the destinies of the newly formed Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, organized to promote harmony among independent showmen, distributors and producers. At left is Robert Poole, selected as executive secretary, while Hugh W. Bruen, right, will function as treasurer. Both are members of the ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz., Poole holding office in that organization as executive director.

Poole Calls General ITO Meet Nov. 20

Los Angeles — A general membership meeting of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz. has been called for November 20 by Robert H. (Bob) Poole, executive director of the organization.

Poole declared the session will be concerned chiefly with mapping plans to carry on the ITO's fight in this territory for abolishment of commercialized "previews" and the first-run moveover policy as carried on by Fox West Coast, the Warner Theatres circuit and RKO Theatres. ITO members and other independent showmen have consistently complained that the continued first-run moveovers delay the availability of pictures for subsequent-run price breaks, and object also to the commercial preview policy on the grounds the same picture is frequently "previewed" several times in various houses.

Poole, as spokesman for the ITO, holds that with Warner, Metro and other major distributors going on record as embracing major points in the industry trade-practice code, these two objectionable practices should be banned immediately. Members of the ITO were urgently requested to attend the November 20 session in a special bulletin, in which it was pointed out every effort must be made to combat an expected flood of illegitimate "previews" during Christmas.

Gets "No Time for Comedy"

Hollywood—Casey Robinson is scripting "No Time for Comedy" for Warner.

Wash. MPTO Favors ITO of Northwest

Seattle—Authorization to proceed with the organization of the Independent Theatre Owners of the Northwest—as presented by the two delegates, W. Ripley of Longview and Fred Mercy jr., who conferred with trustees of the ITO last September—was voted by the MPTO of Washington at its annual convention held here at the Washington Hotel. Special by-laws and regulations were completed and presented to the current meeting.

The election of eight trustees as a temporary board to work out the organizing and to send a letter to the exhibitors regarding action taken by the body was incorporated in the authorization.

Elected for this purpose were: Fred Mercy jr., chairman; Milburn Kenworthy, Moscow, Ida.; W. G. Ripley, Longview; Cecil Gwinn, Centralia; Leroy Johnson, Seattle; John Danz, Seattle; Irwin Fey, Renton, and Gene Groesbeck, Enumclaw.

It was specifically mentioned that the state organization would not lose its local identity as an exhibitor organization.

During the luncheon that preceded the business session, L. O. Lukan, president of the MPTO for the past two terms, was presented with a wrist watch by the members. The presentation was made by Cecil Gwinn. The Rev. Doctor Hastings was again the principal speaker, while Bill Wilkins, chairman of the state parole board, represented the Governor, who had been called south and could not attend.

Jim Hone, executive secretary of the MPTO, handled details of the gathering.

Clearance Protesters Await Sears' Reply

Los Angeles—Pending a reply from Gradwell Sears, Warner sales chief, to its vehement protest against the additional seven-day clearance granted the Wiltern Theatre, recently-acquired Warner circuit house, over all other 40-cent houses in the city, Allied States is marking time in the zoning-clearance dispute.

Meantime the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., declaring itself interested in the matter only from a legal point of view, has turned the question over to its attorneys, intent upon learning whether a film company which operates a chain of theatres can legally advance clearance schedules on its own product as Warner has done. Opinion expressed by ITO executives is that, as long as the action does not affect any ITO member in that zone, the organization's interest in developments can be only from a standpoint of legality. Executives of the independent theatre group expressed themselves as "completely satisfied" with the "conciliation" arrived at after conferences with Warner Theatre moguls, as a result of which the circuit agreed to adhere to the NRA zoning and clearance schedule for all subsequent-run bookings in this area.

Allied is more vitally concerned, however, as one of its members, Lou Bard, operates the Adams Theatre, a 40-cent house, in the same zone as the Wiltern. The 21-day clearance granted the Wiltern on Warner product cuts directly into the 28-day clearance under which the Adams is operated, and which latter showcase, Allied contends, should be given an equal break.

Immediately upon learning of the Warner action, James C. Quinn, Allied secretary, addressed a letter to Sears charging the company's decision to advance the clearance on the Wiltern "is nothing but a fraud and a subterfuge," and contended that all subsequent price breaks would be thrown back a full week. Quinn termed it an "arrogant action" and said the slight additional profits involved could not balance the "alienation of exhibitor goodwill."

Fox West Coast, which operates a number of 40-cent houses in the zone, has had no comment to make. The FWC circuit has just concluded a deal to buy Warner's entire 1939-40 product lineup for its houses, ending a feud which began when Sears, some months ago, issued a manifesto indicting FWC's exhibition policies and declaring Warner would "sell away" from the circuit to independent showmen in the coast territroy.

P. A.'s by Laraine Day With New "Kildare"

Long Beach, Cal. — In connection with the local showing of Metro's "The Secret of Dr. Kildare," Laraine Day, featured in the cast, made personal appearances at the Fox West Coast Theatre and at the Municipal Auditorium. A local girl, she received a scroll of honor from the mayor.

G-Men Work Fast to Ready FWC Reply

LOS ANGELES—Returning as unobtrusively as they had departed on their hurry-up trip to Washington, D. C., Albert J. Law and Harold Collins, special department of justice investigators, are working at top speed preparing a reply to the motions for a bill of particulars requested by Fox West Coast and a number of major distributing companies in the federal government's criminal contempt action filed against them in U. S. district court here.

Hearing on the motions is scheduled for November 13. Neither Law nor Collins was available for comment, but a spokesman for the G-men declared they expected to have their reply ready by that time. What transpired during their trip to Washington either could not or would not be vouchsafed at the Law-Collins headquarters.

Motions for the bill of particulars was filed by Attorney Alfred Wright, representing 20th Century-Fox. It was asserted the government action failed to set forth sufficient facts to inform the defendants wherein they may have—according to the charge—violated the 1930 consent decree. The government declares FWC has been enjoying a virtual monopoly in buying and booking first-run features in the territory.

Defendants, in addition to FWC, include 20th Century-Fox, Loew's, Metro, Paramount, Warner, Vitagraph, United Artists, Universal and RKO Radio.

Nine Shorts Producers Are Awarded Gold Statuettes

LOS ANGELES—As the result of an audience poll among patrons of the Tele-View Newsreel Theatre, gold statuettes were awarded to nine producers for their outstanding short subjects made during 1939. Occasion also marked the first anniversary for the newsreel house. Receiving the awards at the hands of Gregory Carter, theatre manager, were:

Leon Schlesinger, for "Old Glory," Technicolor cartoon; Pete Smith, one-reel subject, "Follow the Arrow;" James FitzPatrick for his Traveltalk, "Australia;" Newton Jacobs, representing RKO Pathe, for "Bird Dogs;" John Nesbitt, M-G-M, for the outstanding one-reel novelty, "Yankee Doodle Goes to Town;" Carey Wilson, for M-G-M's one-reel dramatic subject, "The Great Heart;" Gordon Hollingshead, for Warner's two-reel color featurette, "Lincoln in the White House;" and Jack Chertok for Metro's two-reel black-and-white, "While America Sleeps." Pete Smith was voted most popular commentator of the year.

Goes to Louisville

LOS ANGELES—Tom Muchmore has resigned as manager of Fox West Coast's Apollo Theatre in Hollywood to accept the post of manager of the new Vogue Theatre in Louisville.

SEATTLE

WITH business off generally in this section, Sally Rand and her bevy of gals continue the town's top grosser at Mike Lyons' Show Box. Mike has been cramming extra shows in his schedule in order to accommodate. The Show Box seats 1,600 . . . Under terms of negotiations recently completed by Jensen and von Herberg with United Artists, the Liberty will secure new season product from UA.

New offices have been occupied by the Theatre Employes Union, Local B-2. For some time housed with the Moving Picture Operators union, they now move into a large room in the Labor Temple. George Hood is business representative . . . Maureen O'Hara, who stopped in Seattle for a one-day p. a. at the Fifth Avenue in conjunction with the opening of "Jamaica Inn," is now in a hospital at Yakima. Miss O'Hara was scheduled for an appearance there when she was stricken with acute appendicitis.

Jack Sampson, head publicist for the Danz Sterling chain, has added Jim Rice as his assistant . . . Basil Gray, publicist for the Theatrical Federation, announces "progress" in negotiations with the Seattle Theatre Managers' Ass'n . . . Mike Newman is doing his stuff for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" which opens at the Liberty.

Hamrick-Evergreen executives were hosts at a bachelor dinner given for Frank Christie at the Northwest Film Club. Sixty-five exchange heads, salesmen and office men were guests and Frank was gifted with several wedding presents. He was to be married November 11 to Betty Pritchard, his ex-secretary . . . The Ascap trial is still dragging along in Tacoma with Archie Blair, master, and doing the listening . . . Bud Leach, for many years assistant manager at the Orpheum in Seattle, Tacoma and Portland, was secretly married a couple of weeks ago to Marie Bell.

Mrs. Minnie Muller, wife of Joe Muller, widely known theatrical manager, died at her home in San Francisco recently. Joe ran several theatres in Seattle, the last being the Palace Hip. The couple had been married 38 years . . . Jack Flannery, having a lot of fun with a Santa Claus doll that talks (with help) . . . A. R. T. Young, Paramount auditor, off to Los Angeles and promising to return some time in December . . . B. P. McCormick, owner of theatres in Canyon City and Florence, Colo., and Hot Springs, N. M., visited J. T. Sheffield . . . Nick Pierong, formerly with Pantages theatres in the Northwest, back from a New York vacation. Nick is now with the State Highway Department.

Roy Rogers, Republic's singing cowboy who has been making personal appearances in the Northwest, has been called back to the studios. He was forced to cancel his show in Tacoma, but promised to return later for that date . . . Gus Graff of Shelton entertained school children by taking Roy Rogers direct to the school rooms and having him entertain. Rogers wasn't in town long enough to appear at the theatre, so Gus did the next best thing . . . Mike Barovic back from that long trek in the wilds of Idaho looking for game and reporting a little success.

Edna Johnson, contract clerk at Paramount, has returned from her belated vacation in Oregon . . . Jimmie Grier making a load of friends in town. Jimmie is appearing at the Palomar with his musicians . . . Bill Forman, general manager for Danz Sterling theatres, and Bill Shartin, local manager for Warner, were among those in Portland for the Oregon-USC game . . . Mildred Bishop of Lewiston, Ida., saying "Hello" in Spokane and telling of her intention to be in Seattle for the opening of the Lunt-Fontanne show at the Metropolitan . . . The Northwest Film Club is once more holding bridge tournaments in the evening. The one this week was presided over by Lillian Thompson.

Jack Hirshman, who sold film here in 1919, has returned to settle permanently . . . Danny Matin writes he is now working for RKO out of Omaha . . . S. Mukai of the Atlas and Circle theatres ill in bed for a week . . . Dad Abbott over from Sedro-Woolley . . . Jimmy O'Neal and Whitney "Si" Young over to Spokane . . . Eddie Walton expected after a ten-day trip through eastern Washington . . . Jimmy Beal, Columbia manager in Portland, spending a few hours here in the interest of business . . . The S. E. Ellers home from the trip to California . . . Stanley Jackson has resigned as head shipper at Paramount to go to work in the post office.

George Smith, western division head for Paramount, out for Portland, then on to Los Angeles . . . Morrie Nimmer in from Wenatchee . . . Hal Murphy in town from Olympia . . . Jimmy Ewing of Bonners Ferry doing some of his shopping in Spokane . . . Tommy Thompson in ahead of Blackstone, the magician, and mapping out his campaign with Jack Sampson . . . Frank Jenkins, manager of the Montlake, off on a ten-day trip to Los Angeles to procure film.

Joe Cooper jr. attending his first football game by himself . . . Don Geddes loaded down with a bad cold; likewise his wife . . . Bill Hamrick is now with an advertising agency . . . Harriet Lamb home at last, but down with a slight touch of flu . . . Mrs. Dorothy Stober, likewise, and in bed for two weeks.

"Like Two Box Offices"

One selling tickets to your show, the meat of your entertainment. The other selling Burch Way popcorn and candies, always the desert, always the most profitable.

"PRICE-LESS SERVICE
NO-LOSS SERVICE"

that smart Exhibitors, in this highly competitive entertainment era, just can't afford to overlook.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

PORTLAND

BIGGEST doings last week in the motion picture industry here was the U.S.C.-O.S.C. football game. Ted Gamble reports 1,765 Oregon State students made the 90 mile trip from Corvallis to attend the pre-game rally at the Broadway (and the game), while more than 1,000 townfolk tried to crowd in. They were stood in aisles, the foyer and in the street.

Your correspondent got caught on the wrong side of Broadway Friday night before the rally and faced the choice of risking life and limb or putting up in a hotel for the night. (Never mind which—tourists might jump to conclusions.) Hadn't seen so many panic-stricken automobiles since Nov. 11, 1918. *Looked like a DeMille epic called "Pied Piper of Detroit," and every car with SRO signs and every driver ad libbing on the horn button.*

Filmrow and theatre offices were practically deserted Saturday p. m. as the boys and girls turned out en masse for the game. Out-of-town exhibitors also were well represented. There were Dutch Stover and Mrs. Stover from Bend, Mr. and Mrs. John Noble from Marshfield, the Whiteside brothers and families from Corvallis and many others.

Saturday night's follow-up celebration, after the Beaver defeat, was more liquid and lachrymal. Herb Sobottka's midnight horror show at the Paramount Friday night, to loyal Oregon Staters, was good training for the one on Multnomah field the next afternoon. The Great Lester wowed 'em with his sawing-in-two act, but those U.S.C. blockers got roughly the same effect—and faster.

Last weekend the special football trains brought 'em in. This week they will take 'em away—including a big gang of fans on Filmrow—to the O.S.C.-U. of O. game at Eugene. The Filmrow boys are making a party of it.

Ted Gamble reports a visit by Heaton Randall of Seattle, and Mrs. Randall . . . A. M. Dunlop, J. J. Parker manager at Astoria, checked in here Monday . . . Dr. William Beebe comes Friday for a personal appearance with an accompanying motion picture of sea floor exploration, booked at the Benson auditorium. Navy Post No. 101, *American Legion, is the sponsor.*

The auto show closed Sunday at the International Livestock pavilion, with Parkyakarkus and the Petty girls saying goodbye. Attendance picked up after a slow start and the eight-day run of Paramount on Parade paid out, or so one hears. One man's opinion of the best boxoffice name to date: "The Petty Girls."

Bill Forman of the Danz circuit was down from Seattle . . . Theatre men here are settling down. Purchase of a new home by Herb Sobottka was reported last week. It's learned now that Ted Gamble and Frank Newman jr. have bought on Portland Heights and are remodeling to suit . . . Tom Grady, M-G-M auditor from New York, finished his stint here and moved north to Seattle.

Mrs. Dick Fisk of Bandon remains in the hospital here, but is reported recovering . . . N. A. Rhoades of Woodland and Battleground, and Claude Smith of Tillamook seen on the Row . . . Ed Randall, formerly of Condon, is negotiating for production for his new house at Salem . . . Personnel adjustment at 20th-Fox boosted Herschel Fox to the post of head booker and J. W. Ford to advertising sales manager. Stan Gustafson, new poster clerk, was added to the staff . . . Earl Hunt hopes to have found a spare moment by press time to have the stitches removed from his injured fin.

Greeted by Filmrow last week were J. D. Meyers, Beaverton; Mrs. Pearl Mattson, Deep River; W. H. Burford, Pendleton, and Eddie Callahan, Seaside. Other out-of-towners included A. H. Bashor, Kelso; Flossie Odem, Redmond; Don Meyers, La Grande; Frank Buckmiller, Baker; Lloyd Moore, Nermiston, and Mrs. H. H. Moyer, Gresham.

If all the Lunt and Fontanne fans in Portland were laid end to end, Walter Fenney and Bill McCurdy could tell you how far they would reach. Seat sale for "The Taming" opened last week, and the queue in front of the Mayfair boxoffice scared customers away.

W. E. Calloway Goes East For Product Parleys

LOS ANGELES — Conferences concerning product sales covering the current season's program have taken W. E. Calloway, Warner Pacific Coast sales chief, to New York to see Gradwell Sears, sales chieftain for the company.

Entire Warner Lineup for 1939-40 Sold to Eastland Circuit

LOS ANGELES—The entire Warner lineup for 1939-40 has been sold to the Eastland circuit, operating 13 houses in the eastern part of the city. Jack Brower, local exchange manager, handle the deal with Jack Berman and Harry Popkin, circuit operators.

Blue Mouse to Eliminate Newsreel Hour Show

PORTLAND, ORE.—Declaring the city is too small to support a newsreel theatre, Al Finkelstein, Hamrick-Evergreen district manager, announces the Blue Mouse experiment will stop within the next two weeks. Notice has been given to the staff.

Timed nicely with the beginning of hostilities in Europe early in September, the hour showing of newsreels and short subjects did expected business at first, but failed to hold up sufficiently to justify continuance.

SALT LAKE

BULLISH lineaments mark the Salt Lake City area, with the most optimistic sign provided by the tourist traffic which the past season was greater than in any previous season of a ten-year period. Retail sales in Utah have increased nine per cent over September of last year, according to a federal report, and current building activities have shown great improvement.

P. T. Blair, formerly of the Roxy Theatre at Logan, now is manager of the Studio Theatre here.

William Darling, art director for 20th-Fox's "Brigham Young," is filming scenes near Cedar City, to use in the picture. Scenes of downtown Salt Lake will be incorporated in the film.

A motion picture showing air views of the North and South American continents is being shown at local army headquarters . . . A series of color films of Utah national parks is being presented for the Veterans of Foreign Wars here by A. W. Morton of the Utah Amateur Movie Club.

The alleged robber of the Roxy Theatre, E. H. Erwin of Austin, Tex., has been remanded to the county jail, awaiting his preliminary hearing.

Two Salt Lake City youths, Frederick E. Pratt and John Lawrence, have been signed to parts in "The Fighting 69th," being filmed at the Warner studios.

Operators of KSL have launched an extensive improvement and modernization program for the station.

Columbia held a special conference here a few days ago which was attended by District Manager Jerry Safron of Los Angeles, and Bob Hill, supervisor of the Denver and Salt Lake divisions.

Russ Dauterman, Greenriver, Wyo., exhibitor, paid a booking visit to Filmrow . . . J. T. Sheffield of the Sheffield-Republic exchanges, returned to his Seattle headquarters after a stay of several days . . . Manager G. S. Pinnell and Salesman Paul McElhinney are both working in Idaho.

John Rugar of Park City, president of the Independent Theatre Owners organization here, is back from Chicago where he was summoned to attend the funeral of his brother.

The newly organized Intermountain Truckers' Ass'n is headed by Edgar Stanley of Salt Lake.

Manager F. H. Smith of the Paramount exchange is back from a successful sales trip through the state of Idaho. Manager W. W. McKendrick of Monogram also has been working in Idaho where he has closed a deal with the DeMourdant and Drenner circuit for his company's new product.

Art Baron of the local RKO sales force is accompanying Manager H. C. Fuller into Montana on an extended selling tour.

A war on "turkey boards" has been declared here by E. B. Harrison, special investigator for the attorney general.

The fourth annual Salt Lake ski show will be held November 13, 14, 15, 16.

LOS ANGELES

MIKE NEWMAN, Columbia exploiteer, has returned from San Francisco where he was boosting "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" . . . Metro Premium's Al Levinson planed back from his Chicago conferences with his boss . . . Buddy Meyers, Coast Pictures salesman, was on the Row again after his sick leave. It was a bad cold.

Bill Ring, Paramount's head shipper and president of Local B61, IATSE, has gone to the regional union gathering at San Francisco to help name national delegate to New York conference which is to draw up next year's contracts . . . The boxoffice of the Olympic Theatre on West Eighth St. was robbed of $30 by a hold-up man . . . Medicos have consigned Emil Umann of the Regina to his bed for another two weeks with the flu.

Hippodrome Theatre, a Popkin-Ringer enterprise, has opened after a complete remodeling with a picture and vaudeville policy . . . Al Galston and Jay Sutton are contemplating construction of a new house on Hollywood Blvd., within a block of their Marcal Theatre.

Booking: Tom Tobin, Jewel Theatre; Louis and Gene Berkoff, Cinema; I. Colton, Castle; Jack Chazen, Rosebud; Earl Strebe, Palm Springs; George Landers, Washington Theatre; Sam Decker, Palms; Fred Euell, Ramona, and Dick Lemucchi, in from his River Theatre at Oildale, Cal. Mannie Hoffman, formerly of the Avalon Theatre, spent a day visiting friends along the Row.

Joe Smith, president of IATSE, Local B-17, San Francisco, will represent coast exchanges at forthcoming conferences in New York concerning contracts for the next year. Smith was selected at a meeting attended by Bill Ring, president of Local B-61, Los Angeles, in the Bay City . . . John Trent, star of Monogram's "Tailspin Tommy" series, was a visitor at the local Monogram exchange.

Jennie Dodge, operator of the Mission Theatre in Ventura, has gone to New York on a business-pleasure trip. Says she may build a new house there upon her return . . . Mrs. Foster Jackson, who broke her pelvis while holidaying in New York, has returned to recuperate at her home in Elsinore, where she operates the Elsinore Theatre.

Overlooking no revenue bets, Irving Carlin and Max Sinker are planning a 20-alley bowling emporium to be constructed as an adjunct to their Alvarado Theatre . . . W. H. (Bud) Lollier, of the Fox West Coast executive staff, is sensitive about traffic patrolmen these days. A copper winged him with a citation for speeding . . . Eddie Cooke, Universal's office manager, is off on a two-week vacation.

George Hickey, Metro's western district manager, came in from a jaunt around the company's coast exchanges . . . Here for conferences with producers and distributors is Alfred N. Sack, general manager of Sack Amusement Enterprises, down Texas way.

Ben Fish, United Artists western district manager, checked in after a jaunt through the northwest . . . George Diamos of the Lyric Amusement Co., Phoenix, Ariz., came in on a booking trip . . . Harry Umann substituted for his brother Emil as a booking visitor for the Regina Theatre in Beverly Hills.

To confer with Sam Nathanson concerning plans to open a new exchange there, Murray Fisher of Coast Pictures headed for San Francisco . . . Astor Pictures has acquired two more films for release—"Kathleen," made in Ireland with Sally O'Neil starring, and "Out of Singapore," featuring Noah Beery sr., Montague Love and Dorothy Burgess.

With the office closed until noon November 7—election day—so that employes could go to the polls, the regular weekly Fox West Coast district managers' meeting was held in the afternoon instead of the morning, as per the usual custom.

Berkoff Files Suit Against Majestic on "Ecstasy"

LOS ANGELES—Alleging he holds an exclusive first-run contract with Majestic Pictures, Inc., for local showings of "Ecstasy," the Hedy Lamarr picture, Louis Berkoff, owner of the Cinema Theatre, has filed suit in municipal court against Majestic charging breach of contract.

Berkoff declared that after he had booked the film for five weeks in his theatre, Majestic violated the contract by releasing the picture to a 20-cent house, where it has been running for three weeks. The plaintiff estimates his loss of revenue at $1,800.

Ward Morris Rites

SAN FRANCISCO—Last rites for Ward Morris, long a popular figure in local film circles, were held here last week. Morris, whose death came after a lingering illness, had been associated with Fox West Coast for the past ten years.

Add to "Girl Friday" Cast

HOLLYWOOD—Cast of Howard Hawks' Columbia production, "His Girl Friday," in which Cary Grant is starred, has been augmented with the addition of Abner Biberman, Porter Hall and Frank Jenks in supporting roles. Rosalind Russell has the feminine lead and Ralph Bellamy is featured.

Jam Handy Transfers Miller

LOS ANGELES—Ralph Miller, promotion man for the Jam Handy organization in Detroit, has been transferred to the West Coast contact staff.

Trio Assigned to Script

HOLLYWOOD—Norman Z. McLeod, Corey Ford and Alastair MacBain have been assigned to adapt "The Canterville Ghost" for Metro. Milton Bren will produce.

Boyce House Advisor

HOLLYWOOD—Boyce House has been signed as technical advisor on "The Lady Comes to Burkburnett," which Sam Zimbalist is producing for Metro.

FWC Notables Attend Inglewood Opening

LOS ANGELES—With Hollywood personalities and circuit executives in attendance, Fox West Coast opened the newest unit in its extensive circuit November 9 when the Academy Theatre, located on the outskirts of Inglewood, made its bow as a deluxe showcase.

First-night attraction was a press preview of M-G-M's "Another Thin Man," co-starring William Powell and Myrna Loy. Powell and Miss Loy contributed to the festivities by appearing in person to autograph a foyer plaque commemorating the gala opening. Attendance was by invitation only, the guest list including Charles Skouras, FWC president, circuit executives including Dick Dickson, Thornton Sargent and Arch M. Bowles and a number of film colony notables.

Theatre was erected at an approximate cost of $500,000 and was designed and constructed under the supervision of Architect S. Charles Lee. Seating 1,200, it boasts the latest in projection and sound equipment, streamlined interiors and marquee. Price scale has been set at 40 cents general admission and 55 cents for loges.

Managing the house is James Brinton, transferred from the FWC United Artists Theatre in Inglewood.

First regular program for the theatre, beginning November 10, was Metro's "Marx Brothers at the Circus" and "Dancing Co-ed."

W. E. Tebbets Acquires Granada at Portland

PORTLAND, ORE.—Walter E. Tebbets, operator of the Granada Theatre, has acquired the Roseway here from the estate of the late H. J. Updegraff.

After remodeling and modernizing the Roseway, Tebbets will take personal charge of its operation, with John Stille managing the Granada.

The Mount Tabor and State theatres will continue under the management of Mrs. Updegraff.

Complete Remodeling Slated for F&M Paramount, Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—A complete remodeling and refurnishing job, including new seats, decorations and other equipment, is scheduled for the Paramount Theatre, downtown first-run Fanchon & Marco house. It will close December 13 for a week, reopening before Christmas.

Doing "Story of Nobel"

HOLLYWOOD — "The Story of Alfred Nobel" is being scripted by Ulrich Steindorff for Warner.

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LOS ANGELES

DENVER

ALL the first runs in Denver had standouts over the weekend, with "Roaring Twenties" at the Denver taking in the most money for the week.

Because of the resignation of Vern Austin as manager of the Gem at Golden, Colo., C. U. Yaeger made several manager changes in his string. He moved Raymond Lounsbury from the Pioneer, Lamar, Colo., to the Golden job; George Hodges went from the Gothic, Denver, to Lamar as manager of the Pioneer, and Ralph Hamilton, assistant at the Gothic, was promoted to the managership of that house. Austin went to North Platte, Neb., where he will manage the State, being taken over by Ed Mapel of Denver. With the entry of Mapel into North Platte it means that Fox will have its first competition there in many years.

Arthur Esberg, city manager for Interstate Theatres in Alburquerque, N. M., was in Denver on his usual monthly trip booking for his houses.

A. G. Edwards, manager of the Rocky mountain Screen Club rooms, has resigned, to become effective November 15. *His successor has not been chosen. Edwards plans to go to work as salesman for Harry Nolan, former film man, who is now manufacturing a window cleaning fluid that is proving unusually successful.*

Seen on the Row were these four out-of-town exhibitors: B. P. McCormick, Canon City, Colo.; H. S. Coulter, Meeker, Colo.; R. N. Hough, Imperial, Neb., and Tom Love, Hanna, Wyo.

FWC Managers to Aid in Study Group Buildup

LOS ANGELES—Fox West Coast house managers have been pressed into service by Ryllis Remington, FWC public relations department head, to aid in the expansion of the chain's program for supplying educational study groups with photoplay appreciation material.

Current plans are to supply material to large numbers of schools not now receiving the service. Managers are to obtain names of school principals and teachers, as well as those of parent-teacher heads and other related social groups.

The study and group discussion guides will continue, as in the past, to be prepared by William Lewin, chairman of the motion picture committee of the National Educational Ass'n. Harold Turney, chairman of the Los Angeles City College drama department, will compile the film guides.

"Swing Mikado" Version Into L. A. Paramount

LOS ANGELES—A condensed version of "Mikado—in Swing," originally produced as a Federal Theatre Project show, has been booked into the Paramount, downtown, as the stage attraction playing in conjunction with "Jamaica Inn." It opened November 9.

See Full Houses for Flesh Attractions in Portland

PORTLAND, ORE.—Early boxoffice response apparently has assured capacity houses for all major attractions in Portland's biggest stage season in more than 10 years.

The response to one Sunday newspaper advertisement of Alfred Lunt & Lynn Fontanne in "The Taming of the Shrew" was an estimated $10,000 in mail orders alone. The show is booked for early in November. Orders came in from all over Oregon and southern Washington. A public school at Camas, Wash., sent a deposit on a block of 50 tickets. Willamette University at Salem ordered 100 tickets.

Equally gratifying has been the response to a season ticket plan for four attractions. Ticket holders will retain the same seats for "Golden Boy," November 24-25; Eva Le Gallienne, January 4-6; "What a Life," February 20-21, and "On Borrowed Time," March 8-9.

Cabart & Southside Sign For New Warner Product

LOS ANGELES — Product arrangements have been concluded by Warner Bros. for both the Cabart and Southside circuits covering its 1939-40 output 100 per cent. Deals for both theatre companies were handled by Milton Arthur and the distributor was represented by Branch Manager Jack Brower.

Cabart operates 10 houses in the Long Beach area, embracing first and subsequent runs. Southside has five theatres in the Los Angeles district.

FWC Managers Offered $150 in Garbo Contest

LOS ANGELES—An exploitation incentive of $150 has been given Fox West Coast house managers by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in connection with its forthcoming Garbo release, "Ninotchka." First prize of $100 will go to manager in circuit whose house shows best gross in comparison with that of the "Wizard of Oz" at the same theatre. Second prize of $50 goes for the best exploitation campaign on "Ninotchka." The awards were announced by Exchange Manager Clayton T. Lynch.

Sequel to "Raffles"

HOLLYWOOD — Having received David Niven's assurances he will return from England as soon as possible, Sam Goldwyn has assigned Director Sam Wood to prepare "Raffles, Amateur Cracksman," as a follow-up to the recently-completed "Raffles." Niven will repeat in the title role.

Featured Roles in "Ehrlich"

HOLLYWOOD—Donald Crisp, Donald Meek and Maria Ouspenskaya have been assigned featured roles in Warner's "Life of Dr. Ehrlich," to star Edward G. Robinson.

Cantor Sells to FWC

LOS ANGELES—Fox West Coast has purchased the Royale Theatre on Whittier Blvd. from Dave Cantor, who will continue to operate the York.

S' FRANCISCO

THE election scene took over the town this week and parades, bands and political rallies reminiscent of campaigns of the '90s were much in evidence. When the smoke had cleared away Mayor Rossi had been returned to the post of the city's official greeter and the old folks still had to do without their "Ham 'n Eggs" . . . Lou Anger of 20th Century-Fox was up from Los Angeles, Saturday, for the Bay Meadows races.

Weekend business here was the best it had been in several months at the Market Street first runs . . . "Prelude to Paradise" had its world premiere at the legitimate Alcazar last week . . . Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne are due at the Curran, Monday, in "The Taming of the Shrew," ushering in an extensive legitimate season that will bring leading stars and shows to S. F. . . . The S. F. Theatre Union gave a benefit performance for the Western Union strikers at the Green Street Theatre, Saturday night.

Nasser Brothers have purchased the neighborhood Majestic from Morris Gallos, who is planning a long vacation after years in the business . . . The Motion Picture Council is reviving its drive to have the neighborhoods here show only family pictures on weekends.

Ramblings on the Row: Pacific Premium will be all set in its new location in about a week . . . Doc Henning of Pacific is in New York . . . The local Universal exchange finished in second place behind Los Angeles in the exhibitor-sponsored testimonial drive. The 20th Century-Fox branch here holds a similar position in the nationwide Kent Drive . . . Samuel Nathanson of Coast Pictures Corp., definitely arranged for his company to come into S. F. when he was in town last week. The location has not been announced.

Along the Row we saw: Walter Kofeldt, who reports business is good at the new Tower, Santa Rosa; Harry Hemington, Orland Theatre, Orland; Edy Coffey, Santa Clara; George Smith, Willetts; Peter Perry, Yearington, Nev.; Bill Peters, Mantica and Escalon; Jack Dean, Foothill, Oakland; Steve Chorak, Etna; Dan Toccini, Sebastopol; Eddie Stokes, Eastmont, Oakland; S. S. Keller, Warner's traveling auditor.

Jack Blumenfeld is the new assistant to Eric Wilson, booker for Blumenfeld Circuit . . . George Glosser, long a familiar figure on the Row, is now in the ad sales department at Universal . . . Charlie Owens, who also has been around a long time, is the new shipper at Grand National . . . Nancy Rydell, film inspectress, 20th-Fox, suffered a brief illness last week . . . Joe Smith, Paramount shipper and business agent for the Film Employes Union, was chosen to represent this area at New York next week when negotiations begin for a new union contract.

And our scoop for the week, although it has not yet been announced to the public and the newspapers claim the necessary money has not yet been raised, is that Golden Gate International Exposition officials have completed all financial arrangements and Treasure Island will open for four months on or about next May 29.

Chicago Cooperative Still in Talk Stage

CHICAGO—The proposed new cooperative theatres group for independent Chicago exhibitors still remained in the talking stage this week at the conclusion of another Allied Theatres board members meeting at the Congress Hotel. Each succeeding meeting finds more details being worked out.

It is thought that, should the cooperative be formed, it would take several months to get it into working shape, and that it would probably not begin functioning until the start of the 1940-41 buying season.

The meeting also saw further discussion on general film buying problems facing the independents, including prices, release dates, clearance, etc.

Neal Bishop to Represent "B" Locals of Midwest

CHICAGO—Neal Bishop of the Chicago local has been named representative of the midwest district for the "B" local groups at the forthcoming national wage conference to be held next month in New York. The "B" locals are composed of exchange workers.

Bishop was named at a meeting held in Indianapolis, attended by representatives from Chicago, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati and St. Louis.

The St. Louis union, now over 15 years old and the oldest "back-room" employes' union in the country, is expected to serve again as the basis for arriving at working conditions for most of the exchanges throughout the country.

B&K Managers Parley on Ways of Upping Takes

CHICAGO—B&K managers met Wednesday and Thursday at the Blackstone Hotel, in the first such session in nine years. General trade problems were discussed, with particular attention given to ways and means of increasing attendance.

On the social side, a banquet was held Wednesday night. This was turned into a gridiron meeting, during which the managers and publicity department took time out to put the executive staff of the circuit on the griddle.

Regional Republic Meet Is Held in Windy City

CHICAGO—Republic franchise holders in the midwest held a regional meeting on sales Tuesday at the Drake Hotel. Here were Herbert J. Yates and Jimmy Grainger from New York and Earl Kurtz from the west coast.

Grainger presided at the all-day session. The new sales plan of setting revenue goals on a quarterly basis was discussed.

Second Mistrial Declared in Nick "Extortion" Hearing

ST. LOUIS—A second mistrial was declared here Tuesday in the extortion charge trial of John P. Nick, vice-president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, by Circuit Judge Robert L. Aronson. The unrevealed acquaintanceship of one of the jurors, Edward H. Davis, with the defendant's family occasioned the mistrial. Davis was sentenced to a week in jail for contempt of court and his name stricken from the jury roll. The case was reset for hearing December 11.

It will be recalled that the first trial of Nick on the extortion charge—a charge made in connection with the payment of $10,000 from a defense fund raised by motion picture theatre owners here in the fall of 1936, when the annual wage scale agreement with Projectionists Local 143 was up for consideration—resulted in a mistrial when Judge Aronson learned that one of the jurors had talked to a state witness.

To Seek Acquittal

Previous to the declaration of a mistrial, the defense counsel, Sigmund M. Bass, announced that when the state completes its testimony he will ask for Nick's acquittal on the grounds that the state has failed to make a case. Bass, in his opening statement to the jury Monday, admitted that the defense would not deny the theatre owners paid $10,000 to Brady, but would deny that Nick had any connection with State Representative Edward M. Brady's request or collection of the money. (Brady was indicted jointly with Nick but is to be tried later). Bass said that while Brady got the $10,000 he held no office in Local No. 143, and, therefore, could make no promise as to what the union would do.

Since the first trial City Attorney Franklin Miller has been endeavoring to bolster his case against Nick and Brady, and also against Clyde A. Weston, former business agent for Local No. 143 who was indicted with Nick on a charge of extortion in connection with an alleged payment of $6,500 made by motion picture theatre owners in 1937. This case against Nick and Weston on November 6 was set for trial on December 11, while Brady, will be given a separate trial on the indictment based on the 1936 payment of $10,000 alleged to have been made to him for Nick in October, 1936.

Into Income Tax

The grand jury has been prying into the income tax returns of Nick, Weston and Brady for the years 1936 and 1937 and also their bank accounts in an effort to obtain new evidence against them.

No income tax returns by State Representative Brady for 1936 or for Weston for 1937 were found in a search through the files in the city assessor's office in the City Hall. Nick's state returns and the copies of his federal reports for 1936 and 1937 were found and turned over to the grand jurors. The grand jury also went into Nick's bank accounts at the Mercantile Commerce Bank & Trust Co. These records covered the years 1936, 1937 and 1938. It was later indicated that the jury failed to obtain any evidence of the alleged payoffs to Nick in their checkup of his income returns and bank records. This was shown when the circuit attorney's office applied only for a subpoena for the income tax records of Brady and Weston.

The income tax returns of Brady and Weston for 1938 were among the record for which a subpoena was issued. It is understood that the Brady report showed that he had received $10,000 from the theatre owners while the Weston return showed large sums of money which are supposed to have come from the operators union.

While the state law makes income tax returns available only for use in income tax matters, Circuit Attorney Miller is hopeful that he will be able to use the returns as evidence in the trials of the three accused men.

Propose Blocking Pickets Salaries With Writ

ST. LOUIS—Notice of their intention to apply to the Missouri supreme court at Jefferson City for a writ of prohibition to prevent Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley from authorizing or approving expenditures of funds of the Moving Picture and Projection Machine Operators Union Local No. 143 for the expenses of members of the union who are picketing the Fox Theatre, a de luxer operated by the Fanchon & Marco interests for the Eden Theatre Company, and seven theatre owners by the St. Louis Amusement Co., also managed by Fanchon & Marco, was served on Judge Oakley, November 6, by counsel for 14 members of the union who have intervened in the receivership action that resulted in the ouster of John P. Nick, IATSE vice-president and his chief lieutenant, Clyde A. Weston, former business agent of the local from control over the assets and affairs of the union.

Judge Oakley issued the order deposing Nick and Weston last April and named two co-receivers to take charge of the union.

The picketing of the Fox and the St. Louis Amusement Company houses started last month in a dispute involving the employment of nine operators said to be affiliated with the Nick faction. The present officers of Local No. 143 have contended that the projectionists now being used in the picketed houses are not in good standing with Local No. 143, having been suspended for accepting the positions contrary to union rules.

Tax Revenue Higher

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.—October state sales tax collections totaled $1,918,508.53, a gain of $116,812.93 compared with September and $203,579.59 over October last year. Since January 1 the gain over the corresponding period in 1938 has been $1,552,427.

Enthusiastic Meeting For Wisconsin TO

MILWAUKEE—One of the most enthusiastic crowds in the history of the organization marked the annual convention of the Independent Theatres Protective Ass'n of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc., at the Schroeder Hotel here.

With an estimated 200 exhibitors and wives attending the affair, it became evident that a revived interest in independent organization has taken a fresh grasp on Wisconsin theatre owners.

The possibility of a special session of the state legislature to raise some $20,000,000 to balance the budget for the biennium and the likelihood of passage of the Neely bill contributed to a splendid turnout.

All efforts at the gathering were bent toward strengthening the state association and sessions were conducted in the form of open forums, although the meetings were closed to outsiders. All delegates present were permitted to express themselves freely and most took advantage of the opportunity to do so.

Directors Are Named

Directors named for one-year terms each by the delegates at the closing session are William S. Smith, Menomonie; William L. Ainsworth, Fond du Lac; August C. Berkholtz, West Bend; Ben Marcus, Ripon; Max Krofta, Racine; John P. Adler, Marshfield; Harold J. Mirisch, A. C. Gutenberg and Ross Baldwin, all of Milwaukee.

The board of directors, in turn, named new officers as follows: Ainsworth, president; Gutenberg, vice-president; Krofta, secretary, and Mirisch, treasurer.

A membership committee was named consisting of Bert Nathan and Charles W. Trampe, both of Milwaukee; Marcus, Ainsworth and Arthur T. Desormeaux, Madison. This committee will name zone captains in various districts throughout the state, who in turn will report to the board of directors.

Some 500 persons attended a Hallowe'en party staged by the association on Tuesday night in cooperation with the Variety Club. A banquet on Wednesday evening concluded the affair.

Exhibits on the convention floor included the Wisconsin Chair Co., Everbrite Electric Signs, Inc., Book Night, Progressive Premiums Co., Inc., Adler Sign & Letter Co., Ben Poblocki & Sons Co., Ray Smith Co., Film Arts Corp., American Seating Co., National Theatre Supply Co., Theatres' Candy Co., and the Attendance Builders Co.

Tribute Paid Maertz

Tribute was paid at the convention to Edward F. Maertz, president of the association who died suddenly in September, by pausing a moment in his memory during a business session and adopting a resolution of condolence to the family.

An estimated 600 persons turned out for the banquet on Wednesday night at which time the directors announced their selection of Harry Perlewitz as business manager of the organization. Perlewitz is a pioneer in the business and until recently operated theatres in Milwaukee and Watertown.

The directors selected November 10 as the date for their first meeting to be held in Milwaukee.

Those registering at the convention included the following:

J. S. Abrose, United Artists manager, Milwaukee; B. H. Adler, Adler Sign Co., Chicago; J. P. Adler, Adler Theatre Co., Marshfield; William L. Ainsworth, La Belle Theatre, Oconomowoc; H. J. Altschwager, Rudalt Theatre, Columbus; Clay Armstrong, Consolidated Book Night, Milwaukee; Ray Babicky, Everbrite Electric Signs, Inc., Milwaukee; Ross J. Baldwin, Tosa Theatre, Wauwatosa; George Bauch, Milwaukee; August C. Berkholtz, West Bend and Mermac theatres, West Bend.

James J. Boden, Grand Theatre, South Milwaukee; Roy Boomer, Motiograph, Chicago; Frank Borchert, Door Theatre, Sturgeon Bay; Edward Branen, Progressive Premium Co., Inc., Milwaukee; Frank Branen, Price Theatre Premiums, Milwaukee; Charles Braun, Hartford Theatre, Hartford; E. H. Breckler, Fenway Theatre, Fennimore; A. F. Brighton, National Theatre Supply Co., Milwaukee.

Fred Brown, Plymouth and Majestic Theatres, Plymouth; Len Brown, Mainstreet Theatre, Racine; A. Chapman, United Artists, Milwaukee; N. S. Cohan, Badger Theatres, Reedsburg; I. J. Craite, Pastime Theatre, Horicon; V. F. DeLorenzo, Franklin Theatre, Milwaukee; A. P. Desormeaux, Majestic Theatre, Madison; G. E. Miner, Ellago Theatre, Rice Lake; P. C. Dodge, Milwaukee; R. R. Du Mez, National School Equipment Co., Port Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Eckardt, Wisconsin and Rapids theatres, Wisconsin Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Erickson, Rex Theatre, Kingsford, Mich.; Ray Etzel, Everbrite Electric Signs, Inc.; Bert Fischer, Alamo, Mozart and Pearl theatres, Milwaukee; Earl Fischer, Alamo Theatre, Milwaukee; Frank Fischer, Wisconsin Poster Service, Milwaukee; George Fischer, Capitol Theatre, West Allis; G. W. Fox, American Seating Co., Minneapolis.

Jack Frackman, Republic Pictures manager, Milwaukee; Edward Gavin, Universal Film Co., Milwaukee; H. J. Gleason, Saxe Amusement Management, Milwaukee; C. Goderski, Aragon Theatre, Milwaukee; Joe Goetz, Milwaukee; John Goshorn, National Theatre Supply Co., Milwaukee; G. B. Graber, American Seating Co., Chicago; M. Graves, Everbrite Electric Signs, Inc., Milwaukee; Andy Gutenberg, Grand Theatre, Milwaukee; Fred J. Hanke, Lyric Theatre, Milwaukee; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Honthaner, Comet Theatre, Milwaukee.

John Hanus, Home Theatre, Antigo; William Heiman, Peerless Theatre, Milwaukee; Jack Heywood, Gem Theatre, New Richmond; M. Horwitz, 20th Century-Fox, Milwaukee; Gil Jacobs, Everbrite Electric Signs, Inc., Milwaukee; Don Johns, Eastwood Theatre, Madison; A. W. Judge, Milwaukee; W. C. Keeran, Vapor Car Heating Co., Chicago; D. F. Kelliher, Sprague Theatre, Elkhorn.

Ed Klohn, Everbrite Electric Signs, Inc., Milwaukee; M. L. Kohnen, Minute Sales Enterprises, Inc., Milwaukee; Max Krofta, Capitol Theatre, Racine; D. J. Kulaszewicz, Rex Theatre, Bessemer, Mich.; M. J. La Court, Milwaukee; C. O. and Paul Langheinrich, Burleigh Theatre, Milwaukee; Ernst Landgemack, Colonial Theatre, Milwaukee; George L. Levine, Milwaukee.

Sam Levinson, Milwaukee; J. H. Lorentz, 20th Century-Fox manager, Milwaukee; Charles Lowe, Times Theatre, Oshkosh; Ed Lurie, Monogram-Midwest Film Co., Inc.; Irving Mack, Filmack Trailer Corp., Chicago; E. Macke, Bomber Punching Bag Co., Chicago; Frank Mackel, Bomber Punching Bag Co., Chicago; Dorothy Mandy, Consolidated Book Night, Milwaukee.

Frank Mantzke, Universal Film Exchange manager, Milwaukee; Ben Marcus, Sprinoff Amusement Co., Ripon; Lester F. Martin, Consolidated Book Night, Chicago; A. E. Meyer, International Projector, Milwaukee; C. R. Mickel, 20th Century-Fox, Milwaukee; B. J. Miller, Milwaukee; Karl Miller, Motion Picture Projectionists Union, Milwaukee.

M. M. Miller, May Theatre, Mayville; Harold Mirisch, Oriental and Tower theatres, Milwaukee; Mark Morgan, Eskin Circuit, Milwaukee; L. C. Mudd, National Theatre Supply Co., Milwaukee; Carl Musbaum, Milwaukee; F. J. McWillams, Portage Theatre, Portage; Bert Nathan, Hollywood Theatre, Milwaukee; Herbert Neuser, Violet Theatre, Milwaukee.

Oscar Olson, business manager, Motion Picture Projectionists Union, Local 164; Milwaukee; Sam Ozonoff, Milwaukee; George Panka, Metro Theatre, Prairie du Chien; Joe Pastor, Radio Theatre, Milwaukee; Louis Patz, National Screen Service, Milwaukee; Harry Perlewitz, business manager, I.T.P.A. of Wisconsin; Ernie Pickler, United Artists, Milwaukee; Ben Poblocki, Ben Poblocki & Sons Co., Milwaukee; Irene Preston, I.T.P.A. of Wisconsin, secretary; N. H. Provencher, United Artists; Jay Reader, Delavan.

Donald Reed, Burlington; Virginia Richmond, Adler Sign Letter Co., Chicago; Henry Ringling, Baraboo; F. L. Rodoff, Minute Sales Enterprises, Milwaukee; C. L. Roser, Al Ringling Theatre, Baraboo; O. J. Ruby, Columbia Pictures Corp., manager, Milwaukee; H. Santley, Filmack Trailer Co., Chicago; William Scharum, Franklin Theatre, Milwaukee; O. Schmidt, Violet Theatre, Milwaukee; J. B. Schuyler, National Theatre Supply Co., Milwaukee.

C. L. Severson, Wisconsin Chair Co., Port Washington; A. R. Slade, Attendance Builders Co., Milwaukee; Manuel Smerling, Fox Wisconsin Theatres, Milwaukee; Ray A. Smith, Ray Smith Supply Co., Milwaukee; R. T. Smith, Warner Bros., manager, Milwaukee; W. S. Smith, Orpheum Theatre, Menomonie; Mrs. Odeal Speaker, Majestic and Pearl theatres, De Pere; Edward Spiers, Burleigh Theatre, Milwaukee.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Suszycki, Gail Theatre, Mauston; Miss Rita Terhorst, Burlington; W. L. Tews, Climax Theatre, Milwaukee; Tess Tishock, Consolidated Book Night Co., Milwaukee; Gordon Tobin, Consolidated Book Night Co., Milwaukee; C. W. Trampe, Climax Theatre, Milwaukee; Oliver Trampe, Rainbow Theatre, Milwaukee; Ray Trampe, Rainbow Theatre, Milwaukee.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Vogel, Empire Theatre, Manitowoc; O. J. Vollert, Liberty Theatre, Milwaukee; R. Von Zakobiel, Roxy Theatre, Milwaukee; Jack Wedlake, Clinton Theatre, Clinton; Glenn Wood, Grand National Pictures manager, Milwaukee; Jack Yeo, Plaza Theatre, Burlington; W. D. Young, Murray Theatre, Milwaukee; Mr. and Mrs. Ray E. Zahn, Falls Theatre, Menomonee Falls.

The meeting saw the retirement from office of F. J. McWilliams, Portage, who as chairman of the board of the ITPA of Wisconsin, served as chairman of the business sessions during the confab. Mr. McWilliams has long been active in the affairs of the association, serving it faithfully in a variety of official capacities.







At ATOI Meet—

Among those present at the convention in Indianapolis of the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana: Top row—Karl Gast of the Madrid Theatre, Akron, Ind.; W. W. Willman, manager of the Indianapolis M-G-M branch; Mrs. Gast, and Jerry Adams, Metro salesman. Center row: Tim Cleary, Metro salesman; Mrs. Anne Mitchell of the Lincoln Theatre, Petersburg; a friend of Mrs. Mitchell's; Mrs. Annette Kuebler of the Astra Theatre, Jasper, and H. H. Marshall, Metro exploiteer. Bottom row: W. W. Willman, again, and Oscar Fine, head of the Fine circuit, Evansville.

ATOI Second District Meet Nov. 15 at Elwood, Ind.

INDIANAPOLIS—The first fall meeting of the second district of the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana will be held Wednesday, November 15, at Elwood, Ind., with Joe Finneran and Trueman Rembusch as hosts. Leonard Sowar, re-elected regional vice-president of District No. 2, will preside at the meeting.

The first board of directors meeting of the ATOI of the newly elected board will have its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 14, at the association office.

The third district of the ATOI held its first fall meeting on Tuesday, October 31, at the Antlers Hotel, with a luncheon. The following members were in attendance: Earl Bell, Howard Theatre; Harry Markun, Talbott and Belmont; Ernest L. Miller, Cinema; Harry Nagel, Dream; Oscar Kuschner, Hollywood; Carl Niesse, representing the Lyric, Oriental, Ritz, St. Clair, Strand, Uptown and Vogue; Nathan and Ernest Tamler, Oliver and Tex, and representing Charles Tamler of the Garfield and Irving Tamler of the Tuxedo; Al Ackerman, Tacoma; A. C. Zaring and Eddie Zeyen of Zaring and Don R. Rossiter, ATOI executive secretary.

Adolph M. Eisner Heads B&K's Employes Club

CHICAGO—Adolph M. Eisner, manager of the Pantheon Theatre, is the new president of the Balaban & Katz Employes Club. Other officers named at the recent election include:

Bill Methe, Tower, first vice-president; Charlie Cottle, Marbro, second vice-president; Hugh W. McGinnis, State, third vice-president; Melvin J. Rainey, office, secretary; Joe Kearns, office, treasurer; Alan Waldman, Chicago, loop director; Al Leonard, Coronet, north side director; Roland C. Schwartz, Tivoli, south side director; James Ellis, Crystal, northwest side director, and Dean Jones, Paradise, west side director.

Leading Part by Chicago Trade in Xmas Party

CHICAGO—Plans are under way again for the amusement industry to take a leading part in Mayor Edward J. Kelly's annual Christmas party. For the fifth consecutive year, Frank Smith, manager of the RKO Palace, has been named to handle all arrangements. Top-flight name acts and bands will appear, as usual.

The party will be held Thursday night, December 21, at the Chicago Stadium. Last year the affair grossed over $350,000 and 75,000 boxes were distributed Christmas Day to poor children.

New Marquee for Citadel

BLOOMFIELD, IND.—A new marquee is among the many renovations being made by Myers Flater on his Citadel Theatre here. The improvements will cost about $4,000.

Paramount Asked to Keep Stars Off Air

INDIANAPOLIS—A resolution urging Paramount to take necessary steps immediately to keep their stars off of radio programs and another asking distributors to refrain from making 35mm feature prints available for release on 16mm prints, for other than private showings in homes, were among several passed at the 13th annual convention of Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana.

Specifically listed as offending radio stars were Bob Burns, Bing Crosby, Jack Benny and Burns & Allen, with the ATO demanding that Paramount "follow the lead taken by Loew's, Inc., and 20th Century-Fox Films Corp. and take immediate steps to discontinue the appearance of their stars on radio programs."

In its resolution, the ATO recognizes the 16mm film problem as "one of the greatest menaces to the theatre industry." "Immediate" action by distributors to end this "menace," is requested.

In other resolutions, the body expressed "deepest sympathy" and extended "condolences to the bereaved family" of William Luckett, a "good member" who died October 19, and formally recorded an expression of thanks and appreciation to Maurice Rubin, I. R. Holycross and Frank Sanders, retired officers, for "untiring efforts in behalf of the welfare of the association."

New ATOI Members

INDIANAPOLIS—The Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana announces the following new members: D. G. Steinkamp, English Theatre, English; J. W. Heller, Star Theatre, Fremont; Harry Douglass, Cozy Theatre, Dugger; Harold L. Hargis, Rio Theatre, Rockport; Mrs. Wm. J. Haney, Milan Theatre, Milan; Abe H. Kaufman, Fountain Theatre, Terre Haute.

Extol Chicago Parks

CHICAGO—More than 150 Chicago theatres have used the 10-minute short subjects of the Chicago Park District, telling Chicagoans how to enjoy their park and recreation facilities, according to a story in the current issue of *Business Screen*.

The Cine in Chicago Pleases Ladies

Chicago—It appears that feminine patrons of the B&K Cine Theatre can't get too much of Charles Boyer on the screen.

The theatre recently ran a double dose of Boyer films, "Mayerling," in which he co-stars with Danielle Darrieux, and "Algiers," in which he appears opposite Hedy Lamarr. The combination did about three times average business.

Roy E. Harrold, Rushville, Heads Indiana ATO

INDIANAPOLIS—Roy E. Harrold, operator of the Princess and Castle theatres, Rushville, who was recently elected president of the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, Inc., has been in the theatre business for 14 years, two years as a silent partner but in the active operation for the past 12 years.



ROY HARROLD

In January of 1928, Harrold bought out the interest of Fred S. Casady who had operated the theatres previously and with whom he was a silent partner, and has been the sole operator of the theatres since then.

This is the only theatre operation Harrold has assumed. He was editor of the Rushville *Republican* for many years.

Harrold is married and resides in Rushville. He has been a director of the association for many years and has taken an active part in the activities, having been a delegate to several national allied conventions.

Semi-Monthly Listings by Film Council of Chicago

CHICAGO—The semi-monthly listing of films by the Better Films Council of Chicago finds the following in the family group:

"Babes in Arms," M-G-M; "Everything Is Rhythm," Joe Rock Production; "Hollywood Cavalcade," 20th-Fox; "$1,000 a Touchdown" and "Television Spy," Paramount, and "They Shall Have Music," UA.

In the mature group: "Bella Donna," Twickendam; "Escape From Yesterday," French Films; "Fifth Avenue Girl," RKO; "Four Feathers," UA; "Mutiny in the Big House," Monogram; "Pack Up Your Troubles," 20th-Fox; "Rio," Universal; "The Roaring Twenties," Warner, and "Torpedoed," Film Alliance.

Milwaukee Empire Bldg. Owners Seek Tax Cut

MILWAUKEE—The Empire Bldg., which houses the Riverside Theatre, would not bring more than $850,000 if sold at a private sale, although assessed by the city at $1,725,000, the city tax board of review was informed. The building's owners, the Building Development Co., opened an appeal for an assessment reduction by placing C. A. Rossbach, appraiser, on the stand.

"Hitler—Beast of Berlin" Refused Chicago Permit

CHICAGO—Members of the Chicago censor board have refused to give a permit to "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," claiming the picture is propaganda against Germany and, as such, is contrary to the United States' neutrality policy.

Criminal Prosecution Averted for Bingo

MILWAUKEE—A request by Chief of Police Joseph T. Kluchesky for warrants charging six operators of fraternal Bingo games with violating the state gambling laws has been rejected by District Attorney Herbert J. Steffes.

Steffes, in a nine-page letter to the police chief, stated punishment of the operators under state criminal laws would be too severe. He observed, in the first part of his letter that Chief Kluchesky, in seeking warrants, had apparently been motivated by the decision of Circuit Judge Charles L. Aarons on October 20, in which the judge held that Bingo games at Bahn Frei hall were a "nuisance." The court granted Charles W. Trampe, head of Film Service, Inc., an injunction to restrain the hall from further playing the game.

The district attorney commented that Judge Aarons, in granting an injunction, had pointed out "the inadequacy of the remedy by criminal prosecution." The prosecutor said that the efficacy of a civil proceeding to enjoin a nuisance had been shown last June when the state supreme court held in a suit filed by Circuit Judge Robert S. Cowie of La Crosse, against the La Crosse Theatres Co., that Bank Night was a lottery. The high court at that time enjoined Bank Night.

He reminded the police chief that soon after the La Crosse decision, he had turned down the chief's request for warrants in five cases involving Hollywood. At that time, Steffes said, he suggested injunctive action.

Warrants "Inappropriate"

"Consequently, I do not feel that your request for the invocation of serious state warrants for violations of the state gambling or lottery laws is the indicated or appropriate procedure in the instant cases presented to me," Steffes wrote.

"In view of my prior position, clearly expressed to you several months ago, I am quite frankly surprised at such a request, particularly in view of the fact that since January 1 of this year over 100 cases involving violations of the state prostitution and gambling statutes have never been referred by you to my office for action, but have been prosecuted under the less severe city of Milwaukee ordinances.

"I am not unmindful of the fact that we have on our statute books a great many criminal laws which could be enforced against a large number of the citizenry of this community, which would result in keeping Milwaukee in a continuous turmoil by reason of technical prosecution.

"We in our office appreciate that technically and theoretically Bingo might be prosecuted under the more severe state criminal statutes traditionally reserved by your department for the graver types of commercialized gambling, and that technically every citizen who plays Bingo in the parish hall or fraternal clubhouse, or other public gathering place, for charitable purpose, might be charged with being an inmate of a gambling house. Personally, I am dubious to the point of disbelief that such prosecution could be successful in a trial before a jury of 12 citizens of this community, and it might well be that Judge Aarons in his recent decision had this in mind when he stated that an injunctional action furnished a more adequate remedy to any person seeking to prohibit such practices, than a criminal trial."

Steffes further wrote that "so far as I am concerned, when the playing of Bingo or any other game becomes a more than a pastime or means of raising money for charitable or religious purposes and becomes a really dangerous commercial gambling or lottery, then I shall employ the criminal statutes. But I for one am satisfied that the public morals are quite safe in the hands of bona fide religious, charitable, fraternal or veterans' organizations.

"Parish halls under the supervision of our ministers and priests, and our clubhouses and other reputable places of public assemblage inhabited by our good citizens, far from being breeders of vice or crime, are very specific against crime. They are the real incubators of law and order in our community."

Bingo Chain Letters Are Loosed in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—Chain letters, containing instructions for playing Bingo through the mails for a $500 prize, have been circulating through the city to the displeasure of Police Chief Morrissey, who declares he will call in federal men to investigate who is behind the scheme.

Since the game was banned not long ago, local theatres have quit Bingo cold.

Cluster Installs Seating

SALEM, ILL.—R. C. Cluster is installing new chairs in his theatre here.

Long-Term Pact to Ingster

HOLLYWOOD—Boris Ingster, 20th-Fox writer, has signed a new long-term pact.

He Tired of School

CHICAGO—Charles Conner, 14-year-old son of Marlowe Conner, manager of Warner Bros.' Avalon Theatre on the south side, got himself into the news the other day on returning from an adventuresome stowaway journey.

The youngster some days ago tired of school and told his mother he was leaving for Europe to become a spy in one of the belligerent armies now at war. He said he would offer his services to the country giving him the most money.

Stowing away on the liner *Zaandam* at New York, he was put to work washing dishes after he was caught. In the North Sea, when the ship was halted for inspection, young Conner jumped into the water and swam toward land.

A mile from shore he became cramped and was picked up by a British patrol boat that returned him to the *Zaandam*. When the ship docked at Rotterdam, he was placed in jail to await deportation.

Charles is back home now studying to become an aviator, while Mr. and Mrs. Conner are hoping their younger son, Billy, 10, will be satisfied to play cops and robbers in the back yard with his neighborhood pals.

Sheboygan Film Group Against Neely Bill

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—The Neely bill came in for its share of discussion at the monthly meeting of the Sheboygan Better Films Council here. Speakers included Jack Ebersberger, manager of the Rex Theatre; Harvey Mintz, manager of the Sheboygan Theatre, both Warner houses, and Mrs. Fred Voigt, legislative chairman of the council.

Mrs. Voigt stressed the reasons for opposing the Neely bill, while Mintz said that unless the Neely bill is changed considerably, it will not pass. He stated that it is not consistent with American business principles and that producers are allowing exhibitors the privilege of eliminating as many as 20 and 30 per cent of the number of films in block booking.

Schlager and Green Plan To Produce "Mary Lou"

CHICAGO—"Mary Lou," a novel by Mildred Cram, scenarist, may be the second picture for the newly-organized Producers Corporation of America, according to Sig Schlager and George Green, heads of the new group who were here last week.

They conferred with John Charles Thomas, who will star in their first picture to be adapted from Adela Rogers St. John's "Kingdom Come." It rolls January 4 on a budget of $400,000.

Maude Adams is being considered for the lead in "Mary Lou," should it be made.

Warner Theatre Employes Tell Chicago of Work

CHICAGO—Various members of Warner Theatres were interviewed by Announcer John Sullivan on one of the regular "Chicago at Work" programs over Station WIND here Thursday night. The 15-minute program was recorded earlier in the week and then played on the program.

Sullivan interviewed Charlie Ryan, assistant zone manager; Marlowe Connor, Avalon manager; Herman Goldberg, Warner projectionist; Maxine Keyes, Avalon cashier; William Simpson of the Warner art department, and Jimmy Fennell, chief-of-service at the Capitol.

CAPA No More as Chicago Group Forms Movie Club

CHICAGO—The Chicago Amusement Publicists Ass'n (CAPA) has given way under a reorganization plan to the new Chicago Movie Club.

The new group is temporarily headed by Chairman Herb Elisburg, with Sam Schoenstadt as temporary business manager. Club quarters for the present will be retained at the Crillon Hotel.

Assigned "Old Missouri"

HOLLYWOOD—"In Old Missouri," which Armand Schaefer will produce for Republic, will be adapted by Dorrell and Stuart McGowan.

INDIANAPOLIS

ED DONAHUE, manager of the Settos Ohio Theatre in Louisville, Ky., was married to Miss Kathleen Ulsh, cashier of the Elks Theatre, New Albany, on Monday, November 6.

Myers Flater, operator of the Citadel Theatre, Bloomfield, is planning extensive remodeling and redecorating. The total cost of the changes will be approximately $4,000.

Ben Hopkins, manager of Ger-Bar, Inc., is confined to his home with the flu. He is expected to return to the office in a few days.

Harvey Cocks, former general manager of the Quimby Theatre Enterprises operating the Paramount, Emboyd, Palace, Jefferson and Riley theatres in Fort Wayne, has accepted a post as manager of the Hippodrome in Gloversville, New York, owned by the Schine circuit.

Visitors along Filmrow: Nick Paikos, Tipton; J. E. Whitley, Kokomo; Harry Hogan, Fort Wayne; Joe Schilling, Connersville; A. McCarty, Pendleton; V. E. Burkle, Fortville; Anthony Bokas, Argos; Bruce Kixmiller, Bicknell; Walter Easley, Greensburg; Roy Harrold, Rushville; Joe Finneran, Elwood; Harry Vonderschmitt, Bloomington; Robert Hudson, Richmond; Mannie Marcus, Fort Wayne; D. D. Lee, Cayuga; Harold Neese, Brazil; Dick Vlastos, Fowler; Billy Connors, Marion; Sam Neall, Kokomo; Dallas E. Cannon, Kentland; Mrs. H. P. Long, Sheridan; Mrs. Elsie Blessing, Danville; Abe Kaufman, Terre Haute; Roy Kalver, Decatur; C. E. Rogers, Columbus; Theo. Charles, Vincennes.

Al Wingate, manager of the Old Trails Theatre, is making a play for the kiddie trade on Saturday matinees. Each one gets a sack of popcorn. Wingate says their new "Cry Room" is going over big with the mothers who bring their babies.

Jim Kennedy, manager of the Ritz Theatre, admits the players of the Cathedral High School football team free of charge every time they win a game.

Lee Seitz, manager of the Rivoli Theatre, is changing his weekend programs to open on Thursdays to run through Sunday.

Claude Allison, manager at the Strand Theatre, featured another program of one hour of vaudeville on the screen with well known name bands. A similar program some weeks ago went over big with the Strand audience.

Al Hedding, manager of the Uptown Theatre, has had several new bicycles on display in his lobby, and nary a word has he told anyone about them. Naturally the kiddies were all on hand last Saturday to hear all about them. He has a new contest on for the boys and girls attending the Saturday matinees.

Al Ackerman, operator of the Tacoma Theatre, has joined the other theatres around town in opening up earlier during the week. Doors will be open at 5:45.

Don Wright reports capacity audiences at the new Esquire Theatre, opened last Friday night.

Emerson Hackley, manager of the newly named Sheridan Theatre, one of the Cantor houses, reports a coincidence. When he made his debut in show business as an usher at the Emerson a few years ago, the picture was "Mutiny on the Bounty." Last Sunday, when he assumed complete charge of the house, the same picture was showing on a return engagement.

Dr. Lloyd C. Douglas, author of "Magnificent Obsession," "Green Light," "Forgive Us Our Trespasses," "Disputed Passage" and many other best sellers, spoke before members of the Town Hall at English's Theatre Saturday morning. Dr. Douglas is a native of Columbia City, Ind., and the world premiere of "White Banners" adapted from his book of the same name, was held there several years ago. His lecture, "The Release of Galatea," will bear on the thesis that will motivate a new novel, a sequel to "The Magnificent Obsession," on which he is working.

"Hitler—Beast of Berlin" was screened here last week before members of the Indorsers of Photoplays and film people. The Indorsers carried an item in their monthly publication stating that the picture was outstanding and was a vigorous human document, depicting the fearless, patriotic, unyielding conflict waged by a small group of zealous men and women who love their Fatherland.

Harry Kornblum, operator of the Rosedale Theatre, Evansville, is very much elated over the progress being made by his son, Harry jr., who is now attending a southern Military Academy. Harry sr. claims his son is coming up in the form of a number one exhibitor.

Jim Kennedy, manager of the Ritz Theatre, featured an unusual exploitation stunt recently in connection with the showing of "Bachelor Mother" when he extended an invitation to all mothers to see the picture free of charge provided each brought her husband and at least one child.

Dorothy Roberts, bookkeeper at Warner Bros., has been ill and confined to her home with a slight case of flu. William Wallace of the same office has returned after a few weeks illness.

The executive committee board meeting of the Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays was held at the home of Mrs. Earl Peters in Fort Wayne, where the entire group was entertained at luncheon after the meeting. An outstanding bit of information was revealed when a report was made that in a survey conducted at DePauw University, Greencastle, the college students prefer historical pictures. The survey results were substantiated by reports from theatre managers.

Wm. H. Trunick announces the completion of deals for the installation of new RCA sound equipment in the Roxy Theatre at Pendleton operated by A. McCarty and in the Rialto Theatre at Fortville, operated by V. E. Burkle. Installation will be made within the very near future.

Carl Russo, who was recently transferred from the Chicago office of Ger-Bar, Inc., to Indianapolis, was heard to remark that Indianapolis was just a big "hick" town. However, after being here a week he took it all back. Last Saturday night while making the rounds of the night spots he was relieved of the contents of his pockets, about $35.00 in cash and now according to Carl, Indianapolis pickpockets show even better technique than those in Chicago.

Mrs. Virginia Gorrell, wife of Verne Gorrell, operator of the Isis Theatre in Winamac, Ind., is confined to the Holy Family Hospital at La Porte, Ind., with a broken vertebra as the result of an automobile accident recently. She is expected to be returned to her home very soon.

Settos Buys New Sound

LINTON, IND.—George Settos, who is remodeling his Grand Theatre here and one in Louisville, has contracted for new RCA sound equipment for both houses.

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Tony Matreci Heads St. Louis Barkers

ST. LOUIS—Tony Matreci, manager of the Uptown Theatre, is the new Chief Barker of the St. Louis Variety Club, Tent No. 4. He was elected at the annual meeting of the club, held at its quarters in the Roosevelt Hotel Building, last week.

Other officers named for the coming year are: Tommy Williamson, owner of the New Movie Theatre, first assistant chief barker; Johnny Walsh, National Pictures, Inc., second assistant chief barker; Herb Washburn, National Screen Service, property master, and Harry Hynes jr., Universal Pictures, Inc., dough guy.

The executive committee will include Al Wolff, Nat Berger, Jack O'Brien, Fred Wehrenberg, Matt Schulter, Barney Rosenthal, Ray Colvin, Harold W. "Chick" Evens, Lou Ansell and Ray Curran.

The new officers are to be installed at a meeting to be held next month. Lou Ansell, head of the Ansell Bros. circuit, is the retiring chief barker.

Tent No. 10 Announces New Quarters at Fall Dance

INDIANAPOLIS—Announcement of the new quarters of the Variety Club here, that will be occupied in about two weeks, was made at the Fall Frolic dance the club gave at the Antlers Hotel here last week. The announcement was made by Marc Wolf who was emcee at the dance.

The new quarters, which will be extensively remodeled, were formerly occupied by the operators union and are located on the second floor of the Lyric Theatre building. Fred Greenberg, manager of the local Warner exchange, is Chief Barker of the local tent, No. 10.

Among those attending the Frolic were Laddie Hancock, T. McChester, G. Block of Fox Films; J. Stevens and party; O. Wagner and Billy Esch, all of Paramount; Frank Reimer, Claude McKean of Warner Bros.; Dick Frank, Elmer Donnelly and Harry Hays of United Artists; Harold Marshal and party of Metro; Guy Hancock of RKO; Abe Gilman of Columbia; Louis Stockman, Marc Wolf, Earl Cunningham, Earl Penrod, Don A. Rossiter, Abe Kaufman, Nate Weinberg, Wm. Rosenthal, Dan Penrod, Ben Sagowlosky, Harry Markun and a host of others and friends of the members.

Proceeds to Charity

RICHMOND HEIGHTS, MO.—Proceeds of a gala four-hour show marking the opening of the $300,000 Esquire Theatre, the night of Wednesday, November 8, are being turned over by Manager Harry Greenman to the United Charities Campaign as part of the contributions toward the St. Louis County quota in the $2,200,000 goal.

Chore to Hugo Butler

HOLLYWOOD—Hugo Butler has been assigned to script "Heritage of the Wild" for Metro, from an original by Nathaniel West and Gordon Kahn.



In Charity Drive—

One of the hardest workers in the amusement division of the Community Fund Drive for Chicago is Emma Abplanalp, former secretary of the Chicago Film Board of Trade. She is shown at one of the report luncheons giving the results of the week's solicitations under the chairmanship of Jack Kirsch of the Illinois Allied unit.

Former Actress Visits Sister in Kokomo, Ind.

KOKOMO, IND.—Mrs. Timothy Whelan, the former Miriam Seegar of the screen and the stage who is here visiting her sister, fled from London with her family on the last day of August, the day before Hitler's army marched into Poland. Mr. Whelan is a director-writer for London Films, and has gone to Hollywood where his wife and two sons will join him soon.

Mrs. Whelan said, "When we left England the British people told us that the United States would be in the war on their side within two or three months." It is her opinion that it looks like a long war in Europe.

Before her marriage the former Greentown girl was featured on the British and American stages and in motion pictures both in this country and abroad.

Oscar Olson Is New Head Of Milwaukee Barkers

MILWAUKEE—Oscar Olson, business manager of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union, Local No. 164, has been elected chief barker of the local Variety tent succeeding Charles W. Trampe.

Frank Mantzke, Universal manager, is assistant chief barker; Jack Frackman, Republic manager, treasurer, and B. J. Miller, secretary.

The board of directors includes, besides the officers, Frank Clark, Frank Fischer, Harold J. Fitzgerald, George Levine, Jack Painter, Jack Silliman, Trampe, E. J. Weisfeldt and Sam Shurman.

Termer to Dore Schary

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has signed Dore Schary, writer, to a new term pact.

Eddie Cantor Leads Way in the Loop

CHICAGO—A veteran of show business led the loop houses back to a healthy week's gross when Eddie Cantor and his troupe moved into the B&K Chicago Theatre.

The theatre, as BOXOFFICE goes to press, was having one of its biggest seven-day periods in several years, with lobby and sidewalk holdouts the regular procedure. As one B&K executive put it, Cantor filled the entire loop over the weekend. Several times, when lobby holdouts lasted more than one complete show, Cantor pleaded with the overflow audiences to make room for others.

Another house with holdouts over the weekend was the United Artists, where Sam Goldwyn's blood-and-thunder "The Real Glory" was being unreeled. The picture is doing a second week.

Paramount and Carriers Deadlocked for Lead

CHICAGO—Paramount defeated Universal twice last week in the Film Bowling League to retain first place in a tie with Film Carriers, who defeated Photoplay twice. Photoplay dropped to a two-way tie with National Screen who lost two to Warner Bros. Republic continued climbing by whitewashing 20th Century-Fox into the cellar.

Jack Kirsch of Republic continues to lead individual bowlers with a 184.8 average. Mike Fahey of Paramount won the $5.00 sweepstakes prize last week with a 594 series.

The standings:

Team—	Won	Lost	Avg.
Paramount	13	8	829.6
Film Carriers	13	8	800.11
National Screen	12	9	801.14
Photoplay	12	9	790.2
Republic	11	10	799.15
Warner Bros.	9	12	717.14
Universal	8	13	807.0
20th Century-Fox	6	15	781.1

Turrell Leads Bowlers In Warner League

CHICAGO—Ted Turrell is still leading the individual bowlers of the Warner League with a 176 average. The next four bowlers among the first five are Jones, 172; Busch, 171; Biltgen, 168, and Shire, 165.

The standings to date, at the end of the ninth week:

	Won	Lost
Yannigans	19	8
Avalon	18	9
Avalon Cubs	18	9
Beverly	17	10
Capitol	16	11
Ogden	14	13
Stratford	12	15
Cosmo	12	15
Highland	12	15
Hammond	9	18
Jeffery	8	19
Dead Enders	7	20

New Haven Contract Award Soon

NEW HAVEN, MO.—Contracts will be awarded soon for the construction of the new theatre planned for this city by Walter J. Buchholtz. Plans call for a brick building to contain a main floor, balcony and basement.



Hollywood Bound—

For a role in the next Gene Autry picture, "South of the Border," for Republic, is Mary Lee, youthful songstress with Ted Weems' band. Pictured at the Chicago airport, Miss Lee is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wooters of Ottawa, Ill.

Rudolph Will Consider Troy Building Bids

TROY, MO.—Bids will be taken from contractors at an early date on the new theatre planned for this city by Charles R. Rudolph, owner of the 400-seat Colonial Theatre. Plans for the new structure are being prepared by Bruce F. Barnes, 8015 Forsythe boulevard, Clayton, St. Louis. The building is to be three-story, 32 by 102 feet and of brick construction.

A. B. Jeffries Plans New Theatre for Piedmont

PIEDMONT, MO.—A. B. Jeffries, owner of the 206-seat New Piedmont Theatre here, contemplates the erection of a new theatre building. Plans are being prepared by Bruce F. Barnes, and call for a three-story building.

Paramount Extends Time On Construction Bids

ST. LOUIS—The time for opening bids on the new Paramount Pictures, Inc., exchange building to be erected at the northeast corner of Garrison avenue and Olive street, was extended to Thursday, November 9. It is anticipated that the contracts will be awarded at an early date.

Set Up Talent Bureau

CHICAGO—Orsatti & Company, Hollywood talent agency, and Norman Alexandroff, local producer, have established quarters here in the Fine Arts Bldg., 410 South Michigan Ave. The two will work together in uncovering new acting and writing talent.

Teamed on "Passport"

HOLLYWOOD—"Passport to Life" will be adapted for RKO by Dorothy Parker and Alan Campbell.

CHICAGO

PEARL FIREMAN LEVY of the Warner office staff entertained the girls in the office recently. Incidentally, the cocktail party was scheduled from 3 to 6 o'clock—but at midnight most of the guests were still there.

Warner screened "Elizabeth and Essex" for a screening-room-full of exhibitors on Tuesday . . . Fred Mindlin is conducting a poll at the newly-opened Essex now to determine what "request pictures" patrons want re-run.

Herman Wobber and Moe Levy of 20th Century-Fox were here in behalf of the annual Kent Drive. While here, they conducted an office staff meeting, attended also by members of the Milwaukee sales staff . . . Henry Herbel, Warner midwest district manager, was in New York this week for a sales meeting.

Bill Potts of Detroit is the new checking supervisor in the Chicago territory for M-G-M, succeeding Dave Moskowitz, who is returning to New York . . . M-G-M's Norman Pyle is now driving around in a "Yellow Peril"—that's the nickname the office has given to his bright new Buick.

Warner theatre managers held an all-day meeting Wednesday at the circuit's headquarters here . . . Members of the Henri Elman softball team, champions of Filmrow, are wearing victory jackets.

Leon Benson, Paramount publicist from the west coast, was here in advance of Lloyd Douglas, author of Paramount's "Disputed Passage," who spoke to members of the Executive Club.

Fifteen girls from Filmrow went on the weekend outing of the Women's Industry Film Club to Turkey Run, Ind. . . . Rud Lohrenz, now Warner district manager in Kansas City, stopped here Monday to visit friends before going on to New York for a visit at the home office.

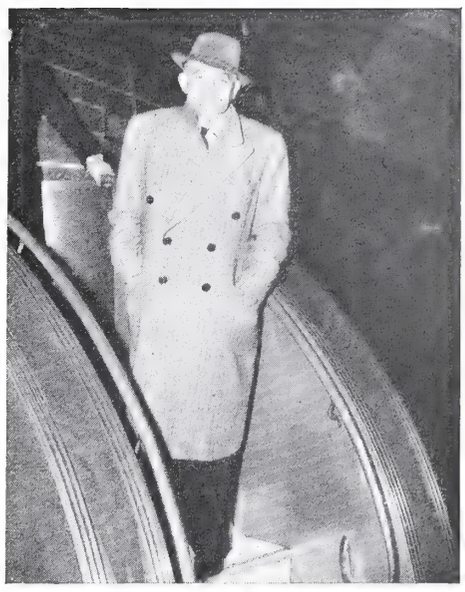
One of the best shorts we have ever seen is M-G-M's "Drunk Driving," wherein Leo jr. certainly rings the bell again. It should be a must.

Several Amusement Firms File to Incorporate

ST. LOUIS—The Movie Enterprises, Inc., has been incorporated here to carry on a theatre and amusement business. It will have 200 shares of $100 par value stock. Incorporators were George Wood, Robert Mass, Z. Chavaux and Clarence H. Pollihan.

The Wolverine Amusement Co., Inc., has been incorporated here with 50 shares of $100 par value stock to carry on the business of theatrical proprietors and to act as caterers for public amusements and entertainment. Incorporators were Harold Clamage and David Segan of Detroit; Harold Huchberger, Chicago, and Sam Reider of St. Louis.

The Kilgen Organ Co., has been incorporated with $2,000 authorized capital to deal in organs, pianos and all other kinds of musical instruments. Incorporators were Eugene R. Kilgen, M. M. Kilgen and Joseph Renard, all of St. Louis.



"No Sale"—

An emphatic denial of two rumors—that Columbia Pictures might be offered for sale, and that the master negative of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" might be sold within the industry—was the essence of statements made by Harry Cohn, Columbia president, during a stopover in Chicago while flying to the coast.

James Roosevelt to Speak On Sinai Temple Series

CHICAGO—James Roosevelt, vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., will have dinner with Rabbi and Mrs. Louis Mann at a small gathering at Rabbi Mann's home on Monday night, prior to Roosevelt's appearance on the Sinai Temple lecture series.

Roosevelt's subject will be "Motion Pictures—Propaganda and Entertainment." From all appearances this week, it appeared that there would be standing room only for his talk.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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When Films Were Young

CHICAGO—With the industry celebrating its 50th jubilee anniversary, a collection of star stills and action shots resurrected from the now-defunct Essanay Film Manufacturing Co. of Chicago by C. P. Meek, a Chicago sound engineer, takes on added interest.

Meek, who once worked for Essanay, saved thousands of these stills from being thrown out when the demise of the company became a certainty months ago. Essanay, originally a partnership of the old silent day producers, Spoor & Ahbe, was in its prime about 25 years ago. The company, however, continued in operation for many years, with George K. Spoor active head.

Some years ago it was reorganized and relocated on North Broadway here, housed in what was once an undertaking parlor. It was here, ironically enough, that Essanay finally died, its assets, goodwill, etc., being sold at auction. It was shortly before this auction that boxes of discarded stills and other files of the old company were relegated to the junk heap waiting to be carted away. And it was then that Meek saved much of this old material.

Among his files, Meek now has many of the mailing pieces sent to exhibitors regularly by Essanay. The company sent calendars as reminders to exhibitors. Some of the copy includes: "Remember the Essanay release dates, Wednesdays and Saturdays . . . Exceptionally strong western releases for July and August, just completed by our western company, now in the heart of the Rockies . . . Excellent comedies and unusual dramatics are also ready for release . . . Everyone means a big day for you." This copy is from a calendar sent out for July, 1910, with the Wednesdays and Saturdays printed in red.

Even when Essanay was producing 500-foot features, double features were the vogue. A mailing piece found in the company's files tells of the "Essanay Photoplay first presentation of 'The Foiling of Red Dugan' (a drama), ON THE SAME REEL, 'Winning An Heiress.'" It seems hard to realize that those 500-footers were the forerunners of today's million-dollar productions for which thousands of dollars are paid for scenarios alone.

The "plots" of the two pictures mentioned above:

"The Foiling of Red Dugan—drama—Red Dugan is sentenced by Judge Blakely to 20 years in the penitentiary. Red vows vengeance and declares he will get even with the judge. Some time later the convict escapes and armed with a guard's carbine obtains entrance to the Blakely mansion. He is threatening the judge with the gun when Teddy, the judge's five-year-old son, who has been playing cowboy with his father's revolver, hears the noise in the next room, slips to the portieres and orders the convict to throw up his hands. Then a guard enters, the convict is easily overcome, and taken back to prison."

"Winning an Heiress—Charley Sapleigh becomes a chauffeur in order to win an heiress. He gets employment with a wealthy family and often hearing the name of Muriel spoken by Mrs. Van Richley, he assumes she must be the pretty daughter. He suffers a rude awakening, however, when Muriel turns out to be a pet monkey."

Among the thousands of stills Meek has saved are included some from the early day Essanay pictures starring Wallace Beery, Gloria Swanson, Charlie Chaplin, "Bronco Billy" Anderson, Lewis Stone, Edward Arnold, Marguerite Clayton, Rod La Rocque and many others.

MILWAUKEE

METRO'S "Babes in Arms" has been held over for a second week at Fox's Wisconsin Theatre here with a new running mate in "The Escape." During the first week, "Here I Am a Stranger," shared the bill with the flicker.

George C. Marshall, owner of the Washington Redskins, and his wife, Corinne Griffith, former film actress, were in Milwaukee to see the Green Bay Packers trounce the Redskins by a score of 24 *to* 14 *at State Fair Park here last week.*

Tommy Tucker, originator of the Tarzan yell, was an Eau Claire visitor last week.

Milt Herth, native of Kenosha, Wis., and son of the proprietor of the city's first motion picture theatre, is appearing at the Riverside Theatre here with his musical trio.

Donald Cash, 33, Cedarburg, convicted on October 5 by a Jefferson county circuit court jury on charges of robbing the Classic Theatre in Watertown, failed to appear in circuit court last week when a hearing on a motion for a new trial was scheduled. A bench warrant was issued for cash and his surety bond of $2,500 ordered forfeited.

George F. Strand, formerly organist at the Rialto Theatre in Marinette, is now appearing at the Silver Dome in that city.

Milton W. Hall, 25, manager of the Strand Theatre at Plainfield until forced by illness to resign several months ago, died in a Marshfield hospital last week. He is survived by his parents and two brothers.

Jackie Coogan has been playing one night stands in Appleton at the Rio Theatre; in Green Bay at the Bay Theatre; in Kenosha at Kenosha Theatre, and in Oshkosh at the Strand Theatre. Starring vehicle is "What a Life."

Warner-Saxe Theatres staged a Yo-Yo contest at the Garfield, Uptown, Lake, Modjeska, Savoy, Juneau, Milwaukee and National theatres here last Saturday afternoon.

ST. LOUIS

JULIEN BRYAN, said to have been the only American correspondent in Warsaw during the siege of that city by the Nazis, gave an exhibition of his Warsaw films before the Contemporary Club here the night of October 31. Many of the pictures were taken under fire.

Louis Landau who closed his theatre in Manchester, Mo., some week ago, is working for the Wehrenberg circuit's Lemay and Southway theatres.

Sid Johnson, artist at Loew's Theatre, made a beautiful 30x40-inch water color portrait of Barney Vickery, 3-year-old son of Assistant Manager Chet Vickery and presented it to Mrs. Vickery on her birthday last week.

A default judgment for $5,098.54 *against Producer Larry Atkins was entered in favor of Sol A. Weintraub, who collaborated with him to produce the Bobby Breen All-Star Revue at the Municipal Auditorium last December, on orders of Circuit Judge Peter T. Barrett. Atkins failed to appear at the hearing and was not represented by counsel.*

David E. Russell, who was manager of the St. Louis Municipal Opera from its inception in 1919 until the close of the 1931 season and prior to that manager of the old Columbia and Strand theatres in downtown St. Louis, died in Chicago, on November 5. He came to this city from Chicago to handle Delmar Garden for the late Frank Tate. He then took over the management of the old Haviland Theatre and the Imperial before moving into the Columbia Theatre. This house was the first in St. Louis to operate on a combination picture and vaudeville policy.

Harry Miller has reopened his 600*-seat Idle Hour Theatre in Festus, Mo. It had been dark for some time.*

National Theatre Supply Co., through its St. Louis office, has recently made the following sound installations in this territory: Rio Theatre, St. Louis; Palace Theatre, Johnston City, Ill.; Carmi Theatre, Carmi, Ill.; Strand Theatre, Fairfield, Ill.; Orpheum Theatre, Fulton, Ky.; Joy Theatre, Chester, Ill.; Uptown Theatre, Cairo, Ill.; Horstman Theatre, Chaffee, Mo.; Jersey Theatre, Jerseyville, Ill.; Capitol Theatre, Rosiclaire, Ill.; Auditorium Theatre, Steeleville, Ill., and Louise Theatre, Louisville, Ill.

Jay Haas, traveling studio representative for Paramount Pictures, is in town for a few days . . . M. J. Cullen, midwest division manager for Loew's, in town for a huddle with Harold W. "Chick" Evens, manager, and Jimmy Harris, advertising wizard of Loew's . . . Fred Spooner, advance for "Mamba's Daughter," is another caller in this port.

Local motion picture theatres are rearranging their bookings to conform to the Thanksgiving edicts of President Roosevelt, Gov. Lloyd C. Stark and Mayor Barney F. Dickmann setting celebration for November 23. Same date will also be Thanksgiving in Illinois under edict of Gov. Henry Horner.

Amusements Attract A Record Business

MINNEAPOLIS—Minneapolis *Tribune* estimated that an all-time record sum was spent in this city during the last weekend. Transients attracted by the Minnesota-Northwestern football game did their share of the spending along with home folks. It didn't look like depression times.

Loop houses enjoyed their biggest three-day business in years. Holdouts were the rule for John Boles at the Minnesota; "Babes in Arms," State offering; "Blackmail," holding forth at the Gopher; "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," Orpheum attraction, and "All Quiet on the Western Front," at the Esquire.

"Tobacco Road," winding up a week at the 2,200-seat Lyceum, played to capacity at three performances, including an extra midnight show. The Gayety (road-show burlesque) had its biggest patronage of the entire season.

This was on top of an attendance of 53,000—the season's largest crowd—at the Minnesota-Northwestern football game at $2.75 per person. On Friday 25,000 attended high school football games and 5,000 the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra concert with Rachmaninoff as soloist.

All night clubs were packed to capacity Friday and Saturday nights and thousands were turned away.

Total estimated expenditures for amusement were in excess of half-a-million dollars.

John Boles Sets Record For Minneapolis Theatre

MINNEAPOLIS — The 4,000-seat Minnesota Theatre did by far its biggest business since its reopening under Gordon Greene's independent operation with John Boles as its stage show headliner last week. The house played to more than 50,000 people.

Greene is trying hard to put the house over and isn't passing up any bets. He recently raised the top price from 30 to 40 cents and started out to obtain big stage name attractions. Boles received $2,500 for the week.

The Minnesota is unable to obtain any major film product, thus handicapping it. It is a question whether there are sufficient names such as Boles available to offset screen deficiencies and unusually high operating costs, due to the huge size of the theatre and the elaborate stage entertainment.

Theatre has an 18-piece orchestra and line of 12 dancing girls. It brings in four vaudeville acts each week.

Greene just started two cash gift nights per week. He also has dancing in the large lobby one night a week to attract the college and school kids. Five outside acts are brought in to augment the stage show on Mondays.

Gills Enlarge Their Chain

WINSTEAD, MINN.—Abe and Udell Gill, who own the theatre at Farmington, Minn., have acquired the showhouses here and at Lakeville, Minn.

Wichita Admission Subterfuges End in Two-for-One Ducats

WICHITA, KAS.—The lid blew off the competitive situation here over the weekend when seven independent houses began cooperatively advertising two admissions for the price of one as a regular day-in, day-out policy.

An analysis of the situation indicates that the objective of the independents and their cooperative action is to meet the competition of other Wichita theatres that are, by various methods, actually getting an admission that is less than the one advertised.

The independents concerned in the new action are the West (O. F. Sullivan), Southern (T. H. Slothower), Crawford (W. P. Huston), and Nomar (C. C. McCollister), all 15-cent houses, and the State (Slothower), Novelty (Huston), and Kansas (Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bull), ten cent theatres.

The theatres are offering a straight "two-for-one" bargain; there are no coupons necessary: with the purchase of a ticket, one is given free.

On Sunday (November 5) the theatres did a standup business.

Harold Gibbons has been advertising two admissions for the price of one in his New Theatre, which opened some weeks ago, as a regular policy. Other independents, it is understood, have protested to distributors against serving Gibbons on a 15 cent spot, since he actually has been charging 7½ cents. The 10 cent houses naturally object because they play behind him, although they have been getting 2½ cents more than his actual admission, it is said.

The Wichita situation as a whole has been growing steadily worse ever since the two new houses, Slothower's Sandra and Gibbons' New Theatre, were opened early this fall. Admissions have been going down.

Sullivan at the West met the situation individually a week ago by selling children and women's admissions at a straight five cents. The cooperative advertising of seven of the independents indicates their determination to protect their business.

Other methods of price reduction have been used pretty freely by many of the theatres here. Fox Midwest occasionally use a policy of giving a free admission to a woman with a man's ticket (or the other way around); they sell script books at a 20 per cent saving, and have penny sales: two admissions for the price of one plus a cent, which is the old Rexall drug store idea.

While admissions are out of gear, and the competitive situation is wide open, there haven't been the giveaways that have plagued other cities. There are occasional giveaways, but no regular policy of dishes or other forms of premiums.

Currently the price situation is this:

Fox Miller, 25-40 cents, playing doubles and singles; Fox Orpheum, 25-35 cents, doubles, with occasional stage shows; Fox Uptown, 25 cents, doubles; Fox Palace, 15-20 cents, doubles, and Fox Wichita, 15 cents, doubles.

Independents: New Theatre, 10-15 cents, doubles, two for one regularly; Novelty, 10 cents, doubles; West, 15 cents, doubles; Civic (Sullivan), 10-25 cents, singles, stage plays, etc.; Sandra, 10-25 cents, doubles; State, 10 cents, doubles; Kansas, 10 cents, doubles; Crawford, 15 cents, doubles; Southern, 15 cents, doubles, and Nomar, 15 cents, doubles.

Basically the problem seems to be one of too many seats. There are approximately 17,300 seats for a population of around 110,000, or one seat for slightly more than six persons. However, some observers think other things enter the situation. The matter of proper and adequate exploitation of pictures, which always enters such discussions, here or anywhere else, has been mentioned. Wichita is supposed to be a better "show town" than Kansas City, Mo., for instance. If that is true, then Wichita is no more overseated than is Kansas City, which has about 55,000 seats for its approximately 400,000, or 1 for every 7-plus persons.

Whether there are too many seats for Wichita is as difficult a question to answer as it is for any other situation. There have been too many occasions on which an exhibitor has gone into a locality that was overseated and made a success, or gone into a situation that was underseated and failed, to make any general rules. There are none. In the smaller cities that draw on rural areas and smaller surrounding towns, one seat to about every four persons has not been found too many; these figures are from Kansas towns that have made money for the exhibitors in them.

Minneapolis Pickup Seen With Recent Holdovers

MINNEAPOLIS — While theatre business generally has been decidedly under par for some time, there are occasional rays of sunshine.

Holdovers are the order of the day. "Babes in Arms" did two big weeks at the State. After a healthy seven days at the Orpheum "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" has moved over to the Century for an extended loop first-run. "All Quiet on the Western Front" is in its second week at the Esquire after a near-record seven days at the Gopher.

No Confirmation of K. C. Suit Plan

Kansas City—Reports from New York that the government or an independent might be planning an anti-trust suit against an independent circuit here over "excessive clearance" could not be confirmed. Department of justice operatives recently have been checking into local exhibition, but have worn the traditional cloak of silence regarding their purpose or findings.

Tri-States and Goldberg Each Opening Theatre in Omaha

OMAHA—With two suits now on file here in federal court, the fight between Tri-States Theatres and Ralph D. Goldberg takes on a more active flavor this week with each side opening a theatre in Omaha's main business sector.

Tri-States is opening the Paramount, a 3,000-seater and an acknowledged "white elephant," on a stage-screen policy on a trial basis. Prices are 15 cents for children, 35 cents for adults in the afternoons and 55 cents top at night. The house's future policy has not been announced.

Goldberg is opening the State, dark for many years, on a "3-in-1" policy. This house, seating about 1,000, will feature a double feature, the "State Hour" which includes 60 minutes of news and cartoons, and a food giveaway to all adult patrons when they leave the theatre. Prices are 10 cents for children, 25 cents during afternoon for adults and 35 cents at night.

Goldberg Anti-Trust Suit Filed

As predicted exclusively in BOXOFFICE some time ago, Goldberg has just filed an anti-trust suit in federal court asking an injunction against what he says are monopolistic practices in Omaha's first-run situations. He named Tri-States, Singer-Omaha, and the following film companies: Paramount, Warner, Universal, Columbia, Metro, RKO, United Artists and 20th-Fox.

Goldberg's suit follows closely a previous suit filed by Tri-States asking the court to restrain Goldberg from reopening the State. The court has taken no action on this suit as yet, although Goldberg has filed an answer asking for a dismissal because, he says, the World Realty Co. (a Goldberg corporation) was forced to sell the Omaha Theatre to Tri-States.

Goldberg's anti-trust suit charges the defendants are violating the Sherman anti-trust act and that they "combined and conspired to restrain interstate trade and commerce in the distribution and exhibition of motion pictures."

"The defendants have consistently refused to license motion pictures on a local competitive basis to exhibitors in Omaha and the surrounding territory," the petition reads.

Several Changes in Petition

The petition charges that the defendant-distributors grant Tri-States and the Brandeis (Singer-Omaha) greater privileges in their licensing contracts and in the exhibition of pictures other than ordinarily granted to other exhibitors. These privileges have been refused to Goldberg and other exhibitors, he stated.

Goldberg charges that the two circuits named are given "unreasonable" protection and clearance. Tri-States gets 60 days' clearance and the Brandeis 45 days' clearance over subsequent runs, the petition states. Furthermore, he charges, the distributors license to defendant-exhibitors more product "than is needed in order to keep others from using the product."

The petition goes on to point out that circuit buying as practiced by Tri-States and Singer is "in disregard of local competitive factors and creates a condition where free enterprise and open competition no longer exist." The two circuits are given "favorable" rental terms, rejection privileges and protection, the petition claims.

Goldberg asks the court to dissolve the corporations named as defendants or restrict their operations.

Denies "Unreasonable Demands" by Fox

MINNEAPOLIS—Joe Podoloff, 20th-Fox branch manager, denies claims of some of the dissatisfied independent exhibitors that unreasonable demands are being made in connection with new-season product deals.

The company has asked for a waiver of the 20 per cent cancellation and substitution of 10 per cent for it only in those cases where "concessions" have been made and not the regular deal enforced, according to Podoloff who says the company is only asking exhibitors to "go along with it half way."

It is not true, he says, that "Sherlock Holmes" and other such pictures have been placed in the highest brackets. Pictures in the top bracket absolutely are delivering at the boxoffice, he contends.

"Some independent exhibitors complain about percentage deals," Podoloff points out. "They assert 35 per cent is too much of a split. Yet, these same exhibitors also squawk about flat deal prices, alleging that they have to fork across 50 per cent of their grosses for rentals. If that's so, why do they kick about 35 per cent percentage deals?

"Unfair and Unreasonable"

"We've never known an exhibitor, who grossed much more than he anticipated or was entitled to on a lower bracket picture, offering to pay more for it than the flat rental required by the contract. But when it's the other way around these same unreasonable exhibitors cry their heads off.

"The trouble with some of the Twin City independent exhibitors is that they're unfair and unreasonable. They are partly blind. They can only see one side—their own. They never heard of the saying that what's fair for the goose is fair for the gander. Whatever they do is all right, but if the distributor uses the same tactics or follows similar practices he's all wrong."

Twin City independents continue to resist Warner percentage demands and a stalemate has developed. In recent years, M-G-M alone has been able to put over its four percentage picture deals with the Minneapolis and St. Paul independents. Otherwise, there's only infrequent instances when a picture is bought on percentage. Why an exception is made for M-G-M never has been satisfactorily explained, but the feeling is that that company is strong enough to enforce the demand and the independents feel they can't get along without its product.

Minny Licensing Council Holds Action to Dec. 6

MINNEAPOLIS—After hearing more arguments pro and con, the city council license committee again deferred action on applications for licenses to build new neighborhood theatres—this time to December 6.

Two more applications came before the committee, making six in all, and it was indicated that if favorable action is taken there will be many more filed.

It was announced that there would be no more public hearings, but that committee members would debate the matter and take a vote at the December 6 meeting, deciding what recommendation to make to the council.

Northwest Allied and independent exhibitors are opposing the issuance of new theatre permits, claiming the city now is greatly overseated and many houses are operating at a loss. If any new theatres are built, they claim, present investments will be jeopardized.

Hagen & Larson Add One

STROM, WIS.—The theatre here has been taken over by the firm of Hagen & Larson.

Ludwig, Burton Recovering After Auto Collision

MINNEAPOLIS—L. J. Ludwig, assistant general manager of the Minnesota Amusement circuit and Charles G. Burton, Paramount home office employe, are recovering from injuries sustained in an auto accident between here and Sioux Falls, S. D.

The same accident proved fatal to their two companions, E. Paul Phillips, 48, of the Paramount home office and Otto H. Muller jr., 45, head of the Minnesota Amusement maintenance department.

Shifts Trail Drennan's Resignation From LTC

LINCOLN—With Leo Drennan's resignation as assistant manager of the Nebraska, shifts were made in some of the other Lincoln Theatres Corp. executives. Luke Smith, formerly assistant to M. E. Lofgren at the Stuart, moved to the Nebraska in Drennan's spot, and Lyman Borin came into his vacancy at the Stuart. Switches were okayed by Bob Huffman, Lincoln Theatres Corp. city manager.

Theo Hays Honored on 52nd Year as Showman

MINNEAPOLIS—Tribute was paid here to Theodore L. Hays, "grand old man of the show business," now a Minnesota Amusement Co. executive, who is celebrating his 52nd year as a showman. He has been identified with the legitimate theatre as well as the films.

Says Film Fans Want Escape From War

MINNEAPOLIS—Jacob Wilk, head of the Warner story department, stopping over here en route back to New York from Hollywood, told newspaper reporters that Hollywood will pretty much eschew war stories in the belief that the public wishes to forget the conflict as much as possible. The producers will go in for comedy, he asserted.

"Motion picturegoers want an escape," said Wilk. "They are sick of talking about war. War is too much a reality to be enjoyed as a movie topic. What people want is comedy, something that will take their minds off the war.

"And Hollywood is planning to give them just that. Moviegoers can anticipate an abundance of pictures emphasizing the lighter side of life."

Wilk's advice to scenario writers, reported the *Tribune*, is "to do something else." He said the chances for rejection are better than 150 to 1, explaining that from the 6,000 to 10,000 ideas and manuscripts submitted, only 30 or 40 are accepted each year. The remainder of the stories, he explained, are drawn from the numerous studio libraries.

While advising against scenario-writing as an occupation, the *Tribune* pointed out, Wilk does believe there still are opportunities for capable writers in the industry. "It is unfortunate," he commented, "that young, ambitious novices are unable to obtain the proper type of encouragement and instruction."

After successful completion of a picture that does have "that certain something that is different," Wilk said, studios are flooded with pictures that "repeat" the theme. "Don't repeat," Wilk cautioned. "You're just wasting your time."

The fundamental taboos on film production still prevail, Wilk said. "It's strictly hands off on all subjects dealing with labor, religion or intermarriage. And now we are not going to deal with war propaganda." But pictures on the "love theme" are definitely in, according to Wilk.

Pressure groups which would have the film industry plead special causes constitute the No. 1 bother to film executives, Wilk said. "They are trying to sell us something all the time," he explained. "But we are a commercial institution and can plead no special causes."

Tom Martin Will Head Minneapolis Uptown

MINNEAPOLIS—The Minnesota Amusement Co. has appointed Tom Martin, now manager of the Rialto, local neighborhood house, manager of its rebuilt Uptown Theatre which will reopen soon. The Uptown, ace neighborhood house of the circuit, was partially destroyed by fire last April.

It has been rebuilt into one of the most beautiful theatres in Minneapolis and will offer first-runs in the neighborhood sections. Only outstanding films will be offered and there will be free parking facilities for patrons—a feature which this house never before afforded.



Scanning a Headliner—

Exhibitor Frank Cassil of the Rialto Theatre, St. Joseph, Mo., and president of the Kansas-Missouri Theatres Assn., meets RKO Radio player Edmond O'Brien at the exhibitors lounge at the World's Fair in New York and scan the headliner trade paper together. O'Brien plays the role of Gringoire, a starving poet, in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

Demand Maintenance Man on Nabe Crew

MINNEAPOLIS—A demand has been made upon independent theatre owners by the stage hands' union for one maintenance man in each neighborhood house at a salary of $45 a week. Eventual goal of the union is said to be three men for every suburban theatre.

With business badly off at most houses and exhibitors claiming they're having a tough struggle to get by, a loud cry has gone up against the demand. Exhibitors declare they're in no position to absorb any additional costs.

LaMan Managing Gem

LEWISTON, Mo.—The Gem Theatre, recently opened here by the Commercial Club, is being managed by Art LaMan.

KAYCEE

IN TOWN: Louis Griefe, Windsor, Mo.; C. C. Rhoades, Roxy, Warsaw, and Nu Buflo, Buffalo, Mo.; Mrs. Marion Miller, Casino, Boonville, Mo.; Earl Kerr, Albany and Bethany, Mo.; Harry Till, Hamilton, Mo.; Leon Robertson, Springfield, Mo.; W. G. Kemper, U. S. Army Motion Picture Service, St. Louis; E. A. Peterson, Greenfield, Mo.; E. W. Ferguson, Novinger, Mo.; H. A. Porta, Humansville, Mo.; Art Pugh, Erie, Kas.; Frank Weary, Richmond, Mo.; T. S. Wilson, Excelsior Springs, Mo.; D. A. Russell, Ness, Ness City, Kas., who recently took over the house from Ralph Larned, LaCrosse, Kas.; G. J. Spencer, Trenton, Mo.

George Jacoby, Universal auditor, is at the local exchange . . . C. D. Tushon, traveling auditor for United Artists, is here.

Evelyn Moran is the new gal in the advertising department at 20th Century-Fox. Reba Withers has moved into the cashier's department.

Charley Simpson of Republic-Midwest wants those along Filmrow who helped his nephew, Floyd Lewis, win the popularity contest recently at the Centennial Church, 19th and Woodland, to know that both of them appreciate the lift.

Leo J. McCarthy, former Fox Midwest executive, now a Hollywood producer, was on Filmrow to say that he was putting off the picture of Knapp's "Rough Riders," a youngsters' group in Kansas City, Kas., until spring.

Carl Shalit, Columbia district manager, was in town visiting Ben Marcus and the other lads at the local exchange.

J. Eldon Peak, general manager of the Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co., was here two days with L. J. Kimbriel, local branch manager.

When Earl Kerr was on Filmrow he said he'd have the new house in Marshalltown, Ia., which is to replace the old Odeon (but which probably will be called the same thing) ready to go about the first of the year. The theatre is a stadium type one, seating 900, and costing $60,000.

A building is being remodeled at Queen City, Mo., by G. W. Hamilton, who plans

(Continued on page 81)

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MINNEAPOLIS

TOMMY CHARACK, popular and efficient Warner salesman, now rides his route in a new Buick convertible . . . Other new car owners are Lowell Kaplan of Welworth Theatres, with a stunning Olds; "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, sporting a Buick; Arnie Crane, Lake City, Minn., exhibitor, a Pontiac owner, and what a beauty; and Ted Bolnick, manager of the Hollywood, LaCrosse, Wis., who finally disposed of his old jalopy in favor of a new Olds.

Helen Johnson, Welworth Theatres' stenog, likes her new apartment and invites her friends "to come up some time" . . . Sid Ruben, brother of the very well-liked Eddie, circuit owner, in town for the Minnesota-Northwestern football game . . What well known young lady in the show business took a mysterious weekend trip t'other day? Clue No. 1: *'Twas a blonde.*

Ben Spewak plans to open bowling alleys in conjunction with his new theatre near Victory Drive . . . Ben Ashe, the Bennie Berger executive, makes himself popular with the gals by passing out candy mints. As though he needs such bait . . . Harold Johnson, Universal branch manager, complains of sore eyes due to lack of sleep. He has been so busy selling new accounts he hasn't had time for the usual amount of slumber.

Jules Levy, the former RKO general sales manager, is in Rochester, Minn., for a health checkup . . . Herb Nicholas has formed a company to distribute his new candid camera money game, which is clicking so well in his own theatre in Fairmont, Minn. . . . Eddie Carter, veteran stage trouper and now merchandise promoter, has closed a deal to present his piano marathon in the window of a well-known local furniture store. His wife, Ruth Hill, formerly of Broadway musical shows, will collaborate.

George Graham, former theatre usher and now representative for Investors Syndicate, has invented a new football game. It's so good that *Esquire* magazine gave it a writeup this month . . . Dick Wagner, Sioux Falls showman, advertised in the newspapers for a station wagon, one of those gas buggies he saw in the cowboy films. He received a single response —the city wanted to sell him an old patrol wagon.

The Twin City Variety Club open house after the Northwestern-Minnesota football game last Saturday night was graced by the presence of the amiable John Boles, who played a Minnesota theatre personal appearance engagement. Gordie Greene, Minnesota managing director, had him in tow. With Boles knocking 'em dead at the boxoffice, Gordie was a very happy man. During his engagement Boles took out enough time to catch part of Harry Hirsch's stock burlesque show at the Gayety and to witness part of the Minnesota-Northwestern football game.

After Bennie Berger witnessed Minnesota's sorry football exhibition against Northwestern last Saturday he lost no time in hedging a $250 bet which he had placed on the Gophers before the season opened. He gave three to one on Michigan. If there should be another upset like that of the Michigan-Illinois game and the Bierman team should happen to come through with a victory over the Wolverines, Bennie almost will be ready to jump off the high bridge. However, he has had many winning previous seasons and can afford to take a few jolts for a change, according to his friends.

W. A. Steffes, Northwest Allied president, visited his northern Minnesota estate this week . . . Jacob Wilk, head of Warner's story department, was a luncheon guest visitor at the Twin City Variety Club. He had a conference here with Jerome Odlum, localite, author of two outstanding Warner hits—"Each Dawn I Die" and "Dust Be My Destiny."

Jack Schlaifer, vice-president and general sales manager of United Artists, in town for several days . . . Roy Slentz, Gopher manager, may be headed for the millionaire class. They're drilling oil wells on a big Texas tract owned by him and his father. The results will be known shortly and maybe you think Roy hasn't his fingers crossed . . . There are plenty of stage shows in town—"I Married an Angel" at the Lyceum, Jackie Coogan in "What a Life" at the Alvin, Phil Spitalny and his "Hour of Charm" at the Orpheum, Eddie Peabody and the usual big show at the Minnesota and roadshow burlesque at the Gayety.

The Orpheum has Clyde McCoy and his band underlined for the week of November 30 . . . *After a big week at the Orpheum "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" moved over to the Century for an extension of its downtown run. "Babes in Arms" finished two big weeks at the State. "All Quiet on the Western Front" still going strong in its third week downtown —a smashing big one at the Gopher from where it moved to the Esquire.*

After six weeks of "Gold in the Hills," Auger Brothers rep company is now offering "No Mother to Guide Her," another old-time meller, at the Alvin. "Murder in the Old Red Barn" is in its seventh week at the West Hotel Moorish Room . . . Frank Mantzke, Universal branch manager in Milwaukee, formerly of Minneapolis, here for the Minnesota-Northwestern football game . . . "First Love" is the best Deanna Durbin ever, according to telegraphic advices received by Harold B. Johnson, Universal head man here, from Nate Blumberg in Hollywood.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Clarence Kaake, Duluth, Minn.; Leo Molitor, Norwood, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Johnny Wilson, Williston, N. D.; Lowell Smoots, Little Falls, Minn.; Charlie Connaught, Olivia, Minn.; Joe Milnar, Spring Valley, Minn., and Jack Wright, Red Wing, Minn.

Charlie School, M-G-M home-office auditor, in town . . . W. H. Workman, M-G-M branch manager, indisposed . . . Dave Gillman, independent exhibitor, has recovered from the nervous breakdown which followed his wife's death . . . Beatrice Bartelney of the Warner office staff in the hospital with an attack of flu . . . State has ruled that November 30 is the only day to be observed as Thanksgiving.

Alice Mersereau of the Columbia office staff sustained a broken finger when she tripped on the job . . . After Minnesota's loss to Northwestern, the exodus to Ann Arbor to see the Michigan-Minnesota football game dropped from an anticipated 10,000 *to less than* 3,000, *the smallest crowd that ever has followed the team there . . . "All Quiet on the Western Front" mopping up throughout the territory . . . Joe Podoloff,* 20*th-Fox branch manager, back from a short trip into North Dakota to contact exhibitors.*

Moe Levy, S. R. Kent drive leader, expected this week for another sales meeting . . . Reissue of 20th-Fox "Road to Glory" now current at World here. Cast includes Fredric March, Lionel Barrymore, June Lang and Warner Baxter . . . Bronko Nagurski, former Minnesota football star and now heavyweight wrestling champion in some states, still a big card here and pulled 5,000 to his last Auditorium match with Dick Raines.

Patricia Wynn, dance director, filling in on the Minnesota Theatre's 12*-girl line because of the illness of one of her steppers . . . C. E. Brown from Paramount's home-office paying his first visit here in ten years. He had been assigned to England prior to the war's outbreak . . . "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, visited northern Minnesota accounts.*

Columbia had an invitational screening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at the Hollywood, Sioux Falls, S. D., with the governor of South Dakota and other prominent officials present and approving . . . Warner held an invitational screening of "Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" . . . Jack Haley, general manager of Jam-Handy, flew in from Chicago to confer with Charlie Weiner of Monogram, his local distributor.

A Gopher Gus May Emerge

Minneapolis—The University of Minnesota now is engaged in producing an animated cartoon and next January it will start a course to teach its students how to produce them. It eventually expects to be a potential talent source for Walt Disney and other Hollywood cartoon comedy producers. No other college ever produced an animated cartoon and none has the cartoon producing course for students.

The cartoon now in production depicts the history and problems of the Minnesota iron ore industry. Two faculty members who came here from Czecho-Slovakia are in charge.

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LINCOLN

THIS is the week both J. H. Cooper and Joe Philippson are due in from New York to straighten out a few business matters . . . Sunday *Journal* and *Star* is about to start its annual poll of motion pictures, with the theatres putting up the prizes for the best amateur critics . . . Leo Drennan, dropped from the Lincoln Theatre Corp. payroll, may go to work for the opposition, if Howard Federer can do a bit of juggling with Denver.

Unhappiest man of the week: Bob Livingston, who professes poverty chronically, was publicized as having paid cash for a new car, and as owner of the lease on 160 acres of land within a mile of Nebraska's oil strike.

J. W. Pickett is on the trail of material about the Getzendanner gal who trained the blind horse in Warner Bros.' "Pride of the Bluegrass" so he can bally it for the Strand in Hastings. Come in, Monroe Rubinger . . . Joe Jacobs says some men tell their life story, and some tell their wife stories.

Howard Federer was found on a Sunday morning playing with a model airplane, as early as 6:30 a. m. If anybody would ever wake him up at that time to make a thousand bucks, he'd choke 'em for disturbing him.

Jules Rachman's case has been pushed back to November 27, on plea of Ralph Goldberg's attorney, I. J. Dunn. It was scheduled for November 8 . . . M. E. Lofgren is getting in practice to be a father. He's walking the floor already—just thinking about it.

Still hearing repercussions of Rene McCluskey's columnar quote of Rufus Blair about his startling duds, is Barney Oldfield . . . Don Monroe came back from Canada, but scrammed off somewhere else, after a couple of days at home.

Harold Hellerich is wondering if his winter coat is hefty enough to stave off Colorado winds, when and if . . . BOXOFFICE spoke to the Wahoo, Neb., Lions Club Hallowe'en, or should we say "spook"? P. S. to Wahoo Theatre operator, A. R. Miller: "Honeymoon in Bali" was given a big recommend.

Old Funk Opera House, first big theatre in Lincoln, is being torn down to make room for a new building to house a 10-cent store. It's being theatrical to the last—even in matters of price.

Richard Rowland, supposed to arrive in Lincoln last week to gab with Bess Streeter Aldrich about casting "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," has been delayed in Hollywood . . . Theatres are cooperating with the rest of the town by booking heavy attractions for November 16-17, which is the date of 72nd year of progress celebration.

Bob Huffman pulled a slick sneak of "Housekeeper's Daughter" in the midst of a regular performance at the Stuart, and everybody who saw it is raving about it. Word of mouth, if it means anything, should certainly sell the picture.

Des Moines Theatre Starts Twin Bills

DES MOINES—With the dissolution of the RKO-Tri-States pool, the Tri-States' Des Moines Theatre adopted the policy of showing double feature programs. Changes will be weekly as before. There will be no changes in price.

The Roosevelt Theatre will continue to show the same top picture that is playing at the Des Moines. At the Roosevelt, however, the picture will be shown as a single feature with selected short subjects.

The first double feature program shown at the Des Moines was "Babes in Arms" and "Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase."

Little Theatre Director Recalls John Laurie

DES MOINES—Kendall Community Playhouse Director John Ross Winnie was goggle-eyed at "Four Feathers," held over at the Orpheum Theatre, when he discovered John Laurie in the role of the caliph. Winnie recalls that Laurie studied American diction under him (Winnie) at England's Stratford Theatre last summer. It seems Laurie was interested in American inflection because he hoped someday to land a job in American films.

KAYCEE

(Continued from page 79)

to open a house in this heretofore theatreless town in December.

The Ritz is being remodeled by E. W. Ferguson at Novinger, Mo., and he will reopen the house shortly.

Giveaways in Kansas City took on an intellectual tone last week when a dozen houses in Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kas., combined to offer "Book-Night," the book giveaway handled by Bev Miller. The giveaway started November 4 in the Aladdin, Baltis, Ritz, Paseo, Southtown, Sun, Westport, Dickinson, Gauntier, Home, Rosedale and Tenth Street. The theatres splashed the deal with a large ad in the *Star*. A part of the deal is a tieup with Milgram's food stores.

The Dixie, Linneus, Mo., is being reopened by Rains & Pool.

The University Amusement Co., 1820 Wyandotte, is trying to get the ice warehouse at 4826 Oak St. rezoned for a theatre. The application of the company will be heard December 6 by the city board of zoning adjustment.

Fox to Pittsburgh

KANSAS CITY—Ernest Fox, who has been at Loew's Midland the past couple of years, has gone to Loew's Penn in Pittsburgh. He is succeeded as student assistant manager here by George Fallert.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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DES MOINES

TOO BAD, a few of those curious branch managers couldn't have been with me Friday evening. We met one of those little orphans of last winter's storm ('member?) and again he was in a very mellow mood. This time, however, he got home with a pint (Waterfill & Frazier) which is better'n he did last winter.

Yoohoo! Harry Holdsberg! Now we know the identity of that Central States lassie we saw you lunching with at Michaels one noon. Mebbe we shouldn't tell about that torch you try to hide under a bushel. We know you wouldn't want us to say who, so we won't (but will you be questioned when the not-so-favored Filmrow femmes read this!)

We say Jerry Spandau and the lovely Esther in at Michaels the other day, too. Don't let 'em kid you, Jerry, she's a swell gal (we know, we went to school with her from pigtail days on). Ben Lass stopped at our table and tried to sell us (of all things!) a BOXOFFICE subscription. You got a good boy there, Friedman. He darn near did it . . . We had our sandwich with Madge Ward, but we saw F. E. Judd, Ray Copeland and Tom Burke a-chawin' away in the joint. You must be doin' all right Wolf.

Joe Deatch and Chick Friedman got on the Savery elevator so interested in what they were talking about they could hardly bother to speak to us. Wait'll we get something on them! Bet they won't be so high-hat again . . . G. Ralph Branton went to the Minnesota game last Saturday . . . Don and Mary Allen made DM folk veddy happy last week by coming over to see them. It was Don's first time back from Omaha.

Art Stolte's district met in DM, Tuesday . . . Branton discussed product with the fellas and they went home plenty pepped up, we hear . . . Central State's Iola Lehman just got back from a vacation . . . Monogram staff isn't doing its work standing up these days because it's ambitious; it's been horseback riding . . . We met Leone Mathews from Tri-States booking department again the other night; haven't seen her since "Career" . . . Cleo Current really bought those nice red apples you ate for the big-shot, Walter "Dimples" Lohman, shame on you! . . . Les Knapp is going to have to take a beauty course if he wants to get places with the C. C. girl. Her current b. f. shampoos her hair for her, Les.

Film projectors were displayed here at the teachers' convention, because of the increased use of films in Iowa school work . . . They tell us Sy Harlan has the cutest little image called "Robert." Bob calls his pop "Sy," and has the prettiest golden hair, the Iowa Film boys tell us. Mrs. Sy, who used to be a beautician, keeps the ringlets in perfect order.

We wouldn't have believed it if we hadn't seen it with our own eyes. We mean those crowds stacked inside and out at the Des Moines to see "Babes in Arms." Just like the good old days . . . We can't fail to mention that the Orpheum had a cue at the boxoffice for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" too. Speaking of the Orpheum, it's looking pretty snappy these days with stuff around the marquee and stars' names in lights on top.

Emil Franke celebrated the night before the Orpheum went under RKO management again. He got a shave . . . Speed Lambert was in to talk football at the R&T . . . Bill Sholl on hand Satiddy to keep RKO publicity moving smoothly . . . Reporter Jim Morrison, assigned by Clayton to cover the Orpheum for the Register, *landed in the doghouse after the break from Tri-States. He dialed* 4-1104 *and asked for the time of the next feature. They didn't know . . . Columnist Ashby has been doing too much of his getting around at football games . . . That item about the poll on newsreel war scenes appeared not only in* BOXOFFICE, *but in the* Register *weeks ago.*

Agog about the prospects of cleaning up with Alec Templeton, Dr. Cuthbert D. Smith seems to have forgotten all about his film imports these days—and his BOXOFFICE subscription. How about two of the two thousand, Doctor? . . . And that law about dunning on a postcard doesn't apply, skeptics. He doesn't owe the subscription dough yet (but mark my word, Cuthbert, you will).

Wonder if that Sunday Register *full-page break on "The Roaring Twenties" just happened to show up while the film was playing at the Paramount? . . . Whatever that situation was, Clayton was away ahead of the parade with the Sunday magazine layout on "Pinocchio." It's the first big newspaper break we've seen, and we see a lot of newspapers.*

Nobody here considers the Dutch Reagan-Jane Wyman romance a publicity department cupid's doing, but Warner won't kick about the full-page devoted to it in Sunday's *Register* roto, we betcha . . . Feathered headdresses were worn by Des Moines theatre ushers to promote "Drums Along the Mohawk?" . . . Gotta go now, cause time, tide, editors and mailmen won't wait.

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

L. O. RINGLER (formerly of Midwest, Monogram, and Republic) showed up on the Row the other day and immediately bought everybody a coke. Up to his old tricks, you see. He's now running the Sunflower Theatre in Peabody, Kas.

All J. J. Holmes of the Community Theatre in Orient needs to be a perfect Longfellow, is a dutch bob to go with that black Windsor tie he always wears.

C. C. Parker and the Mrs. dined with the Effie Judd's t'other evenin', but they were just as much at home as if they were back in Bussey, beause Effie and Mrs. Parker et with their shoes off!

In at Michael's we overheard that the Pioneer Circuit's Frank Rubel of DM is being forced to move to Minneapolis. He's been betting on Minnesota and it looks like he's stuck with it.

Don and Dorothy Smith of the Earle in Carroll have a lovely new home and as if that isn't enough, they have two lovely children. Nancy's four and Jimmy's two. The Smiths named him Jimmy Carroll, and we can't see why they didn't name her Nancy Carroll, too . . . (we were told in strictest confidence that the genial host, Don, fell fast asleep at the dinner table Saturday while entertaining (?) two guests).

Carl Furstnow of the Hollywood in Estherville fetched his pappy to visit the Row last week.

Did we ever tell you about the time Lew Lepowitz of the Iowa in DM was sent to water the chickens when he was a little boy? Well, sir, he took the H2O to his thirsty little feathered friends in a bottle! Speaking of bottles, if Lew's dad, Ben Lepowitz, in Madrid ever brews up any more of that famous vintage of his, we'll be sore if we don't get some.

Joe Smith saw "Bing" Ingram of Nate Sandler's Northwood, Ia., theatre coming to DM Monday and leaving Thursday, so he thought "Bing" had been attending a four-day convention here. Instead Bing was in and back on Monday and ditto Thursday.

Bill Kubitzki, Monogram's long, lean, drawlin' boy from Kaycee, tells us he used to read these here "Aw, Shucks! from the tall and uncut" even before he hit Ioway. A remarkable compliment, we calls it.

Sam Schlaes taught Metro's Jerry McGlynn that it's only the IRISH who don't draw that fine line between being a good fellow and a good business man.

You should have seen that smart M-G-M exploiteer hit the ceiling when he read the following note to him from an inexperienced boy he hired to distribute window cards: "Dear Mr. So-and-So: Some people wanted three or four passes, so I gave them three or four window cards."

Leonard Kaplan of Iowa City, Mason City, Waterloo, etc., and his stooges were doing a little men-about-towning here Monday. Need we say more?

Bill Middleton, that prosperous-looking exhibitor from the Rex in Iowa Falls, is sporting a new fur coat!

OMAHA

THIS week's laugh on Filmrow was the story (a true one) about one of the better-known film peddlers who was fired on Sunday and hired back on Monday . . . Elvera Roslund, RKO steno, is vacationing with the folks at Osceola, Neb. . . . Wally Dupree, the husky exhibitor from Woodbine, Ia., was in town.

Filmrow traffic has become so heavy they've put signal lights at Sixteenth and Davenport streets . . . H. D. Bowers, Chief Theatre, Weeping Water, Neb., is one of the first exhibitors to sport a new 1940 *model car . . . Morrie Cohn, Council Bluffs exhibitor and new chief barker of the Omaha Variety Club, drives a sporty-looking yaller auto.*

Wally Johnson, Plaza, Friend, Neb., is spending plenty of time in Omaha now. His girl works here in one of the federal offices . . . W. R. Carr, Warner auditor, has departed for Cincinnati after giving the Omaha exchange the usual double-o . . . Everett Finch has closed the Sun at Shelby, Neb., according to reports received here.

Now that the Gem Theatre at Glenwood, Ia., has been taken over by W. S. Powers, the former operator, H. V. Mullins is looking for another location, he says . . . C. N. Robinson, Home, Blair, Neb., another one of those lucky exhibitors with a new car . . . Vivian Schertz, Republic steno, back from a vacation trip into Missouri to visit her sister.

Ruth Kruger, head inspectress at the Warner layout, is back on the job after a long illness . . . Mons Thompson, Riviera, St. Paul, Neb., was on Filmrow and says things are "not so hot" because of a lack of crops . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kugel, State, Holstein, Ia., in town for the day . . . Exhibitor Berney, young son of the owner of the Empress, Wolbach, Neb., was on the Row booking pictures for his father.

Daisy Mae Cooley, Warner steno, is now minus her appendix . . . Other visitors to Filmrow this week included Guy Griffin, Plattsmouth, Neb.; Fred Dethlefs, Crystal, Manning, Ia.; Max Shoemaker, Isis, Tabor, Ia.; Ray Brown, Harlan, Ia., and his son-in-law, Carl Ernst, Avoca, Ia.

John Scott, former treasurer of the Orpheum in Omaha, died at his home in Hastings, Neb. He was 68 years old . . . Keith Wilson, *World-Herald* critic, made some "personal appearances" at Tri-States theatres in Grand Island and Hastings, Neb. The idea was to have Wilson tell the patrons what to expect in the way of new product. The thing went over big, our scouts tell us.

Will Singer, Brandeis manager, is in Chicago on business. His brother, Mort H. Singer, passed through Omaha this week on his way to the west coast . . . The local BOXOFFICE *scribe has been asked to be on the lookout for an available assistant manager capable of managing and handling publicity for a new theatre.*

Lou Egart, Brandeis treasurer, found a girl's watch and returned it to her without taking any reward. Later he found $5.00 in about the same place he found the watch. He kept the five spot! . . . BOXOFFICE received a nice invitation to the opening of the new Pix Theatre at Beatrice, Neb., but was unable to attend. Frank and Marie Hollingsworth are the proud owners.

A. A. Ulm, exhibitor at Randolph, Neb., paid his annual visit to Filmrow. He's one of the oldest exhibitors in the Omaha territory from the standpoint of number of years in the business. He's been an exhibitor at Randolph for 27 *years . . . Roy Reichardt, Mapleton, Ia., also in town.*

Paul Warren Shooll, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Shooll, subscription representative for BOXOFFICE in Kansas and Missouri, recently was married to Miss Helen Kassel of Omaha. Young Shooll is with the Patterson Publishing Co. of Chicago.

Wishful Eyes

LINCOLN—At least two showmen in Nebraska looked with wishful eyes at the "black gold" strike at Falls City, Neb., when a "wildcat" well came in and oil in commercial quantities was found in the state for the first time.

In on the ground floor is Oscar Johnson, who has the Falls City theatres, and should there be a boom, he is in position to do right well by himself delivering entertainment.

In Lincoln, is Bob Livingston, the Capitol Theatre owner-manager, who more than two years ago, as a gag, leased 160 acres of land just a mile or so from the present well site, and he stands to be in on the ground floor of the development, if anything happens.

And, any showman in Nebraska who has watched the corn fade season after season, will tell you he's thankful that there might be another source of income for the state besides agriculture.

Rites for Boyde Russell, Veteran Projectionist

DES MOINES—Funeral services for Boyde Russell, 46, Paramount Theatre projectionist were held Saturday, November 4, at Hamilton's Funeral Home. Burial was in Glendale cemetery. Russell, who was widely known in Des Moines motion picture circles died Wednesday in the Veterans Hospital, where he had undergone five months' treatment for heart trouble. He is survived by his mother, his widow, Sara and two children, Jean, 18 and Raymond, 12.

Thompson Sells Two at Owatonna to Frank

OWATONNA, MINN.—The two theatres here have been sold by F. R. Thompson to the Frank Amusement Co. of Minneapolis. The Frank company operates one of the largest independent circuits in the territory.

Proves His "Temerity"

MINNEAPOLIS—Merle Potter, most prominent film critic here for many years, took a fling at acting last week in "Tobacco Road" and got away with it successfully, too. It all came about as a result of Potter's review panning the performance of John Barton as Jeeter Lester in the perennial stage hit. Resenting the adverse notice, Barton wrote a scathing letter to Potter's sheet, the *Times-Tribune,* challenging the critic to demonstrate how the role should be played.

Probably to Barton's surprise (if it wasn't a cooked up publicity stunt), Potter accepted the dare. He agreed to play Jeeter for three minutes in the first act if Barton would write a review of his work. That was agreeable to the actor.

The *Morning Tribune* and *Times-Tribune* played up the "feud" with front page and inside stories and plenty of art. The Associated Press and other news' services carried the yarn over the wires. On the night that Potter went on the house was packed to capacity and hundreds were turned away.

Early in the first act Barton exited and Potter came on in his place in the Jeeter part. For three minutes the critic enacted the role without blowing any of his many lines. Then he exited and Barton entered again and was Jeeter for the rest of the performance.

James Kirkland, author and part owner of "Tobacco Road," even flew in from New York for the event. In a curtain speech before the start of the performance he congratulated Potter for the latter's "temerity" in essaying the role.

A number of stories and much art were used by the papers the next day. The press services also carried wire stories again.

In his own story describing his experience, Potter reached the conclusion that "an actor's an actor and a critic's a critic—so we're right back where we started." He also said, however, that "I believe that Mr. Barton and I are agreed on one thing now: That one rightfully can criticize a performer and yet not be a performer himself."

Potter also had one concluding thought. He asserted: "For quite a long time in the future, if you want me to pan an actor's performance, you'd better make sure that he's horrible. Otherwise I'm going to find something good to say about him. Believe me, I am."

Air Conditioning Ready

RICH HILL, MO.—The new Booth Theatre here has been equipped with new winter air-conditioning system purchased from the Todd Air Conditioning Co. of Bonner Springs, Kas. The Booth, which recently was rebuilt throughout, is one of the oldest picture theatres in Missouri.

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MT481 Main signs and marquees
MT482 Signs, Neon
MT483 Signs, structural glass
MT484 Signs, travel word
MT485 Attraction boards
MT486 Letters, attraction board
MT487 Letters, changeable silhouette
MT488 Price signs, boxoffice
MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
MT498 Transformers, Neon
MT499 Ladders, safety
MT500 Moving words projector

AIR CONDITIONING

MT505 Air conditioning plants—complete
MT506 Heating systems
MT507 Refrigeration
MT508 Air washers
MT509 Blowers
MT510 Air circulators
MT511 Fans, exhaust
MT512 Grilles and registers
MT513 Temperature control devices
MT514 Air conditioning accessories
MT515 Motors, multi-speed fan
MT516 Motors, constant speed
MT517 Air filters
MT518 Air diffusers, high velocity
MT519 Cooling coils

DECORATIONS and FURNISHING

MT520 Architectural service
MT521 Decorating service
MT522 Seating service
MT523 Theatre chairs
MT524 Chair covers
MT525 Theatre carpets
MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

MT569 Expansion Bolts
MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
MT584 Fireproofing compounds
MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

PROJECTION

MT591 Projectors, complete with sound
MT592 Projectors, standard
MT593 Projectors, semi-portable
MT594 Projector pedestals
MT595 Projector parts
MT596 Lamps, suprex type
MT597 Lamps, reflector arc
MT598 Lamps, high intensity
MT599 Lamps, incandescent projection
MT600 Arc regulators
MT601 Arc controls
MT602 Control panels
MT603 Rectifiers, copper-oxide
MT604 Rectifiers, tube type
MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

MT641 Cleaning compounds
MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber link matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

SOUND

MT661 Sound systems, complete
MT662 Sound heads
MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT685 Screens, moving picture
MT686 Lighting, stage
MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, viterous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

MISCELLANEOUS

MT715 Accounting systems
MT716 Change makers
MT717 Safes, boxoffice
MT718 Tickets
MT719 Ticket choppers
MT720 Ticket issuing machines
MT721 Ticket registers
MT722 Ticket holders
MT723 Pop corn machines
MT724 Uniforms, staff

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Ownership Dispute a Respite for Co-op

DETROIT—The suit of Raymond Schreiber, operating Midwest Theatres, against Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan, charging conspiracy, etc., was postponed for 30 days by the federal district court. The action was taken following recently reported motion of the defendant booking combine asking that the conspiracy case be postponed in order to have the actual ownership of the five theatres involved judicially determined as a result of the pending lawsuit in the state circuit court.

In the latter case, Jacob Schreiber, former owner, is seeking to regain control or accounting from Ray Schreiber, present operator, who is a nephew of jacob.

Ray's suit against Co-op is based largely on alleged difficulty in getting bookings for the Colonial and other theatres.

Censor Board Withdraws Emergency Seal Ban

PITTSBURGH—The state censor board has withdrawn its order which had rescinded the issuance of emergency seals.

There was no reason given for this action, which was hailed as a great saving for all film distributors.

For many years additional prints were used for emergency bookings, the prints being booked here from various out-of-state film branches. Seals for such prints were known as "X" seals and were good for three weeks at a cost of 25 cents. Recently the censors announced such seals would be withdrawn and in the future all prints in circulation in Pennsylvania would be subject to censorship requiring regular seals at a cost of $2 per reel.

"Beast of Berlin" Passes Detroit Film Censor

DETROIT—A censor's permit was granted for "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," being distributed here by Excellent, by Sergeant Charles W. Snyder, Detroit film censor. Contrasting with action to ban the film taken by eastern censors, Snyder pointed out the limitations of the Detroit ordinance in a statement to BOXOFFICE.

"Under the ordinance in effect in the City of Detroit, there is nothing I can do to stop this picture. The ordinance refers only to obscenity, indecency, or immorality.

"I can see nothing in the film which is indecent or obscene."

It was pointed out that Censor Snyder omitted the third qualification, immorality," in his statement about the picture, but he declined to comment further on this point.

General Seats for Two in W. Va.

PITTSBURGH—The Alpine Theatre, Chester, W. Va., and the Farmington Theatre, Farmington, W. Va., are installing General seats, purchased through the A. & S. Steinberg Co.

Cleveland Exhibitors Assail Keeno's Trade Diversion

Bigelow Plan Beaten Back; Trade Helps

CLEVELAND—The state of presidents early this week asserted itself at the polls by voting down overwhelmingly the Bigelow plan, which would have guaranteed $40 to $50 monthly to unemployed citizens over 60 years of age.

Along with the working citizenry and owners of land, members of the film trade would have been forced to dig deep into their pockets to foot the bill for the more than 600,000 eligible for the "pension" had the plan been successful.

The ITO of Ohio and the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n were actively aligned against the plan, the former carrying on an intensive campaign in getting out voters. The MPEA membership contributed $500 to a fund to fight the proposal and also permitted speakers against the plan to use their theatre stages.

Herbert S. Bigelow, author of the proposal, has promised he will try again next year.

By ELSIE LOEB

CLEVELAND—Rapidly rising employment and a noticeable improvement in business, phenomena from whose beneficial effects Cleveland exhibitors feel they have been blockaded by various competitive and privileged forces, have made the trade eminently resentful.

Arch enemy of greater grosses, in the opinion of the trade, are the dozen or more Keeno Clubs in downtown and suburban Cleveland, which, a study reveals, attract approximately 20,000 patrons daily. Churches are a prime offender in this instance, many of them holding regular Keeno nights with stakes ranging from $100 to $1,700. The theatre owners contend that these institutions, exempt as they are from taxes, and offering no steady employment to any group of people, are particularly unfair competition. The trade points to its own status as a source of city, state, and federal taxes and of employment for an "army" of people.

The decreasing attendance at all but the extraordinary pictures, and this in view of increasing employment, has made their problem one of major proportions, maintain the exhibitors.

Arrest Trio in Pittsburgh On Lottery Charges

PITTSBURGH—Three of the 74 persons indicted secretly in Boston by a federal grand jury in connection with an alleged $20,000,000 lottery fraud in which the name of the late Will Rogers was used as a "come on" are in jail here. Three other Pittsburghers are being sought by police.

Dr. Herman Is Reelected AMPTO Board Head

PITTSBURGH—Dr. C. E. Herman, Carnegie theatre owner, has been re-elected chairman of the board of directors of the AMPTO of W. Pa.

Charles R. Blatt and George Corcoran attended their first meeting as members of the board last Friday afternoon.

Sewickley Modernized

SEWICKLEY, PA.—The Sewickley Theatre has been modernized with new stage curtain, new wall drapes and lighting fixtures. The house has been newly wired. William R. Wheat jr., is owner.

Installs New Sound

LOUISVILLE—George Settos is installing new RCA sound in his Vogue Theatre here as part of a remodeling program now under way.

Scripts "Villa on Hill"

HOLLYWOOD—James Hilton is adapting Warner's "Villa on the Hill."

Lefko Quits RKO's Sales Force; Wheeler Out Too

PITTSBURGH—Joseph P. Lefko withdrew this week as a sales representative for RKO. Another change in the sales setup this week was the replacing of George Wheeler, Columbia, by a newcomer, Sidney Goldberg. The latter comes here from Washington, D. C., where he had represented state rights pictures.

Otto Braeunig Promoted To RKO Sales Force

CLEVELAND—George Lefko, RKO manager, announces the promotion of Otto Braeunig from office manager, a position he has held uninterruptedly for many years, to a position on the sales force. Jack Swee, former Universal booker, succeeds Braeunig as office manager.

Damage Equipment

AKRON, OHIO — Smashing projection equipment and sound machines and slashing a large hole in the moving picture screen, vandals did more than $2,000 damage in the Nixon Theatre here during the night of November 2. The damage was reported to police by Charles Stadler, manager of the theatre, who said he discovered it when he went to the theatre at noon.

UDT Improves Second-Run

DETROIT—A new marquee and signs are being installed at the Cinderella, second run, east side house, operated by United Detroit circuit.

Detroit Fox Ventures Singling "Mr. Smith"

DETROIT—The Fox Theatre, largest Detroit house, went to a single bill for the showing of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." Strongest additional item on the bill was the March of Time release.

The move, however, was temporary, and presumably an experiment. The exceptional running time—129 minutes—plus the strength of the feature, led David M. Idzal, managing director, to give the film a tryout on the single bill policy. Although business was not a record, the picture is being held a second week, and is expected to capitalize on current publicity stories about its repercussions at Washington.

The gradual move toward single bills is gathering strength slowly. Some impetus was given by the unfortunate experience of an exhibitor who lately played a dual without bothering to think what the pictures were. Result was Shirley Temple, plus "Ecstasy."

Repercussion was strong among parents and others interested in film programs, and one reaction was a denunciation from the pulpit of a nearby church. Advocates of the single bill idea, particularly for weekends, were quick to point out that such an unfortunate weekend bill would have been impossible under singles.

Dave Miller's District Wins Universal Drive

CLEVELAND—From Universal comes the news that Dave Miller's district was No. 1 in the Universal sales drive just concluded, and that six of the ten leading salesmen were in his district. Of the six, four work out of the Pittsburgh exchange and two out of Cleveland. Cleveland top men are Jimmy Frew and George Rosenbaum.

Miller states that sales this season are 300 per cent ahead of the same period last year. And in Cleveland, the office under the management of Joe Kauffman has three times as many approved contracts as last year, with city circuit deals still pending.

American Legion Publicity Achieved by Himmelein

CLEVELAND—John Himmelein, commander of Variety Post 313, has arranged with Outdoor Advertising Co. to place 100 patriotic American Legion one-sheets in important positions throughout the city. Himmelein also has had made 1,000 American Legion automobile stickers. One sheets and stickers were made through the courtesy of the Morgan Lithograph Co.

Assistants Switch

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO—Charles Simpson, assistant manager of the Colonial, Akron, has been named assistant to Jack Hynes here in charge of the Park Theatre. William L. Rock jr., former assistant, has been moved to the Colonial in Akron as assistant manager.

"Old Maid" Gets Into Record Brackets

Detroit—"The Old Maid" set up a record as the first film going four weeks at any United Detroit house in the past half-year, being held over again at the Palms-State. With the record-breaker is "Disputed Passage" on the same double bill, being carried over from the Michigan where it had a world premiere, for a third week. Combination makes one of the strongest double bills seen at a first run house in many moons.

LOUISVILLE

H HULL, manager of the Grand National Film exchange at Indianapolis, was in town the other day. So was Tom Fisher, of the Cincinnati office of RCA.

"Babes In Arms" was the first picture to play three weeks here in a long time. It opened at Loew's; then moved over to the Brown for two more weeks. "The Roaring Twenties" held for two weeks at the Mary Anderson.

The Row switched opening dates from Friday to Thursday in order to bring the new pictures in Thanksgiving Day . . . Seen in town were Willard Gabbard, owner of the Opera House at Harrodsburg, Ky., and S. R. Seale, of the Berea Theatre at Berea, Ky.

Some outside work is being considered at the Rialto . . . Ira J. Kerr, auditor for Fourth Avenue Amusement Co. is on his own again. He was getting around on crutches for a while, having turned an ankle at the last game of the World Series.

A new screen has been installed at Sylvester Grove's Capitol Theatre here . . . J. M. Wenzell, who operates the Norman Theatre, has been asked to head the Louisville chapter of the Dunkers' Club, a nation-wide organization.

A special screening of Paramount's "Rulers of the Sea" was announced by Johnson Musselman of the Rialto . . . Add wedding bells: Edward Donahue, manager of the Ohio Theatre, Louisville, and Miss Kathleen Ulsh, cashier at the Elks' Theatre in New Albany, Ind., just over the Ohio River from here, were married in New Albany November 6.

W. M. Quinn, Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. executive, reported the business there last month as the month of the year.

Brandt Improving

CLEVELAND — Walter Brandt, Vitagraph salesman, is at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown, where he was taken by a state trooper who found him slumped over the wheel of his car not far from Youngstown. Brandt, suffering from a heart attack, rallied to treatment and, according to latest reports, is on the mend.

Transfers Dominate Theatre Activity

DETROIT—The quarterly report of theatre transactions just compiled and released by Allied Theatres of Michigan shows a steady flow of changes, chiefly transfers, but no startling fluctuations for the quarter ending October 31.

Four transfers of theatres, three of them upstate, were involved. While four new houses were added to the list, two of them apparently retitled. Two downtown Detroit houses were reopened—the Times Square and the Madison— and only one, the Crescent of Grand Haven, was closed.

Outstanding among the twelve transactions of the quarter is the appearance of the William Schulte circuit in three spots. The new theatre at Center Line is reported, finally named the Motor City, as a companion to Schulte's Radio City in Ferndale.

Two southeastern Michigan acquisitions for the Schulte circuit also is listed—the Bliss at Blissfield, and the Strand at Tecumseh, both from F. H. Guy.

Alexander Will Present Corrigan at Roundup

PITTSBURGH—Jim Alexander's "Roundup" at the Variety Club, Saturday evening, November 18, will be featured by the appearance of Ray Corrigan, star of Republic's "Mesquiteers" western series. With "Crash" Corrigan will be Hal Carey, national champion yodeler, who will emcee the show, and Buddy Hall, musician, and George Morris, who comes here from Sally Rand's Nude Ranch.

First announced event for December at the club will be the inauguration of the officers for 1940 and the induction of new members, the date being Monday, December 4.

Last Saturday's family party was hosted by the Lew Leftons, and William Finkel was King for the Monday dinner, with guests including U. S. Senator James J. Davis, and Bill Kern, Carnegie Tech grid coach and members of his staff. United Artists' date was November 11, with Harold Lund scheduled to preside at the November 13 dinner.

Product of Three Majors Purchased by Co-Op

CLEVELAND—Milton A. Mooney, head of Co-Operative Theatres of Ohio, now buying and booking for some 80 houses throughout the state, has closed new season product deals for his clients with M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and Universal.

Jennings Buys Two

LONDON, OHIO—Virgil Price of Columbus has disposed of his Princess and Majestic theatres here to Harry Jennings. Jennings is associated with an independent chain operating in this state and West Virginia.

PITTSBURGH

Harris Amusements Opens New Jeannette House

JEANNETTE, PA.—Harris Amusement Co. forged a new link in its growing chain when it officially opened the new Harris' Manos Theatre here. Premiere was attended by celebrities from Pittsburgh, Jeannette and other cities in western Pennsylvania. Frank J. Harris, president of the Harris Amusement Companies, presented the new show place to the citizens of Jeannette at the dedicatory ceremonies which were held on the stage of the new 700-seat theatre.

New Harris' Manos Theatre, owned by Michael Manos and under a long term lease to the Harris interests, was designed by Victor A. Rigaumont, one of the leading theatre architects.

Souvenir grand premiere tickets, as is the custom with the Harris openings, featured a photo reproduction of the late Hon. John P. Harris, founder of the world's first nickelodeon.

Larry Puglia Opens New Waynesburg Opera House

WAYNESBURG, PA.—Larry Puglia, veteran exhibitor here, opened the all-new Opera House Thursday evening, November 9, with many members of the trade present.

New building on the site of the old Opera House is a modern 800-seat theatre, which is an increase of 130 seats.

Burgess Pat Mahan and Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO secretary, were speakers at the dedication, and Johnston Bell was master of ceremonies. Puglia was host to more than a hundred friends at a party at the Elks Club.

Enlarge Johnstown Rialto With Two-Story Addition

JOHNSTOWN, PA.—Rialto Theatre is being remodeled with a 42-foot addition being erected adjoining the rear of the building. The two-story addition will be completed by mid-December, according to Adolph Farkas, manager.

The Rialto has been owned for 22 years by Mrs. Rose Farkas and six sons and a daughter.

A year and a half ago they opened the new Lyric Theatre here.

New Mayfair in Wheeling Opened by Chris Velas

WHEELING, W. VA.—Grand opening of the newly-constructed Mayfair in nearby Woodsdale (Pleasant Valley), was a gala event. The new Chris Velas theatre is a modern 850-seater, cost of which was in excess of $70,000.

The new Mayfair is the second theatre in this heretofore undeveloped area between Wheeling and Elm Grove, the Nikitas Dipson circuit, which has five Wheeling theatres, having opened a theatre here some weeks ago.

Velas operates 14 theatres in Ohio and West Virginia, several with Angelo Constant and James Velas.

Gets One-Picture Pact

HOLLYWOOD—Arthur Powell, writer, has been signed to a one-picture deal at Paramount.

JIM ALEXANDER was in New York on business at the Republic headquarters last week . . . Leon Reichblum states that he will freshen up the front of the State, Wilkinsburg . . . W. A. Fannin of International Seats was a recent visitor at Superior Supply . . . Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, chairman of state censor board, was here on business last week . . . Burtus (Ferdinand) Bishop has been keeping his eye on the hosses, particularly one Ferdinand entered in the Rhumba Circuit handicap . . . P. L. Dysard has transferred the Princess, Lewisburg, W. Va., to the E. R. Custer-Floyd Price interests which recently opened the new Lewis Theatre there. Fred J. Helwig is managing both houses.

James H. Rankin reports he had a great time visiting the leading theatres of New York City . . . Vitagraph and United Artists exchange offices have been brightened up a bit . . . Fred Solomon's cat "Tommy" is Filmrow's pet . . . The Nixon is presenting a revival of "Outward Bound" this week and for the week of November 20 the stage offering will be Raymond Massey in "Abe Lincoln in Illinois." Ruth Chatterton will be seen the following week in "Tonight We Dance." Meanwhile, the Stanley is without stage shows again for several weeks. Hal Kemp is scheduled at the latter house for the week of November 17 and shortly thereafter Martha Raye will appear. Dead End Kids come in the week before Christmas.

Frank France has rejoined Art Morrone's Superior M. P. Supply Co. as a sales representative. In recent months he had been a special representative for International Seats . . . Abe Josephs, who with his brother, Irving, has purchased the Triangle Theatre, East Liberty, will take over operation at an early date. He stated that he was now negotiating with the England brothers for the purchase of the house equipments . . . George Clark, former theatre supply dealer here, who has been among the missing for eight years, turned up the other day to say hello and to state he is re-entering the field in this area. He has been working in the eastern territory all these years . . . Paul Canonico of Farrell writes he is in the market to buy or lease a theatre.

Mrs. John C. Friburg, wife of the Johnsonburg burgess and exhibitor, is recuperating from injuries sustained several weeks ago in an auto accident . . . Harold Weinberger, former local M-G-M booker, is assistant director and does an acting bit in "Not Too Narrow, Not Too Deep."

A seven-pound son was born Wednesday—a week ago—to the Jack Mundstuks. The West Virginia sales representative for "the friendly company" accepted the good wishes of many friends this week . . . George Moody of Brownsville has returned to his home after a two-week vacation in Florida. His health has not been of the best recently but he is much improved now . . . Mike Manos was laid up with a fractured toe, the result of slamming shut his auto door with his foot in the way.

Andrew Peterson, nephew of the late George Panagatocas, and manager of the Park Theatre, Johnstown, has been married several months, but the secret has just been revealed . . . You may address Chris Wagner as Grandpop when you see the veteran Connellsville exhibitor. Grandson, born October 29, has been named Paul James Francis. Papa Paul Francis, son-in-law of Wagner, is his assistant at the Paramount Theatre, Connellsville . . . Chris Velas, West Virginia and Ohio exhibitor, stated this week that the veteran Jim Velas has regained his health after three years in Greece and that he was returning to the good old U. S. A.

Dave Kimelman, Paramount branch manager, was rushed to Montefiore Hospital Monday morning after suffering fainting spells in his home. He had been ill all of last week but had gone about his work as usual. Not exactly determined at mid-week, Kimelman is suffering some sort of stomach disorder . . . Members of the trade were kept busy this week attending three new theatre openings, the Harris' Manos, Jeannette, Pa., Tuesday; Larry Puglia's new Opera House, Waynesburg, Pa., Thursday; and Chris Velas' Mayfair, Woodsdale, W. Va., Friday . . . Bill Jervis, local RCA Photophone sales manager, was the winner of the company's national sales award . . . A. H. McHafie is constructing a theatre at Marmet, W. Va.

Recent AMPTO program showed that the exhibitor organization has 91 members

(Continued on next page)

HORRORS!

It's the "Sleeper" of the Year!

"DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES"

With

EMLYN WILLIAMS

Author of "Night Must Fall"

NOW BOOKING

International Pictures Dist. Corp.

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PITTSBURGH, PA.

1022 Forbes St. Phone: ATlantic 6039

CINCINNATI

FROM all exchanges come reports business is beating up in the mideast territory . . . Republic's Max Margolis is back at his desk following a week's visit to the New York office.

Lee Goldberg of Big Feature Rights reports the screening of the first PDC feature, "Torture Ship," a Jack London story, brought highly favorable comment from attending exhibitors. Incidentally, Irving Pichel, the star, is a brother of Reporter Pichel of the Cincinnati Times-Star.

M-G-M's trophy, the mounted Lion Head and plaque, which is awarded to the winners of the national sales drive, has been installed in the local office where it will remain until next year. The handsome insignia is the object of much pride on the part of Red Devanney, local office manager, and his personnel.

Metro's traveling auditor, John J. Ash, is at the local office . . . A. H. McHafie is building a new theatre at Marmet, W. Va. . . . Willis Vance's new Newport, Ky., theatre was to open November 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miles have returned following a honeymoon in New York. Miles is a member of the Ohio Board of Censors. Mrs. Miles was Mrs. Ethel Chesbrough of the Chesbrough circuit.

The first snow of the season hit the territory at Beckley, W. Va., where exhibitors report ploughs were used to clear roads . . . Chris Pfister of Troy, Ohio, J. F. Carnahan of Manchester, Ky., Foster Lane of Williamsburg, and Frank Ferguson of Columbus were in town.

L. Marks, student salesman from New York, is now in the local M-G-M office . . . Mrs. J. F. Crone has taken over operation of the Crescent Theatre, Winton Place, Cincinnati.

M. Redmon of Felicity was in; also Mr. and Mrs. Crist of Ripley, Ohio . . . Lou Holthaus of the Highland Theatre threw a Hallowe'en party for the kiddies of this neighborhood house.

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Means total and complete responsibility invested in ONE FIRM for Planning, Engineering, Supervision and Construction in Theatre building. You are fully protected against temperamental, obstinate and know-it-all whims of Designers, Contractors and Mechanics who are apt to outdo each other in an effort to avoid responsibility and the expenses of rectifying errors.

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Theatre Division
328 E. Town Street Columbus, Ohio

Shooting on Screen and In Auditorium

Hazard, Ky.—While the western picture, "Six-Gun Rhythm," was unreeling in the Virginia Theatre here November 4, three shots rang out through the building and when the lights came on, Miss Clora Roberts, 20, was found murdered in her seat.

Shortly afterward, Crussie Collins, 30, projectionist at the Family Theatre, located a few blocks away, was arrested in connection with the shooting. Collins said Miss Roberts was his "girl friend."

Patrons of the Virginia said they were so engrossed in the picture they did not realize someone had been shot until the lights came on.

Friday Opening Policy Resumed by Michigan

DETROIT—The Michigan Theatre has switched back to regular Friday opening policy, probably permanently. Move to Thursday openings, earlier in the season, was only temporary and experimental. United Detroit management is keeping the United Artists Theatre, as before, upon a straight Thursday opening basis.

Exhibitors Service Driver, Mike Kosonski, Killed

JOHNSONBURG, PA.—Mike Kosonski, a driver for Exhibitors Service Company for eight years, was killed when the service relay truck he was driving went down an embankment near Bradford. His neck was broken when he was thrown from the truck as it turned over. He resided in Johnsonburg.

KDKA Dedicates Transmitter

PITTSBURGH—KDKA, the world's first broadcasting station, dedicated a new transmitter Saturday. Station signal strength within the city is now over eight times greater than from the abandoned plant at Saxonburg, 22 miles out of town.

Gets "Honeymoon Deferred"

HOLLYWOOD—Lew Landers has been signed to direct "Honeymoon Deferred" for Universal and Producer Ken Goldsmith.

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from preceding page)

. . . Ike Katz of Paramount Premium Co., a recent visitor here, will appoint a local distributor . . . The sports pages report that our Billy Conn, light heavyweight champ, has received more offers to try his luck as a romantic film star . . . Andy Battiston is a new representative of the Alexander Film Co. . . . Harris Palace on Diamond St. has a new built-up front since it has become a Newsreel Theatre . . . Melvin Richman, son of the William Richmans, north side exhibitors, is engaged to Miss Sylvia Chotiner, daughter of Mrs. B. Chotiner of McKeesport. His older brother, Jack, and Miss Harriet Gordon, were married several weeks ago and are residing in Morgantown, W. Va.

Gabe Rubin has underlined the French pictures "Rasputin," "End of a Day" and "Harvest" for his Art Cinema . . . Your audiences will enjoy M-G-M's "Remember?" much better if they see it from the beginning; otherwise they may believe that the operator has switched reels. Its a tricky show with Lew Ayres taking the honors from Bob Taylor and Greer (Mrs. Chipping—Remember?) Garson . . . Louis Krieger, distributor of Alliance Pictures, is busy booking "Dead Men Tell No Tales," starring Emlyn Williams, which the *Post-Gazette* has praised as a "sleeper." Krieger has an assistant in the person of Moe Gould, vet film man, who was recently discharged from the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital where he had been a patient for several years.

Mark Goldman, Monogram manager, announces that the Monogram-Warner circuit deal has been completed . . . N. A. Nicholson, N. A. N. safety control manufacturer, was a Filmrow visitor this week, booking for his friend Alex Alexas, who is soon to open his new theatre at Ligonier . . . The honeymoon is over and George Fox is back on the job in the accessory department of the 20th-Fox exchange . . . Harold Groves of the Copyright Bureau was a recent visitor here . . . A number of theatres flashed election returns to patrons Tuesday evening.

To Take a Bride

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, PA.—Louis Rothenstein, operator of the Cambridge Theatre, will have a wedding date sometime after the first of the year. He is engaged to Miss Celia Wein of Clarion. Bridegroom-to-be is a son of Sam Rothenstein, Evans City exhibitor, and is a brother of Abe Rothenstein, Aliquippa exhibitor.

Fail in Robbery

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO — Thieves visited the Old Trails Theatre here, but got nothing for their trouble, according to Manager S. D. Shia's report to police.

Dog Classic to Derr

HOLLYWOOD—E. B. Derr has purchased screen rights to "Beautiful Joe," dog classic by Margaret Saunders.

To Adapt "Disraeli"

HOLLYWOOD — Warner has assigned Aeneas MacKenzie to script "Disraeli."

Pitt Film Aid Group Appeals for Funds

PITTSBURGH—Annual appeal for the Film Mutual Aid Group fund is now being made by the committee for distribution at Christmas.

Last year nearly $500 was subscribed and distributed.

James H. Alexander, treasurer, stated this week that there are many people of "our industry" in need and that additional help will be needed this year. "After all, they are all our own people in our own business, and it's so much better to be on the giving end rather than the receiving end." He gave a resume of the 1938 distribution of funds to many of the trade's needy.

Universal Rolls Record Score in Bowling Tilt

PITTSBURGH—Universal bowlers rolled a new high team score, the best showing of any team in eight years at the regular contests Friday evening, November 3, at the new Triangle Recreation Center. The Filmrow Bowling League leaders in one game turned in a score of 878. Carl Miller of Universal, in three games, rolled a 496 score, second best of the season to date. W. Walters of 20th-Fox took the weekly award of $1 for individual score for one game, having rolled a 208 game. Standing of the teams to November 10:

	Won	Lost
Universal	15	3
Republic	14	4
Columbia	14	4
Loew's	12	6
All Stars	9	9
20th-Fox	4	14
Monarch	3	15
RKO	2	16

Detroit Bowling League Lead Is Motiograph's

DETROIT—Motiograph held onto the lead in the Nightingale Club Bowling League this week, closely contested by five other teams, with Lorenzen Flowers ready to contest the last position with Amusement Supply.

New standings are:	W	L
Motiograph	15	9
McArthur Theatre Equip.	14	10
Oliver Theatre Supply	14	10
National Theatre Supply	13	11
Brenkert Projectors	12	12
National Carbon	11	13
Lorenzen Flowers	9	15
Amusement Supply	6	18

High games were rolled by Jack Hall, 207, and Bill Fouchey, 211.

High scores went to Jack Hall, 591; Bill Fouchey, 579; Gil Light, 514; Stanley Bouchey, 512; Jack Lindenthal, 508; S. J. Lambly, 504, and Thomas Smale, 501.

Next Bette Davis Set

HOLLYWOOD—Production gets underway shortly on Warner's "We Shall Meet Again," to again co-star as a team Bette Davis and George Brent. Edmund Goulding, who handled the two in "Old Maid," will direct.

Donald Duck Wins

PITTSBURGH—It was the lobby broadcast following the world premiere of "Allegheny Uprising" at Loew's Penn and Walt Framer, emcee, was interviewing departing patrons who had plunked down $2.50 a seat (tickets sold for $1 the evening of the premiere).

"Now who are your favorite stars?" inquired Framer.

I. Elmer Ecker, prominent attorney, answered: "Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland." And a special favorite, he added was Donald Duck.

Framer tried again, asking a clothing salesman what great picture he had recently seen.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," answered the merchant.

Mayor Scully stated that he liked Donald Duck!

Scoville, Essick & Reif Renovate Two Houses

CLEVELAND—The Scoville, Essick & Reif circuit has completed renovizing programs at two theatres. The Madison in Cleveland is wearing a new marquee supplied by Gustav Hirsch of Columbus and new carpets from National Theatre Supply.

The State, Galion, has also undergone a complete facelifting. Alterations inside and out consisted of interior decorations, carpeting and new equipment.

REPUBLIC MARCHES ON!

Read It From The Record— "BOXOFFICE RECORDS"

Republic Pictures' Gene Autry Again Is First in the Cowboy Star List
(of course)
"Wyoming Outlaw" Is the Top Money Western of the Year. It's a Republic Picture
(of course)
Nine of the Twelve Best Grossing Westerns of the Year Are Republic Pictures—BOXOFFICE RECORDS, Published by BOXOFFICE.

Acknowledged Tops in Westerns and Serials With Feature Productions Rapidly Coming to the Front

Now Booking

"Flight at Midnight"
with Phil Regan, Jean Parker, Roscoe Turner

"Calling All Marines"
with Donald Barry, Helen Mack, Warren Hymer

"Jeepers Creepers"
with Weaver Bros. & Elviry, Roy Rogers

"Main Street Lawyer"
with Edward Ellis, Anita Louise, Robert Baldwin

Coming

"THE DARK COMMAND"

With John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Brian Donlevy, Beulah Bondi, Lloyd Nolan, Charles Bickford, John Carradine, George "Gabby" Hayes, Donald Barry, Donald Meek and other favorites. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

Republic Pictures Corp. of Pittsburgh

1701 BLVD. OF THE ALLIES Phone: ATlantic 4858

CLEVELAND

ED. STUTZ has taken over the Dixie in Toledo and is opening next week on a full time basis. It is understood Stutz has ambitions to build a new house in Toledo and plans are being prepared for a structure to be located on Galena Ave.

Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner for Ohio and Kentucky, accompanied by S. P. Gorrel, Cleveland branch manager, and Max Margolis, Cincinnati branch head, flew to New York to attend a meeting of the board of directors.

Warner has bought Monogram's 1939-40 product for their Steubenville house, Nat Schultz, Monogram franchise owner, announces . . . "Duke" Clark has resigned as general chairman of the annual Variety Club ball, scheduled for Saturday, December 2, due to pressure of work at the Paramount exchange where he wears the title of branch manager. Nat Lefton, recently elected chief barker, is taking over the job.

J. J. Maloney, M-G-M district manager, paid the local exchange a routine visit but expressed his inability to add anything to the column by saying "he knew nothing about nothing" . . . Local film delivery men—Louis Gross, Eddie Johnson and P. L. Tanner—went to Columbus the other day . . . Meyer Fine's son, Marshall, is wearing his leg in a plaster cast, being among the autumn football casualties.

Bernie Rubin of Big Feature Rights is telling the world that "The Sage Brush Family Trails West," first of the series of 24 westerns, starring Bobby Clark, the 13-year-old junior cowboy, is in the office and available for immediate booking.

Price Premium Co., whose storeroom in the Film Bldg., has been closed since the middle of the summer, has reopened. Arthur Ungerman of the company's home office has been in town to introduce the new manager, Ben Elkins, a former Chicago exhibitor.

Visitors spotted along Filmrow: Harry Reinhardt of Canton and his city manager, Ben Schwartz; M. Belloni, Brewster Theatre, Brewster; Joe Calla, Strand, Canton, without Bert Botzum of Akron (something that almost never happens); Joe Trunk of Youngstown, with Walter Schwartz, manager of his Uptown Theatre; Leo Jones of Upper Sandusky; and from Akron, "Weary" Smith, Majestic Theatre; Willard Hart of the Norka and Rialto, and Jack Flemm of the Tivoli.

Either business or prospects or both are good over at National Screen Service Co., judging from the flock of new Buicks parked in front of the office. Nat Barach, Al Michielli and Arthur Manheim are the happy optimists.

T. B. KLAIBAN
Motion Picture Screen Resurfacing Co.
White and Silver Screens
Guaranteed Workmanship—Reasonable Prices
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604 WARD AVE., GIRARD, OHIO
Phone: Girard, Ohio, 361-J

Phil Harrington, M-G-M office manager, has appointed Robert C. Brown as shipper, a post left vacant following several recent promotions . . . Of interest to the girls and boys of the local film industry, is the announcement that the Jack Mundstucks of Pittsburgh have a son. Jack was with the Cleveland M-G-M outfit before being transferred.

Harry Goldberg, head of the advertising department of Warner theatres, blew into town unannounced last Thursday to spend a day going over matters of interest with Zone Manager Nat Wolf.

When Allen Shapiro of the Warner theatre department and Florence Hanby of the UA secretarial force decided to pull a fast one and hie themselves to Covington, Ky., to be married, UA's branch manager, A. M. Goodman, staged an impromptu buffet luncheon in their honor.

Al Ochs, formerly with Associated Theatres and more recently manager of the Mt. Union Theatre in Alliance, has returned here and is now managing Paul Gusdanovic's LaSalle Theatre . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" stays on in Cleveland for a third week.

Herman Smith and the Ridge Theatre parted company last week when Smith sold the house to Ralph Rose of the Film Bldg. Cigar Store and Penn Square Theatre and his associations . . . O. K. (bona fide initials) Fischer, district manager for Hollywood Amusement Co., Inc., distributors of Wahoo, was in town making the rounds with Local Representative Jack Greenbaum.

Peter Rosian, special sales representative for Universal, has been temporarily assigned to the Cincinnati office by District Manager Dave Miller.

Nolan Helms Lonet

WELLINGTON, OHIO—The Lonet Theatre here, acquired recently by W. A. Stueve from William Powell, is now being managed by Frank Nolan, formerly of Cleveland. Powell will winter in Florida, but says he hasn't set any future business plans.

To Plant 1,000 Evergreens

PITTSBURGH—Variety Post American Legion will plant 1,000 evergreens at Camp O'Connell. Commander Harry M. Kalmine has appointed C. C. Kellenberg, I. Elmer Ecker and Dr. L. G. Beinhauer as members of the committee in charge of this enterprise.

New Ticket Exchange Firm

CLEVELAND—Motion Theatre Ticket Exchange, Inc., has been incorporated in Columbus. Incorporators are Vincent M. Arnold, Flora J. Schultz and Lilyan Saltzman, all of Cleveland.

West-Fields Starrer Titled

HOLLYWOOD — Universal has tentatively titled the Mae West-W. C. Fields feature, currently in production, as "Little Chickadee." Eddie Cline is directing.

Chains Already Hold; Independents 'Can't'

CLEVELAND—Affiliated theatres in Cleveland are in favor of holdovers and moveovers "whenever business justifies this policy of playing a picture for all it is worth all through our zone," Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, said in commenting on Joseph Schenck's plea for extended run. "In fact, extended runs on good pictures is our rule rather than our exception. We do this because the one thing we know about this industry is that good pictures do good business." The Warner policy of playing a picture for all it is worth is indicated in the fact that in Cleveland, from Jan. 1, 1939 to Sept. 29, 1939, Warner played ten holdovers and 23 moveovers. None of the holdovers exceeded two weeks. Of the moveovers, one picture played a total of four weeks, eight played three weeks and 14 played two weeks. This was considered the maximum first-run playing time for any of the product shown.

The RKO Palace, during the same 38 weeks, held only one picture a second week. That was "Confessions of a Nazi Spy."

The Loew circuit, during the same period, played no holdovers but did play 22 moveovers. Of these, three pictures held for a total run of three weeks and 18 played a total run of two weeks, meaning one week at the State followed immediately by one week at the Stillman.

Subsequent-run theatre owners are unanimous in declaring that extended first runs "milk" the pictures of much of the value they might have had for them. After an extended first run of more than two weeks, these exhibitors claim, it is impossible to fill a theatre even on the third day of a run. So they ask how it is possible for them to play a picture extra time.

A prominent owner of a chain of independent subsequent run houses says that he is in favor of longer runs. "Yes," he said when confronted with Schenck's suggestion, "I believe we should play longer runs. And we could do it too, if we were free from block booking. With only 365 days in the year and block booking in effect, we are obliged to reduce our playing time of good pictures in order to play junk. Eliminate the 'C' pictures, stop the block booking system and then it will be possible to give the good pictures extended playing time and we could afford to pay more for these pictures because we would not be paying for pictures which we never

"Uncensored" Comes In for Censoring

Pittsburgh—The Pennsylvania censor board didn't like the exploitation paper of the "uncensored" version of "All Quiet on the Western Front" and has ordered all paper sniped with large printed letters "Uncensored by War or Military Authorities."

show on our screens."

As for boosting the U. S. revenue on pictures to compensate for the loss of the European market, this circuit owner referred to an alleged statement of Charles C. Pettijohn who is quoted as having made the statement in Washington that the loss of European revenue would be more than made up by the increase in South America revenue.

A representative of the Scoville, Essick and Reif circuit reports that none of the houses in the chain could stand playing pictures any longer than the present policy. "All of our houses are of the de luxe type," he states, "having over 1,000 seats. All are in highly competitive situations located not more than two miles distant from another theatre. In these circumstances, we cannot possibly play any picture longer than three days." A cut in executive salaries of producers is the suggested remedy to compensate for foreign losses.

"A subsequent run exhibitor who holds a picture four days when he usually plays a three-day policy, almost always suffers a loss," another prominent theatre owner states. "The three-change house usually sets his policy up on the basis of Sunday-Monday - Tuesday, Wednesday - Thursday, and Friday-Saturday. If he holds the weekend picture an extra day, then he is confronted with this situation; either to find available a picture which can stand up for the remaining three days, or to play one picture on Thursday, and another one the remaining two days of the week. It does occasionally happen that a good picture is available for the last three days of the week, but it is rare. So what happens? We pay for the extra day for the holdover picture, and in addition we buy a picture for the one day—a policy which jumps our weekly film rental to a point higher than what we are able to take in on the extra day of the extended run. So, insofar as theatres in the subsequent run situation are concerned, and under the present selling plan, it is economically impossible for us to give any pictures extended playing time."

RCA Sound to Trio

DETROIT—Harry R. Lush has ordered new RCA sound for his two houses at Plymouth and Northville, Mich., as has Mattea Faenza, for his Roosevelt Theatre at Bentleyville, Pa.

Star Studies Attract

PITTSBURGH—Film fans find special interest at the International Art Exhibit in Carnegie Institute in portraits of Anna Sten as "Nana" and Luis Trenker, European star. The latter painting is one of the best of the exhibit.

The Lights Had Time To Blink

Cleveland—What is said to be a record took place here when Robert Harris of Warren opened the Erie Theatre on Sunday and closed it again on the following Thursday. One and only reason was "no business."

DETROIT

JACK BRODER is getting hard to locate these days, dividing his time between his Rainbo and Times Square theatres, and Trianon Ballroom . . . Douglas Brosey of the Amsterdam says he "blends well" . . . Joe Simon, manager of the Delray, qualifies as one of the busiest managers in town.

J. D. Tabor, manager of the Chandler, is waiting the coming of his new opposition house . . . Exchange habitues don't often get a chance to see Mrs. M. Krass, who runs the Coliseum. (P. S.: Her husband, Jack Krass, carries the books for Oakman.)

Fred DeLodder, president of Co-operative Theatres, was out of town for the week . . . Andrew F. Musetti jr. is right on the job at the new Esquire Theatre . . . Frank Krueger, manager of the Punch and Judy, takes his night off on Thursday . . . Joseph Ellul of the Regal and Empress, is in New York for two weeks, leaving his brother to manage the houses.

J. C. Ritter of the Rialto, former national president of Allied States, was out of town on a business trip . . . Mrs. Irene Gourlay, who has had a theatrical costume business here for 17 years, has bought a farm and is planning to give up her business and live "down on the farm."

Al Westaway of the Willis is thinking of buying a new home on the east side . . . Clarence Brown, M-G-M director, was the third visitor to the Edison Institute here in two weeks, studying up on the background for the new Thomas Edison film. . . Herbert DePew, Jam Handy New York executive, was a visitor . . . Bill Jackson, major-domo of the Fox, is a real booster for BOXOFFICE.

Richard Marr, architect for the projected 1,500-seat Triangle Theatre on Northwestern Highway, reports plans for active construction may be completed around January 1 . . . George W. Craig, stage equipment specialist, is spending most of his time out on the road now, leaving his brother to handle the office here.

Claude Deardorff, manager of UDT's Broadway-Capitol, is in Women's Hospital, recovering from an emergency appendectomy . . . United Detroit screened M-G-M's latest two-reeler in the "Crime Doesn't Pay" series—on drunk driving—for traffic court and police officials.

Albert F. Martin is resigning as auditor for United Detroit Theatres after several years' service. Circuit managers were guests of the management at a dinner that doubled as a farewell tribute to Martin and celebration of their work on the "Disputed Passage" premiere. Because they couldn't all get away at the same time, a second dinner was given to the assistant managers.

Leon Benson, Paramount publicity man, was in town . . . Bud Harris, UDT chief projectionist, celebrated his birthday with a subscription dinner at Verdi's. Strictly stag.

Ross Federal Service, Detroit, was well represented at the recent Michigan-Yale game, with Mr. and Mrs. F. C. McKeown, K. Whitehead and Walter Allard right on the spot; R. E. Harvey jr. of Ross Federal attended the Carnegie Tech-Notre Dame game in Pittsburgh, and also attended Variety Club banquet festivities there.

Henry Gleiss, Cincinnati branch manager for Ross Federal Service, was in the city last week to attend the funeral of his father, the Reverend H. C. Gleiss, 69 years old, who died suddenly on October 17 while attending the Michigan Baptist Convention at Lansing, Mich.

Ross Roy Service, makers of sound slide films, is changing name to Ross Roy, Inc. . . . Edgar Neal, former Detroit censor, who was convicted a year ago of alleged felonious assault, was cleared this week by nolle prossing *of the charges by the prosecutor, after the supreme court ordered a new trial.*

Hazen Funk, manager of the Great Lakes, was presented with the gold Community Service Trophy by the Strathmoor Business Association, upon his retirement after two years as president. Tribute was especially paid to his youth leadership activity.

Bill London of Associated says the "Mr. Smith" who goes to Washington must be E. V. Smith, the film carrier . . . Bill Flemion of Excellent and Carl Shalit and Claire Townsend of Columbia were lunching together . . . Censor Charlie Snyder was introducing his father around the Film Building . . . Al Champaign of 20th-Fox says he's been busy doing nothing.

Floyd Keillor is the captain of the leading team in the 20th-Fox S. R. Kent Drive locally—the trailing captains are Art Knapp, Eddie Westcott, and Roy Carrow . . . Pete Simon, who's been busy making election trailers, is the victim of a severe cold . . . William Strafford, business agent of Projectionists' Local 666, covering the midwest, was in on his quarterly visit from Chicago, called a meeting at the Book-Cadillac.

Helen Plachta wants to thank all the filmites who contributed to the purse given her as a wedding gift, presented at the Exchange Employe Ball.

Marie Mielock, secretary to John E. Flynn, divisional manager, is new prexy of the M-G-M Club. Other officers: John Dembeck, booker, vice-president; Mrs. Mildred Liles, secretary; and Bob Thompson, posterman, re-elected treasurer . . . The club is giving a party at the offices November 17 for members and guests.

Leonard Schechter, the roadshowman, and Mike Victor of the Astor were deep in consultation . . . Harry Brown says his Brown circuit should be called the Red and Black instead.

Harry Lotz, UA booker, says his mother-in-law is returning here from New York

(Continued on next page)

Western Stars Will Appear

PITTSBURGH—Smiley Burnette, Gene Autry's sidekick, will make appearances in this territory in addition to Ray Corrigan and Max Terhune, as announced last week. Burnette will appear at Hymie Goldberg's Regent Theatre, Beaver Falls, December 4 and 5.

Judell Retitles "Killer"

CLEVELAND—"Invisible Killer," new B. N. Judell film now in production with Grace Bradley and Roland Drew in the leads, has been retitled "Wanted for Murder," according to Carl Scheuch of Big Feature Rights exchange.

Glunz Sales Head for Parquet

DETROIT—Charles E. Glunz has been appointed sales manager of Parquet Floor Co. The company specializes in installing floors in theatres.



—Jack M. Judge

DETROIT

(Continued from preceding page)

. . . Sylvia Shiffman likes work—wishes the Film Building was still bigger . . . E. L. McEvoy, RKO executive, was in town.

George Custer, Monogram booker, describes his health as "mmm" . . . Harlan Starr is sporting a green feather in his hat . . . Ralph Miller, who has been promoting customer relations for Jam Handy here, is being transferred to the Hollywood production unit on the contact staff.

Cully Buermele, Co-op general manager, and Bob's "old man," reveals that he started in as an usher, then projectionist in Toledo, in between his school days . . . R. J. Marin of the Del-Ray office is another victim of a cold.

Barney Kilbride and Alf Lane have set November 17 for reopening of their north-end Alhambra, following remodeling . . . Milt Herman, ex-publicist for the Fox Theatre, is handling exploitation for the national "75 Years of Negro Progress" exposition, to be held here next May.

Pearl Sprott of Allied says those coats weren't even hers . . . Robert Buermele, shipper of Universal, has been promoted to the booking desk.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

R. L. Sherman, who used to run the theatre at North Branch and now has a house at Deckerville, is building a new theatre there. The present Regent may be closed, it is understood.

Jim Olsen of Clare gets film delivery by air! When he found delivery slipping, he flew down to 20th-Fox office here, picked up his print, and flew back to the theatre. That's self-service!

Lee Ward of Mount Pleasant is reported almost a daily Filmrow visitor of late.

Charles Lambitto is reported putting in two days of vaudeville at the Rio.

Walter Shafer is acquiring a mimeograph at the Wayne Theatre at Wayne.

Mrs. Dick Ingram of the Dixie, Flint, admitted all youngsters free on Hallowe'en night—there was no vandalism around the Dixie!

W. G. Thick of Marshall was a Detroit visitor again.

Allied Theatres board members were due in town for the first meeting since the convention at Kalamazoo. Important events were on the program for discussion.

Fred Pennell of the Cozy, Decatur, is the only new member of Allied board this year.

Jules Levy, ex-RKO general sales manager, is convalescing at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, following a checkup at the Mayo Clinic.

Max Allen, operator of the Lincoln Park Theatre, in Lincoln Park (and he's building a new house there too) has joined the ranks of Co-operative Theatres of Michigan.

Jack Thompson, Paramount salesman, was a witness of an auto accident . . . Floyd Chrysler, who sells for M-G-M, is in training to be a cashier.

Theatre Jobs Announced By Terner and Simboli

PITTSBURGH — Martin M. Terner of American Theatrical Valance Co., with Anthony Simboli, painting contractor, with whom he is associated, have closed contracts or have finished the following theatre redecorations:

Liberty, McKeesport, Pa., Joseph Weiss, drapes and stage settings; Burwell, Parkersburg, W. Va., R. J. Hiehle, stage settings, drapes; Ritz, Belle Vernon, Pa., John Perry, stage settings; Opera House, Waynesburg, Pa., Larry Puglia, painting, drapes, stage settings; Rex, Steubenville, Ohio, Anderson & Urling, painting, redecorating; Alpine, Chester, W. Va., Charles Anderson, redecorating, painting. This theatre has installed new marquee, seats, screen and other equipments, and has been remodeled by A. and S. Steinberg of Pittsburgh.

Lewis Megs Next Starrett

HOLLYWOOD—Joseph H. Lewis has been signed to direct the next Charles Starrett western for the Irving Briskin production unit at Columbia.

WB to Modernize Ritz

PITTSBURGH—The WB Ritz will be modernized with a new glass front and the auditorium and exterior will be painted.



Credit "Allegheny Uprising"—

The scenes are occasioned by the world premiere of RKO's "Allegheny Uprising" held at Loew's Penn Theatre in Pittsburgh. In the upper photo are Judge Lewis, Mayor Cornelius D. Scully and Claire Trevor at the Allegheny Centennial dinner held in connection with the premiere. Below is seen a part of the crowd that surrounded the reviewing stand opposite the theatre.

Dispute Over Marquee In New Britain

Hartford—Warner, according to latest reports, is fighting a suit in New Britain superior court over the Embassy, New Britain, marquee. E. A. Mag, attorney, representing his mother, claims that the theatre's marquee infringes on her next door property, thus cutting off light and air, to which the property is "constitutionally entitled."

More is expected later, it seems.

Rifkin's Republic Franchise Sold

BOSTON—Herman Rifkin, popular New England franchise holder for Republic Pictures, turned over his franchise to Republic for an unreported sum. He had held the Republic franchise in this territory ever since the company was formed several years ago. No changes are contemplated in the office setup at the present time. M. E. Morey remains as Boston branch manager, while Sam Seletsky stays on as New Haven branch manager.

Rifkin will maintain offices in the Park Square Bldg. He plans to add several theatres to the three he already operates—The Majestic and Suffolk in Holyoke, and the Academy in Northampton.

He plans a dinner at his Newton home to thank the exchange employes personally for their cooperation.

Frey Leads Projection Class at I. of T.

BOSTON—Lewis Frey, formerly with Frey's School of Projection, is instructor of a course in motion picture projection sponsored by the Massachusetts department of education.

The course has been planned to aid those who have some knowledge of motion picture work to secure an operator's license. Subjects include wiring and use of the booth, machine, spotlight, rheostat, motor generator, mercury arc rectifier, compensator, economizer.

Rules and regulations of a booth, operation of the machine, motors, rewinding and splicing films. The class meets Tuesday nights from 7:30 to 9 p. m., at room 147, Building 1, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. First of the eight lessons began on November 7.

A Busy Newsreelman

BOSTON—Richard W. Sears, better known as Dick, Universal newsreelman, is very busy despite the fact that European war films are cluttering the market. Dick's work has been in the last two issues of Universal Newsreel. He covered the story of the Eskimo sled dogs at Wonalancet, N. H., being readied to go with the Byrd Expedition, and a championship walking race at Franklin Park.

Burlesque Show Irks Boston's Censor

BOSTON—Charging that the Gayety burlesque theatre, operated by E. M. Loew, at 659 Washington St., presented "the most salacious and outrageous performance that I have ever attended," John J. Spencer, city censor, took punitive steps against the Gayety management. He objected to "semi-nude dances and irreligious remarks."

Spencer communicated with Mayor Tobin, who was in New York for a football game, and arranged for an immediate hearing on suspension of the Gayety's license.

The hearing will be on the question of suspension of the license granted the theatre last August. A three-day suspension would be followed by hearing on whether the license should be revoked.

Censor Spencer saw the performance of Lois DeFee, so-called "Queen of the Amazons," during his usual rounds of observation, sitting in a 35-cent seat.

The theatre manager reported that the show ran Monday through Friday before the censor made any cuts in scenes. Business was said to be exceptionally good all week.

Lou Johnson Represents Five Exchange Locals

NEW HAVEN—New Haven, Boston, New York, Buffalo and Albany exchange employes unions elected Lou Johnson of Metro, president of the New York unit, to represent them in a national conference on employes' contracts to be called in December. Jack Mullen, president, Kathryn Fitzgerald, business agent, and Homer Downey were sent by the New Haven unit to the five-exchange conference at the DeWitt-Carlton Hotel in Albany last week. The five locals will submit their problems and demands to Johnson before the December meeting.

Capacity Crowd Attends Montpelier Opening

MONTPELIER — The Maine-New Hampshire circuit opened their new $150,000 Capitol Theatre at Montpelier, Vt., before a packed house of civic authorities and community leaders. John Ford, general manager, attended with Richard Dobbin, Clifford Shaw and William Sullivan.

"Rulers of the Sea" was the opening film in this 1,000-seat house. There is no balcony.

Sunday Afternoon Shows Approved in Guilford

GUILFORD, CONN.—For the first time the town of Guilford has approved Sunday afternoon shows, as of November 19. Leo Schapiro of the Guilford Theatre reports his house will open at 2:30 for one afternoon show.

Conn. MPTO Active; Lockwood at Helm

NEW HAVEN—Connecticut MPTO, inactive for many months, has resumed activity and will meet regularly. At a meeting at Ceriano's, Arthur Lockwood of the Stuart, Lakeville; Strand, Winsted, and Windsor Theatre, Windsor, was elected president; Irving C. Jacocks jr., of the Branford Theatre, and Adolph G. Johnson of the Strand, Hamden, vice-presidents; Al Robbins, Strand, Hamden, secretary; George Wilkinson, Wilkinson, Wallingford, treasurer, and Herman Levy, executive secretary. Directors include Lou Anger of Bridgeport; Harold Eskin of Stamford; Hy Fine, M&P director for this state; B. E Hoffman of the Warner zone office here; William F. Hoyt, East Haven; A. E. Robbins, Hamden; Ralph Pasho, Naugatuck; Joseph Quittner, Jewett City; Samuel Rosen, Winsted and Lakeville; Harry F. Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, and Max Tabackman, West Haven.

The committee appointed to revise the by-laws of the organization, including B. E. Hoffman and Adolph G. Johnson, will meet shortly and report. The budget committee will also report the results of its meeting including B. E. Hoffman, Harry F. Shaw, Hy Fine, Irving C. Jacocks jr., Max Tabackman, and Samuel Rosen.

The organization functioned in New Haven as early as the World War period. Several years ago a group of independents seceded to form the Allied Theatres of Connecticut.

Allied Theatres Luncheon Meeting November 14

NEW HAVEN—Allied Theatres of Connecticut will hold a regular luncheon meeting at the Hofbrau Haus Restaurant at 12:30 p. m., Tuesday, November 14, with A. M. Schuman presiding.

Smith Buys Sound for Six Drive-In Units

BOSTON—Phil Smith, well-known circuit operator, has just signed a deal involving approximately $35,000 for installation of new sound equipment in his six Drive-In theatres to be built in different parts of the country.

Smith, who now has nine houses in New England, already operates a Drive-In at Detroit, another at Cleveland. The new installations will be made early next spring in undisclosed locations. All six contracts call for three-year service and maintenance provisions.

Newport Casino Ahead

NEWPORT — Hyman Pastman, who has just leased Newport's Casino Theatre, where new projection equipment, heating and ventilation system and other improvements are now being installed, expects to have the house ready for a November 25 opening. Pastman arrived in Newport this week to direct readying of the house for opening.

BOSTON

Advance Tickets Go Fast For Bert Lahr Show

BOSTON—The latest local mystery was the rush of children and parents to the Shubert boxoffice to buy matinee seats for Buddy DeSylva's new musical comedy, "Du Barry Was a Lady," which will premiere in Boston for two weeks before New York, starting November 13 at the Shubert Theatre.

The mystery was solved with the solution that heading the cast is Bert Lahr, who recently appeared as "The Cowardly Lion" in that famous fairyland film, "The Wizard of Oz." Local youngsters just idolize Bert Lahr.

Other Hollywood stars appearing with Lahr in the show are Ethel Merman, Phil Regan and Betty Grable.

Myers Suggests Care in "Mr. Smith" Showing

BOSTON—Abram F. Myers, general counsel of Allied States Ass'n, suggests that all independent exhibitors take care in exhibiting "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," so they do not contribute to the undermining of confidence in our government. Myers suggested that exhibitors carry in their announcements and programs or in specially-made trailers, a statement along the following lines:

SPECIAL NOTICE

"The management in common with all good Americans has faith in the uprightness of our chosen representatives and in the integrity of the press and, consequently it presents this feature as entertainment and not as propaganda. The story, characters and incidents are purely fictional and the picture in no sense reflects actual conditions in the Capital of our Nation."

Eight M&P Theatres in Majestic Radio Tieup

BOSTON—Eight M&P theatres in greater Boston are included in the radio tieup with Majestic Radio Co., offering free radio sets to members of the audience. Among the houses are the Oriental, Strand, Morton, and Codman Square, all of Dorchester; Shawmut of Roxbury; Egyptian of Brighton; Strand of Somerville and Olympia of Chelsea. The deal was set by M&P Publicist Harry Browning.

THE FRIARS CLUB is planning several social events for the coming winter season. A New Year's party will be held, to be followed by a theatre party sometime in January . . . Eddie Ansin, of Interstate, and Mrs. Ansin celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. Part of the festivities included dinner at Dinty Moore's.

Gene Keenan, former Republic publicity man, is now doing special work for Allan Gray Holmes and his stock company appearing at the Copley Theatre . . . Julius Meyer took over the Majestic Theatre, West Springfield, from the Lieberman circuit. Meyer used to operate the theatre.

Jimmy Grainger, general sales manager for Republic, was in town for a few days to help with the Rifkin deal . . . Paradise Theatre, Millbury, operated by Barney Feldman, reopened after a 10-day shutdown. This house was badly damaged by two bombs placed in the projection room by unknown persons . . . Dorothy Rooney, Universal telephone operator, is vacationing in Bermuda.

Frank Lawless, of the Warner poster department, was out for a week with an infected hand . . . Johnny Twigg of Universal's poster department is sporting a new overcoat these days. A lucky bet on a football game supplied the cash.

Nellie McLoughlin, Imperial, is back from a vacation in New York . . . Louis Stern made the rounds in the film district after a tough night on the sleeper from Barre, Vt. Louis was quite dapper in a drape model suit. He reports snow up in his territory . . . Dave Ambuter watches the thermometer these days and wishes he could play golf in Southern California.

Henry Lamare of the Royal in Ludlow, Vt., put in his appearance in town . . . H. C. Roberts of the Powers Theatre in Caribou, Me., arrived to do his booking for the rest of 1939 . . . *Sieg Horowitz, 20th Century-Fox booker, spent a few days in New York on company business . . . Ethel Seletzky, sister of Phil Seletzky, M&P booker, was victim in an auto accident on her way to work. Ethel works in the Western Massachusetts Theatres office.*

Ralph McGowan, brother of Jack, the M-G-M writer in Hollywood, visited the E. M. Loew office on business. He manages their Plymouth Theatre in Worcester . . . Abe Barry of Columbia made another visit to the Chelsea Soldier's Home this week . . . Seen about town: Fred Sharby of New Hampshire and Lloyd Bridgham of Presque Isle, Me.

Lee Rhodenizer of the Strand Theatre, Rockland, Mass., was in town booking . . . Harry Asher is busy getting ready to move from 50 *Piedmont street to the old Imperial office at* 12 *Piedmont. He is negotiating for first-run showings of "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" . . . Eleanor Glazier of Grand National attended a party given by the Consolidated Gas Company on November* 10 *. . . Harry Browning, M&P publicity chief, was in New Bedford on business.*

Employes of National Screen Service held a Halloween party . . . Ozzie Tessier of the Rialto and Royal in New Bedford visited Boston. He was booking pictures for the rest of December . . . RKO Boston went back to a Thursday opening and four days of vaudeville after a week's trial of the Friday opening.

"Intermezzo" was pulled out from Keith Memorial to make way for Deanna Durbin in "First Love" on Monday. This upset the RKO publicity men and their plans, necessitating a complete changeover within a day. All this with Jack Granara coming down with a cold . . . Two E. M. Loew Drive-In Theatres closed this week. They are the Drive-In in Providence and the Open-Air outside of Lynn.

Phil Berler, Loew booker, has a "No Smoking" sign in his office and he really means it! Phil doesn't touch the nasty weed . . . The Royal at Olneyville, R. I. has been reopened after a long shutdown. Foreign films will be shown on Saturday and Sunday of each week, with the house remaining dark the rest of the time.

Arthur K. Howard, business manager of Allied Exhibitors, is looking for a capable man to represent the organization in Connecticut . . . Bill Marshall of Columbia,

(Continued on page 97)



FOR A SPEEDY,



EXPERT and ECONOMICAL

FALL
HOUSE
CLEANING



THAT'LL GET YOU

ORCHIDS
FROM
YOUR
PATRON

CAPITOL THEATRE

NEW HAVEN

AFFILIATION of Allied Theatres of Connecticut with Independent Exhibitors, Inc. of Boston, is expected to solidify independent cooperation, exchange of information, and action in the New England territory. Membership campaign will soon be on in Connecticut . . . Although the district's newest theatre, D. C. Hess's Groton Theatre, was announced for November 10 opening, delay of a few days seemed unavoidable as we went to press . . . Work on the new Bailey house in Whitneyville was held up for steel deliveries.

B-41 unit of exchange employes has scheduled a Movie Ball and Floor Show at the ritzy Baybrook Inn for December 5. Jack Mullen, president, names the following chairmen, who are working on the details, soon to be announced: General chairman, Jerry Massimino; tickets, Edward Cinelli; finance, Jack Mullen, Kathryn Fitzgerald, and William Nutile; entertainment, Eleanor Nozo; program, Robert Hoffman. Reserve the date!

Armistice Day celebration at Edmond Town Hall, Newton, will present Governor Baldwin and Lowell Thomas. Mayor-Exhibitor Arthur Smith will officiate . . . Turkeys may be distributed at pre-Thanksgiving performances by means of some game of skill hookup. Several exhibitors are working out systems, since the police will not allow drawings . . . Kash Kwiz at the Poli, Waterbury, looks like a success, with merchandise prizes promoted each week and $100 in cash as grand prize. Portable mikes have been installed which can be placed within the reach of answering patrons in the audience . . . New vaudeville program at the Poli Theatres, Waterbury and Meriden, is also going over . . . Poli housese may have pre-Thanksgiving midnight shows.

Rumors again: Several reports have it an independent chain with a New York office is looking over Branford . . . Also some talk of a new theatre in East Hartford . . . Loew's have leased the 2,269-seat Lyric, Bridgeport, to the Bridgeport Amusement Co., of which Max Rudnick is agent, for burlesque, Sunday vaudeville and old pictures, beginning the 10th. The house was dark last winter except for weekend holdovers from the Poli and Majestic.

Frederick Van Doren's new theatre on Watertown Road and Main Street, Waterbury, may be called the West End . . . The Capitol Theatre, Middletown, which has been operated weekends only since the Pouzzner regime, has now added Thursday and Friday shows and occasional Tuesday and Wednesday programs. The Palace remains dark, and the Middlesex open full time.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" went into its third week at the E. M. Loew, Hartford, with no end in sight . . . Biggest Thursday opening yet at the Poli, New Haven, with "Smith" . . . "Intermezzo" is in its third week at the Regal, Hartford . . . "Roaring Twenties" had two extra days at the Strand, Hartford, and Roger Sherman here . . . Horace Heidt, last of regular Sunday night vaude shows at the Arena in deference to the hockey season, broke house records . . . "Babes in Arms" exceeded the Poli house record for the weekend.

Sam Seletsky, Republic manager, hopped up to Boston for a regional conference attended by J. L. Grainger . . . Lou Gordon of Boston was a New Haven visitor, as was Steve Broidy . . . Morris Weber, brother of Sam and George, and once on the Street with Imperial, is working for Monogram under Nat Furst here . . . Jeanette Berliner, Grand National booker, guessed the winners and almost hit the scores in the Poli football contest, and the little lady now has two guest tickets . . . The New Broadbrook Theatre is closed and Oscar Hausner has departed for parts unknown.

The first inter-exchange bowling match between 20th-Fox and Columbia was such a pleasurable precedent, there will probably be new matches. Watch for the schedule and join the cheering section . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lou Weinberg, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Picker, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Picker, all of Columbia, and Mrs. David Picker, Ned Depinet and other film people watched the Yale-Dartmouth fray in the

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"Busiest Man" Finds Time To Bally "Mr. Smith"

WOLFEBORO, N. H.—You've got to take your hat off again to Ansel N. Sanborn, the Carroll county film exhibitor who runs theatres in Wolfeboro, Center Ossipee and Wakefield.

Much has been written about him as the local newspaper's candidate for "busiest man in Carroll county," speaker of the house of representatives, and concerning his other activities, but he probably pulled one of the smartest promotion stunts anywhere in connection with his showing of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Upon receiving the film, he wired U. S. Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, a contender for the Republican presidential nomination, in Washington, and asked his permission to dedicate the picture to him. As a political friend, the senator, of course, consented. So Sanborn advertised his showing of the film as dedicated to Senator Bridges.

More Than 150 Attend Warner Club Party

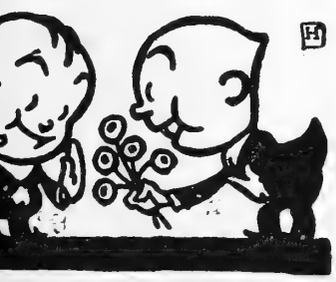
BOSTON—More than 150 persons attended the combination Halloween party and housewarming given by Warner Brothers in the new clubroom, located in the basement of the exchange. The guests played games, danced and were served a buffet supper. Everyone attended in costume.

The prize for the best costume of the evening was awarded to Madge Howard, who came dressed as Martha Washington. Bill Cummins took the prize for the silliest costume. He arrived rigged out like a lady.

Government Officials In Industrial Short

BOSTON—Gov. Leverett H. Saltonstall, United States Senators Henry Cabot Lodge jr., and David I. Walsh are included in the cast of a short subject sponsored by Mutual Savings Banks of Massachusetts on behalf of Massachusetts industries.

The feature, which is offered gratis to any exhibitor, is distributed by the Monogram Exchange. Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn produced the short.



AND THE COMBINATION



CAPITOLIZE!

TO ADDED BOX OFFICE PROFITS

SUPPLY COMPANY

PORTLAND

DARK for two years, the Yarn Theatre at Limerick is to be reopened soon by a Mr. Trimball of Cornish.

Remodeling activities at the Casco Theatre are advancing at a rapid rate and the house will be ready for opening late this month. With its new and enlarged lobby, its new sidewalk marquee and modernized interior, the theatre, which is to open under a new name, will be much more impressive than the old Casco. The theatre is to be managed by Martin Goldfarb.

The new Maine Civic Theatre which opens in the old Keith Building November 20, has announced that it will play such dramatic hits as John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," Claire Booth's "The Women," and the revived "Journey's End."

E. G. Pollard of the Opera House, Rumford, and the Mexico Theatre, Mexico, Me., will leave soon to spend the winter in Florida. According to film men here, Pollard is something of a golf shark.

Clarence "Dutch" Millett of the State Theatre, Bridgton, is one of those proud fathers who buttonholes all his pals to listen to the latest cute-saying of his two-months old son . . . Al Sharby of Lisbon Falls has moved again . . . New mats have been laid in the outer lobby at the State Theatre.

Among the week's visitors: Marion Coles of M&P, Boston; Bill Benjamin, NS salesman, and Mrs. Benjamin; Carl Divizia of RKO; John Felony of 20th-Fox.

Peggy Seyford, cashier at the State Theatre, is seriously ill at the Maine General Hospital . . . Mary Siteman, State candy girl, who underwent an emergency appendectomy at the State Street Hospital about three weeks ago, is still confined there. Her condition is greatly improved, however, and she expects to be released soon.

The Strand Theatre, under Leo Young's management, used numerous cooperative ads to put over "The Women," which did a land-office business all week.

Fursts and Levines In Anniversaries

Boston—Nate Furst, of Monogram, and Mrs. Furst will celebrate their 27th wedding anniversary in conjunction with their daughter, Henrietta Levine's fourth anniversary. The Fursts and the Levines were married on the same day, 23 years apart. Plans call for a party of 20 persons to dine and "raise the roof" at the Latin Quarter.

Attempt Made to Kidnap Child of "U" Booker

BOSTON—A real-life kidnaping scare reverberated through the film district when Norbert Murray, booker at Universal, received a telephone call from his wife that an attempt had been made to kidnap their year-and-a-half-old baby boy, Roger Anthony.

Roger was sleeping in his baby carriage outside the Murray residence in Arlington when Mrs. Murray saw two men approach the carriage and attempt to remove the youngster. She screamed, scaring the men away, and telephoned police. While there was no actual damage done, Murray was pretty shaky for the rest of the week. Police were unable to trace the men.

Higgins Adds Accounts

BOSTON — Herbert Higgins, booker for some 30 independent New England theatres, now is handling the Strand in Randolph, Vt., for M. V. Carr; the Park in Spencer, Mass., for Charles Kane; and the Balsams in Dixville Notch, N. H., for Circuit Owner Jack Eames. Higgins also has been handling the bookings for Norumbega Park in Auburndale, Mass.

Peace Dale State Open

PEACE DALE, R. I.—The State has reopened for the fall and winter. The house will operate Fridays through Mondays, playing dual features.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE State Operating Co. has received a city permit in Manchester to repoint brick work at its State Theatre at 1118 Elm St.

An imposing array of celebrities have pledged their active support to Dartmouth College's $1,000,000 *drama center, which, it is hoped, will be ready by the summer of* 1941. *They include Alfred Lunt, Maurice Evans, Raymond Massey, Lynn Fontanne, Jane Crowl, Helen Hayes, Katharine Cornell and several leading playwrights.*

Mrs. Walter Young, wife of the owner of the Strand in Farmington, received some fine gifts recently when friends staged a party in honor of her birthday. Incidentally, Mr. Young has been honored with a charter membership in Farmington's new Kiwanis Club.

Six reels of motion pictures of the submarine Squalus *salvaging operations provided members of the Rochester Kiwanis Club with what they described as their most thrilling program in* 14 *years. The films were taken and shown by Lieut. Commander Floyd A. Tusler, U. S. N., who acted as operations officer in raising the sunken sub.*

Director D. J. Bradshaw and his camera crew "shot" scenes on the University of New Hampshire campus for March of Time's "Uncle Sam—the Farmer." U. N. H. and the Ohio State University are the only two universities in the picture. Scenes show how state universities aid the young farmers.

HARTFORD

LOU BROWN, publicity director for Loew-Poli Theatres, was in town . . . Frank Morin, popular manager of the Warner Regal, reports business, generally speaking, is good . . . A heavy rain spoiled all that theatre managers here had planned for Halloween night.

Marlowe Evitts is a service staff addition at the Majestic, Bridgeport . . . Julian B. Tuthill, Hartford Times, *is covering Broadway shows for his paper, as per custom in years past . . . New RCA sound has been installed in Princess here, according to Manager Martin Keleher . . . Carmen Mascoli, Alhambra, Waterbury, is back from a recent visit to New York.*

Mary Sheehan is the new cashier at the Strand, New Britain . . . Ken Freeman has resigned as assistant manager of the Capitol, Springfield, Mass. . . . Don Adrenotta of the Loew-Poli service staff is vacationing in Bermuda for two weeks . . . M. Cherlin, also of the Loew-Poli service staff, has traded in his old bass fiddle for a 1940 model. He had the old one about ten years.

The father of Peter Leonard, Loew-Poli, died after a brief illness . . . Loew-Poli service staff, under the leadership of Assistant Manager Wally Cooper, is holding skating club meetings at the Palomar on Park St. . . . E. M. Loew's is still being picketed by the AFL, which claims the theatre is not employing union projectionists . . . The Regal's new marquee looks plenty nice at night when it flashes out in bright colors.

Harris Brothers' State had Bandster Woody Herman in person last week. Theatre has been featuring swingsters quite some time now . . . The Webster has gone in for billboard advertising along institutional lines . . . H. Stagg, projectionist at the Loew-Poli, has left for his home town in Texas on a fall vacation . . . John Anderson, drama critic, New York *Journal-American,* was in town taking in Phil Spitalny's band at the State.

Judging from the lines in front of the Loew-Poli, business is good there . . . Russell G. Grant, student assistant at the Loew-Poli, is going in for portrait photography in a big way . . . North End Lenox Theatre, a Warner unit, is still packin' 'em in at Saturday afternoon matinees. Kids line up an hour before opening.

Tex Fletcher Slated for P. A.'s in New England

BOSTON—Grand National Pictures announced that Tex Fletcher, star of "Six Gun Rhythm," first in a series of six westerns, will make personal appearances throughout New England. Fletcher, known as the lonely cowboy, will appear for two days at the Strand in Clinton, Premier in Newburyport, Strand in Amesbury, Strand in Woburn and for three days at the Waldorf in Lynn, in addition to other appearances. Many Warner houses are on the list.

BOSTON

(Continued from page 94)

has been laid up in Goddard Hospital, Brockton. An arm operation has caused him plenty of trouble . . . Seen about town: Duffy Lewis, Provincetown exhibitor.

"Information Please," new series of shorts, will make its first appearance at Keith Memorial . . . Harry McDonald, RKO executive, is back from a business trip to New York. His secretary, Mona Lightowlers, is back at work after a long siege of grippe. She recuperated at her home in Manchester, N. H.

Smart exploitation was in evidence at the Normandie, showing "Bombs Over London" and giving away a full-size page of the New York Daily News *with a "Bombs Over London" headline. A youth dressed as a doughboy attracted much attention parading in front of the house . . . John O'Connor, general manager; Fred Meyers, booker, and Mr. Kingsbury, all from the RKO home office in New York, were in town for conferences with Ben Domingo, Keith Memorial manager. The trio stopped off in Providence on the way back to N. Y.*

George Ramsdell and George Hackett attended the Army-Notre Dame football game in New York. Larry Herman was set to go, but pressure of business forced him to stay home and let Mrs. Herman attend the gridiron treat. Larry won the tickets in a raffle, hence the need for putting in an appearance.

The Loew Theatre publicists, Joe DiPisa, Al Longo and Joe Longo, won a six-column layout in the Christian Science Monitor, *tying in photos of Senators Barkley and Neely with Jimmy Stewart and others in the cast of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," which opens on November* 16 *. . . Billy Alperin, a December groom-to-be, was tendered a stag party at the Repertory Theatre Hall. More than* 50 *friends of this young booker attended.*

Herbie Donovan, young M-G-M assistant in the booking department, celebrated his birthday to the ticking of a new wristwatch. Sixteen members of his family contributed to the gift . . . Paul Levi, Metropolitan publicity chief, landed a strong campaign on "Drums Along the Mohawk" with local bookshops, tying in the book with the same title. He also secured considerable radio time.

Fortune Gallo Opera Company opens at the Boston Opera House with "Aida" on November 23 *for an indefinite run . . . Paul Muni is due here on November* 13 *with "Key Largo." This is a personal appearance . . . H. M. Addison, local Loew executive, left on another trip to Rochester, Syracuse, London and Ontario. He usually stops off at one of the large clothing manufacturers in Rochester and replenishes his wardrobe.*

Ushers' Union Local B-4 held their annual dance at Roseland Ballroom. Tom Foley and Walter Nolan were in charge of arrangements . . . Will Harrison of National Screen is on the sick list. Mrs. Harrison is expecting a baby sometime this month . . . Members of the M&P accounting department attended the funeral of the father of Fred Fahlbusch.

Joan Gallagher, secretary to H. M. Addison, has blossomed forth as an adept idea-woman for exploitation stunts. She wrote a four-page flier for insertion in the press book of "Housekeeper's Daughter," unreeling some humorous lines . . . Fred Greenway, manager at Loew's State, is sporting a new black Homburg, which he wears with a white scarf . . . Add Bill Murphy to the list of football enthusiasts.

Al Longo, erstwhile Loew publicity man, promoted a camera and flashbulbs for himself and is now busy taking candid pictures of everything in sight. He believes that photography and writing go hand in hand . . . Al Gould of Mount Pleasant, R. I., visited the district on business . . . Someone phoned Al Wheeler, M-G-M booker, the other day. When he answered, a loud "Bronx Cheer" emanated from the earphone.

M-G-M held a screening of "Ninotchka" for the trade. Everyone was unanimous in their opinion that Garbo has clicked as a comedienne . . . Excellent biz with "Babes in Arms" has held over this film for a second week . . . Henry Tobin made one of his infrequent visits to the district. He is now at the Olympia in Olneyville, R. I.

Marty Sheridan, Monogram publicity and ad man, who took all the photos for the Monogram series of ads titled "News of the Week," has been asked by *Everyday Photography Magazine* to write an article describing his adventures in photography . . . Nate Levin celebrated Halloween with a big party. He is office manager of Trailer Made Service . . . President Roosevelt's proclamation for Thanksgiving to be celebrated on November 23 instead of November 30 has caused a lot of trouble in booking offices. Bookers advise celebration of the holiday on both days to relieve them of extra duties.

Jean Muir in Boston to Head Drive of AGVA

BOSTON—Jean Muir, Hollywood film star, who made her first stage appearance here nine years ago, returned to Boston to head a drive of the American Guild of Variety Artists against working conditions in certain Boston night spots.

"When stomachs pinch in many homes, children who should be in school are sent out to earn the daily bread for the family in cheap night clubs and restaurants as entertainers. The crusts and crumbs they are forced to take are detrimental to the profession," said Miss Muir, while speaking to more than 200 persons including labor leaders, actors, actresses and night club entertainers.

She described the work of the organization in cleaning up bad conditions in New York and told the group it was up to local organizations to take care of local conditions.

Glamorous Jean took time off to toss a brickbat at love.

"Marriage?" she repeated, "Not for a long, long time."

NEW HAVEN

(Continued from page 95)

Yale Bowl, Saturday . . . Margaret Thorp, Yale Ph.D. and wife of a Princeton professor, is author of the new Yale University Press book, "America at the Movies."

Exhibitors will be glad to hear that churches are reported drifting away from Bingo because of flagrant violations of the $250 limit for prizes and the buying back of merchandise credits on the q. t. Complaints entered that the law provides that authorities may inspect records, but does not order them to do so . . . Plaza and Palace, Stamford, and Barnum, Bridgeport, will delight their patrons with Emil Feldberg's talking Santa . . . Johnson's ovenware has gone into the Rialto, Bridgeport, and Capitol, East Haven . . . The Brooklawn, Bridgeport, has his gold etched china, the Devon, his petit point china.

Ralph Thomas, once with the Poli division, is assistant at the Devon . . . George Loukides, assistant at the Poli, Waterbury, kept his marriage to Helen Brazis of Waterbury a secret until the arrival of the stork last week . . . Harry Rose of the Globe, Bridgeport, has a Dollar Club certificate on the strength of his first surprise stage show, combination of local and professional acts . . . Matt Saunders of the Poli, Bridgeport, has installed a doctors' call signal. Medicos are given numbers as they come to the desk, and numbers are flashed on the side of the stage.

Warner, Worcester, had the world premiere of "Elizabeth and Essex" . . . Seven Friday night programs at Bushnell Memorial, Hartford, present a series of travel, nature lore and adventure pictures with lectures at $2.00 to $5.00 for the series . . . Poli managers met under Harry Shaw and Lou Brown for the first time since the new season caravan—bubbling with new ideas all over again . . . Ernie Gaw, in charge of cleaning staffs of Loew houses, is in the Bridgeport Hospital as a result of a fall . . . Mike Sirica will completely remodel the lobby, front and display cases of his Capitol, Waterbury.

Robert Russell distributed 10,000 *"Are You Alert"* 20*-question quiz papers on "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" to outgoing patrons . . . Twenty-five pair of guest tickets went to the* 25 *best answers. Charlotte and Helen did the mimeographing. Russell also continued his popular football score contest for guest tickets . . . All theatre and exchange men are contributing nobly to the Community Chest . . . Frank Mullen, Metro office manager, is recuperating from a touch of pleurisy.*

The long-awaited transformed Warner offices were opened last Wednesday for the inspection of an admiring film district . . . Twentieth-Fox is in second place in the S. R. Kent drive, but will soon be back in first if Earl Wright's pep-you-up-o holds out . . . The New Haven film district was well represented at the Al Gaynor fight at the Arena . . . Thomas Seller, recent Yale Drama School grad, has received an M-G-M appointment. "Once Upon a Time," the school's latest production, sold for professional production in New York, is a critique of war and authority in which the characters appear as little boys and girls playing at life.

PROVIDENCE

EDDIE REED at the Strand is rejoicing over the timely break which brought a display to the R. I. School of Design of children's books from the collection of Walter Schatzki of New York. Reed's special good fortune was the inclusion in the collection of "Gulliver's Travels," with illustrations from same given space in Providence dailies. The Strand is playing up the film version due for Christmas week showing heavy in advance advertising.

Tom Jefferson, out of Paramount's New York office, was in town for several days to help Eddie Reed plant some radio and other advertising tieups on "Cat and Canary" and other new films from Paramount studios due shortly at the Strand.

Another of the New York boys seen hereabouts recently was Harry W. Reiners who brought a whole portfolio of material to Manager French's desk at the Albee on new RKO product.

The Majestic, after trying a Thursday opening to match other first runs in the city, is going back to its old Friday openings, Manager Bernard Fay feeling the Thursday premiere having been unsuccessful.

Name bands in local dance halls are back to offer winter opposition to theatres. Rhodes had Glenn Miller's orchestra in, while Arcadio Ballroom has Les Brown, Ted Powell, Jimmie Dorsey, Larry Clinton and Nunny Berrigan booked between now and the 25th with others of prominence scheduled to follow later.

The Metropolitan is going to get a share of the local public's entertainment budget in coming weeks. The big dark house lights up for a concert recital by Alex Templeton, radio pianist; for Monte Carlo Ballet Russo and for concert by Marian Anderson—all one-night attractions.

Albee is planning to hold "First Love" for a second week. The Deanna Durbin film, thanks to Manager George French and House Publicist Bill Morton, rated some nice window tieups and fashion art in town, all of which has helped grosses no end.

Kay Kyser Scheduled at RKO Boston Theatre

BOSTON—Kay Kyser and his Kollege of Musical Knowledge has just been signed to appear at RKO Boston Theatre for a full week beginning November 29. Prizes will be awarded to contestants in his unique quiz every performance. Kyser has just made a picture on the west coast for RKO titled, "That's Right, You're Wrong."

Improving Strand

FARMINGTON, N. H.—Extensive improvements are being made at the Strand, owned by Walter E. Young, who is also renovating his block in which the theatre is located on Central St.

New Pact to Humberstone

HOLLYWOOD — H. Bruce Humberstone, 20th-Fox director, has signed a new one-year contract.

J. Levenson Incorporates Greendale Amuse. Co.

BOSTON—Joseph M. Levenson, independent circuit owner, has incorporated the Greendale Amusement Co. with a capital of $25,000. Other incorporators are Natalie Goldman of Brookline and Alexander C. Kilpatrick, Levenson circuit official, and Boston Friars Club secretary.

The Braintree Amusement Enterprises, Inc., was also granted a Massachusetts charter last week by Secretary of State Frederic W. Cook. The Boston concern, having a capital of 300 shares of no par stock, listed as incorporators: Harriet Ames and Dorothy Makin of Boston, together with Haskell Cohn of Newton.

A Boston theatrical concern, 219 Tremont Street, Inc., was granted a Massachusetts charter. Capitol of the firm is 500 shares of no par stock. Incorporators are Ruth E. Ferguson of Malden, Anna A. C. Carlisle of Cambridge, and Carl F. Schipper jr. of Newton. The address is that of the Majestic Theatre, under lease to the M&P Theatres Corp. and dark, except spasmodically, for the past few years.

Salesmen's Club Precedes Dinner With Screening

BOSTON—Thirty members of the Salesman's Club attended a screening of "Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" at the Paramount exchange, then went to the Latin Quarter for dinner and dancing. Harry "Zippy" Goldman, president, was ill and unable to attend. Harry Goldstein was chairman of the entertainment committee.

More Visit Maine

BOSTON—One million visitors to Maine during the past summer spent $98,325,000 in the New England states, the Maine development commission announced last week. The vacationists' expenditures were three and a half per cent above those of 1938.

Doors Don't Discriminate

BOSTON—A Lowell policeman, making his nightly rounds, recently found a door ajar at the Tower Theatre in Lowell. The officer entered the house, closing the door behind him and proceeded to give the Roy E. Heffner-Michael J. Hurney house the once over.

He found an alleged patron who claimed he had fallen asleep in the house. The officer took the man into custody as a suspicious person, and he was later held when it was ascertained that a warrant was out for him on another charge.

The point of the story, though, is that the policeman eventually telephoned both the Tower's chief projectionist and Lowell police department because, he said, he was "locked" in the theatre and couldn't get out. The Tower, like all Massachusetts film houses, is completely equipped with panic bars on all exit doors.

BRIDGEPORT

ROY C. MARQUARDT, who came here as manager for Consolidated Film Industries several years ago, has resigned . . . Due to "factory trouble" the Park City has been forced to discontinue its True Blue Ovenware set.

William Taylor, local middleweight boxer, has joined the usher corps at the Globe . . . William "Big Bill" Conway, purchasing agent for the Ringling Circus, is visiting at his home here.

Harry Rose is giving away passes for information on patrons damaging those new seats at the Globe . . . New carpets and lobby matting have been installed at the Colonial.

Majestic Manager Morris Rosenthal has a half-dollar trick that is creating plenty of interest along the Row . . . Ernest Gow, district maintenance manager for Loew's New England theatres, was seriously injured in a fall down a flight of stairs in the Majestic Theatre during an inspection tour. He was taken to Bridgeport Hospital and is believed to have a possible fracture of the spine.

There is no keeping Samuel Hadelman from Washington this nice fall weather. Just back, he checked things at his Capitol, and took off again.

Rain ruined the municipal Halloween party so Manager Matt L. Saunders of the Loew-Poli staged an impromptu apple bobbing contest on the stage of this theatre, inviting the children in the audience to participate.

Harry Shaw was in town to act as master of ceremonies at the Majestic jitterbug contest . . . The Barnum is giving away pots and pans in deal with Lester Tobias of New York while the State, Torrington, is handing out cosmetics to the ladies.

The "Road to Glory" is being brought back to the Globe . . . Harry Rose is the only downtown manager who got around to see the World's Fair, only 60 some miles away.

The Loew-Poli was the only local house to give away cider and doughnuts on Halloween . . . Richard W. Owen, who used to press agent the Plymouth Theatre, Milford, is now editor of the Connecticut *Circle*.

Three Loew-Poli Houses Add Vaude in Conn.

HARTFORD—Three Loew-Poli houses in Connecticut have added vaudeville to their program. The houses are at Meriden, Waterbury and Bridgeport.

That the popularity of stage shows is increasing is evidenced by the crowds that are attracted to the local Harris Bros. State whenever a flesh show is presented.

A New Honor to Bette Davis

LITTLETON, N. H.—Bette Davis is now honorary president of the Littleton Lions Club. The local Lions thus feted the Academy Award actress when she interrupted her lengthy vacation at Sugar Hill to make a personal appearance at the Premier here to aid their charity fund.

LAUDING PROGRESS BY INDEPENDENTS, TEXAS ALLIED CONVENTION INTO "WHAT OF FUTURE?"

Cole Sets Pace; Says Present Structure Must Be Razed

By V. W. CRISP

DALLAS—Conceding that long strides have been made by independent exhibitors during recent months, the Texas Allied convention here swung into its theme song, "But What of the Future," with Col. H. A. Cole, head of the unit and national Allied president, and Abram F. Myers, board chairman and general counsel of the national body, wielding the baton.

Singing the chronology of the independent upbeat, Cole asserted that "today there is a certainty that the shaky structure is to be torn down and replaced by a more liveable home." He said that "action has outrun conversation in our industry. Two years ago there was despair and lethargy, last year some hope but little expectation of relief," and stepped to bat with the prediction of trade revamping.

Peering ahead, the Allied chieftain cited the "necessity" to demolish the existing structure and asked who would take a hand in rebuilding. "Will it be government bodies who do not know the problems of this intricate industry?" he queried. "Shall we turn it over to selfish leaders, or will the independent, now an increasing power, have the intelligence to assert himself in seeing it done properly?"

Monopolies Out, Says Myers

Joining in on the chorus, Myers declared it was obvious "monopolistic practices" are on the wane and contended they would continue the downward slide "as long as the pressure stays on." He urged Texas members not to make "immortal asses" of themselves by writing congressmen to vote against the Neely bill "for reasons that are not even provided in the proposed law." He said film salesmen have been successful in getting exhibitors to write that it will increase their film rental. This, he contended, "is bosh."

Myers said that the business outlook generally is good, "but dangerous," and moved from there into a discussion of the war situation and its possible effect upon exhibition, thence to the economic phase and its likely impact upon the trade. He paid tribute to Cole, saying that he often had differed with the chief on details, "but that I never have yet known Cole to falter in a fight for the rights of independent exhibitors."

Cole then was re-elected president of the Texas unit for another year.

H. M. Richey, RKO exhibitor relations director and one-time Allied Michigan leader, was another speaker, as was Jack Moore of the architectural firm of Corgan & Moore.

Rejection of invitations to attend the convention were noted from distributor executives, with some discussion revolving around the language of those from Neil F. Agnew of Paramount, William F. Rodgers of Metro and Gradwell L. Sears of Warner Bros.

The Tuesday afternoon session, closed to all other than independent exhibitors, started off with a round table which broke all previous precedents of past conventions. Throughout the afternoon exhibitors talked freely and aired their views. From reliable, but unofficial sources, issued this account:

Score charges received the first blow winding up with the chair's contention that there are no score charges on percentage pictures, and that exhibitors should have refused to recognize them long ago.

Alarm was expressed that major companies continue to go in for manufacture of their own trailers and the opinion offered that it would be of more advantage to exhibitors if one company made and distributed them all. This thought, however, gained small attention.

Henry Hall, head of the Hall Industries, objected that schools were showing free pictures in his territory. Jack Lilly of Greenville said the organization has been paying too little attention to the 16mm "menace."

Paramount was charged with selling its new product to exhibitors on the basis of contracting 47 out of 52. This sort of deal, which some exhibitors present said they had signed, would eliminate the 20 per cent cancellation altogether, the convention decided. Some who had bought said they did not realize this angle at the time.

In the further discussion of trade practices it was agreed that the grievances said to have shrouded the making of film contracts have been considerably eased up at this time.

Colonel Cole stressed the point that it is possible now for an exhibitor to secure an available run of product anywhere, "provided he becomes a desirable account and that his theatre is worthy of the name."

During the discussion of buying product, one independent exhibitor said he had been in his town for many years, that he had bought first-run product for which he had paid and played but that an independent had opened up against him and that

(Continued on next page)

Convention Notes

DALLAS—The Allied convention opened up with a sort of pep rally. Soda Reynolds unassisted moved a Lilliputian piano over to the back center of the room. Mrs. Rubin Frels made all of the ivories perform. Rubin, in a lusty baritone and carrying a perfect tune, led exhibitors into singing "The Eyes of Texas." Rubin didn't have his saxophone, but he can make music without it. Incidentally, the Frels are very competent musicians.

Joe Estes, National's special trailer manager, made a short talk on the intricacies of making and serving special footage to the average Texas theatre. His talk was well received as he pointed out how the company operated to serve a trailer for less than $2 when what the exhibitor actually ordered might cost $5. He told how exhibitors objected to dates on holiday trailers and how the company took them off. He also said that such trailers were printed on green "fillum" and that there was no trailer there within three months as that color of stock completely faded during that period.

J. M. (Soda) Reynolds, Texas Allied's exhibitor contact, produced a mighty attractive program, larger in size this year than before, and on which pages were ads from a number of companies doing business with Texas exhibitors.

Beyond the usual was that L. M. Threet of Lufkin brought four of his east Texas managers to town to attend Allied's convention and he also brought a fifth man who is going to manage his next theatre to be inaugurated. In this connection it is also out of the ordinary that R. N. Smith of Mission had at least four of his managers here from the Valley to hear the proceedings.

There was some keen disappointment expressed that Al Steffes of Minneapolis did not get down for a talk in accordance with his announced schedule. Steffes was coming, but at the last minute he was detained by a jury summons. A number of exhibitors counting on hearing a speech from that fiery tongue, were duly disappointed.

Orville Von Gulker of Okeene, Okla., and president of the new Allied Theatre Owners of Oklahoma, brought Pete Crown of Oklahoma City and A. B. Momand of Shawnee down to "learn" from the Texas group, of which Gulker said the new Oklahoma body is very proud. He said the Oklahoma unit is patterned in the footsteps of Cole's Texas unit.

We finally asked Abram F. Myers, Allied's national counsel, for a statement on any subject. He said "nothing doing" on this trip as this meeting "was Cole's show," and that he was merely here out of respect to the national president.

TENNESSEE

NEWPORT AMUSEMENT CO., purchasers of the Doradele Theatre, Copperhill, plan to enlarge and remodel the building.

Good use was made of a newsreel camera at the recent opening of the Park Theatre in McMinnville. Tony Sudekum, president of Crescent Amusement Co., sent the cameraman to the opening and a thousand feet of film was shot at the opening and to get some interesting local features included the McMinnville High School football team. A week later the theatre showed this reel two days to capacity houses.

Cowan Oldham, manager of the Park, McMinnville, offered free admission to his Hallowe'en show for each black cat. Eight were brought in. Manager Oldham carried one home as a pet and found homes for the others.

Space has been acquired in the Waynick Bldg. at Centerville, for the Rex Theatre, which has operated for years on the second floor of another building.

Chas. F. Dearman, manager, reports good business with "San Francisco" at the Fox Theatre, Smithville, following its recent opening. Music for the opening was furnished by the Smithville String Band.

Hank Harris, manager, Dover Theatre, Dover, reports a new heating system installed and the interior redecorated.

The mother of Johnny Butler, one of the star backfield men of the University of Tennessee Vols., the nation's No. 1 football team, Knoxville, has the newsreel to thank for a big thrill. Unable to attend the game, she visited the Tennessee Theatre and saw Johnny's thrilling touchdown run against Alabama. She told a newspaper reporter that she saw it through four times. Incidentally Butler has been presented with an honorary membership card in the theatre's Popeye Club.

The Crescent Amusement's new Capitol Theatre, at Princeton, Ky., according to Manager Thos. J. Simmons, had a "sell out" opening, the SRO sign going out 30 minutes after the doors were opened. The president of the local Kiwanis Club served as master of ceremonies and Mayor Hugh Hunter served as host for a group of distinguished visitors including Tony Sudekum, Crescent Amusement Co.'s president. Newsreel Cameraman Dewey Mousson, of Nashville, made the first newsreel ever made in Princeton. Four of Princeton's sub-debs served as usherettes.

The Nashville Community PlayHouse, Inc., has purchased a theatre building on Carlton Ave., Nashville, from M. A. Lightman, of Memphis. The building, which is in an adjacent block, was used as a motion picture house before opening of the Belmont Theatre.

More than 700 entries were received the first week in a joint film quiz contest between the Lyric Theatre (Rockwood) and the Rockwood Times. *The contest will continue. Prizes are tickets to the Lyric.*

Former friends of L. W. McCuan, former manager of the New Court Theatre, Huntingdon, Tenn., have been notified of his transfer from Providence, Ky., to Hickman, Ky.

The Lyric Theatre, Rockwood, recently allowed the local PTA to stage a "Men's Beauty Contest" from its stage as an added feature. It was necessary to repeat the program the second night to accommodate the crowds.

Even Break for Film Trade, Candidates Promise

NEW ORLEANS—State Senator James A. Noe, running for governor of the state of Louisiana, promises if elected to repeal the state censorship law which has been inactive since its inception by the late Senator Huey P. Long due to the failure of Governor Allen and succeeding governors to issue commissions to the members. For that matter four other candidates on the same ticket promises the same procedure as well as William Tuttle running on an opposition ticket. All promise to give the motion picture industry an even break.

Ernest Fair Before Panda Club on Film Industry

OKLAHOMA CITY—Ernest W. Fair, local BOXOFFICE representative, was guest speaker before the Panda Club of Oklahoma City last week. He discussed the business setup of the motion picture industry and answered questions after his talk. More than 50 queries on business aspects of the industry, production, exhibition and stars, were discussed in the open forum.

ARKANSAS

THE completely remodeled and redecorated Amuse-U at Fordyce was formally opened last week under its new name, the Dallas. The house is owned by the K. Lee Williams Theatres, Inc. A. E. Crowder jr. has been retained as assistant manager. Gerry Doig will manage the theatre.

The Strand at Clarksville has installed a new type air purifier . . . Walter Lee, who recently opened a film house at Mountain View, also owns the Gem at Heber Springs, which he has operated for several years . . . Miss Amye Jones, of Malco Theatres, Inc., North Little Rock, recently completed her tenth year with the company.

D. A. Smith, of Fordyce, has leased the Glover Bldg. at Rison for the purpose of operating a theatre there. The building will be completely remodeled and will probably open in about 30 days . . . L. K. Watts, one of the owners of the WaKea at Waldo, was at that place Tuesday going over the local program with Manager Chester Connor.

Texas Allied Looks Ahead to Future

(Continued from preceding page)

recently this independent had bought second runs which he selects.

The answer was that product may be bought now most anywhere, that the first-run exhibitor in this particular town of around 6,000, should have put in the second-run theatre himself.

Other discussions centered on the war situation. This phase, however, was discounted when opinion ran that "it looks like the war is going to play out."

Radio, once the bugaboo, is no longer so, according to many exhibitors Seasons back, the air was cluttered with outstanding programs, but today there are but two or three, "so why should the exhibitor worry from this score?" the reasoning went.

The finance committee under Chairman Jack Lilly, reported that it had raised the $5,000 budget easily and assured organization heads that they would have no worry on that score.

The nominations committee brought on an uncontested list of officers and directors who were elected as follows:

President, H. A. Cole; vice-presidents, Rubin Frels, Henry Hall, Lee Threet, Mrs. Marthe McSpadden, and R. N. Smith; treasurer, A. W. Lilly; directors, T. W. Lewis, Will Dorbandt, L. C. Tidball, C. M. Cooper, Henry Sparks, Mrs. Thos. Donnell, P. V. Williams, Homer Mulkey, Lonnie Legg and Roy Howell.

Continuing its open forum, it was decided that television was not an imminent problem but that exhibitors should start now to save for the installation when it comes.

Resolutions by the committee, condeming anti-Neely bill "propaganda" which has been going out to independent exhibitors and unqualifiedly endorsing the bill, and one thanking Ab Myers and Richey for their presence were quickly passed. Other resolutions adopted were on the death of Earl Jones of Brownfield and one wishing a quick return to active exhibition on the part of Andy Mauldin, who during recent weeks has been recuperating in a west Texas hospital.

When the Neely bill was brought to the floor there was little opposition to the measure expressed save from H. S. Cole, who operates three theatres in Bonham. Opposition from this individual was determined. He is a brother of H. A. Cole, one of the bill's strongest advocates.

The Bonham exhibitor saw no benefits to his operations or to the industry in anything the bill is expected to provide. Other exhibitors in the convention, known to be opposed to the bill, did not voice their opposition from the floor.

At the Baker, Tuesday night, it was all Allied's in the Mural Room as some 200 film figures gathered at dinner and dance to mingle with Texas independent showmen.

Three committees were appointed by Chairman Cole. Finance was A. W. Lilly, Lee Threet, Rubin Frels, R. N. Smith, F. W. Zimmerman, and Mrs. Marthe McSpadden.

The nominations committee was L. C. Tidball, Raymond Cornes and Henry Hall.

Resolutions committee was Homer Mulkey, Ted Lewis and J. P. Hedrick.

Names on the convention register included:

H. A. Cole, Dallas; H. W. Hall and F. D. Nance, Beeville; Lonnie Legg, Denison; Otto Schmidt, Mason; Mrs. Marthe McSpadden, Electra; L. M. Threet, Lufkin; J. E. Timberlake and D. Witherspoon, Overton; Henry Sparks and Mrs. Sparks of Cooper.

Mrs. Thos. Donnell and J. P. Hedrick, Stephenville; R. F. Cornes, Farmersville; Dale Wilson, Elgin; A. C. Moore, Bartlett; Orville Von Gulker, Okeene, Okla.; Paul P. Scott, Houston; R. Z. Glass, Houston; F. W. Zimmerman, San Marcos; P. C. Crown, Oklahoma City; E. H. Rockett and Ben Knoch, Itasca; Jack Eaves, Nacogdoches; Ray Wolford, Livingston.

Al Johnson, Jacksonville; B. R. McLendon, Atlanta; B. M. Bausell, Mission; F. C. Smith, Falfurrias; Floyd Ennis, Raymondville; L. C. Tidball, Ft. Worth; P. V. Williams, Munday; R. N. Smith, Mission; R. P. Condron, Forney; A. W. Lilly, Greenville; T. W. Lewis, Texarkana.

Homer Mulkey, Clarendon; Rufus Layton, Childress; Roy Howell, Coleman; Rubin Frels and Mrs. Frels, Victoria; Miss Norma Frels, El Campo; L. A. Franks, Waxachachie; J. S. Groves, Houston; C. M. Anding, Mesquite; V. E. Hamm, Wichita Falls; Katzan Bros., Corpus Christi; Ray Jennings, Hondo.

Interstate's Alabama Has Gala Debut in Houston

HOUSTON—Oratory, music, fireworks and surging crowds brought a gala opening to Interstate's newest suburban theatre, the Alabama. The theatre is the tenth opened in Houston by Interstate.

R. J. O'Donnell, vice-president and general manager of Interstate, came from Dallas headquarters to officiate at the opening and to greet the outdoor crowds from the lobby microphone. Others from out of town were Frank Starz, publicity director for the southern district; Raymond Willie, I. B. Adelman, J. H. Elder and Elmer Zrenner, all Interstate officials.

E. S. Olsmith represented the Universal exchange; Sol Sachs, RKO; B. C. Gibbons, United Artists; Jack Underwood, Columbia; and Bert King, RCA.

Ellis Ford, former manager of the Delman, Main street Interstate Theatre, will manage the new Alabama.

The Elkadettes, a girl's pep squad sponsored by the Elks Club, added to the color of the opening with their bright uniforms and peppy drum and bugle selections. The picture for opening night was "Man About Town."

Takes Long Lease on Two Mississippi Houses

LUMBERTON, MISS.—Jack M. Simmons of Hattiesburg has taken a long-time lease on the Royal Theatre at Lumberton, Miss., and the Lamar Theatre at Purvis, Miss. The houses have been operated for approximately four years by A. L. Royal, who is now engaged in the operation of the Royal, Hattiesburg, Miss., in partnership with Robert O. Sigler. Simmons has had no previous experience in the show business.

M. M. Bailey, who has been managing the Lamar in Purvis, will continue.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

CALLED around to say "hello" to Johnny Poole at Prescott, Ark., and found he had completely recovered from the abdominal operation which took him out of circulation a number of weeks. He informs me he has completed plans for the construction of the new Nevada Theatre there and that work will begin at an early date.

R. V. McGinnis, operating the New at Hope, Ark., tells me he has purchased new booth equipment and is repainting and redecorating the theatre in anticipation of its third birthday on November 25.

Went by Mt. Pleasant, Tex., to say "hello" to Ray Gerard and had the pleasure of meeting his parents who operate the theatre at Linden. Ray reports business is normal in his town.

At Ruston, La., called on my good friend C. J. Hubley jr., but found him in bed with a bad cold. Said he has been that way for some time.

At Shreveport, learned from Joe Gordon that he has replaced Maurice Barr as manager of the Paramount. Barr has gone to New Orleans for an operation. Best luck, Maurice, and hope you are well and strong again soon.

Saenger has made a few changes in Shreveport, such as the transfer of Frank Breese from the Centenary to the Capitol, James Dixon from the West End to the Centenary, and Charles Davis, formerly assistant at the Saenger, to manager of the West End.

Stopped by Naples, Tex., to see W. W. McNatt, who operates the Inez, but found him out of town. His assistant, Jackie Falls, showed me the new theatre which is under construction. It will seat 480 patrons, 80 in the balcony. They hope to open for business on November 25.

A "little bird" tells me that Bob Swanson, managing Saenger's Paramount at Texarkana, and Paul Scott, Dallas manager for National Screen Service, got together on a train out of New Orleans recently and had a real bull session of days no more with Sparks in Florida.

Colds seemed to be the thing among theatre people. Called on O. G. Wren of Crescent at Little Rock, who introduced me to his shock troops consisting of cough syrup, nose drops, atomizer and camphorated ice.

Southern Air Conditioning Corp. Sales Are Reported

ATLANTA—Equipment sales reported by Fred W. Young, president of Southern Air Conditioning Corp., follow:

Lee Theatre, Shellman, Ga., managed by M. G. Lee, heating and ventilating equipment; Majestic, Adel, Ga., managed by Luke Stein, heating; M. J. Brice's Wadley, Wadley, Ga., ventilating; Pearson, Pearson, Ga., managed by C. A. Drake, ventilating; A. L. Cowart and F. S. Shingler's Cordele, Cordele, Ga., ventilating; Col. Thomas E. Orr's new Boaz, Boaz, Ala., ventilating and washed-air system; and ventilating for the Gem, Calhoun, Ga., and Marietta, Marietta, Ga., both operated by Manning & Wink.

With Two Thanksgivings

YOU HAD BETTER GET BETTER PROJECTION WITH

SIMPLEX PROJECTORS and SIMPLEX SOUND

NOW AND BE PREPARED FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

TOMORROW MAY BE XMAS

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

NEW ORLEANS

MIKE HECK, the film delivery mogul, led the Parade of Progress—a celebration showing the evolution of the truck industry from its inception to the present time . . . Clarence Maedern of RKO was a business visitor to Memphis last week. He reports everything OK in that section . . . T. O. Tuttle, the veteran premium man who has been ill for the past two months, is again on his feet and covering the Row and neighborhood houses. He says that at one time he imagined he could hear the angel's feet paddling in the water.

An effort is being made by the Independents to revive Allied again in this section which has had a precarious existence during the past few years. It is said that a meeting of all Independent theatre owners will be called soon to discuss ways and means. Henry Lazarus is still the leader of the cause . . . Warren Sales, manager of the Garden Theatre in the uptown section, is making arrangements to stage Christmas tree for the kiddies the Saturday preceding the holiday. Toys will be distributed to all children attending a matinee, Saturday, December 30, given by a real live Santa Claus who will greet the children in the lobby as they enter.

Don Prince comes back to New Orleans to boom RKO's "Allegheny Uprising," RKO's entry to the Indian war cycle featuring such other films as "Drums Along the Mohawk," "Northwest Passage" and the like . . . The war hysteria over business at all houses has picked up, especially in the neighborhoods . . . The Louisiana Council for Motion Pictures will hold an institute on motion picture appreciation at the Monteleone Hotel, November 23 and 24 under the direction of C. C. Hensen, regional director of the motion picture department of the National Educational Ass'n. The council went on record as disapproving propaganda motion pictures. Mrs. Joseph E. Friend is president of the council.

Mrs. Esther Richards, known to thousands of women patrons of the Orpheum Theatre where she was employed as a matron, suicided in Lake Ponchartrain the week of November 1. No cause can be assigned for the act. The body was entirely nude, but police found her clothes, purse and shoes not far from where the body was discovered washing against the concrete walls of the harbor . . . J. Wilton Smith was reported to be seen on the Row this week in a film buying trip. Smith will operate a new house now in course of construction in Mansfield, La., with a seating capacity of 350 to cost in the neighborhood of $7,000 to be opened in about a month. The theatre is yet unnamed.

Pat Brennan, who 20 years ago owned and operated the Iberville Theatre on Iberville street near Broad and who was also interested with his brother, John, in a picture theatre in the lower section of the city, near the Industrial canal, but disposed of his interests and entered the real estate field, will return to the film game by opening an exchange in the city handling only shorts and state right features for the metropolitan area and New Orleans territory. Brennan is also looking for a location to open an all-night theatre devoted exclusively to shorts near Canal street, at a ten-cent top, with an hour's showing, with smoking permitted—to catch the night owls and those waiting for street cars. He is well known to all the oldtimers.

A few weeks back Governor Earl K. Long announced that he would increase the number of trade schools in order that the youths of Louisiana might have an opportunity to learn a trade, inasmuch as skilled mechanics were at a premium in this state. A spokesman for the governor told BOXOFFICE *that among the trades proposed was one that would teach the operation and maintenance of motion picture machines and film inspection. Trade schools are now maintained by the state at several vantage points, but more will be added.*

Jimmy Givens and an 11-piece outfit supplemented by six acts of vaudeville has opened at the Strand Theatre (Joy's) for a week's engagement. A film is also shown. The opening night was a whopper as this is the only down-town house giving its patrons vaudeville . . . Bob Burns, Arkansas comedian, and his wife, who have been vacationing in Havana, was in New Orleans the week of November 5, preparatory to a trip to the home folks and then to Hollywood where he will be on location for "Casey Jones" to be produced by Paramount.

Audience Refuses to Budge for Fire

Tulsa—Fire originating in old rags around an electric motor on the Lyric Theatre stage, failed to stop the show as firemen quenched the blaze while the 50 spectators in the audience refused to budge. Assistant Fire Chief C. H. Moore said firemen climbed to the stage and beat out the blaze without disturbing the crowd and without any damage being done.

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Roxy Bows in Mobile

MOBILE, ALA. — The Roxy Theatre has opened as Mobile's newest motion picture house. Alex Gounaris is manager.

Pact to Radio Singer

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has given Lillian Cornell, radio singer, a new one-year pact. She has been assigned a role in "Buck Benny Rides Again."

SANTONE

RECENT changes and promotions in local Interstate Theatres includes the following shakeup: William O'Donnell to Dallas as district manager; Edward E. Collins, new city manager; John T. Floore upped to Majestic skipper; Henry Bergman now managing the Texas; Maurice Gleaves piloting the Broadway; Lynn Krueger ramroding the Uptown, and Lee Roy Handley switched to the Harlandale as major-domo . . . Assistant manager changes: Ed Hale at the Aztec; Sylvan Barry at the Texas, and Malcolm Bailey at the Empire.

Early Saturday morning show at the Majestic featured ten Disney cartoons in celebrating Donald Duck's fifth birthday party. There was plenty of entertainment in store for both children and adults through the courtesy of Joske's Boys and Girls Dept.; 53 gift prizes were awarded and Borden's gave away free ice cream to all patrons attending this matinee.

The new stage producer at the Joy Theatre is Norman Fuller who hails from Oklahoma City. His wife is a new addition to the chorus, according to J. L. Greenewood, house manager.

Recent visitors to Sunny Santone reads like a who's who in Hollywood. Among them being Robert Taylor who planed in en route from coast to coast and Helen Morgan with the Barger-Marcus show. While in the Alamo City, Miss Morgan was ill abed suffering from a heavy cold. She recovered in time to go on with the "Moulin Rouge" engagements, however. From here the company went to Houston, Tex.

The Central Christian Church on Main Avenue here will show a series of free motion pictures for its congregation, as follows: "The Story of Bamba," was shown last Sunday; November 12, "A Journey to Tibet;" November 19, "Within the Shadow of Our Schools;" November 26, "Ageless India;" December 3, "Puerto Rico;" December 10, "The Romance of Texas Disciples;" December 17, "Open Doors," and December 24, "Texas Christian University."

Featured artists in the Majestic's Silver Jubilee Show this week are Allen and Kent, dancers; Mlle. Vera Michelena, prima donna; Fred Hillerbrand, musical comedy star; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Norworth, popular song composers; Aunt Jemima, the famous pancake lady; Smith and Dale; the Avon Comedy Four, and a Cinematograph from 1914, presenting an unusual glance at entertainment back through the years. On the screen is "Dancing Co-Ed."

J. L. Schultze has his tent show anchored at Jayton, Tex., with business reported as satisfactory.

The following were seen at a busy conference in the office of the Azteca Films here last Monday: Ralph Calderon of El Paso; Dave Young jr. and sr. of the El Tiro Theatre, Brownsville; G. L. Wood, Rio Theatre, Mercedes, Tex., and J. J. Jimenez, the local Latin-American Film Exchange manager. The subject was booking films for their theatres.

Ralph Labutis of the Texas-Valley Film Service is back on the job after vacationing down Del Rio and Eagle Pass way.

OKLA. CITY

E A. "PAT" PATCHEN, advertising manager for Standard Theatres, is exuding the holiday spirit already. He's got that way looking at holiday trailers and Christmas promotion stunts thrust upon him during the last week or so . . . The first snap of cold weather has set in and hunting visions are haunting T. B. Noble jr., managing director of the State Theatre.

Morris Loewenstein, MPTOA secretary, is back from the White Sulphur Springs convention . . . The first in a series of five foreign films to be shown by the University of Tulsa's foreign language department at the Tower in Tulsa, was presented last week. It was "Grand Illusion."

Sam Caporal has expanded the accessories department of his Yale Theatre in Capitol Hill . . . One of the most civic-minded film men locally is L. C. Griffith, who is getting all geared up for a number of such worthwhile activities during the next few weeks.

J. Eldon Peak, head of Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co. here, is using 16mm color films of company ilnstallations as well as shots from his merchandise display room on his sales rounds . . . Don't look now, but these winter months will mean that Buddy Moran, Republic booker; Fred Schofield, scribe, and Claude Fulgum, Griffith division manager, all will be thinking about model railroads again.

"Best handler of visitors" award on Filmrow should go to Universal's exchange manager, Jimmy Hobbs. He can execute the light brushoff with the greatest of ease . . . Sol Davis, Republic manager, is back at his desk after vacationing in the east.

Carr Scott, Monogram manager, is an avid reader of BOXOFFICE'S *"Exhibitor Has His Say" department . . . Gene Austin and his company played the Reno Theatre last week.*

Once Over Lightly On the Code

Dallas—Dusting the trade practice code off lightly, Abram F. Myers told the Texas Allied convention here that it was "the most forgotten thing in the business, because that code was unenforcable by law." He argued that the next effort independents expend toward a code or conciliation setup will be "with those in authority and in responsible places."

Metro Signs Boyce House As Technical Adviser

AUSTIN, TEX. — Boyce House, a Texas newspaper columnist, well known in these parts, received a telephone call from M-G-M Tuesday while he was in town, informing him to report immediately to the Culver City plant to take over his duties acting as technical adviser for a Texas oil boom picture which the studio is producing titled "The Lady Comes to Burkburnett."

He drove to Fort Worth and caught a plane for the west coast that night.

"Abe Lincoln in Illinois" Premiere in University

HOLLYWOOD—The southern premiere of RKO's "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" will be held some time in mid-January at Lincoln Memorial University, situated near the tri-state boundary lines of Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia.

The premiere will be strictly invitational and will mark the opening of the university's 50th anniversary celebration.

The Jenks Is Opened

JENKS, OKLA.—The Jenks Theatre, recently redecorated, has been opened under the management of Watson and Co.

DALLAS

JACK UNDERWOOD, the Columbia branch manager, also is a showman. Last week yeggs took the Interstate theatres, and bagged up City Manager Louis Novy for some $3,000 of weekend receipts. In a day or two other bandits took Interstate's Palace at Denton for about $600, encountering Manager J. T. Harrison. Underwood said the highwaymen are on their toes and they have been following up "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," knowing that big receipts will be in any theatre where the picture is playing. Incidentally, Louis Charninsky, manager of the Rialto and Capitol, who didn't get "Mr. Smith," had his picture on the front page, examining his safe because of numerous and current theatre robberies.

Nick and Pete Katsaris of Corpus Christi were on the Row, Wednesday, and said they expect to open their drive-in theatre on Highway 9, near Clarkwood, within the next few days. Capacity of the project will be about 250 cars, one of the brothers said. Gene Lacy, well known on Filmrow, has been employed by the new enterprise, according to Lacy.

Julius Gordon, active head of Jefferson Amusement Co., and Executives Tom Clemmons and Clifford Porter, were on the Row the first of the week for a visit in the Dallas branch of the company and with S. L. Oakley, in charge of the office here.

"Wedding Ring" to 20th-Fox

HOLLYWOOD — "Wedding Ring," Beth Brown's best-seller, has been purchased by 20th-Fox. Henry King will direct the screen version.

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DALLAS

AUSTIN

ELISSA LANDI, stage and screen actress, spent the night here while on lecture tour . . . Robert Taylor stopped off briefly here, flying back from Mexico City to Hollywood. More than a thousand fans, mostly women, were on hand at the airport to greet the star.

New uses for motion pictures are being put into practice here with the current filming of girl swimmers of the University of Texas to be compared with pictures taken in the future for indications of improvement . . . Austin Chamber of Commerce is also recording activities on film.

Louis Novy, city manager for Interstate; Mose Macow, manager of the Queen, and Jesse Melinger, skipper of the Texas, were in Dallas for the University of Texas-S.M.U. game.

Gerald Raines, at the helm of the State, is promoting "The Mikado" with tieups with a local music store, getting free newspaper space and show-window space. Also contacted all the leaders of music groups in this music-minded town.

A vaudeville show played to nice houses at the Paramount along with Warner's "On Your Toes."

Manager Macow's Queen Theatre had a successful hallowe'en midnight show Tuesday night, with "Son of Frankenstein" being the piece de resistance.

Chitchat about the bunch at the Capitol: Bill Hellums, the manager, is studying law at the University of Texas . . . Rodney Montfort of the candy stand is on vacation . . . Ewell Love is the new doorman . . . Boyd Sinclair, assistant skipper, turning out a mean publicity story about "Wizard of Oz."

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
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MEMPHIS

M A. LIGHTMAN, who is head of the local Vanderbilt alumni group, issued a call for all Vanderbilt alumni in the mid-south area to attend a rally dinner and pep meeting at the University Club on Friday night, November 3, on the eve of the Old Miss-Vanderbilt game. Something like 100 were present and after the dinner pictures of the three Vanderbilt football games with Georgia Tech, LSU and Rice were shown.

Cresson E. Smith, RKO's western division sales manager together with R. L. Mochrie the newly appointed southern district manager, were visitors at the local exchange several days this week.

W. J. Kupper, western division manager of 20th-Fox, spent several days with Tom Young, his local manager, the past week. Kupper is making a swing of the southern branches and left by plane for New Orleans. Fox also had another home office representative—William Clark, short subject sales manager, visited the Memphis office.

Exhibitors in this territory, especially in northern Mississippi, where they have been so severely hurt due to the spring floods and drouth this summer, are feeling much better these days due to the aid the government is giving the farms in these stricken areas.

The film exchange employes of local No 55, IATSE in Memphis, were host to 62 members at a banquet Saturday night, November 4, at the Hotel Chisca, following an all-day meeting. W. P. Raoul and E. J. Miller, international representatives from the New York office, attended this meeting. Each exchange center had representatives here for this meeting among whom were: J. W. Woodsworth and Mrs. O. H. Turner, Charlotte; Mrs. Leolo DeLong and William Kemp, Atlanta; Henry J. Thibodeaux, Clarence Moldon and Mae Dempsey, New Orleans; John Faban, Pearl Walker and Ray Smith, Dallas, and George B. Snodgrass, Oklahoma City.

Dorothy Randle, who for the past two years has been booker's stenographer at the local Fox office, resigned November 11 to be married to Louis A. Williams.

Bill Bugie, Paramount's branch manager, has announced the following changes in his sales staff: Saul Frifield has been transferred to the Charlotte territory and Joe Young becomes the Mississippi and Tennessee territory peddler. Joe was formerly in the ad sales department in Memphis prior to his transfer to the Atlanta branch several years ago. He says coming back to Memphis is really coming home to him.

Exhibitors seen along the Row this week: Whyte Bedford of the New at Hamilton, Ala.; Jack Wilbanks, Hinz, Walnut, Miss.; G. H. Goff, Parsons, Tenn.; Miss Louise Mask, Luez, Bolivar, Tenn.; Norman Fair, Fair, Somerville, Tenn.; Jack Watson, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; Burris and Henley Smith, Imperial Theatre, Pocahontas, Ark.; John Shannon, Shannon, Portageville, Mo.; W. T. Ellis, Regent, Cleveland, Miss.; Bernard Haberfeld, Varsity, Amory, Miss.; H. H. Alexander, Crescent, Belzoni, Miss.; Tom Ford, Ford, Rector, Ark.

G. W. Haynes of the Strand Enterprises, Inc., advises that as of Sunday, November 12, he will assume the operation of the Wesco Theatre at Cleveland, Miss. This theatre was opened approximately nine months ago by Clyde Westbrook, who has operated same up until this time. With the taking over of this theatre, it will give Haynes eight theatres in Mississippi in addition to those which he owns and operates in Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Augustine Ciaiciolo, who since his graduation from CBC this year, has assumed the managership of the Rosemary Theatre, Memphis, is very much incapacitated these days due to a broken arm which he received last week while at the theatre. "Mr. Mike," Augustine's father, is carrying on during his convalesence.

Jack Adams jr. of the Adams Film Exchange in Dallas was a recent Memphis visitor, where he was busy working his nearby accounts.

Paul Shaffer of the Star Theatre at Marked Tree, Ark., is driving a new Dodge car these days. He advised, however, that it was a matter of necessity though, as he was very happy with his Plymouth which he had only driven a month. One day last week when he was on his way to visit his new son at Lepanto (incidentally Paul's father manages the Strand Theatre at Lepanto and that is where his wife and baby are temporarily) he was run into by another car, wrecking his car. Luckily though, he escaped uninjured.

J. D. Courtney of the Country Show at Maben, Miss., advises that he has taken over the managership of the Shelby Theatre at Shelby, Miss., and that Mrs. Courtney will handle the show at Maben. The theatre at Shelby was formerly managed by Mrs. Mary Lois Lynn.

R. V. Reagin, RKO's Arkansas salesman, who makes his home in Little Rock was in the Memphis office this weekend.

At the regular Monday luncheon of the Variety Club it was unanimously voted to change the regular weekly luncheons to Saturday at 12:45 instead of Mondays as heretofore. This change becomes effective as of Saturday, November 12. This was done in order that more of the salesmen would have an opportunity to attend.

Floyd Murphy, United Artists salesman out of New Orleans and who covers the Delta territory, was a recent Memphis visitor.

R. H. Fisher of the Crescent at Belzoni, Miss., was seen along the Row driving a new Ford and upon investigating we found the purchasing of this new car came about in the following manner. Fisher, who is an ardent football fan, decided on Saturday morning he would drive to Baton Rouge to see the LSU-Ole Miss game together with some friends. So after getting off to a start at the break of dawn, they reached Jackson, Miss., where his car refused to function. After taking it to the garage, while precious time was passing by, the sad news was finally broken to him that it would take several days for repairs. The last train for Baton Rouge had just pulled out and in utter disgust he left his car in Jackson and caught a bus back to Belzoni without ever being near a pigskin. So he determined he would not be caught napping when the next game was played there and the next day he bought the new car. We understand he and Mrs. Fisher caught the LSU-Rice game the following week without any motor trouble.



"Wind" in Atlanta December 15

Atlanta—Loew's Grand Theatre here will present the world premiere of "Gone With the Wind" Friday, December 15, at 8:15 p. m. Thereafter it will play twice daily at 2 p. m. and 7:45 p. m. Running time of the film is three hours and 40 minutes.

CHARLOTTE

MR. AND MRS. H. K. KINCEY spent last weekend in Atlanta. They attended the Duke-Georgie Tech game Saturday. Kincey is head of the North Carolina Theatres.

Sol Frifield is the new salesman at Paramount. He comes here from the Paramount exchange in Memphis.

Jack Kirby, formerly the manager of the Paramount office here and now in Atlanta, was a recent visitor in the office.

Mrs. Runa Curtis of Silver City was a Filmrow visitor one day last week. Mrs. Curtis also has the theatre in Liberty.

E. C. Duberry took up his duties with National Screen Service this week. He comes from the Paramount exchange.

The marriage of Miss Alma Neilson and Drexal Baum October 20 was announced recently. Miss Neilson was the secretary to Bob Simerial at National Screen. Drexal is now sales manager for Paramount in Dallas where they are now living.

C. A. Holliday of Aurora and J. J. Booth of Walnut Grove, N. C., were seen on Filmrow Monday.

The Charlotte Motion Picture Council held its regular meeting at the Chamber of Commerce Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

Scott Lett Is Paramount's Charlotte Branch Head

CHARLOTTE—Scott Lett, Paramount salesman here for the last two years, has been upped to local branch manager, succeeding H. E. Pickett, who resigned because of ill health.

Nineteen years ago Lett began with Paramount in the New York home office. He next joined the Publix circuit as accountant, after which he was transferred to Paramount's Atlanta office as buyer and booking agent. From Atlanta he was shifted to Memphis as a salesman. He came here in 1937 from Memphis.

Pickett's future plans are unannounced.

National Theatre Supply Has Record Sound Sales

NEW YORK—President W. E. Green of National Theatre Supply reports a new high in sales of Simplex sound systems.

A total of 55 installations have been ordered by exhibitors throughout the country in the month of October, informs Green.

ATLANTA

ALONG THE ROW were A. L. Cowart of the Shingler circuit, Edison, Ga.; J. E. Martin of the Grand, Montezuma, Ga.; D. L. Regan of the Roxy, Selma, Ala., and Frank Merritt of Birmingham . . . Joe Young, Paramount ad sales manager, has been promoted to salesman in the Memphis exchange. Succeeding him here is Harold Jonasson, from Charlotte.

Trailer-Made has repainted its local offices and set them off with an attractive Neon sign. Two new employes recently were added, Mr. Delp and Miss Toller . . . Billy Yarbrough, formerly of Valdosta, is now manager of the Princess in Hawkinsville, Ga.

Savini Films, known by that name for the past 20 years, is now Astor Pictures Corp., with N. E. Savini as manager. Savini has closed a contract to handle all Film Alliance product. The first is "Torpedoed." The recently-sunk *Royal Oak* is in the production.

Mitchell Wolfson of Wometco Theatres, Miami, and Oscar Lam of Rome, after attending the board meeting of the MPTOA at White Sulphur Springs, returned home via Asheville where Wolfson is building a new summer home. Wolfson also is being congratulated on an addition to his family.

Charlie Lester, National Screen Service district manager, spent a few days in south Georgia . . . Jeff Davis, UA branch manager, is on a trip to Tennessee . . . Robert Mochrie, RKO southern district manager, has returned from Miami.

R. E. Hawkins, popular operator of the Hangar restaurant at the entrance to Candler Airport, has acquired the lease of the Hangar Theatre from L. Teplis. Hawkins also operates Hangar bowling alleys and billiard parlors.

Mrs. W. W. Lake, formerly with Paramount in Charlotte, stopped here several days en route to New Orleans to join her husband, Bill, who is a salesman for Monogram . . . Fred McLendon, owner of a circuit of theatres in Alabama, has acquired the north Georgia towns of George Wilby, including Cornelia, Toccoa, Clarksdale and Lavonia. W. J. (Slick) Collins, who has resigned as salesman for National Screen Service, will be manager.

Bill Specht spent a couple of days in Monroe checking a picture for Universal.

J. U. McCormick of Amity, and W. H. Dyes, salesman, have returned from a week's trip to Tennessee. They closed deals with Tony Sudekum at Nashville . . . Ray Locke, ballyhoo man for "Mad Youth," was a visitor.

Filmrow friends of Happy Barnes were grieved on learning his wife is ill in a Birmingham hospital.

Happy word comes that Scott Lett, new Paramount branch manager at Charlotte, and Barney Slaughter, salesman, who were injured in a recent automobile accident, are recovering slowly. Barney Ross of M-G-M, also hurt in the crash, has left the hospital.

Nathan Morgan, manager of the Grand at Fitzgerald, Ga., announces work will start soon on an additional story to the front of the house.

Col. Thomas E. Orr of Albertville, Ala., is building a new house at Boaz, Ala. It will seat 600 and is expected to be opened around the first of the year.

Jack Crawford, manager of the recently-opened Dixie at East Gadsden, Ala., reports business is fine.

Gus King has returned from New York where he attended the convention of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers.

O. J. Howell, president-manager of Capitol City Supply Co., sold complete equipment (except the cooling system) for the new Park at McMinnville, Tenn., which opened last month under management of Cowan Oldham. It is a Cumberland Amusement house.

Ralph Oldknow, operator of Loew's Grand in Atlanta, plans opening of his 67-car Drive-In Theatre at Jackson, Miss. It is called the "Silver Slipper" and will be managed by Richard Armstrong, former hotel manager in Atlanta.

Mrs. Jack Lamont, wife of the GN district manager, has an interesting story to tell about her experiences during the recent engagement here of the Ringling Bros. circus.

Buddy Rogers, playing an engagement on the Rainbow Roof of the Ansley Hotel, and his wife, Mary Pickford, grabbed much newspaper picture publicity by appearing at the Tech-Auburn football game in the private box of Dr. M. L. Brittain, president of Georgia Tech.

A. C. Bromberg's Brother Dies in New Orleans

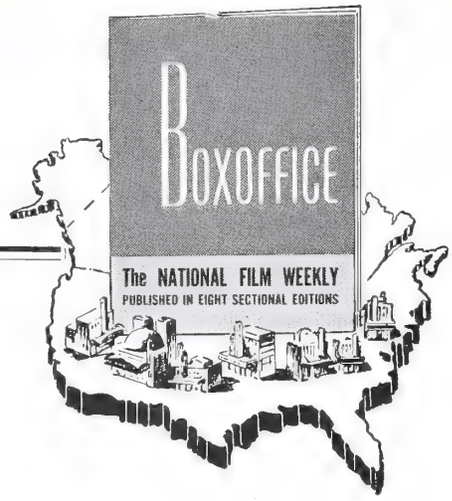
BIRMINGHAM—Funeral services were held here for Frederick William Bromberg, prominent jeweler and brother of A. C. Bromberg of Atlanta, president of Republic Pictures Corp. of the Southeast. The jeweler died in New Orleans while on a vacation. His wife, four sons and his brother survive.

Adapts "Devil Is Yellow"

HOLLYWOOD—"The Devil Is Yellow," Milton Schwarzwald production for Universal, will be scripted by Roy Chanslor.

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PREMIUM IDEA SPREADING IN TORONTO, WITH CHAINS JOINING INDEPENDENTS IN PRACTICE

Dominion Government Films Seen in Over 25 Countries

OTTAWA—The annual report of the Canadian department of trade and commerce for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1939, shows that 6,295 copies of films of the government motion picture bureau were in circulation in more than 25 countries of the world, with the United States heading the list for a total of 3,160 prints or approximately one-half of the distribution. The United States actually exceeded Canada in the circulation figures, the Dominion being in second place with 1,700 prints in circulation, with the United Kingdom third with 524.

The report reveals that 86 government films were in use in what was Czecho-Slovakia, along with Jugo-Slavia and other Central European countries, while 83 were in use in Germany and 70 in Italy. The remainder of the list is as follows: Belgium, 55; China, 47; France and Switzerland, 51; Greece, Turkey and Near East, 35; Hawaiian Islands, 33; Holland, 33; Japan, 19; Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland, 64; South Africa, 45; South America, 30; Straits Settlement and East Indies, 16; West Indies, Cuba and Caribbean Islands, 45.

In addition to this distribution, the bureal released on loan 200,000 feet of documentary film to public and private organizations, institutions, railways and associations for educational and entertainment purposes.

16mm Production Increased

It is pointed out that the production of 16mm films during the 12 months was 50,000 feet more than that for the previous year "as the 16mm film is rapidly replacing the standard film in the non-theatrical field." The government films are first produced in the 35mm size and then reduced to the narrow width for non-theatrical distribution.

The bureau made 50,000 feet of new material in negative form while an additional 15,000 feet was obtained from outside cinematographers. Twenty-four new films, consisting of 43 reels, were placed in circulation in 1938-39, the film production activities of the bureau having reached the highest volume since 1929. The estimate is made that 40 million persons in Canada and abroad had seen the government pictures in the 12 months, while distributors and exhibitors in the United States reported a total audience of 20 millions, making a grand total of 60 millions.

Over 400,000 feet of standard film, including duplicate and special processed negative, sound track negative and positive prints, and 450,000 feet of positive prints of 16mm sound and silent films were processed in the bureau laboratory.

For theatrical distribution in the British Isles, the Canadian bureau supplied duplicate negatives without charge to distributors, the latter paying all transportation charges, import duties and taxes, and the proceeds, less these charges, are divided equally with the bureau. For Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and France, the costs of transportation and levies are absorbed by the bureau. For South Africa, South America, Japan and Germany, the prints were sold outright to distributors at commercial prices which are sufficient to cover production cost. In the remaining countries, prints are supplied free of charge, this being the only way in which theatrical distribution can be obtained, it is pointed out.

In non-theatrical distribution, the bulk of circulation in Canada is handled entirely by the bureau which maintains loan libraries where organizations and individuals can secure films for a service charge per reel, plus transportation costs. Certain films are on deposit with Provincial Governments and there also is a depository for the Prairie Provinces at the University of Alberta.

Depositories for Pictures

In the United Kingdom, the Imperial Institute Film Library acts as a depository for the official Canadian pictures, a payment of 200 pounds per year being made for this service. Films are also on loan to the general post office film unit and the overseas league. Releases are placed with about 60 depositories and distribution agencies in the United States with the non-theatrical prints being distributed both nationally and regionally. In other countries, these films are released through Canadian trade commissioners and film libraries.

With the war now in progress, the bureau's report for the current fiscal year will probably present a changed story, with a disruption of ordinary channels in Europe since the opening of hostilities and a departure from everyday activities on the part of people in various countries. The report, to be issued next year, will contain facts in connection with the bureau's film coverage of the Royal Tour which, of course, occurred after the termination of the 1938-39 fiscal year.

Expenditures Doubled by Dominion Film Bureau

OTTAWA—According to the report of James G. Parmelee, deputy minister of trade and commerce, expenditures of the Canadian government motion picture bureau for the past fiscal year totaled $85,-024, compared with $37,065 for the previous year and $40,571 for 1936-37. The peak expenditures for a year, prior to the current report, were recorded in 1934 with a total of $40,624.

On the other hand, the revenue derived by the bureau during the past fiscal 12 months amounted to $29,049, this being the highest on record. The income for the previous year was $17,574 and for other recent years: 1937, $22,618; 1936, $12,027; 1935, $8,225, and 1934, $6,271.

The director of the bureau is Capt. F. C. Badgley, M. C., who has been in charge for the past 14 years. With the creation of the national film board with John Grierson of London, England, as Canadian film commissioner, it is understood the government motion picture bureau will continue to operate as in the past with Captain Badgley in complete charge, this intimation having been given by Hon. W. D. Euler, minister of trade and commerce.

Varied Stimulants Begun As Means of Pulling Added Patronage

TORONTO—Chain theatres here have taken up the premium idea in its various forms as a special patronage inducement, thus invading a field which heretofore has been more or less restricted to independent exhibitors. Big ace houses have not adopted the so-called boxoffice builders, but subsidiary chains are jumping into the ring for what has the prospect of becoming a free-for-all.

Associated Theatres, comprising eight local houses, is now specializing with the Foto-Nite stunt in which offers have gone as high as $125. Considerable advertising, including extra newspaper display space, window cards, lobby announcements and handbills, has been used to put this stunt across.

Prizes for the Ladies

Premier Theatres, operated by the Allens, announces silverware gifts two nights a week at several suburban houses, while similar door prizes are offered all lady patrons at a number of units of B&F Theatres, a circuit linked with Famous Players Canadian Corp.

A number of neighborhood houses in the Capitol Theatres circuit have added a stage feature consisting of winners of a radio audition contest which has extended for many weeks under commercial sponsorship. These troupes were originally booked into independent houses.

In the meantime, independents are employing gifts, tokens, prizes, mystery awards, coupons and other inducements in a manner that has exceeded any such "waves" previously.

TORONTO

A PROMINENT visitor in eastern Canada was Bette Davis, who enjoyed a scouting trip of her own away from the beaten path. She enjoyed a stay at Lucerne, the swanky outdoor resort on the Ottawa River, had a glimpse of Ottawa, and then proceeded to northern Ontario where she had a good look at the famous Dionne Quintuplets. Miss Davis was obviously avoiding the crowds, declaring she wanted to learn something about Canada so that she would have something to talk about when she got back to Hollywood.

The holdover of the week in Toronto was "Jamaica Inn" which stayed for a second week at the Big Uptown where Fred Trebilcock is the presiding impresario . . . Manager Tom Daley of the Imperial enjoyed a city-wide tieup in playing the short, "Information, Please," on the program with "Dust Be My Destiny" with the Canada Dry Ginger Ale people arranging many window displays which included Imperial advertising.

Ross Trimble, coach of the Ottawa Rough Riders, husky aspirants for the Canadian football crown of 1939, was an employe of the RKO Distributing Corp. of Canada before taking over the direction of the gridiron giants. Coach Lew Hayman of the Toronto Argonauts, who have won the Canadian football championship for three years, was manager of the Madison Theatre, Toronto, when it was a unit of Associated Theatres.

Roy Cash, newscameraman of Associated Screen News, is now a radio star, with an appearance on the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. to his credit. Cash told of his experiences in covering the tour of Their Majesties, also in taking pictures of the Dionne Quintuplets and his expeditions to the Arctic North for special films.

Mrs. Frank Fisher, wife of the Toronto branch manager of Empire-Universal, has been given No. 1 rating among Canadian women tennis players for 1939 by the Ontario Lawn Tennis Ass'n. Mrs. Fisher was given top ranking after winning the eastern Canadian, Ontario Provincial and Toronto District titles, thus duplicating her standing for last year. Incidentally, her husband can give her a good game on the courts and also in badminton.

The film policy of the Capitol, Ottawa, leading Famous Players' house there, is being broken on November 13 with the presentation of two stage performances by the English touring company headed by Maurice Colbourne and Barry Jones. The Capitol is returning to its screen fare the following day . . . O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors, has been ill in a Toronto hospital but his condition is not alarming.

Barnett Laxer & Co., Toronto, is negotiating for the erection of a theatre at Niagara Falls, Ont. The Border City of 19,000 already has two theatres, the Capitol operated by Famous Players, and the Hollywood, an independent house. The project has been under the consideration of the Niagara Falls Parks Commission.

An infrequent visitor to Toronto's Filmrow made an appearance when calls were recorded by W. M. Seavill, proprietor of the Esquire Theatre, Penetanguishene, Ont. This house, which seats 308, was formerly known as the Bijou. A. C. Stock of the Iroquois Theatre, Petrolia, was another visitor.

Manager W. K. Trudell of the Capitol Theatre, London, Ont., staged a big community stunt in the holding of a "Winter Fair" in the big lobby of the theatre for one week in conjunction with "Hollywood Cavalcade." Many local firms had appropriate exhibits and the theatre secured a two-page tieup in the London *Free Press*.

Genuine sympathy has been extended to Sam Ulster, proprietor of the Embassy Theatre, Toronto, in the death of his mother.

Gordon Borneman, manager of the Muskoka Theatre at Gravenhurst, north of Toronto, made a quick trip to the local film exchanges to beat the approaching cold weather . . . Simon Meretsky was in from Windsor and talked about a trip to Florida for the winter . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Sutherland made the trip to the Ontario capital after the opening of their latest theatre, the Plaza at Mitchell . . . Ted Soucie was down from Kirkland Lake and booked a goodly list of pictures for the LaSalle at Kirkland Lake and the Cartier at Timmins.

The Dumbells concert party of the First Great War made their comeback appearance at Ottawa in a special performance on November 11. For 12 years after the last conflict, these soldier entertainers played nearly every theatre in the Dominion and then retired.

One of the Royal Air Force stars in the forthcoming British picture, "The Lion Has Wings," is Flying Officer Donald Thom, a Canadian who joined the Imperial force in 1937. Thom is a star athlete and had planned to compete for Canada at the 1940 Olympic Games in Finland until the war broke out.

The Toronto Operators' Local is shortly to hold its annual meeting, according to President Charlie Dentelbeck. All is quiet on the projection front and the gathering is expected to be a formality.

George Oullahan, advertising manager of Empire-Universal, is on a tour of Associated Theatres in various cities and towns of Ontario . . . John Allen, manager of the Tivoli at Thorold, Ont., paid his respects at several Toronto film exchange offices . . . Mr. and Mrs. Pursell were also in town from Simcoe.

Manager Bob Eves of the Oakwood Theatre, Toronto, took advantage of the war situation by staging a nifty teaser campaign in local newspapers for "Dark Journey" which opened a special run last Monday. "See a British Q-Boat in Action" was the advertising theme and the displays were embellished with warships in silhouette.

"The Eagle and the Hawk" Withdrawn From Canada

TORONTO—"The Eagle and the Hawk" has been withdrawn from Canadian theatres and further bookings have been canceled because the feature is "inimical to the public interest" in Canada during the war.

The picture was made by Paramount in 1934 with rather pronounced peace propaganda. It had been reissued since the declaration of war to meet the demand for war-plot pictures.

Business Falls Back A Bit in Toronto

TORONTO—Business, generally speaking, has registered a slight recession during the past few days, this trend having been found in many trades as well as in the amusement field. The development is considered only temporary and has been due in large part to the expenditure of a proportionately large share of family incomes for foodstuffs, clothing and supplies during the early stages of the war when the people believed that retail prices would take an immediate jump. After this buying splurge, the public has been forced to recoup family finances and business has been slow accordingly.

That this slight drop is only of passing importance is predicted in the light of international developments. War purchases are only beginning to take shape in Canada while the repeal of the arms embargo by the United States will mean millions of dollars in trade for the Dominion. Huge expenditures are predicted in the establishment of air training facilities in Canada for military aviators from all parts of the Empire. Recruiting and the manufacture of munitions are absorbing the unemployed and labor troubles are few. All things considered, the business future of Canada appears to be bright and the theatres will get their share.

Government's Royal Tour Film Will Be Released

TORONTO—The official government film of the Royal Tour of Canada and the United States by the British Monarchs last May and June, has been previewed by Canadian government officials and will shortly be released in the Dominion.

It was produced by Capt. F. C. Badgley, director of the Canadian government motion picture bureau, with clips from the official newsreel and additional scenes, all of which has been woven into a record of the Royal Trip with special commentary.

Teamed on "Old Opry"

HOLLYWOOD—Gerald Geraghty and Betty Burbridge will collaborate on the script of "Grand Old Opry" for Republic.

MONTREAL

ARE audiences of today missing the old-time vaudeville? The question is prompted by the popularity of "amateur hours," "revues," and variety turns in motion picture theatres. A number of chain houses have revived this form of entertainment, and now they have been joined by one of Montreal's largest theatres—the Imperial, which has just inaugurated a weekly Monday evening amateur contest, which Manager Howard Knevels has arranged to accompany the double feature film program. The Imperial found amateur hours popular in past seasons, and the reception the new presentation received was warm.

Poland's tragic history is sharply recalled by the presentation at the Mount Royal Theatre of which C. Spedakos is manager, of a Jewish talking picture, "The Vow," which was produced in Warsaw and stars the Warsaw Art Players. Comprehensive English titles explain the film to those who do not understand Yiddish.

A strong Canadian interest was added to the motion picture version of "Gone With the Wind," by the selection of Toronto-born Ann Rutherford to play the part of Scarlett O'Hara's little sister, Careen.

Lillian Gish, who, during the Great War starred in a picture, "Hearts of the World" made in the front line trenches, where her mother sustained shell shock from which she still suffers, visited Toronto unexpectedly and had lunch with Nan Huston, sister of Walter Huston. Miss Gish said she was ready to go again to the scene of war if there was anything she could do.

As an antidote to the "black-out blues" in Britain, Butcher's Film Service will give the British public "a barrage of film fun," beginning with a picture based on Fred Karono's "Jail Birds," in the original of which Charlie Chaplin took part. Another comedy scream of old days, "Charley's Aunt," will be remade by Gainsborough, and Associated British Pictures is also devising a "program of fun."

Maurice Colbourne and Barry Jones, who produced "Charles the King" at His Majesty's Theatre will return with George Bernard Shaw's "Geneva," a satirical study of the League of Nations, brought up-to-date to include the declaration of war and Soviet Russia's intervention in Poland. A five-day engagement will commence November 14. "Geneva" was first produced at the Malvern Festival in 1938 and afterwards enjoyed a seven-month run in London.

Exhibitors and loyal fans are eagerly anticipating release, which is promised shortly, of the official film of Their Majesties tour of Canada and the United States. This was prepared by the Dominion government Motion Picture Bureau, under direction of Captain Frank Badgley, M. C., director of the bureau. It will be followed by an official history of the tour compiled by Major Gustave Lanctot, Dominion archivist, who was historian traveling on the Royal train.

Theatre managers do not expect the war, at least in its present stages, to have any marked effect on attendance. According to United Amusement Corporation, patronage is being maintained at about the same level as last fall. Earlier in the year there was a falling off in attendance, but business has picked up in the last two months.

Britain's Premier, Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, has promised to make a newsreel film "as soon as he can find time." British ambassadors, it is said, have asked that better British newsreels be produced and sent abroad to offset German newsreels which have been doubled in length since the outbreak of war.

Spencer Tracy's performance in "Stanley and Livingstone" has made him the star of the season in London, reports say. The Scots comedian, Will Fyffe, will make a film appearance there in "Rulers of the Sea," his first role in a Hollywood-made picture.

Patrons of the York Theatre speak admiringly of the "announcing" of the doorman, Frank Flynn, who some of them feel is good enough for the radio. His announcing of recent election results from the stage of the York was in quite professional vein and drew a salvo of applause.

The latest Montreal theatre usher to be called to "do his bit" is Peel Steven, of the Monkland, who has joined Canadian Aircraft . . . Stratton Demetre, manager of the Regent Theatre, is home from a lengthy visit to the United States.

Dave Berzan of the Centre Palace, Coaticook, has taken over the Broadway Theatre, Montreal . . . "The White Steed," which last year received the New York Drama Critics' award as the season's best comedy, will come to His Majesty's in mid-December.

Record run of the fall season—eight weeks—was enjoyed by "Louise" at the Cinema de Paris.

Seven-Member Group Aids Gov't Board

MONTREAL—Appointment of seven members of an interdepartmental committee to aid the National Film Board has been announced by Hon. W. D. Euler, minister of trade and commerce.

Representative of all government departments engaged in film work, the new committee will advise the film board in development of a central government film distribution service and a public information service in reference to film distribution.

The committee will assist John Grierson, newly appointed government film commissioner, and Capt. F. C. Badgley, director of the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau.

Members of the interdepartmental committee are: F. C. Nunnick, director of the publicity and extension branch, department of agriculture; R. J. C. Stead, superintendent of parks and resources publicity, mines and resources department; Ray A. Brown, public relations representative of the labor department; Baden F. Farrell of the public relations branch of the post office department, H. F. S. Paisley, director of publicity, fisheries department; Major R. J. Whitelaw, general staff, national defense department, and D. Leo Dolan, chief of the Canadian travel bureau, transport department.

Columbia at Victoria to Undergo Improvements

VICTORIA, B. C.—Remodeling is due to get underway for the Columbia Theatre, one of the oldest picture houses on the Pacific coast, it has been announced by Ralph Calladine, manager of the Plaza and Columbia theatres here. The name will be changed to the Rio.

Interior changes will include new seats, one large balcony to replace the old-fashioned side balcony, projection equipment.

WINNIPEG

WINNIPEG'S newest neighborhood theatre, the Paris, was opened last Friday by Mayor George C. MacLean of St. Boniface. The house, which seats 700, is owned by H. Halparin and managed by his son.

The Rialto has been reseated and decorated . . . Doug Rosen, who recently resigned from Empire Universal, is opening an exhibitors service bureau here . . . Walter Grieve, who has been operating in Rivers and Elkhorn, has taken up residence here.

A. E. Zorn, western supervisor for FP here, has returned from an inspection trip through the western section of his territory . . . Ted Gould, for many years manager of Regal films, has been transferred to Toronto . . . Dave Griesdorf, UA manager, has been in Calgary.

Among visitors: Bob Rennie of Vitagraph; Joe Collard, Metro auditor.

Harry Kohn of Vitagraph is back in the city as is Rose Apter, also of Vitagraph, back from a trip to the World's Fair . . . I. H. Allen of GN is making an extensive business trip through the west.

Members of the various exchanges along the Row have contributed generously to the annual drive in connection with the Winnipeg Community Chest.

Newly elected officers of the Manitoba Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n include Joe Pearson, president; Joe Freed, vice-president; Bob Hurwitz, honorary secretary; Max Heppner, treasurer; A. M. Knowles, secretary-treasurer. The directors are Don Gaul, N. Rothstein, H. A. Morton and F. H. Kershaw.

VANCOUVER

RALPH CALLADINE will close his Columbia Theatre in Victoria for a period of a month, or more, beginning November 15, to permit a general overhauling, including new equipment and redecoration.

John Moore, for 12 years the doortender at the Alma Theatre, was stricken at his post and died within the walls where he had so long, and faithfully served.

No intimation has yet been made of a new manager for the Vancouver office of Empire Universal, but a rumor is current that the present manager of the Winnipeg office is well in the running.

Harold Warren, Capitol Theatre, Port Alberni, was a recent visitor to Filmrow.

The projectionists are protesting the recent change in the regulations governing the number of operators in the projection booths; an order-in-council having changed the regulation, so as to permit one operator where a theatre operated 40 hours, or less, per week.

Pylon in Toronto Boasts of Most Modern Equipment

TORONTO—According to trade specialists, the most modern equipment of any theatre in the Dominion is said to be the installation in the Pylon Theatre, Toronto, recently opened by Ray Lewis, who also acquired the Avenue Theatre in the North End of the city not long ago.

The Pylon, seating 700 persons and fitted for stage presentations in addition to screen entertainment, has been equipped with the Simplex E-7 mechanism, featuring front and rear shutters and also employing Peerless Magnarc lamps and Hertner Universal transverter.

Simplex projection equipment has been installed in the new Regent, opened at Brockville by Famous Players Canadian Corp. with H. Wilson as manager, and in the Geneva Theatre at Orillia, Ont., which has been opened under the management of G. Garrett. This equipment was sold and installed by the General Theatre Supply Co., Toronto and Montreal.

New Cadet at Esquimalt Opening This Month

VICTORIA—Stan. B. Kennedy, well-known sportsman and business man from Selkirk, Man., intends to open the New Cadet Theatre in Esquimalt this month. The new 600-seat theatre is on the site of the former Rex Theatre and has been completely renovated. Modern plush cushion seats and the latest projection and sound equipment will be installed. Up-to-date air conditioning will add to the comfort of the theatre.

Esquimalt is the headquarters for both the Army and the Navy.

Warren Bell Drowned

TORONTO—The body of Warren Bell, theatre electrician and husband of a few hours of Gertrude Small, was found in Georgian Bay, some distance from where his bride's body was recovered.

Jesse James Backstage

Ottawa—The dressing room of an Ottawa Theatre was chosen by a bank robber as a convenient place to discard his disguise. Ushers found in it an abandoned trench coat, a leather brief case, and a toy pistol. These are supposed to have been part of the makeup when a robber held up the westend Ottawa branch of the Bank of Toronto.

MARITIMES

GERALD M. HOYT, Empire-Universal branch manager, and Mrs. Hoyt are receiving congratulations on the birth of their fourth child, a daughter, on October 30 at the Saint John General Hospital . . . Mrs. L. McKenzie, wife of Vitagraph's branch manager, and baby son "Kim" have returned home after an extended visit with Mrs. McKenzie's family in Toronto.

Walter M. Rowley, Empire-Universal booker, and Mrs. Rowley celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary November 2 . . . Gerard Boucher has been appointed manager of the Capitol Theatre, Edmundston, N. B. Joseph C. Lebel, the former manager, expects to take a position with the Canadian National Railways.

Recent visitors to Filmrow included S. E. O'Brien, C. K. Dowley and George Killam of the Yarmouth Theatre & Amusement Co., Ltd., Yarmouth, N. S., A. J. Mason and Lloyd Mason of the Capitol Theatre, Springhill, N. S., and M. E. Walker of the Gaiety Theatre, Halifax, N. S., Imperial Theatre, Sackville, N. B. and York Theatre, New Germany, N. S.

Gordon Lightstone Named Sales Manager of Regal

TORONTO—Promotion has come to Gordon Lightstone, manager of the Toronto branch, to the post of general sales manager of Regal Films, Ltd., with headquarters in Toronto, in succession to the late Walter F. Hayner.

Succeeding Lightstone at the Toronto branch office is Ted Gould, who is transferred from Winnipeg where he has been branch manager for 20 years. Abe Levy, office manager of the Winnipeg branch, is promoted to be manager of the Manitoba territory following the departure of Gould for the Ontario Capital. Miss Dorothy Wilson, who has been with Toronto Regal for the past 16 years, will continue as executive assistant to the Toronto manager.

Lightstone has been manager of the Regal office in Ontario for the past 14 years and is widely known in the Canadian film trade. A brother, Joseph Lightstone, is manager of the Orpheum Theatre at Montreal where he has been in the exhibition branch of the business for a long period.

Re-Signs Edmond O'Brien

HOLLYWOOD — Edmond O'Brien has drawn a new term acting contract at RKO.

VICTORIA

AFTER a very successful midnight preview at the Capitol Theatre "Hollywood Cavalcade" opened for a three-day showing. The main exploitation stunt was a parade of Nash cars in cooperation with the local Nash dealers. Banners were featured on the cars advertising the picture at the Capitol and displaying the words "Hollywood Stars Use Nash Cars."

The fish pond of the Atlas Theatre has been replaced by a tasteful display of green ferns on which the management has received many compliments from patrons.

For the showing of "Information Please" at the Capitol a tieup was arranged with Canada Dry Ginger Ale featuring banners on all their trucks announcing the picture.

A new Readagraph Sign on the Plaza Theatre has caused many comments.

Winnipeg Showmen Alert For Effective Tieups

WINNIPEG—That local showmen are alert to all business potentials is evidenced by the prevalence of tieups that are extensively and continuously effected.

At the Lyceum Eddie Newman is bolstering the usually low attendance of Monday nights with a stage feature, a form of a radio quiz, broadcast by CJRC and sponsored by a local bakery firm. The program runs for half an hour during which time various individuals pit their ability to answer questions against the emcee. At the first session a team of *Free Press* admen met a team of the paper's newsmen, a choice of contestants that certainly should not retard publicity on the paper's theatre and radio pages.

Harold Bishop screened the March of Time short, "The Fleets of England," for the naval reserve here and effected tieups with lending libraries for "Jamaica Inn."

Militia bulletins and canteens as advertising outlets were used to good advantage by Don Gauld to obtain the patronage of five parties of soldiers, over 500 men, for the Metropolitan's showing of "U-Boat 29."

"Inside the Maginot Line" Gets Private Screening

TORONTO—The Palace at London, Ont., was the scene of a private screening of "Inside the Maginot Line," reissued March of Time release, before a large gathering of officers of the Canadian department of national defense and unit commanders of the Canadian active service force which is in training for duty in France.

The special showing, to which the public was not admitted, was conducted by Manager Jack Simmons of the Palace in cooperation with military authorities.

Wilbert Leonard Stewart

TORONTO—A heart attack proved fatal to Wilbert Leonard "Bill" Stewart, owner and manager of the Rex Theatre in London, Ont. Stewart was 70 years old.

FN (——) 111 Minutes Rel. Nov. 25, '39

One of the top-rate films to come from the Warner lot, replete with elements that will keep audiences glued to their seats. The finish is well handled; although it may be surprising to some, it could not logically be otherwise. The story by James Hilton is well-known, the performance by a sterling cast could not be better, and Edmund Goulding's direction is sincere and full of warmth. It is an emotional picture which tells the story of a small-town British doctor, Paul Muni, his objections to his wife's disciplinary measures toward their son, the entrance of Jane Bryan as governess and the suspicions which grow because of the doctor's interest in her. There is a tragic ending resulting from a mischievous deed by Raymond Severn, the young son, whose father never learns the truth.

Paul Muni, Jane Bryan, Flora Robeson, Una O'Connor, Raymond Severn, Montague Love.

We Are Not Alone F Drama

Paramount (3911) 85 Minutes Rel. Nov. 24, '39

Still another entry into the family picture field, this specializes in the homespun atmosphere, humor and pathos which have contributed so substantially to the popularity of others of its ilk—usually of the series variety—although overproduction and too many maudlin sequences seriously handicap its effectiveness. Enough material and situations, little of which reflects originality, are included in the screenplay to have provided for at least two features. Consequently the entertaining moments of the film—and they are many—are sandwiched between layers of extraneous footage. The cast is highly competent, special mention being due Veteran Frank Craven and Moppet Mary Thomas, but might have been more impressive under more favorable productional and directional conditions. Ralph Murphy directed.

Fay Bainter, Frank Craven, Edmund Lowe, Genevieve Tobin, Mary Thomas, Gloria Carter, Scotty Beckett.

Our Neighbors—The Carters F Drama

20th-Fox (010) 62 Minutes Rel. Oct. 6, '39

Life in the tenements comes in for some dissection by a not very discerning group of observers. The result is a synthetic melodrama with little to recommend aside from the role of a program filler. The film employs the flash-back method with fairly good effect. Moral of the story is there is some good even in the worst of us. Object of the moral is Edward Norris, gangster, who is shot by his own mob when he finds the girl they kidnaped is his daughter. There are considerable more ramifications, including the romance between Kane Richmond, a policeman, and Amanda Duff, sister of the gangster. In addition, June Gale, the gangster's wife, has two country cousins who come to live with her. All are affected by the stormy career of Norris. Henry Armetta plays the gangster's father. Ricardo Cortez directed.

Kane Richmond, Amanda Duff, June Gale, Edward Norris, Henry Armetta, Frank Reicher, Rex Downing, Jim Butler.

The Escape F Melodrama

Universal (3002) 84 Minutes Rel. Nov. 10, '39

Gifted Deanna Durbin attains young womanhood without missing a stride in the entertainment and money-making pace which has marked the several features she has made under the inspired producer-director guidance of Joe Pasternak and Henry Koster respectively. If comparisons are possible, her latest vehicle can probably be pegged as her all-time best with every probability that it will fare accordingly in grosses and popularity. An unqualified but streamlined Cinderella story, it affords the young star an excellent opportunity to utilize her magnificent singing voice and at the same time to demonstrate her growing talents as a topflight actress. In every detail the feature measures to the highest production standards. Helen Parrish is outstanding in a thoroughly fine supporting cast.

Deanna Durbin, Robert Stack, Eugene Pallette, Helen Parrish, Lewis Howard, Leatrice Joy, Kathleen Howard.

First Love F Romantic Comedy

Universal (4026) 63 Minutes Rel. Dec. 1, '39

A simple musical that breezes along, measuring up nicely as a companion feature. The story is on the weak side, but the film has its moments of gayety and comedy. It has to do with a group of oldtime show girls who head for Broadway when the home they lived at goes bankrupt. A wise-cracking former vaudvellian, Cecil Cunningham, heads the group. When a gambling friend's night club is wrecked by a raid, the women put on a show to save the club, themselves from a vagrancy charge, and the gambler from extinction by another gambler. Connie Moore and Johnny Downs are teamed up for the juvenile heart interest. An appealing actress, Miss Moore delivers some vocal numbers in a pleasant style. Edgar Kennedy scores as the judge. The supporting cast is good. Albert S. Rogell produced and directed.

Constance Moore, Johnny Downs, Cecil Cunningham, Hedda Hopper, Marjorie Rambeau, Edgar Kennedy.

Laugh It Off F Musical

Universal (4054) 60 Minutes Rel. Dec. 8, '39

Action locale of the latest in the adventures of Richard Arlen and Andy Devine shifts to the north woods. The film maintains the same entertainment level, which is just about fair. Arlen is a local fur trapper who falls for glamorous Kay Sutton, sister of a gangster who has shifted his scene of operations. The gang hijack the trappers working under the smooth guidance of Reed Hadley, who poses as a mining engineer. Arlen is blinded to what is going on because of his infatuation for Miss Sutton. When he is caught with the stolen furs, Arlen refuses to divulge how they happened to be in his possession. Thanks to the efforts of Andy Devine, who is a member of the Northwest Mounted Police, Arlen is saved from extinction by the gang. Christy Cabanne directed.

Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Anne Gwynne, Kay Sutton, Jerry Marlowe, Reed Hadley, Joseph Sawyer.

Man from Montreal F Action Drama

Columbia (1013) 69 Minutes Rel. Nov. 9, '39

A worthy successor to its two predecessors, this third effort in the series based upon Chic Young's comic strip should account well for itself on the black side of the ledger. Like the previous "Blondie" features, this one rises above its cost classification through its faithfully light-hearted interpretation of the feather-brained Bumsteads. The laughter-laden story of Dagwood's $90,000 "mistake" and the manner in which Baby Dumpling leads him and Blondie out of a seemingly hopeless muddle will bring grins, chuckles and laughter to every member of the family. The combination of the following created by the comic strip, the previous productions in the series, and its own whimsy, should make this an asset to any marquee. Frank R. Strayer directed.

Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms, Daisy, Danny Mummert, Jonathan Hale, Robert Middlemass.

Blondie Brings Up Baby F Comedy

Paramount (——) 69 Minutes Rel. Dec. 8, '39

Tito Guizar's name and songs and a fundamentally sound western story with a Mexican flavor are combined by Producer Harry Sherman to provide what should be highly popular fare for juvenile audiences and western fans, and at least acceptable entertainment for all age classifications. Thespic honors are shared by Guizar and Alan Mowbray. The well-balanced yarn, based on "Double-Dyed Deceiver," by the late O. Henry, deals with Guizar's impersonation of the long-missing son and heir of a family of Mexican land-barons, and his subsequent doublecross of his partner-in-crime, Mowbray. Difficult to digest is the deceiver's deception of the missing man's mother, but audiences are apt to overlook this in a production which in all other respects adroitly employs action, plot, and music in the most pleasant proportions. E. D. Venturini directed.

Tito Guizar, Gale Sondergaard, Alan Mowbray, Jane Clayton, Emma Dunn, Minor Watson, Chris Martin.

The Llano Kid F Western

M-G-M (11) 81 Minutes Rel. Nov. 10, '39

A clumsy mixture of alleged sophisticated and slapstick comedy, its laughs are few and its entertaining moments are fewer. Robert Taylor in the lead is woefully miscast and pitifully helpless in a part which calls for the most subtle comedy approach. Greer Garson fares but little better against the odds of an impossible and aimless screenplay. Lew Ayres garners what few Thespic honors the film affords. The farce motivation deals with two pals, both in love with the same girl, who suddenly marries Taylor while engaged to Ayres. The marriage hits stormy going and Ayres nobly, and with the help of an aphasia-inducing drug, becomes the combination cupid and peace-maker. Norman Z. McLeod directed.

Robert Taylor, Greer Garson, Lew Ayres, Billie Burke, Reginald Owen, Henry Travers, Sara Haden.

Remember? F Farce Comedy

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Escape"**

This is the type of film to tie up with community groups which sponsor boys' clubs and the like. The picture has a sequence which deals with kids joining a Community Boys' Club. Lobby display should be constructed with idea to conveying slums background. Stills should be mounted accordingly. In certain spots it would be wise to give prominent mention to Armetta who has a wide following. Heralds which depict some of the action scenes should be distributed widely.

CATCHLINES:

Can Tenement Kids Ever Come Clean?

A Saga of a Horse and Buggy Doctor of the Slums.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Man from Montreal"**

Arlen and Devine get top billing here. Cutouts of the two stars should be generously displayed in the lobby. The title lends itself easily to a street ballyhoo stunt. A man should be attired in a coonskin hat and other outdoor clothes. The sign he carries should read: "I'm the 'Man from Montreal.' You can see me at ..... Theatre." If possible, arrange for window display at one of the fur stores. Heralds carrying features of Arlen and Devine should be distributed widely.

CATCHLINES:

Hijacking the Fur Trappers . . . New Scourge of the North Woods.

She Trapped the Trapper . . . Then the Action Started.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Remember?"**

The marquee strength of the Taylor-Garson-Ayres combination is the biggest asset. Be sure and let prospective patrons know that Miss Greer is the same girl who was such a hit in "Mr. Chips." Numerous contests and tieups are suggested by the title. For example, a "Remember?" contest conducted by the local newspaper in which prizes are offered the most interesting pictures of early days in your city, which pictures can be used for a lobby display.

CATCHLINES:

A Triple Threat Against the Blues as This Star Trio Cavorts Through the Raciest, Spiciest Farce Comedy of the Season.

Don't Forget to Remember That Taylor-Greer-Ayres Are Here With the Biggest Assortment of Laughs Ever Captured in a Can of Celluloid.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Our Neighbors—the Carters"**

Give this the exploitation treatment accorded other "family" series such as the "Hardys" and the "Jones Family." Fay Bainter, Frank Craven and Edmund Lowe should have the marquee mention. Prepare special throwsheets and mail them to every family named Carter in your community, inviting them to see the film at reduced rates. Work out merchandising tieups on various types of "family" articles such as furniture, foods and housing. Ballyhoo the picture as the first in a new series.

CATCHLINES:

You'll Fall in Love With Your New Film Neighbors—The Carters—For Their Joys and Sorrows Are Just Like Yours.

Introducing the Carters . . . And Hitting a New High in Downright Human Appeal.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Laugh It Off"**

A smart advertising campaign can be aimed at middle-aged women. It should be built on the "life begins at 40" idea, pointing out how a group of former show girls made themselves helpful to other people. Recordings of the songs in the film should be used to plug the picture in advance. In the billing, Kennedy should not be overlooked. A cutout of him should be used for lobby display. Stills of Miss Moore can be used for retail store tieups.

CATCHLINES:

Now Is the Time to Be Gay . . . See "Laugh It Off."

Have You Got Troubles . . . Laugh It Off.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Llano Kid"**

Concentrate exploitation on the name of Tito Guizar, already well-known in radio, concert stage and Spanish films, giving him a ballyhoo buildup as newest of the western stars. The southwestern locale suggests lobby decorations in the Mexican manner, including Mexican music over the lobby p. a. system and dressing attendants in sombreros and serapes. Tie up with music stores on Guizar's phonograph recordings. Effect tieups with libraries on western novels, such as those by Zane Grey and Eugene Manlove Rhodes.

CATCHLINES:

There's a New Screen Thrill in Store for You in This Excitement-Packed Story of the Old West.

Introducing the Llano Kid, Whose Name Struck Terror Into the Hearts of Wrong-Doers . . . And Adoration Into the Hearts of the Ladies.

SELLING ANGLES: **"We Are Not Alone"**

Send out special invitations to medical societies and have their members attend a special showing. You should hold a benefit performance for a hospital. Send out special circulars to doctors in the directory and place window cards in drug stores. In order to get medical attendance, put on special shows after regular office hours. Newspapers may comment in their editorial columns if you present the angle that this picture should be seen by the hard boiled as well as the sympathetic.

CATCHLINES:

He Gave His Life to His Work—and Was Misunderstood by His Wife.

Paul Muni Greater Than Ever in a Role Which Will Touch Your Heartstrings.

Two Hearts Kindle Their Love as They Face Death.

SELLING ANGLES: **"First Love"**

Deanna, of course, for the marquee—and big. She sings four numbers, all established favorites, particularly "Home Sweet Home," suggesting countless tieups with music stores, radio, etc. Acquaint yourself, through the exchange, with available merchandising tieups made possible through Durbin-endorsed products. Since much of the action revolves around a girls' school, special matinees and group rates for adolescent girl students, and their teachers, should help. There is also the orphan angle, exploitation of which is obvious.

CATCHLINES:

The World's Singing Sweetheart Grows Up . . . And You Will Love Her More Than Ever in Her First Young Woman's Role.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Blondie Brings Up Baby"**

Audiences for this are ready-made because of the popularity and wide circulation of the comic strip from which it is derived and the first two features in the series. Tieup with newspapers on a combination ad for the strip and the picture. Dagwood is in the building business . . . conduct a scale model-home building contest for youngsters (prizes from an architect or builder) with winning entries displayed in bank windows. This also should be good for newspaper space.

CATCHLINES:

Dagwood Thought Every Apartment Should Have a Doghouse Attached . . . Until He Found Which Room Was Reserved for Him!

Your Favorite Comic Characters Come to Life Again—Blondie, Dagwood, and Baby Dumpling—In Their Most Nit-Wit Adventures Yet!

Reviews

Republic (905) **72 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 10, '39**

Angles here are aimed at the family trade. Notable marquee attraction is Edward Ellis in the role of a small town lawyer. On the adverse side, the film is bogged down with too many "homey" touches and elementary explanations. Ellis' acting lifts the picture a few notches in audience appeal. The calm of Ellis' routine is disturbed when a gangster case comes under his jurisdiction as district attorney. But the gangster has certain information about Ellis' daughter, Anita Louise, which stops Ellis. After the fiasco, Ellis' prospective son-in-law, Robert Baldwin, is elected to the position. With Ellis' help, they get the gangster. But first Ellis' daughter is accused of murder with a trial scene climaxing the film. Dudley Murphy directed.

Edward Ellis, Anita Louise, Robert Baldwin, Harold Huber, Beverly Roberts, Margaret Hamilton, Clem Bevans.

Main Street Lawyer F — Drama

Producers Pictures (——) **90 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 15, '39**

A timely picture, if ever there was one, with much of the material appearing in the newspapers filmed to give some realization of what is happening in Germany. Most of the action, however, takes place before the outbreak of the current conflict. As for the story, it tells of the activities of a small band of National Socialists, in which Roland Drew is a guiding figure; how most of the group are apprehended and thrown into a concentration camp and the sufferings they undergo there. Drew manages to escape the camp and flees to Switzerland with his wife, there presumably to continue his work, to fight for freedom of the German people, to free themselves from the yoke of a tyrant and despot pictured as ruining the country. Sherman Scott directed.

Roland Drew, Steffi Duna, Greta Granstedt, Allan Ladd, Lucien Prival, Vernon Dent, John Ellis, George Rosener.

Hitler—Beast of Berlin A — Drama

World Pictures (SR) **52 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 1, '39**

Here is a novel idea in entertainment that is just above average. Made up of a series of recitals by prominent artists, it also includes ballet. Presentation is in poor taste and special effects tend to cheapen the simplicity of musical interpretation. Blended process shots are not particularly striking. But for music lovers, there is Debussy, Weber, Shubert, Chopin, Albeniz, Monpeux and Faure. Concluding sequence is too revealing photography of the Paris Opera ballet. Beauty of the dance is not apparent nor is the dancers' appeal. Taken wholly, the film has its merits but only in a musical sense. It is strictly designed for the highbrows and probably will find its best reaction in that category.

Alfred Cortot, Gregor Piatigorsky, A. Brailowsky, Jacques Thibaud, Elisabeth Schumann, Serge Lifar.

The First Film Concert F — Mixed Concert

Columbia (9034) **62 Minutes** **Rel. Aug. 30, '39**

Cut and dried hinterland picture, the story of an old man, Fred Stone, who loved horses and stuck by them as fences came to the west and the wheat barons cut up the open range. A feud develops between Stone and Robert Warwick, the cereal king, which ends when Stone kills Warwick, because he believes the latter killed Konga, a wild stallion Stone raised from a colt. Romance is between Richard Fiske and Rochelle Hudson, Miss Hudson playing herself into second place to Stone for performance honors. Clips of the horse stampedes are good. Sam Nelson directed from Harold Shumate's original, and Wallace MacDonald produced. It is not exactly a western, as westerns are normally patterned, but it has the action coupled with a warm, human story.

Fred Stone, Rochelle Hudson, Richard Fiske, Robert Warwick, Eddy Waller, Don Beddoe, George Cleveland.

Konga, the Wild Stallion F — Western Drama

Mayer & Burstyn (SR) **76 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

War, and what it stands for, receives a severe lashing in this unusual French film. It cries out in a slightly frenzied manner that now is the time to stop the mad march of civilization; and it proves its case very effectively. Made before the current war, the message assumes a more timely aspect here. It is a simple tale spun from the realm of fantasy. A veteran has one fixed idea—stopping the conflict. He symbolizes what his comrades die for and calls on them to prevent another carnage. The dead and mutilated rise from their graves to confront the world. There it ends. It is a striking experience done with passionate conviction, but somewhat weakened dramatically by the high emotional pitch. To Victor Francen goes credit for a great performance. Abel Gance directed.

Victor Francen, Line Noro, Marie Lou, Jean-Max, Paul Aimot, Rollin Andre Nox.

That They May Live (J'Accuse) F — Drama

Six Star (SR) **65 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

An experiment that is an experiment. Producer Harry Lynn, quite undaunted by his task, has taken the British production, "The Wandering Jew," and dubbed it with Yiddish dialogue. For the unknowing, there are explanatory subtitles in English. Much scissoring has been done on the original, regarded in some quarters anti-Semitic. The adaptation has been handled so as to achieve significance in the light of world conditions. Dramatically it concerns itself with a cabalistic (an ancient Hebrew cult) interpretation of the Messiah's plea for his salvation. The finished product resembles a series of tableaux which are knit together crudely by comments over the plight of the people of Isreal. Leading actors and actresses of the Yiddish stage are used to dub in the lines. Maurice Elvey directed.

Conrad Veidt, Peggy Ashcroft, Basil Gill, Marie Nevy, Ann Grey.

A People Eternal F — Drama

World Pictures (SR) **79 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 3, '39**

Jean Renoir, whose directorial achievements include "Grand Illusion," has in this film taken a number of facets from the form of the French Revolution and effectively worked them into a pattern of generally satisfactory historical drama. His scenario deals with the assault of the Parisian populace on the palace of Versailles after the Bastille has been stormed and the hectic days that followed when Prussian and Austrian troops were crossing the frontier to restore the monarchy. In keeping with the title the narrative emphasizes the activities of a battalion from Marseilles and the marching song. The settings, direction and performances are convincing enough. It should click as historical narrative, but there is that intangible, but vital, something that is lacking in entertainment calibre here.

Pierre Renoir, Lise Delamare, Louis Jouvet, Andrex, Adrissin, Paul Dullac, Jenny Helia.

Marseillaise F — Historical Drama

Standard Pictures (——) **80 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

George Eliot's immortal classic, "The Mill on the Floss" comes to the screen as an absorbing narrative. It is a well-acted piece that moves in a deliberate manner. In this British production, attention is mainly focused on the re-creation of the characters as so vividly portrayed by Eliot. General appeal is difficult to determine but the film should go over nicely in the right situations. The film, fortunately, boasts the presence of Geraldine Fitzgerald as Maggie Tulliver whose recent performances have established her as an actress of charm and authority. The story concerns itself with the antagonism between the Tulliver and Wakem families. Mr. Tulliver is a proud and honest miller who is ruined by the legal chicanery of Lawyer Wakem. Innocent sufferers are Maggie and Philip Wakem who lose their lives in the flood. Tim Whelan directed.

Geraldine Fitzgerald, Frank Lawton, Victoria Hopper, Fay Compton, James Mason, Griffith Jones, Sam Livesey.

The Mill on the Floss F — Drama

UFA-Carl Froelich (SR) **93 Minutes** **Rel. Nov., '39**

Reputedly based on the life of Tchaikowsky, this film aside from a fair dramatic content, has much in musical lines to offer. Many of the composer's major works are rendered by a full, expert symphony orchestra. The recording is first rate. As for the story a foreword states that it is not necessarily accurate. It concerns the composer's struggles for recognition. To this end he is aided by two women. One is a dancer whose love he cannot reciprocate, the other, an old flame, is married to an ogre of a man. But in spite of these romantic hindrances, Tchaikowsky manages to triumph with his music. Aside from the story that is generally tragic the film manages a large number of fine moments, musical and otherwise.

Zarah Leander, Aribert Wascher, Hans Stowe, Marika Rokk, Leo Slezak, Fritz Rasp.

Es War Eine Rauschende Ballnacht A — Music Drama

(The Life of Tchaikowsky)

SELLING ANGLES: **"The First Film Concert"**

In localities where the concert stage is an important contributor to the entertainment the advance advertising should be keyed toward garnering a section of that audience. The name value of the performers herein is not to be overlooked. An attractive trailer can be created that will give brief snatches of the various compositions. Music critics should be invited to look in on the doings and their impressions suitably exploited. Window cards in music stores will help. Attracting the attention of the artistic clientele is the best bet.

CATCHLINES:

Music of the Masters Played by Foremost Artists of This Age.

A Gala Film Concert Featuring Famous Performers and Music From Chopin to Weber.

SELLING ANGLES: **"A People Eternal"**

Exploitation should be mainly directed toward attracting Jewish audiences. The novel departure in adapting a film should be good for a few publicity breaks. In distributing heralds, have Yiddish copy on one side and English on the other. Jewish organizations should be contacted and induced to sponsor a benefit show for some worthwhile charity. Conrad Veidt should be given top billing. A large blowup of the star might be used for a lobby display. Prominent mention should be given to the English subtitles.

CATCHLINES:

The Struggle of a People Eternal.

An Unusual Spectacle With Thousands in the Cast.

SELLING ANGLES: "Es War Eine Rauschende Ballnacht"

In every sense this film is satisfactory entertainment. The pity of its country of origin, Germany. Its audience due to this unfortunate state of affair will be limited. A sterling performance of Tchaikowsky's works by the Berlin State Opera Orchestra is rare. The production has all the fine attributes of German productions of another day. If it is taken as a purely artistic offering it will be well. But it is doubtful. There are subtitles in English.

CATCHLINES:

The Story of Tchaikowsky . . . Torn Between Two Loves . . . He Went on to the Heights of Musical Greatness.

It Was a Night at a Ball That Precipitated the Great Music of Tchaikowsky to Its Immortal Place.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Hitler—Beast of Berlin"**

Bulletins on latest developments of the war and headlines from newspapers should be plastered all over the outside lobby. Contact various anti-Nazi leagues to see the picture. You can hold a benefit for some Jewish organizations, although the picture does not emphasize any racial angle, but merely devotes its story to the fight by a minority group against Hitler and his policy. You may even interest German-American societies, but certainly not those affiliated with the Bund. A ballyhoo truck screaming the title around main thoroughfares and by-ways will attract considerable attention.

CATCHLINES:

Revolt in Germany . . . See the National Socialists at Work in Germany . . . See What Happens to Opponents of Hitler's Regime in Germany Today . . . Inside Facts on Concentration Camps.

SELLING ANGLES: **"That They May Live"**

Here is an anti-war film that should be easy to exploit. For the opening night, prominent people interested in the cause of peace should be invited. Their endorsements of the film should be advertised and displayed in the lobby. Dummies representing wounded soldiers could be grouped together under a large question mark. Implements of war can be strewn about. Mention should be given that Pierre van Paassen, the noted author, wrote the subtitles. This should be good for book store displays. Victor Francen rates top billing.

CATCHLINES:

Must They Die in Vain?

An Indictment of War That Is an Unforgettable Screen Experience.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Mill on the Floss"**

Exploitation and advertising campaigns should be aimed at schools and other affiliated groups. A special screening should be arranged for principals and heads of the Parent-Teacher groups. An arrangement might be made with high school English teachers to have their students review the film as an assignment. Book marks should be distributed at public and circulating libraries. A window display should be arranged with a leading book store. The public library might be interested in arranging its own display with stills from the picture.

CATCHLINES:

George Eliot's Immortal Classic . . . On the Screen for the First Time.

One of the Greatest Stories of All Time.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Main Street Lawyer"**

A lobby display that should create interest is one dealing with Edward Ellis. Stills of his previous screen roles should be reproduced with copy asking patrons to identify the characterizations in Ellis' climb to stardom. A box can be placed near the display with coupons to be filled out by patrons. Free tickets should go to those guessing correctly. Stills of attractive Anita Louise should be utilized for women's store tieups. The local Postal Telegraph office should be contacted for tieups on Photo News service bulletins.

CATCHLINES:

Gangland Meets Its Master in a Small Town Lawyer Betrayed by His Own Honor.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Konga, the Wild Stallion"**

This is a cinch for the school kids, a honey for the weekend bookings. Oldsters will see in it possibilities, because of Fred Stone and his characterization as the old man who rebels against progress and wants to keep his horses which he regards as his friends. Grab displays in all the family eyed spots. Might tie up with bakers, grocers, etc. to stick ducat in every 20th order, with stunt ballyhooed along these lines: "Hurry home with a loaf of 'so-and-so's' bread, and then hurry back to the ..... theatre to see 'Konga, the Wild Stallion'," with accompanying copy indicating the order itself may provide a free ride.

CATCHLINES:

Konga, Stampeding Wild Horse, Causes a Bitter Range War.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Marseillaise"**

France is at war today. And this film is a story of the birth pangs of the republic. The connection for exploitation purposes is obvious. The Jean Renoir directorial efforts in "Grand Illusion" are noteworthy. Louis Jouvet, of "Carnival in Flanders" and numerous others, a high ranking player in the French cinema, rates attention. The decadence of the monarchy as exemplified by Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette should receive attention in the advertising.

CATCHLINES:

The Stirring Story of How the French Anthem Was Twisted From a Marching Song Into a Paean of Victory.

A Vividly Filmed Story of the Early Days of the French Republic.

Short Subject Reviews

Smithsonian Institute

(Washington Parade No. 3)

Columbia 10½ *Mins.*

As the title implies, this reel is devoted to the world-famous building in the nation's capitol. Milestones in the progress of this country abound in such profusion that an observer can hardly fail to be impressed with the significance of each and every item that has been honored by acceptance in the institution. Replicas of prehistoric monsters, many examples of classic sculpture and art, relics in the realm of industry and commerce, uniforms worn by George Washington and the dresses of some of the "first ladies of the land" are among the vast collection.

All-American Blondes

Columbia (All-Star Comedies) 16½ *Mins.*

Rather obvious, but attuned to Andy Clyde's particular talents, this comedy moves along at a fairly nice clip. In rather broad lines, it takes Andy, embryonic basketball coach, through a series of misadventures until he receives an offer to manage another team. He discovers, amid mixed and amusing emotions, that the team is made up of girls. In the midst of his troubles he is threatened by a pair of gamblers who want him to "throw" the big game.

Mountain Ears

Columbia (Color Rhapsody) 7½ *Minutes*

This is an animated takeoff of a popular magazine series of cartoons depicting the adventures of a group of bearded hillbillies. The result is about 50-50, considering the producer had a comparatively original set of characters, yet rung in some well-worn business. The group goes through the typical meanderings of sleepy mountaineers, but comes to life rapidly when food and a mischievous youngster enter the scene. In Technicolor.

John E. Saxe, 66, Dies While on Miami Visit

MILWAUKEE—John E. Saxe, 66, retired exhibitor, died at Miami, Fla., where he had gone a week earlier because of ill health. He was a brother of the late Thomas Saxe, who died Dec. 16, 1938.

Saxe, with his brother, Tom, started the first nickelodeon here and from this beginning established a circuit which at one time included more than 40 houses in Wisconsin. At the time of his death, Saxe was no longer actively connected with the Saxe Amusement Management, Inc., which operates six local houses.

A native of Newbridge, Ireland, Saxe is survived by a son, Thomas Saxe jr., Pittsburgh; four daughters, Mrs. J. C. Lamb, Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. A. C. Maxfield, Pittsburgh; Mrs. William J. McLaughlin, New York City, and Mrs. James Bannen jr., Milwaukee; two brothers, William, Minneapolis, Frank, Milwaukee, and six sisters.

SHORT OF THE WEEK

Busy Little Bears

Paramount (Paragraphic V9-2) 10 Mins.

Not because of, but perhaps in spite of, the complete absence of human characters—save a brief span where a family becomes an incidental adjunct—this camera adventure with three little bear cubs stacks up as one of the most delightful bits of screen divertisement seen this season. Essentially, the reel is nothing but a very expert camera trailing the cubs through the woods and finally into a ranch house kitchen. But their ingratiating inquisitiveness, adorable antics and otherwise gleeful meanderings are such to engender the warmest possible reception. The cubs' episodes include woodland meetings with a badger, a porcupine, owl, skunk and eagle. If the bears' reactions during these contacts are not amusing enough to tickle the funny bone, there's always the pithy comment of the off-screen commentator.



Holland and the Zuyder Zee

Columbia (Columbia Tour) 9½ *Mins.*

The very expert camera of Andre De La Varre again is in evidence as this charming travel subject unwinds. Truly one of the most picturesque countries in the world, Holland and its canals, windmills, peace loving folk, colorful costumes, beautiful landscaping and industrial activity receive understanding photographic treatment here.

An All-Shorts Program One Day in Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX. — Uncommon in these days of double and triple feature bills are programs with sufficient short subject fare to satisfy the film tastes of most fans of abbreviated product. So the management of the Palace Theatre here, one day last week, came out with an uncommon program—an all-short-subjects show.

The Book of Books

Columbia (Happy Hour) 10 *Mins.*

A noteworthy effort to fasten attention on the symbol of Christendom, this subject dealing with the Bible is certain to strike a cordant note among the millions who seek the serenity of religious faith. The producer has woven a fascinating and beautiful pattern of a delicate subject by emphasizing the ease with which the Bible has become available to people in all walks of life, in contrast to the scarcity of the document in earlier ages. This is accomplished by pointing up the achievements of the machine age in speeding up book production.

Screen Snapshots

Columbia (Series 19, No. 2) 10 *Mins.*

Glorifying some of the film capitol's unsung personalities, this subject dealing with all manner of animals that have appeared in pictures strikes a different note for this series. It has a rather interesting composition, too, in that it reveals the manner in which trainers develop the talents of lions, dogs, birds, etc. The usual complement of stars is seen as the pets are put through their paces.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Movietone News, No. 15: Germany's war fleet, snow cruiser lands in ditch, anti-aircraft guns tested, Queen of England rallies Red Cross, fashions, game sanctuary, Fordham beats Pitt, Cornell stuns Buckeyes, Michigan trims Yale, Irish beat Carnegie Tech, UCLA clips Oregon.

News of the Day, No. 213: R. A. F. active in France, royalty inspects "air raid special," Wilhelmina looks to Holland's defenses, grand finale for World's Fairs, endurance fliers set record, Cornell upsets Buckeyes, Fordham beats Pitt.

Paramount News, No. 18: World's Fairs close, snow cruiser lands in ditch, Finland grim, Cornell beats Ohio State, Notre Dame beats Carnegie Tech, Wildcats celebrate Illini triumph, Michigan trims Yale.

RKO Pathe News, No. 30: R. A. F. active on front, royalty active in war and peace, snow buggy gets going, Australian wool gathering, endurance fliers set record, Cornell and Notre Dame win.

Universal Newsreel, No. 819: British fliers active in France, endurance fliers set record, New York World's Fair ends, snow-mobile cracks up, Chinook kennels, Cornell, Notre Dame, Fordham win.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Movietone News, No. 16: Radio City project finished, German aviators given military funeral, forest fire fighters try parachutes, scotch is plentiful, collect autos in Madrid, Chinese fashions, New Zealand by air, Lew Lehr, North Carolina beats Penn, Australian timber toppers.

News of the Day, No. 214: U-boat scare off America, army tests air defenses, fashions from China, Challedon wins, Diamond Belt bouts, North Carolina trims Penn.

Paramount News, No. 19: Challedon wins, finish Radio City project, Chinese fashion show, typhoon brings Shanghai floods, presenting Captain Bob Bartlett, Jim (Sweet) Lalanne of North Carolina.

RKO Pathe News, No. 31: Germany completes Polish conquest, Radio City construction ends, Chinese fashion show, Giants beat Dodgers, Challedon wins.

Universal Newsreel, No. 820: Scenes of Finland, Radio City completed, flood grips Shanghai, fire fighters drop from sky, Oriental fashion show, champ walkers, tug-o-war ends in mud bath, races 106 yards for touchdown, LSU trips Vanderbilt.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia

Clouds Over Europe

When a company advertises Laurence Olivier as the star of the "Citadel" on its one sheets, an exhibitor should know it's building up a stinker. But I let the title get me down and now I'm swearing off foreign-made films again. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Golden Boy

Absolutely a pip of a show with the supporting cast doing as well as the principals. A fine balance of humor, pathos and action. Hardly any drag to the interest and director did full justice to an excellent story. Business above average but not what the picture deserved. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375.—Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

Good Girls Go to Paris

Very entertaining but was not good enough to pull in the Sunday crowd. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Law Comes to Texas

I wouldn't write about a western as they are usually the same, but I do want to vote for the sorriest piece of film ever taken and this one is it. It wouldn't make a good fire. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 280.—Burris Smith, Imperial Theatre, Pocahontas, Ark.

Let Us Live

Good picture, a little depressing, but true to life. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State Theatre, Lewellen, Neb.

First National

Angels Wash Their Faces

The picture was very good. Probably Ann Sheridan's best picture. Did fairly good on it and the Dead End Kids are very good too. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 150,000. Capacity: 600.—Charles Prakas, Rivoli Theatre, Bridgeport, Conn.

Cowboy Quarterback

Terrible! Who ever conceived such a plot? We would like to see Marie Wilson in a glamorous picture some time. Believe she would make good. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Each Dawn I Die

Ho hum. Another prison story. Wonder when Warner will be able to find anything else to make. Fair picture with good stars, but the public sure is tired of the same story. Business only fair. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,500. Capacity: 260.—C. W. Ritenour, Milford Theatre, Milford, Ill.

Each Dawn I Die

This picture fooled me as I have always done a fairly good business on Cagney. This time, however, I did poor. Picture okay. Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 4,100. Capacity: 550.—H. B. Ram, Patricia Theatre, Aiken, S. C.

Each Dawn I Die

A really good prison picture with Cagney and Raft both showing to excellent advantage. Attendance not up to expectation, chiefly because of lack of feminine appeal, I believe. Lots of thrilling action to keep you on the edge of the seat. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375.—Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

Yes, My Darling Daughter

Played this one late, but did better than average business on it. A very entertaining picture which was enjoyed by everyone who saw it. Sat., Sun. Weather: Good. Admission: 15-5. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 400.—Bill Browder, Strand Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Goodbye, Mr. Chips

Exceptional picture but certainly not a boxoffice draw. Will attract the higher class patronage, but the rank and file who make up our audiences would not go for it. The performance of Donat was wonderful. Sun., Mon. Weather: Cool. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Lady of the Tropics

Not as good as led to believe, but still got by by doing nearly average business. Tues., Wed. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,500. Capacity: 260.—C. W. Ritenour, Milford Theatre, Milford, Ill.

Thunder Afloat

This packs a wallop from start to finish and if yours is a small town patronage, you're in for a business surprise. It's plenty good. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 280.—Burris Smith, Imperial Theatre, Pocahontas, Ark.

Wizard of Oz, The

Nice show. Better than average business. OK on any day in the week. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,500. Capacity: 260.—C. W. Ritenour, Milford Theatre, Milford, Ill.

Monogram

Wolf Call

Here is a very nice picture, a clean, wholesome story, good acting and John Carroll and Movita are swell as a team. Many favorable comments. OK Monogram, give us more good ones. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cool. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 7,500. Capacity: 600.—L. J. Boudreau, Grant Theatre, Eveleth, Minn.

Paramount

Beau Geste

Paramount shouldn't have allocated this tops for our town as it isn't that good. Definitely does not appeal to women but the men went for it. Sun., Mon. Weather: Cold. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 280.—Burris Smith, Imperial Theatre, Pocahontas, Ark.

Heritage of the Desert

Sets a standard for western producers. Customers praised this picture for story, players and scenic background. Fine support from Russell Hayden. Played this with supporting action feature. Saturday. Weather: Clear. Admission: 35-10. Country patronage. Population: 2,000. Capacity: 400.—George E. Harvey, Arbuckle Theatre, Arbuckle, Cal.

Honeymoon in Bali

One of the best in a long time. It'll do business, so grab it. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 280.—Burris Smith, Imperial Theatre, Pocahontas, Ark.

Man About Town

Good on any day and not bad at B. O. First time Benny has drawn here and believe that "Rochester" put him over. Sun., Mon. Weather: Rainy. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,500. Capacity: 260.—C. W. Ritenour, Milford Theatre, Milford, Ill.

Our Leading Citizen

It gets my vote as Bob's best. Good at boxoffice, too. He can go places with good stories. Give me another. Sun., Mon. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,500. Capacity: 260.—C. W. Ritenour, Milford Theatre, Milford, Ill.

Our Leading Citizen

Good picture that played to fair business. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

Our Leading Citizen

Personally enjoyed the picture, but that don't buy tickets. The cash customers were very, very few. Burns is no draw here at all. Tues., Wed. Weather Fair. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 4,100. Capacity: 550.—H. B. Ram, Patricia Theatre, Aiken, S. C.

Republic

In Old Caliente

As I have said many times before, Roy Rogers is Ace High here and a money-maker. His pictures are always good. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cool. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 7,500. Capacity: 600.—L. J. Boudreau, Grant Theatre, Eveleth, Minn.

Man of Conquest

Every patron liked this picture, but the

boxoffice "take" was only about 85 per cent of the usual Sunday-Monday. Rental too high. Historicals never did well here. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 7,500. Capacity: 600.—L. J. Boudreau, Grant Theatre, Eveleth, Minn.

Trigger Pals

With Wayne in the leading role, this series is getting more popular. A good action picture which did very good weekend business. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-5. General patronage. Population: 5,500. Capacity: 400.—Bill Browder, Strand Theatre, Fort Payne, Ala.

Zero Hour

A swell picture but a bit too sophisticated for this patronage. Poor title to work on and limited exploitation. Rental too high and boxoffice too low. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Cool. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 7,500. Capacity: 600.—L. J. Boudreau, Grant Theatre, Eveleth, Minn.

RKO Radio

Boy Slaves

Fair picture to average business. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State Theatre, Lewellen, Neb.

Twelve Crowded Hours

Here is a good little action feature, but failed to draw. Richard Dix doesn't mean much at our boxoffice any more. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. Colored patronage. Population: 20,000. Capacity: 500.—W. C. Mathews, Frolic Theatre, Bessemer, Ala.

20th Century-Fox

It Could Happen to You

Not a bad picture but also not one to draw any business. It was not in the lowest classification where it should have been. Sat., Sun. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 850. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Frontier Marshal

Good picture for small town. Did good business. Tuesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,600. Capacity: 300.—E. M. Freiburger, Paramount Theatre, Dewey, Okla.

News Is Made at Night

This was a better picture than we expected but had no name draw and was allocated too high. Just another picture for the second half of dual bills. We'd like to tell the man who invented duals what we think of him. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Uncertain. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

News Is Made at Night

Fast-moving action picture with suspense, comedy and excitement. Definitely paced for small town Saturday showing. Audience enthusiastic. Played this with a Sherman western. Saturday. Weather: Clear. Admission: 35-10. Country patronage. Population: 2,000. Capacity: 400.—George E. Harvey, Arbuckle Theatre, Arbuckle, Cal.

Rains Came, The

Really isn't up to par relative to what Fox would have you believe. However, you couldn't go wrong giving it your best playing time. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 280.—Burris Smith, Imperial Theatre, Pocahontas, Ark.

Second Fiddle

Would have been fair in the lower allocation, but as a top bracket picture it's a misfit. Wed., Thurs. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Susannah of the Mounties

This little gal (Shirley Temple) is still good boxoffice in Hay Springs. This was not a picture which will build her up, but she doesn't need building here and the mediocre production will not hurt her much. Outdoor pictures are always well received. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

United Artists

Four Feathers

Backed by extra advertising, the picture did 25 per cent above normal business, although some of the patrons expressed themselves as disappointed. Color was good and there was action aplenty. A little too much agony in some spots and plot a little thin. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375.—Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

Winter Carnival

Just a middling picture. Nobody crabbed, nobody raved. Business below average. Characters good in their parts, but the story was lacking in zip or dash. Some of the outdoor scenic shots very good. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375.—Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

Universal

Rio

This is terrible. My idea of junk film. Better let 'em keep it on the shelf. Tuesday. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 280.—Burris Smith, Imperial Theatre, Pocahontas, Ark.

Warner Bros.

Daughters Courageous

Read "His Say" and set it out once, but finally played it on Sunday-Monday and it's OK. Did average business in a hard to please Sunday town. I liked it better than "Four Daughters." Weather: Cold. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,500. Capacity: 260.—C. W. Ritenour, Milford Theatre, Milford, Ill.

Hell's Kitchen

Just a nice program picture, but the Dead End Kids drew in extra business. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Spring, Neb.

King of the Underworld

A gangster picture that did fairly well, but these pictures don't have the drawing power they used to have. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 15-10. Colored patronage. Population: 20,000. Capacity: 500.—W. C. Mathews, Frolic Theatre, Bessemer, Ala.



"MR. SMITH" CONTINUES AS WEEK'S LEADER

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—LOS ANGELES 250

BABES IN ARMS—Cleveland, Milwaukee 160

BABES IN ARMS—Minneapolis, New Haven, Omaha 150

FIRST LOVE (dual)—Portland.....150

RETURN OF THE FROG (dual)—Cleveland 150

BABES IN ARMS—Philadelphia, Pittsburgh 140

DISPUTED PASSAGE—Denver 140

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON (dual)—Kansas City 140

EXTENDED RUNS

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, 25th wk., New York City.

End of a Day, 8th wk., Filmarte, New York City.

Harvest, 6th wk., World, New York City.

Babes in Arms, 4th wk., Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, Charlotte.

Jamaica Inn, 4th wk., New York City.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 3rd wk., New York City.

They Shall Have Music, 3rd wk., Minneapolis.

When Tomorrow Comes, 3rd wk., Minneapolis.

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox). 90
Carolina—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col).110
Imperial—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para)..... 90
State—**I Am a Criminal** (Rep), 1st half..... 90
State—**Trigger Finger** (Vic), 2nd half.....100

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd loop wk..... 85
Chicago—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), plus stage show. 90
Garrick—**Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M); **When Germany Surrendered** (Rule) 90
Oriental—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ); **The Under-Pup** (Univ), plus stage show..... 90
Palace—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), plus stage show, 2nd wk. 85
Roosevelt—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 100
State-Lake—**Island of Lost Men** (Para), plus stage show. 85
United Artists—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 3rd and last wk. 90

CINCINNATI

Albee—**The Real Glory** (UA) 130
Capitol—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk., held over 130
Keith's—**What a Life** (Para) 120
Lyric—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.....130
Palace—**At the Circus** (M-G-M) 120
Shubert—**Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO), plus stage show 130

CLEVELAND

Allen—**U-Boat 29** (Col) 100
Lake—**The Return of the Frog** (Select); **The Demon Barber** (Select) 150
Hippodrome—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. 120
Palace—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); Stage: Dead End Kids and Vaudeville 125
State—**At the Circus** (M-G-M) 65
Stillman—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk....160

DALLAS

Capitol—**Five Little Peppers** (Col), 1st half... 80
Capitol—**Television Spy** (Para) 2nd half..... 85
Majestic—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col) 125
Palace—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO), 1st half... 85
Palace—**The Real Glory** (UA), 2nd half.....110
Rialto—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 125
Tower—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.; **Cavalcade of Texas** (Special).....110

DENVER

Aladdin—**The Real Glory** (UA), after a wk. at the Denver 100
Broadway—**The Under-Pup** (Univ); **Mutiny on the Blackhawk** (Univ), after a wk. at the Paramount 85
Denham—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 140
Denver—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB).....110
Orpheum—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.... 95
Paramount—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ); **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (WB) 130
Rialto—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Hidden Power** (Col) 115

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Arizona Kid** (Rep); **Murder Is News** (Warwick) 55
Apollo—**Rio** (Univ); **Call a Messenger** (Univ)... 50
Circle—**What a Life** (Para); Joe E. Brown in person with stage show 120
Indiana—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB); **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (WB)..... 90
Loew's—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Scandal Sheet** (Col), 2nd wk. 125
Lyric—**Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox), plus Will Osborne Orch. stage show.. 90

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**20,000 Men a Year** (Univ)..... 70
Midland—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Those High Grey Walls** (Col).....140
Newman—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 90
Orpheum—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO)..... 80
Tower—**Hawaiian Nights** (Univ), plus stage show. 110
Uptown—Same as Esquire 80

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M) 100
Downtown—**Roaring Twenties** (WB); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB) 130
Four-Star—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk. 75
Hillstreet—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col). 250
Hollywood—Same as Downtown 130
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet 250
Paramount—**Disputed Passage** (Para), plus stage show. 110
State—Same as Chinese 100

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 110
Riverside—**A Woman Is the Judge** (Col); **Marie Wilson, Roscoe Ates, Art Jarrett** on stage 150
Strand—**The Real Glory** (UA); **Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox) 100
Warner—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB); **No Place to Go** (FN) 100
Wisconsin—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox) 160

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Smashing the Money Ring** (FN); **Hawaiian Nights** (Univ) 85
Century—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN) 90
Esquire—**When Tomorrow Comes** (Univ), 3rd wk. 95
Gopher—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox)... 80
Minnesota—**Jeepers Creepers** (Rep), plus stage show 85
Orpheum—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 85
State—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M) 150
World—**They Shall Have Music** (UA), 3rd wk... 90

NEW HAVEN

College—**Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox); **Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox).... 90
Loew-Poli—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Coast Guard** (Col), moved to College for 2nd wk...150
Paramount—**What a Life** (Para); **Death of a Champion** (Para), 8 days..... 90
Roger Sherman—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB); **Everything's on Ice** (RKO), 9 days.....130

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Golden Boy** (Col) 100
Globe—**Lady of the Tropics** (M-G-M)..... 95
Liberty—**Full Confession** (RKO) 90
Orpheum—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. 100
Saenger—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB) 125
State—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....100
Tudor—**The Women** (M-G-M) 90

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M), 24th wk. held 75
Capitol—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk....120
Criterion—**Calling All Marines** (Rep)..... 55
Globe—**Rio** (Univ) 100
Paramount—**Disputed Passage** (Para), plus stage show 120
Radio City Music Hall—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk., plus stage show, held. 125
Rivoli—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 3rd wk. held....110
Roxy—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox), plus stage show. 90
Strand—**On Dress Parade** (WB), plus stage show. 90

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., 4 days 80
Criterion—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), 3 days.100
Liberty—**The Under-Pup** (Univ); **Desperate Trails** (Univ) 90
Midwest—**The Old Maid** (FN), 8 days.....110
Plaza—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), 3 days 60
Plaza—**Beau Geste** (Para), 4 days..... 70
State—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. 130
Tower—**Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M) 95

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Behind Prison Gates** (Col), 2nd wk...100
Omaha—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Waterfront** (WB) 150
Orpheum—**Eternally Yours** (UA); **Television Spy** (Para) 120

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**The Real Glory** (UA) 125
Boyd—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 4th wk., 4 days 140
Earle—**Kid Nightingale** (WB), with Jimmy Lunceford's orchestra on stage.....115
Fox—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB).....125
Karlton—**On Your Toes** (FN) 80
Keith's—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd run, 2nd wk. 110
Stanley—**At the Circus** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..... 85
Stanton—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox)..... 80

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 80
Barry—**Smuggled Cargo** (Rep); **The Man Who Dared** (WB) 90
Fulton—**Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox); **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox), 5 days 50
Penn—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M) 140
Senator—**U-Boat 29** (Col), 2nd wk..... 50
Stanley—**Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M); Ted Weems orchestra stage show 105
Warner—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB) 70

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**First Love** (Univ); **Smashing the Money Ring** (FN) 150
United Artists—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Rio** (Univ) 130
Mayfair—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **The Witness Vanishes** (Univ), transferred, 2nd wk...100
Orpheum—**In Old Monterey** (Rep); **Mystery of Mr. Wong** (Mono) 100
Paramount—**Disputed Passage** (Para); **Everything's on Ice** (RKO) 110
Liberty—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para) 100

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**The Kid From Kokomo** (FN); **Hotel Imperial** (Para) 100
Centre—**The Old Maid** (FN) 110
Paramount—**They Shall Have Music** (UA).....105
Studio—**The Man in the Iron Mask** (UA), 2nd wk. 100
Utah—**Winter Carnival** (UA); **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox) 100

SEATTLE

Fifth Avenue—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **Two Bright Boys** (Univ) 90
Paramount—**Disputed Passage** (Para); **$1,000 A Touchdown** (Para) 100
Orpheum—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Island of Lost Men** (Para) 90
Music Box—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 3rd wk...100
Blue Mouse—**Eternally Yours** (UA); **The Under-Pup** (Univ), 2nd wk. 100
Palomar—**Tropic Fury** (Univ); **Calling All Marines** (Rep); Jimmie Geier and band on stage 100
Liberty—**The Real Glory** (UA)..... 90

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

A

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M) Feb. 18 923
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26 005
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue Sept. 30.
All Women Have Secrets (Para)
Allegheny Uprising (RKO) Oct. 28 006
Amazing Mr. Williams (Col)....
Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever (M-G-M) July 15 944
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5 367
Another Thin Man (M-G-M).... 13
Arizona Kid (Rep) Oct. 7..... 951
Asking for Trouble (GB).....8012
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col), reissue.....1072

B

Babes in Arms (M-G-M) Sept. 23 9
Bachelor Mother (RKO) July 1 932
Bad Lands (RKO) July 29..... 933
Bad Little Angel (M-G-M) Oct. 28 10
Balalaika (M-G-M) .....
Barricade (20th-Fox) 026
Beau Geste (Para) July 29....3902
Behind Prison Gates (Col) Aug. 5 9033
Beware, Spooks! (Col) Oct. 28..1011
Big Guy (Univ) .....
Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16... 3
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col) Nov. 11 1013
Blondie Takes a Vacation (Col) July 22 9010
Blue Bird (20th-Fox)..... 025

C

Cafe Hostess (Col) .....
Call a Messenger (Univ) Sept. 9. 20
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16 912
Cat and the Canary (Para) Oct. 7 3909
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 12 006
Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (20th-Fox) 021
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3 948
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox) Aug. 19 002
Chip of the Flying U (Univ)...
Cisco Kid and the Lady (20th-Fox) 012
Coast Guard (Col) Aug. 19....9008
Colorado Sunset (Rep) Aug. 5.. 846
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2..... 935
Covered Trailer (Rep) .....
Cowboy Quarterback (FN) July 8 366
Cowboys From Texas (Rep)....
Crashing Through (Mono) Nov. 4 3936

D

Dancing Co-ed (M-G-M) Sept. 30 3
Danger Flight (Mono) Nov. 4...3816
Daughters Courageous (FN) June 24 360
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO) Sept. 9 002
Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (WB) Nov. 4 .....
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2 3901
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21.4058
Destry Rides Again (Univ).....
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21 3902
Distant Fields (RKO) .....
Dr. Cyclops (Para) .....
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) Nov. 4..... 015
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

Each Dawn I Die (FN) July 22. 356
Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (20th-Fox) July 29.... 001
Emergency Squad (Para).....
Escape, The (20th-Fox)..... 010
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30.. 462
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7...
Everything Is Rhythm (Astor).
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 946

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14 6
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38 3831
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2. 986
Fighting Mad (Mono) 3937
First Kiss (20th-Fox) 020
First Love (Univ) Nov. 11.....3002
First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34..... 062
Five Little Peppers (Col).....9017
Flight at Midnight (Rep) Sept. 2 9111
Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14.... 010
Four Feathers (UA) June 24...
Four Just Men (Mono) .....
Frontier Marshal (20th-Fox) July 29 951
Fugitive at Large (Col).....
Full Confession (RKO) Aug. 26. 003

G

Girl and the Gambler (RKO)...
Girl From Rio (Mono).....3825
Golden Boy (Col) Aug. 19.....9002
Goodbye, Mr. Chips (M-G-M) May 20 945
Great Victor Herbert, The (Para) .....
Green Hell (Univ) June 10.... 926
Gulliver's Travels (Para).....

H

Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26 24
He Married His Wife (20th-Fox) 023
Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence (20th-Fox) Oct. 7..... 019
Henry Goes Arizona (M-G-M).. 2
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30..... 009
Hero for a Day (Univ).....4035
Heroes in Blue (Mono).....3919
Hidden Power (Col) May 27....1025
His Girl Friday (Col).....
Hitler—Beast of Berlin (P-D-C) Nov. 11 .....
Hobby Family (FN) Aug. 26... 376
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox) Oct. 7 007
Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16 .....
Honeymoon's Over (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 024
Housekeeper's Daughter (UA) Sept. 16 .....
Hunchback of Notre Dame (RKO) 015

I

I Stole a Million (Univ) July 22
Indianapolis Speedway (WB).... July 15 315
In Name Only (RKO) Aug. 12.. 936
In Old Monterey (Rep) July 29. 847
Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday (20th-Fox) 022
Intermezzo, A Love Story (UA) Oct. 7 .....
Invisible Killer (P-D-C) .....
Invisible Man Returns (Univ)...
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20 3841
Irish Luck (Mono) Aug. 26....3826
Island of Lost Men (Para) July 29 3848
Isle of Destiny (RKO).....

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8.....3906
Jeepers Creepers (Rep) Nov. 4..
Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President (M-G-M) .....

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21... 961
Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16. 411
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col) Nov. 11 9034

L

Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12 947
Laugh It Off (Univ) Nov. 11...4026
Law of the Pampas (Para) Oct. 21 3955
Legion of the Lawless (RKO).. 082
Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ)... 53
Llano Kid (Para) Nov. 11.....
Little Accident (Univ) Nov. 4..4019
Lost Squadron (RKO) reissue.. 994
Lucky Texan (Mono) .....

M

Magnificent Fraud (Para) July 1 3847
Main Street Lawyer (Rep) Nov. 11 905
Man From Montreal (Univ) Nov. 11 4054
Man From Sundown (Col) Aug. 5 9208
Man From Texas (Mono).....3865
Man in the Iron Mask (UA) July 8
Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19 9018
Married and in Love (RKO)... 014
Marshal of Mesa City (RKO) Oct. 7 081
Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mexican Spitfire (RKO) .....
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7....4044
Million Dollar Legs (Para) July 15 3846
Miracle of Main Street (Col)...1032
Miracles for Sale (M-G-M) Aug. 5 946
Missing Evidence (Univ) Oct. 7.4028
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14 1101
Mr. Wong in Chinatown (Mono) July 22 3807
Mutiny in the Big House (Mono) Oct. 21 3803
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24 4051
My Love for Yours (Para).....

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26..... 419
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB) July 15 324
New Frontier (Rep) Aug. 19.... 868
News Is Made at Night (20th-Fox) July 8 953
Nick Carter, Master Detective (M-G-M) .....
Night of Nights (Para) .....
Night Work (Para) Aug. 12...3849
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14..... 7
No Place to Go (FN) Sept. 23... 469
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26 001

O

Of Human Bondage (RKO) reissue 993
Oklahoma Frontier (Univ) 4059
Oklahoma Terror (Mono) Oct. 7.3856
Old Maid, The (FN) Aug. 5..... 452
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14.... 463
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para) Sept. 30 3903
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16 30
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug.5
Our Neighbors—the Carters (Para) Nov. 11 3911
Outpost of the Mounties (Col)..1201
Overland Mail (Mono).....3857

P

Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14..... 014
Phantom Strikes (Mono) 3923
Pioneer Days (Mono) 3858
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23 418
Private Detective (FN)..... 471
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7..... 402

Q

Queen of Destiny (RKO) Nov. 26, '38 061
Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 004

R

Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16 011
Range War (Para) Aug. 12.....3954
Real Glory, The (UA) Sept. 23..
Remember? (M-G-M) Nov. 11... 11
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29.3859
Reno (RKO) 008
Return of Dr. X (WB-FN).....
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30 9209
Riders of Destiny (Mono) reissue
Riders of the Frontier (Mono) Sept. 9 3866
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30 .....
Road Back (Univ) reissue.....
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36..... 061
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21. 403
Roving Tumbleweeds (Rep)..... 848
Roll, Wagon, Roll (Mono).....3951
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23 3910

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14..... 913
Sagebrush Trail (Mono) reissue
Scandal Sheet (Col) Oct. 28....1031
Second Fiddle (20th-Fox) July 8
Secret of Dr. Kildare (M-G-M).. 12
She Married a Cop (Rep) July 1. 815
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox)..... 018
Should Husbands Work? (Rep) July 22 816
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 23.....3815
Smashing the Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21 470
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26. 825
Spellbinder (RKO) July 15..... 931
St. Martin's Lane (Para).....
Stanley and Livingstone (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 003
Star Maker (Para) Aug. 19....3851
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2 008
Stranger From Texas (Col).....1202
Submarine Patrol (20th-Fox) Nov. 5 909
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21.. 012

T

Taming of the West (Col).....
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3 939
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14....3907
That's Right, You're Wrong (RKO) 011
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M) Aug. 26 948
They All Come Out (M-G-M) July 8 943
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29 3865
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30 1015
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30.... 004
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M) Sept. 23 4
To the Rescue (GN)..... 328
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 016
Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5 326
Torture Ship (P-D-C) .....
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16.....4052
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23 4017
Two Thorobreds (RKO) 013
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28 013

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2..... 10
Unexpected Father (Univ) July 22
Untamed (Para) .....

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
Ware Case, The (20th-Fox) July 29 8014
Waterfront (WB) July 1 325
Way Down South (RKO) July 22 947
We Are Not Alone (FN) Nov. 11
West of Carson City (Univ)....4061
West of the Divide (Mono).....
Westbound Stage (Mono) 3952
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ) Aug. 19 3003
Winter Carnival (UA) July 22..
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19. 949
Woman Is the Judge, A (Col) July 8 9025
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2.. 1

Y

Yukon Flight (Mono) 3938

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939-40, Unless Otherwise Specified.
Indicates short of the week.
Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

A Star Is Shorn (17).....Apr. 21
All-American Blondes (16½).Oct. 20
Boom Goes the Groom (17½).....Mar. 24
Mutiny on the Body (17).....Feb. 10
Now It Can Be Sold (17)...June 2
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17).....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Teacher's Pest (..).....Nov. 3
The Chump Takes a Bump (18).....May 5
The Sap Takes a Wrap (15½).....Mar. 10
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18).....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..).....Aug. 11

COLOR RHAPSODIES

Crop Chasers (8).....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (..).....Oct. 20
Happy Tots (7).....Mar. 31
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7).....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7).....May 26
Mountain Ears (7½).....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7).....June 30
Peaceful Neighbors (8).....Feb. 26
The Gorilla Hunt (8).....Feb. 24
The House That Jack Built (7).....Apr. 14

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (..).Nov. 17
Big Town Commuters (9).....Feb. 3
Historic Cities of India (..)..Oct. 27
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions) ..(9½).....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10).....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)...Oct. 27
Sojourn in India (..).....July 7
Morocco (10).....Aug. 11

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 7 Parade of Hits (9)....Mar. 24
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11)...Apr. 21
No. 9 Songs of the West (10).....May 19
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16 Third Series
No. 3 (..) College Songs.....Oct. 13
No. 4 (..) Stephen Foster Song Nov. 17
No. 6 Moon Songs (10).....Feb. 24

FABLES CARTOON

Park Your Baby (..).....Sept. 1

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

No. 1 Charles Goodyear (10½).Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10).....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (11).....Oct. 12
No. 1 (10½).....Feb. 22
No. 2 (10½).....Mar. 23
No. 3 (11).....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6
Krazy's Bear Tale (7).....Feb. 17
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6).....May 12
Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6

MUSIC HALL VANITIES
(New series)

A Night at the Troc (10).....Mar. 2
Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10)...May 19

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..).....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7).....Apr. 28
Scrappy's Added Attraction (6).....Feb. 3
Scrappy's Rodeo (6).....June 2
Scrappy's Sideshow (7).....Mar. 3

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 18)

No. 1 (..).....Sept. 15
No. 2 (10).....Oct. 20
No. 6 (10½).....Feb. 17
No. 7 (10).....Mar. 17
No. 8 (9½).....Apr. 8
No. 9 (10).....May 12
No. 10 (10).....May 26
No. 11 (10).....June 29
No. 12 (10).....July 28
(Series 19)
No. 1 (..) Art of Make-Up....Sept. 22
No. 2 (..).....Oct. 27
No. 3 (..).....Nov. 24

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10).....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (9½).....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5
Jai Alai (..).....Nov. 3
Jockeys Up (10½).....June 2
Navy Champions (9½).....Mar. 17
Odd Sports (10).....Feb. 10
Technique of Tennis (8½)...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½).....Apr. 7
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½).....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17).....June 30
Three Sappy People (..).....Dec. 1
We Want Our Mummy (17).....Feb. 24
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16).....May 19

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (10½) Smithsonian Institute.....Oct. 20
No. 2 Inside the White House (11).....Feb. 21
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10).....May 26
No. 4 Library of Congress (10).....Aug. 4

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (..).....
Help Wanted (21).....June 10
Money to Loan (21).....Mar. 11
While America Sleeps (21).....Apr. 15

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11).....Sept. 2
Colorful Curacao (9).....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Imperial Delhi (8).....Feb. 18
Java Journey (10).....Mar. 18
Picturesque Udaipur (8).....May 13
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10).....May 13
Ice Antics (9).....Feb. 11
Love on a Tap (11).....Mar. 18
Prophets Without Honor (11).....May 20
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11).....May 27

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15
Somewhat Secret (21).....Mar. 25

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)

Art Gallery (9).....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11).....July 15
Jitterbug Follies (9).....Feb. 25
Little Gold Fish (8).....Apr. 15
Mama's New Hat (9).....Feb. 11
The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9).....June 10
Wanted No Master (8).....Mar. 18

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY
Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Auto Antics (10).....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11).....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29
Dog Daze (11).....July 1
Duel Personalities (10).....Mar. 11
Joy Scouts (10).....June 24
Tiny Troubles (10).....Feb. 18

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia...June 24
Story of Alfred Nobel (11)..Feb. 18
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11).....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10).Mar. 18
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia.....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9).....July 1
Football Thrills of 1938 (..).Sept. 16
Heroes at Leisure (10)....Feb. 11
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cure (Sepia) (9)....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).....Apr. 8

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9).....Mar. 18
Dark Magic (10).....May 13
Home Early (9).....May 27
How to Eat (10).....June 10
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7)....May 12
Rhythm on the Reservation (7).....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7).Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7).....June 9
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8).....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES
(New Series in Cinecolor)

Ecuador (10).....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10).....May 26
Peru (9).....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10).....Sept. 8
Moments of Charm of 1940 (Cinecolor) (11).....Oct. 27
Phil Spitalny and Girl Orchestra.
Music Through the Years (11).....Feb. 3
Jan Garber and Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10).....May 5
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10).....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10).....June 2
Richard Himber and his orchestra.
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10).....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Three Kings and a Queen (11).....Apr. 7
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10).....Oct. 20
Circus Co-Ed (10).....Mar. 10
Farewell Vienna (10).....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10).....Apr. 14
Public Hobby Number One (11).....Sept. 22
Swans (10).....May 19
That's Africa (10).....Feb. 10

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 7 (10).....Feb. 3
The Mexican Charro at play, plumed birds and all about accordions.
No. 8 (10).....Mar. 3
No. 9 (10).....Apr. 7
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11).....May 5
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and sons of the year.
No. 11 (10).....June 2
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10).....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22).....Apr. 7
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7).....June 16
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7).....July 28
Leave Well Enough Alone (7).....Apr. 28
Never Sock a Baby (6).....Nov. 3
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

No. 4 (10).....Mar. 10
No. 5 (11).....May 12
No. 6 (11).....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-I (11).....Sept. 15
No. J9-2 (10).....Nov. 3

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
A Dog Is Born (10).....Nov. 3
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10)....June 9
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12
Good Skates (10).....Apr. 14
Ice skating with champions.
Hold Your Breath (10).....Feb. 17
Depicting a novel underwater track meet.
Hydro-Maniacs (10).....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10).....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES

The Blue Danube Waltz (10).Sept. 29
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.
Merry Wives of Windsor (9)..Oct. 27
Philharmonic Orchestra of U. S. A.

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

No. 1 (11).....Oct. 13
No. 4 (10).....Feb. 3
No. 5 (10).....Apr. 14

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

Autograph Hound, The (8)....Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9
Donald's Cousin Gus (7).....May 19
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8).....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Practical Pig (8).....Feb. 24
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
Society Dog Show (8).....Feb. 3
Mickey Mouse enters Pluto in the Society dog show and Pluto does not win.
The Pointer (8).....July 21
The Hockey Champ (7)....Apr. 7
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15).....May 19
Clock Wise (16).....Mar. 24
Father-in-law's grandfather clock drives Edgar nuts as he unsuccessfully tries to get rid of it.
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Swing Vacation (19).....Feb. 24
Sales Slips (17).....July 21

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Home Boner (20).....Mar. 10

Moving Vanities (17).....May 5
Ring Madness (19).....June 30
Truth Aches (19).....Nov. 3

MARCH OF TIME

No. 7 (19).....Feb. 17
Young America and Mexico's New Crisis.
No. 8 (18).....Mar. 17
No. 9 (19).....Apr. 14
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20).....May 12
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19).....June 9
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22).....July 7
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18).....Aug. 4
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19).....Sept. 1
Soldiers with wings.
No. 2 (19).....Sept. 29
The Battle Fleets of England.
No. 3 (18).....Oct. 27
Uncle Sam—The Farmer.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11).....May 12
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11).....Apr. 14
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.
Readin, Ritin and Rhythm (10).....Feb. 17
Samovar Serenade (10).....Mar. 17
Codolbon & His Gypsy Orchestra, Moscow Choir, Karavaeff, Luba Malina.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11).....Sept. 8
No. 2 (11).....Oct. 6

PATHE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16)....Oct. 20
Dog-Gone (16).....Apr. 21
Marriage-Go-Round (18).....July 28
Plumb Crazy (16).....Feb. 3
Pat C. Flick as a plumber causes considerable commotion on a job.

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Devil Drivers (9).....June 16
Hunting Hounds (9).....Sept. 29
Ice Cutters (9).....Oct. 27
Kennel Kings (9).....Aug. 11
Riding the Crest (9).....July 14
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9).....May 19
The golfers show how it's done.
Snow Falls (9).....Feb. 24
A ski picture that's different.

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Ranch House Romeo (17).....Apr. 7
Sagebrush Serenade (19).....June 16

REELISMS (New Series)

Acres of Plenty (9).....Oct. 13
Air Waves (10).....Mar. 10
Gold (9).....Feb. 10
Nevada Unlimited (8).....Sept. 15
Pack Trip (9).....Aug. 18
Pilot Boat (9).....Feb. 3
Soldiers of the Sea (9).....Apr. 7
Swinguet (8).....May 26
Television (9).....May 5
World of Tomorrow (9).....June 23
Zoo (9).....July 21

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19).....July 21
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) Aug. 18
Filming the Fleet (11).....Oct. 27
Sand Hogs (10).....May 12

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10).....Sept. 1
Clocking the Jockeys (11)....Nov. 24
Hunting Dogs (11).....Mar. 3
Inside Baseball (11).....Apr. 14
Sports Immortals (11).....June 23

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11)..Aug. 4
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11)..Nov. 10

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts, No. 3 (11).....Mar. 31
Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..)..July 7
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10).Sept. 15
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..)..Dec. 22

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10).....Sept. 29
Muscle Maulers (11).....Apr. 14
The Silly Season (..).....Dec. 8

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..).....May 26
Isle of Pleasure (11).....Feb. 3
Mystic Siam (10).....Mar. 17
Tempest Over Tunis (11)....June 9
The Evergreen Empire (..)..Oct. 13
Viking Trail (10).....Feb. 17

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..).....June 16
A Mouse and a Million (..)...Nov. 3
Africa Squawks (7).....June 30
Barnyard Baseball (7).....July 14
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) May 5
Frozen Feet (7).....Feb. 24
Gandy Goose and G-Man Jitters (7).....Mar. 10
Hook, Line and Sinker (7)..Sept. 8
Nick's Coffee Pot (7).....May 19
Nutty Network (7).....Mar. 24
Sheep in the Meadow (7)....Sept. 22
The Cuckoo Bird (7).....April 7
The First Robin (..).....Dec. 29
The Golden West (7).....Aug. 25
The Hitch-Hiker (..).....Dec. 1
The Old Fire Horse (..)....July 28
The Orphan Duck (7).....Oct. 6
The Prize Guest (7).....June 2
The Three Bears (6).....Feb. 10
The Watchdog (..).....Oct. 20
Their Last Bean (7).....April 21
Two Headed Giant (7)....Aug. 11
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) Nov. 17

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7)..Sept. 4
Bird on Nellie's Hat.....June 19
Bola Mola Land (7).....May 29
Charlie Cuckoo (7).....Apr. 30
Crack Pot Cruise (7).....Apr. 10
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8).....Oct. 9
Little Tough Mice (7).....Mar. 13
Magic Beans (7).....Feb. 13
Nellie of the Circus (7).....May 8
One Armed Bandit (7).....Mar. 27
Silly Superstition (7).....Aug. 28
Slap Happy Valley (7).....Aug. 21
Snuffy's Party (7).....Aug. 7
Stubborn Mule (7).....July 31
The Birth of a Toothpick (7).....Feb. 27
The Sleeping Princess (..)..Nov. 20

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 60 (10).....Feb. 20, '39
No. 61 (9).....Mar. 13
No. 62 (9).....Apr. 10
No. 63 (9).....May 15
No. 64 (9).....June 26
No. 65 (9).....July 17
No. 66 (9).....Sept. 25
No. 67 (9).....Oct. 16
No. 68 (9).....Nov. 13
No. 69 (9).....Dec. 11

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19).....Mar. 15
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17).....Apr. 12
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18).....July 12
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Pharmacy Follies (18).....May 17
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18).....June 14
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17).....Aug. 9
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7).....Aug. 15

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 59 (9).....Feb. 6
No. 60 (9).....Mar. 6
No. 61 (9).....Apr. 3
No. 62 (9).....May 1
No. 63 (9).....June 5
No. 64 (..).....July 3
No. 65 (9).....Aug. 7
No. 66 (8½).....Sept. 18
No. 67 (9).....Oct. 9
No. 68 (9).....Nov. 6

TWO REEL MUSICALS

An Old Spanish Custom (..)..Nov. 15
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17).....Sept. 6
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Snow Follies (..).....Dec. 13
Lillian Roth, King Sisters, Bruce Holden, Consolo and Melba, Morell Sisters and Billy, Ann Triolo, Lola Jensen and Fonchonettes.
Swing Hotel (18).....Oct. 18
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21).....Sept. 6

UNIVERSAL NEWS
Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (20).....Mar. 25
A Swing Opera (20).....July 22
Broadway Buckaroo (20).....June 3
Home Cheap Home (20).....Mar. 18
Projection Room (20).....Mar. 4
Rollin' in Rhythm (20).....Apr. 15
Seeing Red (20).....Aug. 26
Seeing Spots (20).....Apr. 29
Slapsie Maxie (17).....Sept. 10
Sophomore Swing (20).....Jan. 21
Small Town Idol (20).....Feb. 11
Sundae Serenade (20).....Feb. 25
You're Next to Closing (20).....May 13
Wardrobe Girl (20).....June 17

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

For Your Convenience (10).....May 20
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10).....Sept. 30
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10).....Feb. 25
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4..Apr. 22
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (9).....June 10
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10).....Aug. 5
Modern Methods (9).....July 15
The Roving Camera (10)...Mar. 25

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7).....Apr. 1
Jeepers Creepers (7).....Sept. 23
Naughty Neighbors (7).....Oct. 7
Polar Pals (7).....June 3
Porky and Teabiscuit (7).....Apr. 22
Porky's Hotel (7).....Sept. 2
Porky's Movie Mystery (7)..Mar. 11
Porky's Picnic (7).....July 15
Porky's Tire Trouble (7).....Feb. 18
Christopher Columbus jr. (7).....May 13
Scalp Trouble (7).....June 24
Wise Quack (7).....Aug. 5

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10).....Apr. 29
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10).....Mar. 18
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (10).....Apr. 8
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10).....Aug. 12
Jerry Livingston & Orchestra (10).....Feb. 4
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10).....May 20
Leith Stevens & Orch. (10).....June 10
Rita Rio & Orch. (10).....July 1
Rubinoff and His Violin (10)..Nov. 11
Russ Morgan & Orchestra (11).....Feb. 25
Swing Styles (10).....Sept. 2
Vincent Lopez and Orch. (10).....Sept. 30
Will Osborne & Orch. (..).....July 22

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

A Day at the Zoo (7).....Mar. 11
Bars and Stripes Forever (7).Apr. 8
Believe It or Else (7).....June 3
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7).....Apr. 22
Dangerous Dan McFoo (7).....July 15
Detouring America (7).....Aug. 26
Fresh Fish (7).....Nov. 4
Goldrush Daze (7).....Feb. 25
Good Egg, The (7).....Oct. 21
Hare-um Scare-um (7).....Aug. 12
Land of the Midnight Sun (7).....Oct. 7
Little Brother Rat (7).....Sept. 2
Little Lion Hunter (7).....Oct. 7
Naughty But Mice (7).....May 20
Old Glory (10).....July 1
Prest-O Change-O (7).....Mar. 25
Robinhood Makes Good (7)..Feb. 11
Sioux Me (7).....Sept. 9
Snow Man's Land (7).....July 29
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7)...May 6

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (20).....Aug. 12
Lincoln in the White House (21).....Feb. 11
Quiet Please (18).....July 1
Sons of the Plains (19).....July 30
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20).....May 20
The Monroe Doctrine (16)..Oct. 14

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10)....Feb. 18

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (10).....Apr. 15
Dean of the Pasteboards (10).....May 27
Gadgeteers (10).....Feb. 18
One Day Stand (10).....Aug. 19
Sword Fishing (10).....Oct. 21
Tax Trouble (10).....Mar. 18
Vote Trouble (10).....Sept. 9
Witness Trouble (10).....July 29

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11)..Mar. 4
Chained (11).....Apr. 1
Haunted House (11).....June 3
High Peril (12).....Feb. 18
Lives in Peril (11).....July 7
Three-Minute Fuse (11).....July 29
Verge of Disaster (10).....Aug. 26
Voodoo Fires (11).....May 6

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician.....May 6
12 chapters.
Secret of Treasure Island...Mar. 17
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.
The Shadow.....Nov. 24
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters.....June 10
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.
Dick Tracy's G-Men.....Sept. 2
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.
Lone Ranger Rides Again....Feb. 25
15 Chapters. Robert Livingston, Jinx Falken, Chief Thunder Cloud.
Zorro's Fighting Legion.....Dec. 16
12 Chapters. Reed Hadley.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers (..).....Apr. 11
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.
Oregon Trail (15 chapters)...July 4
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol Q indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊗ indicates color photography.

	JULY 15	JULY 22	JULY 29	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 12	AUGUST 19
COLUMBIA	15 Western 9308 **Man From Sundown** (59) Starrett-Meredith R—Aug. 5 10 Drama 9025 **A Woman Is the Judge** (60) Hudson-Kruger; R-July 8	20 Comedy 9010 **Blondie Takes a Vacation** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 22	28 Action Drama 9033 **Behind Prison Gates** (62) (For. Escape From Alcatraz) Brian Donlevy Jacqueline Wells R—Aug. 5	4 Action Drama 9008 **Coast Guard** (72) Randolph Scott Frances Dee R—Aug. 19		17 Melodrama 9018 **Man They Could Not Hang** (64) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 19
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	14 Drama 943 **They All Come Out** (70) Rita Johnson Tom Neal R—July 8	21 Comedy 944 **Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever** (87) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone R—July 15	28 Drama 945 **Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (114) Robert Donat R—May 20	4 Drama 946 **Miracles for Sale** (70) Robert Young Florence Rice Henry Hull R—Aug. 5	11 Drama 947 **Lady of the Tropics** (91) Hedy Lamarr Robt. Taylor R—Aug. 12	18 Comedy Drama 948 **These Glamour Girls** (79) Lew Ayres-Lana Turner Anita Louise R—Aug. 26
MONOGRAM		21 Western 3865 **Man From Texas** (60) Tex Ritter R—Aug. 12		1 Mystery 3807 **Mr. Wong in Chinatown** (70) Boris Karloff Grant Withers Mary Reynolds R—July 22		15 Drama with Mus. 3825 **Girl From Rio** (62) Movita-Warren Hull R—Aug. 12 16 Western 3866 **Riders of Frontier** (58) Tex Ritter R—Sept. 9
PARAMOUNT	14 Com. with Music 3846 **Million Dollar Legs** (63) Betty Grable Jackie Coogan R—July 15	21 Action Drama 3847 **Magnificent Fraud** (78) Akim Tamiroff Lloyd Nolan Patricia Morison R—July 1	28 Drama 3848 **Island of Lost Men** (64) Anna May Wong R—July 29	4 Comedy 3849 **Night Work** (62) Mary Boland Charles Ruggles R—Aug. 12	11 Comedy Drama 3850 **Our Leading Citizen** (90) Bob Burns Susan Hayward R—Aug. 5	18 Melodrama 3865 **This Man Is News** (75) Barry K. Barnes V. Hobson R—July 29 18 Western 3859 **Renegade Trail** (58) William Boyd R. Hayden R—July 29
REPUBLIC	15 Musical Comedy 815 **She Married a Cop** (65) Phil Regan-Jean Parker R—July 1		26 Comedy 816 **Should Husbands Work?** (62) Gleason Family Marie Wilson R—July 22	31 Western 846 **Colorado Sunset** (64) Gene Autry-S. Burnette R—Aug. 5	10 Western 868 **New Frontier** (56) Three Mesquiteers R—Aug. 19	14 Western 847 **In Old Monterey** (70) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—July 29
RKO RADIO	14 Drama 993 **Of Human Bondage** (83) (Reissue) Leslie Howard-B. Davis 14 Drama 994 **Lost Squadron**(79)reissue Joel McCrea-Richard Dix	21 Musical 947 **Way Down South** (62) Bob Breen-Alan Mowbray R—July 22	28 Melodrama 931 **Spellbinder** (70) Lee Tracy-Barbara Read R—July 15	4 Comedy 932 **Bachelor Mother** (81) Ginger Rogers David Niven R—July 1	11 Western 933 **Bad Lands** (65) R. Barrat-N. Berry jr. R—July 29	18 Drama 936 **In Name Only** (92) Carole Lombard Cary Grant Kay Francis R—Aug. 12
20TH-FOX	14 Musical Comedy 949 **Second Fiddle** (85) Sonja Henie Tyrone Power R—July 8	21 Action Drama 953 **News Is Made at Night**(71) P. Foster-L. Barl R—July 8 21 Mystery Drama 8014 **Ware Case, The** (72) Clive Brook-Jane Baxter R—July 29	28 Outdoor Drama 951 **Frontier Marshal** (70) Randolph Scott Binnie Barnes R—July 29	4 Comedy Drama 001 **Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women** (82) Ann Sothern James Ellison R—July 29	11 Comedy Drama 002 **Chicken Wagon Family** (65) Jane Withers Leo Carrillo Marjorie Weaver R—Aug. 19	18 Adventure Drama 003 **Stanley and Livingstone** (100) Spencer Tracy Nancy Kelly Richard Greene R—Aug. 5
UNITED ARTS			28 Comedy **Winter Carnival** (90) Ann Sheridan Richard Carlson R—July 22	4 Drama ⊗**Four Feathers** (109) Ralph Richardson June Duprez R—June 24	11 Melodrama **Man in the Iron Mask** (110) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—July 8	18 Drama with Music **They Shall Have Music** (120) Andrea Leeds Joel McCrea Jascha Heifetz R—July 15
UNIVERSAL	14 Comedy 3008 **Unexpected Father** (78) (For. Sandy Takes a Bow) Baby Sandy-Mischa Auer R—July 22	21 Drama 3007 **I Stole a Million** (78) George Raft Claire Trevor R—July 22			11 Drama 3003 **When Tomorrow Comes** (90) Charles Boyer Irene Dunne R—Aug. 19	
WARNER-F.N.	15 Action Drama WB325 **Waterfront** (59) Denis Morgan Gloria Dickson R—July 1	22 Drama FN360 **Daughters Courageous** (107) Lane Sisters John Garfield R—June 24	29 Comedy FN366 **Cowboy Quarterback** (56) Bert Wheeler Gloria Dickson R—July 8	5 Melodrama WB315 **Indianapolis Speedway** (82) Ann Sheridan Pat O'Brien R—July 15	12 Comedy WB326 **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (59) Jane Wyman Allen Jenkins R—Aug. 5	19 Drama FN356 **Each Dawn I Die** (92) James Cagney Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan R—July 22
MISCELLANEOUS						

JANUARY, 1940						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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FEBRUARY, 1940						
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MARCH, 1940						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30
22 Comedy Drama **9017** **Five Little Peppers** (60) Edith Fellows 23 Western **9209** **Riders of Black River** (59) C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	30 Wild Horse **9034** **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (65) R—Nov. 11	5 Drama **9002** **Golden Boy (100)** **Stanwyck-Holden** **R—Aug. 19** 7 Mystery Drama **1025** **Hidden Power (60)** **Jack Holt-Gert. Michael** **R—May 29**	14 Western **1201** **Outpost of the Mounties** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredith (63)	21 Drama **1015** **Those High Grey Walls** (82) Walter Connolly Iris Meredith R—Sept. 30	
25 Comedy Fantasy **949** **Wizard of Oz** (102) **Judy Garland** **Frank Morgan** **R—Aug. 19**	1 Comedy Drama **1** **The Women (134)** Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell **R—Sept. 2**	8 Melodrama **5** **Blackmail** (79) Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16	15 Drama **4** **Thunder Afloat** (94) Wallace Beery Chester Morris **Virginia Grey** R—Sept. 23		29 Comedy Drama **3** **Dancing Co-ed** (81) **Lana Turner** **Richard Carlson** R—Sept. 30
25 Western **3856** **Oklahoma Terror** (52) Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 22 Melodrama **3826** **Irish Luck (61)** **F. Darro-D. Purcell** **R—Aug. 26**			12 Action Drama **3815** **Sky Patrol** (61) **John Trent** **Marjorie Reynolds** R—Sept. 23		30 Documentary **3831** **Fight for Peace** (68) R—Apr. 23, '38
25 Musical Comedy **3851** **Star Maker (94)** Bing Crosby Louise Campbell **R—Aug. 19**	1 Melodrama **3901** **Death of a Champion** (66) Lynne Overman Virginia Dale **R—Sept. 2**	8 Western **3954** **Range War (66)** Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden **R—Aug. 12**	15 Drama **3902** **Beau Geste (114)** Gary Cooper Ray Milland **R—July 29**	22 Comedy **3903** **$1,000 a Touchdown** (71) **Joe E. Brown** **Martha Raye** R—Sept. 30	29 Comedy Drama **3904** **Honeymoon in Bali** (96) **(For. My Love for Yours)** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16
21 Action Drama **825** **Smuggled Cargo (61)** Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay **R—Aug. 26**	28 Drama **9111** **Flight at Midnight (66)** Phil Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner **R—Sept. 2**	6 Western **857** **Wall Street Cowboy** (66) Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9		21 Melodrama **912** **Calling All Marines** (65) Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16	29 Western **951** **Arizona Kid** (61) **Roy Rogers** **Sally March** R—Oct. 7
	1 Melodrama **935** **Conspiracy** (59) Allan Lane-Linda Hayes R—Sept. 2	8 Western **986** **Fighting Gringo (60)** **Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2** 8 Drama **003** **Full Confession (72)** **V. McLaglen-S. Eilers** R—Aug. 26	15 Comedy **002** **Day the Bookies Wept** (65) Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9	22 Comedy Drama **934** **Fifth Avenue Girl (80)** **Ginger Rogers** **James Ellison** R—Aug. 26	29 Drama **001** **Nurse Edith Cavell (95)** Anna Neagle George Sanders **R—Aug. 26**
25 Comedy **004** **Quick Millions (61)** **(The Jones Family)** Jed Prouty Spring Byington **R—Aug. 5**	1 Detective Drama **005** **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (85)** Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26	8 Melodrama **006** **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (73)** Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore **R—Aug. 12**	15 Drama **011** **The Rains Came** (103) **Myrna Loy-Tyrone Power** **George Brent** R—Sept. 16	22 Comedy **008** **Stop, Look and Love (57)** Jean Rogers William Frawley **R—Sept. 2**	29 Drama **009** **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30
				22 Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story** (65) **Leslie Howard** **Ingrid Bergman** **John Halliday** R—Oct. 7	29 Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) **Gary Cooper** **Andrea Leeds** R—Sept. 23
	1 Comedy Drama **10** **Under-Pup** (88) **Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey** R—Sept. 2 1 Outdoor Drama **4051** **Mutiny on the Black Hawk** (66) R—June 24 R. Arlen-A. Devine	8 Musical Comedy **24** **Hawaiian Nights (64)** Downs-Carlisle; R-Aug. 26 8 Western **4058** **Desperate Trails (58)** **John Mack Brown** **Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight** R—Oct. 21	15 Drama **4017** **Two Bright Boys** (70) **Jackie Cooper** **Freddie Bartholomew** R—Sept. 23 8 Musical **4044** **Mikado (92)** Kenny Baker; R-Jan. 7	22 Melodrama **4027** **The Witness Vanishes** (66) E. Lowe-W. Barrie	29 Drama **Rio** (77) **Sigrid Gurie** **Basil Rathbone** R—Sept. 30
26 Comedy **FN376** **Hobby Family, The (54)** **Irene Rich-H. O'Neill** R—Aug. 26 26 Drama **FN367** **Angels Wash Their Faces (96)** **Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5**	2 Drama **FN452** **The Old Maid** (95) Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins **R—Aug. 5**	9 Com. Melo. **WB419** **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (60)** **Bonita Granville** **Frankie Thomas** R—Aug. 26	16 Drama **FN461** **Dust Be My Destiny (88)** **John Garfield** **Priscilla Lane** **R—Aug. 19**	23 Comedy **FN469** **No Place to Go (57)** Fred Stone Gloria Dickson **Denis Morgan** R—Sept. 23	

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

APRIL, 1940						
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	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14	OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11
COLUMBIA	7 Action Drama **1010** **U-Boat 29** (77) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23		19 Comedy Drama **1101** **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (125) **Jean Arthur** James Stewart; R-Oct. 14 16 Drama **1031** **Scandal Sheet** (67) Otto Kruger R—Oct. 28	24 Comedy **1011** **Beware Spooks!** (65) **Joe E. Brown** Mary Carlisle R—Oct. 28 29 Drama **1032** **Miracle of Main Street** (..) Walter Abel-Margo	2 Western **1202** **Stranger From Texas** (55) Charles Starrett	9 Comedy **1013** **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (69) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 11
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	6 Comedy **6** **Fast and Furious** (73) Ann Sothern Franchot Tone R—Oct. 14	13 Musical Comedy **9** **Babes in Arms** (97) Mickey Rooney Judy Garland R—Sept. 23	20 Comedy **8** **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14	27 Comedy Drama **10** **Bad Little Angel** (77) Virginia Weidler Henry Hull R—Oct. 28	3 Comedy Drama **7** **Ninotchka** (110) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas R—Oct. 14	10 Drama **11** **Remember?** (81) Robert Taylor Greer Garson R—Nov. 11
MONOGRAM	1 Outdoor Drama **3936** **Crashing Thru** (56) **James Newell** **Jean Carmen** R—Nov. 4		20 Western **Riders of Destiny** (54) (Reissue) John Wayne 20 Western **Sagebrush Trail** (55) (Reissue) John Wayne	1 Action Drama **3816** **Danger Flight** (61) John Trent R—Nov. 4 25 Drama **3803** **Mutiny in the Big House** (84) C. Bickford-B. MacLane R—Oct. 21	31 Western **3857** **Overland Mail** (53) **Jack Randall**	5 Action Drama **3937** **Fighting Mad** (..) James Newell 7 Drama **3919** **Heroes in Blue** (61) Dick Purcell Bernadene Hayes
PARAMOUNT	6 Comedy **3905** **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23	13 Drama **3906** **Jamaica Inn** (106) Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**	20 Drama **3907** **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14	27 Drama **3908** **Disputed Passage** (87) Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff John Howard R—Oct. 21	3 Western **3955** **Law of the Pampas** (72) **Wm. Boyd** R—Oct. 21	10 Melodrama **3909** **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7
REPUBLIC	6 Western **961** **Kansas Terrors** (57) **Three Mesquiteers** R—Oct. 21	13 Action Drama **913** **Sabotage** (69) **Arleen Whelan** **Gordon Oliver** R—Oct. 14		27 Drama with Music **Jeepers Creepers** (69) Roy Rogers Weaver Bros. & Elviry R—Nov. 4		10 Drama **905** **Main Street Lawyer** (71) Edw. Ellis Anita Louise R—Nov. 11
RKO RADIO	6 Musical **946** **Everything's on Ice** (65) Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9	13 Drama **004** **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis Virginia Vale R—Sept. 30		27 Drama **012** **Sued for Libel** (65) K. Taylor-L. Hayes R—Oct. 21	3 Comedy **010** **Flying Deuces** (65) **Laurel & Hardy** R—Oct. 14 3 Western **081** **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7	10 Outdoor Drama **006** **Allegheny Uprising** (81) **John Wayne** **Claire Trevor** R—Oct. 28
20TH-FOX	6 Melodrama **010** **The Escape** (62) Kane Richmond Allan Duff R—Nov. 11	13 Musical **007** **Hollywood Cavalcade**(96) **Alice Faye-Don Ameche** R—Oct. 7 13 Drama **061** **Road to Glory** (101) (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter	20 Comedy **018** **Shipyard Sally** (80) Gracie Fields S. Howard 20 Comedy **014** **Pack Up Your Troubles** (75) Jane Withers R—Oct. 14	27 Action Drama **013** **20,000 Men a Year** (84) R. Scott-M. Healy R—Oct. 28 27 Documentary **062** **First World War** (78) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34	3 Drama **019** **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford R—Oct. 7	10 Drama **015** **Drums Along the Mohawk** (103) **Claudette Colbert** **Henry Fonda** R—Nov. 4
UNITED ARTS.		12 Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) **Loretta Young** **David Niven** R—Oct. 7		26 Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughter** (80) **Joan Bennett-Wm. Gargan** **Adolphe Menjou** R—Sept. 16		
UNIVERSAL	6 Comedy **4035** **Hero for a Day** (66) Anita Louise-Dick Foran 29 Drama Reissue **All Quiet on the Western Front** (93) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 30	13 Drama **4052** **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16	20 Western **4059** **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) **Johnny Mack Brown**	27 Comedy **4019** **Little Accident** (65) Sandy Henville Florence Rice R—Nov. 4	3 Melodrama **20** **Call a Messenger** (66) R. Armstrong-R. Kelly Little Tough Guys R—Sept. 9 3 Drama Reissue **Road Back** (79) Richard Cromwell	10 Action Drama **30** **One Hour to Live** (60) Charles Bickford R—Sept. 16 3 Melodrama **53** **Legion of Lost Flyers** (64) R. Arlen-A. Devine
WARNER-F.N.	30 Melodrama **FN462** **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30 7 Melodrama **WB418** **Pride of the Blue Grass** (65) R—Sept. 23 E. Fellows-J. McCallion	14 Musical **FN463** **On Your Toes** (94) Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14	21 Melodrama **FN470** **Smashing the Money Ring** (56) Ronald Reagan Margot Stevenson R—Oct. 21	28 Drama **WB403** **Roaring Twenties** (104) James Cagney Priscilla Lane R—Oct. 21	4 Com. Drama **WB411** **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman R—Sept. 16	11 Drama **WB402** **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7
MISCELLANEOUS			15 Drama **P-D-C** **Hitler—Beast of Berlin** (90) Roland Drew Steffi Duna Greta Grandstedt R—Nov. 11		1 Melodrama **P-D-C** **Torture Ship** (..) Lyle Talbot Irving Pichel Jacqueline Wells	

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23
	23 Comedy Drama **The Amazing Mr. Williams (..)** Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas	30 Drama **Cafe Hostess (..)** Preston Foster Ann Dvorak	17 Drama **Fugitive at Large (..)** J. Holt-P. Ellis 7 Western **Taming of the West (..)** B. Elliott-I. Meredith		
7 Comedy Drama 13 **nother Thin Man (..)** William Powell Myrna Loy	24 Drama 12 **Secret of Dr. Kildare (..)** Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore	1 Drama **Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President (..)** Ann Sothern Walter Brennan	8 Comedy 2 **Henry Goes Arizona (..)** Frank Morgan Virginia Weidler	15 Drama **Nick Carter, Master Detective (..)** Walter Pidgeon Rita Johnson	22 Comedy **Judge Hardy & Son (..)** Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone
15 Mystery Drama 3923 **hantom Strikes (..)** onnie Hale Wilfred Lawson	25 Western 3951 **Roll, Wagons, Roll (..)** Tex Ritter	1 Action Drama 3938 **Yukon Flight (..)** **James Newill**	10 Western **Reissue** **West of the Divide (55)** John Wayne 10 Western **Reissue** **Lucky Texan (56)** John Wayne	15 Western 3858 **Pioneer Days (..)** Jack Randall 15 Melodrama **Four Just Men (..)** Hugh Sinclair-Anna Lee	22 Western 3952 **Westbound Stage (..)** Tex Ritter
7 Drama 3910 **ulers of the Sea (96)** **oug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe —Sept. 23	24 Comedy 3911 **Our Neighbors—the Carters (85)** Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter R—Nov. 11	1 Drama **Night of Nights (..)** Pat O'Brien Olympe Bradna	8 Western **Llano Kid (69)** **Tito Guizar** **Gale Sondergaard** R—Nov. 11	15 Drama **All Women Have Secrets (..)** Joseph Allen jr. Jean Cagney	22 Technicolor Cartoon **Gulliver's Travels (..)**
17 Comedy **overed Trailer (..)** Gleason Family 15 Western 848 **oving Tumbleweeds (..)** Gene Autry-S. Burnette	24 Western **Cowboys From Texas (..)** Three Mesquiteers				
17 Drama 005 **Meet Dr. Christian (63)** J. Hersholt-D. Lovett R—Oct. 21	24 Musical 011 **That's Right, You're Wrong (..)** Kay Kyser and Orch. Adolphe Menjou Lucille Ball	1 Drama 008 **Reno (..)** Richard Dix Gail Patrick	8 Melodrama 013 **Two Thorobreds (..)** Jimmy Lydon Joan Brodel		22 Drama 014 **Married and in Love (..)** Barbara Read Alan Marshal
17 Comedy 016 **oo Busy to Work (64)** Jones Family —Nov. 4	24 Comedy Drama 020 **Day Time Wife (..)** Tyrone Power Linda Darnell	1 Melodrama 021 **Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (74)** Sidney Toler-L. Bari 1 Melodrama 022 **Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday (..)** G. Harker-A. Sims	8 Melodrama 026 **Barricado (..)** Alice Faye Warner Baxter	15 Comedy Drama 024 **Honeymoon's Over (70)** Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver R—Nov. 4	22 Fantasy 025 **Blue Bird (..)** Shirley Temple Sybil Jason
17 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again (..)** M. Dietrich-J. Stewart 10 Romantic Com. 3002 **First Love (84)** **Deanna Durbin** R—Nov. 11	24 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns** Nan Grey-Vincent Price 24 Western 4060 **Chip of the Flying U (55)** Johnny Mack Brown	1 Musical 4026 **Laugh It Off (63)** Constance Moore Johnny Downs R—Nov. 11	8 Action Drama 4054 **Man From Montreal (60)** Richard Arlen Andy Devine R—Nov. 11	15 Western 4061 **West of Carson City (55)** Johnny Mack Brown Bob Baker 15 Melodrama 4028 **Missing Evidence (64)** P. Foster R—Oct. 7	22 Melodrama **Big Guy (..)** Victor McLaglen Jackie Cooper
18 Com. Drama **WB** **Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (62)** Billy Halop **Bobby Jordan** R—Nov. 4	25 Drama **FN** **We Are Not Alone (111)** Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson R—Nov. 11	2 Mystery Drama **FN** **Return of Dr. X (..)** Wayne Morris Priscilla Lane Humphrey Bogart	9 Com. M'drama **FN471** **Private Detective (62)** Jane Wyman Dick Foran		
15 Melodrama **P-D-C** **uried Alive (..)** Beverly Roberts Robert Wilcox		1 Drama **P-D-C** **Invisible Killer (..)** Grace Bradley Roland Drew			**BOOKING CHART Concluded on Following Page**

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In The Making

DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 6	JANUARY 13	STARTING	COMPLETED
COLUMBIA 25 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday** (..) Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy			**Music in My Heart**—Tony Martin, Rita Hayworth, Edith Fellows, Alan Mowbray. Director: Joseph Santley. Producer: Irving Starr. Screenplay: James Edward Grant. **Double in Diamonds**—Director: Sidney Salkow. Producer: Fred Kohlmar.	**Two-Fisted Ranger**—Charles Starre Lorna Gray, Bob Nolan, Sons of t Pioneers. Director: Sam Nelson. Pr ducer: Irving Briskin.
GRAND NAT'L				
M&M 29 Drama with Music **Balalaika** (..) Nelson Eddy Ilona Massey			**Young Tom Edison**—Mickey Rooney, Virginia Weidler, George Bancroft, Fay Bainter. Director: Norman Taurog. Producer: John W. Considine jr. **Shop Around the Corner**—Margaret Sullavan, James Stewart, Joseph Schildkraut. Producer-Director: Ernst Lubitsch. Original: Nickolaus Laszlo. Screenplay: Samson Raphaelson.	**Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the Pre dent**—Ann Sothern, William Garga Lewis Stone, Marsha Hunt, Tom Ne Walter Brennan. Director: Robert Si clair. Producer: Edgar Selwyn. Ori nal: Damon Runyon.
MONOGRAM				**Westbound Stage**—Tex Ritter, Mur Evans, Nelson McDowell, Reid How Director: Spencer Bennett. Produce Edward Finney. Screenplay: Robe Emmett.
PARAMOUNT 29 Drama **The Great Victor Herbert** (..) Allan Jones Mary Martin	5 Action Drama **Emergency Squad** (..) William Henry Louise Campbell		**Down Went McGinty**—Brian Donlevy, Akim Tamiroff. Director: Preston Sturges. Producer: Paul Jones. Original: Preston Sturges. **The Way of All Flesh**—Akim Tamiroff, William Henry, Judith Barrett, Norma Nelson. Director: Louis King. Producer: William LeBaron.	**The Road to Singapore**—Bing Crost Dorothy Lamour, Bob Hope, Judi Barrett. Director: Victor Schertzi ger. Producer: Harlan Thompson.
REPUBLIC			**Days of Jesse James**—Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Don Barry. Producer: Joe Kane. **Dark Command**—John Wayne. Director: Raoul Walsh. Producer: Sol Siegel.	**South of the Border**—Gene Autry, Smil Burnette, June Storey. Directo George Sherman. Producer: Willia Berke.
RKO RADIO 29 Drama **015** **Hunchback of Notre Dame** (..) C. Laughton-M. O'Hara	5 Drama **Isle of Destiny** (..) W. Ford-W. Gargan 5 Western **082** **Legion of the Lawless** (..) Geo. O'Brien	12 Comedy **Mexican Spitfire** (..) Lupe Velez	**Heart of Darkness**—Orson Welles, Edgar Barrier, Frank Beadick, Everett Sloane. Producer - Director: Orson Welles. Screenplay: Orson Welles. **Irene**—Anna Neagle, Ray Milland. Producer-Director: Herbert Wilcox. Screenplay: Alice Duer Miller.	**Married and in Love**—Alan Marsh Barbara Read, Helen Vinson. Pr ducer: Robert Sisk. Director: Jo Farrow. Screenplay: John Twist. **The Marines Fly High**—Richard D Chester Morris, Lucille Ball, Jo Archer. Director: George Nichols Producer: Robert Sisk. Screenpla Jerry Cady.
20TH-FOX 29 Outdoor Drama **012** **Cisco Kid and the Lady** (..) Cesar Romero Marjorie Weaver		19 Drama **023** **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly	**Young as You Feel**—Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Ken Howell. Director: Malcolm St. Clair. Producer: John Stone. **Shooting High**—Jane Withers, Gene Autry. Producer: Sol Wurtzel.	**He Married His Wife**—Joel McCr Nancy Kelly, Mary Boland, Rola Young, Lyle Talbot. Director: R Del Ruth. Producer: Ray Griffith. **The Bluebird**—Shirley Temple, John Russell, Nigel Bruce, Sybil Jasc Nancy Kelly, Gale Sondergaard. I rector: Walter Lang. Producer: Ge Markey.
UNITED ARTS.			**1,000,000 B. C.**—Carol Landis, Victor Mature, John Hubbard, Lon Chaney jr. Director: Hal Roach. Producer: D. W. Griffith. **My Son, My Son**—Brian Aherne, Louis Hayward, Henry Hull. Director: Charles Vidor. Producer: Edward Small. Screenplay: George Bruce.	**Two's Company**—Laurel and Hardy. I rector: Gordon Douglas. Produc Hal Roach. Screenplay: Gordon Dou las, Harry Langdon, Felix Adl Charles Rogers.
UNIVERSAL 29 Drama **Green Hell** (..) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett			**It's a Date**—Deanna Durbin, Robert Cummings. Director: William Seiter. Producer: Joe Pasternak. Screenplay: Ralph Block and Frederick Kohner. **Honeymoon Deferred** — Director: Lew Landers. Producer: Ken Goldsmith.	**Framed** — Edmund Lowe, Constar Moore, Robert Armstrong, Jero Cowan, Frankie Albertson. Direct Harold Schuster. Screenplay: R Chanslor. **The Big Guy**—Victor McLaglen, Jacl Cooper, Ona Munson, Edward Brop Director: Arthur Lubin. Produc Burt Kelly.
WARNER-F.N.			**We Shall Meet Again**—Bette Davis, George Brent, Pat O'Brien. Director: Edmund Goulding. Producer: David Lewis. Screenplay: Warren Duff, Milton Krims, Howard Koch.	**Granny Get Your Gun**—May Robs Claude Rains, Jane Bryan, Ann To Lya Lys. Director: Vincent Sherm Producer: Bryan Foy. Screenplay: K Gamet.
MISCELLANEOUS			**The Sagebrush Family Trails West**—Bobby Clark. Director: Peter Stewart. Producer: Ben N. Judell (Producers Pictures Corp.)	

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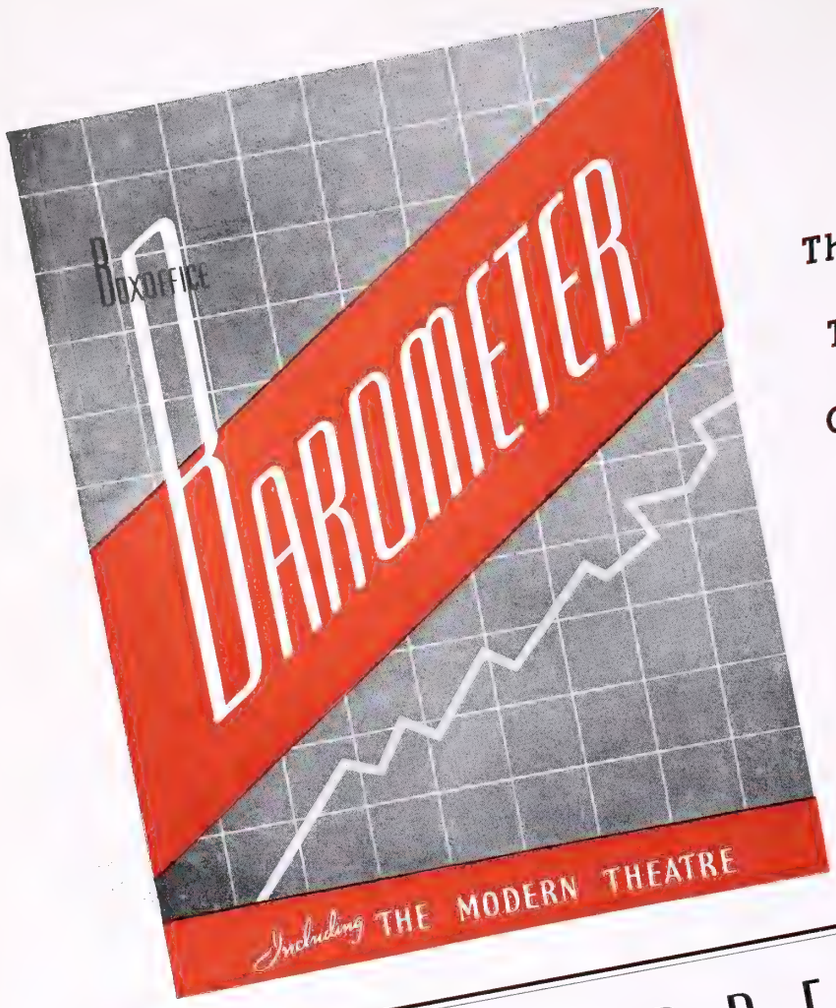
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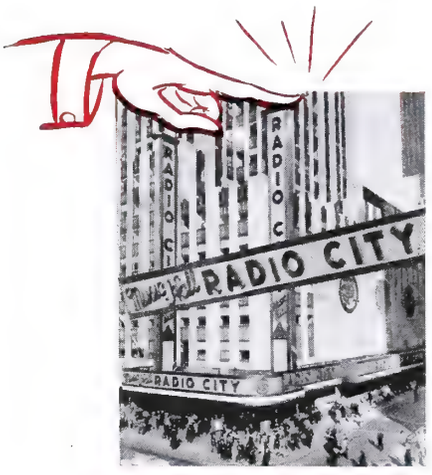
BOXOFFICE

NOVEMBER 18, 1939 25c Per Copy. Per Year $7.50 in U. S. and Canada. Foreign $10. NATIONAL EDITION

PRODUCTION INDEX

TODAY

Special M-G-M Flash!



Radio City Music Hall Got The Lubitsch Touch!

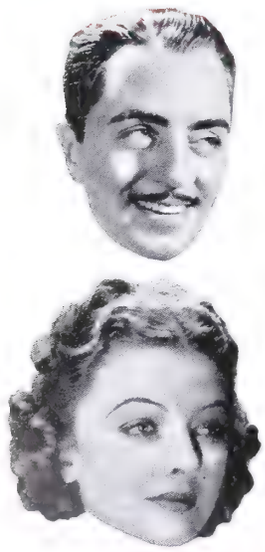
NEW YORK, N. Y.—GARBO'S "NINOTCHKA" is packing the Music Hall. Scarcely a man, woman or child anywhere who hasn't read in newspapers or magazines or heard over the air about M-G-M's delicious comedy. Keep building up the enthusiasm for your play-date. Tell them that "NINOTCHKA" was selected by the world's largest theatre for the World Premiere. It's smart to whet their appetite when you have such an eagerly-awaited entertainment! Never has there been such a build-up for any picture! Keep Them Hotchka for "Ninotchka"! And now the box-office says: "Topnotchka!"



"Balalaika" means Wine, Women and Song!

POMONA, CAL.—Following the sensational Preview here last week of M-G-M's "BALALAIKA" the house manager in his report confirms the audience reaction by stating it is one of the best musical entertainments of years. It is Nelson Eddy's best role since "Naughty Marietta" and it launches a glamorous personality in Ilona Massey.

CULVER CITY, CAL.—A second Preview group has returned to the M-G-M Studios confirming the exciting reaction to last week's sneak showing of William Powell and Myrna Loy in "ANOTHER THIN MAN." The opening flash on the screen of these two popular stars literally brought down the house. The applause was deafening. And now the Preview Post-Cards are pouring in. Seldom have so many been received by the Studio. The overwhelming opinion of the fans is that "ANOTHER THIN MAN" is the best of the entire series. Following immediately after the sensational Preview of "BALALAIKA" at Pomona and in view of M-G-M's succession of hits, this new triumph has set the Film Colony buzzing with talk. Out here the tip-off is "Watch Leo—M-G-M is on the march!"

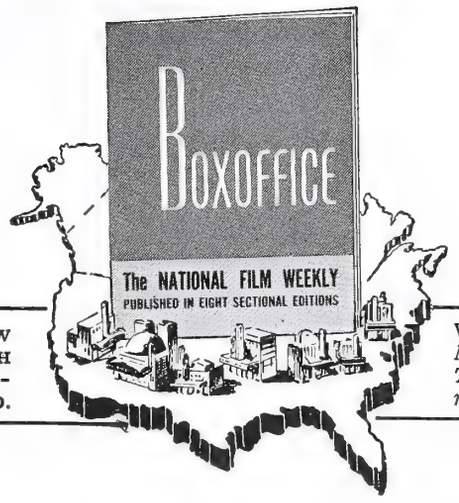


The applause was deafening!



M-G-M

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LONG TIME BETWEEN DRINKS

COME Thanksgiving and the first runs are usually flushed with above-average product. Comes New Year's and the studios, hell and high water notwithstanding, turn over to key accounts another best effort.

Around Easter, the long-established routine normally delivers again.

Everyone knows how the producer's best foot is stuck out for those coveted Labor Day dates.

Come the other forty-eight weeks and what have you? Some come out better than all right, some just all right and a whole slew of them just come out. It's a matter essentially left to chance and the breaks.

Aside from that well-entrenched and usually ventured industry argument that it has always been done that way, the question now before the house is this: Why always that way when, by some sort of a planned procedure, the benefits might be given a greater and more evenly distributed spread?

Hurriedly, maybe, someone will up with,"What's the difference? It's the same amount of playing time and adds to the same thing at the end of the year?" Which is a fast way of looking at it.

Industry statistics, even as inconclusive as they are, tend to prove the total money spent by the public on its film entertainment does not fluctuate widely. It will break down into highs, mediums and lows in calendar and seasonal periods, of course, but the aggregate does not move around startlingly over the span of a solid year.

What theatre gets how much depends on its attraction and surrounding favorable circumstances, including stiff or spineless competition and weather. If two houses battle each other with films of approximately the same draw, each may draw from the weaker third, if there is one around, but the probabilities also are exceedingly strong neither of the first two would do as well as it might if one had the field pretty much to itself.

It could be argued the theatre will average out, but it is well to remember that business lost for whatever reason is simply lost. However, there are two other angles about a staggered release plan which might rate attention in these times when war abroad induces so much thought about ways and means of recovering domestically what is being endangered overseas.

One is the possibility that the distributor, by springing a lusty attraction on a market which needs it stands a better chance of increasing his share as the exhibitor's also goes up.

The other concerns the public which rates more consideration, anyway. Staggering the gems by better pacing them among the flops might well insure a more even flow of the better product, tend to send the customer to the theatre more frequently and, of extreme value, keep him alive and interested in motion pictures as a regularly accepted member of his entertainment family.

This is merely the suggestion of a method for preserving and conserving product in the cause of the greatest possible spread. If distributors, as practically all of them have, can pull completed product out of a program already sold and park it on the sidelines for the following season, they might give a thought to a variance of their own practice when the purpose is for the general good.

Kann

BUSINESS SLIGHTLY BETTER, BUT BOOM FROM WAR NOT YET APPARENT; CAUTION IS KEYNOTE

Revitalized Industrial Activity Holds Hope For Slow Upbeat

NEW YORK—More than nine weeks of war in Europe has not brought about the anticipated boom in domestic exhibition that revitalized industrial activity was figured to foster.

Country-wise, grosses at affiliated circuits are slightly over the margins for a comparable period in 1938, executives say. The consensus indicates weekly fluctuations, noticeably not of a marked degree, are neither more nor less than the normal boxoffice traffic bears. In other words, the improvements registered are not traceable to a boom, foaled by war.

Opinion is about evenly divided as to what tangible effects the lifting of the embargo against the sale of munitions will have ultimately at the boxoffice. The optimism registered in some quarters stems from the observation that any noticeable pickup in orders for overseas which envelop steel and manufacturing centers will make itself felt in freer spending of amusement currency. This does not take the shape of an overall effect; rather, to areas where industry is the chief employment factor.

Significant is the fact that a circuit with units spread heavily over steel and mining centers discovered, via investigation, that larger and new payrolls in the past few weeks of increased activity have gone mainly toward paying off debts incurred during recent periods of idleness. The corollary here is that theatres have been, and will continue to be, passed up to some extent until obligations have been met by this group.

One View of Trend

An indication of why one circuit executive is not banking on any substantial improvement as a result of the war is the following bulletin of a series released regularly by the Cleveland Trust Co. and edited by Col. Leonard P. Ayres, vice-president.

Says Ayres: "Two factors make it impossible to reach as yet confident judgments about the probable effects of the European war on American business. One of them is that we have no way to estimate how long hostilities may last. The contest so far between the Allies and Germany has been a war of watchful waiting and tortuous talking. The participants on both sides have been keeping open the doors which might admit acceptable overtures for peace, and both sides have carefully refrained from any act which might commit them to a fight to the finish. While that situation continues it remains impossible to gauge the probable effects so far as we are concerned.

"The second factor is that we have as yet no real knowledge concerning the na-

(Continued on page 13)

Gov't Says Chicago Exchanges Get 25 to 50% From B&K

Nothing "Unusual" in UA-B&K Delay

Chicago—The present differences between UA and B&K on product has not delayed consummation of the deal beyond unusual expectancy, if statements in the government's findings in its contempt proceedings are any basis for fact.

State the findings: " . . . The only gap occurred at the beginning of the 1938-39 season when UA delayed making a first-run contract with B&K until November 22, 1938."

L. Jack Schlaifer, western division manager, handled the negotiations last year and also is dealing with the circuit now.

CHICAGO—Local exchanges of individual major companies derive from 25 to 50 per cent of their revenue from the B&K circuit alone. At least this was the case for three years up to 1938, according to statements by the department of justice in its findings submitted in the contempt proceedings against the circuit and majors.

M-G-M received the second highest percentage of revenue and RKO is listed as receiving the lowest from the circuit. In the case of M-G-M, 50 and 32/100 per cent of the business done in the three seasons from 1935-38 is attributed to B&K.

Paramount received 50.56 per cent, the highest for any company during the calendar years 1936-38. UA follows M-G-M with 40.68 per cent; next is 20th-Fox with 39 and 58/100 and then comes Vitagraph with 35 and 26/100 per cent. Universal is down for 26.96 per cent while RKO is mentioned at 25.60.

Under the terms of a five-year franchise dated September 1, 1936, M-G-M is guaranteed $429,300 as annual rental from the B&K circuit, according to the government. The franchise superseded a three-year agreement, it is stated.

In its brief, the government states "B&K operates five houses in the Loop and 24 in Chicago and its suburbs. It owns all the stock of Theatre Amusement Co., which operates 13 theatres in Chicago and its suburbs, and it owns all of the common stock in Publix Great States Theatres, Inc., which operates 55 theatres in 23 Illinois cities outside of Chicago. In addition, it owns 50 per cent of the stock in corporations operating two theatres in the Loop, five in Chicago and its suburbs, two in Gary, Ind., and 13 in five Illinois cities outside of Chicago. It also owns stock interests in two other corporations, each of which operates one theatre in Chicago.

"Paramount owned in excess of 87 per cent of the voting stock in B&K throughout the period from November 9, 1935 to November 9, 1938, and its president (Barney Balaban) received as his compensation a share of the B&K profits."

Further on, the government states "after he became president of Paramount, Paramount compensated B&K for the use of the defendant Balaban's services as president first, by payments of $2,500 a week and later $3,000 a week."

Houston Bright Spot; No Pinch Felt

HOUSTON—Exhibitors, chain and independent, here say they would not know there is a war in Europe, judging from their boxoffices and from their bookings to date. Neither have they been told of any possible shortage in product, they say.

In fact, Houston continues to be a bright spot of the state in amusements as well as real estate deals of which the chamber of commerce continually boasts. Recently, "Babes in Arms" set an all-time record in the first four days of business. "The Rains Came" was held over. Extended runs of reissues, notably "San Francisco," have become common at the Kirby, a small first-run theatre downtown.

"Maybe that's the answer—reissues," thinks one exhibitor in discussing a possible shortage of product. He did not wish his name used. The same reticence is shown on the part of other managers, but all agree this area has not felt any lack of product.

"If the producers will continue making quality pictures, I'll hold them over until they are squeezed dry. If we take the public into our confidence, as to the reason, the public will cooperate, too, I venture to say," states one independent.

"If any emergency comes about, we'll all hold 'em over and no questions asked," says a high ranking official of one of the local chains.

Son at the Helm

BEAUMONT, TEX.—Sol Gordon, who recently purchased Joe Clemmons' interest in Jefferson Amusement, is seriously ill and has turned over operation of the circuit to his son, Sol Gordon jr.

LITTLE DISTRIBUTOR INTEREST IN EXHIBITOR CODE REVIVAL MOVES; POINT TO ARNOLD BLOW

Veer to Willingness for Individual or Group Talk on Problems

NEW YORK—Despite activities by local exhibitor groups to revive the code, distributors generally are showing little or no interest in that direction. Rather, they are expressing a willingness to sit down with individual theatre owners and exhibitor bodies for a discussion of mutual problems.

Distributors repeat, and with no little emphasis, they can do nothing about a code for the industry with the threat by Thurman Arnold, trust buster, hanging over their heads to "further prosecute" if a plan of trade practices is adopted during pendency of the all-industry suit.

Warner, M-G-M and Paramount have openly declared themselves on concessions to be made to theatre operators in new contracts. Other companies, while not coming out with individual code concessions, have stated their willingness to cooperate to a certain point.

Sears Not Concerned With Code

Gradwell L. Sears, general sales manager for Warner, states he is not concerned about an industry code and he has made known the company's policy on concessions which are now in force.

Meanwhile, an Allied unit in Cleveland, comes to the fore with a late angle on the code. A spokesman for the group states he is in accord with Ray Branch, head of Allied of Michigan, favoring its adoption. Only a national instrument would meet with the local organization's approval, according to the spokesman, and not a set of regional agreements which differ in content or method of operation. Provided all parties go for it, arbitration to a dispute with equal representation on the board is acceptable.

Informed of this stand, distributors found it interesting but further than that would not comment.

In Philadelphia, delegates from New England, New Jersey, Maryland, Western Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and the District of Columbia, meeting at an eastern regional Allied convention regarded concessions being made by distributors as "articles of appeasement" are worthless.

William F. Rodgers, general sales manager for M-G-M and a guiding figure in the code when it was being promulgated, answered the Quaker City remarks by stating "whatever certain Allied leaders say does not interest me. The benefits we are giving speak for themselves."

The M-G-M sales head emphatically denied he has discussed the code with other distribution heads since receipt of the letter from Arnold condemning the document. He added he had no plans afoot to call a meeting since there was no reason for one at this time.

Not to be deterred by the apparent lethargy on the part of sales executives, Max A. Cohen, president of Allied of New York, is continuing his efforts for a code for New York. He has sent letters to all major and independent distributors and has received acknowledgements from Rodgers, Harry Gold of UA, Neil F. Agnew of Paramount, Abe Montague of Columbia and Herman Wobber of 20th-Fox, through William Sussman, eastern division manager. Edward Golden of Monogram also has answered. Other sales heads have been out of town and had not replied by the middle of the week.

It is understood all replies were favorable with the exception of M-G-M, which Cohen did not care to discuss. The fact Sears has not answered may be that he turned the letter over to counsel and has not yet received a report. However, Sears is inclined to believe Warner is doing business on an interstate basis and any code would be along those lines, or not at all. Sears previously wrote Cohen he would be willing to conciliate local problems.

Ginsberg Due in East

NEW YORK—Henry Ginsberg, former Selznick International executive, is due from the coast next week to discuss future plans with a number of eastern film executives.

To Up O'Shea

HOLLYWOOD—Daniel T. O'Shea, secretary of Selznick International, is slated to be elected vice-president to succeed Henry Ginsberg, resigned. O'Shea formerly was with RKO.

For Mediation Trade System

NEW YORK—Citing the failure of the code to apply arbitration where multiple interests are involved, Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, in a general bulletin calls for a system of organized, systematic mediation and conciliation in the industry.

Admitting it has never been tried before in this business, Kuykendall points out that conciliation and mediation works in other fields and is a desirable alternative to increasing litigation which may wind up in new statutory regulation.

Highlights of the annual meeting of the MPTOA board of directors are reviewed by Kuykendall who asserts there is a need for real understanding as a result of utter confusion, apparent disorganization and lack of direction of the industry.

Kuykendall maintains block booking will continue as a legislative issue "as long as several of the distributors refuse to provide a fair right to cancel."

"It seems to us the distributing companies who refuse to provide an option to cancel pictures that is reasonably satisfactory to small independent exhibitors who lack the buying power to force selective contracts, definitely invite enactment of legislation against compulsory block booking, and specifically the Neely Bill," he declares.

"Certainly there is no legal alibi to fall

(Continued on page 10)

James Roosevelt May Join RKO Or Paramount With Own Firm



CHICAGO—Filmdom's most famous adopted son, James Roosevelt, is understood leaving Samuel Goldwyn after the first of the year to form his own production company which will release through either RKO or Paramount. Negotiations are reported under way with executives of both distributing outlets with financing rumored as probably coming from the Giannini banks on the coast. From present indications, it appears George J. Schaefer has the inside track, according to report. While lecturing here before Sinai Temple, Roosevelt had "no comment" on his personal affairs and discussed the industry in general with reporters after the talk.

Mulvey Labels Roosevelt Reports as Untrue

NEW YORK—James Mulvey, vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., declared the James Roosevelt reports as "absolutely untrue."

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

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IN CANADA

CALGARY, ALTA.—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
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VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

CREEPING up on the nation's latest in double features, this is an idea of what some in the business are thankful for on Thanksgiving Day:

H. M. Addison—Duals.
Don Ameche—Tooth paste.
Harry C. Arthur jr.—Dogs make good friends.
Louis Astor—A grand slam.
Barney Balaban—Photograph albums.
John Balaban—Fishing.
Lou Barbano—Suits are made to order.
Dominick Barreca—Eddie Dowden.
Carter Barron—The Capitol.
Larry Beatus—Westchester.
Myer Beck—Russell Birdwell.
Constance Bennett—Lawyers.
Jack Benny—Rochester.
Maurice Bergman—Chess.
David Bernstein—Maine.
Russell Birdwell—Norma Shearer.
Sam Bischoff—Charles Einfeld's hook.
Dave Blum—Turkey farm.
Nate Blumberg—Deanna Durbin.
Clayton Bond—A new luncheon hideout.
Whitney Bourne—Stanton Griffis.
Billy Brandt—Vaudeville makes a comeback.
Harry Brandt—Good sense of humor and stout heart.
Marx Brothers—Ritz Brothers.
Ritz Brothers—Rubber stamps.
Frank Capra—U. S. Senate.
Charles Chaplin—Adolf Hitler.
Aunt Cissie—Freddie Bartholomew.
Max A. Cohen—World's Fair closed.
Harry Cohn—Frank Capra.
Jack Cohn—Katonah farm.
Nat Cohn—United Jewish appeal.
Col. H. A. Cole—Thurman Arnold.
Scoop Conlon—His clients don't read.
Tom Connors—The lion roars and doesn't squeak.
Mike Cullen—Broad, Columbus.
Michael Curtiz—Funk and Wagnall.
George Dembow—Trailers.
Cecil B. DeMille—Bathtubs and Injuns.
Ned E. Depinet—Three-year contract.
Marlene Dietrich—Publicity Russell Birdwell didn't get her.
Howard Dietz—Only has to count to 13 cards in bridge.
Oscar Doob—He can beat Jack Goetz at backgammon.
Phil Dunas—Double bills.
Scott Dunlap—"Mutiny in the Big House."
Charles Einfeld—Frequent New York trips.
Dave Epstein—Jimmy Starr.
Lynn Farnol—Nell.
Jimmy Fidler—Soap.
William A. Finney—New Orlando Beach home.
Henry Fonda—Abraham Lincoln.
Lep Friedman—His bride.
Sam Galanty—He's near the Senate.
Bob Gillham—Mrs. G's best juvenile seller "Thimble Summer."
Ben Goetz—Palm Springs.
Harry M. Goetz—"Gone With the Wind" and "Mr. Smith."
Harry Gold—Hurricane on Long Island.
Edward A. Golden—Testimonial dinners.
Samuel Goldwyn—Noah Webster.
Walter Gould—His Maryland farm.
E. C. Grainger—New five-year contract.
James R. Grainger—Peace of mind.
Stanton Griffis—Whitney Bourne.
Toby Gruen—Trailers.
Roy H. Haines—Toupees are for sale.
E. W. Hammons—No 77-B on the high seas.
Johnny Harris—George Variety Barker, V.
Bill Heineman—Hunting.
Mark Hellinger—Prohibition.
John W. Hicks jr.—Crop prices are up.
Bill Hollander—Sofia.
Walter J. Hutchinson—His valet, Taylor.
Walter Immerman—B&K.
Rube Jackter—Susan is walking at 16 months.
Ray Johnston—"The Million Dollar Mystery."
Grover Jones—Printing presses.
Ben Kalmenson—Long cigars.
Arthur W. Kelly—Foreign business is not worse.
Milt Kusell—He's sold up.
William LeBaron—Permanent waves.
Mervyn LeRoy—M-G-M.
Carl Leserman—His pool game is better than Sears'.
Sol Lesser—Bobby Breen's retirement.
Al Lichtman—Yass, menel and bella.
Arthur M. Loew—His great Dane is not bitch.
Harry Long—Akron.
Ernst Lubitsch—Greta Garbo.
Paul Malvern—Wright Brothers.
Raymond Massey—The same.
Jerry Mayer—Louis B. didn't miss the boat.
Seymour Mayer—Circus screeno.
C. E. McCarthy—Plane service from the coast.
Joe McConville—He got back before war broke out.
Barret McCormick—Broke 200 this year.
E. L. McEvoy—Cleveland is a short jump from Westchester.
Victor McLaglen—Uniforms.
Bill Melniker—Cornell has unbroken record and best team in east.
Lou Metzger—The Navy visits San Diego.
Fred Meyer—Labor unions.
Harry Michaelson—Shorts are getting longer play.
Bob Mochrie—Andy Smith.
Abe Montague—Movita, II, his yacht.
Boris Moross—Colored and checkered shirts
Sam E. Morris—Deep Lake farm.
C. C. Moskowitz—His mother's recovery.
Harry Moskowitz—Luxor Baths.
Joe Moskowitz—Heap of Broadway plays.
Abram F. Myers—Frank Murphy.
Grand National—77-B.
Louis Nizer—Mildred Wollins.
J. J. O'Connor—His daughter thinks "Pinocchio" will be better than "Snow White."
Paramount—Boris Morros is with RKO Radio.
Gene Picker—Daughter and son.

(Continued on page 16)



Three more big ones from PARAMOUNT for November!

18 NEW HOUSES OPEN AS FALL SEASON BOWS; 15 OTHERS ARE PLANNED; SIX ARE GOING UP

California Takes Lead in Building, With Quintet Of New Show Places

New York—With the start of the fall season, theatre construction continues active with BOXOFFICE correspondents reporting 18 newly opened theatres in October, 15 more announced as planned and six additional projects in various stages of erection.

Taking the lead from Texas, California shows five new houses now in operation, while another is in work and one planned. Ohio and New York are tied for second place with four.

New York also is showing signs of revived activity in theatre building with Ellenville, an upstate resort, the scene of a battle between two exhibitors, one in the town, and the other nearby, announcing plans for new theatres.

Only 17 states are listed in the newcomers for October. The various projects by state and city are as follows:

Arkansas

Fordyce—K. Lee Williams has finally opened the Dallas. Gerry Doig is manager.

Mountain View—Walter Lee has opened the Lee. He also has the Gem at Heber Springs.

California

Arvin—Dick Lemucchi has debuted the Arvin, a 650-seat house on the site of a theatre burned to the ground some time ago.

El Monte—Art Sanborn premiered the El Monte.

Inglewood—FWC has opened a new house with James Brinton managing.

Los Angeles—Southside Theatres has opened the Alto, a 900-seater.

San Diego—George Fink has given the town a 600-seater, called Coronet.

Santa Monica—The Aero is under construction and it is reported Donald Douglas is backing the project.

Tracy—Principal Theatres, FWC subsidiary, plans to erect a 600-seater here.

Connecticut

New Haven—Foundation for a new 600-seat theatre has been completed.

Florida

Orlando—George Wilby, Frank Harris and Harris Robinson are planning a drive-in here.

Georgia

Augusta—The new Miller, owned by Frank Miller, is due to open in December. It will seat 1,700.

Elberton—Lucas & Jenkins have announced plans for a new house here.

Toccoa—The new Star is scheduled to open in December.

Indiana

Remington—The newly finished Rem is now open.

Hagerstown—Theatrical Managers, Inc., has leased a new theatre being built by Charles Wood, local contractor and builder.

Indianapolis—The Charles M. Olson Enterprises are planning a new theatre on E. Washington St.

Iowa

Onawa—The new Whiting, operated by Eugene Hopkins and costing $15,000, has opened.

Louisiana

New Orleans—Jaydell Theatres has opened its new Circle, costing $125,000.

Maryland

Arlington—The new Buckingham, operated by Neighborhood Theatres, is now doing business with John Duffus managing.

Mississippi

Jackson—An application has been filed for the construction of a new house, to be known as the Pix.

Missouri

Maryville—C. E. Cook has opened the new Tivoli.

New York

New York—New Era Realty has acquired two sites in the Park Chester development, Bronx, for a new house.

Max A. Cohen, Allied of New York head and president of Cinema Circuit, plans a 1,000-seat project at 116th St. off Fifth Ave., and opposite his Jewel, in Harlem. Tom Lamb is working on the plans.

Ellenville—Jimmy Sporado, who operates the Shadowland, announces plans for a 600-seat house.

Scholeson & Popkin of Woodbourne state they plan an 800-seat theatre here.

North Carolina

Albemarle—C. G. Lawing has debuted the new Roxy.

Monroe—The Center, a Wilby-Kincey house, seating 850, will be constructed here.

Wilmington—George W. Bailey plans a modern theatre in this city.

Wilson—H. F. Kincey has opened the new Carolina.

Ohio

Dayton—A new 1,500-seat house will be built on the site of Memorial Hall, according to C. W. Spofford, superintendent of the Military Hall, to cost $200,000.

Eaton—Rader Bros. have started work on a new 525-seat house.

New Philadelphia — Bids for construction of Feiber & Shea's new 700-seat theatre will be taken in December with construction to get started next spring. Harry C. Hollbrook is the architect who has just completed the plans.

Painesville—Jack Shulman and Abe Schwartz opened a new 1,239-seat house, the Lake.

South Carolina

Chester—Fred J. Powell will convert a building here into a theatre.

Tennessee

Smithville—The new Fox has opened.

Texas

Alice—The new Rialto has opened under the management of Milt Karl.

College Station—L. M. Threet will build the Campus here.

Port Arthur—A new Threet house is to be constructed here.

Washington

Dishman—G. E. Hutchings is planning to open the new Dishman.

F-P Canadian Builds Theatre for Troops

Toronto—Famous Players Canadian has reconstructed the Music Building at the exhibition grounds into a theatre but there will be no public admittance. Shows will be put on for troops, without cost, nightly throughout the winter with exchanges supplying films gratis. The cost of remodeling the building is estimated at $5,000, exclusive of furnishings and equipment loaned from the circuit's warehouse.

New York Reflects Signs Of Revived Activity in Theatre Construction

Fear "Wind" Debut Delay In Studio Union Row

ATLANTA—Difficulties arising at the Selznick International studios in Hollywood over proposed increases for technical staffs may delay the premiere of "Gone With the Wind," tentatively slated for December 15. It is reported scoring of the picture has been held up and the local premiere may be put over to December 17, or a day or so later.

Scribes Prefer "Mr. Smith"

NEW YORK—"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" has been given first place in the October voting by Scripps-Howard critics.

"Drums Along the Mohawk"

making one of the greatest records in boxoffice history!

IT HAS TOPPED "ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND" IN THESE TOWNS: Toledo, Boston, Kansas City, Albany, Hartford, Gloversville, Salt Lake City, Utica, Richmond, Schenectady, Milwaukee, Amsterdam, Springfield, Mass., Providence.

IT HAS TOPPED "THE RAINS CAME" IN THESE: Philadelphia, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Des Moines, Denver, New Haven, Detroit, Indianapolis, Norfolk, Springfield, Ill., Dayton; equalled it in Portland, Ore.

NOW IN ITS 3RD GREAT WEEK AT ROXY, NEW YORK, after Sunday attendance of holdover week beat that of first week.

20th CENTURY FOX

THE KEYSTONE OF YOUR FUTURE

BOXOFFICE FLASHES

Dual Studio Battle

HOLLYWOOD—Two battles are confronting producers in current conferences with the IATSE and 14 other AFL crafts: (1) To rescind the 10 per cent IATSE wage increase already granted. (2) To stave off the expected demand of other AFL unions for similar raises. The three talent guilds (actors, writers and directors) have definitely rejected the IATSE invitation to attend and support the labor contingent.

Link in News Chain

DETROIT—First unit in projected string of newsreel theatres to be opened in large number of American cities by English interests expected here.

Says Duals Mean Dough

CHICAGO — Most of the industry feels duals should be abolished, James Roosevelt stated in an address at Sinai Temple lecture forum, but attendance figures at boxoffice show the public still wants them.

Higher Admissions?

ATLANTA — American filmgoers will be called upon to pay higher admission prices next year to aid the industry balance foreign market losses, declared Herbert J. Yates, president of Consolidated Film Corp., here on business.

Boom Expected

CLEVELAND—Leading film men believe theatres will enjoy boom after first of year which will last as long as present peak of employment is maintained.

F&M Heads Testify

ST. LOUIS—Mrs. Fanchon Simon and Mrs. Marco Wolff testified before Circuit Judge Julius R. Nolte they had never authorized Harry C. Arthur jr., their St. Louis operating manager, to enter into private contracts with motion picture operators who were "henchmen" of John P. Nick, deposed head of IATSE Local No. 143.

Receipts, Admissions Up

OTTAWA—Canadian film patrons in 1938 paid $33,635,052 for admissions, the greatest sum since 1931 and a 3.5 per cent increase over 1937. Attendance figures hit 137,976,052 for 1938, compared with 134,374,061 in 1937.

Exceeds Ten Million

TORONTO—Total revenue of distributing companies in the Dominion exceeded $10,000,000 in 1938 for the first time on record, according to the annual business statistical report of the Canadian government.

"Great Pictures" Aim Of United Artists

NEW YORK—A "bold policy of great pictures" is the determination of UA for 1940-41, Murray Silverstone, in charge of world-wide operations, declared following the annual stockholders' meeting, which saw the "technical" re-election of all directors save one.

Amplifying the "bold policy" formula, Silverstone asserted the idea embodies a certain risk but seems assured of success in that "finer attractions" will bring more revenue to the profit-sharing producers and thus help counteract the "foreign influence" of lost revenue due to the war.

The formula will embrace additional producers to the 11 presently under the UA banner, which will give the company a "wider spread" of product, Silverstone said. In all probability, there will be a hike in the number of pictures for the 1940-41 season, he added.

In this respect, he pointed significantly to the more than $7,000,000 increase in rentals this year compared with sales for the 1938-39 selling season, which is due to the larger number of pictures being released by UA. The figure is for the domestic market only, he pointed out.

He intends to go to the coast shortly to confer on the 1940-41 program, Silverstone declared. While there he will discuss production plans with Alexander Korda, head of London Films.

Herbert H. Maass, attorney, was elected a director to represent Mary Pickford. He replaces Theodore Caruso. Otherwise, the directors remain the same: Charles Schwartz for Charles Chaplin; Dennis O'Brien for Douglas Fairbanks; James Mulvey for Samuel Goldwyn, and Emanuel Silverstone for Korda.

Gov't Will Rephrase Some A-Z Queries

NEW YORK—With distributor attorneys in a quandary as to the intent of certain questions sought by the government in its A to Z quiz, Paul Williams has promised to rephrase a number of the interrogatories in the all-industry suit. Counsel for both sides have already agreed on some of the interpretations, but one on which there is no meeting of the minds is the definition of a first-run theatre. That this would be a bone of contention was exclusively pointed out in BOXOFFICE for November 4.

Majors are prepared to settle down to the work of answering the interrogatories and are seeking a long extension to complete the task ahead of them. Previously, eliminations made by the government reduced the work in several instances, but counsel for defendants point out at least six months is required before factual answers can be submitted.

Schine Not Taking Ohio Circuit, Neth Declares

COLUMBUS—J. Real Neth, owner of the Neth theatre circuit, has denied a report that the Schine circuit is to take over his houses. The report apparently originated in Buffalo. Neth operates the Markham, Clinton, Eastern, State, Lincoln and Cameo.

Kuykendall Urges Trade Mediation System

(Continued from page 5)

back on in refusing to provide a fair cancellation clause, otherwise the big theatres would not get such selection," Kuykendall goes on to say. "And it must be clear that a last-minute promise by the distributor to do something sometime will not impress the next Congress."

The increasing menace of special taxes on theatres and the threat of admission tax levies at a rate three to five times the rate of taxation on other retail sales, is termed by the MPTOA leader "a matter of grave concern."

He adds, "unless theatres are well organized to defend themselves against such an unfair and discriminatory tax we are apt to get socked."

Haines and Kalmenson Helm New Sears Drive

NEW YORK—Roy H. Haines, eastern sales manager, and Ben Kalmenson, western sales head for Warner, are captains for their respective territories in the fourth annual drive for Gradwell L. Sears, general sales manager. The 16-week drive gets under way December 24 and closes April 13, 1940. There will be $25,000 in prizes awarded to the first three winning districts. Haines and Kalmenson are on a tour of their exchanges where they are holding meetings and informing local personnel of the drive details.

Premiere Spots Selected For Paramount Duo

NEW YORK—Neil F. Agnew announces the double premiere of "Geronimo" at the Orpheum, Phoenix and State, Tucson, November 24, and the gala opening of "Gulliver's Travels" at the Sheridan, Miami Beach, December 17. Plans for the premiere of "The Great Victor Herbert" are in the formative stage.

"As I have left the Warner Theatre in Morgantown, W. Va., please forward all of my copies of BOXOFFICE to the following address: D. L. Robinson, 109 State Street, Terra Alta, W. Va. I still say that BOXOFFICE will always be 'The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry' and cannot see how a good theatre man can be without it."

—D. L. ROBINSON

BOXOFFICE The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

"STUDENTS!"

"ARE SINGING SONG TITLES BETTER THAN SONG-SINGING TITLES . .

OR HOW MANY?"



RKO RADIO SAYS
YOU'LL FIND OUT...WITH

KAY KYSER

THE OLD PROFESSOR HIMSELF...AND

ADOLPHE MENJOU

IN

"THAT'S RIGHT- YOU'RE WRONG"



WITH

MAY ROBSON • LUCILLE BALL
DENNIS O'KEEFE • EDWARD EVERETT HORTON
ROSCOE KARNS • MORONI OLSEN

AND

KAY KYSER'S BAND

FEATURING

GINNY SIMMS
HARRY BABBITT
SULLY MASON
ISH KABIBBLE

AND

"THE COLLEGE OF MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE"





RKO RADIO PICTURES

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY **DAVID BUTLER**

SCREEN PLAY BY WILLIAM CONSELMAN AND JAMES V. KERN

Radio's hottest and screen's best in the biggest two-for-one show value that ever packed your theatre to the ropes on the street! A QUIZ-BANG BOMBSHELL OF RHYTHM, ROMANCE AND ROARS!...WHEE!



LITHO U.S.A.

Business on Upbeat; War Boom Missing

(Continued from page 4)

ture of the contest. Up to this time it has been mainly a war of blockade and propaganda. It might continue that way for a long time if England and France should be confident that they could win by persistent economic strangulation, and if Germany should be convinced that with the friendly cooperation of Russia she could indefinitely withstand such a siege.

"Our orders from abroad," the view concludes, "would not be great in volume if the warring nations should settle down to a long-drawn-out contest of economic blockade on the one side, and of largely passive resistance on the other. The most important fact about the probable effects of the war on American business is that they are likely to be meager unless and until the nature of warfare changes. Stalemated trench fighting would produce large orders, and so would open field operations, but economic blockades are quite unlikely to do it."

Ayres' statement gives rise to this view held by a circuit executive: "Now we know why the boom we expected is not here. Something else that has not helped in the last month is the delay in cold weather, which always hurts the apparel business and indirectly affects theatres. The perfect weather and big football games over recent weekends also have retarded rising grosses. Yet we know that people in certain sections are working for the first time in a year. We hope there is a supply of above average product around when these people begin returning to the theatres, otherwise we won't be able to hold them."

In answer to queries, these are the films that are said to be gathering above average grosses: "Babes in Arms," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Drums Along the Mohawk," "The Roaring Twenties" and "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex." A favorable outlook portends for "We Are Not Alone," "First Love," "Four Wives," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Ninotchka," "Pinocchio," "Gone With the Wind" and "Gulliver's Travels," in the opinion of circuit heads.

Nebraska Employment Index Holding Own

LINCOLN—Local employment by private industry stands about even, although as many as 300 requests a day are pouring into WPA state offices here asking for payroll berths through the winter. The outcountry demand for work is cued to the severe drouth conditions of the past summer, which rocked farm labor needs and farm income as well.

Business position of the theatres is about five per cent better locally than in 1938 at this time, although the outstate situation is about that much or more off.

Employment and Payroll Increases in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS—From a report of 806 firms in Indiana employing 22,347 people, from August 15 to September 15, there was an increase in employment of 5.5 per cent and an increase in payrolls of 5.5 per cent. This increase is compared to the month previous, July 15 to August 15. The normal increase in past years during those periods has been 3.6 per cent so that the actual gain of 1.9 per cent is an abnormal gain over the average of previous years.

However, the rise in employment over the same period last year was 16 per cent, the increase in payrolls 23 per cent.

The increase in employment in the Indianapolis territory shows a figure of 11 per cent over the same period last year and a gain of 16.4 per cent in payrolls.

NSS Xmas and New Year's Clips Set

New York—National Screen Service has completed two sets of trailers for the Christmas holiday season which will strike the right note with every audience. They come in two forms, the de luxe and junior. The former classification is replete to the last detail with merry doings of Santa Claus and conveys best wishes of the theatre management. The New Year clip is a tasteful job showing well-known Father Time and a diaper-draped youngster in appropriate surroundings.

New Monogram Release

NEW YORK—Monogram will release "The Gentleman from Arizona," produced by Golden West Productions.

Three Censor Boards Approve "Hitler"

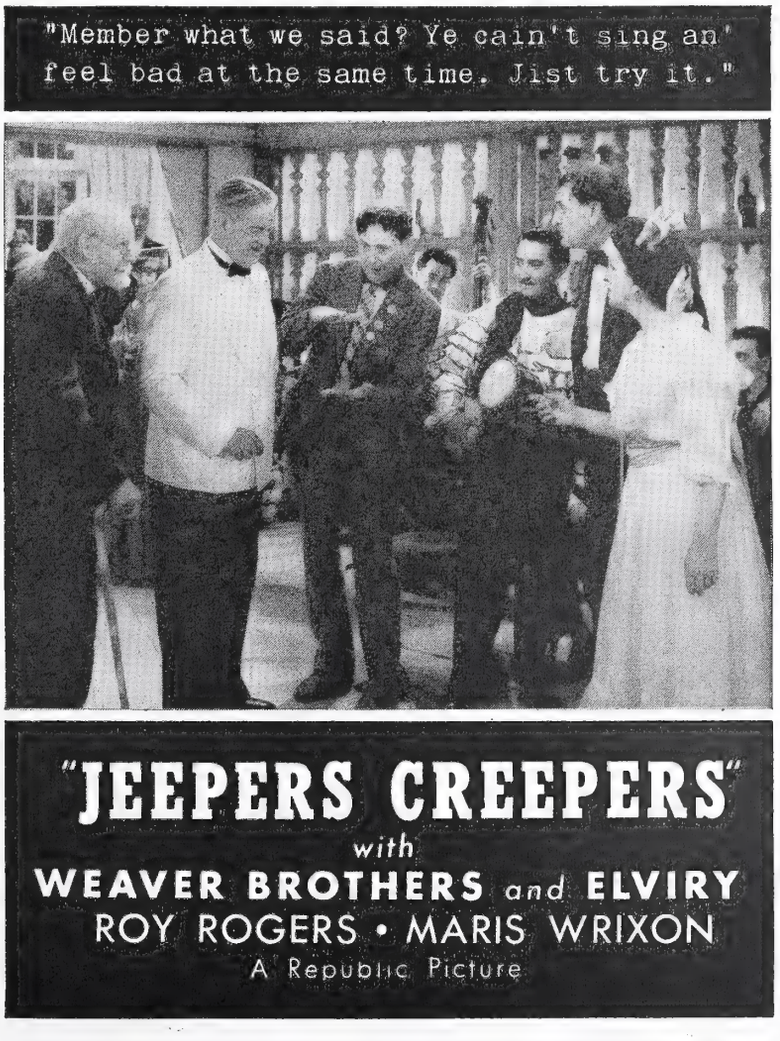
NEW YORK—Three censor boards have approved "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," according to Harry Rathner, eastern representative for Producers Distributing Corp. These are New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan. However, for the local territory, the name "Hitler" has been removed from the title, and sponsors hope the Hays office will grant a seal because of eliminations made.

Boards in Chicago and Providence have turned the picture down and it is up for reconsideration. In Ohio, the board has not made a decision, it is stated. The National Board of Review passed the film last week. It opened at the Globe, Saturday, and also has been booked for first runs in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Prints of "Buried Alive" now are in exchanges and the first print of "Invisible Killer" arrived from the coast this week. "Mercy Plane" is in production on the coast.

Pathe Profit

NEW YORK—Net earnings for Pathe Film for the nine months ended September 30 totaled $192,002.20. The company owns 35 per cent of the DuPont common stock which netted Pathe $435,000 in 1939, as compared with $325,000 in 1938.



"MR. SMITH" STILL CHALKING UP HIGH MARKS

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—
Cleveland (2nd wk.) 200

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—
Pittsburgh 190

DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK—
New York 180

BABES IN ARMS (dual)—
New Haven 165

PRIVATE LIVES OF ELIZABETH AND ESSEX (dual)—Milwaukee 165

BABES IN ARMS—Philadelphia, Pittsburgh 155

EXTENDED RUNS

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, 26th and final wk., New York City.

Harvest, 7th wk., World, New York City.

Rasputin, 5th wk., 55th St. Playhouse, New York City.

Babes in Arms, 4th wk., Seattle; 3rd wk., New York City, Philadelphia.

Jamaica Inn, 4th wk., New York City.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 3rd wk., New York City.

BOSTON

Fenway—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox); **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (WB)..110
Memorial—**Intermezzo** (UA), 2nd wk; **Three Sons** (RKO) 60
Metropolitan—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **Everything's on Ice** (RKO) 95
Orpheum—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **The Real Glory** (UA) 140
Paramount—Same as Fenway 115
State—Same as Orpheum 150

CHARLOTTE

Carolina—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M) 120
Imperial—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB) 120
State—**Wall Street Cowboy** (Rep), 1st half.... 110
State—**Inside Information** (Univ), 2nd half.... 100

CHICAGO

Apollo—**On Your Toes** (FN) 90
Chicago—**Cat and the Canary** (Para), plus **Eddie Cantor** on stage 150
Garrick—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), held 3rd loop wk. 90
Oriental—**Two Bright Boys** (Univ); **Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox), plus stage show..... 95
Palace—**First Love** (Univ); **Full Confession** (RKO), held 2nd wk. 110
Roosevelt—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M), 2nd wk... 90
State-Lake—**These Glamour Girls** (M-G-M), plus stage show 100
United Artists—**The Real Glory** (UA), held 2nd wk. 125

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Intermezzo** (UA) 110
Capitol—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk., held 130
Keith's—**Blondie Brings Up Baby** (Col)..... 110
Lyric—**Flying Deuces** (RKO) 100
Palace—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), held... 120
Shubert—**Two Bright Boys** (Univ), plus stage show 110

CLEVELAND

Allen—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. 200
Hippodrome—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB)..... 135
Lake—**The Man They Could Not Hang** (Col); **The Road to Glory** (20th-Fox)..... 125
Palace—**On Your Toes** (FN), stage: Joe E. Brown and 5 acts of vaudeville..... 100
State—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 100
Stillman—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk... 100

DALLAS

Capitol—**One Hour to Live** (Univ)..... 80
Capitol—**Call a Messenger** (Univ)..... 100
Majestic—**Blackmail** (M-G-M), plus Seger Ellis band on stage 115
Palace—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 110
Rialto—**Beware, Spooks!** (Col) 90
Rialto—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ). 140
Tower—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. 120

DENVER

Aladdin—**Roaring Twenties** (WB), after a wk. at the Denver 100
Broadway—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), after 2 wks. at the Orpheum 110
Denham—**Disputed Passage** (Para), 2nd wk..... 85
Denver—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col).. 145
Orpheum—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Full Confession** (RKO) 100
Paramount—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN); **No Place to Go** (FN) 130
Rialto—**Real Glory** (UA), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (20th-Fox)..... 115

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Lure of the Wasteland** (SR); **Should Husbands Work** (Rep) 50
Apollo—**Submarine Patrol** (20th-Fox); **Kid Nightingale** (WB) 50
Circle—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para), plus Cab Calloway orch. stage show..... 140
Indiana—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB)..... 85
Loew's—**The Real Glory** (UA); **The Hidden Power** (Col) 100
Lyric—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 90

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**First Love** (Univ) 105
Midland—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 85
Newman—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), held over 130
Orpheum—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN); **Three Sons** (RKO) 90
Tower—**Rio** (Univ), plus stage show..... 105
Uptown—Same as Esquire 115

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Eternally Yours** (UA); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox) 100
Downtown—**The Roaring 20's** (WB); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB)..... 125
Hillstreet—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Two Bright Boys** (Univ), 2nd wk..... 150
Hollywood—Same as Downtown..... 125
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet..... 150
Paramount—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), plus stage show. 110
State—Same as Chinese..... 100

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **These Glamour Girls** (M-G-M) 120
Riverside—**Rio** (Univ), plus stage show..... 135
Strand—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 100
Warner—**The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB); **Kid Nightingale** (WB)..... 165
Wisconsin—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **The Escape** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..... 105

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Mad Youth** (SR); **Mutiny on the Blackhawk** (Univ) 150
Century—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO) 60
Esquire—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), 2nd wk. 125
Gopher—**Blackmail** (M-G-M) 100
Minnesota—**Main Street Lawyer** (Rep), plus stage show (**John Boles**) 150
Orpheum—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col). 140
State—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..... 100
World—**The Challenge** (SR) 60

NEW HAVEN

College—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Coast Guard** (Col), 2nd wk..... 165
Loew-Poli—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox), moved to College for 2nd wk..... 135
Paramount—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para); **It Could Happen to You** (20th-Fox), 8 days plus midnight show 140
Roger Sherman—**First Love** (Univ); **Hero for a Day** (Univ) 140

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Stronger Than Desire** (M-G-M)..... 100
Globe—**Beau Geste** (Para) 85
Liberty—**Birth of a Baby** (GN)..... 150
Orpheum—**U-Boat 29** (Col) 125
Saenger—**Cat and the Canary** (Para)..... 150
State—**At the Circus** (M-G-M)..... 150
Tudor—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox).... 80

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M), 25th wk. held 65
Capitol—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 3rd wk..... 110
Globe—**Beware Spooks** (Col) 80
Paramount—**Disputed Passage** (Para), 2nd wk. plus stage show 100
Radio City Music Hall—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk. plus stage show.. 120
Rivoli—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 4th wk..... 90
Roxy—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 180
Strand—**On Dress Parade** (WB), 2nd wk., plus stage show 80

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB)..... 85
Liberty—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox); **The Escape** (20th-Fox) 110
Midwest—**At the Circus** (M-G-M) 110
Plaza—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 3rd wk..... 125
State—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk. 100
Tower—**The Old Maid** (FN), 2nd wk..... 100

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Blondie Brings Up Baby** (Col); **Coast Guard** (Col) 100
Omaha—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (WB), 2nd wk..... 95
Orpheum—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Two Bright Boys** (Univ) 150
Paramount—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para), plus A. B. Marcus stage show 100
State—**When Germany Surrendered** (Cap); **For Love or Money** (Univ) 100

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**The Real Glory** (UA), 2nd wk..... 80
Boyd—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB). 150
Earle—**Pride of the Blue Glass** (WB), with the Dead End Kids and Ted Weems on stage. 145
Fox—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), 2nd wk.... 65
Karlton—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox).. 75
Keith's—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M)..... 155
Stanley—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox).125
Stanton—**U-Boat 29** (Col) 130

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col)...190
Barry—**Dark Journey of U-Boat 854** (UA); **Cowboy Quarterback** (FN) 100
Fulton—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox)..... 70
Penn—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB)..... 90
Senator—**Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono); **Torpedoed** (SR) 70
Stanley—**They Shall Have Music** (UA); Glenn Miller orchestra 125
Warner—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd d. t. wk. 155

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**First Love** (Univ); **Smashing the Money Ring** (FN), 2nd wk..... 115
United Artists—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 125
Orpheum—**Back Door to Heaven** (Para), plus stage show 100
Paramount—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox)..... 115
Liberty—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 2nd wk.; **Scandal Sheet** (Col) 90

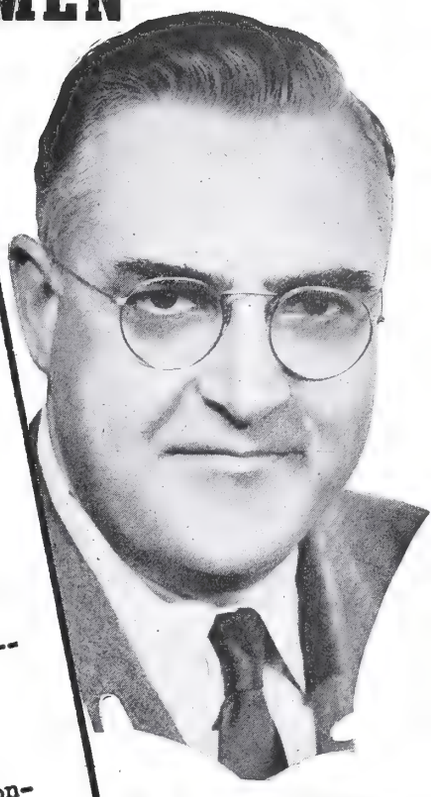
SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**Naughty But Nice** (WB); **Bad Lands** (RKO) 100
Centre—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox).. 110
Paramount—**They Shall Have Music** (UA)..... 105
Studio—**The Old Maid** (20th-Fox)..... 105
Utah—**Dust Be My Destiny** (FN); **Way Down South** (RKO) 105

SEATTLE

Blue Mouse—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **Two Bright Boys** (Univ) 90
Fifth Avenue—**Intermezzo** (UA); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox) 90
Liberty—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col).. 125
Music Box—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 4th wk.. 100
Orpheum—**The Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA); **Bad Lands** (RKO) 100
Palomar—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), plus stage show 110
Paramount—**First Love** (Univ); **Little Accident** (Univ) 100

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SHOWMEN OF AMERICA



W. RAY JOHNSTON

MONOGRAM PICTURES CORPORATION
R.K.O. BUILDING · ROCKEFELLER CENTER
NEW YORK

W. RAY JOHNSTON
PRESIDENT

A quarter of a century of activity in the industry has taught me certain things. One of the most important is that showmanship consists in being able to "spot" a feature that lends itself to expert ballyhoo--- and then to get behind it with just such a campaign.

"MUTINY IN THE BIG HOUSE" is a showman's picture. I say that in all sincerity because I am convinced that it has highly exploitable angles which can be made to return substantial grosses.

The picture itself has been handsomely received by the most competent critics in the industry. I know it will more than meet every demand made on it; the rest is up to the showman.

Sincerely yours,

W. Ray Johnston

SOLD TO THESE CIRCUITS

Balaban & Katz
Comerford-Publix
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Publix-Denver
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Butterfield
Great States
Fox Intermountain
Saenger Amusement Co.
Fox West Coast

"MUTINY IN THE BIG HOUSE"

Directed by WILLIAM NIGH
Associate Producer GRANT WITHERS • Screenplay by ROBERT D. ANDREWS
Original story by MARTIN MOONEY
A MONOGRAM PICTURE

STARRING
CHARLES BICKFORD
BARTON MacLANE

"This one is worth 'A' playing time." — Red Kann, Boxoffice

"Smartly contrived, briskly stimulating." — Motion Picture Herald

"Action and suspense pile up the thrills." — Jay Emanuel

"Best prison picture Hollywood has given the world." — Hollywood Spectator

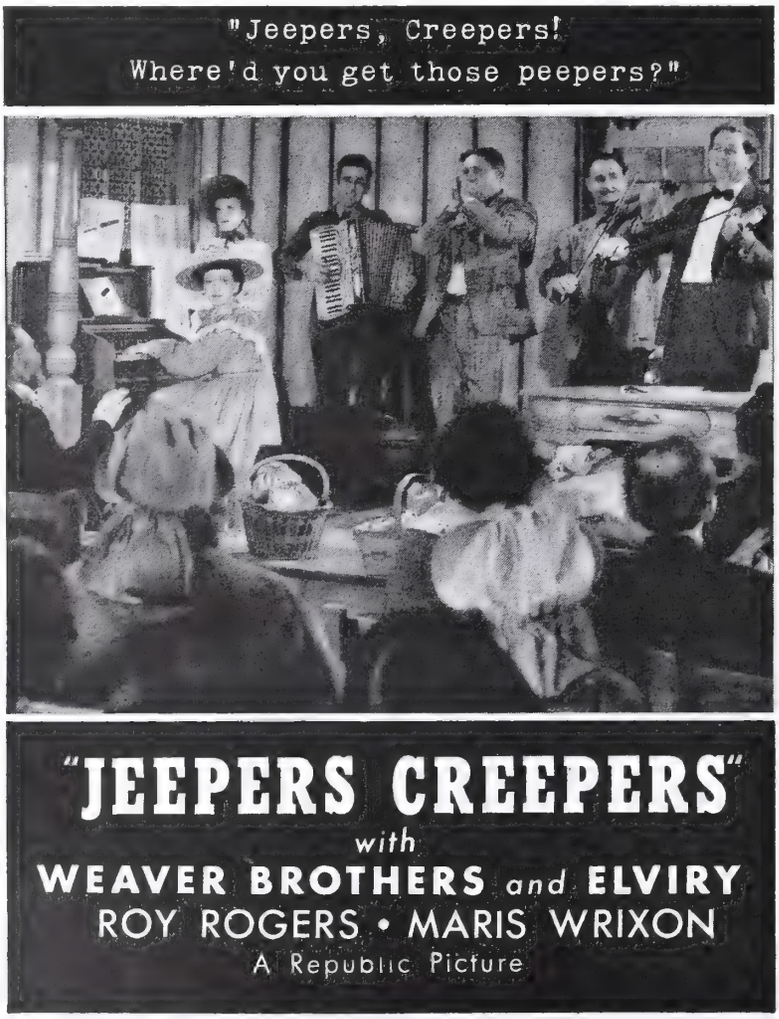
"Strong dramatic picture will score with all patrons." — Film Daily

"Tense and thrilling — Monogram's Best." — Hollywood Reporter

Notes to You from Red Kann

(Continued from page 6)

Bill Pine—Cecil B. DeMille.
Nate Platt—A new baby.
Dick Powell—Joan Blondell.
Bill Powers—His alma mater hasn't let him down.
Press agents—Harrison Carroll.
Charlie Prutzman—His new office.
Harry Rapf—Miami is still a good vacation spot.
I. Rappaport—"Mr. Smith."
Phil Reisman—"21."
Sam Rinzler—He's improved his teeing.
Robert Riskin—Frank Capra.
Norton V. Ritchey—The auxiliary yawl, "Outlaw."
Hal Roach—Pari-mutuels.
Herman Robbins—Trailers.
Bill Rodgers—He's back in New Rochelle.
Charles R. Rogers—Bing Crosby and a pair of scissors.
Richard Rowland—Murray Silverstone.
J. Robert Rubin—No more than 24 hours in a day.
Jerome Safron—His headquarters are in L. A.
E. M. Saunders—He has no complaints.
George J. Schaefer—Floyd B. Odlum.
Joseph M. Schenck—His namesake is a winner.
Marvin Schenck—Gene Picker.
Nicholas M. Schenck—His family.
Myer Schine—Freddie Wood.
L. Jack Schlaifer—Action for your money.
A. Schneider—A third son.
William Scully—Those profits.
Si Seadler—His feelings about gout are not printable.
Grad Sears—Sterling stone.
Joseph H. Seidelman—His new office designed by Mrs. J. Cheever Cowdin.
Joe Seider—Long Island.
Max Seligman—There are teachers for golf.
Dave Selznick—Jock Whitney.
Myron Selznick—Ten per cent.
Mack Sennett—Darryl F. Zanuck.
Carl Shalit—Cooperative is in business.
Harry Shaw—Parades.
Mort Shea—E. C. Grainger.
Ann Sheridan—"Oomph" boys in Warner's publicity department.
Louis K. Sidney—N. M. Schenck.
Manny Silverstone—Murray Silverstone.
Murray Silverstone—Alec Korda.
George Skouras—Greek-English dictionary.
Spyros Skouras—Return of his children for Thanksgiving dinner.
Edward Small—Alexandre Dumas.
H. M. Warner—His grandchild.
A. W. Smith—Warner circuit deal.
Cresson E. Smith—Boom in south and west.
Nate Spingold—He has nothing to do with "Hollywood Cavalcade."
Mort Spring—Horse back riding.
Howard Strickling—Chicken farm.
William Sussman—His new Yonker's home.
Truman Talley—Stork Club.
Bill Thomas—Harold Hurley.
Leslie E. Thompson—Four sons enjoying good health.
Universal—Durbin, Pasternak and Koster.
W. G. Van Schmus—"Ninotchka."
Joe Vogel—Has a steady job after 30 years.
Jack L. Warner—Hal Wallis.
George W. Weeks—"The End of the Road Farm" in Michigan.
Louis Weinberg—Keep his transmission in his car.
Max Weisfeldt—Got all his shorts together.
George Weltner—His boat.
Orson Welles—H. G. Wells.
Sol Wurtzel—John Stone.



Film Money Flood for Plays Is Unlikely

NEW YORK—Expected flood of motion picture money for backing Broadway plays is not likely to materialize, if the reaction of majors' representatives to the amended basic agreement is any indication.

Dissatisfaction and apathy characterize the feelings of film members who have negotiated with the Dramatists' Guild over a plan which established a new yardstick for financing plays.

Film companies, according to one official close to the situation, probably will continue to buy films in the open market as heretofore.

Only inducement that will cause a company to finance a play on a royalty basis as called for in the amended basic agreement, it is pointed out, is a script of exceptional merit.

Meanwhile, Jake Wilk, one of the sponsors of the new plan and spokesman for the film committee, is maintaining a discreet silence. "Nothing new right now," is all he says.

Sherwood Quits Guild Helm

NEW YORK—Robert Sherwood, author of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," has resigned as president of the Dramatists Guild, which is currently working on a new contract to provide film financing for plays and which producers are not likely to accept until radical changes are made.

Ben Goetz Studies Plan For Independent Try

PALM SPRINGS—Ben Goetz, former M-G-M production head in England, recuperating from an operation he underwent in New York, is reported planning to enter independent production as soon as he recovers sufficiently to leave for Hollywood. He has been here several weeks.

Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, offered him a production berth at the studios but Goetz declined because of various conditions attached to the offer. No distribution plans are set, since Goetz is anxious to take a complete rest before talking business again.

ARNOLD LETTER TO JUDGE KNIGHT ON SCHINE CASE STIRS DEFENSE COUNSEL INTO ACTION

Contend Vineland Action Is Only Preliminary; Cite an Appeal

BUFFALO—Distributor counsel are calling it an oversight on Thurman Arnold's part to notify Federal Judge John Knight of the full series of events which followed the handing down of an interlocutory decree by Judge Kirkpatrick against the Warner circuit and the majors in the suit of the Landis, Vineland, N. J.

Although attorneys hold Arnold is within his rights in sending the decision on to Judge Knight, and at the same time advising distributor counsel of his doing so, the objection raised is that no mention is made of the stay of the preliminary injunction granted by the same judge. The trust buster, it also is held, failed likewise to mention an appeal being taken to the appellate court in Philadelphia, which prompted the story.

Privately, distributor lawyers declare the Vineland decision as "the most screwy thing we have ever seen." The decree contradicts itself in several instances, it is stated.

Quick to explain their stand in the matter, distributor counsel wrote Judge Knight to the effect: "The application before Judge Kirkpatrick was on a motion for a preliminary motion. It is not as a result of the trial on the merits, as only a limited amount of testimony was taken. As soon as the preliminary order was entered, an application was made by the defendants to stay the order pending an appeal."

To Push Appeal

This was granted, it is stated, and "the appeal will be prosecuted with all possible speed in the circuit court of appeals, particularly with the authorities cited in our main briefs."

Copies of attorney's letters to Judge Knight also were sent to Arnold.

A copy of the order staying the Philadelphia decision also has been sent to Judge Knight. In brief, Judge Kirkpatrick's order holding up the preliminary injunction is "the supersedeas bond is approved and the judgment of this court granting a preliminary injunction against the defendants in the above entitled proceeding (John C. Gittone, et al., vs. Warner Bros., et al.) is hereby stayed during the pendency of the appeal of the defendants of the circuit court of appeals for the third district, and until further order of this court."

Pending before Judge Knight is the government's request for an injunction to prevent the Schine circuit from opening new theatres, reopening others closed for one reason or another, or acquiring at least 12 houses for which negotiations have been pending for some time with four exhibitors in Ohio and New York.

The Letter Which Brought Action

Buffalo—Following is a copy of the message sent by Thurman Arnold to Frederick H. Wood, John Lord O'Brian, Charles D. Prutzman, Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, United Artists exchange here and Schwartz & Frohlich:

"Gentlemen: The department of justice has forwarded to Judge John Knight at Buffalo, New York, a copy of the preliminary injunction granted by Judge Kirkpatrick on November 6, 1939, in the case of Gittone et al., vs. Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., et al., in the district court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania. Inclosed is a copy of the department's letter and a copy of the injunction."

First Run Is Not Like Leopard Because Policies Changeable

NEW YORK—When is a first run a first run and what kind of a policy does the Palace, on Broadway, have?

These are among the questions put to Paul Williams, assistant to the attorney general, by distributors in an effort to get a clarification of the questions in the A to Z quiz.

Frankly, Williams could not answer. Neither could William P. Farnsworth, his new aide and former NRA administrator.

Sometimes the house features a first run, such as "Allegheny Uprising," which has just competed a week's engagement. At other times, it will show a dual feature program consisting of a first-run slough and an "A" second-run picture. Sometimes the house runs a full week, such as with "Allegheny Uprising;" at other times it has a split-week policy.

This type of policy not only prevails at the Palace, but numerous circuit theatres throughout the country, distributor counsel pointed out to Williams at sessions this week. The government is seeking information on revenues of first-run theatres but major circuit executives claim they cannot furnish this information until they know what a first-run definition is.

And to go back to the Palace, the house for years was known as the ace vaudeville spot in the country. This policy was dropped in 1933 and has had several changes since.



Celebrates Decade With Loew's—

Oscar Doob, publicity and advertising head for Loew's, on November 14 called it ten years on the button with the circuit. It was supposed to be secret, but some of his associates found out about it, called Ted Friend, night club editor of the Mirror, *and a surprise party was arranged at the Fifth Ave. Restaurant. Friend, next to Doob as the latter thanks his friends for the marble smoking set, was master of ceremonies. Gene Murphy, also of Loew's, is beside Friend. He assisted actively on the committee. About 50 were present, including prominent film critics, newspaper advertising heads, publishers and film friends.*

Paramount Executives to Coast for Conference

HOLLYWOOD—Barney Balaban, Stanton Griffis, Neil F. Agnew and John W. Hicks jr. are planning to leave New York next week for production conferences at the Paramount studios with Y. Frank Freeman and William LeBaron. The eastern contingent is expected to remain about a week. David Rose, British managing director, is expected for the Christmas holidays. His wife and child arrived from London last week. He has been planning the trip for some months, but the outbreak of the war delayed his departure. He may take a clipper from Portugal and a plane from New York.

Hicks Planning New Tour Of South America

NEW YORK—John W. Hicks, head of Paramount's foreign activities, is planning another tour of South America after the first of the year.

Pilgrims Have Way Of Doing Things

New York—Most Broadway houses are opening Thanksgiving Day with new shows. "Drums Along the Mohawk" winds up a 20-day run for "Daytime Wife" at the Roxy, marking the first time in years the theatre has made a special change in honor of the pilgrims landing.

Services in Buffalo for Frederic Ullman sr.

BUFFALO—Funeral services for Frederic Ullman, pioneer theatre owner, were held here. Ullman, 75, was the father of Frederic Ullman jr., vice-president of Pathe News.

He is survived, in addition to Frederic jr., by another son, Richard, a brother, Dr. Julius Ullman, and a grandson and granddaughter.

One Arbitration Victory Won, Union Set for Chain Battle

NEW YORK—Having successfully concluded its demands for a 10 per cent wage increase and a second week's vacation with pay for about 600 projectionists at ITOA member houses, Local 306 enters a scheduled arbitration meeting next week with major circuits over even more drastic demands greatly heartened by its initial brush with an arbitration board. The demands call for a 25 per cent boost.

The union's victory in its fight against the ITOA drew from members at a special meeting at the Hotel Astor the assertion they are "greatly dissatisfied" with the award against them. There is no possible appeal from the decision.

Milton J. Handler, law professor at Columbia, is the fifth arbitrator in the union-major circuit dispute. He is an expert at labor arbitration and circuit executives as well as Local 306 look forward to a fair decision. Sitting on the board will be C. C. Moskowitz and Leslie E. Thompson for the circuits and Joe Basson and Bert Popkin for the union.

The decision for ITOA members does not make the increase retroactive to September 1, 1938, but a year later. In essence, it amounts to six and two-thirds per cent for the three-year period involved.

Harry Brandt, president, told ITOA members he plans to leave November 20 on a country-wide trip that will take him to about 12 key cities for pre-arranged conferences with exhibitor leaders on industry problems. He expects to be gone more than a month. Brandt said he hopes to "consolidate views" on such matters as the government suit filed in New York, the trade practice code, film stars on radio, stars who have "outlived their usefulness" and other pertinent matters.

In respect to the organization's drive to rid air shows of film stars, it was revealed at the meeting that the ITOA has communicated with about 20 players asking them pointblank "whether they intended to compete with themselves on the screen by continuing to broadcast." Copies of letters to the stars were sent producers and exhibitor organizations; the latter in an attempt to launch a nationwide campaign against the practice.

The letters to the players said in part: "The theatre owners cannot stand by and watch their investments slip into nothing because stars make radio broadcasts which are inimical to the best interests of this industry; nor should theatre owners be expected to purchase pictures made by stars who destroy the value of their own pictures . . . It has been definitely determined that the cumulative appearances of our picture stars on the radio have a deterrent effect at the boxoffice and are a blow to their own audience appeal."

Those the ITOA wrote, include Olivia de Havilland, Clark Gable, Judy Garland, Nan Grey, Walter Connolly, Merle Oberon, John Garfield, Edward Arnold, Loretta Young, Irene Dunne, Madeleine Carroll, Fred MacMurray, Miriam Hopkins, Joan Bennett, Claudette Colbert, Jean Arthur, Nigel Bruce, George Raft, Basil Rathbone, Paulette Goddard and David Niven.

The arbitration award affects about 300 houses. It is estimated the lowest raise under the award is $5.20 a week for each projectionist. Meetings to determine the union's demands took about a month. Dr. Paul Abelson, well-known labor arbitrator, acted as neutral member in the conferences. W. French Githens and David Weinstock represented the ITOA, and Joseph D. Basson and Charles Kielhurn represented Local 306.

No Cancellations on "Mr. Smith" Asked

NEW YORK—Despite the controversy which has arisen over "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," not one exhibitor who has bought the picture has desired to cancel, A. Montague, general sales manager for Columbia, states. To exhibitors who have contracted for the picture which, like all Capra pictures in the last three years has been sold on separate contract, there is a desire on the part of Columbia to discuss any difficulty which may arise.

"There need be no misunderstanding as to how Capra's picture, 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington' is sold," Montague asserts. "Much propaganda has gone forth in an effort to convince members of Congress that the Neely Bill is a necessity because exhibitors have purchased this outstanding picture as part of Columbia's program for 1939-40.

"The picture has been and is being sold as an individual picture, under an individual contract," the Columbia general sales manager emphasizes. "It has been and is the desire of the distributor to show this picture in advance to any exhibitor in the United States who desires to see it.

"For the last three years all of Frank Capra's pictures have been sold separate and apart from the regular Columbia program.

"Our regular established customers have, of course, had the first opportunity to negotiate for 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.' That is and always has been our policy with our regular customers.

"Many of our regular customers licensed this particular Capra picture at the time they contracted for our 1939-40 program because in each instance these exhibitors insisted upon completing negotiations for 'Mr. Smith,' clearly indicating that they wanted to be assured that they would get this particular picture.

"Thousands of exhibitors have already purchased this picture on separate contracts and there has not been a single request from any exhibitor in the United States to cancel or relieve him of his contract on the film.

"Despite the fact no such request has been presented, we are perfectly willing to discuss with any exhibitor who has contracted for the Capra picture any difficulty that has grown out of his having made such a contract. I want to stress, however, that this in no wise differs from our general policy. We are at all times willing to discuss with exhibitors particular situations where they have contracted for our pictures and where special circumstances arise that have to do with the playing of any particular picture."

Si Fabian Is Silent on Zanuck's Open Letter

NEW YORK—Si Fabian, head of the Fabian circuit, is maintaining a "no comment" attitude toward Darryl F. Zanuck's "open letter" deploring the exhibitor's action in removing "Drums Along the Mohawk" from Proctor's in Schenectady, N. Y., after the sixth day of a run Zanuck claims outgrossed the best product 20th Century-Fox has shown in the house this season.

However, sources close to the upstate operator hint Fabian is incensed at the action of Zanuck in releasing his statement to the press before seeking an explanation via private correspondence. This is said to have prompted Fabian to remark he does not intend "to be used as a sounding board for Zanuck to reach exhibitors on a controversy that should not be decided in the press."

Final Meeting Monday for 1939 S. R. Kent Drive

NEW YORK—Final meeting of the 1939 S. R. Kent Drive series will be held at the 20th Century-Fox exchange Monday morning. Herman Wobber, Drive Leader Moe Levy and District Manager William Sussman are slated to be heard.

Lichtman Takes Top Honors in Skouras' 10-Week Campaign

NEW YORK—Fred Lichtman, manager of the Lafayette, Suffern, came out on top in the 10-week Skouras drive just ended. He not only took first for the New Jersey division headed by Herman Starr, but also led all other managers in the circuit of 60 theatres. All told there were 153 prizes given away.

Harry Fuchs, manager of the Fox, Hackensack, rated second in the Jersey division; Bob Goodfriend, Rockland, Nyack, third; Fred Wieber, Tivoli, Jersey City, fourth, and Al Unger, Capitol, Jersey City, fifth.

Walter Melvin, manager of the Valentine, Bronx, ran away with his division with Jack Bokser of the Crotona, second. Tom Saris, manager of the Merrick, Jamaica, L. I., came in first in the Long Island division, which was third. Dick Carneghi of the Roosevelt, Flushing, was second, and Paul Laube, Manhasset, Manhasset, third.

There were 70 awards made for best ideas during the campaign. First mention went to Tommy Robinson of the Forest Hills, Forest Hills, L. I., who originated the title "10 o'Clock Club" for Saturday morning shows for kiddies. Second was Tom Burns of the Apollo, Jersey City, with a football quiz gag which received the cooperation of Lincoln and another high school in the city. A "jelopy" idea by Jay Enders, Hempstead, Hempstead, was good for third place. He had a contest on for the oldest car with a prize to the winner. A cinderella contest rated fourth for Adolph Caruso of the Corona, Corona, with the girl whose foot fit a slipper receiving a pair of shoes.

George Nichols of the Liberty, Elizabeth, scored first in the service drive. Harold Janecky of the Academy of Music tallied second; Notis Komenos, State, Jersey City, third; Al Unger, Capitol, Jersey City, fourth; Joe Salmon, Riverside, Manhattan, fifth.

Following the drive, Enders has been promoted from the Hempstead to house manager of the Academy of Music under Janecky. Moses Benjamin Esserman, who comes from Alabama, has been named manager of the Hempstead. Joseph Samarco, assistant manager of the Academy of Music, is now managing the Carlton, upper Manhattan. Benjamin Ostrow has rejoined the circuit as manager of the 77th St. He recently recovered from a protracted illness.

New Suit Does Not Involve Loew Board

NEW YORK—Having had their suit against Loew's dismissed last June because of diversity of citizenship, Norman Wolf and Manes Fuld have filed another action against A. T. & T., Western Electric, Erpi, Chase National Bank, Chase Securities, Halsey Stuart, and Dillon, Read & Co.

The theory of the action is that the defendants A. T. & T., Dillon, Read and others, through their financial power, got Loew's to take out a recording license from Erpi and also buy apparatus from Western Electric at prices in excess of what could have been gotten elsewhere. The suit seeks to have A. T. & T. and others return to Loew's alleged overpayments.

No claim is made against Loew's or its directors, evidently because of the decision handed down late last year by Supreme Court Justice Louis A. Valente upholding the management in a previous stockholders action.

Loew's Asks If Must Reply To Suit in Wilmington

WILMINGTON, DEL.—Counsel for Loew's, Inc., main corporate defendant in suits filed in court of chancery and U. S. district court here last winter by Arnold Herrman, New York stockholder, on charges of fraud and conspiracy in formation and promotion of 20th Century-Fox, filed plea in court of chancery here asking whether it should make answer to that suit.

Loew's, named defendant along with officers and directors of the company, alleges that the relief sought in Herrman's action had been effectively disposed of in a consolidated action filed in the supreme court of New York for the special term, Part III, and heard in December, 1938.

A final decree dismissing the complainant in that action was handed down by the New York supreme court on March 31, 1939, or about a month after Herrman's action had been filed here, the plea contends.

Herrman charged that Loew's, through its officers and directors, formed and promoted 20th Century-Fox to the detriment of Loew's stockholders.

Hear UA Arguments Seeking Dismissal of Folly Suit

NEW YORK—Arguments were heard Friday on UA's motion to dismiss the Folly suit in Brooklyn against the company. Federal Judge Bondy heard the arguments with Ben Pepper representing the distributor.

Majors Have to December 1 To Answer Government

NEW YORK—Major company attorneys have been given until December 1 to answer the government's interrogatories, but it is a foregone conclusion another postponement will be taken, the next most likely being the final one.

William P. Farnsworth, newly appointed assistant to Paul Williams, already is active in the case and next week will leave for Washington with questions submitted by UA on the government. At the Washington meeting, department of justice heads will decide which interrogatories to answer.

It is hinted in some quarters distributors may seek a six-month delay before answering the interrogatories. However, all companies have not figured out how long it will take them to get the information required. Until then, it is stated, no definite time limit or schedule can be ascertained. But, it is expected this information will be ready by December 1.

Williams returned to Washington, Thursday night and gave reporters something to think about when he stated "the motion picture business is damned complex." Attorneys for the defendants have been trying to show him for months how complex the industry and its operations are. Apparently Williams has come to the conclusion there is something to it, after all.

It is understood Williams has also revised some of his interrogatories so that there is no doubt as to meanings.

Revive Six John Waynes

NEW YORK—Warner is reviving six westerns with John Wayne and produced by Leon Schlesinger several years ago.

Metro Chicago Sales Meet Will Map "Wind" Policy

NEW YORK—A discussion of "Gone With the Wind" sales policy will highlight M-G-M's mid-season sales meeting that is called for November 25-26 at the Drake Hotel in Chicago.

William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, will head the delegation of home office executives and the approximately 40 branch and district managers who will attend.

Allied Session Set

NEW YORK—Allied of New Jersey is set to meet at the Hotel Astor, November 28, in a "routine" session.

Brandt Tour Seen on New Nat'l Unit

New York—Harry Brandt's tour to 13 cities in the interests of common exhibitor problems is seen by local prognosticators as the first tangible effort on part of the ITOA head to formulate a third national exhibitor organization.

It is pointed out Brandt has often been outspoken in what he describes as the "need" for an organization entirely removed from the influence of national Allied and the MPTOA, neither of which he claims has the genuine interests of the small operator at heart.

Brandt's trip will take him to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Omaha, Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Dallas and New Orleans.

UA Completes Deal With B&K and Great States

CHICAGO—With Jack Schlaifer, western sales manager, and Irving Schlenk, branch manager, representing United Artists, the distributor this week finally completed a deal with B&K and Great States for UA product for 1939-40. John Balaban handled details for the circuit.

INTER-OFFICE **BOXOFFICE** The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry COMMUNICATION

TO: RED
FROM: dee gee

WRITTEN: NEW YORK
DATE: NEW YORK

Herb Berg called the other day and asked me to some rushes on "Gulliver's Travels," just like they do in Hollywood, where I presume you are taking advantage of the much-publicized California sun. I saw an amusing sequence, about 1,500 feet, in which the Lilliputians discover Gulliver and bind him securely. If the rest of Max Fleischer's animated Technicolor feature maintains the same level, which they say it does, Paramount has an entertainment parlay which should pay off at good odds. Incidentally, one of the Lilliputians is a bumptious but likeable guy named Gabbed, of whom you will be hearing a great deal.

Will Appeal Dismissal Of Publix Board Suit

NEW YORK—An appeal has been taken by David Stoneman from a decision of the New York supreme court dismissing his action for $70,886 against Sam Katz, Sam Dembow, Ralph Kohn, Felix E. Kahn, Marion Coles and Fred L. Metzler. The defendants, all former Paramount Publix directors, are claimed to have shown Stoneman a 1930 statement of the company without including the losses. The plaintiff contends that, as a result, he leased the Empire, Portland, Me., to the Paramount subsidiary, backed by the parent company's guarantee. When Paramount went into bankruptcy, the lease was defaulted.

Drop "First Love" Suit

NEW YORK—Select Theatres has dropped its suit against Universal to stop the use of the title "First Love." The Shuberts claimed they used the title 13 years ago, but Universal held it had been used by the company and other film producers before that.



—Metropolitan Photo

Hail to Gotham—

With an extra overcoat and a portable radio, Boris Morros, RKO Radio producer, arrives in New York City to attend the premiere of his "Flying Deuces," co-starring Laurel and Hardy.

Report British Production "Negligible" Since War

WASHINGTON — "Since the beginning of the war, the output of British studios has become negligible and prospects for early resumption of activities are reported locally as not promising," Nate D. Golden, chief of the film division of the department of commerce, states. He points out, at the same time, that New Zealand is virtually dependent on the U. S. for pictures because of the war.

To a large extent, Golden adds, the taste of New Zealand's patrons are similar to American's and musical comedies are particularly favored.

Chaplin Wins a Restrainer Against Alleged Duping

NEW YORK—A temporary injunction has been issued attorneys for Charles Chaplin against Harry Kacobs of Garden Camera Exchange. The actor-producer charged that Kacobs has been duping "Shoulder Arms" negatives and selling 35mm, as well as 16mm prints without authority. It is held the defendant did the same thing with "The Kid" in 1938. Chaplin seeks an accounting of profits, a permanent restrainer, and damages.

"Letty Lynton" Settlement Costs Loew's $153,030

NEW YORK—Attorneys for Loew's and its subsidiaries, and Edward Sheldon and Margaret Ayer Barnes have fixed the amount of $115,803 plus $37,227 for legal fees and disbursements as the sums owed the plaintiffs for the plagiarism of their play "Dishonored Lady" in "Letty Lynton." Originally the plaintiffs had been granted all the profits of the picture but the circuit court of appeals reversed the verdict and allowed the plaintiffs one-fifth of the profits.

Out-of-Court Pact on "Stella" Air Rights

NEW YORK—The controversy over who has the radio rights to "Stella Dallas" will be settled out of court by attorneys for Charles H. Phillips Chemical Co., Blackett-Sample & Hummert and NBC on the one side, and Sam Goldwyn, Olive Higgins, Air Features and Selwyn & Co. on the other. An agreement has been reached and is being reduced to writing.

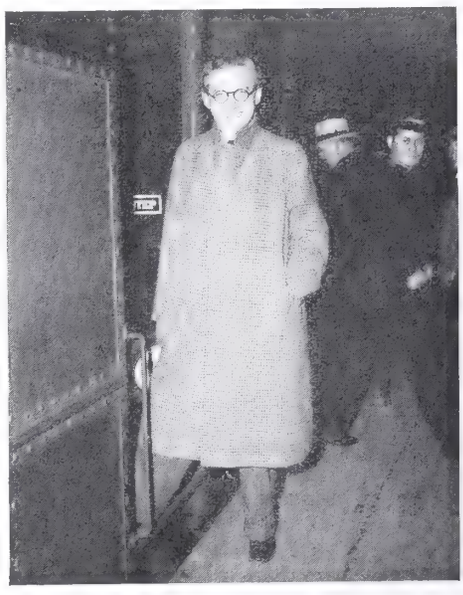
Eastern Production Still Major Goal

NEW YORK—Determined to go through with his plan, Mayor La Guardia insists production will be resumed in the east, but on what basis he will not disclose at this time. Meetings are being held by various affiliated unions and associations at the mayor's office, but noticeably absent are representatives from major companies who privately report to BOXOFFICE "the time is not ripe for producing on a large scale in the east."

There has been some activity at Eastern Service Studios at Astoria, L. I., but this apparently does not keep the various union members sufficiently employed. According to the majors, it is the unions sponsoring the move in which the mayor has taken the lead. Unquestionably, representatives from the big companies will be called to the mayor's office sooner or later, it is expected, for their side of the story.

Among those who have been meeting with LaGuardia are Thomas J. Lyons, chairman, and James C. Quinn, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Council; Charles Downes of Cameramen's Local 644; John Rugge, Local 702; Fred Marshall, United Scenic Artists, Local 829; Louis Hollander, Theatrical Costume Workers; Martin T. Lacey, Teamsters Local 817; W. Burns, Local 306; Thomas Murtha, Brooklyn Stagehands union; Saul Harrison, Ass'n of Assistant Directors, Local 18,168; Mrs. F. Marston and Michael Connolly, Screen Actors Guild; Sol Scoppa and George Ackerson jr., M. P. Studio Mechanics, Local 52, and Jacob Rosenberg, Local 802 of AFM.

Scoppa, Mrs. Marston, Marshall and Downs have been named to an executive committee to complete plans for the move toward eastern production.



—Metropolitan Photo

Lands by Train—

Alexander Korda stepping off a train at Penn Station after coming up from Baltimore where the Trans-Atlantic Clipper he was on landed due to bad weather at Port Washington, L. I.

The Motion Picture Event of the Year

20th Annual Charity Dinner and Dance

MOTION PICTURES ASSOCIATES

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Dinner at Eight

BROADWAY

ABE BLANK and Ralph Branton of Tri-States circuit were in from the west for Paramount theatre conferences with Leon Netter. Which is one of the few reasons Netter has been unable to set any definite plans for a trip to the circuit's North Carolina subsidiary . . . Charlie Einfeld was under the dentist's knife for removal of some bothersome jaw bone tissue . . . Bernie Kranze, RKO manager in Albany, was around the Si Fabian office on a product deal . . . David Butler, director of the Kay Kyser film, was in town attending the world premiere at Rocky Mount, N. C., Kyser's home town. Other RKO executives who made the trip from New York were Ned E. Depinet, Cresson E. Smith and S. Barret McCormick. George J. Schaefer went directly to the function from Florida, where he was fishing following a visit to the coast studios . . . Ben Cammack, assistant export manager at RKO, sailed Saturday aboard the S. S. *Santa Lucia* for Panama, the first stop of his annual inspection trip that will take him to Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

C. C. Pettijohn peered out of a Hays office window, observed some goings on along the window sill and remarked: "What! Bugs this time of the year?" A colleague put him straight: "No, Charlie, that's snow" . . . Murray Silverstone plans to leave for the coast in about a week . . . Harry Rice, former UA exploiteer, is handling out of town engagements for Select's "double horror show" . . . Dave Palfreyman and Gabe Hess are delighted with the improvements at the Algonquin Hotel, which is their favorite eating place . . . Julius J. and Philip G. Epstein, screen playwrights at the Warner studios, are in town looking over the Broadway shows . . . Jane Bryan is on the scene from the coast, ready to attend the Music Hall premiere of "We Are Not Alone" . . . Tony Martin is around again, having completed a role in "Music in My Heart" . . . Barney Balaban and Abe Blank taking in a Lindy lunch together . . . Marvin Schenck, Sidney Piermont and Bill Moses got the dust-off from Gene Picker, who failed to show up for the usual victuals . . . King Vidor is here from the coast.



—Metropolitan Photo

Here Two Weeks—

Is Ruth Terry, new Walter Wanger star, who has arrived in New York to participate in the advance buildup for the premiere of her first starring film, "Ladies Know Too Much."

Neil F. Agnew and Charles Casanave have been having most of their lunches together in the past two weeks . . . Gregory Dickson and Rufus Blair are exploiting Paramount pictures for the next few weeks . . . Although Myer Beck said David O. Selznick was returning to New York around December 1, S-I officials say the producer will not be in town until after the Atlanta opening of "Gone With the Wind," set for December 15 . . . And while on the subject of "Wind," Arthur W. Kelly, close friend of Lowell Calvert, took the S-I eastern representative over the hurdles the other day when he reported Charles Chaplin's "The Great Dictator" would open day-and-date in opposition to "Wind" in Atlanta . . . Jack Cohn has gone to the coast for a quick visit . . . M. A. Schlesinger has been seen more than ever these days, which means he has given up his pent house luncheons on 42nd St. for the winter.

Lou Goldberg is doing all right with his two vaudeville roadshow troupes . . . Julius Joelson, who has leased his New England houses to M&P (Paramount affiliate) is well known in the local area, having sold a group of theatres to Fox Metropolitan Playhouses, now Metropolitan Playhouses, controlled by UA Theatres Circuit and operated by Randforce and Skouras circuits. If you can figure that out you're good . . . There is some talk of Nate Yamins selling his theatre interests in the same area . . . Evelyn Nesbit, star of silent days, is appearing in person at one of the store cafes in the Radio City area . . . Ted O'Shea has been making the upstate territory this week on behalf of M-G-M . . . It has been quite a week for parties and affairs. To get a quick checkup: Monday night, the UA party at 7-11 Club for Ruth Terry; Tuesday, the Oscar Doob celebration at Fifth Ave. Restaurant, and opening of "Mill on the Floss" at the Astor; Wednesday night, the Night of Stars at the Garden; Thursday night, the B'nai B'rith at the Edison Sun Room.

Stanton Griffis was seen leaving Nate Spingold's office. Always quick on the quip, the Paramount executive committee chairman quipped: "You can deny that Columbia is absorbing Paramount and vice versa" . . . The annual Warner Club kiddies Christmas party, to be known as "Santa Claus at the Circus," takes place Saturday afternoon, December 16, on the stage of the Vitaphone studios in Brooklyn . . . Milton Weiss had Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck in tow at the "Night of Stars" affair. Ditto Irving Windisch with Hugh Herbert . . . Ben Serkowich comes through with the current price quotations on imitators of the Marx brothers for street-walking ballyhoo purposes: "Groucho" is asking $5 per day with paint or real moustache. The same for "Chico." "Harpo" is asking $7.50 per day with a red silk wig . . . By the time you read this Jack Ellis, president of M. P. Associates and local salesman for RKO, will have married Evelyn Bassett, former John Powers model. The ceremony took



—Metropolitan Photo

"Naw, This-a-way"—

Thumbs Swingmaestro Kay Kyser as Director David Butler has a doubt. The Butlers passed through New York en route to Rocky Mount, N. C., Kyser's home town and the site of the world premiere of his RKO starrer, "That's Right, You're Wrong."



—Metropolitan Photo

The Job's Done—

Having completed his leading role in Columbia's "Music in My Heart," Tony Martin returns to New York accompanied by Andre Kostelanetz who is featured in the romantic comedy. Rita Hayworth plays opposite Martin. Joseph Santley directed.



—Metropolitan Photos

Smiles for a Premiere—

The New York showing of RKO's "Allegheny Uprising," at the Palace Theatre, brought into the eye of the camera, from left to right, Paula Stone, actress and daughter of Fred Stone; Henry Schwartz; Florence Lake, screen actress; Edmond O'Brien of the Mercury Theatre, who makes his fim debut in "Hunchback of Notre Dame," and Heidi Vosseler, American ballet dancer.

place somewhere in Westchester with Jack's brothers, Emil and Jonas and their wives in attendance. There was a wedding party at the Stork Club and a reception is scheduled on their return from a secret honeymoon.

Roberto Dandi, general manager of ICI, sails for Rome, Saturday, on the Conte de Savoia *. . . Still undecided on where he will produce "Angela Is* 22," *Jack Skirball plans, however, to leave for the coast by the end of the week. He should know by then . . . Charles Boyer and his wife, Pat Paterson, are due in on the Clipper late Monday. The French star, who was released with thousands of his age by a decree issued November* 11, *says "France has more than enough soldiers to win the present war" . . . L. J. Schlaifer is out west again, this time he's at San Francisco . . . Sid Grossman, Syracuse exhibitor; Ralph Pielow, M-G-M Albany branch manager; Ted O'Shea and Bill Levy, a cheerful foursome at the Astor the other night.*

Joe Moskowitz still has no idea when he is going to the coast, but it will be soon, he says . . . Jay C. Flippen introducing Major Bowes at the Night of Stars was something to write home about, if you know the story. For it was Colonel Flippen who succeeded Major Bowes on the WHN Amateur Hour, Bowes going commercial at the time with his own amateur idea. The WHN hour is dead and the Major Bowes stunt is still one of the radio hits of the day . . . Sol Lesser arrives from the coast Monday for final conferences with Thornton Wilder on "Our Town" . . . Harry Moskowitz made 12 towns last week on behalf of Loew's . . . Alexander Korda is expected to return from the coast in about a fortnight.

The Max Wolff Ass'n will hold its annual affair at the Astor, November 22. *The Loew executive expects* 1,000 *and states Mayor Joe Loehr of Yonkers, Harry Foley, surveyor for the Port of New York, and prominent personages in the fire, police and other city departments of New Jersey and New York will be there . . . Al Simon celebrated a birthday November* 10 *and was ribbed plenty by the gags the WHN gang pulled on him . . . Rube Jackter says he's not thinking of Miami so far in advance but he expects to hie there for a few weeks of sun as soon as he cleans up a number of important circuit deals . . . Abe Schneider goes in for chocolate frappes, smothered in whipped cream, as desert for luncheon . . . Lou Golding, upstate division head for the Fabian circuit, is a regular commuter to these parts . . . Bill White of the Skouras is an old newspaperman, having worked with Edwin C. Hill years ago . . . Don Ameche has gone duck hunting at Grant's Lake, Ore.*

Alec Moss, who was in Philadelphia during the week to pep up Warner circuit district and local managers on Paramount product, is figuring on vacationing in Puerto Rico this winter. He's been to Miami and Havana and he wants a change of vista . . . John Balaban of Chicago and Bill Philips of United Artists circuit lunched together at the Astor Hunting room early in the week. Ditto for Ike Libson of Cincinnati, Nat Holt of RKO's division in Cleveland and Bob Lynch of Philadelphia who managed to fill up the M-G-M table . . . Charles Stern, eastern district manager for UA, has been touring New England on business . . . Herman Wobber, Bill Sussman and Moe Levy have been visiting Ira Cohn, 20th-Fox manager in Pittsburgh, and Harry Buxbaum and Joe Lee in New York on the latest S. R. Kent drive.

Claude Saunders has joined Paramount's exploitation department under Alec Moss and handling "Gulliver's Travels" and "Geronimo" . . . Tom Waller visited Albany, Ga., during the week on a special assignment from Bob Gillham . . . Joe Seider has closed his theatres at W. Hampton and E. Hampton, L. I. . . . Milt Kusell has been getting all editions of BOXOFFICE *but the one containing his picture last week in which he appeared with Charles Reagan and J. J. Unger . . . Edward Souhami, Allied of New York representative, returned from Buffalo early in the week after holding a meeting there. It was stated at the session that Minna Rosen of the New Oakdale in Buffalo is not having any more trouble from the police on Bingo games. A meeting will be held in Syracuse, November* 21, *with others following in different parts of the state later . . . Charlie Olive, Washington, D. C., exhibitor, visited the Main Stem during the week.*

Messrs. Irvin Shapiro, Archie Mayers and Ed Barison of World Pictures were hosts to a flock of film gentry for the combination Astor Theatre premiere of "Mill on the Floss" and Astor Hotel buffet and refreshment soiree after the show. Among those seen at the double feature were Ted Krassner of Cinema Circuit; Walter Reade jr., Artie Wakoff and Al Paris of the Reade circuit; Jack Birnbaum, Irving Kaplan and Harold Rinzler of Randforce; Myron Segal and Rose Barison of Century; Irving Renner and Jack Hattem of Interboro; Joe Ingber, Arthur Schwartz, Bob Finkel and Lou Wolff of Harry Brandt theatres; Sam Rosen and Harold Blumenthal of Fabian; Harold Kline of Cocalis, Eddie Stern of Rugoff & Becker. Also Rose Deutsch and Rosalind Scher of Skouras; Louis Fischler of Belle, Jack Meltzer of Associated Theatres; Al Suchman of Consolidated, Jerry Luber of

(Continued on page 24-D)



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

A Song Still Charms—

For the sixth consecutive time, Deanna Durbin clicked in a top-grosser. Here's the early morning crowd that greeted the premiere of "First Love," latest of Universal's Durbin pictures, at the Rivoli Theatre, New York.

Hammons Defends All Deals Made by GN

NEW YORK—Challenged from the start by a minor creditor representative regarding the disposition of various Grand National leases and the use of the company's studios and exchanges, Earle Hammons defended all deals made by GN during his administration during a creditors meeting Friday before Referee Peter B. Olney jr. The hectic session was concluded with Olney granting permission for an examination of GN books and records for alleged fraud.

Hammons testified at the meeting the full $650,000 necessary for the company's reorganization has been obtained. The Reconstruction Finance Corp. is providing $450,000 of this amount; Erpi, $100,000; National City Bank, $15,000; De Luxe Laboratories, $10,000, and Loyd Wright, $25,000.

The RFC receives a first lien on GN property to be paid off at the rate of $1,700 weekly for the first 13 weeks, $3,400 the next 13, $5,000 the next 26, and then $8,000 until the debt is cleared. The company is now running at a $2,000 to $3,000 weekly deficit.

The next creditors meeting will be held November 22, with confirmation of the reorganization plan scheduled for Dec. 4.

The Re-election of UA Circuit Men Is Seen

BALTIMORE—Stockholders of UA Theatres Circuit will meet here November 27 to reelect the directorial slate. Two days later, in New York, the board will meet to reelect Joseph M. Schenck, president, along with the rest of the executive setup.

A regular quarterly dividend of $1.25 on the preferred, payable December 15, is to be declared in New York the latter part of the week. Also the annual financial report for the year ended August 31 will be made.

UA circuit is interested in 250 theatres in Texas, California, metropolitan New York, Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Columbus and Portland, Ore. Metropolitan Playhouses, operated by Skouras and Randforce, with a total of more than 110 theatres in Greater New York, also is accounted for in the UA circuit report.

A Routine Session for Loew Board; No Dividend Action

NEW YORK—Loew's board met Friday for a routine session, the regular meeting having been postponed. No dividend action was scheduled, but a 50-cent payment on common will be the order of business on December 6.

20th-Fox Minority Suit Discontinued by Court

NEW YORK—The $25,000,000 stockholder action of Millie Simm and Annie Kopple, minority stockholders of 20th Century-Fox, has been discontinued in supreme court. Action charged waste and mismanagement and sought an accounting from directors and officers.

Over 600 Trade Members Attend New Lodge Bow

NEW YORK—Representatives of three faiths addressed a gathering of over 600 members of the industry who were on hand for the charter presentation meeting of the Cinema Lodge of B'nai B'rith in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Edison, Thursday evening.

Speakers included Rev. Dr. C. Jeffares McCombe of the St. Andrews and St. Paul M. E. Church; Rabbi William F. Rosenblum of Temple Israel; Jeremiah O'Carroll, editor of the national Catholic publication, *Wisdom;* Harry Goldberg, chairman of the Anti-Defamation committee; Dr. Samuel Ravinett and Harry Cohn of Rehoboth Lodge; Harry B. Epstein, president of district Grand Lodge No. 1, who presented the charter, and A. W. Schwalberg, president of Cinema Lodge.

Among those who attended were Barney Balaban, Neil F. Agnew, Joseph Bernhard, Mort Blumenstock, Clayton Bond, Gene Buck, Jack Cohn, Ned Depinet, Charles Einfeld, Carl Leserman, Abe Montague, John J. O'Connor, William F. Rodgers, George Schaefer, Abe Schneider, Sam Schneider, William Scully, Si Seadler, Gradwell Sears, Herman Starr, Maj. L. E. Thompson, Maj. Albert Warner and Jack Warner jr.

Cohen Awaiting Replies From All Distributors

NEW YORK — Although Max A. Cohen, head of Allied of New York, has received replies from four majors to his request for reopening of trade practice negotiations, he declares there cannot be any crystallized reaction until all distributors have been heard from.

Asked if the correspondence he has received up to date was encouraging, Cohen replied: "I think something can be worked out."

He said Columbia, Paramount, M-G-M and UA have made known their attitude toward his plan, but declined to reveal the nature of their replies. He says the fact that Ned E. Depinet of RKO; Grad Sears of Warner, and Sidney Kent of 20th Century-Fox have been out of town is responsible for the delay in hearing from these companies.

Goetz and Gordon Seek Story for Their Next

HOLLYWOOD—With "The American Way" temporarily delayed, Harry Goetz and Max Gordon now are looking for a story as their second for RKO. Both producers returned from Boston, where their latest play, "Very Warm for May," debuted, for a sneak preview of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

Gordon left for the east by air after the screening while Goetz is remaining for the final touches.

Uphold Award to Harts

NEW YORK—The appellate division of the supreme court Friday upheld the 3-2 verdict by a jury on Nov. 4, 1938, awarding William S. and Mary Hart $278,209 against United Artists Corp. for block booking Hart's picture, "Tumbleweeds," with "Wild Justice."

Economy on Coast Seen Tightened

NEW YORK—Economy wheels in Hollywood will start moving at greater speed when word is flashed the British government will restrict American companies to a revenue of approximately $20,000,000 for the present fiscal year.

The figure represents a considerable slice in earnings of the companies. Although all figures are unofficial, it is understood the restrictions roughly equal about 60 per cent of the revenue withdrawn last year or 40 per cent of the total gross earnings.

Calculations are from sources which reveal total business by the majors in England was in the neighborhood of $50,000,000 and the revenue remitted to America after all distribution charges about $37,000,000.

Following weeks of negotiations, in which Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy took an active part, the result was no surprise to distributors who had steeled themselves to an embargo on currency as soon as England plunged into war.

It was obvious from the start England could no longer obtain loans from this country as she did in the last war in order to purchase foodstuffs and ammunitions. It was also made clear the British government would have to maintain its sterling exchange as long as war continued.

Complete terms of the negotiations were not available as BOXOFFICE went to press, but it is learned the British government has no intention of relinquishing the quota.

American distributors, it is pointed out, have no objection to continuing quota production with frozen assets if it can be assured there is enough available personnel so pictures can be made for worldwide distribution.

Asher-Cohn Production Talks Are Resumed

HOLLYWOOD—Irving Asher, who was in New York for a few days conferring with Jack Cohn, has returned and is continuing his talks with Harry Cohn over future status of his berth as head of Columbia's British production.

Much depends on whether the American companies will continue to produce in England in accordance with the quota law. Another problem to be handled is the matter of salary since taxes in England consume approximately 65 per cent of an individual's income while the country is on a war-time basis.

It is, however, a certainty Asher will stay with Columbia in some capacity although several other major companies are bidding for his services as a result of "Clouds Over Europe" and "U-Boat 29."

BOXOFFICE Travelers

NEW YORK—Ben Shlyen, publisher of BOXOFFICE, is here from Kansas City on a periodical visit. He plans to remain several weeks.

HOLLYWOOD—Red Kann, editor-in-chief of BOXOFFICE, is here to spend the next few weeks checking up on friends and acquaintances.

ALBANY

CHARLIE STEARN, United Artists eastern district manager, and Bert Stern, midwest district manager, reported at Schine headquarters in Gloversville four days closing a product deal . . . Duke Elliot, Schine manager in Tupper Lake, promoting an automobile giveaway in cooperation with local merchants . . . Mike Boumansour, operator of Plaza, Malone, reported to have hypoed business with a giveaway policy several nights weekly. It is said that Malone theatres take Canadian money at par, despite the heavy discount . . . George Stanton, operator of Burt's Theatre, Luzerne, was on Filmrow for the first time in some months. Al Grover Woodard, who books for him, is now also said to be employed by Harry La Monte, operator of theatres in four small towns. Other Filmrow visitors: Seth Field, Schine date setter; Frank Williams, Benton circuit booker; Alan Jones, Conery chain booker; Pete Bournakis, Strand and Liberty, Watertown; Leonard Rosenthal, State, Troy; Ollie Mallory, Starr, Corinth; Carl Nilman, Valatie, Valatie, and Memorial, Wilmington, Vt.; Alex Papayanakos, American, Canton; Ernie G. Dodds, Palace, Lake Placid; Mrs. G. Harry Brown, Strand, Old Forge; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Rosenbaum, Elizabethtown.

Jim Evans, Paramount shipper, and Betty Harris, Paramount inspectress, receiving congratulations on their marriage . . . Clayton Eastman, Paramount manager, was in New York for the weekend . . . Welden Waters, genial Paramount salesman, was introduced to rigors of the North Country when he ran into a 12-inch snowfall at Lake Placid and vicinity. He bought buckle overshoes for the first time in his life . . . Lois Spooner, Warner-Vitagraph inspectress, is ill. Howard Secor, shipper in same exchange and president of Local 51-B, is facing an operation . . . Dave Miller, Universal district manager, was in to make calls with Branch Boss Joe Engel at various chain headquarters of the territory . . . George Tucker, RKO salesman, John Steele, United Artists representative, and several others were on a one-day hunting trip in the Adirondacks. Exhibitors like Johnny Milligan of Schuylerville, Dave Rosenbaum, of Elizabethtown, Forks, Keesville and Ausable, Frank Wieting, of Cobleskill, go out for a day's gunning.

Mrs. Jerry La Rocque, wife of operator of Fairyland, Warrensburg and sometime assistant at the theatre, suffered a broken leg in a fall from a chair . . . The engagement of Marvin Dwore, brother of Sid Dwore and associated with him in the operation of Schenectady theatres, to an Albany girl has been announced . . . Bob Rosenthal, manager of Warner's Ritz, is back on the job after a honeymoon with the former Miss Elsie Cohn, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Isadore Cohn, New Orleans. The marriage took place in the southern city . . . Bond Bread Co. and Harmanus Bleecker Hall held a large Saturday morning party for members of the Lone Ranger Club, with three episodes of the old serial screened. Latest Republic "Lone Ranger Rides Again" serial is regularly exhibited at the Leland, also a Fabian house.

A Schwalberg and R. K. Hagen, Warner-Vitagraph home office man, were at the local exchange. Ditto Howard Crombie, district checking supervisor with headquarters in Boston, and T. W. Hammer, another c. s. . . . Exploitationist Lou Davidson's memory for names drew comment by newspapermen and other guests at the dinner 20th Century-Fox gave in the De Witt Clinton Hotel the night before "Drums Along the Mohawk" premiered at the Palace. A sumptuous repast, but no speeches, not even by the four visiting Hollywood players.

Ed Hinchey, assistant buyer and booker for Warner theatres, with headquarters in New York, spent a day at executive upstate zone offices in Albany . . . Sol Edwards, Grand National sales manager, was in town.



—Metropolitan Photo

Talking It Over—

Vice-president George Green of Producers Corp. of America goes over the script of "Kingdom Come" with the author of the book, Adele Rogers St. John. John Charles Thomas, who is to be starred in the film, has approved the script. While in New York, Green has been arranging a major company release.

Premiere, Local Interest Push "Drums" to Top

ALBANY—The combination of spectacular world premiere exploitation, a story with its locale in the section, and an admittedly fine picture, have produced highwater mark business for "Drums Along the Mohawk" in first runs of Albany territory. The 20th Century-Fox production is reported, from different sources, to have done about $15,000 in a week at the 3,700-seat Palace, that figure being topped at Fabian house only by "Snow White," which is reported on Filmrow to have grossed $16,900 in seven days.

At Charles Gordon's Olympic, Utica independent, "Drums" pulled in about $5,400 the first week. This is stated to be an all-time high in the nine years Gordon has been operating the theatre. The appearance there of Jane Withers, with seats selling for $2.50 at night, helped get "Drums" off to a flying start. Gordon, who is reputed to play pictures longer than any exhibitor in the territory, will show "Drums" for 17 days.

BALTIMORE

PLANS are under way for the annual dinner dance set for January 27 at the Variety Club, of which Frank Durkee is chairman. Wednesday's luncheon at the Variety club had Elmer Nolty and Fred Schmuff as Kings for a day . . . Wednesday night was Joe Grant Night at the Belvedere Hotel.

Wilbur Brizendine has left the hospital and expects to be at his desk at the Rialto soon . . . A fire in the boiler room of the Arcade Theatre, Sunday, was discovered by the janitor. Mr. Alexander, manager, was unable to open the house until nearly 4 o'clock . . . J. L. Rome weekended in New York . . . Sympathy goes to Mrs. Moe Cohen and family for the recent loss of her mother . . . Leon Back, Rome theatre executive, took a one-day trip to New York last Sunday . . . James (little Jacques) Merriwell Shellman IV, and Leonard McClaughlin of Maryland Theatre, are preparing interesting recollections of Baltimore's theatrical scene which will soon grace the pages of the Variety Club's official organ the Barker.

Walter Pacy has recovered from his recent illness . . . Rome managers exploitation winners this week were Ed Wyatt, Preston; Bob Ashcroft, Apollo; Leo McGrevey, Cameo; Harold Grott, Met, and R. Marhenke, Broadway . . . Max Cluster, Cluster, is having the front of his theatre renovated.

Judge Calvin Chestnut, federal district court here, granted the Durkee Westway case another postponement till December 7 . . . Several hundred crippled boys and girls were guests of Bill Saxton at Loew's Century to see the Marx Brothers in "At the Circus" . . . Reports abound that the Showboat is doing a sell-out business and is not going to pull anchor as long as business is good . . . Jokesters sent the fire department on a wild goose chase to Harry Vogelstein's Balto Poster Co. on a complaint. Nobody knew what the complaint was . . . Tipster Al Vogelstein is now taking pinochle lessons from Sam Ferman.

Ralph Martin jr., Apollo, has been appointed relief manager of the United Theatres . . . Sam Shoubin, Pic, is negotiating on building a new theatre . . . Seen at Pimlico race track last week, Bill Hicks, Hampden; Eugene McCurdy, Columbia; Sam Holtz, and a host of others . . . Lou Cohen's little boy was taken to St. Joseph's with the flu . . . Eddie Kemple jr.'s son Edward Kemple III has entered the 60-pound football team at McDonald school.

Mrs. Frank Durkee is on the sick list . . . Another proud papa is Sam Tabor, Universal salesman, who was presented with a nine-pound son last week . . . George Jacobs, Goldfield, says he was born on the eighth month and the 26th day and his locker number at the YMCA is 826 and his house number is 826 and his gas bill this month is $8.26.

Frank Hahn of Horlacher has moved to Oakley Village just outside of Baltimore . . . Charles Blumberg, assistant manager of the Rivoli, has joined the Jewish War Veterans, Post No. 167 . . . Lee Goldsmith is now assistant manager at the Apollo.

PHILADELPHIA

SENATOR BURTON K. WHEELER is scheduled to be guest of honor at the Variety Club banquet, December 10 . . . Lowell Thomas is supposed to be another guest, but news reports have him down with a strep infection. Variety Clubbers are praying for speedy recovery . . . The grapevine tells about new theatres being contemplated in Camp Hill, Watsontown and Port Treverton, all in Pennsylvania . . . "Gone With the Wind" is reported definitely booked for opening at the Boyd Christmas week . . . George Nonamaker, UMPTO publicizer, won himself a big cake in a Vine Street raffle. The cake-eater.

J. Howard Smith, another local boy making good, has been promoted from booker to Harrisburg salesman at 20th-Fox . . . The final S. R. Kent Drive meeting of the year at 20th-Fox brought to Philadelphia, Herman Wobber, general sales manager; William Sussman, eastern division manager, and Morton Levy, drive leader . . . Leo Posel's new Tyson is scheduled to open November 21 . . . Daisy Mae and Li'l Abner, flesh impersonators of the comic stars, who are ballyhooing a charity dance for the Record, *were visitors at the Showmen's Club. Thirty-five local theatres, corralled by Moe Verbin, will also play host to the hillbilly couple . . . Moe reports his current four-star membership drive has netted 60 new Showmen Clubbers.*

Allen Lewis, Dante, had his car smashed in an accident, but escaped unscathed . . . M. Malsma is opening an office here for the Premium Promotion Syndicate, which handles books in the middle west, New England and New York. His first deal is with the Chelten . . . Sam D. Schwartz, Warner, has been reappointed by Chief Barker Jay Emmanuel as chairman of the Variety Club's house committee—which is really a more responsible post than chief barker, according to the boys . . . Jim and Bill Clark and Oscar Neufeld will tear a herring with the Washington Variety Club at its banquet November 18.

Betty Chambers, Metro cashier, who went horseback riding last weekend, fooled her co-workers by sitting down as soon as she entered the office . . . Joe Farrow, Metro office manager, is snapping at the staff since Penn got licked by Penn State gridders . . . Florence Averell has a little pig bank on her desk—souvenir of the Danish pavilion at the Fair. But she won't tell what she's saving her money for . . . The Film Center Lunch waitresses have blossomed out as senoritas, with carnations in their hair.

Anent the complaint voiced by local independent exchanges about Clark Film Distributors' practice of accepting films directly from New York distributors for servicing here—observers point out that Clark considers itself obliged to take any business offered it. They say pressure ought to be directed by the local independents at the New York distributors . . . Bill Woolf, Allegheny, reports he broke his house record with "Torpedoed," heralded by a bang-up campaign.

Words are flying between Alexander Film Service and Motion Picture Adver-

(Continued on page 24-D)

Five Amusement Firms Dissolve in New York

ALBANY—Loew's Lexington, Inc., Fenton Amusement Corp., and Cedric Amusement Corp., all of New York, have been dissolved. D. Schadler, 1540 Broadway, was the attorney.

Empire State Theatres, Inc., with headquarters in New York, also dissolved. Edith Schaffer, 1501 Broadway, was the attorney.

British Distributors, Ltd., 1150 Broadway, dissolved.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

CITY IN DARKNESS (20th-Fox)—One of the poorest, most wearisome and involved episodes in the veteran sleuth series, this will find it tough going everywhere but with the most confirmed Charlie Chan fans. Sidney Toler, Lynn Bari, Harold Huber. Herbert I. Leeds directed.

GERONIMO (Para)—Containing the time-honored formula of soldiers and Indians, given lavish and spectacular production mounting, and treated to an engrossing screenplay with historical background, here is a field day for the action addicts. Picture deals with the marauding Apache chief who terrorized the southwest after the Civil War. The picture is dependable as a top money offering in its class. Paul H. Sloane directed.

JUSTICE OF THE RANGE (Col)—The exhibitor should have little trouble in selling this Tim McCoy western to his patrons. It is entertaining and the story holds up throughout. McCoy does well in his familiar role as a peacemaker. Tim McCoy, Billie Seward, Edward LeSaint, David Selman directed.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (WB)—A compact little thriller that should help fill out a well-balanced program. The story is that of three private sleuths who become involved in the skullduggery of a crooked lawyer and it is unfolded convincingly by a cast including Dick Foran, Jane Wyman and Maxie Rosenbloom. Noel Smith directed.

ROVIN' TUMBLEWEEDS (Rep)—The public could not demand more of Gene Autry than is offered here. The story, studded with much vivid action, has Gene going from flood refugee work to Congress, effecting a general reform on conditions. George Sherman directed.

TOWER OF LONDON (Univ)—Through the sheer weight of impressive pageantry and spectacle and a superior cast, headed by Basil Rathbone, this medieval melodrama contrives to transcend its story weakness and emerges as highly acceptable entertainment with more or less historical accuracy, liberally garnished with plenty of horrors. The picture portrays the murderous intrigues to which Richard III resorted to attain the English throne. Ably produced and directed by Rowland V. Lee.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

S-W May Quit Flesh; Say It Doesn't Pay

PHILADELPHIA — The possibility that Stanley-Warner may discontinue vaudeville in all local houses when the current contract with the musicians' union expires December 1, is being discussed here.

Three neighborhood houses—the Alhambra, Kent and Frankford—dropped flesh a month ago. Still using it are the Allegheny and Oxford and the downtown Earle. In addition, the Ogontz and Keystone run amateur nights, which necessitate the use of musicians.

According to reports, S-W heads are considering making a clean sweep of the policy on the ground that it hasn't been enough of a draw to justify the steep costs.

Observers have heard talk about discontinuance of the policy in the neighborhoods, but the inclusion of the Earle in the reports comes as a distinct surprise.

Duals About to Get Chance In Warner Philly Houses

PHILADELPHIA—Stanley-Warner's excursion into double features is scheduled to get under way "soon in several houses," a Warner spokesman informs BOXOFFICE.

Reports are that the date will be December 1, and that five houses will be involved —one running duals every day, the other four twice a week. Their names could not be learned.

The development is being watched with considerable anxiety by independent exhibitors. S-W spokesmen have said the policy would be introduced only in areas where the "competition from independents using double features makes the move necessary."

One possibility being seriously mentioned is that some independents might try to go Warner one better, and use triple features. However, observers commented, the recent release of a whole series of extra-long films may head off such a possibility.

To Seek Time Extension In Chi. Contempt Case

CHICAGO—Defense attorneys in the government's criminal contempt proceedings against Barney Balaban, B&K and seven majors, were expected to seek an extension of time for their answers to the government's brief this week. The time limit of 30 days was to be up Saturday.

Robert Golding, one of the defense attorneys, said that the extension sought would be "only about a week, to clear up a few odds and ends."

Chas. Perry Now Partner At Detroit Madison

DETROIT—Charles Perry, for years manager of the Adams Theatre here for Harry and Elmer Balaban of Chicago, has resigned to go into a partnership with Dave Newman and Arthur Robinson on the management of the Madison Theatre, downtown continuous run house. No one has been named yet to succeed Perry.

WASHINGTON

HERMAN WOBBER, W. Sussman, and Moe Levy visited the 20th-Fox exchange and participated in the final meeting of the current S. R. Kent drive . . . Raymond Burch, manager of Warner's Seco, was presented with a baby girl by his wife . . . Sidney Lust's new Hyattsville Theatre will have a formal opening November 21 . . . UA's Marcie Plant weekended with Margaret Stant in Salisbury . . . Columbia's Lillian Levy is recuperating from a recent tonsillotomy.

Ray Bell, Loew publicist, was the recipient of a gold watch from Eddie Cantor for his exploitation efforts prior and during Eddie's engagement at the Capitol . . . Miss Ida Barezofsky has joined the Metro contract staff . . . "Buster" Root, Tivoli, sandbagged and machine-gunned the wall of his lobby for bally on "All Quiet" . . . Roy Schatt, Warner theatres artist, received honorable mention for his exhibit in a recent mural contest, same now being on display in Corcoran Art Gallery.

John Miller, Henry's, Hagerstown, is saving nickels to defray his junket to the rotary convention in Rio next summer . . . RKO's Steady Knox's ability as a football diagnostician has his co-workers agog . . . Metro's Rudy Berger visited the accounts in the Roanoke area . . . Charles Fogle of Metro's home office maintenance department is visiting the local exchange . . . Ivan Rosenbaum, Neighborhood Theatres, has been hospitalized in Richmond for a spell . . . Dick Eason has become a member of Abingdon's Rotary club . . . First International's "Ballerina" is being distributed through Clark Film. Horlacher's Oscar Neufeld was a recent visitor . . . Jake, Gertrude, and Hattie Flax have moved into their new home in northwest Washington.

Birthday greetings to Warner theatres' Bill Ewing and Mary Horner . . . Incidentally, Bill will celebrate his 15th wedding anniversary November 25 . . . Mrs. Paul Smith, formerly of the Warner theatre contract staff, feted her former fellow-workers at her home . . . According to Republic's Morris Oletsky the new hillbilly theme "Jeepers-Creepers" is in great favor . . . Harrold Weinberger, former Metro office manager, has won a bit part in M-G-M's "Strange Cargo," featuring Clark Gable . . . The Warner Club will hold its annual party December 16.

The christening of Sam Tabor's newly born son was held in Baltimore November 13, with Bernie Kreisler, Joe Young and Barney Frank attending the ceremony . . . Helen Ulman of Salisbury is proud of her nephew's gridiron feats for Maryland University . . . Dick Farr has joined the Paramount accessory staff . . . Mrs. Frances Naftal, formerly of the Metro staff, entertained M-G-M's ladies ensemble at her home . . . Metro's Buddy Hall and Marge Dermody are making extensive plans for the annual Xmas party . . . Harry Anger, stage director at Warner's Earle, plans to repeat four popular stage presentations, namely, "The Minstrel Show," "The Youth Parade," "Say It With Girls," and "Battle of Swing."

Albany Area General Business Upbeat; Grosses Are Spotty

ALBANY—Another general increase in employment and payrolls at New York state factories from the middle of September to the middle of October, with the percentage gains the largest recorded in any October of the 26 years the state labor department has been compiling these figures, coincided with general though not unanimous reports on Filmrow of some pickup in theatre business throughout the Albany area. In contrast to the optimistic picture by exchangemen—even they say it could be brighter and spread down further to small non-industrial towns—is the darker one by an executive focusing his eye on boxoffice receipts over the upstate territory. He concedes that strong pictures, a number of which have been released during the past six weeks, are drawing good patronage. However, he adds that they usually profit at the expense of competing theatres. At one time, this man says, a big picture would attract crowds downtown in a city and other houses would get their share of the "overflow." But not so in many cases today, an important reason in his opinion being that the number of regular film patrons has decreased, due to economic conditions.

While the executive quoted grants that general business and payrolls are on the upbeat, he says there is a lag between them and theatre receipts. Filmrow men also speak of the lag. An explanation advanced is that many people who have returned to employment are paying back grocery and other bills, even setting up their own homes again. The "reorganization" has not yet been completed. Until it is, film houses generally will not experience a boom. Reduction in WPA rolls is mentioned as another factor working against bullish boxoffice receipts. WPA people have more time to attend theatres, and in some cases at least receive more pay than in private industry. The three-shift plan of operation in mill towns affected by the business surge is said by an observer to be hurting weekday trade, especially matinees. However, it helps Sunday patronage. Small towns without industries and depending mainly upon dairying, are said to have felt the effects of the business pickup less than larger communities. However the prices paid to farmer-producers are going higher.

A branch manager estimates that film business in the Albany territory has increased "at least 20 per cent" in recent weeks. Salesmen, who do not call on chain accounts, report either that patronage has increased or the prospects for it doing so soon are brighter, in a number of spots. Not all exhibitors tell such a story, however. Exchangemen detect a dimunition of complaining by operators. Here again, it is not universal. How much the independents, especially those in city last runs, have benefited by the general upswing is a subject of dispute. Too costly film rentals and "milking" by first runs still are exhibitor complaints.

State labor department statistics, as well as other indices and newspaper stories, show an upward trend. Five of the seven districts into which the state is divided for factory-reporting purposes by the labor department, had both employment and payroll increases from mid-September to mid-October. A sixth, Binghamton-Endicott-Johnson City (where the dominant industry is shoes) reported a payroll hike, despite an employment dip of 0.3 per cent. Rochester was the only section to experience a statistical minus in both employment and payrolls: 3.4 and 1.0, respectively.

The Utica area, which has been making a comeback since summer, despite the fact picture grosses there are said to be still poor, gained 13.9 in payrolls and 7.9 in employment. Syracuse showed the largest factory employment increase, 11.9. Payrolls in that area went up 11.8. Buffalo reported pluses of 9.6 and 13.7, respectively; Albany, 4.9 and 7.5; New York City, 3.2 and 4.7. Principal gains were in the metal, machinery and textile groups. Largest increases, ranging between 13 and 17 per cent, were reported by primary metal and transportation equipment industries. Ten industries reported advances in employment of more than 10 per cent. "The great majority of plants in almost all industries of the state continued to expand their operations in October," the labor department states. Index numbers for the month, based on the average of 1925-27 as 100, rose to 90.7 for employment and 87.5 for payrolls, the highest points reached in any October since 1929. Number of industrial building plans submitted to labor department was highest for October in 16 years.

Writ Against Picketing Is Denied F&M in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—An immediate injunction against the picketing of nine Fanchon and Marco houses here by the IATSE Local No. 143 was denied by Circuit Judge Julius R. Nolte, who ordered counsel for both sides to file briefs within 17 days.

Co-op Heads in East

NEW YORK—Frank Wetsman and Carl Buermele, executives of Co-operative in Detroit, were in town during the week for conferences with various sales managers on new product deals.

Examine Story Head in 20th-Fox Sherwood Suit

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Isador Wasservogel has ordered the examination before trial of Franklin Underwood, eastern story editor of 20th-Fox, on November 22 in connection with the suit of Robert E. Sherwood and Playwrights Producing Co. against 20th-Fox. Sherwood was also ordered to submit a bill of particulars.

Suit charges the defendant's picture, "Young Mr. Lincoln" deceives the public into believing it is based on the plaintiff's play, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 23)

Warner, Max and William Goldberg, Gilbert Josephson, Martin Lewis, Matty Radin, Irving Barry, Karl MacDonald and Mary Rose Carneghi.

Loew's foreign department was saddened by the news that Willy Mosinger, manager for Bulgaria, had passed away . . . Joe Schenck and Zorina, who are now on the coast, left New York the same day but Schenck took the plane and Zorina the 20th Century. The dancing star is scheduled for 20th-Fox's "I Was an Adventuress" . . . Doc Bishop, 20th-Fox's foreign publicity studio contact, is in town vacationing and taking in the hockey games with Les Whelan . . . Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Taylor also were on hand to witness the opening of the hockey season at the Garden . . . Epicurean note: Get Grace Warner, secretary to Herman Wobber, to tell you her recipe for that frankfurter stew which has her friends gasping.

Thomas Patrick Mulrooney is undecided whether it will be a Pontiac or a Dodge . . . Norm Elson is now general manager of sales and distribution for Film Alliance. For the last six years, Elson has been general manager for the Brand Theatres . . . O. K. Swann is the new Detroit branch manager for Ross Federal Service . . . Charles Buckley, FWC counsel and coast football authority, rates UCLA's two colored backs, Kenny Washington and Jack Robinson, as the best in the country. Also, thinks the Uclans have a good chance to knock over USC.

Lep Friedman and the missus are going to Boston for the Thanksgiving holidays . . . Robert Taylor visited the Loew home office the other day. On the eighth floor, one of the girls dashed out and kissed him. There was a lot of signatures on photographs but hardly the experience of his visit last time when one of the girls on the third floor fainted after kissing the star . . . George W. Weeks has recovered from a cold which has kept him away from his desk several days . . . Charles W. Trampe of the Monogram Milwaukee exchange and son, Ray, were home office visitors. Ditto for William Onie of Cincinnati . . . Arthur Lee says Baird television will be ready here in about another month since the company is undergoing a change of parts and will not use all of the British-made equipment . . . Hal Hode was guest speaker at the dinner given by Engineering Women's Club Thursday night . . . Dorothy Kennedy's sister has been compelled to continue her rest in New Jersey before reporting for active duty as "hello" girl at the local RKO exchange.

Eddie McEvoy, RKO district manager, continues to maintain his Westchester home, although his headquarters are in Cleveland. He said it's too much to move 17 rooms of furniture to Ohio, particularly when one of his daughters writes for the Macy chain of newspapers . . . Al Rosen, manager of the State, is still undergoing treatment for his eyes . . . W. Ray Johnston was attracted by the war headlines the other day, bought a paper and ambled down Broadway reading the story without bumping into anyone . . . Rube Jackter was planning to visit Detroit on business, but when he found his customers in town on a social tour he managed to talk about the things he wanted to, thereby eliminating the trip . . . Al Lichtman has been planning to come on from the coast for several months now and one of these days probably will make it.

Gilmour Program Head For GE Television Unit

SCHENECTADY — John G. T. Gilmour, widely known in the trade as originator of "Excursions in Science" series and as a producer of industrial films for General Electric Co., now is program manager of W2XB. This is GE's new television station in the Helderberg Mountains which will be placed in regular operation next month. Chester H. Lang, manager of publicity and advertising, announced Gilmour's transfer from the motion picture department, which he had supervised for eight years. Charles R. Brown, of the market research section, takes Gilmour's place in the motion picture department. W. T. Cook will have charge of scenario work for both pictures and television programs.

Odlum Not Interested

JERSEY CITY—Floyd B. Odlum, president of Atlas Corp., states he is not interested in financing independent production. This, despite Mayor LaGuardia's efforts to revive production in the east on a large scale.

Rules Gardner Lost Schenectady Lease

ALBANY—The appellate division, by a 3-2 vote, reversed a supreme court decision favorable to John W. Gardner as lessee of the Colony, one of three Schenectady houses under his management. The higher court ruled that he had lost his lease. Gardner now is said to face a $20,000 action brought by Albany owners of the theatre. The Hellmans will get the Schenectady Theatre, it is reported on Filmrow. In fact, they plan to move into another location, too, if Row gossip is correct. The Hellman circuit now operates the Royal and Paramount, Albany, and Palace, Troy.

Gardner had a lease on the Colony for five years ending Oct. 1, 1938, and an option for a second period of the same length provided the owners did not sell. The owners claimed they sold the place and Gardner refused to vacate. The owners brought a supreme court action against him, but it was dismissed. The appellate division reversed the lower court findings.

Sees Concessions as Neely Bill "Bribes"

PHILADELPHIA—Concessions being offered by distributors to exhibitors are "probably merely articles of appeasement" designed to weaken support for passage of the Neely Bill, according to a statement issued by Frank Lydon, regional vice-president of Allied States.

His statement, which was not an expression of his own views but rather of opinions voiced by other delegates, was issued following a regional meeting of Eastern Allied units at the local headquarters of Allied of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Lydon's statement added that it is "too early" yet to determine the value of concessions offered so far. In addition, it cautioned unit officials not to become too involved in matters of litigation and legislation, to the detriment of ordinary services to exhibitor members.

The meeting, which lasted five hours, was attended by representatives of units in New England, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Maryland and eastern and western Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA

(Continued from page 24-B)

tisers over distribution of Camel cigarette trailers, according to reports. Apparently both are handling Camel stuff, and Alexander claims previous contracts with exhibitors who now are signing up with M. P. A. There's talk of an injunction . . . Hal Seidenberg, Fox, got himself a barrelfull of plugs over WDAS for "First Love" by running a letter contest on "Why Deanna is considered the typical American girl" . . . Metro is offering prizes of $100, $75, $50 *and* $25 *for the best campaigns on Garbo's "Ninotchka" to local independents. Separate prizes also for the Warner and Comerford circuits.*

Flesh shows are banned on Sundays, but the Fays will have them two Sundays in a row this month—as benefits. A city permit is required . . . The second benefit, November 26, is for the family of the late Clem Rizzo, equipment dealer known to everybody in the trade . . . Roy Robbins, Karlton, got English and history teachers in dozens of schools all over town to recommend the short, "The Monroe Doctrine" . . . Joe Murdock, Stanley, Camden, pulled off the boldest stunt in months, when he placed a motor-float advertising "Thunder Afloat" at the tail-end of the Armistice Day parade. To the thousands lining the route, the float seemed part of the parade.

Sid Poppay, Majestic and Strand, Gettysburg, is making friends among the numerous kid clubs by running special nights for them, during which their own stars are given a chance to strut their stuff on stage . . . Ol' Two-Gun Gus Miriani, Princess, Camden, is giving away popguns to the kids, promoted from Kresge's . . . Dick Kirsh's shop window displays for the Thanksgiving show at the Aldine, Wilmington, have gone over so well, he has sold a raft of tickets in advance.

M-G-M (13) **105 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 17, '39**

The same adroit blending of comedy and mystery which characterized its predecessors promises comparable returns in popularity and profits for the latest film adventures of super sleuth Nick Charles and his irrepressible wife—portrayed, of course, by William Powell, whose return-to-the-screen performance is habitually suave and fine-grained, and Myrna Loy. While the humor is more on the broad side, the transition from subtleties should tend to widen rather than restrict the picture's appeal. Among a large and impressive supporting cast, the contributions by Nat Pendleton, Marjorie Main and Tom Neal are noteworthy. Hunt Stromberg has endowed the film with the best in production values and W. S. Van Dyke's direction contributes its crisp share toward making the offering one of the current sure bets at the turnstiles.

William Powell, Myrna Loy, Virginia Grey, C. Aubrey Smith, Tom Neal, Nat Pendleton, Marjorie Main.

Another Thin Man F Mystery Comedy

RKO Radio (008) **73 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 1, '39**

A colorfully presented history of the biggest little city in the world, from its tempestuous days as a mining town to its current status as the mecca for divorce-seekers, this is produced on a pretentious scale and warrants top playing time wherever sweep and action are in demand. Richard Dix scores in a role comparable in strenath and scope to his triumph in "Cimarron" and carries most of the Thespic burden on his still sturdy shoulders, given substantial assistance by Gail Patrick. The story carries through from 1905 when Dix, smart young eastern lawyer, settles in Reno and becomes a power as attorney for the miners. When the bubble bursts, Dix discovers the unusually short residence law in effect in the state and turns it to his own ends by widely advertising Nevada and turning it into a thriving divorce mill. John Farrow directed.

Richard Dix, Gail Patrick, Hobart Cavanagh, Astrid Allwyn, Laura Hope Crews, Anita Louise, William Haade.

Reno F Drama

Monogram (3919) **61 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 7, '39**

Elementary cops and robbers melodrama which will find its niche without much difficulty. The story is on the weak side, but the film makes up for it by moving along at a good pace. Emphasis of the yarn is on the courage of the boys who pound the beat. Supplementing it is the father-son angle. One of the sons, Dick Purcell, is a policeman proud of his uniform. The other, Charles Quigley, becomes associated with a gangster. Father is a trusty night watchman who becomes involved in the doings of the gang in an effort to help his son. As a result of a shooting fracas, Quigley is both a fugitive from the gang and the law. After he is captured by his brother, the latter sets out on a successful hunt for further evidence. William Watson directed.

Dick Purcell, Bernadene Hayes, Charles Quigley, Frank Sheridan, Lillian Elliot, Julie Warren, Edward Keane.

Heroes in Blue F Melodrama

RKO Radio (011) **90 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 24, '39**

"That's Right—You're Wrong" may not pay off the mortgage, but it should go a long way to dent it. The producers have gone the limit—even stretching it along the dialogue route—to retain the refreshing entertainment spirit Kay Kyser and his unique radio aggregation have developed. Something of a story within a story idea holds it together in order to allow such grand troupers as Adolphe Menjou, May Robson, Edward Everett Horton and others to bring out the best in the Kyser bunch; and there's a heap of it around. The yarn takes the band to Hollywood for a picture engagement, and there's no little fun poked at the place, which should have its moments with the public. The film winds up in flourishing style, with the lads doing a version of the popular air show they are featured on weekly. Paced for fun, tuneful and brimming with mass appeal, it looks like real money. David Butler directed.

Kay Kyser, Adolphe Menjou, May Robson, Lucille Ball, Dennis O'Keefe, Roscoe Karns.

That's Right—You're Wrong F Musical Comedy

Republic (——) **63 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 17, '39**

Not an earth-shaking epic, by any means, but sound and substantial program material which should hold appeal for every member of the family and chalk up a comforting margin of profit for exhibitors in most situations. Probably the best of the "Higgins Family" series thus far to be produced, it depends largely upon broad and frequently hilarious comedy for sustaining power and features triple-barreled mugging by James and Lucile Gleason and Harry Davenport. This time the Higginses are set for a three-month trip to South America and so inform their friends. Caught short financially, but forced to keep face, they sneak quietly away on a trailer vacation. The boat on which they were to embark is torpedoed and the family is looked upon as officially dead, causing numerous complications. Gus Meins directed.

James Gleason, Lucile Gleason, Russell Gleason, Harry Davenport, Mary Beth Hughes, Tommy Ryan.

The Covered Trailer F Comedy

Monogram (3857) **53 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 31, '39**

Taken for what it is—a western—not very much can be said for this film. It is obviously a minor effort and executed with little imagination. Perhaps the only redeeming feature is the beauty of the landscape and a couple of riding scenes. Jack Randall is personable enough but a film in this category needs something more than a fine rider and a musical score that relies on the Hoof Cantata in F. Otherwise the audience will be treated to the dubious spectacle of Randall, Vince Barnett and another pair of law officers, trailing and capturing a gang of cowtown counterfeiters. The usual allotment of blank shells is discharged. The plot borrows freely from a recent large-scale major production. Robert Hill directed.

Jack Randall, Jean Joyce, Tris Coffin, George Cleveland, Julian Fox, "Rusty."

Overland Mail F Western

20th Century-Fox (020) **71 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 24, '39**

The familiar wife vs. secretary formula gets a new and smartly sophisticated treatment, literally bristling with crisp and brilliant dialogue, in a class picture that should be enthusiastically received by audiences clamoring for gay, light-weight fare to offset gloomy international conditions. Tyrone Power impresses in returning to the Thespic niche in which he is most at home—farcial comedy—and Linda Darnell, hailed as a sensation in "Hotel for Women," proves her work in that film was no flash in the pan. Supporting cast is of unusual strength, featuring such established and competent players as Warren William, Wendy Barrie and Binnie Barnes. Darnell, Power's wife, suspects him of carrying on a love affair with his secretary. Determined to hold her man by unusual means, she obtains a job as secretary to William, which precipitates a blowup and conciliation. Gregory Ratoff directed.

Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell, Warren William, Binnie Barnes, Wendy Barrie, Joan Davis, Leonid Kinskey.

Daytime Wife F Comedy Drama

GB-Monogram (3923) **58 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 15, '39**

From the "Ringer" cycle of the late Edgar Wallace comes this English mystery drama. The cast features Wilfrid Lawson, Sonnie Hale, Alexander Knox and Louise Henry. As mystery melodrama its construction and method of building suspense is shaky. The plot hangs fire in many places and goes off half cocked in between. But an opportunity for the audience to participate in the uncovering of the guilty party, should satisfy would-be sleuths. A series of strange events leads the plot to the door of a shady criminal lawyer. He is given notice of his death which is to occur on a certain day. How Scotland Yard goes about attempting to thwart the fates makes up the narrative. The comedy relief is merely old stuff dusted off.

Wilfrid Lawson, Sonnie Hale, Alexander Knox, Patrick Barr, Louise Henry, John Longden, Patricia Roe.

The Phantom Strikes F Mystery Drama

Colony Pictures (SR) **57 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

With a lapse of almost a year, Ken Maynard again appears on the western picture scene in this new state-righted series. "Flaming Lead" is the first, and if it sets the standard, the new batch is at least three times as good as the previous set. Maynard, a metropolitan barroom entertainer, gets dragged into settlement of a drunk's (Dave O'Brien) ranch holdings out west, the ranch being co-owned by Eleanore Stewart, who is trying desperately to stall off inroads of rustlers long enough to fill her army horse contracts. Maynard has sliced off his extra poundage and is more at fighting weight, looks younger, and the film seems to know where it's going. Joseph O'Donnell is author of the original screenplay, and Sam Newfield directs. The picture seems a cinch for a good hunk of juvenile business in action houses.

Ken Maynard, Eleanore Stewart, Walter Long, Tom London, Ralph Peters, Carleton Young, Reed Howes.

Flaming Lead F Western

SELLING ANGLES: **"Heroes in Blue"**

The picture glorifies the cops somewhat and exploitation should be directed with that in view. One tieup which might be arranged with the local police department is a safety campaign. Safety shields can be promoted to be posted on most corners with the following copy: "Celebrate 'Heroes in Blue' Week by Crossing Streets Carefully." Another stunt that can be worked is having a contest for the most popular school policeman. Limit voting to patrons, with loving cup going to winner.

CATCHLINES:

They Live Dangerously . . . Die Fighting!

Brother Against Brother . . . But It Didn't Count When the Guns Barked.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Overland Mail"**

This hiss-the-villain opus rates only the attention given an ordinary western production. There are also sorts of tieups readily obvious to the exhibitor with a juvenile horse opera following. Only for the died-in-the-wool western fan will the naiveties of the plot, the so-so dialogue and the carbon copy form of the production suffice. The production seemed slipshod—in a number of sequences the sound of walking on board floors almost drowns out the lines. Give out pictures of the star to his followers and advertise the picture from that angle.

CATCHLINES:

Woe Betide the Vandal Who Is Pursued by Jack Randall.

See Jack Randall Deal Out Lead and Punches to a Gang of Unscrupulous Outlaws.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Flaming Lead"**

Ken Maynard probably offers more as a boxoffice sales possibility than any other western star, because of the many localities in which he has made personal appearances, both on the stage and with the circuses of the past few seasons. This new series is worth the management's recommendation, if the first film is any indication, and it promises to stack up with the remainder of western offerings. Since Tom Mix and Tony, there has been no more well-known horse-man combo than Maynard and Tarzan, and Tarzan does tricks in this picture, so is a side bet for juvenile attention. Weekend bookings, with a definite reach to kids, will be the best selling approach.

CATCHLINES:

Ken Maynard Starts Out Impersonating a Live Man, But Almost Winds Up a Dead One.

The New Ken Maynard, With His Horse, Tarzan, Continues the Winning of the West.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Reno"**

Richard Dix and Gail Patrick should prove adequate as marquee bait. Invite former residents of Reno to attend as special guests. Prepare a lobby display of stills from Dix's previous pictures, including "Cimarron" and the more recent "Man of Conquest." Arrange for a debate on the stage by members of a woman's club, local law school or other group, with Reno's divorce laws as the topic. Try to obtain some gaming equipment—roulette wheels, dice, etc.—for use in a lobby layout.

CATCHLINES:

The Biggest Little City in the World . . . Which Started as a Mining Town and Gained New Life as the Road to Easy Divorce.

A Saga of a City Known Round the World . . . The Story of the Man Who Put It on the Map.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Covered Trailer"**

Feature the "Higgins Family" in lobby and marquee ads. Place every family named Higgins on your mailing list. Work out a tieup with a local dealer in trailers, perhaps obtaining the loan of one of his new models for display in the lobby, or staging a street parade. Tieups should be made on every type of merchandise appealing to family consumption, such as furniture, food, etc. Stress the picture's suitability for consumption by the entire family.

CATCHLINES:

Pa Higgins Was Officially Declared Dead . . . And Turned Out to Be the Livest Ghost in History.

Dad Drove the Trailer . . . And the Family Drove Dad —Crazy.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Phantom Strikes"**

It's high time that good old "Phantom" struck his last. And it is time a distributor showed a little more ingenuity in the line of titles. A new, more effective title for this film will most likely aid in selling it to an audience that is apt to confuse it with something else. It rates the regular attention given mystery stuff plus a tieup with the many readers of the Edgar Wallace novels along logical lines. Wilfrid Lawson, Louise Henry and Sonnie Hale are most familiar to audiences here.

CATCHLINES:

He Smelled His Funeral Flowers.

A Floral Funeral Piece From "The Ringer" Spelled Doom in Two Days for Maurice Meister.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Another Thin Man"**

Hail the screen return of William Powell after a long absence, and match his name with that of Myrna Loy on marquee and in advertising. Title tieups are suggested with dealers in health-building foods and exercisers. Solicit restaurants to feature a "Thin Man" menu. Hold a contest to find the "thinnest man in town," booking the stunt as a supplement to the screen fare. Hire a very thin individual and have him parade the streets with a placard reading: "I'm looking for 'Another Thin Man.'"

CATCHLINES:

Here They Are Again . . . That Mad, Merry, Lovable Pair of Ne'er-Do-Wells . . . Mr. and Mrs. Nick Charles.

The Craziest Pair of Detectives in the History of Crime Present an Addition to the "Thin Man" Family . . . And Step Into Another Baffling Mystery.

SELLING ANGLES: **"That's Right—You're Wrong"**

If ever a wedge was handed an exhibitor to open the way to cooperative publicity, advertising and exploitation it would seem to be present here. Kyser's popularity on the air is the big noise, the supporting cast bears very special attention, there are original songs destined to attain high ratings and the "College of Musical Knowledge" angle to spur some dandy stunts. You may be able to find, locally, someone whose name has appeared on the Kyser broadcasts or one who has participated in one of Kyser's song quizzes. They should be built up for newspapers and perhaps personal appearances. The idea may even be carried out on a large scale through the cooperation of a music or department store, with the quiz winners getting a prize.

CATCHLINES:

Kay Kyser . . . The Old Professor Himself . . . In His First Picture.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Daytime Wife"**

Build up Linda Darnell by staging a letter contest in which patrons tell which leading women they like best opposite Tyrone Power. Make tieups on the wife vs. secretary background. Hold a special early morning matinee for secretaries and office girls, serving coffee and toast. Offer passes to those sending in the best gag punchline to the phrase "The honeymoon is over when—." Prepare throwaways as "inter-office communications," ordering "secretaries" to see "Daytime Wife."

CATCHLINES:

He Mixed Love With Business . . . And She Mixed Him Up . . . But Good.

Fooling Wifey Is a Great Game . . . Until She Learns the Rules.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia

Blondie Meets the Boss

We had a cute contest on this picture and did some nice business. The series is quite popular here. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

First National

Daughters Courageous

Another excellent picture, well played, but the story was not too well liked by some. Drew extra business for us. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 450.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Kid From Kokomo

A real clever picture from all angles. Everyone satisfied. Plenty of laughs. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way Theatre, Sheridan, Ore.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Miracles for Sale

Here was a dandy comedy-mystery that was full of clever situations and lines. Beats lots of the super-supers for real entertainment. Leo the Lion should have made it a little longer and given it the publicity it merited. Business fair. Wednesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375.—Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

Thunder Afloat

A wow as far as I am concerned. I may be prejudiced because I personally like Wallace Beery, but the audience seemed to like it as much as I did, so I guess I'm vindicated. Audience reaction: All favorable. Boxoffice: House record for the season so far. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Paramount

Beau Geste

Technically one of the best pictures delivered by Paramount this year. Wellman's direction very good and the acting of the stars very good. It's a little grim though as to story. Audience reaction: No special reaction and no walkouts or criticism. Boxoffice: About average Thurs., Fri. business. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Magnificent Fraud

Tamiroff's acting highlighted this one. Good story idea and good acting, but another case of building up to a climax that didn't go off. A good ending on this one would have made it a knockout. This was primarily an action picture and anything short of a sock ending turned out to be disappointing. Audience reaction: Went home without saying much. Boxoffice: Below average. Thurs., Fri. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Never Say Die

Rotten—not even fair. I did not buy 1939-40 product. Fri., Sat. Weather: Hot. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,400. Capacity: 300.—Lester Meyer, Strand Theatre, Chillicothe, Tex.

Our Leading Citizen

Perhaps not quite so good as "Arkansas Traveler" but a step in the right direction. I still think Burns is another bet similar to Rogers. If they will give him the right story material and the right direction, he can easily be tops at boxoffice. Audience reaction: All favorable. Boxoffice: Only slightly above average for Sunday and Monday. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Star Maker, The

A very fine film. Did fairly good business. No doubt the best picture of the year for the kids. First picture Paramount has made this year. Fri., Sat. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 150,000. Capacity: 600.—Charles Prakas, Rivoli Theatre, Bridgeport, Conn.

RKO Radio

Bachelor Mother

Plenty O. K. You may have to work a little and "sell" this one, but you can put a money-back guarantee on it. Tues., Wed., Thurs. Weather: O. K. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Five Came Back

Grim in spots, but very well done. Cast very good as well as direction and scripting. Title not very conducive to boxoffice bonanza. Better title might have made this a real hit. Audience reaction: They shuddered a little, but seemed to like it. Boxoffice: Above average. Saturday. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

20th Century-Fox

Chicken Wagon Family

Nice attendance, but nothing at all—only foolishness throughout picture. Fox surely doesn't expect to use any expensive settings for Jane Withers. No backing at all as far as scenery and costume is concerned. Mon., Tues. Weather: Clear, cold. Admission: 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 13,000. Capacity: 500.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Here I Am a Stranger

Here is another one of those pictures, which while basically good material, fails in the last few minutes of the telling. Eighty minutes are spent in leading up to a climax and then the climax fails to develop in the last two minutes. Supporting cast outshines the star who apparently needs more flying hours and some hard work. Notwithstanding above failing, picture still adds up to fair entertainment. Audience reaction: Comments said better than they expected. Boxoffice: Below average Sun., Mon. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Hollywood Cavalcade

Undoubtedly as fine a piece of celluloid as ever came out of Hollywood. Cast, direction, story and photography all swell. Old-time comedy sequence rolled them in the aisles. Believe trailer did us some harm, though it started out "Hollywood, Glamour City of the World, etc." I'm afraid the public is fed up with the glamour angle and is interested in only what the place produces. At least that was our audience reaction. Give this both barrels in exploitation. Boxoffice: Slightly below average. Thurs., Fri. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Rains Came, The

The picture was fair, but didn't draw any business on account of rain all day Sunday and Monday. "The Rains Came" sure matched the weather. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 150,000. Capacity: 600.—Charles Prakas, Rivoli Theatre, Bridgeport, Conn.

Young Mr. Lincoln

Starring Henry Fonda. The rest of the cast was good, too, but Fonda will go down in cinematic history as the greatest portrayer of Lincoln we have ever seen. He was grand and deserves serious consideration for the Academy Award. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 450. Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Warner Bros.

Hell's Kitchen

A little too grim. The "Dead End" Kids could have supplied more comedy. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—W. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Men Are Such Fools

One of the best comedies and with a perfect cast. Had to play this one pretty old, but it pulled in a capacity crowd. Don't pass this one up if you haven't played it. Tuesday. Weather: Cool. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 7,500. Capacity: 600.—L. J. Boudreau, Grant Theatre, Eveleth, Minn.

Naughty But Nice

Please, Mr. Warner, bring Ann Sheridan down to earth and give her good parts not requiring her to be an "oomph" girl. She has plenty without all the fol-de-rol. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 450.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

YOUR GRACIOUS HOST
FROM COAST TO COAST









A.S. KIRKEBY, *Managing Director*

KIRKEBY HOTELS

SELLING SEATS

DeHaven Plays on Parking Law to Sell "Mr. Chips"

HIGHLAND PARK, MICH.—A. Milo DeHaven, operating three houses here for the Belmont Theatre Co., utilized the new local parking meter law in selling "Goodbye, Mr. Chips." He distributed attractive yellow car circulars reading "Police Will Not Interfere If You Attend 'Goodbye, Mr. Chips'" and he placed exploitation cards on "One Hour" parking signs which read "Overparking Is Allowed in the Seats of the Woodward-Grand Theatre—On Account of the Showing of 'Goodbye, Mr. Chips.'"

DeHaven built up Saturday matinees at the Woodward-Grand by giving away six Charlie McCarthy dolls four straight weeks. They went to those who answered most adequately why they liked Charlie McCarthy or why they shop in Highland Park.

'Under-Pup' Exploited Via Old Model Ford Car

VICTORIA—To ballyhoo the showing of "The Under-Pup" at the Capitol Theatre in Victoria, Manager J. M. Robertson used a novel stunt. He secured one of the oldest model Ford cars which was equipped with brass radiator, old-fashioned headlights and all the antiquated gadgets. Suitable advertising matter about the showing of "The Under-Pup" at the Capitol was attached to this car and it was displayed on the streets of Victoria during the showing.

Coca Cola Tieup Promoted For "At the Circus"

LEWISTOWN, PA.—A production still from Marx Bros. "At the Circus" was responsible for an effective tieup at the Rialto Theatre. When properly brought to the attention of the Lewistown Bottling Co., the still which displayed a Coca Cola bottle, was used in two cooperative advertisements and ten displays.

"Elizabeth and Essex" Premiere Sold Heavily

PHILADELPHIA—A gala premiere in the Hollywood style bowed "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" into the Stanley-Warner Boyd Theatre here, with the following part of the advance buildup:

Forty thousand score cards, with the film ballyhooed on the back, were distributed at U. of P. and Temple U. football games.

All S-W theatres carried announcements. Also showed trailers.

City Hall told the story in lights above the entrances.

Kugler's Restaurant told the story on the back of menus. Other restaurants followed suit.

Ten thousand postcards to women's clubs members, signed by the president of the Federation of Women's Clubs and the president of the Motion Picture Forum.

Ads in two teachers' magazines.

Screenings for Board of Education officials, women's clubs officers, radio commentators. Announcements on all local stations.

Displays in every free library branch. Ten thousand heralds distributed at nine local colleges and universities. High school displays.

Serialization of the story two weeks ahead in the Daily News.

Seventy neighborhood S-W managers worked up campaigns of their own.

Free Booklets to Kiddies To Sell "Gulliver"

HOLLYWOOD—In exploiting the Fleischer feature-length cartoon, "Gulliver's Travels," which Paramount is to release during Christmas week, the studio has completed arrangements to distribute 16-page booklets on the picture free to children, through the cooperation of department stores.

Printed with four-color covers and containing children's verse, booklets will carry credit for the picture and local playdates.

"Babes" Birth Stunt

LA CROSSE, WIS.—As exploitation stunt for "Babes in Arms," the Rivoli Theatre here gave a $5 cash prize to the first baby born during the run along with a month's pass for two to the parents. Manager Bill Freise and Maurie Abrams, M-G-M exploiteer, conceived the idea and planted it with the local newspapers.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Movietone News, No. 17: President signs neutrality law, orders pickup on coast, U. S. Minister Mrs. Harriman in spotlight, the European situation covering Finland, Sweden, England and scenes on western front, fashions, football highlights.

News of the Day, No. 215: Embargo lifted, rain on western front, British minesweepers, first German war prisoners, Viking states rally to help Finland, football highlights.

Paramount News, No. 20: Repeal arms embargo, rush begins for war supplies, message by Key Pittman, mud takes over on western front, football highlights.

RKO Pathe News, No. 32: Repeal arms embargo, Allies mass on western front, British and French test wings, British honor Nazi dead, refugees pouring out of Poland, football highlights.

Universal Newsreel, No. 821: British down Nazi planes, "General Mud" slows troops, Finns prepare for war, repeal embargo, gridiron thrills.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Movietone News, No. 18: Test coast defense, corn-husking contest, dogs for Antarctic, the International Horse Show, trophy for meritorious army flight, ice fashions, Hore-Belisha states war aims, football thrills.

News of the Day, No. 216: Belgian-Dutch rulers call for peace, test coast defense, ham 'n eggs lose, corn-husking, the International Horse Show, the Yale-Dartmouth game.

Paramount News, No. 21: Shipping problems, New York housing project, U. S. army in action, voters say no to pension plan, hockey season opens, six-day bike racers, Cornell beats Columbia.

RKO Pathe News, No. 33: Dutch ask peace, midtown tunnel "holed" through, Navajo Indians hold rodeo, Shasta Dam under way, Chilean riders beat U. S. jumpers, U. S. coast defense in action, corn-husking contest.

Universal Newsreel, No. 822: Voters say no to pension plan, the Roosevelts vote, river tunnel "holed" through, test navy scout plane, U. S. army tests coast guns, fete Col. Batista, the Horse Show, Dartmouth beats Yale, corn-huskers, homemade auto for $50.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

HEAVY PRODUCT BACKLOG CHEERS IMMEDIATE OUTLOOK, BUT EARLY STUDIO SLUMP LIKELY

See Hiatus to Follow Completion Current Product Lineups

By IVAN SPEAR

Although the European War is exerting less and less influence on production matters as the weeks go by, insiders are holding that holocaust responsible for one condition current virtually throughout the entire film capital—the enormous head start the majors have on their 1939-40 schedules—which finds a good share of the lots within a stone's-throw of completing their entire lineups.

The substantial backlog of completed product was built up deliberately, dopesters believe, because of fear and doubt as to what effect the war ultimately will have on foreign finances, grosses and production schedules. Furthermore, it has both its light and dark side. Regardless of domestic boxoffice grosses during the next several months, for example, under no circumstances can there possibly be any shortage of product—even though the flow of foreign releases ceases entirely. On the gloomy side, however, is the near-certainty that with completion of 1939-40 schedules Hollywood is going to undergo a slump and a drastic curtailment of personnel during the hiatus until cameras begin turning on 1940-41 slates. And no matter how anxious producers may be to start on their new season's output, insiders aver, it is hardly possible that they will actually begin to shoot at least until early spring—indicating a dead spot of from one to three months during the winter.

Exemplifying the current anxiety to complete the season's schedules, Warner has ordered a heavy production drive which will see eight top-budgeters, including "Disraeli" and "The Sea Hawk," going into work before January 1. Twentieth Century-Fox, denying reports another payroll slash is imminent, has its slate set through Christmas and boasts a backlog of 11 films in the cutting room, which will assure it of releases through March. "Maryland," a big-budgeted effort in Technicolor, has been shifted from winter to next summer's schedule. Paramount, with three slated to start, also will be busy through the Christmas holidays. Monogram ends a production lull before the end of the month by gunning two high-cost efforts, "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Pioneers," in addition to a number of programmers. Metro's short subjects unit has hit a seasonal peak with 22 shorts either in work or on the line for immediate starts.

Another victim of the English production shutdown, Alexander Korda, checked in for a stay of approximately three weeks. The United Artists producer indicated his intention of returning to Britain shortly to resume picture-making activity.

"Little Flower's" Production Shift Call on Deaf Ears

Up to its ears in wartime production problems, labor pains and other headaches, local film figures apparently refuse to take very seriously the statement by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia that he is going to put New York City on the map again as a film production center, to the obvious detriment of Hollywood's standing as capital of filmdom.

While on most lots the cinematic ambitions of New York's fiery "Little Flower" have been absolutely ignored, his action was dignified by Paramount at least to the degree where several publicity-department-compiled statements attacking the feasibility of the plan were released. Among them were reactions from such executives as:

Frank Lloyd—"There seems to be a general belief that motion pictures have gone onto the sound stages and that they are no longer depending on weather. Nothing could be further from the truth . . . If the laurel is ever taken from California it will be by a far-from-modern, isolated community."

Harry Sherman—"Every picture which I make has from ten days to a month of outdoor shooting in it . . . I couldn't find a mountain range, sagebrush or a cattle-ranch suitable for fiming within a thousand miles of New York City."

William LeBaron, managing director of Paramount production—"No place in the world can offer such natural facilities (as Hollywood). Coupled with this, the studios have invested millions in various ranches, outdoor streets which are replicas of those to be found in every city in the world, land-going battleships and parks."

What few other reactions were forthcoming were, largely, in the same vein. Republic studio officials, for example, echoed the argument advanced by Sherman, citing the preponderance of outdoor films on the North Hollywood lot's schedule. At RKO Radio it was pointed out the newly-organized Academy Productions, headed by Lee Garmes, canceled plans to produce its initial film in New York and decided to remain in Hollywood because of advanced technical appurtenances.

Metro Seeks Restrainer In Lamarr Pact Row

Latest development in the feud between M-G-M and Hedy Lamarr over the latter's salary found the studio filing a petition in superior court seeking an injunction to prevent the actress from accepting employment at any other studio or on the stage.

Miss Lamarr recently declared, through attorneys, that her contract had been abrogated because, she alleged, M-G-M had failed to raise her salary in accordance with terms of the agreement. She contends she is receiving $500 weekly, and asks $5,000 per stanza.

AFL Demands a 10% Hike for 35,000 Under Strike Threat

Hollywood's troubled labor picture turned ominously darker when the IATSE served notice on producers that unless a 10 per cent wage increase was granted to 35,000 craft union members by 2:30 o'clock on Monday, a mass strike would start in full force Tuesday morning. The ultimatum was made by representatives of the AFL, parent body of IA, after a meeting with producers.

The only AFL craft not directly involved is the painters', whose members are conducting a lone wolf fight for a 15 per cent wage increase. They have decided to withhold action on their demands for a salary boost until December 5, when producer-labor parleys are scheduled to open in the east.

Three talent guilds—actors, writers and directors—also are not involved.

The latest turn in the labor picture follows a 10 per cent wage increase granted recently to 12,000 IA studio workers and a subsequent request by producers that the hike be rescinded by the unions on the basis that the additional expense would prove "ruinous" to the industry.

The ultimatum for a more comprehensive wage hike under threat of a mass strike is the union's answer.

The labor contingent is being represented by William Bioff, former IATSE Pacific Coast supervisor, and Meyer Lewis, AFL organizer from northern California. Guiding light of producer negotiators is E. J. Mannix.

SAG bases its refusal to participate on the grounds the discussion is "an issue between the unions concerned and the producers." Both the SDG and SWG pointed out their producer contracts contain clauses prohibiting them from entering any labor negotiations which do not directly affect their status.

Publicists Demand Showdown On Closed Shop Agreement

Another crisis faced producers when the Screen Publicists Guild declared it must have an immediate answer to its point-blank request that producers sign the long-pending closed shop agreement. SPG members flatly refused to consider a suggestion by the producers that action on the contract be postponed. Agreement was to have become effective October 9.

Publicists scheduled a membership meeting for November 15 at which further action, should producers refuse to sign, was to be mapped.

It has been disclosed that the SPG president, Bill Edwards, has conferred with CIO representatives concerning affiliation with that organization.

SAG to Prosecute Demands For Extra Film Players

In the near future the Screen Actors Guild will present to the producer-Guild negotiating committee demands for a readjustment of wage scales and working conditions for extra players. Demands will be based upon answers to questionnaires which have been mailed to Class B members during the past several weeks.

Meantime, Ed Helm, a Class B member, filed suit in superior court demanding that lower-bracket players be given a vote in SAG affairs. A demurrer was filed by Laurence Beilenson, Guild counsel, contending Helm's suit failed to state a cause of action.

Representatives of white-collar workers on the major lots have decided to make a survey to determine whether the rank-and-file wish to seek AFL or CIO affiliation or to remain neutral. Paramount and Warner desk employes already hold working agreements with their respective studios.

Casey Delays Trip In Union Threat

Pat Casey, head of the producers association labor contact division, has postponed his trip east under the IATSE strike threat for huddles with E. J. Mannix, head of the producers' negotiating committee, and Fred Pelton, labor counselor. Pelton is taking over Casey's duties here, the latter hereafter to confine himself to the New York Hays office.

Major Production Upward With 43 Films in Work

Production pace in the major studios showed a slight gain over the previous week, a tabulation revealing 43 films in work, including 11 new starts.

Columbia gunned "Double in Diamonds" and "Daughters of Today" and finished "Music in My Heart" to emerge with a four-picture total. Three went into work at M-G-M—"Arouse and Beware," "New Moon" and "Young Tom Edison"—while "Broadway Melody of 1940" went into the cutting room. Eight are in production at the Culver City plant, a seasonal record.

Monogram has one in production. Paramount launched "The Way of All Flesh" and "The Man From Bar 20" to up its total to seven. RKO Radio registers six in work, having started "Irene" and "The Primrose Path." Republic's total dwindled to two with the completion of "South of the Border" and "Money to Burn."

Twentieth Century-Fox is filming three, having sent "The Bluebird" to the cutting room. Edward Small started "My Son, My Son" and Samuel Goldwyn gunned "The Westerner," both for United Artists, and giving UA a total of seven in work.

With the windup of camera work on "The Invisible Man Returns," Universal's total dropped to three. Only two are in production at Warner, "The Fighting 69th" having hit the finish line.

Send Labor's Demands To N. Y. Heads

Producers have submitted to New York executives labor's demands for a blanket 10 per cent wage boost for all AFL crafts, save the painters—who are holding out for 15 per cent—and IA's refusal to rescind a similar increase made recently to 12,000 studio workers. The labor contingent has set November 20 as the deadline for a reply, threatening a general strike if the demands are not met.

Hooves Pound Away Other Headaches

There may be a war abroad and labor troubles at home, but neither is going to interfere with Hollywood's enthusiastic participation—both as spectators and stable operators—in the sixth racing season at Santa Anita, opening December 30 and running 41 days through March 9, 1940. Although the starting date is nearly six weeks away, film colony devotees of the "sport of kings" already are reserving space at the track for their thoroughbreds, and the opening of the season will see most of the familiar Hollywood colors —in addition to a few new ones—well represented.

Louis B. Mayer, for example, has one of the most powerful stables, of which 15 horses are already in training. Harry M. Warner possesses a string of two-year-olds. William Goetz of 20th Century Fox owns a select stable. William LeBaron, Paramount executive, is still touting his favorite "Brown Jade." Reducing the number in his stable, Columbia's Harry Cohn still has a number of useful performers in readiness.

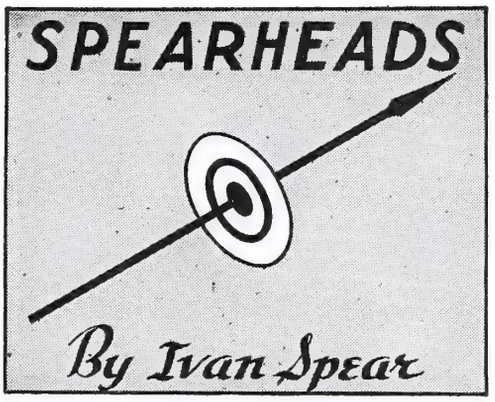
S. J. Briskin of RKO Radio, Bing Crosby, Barbara Stanwyck, Zeppo Marx, Spencer Tracy, Joe E. Brown, George Raft, Al Jolson, Don Ameche, Mervyn LeRoy, Raoul Walsh, Robert Riskin, Myron Selznick, Scenarist Ethel Hill, John Cromwell, David Butler, J. Walter Ruben and Virginia Bruce, John W. Considine jr., Frank Lloyd, Cinematographer Norman Brodine, Al Green, Walter Connolly, Clark Gable, Constance Bennett, Oliver Hardy and other screen notables all have thoroughbreds in training.

Lowe-McLaglen Feature For Columbia Release

Venturing into the independent production field, Rowland Brown has secured a Columbia release for "Back in France," an original by himself, in which he will co-star Edmund Lowe and Victor McLaglen. Brown will produce on the Selznick International lot, getting under way late in January.

Litvak on "Villa on the Hill"

With cameras to turn in December, Warner has assigned Anatole Litvak to direct "Villa on the Hill," based on a story by W. Somerset Maugham.



OF UNUSUAL interest to exhibitors and to the industry at large is the drastic about-face executed by Darryl F. Zanuck as regards radio and its logical relationship—if any—to motion pictures.

In connection with the air dramatization of "Drums Along the Mohawk" on Kate Smith's coast-to-coast program, the 20th Century-Fox generalissimo issued a statement in which he declared that if the film industry and radio collaborate in harmony, each in its respective field, "outstanding results may be obtained which are beneficial to both mediums of entertainment." Zanuck termed the screen-radio liaison worked out from the "Drums" airing "mutually advantageous" and said he had received scores of favorable reactions to the experiment from broadcasting and film executives throughout the country. Further, the Westwood studio mogul cited the "tremendous entertainment value" inherent in the fact that the "Mohawk" broadcast reached a ready-made listening audience of millions.

Even an industry notorious for its short memory and mercurial policies will not have to strain to recall that this is the Zanuck who but a few short months ago afforded a welcome ray of hope to the nation's showmen who have been adamant in their attitude that ether entertainment has always been and will always continue to be motion pictures' most injurious competitor; and that there is no basis on which the two can flirt without substantial damage to theatre grosses. At that time Zanuck canceled the air appearances of Tyrone Power and Alice Faye because, he explained, "irreparable harm" was being done their boxoffice standings through improper supervision of their radio material. In taking such action, the Westwood executive declared that he was lending a receptive and concurring ear to the wail of the showmen, the justice of which he apparently recognized, thereby intimating, at least, that he, too, was of the opinion that radio and the screen made strange bedfellows, and unprofitable ones so far as the latter is concerned.

Theatre owners may find it difficult to reconcile themselves to the idea that Alice Faye and Tyrone Power on the airwaves offer them competition which is not evidenced during the broadcasting from coast to coast of dramatized excerpts from one of the more pretentious Fox features. After all, members of the "ready-made listening audience of millions" are just as securely anchored in their living rooms and just as far removed from the boxoffice when listening to one as to the other; which fact, in the final analysis, is the principal count in the exhibitors' indictment of radio and the aid and abetment it has received from the magi of motion picture-making.

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The last word in confidence reflects itself in the following from Metro's welkin-ringers:

"Whipping the annual Christmas slump, M-G-M has scheduled release date for 'Balalaika' for December 29."

→

Add One Woman's Opinion Department: "As an actress I am already beginning to feel I am a good columnist."—Louella Parsons.

→

Now that there is a town officially recognized as Goldwyn, Ariz., the Grand Canyon had best look to its laurels as the tourist mecca of the west.

Governor Jones may have established a dangerous precedent when he issued a proclamation giving regular township status to the community constructed 35 miles outside of Tucson by the Samuel Goldwyn studio as a location site for the new Gary Cooper starrer, "The Westerner." It will operate under Arizona laws with a city government to be chosen from members of the film troupe. Consider the grief to which the postoffice department might be subjected if the practice of naming cities and towns after motion picture biggies becomes a habit. There might, for example, be a Mankiewicz, Pa., or a Chodorov, Neb. But the fun will really begin when the tribe of Cohen is honored in the name - cities - after - producers marathon, what with the possibility of Cohen, Me.; Cohan, N. H.; Cohn, Vt.; Conn, Ore.; Kahane, Fla.; Kahn, Mich., and Kane, Wis.

→

Let it not be said that Paramount publicists are not aspiring to bigger and better things. There was the time when they turned to the lowly flea as a means to publicize a picture. That was on the historic occasion when Bill Hebert imported "Sam and Sadie," trained members of the ctenocephalus canis, *and for weeks filled Paramount news releases with detailed accounts of their every antic. The Marathon Street blurbists have now graduated to a giant panda—nothing less. However, the plan to utilize the Thespic and, far more important, publicity value of the* ailurapoda *in "The Road to Singapore" died a-borning. It seems that the custodians of this particular panda balked at having it appear under the bright lights of a studio sound stage because, among other physical peculiarities, it has such a delicate pair of eyes that Kleig lights might blind or permanently injure them.*

Kyser, Krime and a Kluck

With but one exception the week's preview assortment, although sub-normal in quantity, assayed far above par in quality. In a quintet of features unfurled for reviewers, four may safely be catalogued as profitable and popular boxoffice attractions.

Because of its unique nature, RKO Radio's "That's Right—You're Wrong" is entitled to first consideration. Since the advent of sound countless attempts have been made to build feature-length pictures around well-known dance and radio bands. Some of these efforts have been crowned with a modicum of success; most, however, have done classic nosedives. The Kay Kyser vehicle, if it does not rate the distinction of being the first recognized hit in this category, at least and undeniably deserves the distinction of being termed the outstanding best. The picture's appeal and certain success is probably due principally to the fact that those who were responsible for its making approached their task with a definite tongue-in-cheek attitude. Instead of trying to make Kyser and his precedentally popular aggregation of entertainers something which they are not, a screenplay was conceived which subjected to a delightful teasing Hollywood and its chronic mania for gambling kings' ransoms on films starring performers from other entertainment fields whose screen possibilities are unestablished. The result is a mirthful, melodious and engrossing concoction which is predestined to delight every type and age of theatre patron. Every production element contributed its pro-rata share toward the unusually acceptable ensemble, with extra accolades the just dues of William Conselman and James V. Kern for a fast-moving, laugh-laden screenplay based on an original by Conselman and David Butler, and Butler for his shrewd and understanding direction. Butler, incidentally, also is credited as producer. The supporting cast is splendid throughout, Adolphe Menjou, Lucille Ball, Edward Everett Horton, Moroni Olsen and Hobart Cavanaugh contributing most substantially to the enhancing Thespic backgrounds against which the Kyser cavortings were staged.

The tried-and-true wife vs. secretary formula, in a new and glitteringly sophisticated dress, is the backbone of 20th Century-Fox's "Daytime Wife," a class vehicle made to order for audiences clamoring for gay, frothy fare to counterbalance gloomy international conditions. Screenplay by Art Arthur and Robert Harari literally bristles with crisp and brilliant dialogue, clever situations and deft characterization. Given such meaty material with which to work, Gregory Ratoff turned in a first-rate directorial accomplishment, in which Tyrone Power and Linda Darnell, impressive in the leads, are

(Continued on page 35)

Study Plans for New Paramount Studio

First definite details of Paramount's new studio, to be constructed in West Los Angeles, are being studied by department heads, T. Keith Glennan, operations manager, having submitted drawings of plot plans. Executives, who are also perusing a brochure by W. L. Pereira, architect in charge of the project, have been asked to submit criticisms and suggestions to be incorporated in final plans.

Statistics reveal the new studio will represent nearly six times the 26-acre area of the present Marathon Street plant. Total area, including outdoor shooting areas, will be 150 acres. To be incorporated is a system of traffic control, segregated into three zones—actual production; control, planning, scheduling and inspection, and service and fabrication.





A New Theatre Opens; New Film Bows—

The opening of the new FWC Academy Theatre in Inglewood housed the press preview of Metro's "Another Thin Man" and brought out the above aggregation. At the top are Louis B. and Mrs. Mayer. Below are Charles P. Skouras, William Powell, Hunt Stromberg, Myrna Loy and Mayer.

Anti-Nazi League to Keep Using Radio in Campaign

Terming the venture an unqualified success, the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League will continue to carry its message to a potentially enormous listening audience via radio at least once every two weeks, following the presentation of its initial program over Station KFVD November 9. The ether waves were utilized as a means of carrying on the League's program of exposing fascist activities in the Hollywood-Los Angeles sector and took the form of an interview in which Sonja Dahl, executive secretary, quizzed Michael Elkins, special investigator.

The expose was originally launched at a general HANL membership meeting some days earlier, at which a detailed report on operations of anti-democratic organizations was presented a capacity audience by Elkins. Other speakers included Edward Chodorov, Metro producer, Mary McCall jr., scenarist, and H. S. Kraft, who was chairman.

Next important liberal affair has been scheduled for November 22, when the HANL's Youth Commission will hold an open meeting to discuss the subject, "Keep America Out of War." Outstanding authorities on world affairs, and industry figures including Melvyn Douglas, Virginia Bruce and Irving Pichel, have promised to be on hand.

Wilding Leases Space at GN for a Commercial

Wilding Productions, commercial film unit, has leased space at Grand National to produce a feature-length advertising feature. Deal was negotiated by Dick Pearl, GN studio manager, who has ordered immediate construction of suitable sets.

Extended Run Plea Voiced by Zanuck

Apparently piqued because Si Fabian, operator of Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady, New York, pulled "Drums Along the Mohawk" out after six days, despite record grosses, Darryl Zanuck, 20th Century-Fox production executive, in an open letter to Fabian voiced an appeal to showmen in general to extend the fullest cooperation to studios and to do their utmost to increase domestic boxoffice revenues by extending runs wherever possible. He urged that exhibitors attune themselves to a sympathetic grasp of the difficut financial situation in which film-makers are finding themselves as a result of the European War, which Zanuck claims has already inflicted a loss of one-third in the year's gross.

Zanuck's missive pointed out that higher wage scales and increased costs of building material and equipment have doubled the price of producing motion pictures in the past 18 months. The Westwood studio executive warned that "if producers find that they cannot break even, then naturally, they cannot be expected to take the fabulous financial gambles that we are forced to take today.

Must Have Exhibitor Cooperation

"If the rest of the American exhibitors," Zanuck continued, "pull any picture when it is doing legitimately fine business, then, in my opinion, they will be cutting their own throats because the producers are eventually going to come to the realization that they will have to depend upon smaller, lower price pictures, as it is impossible to expect us to take the gamble without fullest cooperation from every exhibitor and theatre manager in the nation."

Zanuck charged there was "no conceivable excuse" for Fabian's action in withdrawing "Drums Along the Mohawk." The studio mogul cited the fact that the Claudette Colbert-Henry Fonda co-starrer had grossed $6,812 in the house in its six-day run—a bigger take than that recorded for "Alexander's Ragtime Band," biggest grosser of 1938. He also pointed out that "Drums" brought in more business in its six-day run than "Alexander" did in seven.

Further, Zanuck declared that Fabian was aided in opening the picture by the studio, which sent contract personalities to the locale for the first-day engagement.

Si Fabian Keeps Silent on Zanuck "Drums" Charge

NEW YORK—Si Fabian, head of the Fabian circuit, is maintaining a "no comment" attitude toward Darryl F. Zanuck's "open letter."

However, sources close to the upstate operator hint Fabian is incensed at the action of Zanuck in releasing his statement to the press before seeking an explanation via private correspondence. This is said to have prompted Fabian to remark he does not intend "to be used as a sounding board for Zanuck to reach exhibitors on a controvery that should not be decided in the press."

Scattered Premieres Growing Popular

Forced by the exigencies of war and lost foreign grosses to woo and win the domestic market to a degree never before necessary, major film makers are staging a revival of the recently-popular practice of premiering their more pretentious offerings in out-of-Hollywood locales—particularly those cities having some connection, however remote, with the story, cast or other element in the film.

Now definitely set to make its screen bow in Atlanta, Georgia—home of Margaret Mitchell, author of the Civil War best seller on December 15, is Metro's release of the Selznick International production, "Gone With the Wind." Clark (Rhett Butler) Gable and Vivien (Scarlett O'Hara) Leigh will be on hand and other extensive ballyhoo is being drafted by Howard Dietz, Metro's advertising publicity chief, and William Hebert, former S-I publicity director. The premiere will be followed by roadshow engagements throughout the country.

RKO Radio is in the process of selecting various key cities as locales for sectional premieres of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," which executives have decided to roadshow sometime in mid-January. Bids for the premieres and long-run engagements have been received from Washington, D. C., where the Pulitzer Prize stage play first opened; and Toronto, Canada, birthplace of Raymond Massey, star of both the stage and screen versions.

Paramount is slating out-of-town premieres for two of its forthcoming features. Simultaneous showings in three theatres in two cities have been scheduled on November 24 for "Geronimo!" its saga of the Apache reign of terror in the Southwest in the 1870's. Premieres are set for the Orpheum and Rialto theatres in Phoenix and the State in Tucson, Ariz., and will be followed by pre-release openings, starting December 1, in Albuquerque, Denver, Salt Lake City, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Boise, Ogden, Spokane, Reno and Sacramento. Premieres and pre-date engagements are being handled by a special exploitation staff under the direction of Cliff Lewis.

The same studio will world-premiere "The Great Victor Herbert" in Wetherford, Tex., home of Mary Martin, who co-stars with Allan Jones in the feature. Date for the occasion will be selected when Miss Martin's scheduled start in a Broadway play has been decided upon.

Cinémarks

John Monk jr. and Fred Finkelhoffe have returned from a New York vacation and have checked in at M-G-M to begin a writing assignment . . . Preceding her husband by a month, Mrs. David Rose, wife of Paramount's English production chief, arrived in the film capital with her 16-month-old son.

*

Don Ashbaugh of Paramount's publicity staff suffered head injuries and bruises in an automobile mishap . . . Director George Archainbaud has returned to Paramount after a holiday in New York . . . George Seitz, Metro megaphonist, headed east after completing his latest studio assignment.

*

John Howard has endowed a chair in the drama at Western Reserve university, his alma mater, in Cleveland, where a new campus theatre and drama college have been constructed.

*

Jane Bryan left for New York to attend the world premiere of her latest Warner starrer . . . Paramount's Office Employes Ass'n will hold its annual banquet December 11 at the Nikabob Cafe.

*

Ending a week's vacation trip to Vancouver, B. C., with her director-husband, John Farrow, Maureen O'Sullivan has reported back to M-G-M to await assignment.

*

John Huston, Warner writer, returned to the studio after a hunting trip to Idaho . . . Charles Laughton left for New York to join his business associate, Erich Pommer, with whom he will spend two weeks in the east before returning here . . . Heading in the same direction on a two-week holiday was George Sherman, Republic director . . . Scouting locations for his next Republic assignment, Armand Schaefer has been sizing up Yuma and surrounding territory.

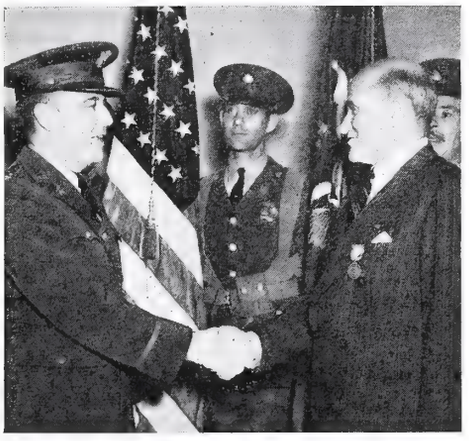
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Sol Lesser has gone to New York for conferences with Thornton Wilder, author of "Our Town," concerning Lesser's plans for bringing it to the screen. He also planned to catch a few Broadway plays and test talent for possible film work . . . Lee Marcus has checked back at RKO Radio after a trip to New York and Washington . . . Vincent Sherman and Lee Katz, Warner writers, are holidaying in Mexico City . . . Bette Davis is in from the east after a stopover in Toronto . . . Completing a Warner assignment, James Cagney has left for his home at Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

*

Producer Robert Fellows and Scenarist Robert Rosson have returned to the Warner lot from Flagstaff, Ariz., where they checked on exterior sequences for a current picture.





Two Awards and A Lobby Chat—



On the left, Gordon Hollingshead, Warner producer, is receiving a gold statuette from the hands of Gregory Carter, manager of the Hollywood Teleview Newsreel Theatre for his production of "Lincoln in the White House." The military handshake that Samuel Goldwyn is receiving from Horace Shidler, commander of Bear Post No. 2386, VFW, followed bestowal of the Post's American Citizenship medal upon the producer for "outstanding American citizenship." The lobby conversationalists on the right, leaving the press preview of "We Are Not Alone," Paul Muni starrer, at Warner's Hollywood, are Mervyn LeRoy, Hal B. Wallis and Harry M. Warner.

"Commandment" Gets 20th-Fox Release

Having acquired a 20th Century-Fox release for its first effort, "The Great Commandment," Cathedral Pictures is pushing ahead with plans for its second production, as yet untitled, which will also have a religious motif. Darryl Zanuck, who made the purchase for the Westwood plant, has announced he will re-shoot a number of sequences in order to make the vehicle a pretentious entry on the studio's 1939-40 production lineup. Irving Pichel, who directed, and Dana Burnet, author of the script, have each been signed to long-term contracts by 20th Century-Fox, while Rev. James K. Friedrich and Jack Coyle, head of Cathedral and executive producer respectively, have been ticketed to aid in dressing up the production. John Beal and Maurice Moscovich are starred.

Friedrich and Coyle will announce their next Cathedral production upon completion of their 20th Century-Fox chores.

Withdrawing from its releasing arrangement with Grand National, Golden West Pictures, headed by Charles Goetz, has signed a four-picture deal with Monogram. Contract was negotiated with W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, in New York by Ted Richmond, former Grand National studio publicist, now connected with Golden West as an associate producer. Already completed and awaiting delivery is "The Gentleman From Arizona," filmed in Magnacolor. Next to go into work will be "Derby Day," which will be filmed on location in Arizona beginning December 1.

"Winsted" to Skirball

Another ex-GN executive, Jack Skirball, has acquired screen rights to "Winsted," a story by Ralph Spence, for filming by his Arcadia Productions. No release has been set. Skirball is also associated in Knickerbocker Pictures, which holds a Columbia releasing contract, and in which John Wildberg, Broadway stage impresario, is his partner.

GN, meanwhile, remains at stalemate in its efforts to gain financing and reenter production and distribution. President E. W. Hammons' action in throwing the company into bankruptcy caused Franklyn Warner, head of Fine Arts Pictures—an on-again-off-again GN affiliate—to plane to New York for further conferences. FA has five pictures, prints and accessories tied up with GN.

Gene Towne and Graham Baker's The Play's the Thing Productions has slotted "Tom Brown's School Days" for a December 11 start, contingent upon completion of "Swiss Family Robinson" by that time. Sets are now being constructed on the RKO Radio ranch and Robert Stevenson, English director, has been borrowed from Selznick International to direct the famous school story, which RKO Radio will release.

Another independent releasing through RKO Radio, Stephens-Lang Productions, has postponed the start on "The Courageous Dr. Christian," second in the series, from December 15 to January 4.

To confer with John Boyce-Smith about the recently announced eight-picture independent production program for Inspiration Pictures for the 1940-41 season, Mitchell Leichter, veteran producer-distributor, has trained to New York. Leichter will also bear down on his selling campaign for "She Goes to War" and "Hell's Harbor," to which he has acquired reissue rights.



"Old Glory" Honor—

His accomplishment in producing "Old Glory," two-reel Technicolor cartoon, won for Leon Schlesinger the gold statuette which he is admiring above. Award was made by the Teleview Newsreel Theatre in Hollywood after audiences polled for Schlesinger as the year's outstanding cartoon-maker.

Hollywood Is Unanimously For Early Thanksgiving

Although causing considerable argument and dissension throughout the country, President Roosevelt's decree moving Thanksgiving Day up one week to November 23 will be adhered to virtually unanimously by Hollywood's motion picture plants, most of which already have announced they will officially close on that day and remain open November 30.

Whether because of the new economy wave or for some other undisclosed reason studios will reopen the following day, November 24, instead of okaying a long weekend. As many Hollywood moguls as can safely cover their tracks, however, will undoubtedly take advantage of the situation by making holidays of both the old and the new Thanksgiving Day.

Not to be caught napping, Fox West Coast and the Warner Theatre circuit will screen special holiday programs on both days—at special holiday prices, of course. The same policy has been recommended to independent exhibitors by the Independent Theatre Owners of Southern California and Arizona in a special bulletin distributed to its membership.

Borrows John Howard

Metro has borrowed John Howard from Paramount for one of the leads in "Arouse and Beware," Wallace Beery starrer, which Leslie Fenton is directing.

Budget Conferences On Paramount Slate

Expected arrival next week of a trio of Paramount's home office executives, including President Barney Balaban, will mark the launching of a series of important conferences relative to the studio's 1940-41 production program, including tentative allotment of budgets and other matters. Accompanying Balaban will be Stanton Griffis, chairman of the executive committee, and Neil F. Agnew, chief of sales. They will huddle with Y. Frank Freeman, in charge of studio operations, and William LeBaron, managing director of production. Paramount at present lacks but nine films to complete its 1939-40 quota, on three of which starting dates already have been affixed.

Balaban, Griffis and Agnew also are expected to review detailed plans for construction of the company's new studio in West Los Angeles. Studio attaches declare the visitors will probably remain from two to three weeks.

Returning to Hollywood late in December will be George Schaefer, RKO Radio president, who wound up a lengthy stay at the studio and returned east only a short time ago. Local executives believe the company chieftain will hereafter spend a majority of his time on the coast, as Pandro Berman, production supervisor, has announced he will leave the studio next month.

Harry Goetz, co-producer with Max Gordon of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" for RKO Radio, checked in after a sojourn in New York, during which he huddled with Schaefer on plans to stage sectional premieres. Goetz will be followed here by Gordon within a few days.

Conferences on the balance of Warner's short subject program for 1939-40, and consideration of the quota for 1940-41, are occupying the time of Norman H. Moray, Vitaphone sales manager, who is parleying with Jack L. Warner, Hal Wallis and Gordon Hollingshead. The 1939-40 lineup, calling for 44 shorts, lacks but six pictures to be completed. For the new season Hollingshead is planning several series, including "Racket Busters," "Penrod," a group of musical westerns and the historical features. Moray is also huddling with Leon Schlesinger concerning the latter's program of "Merrie Melodie" and "Looney Tune" cartoons for 1940-41, which are released by Warner.

In for a three-week stay is Alexander Korda, United Artists producer in England, whose activities there halted because of the war. He spent some time conferring with UA executives in New York before coming out to the coast, but has not announced, to date, his future plans. He was accompanied by his attorney, Basil Bleck.

Lawrence Fox, head of General Films, pulled out for New York to settle distribution arrangements for his "Crime Club" series and for a one-reel cartoon now in preparation.

"Ne'er Do Well" to 1940-41

Well ahead on his 1939-40 quota for Paramount, Harry Sherman has moved back "The Ne'er Do Well" to 1940-41.

Hollywood Personnelities

Technically

—Academy Productions
JACK MURTON signed as casting director.

—Metro
HAROLD ROSSON to photograph "Edison, the Man."
FRED ZINNEMAN to direct the next in John Nesbitt's Passing Parade short subjects, dealing with Dr. Joseph Goldberger, who conquered the pellagra germ. HERMAN BOXER wrote the script.
BASIL WRANGELL to direct "The Art and Practice of Doodling," a Passing Parade short subject.
PETE SMITH guns "Third Dimensional Murder," his latest "Specialty," which uses a new three-dimension camera developed by JOHN ARNOLD, head of studio camera department.
JOE NEWMAN to direct "Counterfeiting," a "Crime Does Not Pay" short subject.
GABRIEL SCOGNAMILLO set as art director on "Congo Maisie."
SANDY ROTH assigned as assistant director on "Strange Cargo."

—Paramount
STUART GILMORE to edit "The Way of All Flesh."
RUSSELL HARLAN to photograph "The Man From Bar 20," a Harry Sherman sagebrusher.
ROYCE FINLEY to handle props for "The Way of All Flesh."
DERWIN ABRAHAMS set as assistant director on Harry Sherman's "The Man From Bar 20."
CHARLES HISSERICH set as sound director on "Golden Gloves."
HOMER G. TASKER, chief production mixer, promoted to assistant director of recording.
HUGO GRENZBACH assigned as sound mixer on "The Way of All Flesh," rolling November 14.

—RKO Radio
NED MANN to handle trick photography on "And So Goodbye," first Lee Garmes production.
WILLIAM CLOTHIER to photograph aerial sequences in "The Marines Fly High."

—Edward Small
DOUGLAS FIELD signed as technical advisor on "My Son, My Son."

—Universal
HARRY NEUMANN photographing "The Road to Romance," which Charles Lamont is directing.

Story Buys

—Famous Productions
"Tortilla Flats," by John Steinbeck, optioned as a possible vehicle for Universal release.

—Metro
"Countess Maritza," operetta by Julius Brammer, Alfred Grunwald and Emmerich Kalmanx.
A biography of Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin, by Ann Morgan. It will be filmed as a John Nesbitt Passing Parade short or as a Carey Wilson miniature.

—Paramount
"Polonaise," by Brian Marlowe and Thomas Monroe. Dealing with the siege of Warsaw, it will be produced by Arthur Hornblow jr. Joel McCrea and Maria Ouspenskaya have been cast.
"Kiss the Boys Goodbye," stage play by Clare Boothe, as a vehicle for Mary Martin. Property is a satire on Hollywood's search for a "Scarlett O'Hara."

Scripters

—Samuel Goldwyn
NIVEN BUSCH to "Sweetheart of Turret One."

—Metro
KATHRYN SCOLA to "And One Was Beautiful," from a story by Alice Duer Miller, which Frederick Stephani will produce.
HOWARD ESTABROOK to "Dawn's Early Light," story of the United States during George Washington's time. Dorothy Thompson and Fritz Kortner wrote the original, which Sam Zimbalist will produce as a Robert Taylor starrer.
MARY McCALL jr. to "The Great Canadian." J. Walter Ruben will produce.
MARGARET ROBERTS to "Willow Walk," forthcoming Joseph Mankiewicz production.

—Paramount
IRMGAARD VON CUBE to "Portrait of a Mother." Jack Moss will produce.
STUART ANTHONY to "Partners," a Will James story, which Jack Moss will produce.

—RKO
PHILIP MacDONALD to an untitled original for Producer William Sistrom.

—Republic
GEORGE BECK to "Heroes of the Saddle," a "Three Mesquiteers" western.
CHARLES FRANCIS ROYAL to "Oklahoma Outlaws," a Three Mesquiteers western.

—20th Century-Fox
JACK JUNGMEYER jr. and EDITH SKOURAS to "Sophomore," a sequel to "High School," starring Jane Withers.
DANA BURNET to "Down to the Sea in Ships," remake of the 1922 silent starring Clara Bow.
CURTIS KENYON and KENNETH EARL to "Western Union," last novel written by the late Zane Grey.
WALTER BULLOCK to "Rip Van Winkle" for Producer Harry Joe Brown.
OWEN FRANCIS and LOU BRESLOW to the untitled silent comedy which Mack Sennett will produce.

—Universal
FELIX JACKSON to "Spring Parade," Joe Pasternak production which will star Deanna Durbin.
LESTER COLE to "House of Seven Gables" for Producer Burt Kelly.
JAY DRATLER to "Congamania."

—Warner
CASEY ROBINSON to "The Woman Brown," forthcoming Bette Davis starrer.
AENEAS MACKENZIE to "Disraeli."
HEINZ HERALD joins ULRICH STEINDORFF on "The Life of Alfred Nobel."

Cleffers

—Metro
HARRY LINK, representative of Leo Feist, Inc., checks in for conferences with NAT FINSTON on song plugs for "Balalaika."
BOB WRIGHT and CHET FORREST doing score for "Florian," the Winfield Sheehan production.
DR. WILLIAM AXT to record music for special trailers on "Balalaika."

—Paramount
SIGMUND KRUMGOLD completes scoring background music for "Emergency Squad."

—Warner Bros.
MOE JEROME and JACK SCHOLL plant their original tune, "The American Way," in "Royal Rodeo," Technicolor short.

Options

—Metro
DODIE SMITH given term writing ticket.
BUSBY BERKELEY, director, held for another term. Next assignment is "Forty Little Mothers," Eddie Cantor comedy.
RICHARD ROSSON, cameraman-director, given new contract.

—Paramount
WALLY WESTMORE handed new contract as head of makeup department.
MURIEL ANGELUS, actress, held for another term.
W. L. RIVER given new writing ticket.

—Warner Bros.
CARL ZUCKMAYER joins writing staff.
MARYILYN MERRICK, Little Theatre actress, signed to term pact.
JOHN MEEHAN joins writing staff.
BERTRAM MILLHAUSER added to scripting staff.

Pick O'Shea to Succeed Henry Ginsberg at S-I

The void left by the resignation of Henry Ginsberg as vice-president and general manager of Selznick International will be filled by Daniel T. O'Shea, who will be elected at the next meeting of the S-I board of directors to fill the vacancy. O'Shea has been with the company since its inception, moving over at that time from RKO Radio, where he had been resident counsel. He first served as assistant to David O. Selznick and later was made secretary of the company. Ginsberg's resignation, after more than four years with the company, was accepted with regret by Selznick and John Hay Whitney, chairman of the board. He leaves at the end of the year and has announced no future plans. Before joining S-I, Ginsberg had served as vice-president and general manager for Hal Roach.

Hitting its lowest ebb for a period of three years, Republic has chopped its writing staff down to a total of eight with the departure of Jack Natteford upon completion of an assignment. Only one of the remaining scriveners, Betty Burbridge, has a term contract. The rest are on one-picture deals.

Set to check off the M-G-M lot after 13 years with the company is Robert Hopkins, story advisor and gag writer, whose specialty was plugging up loopholes in scripts for the studio. He departs late this month and will announce another affiliation shortly. Another change in the Metro writing staff finds Annalee Whitmore boosted to the status of junior writer after a term of service as secretary to the fledgling scriveners at the plant.

Roy Chanslor has left the Universal scripting staff after winding up a term contract, during which he contributed three original stories and four screen plays.

Reins to Brown

Production of the re-make, "Down to the Sea in Ships," at 20th Century-Fox, has been handed to Harry Joe Brown. Script is being prepared by Elmer Clifton and Dana Burnet.

Dwan Will Direct "Lady Jane"

Allan Dwan has been assigned to direct "Lady Jane," next Shirley Temple starrer, at 20th Century-Fox. Picture rolls in January.

Spearheads

(Continued from page 31)

bolstered by an outstandingly strong supporting cast. Raymond Griffith can chalk up another solid credit as associate producer.

RKO Radio presented a colorful history of the "biggest little city in the world" in "Reno," a pretentiously-produced vehicle which is worthy of top playing time everywhere. John Twist's script, based on an original by Ellis St. Joseph, is a masterful bit of writing, tracing the city's growth from its lusty beginnings as a mining town to its present status as the world's capital for divorce-seekers. Given a role comparable in strength to his earlier triumph in "Cimarron," Richard Dix scores heavily, carrying most of the acting burden on his still sturdy shoulders. Robert Sisk's production and John Farrow's direction are both top-notch.

Wisely providing the same adroit mixture of mystery and comedy which made its predecessors such popular money-makers, Metro can almost certainly count upon comparable acceptance for "Another Thin Man," newest in the adventures of Super-Sleuth Nick Charles and his irrepressible wife. The humor is more on the broad side, a transition that should widen the film's appeal, in the script by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett; while Hunt Stromberg's production was characteristically opulent and W. S. Van Dyke contributed his usual crisp direction.

* * *

Weak sister in the lineup was 20th Century-Fox's "City in Darkness"—one of the poorest and dullest episodes in the veteran "Charlie Chan" series. Screenplay by Robert Ellis and Helen Logan is a hopelessly complicated jumble which, unfortunately, gives Sidney Toler, in the title role, so little to do that he might almost have been omitted from the picture entirely. John Stone produced and Herbert I. Leeds directed.

ITO Breathing Spell In Fall Schedule

LOS ANGELES—Pending its general membership meeting, called for November 20, the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz. is enjoying a breathing spell in its busy fall schedule. Engaged in mapping plans for the session, Robert H. Poole, executive director, has likewise temporarily tabled any further activity on behalf of the recently-organized Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Operators, of which he is executive secretary.

Two independent exhibition problems in the territory will be the subjects of thorough discussions—the practice of holding commercial "previews" as pursued by Fox West Coast and the RKO circuits, and the first-run moveover policy practiced by FWC. ITO members contend the first-run moveover system delays the availability of pictures for subsequent-run price breaks.

Abolition of both practices was urgently demanded by the ITO at the time the now-defunct exhibitor-distributor trade practice code was being drafted in New York.

Commercial Screen Ads Subject to Sales Tax

SEATTLE—Jim Hone, executive secretary of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the Northwest, reports that the state revenue department announces that all advertising shown on the screens of theatres calling attention to merchandise of local merchants is subject to the state sales tax.

With commercial film companies making deals for merchant trailers to be shown on theatre screens, this tax item must be taken into consideration. Tax must be collected from the merchant.

This law also applies to slides shown for merchants where the theatre owner collects revenue for the showing of same.

Moray and Brower in Frisco for Meeting

SAN FRANCISCO — Norman Moray, sales manager for Vitaphone shorts, and N. H. (Jack) Brower, Warner Los Angeles exchange manager, were in town for a western district sales meeting called by W. E. Calloway, Warner western district sales manager, who has just returned from New York.

All three planed back to Hollywood Saturday night after the meeting.

Charles Peterson Building

CENTERVILLE, CAL.—An 800-seat theatre is being started here by Charles Peterson who operates theatres at Brentwood and Niles.

Donohue Manages Casino

SAN FRANCISCO—Charles H. Donohue has been named manager of the Casino Theatre, recently acquired by Peter H. Markowitz.

REVIEW FLASHES

CITY IN DARKNESS (20th-Fox)—One of the poorest, most wearisome and involved episodes in the veteran sleuth series, this will find it tough going everywhere but with the most confirmed Charlie Chan fans. Sidney Toler, Lynn Bari, Harold Huber. Herbert I. Leeds directed.

GERONIMO! (Para)—Containing the time-honored formula of soldiers and Indians, given lavish and spectacular production mounting, and treated to an engrossing screenplay with historical background, here is a field day for the action addicts. Picture deals with the marauding Apache chief who terrorized the southwest after the Civil War and his ultimate capture by the army. While the cast lacks high-powered marquee material, it proves competent throughout and the picture is dependable as a top money offering in its class. Paul H. Sloane directed.

JUSTICE OF THE RANGE (Col)—The exhibitor should have little trouble in selling this Tim McCoy western to his patrons. It is entertaining and the story holds up throughout. McCoy does well in his familiar role as a peacemaker. Tim McCoy, Billie Seward, Edward LeSaint. Dave Selman directed.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (WB)—A compact little thriller that should help fill out a well-balanced program. The story is that of three private sleuths who become involved in the skullduggery of a crooked lawyer and it is unfolded convincingly by a cast including Dick Foran, Jane Wyman and Maxie Rosenbloom. Noel Smith directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Gala Opening for New Downtown in Oakland

OAKLAND — One of the biggest theatre openings here in recent years took place Friday night when M. Michel and "Volcano" LaMarre opened the doors of their new Downtown. The house was filled for the opening, which featured a personal appearance of Jean Parker. Preopening publicity included broadcasts, newspaper advertising, and free newspaper publicity.

The Downtown, a thoroughly remodeled and redecorated version of the Roosevelt, long a local theatre landmark, will operate on a 35-cent top basis, and in addition to films will offer a vaudeville show each Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Galston & Sutton Plan A House in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES—With filing of incorporation papers at Sacramento, Albert Galston and Jay Sutton disclosed plans to construct a new theatre, the Hawaii, in Hollywood. They now operate the Marcal in Hollywood and the Center near Whittier.

Delay to Nov. 20 In Coast Suit

LOS ANGELES—Unable to complete their work for compiling a bill of particulars, as requested by Fox West Coast and the other defendants, in time, Albert J. Law and Harold Collins, special department of justice investigators, secured a postponement until November 20 of the U. S. district court hearing on the federal government's criminal contempt charges against the circuit and nine major distributors.

Attaches declared Law and Collins expected to have the bill in readiness as a result of the week's delay, the hearing originally having been set for November 13. Motion for the bill of particulars was filed by attorney Alfred Wright, representing 20th Century-Fox, one of the defendants, asserting that the government action failed to set forth sufficient facts to inform the defendants wherein, according to the charge, they have violated the 1930 consent decree.

The government's case is based largely upon data secured during a two-year investigation here by Law and Collins, in which they probed the books, records and other financial reports of FWC, 20th Century-Fox, Loew's, Metro, Paramount, Vitagraph, Warner, United Artists, Universal and RKO Radio.

Grauman's Chinese Day Shows Heavily Plugged

LOS ANGELES — In an effort to bolster matinee trade at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, first-run in Hollywood, the Fox West Coast advertising staff has purchased space in 150 six-sheet billboards spotted in strategic locations about the city. Copy cites simply the 30 and 40-cent prices in effect at the daytime shows. Circuit executives pointed out that the Chinese has consistently registered far lower takes for matinees than its day-date Loews' State, which is located in the downtown area where heavy street traffic results in better business.

If results of the campaign are successful, FWC attaches declared it will probably be expanded to include the Four Star Theatre, located in the Wilshire Blvd. residential district.

Coast Pictures Opens a San Francisco Branch

SAN FRANCISCO — Coast Pictures Corp., which heretofore had operated only a Los Angeles office, has opened headquarters here.

The company has a diversified program of 30 pictures and five exploitation attractions available for booking, and opened in this area with "School for Husbands" at the new Tivoli. The Clay started a run of "Mademoiselle Ma Mere" Friday.

Dave Nathanson is San Francisco branch manager, and his brother Sam, who was in town for the opening, is general manager for the company.

A Monumental Masterpiece

A. L. RULE'S

OFFICIAL
Authentic
Government Pictures

"When GERMANY Surrendered"

Chicago Daily Tribune
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Here's a Movie That Shows War as It Really Is

"WHEN GERMANY SURRENDERED."
An A. L. Rule production.
Released through Johnny Mednikow Productions.
Presented at the Garrick theater.

By Mae Tinée.

Good Morning!

"When Germany Surrendered" is my idea of the war picture that should end war pictures. For this intelligently culled collection of news pictures filmed during the world war and showing events of the terrible period of 1914-'18 as they really were and not as Hollywood imagines them, brings back searing memories that are a more powerful indictment against and should prove a more potent preventive of war than could any fictional presentation.

The picture carries you from start to finish of the war—and is unsparing of your feelings. . . . If our young men, and England's young men, and Germany's young men must fight for their flag on No Man's Land and lose their arms and legs and eyes while doing it; if their bodies are to be riddled by shrapnel and their hearts pierced by bayonets in hand to hand conflict in the trenches; if they are to starve and be eaten by vermin; if they are to go mad from shell shock —who are we to be spared the sight of their sufferings?

LOOK—if you can see thru your tears. Look and realize that "over there, over there," the same ghastly business is going on again. Look and think—that while we're watching OUR boys playing football, English boys and French boys, German and Polish lads are saying—and have said —good-by to fun and laughter forever. . . .

As our boys COULD be doing if——

Producer
A. L. RULE
The LIDO
HOLLYWOOD - CALIF

CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA
COAST PICTURES CORPORATION
1910 South Vermont Ave., LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

WASHINGTON AND OREGON
LLOYD V. LAMB
2321 Second Avenue, SEATTLE, WASH.

SEATTLE

AMONG this town's notable visitors this week were John Farrow, director, and his wife, Maureen O'Sullivan, en route to Hollywood, there to await Great Britain's call for Farrow's services in the Royal Navy. The couple returned to the film capital after a special trip to Vancouver, B. C., so Farrow could offer "his services," which were readily accepted. While in Hollywood, Farrow will work on "A Bill of Divorcement" while Maureen will attend to a knitting chore . . . Lying in the rain on one of Seattle's garbage dumps or, perhaps decorating the dingy walls of some scavenger's shack, may be an oil painting worth $150 entitled "Along the Spanish Coast." The painting was reported missing from the Music Box by G. M. Kelso, manager of the maintenance firm that services the theatre.

A proposal to seek abolition of the operation of sound trucks in Seattle will be submitted to the city council in the near future by members of various commercial clubs. During election times some dozen trucks run wild through the downtown and residential sections causing "objectional" noises, one of the club heads stated. The trucks pay a daily license for use of the streets . . . Those who attended the Chamber of Commerce banquet this week ate potatoes alive with memories. They were given especially for the luncheon by Mrs. John Matson of Bend, Ore., and those who know anything about the Pacific Northwest and the roaring Klondike days, know that Mrs. Matson used to be Klondike Kate and was also one of the pioneers of pictures and shows in the far north. She is now a member of the Bend Chamber of Commerce.

The Rendezvous cafe on Filmrow, hangout for all of Seattle's show business, was one of the many places on Mr. Hitler's mailing list for propaganda. A letter from Germany contained a pamphlet telling of the war in Poland from the German side. The only excitement the letter caused was the rush for the stamp by the philatelists. The contents were dumped . . . In changing the name of the State Theatre, John Danz has given this town its first Rivoli, although that name has been in vogue in other cities for many years. Seattle has had three or four Tivolis. In fact, the present Rivoli was once a Tivoli. Murray Peck has been transferred from the Winter Garden to the Rivoli as manager and master of ceremonies for the vaudeville units. The house is one of the Sterling chain.

L. O. Lukan of the Green Lake Theatre fondling a new watch, a gift of the membership of the MPTO of the Northwest in appreciation of his services as president of that organization for the past year. Did you know that Mrs. Lukan rode on the first street car ever used in the Green Lake district? When the district celebrated the finish of the street cars in that territory last week, Mrs. Lukan was the honored guest to take the last ride . . . The most dulcet switchboard voice in town is stilled. Its owner, Lillian Griffey, has been promoted from the Hamrick-Evergreen switchboard to a job in the booking office . . . A letter this week from Virgil Rogers tells that he is in San Francisco for a spell. Virg sends regards from Roy Cooper and Neal East and also tells that Joe Dempsey, for a long time connected around Seattle theatres, had a bad accident with his automobile and was in very bad shape in the San Joaquin county hospital. Joe ran into the Highway Bridge.

Changes in the Paramount exchange find Ray Morrow in as head shipper and Gordon Waldo, from National Screen, in as assistant. The change was caused by Stan Jackson leaving for civil service work in the post office . . . Tom Grady, Metro auditor from the New York office, visiting the local exchange . . . The Wally Ruckers, Maury Saffles and the Jack Burks made up a theatre party at the Lunt-Fontanne show at the Metropolitan . . . Dorothy Shearer hosted her sorority sisters at a special screening of the new Deanna Durbin picture . . . Jerry Safron in conference with Neal Walton of the local Columbia exchange and later joined by J. von Herberg of Jensen-von Herberg theatres . . . Charles and Mrs. Code of Nome, Alaska, down to the mainland for a few weeks and guests of their daughter. The first night in town, burglars entered the house and stole a valuable camera and a roll of film that Code had taken of a storm on the voyage from Nome . . . Word from Los Angeles that Sam Milner, former Universal salesman and now with Republic out of that territory, was held up by bandits on the Arizona highway and robbed of $50.

Rumor has it that Irving Fey of the Fey's theatres in Renton, is planning to build a new ultra-modern house there . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Doose here for a ten-day visit with Jim Hone. Mrs. Doose is the daughter of the Hones. The son-in-law is an expert skater and in charge of the outdoor rink at Sun Valley, Ida. . . . Vic Meyers has been given a 30-day permit to operate a ballroom in Portland, Ore. . . . Eddie Hudson, owner of General Films in Portland and Seattle, here for a couple of days, then to Vancouver, B. C., for a business trip . . . George Mitchley, the Seattle manager, off to Spokane for a few days . . . Wayne Christy of Premier Pictures flying to Portland and back, getting out an injunction against civic bodies and the censor board on one of his pictures . . . Hugh Bruen in from Whittier, Cal., for a couple of weeks' stay. He will be busy booking for his 45th Street Theatre here . . . Leroy and Alys Johnson away for a vacation trip by auto.

L. J. McGinley, local head of Universal, principal speaker at a Kiwanis dinner at Lake Burien. His talk was on the original Armistice Day overseas. Pete Higgins, Bill Stober, and Mel Sohns also dinner guests at the same meeting. Mel is planning to open his new theatre at Lake Burien on Christmas Day . . . Jack McPherson, coast representative of the MacBeck company of New York, here from Los Angeles and making his headquarters with Jack Flannery of National Screen Service. Jack is introducing the novelty Santa Claus doll to the various business houses in town . . . Seven tables were in play at the first of the series of Duplicate Bridge tournaments in the Northwest Film Club quarters. John Danz and J. T. Sheffield won the highest scores.

George Blair and his family spending a weekend at their summer home on Vashion Island . . . Bill Forman back from Portland and busy as a bee on the Row . . . Tom and Mrs. Shearer up from Portland . . . Duncan McPherson in from Mason City and asking about wood cuts . . . Ted Wilson leaving his theatres in Cashmere and Leavenworth long enough to get some buying and booking done . . . Ned Edris, who went with the hunting party to Montana back home and suffering from a slight case of rheumatism. Rest of the party still carrying on.

Visitors this week include: Mildred Bishop of Lewiston, Ida.; Cecil Gwinn from Centralia; Jay Porter from Tacoma; O. M. Durham from Mount Vernon; Johnny Smythe from Tacoma; Mrs. Abbe Thompson from Pomeroy; Gene Groesbeck from Enumclaw; the Jay Tews from North Bend; Walter Graham from Shelton; Al O'Keefe of Universal in for a few days looking over the local situation . . . Glenn Haviland in from Spokane to be best man at the Frank Christie-Betty Pritchard wedding . . . Les Theuerkauf celebrating his birthday at home. His wife hosted Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bedgisoff, Mr. and Mrs. Don Beckman and Les Theuerkauf jr., who has just returned from California . . . Dorothy Appleby to go on the Evergreen switchboard taking the place of Lillian Griffey, who has taken over Betty Pritchard's spot in the booking department.

"THINK THIS OVER"

If the people coming to your, or any average theatre, consume $5,000.00 worth of confections annually within that theatre as statistics show, shouldn't that

"$3,000.00 Profit Belong to You?"

It should be your's; it belongs to you, and you'll get it with thanks, if you serve your customers what they want.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

French Film Premiere

LOS ANGELES — "Whirlpool of Desire," French feature starring Francoise Moray, will be given its American premiere at the Cinema Theatre November 20. Local distribution is being handled by Max Laemmle, who also operates two theatres—the Franklin and Glassell—in partnership with his brother Kurt.

Prison Story to Metro

HOLLYWOOD — Metro has purchased screen rights to "Osborne of Sing Sing," a story by Jonathan Finn and Harold Friedman. The latter has been assigned to the script.

Washington Unfolded At Seattle Premiere

SEATTLE—Seattle staged a regular Hollywood premiere with bright lights, notables and all, as three Technicolor travel films dealing with Washington state were given a preview showing at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. The pictures were made by James A. FitzPatrick of M-G-M and will be released generally by that company.

John Hamrick of Hamrick-Evergreen Theatres acted as host to the many notables. A special section of the theatre was reserved for them. Gov. Clarence Martin, Mayor Arthur Langlie, and Leo Weisfield of the Progress Commission were the featured guests, while Stephen F. Chadwick, past commander of the American Legion, acted as master of ceremonies.

Preceding the showing, a no-host banquet was held in the Olympic Hotel honoring civic and business leaders. The whole proceedings up to the time of the showing of the travelogues, were broadcast over local radio stations.

Titles of the pictures are "Natural Wonders of Washington State," "Glimpses of Washington State," and "Seattle—Gateway to the Northwest."

PORTLAND

WITH a ripple of fans and spicy conversation, Sally Rand breezed into town with her "star-studded revue" for a week's run at the Orpheum and local luncheon clubs. The advertising federation, recognizing her "mastery of showmanship and promotion," booked her for a talk, as did the Junior Chamber of Commerce on a program otherwise devoted to "Oregon Industries." It must have been the first time the C. C. failed to give home products top billing. Sally's talk at a breakfast club Tuesday was broadcast, in part, by a local radio station which lost contact with glamorous guest's closing remarks due to technical difficulties, or something. Listeners regretted the interruption after hearing Sally tell of her date in Seattle with an architect and did he have plans, and her liking for the older chaps who give you what the young men promise.

Arthur O. Jones, who operated the Rivoli for several years, took over the State Theatre at N. W. 21st and Hoyt last week on a five-year lease from the owners of the property, Pallay Investment Co. . . . It's a heavy week for musical attractions. Monday night brought Janet Graham's piano concert, Thursday the San Francisco Opera ballet at the Mayfair, Friday Bidu Sayao and Saturday the opening concert of the Portland junior symphony's 16th season.

Bidu's p. a. calls the Brazilian soprano the "one woman diamond horseshoe," because she is "an ardent collector" of the gems. Whimsical, no end. What? . . . Sammy Herman and his orchestra opened Wednesday in the Oak Room of the Benson Hotel with dinner dancing every night except Sunday scheduled for the winter . . . Portland's civic theatre announced "Our Town," Thornton Wilder's Pultizer prize play, as its second vehicle of the season, scheduled for two performances next month.

Lou Stang, popular Paramount booker, has been out of the office for the past week with an eye affliction . . . Jack Kloepper, United Artists manager, was laid low by the flu bugs for a few days . . . R. L. Kirk of the B. F. Shearer company is back on the Row after a business and pleasure junket which took him to Chicago. He was absent two weeks . . . Johnny Harvey of Universal is visiting his parents in California, by way of a delayed vacation.

Lieutenant-Governor Vic Meyers of Washington finally was granted a license, in a manner of speaking, to operate his Hollywood ballroom in Portland. The city council granted him a revocable permit for a trial period of 30 days, and promulgated a few rules and regulations for Vic's special benefit. He may keep open until 1 a. m. Friday and Saturday nights, but must close at 11:30 p. m. on week nights; he can serve no beer, have no tables, provide no mixers nor permit beer or stronger liquid in the building. Persons under 18 years attending dances must be accompanied by chaperons, and Vic can't charge the chaperons. Protests received by the council all were directed against a "night club or liquor outlet" in the neighborhood. Vic claimed all he wanted was to sell soft drinks. He was permitted that, so everyone should be happy. For 30 days anyhow.

Bing Crosby sent regrets to Mayor Joe Carson after the latter's request that Bing attend the grid game November 26 between Gonzaga and Portland universities here. Seems the crooner and screen star has too many professional jobs lined up to see his Spokane alma mater perform . . . A pair of late arrivals in the baldheaded section stopped the show at the opening of "The Taming of the Shrew" November 9. "Christopher Sly," doing his drunk act from a box, called a halt, and the actors on the stage, including Alfred Lunt, held everything until the new guests were seated, then gave them an elaborate bow before proceeding.

LOS ANGELES

WARNER circuit executives have spotted Henry Murtagh in the Wiltern Theatre to suppy organ music on a daily schedule of half-hours for matinees and 15 minutes in the evening . . . George Diamos of the Lyric Amusement Co. has returned to Tucson, Ariz., after a booking trip here.

Lining up product at local exchanges was John Ludwig, who opens his new Melvan in about two weeks. Leo Popel, former manager of the Los Angeles, will manage the house . . . Visiting local friends was Emil Alperson, veteran exhibitor and former operator of the Melrose.

Ida Schreiber, secretary to ITO's Bob Poole, celebrated a birthday . . . George Bromley and Alex Mounce have thrown their Campus open for pubic inspection, although it is not scheduled to open until the end of the month . . . Nat Smythe, decorator, is discontinuing the theatrical side of his business.

Morris Borgos, Los Angeles Times *"theatre guide" representative on Filmrow, hosted his brother-in-law, Irwin Tucker, on a sight-seeing tour . . . Murray Fisher, office manager for Coast Pictures, has returned from San Francisco where he conferred with Sam Nathanson on plans to open a branch exchange there.*

Filmrowites are already beginning to look forward to December 11, when Guy Gunderson, United Artists salesman, tosses his annual and now traditional pre-Christmas stag. This year he's designated it a Swedish party with food and refreshments of Scandinavian ancestry to predominate . . . Most of the Row sealed its doors November 11 in observance of Armistice Day.

Bjorn Foss of Monogram's sales staff checked in after a business jaunt to Bakersfield and other points in the section . . . Jack Berman, executive of the Eastland circuit, is drawing up plans to construct a theatre in Wynverwood, new residential district in the eastern part of Los Angeles . . . Another new house is being drafted for construction at Pico Blvd. and Fairfax by Emil Umann, operator of the Regina in Beverly Hills.

Ed Rowley of the Robb-Rowley circuit winged out for Dallas, Tex., after looking over the situation here for a couple of weeks . . . Seattle-bound was Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager . . . Booking visitors included Mac Sinift, Daly and Delmar theatres; Max Gardens of the Rosslyn; George Bromley and Alex Mounce, whose new Campus Theatre opens shortly, and Ed Cunningham, former manager of the Empire.

George Smith, Paramount's western district manager, headed for Chicago to huddle with Charles Reagan, western divisional sales manager, concerning forthcoming releases and sales policies . . . In from New York after a ten-day business trip are Mike and Fanchon Marco, heads of the Fanchon & Marco enterprises . . . President Charles P. Skouras of Fox West Coast pulled out for a theatre inspection tour in the northern California area.

Booking visitors: Earle Strebe, who owns houses in Palm Springs and Arrowhead; C. A. Ferry, Granada, Alhambra; Boris Posner, Arlington; Murray Hawkins, Swan circuit; Bill Swanson, Beaux Arts; Joe Sloate, Maynard . . . Mel Levinson, formerly of Metro Premium, has taken office and warehouse space on the Row and intends to enter the premium business on his own.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
1964 So. Vermont RO. 1145
LOS ANGELES

S' FRANCISCO

IT IS reported that Aaron Goldberg's downtown Circle soon will be turned into a newsreel house . . . The President is now getting 20 cents per at its boxoffice, a nickel more than formerly, and a nice rise in receipts has been the result . . . The new Tivoli has been really going to town, and the management already has seen fit to raise its top to 75 cents from an original 35. All this in two weeks' time.

Ramblings on the Row: Out-of-town exhibitors, many of them here for Tuesday's ITO meeting at the Hotel Empire, were much in evidence along the Row this week. Among those spotted were: E. V. Clover, Oroville; O. Restano, Sonora; John DiStasio, Liberty, Sacramento; D. O. Downing, Regent, Oakland; Ray Kelsall of the Liberty, Victory and Jose, San Jose; Bill Peters, El Rey, Mantica; G. R. Moore, Suisun Theatre, Suisun; H. C. Oastler, Winnemucca, Nev.; and Walter Eldred and wife, Colfax . . . Also seen was J. A. Harvey sr., of Oakdale, president of the Harvey Amusement Co.

Warner's screened "We Are Not Alone," starring Paul Muni, Monday night . . . Rodda Harvey is back from a Montana hunting trip. Sh-h-h, but we understand he bagged four bucks and three elks. Quite a shoot, if you ask us . . . Cecil Pace will open at Rodeo Thanksgiving Day with one of the finest small town houses in the west . . . The Colfax Theatre at Colfax, which burned down recently, will reopen as a 400-seater New Year's Day . . . Both of these houses have installed Simplex equipment furnished by National Theatre Supply.

John Martese will open a new house at Gonzales soon . . . Morris Berg will reopen the Lincoln, Alameda . . . The Suisun Theatre, Suisun, is closed for repairs and will reopen December 1 . . . The Garberville Theatre, Garberville, will reopen next week after being closed for remodeling.

San Franciscana: With the fall and winter season a definite arrival here, the amusement spots are showing increased activity. The Market St. first-runs and the subsequents generally are doing a bigger boxoffice, but are being faced with serious competition of several name bands that are now holding forth at some of the swank hotels. San Franciscans seem to be going for them more than ever at present, as evidenced by the fact Glen Gray and his Casa Lomans have set an all-time attendance record at the Palace Hotel. However, the theatres are not doing bad, and if the rate of increase of the past three weeks continues for any length of time, there'll be plenty of broad smiles on the faces of the men in the industry in the Bay area.

It seems that Golden Gate International Exposition officials are intent on giving the '40 Fair plenty of buildup at the expense of a duped public, for newspapers here continue to insist in their columns that the money necessary for Treasure Island's reopening has not yet all been raised. However, it appears just a scheme to keep the Fair idea hot, for, as stated here last week, we have it on reliable authority that on or about May 29 next is the date set for the repeat performance which theatre owners here again will have to buck for about four months.

Extended runs are the rule here, and plenty of excellent bookings are being held up because of them. "Babes in Arms," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," and "Lucrezia Borgia" are all in their fourth week, while "The Roaring Twenties" has entered its third week on Market St. . . . Ed Beck, publicity director at M-G-M, is really going to town in exploiting Garbo's comedy hit, "Ninotchka," in the Bay area. He's also creating quite a lot of interest in the M-G-M short, "Drunken Driving," by tying up with safety councils, traffic judges, etc.

His friends along the Row are just finding out that John DiStasio, Sonora exhibitor, has been mayor of that town for the past six years . . . D. B. Levin, formerly with San Francisco theatres, has associated himself with the Goldberg circuit . . . Fox West Coast prexy Charles P. Skouras is on a northern California inspection tour . . . The Senator, Sacramento, has installed new Simplex sound equipment.

The raucous Ritz Brothers gave the Golden Gate one of its biggest weeks in a long time. Louella Parsons and her "Stars of 1940" are now holding forth at that house and giving its environs quite a Hollywood atmosphere . . . J. A. Harvey jr., and wife are on a month's vacation in Mexico . . . Irving Akerman, who operated the Casino until recently, has opened offices in the Golden Gate Bldg.

SALT LAKE

ALFRED LUNT and Lynn Fontanne, the modern re-incarnation of Katherine and Petruchio in Shakespeare's immortal comedy, "The Taming of the Shrew," were greeted by a throng of admirers upon their arrival here. Their presentation of "Shrew," before sell-out audiences, was admirable.

Dr. J. A. Widtsoe, A. Smith and A. E. Bowen, members of the L. D. S. Council of 12 apostles, have returned from Hollywood after studying the script for the forthcoming picture, "Brigham Young."

The attorney general has charged the Princess Theatre, Bingham, Utah, with conducting a lottery. The game under fire, said to be a variation of Bank Night, is known as "Jack Pot."

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" opens here at the Centre on November 24 . . . In for conferences with W. W. McKendrick, Monogram branch manager, was Ralph Abbott, representative of Jam Handy of Detroit, commercial film makers. Monogram handles the short reels.

Cody, Wyo., and Boise, Ida., are sticking to the old Thanksgiving date—November 30. Turkey Day will be observed here a week earlier, or on the President's date.

The New Theatre at Vernal, Utah, equipped by Intermountain Theatre Supply Co., will open on November 19 . . . The Parma, Parma, Ida., gutted by fire recently, is being rebuilt.

DENVER

"DRUMS Along the Mohawk" played to several standouts and took in the most money at the Denver, with "Jamaica Inn" playing to big business likewise at the Denham and being held for a second week. "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," after strong weeks, one at the Denver and one at the Aladdin, is moving to both the Rialto and Broadway. This is only the second time that a film, after having played in first runs has been moved to two others day and date. For the most part business was good in first runs.

J. J. Goodstein has leased the Bideawee in Denver for 10 years, and after spending approximately $10,000 remodeling, will reopen about Christmas. Goodstein has operated and owned a number of theatres in the Denver area. The Bideawee is the house that gave Harry Huffman, now city manager for Fox theatres, his start in the business. Huffman bought the theatre as a means to attract folks to that part of town so as to boost business at his drug store, but soon the theatre business was in his blood and he left the drug store to others to operate and he entered the theatre business.

Fox houses copped a nice bit of exploitation when Harry Huffman arranged for a booth at the Denver auto show. Beautiful girls passed out coupons for the weekly Ford drawings at the theatres, and a young man took snapshots of various persons attending the show. The photos were taken by permission of the one being photographed. The photos were then posted in front of the various Fox houses, different ones in front of each, and if anyone identified themselves, he or she received a free pass to a Fox house.

Ralph Abbott and Jack Haley, representatives of the Jam Handy Film Co., Detroit, were in Denver conferring with Lon Fidler, their distributor.

Ted Kemper, St. Louis, booker for army posts, was in Denver on his regular trip, and while here cut down his film commitments about half, due to the moving of most of the troops south for winter maneuvers.

Doug Pratt, RKO auditor, who left on his vacation after checking accounts at the local exchange, got as far as Omaha where he was forced to submit to an emergency appendectomy.

Fred Lind, United Artists salesman, received his final papers making him a full-fledged citizen of this country. Lind, a native of Russia, has long been in the film business in the Denver area.

Henry Bolte, Californian, has taken over and reopened the Lyons Theatre at Lyons, Colo.

Gene Gerbase, Republic manager, left on a sales trip through New Mexico at about the same time that Frank Sheffield, salesman, came in from a successful trip north.

Marjorie Wright has succeeded Eleanor Downey as secretary at the Republic exchange. Miss Downey resigned to be married.

Exhibitors Offer Five Cent Pay Boost

St. Louis—The labor committee of the local theatre owners representing 60 neighborhood houses in St. Louis and St. Louis county, have offered to grant a five cents an hour increase to about 300 employes who are members of Local B-2 of the IATSE, including cashiers, ticket takers, ushers and other service employes. The union, in demands submitted some weeks ago, asked an increase of 15 cents an hour.

It is understood the offer of the theatre owners is contingent upon the withdrawal of pickets from the Bremen and O'Fallon theatres, both of which are operated by the Kaimann interests. Members of the union now receive 35 and 40 cents an hour. Union officials have indicated they will reply to the proposal early next week.

Warner and Essaness Conclude New Deal

CHICAGO—It's a draw! In other words, both Warner and Essaness ended satisfactorily the temporary impasse they had come to over the 1939-40 deal.

BOXOFFICE learns the Essaness deal calls for flat rentals on the top pictures based on what they could earn on percentage dates.

And right after Essaness made its deal this week, other independent exhibitors—both circuit and otherwise—started to make deals with Tom Gilliam. The choice is up to the exhibitors: Either four pictures at 35 per cent and preferred playing time of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, or flat rental computed on what Warner thinks the pictures would do. If the exhibitor plays them flat, he can play them any time during the week.

And from early indications, it appears that it will be 50-50, with half playing the top four flat and the other half on percentage.

Local deals are coming along fast now at RKO after a holdout spell by exhibitors, according to Jack Osserman, branch manager. RKO is selling "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and one other film to be designated later as top percentage pictures. In concluding some contracts, RKO has agreed to sell these two separately, but on percentage.

Meanwhile, all the other companies are cleaning up odds and ends. Continuing at the top are Universal, with over 400 deals in the city and country; Paramount, with well over 350; M-G-M, nearing the 370 mark; 20th Century-Fox, over 325, most of which are in the country. Columbia is well sold, too.

United Artists hasn't put out much selling effort in the city as yet, although the B&K deal is expected to be closed within the next week. Warner and RKO are both well sold out-state.

RKO Holds Wendy Barrie

HOLLYWOOD—Wendy Barrie has been held for another year by RKO.

F&M Fires Eight Anti-Nick Men For Activity on Picket Line

ST. LOUIS—The differences between the new anti-Nick administration of Operators Local No. 143 and the Fanchon & Marco interests were broadened when Fanchon & Marco Service Corp. discharged eight operators employed at the Ambassador and Missouri theatres because the men, while off duty, had participated in picketing the Fox Theatre, operated by F&M.

In paid newspaper ads, reasons for the discharge of the men were given. The ad copy follows:

"To Our Friends: Since October 5 last, several of our neighborhood theatres—and our Fox Theatre—have been subjected to mass picketing—the result of a factional dispute within Local 143.

"Eight of the pickets who daily endeavor to dissuade patrons from entering our theatres, have been operators at our Ambassador and Missouri theatres—men drawing from us annual wages as follows:

E. F. Hobbs	$ 5,967.43
J. B. Caruso	5,953.57
C. W. Phillips	5,953.57
R. E. Campbell	5,967.43
W. Schaeffer	5,108.55
M. Barco	4,978.57
J. Anthony	4,959.00
Robert Combs	4,968.24
Total wages	$43,856.36

"These men—and their wives—have picketed our theatres, urging non-attendance, yet have been drawing wages steadily from us of more than $100 per week.

"We tolerated these men in their posts in the hope an amicable settlement with Local No. 143 could be made, but settlement is as far away today as it was on October 5.

"We've had enough. These eight men, as of last night, have been dismissed, their top-flight salaries stopped.

"All employes of our theatres have been and now are, members of unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"We feel completely justified in our dismissal of these eight men. We have consistently tried to do the right thing in this dispute. Do you agree with our stand? Comments from you will be appreciated and will serve to guide us in our further steps.

"Meanwhile, we thank you sincerely for your continued loyal patronage.

"Fanchon and Marco Service Corp.

"St. Louis Amusement Co. Theatres."

F&M Rests Suit for a Picketing Injunction

CLAYTON, MO.—Fanchon & Marco Service Corp. has rested its suit for an injunction to restrain picketing at the Fox and six St. Louis Amusement Co. houses by Local No. 143.

The injunction petition, naming executives of Local No. 143, alleges the picketing was begun in an effort to "extort" a contract which had been refused. C. B. Nelson, personnel director for F&M, said James A. McKeown, receiver for the union, called at Fanchon & Marco offices as a result of an invitation.

"We told him of certain conditions in the union which needed changing and asked him to try to keep us out of the factional fight," Nelson asserted. "We wanted the contract to permit us to transfer operators without reducing their salaries and also the right to classify operators so we would not have to pay more for their services than did independent operators of theatres of similar size."

Robert A. Roessel, attorney of the union, introduced a motion for dismissal of the suit, but Circuit Court Judge Julius R. Nolte said he wanted the defendants to produce evidence to show that the operators employed by Fanchon & Marco, who have been suspended by the new administration in Local No. 143, are with John P. Nick, international vice-president of the IATSE, who was removed from control of No. 143 last April.

Roessel, in outlining the defense against the suits, said he planned to introduce witnesses to show that picketing was peaceful and not in violation of any laws, and also that the operators now employed by the theatres are Nick's men.

James F. Arthur, brother of Harry C. Arthur jr., president of Fanchon & Marco Service Corp. and attorney for the company, was the last witness called by the plaintiff.

On cross-examination, he said the union had offered the Fox an operating agreement similar to that between the union and Loew's to replace the contract that expired on August 31, last. He also stated that Roessel offered to have the Fox operators, who have been suspended by the union, re-instated if the agreement was accepted. In this connection, he said that Roessel had proposed that each of the suspended men be fined $25 by the union and that the organization would not oppose Fanchon & Marco paying the fines. Arthur said this was rejected because, if the company paid the fines, it would be an admission of blame for the dispute with the union.

Will Seek Change of Venue By Recourse to High Court

ST. LOUIS—The faction of Local No. 143 friendly to John P. Nick, ousted boss of the union, proposes filing an application in the Missouri supreme court for a writ of mandamus to compel Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley to transfer the suit for a permanent receivership for the union to another court.

The move follows Judge Oakley's overruling of a motion for a change of venue on November 14.

Nick Faction Moves to Preserve Union Funds

JEFFERSON CITY—A number of members of Local No. 143 friendly to John P. Nick, who was ousted from control of the union by Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley of St. Louis last April, have filed an application in the Missouri supreme court for a writ of prohibition to restrain Judge Oakley from making any orders permitting use

(Continued on next page)

F&M Fires Eight for Picketing Activity

(Continued from preceding page)

of the union's funds to pay the expenses of pickets at the Fox Theatre and six neighborhood houses operated by the Fanchon & Marco interests. The move was anticipated as Judge Oakley was advised several days ago the application would be filed here.

From Los Angeles to Testify

Mrs. Fanchon Simon and Marco Wolff of Los Angeles, heads of the Fanchon & Marco, who own the Ambassador, St. Louis and Missouri theatres and operate the neighborhood chain of the St. Louis Amusement Co., testified at Clayton before Circuit Judge Julius R. Nolte they had never authorized Harry C. Arthur jr., their St. Louis operating member, to enter into private contracts with motion picture operators who were followers of Nick.

Mrs. Simon and Wolff came to St. Louis to testify in the suit brought by the Fanchon & Marco Service Corp., the St. Louis Amusement Co. and the Eden Theatre Co. to enjoin members of local No. 143 from picketing the Fox and six other houses.

Mrs. Simon said she did not know Nick personally, although she had met him several times. Wolff testified he had met Nick twice, once at a convention about eight years ago and again about four years ago when his company was negotiating for a new union contract at the Ambassador. He said he had met Clyde A. Weston, also deposed with Nick from the affairs of Local 143. Wolff asserted he had never authorized Arthur to hire only Nick adherents.

Mrs. Simon and Wolff testified they operated theatres in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Worcester, Mass., in addition to those here, and employed union men exclusively in all of their theatres.

Manager of the Shady Oak, Pageant, Shaw, Lafayette, Granada and Maffitt theatres, which are being picketed, testified that prospective patrons were urged by the pickets not to patronize the theatres.

Chorus Girls Carry Coffee

Chauncey B. Nelson, personnel director for F&M, the first witness called in the case, testified that chorus girls from the Fox were sent outside with sandwiches and coffee for the pickets and admitted on cross examination that the girls were instructed to "entertain" the pickets. He told of loud speakers being installed under the marquee of the Fox and of the playing of "The Umbrella Man" and "Beer Barrel Polka" to attract attention away from the pickets. He said that he made talks explaining the company's position in the trouble between musical selections. In his talks Nelson said he called attention to one picket who was earning $5,000 a year at the Ambassador and at the same time was asking people not to patronize that theatre.

Asked by defense counsel if F&M had not refused the union permission to discipline its own members Nelson answered, "We wanted to protect the men working for us. We knew of the bitter factional fight in the union and wanted to avoid assisting one side or the other." After expiration of its contract with the union Nelson testified the company continued some operators in its employ after receiving notice from the union that these operators' working privileges had been suspended. He said his firm had recognized any card issued by Nick.

Injunction Stay Extends Existence for Bingo

MILWAUKEE—Local halls again are playing Bingo as a result of a ruling by the state supreme court staying the injunction of Circuit Judge Charles L. Aarons against the Bahn Frei hall here.

Benjamin J. Miller, attorney for Charles W. Trampe, head of Film Service, Inc., and operator of several local theatres who brought the original action against the Bahn Frei, argued against issuance of the stay of execution. He pointed out that Judge Aarons had found Bingo was gambling and, as played at Bahn Frei hall, was a public nuisance.

After hearing Miller's argument, Chief Justice Marvin B. Rosenberry said:

"It seems Bingo has been played for a long time at this hall. It won't make any difference if it is played six weeks or two months longer."

On the basis of Judge Aarons' decision, police recently ordered Bingo games halted in publicly licensed halls. Warrants were asked for several operators who continued to conduct the games. Dist. Atty. Herbert J. Steffes halted the police drive when he refused to issue warrants and said he had no criticism of Bingo played to benefit charitable, religious or fraternal causes.

Rule Confers in New York On Dates With Circuits

CHICAGO—A. L. Rule, producer of the war film, "When Germany Surrendered," has been in New York conferring on coming playdates with several circuit operators. The picture recently completed a first run at the B&K garrick here.

Rule said the picture has played key-run spots for Fox West Coast theatres in several cities in the west. It will open within a week or two at the Apollo Theatre, operated by the Fred Dolle circuit, in Indianapolis.

Helms Two for Switow

INDIANAPOLIS — Harry Palmer, former owner and operator of the Temple Court Theatre in Washington, recently taken over by the Switow circuit of Louisville, is now managing the Majestic and Little theatres in Seymour for Switow.

Directs Second "Renfrew"

HOLLYWOOD—Second in the new series of "Renfrew" pictures being produced for Monogram by Phil Goldstone is being directed by Ralph Staub, with Jimmy Newill in the starring role. Film is titled "Danger Ahead."

Meet Esquire Opening With Admission Cut

ST. LOUIS—Right upon the heels of the opening last week of the Esquire Theatre, a de luxe second runner in Richmond Heights, the four St. Louis first-run houses, the Ambassador, Fox and Missouri operated by the Fanchon & Marco interests, and Loew's, a unit in the Loew nation-wide chain, announced that effective immediately there was to be a 15-cent slash in the night admission price of 56 cents, except on Saturdays and Sundays.

This is the first reduction in admission charges made by these houses in years. The only explanation for the move was "to improve night business."

The new price scale at the first runs is 25 cents for early birds to 1 p. m. at the Fox and until 2 p. m. at the Ambassador, Missouri and Loew's, 35 cents thereafter to 6 p. m. and 40 cents after 6 p. m. The St. Louis Theatre makes no change in its price scale of 25 cents to 2 p. m. and 35 cents thereafter. This house, a 4,000-seater, also is operated by the Fanchon & Marco interests, as are all other houses in the St. Louis Amusement Company chain.

The Esquire's price scale is 35 cents for adults and 10 cents for children in the evening and on Sunday after 2 p. m. Lower prices for adults will prevail up to 6 p. m. on Saturdays and 2 p. m. on Sundays and holidays, the admission fee being 25 cents. The 10-cent rate for children is constant. These prices do not include the tax.

It is reported in local theatrical circles that the Schuchart Investment Company, owner of the Esquire Theatre, and also interested in the Norside and the Will Rogers theatres in St. Louis, contemplates the erection of several more houses of the Esquire type in the outlying sections of the city.

Knightstown Strand to Theatrical Managers

INDIANAPOLIS—Theatrical Managers, Inc., headed by V. U. Young with Marc Wolf general manager, has taken over the Strand Theatre in Knightstown. The theatre has been closed for some time and will be completely remodeled and redecorated before the opening, which is expected around Christmas. The new Circle Theatre at Hagerstown also is expected to be opened by Theatrical Managers about Christmas.

Theft Report "False"

INDIANAPOLIS—Roy Wright, acting manager of the Speedway Theatre operated by Harvey Orr, reported a robbery to the police last Saturday night and several days later admitted to state police that his report on being slugged and robbed by two men hitch-hikers was false. Wright had said he was robbed of $15, but revealed he had lost the money instead.

A Monumental Masterpiece

A. L. RULE'S

OFFICIAL
Authentic
Government Pictures

"When GERMANY Surrendered"

Chicago Daily Tribune
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Here's a Movie That Shows War as It Really Is

"WHEN GERMANY SURRENDERED."
An A. L. Rule production.
Released through Johnny Mednikow Productions.
Presented at the Garrick theater.

By Mae Tinée.

Good Morning!

"When Germany Surrendered" is my idea of the war picture that should end war pictures. For this intelligently culled collection of news pictures filmed during the world war period of 1914-'18 as they really were and not as Hollywood imagines them, brings back searing memories that are a more powerful indictment against and should prove a more potent preventive of war than could any fictional presentation.

The picture carries you from start to finish of the war—and is unsparing of your feelings. . . . If our young men, and England's young men, and Germany's young men must fight for their flag on No Man's Land and lose their arms and legs and eyes while doing it; if their bodies are to be riddled by shrapnel and their hearts pierced by bayonets in hand to hand conflict in the trenches; if they are to starve and be eaten by vermin; if they are to go mad from shell shock —who are we to be spared the sight of their sufferings?

LOOK—if you can see thru your tears. Look and realize that "over there, over there," the same ghastly business is going on again. Look and think—that while we're watching OUR boys playing football, watching boys and French boys, German and Polish lads are saying—and have said —good-by to fun and laughter forever. . . .

As our boys COULD be doing if——

Producer
A. L. RULE
The LIDO
HOLLYWOOD - CALIF

MICHIGAN INDIANA ILLINOIS MISSOURI
Released Through
JOHNNY MEDNIKOW
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Telephone Calumet 5900



When Balaban & Katz Held a Convention—

CHICAGO—Here's one of the few pictures ever taken of all B&K executives and managers together. It was on the occasion of the recent two-day convention. Bottom row, left to right: A. J. Kaufman, head booker; Abe Platt, district manager; J. J. Sampson, district manager, Evanston; Jack Abraham, financial controller; Nate Platt, production head; Morris G. Leonard, general counsel; John Balaban, operating head, B&K and Great States; Dave Balaban, district manager; Walter Immerman, general manager, B&K; William K. Hollander, publicity and advertising director; Elmer C. Upton, comptroller; Archie Trebow, purchasing head; Harry Lustgarten and Dave Wallerstein, district managers.

Second row from bottom, left to right again: S. R. Claggett, Belmont; Maurice Rubens, divisional director, Great States; Henry C. Stickelmaier, assistant to J. J. Rubens; Izzy Weinschenk, Alton, Ill., Great States district manager; Tom Ronan, Danville, Ill., Great States district manager; Eddie Solomon, Archie Herzoff and Eddie Seguin, publicity department; Boris Reidel, poster department; Art Thaler, art department head; Jimmie Savage, Ed Levin, publicity; Frank Scott, Iris; Sam Katz, warehouse; Ben Feldman, United Artists; Ray Carsky, State; K. Edgerly, Park, LaGrange; Ambrose Conroy, Southtown; William Briscoe, Cine; Roy MacMullen, Granada; Al Burne, secretary to John Balaban.

Third row from bottom: J. J. Rubens, Great States general manager; Leslie Walrath, Varsity, Evanston; Elmer Immerman, Garrick; Joe Kaufman, booker; Roy Bruder, Chicago; Miles Concannon, Roosevelt; F. N. Weber, Great States Theatres; Harry Hadfield, Belpark; William Bail, LaGrange; Walter Lyons, Biltmore; Ted Boisemeau, Nortown; Al Leonard, Coronet, Evanston; James Cooney, electrical maintenance head; Ralph Sherry, warehouse; I. Jacobson, projection head; Joe Pipher, candy merchandising, and Roy Rogan, Joliet, Ill., Great States district manager.

Fourth row from bottom: Ralph Lawler, Paramount, Toledo; Sam Soible, Apollo; Al Bachman, Harding; Ben Bloomfied, Uptown; William Holden, State-Lake; Jerry Winsberg, Lakeside; Harry Odenhal, Congress; J. Francis McDonald, secretary to Harry Lustgarten; Jack Lynch, Manor; Max Millstein, Crystal; Lou Machat, Maryland; I. Stein, Alba; Jack Katz, Century; McNeil Smith, Will Rogers; Lee Eastman, Valencia, Evanston; Lester Gleason, Tivoli, Downers Grove; Morris Glass, real estate department, and Adolph M. Eisner, Pantheon.

Top row: Max Turner, talent booker; H. Bishop, Covent; Jack Schaefer, sound department; George Brandt, Tivoli; Tom Izard, secretary to Abe Platt; Ralph Wettstein, Riviera; Happy Meininger, Berwyn; L. M. Schiff, Central Park; Murray Hork, Terminal; Ed Dlouhy, Gateway; William Methe, Tower; Ray Van Getsen, maintenance department; Harry Potter, Norshore; Eddie O'Donnell, Paramount; Charlie Cottle, Marbro; Kenneth Bluett, Regal; George Romine, Senate, and Sam Levin, Luna.

Decentralization of Film Production Suggested

CHICAGO—There should be other motion picture production centers besides Hollywood, in the opinion of Monta Bell, Hollywood director, who spoke under the auspices of the William Vaughan Moody Foundation at the University of Chicago.

"With all production in Hollywood, there is a tendency for the industry to get in a rut," he told his audience of several hundred persons. "However, should there be production set up in Chicago and New York, also, there would be a variance of pictures offered."

Despite these suggested changes, Bell said that the industry, for one as young as it is, had done a great job, and has grown by leaps and bounds. He said there should be no censorship of motion pictures, as the industry can well police itself.

"Though no one seems to want them, double features still are here and no one seems to be able to do anything about them," he added. Bell suggested that the production of more short subjects would be a proving ground for future stars.

Adelphi Anti-Trust Case Shoved Back

CHICAGO—With the federal court docket well filled for weeks, the Adelphi anti-trust case against B&K and the majors was shoved back again this week.

The case was scheduled to be heard Friday, November 17. However, as BOXOFFICE goes to press, it is understood the case will go back some six weeks or so, or until about the first week of the new year.

Meanwhile, that old standby—"compromise"—crept into the discussions along Filmrow again this week. However, both sides said it was news to them, with no one commenting officially about it.

Loses Sunday Receipts

INDIANAPOLIS—Calmly giving Opal Hulse, cashier, a note instructing her to "hand over the cash quietly," a lone armed bandit held up the St. Clair Theatre and made away with last Sunday's receipts.

Lyric Getting All Set for Horace Heidt Return

INDIANAPOLIS—Ted Nicholas, manager of the Lyric Theatre, has announced that the theatre is taking unusual measures to be ready for Horace Heidt's return to the theatre next Friday. Backstage they're building a teetering contrivance, which Heidt will use to make patrons "walk the plank" when they fail to identify musical numbers he will play.

The electrician is assembling a brand new "mike" ordered especially for the Heidt engagement. The theatre ordinarily has need for only one "mike" but Heidt wants four, and that's what he'll get. In the front of the house the service staff is being enlarged, with special instructions. Ushers will be assigned posts at special stairways on each side of the stage leading into the audience so that patrons may climb to the stage to take part in Heidt's "Treasure Chest" program of questions and answers at every performance.

This will be the first appearance of Heidt at the Lyric since he set the house record in August, 1938, which still stands.

Republic Gains in Bowling Race; Carriers on Top

CHICAGO—Republic's bowlers are fast nearing the top in the film bowling league and are now tied for third, only two games out of first place, after having dropped National Screen twice last week.

Meanwhile, Film Carriers gained first place by defeating Paramount twice, dropping the latter to second place. In the other games, Warner took two from Universal and 20th Century-Fox won a pair from Photoplay. Jack Kirsch still leads the individual bowlers with an average of 181.22.

The standings:

	Won	Lost
Film Carriers	15	9
Paramount	14	10
National Screen	13	11
Republic	13	11
Photoplay	13	11
Warner Bros.	11	13
Universal	9	15
20th Century-Fox	8	16

Chris Chin was awarded the most valuable player trophy at the awarding of victory jackets to the Henri Elman softball team recently. The jackets went to these team members: George Topper, Haymarket Theatre; Ken Siem, captain; Sam Lamm, manager; Bill Kassel, Columbia; Clare Keim, Will Wolf and Chris Chin, National Screen; Aaron Cohen and Jim Sedivy, Universal; Ed Opiola, Movie Supply; Seymour Borde and Harry Cook, RKO; Bill Flosi, Paramount, and Lionel Fedotin, Trailer-Made.

DePaul Coed to Hollywood To Make Paramount Trio

CHICAGO—Belladonna Villines, a blonde DePaul University coed who would prefer to become a modern Portia, is leaving shortly for the Paramount studios in Hollywood. She's going at the insistence of her mother, who thinks that the "movies" are easier to get along in than courts.

Belladonna is going to Hollywood to play opposite Buck Jones in three Paramount pictures. Her brother, Colin, 20, will dance with his sister in one of the pictures. The girl, however, vows that after the three pictures, she'll return to get her degree, for which she has only one more semester to go.

Brunnell & Pastor Change Mind About Single Bills

CHICAGO—Eddie Brunnell and Joe Pastor had an idea of making single features work when they reopened the Coed Theatre.

But now, a year after the house was opened, the Coed is running double features, succumbing to the fate of more than 95 per cent of Chicago theatres. And, occasionally, when product is particularly off, the Coed runs triples.

Raves for "Henry"

CHICAGO—Edward Everett Horton's comedy production, "Springtime for Henry," currently on the stage of the Erlanger, has been getting rave reviews from local critics. The film comedian has received high praise for his work in the play.

Time to Make a Date

Chicago—It's getting time to set the date for the fifth annual movie Christmas basket parties held every year a few days before Christmas in all Chicago theatres.

With CAPA, the group which started the movement now no longer in existence, BOXOFFICE suggests that the plan this year be worked out under the direction of Allied's Jack Kirsch, B&K's Bill Hollander and Warner's Charlie Ryan, with aid from the newly-formed Chicago Movie Club. This publication will offer all assistance possible.

The movie Christmas basket parties, besides giving good cheer and happiness to thousands of Chicagoans annually, has done a great deal to put the film industry in Chicago in a favorable light, and will, no doubt, be continued.

A suggested date—Tuesday or Wednesday, December 19 or 20—would give ample time to have the morning canned goods matinee and to distribute the baskets, as usual, before Christmas Day.—E. D. R.

CHICAGO

BILL BISHOP screened M-G-M's new outstanding crime short, "Drunk Driving," for automobile editors, insurance underwriters, traffic and crime experts on Tuesday. The short opens soon at the United Artists.

G. W. Koerner calls to inform that Film Truck Service has nice new spacious quarters now at 2017-19 *South Wabash Ave.*

Saul Goldman of Sack Amusement Enterprises is on one of his periodic trips to Detroit, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Indianapolis.

H. Swan, assistant manager of the B&K Nortown, is the father of a 6½*-pound daughter.*

The girls at M-G-M recently feted Margaret Crane Fanning on her marriage. Mrs. Fanning is secretary to District Manager Jack Flynn and Branch Manager W. E. Banford.

Nigley, pedigreed female Mexican Chihauhua of Mr. and Mrs. George Gehring, operators of the Rosewood Theatre, made news the other day when she gave birth to a three-ounce puppy. Nigley herself weighs only 3½ *pounds.*

Arnold Monette, ad sales head of the local 20th Century-Fox exchange, has a new plaything. It's his job to figure out new sales messages to put on the bulletin board in the lobby of the exchange.

Jack Kirsch and Charlie Ryan were two local exhibitors among the thousands at the Iowa-Notre Dame football game in Iowa City.

William Aslanis has taken over the Wabash Theatre at Eighteenth and Wabash.

Allan Usher is proudly showing a swell array of national magazine four-color ads to be run next month on Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels," prepared by the Buchanan Agency under Bob Gillham's direction.

The Civil Liberties League of Chicago has taken up the local fight to have the censor board rescind its ban against Ben Judell's "Hitler—Beast of Berlin."

B&K has an unusual animated display on the forthcoming "Gulliver's Travels" of Paramount in the lower lobby of the Chicago Theatre. Similar displays are being used in key spots throughout the country.

Chicago Bookers Meet and Plan a Christmas Party

CHICAGO—The Bookers' Club, well on the road to rejuvenation after its reorganization some months ago, met Friday night. The speaker was J. O. Caldwell of the Underwriters' Laboratory of Chicago. Caldwell illustrated his address with 16mm motion pictures of the laboratory's work.

The club will hold a Christmas party on Tuesday, December 19, in its club rooms at the Crillon Hotel for members, their wives and children. At that time turkeys and radios will be given away.

No Action This Week on Proposed Chicago Co-op

CHICAGO—This week went by without a discussion meeting by Allied on the proposed new cooperative for independent Chicago exhibitors. The answer to questions on all sides was "nothing new."

First 10-Day Run

INDIANAPOLIS—Manager Forest Quinn of the Vogue Theatre announced that for the first time in its history the theatre is playing an attraction for ten days, which is very unusual for a neighborhood house. The run of M-G-M's "The Women" was the cause of the extra days.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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Jimmy Roosevelt Proves Adept Student of the Film Trade

By GENE RICH

CHICAGO — Jimmy Roosevelt, filmdom's most famous adopted son, has been a good student and has learned a lot about the motion picture industry in the 11 months he has been a part of it.

He demonstrated as much in a lecture Monday night at Sinai Temple before an audience of some 3,000. Entitled, "Motion Pictures—Entertainment or Propaganda," the talk gave Roosevelt's audience a quick view of the film business.

The President's son said that while the industry has the "right to use propaganda to a certain degree," he felt the producer of a motion picture containing propaganda, should advertise that it contains such. He interspersed this with the thought that the main thing in a motion picture should be the story. He explained that as long as a motion picture follows its prime purpose of telling a story in an entertaining manner, it is an added virtue if the film makes the audience think about a certain problem so long as that picture does not "try to sell you anything."

Roosevelt gave his Sinai Temple audience what he believes are the six prime problems facing the industry as it continues to "grow up:"

1. Where we fit into the scheme of television. "We can't keep television down, and it will definitely come," he said. Through television, the industry will eventually present to the American public the finest in motion pictures direct to the home; nevertheless, the motion picture will always be in existence "because we all like to get in a crowd."

2. Can expect better public relations. With radio—and forthcoming television—offering considerable competition, there will be need of a research department in every studio to determine why pictures are successes or failures at the boxoffice.

3. Higher standard of business ethics. The film industry is the only one where everyone can "cut each other's throats one minute and five minutes later be bosom friends." With the coming of a second generation into the field, this should gradually be eliminated.

4. A recognition that genius is not eccentricity. Less sensationalism will be published about the industry in the future.

5. Better labor relations in which there will be a better understanding of their functions by both labor and capital.

6. Organization of research and personnel training corps. This will be necessary because of the added competition being introduced in an already highly competitive field; a plan whereby young people of talent will be given every opportunity to succeed.

Summing up, Roosevelt said Hollywood must make available to all peoples of the world information and that it must maintain its position as the entertainment center of the world. "The industry has learned there is gold in the hills of the motion picture field," he said, "but the leaders have learnd today that that gold must now be earned or it will dry up altogether."

Presenting a pleasing platform personality, Roosevelt won over his audience immediately. He explained that he spoke as a "layman who has had an inside view into the making of motion pictures."

Roosevelt, in answering questions after his talk, revealed that:

The industry receives no government protection from foreign competition; its best protection is the excellence of its product . . . There is no intention on the part of the industry to move from Hollywood to New York or Chicago . . . Patrons control the type of pictures produced . . . He is personally against block-booking . . . Most of the industry feels duals should be abolished, but attendance figures at the boxoffice show the public still wants them . . . Duals are responsible for the production of "B" pictures . . . Technicolor and similar processes must be better perfected for actual coloration before becoming universally used . . . Hollywood is overcrowded today, but if you have something to offer, it can use you.

Thinks "Grapes of Wrath" Propaganda With Message

CHICAGO—Jimmy Roosevelt gave Darryl F. Zanuck and Harry Brand of 20th Century-Fox some exploitation advice during his talk here when one of the audience asked his opinion about the picturization of John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath."

Roosevelt, classifying it as a propaganda picture, quickly added, "Mind you, I am not condemning it at all, but think the producer should explain in advertising copy about the film that the audience will see something of documented history in the U. S. today, and that it will definitely be an education to everyone who sees it."

Kicks In a Man-Sized Plug for "Mr. Smith"

CHICAGO—Jimmy Roosevelt gave Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" a man-sized plug during his lecture here. Outright, he advised a questioner—and the whole audience—to see the picture; that "it is great." Answering whether he thought it was an exaggeration, he said he believes it suggested there is graft in certain of the governmental bodies; while it is a great exaggeration of the senate, it did suggest to him that a law should be passed compelling senators to remain in their seats during their contemporaries' speeches.

He Doesn't Talk Much At Press Conference

CHICAGO—Jimmy Roosevelt had an impromptu press conference in the offices of Bill Hollander, advertising chief of B&K, prior to his Sinai Temple lecture here Monday. But about all the statements reporters got was "no comment."

Later that night, however, Roosevelt said he felt domestic consumption of Hollywood product will not compensate for the loss of the foreign market, and that potentialities of the South American market, in his opinion, have been overestimated.

From here Roosevelt left for New York where he expects to remain until next week before returning to his post on the Goldwyn lot.

ATOI Regional Meet Is Postponed

Indianapolis—Leonard Sowar, regional vice-president of District No. 2 of the Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, Inc., sent out notices that due to congestion of prior arrangements on the part of many who were to have attended the regional meeting at Elmwood on Wednesday, November 15, it was found necessary to postpone this meeting until December. A definite date will be announced later.

ITPA Directors Determine Upon Membership Drive

MILWAUKEE—Plans are afoot to double the membership of the ITPA of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan as a result of the organization's first meeting of its new board of directors at headquarters here November 10.

According to Harry Perlewitz, business manager of the association, an aggressive membership campaign will be one of the first orders of business for the organization.

Perlewitz also announced that an agreement had been reached between Milwaukee county independent exhibitors and the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union, Local 164, which practically amounts to an extension of the contract which expired November 1. The union has granted relief in a number of instances, it was said.

Merchants Welcome New Theatre to Neighborhood

INDIANAPOLIS—On the recent opening of the new Esquire here by Joe Cantor, neighborhood merchants sent about 20 welcoming flower bouquets to the theatre. Cantor also was the recipient of over 50 autographed pictures of film stars which he has hung on the walls of the house.

Morgan Wins Turkey

INDIANAPOLIS—Herman Morgan of Affiliated Theatres, Inc., received a letter from Wade Willman, manager of the local M-G-M office, that he was the winner of a turkey. It seems that the names of all the short subject bookers in the territory were placed in a hat and Herman was the lucky one. The stunt was in connection with exploitation of the Pete Smith short, "Let's Talk Turkey."

Kathryn Scola Assignment

HOLLYWOOD—"And One Was Beautiful," from the Alice Duer Miller story, is being adapted by Kathryn Scola for Frederick Stephani, Metro producer.

INDIANAPOLIS

PLANS are going forward rapidly for the opening of Variety Club's new quarters in the Lyric Theatre Building. Marc Wolf has taken over the job of purchasing new furniture and Al Blocher will delve into the intricate phases of new Venetian blinds. Irvin Fendrick of Fendrick's Restaurants and also a member of Variety Club, will furnish all food used by the club in its new quarters.

Harry P. Vonderschmitt, Bloomington operator of a circuit of Indiana theatres, is the proud owner of a new LaSalle Special automobile. Harry surely has tough luck with his cars. He recently purchased a new Buick and in some manner all the oil disappeared from the crank case, resulting in considerable damage to the engine, hence the new car.

Roy Harrold just finished installing a new front on his Castle Theatre in Rushville . . . Guy W. Alexander, operator of the Pastime Theatre, Richmond, has installed new Simplex projectors and Four-Star sound system and a new Walker soundscreen.

Oscar Fine, Evansville, closed his Columbia Theatre for a remodeling and redecorating program and expects to reopen about December 15. *He also has purchased Peerless Magnarc lamps, General Electric copper oxide rectifiers, Simplex projectors and booth equipment and an Automaticket register.*

Harry Hogan, general manager for the Quimby Theatres, has purchased new four-color rubber matting for the entire Jefferson Theatre lobby . . . Earl Cunningham, manager, advised new seat bottoms and backs have been bought for their Sanders Theatre, Indianapolis . . . K. H. Sink, Union City, is having Simplex mechanisms rebuilt for both the Miami and Grand theatres.

Ernie Miller of the Cinema Theatre reports his lowest boxoffice grosses occur on the nights when a heavyweight prize fight is in town. Other local sporting events don't hurt him he says.

Al Hedding, manager of the Uptown Theatre, was on the receiving end of a practical joke, when some of his co-workers in the Olsen outfit presented him with a nursing bottle because he is constantly grumbling about the kind of pictures he's getting.

Al Wingate, manager of the Old Trail Theatre, will start a baby personality contest this week with finals to be held November 28-29.

Reference to Abe H. Kaufman as owner of the Lyceum Theatre at Terre Haute was an error. Kaufman is manager of the Fountain Theatre in that city. Sorry.

Ruth Chatterton is scheduled to appear at English's Theatre on November 20, 21 *and* 22 *in the stage play "Tonight We Dance."*

Elmer Donnelly, salesman at United Artists, showed up on the Row last Monday with a caved-in front fender on his automobile. He says his daughter was driving and she and another driver couldn't agree on who should occupy the street.

Long Run Is Foreseen for "Mr. Smith" in Chicago

CHICAGO—It looks like "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" will be good for an eight or ten-week run at the B&K Apollo, with the Columbia-Capra production attracting a record weekend crowd in its first week. Over 15,000 saw the film on Saturday and Sunday.

Paramount's "Jamaica Inn" did so well its first week at the Roosevelt, it is being held over a second stanza.

Other loop houses did ordinary or below par business, while boxoffices at suburban houses reacted according to the product on exhibition.

Smiths and Their Variants Guests for "Mr. Smith"

MILWAUKEE — All the Smiths, the Schmidts, Schmitts, Schmitzes and Smythes were given a special invitation by the Tripoli Shrine to see the flicker, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," when it played Fox's Palace Theatre here, as a benefit for the Shriners' Crippled Children's hospital fund. More than 70,000 tickets were placed on advance sale for the showing.

Showman Host to Women's Federation at Sheboygan

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—J. C. Ebersberger, Rex Theatre manager, was host to over one hundred members of the motion picture department of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, here for their convention held recently.

The program consisted of two shorts: A 20-year-old silent taken along Main St. in Sheboygan on the occasion of the opening of the Majestic Theatre; and the two reeler, "Declaration of Independence." Mrs. A. L. Murray, Eau Claire, state motion picture chairman, pointed out the great contrast between early and modern motion pictures.

Ebersberger also spoke at a conference luncheon following the program.

Civic Notables Attend Opening at Garrett

GARRETT, IND.—With Lieutenant-Governor Henry F. Schricker and Mayor Fred L. Feick attending, A. C. and George Kalafat opened their new Gala Theatre here with hundreds attending the ceremonies.

A Form of Higher Education

Chicago—The younger generation of the Windy City has become so educated to night clubs and floor shows and has forgotten about old-time vaudeville presentations to such an extent that one youngster walked up to the cashier of the Jones, Linick & Schaefer Oriental Theatre, and asked: "Miss, could you tell me what time the floor show goes on again?"

MILWAUKEE

VITAGRAPH, INC., plans the erection of a one and two-story exchange on North 8th St., between W. State and W. Highland Ave.

Mrs. Jack Keegan, wife of Warner Bros.' manager here, is producing a musical show to be presented in December at Fox's Palace Theatre by wives of Variety Club members.

A $275,000 reduction in the assessed valuation of the Empire Bldg., which houses the Riverside Theatre, has been denied by the tax board of review. The building's assessment was set at $1,725,000.

The Strand Theatre at Green Bay arranged a special Armistice Day celebration in the form of a "a giant peace program to keep America out of war." The program carried the endorsement of various local civic and business organizations.

Latest quiz attraction is "Words Within Words," being offered at the Gateway Theatre in Kenosha each Wednesday and Thursday with $100 in cash prizes.

Robert Guiterman's Capitol Theatre at Manitowoc, which this spring sported wrestling matches every other week, is again featuring this type of entertainment.

The Majestic Theatre at Oshkosh, dark for many months, is being remodeled into a super-market for the National Tea Co.

Students of the Green Bay Orthopedic School were guests of the Displaymen's Club and the Strand Theatre management last week at a showing of "The Wizard of Oz."

Edward M. Starkey, operator of theatres in Berlin and Wisconsin Rapids, has taken over the Chilton Theatre from John Steenport. Mr. and Mrs. Steenport, who were engaged in the theatre business in Chilton for nearly 16 years, plan a vacation jaunt to the west coast. E. H. Nitzke will manage the Chilton for Starkey.

Fredric March, film star, and his two brothers, John Bickel jr., Syracuse, N. Y., and Harold Bickel, Racine, all University of Wisconsin graduates, are slated to come to Madison November 18 *to participate in the university's annual homecoming celebration and attend the Wisconsin-Purdue football game.*

Joe Rosenfield, manager of the Modjeska Theatre, and Elmer Nimmer, manager of the Juneau, south side houses, were given a big hand by the kids when they were introduced in connection with the Silver Jubilee Mitchell Street program last week.

Jack Yeo admitted all Legion members showing their membership cards free to his Plaza Theatre in Burlington last week in connection with the showing of "All Quiet on the Western Front." Legionnaires wearing their Legion caps were not only admitted free, but were permitted to bring a guest with them.

ST. LOUIS

HERMAN WOBBER, distribution head of 20th Century-Fox, paid a brief visit to St. Louis last week. While here he conferred with W. J. Rupper, divisional manager, and Benny Reingold, local Fox manager.

Repairs will be made to the Jersey Theatre, Jerseyville, Ill., which was damaged in a fire on October 30.

John X. Quinn is receiving Filmrow congratulations on the addition of a new member to his household, a girl.

William C. Murphy, assistant superintendent of the Municipal Auditorium, is recovering from injuries sustained in a recent automobile accident.

The 250-seat Hermo Theatre, Hermann, Mo., is now under the management of Mrs. D. E. Williams.

David Greenman, son of Harry Greenman, manager of the new Esquire Theatre, Richmond Heights, is following in his father's footsteps. He acts as an usher at the theatre. His dad started as an usher some 30 *years ago.*

Sheilah Graham, Hollywood correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance, gave a lecture before the Wednesday Club here on November 12. Her subject was: "The Hollywood Drama From Conference to Screen."

Four young men recently arrested by the local police are said to have admitted taking part in a series of holdups in St. Louis since October 21, *obtaining a total of* $601. *Among the places held up by one or more of the quartette were the Hi-Way and the Salisbury theatres.*

The Shelbyville Theatre Co., Shelbyville, Mo., has been incorporated with $5,000 capital to finance the erection of a new theatre in that city. The directors of the new company are H. P. Gaines, Nathan Winetraub, J. M. Pickett, E. M. Cadwell, W. C. Hewitt, George Jordan, and E. W. McKillip. The stock is to be divided among a large number of residents of Shelbyville and vicinity.

Ruby S'Renco, 49, *owner of the S'Renco Screening Room and Art Guild Theatre, was injured seriously in an automobile accident while on vacation in Colorado and the latest information from the hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he was taken, was that his condition was critical.*

Thanksgiving Conflict

INDIANAPOLIS—Thanksgiving Day will be observed on November 23 in Indiana as noted by the proclamation of Governor M. Clifford Townsend and theatremen are plannning their annual Thanskgiving Day programs for that date. However, Jeffersonville, New Albany, Madison and perhaps other towns along the Ohio River will attempt to observe November 30 also, inasmuch as Kentucky, just across the river, will celebrate on November 30.

The Birth of a Daughter Is Announced by Laemmles

LOWELL, IND.—Kurt Laemmle, operator of the Ritz Theatre here, has sent out novel announcements of the birth of a daughter, Susan Eve, to the Laemmles in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Los Angeles, recently. Laemmle operates two theatres on the west coast.

The announcement is in the form of a "world premiere" program with appropriate titling, such as "Alyse Halmos Laemmle, producer; Kurt Laemmle, director and associate producer; from an original story by Adam and Eve; additional dialogue by mother-in-law; running time, continuous; sound, original—and—loud."

"Wow" Keeps Indianapolis Police Chief on Watch

INDIANAPOLIS—"Wow" is now not only an expression used by comic-strip artists to indicate various emotions, but also a new term for that "old debbil" Bingo, according to reports received by Police Chief Michael F. Morrissey.

"It looks like the same old headache," he said, as he ordered an investigation into complaints that Bingo, under the new name, was being played in wide-open fashion. Although employing the same principles as Bingo, which was banned as illegal several months ago, "Wow" has several refinements. You don't win money, but a silver spoon. And if you know where to take the spoon, you can get a dollar.

SPR'GFIELD

M E. BERMAN, manager of the Orpheum Theatre, said that an automobile given away at his theatre in connection with a tieup with an ad writing contest sponsored by the Illinois *State Journal* more than tripled business.

The stage success, "Tobacco Road," was scheduled for Friday and Saturday performances at the Roxy Theatre.

"Drums Along the Mohawk" opened its run at the Fox-Lincoln Theatre with better attendance prospects than "Jesse James."

The latest in automobile service station automatic pumps attracted considerable attention when displayed in the lobby of the Fox-Lincoln Theatre. It was part of a large-scale advertising hookup between the Standard Oil Co. and the theatre and included full page ads in two daily newspapers.

Turkeys were to be given away at the Senate Theatre instead of cash as awards on the regular Friday night "Wahoo" presentation.

The Illinois State Register's *annual cooking school was held during the mornings on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the Orpheum Theatre.*

The basketball team of the Kerasotes Bros. theatres is getting in shape for the coming season.

Chicago December Releases

CHICAGO—Releases in the Chicago film territory for December, 1939, are listed by the exchanges as follows:

WEEK OF DECEMBER 3

4073—All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ)—94.
4035—Hero for a Day (Univ)—66.
3901—Death of a Champion (Para)—67.
5—Blackmail (M-G-M)—81.
008—Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox)—58.
419—Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB)—60.
936—In Name Only (RKO)—93.
.....—Everything Is Rhythm (Mono)—61.
.....—Hitler's Love Spy (Mono)—64.
961—Kansas Terrors (Rep)—58.
.....—Bella Donna (Sup)—67.
315—Children of the Wild (GN)—57.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10

4053—Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ)—63.
3905—What a Life (Para)—79.
009—Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox)—83.
452—Old Maid, The (FN)—93.
1010—U-Boat 29 (Col)—75.
001—Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO)—95.
.....—Phantom Strikes (Mono)—64.
.....—Fighting Mad (Mono)—60.
.....—Covered Trailer (Rep)
.....Daughter of the Tong (Sup)—59.
201—Girl Said No (GN)—76.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 17

4014—Rio (Univ)—78.
3954—Range War (Para)—65.
1—Women, The (M-G-M)—136.
010—Escape, The (20th-Fox)—60.
461—Dust Be My Destiny (FN)—87.
1015—Those High Grey Walls (Col)—81.
.....—Winterset (RKO)—77.
.....—Bride Walks Out (RKO)—79.
.....—Sagebrush Trail (Mono)—55.
.....—Lost on the Western Front (Mono)—60.
952—Saga of Death Valley (Rep)
.....—Feud of the Range (Sup)—57.
210—Something to Sing About (GN)—93.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 24

4030—One Hour to Live (Univ)—60.
3909—$1,000 a Touchdown (Para)—72.
6—Fast and Furious (M-G-M)—73.
011—Rains Came, The (20th-Fox)—102.
.....—They Shall Have Music (UA)—101.
1201—Outpost of the Mounties (Col)—63.
986—Fighting Gringo (RKO)—58.
3803—Mutiny in the Big House (Mono)—83.
.....—Cowboy Millionaire (Mono)—57.
914—Jeepers Creepers (Rep)—66.
.....—Fighting Renegade (Sup)—56.
108—Hats Off (GN)—93 reissue.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 31

4059—Oklahoma Frontier (Univ)—58.
3907—Television Spy (Para)—58.
007—Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox)—97.
014—Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox)—75.
462—Espionage Agent (FN)—83.
.....—Four Feathers (UA)—116.
1031—Scandal Sheet (Col)—66.
002—Day the Bookies Wept (RKO)—63.
.....—U-67 (Mono)—60.
.....—Roll, Wagon, Roll (Mono)—57.
941—Washington Cowboy (Rep)
.....—Two Gun Troubador (Sup)—61.
119—Sins of the Children (GN)—79.

Radio Dramatization Of Film Displeases

KANSAS CITY—Following the radio broadcast of "Drums Along the Mohawk" last Sunday, four patrons of the Electric Theatre in Kansas City, Kas., went out of their way to tell Jack Truitt, manager, that they objected to it because it always spoiled the picture for them to have parts of it broadcast.

"Are you going to play this 'Drums Along the Mohawk'?" asked one.

Mr. Truitt said that he was not.

"Well, I'm glad because we're not going to see it." And then he told of hearing over the radio enough of the story to spoil seeing it.

Truitt pointed out that these particular patrons were home Sunday, they were not at the movies.

"When they go out of their way to tell the manager of a theatre that doesn't even play the picture that they don't like to have a picture spoiled by a relation of part of it over the radio, they must feel it pretty strongly," is the way Truitt looks at it. And it is a pretty definite answer—of one kind—to the proposal in Hollywood that the industry air "the picture of the month."

"I think it's a darn bad thing for movies," Truitt commented. "A picture like 'Drums Along the Mohawk' doesn't need radio promotion.

"Now if they took a poor picture, or one that is hard to sell, it might be of benefit to the industry. But certainly the 'picture of the month' doesn't need it."

Appearance of film stars on the radio and "radio dramatizations" of pictures has drawn the protests of exhibitors in this territory for a long time. The Kansas-Missouri Theatres Ass'n was the first exhibitor group in the country to protest vigorously against radio appearances of film players.

Circuit's Newest Theatre Opens in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Amusement opened its most pretentious and beautiful neighborhood theatre, the Uptown, with Tom Martin, one of its veteran house managers, at the helm. Initial picture was "The Women."

House is the old Uptown completely rebuilt after the fire which did considerable damage to it nearly a year ago. Like the St. Louis Park Theatre, the Uptown will permit smoking in the balcony and provide free parking facilities for patrons.

The Uptown will present the first suburban showing of choice product.

First Show Goes

LINCOLN—As of Jan. 31, 1940, the wreckers go to work tearing down the old Funke Opera House, first show business establishment in Lincoln, built in 1870. It functioned until 1902, when it was turned into an office building.

"Fighting Fire With Fire," Say Wichita Theatre Owners

WICHITA, KAS. — Independent theatre owners here, who last week adopted a cooperative policy of offering two admissions for the price of one, have checked up to the branch managers of film distributing companies in Kansas City the problems of admissions and clearance.

In a long circular letter to all exchanges in Kansas City, the theatremen indicated that their cooperative bargain was a method of "fighting fire with fire," and asked branch managers to cooperate in eliminating admission practices that permit a theatre to get a picture on a designated admission spot when the house directly or indirectly reduces the admission by giving two-for-one or by the use of some other method of cutting the actual price.

Said the letter, which was dated November 9:

"In the successful exhibition of motion pictures there are the interests of two groups of individuals to take into consideration: The producers and distributors considered as one unit and the exhibitors as another unit. The financial success of each of these units is determined solely by the amount of revenue that comes in at the boxoffice of the exhibitors. If policies are followed by either of these units, or a portion of these units, that tend to break down, over a period of time, this revenue, all parties of each of these two units will eventually suffer financially.

"It is the desire of the members of the Wichita Independent Theatre Owners Ass'n to establish a code of fair trade practice in this community, so that the revenue, to which our industry is rightfully entitled will be safeguarded, and therefore we, the members of this organization, earnestly seek the cooperation of all film distributors in our efforts to accomplish this end.

"Certain theatres in our community have engaged in certain practices that have virtually in effect lowered their admission price at the boxoffice below the established admission price spot on which they were being served pictures. We, the members of this association, hereby condemn these practices and seek the cooperation of distributors in the elimination of such unfair trade policies that tend to break down the stability of our industry.

Individual Complaints Fruitless

"As individual exhibitors some of us have registered complaints with distributors regarding this practice, yet some seem to have made no effort to control the serving of such houses where there is clear cut evidence of this violation of admission price in respect to the run spot on which these theatres were being served. The members of this association therefore feel that they have no other alternative but to fight fire with fire in the exhibition of certain products until the distributors of these products seek to cooperate with us and serve their pictures on a run in keeping with the admission price charged for their product at the boxoffice. We realize full well that this procedure is not healthy for our industry and will mean a cut in net revenue for us and naturally will mean eventually a reduction in revenue for the distributors. We trust that this practice will not long have to be resorted to for we anticipate and seek your cooperation in the establishing of a trade practice in this community that will place our industry on a more stable basis.

"We will appreciate a communication from you in the immediate future indicating your intention in regard to the serving of film to theatres that violate the admission price to be charged in their respective runs."

The letter was signed by O. F. Sullivan, president; Page Huston, secretary-treasurer. Other officers of the association are C. C. McCollister, vice-president. Directors include Mrs. Charles A. Bull and Mrs. T. H. Slothower.

Labor Union Urges Permit for Griffith

MINNEAPOLIS—The Minneapolis Central Labor union policy committee has addressed a letter to the city council charging that opposition to the issuance of permits for additional new neighborhood theatres here "is backed up by prospective competitors" and asking that the permits be granted. The committee in its letter particularly takes up arms in behalf of a permit for H. L. Griffith which already has been issued and rescinded several times. A church adjacent to the Griffith property has fought this permit.

The trade union letter declares that unionists do not believe in the restriction of any legitimate business where employment of workers under decent standards of working are in prospect. A great lack of work in the building trades is pointed out.

The Minnesota Amusement Co. and independent exhibitors alike have been opposing the construction of any more new theatres on the grounds that the city already is considerably overseated; that existing showhouses now are having tough sledding and present investments would be jeopardized if the field is enlarged.

For a second time, after listening to arguments, the city council license committee deferred action on the five permits before it, but voted to reach a definite decision on December 6. At that time it will decide whether to make a favorable or unfavorable recommendation to the council. No more public hearings will be held.

Buys Zane Grey's Last

HOLLYWOOD—"Western Union," the last novel completed by Zane Grey before his death, has been purchased by 20th-Fox.

Kaycee's Ninth Annual Film Ball Outstanding Success

KANSAS CITY—Filmrow's own charities campaign, the ninth annual Movie Ball, out-pleasured and out-grossed any previous affair of its kind at the Pla-Mor last Friday night. Each year the ball has been a little bigger, a little better, and this year was no exception as Earl Jameson, Norris Cresswell and Finton Jones maestroed the outstanding cooperative event of Filmrow.

Attended by 2,000, the show netted $3,000 for the charities that Variety Club carries on during the year: Motion pictures for shut-ins, adoption of needy families at Christmas, medical care and attention for the girl the club has "adopted," funds to serve the business's own unfortunate, milk for undernourished school children, and its other varied philanthropies.

Getting under way slowly after 9 o'clock, the affair gathered momentum rapidly, and was really zinging by 2 p. m., closing hour. Dance music was served by Arlie Simmons and his band, the floor show was the cream of vaudeville in town, and the Popeye Band, George Baker's aggregation of youngsters from Kansas City, Kas., closed the show. In between times the hostesses looked beautiful (which they were), and did a lot of work; the clowns clowned, a quick-shot photo studio did a landoffice business, pretty gals sold favors and noise-makers, and Norris Cresswell took pictures—which, it is understood, the subjects would pay good money to get hold of.

Harris Handles Floor Show

Don Harris, emcee at the Tower, handled the floor show, which included talent from the Tower, Muehlebach, KMBC, Hotel Phillips, Continental Hotel and the Kelly-Mack School. Responsible for the most ambitious floor show of any film ball yet (they built a special stage to put it on) were Jerry Zigmond, Barney Joffee, and Frank Ritter.

Others who performed yeoman service in making the affair the success it was are:

Program—Finton Jones, chairman; Norris Cresswell, Arthur Cole, James Lewis, Charles Potter, C. E. Esterley, Harold Lux, George Baker.

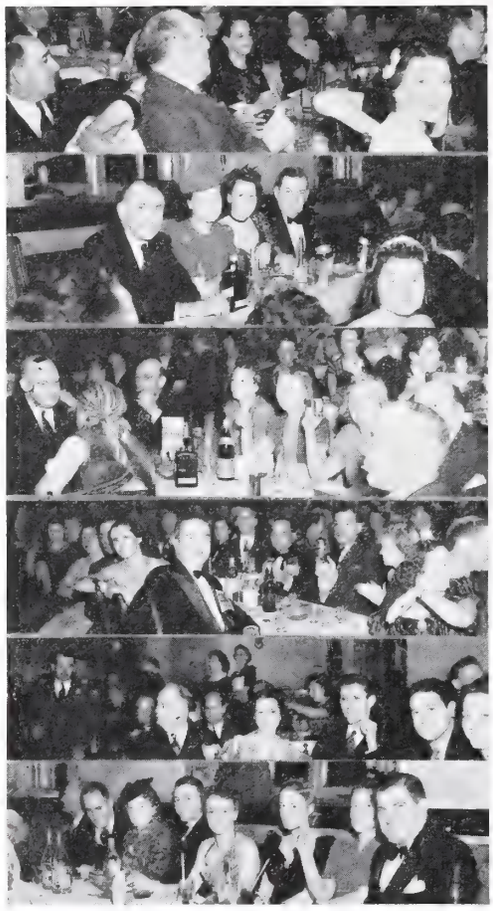
General Ticket Sales—Sam Abend, chairman; Charley Gregory, Reuben Finkelstein, and Frank Hensler.

Advertising—Don Davis and Jay Means.

Publicity—Landon Laird, Lowell Lawrance, John C. Moffitt, Jesse Shlyen, and W. P. Bernfield.

Decorating—Ward Scott, chairman; Cinema Club members. Decorations included banners on outstanding films, but the most effective item was the huge "banner" at the back of the dance hall.

Hostesses—June Medcalf, Variety Club; Gladys Penrod, Paramount; Pauline Siegrist, Republic; Hazel Ralph, Commonwealth; Louise Williams, Columbia; Betty Bowley, Grand National; Minnie Schmiedgen, UA; Myrtle Miller, Metro; Virginia Gaylord, Universal; Reba Withers, 20th-Fox; Grace Clemens, NSS; Margaret O'Toole, RKO; Margaret Totten, Warner Brothers; Alice Benson, Monogram; Betty McGuire, Fox Midwest, and Nadine Simpson, Film Delivery.



—Photo by Cresswell

At K. C. Ball—

Typical of festive scenes at the ninth annual movie ball in Kansas City, sponsored by the Variety Club since the inception of the local tent. A gala floor show climaxed the event, proceeds of which go to charity.

The program was outstanding in the number of supporters. They included Altec, Burch Manufacturing, National Theatre Supply, Chevrolet, Hotel Muehlebach, Dierk's Tavern, Cresswell Photo Service, Hotel President, Flett Building & Repair, Don Davis, United Film Ad, A. A. Electric Machinery, R. R. Biechele, Film Grill, Finton Jones, Goldman's, Yellow Cab, Frank Bowen and "that Temple Texas chair," Kansas City Gas, Eureka Petroleum, Exhibitors Film Delivery, Screenland, Pla-Mor, Stebbins Theatre Equipment, Riss & Company, Inc., Oklahoma Theatre Supply, Hal G. Perrin of the American Seating Company, Metro Premiums and Charley Abrams, Silcott's, C. D. Struble of the Western Oil & Gas, Summerour & Devine, Kansas City Power & Light, General Tire Service, Optican Bros., the Gabbert Service Station at Topeka, Kas., the KMBC artist bureau, Potter Premium Co., Home Rug & Curtain Cleaning Co., U. S. Printing & Engraving, New York Bakery and Delicatessen, Mid-West Distributing Co., Harrell Service Station, Stone Acres, Ace Linen, Plaza barbershop, Rockhill Drug, Premier Advertising, Lynbrook Cleaners, and, of course, a number of lads from and on Filmrow.

The show attracted a number of out-of-town exhibitors, including Ralph Larned of LaCrosse, Kas.; Gus Diamond of Salina, Kas.; O. F. Sullivan, Wichita, Kas.; Stanley Schwahn, Lawrence, Kas.; Raymond McKittrick, Harrisonville, Mo.; Cle Bratton, Council Grove, Kas.

LINCOLN

ON THE SPOT this week: Luke Smith, who the boys say is thinking more than idly about getting married . . . M. E. Lofgren booted "Cat and Canary" into public attention here by a midnight spooker, eve of homecoming, and served coffee in the lobby as a nerve quieter . . . Bob Livingstons' offer of $1,000 to any person called on that radio Pot of Gold broadcast, if in his theatre and unable to receive the call, has excited a great deal of comment. He's one exhibitor who decided to do something about radio competition besides squawk.

When J. H. Cooper stepped off the train from New York for some business negotiations here, Joe Philipson, who accompanied him, went on straight through to Denver . . . Bob Huffman, so sick with the flu he couldn't get up, was visited at bedside by the boss . . . Otto Siegels' finger shaking at the boys around here has em' forming a committee to go up to Omaha and upset his inkwell . . . Tip to Orville Rennie: If film business is bad in Hastings, you're not alone. Booker for the dancery down there says the boys have taken a loss on the last two dance bands.

Now that the Nebraska football team has shown it's able to lose occasionally, the suspense has gone out of most conversations. Also, the requests for local showmen to buy football tickets slumped off . . . Note to Bill Diers, Gresham: Looks like you're going to have to give up show business, banking, grocery, and farms, to come here for a special session of the legislature . . . Haven't seen A. Burrus in Lincoln for a long time, maybe because the theatre situation here reminds him too much of his home town.

Attention, George Hall: That woman who attends your theatre in Franklin, might like to know the Sunday Journal *and* Star *is starting the poll of motion pictures soon. She won, and went to Hollywood free last year . . . "Slim" Fraser says being a bachelor in the business is a help. The money he would normally spend for a new dress for a wife, he now uses for fixtures in his Havelock Joyo. F. A. Van Husan probably believes the idea has its points . . . Harvey Traylor suggests this is the time of year when young love moves from the rumble seat to the back row, balcony . . . Vincent DiFiore would probably like a change of figures for a while.*

Not since he went to court with the butcher who smoked meat and smelled up his theatre in Grand Island, has Bill Youngclaus been heard from . . . There is much curbstone comment here on how the business can be bettered.

A New Deal to Hang Fire

Lincoln—In most of the recent major releases of 20th Century-Fox, a fire has been important to the story: "In Old Chicago," "Susannah of the Mounties," "Stanley and Livingstone," "Rains Came," and now "Drums Along the Mohawk."

Noting this, Exhibitor Bob Livingston here, wrote the Omaha 20th-Fox exchange manager, Joe Scott, and asked him to re-adjust, in the future peddling the film at "fire sale" prices.

Des Moines Chamber Head Outlines Plans of Body

DES MOINES—If it may be assumed that theatre profits and development of the territory in which a theatre is located go hand in hand, Des Moines exhibitors must have been all ears when Chamber of Commerce President Horace W. Foskett outlined the Chamber's "Looking Ahead for Des Moines" plan.

Suggestions include:

1. Make Des Moines an air center and obtain a national guard unit here.

2. Obtain better coliseum facilities for conventions.

3. Keep Des Moines the market center of Iowa. Fight threatened changes in freight rate classifications.

4. Increase paved highways—No. 90 west to Dexter and No. 65 from Indianola to the Missouri line and No. 69 to Minnesota.

5. Plan for Des Moines centennial in 1946.

6. Secure off-street parking facilities near city business firms.

7. Get Des Moines out of the assessment muddle.

8. Promote trade here through manufacturers' and jobbers' bureau of the chamber and through retail merchants' bureau.

9. Promote close relationship between agriculture and business.

10. Encourage home building.

Duane Becker Paramount Booker; Others Upped

MINNEAPOLIS—Promotions at Paramount have Duane Becker advanced to head booker to replace Ernie Lund, resigned. Bill Wood will handle the Twin Cities. Joe Prill, assistant cashier, becomes a booker. Bob O'Keefe, his assistant, supplants him as cashier.

Kent Drive Meeting

MINNEAPOLIS—Enthusiasm was the order of the day at a 20th-Fox S. R. Kent drive meeting here. Herman Wobber, the company's general sales manager, and Moe Levy, Kent drive leader, presided.

To "U" Booking Dept.

MINNEAPOLIS—Joseph Rogatnick, sent here from New York, is an addition to the Universal booking department.

Half Million in Three Months Spent on Modernization

KANSAS CITY—Although motion picture grosses in the Kansas City area aren't particularly good, and probably are behind those of a year ago, the fundamental soundness of the business economically is indicated by an anlysis of the money spent on new theatres, remodelings, and new equipment since August 15. Up to November 10, or in a period of less than three months, over $550,000 has been expended by exhibitors and others in those three classifications of outlay.

The present survey doesn't cover small purchases that some exhibitors have made during that period to refurbish their theatres, and it is probably not complete in the field of major improvements. But it does show this, that whether current receipts at the boxoffice are up or down, the economic foundation of the trade is a strong one that can attract or justify plenty of money for investment.

There have been about 2,500 new seats introduced by new theatres in the past three months, and it cost approximatly $125,000 to build them. Two of the new ones are in Wichita, Kas., Harold Gibbons' New Theatre, whose cost is estimated at $40,000, and the Sandra, T. H. Slothower's 900-seater, which cost around $50,000. The New Theatre seats approximately 700. Gus Diamond's Ritz at Eldorado, Kas., with 600 seats, is new, and cost around $30,000. Another new one is the Mainstreet at Blue Mound, Kas., with 264 seats, which O. L. Christian built at a cost of about $5,000. There is another new one or two projected, including one at Queen City, Mo., and several remodeling projects are "in the air." These have not been included, however.

Included in the total figure of more than half a million is the new Odeon at Marshalltown, Ia., being built by Earl Kerr, who also operates at Albany and Bethany, Mo. This house, seating 800, will cost well over $50,000, but it replaces the old Odeon and will not represent added seats.

The Isis, Fox Midwest house in Kansas City, was rebuilt at a cost of approximately $110,000. C. E. "Doc" Cook has replaced his old with a new Tivoli at Maryville, Mo., at a cost of around $60,000. The C. E. Barrons at Pratt, Kas., are finishing the rebuilding of the Kansas Theatre at a cost of over $25,000. John Wolfberg remodeled the Giles, Kansas City, for around $40,000. Mrs. S. W. Booth remodeled the Booth at Rich Hill, Mo., at a cost of approximately $25,000. Louis Sosna is installing new seats, screen, and doing other work at the Sosna, Moberly, Mo., which will run $4,500. J. E. Pennington remodeled the Best in Topeka, Kas., for $5,000.

Art Pugh of Erie, and formerly of Fredonia, Kas., is remodeling a building at Columbus, Kas., for another theatre. The cost has not been estimated.

The Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc., are spending $5,000 on the Kiva at Slater, Mo., installing new sound, screen, and booth equipment. They are spending $10,000 on the Peoples, Pleasant Hill, Mo., which now is in process of remodeling. In process also is the reseating of the Booth, Nebraska City, Neb., and changing the slant of the floor, and the latter will be done also at the Paramount, the G-D second house there.

Mrs. Marion Miller installed new seats, light fixtures, screen, etc., in the Casino, Boonville, Mo., which cost over $3,000.

New seats have been installed by more exhibitors than any other one item of furnishing. A few that have done so in the past three months include the Strand, Creston, Ia., Rialto, Harrison, Ark., and the Ritz, Searcy, Ark., Commonwealth Amusement houses; Booth, Independence, and Uptown, Parsons, Kas., Griffith-Dickinson; the new Rivoli, Oscar Johnson's house at Falls City, Neb.; Courter, Gallatin, Mo.; Courter, Hamilton, Mo.; Cozy, R. W. Small, Wymore, Neb.; State, Wichita, Kas.; Lake, Grace Russell, Storm Lake, Ia.; Coyote, March Brothers, Vermillion, S. D.; Pix, March Brothers, LeMars, Ia.; State, C. E. Esterley, Kansas City; Crystal, Ellis, and Mainstreet, Oakley, Kas.; Parma, Frank Meade, Kingman, Kas.

New fluorescent lighting has made its appearance in the Isis here and in the Ritz at Eldorado.

All in all the past three months has been, from the standpoint of money invested in theatres, one of the biggest since the depression.

Milk Distribution Club's Permanent Charity

MINNEAPOLIS—The Twin City Variety club will take over the distribution of milk to needy and underprivileged Minneapolis families as its permanent charity. Announcement to this effect was made at a dinner given for state, St. Paul and Ramsay county officials.

In pursuing this highly worthy charity, the club will assume the duties that have been performed by the local Milk Fund, a group of unselfish and philanthropic women who have raised the necessary money to carry on by the collection of nickels and dimes. The group has been handicapped by lack of sufficient funds.

The substantial amount required to insure milk for all the needy will be raised among the Twin City Variety club members and by various drives, Steffes said. It will be the most pretentious undertaking in the organization's history and will justify the local club's existence, he pointed out.

Every Variety club is called upon by the national organization to sponsor one outstanding charity. Last year the Twin City club raised in excess of $25,000 for the relief of European refugees.

Paramount Assigns Leisen

HOLLYWOOD—Mitchell Leisen has been assigned to direct "The Night of January 16" as his next for Paramount. Anthony Veiller will produce from a script by Delmer Daves.

KAYCEE

DEAR SANTA CLAUS: The Cinema Club wants a small heating stove for the family it is taking care of. If anyone knows where one can be had, please call Charley Siebenthaler at the Independent Poster Exchange.

Mrs. Nell Flake of the Colonial, Alma, Kas., was in town late last week with her assistant manager, John.

R. M. Savini, president of Astor Pictures, New York, stopped off a while last week for a visit with Jim Foland, who distributes Astor pictures locally. Savini commented that business conditions were improving, and boxoffice receipts in the east are good. He had been on the coast and was returning to New York via plane. While here he dropped in to see George Fuller, branch manager of 20th Century-Fox, an old friend.

Robert "Bob" Lakenan jr., who used to operate the Royal Theatre, now is selling life insurance for Aetna . . . H. C. Musgrave of Minneapolis and Wamego, Kas., was a late-in-the-week visitor.

John Travis is reopening the Elite, formerly operated by H. T. Nokes of Ozark, Mo., at Nixon, Mo. The Elite has been dark several months.

Who was it that passed out those cards at the Movie Ball which read, "What I said tonight don't go unless I call you in the morning?" What gal used them?

Have you ever noticed that there is a difference of only two in one digit between the telephone numbers of Independent Poster Exchange (Gr. 2074) and Film Delivery (Gr. 2094)?

"Doc" Henning of the Pacific Premium Co., San Francisco, was here Monday on his way home from Flint, Mich., with a new Buick. He stopped in to visit with Bev Miller. He flew to Chicago last week to confer with the Book Night people, and then stopped in to buy his new car.

Betty Bowley has resigned at Grand National to go into a law office. Betty Wrenn succeeds her as cashier.

Jack Barnett, Fox Movietone News cameraman, will give an address Monday at Rockhurst College. He'll discuss newsreel work, and also will present pointers on the making of a film to attract students to the college. More power to you, Jack!

Tom Edwards of Eldon, Mo., returned from a deer-hunting trip to McGregor Bay, Ontario, last Thursday, on which he bagged a deer, and then on Friday went out quail hunting. Just a gunman at heart!

Dorothy Hayden is the name of the good-looking new girl on the phone at Metro (or have we mentioned this before?). She replaces Betty Lauden, who has gone into H. P. Wolfberg's office.

On the Row: Tom Edwards, Eldon, Mo.; H. Danberry and son, Will, King City, Mo.; E. O. Briles, Emporia, Kas.; A. M. Strafuss, Cozy, Ottawa, Kas.; M. B. Smith, Garden City, Kas.; Walt Talbott, Rogers, Ark.; John L. Whiting, Lido, Downs, Kas.; J. H. Whitted, Weston, Weston, Mo.; Howard "Si" Meek, Maysville, Mo.; M. A. Otto, Pleasanton, Kas.; Mrs. Marion Miller, Casino, Boonville, Mo.; Mrs. Glen Moskau, Regal, St. Joseph, Mo.

Marylin Parkhurst, 13-year-old daughter of C. M. Parkhurst of Republic-Midwest, broke her arm Monday playing basketball. She was taken to Research Hospital, and apparently everything was going off according to schedule, when a relapse developed. For a time it was touch and go. She is reported out of danger, now, however, and recovering.

Add visitors: Rex Barrett, mayor of Columbia, Mo.; R. M. Shelton, mayor of Warrensburg, Mo.; L. J. Lenhart, Clinton, Mo., and W. O. Lenhart, Trenton, Mo.

Showman's Son Lauded For Gridiron Prowess

MINNEAPOLIS—The *Star-Journal* here gave a big write-up to Bob Friedl, son of John J., Minnesota Amusement general manager, who is an outstanding football star at Pembroke Country Day School, prep institution, at Kansas City, Mo.

The article says in Kansas City they consider young Friedl "a new Sammy Baugh, a new Red Grange and a new Jack Manders all rolled into one." He has been a triple threat star with his team and a big factor in its victories.

Before going to Pembroke, young Friedl was a stellar athlete at Ramsey junior high here, holding the high jump record. Another brother, Jack, also starred in high school football here. Bob also is an honor student at Pembroke.

Sell Winstead Interests

WINSTEAD, MINN.—Abe and Udell Gill have turned over their interest in the local theatre to a Winstead corporation.

House for Big Lake

BIG LAKE, MINN.—This town is finally to have a theatre. R. F. Davis is building it and will operate it.

"Ghost Music" for Crosby

HOLLYWOOD—"Ghost Music," by Billy Wilder and Jacques Thery, has been purchased by Paramount as a Bing Crosby vehicle.

Rivalry Tough for Minneapolis Subs

MINNEAPOLIS—City has been having greatest number of stage shows in many years and, as a result of the terrific opposition, there has been plenty of boxoffice suffering among the suburbans that play straight subsequent-run films.

The past week had two big legitimate roadshows—"I Married an Angel" and "What a Life," at the Lyceum and Alvin, respectively, with neither one enjoying profitable business. There also were the usual big Minnesota Theatre stage and screen show, Phil Spitalny and his "Hour of Charm" at the Orpheum, and Gayety roadshow burlesque.

University of Minnesota football and Saturday night football celebrations, as well as the Lunt-Fontanne and "Tobacco Road" Lyceum engagements, apparently have drained exchequers, leaving a limited amount of money to be spent for all the entertainment subsequently on tap.

Iowa Film Depot Contracts To Handle Mono. Films

DES MOINES—The Iowa Film Depot, operated by Iles & McKinney, has signed a contract to handle complete physical distribution of Monogram films for F. E. Judd. The contract becomes effective immediately. Up to this time, Judd had handled the distribution through his own organization.

Iowa Film reports it is absorbing the Monogram distribution personnel, so that no unemployment will result from the change of policy.

Iowa Film also handles shipping for Grand National, Iowa News Flashes, Republic, and other product for this territory.

Finnegan, Former Univ. Booker, Joins RKO

MINNEAPOLIS—Fred Finnegan, long Universal head booker here and more recently with M-G-M and 20th-Fox on temporary assignments, has joined the RKO booking department. He succeeds Eddie McErlane, resigned.

Reformer Misses Her Target

Minneapolis—While John Boles, screen star, was making his personal appearance on the Minnesota theatre stage on the last day of his engagement, a woman patron came to the foot of one of the stairs leading to the stage from the auditorium. Before she could mount the steps to reach Boles, attendants took her by the arms and led her from the auditorium. She insisted loudly that she was going to reform Hollywood and that Boles had been "preaching a hymn of hate."

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OMAHA

SUCCESS story: Roy Andress, Ponca Theatre at Ponca, Neb., is also a farmer in addition to being an exhibitor. He has 100 acres near Ponca and raised corn this year running as high as 111 bushels to the acre. He's already won the county championship and may win the state title, he hopes.

The Warner gang had a big turnout for the regular Monday screening and "We Are Not Alone" was the offering. Which, as the critics say, was well received . . . John McQuistan, Star, Bloomfield, Neb., and R. V. Fletcher, Lyric, Hartington, Neb., were in town. The film pedders have dubbed this pair "the twins" because they are the best of friends, even if they do scrap a bit good-naturedly once in a while.

Ed Kugel, State, Holstein, Ia., says he hopes they'll keep on improving pictures so it will help the industry from the standpoint of the exhibitor . . . Action picture on Filmrow: Bill Granville of Quality Theatre Supply scrubbing the front windows . . . Allen Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia., was in town.

Although he's just 25 (a birthday this week), Stan McSwain, Auburn, Auburn, Neb., has been in the business eight years. He says a successful exhibitor should give patrons the best in pictures, a varied program, keep the theatre clean, and give prompt, courteous service to everyone . . . Max Shoemaker, Isis, Tabor, Ia., was spotted on Davenport St.

Harry Warren, Central States Theatres, was in town on business. Also Don West, Central booker, and Nate Sandler, booking for Rialto, Missouri Valley, Ia. . . . Walter Creal and Erle Kirk, exhibitors in North Omaha, are known on Filmrow as the Beacon-North Star circuit because they do their booking together . . . Bert Beams, Auditorium, Red Cloud, Neb., managed to get into town between a couple of football games.

George Bloxham, Palace, Exira, Ia., is another youthful exhibitor (he's 21), but he's an outspoken opponent of double bills and giveaways . . . Oscar Johnson, exhibitor at Falls City, Neb., was in town. Oscar has some land near the first oil well in Nebraska and Oscar has hopes . . . Frank Hollingsworth, Pix, Beatrice, Neb., was on Filmrow.

Bouquet department: Congrats to Bob Oliver, Iowa, Onawa, Ia., 9th wedding anniversary soon . . . Also Rosalie Boughn, Sun, Walthill, Neb., 21st anniversary this week . . . Aubrey Fitzgerald, Princess, Miller, S. D., also has a wedding anniversary . . . Birthdays: Louise Cotter, Brandeis press agent, and Carl Weeks, Paramount peddler.

The Tri-States boys are going to buy Bill Miskell a pair of roller skates. Bill is managing both the Orpheum and Paramount theatres and the houses are five blocks apart . . . Jack Kolbo, Omaha assistant manager, is nutty over photog work . . . Don Shane is helping Miskell at the Paramount.

Flash! Another important exclusive by BOXOFFICE: Will two large Iowa circuits merge soon? Watch this column for developments . . . Heinie Saggau, Ritz, Denison, Ia., is the father of Bob Saggau, the Notre Dame football star. Another son, Jack Saggau, was a star at Creighton. Heinie also has an auto agency in addition to being an exhibitor.

A new form of competition for Omaha exhibitors is the ice rink in Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum. Omaha will have a professional team expected to draw customers away from the boxoffices and the rink will be open to the public when the team is not playing . . . Fred Dethlefs, Manning, Ia., was on Filmrow.

Omaha exhibitors will observe November 23 as just another day in the week with November 30 as the Thanksgiving Day date set by the governor. Theatres might pick up some extra business on the earlier date, however, because most federal employes get the day off.

New Lund Territory

MINNEAPOLIS—Ernie Lund, who resigned as a Paramount booker to join the United Artists sales staff, has taken over the North Dakota territory of Everett Lovelett, resigned.

Assign English Director

HOLLYWOOD—Robert Stevenson, English director, will handle the reins on "Tom Brown's School Days" for Gene Towne and Graham Baker. RKO will release.

Kaycee Bowling Activities Resume After Movie Ball

KANSAS CITY—A new and rejuvenated Variety Club Bowling League resumed functioning after the layoff occasioned by the annual Movie Ball. The league has six teams sponsored by National Screen Service, Finton H. Jones, Don Davis, Dubinsky Bros. Theatres, Film Delivery, and Cinema Cub.

Cinema Club issued a general challenge to the other teams, and it has been taken up by the Jones quintet. Members of other teams naturally regard this as a bunch of hogwash.

Any bowlers desiring to enter the league should contact Leon Abraham at RKO, president, for possible openings.

Variety Hosts Kaycee Police at Screening

KANSAS CITY—About 35 members of the police force, including Chief L. B. Reed, attended a special showing of two one-reel films at Variety Club, Thursday night.

Variety Club arranged the showing of "Building of Boys," Columbia's one-reeler which depicts how the kids in the slum districts of New York were taken off the streets and their leisure time re-directed into normal channels, and "American Royal," RKO-Radio's one-reeler on the famous Kansas City horse and livestock show, which was "shot" this fall.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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MINNEAPOLIS

SOL LEBEDOFF ordered his kosher sandwich giveaway discontinued at the Homewood Theatre, one of his neighborhood houses. He said the gang ate up all the profits . . . Smartcrackers aver that exhibitors are barred from playing cards in the Warner clubrooms henceforth because the firm receives no percentage on the games. If you don't happen to know, Warner is demanding percentage in the Twin Cities and the boys are doing some gagging about it.

Sol Torador, neighborhood exhibitor, looks handsome in that new striped suit which he picked up in New York. Mike Manus, Variety club steward, reported to be worried about his citizenship papers. He's afraid he'll have to return to Greece unless he gets this straightened out and there are no Variety clubs there . . . Abe Kaplan, independent exhibitor, has gone in for bridge in a big way and has become very proficient at the game.

John Boles and Bill Volk, the former playing a personal appearance engagement at the Minnesota Theatre and the latter an independent neighborhood exhibitor, vied with each other for the most attention from guests at the Variety club party at which the film star was the guest of honor. Some of the gals thought Bill just as good looking . . . Among the screen contingent who took the long trip to Ann Arbor, Mich., to see Minnesota defeat Michigan on the gridiron were Cyril Lebedoff, who drove the 700-odd miles; Abe Kaplan, Sydney Volk, Ben Friedman, Ben Blotcky and W. R. Frank.

Ben Spewak, the film crowd's pal and prospective exhibitor himself, will not go south this winter. Instead, he's entertaining theatre owner friends at his beautiful new bar in his new home in Tyrol Hills. The popular Billy Elson, one of his frequent guests (although Bill is a tetotaler) supplies most of the humor . . . Ted Manns, St. Paul independent exhibitor and one-time fighter, again reducing. Takes daily walks around Filmrow.

Jackie Coogan of the screen and members of his company playing an engagement at the Alvin in "What a Life" were guests at the Twin City Variety club's party last Saturday night . . . The Lee brothers, independent out-of-town exhibitors, anxiously awaiting the start of winter fishing of which sport they're devotees . . . Filmrow curious over the identity of that stunning blonde whom Tommy Charak, the Warner South Dakota salesman, escorted to the Minnesota Terrace one evening.

Ted Bolnick, Eddie Ruben's man at LaCrosse, Wis., back from his New York trip and raving about the scenery . . . Kelly Evidon, the hard-working Warner ad sales manager, proves his loyalty by taking orders for ad sales accessories at all hours of the day and night . . . Hazel Oliver, Pantages Theatre cashier, proudly exhibiting John Boles' autograph, obtained during the star's personal appearance at the Minnesota Theatre.

Carl Engstrom, manager of the New Ulm, Minn., theatre, cashed in on plenty of free publicity on the fact that Katherine Adams, playing in "Fifth Avenue Girl," is a home-town gal . . . Fay Tyler, former theatre manager and now connected with the government service, being consoled on the loss of his son, who was affectionately known to Fay's many friends as "Toughy." Fay has had more than his share of tough luck and Filmrow's sympathy goes out to him . . . The opening night audience witnessing the New York musical comedy hit, "I Married an Angel," at the Lyceum here included Harry Katz of the Gayety and Gordie Greene and Jack Segal of the Minnesota Theatre, the last named a close friend of the company manager, Warren O'Hara.

Morton Van Praag, the "Movie Cash" mogul, a football visitor . . . Ray Close, Pantages master of ceremonies, said to be receiving more and more fan mail . . . Charlie DuRyk, the "Ten-O-Win" hustler, bet Lowell Kaplan a hat on the Carlton-St. Olaf football game and paid off with a Borsolino . . . "Senator" Hy Chapman, the "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" head man, in LaCrosse, Wis., on a quick business trip.

Harold Kaplan drew mention in Cedric Adams' column in the *Star-Journal* when he served his St. Louis Park Theatre patrons with steaming cups of hot coffee in the lobby one bitter cold night . . . Irving Gillman planning to name his contemplated new neighborhood theatre, the Egyptian . . . Dave Bader of the National Screen sales staff invaded Canada on a selling trip . . . Get Charlie Weiner of Monogram to tell you how he sold his trousers to Irving Gillman during a poker session and had to buy them back again.

Bennie Berger and Ben Ashe, his first lieutenant, have announced a splendid Christmas gift for their circuit employes. Each will receive a paid membership in the Fiddlers' club . . . With the football season nearly over, Bennie Berger has sworn off wagering on any more contests following several disastrous weeks. He hedged on Michigan against Minnesota after having picked the Gophers early in the season and it cost him dearly. In other years he has been a lucky bettor and many considered him an expert in picking the gridiron winners.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Leo Backer, Brown Valley, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Don Anderson, Pine Island, Minn.; Al Werner and son, Chet, LeSeur and Jordan, Minn.; Bill Haswell, Waterville, Minn.; Frank Bogumill, Thorpe, Wis., Tony Paulson, Amery and Clear Lake, Wis.; Billie Benfield, Graceville, Minn.; E. Parsons, Renville, Minn.; E. L. Danielson, Mabel, Minn.; S. B. Hulett, Madison, Minn.; George Ehlers, Sherburn, Minn.; Buck Ramenhorst, Fulda, Minn.; Charlie Connought, Olivia, Minn.; L. E. Mahoney, Columbus and Ambrose, N. D., and Westby, Mont.; Herb Nicholas, Fairmont, Minn., and Gus Windgreene, Bismarck, N. D.

Filmrow wishes to know the identity of the charming redhead whom Jerry Weisfeldt, Warner booker, has been escorting to the screening room . . . Charlie Weiner of Monogram visited western Wisconsin accounts . . . Gilbert Nathanson of Republic attended a Chicago sales meeting . . . National Screen going to town on a talking Santa Claus for theatre lobbies. It's very clever. Ask to see it . . . Jack Cohan, 20th-Fox salesman, getting over his illness. You can't keep a good man down.

L. E. Goldhammer, RKO district manager, visited Omaha and Des Moines branches . . . William Scully and Peck Gomersall, Universal vice-president and district manager, respectively, here conferring with Harold Johnson, branch manager, and J. J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement general manager, on a circuit deal . . . United Artists' "The Real Glory" into the St. Paul Orpheum November 16 and Minneapolis Orpheum November 23.

W. H. Workman, M-G-M branch manager, in hospital for rest and observation . . . Irving Marks, Columbia salesman, reports early snow in his North Dakota territory . . . Fay Dressel, RKO branch manager, on business jaunt into southern Minnesota . . . Emma Fenske, M-G-M cashier, vacationing in California . . . Father-in-law of Joe Behan, Warner head booker, seriously ill . . . Charlie School, M-G-M home-office auditor, a visitor.

Morrie Abrams, M-G-M exploiteer, in western Wisconsin for "Babes in Arms" . . . Stella Lettus back in the Paramount accounting department after a long time away from Filmrow . . . Walter Marcus, RKO home-office advertising department representative, in town . . . "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, visited western Wisconsin accounts . . . Paramount Pep club starting to plan its Christmas party . . . Because there are so many sweet teeth around Paramount they've installed a candy machine there. Sweets for the sweets.

Looks Like More Money for Iowa Farmers This Year

DES MOINES—Prosperity still begins at the boxoffice, but indications are still that the Iowa farmer will be in the money this year—which should enable him to join the theatre lineup a little oftener.

The latest government forecast puts the Iowa corn crop at 504,236,000 bushels—never exceeded except in 1932 when there were two million more acres of ground devoted to the crop. The yield of 51.5 bushels to the acre is 5½ bushels above any previous record and two bushels above the estimate a month ago.

Meanwhile the index of farm prices maintained a spot at 98 per cent of the level prior to the World War—a decline of 6 points after mid-September, but 17 points above the August 15 index.

Buys Maugham's "MacIntosh"

HOLLYWOOD—W. Somerset Maugham's "MacIntosh" has been purchased by Samuel Goldwyn. He has assigned George O'Neill to the script.

DES MOINES

WE HAD the fightenest time at Metro this week . . . We just seem to rub Leo's hair the wrong way . . . First we had a session with Frank (not Junior, ohnooooo) Gaskill (it was a draw), then we went to bat mildly with Jack Kennedy (who needs to catch up on his BOXOFFICE reading) . . . Incidentally, Jack, since when did mileage for ONE (not BOXOFFICE) count as mileage for TWO? We didn't think it ethical to mention it when you brought it up.

Walter Wanger's wrangler, John LeRoy Johnston, from Hollywood writes that BOXOFFICE *cured him of playing with string . . . Says J. LeRoy: "I was all wound up in my work, but—I hung myself." We hate to gloat, but we've heard at least a half dozen exhibs, etc., say they intend to prefer* BOXOFFICE *when it comes up for rental again. Reason: "*BOXOFFICE *covers the field better and has squibs in about folks we know, besides."*

Now we know fame. The White Spot's renowned film critic, Barney Oldfield, is quoting us these days in his Nebraska *State Journal* "Theatre Topics," according to clipping and letter received by the *R&T's* Ken Clayton . . . Ken's an author now, you know. He and a gal named Rene sold their first bit of duo fictioning to a mag named *Future.*

Marvin Godwin, Joe Ancher, Harry Herman, Milt Goodman, Bing Miller, Chick Friedman were only a few of the Filmrowers who saw Iowa take Notre Dame by the skin of Kinnick's toe Saturday . . . Burton Jerrel musta sold his play-by-play film of same to local theatres via Phillips 66, *if we interpreted that ad correctly . . . If we hadn't been so embarrassed by being chased down to the press gate at the East-North game Friday, we'd have the names of those three Filmrowers ahead of us in the crowd.*

George Estel of Parrot Film had his collie, Laddie, entered at the purp show here . . . We saw both Laddie and Frieda Kane Estel at the show . . . Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, and Joe Jacobs, Omaha manager, spent a few days here with Mel Evidon to close deals with Central States and Tri-States. They left town by plane . . . Mel really puts on a big song and dance for Columbia's new product, and added his brag to Emil Franke's by saying the Orpheum turned away over 5,000 for "Mr. Smith" over last weekend.

Mary Benjamin's running around with the Schick test on her arm . . . She and her daughter, who'd just had an operation, were exposed to scarlet fever . . . Wish we could think of something real nice to say about Stan Mayer today, because when we call him tomorrow for that "yes" or "no" on the Christmas ad, we may not feel in so genial a mood.

Bobby Stone got such a kick out of that 1 a. m. telephone call from Edith Fellows, that he didn't waste a minute telling Columnist Ted Ashby . . . but he forgot to mention Monogram. Clayton filled in on that score, Effie.

Emil Franke's enthusiasm over the Orpheum's full-house "lockout" from 3 p. m. till 10 p. m. when "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" was the Sunday bill, is being tempered by the confusion of persons calling to get starting times. Tops, Emil reports (with a straight face), was the woman who asked "When does Mr. Schmitt leave for Seattle?"

Of course we wouldn't be on the Row the day Alleged Bandit Bill Kunce was pinched in that tavern across the street from the Paramount exchange . . . We were working in an office next to the bank Kunce said he was planning to rob next . . . and didn't get a chance to.

Paramount's last party musta been a lollapalooser . . . Eight neophytes were initiated into the Pep Club . . . Slater O'Hare sang and danced entrancingly; Lois Slater had to kiss the boss (whoop, we weren't supposed to mention that); Ann Rose nearly went crazy trying to prove she wasn't . . . What Henry Peterson, Isobel Conkling, Daisy Campbell and Lova Fredregill did must have been awful, because our informant feigned loss of memory in those instances. (Note: the "boss" is Ray Copeland.)

The 20th-Fox sales force, the ad sales manager, and a booker spent some time in Omaha last week with Herman Wobber, general sales manager, and M. A. Levy, district and Kent drive leader . . . Bernice Rudston is the new face at Fox . . . She's replacing E. Hunter, who's gone to work in BOXOFFICE's home town, Kaycee.

Roy Chansky's mother died in Omaha recently . . . Jess Carter couldn't make up his mind whether to spend the Armistice Day weekend in Minneapolis or Chi the last time we talked to him . . . That lovely rose and 'mum bouquet on Alice Weaver's desk at Fox was her heartthrob's way of saying "Happy Birthday" . . . That rumor that Mike Roth of National Screen in Omaha is to marry a NY girl soon is being bruited about the DM Row now (in about one week).

Elmer Tilton and Carl Reece, Omaha manager, were in Chi for Republic's district meeting . . . Chuck Plows has a little white love nest in the west which is brand new . . . Gail Myers, whose wife is a perfectly swell housekeeper, has a new cote, too . . . When Sy Harlan isn't chasing Don Cowell from DM to Ames, he's selling tulip bulbs . . . Les Knapp not only used to be interested in dramatics, but admits, with very little urging, that he was velly good . . . Dick Kappler is in love and won't talk about anybody anymore, his co-workers claim.

Stork Club news: Glenn Wilson of Na-

(Continued on next page)

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

DEAH! Deah! We spent a coupla or three hours pouring over the fine print of an excerpt from the congressional record in which Sen. Bill King of Utah said what he thought (I wonder) of the Neely Bill. He was agin it because (he claimed) he believes it to be against the best interests of the little fellow. We can't make up our mind. We have yet to talk to a little fellow who's against it, or a big fellow who's for it. Worrit, worrit, what's a poor guy to think?

Frank Schoonover must have opened the new Lake Theatre in Storm Lake with a bang . . . at least, we happen to know he said he was going to take his shot gun with him.

Greetings, hello's and howyadoin' to T. S. Rosene who recently brought the State Theatre at Clarence from the Universal Producing Co.

Roy (One-Horse) Hill got State Center's one horse for Hallowe'en. Pranksters tied the nag to Roy's State Theatre door and fenced him in with a snow fence . . . Considering that Roy claims the town has but one horse, we think he's hashed up an astounding number of plugs (get it?) . . . Roy says his exploitation has been mentioned over the radio, and pictures have been submitted to *Life.*

John Pauelsen purchases the Plaza of Winona from Elmer Wesa. Sale was effective as of November 1. E. E. Hart plans to sell his Plaza at Olin, Ia., but we can't find out who is the buyer.

A. E. Thiele of the DM Theatre Supply tells us that S. A. Peak, who is putting everything new from soup to nuts in his Pastime at Maquoketa, loves to cut acres of grass on the golf course but hires someone to cut his own lawn.

Paul Anderson of the Beaver in DM bought new Motiograph projectors from DM Theatre Supply.

Now we've seen the E. M. Garbett's Junior and Senior. They operate the Big 4 in DM, the Avalon, Forest, Lincoln and Variety theatres.

Leo Lebowitz of the Iowa in DM tells us about a dance every fourth Wednesday at Lake Robbins where both old and young make merry with beer and a Bohemian band. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

Burdette Smith, who operates at the Iowa in Madrid for Roy Lepowitz, can imitate the Dead End Kids down to the last sneer!

George Thacker, who also operates S. Sioux City and West Bend, has opened a theatre in a new building at Fenton, Ia.

Maybe Earlham, Ia., will rouse up out of its stupor when Harry Huddleston gets his show going in the new building he's

(Continued on next page)

AW, SHUCKS!

(Continued from preceding page)

putting up there. Service Theatre is handling the deal.

Pete Gateley, who refinishes screens all over these United States, has been reported to us as a BOXOFFICE kibitzer . . . They say he makes a dive for the publication wherever he happens to be and hastily thumbs through its pages (leaving smudges, we'll wager) to this column. He just recently learned that we wear skirts (and that's not the first time we've been accused of trying to wear the pants!)

Lee Henry of the Stuart in Stuart says his copy of BOXOFFICE is being read even by Stuart folks outside the biz . . . Mary Louise Moulton, Stuart *Herald* editor's daughter and overstudy, has expressed a yen for her very own copy.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Hatton of Truro had no idea of the terror they struck in the hearts of Opal Judd and Walt Lohman when they waved goodbye to them and said, "Lots of luck," as if they'd need it . . . Opie and Walt had a print to return and enough Scotch to feel shaky about that alleged ghost of St. Mary's which is supposed to bounce about the fields in that section of Iowa.

Victor Mantz of the Ogden in Ogden has a new popcorn machine . . . which has nothing to do with the fact that he went pheasant hunting. (Did we ever tell about the time we went and got so interested in the wonders of the countryside that we wandered away from our party? The party spent the time it meant to hunt birds hunting us.)

A. B. Pettit of the Iowa Theatre in Winterset is one of 12 lucky men who invested in some oil land in southern Illinois. They say he's really collecting.

We've never seen anything like those "Coast-to-Coast" bicycle racks out front of the Rialto, Boone and Princess theatres in Boone, Ia.

It was a hot time in Iowa City for theatre folk both Friday and Saturday nights. Friday crowds forced their way into the theatres, but Saturday gents armed with clubs stood guard outside. Monday the Iowa U squad saw films of the game instead of having regular practice.

That red letterhead "Bulletin from TRI-STACO PUBLICITY DESK by D. Day" with a caricatured Dorothy working like mad at a desk, must be razzle-dazzling a lot of Tri-States theatre managers nowadays.

Added to "Missing Women"

HOLLYWOOD—Wynne Gibson and Peggy Shannon have been signed for roles in Columbia's "Street of Missing Women." Ann Dvorak and Preston Foster have the leading roles.

"Commandment" Producer Former Minnesotan

MINNEAPOLIS—"The Great Commandment," purchased from Cathedral Pictures Co. by 20th Century-Fox, was produced on a $150,000 budget by the Rev. James Friedrich, former Minnesota minister and student at the University of Minnesota, and John T. Coyle.

The picture is religious in theme, based on the Biblical admonition to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

Irving Pichel, director of the picture, has been given a contract by Darryl F. Zanuck, 20th-Fox production chief.

F. Hollingsworth Opens Second Beatrice House

BEATRICE, NEB. — Frank Hollingsworth, who has been a one-house operator in Beatrice for some time, has opened his New Pix Theatre. It is a first run spot, re-named from the old Fox. Hollingsworth took it over when Fox Midwest let it go recently in a rental squabble. He will continue to operate the Rialto as a subsequent runner.

Deepwater Is Theatreless

DEEPWATER, MO. — This town is now without a theatre, John Travis having closed the Tile because of poor business.

New Seats in Foley

FOLEY, MINN.—New spring upholstered seats were installed recently in the Foley Theatre here.

Tom Inspires Farmer

ELDON, MO.—In answer to the offer of Tom Edwards, operator of the Ozark, to trade passes for the privilege of quail hunting, Tom the other day received the following poem from a farmer near Eldon:

I'm writing to you, Tommy,
Although I've never met up with you;
But I've got an inclination to say,
"Mr. Edwards, howdy do?"
And some time when it's convenient,
If you see this mail,
You've got an invitation
To come out and get some quail;
And if you have some four-square friends,
They'll be friends of mine—
Stick them in and come ahead,
Leave no excuse behind.
I'm past sixty, Tommy, that's not old—oh, no!
But I've never yet attended a moving picture show.
The old woman, Tommy, is not as old as me,
But a movie, Tommy, she never yet did see.
Don't send nor bring no passes, Thomas,
I'm not asking you for them;
But if we ever step up to your cinema door,
Please say, "Old boy and girl, step in!"

(pen name Uncle Fred)

DES MOINES

(Continued from preceding page)

tional Screen calls his latest 8¼-pound offspring Robert Dale. It's his second and they claim he's trying to keep the company in models for those ads they use . . . Jack Frost's new girl, born November 9, is still waiting for her parents to name her. It's not as if they weren't expecting her . . . Myrtle Bechtel is going to have (now don't jump at conclusions) a shower for Patricia Russell. Fried chicken is listed on the bill of fare.

Bibianne Hazlitt (the Filmrow girl of the Filmrow girl and boy story) went to Ida Grove for homecoming . . . Don Beal, Chet Howser, Chuck Plows, Kenny Weldon and Morris Smith's Shorty all went pheasant hunting . . . Gladyce Sellner is new at National Screen, and Phillis Cunningham is it at Warner's . . . Glen Folsom should be told how that nice pumpkin Louise Judd gave him got cracked . . . Opie and Walt Lohman not only played catch with it, but "Dimples" tried to prove to Opie that it'd bounce!

Everybody was glad to see Bud Shumow return Monday after a two-month absence . . . Bud's popular with everyone, from what we hear . . . Jerry Spandau proved the other day that love is blind when he failed to see that "No parking until 9 o'clock" sign. He parked five minutes too early and his morning coffee cost him $1.05 *. . . We thought we talked an awful lot about Deanna Durbin's "First Love," too.*

Lou "Coach" Levy is busy working out new plays for his Arlington Hall boys, who take up most of his time.

Schoonover Manages Lake

STORM LAKE, IA.—Frank Schoonover is the manager of the Lake Theatre which opened last week. Schoonover until lately was a theatre manager for the Lincoln Theatre Corp. in Des Moines.

Wyler Megs "Our Town"

HOLLYWOOD—Sol Lesser has signed William Wyler to direct "Our Town," the producer's first for United Artists. Wyler may do one outside job under his current deal with Sam Goldwyn.

Iowa Circuit Buys Monogram

DES MOINES—George W. Weeks, Monogram general sales manager, reports a deal with J. D. Peck's Community circuit here for the company's 1939-40 schedule.

New Ossian Bows

OSSIAN, IA.—The new Ossian, first theatre here in over a decade, has opened. It is owned and operated by Paul Swanson, formerly of Monona.

New Manager in Albany

ALBANY, MO.—New manager of the Rigney Theatre here is Wilfred E. Reineke, previously with the Rialto, Henry, S. D.

Boom With New Year Seen for Industry

CLEVELAND—Theatre owners will have to jog along at their present business pace until the first of the year when they will be rewarded with a boom which will last just as long as the present high peak of employment is maintained.

This is the opinion of a leading local film man who knows the theatre business inside and out and who, through long years of experience, is well qualified to predict the future on the basis of past events.

"The Chamber of Commerce," states this film man, "has given out statistics showing that industries are operating at peak capacity with the result of general re-employment. The result of this re-employment will not be felt immediately at the boxoffice in my opinion. Debts will have to be taken care of. Christmas presents will come high-up on the must list. Replacement of wardrobes, depleted during the unemployment period will absorb the first few pay envelopes. So, taking these things into consideration, I think that there will be no noticeable improvement in boxoffice grosses until the first of the year. But after the first of the year I think the business will come into its own, and again take its place in the economic sun."

The motion picture business, it was pointed out, was one of the last industries to be affected by the recession, and it is the opinion of local industry leaders that it will be among the last to show a gain.

AMPTO of W. Pa. Plans a Luncheon Meet Nov. 28

PITTSBURGH—AMPTO of W. Pa., will hold a meeting and luncheon Tuesday noon, November 28, in the Roosevelt Hotel, exhibitor headquarters announced at press time.

The meeting is for members only and important subjects will be discussed, according to Fred J. Herrington, secretary.

A full report of this week's eastern regional conference of Allied States units, held at Philadelphia in the office of the Allied ITO of E. Pa., will be made by M. A. Rosenberg, local unit president and regional vice-president of the national association, who attended the parley.

In addition to the November 28 meeting, Rosenberg is considering calling a mid-eastern regional conference, it is understood.

Local prexy stated that he obtained valuable information at the Philadelphia meeting and that it would be divulged at the meeting a week from Tuesday.

Begins New Theatre

WAUSEON, OHIO—P. R. Toumy of the Princess Theatre has started construction of a new 300-seat house just across the street from his other house. He expects to have it completed about Christmas.

Sunday Shows Make Strong Advance in Pennsylvania

PITTSBURGH — Sunday film exhibitions were approved by voters of 14 Pennsylvania communities at the recent election, the issue being defeated in but one community. Four communities approved Sunday baseball and other sports between the hours of 1 p. m. and 7 p. m., and two other communities rejected such sports in the local-option voting.

The ancient "blue law" ban on Sunday film exhibitions was lifted as follows:

Freedom, Koppel, Beaver county; Bigler township, Coalport, Clearfield county; Shinglehouse, Potter county; Roscoe, Washington county; Mt. Penn, West Reading, Berks county; Bristol township, Bucks county; Blossburg, Elkland, Westfield, Wellsboro and Mansfield, Tioga county.

Sunday film exhibitions were rejected by voters of Forty Fort borough, Luzerne county, which has a blue law tradition dating back to Connecticut settlers.

Sports on Sunday were approved as follows:

Newburg, Clearfield county.
Lansford, Carbon county.
Blossburg, Tioga county.
West Middlesex, Mercer county.

Taboo on Sunday sports was continued in Palmyra, Lebanon county, and East Hanover township, Dauphin county.

The five Tioga county communities voted to reopen theatres on Sunday after District Attorney Charles M. Elliot ruled in July they must be closed until a vote was taken.

Under the five-year-old state law which permitted communities to decide for themselves what kind of amusement they would sanction on Sunday, referenda can be held every five years on films and every three years on sports.

Six Distributors Are Signed by Mutual

DETROIT—Mutual Theatres of Michigan, booking combine, has signed deals for new season product with six majors, Raymond E. Moon, general manager, disclosed this week. Deals are for the 18 Detroit theatres which are Mutual members, and were originally delayed pending the progress of the general Detroit booking situation, which has been going very slowly this season, particularly with the largest booking group, Co-operative Theatres.

Majors signed on by Mutual are Paramount, 20th-Fox, M-G-M, United Artists, Universal, Columbia, as well as Republic and Monogram. Not all product, of course, will be used in all the member houses. Deals for upstate members, who constitute the far greater portion of Mutual's membership, were made several weeks ago.

Two majors have not been signed up —Warner and RKO. Mutual had contracts with both these companies last year, but has not taken steps to sign up so far this season, although Moon said there was a possibility they might be added later.

Ray Moon Refutes Report That Chicago Combine Is Underway

DETROIT—Reports emanating from New York that Raymond E. Moon, general manager of Mutual Theatres of Michigan, would head a similar group of independent exhibitors in a new booking combine in the Chicago territory were branded as totally unfounded by Moon in a statement to BOXOFFICE.

Moon said that the report apparently arose from a misinterpretation of a recent visit he made in Chicago, on entirely different routine business.

"In fact, I hardly know any Chicago exhibitors," he said. "There is nothing whatever in the fire that even concerns me. I further think that if anything like such a combine were under way, I'd know about it. I've been asked about it by some exhibitors, but no proposition has even been put to me.

"My impression is that Chicago exhibitors don't want such a combine, and that it would be impossible to organize."

"Beau Geste" Pleases Mutual

DETROIT—"Beau Geste," booked for a large number of Mutual Theatres' members over the weekend, did phenomenal business, reports Raymond E. Moon, general manager.

Grind Burlesque House Opens

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO—The new Grand, formerly the Princess, only dark theatre here, has reopened with a grind burlesque policy, at 35 cents top.

Pitt Exchange Union to Seek Wage Increase

PITTSBURGH—Local Film Exchange Employes Union, affiliated with AFL, will seek increased wage scales for members, it is understood, when negotiations are opened with distributing home office representatives. Present two-year contract expires November 30. Ted Tolley of M-G-M is president of the Pittsburgh local.

New Thompson House

WATSONTOWN, PA.—Ground has been broken here for a new theatre, his tenth, by Howard J. Thompson. His other houses are in Clearfield, Bellefonte, Curwensville and Coalport.

Seeking Site in Ebensburg

EBENSBURG, PA.—Pending definite selection of location, complete plans have not been developed for the theatre announced for construction several months ago by the A. N. Notopoulos interests. Sketches have been prepared by F. J. Shollar, Altoona, architect.

Will Bring Distributors Into Detroit Operational Fight

DETROIT—Attacking the "multiple-bill free-show" policy of the recently re-opened Times Square Theatre here, Alex Schreiber, head of Associated Theatres circuit, says he has taken up the matter with local distributor representatives and that he will carry it to top executives in New York, if necessary, to eliminate this "threat" to exhibition in Detroit. Associated operates the downtown 550-seat Loop Theatre, across the street from the Times Square, which seats 1,500.

Schreiber claims the Times Square has been distributing two types of passes. One, he says, admitted any number of persons to the theatre, on the payment of a 10-cent service charge, from October 6 to November 6; the other, without limitations on date, offers free admission to a single person on any day except Saturday, Sunday or holidays.

Schreiber says he sent a checker to the Times Square one day last week who "entered the show at 8:30 p. m. using one of the free passes. He saw five features and got out at 3:30 a. m. without paying admission for this seven-hour show." There was no duplication of films, Schreiber adds, on the basis of information furnished him by the checker.

Jack Broder, in explaining the Times Square policy, said the "five feature" idea is a misunderstanding. The fifth "feature" was really an independently-distributed travelogue, namely "Forbidden Adventure."

A four-feature program on change nights, according to Broder, is a regular house policy that is followed at other theatres "including my opposition."

Whereas Schreiber said he "understood 50,000 free passes were being distributed," Broder claimed only an undisclosed number had been given out, "mostly in return for window card privileges, with the usual service charge fee of a dime." He contended further that the service pass idea merely follows the "unprotested" policy adopted by Arthur Robinson for the recent opening of the Madison Theatre.

If he is unable to get sufficient product from major distributors to operate his house, Broder threatens to cut admissions a nickel to 10 cents and to use mainly features of smaller companies and independents.

Former Theatre Manager Confesses to Damage

AKRON, OHIO—In a signed statement, police said that Arthur Durocher, a former manager of the Nixon Theatre, confessed breaking into the theatre November 2 and inflicting $2,000 damage to sound and projection equipment.

Picking up tools after he entered the theatre's basement, the ex-theatre manager said he cut a three-foot hole in the screen, ripped down the screen curtains and smashed projectors and sound towers in a fit of anger, resulting from his discharge as manager.

Schreiber Suit Trial Date Awaited

Detroit—Date for trial in the suit of Jacob Schreiber against Raymond Schreiber—contesting the ownership and control of the five Midwest Theatres—was to be set late this week by the court. Present indications are that the case will have an early trial date. Reports of a settlement appear unconfirmed by events.

Eyes on Detroit as News Theatre Site

DETROIT—Detroit is expected to be one of the first units in a projected string of newsreel theatres to be opened in a large number of American cities by English interests, according to information received here. The Motor City has not had a newsreel house since the Center went to its present policy, after opening as the early Trans-Lux, about seven years ago.

The plans for the chain are said to be backed by an undisclosed owner of about 20 English newsreel houses, and it is assumed that present war conditions abroad are leading to the investment of this party in America. Identity has not been disclosed, but Budd Rogers, general manager of Alliance Films, is said to have asked a prominent Detroit film man to find a suitable location for the house here. A downtown site along Woodward Avenue or Washington Boulevard is likely, it is understood.

Nick Grinde Chore

HOLLYWOOD—Nick Grinde is directing "Daughters of Today" for Columbia. Ralph Cohn is the producer.

Building in Suburbs Interests Circuit

DETROIT—Theatre building talk, following two reports of east side plans reported two weeks ago, continued, with information from a usually reliable source that Associated Theatres—the Alex Schreiber-William London-Harold Smilay combination—will shortly build two local theatres.

Indications are that this circuit may expand in the growing suburban areas of Detroit in non-competitive situations. A huge amount of residential building has been going on in some sections of the city, opening up the possibility of new neighborhood theatres.

Detroit Trade Speculates Anew on Bingo Status

DETROIT—Detroit exhibitors are showing a marked revival of interest in the Bingo question with the election of Edward J. Jeffries as Mayor. Present practice under Mayor Richard W. Reading allows a limited number of Bingo games, provided they are for charitable purposes.

Detroit exhibitors, like those elsewhere, have opposed the operation of these games by churches, lodges, and other organizations, particularly since theatres have been stopped from having various types of cash giveaways or prize contests. No official statement on the policy to be adopted by the new administration after January 1 has been issued, and Mayor-elect Jeffries has left for Florida, leaving the problem a highly speculative one.

Has "Birth of Nation"

PITTSBURGH—D. W. Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation," first epic of the motion picture industry, is being made available again for theatres of the territory. Sound and music have been synchronized with the film. It is being handled here by Harry F. Grelle, veteran film man.



Real Talk of Reel Police Work—

Fred Frahm, left, superintendent of police in Detroit, chats with Walter Pidgeon about the angles in detective work on the M-G-M lot while filming "Nick Carter" and Hall Robinson, newly elected chief barker of the Detroit Variety Club, looks on.

A Slur on Industry Draws Wood's Fire

COLUMBUS—Congressman Lyle H. Boren's label of "Economic Public Enemy Number One of America" for the motion picture industry has drawn the fire of P. J. Wood, secretary of the ITO of Ohio with headquarters here. Wood wrote Boren as follows:

For the past two weeks, I have carefully perused both the news columns and the columns of our trade papers to find some response to your vicious and unwarranted attack upon the motion picture industry. I have seen nothing, and this deep wall of silence compels me to admit that my respect for the leaders of this industry, especially those whose names you mentioned, has dropped to a very low point.

I doubt if anyone in the industry has been more condemnatory of the exorbitant, out-of-reason and unwarranted salaries paid to certain film executives than the undersigned. Why the stockholders of the companies involved permit it is beyond my limited powers of comprehension.

However, in your scathing denunciation, you go far beyond the matter of exorbitant salaries and smear an entire industry. You place in the same category with the Al Capones, the Pretty Boy Floyds, the Dutch Schultzs (why you failed to include the John Dillingers and the Adolf Hitlers, I do not know), the Jim Smiths of the Yellow Springs, Ohio, and the Jack Robinsons of the Seminoles, Oklahoma—and their number is legion—who are trying to eke out an existence by operating motion picture theatres.

Your statement that "there have never been gangsters or bandits in any land or clime that have excelled their talent for robbing the American public" reflects upon every theatre owner connected with this industry, and I strongly resent it on their behalf.

The individuals making a livelihood out of this business are, on the average, no better or no worse than those engaged in other lines of endeavor. You will admit, I think, that our form of entertainment has, in a large measure, helped to lessen the burdens, the trials, the tribulations and the worries of the past 20 years.

The industry, at the present time, is going through a very trying period but, frankly, I fear for its survival if the Louis B. Mayers, the Warner Brothers and the Rubins lack the intestinal fortitude to challenge your condemnation of the industry.

In my humble opinion, you owe the "Jim Smiths" and the "Jack Robinsons" in this business an apology for labeling the motion picture industry "economic public enemy No. 1 of America."

Yours very truly,
P. J. WOOD, Secretary

Fete Shapiro and Bein At Warner Club Stag

CLEVELAND—The boys of the local Warner Club staged a supper stag party in the Warner Club rooms on Wednesday, November 15, in honor of Allen Shapiro and Harold Bein.

The double feature occasion is the marriage of Allen Shapiro of the Warner Theatre booking department and the approaching marriage of Harold Bein of the Vitagraph booking department who on November 26 will take as his bride Miss Rose Silverstein of New York City.

Cleveland Variety Club Calls Off Ball Dec. 2

CLEVELAND—The Variety Ball, originally scheduled to be held December 2, has been called off. Instead a small dinner-dance for members and their ladies only, will be held December 16 at the Mid Day Club, at which time Nat Lefton will be inducted into the office of chief barker and the other officers will be duly installed.

CLEVELAND

JOE SWEE last Monday moved over from the Universal booking department to RKO as office manager where he steps into the shoes of Otto Braeunig, who has been promoted to the RKO sales force as successor to Morris Lefko . . . Theatre managers in Cleveland are going in for streamlining, as evidenced by the personnel of a newly-formed Gym Club. Charter members are Charlie Gottlob of the Milo and Main theatres, Billy Banks of the Detroit Theatre, Louis Swee of the Knickerbocker and Jimmy Kalafat of the Dennison Square.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and to new high grosses, local Columbia Branch Manager Lester Zucker reports. The picture, he states, has played an extended run in every situation in the territory where it has been shown, including even the smaller situations, and in every instance has outgrossed any previous Capra picture.

The M-G-M Club held a pep meeting the other evening, starting with a buffet supper and business meeting and ending with a preview of "Remember" . . . Louis Gross and Eddie Johnson are back from a hunting trip up north, bringing back with them three deer as evidence of their prowess, so if you have a taste for venison you'd better mention it to the boys.

Harry Reinhart of Canton was late visiting around the film exchanges during his recent visit to Cleveland because of automobile trouble which included stripped gears, transmission trouble and other such minor difficulties . . . I. J. Schmertz, 20th-Fox branch manager, was in New York last week consulting with the home office officials on routine matters.

The Clark Theatre, Cleveland, whose history reads like the "on-again-off-again Finnegan" story, reopened again last Wednesday. The new operators are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hejduk. New RCA sound and Simplex projectors have been installed and the new lessees expect to make a go of it.

Robert Yodice, assistant manager at Loew's Stillman, selected Armistice Day as the date of his marriage to Miss Loretta Schurger of this city . . . Charles Mach of the Strand Theatre, Sebring, was a Filmrow visitor . . . E. M. Long of the Memorial Theatre, Mount Vernon, was out with his gun on the opening day of the hunting season with what result nobody knows.

S. P. Gorrel, Republic branch manager, was out in the territory calling on the trade with Jack Lefton, and Frank Belles dualled with Rudy Norton in the Toledo territory . . . "Duke" Clark, Paramount branch manager, gathered together a representative Variety Club gang to attend a clambake at Manor Beach last Saturday.

Al Gregg, Republic publicity man, points out that the song "South of the Border" written by two English boys, is No. 1 on the Hit Parade, No. 1 in sheet music sales and is being played on the air more frequently than any current tune. Also, Gregg mentions, "South of the Border" is the title of Gene Autry's newest picture now in production, which will be available for booking about December 1.

Dan Robins, Youngstown and Warren exhibitor, is reported to be doing nicely following a recent throat operation which was performed in Philadelphia . . . Ira Becksted, business manager of the Film Employes union, and operator at the Jennings Theatre, is back in circulation following a gallstone operation.

Howard Biggio, one of the famous Biggio brothers of Stubenville, is back home after four years prospecting for gold in California . . . George Manos of Toronto is reported to be looking for locations for one or two new theatres . . . The Regent Theatre in Youngstown has recovered from an operation affecting its entire front which was seriously damaged when the street on which it is located was widened. An all new front had to be built and it is now almost completed.

Lee Hendershot, Orwell exhibitor, who has been dividing his time between the theatre and the new house he was building, expects to be settled in time to eat his Thanksgiving turkey in the new abode . . . Bill Thomas, who operates the Lowell Theatre at Lowellville, has recently moved his family to Zelienople where he recently remodeled a picture house to the extent of $15,000, which puts it right up into the de luxe class.

Harry Mackey of Hopedale has installed a big popcorn machine in his theatre and it's said to be the only one of its kind in the town . . . Irving Hanouer, Columbia auditor, is spending a few weeks in the local exchange . . . Manny Glick, Columbia salesman, reports that the exhibitors in his territory are optimistic about business. With the coal mines operating almost 100 per cent, they anticipate a steady rise in business right after the holidays.

George Ebeck of the Capitol Theatre, Mount Gilead, has been elected a trustee of his township . . . New theatres which opened within the past few weeks are the City Hall in Greenwich, the Grove at Columbus Grove and the Limelite at Woodville . . . Morris Lefko, former RKO salesman out of Cleveland, is now with the RKO office in Pittsburgh.

No Poison Here

DETROIT—Opening of "Lucrezia Borgia" at the Cinema Wednesday broke all house records, according to Manager Mac Zipperman. Newspaper advertising, suggesting "for adults only" was believed largely responsible for the buildup.

T. B. KLAIBAN
Motion Picture Screen Resurfacing Co.
White and Silver Screens
Guaranteed Workmanship—Reasonable Prices
Satisfied Customers for Twelve Years
604 WARD AVE., GIRARD, OHIO
Phone: Girard, Ohio, 361-J

PITTSBURGH

AMONG those present at the opening of the new Mayfair Theatre, Pleasant Valley, W. Va., were Guy Peterson, I. T. Sweeney, Mr. and Mrs. Max Shulgold, E. B. Morton, Newt Williams, C. C. Kellenberg, E. S. Thorpe, representing Filmrow; and exhibitor friends including A. G. Constant and members of his family from Steubenville, Ohio, and Constant's district manager, George Delis; Eugene Basle, Washington, Pa.; George Capps, Wheeling, W. Va., and Theodore J. Laskey and George N. Harris, Wheeling, W. Va. George Petroplus of the Rex, Wheeling, who is associated with the new Mayfair Theatre as booker, entertained at his home in Elm Grove in celebration of the occasion. Chris Velas is operator of the new 850-seat theatre.

"Uncle" Gus Vaveris, the Johnstown showman, copped a special golf trophy when he showed his heels to Jimmy DiMauro and Bob Hornick of Johnstown and Huntington respectively. The tournament was continued through the golf season and DiMauro had his heart set on winning the cup, but he had to bow to superior golfing on the part of Vaveris, who still makes the boys say "Uncle." Viva Gus! . . . Ira H. Cohn took over as King at the Monday Variety Club dinner when Harold Lund was called out of the city. Lund will substitute on November 27 for Dave Kimelman, Paramount branch manager, who is ill at Montefiore Hospital. One of the big events at the club will be the formal installation of 1940 officers and initiation of new members the evening of December 4.

C. C. Kellenberg was the only industry member we spotted in the three-hour Armistice Day parade . . . Jim Alexander and young Jimmy appeared on Filmrow the other day in their hunting suits, having returned from Butler County where they were shooting rabbits . . . Nikitas Dipson, tri-state exhibitor, and Constantine Basil are remodeling their Hollywood Theatre, Lackawanna, N. Y., where the Shea's will open a new $45,000 theatre owned by Harris Williams and Oscar Williams . . . Dave Miller, New Universal district manager, Edgar Moss, 20th-Fox district head, and Harry Goldstein, Paramount district chief, were here on business this week . . . Frank King, California, Pa., exhibitor, has been doing a lot of hunting this season but he declares that game is scarce . . . "Mamba's Daughters" will reach the Nixon stage the week of December 4, and on January 15 the Shuberts will open "Three After Three," with Simone Simon, Mitzi Green, Mary Brian, Art Jarrett, Frances Williams and Stepin Fetchit . . . Stanley resumed stage shows with Hal Kemp and Rufe Davis as attractions . . . Lois Weber, 56, former well-known film director, who died this week in Hollywood, was from this city.

Deanna Durbin's "First Love" established a new opening day record, also a new Saturday record, at the Fulton . . . Diana Barrymore, John's daughter, made her local debut this week at the Nixon where she appeared in "Outward Bound" with such grand stars as Laurette Taylor, Florence Reed, Harry Ellerbe and Morgan Farley . . . Mrs. Ira H. Cohn and Mrs. George W. Collins were hostesses Tuesday afternoon at the Variety Club for a regular social of the Theatrical Club of Pittsburgh.

Nettie Weis Engel, widow of Louis J. Engel, has returned to duties at the Columbia exchange. Death of the young film sales representative and theatre premium distributor October 24, was one of the severest blows dealt to Filmrow in a number of years.

Robert B. Savini of Astor Pictures was here on business with Lew Lefton, manager of Monarch Pictures exchange . . . Ed Kelley is seen about the film colony again after being laid low for several weeks with an attack of lumbago . . . Harris circuit reproduced the BOXOFFICE *Blue Ribbon Award seal in all advertising announcing the third week showing of Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."*

Industry friends of Larry Puglia, who attended the opening of his new Opera House, Waynesburg, included, from Filmrow, Frank L. France, Burtus Bishop jr., Jack Mundstuk, Richard Lange, Robert Dunbar, Charles Dortic, Sam Ehrlich, George Wheeler, George Elmo, Francis Seubert, Harry Passarell, E. S. Thorpe, A. I. Weiner, Harry Rees, Jules Lapidus, Martin Terner, Peter Simboli, Peter Alderman, Newt Williams, Fred J. Herrington, James O'Keefe, Fred Mikalous, Bob Klingensmith; among exhibitors present were Bart Dattola, Peter Profili, Guy V. Ida, John Perry, Sam Fleishman, Queenie Capuzzi and son, Tom.

Charity begins at home—help those in our industry who are in need. Contribute to the Film Mutual Aid.

Anthony Latella, Roscoe, Pa., exhibitor, was an early Filmrow visitor the day after the election, reporting that the citizens of that borough approved the Sunday shows referendum by a vote of 362 to 139.

Please make checks payable to James H. Alexander, treasurer, in contributing to the Christmas Relief Committee's drive for funds to help those people in our own business who are in need.

City exhibitors, and others of western Pennsylvania, unquestionably, hailed the defeat last week of Robert Garland, "Father of Daylight Saving Time," who had served continuously as a Pittsburgh councilman since 1911.

Help those in our business less fortunate than we by subscribing to the Film Mutual Aid.

A local theatre manager had to waive the Bank Night rule that a patron must claim the award within three minutes. There was much excitement when a woman fainted when her name was called for $500. It seemed everyone in the theatre tried to bring her out of the coma within the time limit, and when this wasn't possible, the rule was set aside so that she could claim the prize.

Spread a little sunshine and mail your contribution today to the fund for distribution at the Christmas season to those members of our local industry who are unfortunately unable at present to make ends meet.

John W. McCall and John Hoover, exhibitor partners at Summerhill, Pa., have been elected as members of the local council there . . . A. & S. Steinberg are installing a heating and air-conditioning system at the new theatre in Altoona which is under construction for Ray Allison . . . Jim Alexander remains the busiest man we know: He is working hard for the Christmas Relief Committee of the Film Mutual Aid Group, of which he is treasurer; the Community Fund Drive, of which he is a leader; a special church campaign, and he has just recently closed his work in connection with the annual YMCA membership drive, of which he was a chairman. In addition to these tasks, Jim has been selling a lot of Republic Pictures' contracts.

Records of the Film Mutual Aid are open for inspection. Study the case records and you will be glad to contribute to this year's Christmas fund to aid "our friends in our own business" who are in need of assistance.

C. S. Ashcraft, manufacturer of the new Cyclex projection system, was here on business with Art Morrone of Superior M. P. Supply Co., who has recently acquired the distributing franchise for this mechanism. Ashcraft told us that he will be heading to the west coast within six weeks where he will meet his son-in-law for the first time. The son-in-law is Tim Holt, young screen star and son of Jack Holt.

Every manager, theatre owner, operator, salesman, booker, exchange employe should be glad to help the Film Mutual Aid's Christmas fund. It's so much better to be on the giving end rather than the receiving end.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Kihchel, Jeannette theatre owners, entertained in their home one evening last week in honor of Ray Corrigan, western screen star. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Lou Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Art Morrone, James H. Alexander, Sam Fineberg, James O'Keefe, Bob Klingensmith, Fred Mikalous and J. D. Chaffin.



Roundup Time—

Ray Corrigan, the "Tucson" of several dozen "Three Mesquiteers," who is making a number of personal appearances in the western Pennsylvania and West Virginia area, is pictured here with Jim Alexander, Republic manager at the Pittsburgh exchange, and N. A. Malanos, East Pittsburgh exhibitor. J. D. Chaffin, "Crash" Corrigan's manager, also is booking Max Terhune, the entertaining "Lullaby" of the "Mesquiteers."

DETROIT

JACOB SCHREIBER, out of town for several days, was expected to return late in the week . . . Phone calls for the Times Square are going astray lately. Calls for the listed number are transferred to another phone for Joseph Bruzy, the former owner. New number for Jack Broder, present owner, hasn't been listed.

Agnes McDermont has left the Coulter Premiums main office here . . . Dorothy Goldberg, cashier at Sam Brown's Dexter, was held up Tuesday by an armed "note bandit" who collected $60 *from her in boxoffice receipts.*

Father E. J. Flanagan of Boys Town fame was a Detroit visitor en route back to Omaha after the Pittsburgh Variety banquet . . . Holler "Harry" over at Pete Iodice's office and you'll have a stampede between the Lees and the Faulkners.

Jack Broder has set Christmas Day as tentative opening date for his new Times Theatre. Broder is victim of a severe cold.

Chandler Theatre Corp., which was formed back in the days when Thomas Moule and David Newman owned the house, has been formally dissolved.

Mac Krim has left for a several weeks' stay in California. His brother, Sol, running the circuit from the Harmony, is thinking of some remodeling at the Lasky.

Pete Simon of Simon's Film Service is a victim of bronchitis. He was elected steward of Local 666—the Cameramen's Local, IATSE, at a special meeting, to succeed William Schmitz, resigned.

Edward McEvoy, new RKO district manager, was in town on his first official visit . . . Helen Denton is busy breaking in those new blue-gray and red uniforms for the elevatorettes.

Helen Plachta is back from her honeymoon, looking properly happy . . . Lloyd Hammond thinks he's running a special information bureau for BOXOFFICE.

Charlie Garner says he's doubled his score . . . If you can't find Irving Belinsky, he's hiding up in that balcony.

A bowling fan from 20th-Fox wants more bowling news. Why not make it, A. K.? . . . Irene Noland, Universal cashier, reports she has sore lips as a result of a recent fever.

William Steffes of the DeLuxe and Fred DeLodder of the Your both got okays from the City Council for remodeling of the fronts of their respective houses . . . Alex Schreiber of Associated is planning on some home decoration.

Louis Albert Chapoton, a Detroit theatre operator for a quarter century until he retired from control of the Empress about eight years ago, died Thursday. His widow, Mrs. Edna Ward Chapoton; a daughter, and a son survive.

Fred Johnson is reported on the road to recovery, via X-ray . . . Gene Alexander, Universal, takes his daily lunch with Life.

Turk Rawston is recovering from the celebration of his 16th wedding anniversary . . . Jess Veldman, 20th-Fox cashier, gets on the job so early he even misses those morning rainstorms.

Jack Ferentz, musicians' business agent, was off deer hunting, we hear . . . George Clancy is reported celebrating his 15th wedding anniversary.

Our proofreader switched house managers. Jack Moule is at the Tuxedo, of course, and Lou Mitchell, who is coming along great despite his arthritis, friends say, is very much the manager of the Beverly.

Buddy Fields' latest contribution from Webster is "fol-de-rol" . . . Charlie Collins says his family is still too small.

Jacob Boodman and E. V. Smith were among the Armistice Day paraders of filmdom. Boodman and Roy Campbell of the Shafer, Garden City, discovered they fought in the First Division together.

Louis Anderson and Joseph Sowa were sentenced to 10 *to* 20 *years in Jackson for a holdup at the Senate Theatre on August* 21 *. . . Esther Neal has been granted a divorce from Edgar Neal, former police censor.*

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Paul Vandenberg, brother of Mrs. Margaret Vandenberg, until a few weeks ago owner of the Crescent at Grand Haven, died last week, the victim of a strep throat . . . Pete C. Schram, the guiding genius of Allied's recent Kalamazoo convention, was along Filmrow.

J. J. Marlow of Flint is planning to take over a small upstate house . . . Roy Campbell, former manager of the Stratford and Loyal, is now managing Walter Shafer's new Shafer at Garden City.

Variety Club Notes

DETROIT—Fred Dickely of Altec and Cliff Giessmann were at Pittsburgh—now "Dick" has been out touring Michigan for his company . . . Ben Cohen is leaving for New York to spend a week prior to sailing from there on his yacht for Miami.

Ladies' Day brought out one of the biggest crowds on record . . . Charlie Snyder, censor, was up at the clubrooms in full Legion regalia—somebody thought he was a general . . . Cully Buermele had a phony phone call.

Buermele and Frank Wetsman have been in New York for several days, "just on pleasure bent"—or was it business? Ed Kirchner, manager of the Family, has recovered from his recent illness.

Max Blumenthal, projection room boss, has become a choir leader and is taking to raising Easter bunnies . . . Bill Donahue is the new drummer of the Variety Syncopators. (Big Hal Burriss is still playing Robin Hood).

Chief Barker Charlie Perry was awakened early Sunday morning—his mother, who will be 86 tomorrow, had just arrived, all by herself, from Lafayette, Ind. She was out to the lunch, acts younger than Charlie.

Among those present (and introduced): Harry F. Kelly, Secretary of State; William E. Dowling and Ralph Garber, of the prosecutor's staff, and Judges John P. Scallen and George Murphy . . . The Law was there—Inspector Bill Rick, Chief of Detectives Hoffman and his aide-de-camp, R. F. DuChane (ex of the Bonstelle Theatre)—and our own censor, Sergeant Snyder.

Jean Buermele says she's in favor of the new policy of having the ladies at luncheon—they'll need a new outfit for each one.

Mike Chargot was present with a family party . . . Anne O'Donnell, manager of Excellent Pictures, is one of the few ladies who is a filmite in her own right.

Harold Sandelman, M-G-M, managed not to sit with his frau . . . Freddie Schader had the sad task of presenting regrets for Sophie Tucker.

Victor Moore and Fred York, company manager from the Cass, spoke . . . Muriel Yvonne King was pianist . . . Benny Resh of the Bowery was another show celebrity present.

Dave Newman is an expert on "privileged communications." (He's a barrister) . . . Cem Merritt, managing Windsor theatres, says the war has only meant a drop of around 15 per cent in business.

Jack Douglas was the m. c. announcer . . . Carey Dules was the soloist at the Saturday frolic.

Jack Saxe, Variety Dough Guy, is distributing those new Barkers you'll see on the cars of members soon.

A Wolverine Father Of Hollywood

Detroit—A Wolverine by the name of Harvey H. Wilcox is the real founder of Hollywood, research by the Adrian correspondent of the Detroit Free Press has disclosed. He laid out the original plot of the film center, recording it in 1887, four years after he bought the tract, and subdividing it. His wife, our correspondent informs, assigned the name because holly was her favorite among California flora.

Stitt Will Manage New Harris-Manos Theatre

JEANNETTE, PA.—Don F. Stitt assumed duties as city manager for the Harris interests November 7 with the opening of the new 900-seat Harris-Manos Theatre. Formerly manager of the old Harris here, which continues in operation, Stitt was formerly a member of the Stanley Theatre orchestra, Pittsburgh, and for the past three years has managed Harris theatres in St. Marys, Reynoldsville and DuBois.

Addresses were made by Senator Frank J. Harris and Mayor John M. O'Connell. Special guest was Ray Corrigan, co-star of dozens of "Mesquiteers" western photoplays and star of several serials. Brian McDonald was master of ceremonies and entertainers included Bernie Armstrong, radio organist, Elks male chorus and others. Michael Manos, theatre circuit owner, who erected the new house here, was a special speaker.

John H. Harris, general manager of the Harris circuit, was another speaker, and others who were introduced included Victor A. Rigaumont, architect; John Cavalier of the Westmoreland Construction Co., general contractor; Arnold Picchi, Tuckahoe, N. Y., decorator, and members of the Harris staff, James G. Balmer, assistant to John H. Harris; John T. McGreevey, booker; George D. Tyson and Ken Hoel, publicity representatives; Don F. Stitt, Jeannette manager.

Personnel includes Albert Giddings, assistant manager, and William Cavazza, building superintendent; projection staff, Joe Capozzi, Lee Good, Carl Gressler, Radford Yates; house staff, Bert Detwiler, Glenn Carey, Victor Constantine, Frank Cignetti, Dale Madden, John Dragani, Mary Harrie, Loretta Cook.

Alexas Will Open Ligonier Theatre on November 23

LIGONIER, PA.—Grand opening of the New Ligonier Theatre has been scheduled for Thursday, November 23, according to Alex Alexas, owner. The theatre has been remodeled from a garage building and has two stores on either side of the lobby. Seating capacity is 700.

Alexas, a Johnstown restaurant owner, is being assisted by John Lambrinos, formerly connected with the Park Theatre, Johnstown. Another assistant at this stage is N. A. Nicholson, manufacturer of N. A. N. fire safety controls.

Old established house here is the Wilt, operated by H. G. Wilt.

Joseph Kosco Will Build At Brockway in Spring

BROCKWAY, PA.—New modern theatre to be erected here for Joseph B. Kosco, as recently announced, will be put into construction in the spring, according to the architect, Benjamin Schlenger of New York City. One story structure will be of brick, 50x110 feet, and will have a seating capacity of approximately 500. Estimated cost is $25,000. Kosco has operated the Brockway Theatre for a number of years.

LOUISVILLE

SHEILAH GRAHAM, Hollywood columnist, was in town the other day for a lecture and dined with the Boyd Martins. Mr. Martin is film critic for the *Courier-Journal.*

A new balcony, seating 150, *has been completed at the Park Theatre in Louisville, managed by W. H. Connors. This brings the seating capacity up to more than* 800.

Fred Fairchild's new Enid Theatre at Inez, Ky., is expected to be ready for opening December 15. It will seat about 350. On the same date, M. C. Elliott expects to open his new theatre at Prestonburg, Ky.

Nelson Ward, manager of the Trimble and Tabb theatres at Mt. Sterling, Ky., is a film-maker himself, like our friend A. N. Miles at Eminence. Ward's latest was a motion picture covering a meeting of the Mt. Sterling Lions' Club. This was projected at both theatres and made a smash hit.

Joe Goldberg, Louisville representative for Big Feature Rights, is off to the bluegrass of Old Kentucky, peddling P. D. C., Alliance and other features . . . O. J. Minnix, co-owner of the Southland and another theatre now building at London, Ky., holds down the job of circuit clerk there.

The Brownie Theatre at Middlesboro, Ky., is operating on a seven-day schedule now, whereas it used to be open only Fridays and Saturdays. It belongs to the Schine interests, who bought it from Ott Brown . . . The Arcade at Paintsville, Ky., operated by W. T. Cain jr., also is going full time now.

M. A. Lightman sr., head of Malco, and his son, M. A. jr., blew into town the other day . . . Carl Hutton's Jefferson Theatre at Jefferson City, Tenn., is getting a new paint job indoors.

Jay Burton, who operates the Rex Theatre at West Liberty, Ky., is assistant to the postmaster there . . . J. F. Carnahan, who operates the McKee Theatre at McKee, Ky.; the Manchester at Manchester, Ky., and the Lyric at Beattyville, Ky., came back from a business trip.

New sound equipment and a new projector were installed at E. T. Denton's Majestic Theatre at Owensville, Ky., by the Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. . . . W. S. Conway, Cannelton, Ind., who operates a small chain of theatres in Indiana and Kentucky, is rebuilding his Arcade at Cloverport, Ky. It was damaged by fire early this year.

M. H. Sparks, who has been doing considerable trading around of late, now owns the Sebree Theatre at Sebree, Ky., which formerly was operated by C. B. Seale. Sparks and Ray Coleman together operated the Swan at Edmonton and the Brown at Brownsville. They swapped interests somehow or other, and Coleman wound up with the Brown and Sparks with the Swan. Then Sparks sold out his Brown to Stanford Webb and George W. Lindsay, who are operating it now.

"Let's All Help" Slogan For Film Mutual Aid

PITTSBURGH—"Let's all help" is the slogan for the annual appeal for the Film Mutual Aid Group's Christmas Relief Committee campaign which got under way this week. The approximately $500 subscribed last year will not be sufficient to meet Christmas needs this season, and it is hoped that there will be more contributors.

Every cent donated to the fund is distributed to some member of the motion picture industry, or some former member of the industry in exhibition or film distribution, or member of such individual's family, who are in need of financial aid. There is no administrative expense.

Books and records of former collections are available to any subscriber of the past. Records of distribution of the funds also are open for inspection. The aim of the campaign for funds is "to promote sunshine and happiness to those in our business less fortunate than we." As in the past, James H. Alexander, 1701 Blvd. of the Allies, Pittsburgh, Pa., is treasurer.

Morris Lefko Takes Over RKO Exchange Post

PITTSBURGH—Morris Lefko arrived here this week to take over the main line sales post for RKO. In the early days of this company he was office manager at the local branch and for a number of years has been with the company at the Cleveland branch. He is a brother of George Lefko, former local RKO manager, who is now company manager at Cleveland. He is not related to Joseph P. Lefko, resigned, whom he succeeds.

M. Silverberg, well-known young film man here, has joined the booking staff at the Universal exchange as assistant to Francis Guehl and Peter Quiter.

Another new film salesman here is Sidney Goldberg, who has arrived from Washington, D. C., to take over the Columbia sales duties performed until this week by George Wheeler, resigned.

Warner Exchange Slates Thanksgiving Dinner

PITTSBURGH—Warner exchange employes will stage a Thanksgiving dinner party at the Carlisle Club, Monday evening, November 20. Miss Ruth Wagg is in charge of arrangements.

The Warner Club, including circuit theatre employes and exchange members, held its annual dinner-dance last Sunday evening in the William Penn Hotel. Maurice Spitalny's NBC orchestra was featured for the dancing. Among guests was Ruth Weisberg of the New York home office. Miss Harriet Pettit is president of the local Warner Club.

Delay on Skirball Theatre

MASSILLON, OHIO—Construction is at a standstill on the new Skirball Theatre here, due to delay in the arrival of structural steel. It was hoped to have the new theatre ready for opening around the holidays.

CINCINNATI

PRICE COOMER flew in from Harlan, Ky., in his plane, feature shopping and took time off to take Warner's Yarrow Miller, Sam Oshrey and Jimmy Brunetti of the booking staff for a jaunt in the clouds, winning three new advocates for the most modern mode of travel . . . Mr. and Mrs. Venard, Venard Theatre, Jamestown were here; also, Roy Edginton, Augusta; Paul McKay, Montgomery, W. Va.; Woodrow Thomas, Mr. Hope, Fayetteville and Oak Hill, W. Va., and C. E. Harvey, Pine Theatre, Pineville, W. Va.

Willis Vance threw an invitational preview for the State, his new venture in Newport, Ky., on Thursday, November 9. The new popular-price house has 450 seats . . . Metro's W. J. "Red" Devanney and RKO Theatres assistant manager, Joe Goetz, served the golden wedding anniversary mass of Mr. and Mrs. Frederich Goetz, celebrated in Dayton, Ohio. Solo parts of the mass were sung by Bill Keyes, owner of the Victory and Little Plauhouse theatres in Dayton. A reception for 400 guests followed at the Biltmore Hotel, where the entire floor show of the Colonial Theatre was transported for their enjoyment. Fifty managers of RKO theatres were present. Mr. and Mrs. Goetz are the parents of the genial Joe, widely known in the trade and assistant to Col. Arthur Frudenfeld.

New theatres are springing up throughout the territory. Reports are the Southside Theatre, Ironton, Ohio, will be opened by Rudy Skirball. W. C. Elliott is building a new 600-seater at Prestonburg, Ky., which will be one of the most beautiful theatres on the Big Sandy River, and which will open about December 15 . . . W. Fairchild is putting up a new 350-seat house at Inez, Ky., also scheduled to open December 15. Mandell Jossowitz is building a new 300-seat theatre at Raceland, Ky. . . . At Beverly, Ohio, C. O. Dixon is building a new house, to be known as the Dixon, which will open December 1 . . . Neil Hubbard has opened the Kentucky Theatre at Vanceburg, Ky. . . . Fred Scholl has closed the Bremen, Bremen, Ohio.

Dayton, Ohio, Variety Club opened the winter season with a fish fry at the club rooms, November 6, followed by a luncheon Tuesday. The Tuesday luncheon will be a regular feature . . . Ev Bennet, Palace Theatre, Dayton, narrowly escaped death when his car skidded on a slippery road. The car was wrecked, but Bennet escaped injury.

Charles H. Behlen, Nicholasville Amusement Co., and Bob Castella, Lancaster Amusement Co., journeyed to Charlottesville, Va., to witness the Virginia-Chicago U football game, both being ardent rooters and alumni of the Virginia University . . . Monogram's Bill returned from a business trip in New York City, November 14 . . . The Broadway, Cincy neighborhood house, O. P. Grischy owner, has a new coat of paint.

Miss Bertha Wolf, Owenton, Ky., visited the Row. Other callers were Sam Gorrel, Cleveland; J. J. Maloney, M-G-M, and Robert Wilson, Wilson Theatre, Miami, W. Va. . . . Warner's Sofie Ringer of the inspection department, is on the sick list.

Detroit Variety Tag Day Drive Nets $36,194.41

DETROIT—Detailed report of Variety's big drive for funds for lunches and clothing for poor school children as released by Edgar E. Kirchner, general chairman:

Total receipts from tag sales	$28,672.60
Special gifts	3,691.75
Gifts of individual Variety Club members	1,774.00
Variety Club's own donation from the Treasury	2,056.06
Total	$36,194.41

The two items from Variety's own membership are being used to underwrite the entire expenses of the Drive, so that all outright gifts from the public and the special donors will go entirely to the charitable objectives. This is considered an unusually low expense for a drive of this sort, incidentally, due to the efficient operation of the organization.

Sunday Shows at Johnson Permitted for Benefit

JOHNSON CITY, TENN.—For the first time in many years, theatres here were permitted to operate on Sunday, but only because it was Kiwanis Club doings and the proceeds went into a club fund for underprivileged children. Both the Majestic and the Sevier were opened November 5.

Cartoons Aid Them

PITTSBURGH—Gardner Display Co. of this city is manufacturing two-foot lobby statuettes of "Andy Panda," new cartoon character for Universal. First one is on view at Jules Lapidus' office. William Gardner, local Variety Clubber, also is manufacturing lobby displays for Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels."

Collaborate on "Death"

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Brackett and Billy Wilder will collaborate on the script of "Battalion of Death" for Paramount.

COLUMBUS

WAYNE DOWIE has resigned as manager of Raders' Waynesville Theatre. He is being replaced by Phil Smith, assistant in Newark . . . John Pekras is doing rather extensive remodeling on his Ritz Theatre, including new seats.

The Rappold Bros. new Ideal Theatre opened last week . . . Date of the Variety Club charity skating party is December 6 . . . Representative Bixler was defeated in the race for mayor of Akron. Expect he will be back at the statehouse to introduce another bill to remove censorship on motion pictures.

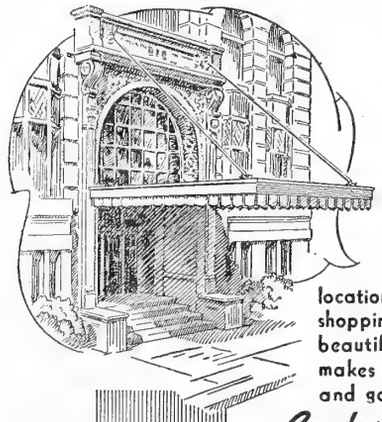
Another year gone by, and Earl Eveland is still operating the Twins Opera House in McConnelsville. He has been there so long he does not have anniversaries—So all we need say, "Glad to see you at the same stand, Earl!" . . . And rather belated congratulations to newly-married Arnold Skelly, manager of the Arcade in Newark!

Frank Stitch was in to promote RKO's "Allegheny Uprising." Clancy Isaacs came in for the new Kay Kyser picture. Incidently, the K. K. p. a. at the Palace has been set back.

Columbus will be deserted this weekend, everyone going to the Michigan game. Among those will be Johnny Barcroft, Ken Rader and Johnny Jones. Just watch our smoke, Detroit!

The Bexley Theatre was scheduled to close Saturday. Manager Bert Williams claimed the product contracts would mean a b. o. suicide, refusing to sign except under protest. He was to meet with branch managers in Cincy this week, and in event they could not arrive at a satisfactory agreement he said the theatre would close.

In case you've been wondering, J. Real Neth is a picture of good health. His leg still bothers him somewhat; otherwise he is feeling fit as a fiddle.



The Entrance to REAL Hospitality in DETROIT

Hotels of character and comfort with a most unusual downtown location; right in the heart of the business, shopping and theatre district, yet with beautiful parkways on two sides which makes for coolness and quietude. Parking and garage adjacent.

Comfortable Rooms from $1.50

SPECIAL SUITES FOR FAMILIES
WEEKLY AND MONTHLY RATES

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BEST HOTEL LOCATION

Alpine to Open 650-Seat Theatre in Sheraden

PITTSBURGH—The Alpine Theatre Circuit, operating in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, with upwards of 30 theatres, will open a theatre in Sheraden (Corliss), Charles E. Anderson and Walter B. Urling, Alpine executives, announce.

This company has taken a long-term lease on the auditorium of the old Sharadd Temple Bldg., owned by the Peoples-Pittsburgh Trust Co., and will have the property remodeled for a modern theatre. Seating capacity will be around 650. Sharadd dance floor will be dismantled and utilized in the new project. Bids on the general contracting were being received this week and it is expected that the new theatre, to be known as the Alpine, will be ready for opening around March 1.

Alliance "Sleeper" Getting Heavy Booking Dates

PITTSBURGH—Dates are pouring in to Louis Krieger, manager of International Pictures, for the "sleeper" of the year, "Dead Men Tell No Tales." Several dozen Warner theatres already have set in the Alliance Picture which stars Emlyn Williams, author of "Night Must Fall." Adapted from a best-seller, "Dead Men Tell No Tales" is an exciting and blood-chilling murder mystery which is paced with terrifying suspense. Emlyn Williams, as a pedantic schoolmaster, gives a masterly performance, and he is supported by such stars as Sara Seegar and Hugh Williams. Krieger has headquarters at 1022 Forbes St.

UDT Will Single Bill "Oz" At a Monday Matinee

DETROIT—Single feature bill for "The Wizard of Oz" is being tried by United Detroit Theatres at its Vogue Theatre. Bill is for one show only, to be an after-school matinee, especially for school children, starting at 4:00 p. m., and slated for Monday, not a usual matinee day in Detroit.

A program of cartoons and comedies has been booked for the Vogue to go with the "Oz" film, while the regular double feature bill goes into effect for the night show. Move is one further sign that major Detroit exhibitors are closely watching the dual bill situation and making intelligent experiments of the drawing power of singles.

Open Burgettstown Arco Nov. 11 as the Keith

BURGETTSTOWN, PA.—Arco Theatre reopened November 11 under new management and with a new name. Now known as the Keith Theatre, named for the new operator, R. Keith Chambers, the property has been modernized and newly equipped. Among new features are modern projection, seats and front. The theatre was formerly operated for many years by George Clair, who withdrew some weeks ago.

BOWLING

PITTSBURGH—Republic went into the lead in the Filmrow Bowling League last Friday evening when this team defeated New Universal bowlers three games in a row. Columbia and New Universal are tied for second place. S. Perilman of Republic rolled a new high score for three games, totaling 564 pins and he copped the weekly award of $1 for the high score for one game, with a 220. Republic rolled the second highest team score for one game of the season, turning in a 823 card. Standing of the teams to November 17:

	Won	Lost
Republic	17	4
New Universal	15	6
Columbia	15	6
Loew's	14	7
All Stars	8	13
20th-Fox	7	14
Monarch	6	15
RKO	2	19

Motiograph Leads Teams In Nightingale Club

DETROIT—Team standings in the Nightingale Club league:

Team	*Won*	*Lost*
Motiograph	19	9
National Theatre Supply	17	11
McArthur Theatre Equipment	16	12
Oliver Theatre Supply	16	12
Brenkert Projectors	12	16
National Carbon	12	16
Amusement Supply	10	18
Lorenzen Flowers	10	18

DETROIT—Team standings in the Film Bowling League are running close:

Team	*Won*	*Lost*
Republic Pictures	18	6
United Artists	16	8
Film Drug	13	11
Co-Operative Theatres	12	12
Film Truck	12	12
Monogram	11	13
20th Century-Fox	8	16
Amusement Supply	6	18

CINCINNATI — Captain Spencer, Paramount, went into the lead the past week, taking three games from RKO Pictures. Metro took three from Warner Bros., former leader. High game, 213, rolled by Doyle of Paramount.

Harry Roney Will Helm Alpine's Gerard Unit

PITTSBURGH — Harry Roney, former booker for Columbia, has been appointed manager of the Gerard Theatre, West View, which will be opened the third week in December by the Alpine circuit.

Roney, in recent months, has been employed as a checker at Columbia after recuperating from an illness which confined him to a local hospital for a year.

Dennison Lincoln Robbed

DENNISON, OHIO—About $35 was taken from the Lincoln Theatre boxoffice by a lone bandit, R. K. Veach, manager of the Tuscarawas Amusements Co., reported to police.

Revamped Opera House Opens at Waynesburg

WAYNESBURG, PA. — The new Opera House, a remodeling project which might be termed an entirely new building opened with a special dedication featuring the program. The building, owned by the Odd Fellows and Masonic Organizations Building Ass'n, houses two business establishments and the lodge rooms of the two fraternal organizations.

Larry Puglia and his sister, Mrs. Rose Pishionery, are operators of the revamped Opera House. At the gala ceremonies, speakers included Judson M. "Jud" Bell, associated with the theatre for many years; Burtus Bishop jr., of M-G-M; Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO secretary; Burgess P. H. Meighen, and others.

Claude Deardorff Dies In Detroit Hospital

DETROIT—Claude Deardorff, manager of the Broadway-Capitol Theatre for United Detroit, died in a local hospital following development of peritonitis after an operation for appendicitis. He was the second manager of a downtown UDT theatre to pass away this year, following the late William Elliott of the Palms-State.

Deardorff was one of the best known figures in local show business since coming here 12 years ago. He was associated with his parents in operation of theatres in Kendalville, Ind., for years before coming to Detroit, and has managed houses for UDT, the former Kunsky-Trendle Theatres, and the Klatt circuit for many years. His wife, and one daughter survive. Interment was at Kendalville.

Butterfield Executives Are Guests at Lansing Bow

DETROIT—Butterfield executives were guests of honor at the North Side commercial Club of Lansing, Monday, in celebration of the opening of the new Northtown Theatre on Thursday. Edward C. Beatty, president; Edmund C. Shields of Lansing, vice-president, and all local Butterfield managers were among the guests.

President Beatty gave a brief biography of the late Col. W. S. Butterfield, founder of the circuit, and went on to point out that a careful survey of North Lansing's requirements led to drastic revision of plans for the theatre, including greatly increased size and facilities.

Claude E. Cady, postmaster of Lansing, and former exhibitor, who sold his theatres to Butterfield, and Charles H. Davis, friend of the late Col. Butterfield, were other guests. Mayor Max A. Templeton extended an official welcome.

Unique tieup was made with the Lansing Oldsmobile Company—Lansing is the home of this car—when guests were brought to the North Side Club from the Strand Theatre in new cars. A grand parade on Thursday night climaxed a series of recent events that have made Lansing known as "the Butterfield Town."

The new 900-seat Northtown has a foyer divided by walnut panels with elaborate mirror walls. The house has ground-landing type safety exits, air conditioning, and body-form seating. Builders' glass front is used.

Fred Martin, formerly of the Garden in Flint, will be manager. He has been with Butterfield ten years.

Walter Brandt Recovering

CLEVELAND—Walter Brandt, Vitagraph salesman, who was stricken with a heart attack last week, is making rapid strides back to health. It is expected that after a few weeks of rest he will be back on the job again.

HARTFORD

E M. LOEW management is interested in having bowling matches with Greater Hartford theatres. Those interested are invited to call Hartford 5-6789 . . . "Rulers of the Sea" was shown at a special preview at the M&P Allyn Theatre . . . Loew-Poli managers, assistants and service staff members met last week for an interchange of ideas on publicity and theatre management.

Albert Karlyn, of the service staff at E. M. Loew's, has resigned. He is succeeded by Richard Herms . . . Ozzie Schulman, trombone player at the State, died suddenly last Thursday. Taking his place is Paul Landerman . . . Hartford election returns were announced in several downtown theatres . . . The State is planning a New Year's show with all seats reserved and has booked Charlie Barnet and his band for the occasion.

"Babes in Arms" is in its third week at the Loew-Poli Palace. The house has switched opening day for new pictures from Fridays to Thursdays . . . Jack Simons, popular manager of the Loew-Poli, is taking his day off on Fridays now . . . Bingo has found another sponsor here in a dance hall on Webster St. Place makes about five in Greater Hartford sponsoring the game. As yet, however, no theatreman has moved to sponsor such a game.

The State opened its stage show last Friday with Jack Haley and Mary Carlisle and Jack Teagarden and his band . . . Ten thousand heralds were distributed in the Greater Hartford area as part of the advertising for "Drums Along the Mohawk" . . . Eddie Downs is now an actor with the Little Theatre here. He's letting his hair grow long for a role in a forthcoming production.

Wally Cooper is looking forward to winter when he can enjoy ice skating and practice for the annual speed championship . . . Henry Stagg is vacationing in Texas for two weeks. With him is the Mrs. They went by car . . . Harry Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, was in town.

B-4 Signs Contracts With Six Hub Legit Houses

BOSTON—The Theatre Employes Local B-4, affiliated with International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators, has signed contracts with the six legitimate houses of Boston to bring the 90 stage doormen, front doormen, ushers, chief ushers and porters under the jurisdiction of the local.

The Shubert Boston Theatres, Inc., and the Colonial Theatre of Boston operate the legitimate houses affected by the new contract. Wages have been increased 25 to 35 per cent, and a 40-hour week and time and a half overtime has been granted. Negotiations were under way for the past year.

E. B. Finestone, labor relations counsel of Shubert Theatres, represented the employers. Walter H. Nolan, president of local B-4, headed the union committee in contract negotiations.

Kurson Does His Worthwhile Bit

Franklin, N. H.—Articles of all descriptions were offered as the price of admission at a special show at the Regal Theatre here. Samuel Kurson thus did his bit to aid the annual Franklin Hospital Day.

More than nine barrels of gifts were brought by children.

Morse Testifies as M&R Suit Reopens

BOSTON—The Morse & Rothenberg antitrust suit reopened in federal court with Charles Morse on the stand. He testified almost exclusively in regard to the operation of the Park and Colonial theatres in Nashua, N. H., and the difficulty he had in getting any product from the major distributors second run.

The case was adjourned on Thursday for reopening on the following Monday, when Morse planned to testify on the operation of his theatre in Portsmouth, N. H. Attorney George S. Ryan, counsel for the plaintiff, admitted he has no idea how long the case will continue.

Excavation Is Started on New Lieberman Theatre

BOSTON—Excavation work for the new $150,000 two-story structure, to house a theatre and four stores on a 5,000-sq. ft. site on Washington St., on the edge of Newspaper Row and directly across from Old South Meeting House, has begun. The application, filed with the building department, was signed by Dorothy Barnett of 11 Beacon St.

The Lieberman circuit will operate the new theatre. Plans call for a theatre to seat 770 persons. A ramp-style entrance will be on a side street, while the four stores will front on Washington St. The site is far from the theatre center of the city. Plans for the new house have not been announced, although it is said it may be a newsreel theatre.

Joelson Turns Over Six Units to M&P

BOSTON—Julius Joelson, veteran theatre operator, announces his retirement from the theatre business and the transfer of his circuit of six houses to Boston interests and that operation of the theatres will be supervised by M&P Theatres Corp., operators of the Metropolitan, Paramount, Fenway and about 90 other theatres throughout New England.

The theatres included in the deal are the Elizabeth in Falmouth, Park and Capitol in Taunton, Capitol in Arlington, Ball Square and Central in Somerville.

Joelson told BOXOFFICE: "Having made up my mind to retire completely from the exhibition field, I felt I ought to turn my houses over to someone who could give them the best management and best standards of film entertainment possible. I have no plans for the future, except a good rest and some travel."

Ex-Joelson Houses Involved In M&P Managerial Changes

BOSTON—M&P Theatres Corp. announces the following changes in theatre management, involving several of the former Joelson houses.

Howard Parker, former manager of the Paramount, Newton, is now managing the Capitol in Arlington. John Concannon, former assistant manager at the Rivoli in Roxbury, is managing the Capitol in Taunton. S. Bresnahan, formerly at the Paramount in Lynn, has been transferred to the Ball Square in Somerville. H. Mulqueen is new manager of the Central in Somerville.

Arthur W. Pinkham, former manager of the Allston in Allston, is now at the Park in Taunton. Morris Streletsky, assistant at the Capitol in Allston, is now managing the Allston, while Aaron Schindler, assistant at the Allston, is now at the Capitol. G. Van Buskirk is new assistant at the Paramount in Newton.

Marcks Leads Circuit Contest

BOSTON—Lou Marcks, manager of the Strand Theatre, Westfield, Mass. (Nate Goldstein's western Mass. circuit), is in first place in the ten weeks' drive contest being conducted by his circuit.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

B L. KEARNEY, general manager of the State Operating Co., which runs the leading theatres in Manchester, is recuperating from an illness which necessitated a surgical operation.

Before departing for Hollywood after a long New Hampshire vacation, Bette Davis purchased a permanent summer home at Sugar Hill, in the White Mountains. She said she would return next June.

Manager William Stanton played host to 300 4-H Club members from all parts of Strafford county at the Scenic in Rochester . . . Norman McLeod, M-G-M director, and his wife were recent guests of Corey Ford, screen writer, at his summer home in Freedom.

Golden Ring stemware is a new giveaway at the Empire in Manchester where it will supplement Met-Rose silverware, which will be distributed on alternate weeks.

It has been arranged with Columbia to show a one-reel version of the New Hampshire film, "The Ninth State," in 3,000 theatres throughout the country.

Glad to hear our old pal, Jack Sullivan, former dramatic editor of the Providence News-Tribune, *is clicking with a daily film news program over WNBC in Hartford.*

NEW HAVEN

PATRONS' list at the exchange employes union Movie Ball and floor show at Baybrook Inn on December 5 includes Thomas Donaldson, Ben Simon, John Pavone, Edward Ruff, Morris Joseph, Lou Wechsler, Tim O'Toole, Barney Pitkin, Samuel Seletsky and L. Levine. The boys and girls have engaged Worthy Hills orchestra, are rapidly filling up an attractive souvenir ad program, and have invited members of Boston and other locals to attend, in addition to everybody in the district. Patrons will contribute $5.00 a couple. Other admissions are at $1. Make your reservations early, urge Jerry Massimino, chairman, and Kathryn Fitzgerald, business agent.

Exchanges closed for the morning on Armistice Day. Peace, it's wonderful . . . Joseph Reed says he won't bother to open the Bryan Memorial, Washington Depot, on Thanksgiving Day, since there's a Firemen's Ball the night before and all good citizens will be sleeping it off . . . Lou Phillips of Modern Theatre Equipment has put new rubber mats and carpets in Lou Anger's Colonial, Bridgeport . . . No announcement beyond the permit on the new Anger house on Park Ave. . . . Under the new regime, Republic will have a New Haven booking office before the first of the new year . . . Jack Jennings is back as salesman for Republic in Boston . . . Herman Rifkin, former Boston franchise holder, gave the Boston staff a formal party at his home, but forgot to invite the New Haven office staff . . . Rumor is Rifkin may add to his two Holyoke and one Northampton theatre chain . . . Dick Cohen and Johnnie's new aluminum giveaway display at Connecticut Films is a knockout. Ask the culprit who took the coffee pot.

Martin Keleher has completed installation in his Princess, Hartford, of a new RCA sound equipment, model PG-139, which, he reports, is the last word in sound. National Theatre Supply has also installed two new Simplex projectors and a new screen. New Display frames will complete the renovation of this downtown subsequent, which was originally converted from a bank building . . . Paramount, New Haven, and Allyn, Hartford, started "The Cat and the Canary" with a midnight show.

The Bonoff, Madison, is trying regular Wednesday vaudeville and advertising in New Haven papers . . . Typical Palace, Meriden, Thursday vaudeville show includes Carlton and Miller, dancers; Joe Scandur, m. c.; two comedian acts and acrobats, with the Eddie Culver orchestra . . . Hymie Schwartz is putting a new marquee, new front, asbestos shingling, and spruced up lobby in the 400-seat Hillcrest, Taftville . . . The Shulman Plaza, Windsor, will have its display frames in a week or so . . . Dombi's Brooklawn, Bridgeport, is about to have a new marquee . . . William Hutchins of National Theatre Supply was finishing up installation of projection equipment at the new Groton Theatre, to be operated by D. C. Hess of Moosup as we went to press, and opening was scheduled for the 15th . . . With the arrival of Athan Prakas's brother from Greece, the Rivoli, Bridgeport, exhibitor is expected to proceed with his plans to build a 500-seat theatre on his site in Bethel soon.

Al Pickus has bought Wrisley's Rosella china for the Fairmount, New Haven, to begin November 29 and 30 . . . First spot vaudeville booking at the Arena since the advent of hockey was last Saturday, with Jimmy Dorsey . . . Congratulations to Joseph Markov, Mrs. Markov and the 5½-pound daughter who was born at the Hartford Hospital. The Markovs are active supervisors of Lampert's "borscht" circuit . . . Leo Bonoff of Madison and Saybrook, a Brown alumnus, showed his two boys what the Alma Mater could do on the gridiron in its tussle with Yale last week . . . Joseph F. Reed jr., who helped operate the Bantam last summer, is back at the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts where he studies silversmithing.

Both operators' and stage employes' unions will hold annual elections at their December meetings and talk about a holiday party . . . Lucy Flack's Capitol, Milford, will join the dish-givers for the first time, starting with Adolph Johnson's ovenware . . . Howard Johnson, son of Adolph G., and a sophomore at Yale, has been elected to A. A. U. and is a member of the 1939 All-American swimming team . . . The Yale Daily News *says, "Don't Miss 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington'" . . . The* Journal-Courier *calls the to-do in Washington over the picture a "teapot tempest." "If anyone has the right to be annoyed," the editor points out, "it's the newspaper men. The scenes in which the hard-boiled political boss takes over all the newspapers of an entire state simply by talking excitedly over a flock of telephones are sheer fantasy . . . but newspaper men are not howling. They're grinning at the picture as a sample of good clean fun, of authentic Americana done with a flourish of exaggeration by a humorist who follows the Mark Twain tradition and is a master of a new medium. They recognize that behind it are sincere respect and admiration of the American spirit."*

Goings-on in the theatres: Bob Russell converted the Poli middle lobby into a circus tent for "At the Circus," with 80 yards of bunting overhead, sawdust, sideshow signs, a trapeze for a Marx Bros. cutout in the center, wild animals in a cage, a barker on a raised platform outside the boxoffice, and a "Greatest Show on Earth" sign at the entrance . . . Eight hundred customers responded to Russell's "Are You Alert" contest with questions testing observation on "Mr. Smith." Twenty-five pair of tickets were the prizes. Nat Rubin scored again by promoting 15,000 bottles of PepsiCola to be given away during the week of "At the Circus" in the lobby of the Poli. Rubin also dressed three boys up as the Marx Bros. and had them run through the aisles during an intermission twice daily, cutting capers and distributing free popcorn. The idea was picked up for the entire circuit. Lou Schaefer had a preview screening of "Disputed Passage" for a selected list of doctors, educators and civic leaders at the Paramount. Also gave the schools 400 study guides and tied up with Judd's Liggett's and the Center book shops.

Paramount Thanksgiving booking set for "Rulers of the Sea" . . . Matt Saunders of the Poli, Bridgeport, discovered a descendant of the Mohawks in Bridgeport, planted a big story in the Post, *and invited the lady to see "Drums Along the Mohawk" in exchange for an interview and her picture . . . Parents of young children at a loss last weekend, with "Disputed Passage," "Drums Along the Mohawk," "Elizabeth and Essex" and "Mr. Smith" at the downtowns, and almost as sophisticated an array at the nabes.*

PROVIDENCE

RHODE ISLAND theatre business should show some upturn as result of Christmas Club monies which go into circulation this week. Seventeen banks are mailing out a total of $2,702,000 to depositors between now and November 30. This is about 16 per cent more than the total for 1938.

Another good barometer presaging better theatre grosses is the Federal Reserve Bank's figures on payrolls in the state for October. These tabulations show industries in Rhode Island paid out $16,803,792 in wages last month, biggest total in 10 years. This was nine per cent higher than in October, 1938 and 15 per cent increase over September's total.

Gerald Wagner, manager of E. M. Loew's Colonial, is launching a "Month of Hit Shows" to celebrate the house's fourth anniversary under the Loew banner. A benefit show for the American Red Cross, an annual stunt at the Colonial, is one item on the month's calendar.

Ward L. Jukes, advertising layout man and house artist at RKO-Albee, is receiving congratulations on his marriage to Alma Fouin, pretty aerial trapeze artist, at Salem, N. H.

E. M. Loew's Capitol, Pawtucket, is out after some of the vaudeville patronage this week, playing the "Too Hot for Paris" unit stage show. Manager H. Rodman ran large ads in Sunday Providence *Journal*, an unusual procedure for his house.

Arthur Goldstein, manager of the Avon, did big business with "South Riding," English film, playing it "first run" at his intimate neighborhood theatre for a three-day run that would have warranted a holdover.

Ernest Hulton has quit usher staff at Strand to take a job in one of the city's large manufacturing plants. Ed Crowley, a newcomer, is taking Hulton's place.

Hyman Pastman, lessee of Casino Theatre, Newport, expects to have house in shape for opening November 25 with its new film policy.

BOSTON

WILLIE ALPERIN was presented luggage at a bachelor party. Now he'll have to go off on a trip after his Christmas Day wedding . . . Plans are going ahead for the annual Christmas party of 20th Century-Fox employes. The affair will probably be held at the Coconut Grove, as in former years.

Mary Brady, pretty Monogram bookkeeper, is sick at her home with bronchial pneumonia. The illness meant her canceling dates for several Saturday football games . . . John Davin had his tonsils out. The scene of the coming-out party was the Massachusetts Women's Hospital—of all places . . . Dave Ambuter of Crown Film is burning the midnight oil readying a Christmas catalogue for his mail order business. It will be a two-color affair going in the mails about November 20.

Arthur Sharby of Groveton, N. H., one of the famous Sharby brothers, was in town booking . . . Ditto A. J. Turcotte of the Star in Newmarket, N. H. . . . Tom Bailey, 20th Century-Fox district manager, was in New York on company matters . . . Eli Leavitt, office manager at Warner, has been out for two weeks.

Elissa Landi, prominent actress of stage, screen and radio, was guest artist at the Morning of Diversion at Hotel Somerset, speaking on "The Play's the Thing—Or Is It?" . . . Condolences are in order for Frank Boscetti of the Strand and Premier in Lawrence, Mass. His sister passed away.

Motion Picture Operator's Union received a personal letter from Police Commissioner Joseph F. Timilty, thanking members for their cooperation in giving 51 free shows at 51 places for children on Halloween night. It was part of Timilty's campaign to keep the youngsters off the streets on the goblin night to prevent property damage. Members of the union gave their time gratis.

Secretary Burke of the projectionists' union is anxious to recover two books, the property of a visiting Chicago lecturer on projection equipment, which were taken from the union offices . . . National Screen Service had to install a brand-new projection machine at the Paradise in Millbury, Mass., to replace the bombed machine.

Tex Fletcher, the "lonesome cowboy" actor in Grand National westerns, visited the local exchange wearing his colorful, eye-stopping outfit. Christene Antognoni, booker at Popular Pictures, sat on Tex's lap, while he sang a cowboy song to her. All house records at the Premier in Newburyport, Mass., managed by Jim Tobin, were broken during Fletcher's appearance. Tex was accompanied to the exchange by Manager Beckman of the Waldorf in Lynn.

Most of the downtown houses held special midnight shows on Armistice Day eve. Some began at 10:15, *others at midnight. Good business was reported . . . The first of* 13 *one-reel "Information Please" shorts reached the Keith Memorial screen with Gene Tunney as guest. A different guest or "guess" expert appears in each release.*

"The Mill on the Floss" was held over for a third week at George Kraska's Fine Arts Theatre. Bill Murphy, Imperial's general manager locally, made the deal . . . Three Irish-made films came to Tremont Temple for a three-week run. "Ireland's Border Line," "In the Footsteps of St. Patrick," and "Kilmainham Jail," are the titles, with the latter produced under the direction of the Irish government. The productions are under the supervision of Eugene P. F. Sheehan who, last year, gave "Dawn Over Ireland" to Boston audiences.

A monthly meeting of the Friars Club was held at the Statler. Plans for the annual Christmas Basket Fund and New Year's Eve party were discussed . . . Sieg Horowitz, booker at 20th Century-Fox, is greatly interested in a new compound said to further your gasoline mileage in any type car. Sieg claims he gets 15 *miles from a gallon of gas in his chariot, compared with eight in former months. His enthusiasm was so evident that your correspondent turned over a dollar to him for a box. More about this new-fangled chemical later.*

Universal's auditor, Frankie Ranke, celebrated his birthday . . . Mona Lightowlers, secretary to Harry McDonald at RKO, has returned to her desk after a siege with a bad cold . . . Ethel Seletsky, office worker at Western Massachusetts Theatres who was hit by an automobile on her way to work, is back at her desk, none the worse for her experience . . . Fays and Strand theatres in Providence are carrying the Monogram torch. Four Monogram productions in a row will appear at these houses.

Joe Dondis of the State in Calais and Strand in Skowhegan, both in Maine, made his last Boston visit of the 1939 *season. Snow and ice will keep him bottled up in the Pine Tree state . . . Charlie Koerner, former local RKO manager, who was promoted to the post of west coast division manager, has bought a new home in Beverly Hills with a swimming pool and all the trimmings. Koerner sent back photographs of local Police Commissioner Joe Timilty and Frazier O'Leary, who visited the RKO studios during a recent trip. The photos showed Timilty and O'Leary with Carole Lombard, Kay Kyser and Leon Errol, and broke in the local sheets.*

George S. Ryan, attorney for Roy E. Heffner, was in Providence to argue before the R. I. supreme court on the legality of "Bank Night" as held by the Wilson Big Chief Market. Roy E. Heffner, owner of the idea, made the trip with Ryan . . . It is rumored that the Imperial in South Boston will reopen soon under the management of Frankie Lydon's uncle.

Jack Jennings, Republic salesman who was out for several weeks, is back covering western Massachusetts and Rhode Island . . . Auditors have been working in the Metro offices . . . Mary Blessington, formerly with 20th Century-Fox and Educational Films, lost her mother recently . . . Fire at the Idle Hour Theatre, Hardwick, Vt., has caused the shutdown of that house. F. T. Carr, manager, reports that the blaze began in the basement of the building.

M. N. Wolf and Harry Wolper of M-G-M have been attending big football games in New England . . . Nate Furst, ace Monogram salesman, has sold "Mutiny in the Big House" to the entire Warner Brothers' circuit of 23 theatres . . . Frank Lydon of Allied State Exhibitors, drove to Philadelphia for the regional meeting. Arthur K. Howard, local business manager, took the

(Continued on next page)

LLOYD BRIDGHAM

Has CAPITOLIZED and IDEALIZED

with IDEAL SEATS at the

BROADWAY THEATRE—DOVER, N. H.

CAPITOLIZE NOW . . .

Prices of Materials Are Rising



Ideal Seats are custom-made to suit your individual requirements. What's best for you is what we're interested in. We sell service.



CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

A NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZATION FOR NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS

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BRIDGEPORT

THOMAS SHEA has resigned as assistant manager of the Loew-Poli. The position will be left vacant and Al Domian, Lyric manager, has joined the staff as assistant to Matt Saunders.

Manny Kugell of the Palace, Norwalk, has succeeded Howard W. Pettengill, resigned, as manager of the Warner here.

The Commodore Hull, Derby, used a violin recital on the stage as an added attraction.

Installation of new orchestra seats have been completed at the Globe. The house gained some 80 *more seats by the elimination of boxes.*

The Bridgeport Amusement Corp. has been formed to operate the Lyric. Max Briskman is president, Jules Leventhal, vice-president, and Max Rudnick, secretary and treasurer.

A publicity story dug up by Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic from Simon Lake about new submarines for "Thunder Afloat" had the New York dailies all agog and rushing reporters and cameramen to Milford to get Lake to elaborate on the story.

Rialto, New Britain, is playing Polish programs two days a week.

Molly Rosenthal is back from a week in Atlantic City.

The State, Waterbury, booked in a midnight spook show on a Sunday.

No Time in Providence for 'Hitler—Beast of Berlin'

PROVIDENCE — "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" will not play here despite reports that the film was due for an extended engagement at the Playhouse.

The picture was screened privately at the Playhouse for the Bureau of Police and Fire, and while Chairman Benjamin Moulton afterwards stated "no permit had been requested" for the film, he added it would not be given a license.

34 Features and Newsreels Approved Without Cuts

BOSTON—Thirty-four features and newsreels have been approved without cuts by Commissioner Eugene M. McSweeney of the Department of Public Safety for Sunday exhibition.

At the same time, six vaudeville acts were passed, two were disapproved. Eight acts were disapproved in their present form because of dancing, objectionable, and suggestive actions.

10% Drop in Tourist Trade Reported in Connecticut

HARTFORD—Due largely to the New York World's Fair, there was a 10 per cent decline in tourist traffic in Connecticut the past summer, according to a survey. Summer situations in the state depend considerably on this traffic for patronage.

PORTLAND

THE STATE began a month's observance of its Tenth Anniversary, November 8. A history of the theatre, details of its structure, conveniences, improvements, number of personnel and its succession of managers was published in the Portland *Evening Express* on that date, with a three-column cut of its leaders, which included Harry Botwick, manager; Nathan Press, assistant manager; Chester A. Waldron, chief projectionist; William A. Romanoff, chief-of-service; Charles R. Haskell, stage and maintenance manager, and Esther A. Jordan, chief cashier.

High Quality Reproduction equipment has just been installed at the Strand by technicians of Altec. "Drums Along the Mo-hawk," which opened at the theatre November 12, *introduced the new sound engineering improvement to the public.*

Peggy Seyford, State cashier, underwent a major operation at the Maine General Hospital. Her condition is reported as good . . . Mary Siteman, candy girl at the same theatre, who underwent an emergency appendectomy at the State St. Hospital about a month ago, has not yet been released.

Theatre men here are wondering what to do about the dual Thanksgiving observance dates in Portland. Gov. Lewis O. Barrows has proclaimed November 30 *as Thanksgiving Day; Attorney General Frank U. Burkett, however, declares that city and federal institutions will observe the November* 23 *date set by the President. Exhibitors have about decided that the only thing to do is prepare for both occasions. Which seems a good idea.*

The John Divney-Mary McNaughton nuptials are set for November 25 at St. Joseph's Cathedral. Divney is house manager at the Maine . . . A large illuminated display, constructed in the inner lobby of the Strand, strikingly calls attention to "Drums Along the Mohawk." The display was constructed by Manager Leo Young a week in advance of opening date.

The State was the only one of the first-runs to hold an Armistice Eve midnight show . . . Portland Players opens its winter season, December 7, 8 *and* 9 *at the Playhuose with Eugene O'Neill's "Ah Wilderness" . . . Herbert G. Jones, author, will present a series of Wednesday evening broadcasts over Station WGAN, beginning November* 15. *"Old Theatre Days in Portland" will be recalled by the old-time associate literary editor of the Philadelphia* Public Ledger *and book editor of the New York* Tribune, *who will reminisce about gas-lit streets, horse-drawn cabs, brilliant first nights and world-famous stage stars.*

BOSTON

(Continued from preceding page)

train. Arthur has been busy these days playing bridge. And he takes his game seriously! . . . Matt Donahue of the M-G-M booking department came to work one hour late the other morning. Nobody has been able to find out the cause of his tardiness which was most unusual.

W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram Pictures, is due in from New York for the Harvard-Yale game at Harvard Stadium . . . Roy E. Heffner was in New York for a few days . . . Bill Marshall of Columbia is back at work after two weeks time out for an operation . . . Jack Saef, Paramount-Fenway publicity man, has secured excellent breaks in the local papers with his "Torpedoed" campaign.

Joe Longo is planning a special campaign for the showing of "A Day at the Circus" at the Loew theatres in town. He will hire three men to be made up as Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler. They will parade downtown carrying placards announcing, "We are taking time off to see the Marx Brothers in "At the Circus."

Simone Simon, Mitzi Green, Mary Brian, Art Jarrett and Stepin Fetchit will be in town in person in a new Shubert show titled "Three After Three" . . . George M. Cohan is due in "Madam, Will You Walk." Boston is enjoying one of its biggest legit show seasons in years . . . Helen Twelvetrees was held over for a second week in "Personal Appearance."

Joe DiPesa, Joe and Al Longo, Loew publicists, have landed a contest in the *Herald-Traveler* in conjunction with the showing of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." The contest will run six days and will call for the identification of six U. S. senators. Special window cards and heavy newspaper ads will herald this picture . . . Clifford Fischer's "Folies Bergere" company has been booked into RKO Boston for a full week beginning New Year's Eve. This is the same attraction that has been at the San Francisco Fair all summer.

Virginia Walker, former Boston photographic model, was recently married to William Hawks, free-lance director and brother of Howard Hawks. They met during the filming of "Bringing Up Baby," which Hawks directed for RKO. They are living in Beverly Hills in a home formerly owned by Erich von Stroheim.

Connie Dennehy, shipper at Grand National, has been visiting in Dover, N. H., for the last few weekends. Wonder what the great attraction is? . . . R. B. Anderson came into town for a few days from New York. He is with RKO Pathe News.

Stanley Farrington, 20*th Century-Fox booker, is a Boston College football fan . . . Irving Alexander, district general manager for the Snyder circuit at Winthrop, works in close cooperation with the local high school. He has special tags printed up for the school, wishing the team luck in each football game, and mentioning the films at his theatre . . . Ross Frisco Attractions has moved from* 172 *Tremont St. to the Metropolitan Bldg. at* 260 *Tremont.*

Anti-Trust Probe Is Ordered Resumed

DALLAS—News dispatches Tuesday said Judge Ralph W. Yarborough, of Travis county, seated in Austin, has renewed his order for investigations of alleged violations of Texas anti-trust laws within the state. Travis county district courts, it is said, and no others, are designated to call for such state-wide investigations.

Judge Yarborough, about a year and a half ago, issued such an order, but at that time the constitutionality of Texas anti-trust statutes were not established. In the meantime the Texas supreme court has termed the Texas law constitutional. Subsequently, Judge Yarborough put through another order for anti-trust investigations.

Film business was not mentioned in the order. Significant, however, is the fact that Attorney General Mann has been in the process of investigating this industry for the past three months and during recent weeks has had his men looking over letters and records in Dallas film exchanges and in home offices of the four major circuits.

Paul P. Scott Suit May Be Heard in January

DALLAS—Federal Judge W. H. Atwell will set cases on December 9 for the January term of court.

In one of the heaviest dockets in the court's history, at least one case involving the trade will be heard during January—the Scott case.

Several months ago, Paul P. Scott, former Dallas exhibitor, filed a damage suit under the Sherman act against Interstate circuit, Texas Consolidated Theatres, Karl Hoblitzelle, R. J. O'Donnell, and Paramount. Scott claims damages in connection with his former operation of the Varsity Theatre here and in the sale of that theatre to Interstate. If his claim is allowed and then tripled under federal law, the amount involved will approach $250,000.

In his suit, Scott also asks for an injunction against the defendants restraining them from alleged interference with the new River Oaks Theatre in Houston which Scott will soon open, and also from interference with any other theatre Scott might open in other towns.

Attorneys for Scott were engaged last week in taking a deposition from Sol Sachs, RKO branch manager. This is the only deposition taken thus far. However, it is understood other managers and witnesses may be interrogated soon.

Complete Drive-In

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.—Built at a cost of $40,000, the first drive-in theatre in Texas was recently completed near the city limits of Corpus Christi. Pete and Nick Katsaris and George Winter are the owners of this ten-acre "house."

Short on Eli Whitney

HOLLYWOOD—"Eli Whitney," biography of the inventor of the cotton gin by Ann Morgan, has been purchased by Metro for use as a short subject.

Government Filings Against Griffith and Majors Near

OKLAHOMA CITY—Filings in the department of justice suit against four Griffith companies and major distributors were expected late this week as the last time extension granted defense attorneys expired. The last extension was granted by Federal Judge Edgar S. Vaught due to the fact that Henry S. Griffing entered the case as an attorney for Griffith and needed the additional time to entrench his position and become more familiar with the maze of factors involved in the action.

It is unlikely that any further extensions will be granted as the preliminary hearings have already advanced 30 days beyond the original date set by Judge Vaught for pre-trial conference on the case. Early in the hearings he had intimated that he desired to get the actual trial of the case under way by the end of October. However, these preliminary matters have not as yet been disposed of so that there is little likelihood the trial can begin until next year. Some quarters doubt that the pre-trial conference itself will be held until after January 1.

Pending now are decisions to be given by Judge Vaught on the original memorandum briefs filed in substantiation of the various defense motions asking chiefly for a bill of particulars and clearing up of certain charges and wordings in the government's original petition. All attorneys involved in the case have filed their memoranda with regard to these motions. These have been taken under consideration by Judge Vaught who will probably rule on them within the very near future.

After they have been ruled upon, it is expected that action in the case will be speeded up. If he decides in favor of defendants, further filings on the part of the government will be necessary. In all likelihood it may call for an amended petition. Filings will then be extended as defense counter-filings again are brought forth.

However, if Judge Vaught rules that the government's petition is satisfactory as it stands, he will probably order an immediate pre-trial conference at which the issues to be fought over will be determined and an effort made to save as much time as possible in the pre-trial conduct of the case.

The likelihood of any action before January is remote, however, and some observers are estimating that the actual trial of the case here will not get under way until early next spring.

In its petition, the government is asking dissolution of present practices alleged between the four Griffith circuit companies and major distributors and for dissolution of the Griffith companies to "restore competition in Griffith cities."

Writ Plea Hearing Is Set for December 11

OKLAHOMA CITY—The trial on merit of the requested injunction of Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., against distributors is set for December 11 in the United States federal district court of Judge A. P. Murrah here. The date was previously set at a conference of attorneys and the judge, but may be changed. However, if no new date is set before December 1 it is probable that the hearing on the injunction will go on as scheduled for December 11.

The application for an injunction seeks the court to force distributors to sell Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., second and subsequent run product for its Odeon Theatre at Shawnee, Okla. It alleges that each of the distributors named defendants have such product in their vaults that has not been contracted for in Shawnee, but which they have refused to sell to Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., operated by A. B. Momand.

Defendants in the suit have filed answers denying conspiracy charges and withholding of film and asking that the petition be dismissed. Local film observers see little chance of Judge Murrah granting the injunction permanently and odds are being quoted that the temporary injunction will not be granted either.

Filing separate denials and requests for dismissal last month were the following defendants: Vitagraph, Columbia, 20th Century-Fox, Universal, Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio, Paramount and the Griffith Amusement Co.

Corpus Theatre Firm Buys Four Sites

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX. — Anticipating much growth here in years to come, Corpus Christi Theatres, Inc., which now owns and operates seven houses, has bought four other locations for theatres, Bruce L. Collins, city manager, has announced.

The four locations are a site west of town, another at nearby North Beach, a third in the Latin-American populated part of town, and a fourth location in the heart of town.

Plans are already being drawn up for two of the proposed houses, and if the Federal government decides to establish a naval air training base here, the other two will be built immediately.

The Ritz, meanwhile, is undergoing extensive remodeling. This No. 1 house recently was given a new front and a new vertical Neon sign. Next on the schedule is the redecorating of the interior, and the installation of a 100-ton refrigeration unit to replace the present cooling system.

Story Property to Capra

HOLLYWOOD—Frank Capra productions has purchased screen rights to "The Life and Death of John Doe," by Richard Connell and Robert Presnell.

Okla. Allied Plans a Membership Drive

OKLAHOMA CITY—A drive for membership by Allied of Oklahoma is being contemplated and may get under way immediately after the first of the year, it is understood here.

The original plan of holding zone meetings in the various parts of the state probably will be followed with each member of the board of directors supervising handling of the meeting in his or her district. The membership drive is expected to be concentrated in these meetings rather than on any statewide scale or upon any wide-spread promotional effort as was attempted prior to the state convention held here last September.

Directors in whose districts meetings will be held during the next few months include E. M. Freiburger of Dewey, Harry Holt of Maud, Sam Caporal of Oklahoma City, Orville Von Gulker of Okeene, C. E. Norcross of Seiling, Mrs. Juanita Berry of Norman, A. B. Momand of Shawnee and Jess L. Cooper of Antlers.

It is expected that Allied will seek to boost its membership and influential strength prior to convening of the next session of the Oklahoma legislature in order to back legislation now being written for the the theatre industry. One such bill was discussed by representative William High at the last Allied meeting. He explained general plans he had for a chain theatre tax bill and asked the convention's suggestions for points to be incorporated therein. The bill has not as yet been written, it is understood.

A Third Interstate House Victimized by Bandits

FT. WORTH—The third weekend major theatre robbery for Texas was staged Sunday night when bandits held up the treasurer, cashier and two ushers in the Worth Theatre, escaping with $3,000. Treasurer Howard Yarborough had gone up to his office with the night receipts. Mrs. Dorothy Allen, cashier, and two others were in the office as the yeggmen drew their guns. All were bound with heavy twine.

Two weeks ago, bandits made off with $3,000 from the office of City Manager L. Novy. The next week the Palace at Denton was taken for $500. All three were Interstate theatres.

Wallace Butler to Handle World War Film in South

BAY CITY, TEX.—Wallace Butler of Wal-Lee Amusement Enterprises has been named distributor in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico for "When Germany Surrendered" by the producer of the picture, A. L. Rule. The film has played key-run spots, according to Rule, in numerous Fox West Coast theatres and other circuits over the country.

Something Strictly For the Ladies

New Orleans—Vic Meyers of the Orpheum here in the past has given away silverware, money, lamps and dishes to patrons. Now, he's going to try something new, something appealing strictly to the ladies.

A handsome he-man will act as escort for a night to a lucky lady patron, and the evening of entertainment will include a dinner and a round of the night spots, with Meyers footing the bill.

Free Films in Dallas Parks Are Likely

DALLAS—The city park board is seeking the aid of Karl Hoblitzelle in a proposed plan to show free sound films in six parks, for the underprivileged.

Harry Stone, park board member, believes he will be successful in obtaining Hoblitzelle's cooperation and that the plan may soon be started following the working out of only a few minor details.

Stone said he had conferred with James O. Cherry, Interstate city manager; R. J. O'Donnell and Hoblitzelle and that the three offered to cooperate fully. The shows would be given without paid advertising or solicitation of funds from merchants. The city would provide the "juice" and benches, with Hoblitzelle supplying the pictures and sound equipment.

While there are no definite statements so far from the Hoblitzelle office, it is well known that he is a leader of many philanthropic movements here and throughout Texas.

Warner Southern District Meeting Is Concluded

DALLAS—Southern area branch managers for Warner have departed for their respective territories following a series of meetings here with Fred Jack, southern district manager. Discussion centered on the new Warner lineup and the Gradwell L. Sears drive, running from December 24 to April 13, totaling 16 weeks.

The meetings were called after Jack's return from New York conferences with Gradwell L. Sears, Charles Einfeld, Carl Leserman, Ben Kalmenson and Mort Blumenstock.

Attending the confabs here were Ralph McCoy, Atlanta; Luke Conners, New Orleans; J. A. Bachman, Charlotte; Otto Rohde, Oklahoma City and Doak Roberts, Dallas.

Gurdon House Ready

OKLAHOMA CITY—Workmen have completed construction work on the new K. Lee Williams house at Gurdon, Ark., under the supervision of R. B. Hardy, local manager, and C. H. Parker, construction engineer.

Public Must Make Up Loss, Says Yates

ATLANTA—Herbert J. Yates, president and managing director of Consolidated Film Corp., declared here that American filmgoers will be called upon to pay higher admission prices next year to aid the film industry in balancing foreign market losses caused by the European war.

"The film industry must increase American revenue from 10 to 25 per cent to even up to a minimum of 50 per cent the loss of business in the foreign market," he said. "The industry stands to lose at least $75,000,000 from England alone."

Two solutions present themselves, he added—to cut cost of production and cheapen quality of film, or to reduce the number of films produced.

"Republic Pictures, and I think the others will do likewise, does not choose to do either," he went on. "The purpose of my hurried trip around the nation at present is to tell Republic's field representatives we must have more money from the American market and that we do not intend to cut quality or quantity."

He added that Republic would not make propaganda films unless "the government orders them." While here, he conferred with Arthur C. Bromberg, president of Republic Pictures of the southeast, and other officials in the local exchange.

Interstate Supervisory Post for Ray Willie

DALLAS—Two executive promotions were made this week on the staff of Interstate circuit. Raymond Willie has been assigned to supervision of all Interstate theatres under General Manager R. J. O'Donnell. For the past year, Willie has had charge of the Texas Consolidated group with the exception of Waco, Temple, Mexia and the Valley. Before that he was city manager in San Antonio. He has been with the circuit for many years.

Along with this shift came the transfer of William O'Donnell from San Antonio to Dallas where he became supervisor of the Texas Consolidated houses, relieving Willie. W. O'Donnell is a brother of the general manager.

E. E. Collins, veteran Houston theatreman, has been transferred to San Antonio as city manager there.

Fox Sales Managers Hear Wobber on New Trends

OKLAHOMA CITY—New trends in motion picture sales technique as a result of the European war and a curtailed foreign market were discussed by Herman Wobber, general sales manager for 20th Century-Fox, here in a sales managers' meeting. Wobber, making a tour of Fox exchanges, arrived by airplane, spoke the same day and later left for Dallas, accompanied by M. A. Levy, sales campaign leader, and W. E. Scott, midwest district manager.

MEMPHIS

A C. BROMBERG, president of Republic Pictures Corp. of the Southeast, spent several days in Memphis this week. He arrived from Atlanta with W. M. Snelson, local branch manager, where they attended a sales meeting held by Herbert Yates and J. R. Grainger.

Two infrequent visitors on the Row this week were B. V. McDougald of the Amusu and Drew theatres at Monticello, Ark., who gets to Memphis about twice a year to do his bookings, and M. B. Hasty, together with T. M. Hasty, his father, of Mt. Vernon, Tex., who were busy signing new contracts for the forthcoming year.

M. A. Lightman of Malco Theatres advised that effective Sunday, November 12, Sunday shows were resumed in Winona, Miss. This Sunday operation is under the sponsorship of the American Legion.

Exhibitors seen along the Row: Steve Stein of the Met Theatre, Jackson, Tenn.; E. O. Reeves of the Dixie at Fulton, Miss.; Odis Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; Ned Greene, Legion Theatre, Mayfield, Ky.; John Shannon of the Shannon at Portageville, Mo.; John Mohrstadt, Hayti; and Lyle Richmond of Senath, Mo.; E. H. Smothers of Dixie Theatre, Camden, Tenn.; A. D. Fielder of Steele and Lilbourne, Mo.; Bill Headstream of the Melba Theatre, Batesville, Ark.; W. F. Ruffin of Covington, Tenn.; Jack Marshall, city manager, Tony Sudekum in Dyersburg, Tenn.; J. D. Courtney of Maben and Shelby, Miss.

Bob Burns, together with Mrs. Burns, after spending several days in Hot Springs drove to Van Buren, Ark., his home town, and it seems as though Bob walked right down Main Street without any of his fellow townsmen recognizing him. Wearing glasses and his hat tilted over his eyes, Burns dropped into A. E. (Doc) Meier's drug store, where he once worked, before anyone knew of his visit.

G. W. Haynes of the Strand Enterprises, Inc., has taken over the reins of the Roxy Theatre, Memphis. This house for the past year has been operated by Joe Wheeler, former Little Rock operator. This suburban theatre represents Haynes' first venture in the show business in Memphis, although he has many theatres in the surrounding states.

Dwight Blizzard of the State Theatre, Okolona, Miss., paid Filmrow his first visit in something like six months—he says he is much too busy to get to Memphis very often . . . Another visitor was E. W. Gibson of the Tutrovansum Theatre, Tutwiler, Miss.

Earl Elkin of the Temple Theatre, Aberdeen, Miss., advises BOXOFFICE *that plans have been completed for the erection of another house in Aberdeen, which will be ready for business around January* 1. *This theatre is to have a seating capacity of* 750, *and will be called Elkin Junior. Earl and his brother are veteran exhibitors in Mississippi, having operated theatres in Aberdeen since* 1918.

Jess Norman of the Best Theatre at England, Ark., spent the past weekend in Memphis and was seen on the Row Sunday with his two-year-old granddaughter, Olivia Anne. Jess still isn't well, but is looking greatly improved.

Grady Cook and Rufus Hardy of the Joy Theatre at Pontotoc, Miss., were busy advancing their bookings . . . K. K. King, city manager for Commonwealth of Kansas City in Searcy, Ark., was in doing his booking for December and January.

W. F. Sonneman, who operates theatres in Fayetteville, Springdale, and Bentonville, together with his son, spent a couple of days in Memphis this past week arranging bookings . . . Yours truly is off on a well-earned vacation—going to the country and forget everything for 10 days.

NEW ORLEANS

BOB KELLY, late of the Grand National who resigned due to ill health, is in harness again, this time as office manager for Columbia. Williard B. Goodnough of the Universal Poster Service was married to Miss Josie Rose Longo of New Orleans, recently. Goodnough is formerly of Greenville, S. C. . . . Charles J. Trepagnier, projectionist of the Famous Theatre, was host to many of his friends at a housewarming at his new residence, 2526 Gentilly Road. Many Filmrow inhabitants, as well as employes of the Jung Hotel, were in attendance . . . Linton Major is now the new field engineer and sound technician of the Louisiana Motion Picture Equipment Co.

The many friends of Willis Houck, (brother of Joy) will be pleased to know that he has recovered from a major operation. In appreciation of his recovery his brother Joy presented him with a new Packard automobile on his discharge from the hospital . . . A tubular light system has been installed by Joe Alsini to brighten up the neighborhood of the Famous Theatre. The lights are mainly arranged around the boxoffice in frames and sets the neighborhood ablaze in a flood of colored lights. Bert Kiern of the Happy Hour Theatre was an interested visitor the other night and immediately announced his intention of following suit, giving Magazine St. a touch of color.

Jack Duffy, office manager of Republic, attended the sales meeting in Atlanta in lieu of Manager Leo V. Seicshnaydre, who has been ill for the past week, but who has recovered sufficiently to come to the office for short periods. Jack says the trip was his first in an airplane and that he "wasn't scared a bit."

The Times-Picayune, *one of the largest and most conservative newspapers in the south, evidently does not think much of the film, "The Birth of a Baby." Somehow the title was omitted in the Liberty Theatre ad.*

The Ashton Theatre in the upper section of the city has been decorated with red plush curtains in the ticket box and aisle entrances . . . The local Republic staff sent a telegram of condolence to Arthur C. Bromberg, president of Republic Pictures of the Southeast in Atlanta on the occasion of the death of his brother.

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OKLAHOMA CITY

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

R. J. CALLEN has been appointed manager of Lou Langlois' theatre at Fayette, Miss.

Frank A. Rawls has quit the grocery business at Shreveport, La., to take over the Harbin Theatre at Pineville, La.

Visited my old friend L. B. Jarrell, operating the Ritz at Columbia, La., and he told me of his trip to Columbia, Mo., to see his daughter who is attending Stephen College. She is studying dramatic art and play production. He was smart enough to time his visit so that he could take in the game between Missouri and Nebraska.

Solomon Bros., who operate theatres at Tylertown and Columbia, Miss., have opened their new theatre, the Palace, at McComb, Miss. The house seats about 600 patrons, 250 in the balcony. The house is smartly modern.

Slim Higganbotham, operating Dixie theatres with headquarters in New Orleans, has taken over the Arcade at Brookhaven, Miss., owned for many years by Clyde Noble, who advises he expects to stay in the business by accepting a position at Higganbotham's office.

Congratulations are in order to our good friend L. W. Watts of Oil City, La., on the birth of a son to Mrs. Watts on October 25 at a Shreveport hospital. Watts operates theatres in Arkansas and Louisiana.

Jake Abrahams of the Trace Theatre at Port Gibson, Miss., tells your correspondent that he has installed a new cooling system, new carpets and a new Neon sign. He has a unique arrangement for making announcements in the form of loudspeakers installed in the walls of the theatre and in the lobby. Jake can almost out-talk me, and people, that is something!

Ed Boyle, for many years with George Elam at Winnsboro, La., has been appointed manager of the Arcade at Brookhaven, Miss. The theatre name will be changed to "Dixie."

Called around to take a peek at the new Pix Theatre under construction in the Fondren section of Jackson, Miss., and found the walls going up at a rapid pace. This theatre is being built by W. D. Riemers, Van Downing and B. C. Ricketts and should be ready for business the early part of January.

R. F. Bethea will replace Ed Boyle as manager of the Princess at Winnsboro for George Elam. He has been the projectionest there for several years.

Add capable women managers: Miss Lois Willis of the Renevouz at Vidalia, La.

L. E. Downing, managing the Haven at Brookhaven, Miss., used a letter addressed to Herr Hitler inviting him to attend their showing of "All Quiet on the Western Front" as a means of creating interest in this picture and had reproductions of the letter printed and distributed all over his territory.

This vagabond likes Georgia so well that he expects to visit southern and southeastern Tennessee and then drop back to Atlanta and, if the weather permits, he intends to induce that renowned angler, Sid Reams, to take him to his favorite "fishing hole." How about it, Sid?

Atlanta Barkers Will Entertain Shut-ins

ATLANTA—Acquisition of a special truck and sound equipment to bring film entertainment to local shut-ins is the first charity undertaking of the new Atlanta Variety Club, a step decided upon at the election meeting here.

The present lineup of officers was retained, as follows: William K. Jenkins, of Lucas & Jenkins Theatres, chief barker; Harry G. Ballance, 20th Century-Fox, assistant chief barker; Charles E. Kessnich, M-G-M, second assistant chief barker; R. B. Wilby, of Wilby-Kincey Theatres, dough guy; E. E. Whitaker, district manager of L&J, property master.

The directors re-elected include John Ezell, W. A. Finney, Harold F. Wilkes, R. L. McCoy, Walter W. Anderson and Paul Wilson.

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Hometown Premiere For Kyser's Film

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.—The premiere of RKO's "That's Right, You're Wrong," which features Kay Kyser and his "Kollege of Musical Knowledge," drew some 25,000 visitors, headed by Gov. Clyde R. Hoey and Senior Senator J. P. Bailey to this town, which is the home town of Kyser.

Tickets for the premiere, at the Center and the Carolina theatres, sold out in advance. Kay and his troupe broadcast their regular Wednesday show from the Center over 103 stations of the NBC Red network.

With Hal Orr, manager of the Center Theatre, as head of the general committee, the following Wilby-Kincey circuit city managers assisted in the seating and greeting of distinguished guests at the premiere:

W. G. Enloe, Raleigh; Noble Arnold, Durham; Frank Burns, Greensboro; A. S. Grist, Wilson; Frank Remsberg, Goldsboro, and T. Y. Walker, Greenville. M. S. Hill, district manager, of Greensboro, and H. F. Kincey, general manager of North Carolina Theatres, attended.

Coming in from the New York RKO office for the occasion were Ned E. Depinet, vice-president; Cresson E. Smith, western and southern sales manager; S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising and publicity, and Ken Hallam of the publicity department. David Butler, producer and director of the picture, going from Hollywood to New York, joined in the trip.

Another highlight of the premiere was a gigantic Kay Kyser homecoming dance, staged in the tobacco market warehouse here, net proceeds of which go to a local charity.

Display at N. O. Library Pictures Film Making

NEW ORLEANS—A pictorial record of the making of a motion picture is on display at the New Orleans public library. There are 100 captioned stills explaining the activity pictured. The collection was made by F. L. Myers, public relations director of the Cleveland, Ohio, public library with a view of promoting wider readings on films.

All of the numerous units in a major Hollywood studio are depicted—costumes, furniture, designers, makeup artists, researchers, scenario writers, musicians, directors and finally the finished film is shown.

Adapts "Way of All Flesh"

HOLLYWOOD—Lenore Coffee is adapting Paramount's remake of "The Way of All Flesh," to star Akim Tamiroff with Louis King directing.

Megs "Road to Reno"

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Lamont will direct "Road to Reno" for Universal. Arthur Horman is doing the screenplay for Producer Kenneth Goldsmith.

ATLANTA

A Dazzling Premiere Is Assured Atlanta

ATLANTA—This city is assured that the "Gone With the Wind" premiere will outdazzle any Mardi Gras.

Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh and Olivia de Havilland will fly here by special plane from Hollywood on the morning of December 14, and will lead the grand march at the ball to be given by the Atlanta Junior League in the Municipal Auditorium.

They will also appear at the premiere the following night.

Other plans include:

1. The Junior League ball will be staged in the exact setting of the bazaar scene in the film. This set is being moved intact from Hollywood to Atlanta.

2. Important visitors from New York will include Producer David O. Selznick and Mrs. Selznick; Jock Whitney, and Mrs. Whitney; David Bernstein, treasurer of Loew's; Howard Dietz, Metro director of advertising and publicity; Louis B. Mayer, vice-president in charge of production for M-G-M; Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, Inc.; Oscar Doob, in charge theatres for Loew's; Tom Conners, southern sales manager for M-G-M; W. F Rodgers, general sales manager, and Joe Vogel, theatre operations manager for Loew's.

3. The orchestra for the ball will be Kay Kyser.

4. Gowns worn by the stars in the film will be exhibited, and many of them wil be worn by Junior League girls.

The premiere will be held at the Grand Theatre December 15. Much newspaper space in Atlanta papers has been devotec to it.

Suburban Fire in N. O. Does Damage of $600

NEW ORLEANS—A fire of undetermined origin did damage of $600 at the Bell Theatre, 2800 Grand Route, St. John. The theatre is owned and operated by William Jonqua.

No films were in the building at the time of the fire.

Girl to Savini's Daughter

ATLANTA—The brothers Savini, Emile and Bob, are celebrating; Emile because he is a grandpop for the first time, and Bob because he becomes a great-uncle. The cause: The arrival at Crawford Long Hospital of a girl, Betty Jane Norris, to Theresa Savini Norris. Emile operates the Savini Film Co. here; Bob heads Astor Pictures in New York.

Trio Cast in "Trouble"

HOLLYWOOD—Fred MacMurray, Robert Preston and Albert Dekker are to be teamed by Paramount in "Trouble Enough," an historical western which Dale Van Every will produce.

SEEN at the recent Duke-Georgia Tech football game here were some visitors from North Carolina. They were Frank Beddingfield of Charlotte, manager of the Carolina Poster Co.; Cy Dillon of Charlotte, manager of Republic Pictures, and Salesmen Jack London and Marsh Funderburck; A. B. Huff, exhibitor and theatre owner of Kingston, N. C.

"Violatin'" Taylor, of Taylor and Bishop, was along the Row, and disclosed that his firm has taken over the Palace at Ensley, Ala. They also operate the Dixie and Grand in Columbus, and the Dixie in Birmingham.

Fred Weis of Savannah, who has been ill recently, paid a visit to the Row for the first time in many weeks. He was accompanied by Mrs. Weis . . . Maurice Simmons, booker for GN, spent the weekend in north Georgia, visiting relatives and doing a bit of hunting.

Horace Wright, former RKO salesman, is now with Paramount as salesman, working out of Charlotte.

Jimmy Leak, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Leak, has won a contract with Columbia and a major part in a forthcoming production. His father is buyer for a department store here. A picture of the brown-eyed boy, carried to the studio by an agent, won the lad the job.

V. G. Hopkins, well known Decatur young man, has been named vice-president of Southern Theatres, Inc., operators of houses in Avondale, Conyers and other Georgia towns.

O. C. Lam jr. of Rome has assumed duties as manager of the Gem Theatre, Newnan, Ga., it was announced by Ecta Hutchinson, manager of the Alamo Theatre . . . Adolph Gortatowsky plans to reopen the Ritz Theatre at Albany, Ga.

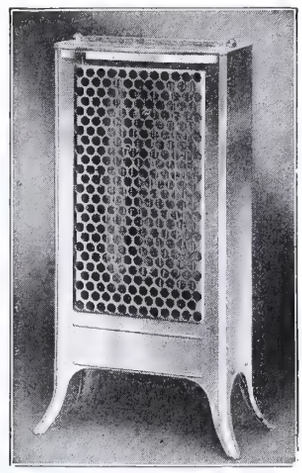
Haberfeld, Flexer Acquire Ritz Theatre at Memphis

MEMPHIS—Bernard Haberfeld and David Flexer, who operate theatres in Amory, Sardis and New Albany, Miss., have bought the Ritz Theatre, located at Evergreen and Poplar Streets, in Memphis, for approximately $50,000. Haberfeld and Flexer bought this house subject to the existing lease of Albert Cohen, who has been operating the theatre several years and will continue to do so. The building, erected about 12 years ago, was remodeled inside and out about two years ago, and now is one of the most modern suburban theatres.

Vivien Leigh to Metro

HOLLYWOOD—Vivien Leigh has been loaned to Metro by Selznick International for the starring role in "Waterloo Bridge," which Mervyn LeRoy will direct.

Electric Quick Heater



10½ in. Wide 19¼ in. High 6 in. Deep
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ARKANSAS

BOB BURNS, national known comedian, is vacationing in Hot Springs. In speaking to the Arkansas Association of Commercial Organization Secretaries in convention there, he said he was glad to be back in his native state. He was made an honorary member of the association.

Tuckerman's New Theatre, owned by Carl Christian, opened recently. The building has been completely remodeled. The floor has been elevated, the walls decorated, and new seats have been installed.

E. W. Capps of Foreman has installed a gas system for heating the Ace Theatre this winter . . . Paul Bursey and Ray Marsh of Melbourne have organized a new film theatre circuit which will operate six nights a week, showing at Alpena Pass, Jasper, Yellville, Salem, Mt. Pleasant and Melbourne.

Work is progressing on the theatre at Gurdon which was recently bought by the K. Lee Williams Co. The new marquee is nearing completion. The ticket window is being moved nearer the front of the building. New seats have been bought for the auditorium. Several weeks will be required to complete remodeling and the installation of the new sound equipment. The house was formerly owned by G. Sterling.

DeQueen, Ark., Theatre Holds "Twin Party"

DEQUEEN, ARK. — A "Twin Party and Roundup" was held by the DeQueen Theatre here, a K. Lee Williams house, on the opening day of the dairy and livestock show here. More than 40 sets of twins formed a special parade with each pair receiving prizes.

Gather in Albany for Start on "Biscuit"

ALBANY, GA.—Exhibitors from ten southern states and scores of newspapermen, including eight special writers for syndicates who flew in from New York, were on hand here Thursday as a Paramount location crew went to work in earnest on "The Biscuit Eater," the Billy Lee starrer.

Invitations to exhibitors were handled by Y. Frank Freeman jr., assistant to Producer Jack Moss, who is in charge of the production. Newspapermen were invited by the Albany *Herald*.

After the day's camera work, the visitors were treated to a barbecue at which Freeman was host. A program of entertainment featured a series of Negro spirituals sung by a chair of 100 voices from the Georgia Normal School. Entertainment was arranged by A. C. Gortatowsky, local exhibitor.

Among political figures who were expected to attend were U. S. Senator Walter F. George and Gov. E. D. Rivers.

Among the exhibitors: E. V. Richards, G. J. Dureau, Robert Blair, L. C. Montgomery, Turk Carter and A. Higgenbotham of Paramount-Richards Theatres, New Orleans; Arthur Lucas, William K. Jenkins, E. E. Whitaker, T. H. Reed, A. C. Cowles, and William Pratt of the Lucas & Jenkins circuit, Atlanta; M. A. Lightman of Paramount-Lightman Theatres, Memphis; R. B. Wilby and J. H. Harrison of the Wilby-Kincey circuit, Atlanta.

R. E. and Hugh Martin and A. E. Adams of Columbus, Ga.; J. H. Thompson of Hawkinsville, Ga., and Charles Karr of Atlanta, all of the Martin circuit; Earle M. Fain of the Fain circuit, Leesburg, Fla.; Louis Rosenbaum of Muscle Shoals Theatres, Inc., Florence, Ala.; Abe H. Borisky of Independent Theatres, Inc., Chattanooga, Tenn.; Earl Hendren of Cherokee Amusements, Inc., Erwin, Tenn.; R. T. Hill of Cumberland Amusement Co., Tullahoma, Tenn.

H. S. Johnson of Pal Theatres, Inc., Vidalia, Ga.; N. H. Waters of Waters Theatre Co., Birmingham, Ala.; Thomas E. Orr of Amusement Enterprises, Inc., Albertville, Ala.; Lester Neely of Neely Theatres, Marion, Ala.; R. E. Hook of Hook Theatres, Aliceville, Ala.; O. C. Lam of Lam Amusement Co., Rome, Ga.; H. V. Manning of Etowah, Tenn., and J. C. H. Wink of Dalton, Ga., of Manning & Wink; Mrs. L. S. Bach and Charles King of Bach Theatres, Atlanta.

H. T. Spears of Bailey Theatres, Inc., Atlanta; L. J. Duncan of Al Dun Amusement Co., Westpoint, Ga.; Nat Williams of Interstate Enterprises, Inc., Thomasville, Ga.; C. M. Bridges of Dixie Amusement Co., Swainsboro, Ga.; George L. Denton of Denton Theatres, Knoxville, Tenn.; Frank Merritt of Acme Theatres, Birmingham, Ala.; F. C. Mulling of Mullin circuit, Haines City, Fla.; Mort and Gus Seligman of Jacksonville, Fla.; Walter J. Brackin of Ozark, Ala.; George Gaston of Atlanta, Ga.; A. L. Cowart of Edison, Ga.; J. C. Peters of Blakely, Ga.; L. R. Dean of Butler, Ga.; Mrs. F. O. Adams, Cairo, Ga.; R. K. Dunn, Camilla, Ga.

E. J. Hunter, Colquitt, Ga.; F. J. Wood, Cordele, Ga.; M. G. Lee, Cuthbert, Ga.; Ellison Dunn, Donaldsonville, Ga.; Mrs. Bessie D. Loypess, Fort Gaines, Ga.; J. P. Rampey, Lakeland, Ga.; F. A. Ricks, Reynolds, Ga.; H. H. Newman, Sandersville, Ga.; Mrs. W. B. Smith, Tennille, Ga.; C. E. Beach, Thomaston, Ga.; T. E. Woodruff, Unadilla, Ga.; W. E. Griffin, Vienna, Ga., and Fred McLendon, Union Springs, Ala.

AUSTIN

IT LOOKS like "old-home week" on The Drag . . . In the past week the Varsity has played "The Champ" while the Texas has exhibited "Mutiny on the Bounty" and "The 39 Steps." Business was good, too.

Raymond Wood, doorman at the Varsity and a stamp-collecting bug from 'way back, recently gave a stack of old philately magazines to the University of Texas library, and was surprised to learn that the library has bound the journals and printed his name on the fly-leaf as donor. Sort of casting your magazines on the waters, eh, Ray?

Francis Vickers, skipper at the Austin, the town's newest house, says everything's running smoothly in his bailiwick . . . Charles Mladenka is one of the most popular men on the aisle at the Varsity . . . Louis Novy, Interstate city manager, dashed up to Waco to catch the Baylor-Texas game.

Jake Jarmon, the 16mm camera fan, still busy on the University of Texas campus.



DALLAS

MRS. VIRGINIA LYNE has resigned her position with Columbia for a similar assignment in the Monogram exchange. She had been with Columbia over eight years and said she felt perfectly at home in her new job as Columbia occupied the Monogram location at the time she started work for the first company.

Will Dorbandt, on the Row for a brief visit, said there hasn't been much excitement down at Athens lately because of prolonged dry weather, but that things look brighter because of fine rains last week and more Monday night. Principal industry for the moment around Athens he said, is the making of syrup from the ribbon cane crop.

Howard Bland and Howard Hoke of Taylor were in Dallas this week conferring on plans to remodel both the Howard and Colonial theatres there. They are affiliated with the Robb & Rowley circuit and with E. H. Rowley and Don Douglas, of that organization, went over sketches as prepared by Architect Raymond Smith, retained for those jobs. Douglas said both theatres would be thoroughly remodeled and modernized.

Chester Neece of Hubbard, and Johnny Blevins of Dublins were among visitors from the central portion of the state.

Steve Curley, who since his graduation from A&M has been assisting his parents, the J. W. Curleys, in the operation of the National and Dixie in Bridgeport, made the truthful statement here Wednesday that the white perch have not been biting so well lately at Lake Bridgeport.

Col. H. A. Cole feels very proud of the showing made at the Allied convention last week. He said it was the best meeting the Texas organization has had in many years.

Harold Pickett, former Paramount manager in Dallas, and whose most recent assignment was the Charlotte branch, is on a visit in Dallas and tells friends he is no longer with the company. He had been with Paramount for the past 17 years, it was said.

There was some ado in the R&R booking office Monday when it became known that there would be a blessed event in 1940 *of much interest to that particular department of the circuit. Big-hearted C. V. Jones, began immediately to take up a collection and raised a neat sum well in advance of the anticipated arrival. The women of the office planned a little party later in the week and there was to be a Santa Claus. Details later.*

Henry Stein, the handsome exhibitor from Luling, was in Dallas the other day greeting old friends on his first visit to the Row in many months. His theatres are in the R. E. Griffith circuit.

Secretary-Treasurer John White of the Alexander Film Co. spent several days in Dallas with J. A. McInaney, who has just been made assistant to the president, J. Don Alexander. During this time W. P. McIntosh, district manager of Amarillo and J. J. Devine, headquarters representative, were also visitors.

Harold Schwarz, vice-president of the Alexander Preview Co., is headquartering in Dallas for a few days in the interest of that product. Schwarz was formerly office manager for National Screen.

News was received in Dallas that Carl Milents of Daisetta will build a new Negro theatre in San Antonio, located on Houston Street.

Ben McKinney of Houston was on the Row handling initial details for the new Navaway Theatre which will soon open in Houston and which he will manage. He is interested in the house along with other associates.

The R&R circuit personnel were guests at the Variety luncheon, Monday. Dr. H. R. Gold, rabbi, was the honor guest and speaker.

R. J. O'Donnell and Mrs. O'Donnell celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on which they have been widely congratulated by Variety members and many others in the industry. A few friends were invited to their Maple Terrace apartment for an informal evening in memory of the event.

S. G. Fry, who recently purchased the Royal at Canton, and who now is remodeling the houses, was on the Row Tuesday lining up bookings.

W. J. Wooten, Olympic at Canyon, located in the far northern regions of the Texas Panhandle, is one of the few exhibitors who prefers to ride airplanes. He attended the Allied convention last week, but left before the entertainment, by air, for a visit with his two sons who are located in south Texas. Wooten planned to return to Dallas and join Homer Mulkey for an auto ride back to the northwest. Evidently, he prolonged the visit with his sons and "chose" to ride a plane at least as far back as Amarillo.

The Variety Club's "Bingo" and Family Nites on Friday are now playing to practically SRO. The first night, W. G. Underwood and Mrs. Underwood (Bill and Marion) were hosts. Club leaders were gratified that families of the members took such an interest. On the next Friday night, Ed Solon, of the Interstate general office, and Mrs. Solon were host and hostess and there was an equally gratifying family attendance.

J. M. (Soda) Reynolds, Allied contact man, made a trip to west Texas this week, going up through the Panhandle in a round-up of members of his organization.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Record Number of Houston Openings

DALLAS—Openings of de luxe neighborhood theatres in Houston for November are recorded in unprecedented number. Early in the month the Interstate circuit opened its fine Alabama Theatre.

Paul P. Scott plans to open his River Oaks Theatre within two weeks, the house located in south Houston in the vicinity of the Alabama.

Robert Z. Glass is about ready to open this month his new Stude Theatre on Studewood avenue. Ben McKinney will open and manage the new Navaway on Navigation Blvd., near the ship channel, on about November 21. The Navaway seats about 600.

The next theatre for Houston is the proposed neighborhood project now being worked out by L. C. Baxley, who says he has purchased equipment and procured a lease.

O. C. Barkers Consider New Season Activities

OKLAHOMA CITY—Seasonal plans for expansion and activities of Tent 22 of the Variety Clubs of America, located here, are expected to be made shortly. The club has established its headquarters in the Black Hotel penthouse, and is proceeding cautiously in the development of its plans. This course has been deemed wisest in order to insure a firm foundation for the club's efforts in the future.

A manager for the club is now being sought by its officials. He probably will be chosen this week and will be in charge of the club's headquarters.

The membership rolls now are well past the 75 mark and include leaders from all branches of Oklahoma amusement fields. L. C. Griffith is chief barker and is actively formulating plans for the club's endeavors during the forthcoming year.

Pre-Matinee Book Review Plan Grows in Houston

HOUSTON—Policy of the Delman to have occasional 1 p. m. book reviews preceding the regular film fare has been picked up by the newly opened Alabama, another Interstate neighborhood house.

Mrs. Lloyd Gregory, wife of the Houston *Post* managing editor, inaugurated the policy at the Alabama with a review of Stewart Clote's "Watch for the Dawn," preceding the unreeling of "The Citadel."

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SANTONE

RECENT visitors included: Senor Jose Luna, Crystal City showman, at Azteca Film office; Jackie Karmi, Hollywood roadshowman, at Baron's Independent Film Exchange & Supply Co.

The new modernization job on the National Theatre is being handled locally by Rodgers & Stewart, contractors . . . William Eubanks has been made chief of service at the Majestic Theatre.

Uptown Theatre's owl performance Armistice night had two chillers on its bill of fare, to-wit: "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and "The Death Kiss" . . . Spanish classes of Hawthorne Junior High School here witnessed a motion picture in natural color of Mexico with Lowell Thomas as narrator. The travelogue was shown through the courtesy of the Missouri Pacific Lines.

Hall Industries of Beeville had a float entered in the Live Stock Show and Rodeo parade which ran three days last week in this south Texas town. The colorful float was in the form of a huge saddle which attracted considerable attention through the downtown district.

William Rau, lately with the one-time Paramount Pictures exchange branch office here, has turned exhibitor. He recently took over the managership of the Community Theatre up in the hill country of Comfort, Tex. The house seats 250 and is the only playhouse in Comfort. Bill is a wide-awake showman and he will get along okay.

More than 6,000 auditors were on hand to witness two night performances of "Moulin Rouge" at the City Auditorium, recently . . . Tito Guizar at the same place the next evening only drew about 2,800 natives to the municipal theatre. From Santone, Senor Guizar played a date in Laredo before returning to Los Angeles and more picture work for Paramount.

Paramount is scheduled to utilize Randolph Field as an important location for most of a picture to go into production this fall. Title of the film will be "I Wanted Wings," a story of peacetime army flying from the pen of Lieut. Bernie Lay jr., of the United States Army Air Corps here. The author will act as technical advisor and Arthur Hornblow jr., an ex-army man, will be production supervisor. Army war games will highlight this epic of the Army's "West Point of the Skyways."

Mary Bassett Fielder has returned from a successful engagement with Dave Apollon's stage show, which was on tour of Canada and the east for two months. She made a big hit with her imitable style of vocalizing . . . In tune with Armistice Day, the Empire Theatre showed Monogram's "Fight for Peace," a Warwick production. On the same program was "Old Glory," a Merry Melodie cartoon in Technicolor.

A reissue of "White Zombie" played a three-day engagement at the Empire Theatre . . . The Obrero Theatre, revives "The Horrors of War" for a return engagement November 22, 23 and 24 . . . Special historical color short at the Aztec Theatre last week was "The Monroe Doctrine," which received a nice round of applause each time it was shown.

BOXOFFICE *here has been informed that Interstate theatres in San Antonio will celebrate two Thanksgivings with special pictures showing at their downtown houses . . . Both of the local film exchanges are expected to close part of the days out of observance of the President's and the Pilgrim's Thanksgiving Days.*

Business in most all of the local theatres is about 20 per cent better this year than last. It is just another sign of better times . . . New cashier in the Prince boxoffice is Maurine Robertson . . . Seen in Henry's Cafe on Main Ave. last week were William T. Hawkins, Trueman Hendricks, Henry Crum, and Herbert Reed. Yes, this place is really the mecca for film men hobnobbing here and yon.

C. B. Akers Takes a Post With Griffith

OKLAHOMA CITY—C. B. "Brownie" Akers, former general manager of Tad Screen Advertising Service of Dallas, Tex., recently merged with the Alexander Film Co., has returned to his old home territory to take over an executive position with the Griffith Amusement Co.

In his new post Akers will have charge of all field operations for the Griffith companies in the more than 50 cities serviced out of the local offices. All exploitation, advertising and theatre management in the territory will be under Akers' direct supervision. He will also serve as an assistant to General Manager B. J. McKenna.

Akers, before taking over the Tad post upon the firm's creation two years ago, was a division manager for Griffith and had won a niche as one of the southwest's most successful theatre executives. He took the Tad organization from scratch, built it into an important screen advertising organization.

Paramount-Leader Press Suit Hearing Is Near

OKLAHOMA CITY — An early hearing or filing is expected in the Paramount Pictures case against the Leader Press here which was ordered reopened by the U. S. circuit court of appeals last month. Paramount won the reopening and will probably file on the case within the next week or two.

The circuit court reversed the decision of Judge Edgar S. Vaught of federal district court here which ruled in favor of the printing firm. It was originally filed in district court here in April of 1937.

Paramount charged that the printers had made and sold advertising novelties, 24-sheets, accessories, etc., using names of Paramount stars and titles of Paramount pictures without identification to show such stars and pictures were Paramount, as well as inferior production on this art.

OKLA. CITY

ONE LITTLE paragraph for a personal welcome to C. B. "Brownie" Akers who is back in the Oklahoma fold again, as per this week's news columns of BOXOFFICE. Akers has been (and still is) one of the best liked theatremen in this area. We are all mighty glad to see him back in Oklahoma City after the swell job he did in building Tad Screen Service to a topnotch spot in the national picture.

Lots of film folks took in WKY's television show last week when the local NBC station sponsored an RCA television exhibit of acts of all kinds and types from Chicago in the municipal auditorium. Receivers were placed about the auditorium to show the folks what television would look like when it did come to Oklahoma.

Film Actor Eric Linden came to town last week for the stage production of "Golden Boy" a few days ahead of the State Theatre's opening of Columbia's film of the same name.

Foster McSwain of Ada got himself re-elected to the Ada Chamber of Commerce last week.

For those who are keeping up with the local bowlers here's last week's dope: Twentieth Century-Fox team lost three to the National Theatre Supply Co. team; Griffith Amusement Co. five took three games from the Warner aggregation; Paramount Pictures walked off with two while losing one to the Clark Poster boys, and RKO-Radio made it a clean sweep of three from Standard Theatres group. Individual marks: High team—National Theatre Supply's 868 against 20th-Fox's 726 with Berlin Parks rolling 225 and E. A. Watkins knocking down 230. Boys who hit the 200 mark or better last week (and won't forget it, no doubt, for several more weeks) included Love of Griffith with 206; Watkins of National with 200 and 230 coupled with a 183 for a three game figure of 613; Parks with 225 and Timmons of RKO with a 211.

Morris Loewenstein back in town after a short business trip . . . An open question: What has happened to the names of Patchen, Fuller, Birge and Pierce on Standard Theatres bowling team in the Variety League?

Dee Fuller is cooperating with the Capitol Hill *Beacon* in a football guessing game contest. Fuller gets publicity for his pictures in the twice weekly nabe sheet while the paper gets passes to award readers who guess football game winners.

Mrs. Barbara K. Tucker, 51, former actress and wife of William L. Tucker, manager of the Main Printing Co., died in a city hospital following a brief illness. Besides her husband, Mrs. Tucker is survived by two sons, two daughters, two sisters and a brother.

Last "Cassidy" of Season

HOLLYWOOD—Norman Houston is scripting "Hold Your Horses," final "Hopalong Cassidy" on this season's schedule for Paramount release. As usual, Harry Sherman is producing.

THEATRE ADMISSIONS INCREASE FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, CANADIAN STUDY SHOWS

Receipts Keep Pace With Climb; More Circuit Houses Appear

OTTAWA—The annual official survey of the theatre business in Canada by the Dominion Government shows an increase in receipts and admissions for the fifth consecutive year. Patrons to moving picture shows during 1938 paid a total of $33,635,052 for admissions, exclusive of amusement taxes, this being the greatest sum since 1931 and an increase of 3.5 per cent over 1937. In spite of early predictions of decreased attendance, the report points out that 137,976,052 persons attended the programs offered by theatre owners, compared with 134,374,061 in 1937. An extensive advertising campaign, Motion Pictures Are Your Best Entertainment, conducted late in 1938 was at least partly responsible for this 2.7 per cent increase in attendance and the 3.5 per cent increase in revenue during a period when expenditures for most goods and services were undergoing moderate curtailment, it is stated. The average admission continued to rise slightly to 24.4 cents in 1938, compared with 24.2 cents in 1937 and 23.2 cents in 1936.

86 Theatres Added

The number of theatres increased by 86 to 1,133 and the increase in theatres was greatest in Manitoba and Alberta, two of the western wheat provinces, where there was a demand for permanent projection installations. Employment in theatres increased slightly with a total of 6,229 males and 2,075 females on the payrolls, including members of exhibitors' families. The total payroll was $6,058,400, this representing 18 per cent of the year's aggregate boxoffice receipts.

Admission figures for the respective provinces showed the largest increases in Manitoba and Alberta where economic conditions were improved because of the better sale of wheat and other primary products. Alberta reported a gain of 5.8 per cent in admissions while Manitoba showed an increase of 3.8 per cent. Gains in other provinces were reported as follows: Ontario, 3.7 per cent; British Columbia, 2.9; New Brunswick, 2.5; Nova Scotia, 2.4, and Saskatchewan, .7 per cent. Quebec and Prince Edward Island were stationary.

Total seating capacity of Canadian theatres was slightly higher at 640,366, or one seat for every 18 persons in the country. On the average 28 per cent of these seats were occupied at every performance.

Amateur stage performances increased in popularity during the year when 126 theatres had a total of 1,522 presentations compared with 108 theatres and 1,104 amateur performances in 1937. Professional vaudeville showed a drop, however, with only 99 theatres providing 3,171 playing dates, compared with 141 theatres and 4,389 engagements for the preceding year. Stock companies and stage roadshows played a total of 426 days in 55 theatres.

The government report points out that the percentage of independent theatres decreased slightly while the circuit houses increased by 4 per cent. Exactly one-half of all theatres in the Dominion were shown to be independently owned and these accounted for 26.6 per cent of total receipts and 30 per cent of admissions. Theatre groups of four or more units represented 36.1 per cent of the total number of houses, secured 64 per cent of the boxoffice revenue and 58.9 per cent of the total attendance.

Based on the population of Canada, the average expenditure per person for moving picture entertainment for the year was $3.02, which was the highest since 1931 when the average was $3.28, the all-time peak being recorded in the previous year of 1930 at $3.77. The country's average for 1937 was $2.93 and in 1936 it was $2.70. British Columbia, on the Pacific Coast, continued to show the highest per capita expenditure at $4.81 while Ontario, with a much larger population, averaged $4.07. Manitoba was next with $3.20 and Alberta followed with $2.53. Other provinces were as follows: Nova Scotia, $2.47; Quebec, $2.17; New Brunswick, $1.95; Saskatchewan, $1.45, and Prince Edward Island, $1.20.

Aggregate receipts in Ontario for 1938 showed an increase of 5.2 per cent, with New Brunswick next with 4.9 per cent and Alberta third with 4.2 per cent, next in sequence being Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Brtish Columbia, percentage revenue decreases being registered in Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island. Among the cities, St. John, Ottawa, Hamilton, London and Toronto showed substantial boxoffice gains. With the average admission price remaining practically constant, receipts in a number of cities showed decreases, these being Halifax, Montreal, Quebec, Windsor, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Calgary and Vancouver. The report declares that this decrease in urban revenue in the face of provincial increases is due to the addition of theatres and theatre-goers in rural areas. The admission price average was highest at 27.5 cents in Prince Edward Island where a decrease in total receipts was noted. The average of admissions in Alberta was 25.6 cents and in Ontario, 25.5; Saskatchewan, 24.7; Quebec and Nova Scotia, 23.3; British Columbia, 23.1; Manitoba, 22.7, and New Brunswick, 22.4, the country's average being 24.4 cents.

VANCOUVER

GENERAL MANAGER PERRY of Empire Universal is expected to arrive here this week, when a decision will probably be made as to the headquarters of Frank Vaughan who was recently appointed western manager; this, in turn, will decide the necessity of a district manager for the Vancouver office.

The Film Exchange employes have settled upon December 15, midnight, as the date for their annual supper-dance, which will be held at the Commodore Cabaret.

Under a plan of giving its theatre managers some variance in experience, the Famous Players district management has assigned P. A. Tucker of the Broadway to the Capitol at Kamloops, B. C., brought E. C. Lackey in from Kamloops to the Victoria here, and shifted E. L. Zetterman from the latter to the Broadway.

J. R. Muir, F-P executive, has been confined to his home but is steadily recovering from his illness and will soon be receiving his friends.

A "stag" was held at the home of H. G. Copley, Grandview Theatre manager, to speed P. A. Tucker on his way to his new charge in Kamloops.

Norman Duncan, Strand Theatre, scored a hit with a short film of the Morris & Essex Dog Show, an annual event at Madison, N. J. with an attendance of 65,000 this year. A Vancouver man, W. H. Pym, was judge, and Norman played this card to the limit by having him give an address from the stage to a large number of dog fanciers who had been contacted by personal letters; 42 members of the Vancouver Kennel Club arrived in a body.

Herbert Wolse is said to be coming here to assume the management of the GN office in place of L. A. Allen who is leaving to take up the practice of law.

A small luncheon party (Dutch) was attended by executives and theatre managers of F-P in the large dining room of The Hudson Bay last Thursday.

Stan Kennedy opened his remodeled theatre, the Cadet, at Esquimalt, B. C., to good audiences . . . Ken McRea, Kerrisdale Theatre, has inaugurated a special Saturday afternoon quiz on the previous preview, plus community singing which is broadcast over a local station.

Mrs. Fletcher, Paramount Film Service accountant, has been granted extended leave of absence on account of ill health . . . J. E. Gordon, Haney Theatre, Port Haney, has returned from an extended visit to Saskatchewan.

E. W. Bickle, Bickle Theatre, Courtney, B. C., has augumented his regular Friday screening with a stage show which is put on largely by local talent, accompanied by the town dance-band.

Dominion Provided Distributors Greatest Revenue in 1938

TORONTO—The total revenue of film distributing companies in the Dominion exceeded the ten million mark in 1938 for the first time on record, according to the annual business statistical report of the Canadian government, the total revenue from film rentals and sales of accessories and supplies being $10,218,700, this being an increase of 7.8 per cent above the total of $9,471,100 for 1937. The second greatest year was 1930 when the film exchanges reported receipts of $9,536,200 while the low point was reached in 1933 at $6,797,600. There has been a gradual increase since that period, with $7,370,200 for 1934; $7,704,500 for 1935; $8,358,900 for 1936 and $9,471,100 for 1937.

An interesting comparison is available in that, while the revenue of the exchanges had an increase of 7.8 per cent for 1938, the corresponding revenue of the theatres showed an advance of 3.5 per cent.

The number of film exchange offices in Canada has shown slight change, with 62 branches being operated in 1938 as compared with 59 in 1930. The total payroll of the distributors in 1938 was $1,081,900, compared with $1,074,700 in 1930, while the revenue for the past year is higher by approximately $700,000 in relation to 1930. The low year for salaries and wages was in 1933 when employes received $855,800. The average wage was lower in 1930 when the number of employed totaled 663, compared with 648 in 1938. The staffs for the latest year were made up of 385 males and 263 females while in 1930 there were 372 males and 291 females, the number of employed women being relatively lower.

The revenue of 910 theatres in Canada for 1930 was $38,479,500 while the receipts of 1,133 theatres in 1938 totaled $33,635,052. Exhibitors of 1930 paid approximately 25 per cent of total revenue to the film renters while, in 1938, the revenue of the distributors represented more than 30 per cent of the income of all theatres.

The number of exchange branches in Canada remains quite constant because of the requirements of Provincial Governments with their censorship regulations, the major companies finding it necessary to maintain offices in six key centers, Toronto, Montreal, St. John, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver. The offices at St. John serve the three Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

TORONTO

N L. NATHANSON, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., was a member of the committee of the Canadian Red Cross Society which sponsored a wartime financial drive during the week of November 13 for the raising of $3,000,000.

It was called Spanish Lagrippe during the last war and it's just plain "flu" in this one, but the effect is the same. A wave of the sickness has again been experienced in various Canadian cities with many persons suffering from slight attacks and theatre attendance has been somewhat reduced.

After many years of radio appearances, Manager Charles L. Querrie of the Palace Theatre, Toronto, has retired as special commentator after each National Hockey League game at the Maple Leaf Gardens when he picked the stars of the encounter.

The Tivoli Theatre at Kingston, Ont., has been reopened by Famous Players, the manager in charge being W. H. Smith who was formerly at the Trent Theatre in Trenton. The circuit now has three theatres in operation at Kingston, a lively college town.

Two head office officials of Famous Players in Toronto have been celebrating their birthdays with appropriate features. They are A. MacCunn, manager of the real estate department, and N. G. Barrow, assistant secretary-treasurer. District Manager Frank H. Kershaw has also passed another natal anniversary while Manager R. J. Harrison of the Capitol at Cobourg had a birthday party as well.

Satisfactory progress is reported in the condition of Clarence Robson, eastern division manager of Famous Players, who has been confined to his home by a heart condition since the managers' conference last July.

A visitor at Famous Players' headquarters was John Hazza of Calgary who represents company interests in Alberta. Hazza is a noted horseman and recently completed a successful campaign on eastern tracks with his stable of racing thoroughbreds.

A blessed event has brought a baby girl to the household of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Doyle. Doyle is manager of the Parkdale Theatre in Toronto's West End.

The official address of "Ted" Doney, former manager of the Capitol Theatre at St. Thomas, is as follows, until further notice: Lieut. Fred G. Doney, 1st Division Supply Column, R.C.A.S.C., C.A.S.F., Carling Heights, London, Ont. (Letters are appreciated).

A bouquet has been handed to Manager Ernie Moule of the Capitol at Brantford for his extensive newspaper tie-up on "The Women." He secured a double-page co-operative spread in the Brantford Expositor with many local merchants using advertisements.

Executive representatives of the film industry in Toronto attended the funeral of Ben Cronk's brother in Brantford. Ben is one of the real veterans of the theatre business in the Dominion and has long been manager of the art display department of Famous Players.

J. S. Smart, manager of the Capitol Theatre at Port Hope, Ont., for a quarter of a century, made one of his infrequent visits to Toronto the other day . . . Manager Joe Lefave of the Tivoli Theatre, Windsor, had a nice street ballyhoo for "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" by parading a man garbed in a college mortarboard and gown.

J. J. Fitzgibbons, vice-president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has been admitted to the charmed circle of membership in the Picture Pioneers' Ass'n at New York City . . . Alister Grosart, Toronto newspaperman, has been signed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., for a series of reviews on current screen features to run throughout the winter. This is a new feature of the Canadian network.

If blackouts become necessary in Canada, the theatres will be permitted to use blue lights in theatre entrances, it has been divulged. The information has led one worried exhibitor to express the view privately that the color is quite appropriate.

A visit of Elissa Landi, screen actress, to Toronto recalls that she once resided in western Canada when her father was following his profession as a construction engineer . . . J. A. Troyer, popular official at Famous Players' head office, has finally announced the completion of his summer cottage—thanks to the manual assistance of many weekend visitors. Many of the amateur builders are now claiming part ownership.

The Board of Trade at Pembroke, Ont., has booked the O'Brien Theatre in that town for December 13 and 14 for the staging of special community nights.

Finley McRae, son-in-law of the late Harry Brouse, wealthy theatre owner of Ottawa, has announced that he will not run for Mayor of Ottawa in the civic elec-

MARITIMES

HASKELL MASTERS, Canadian general manager of United Artists Corp., visited the Saint John exchange recently.

Gerald M. Hoyt, Empire-Universal branch manager, has been elected president of the Maritime Film Board of Trade, succeeding E. A. Whelpley, RKO branch manager.

Robert S. Roddick, eastern division manager of Famous Players Canadian Corp., spent a short time in Saint John conferring with the management of the Capitol Theatre.

Mrs. Kenneth Pedersen of Shediac, N. B., the former Martha Golding, at one time stenographer with Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., and a daughter of Walter H. Golding, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Saint John, is the proud mother of a baby boy, born November 8.

Jack Butler of the Imperial Theatre, Moncton, N. B., and Earl Nesbitt of the Star Theatre, Edmundston, N. B., were recent visitors to Filmrow.

VICTORIA

MARC PRIESWERCK, manager of the Atlas Theatre, has announced a series of contests to be held on the stage of this theatre every Saturday morning. The contests will be held among the kiddies of Victoria and a sweater will be given each week to the boy and girl who gives the best performance with the bo-lo bat which is a new game craze in Victoria. At the conclusion of the contest all sweater winners will compete in the finals and a brand new C. C. M. bike will be presented to the winner.

Johnny Garrard of the Atlas is the father of a new bouncing baby girl, Sandra. Congratulations, Johnny.

Jane Withers and the Ritz Brothers in "Pack Up Your Troubles" proved a good Armistice holiday attraction at the Dominion.

"The Man in the Iron Mask" was held over at the Plaza due to the enthusiastic reception given it in Victoria.

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tions on December 4 as previously intended but will seek re-election to the Municipal Board of Control.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" has had a run of three weeks at the Elgin Theatre, Ottawa, managed by Lloyd Mills, for its Canadian premiere . . . More than 500 *members of the Ottawa Boys Club were guests of the Ottawa Humane Society at the Saturday morning show of the Capitol Theatre in the Canadian capital.*

In her personal appearance at the Eaton Auditorium in Toronto, Elissa Landi stepped out of her lecture role to demonstrate the shooting of a brief scene for a picture, describing causes for numerous retakes and summing up the situation with: "Eight hours in the studio; three minutes on the screen."

Dr. George E. Shortt, inspector of Canadian prisons, has given an endorsement for the "Drunk Driving" short of the Crime Does Not Pay series on its current release. He saw it being made when he was in California some weeks ago.

A Sunday night performance was organized by Manager Henry G. Marshall at the Rideau Theatre, Ottawa, for the purchase of recreational equipment for soldiers in the Ottawa area. As Sunday shows are not permitted in Ontario for which an admission is charged, even in war time, a silver collection was taken up.

Manager Tim McCoy of the Grand Theatre, Kingston, is running amateur contests on Wednesday and Thursday nights in cooperation with a local store, Joseph Abramsky & Sons, the latter having donated jewelry prizes for the purpose. McCoy is pushing his search for talent to extend the contest for at least five weeks.

The Trent Theatre at Trenton, Ont., is making use of the Foto Nite stunt every Thursday and Manager G. W. Martin is finding business good throughout the week because the air training base of the Royal Canadian Air Force just outside the town limits has brought many pilots, mechanics and other soldiers.

Interdepartmental Committee Is Created for Film Board

OTTAWA—A further step has been taken in the organization of the national film board of the Canadian government under the National Film Act 1939 in the appointment of an interdepartmental committee which is to include John Grierson, recently appointed government film commissioner, and Capt. F. C. Badgley, M. C., director of the Canadian government motion picture bureau. According to Hon. W. D. Euler, minister of trade and commerce, in his capacity as chairman of the board, "the duties of the committee are to advise the director of the development of a central government film distribution service and a public information service with respect thereto."

According to the official statement, "the appointment of these departmental officials completes the active personnel of the newly created national film board:"

F. C. Nunnick, director of the publicity and extension branch of the department of agriculture.

R. J. C. Stead, superintendent of parks and resources publicity, department of mines and resources.

Ray A. Brown, public relations representative, department of labor.

Baden J. Farrell, public relations branch, post office department.

H. F. S. Paisley, director of publicity, department of fisheries.

Major R. G. Whitelaw, general staff, department of national defense.

D. Leo Dolan, chief of the Canadian travel bureau, department of transport.

The above are in addition to the members of the actual board previously announced and the statement refers to these members in the following words: "The Department of Trade and Commerce has maintained a motion picture bureau which has developed to a great degree during the past few years. The appointment of the Hon. W. D. Euler, minister of the department, as chairman, and of J. G. Parmelee, deputy minister of trade and commerce, is therefore appropriate. It is further regarded as appropriate that Col. V. I. Stuart of the department of transport, who also supervises the operations of the travel bureau, should be a member of the board. The national parks branch under the department of mines and resources, of which Hon T. A. Crerar is minister, also makes scenic films. The department of agriculture, which is represented on the new board by R. S. Hamer, produces films demonstrating approved methods in certain phases of agriculture."

WINNIPEG

A. W. PERRY, general sales manager of Empire Universal Films, who is in the city at present, told the local press that plans are being made to bring Deanna Durbin to Winnipeg for a personal appearance in connection with the release of her next picture, "First Love." The young film star was born in this city.

At the Garrick "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is in its third week and seems good for an indefinite stay. The film has received loads of publicity in local papers and is reaping a harvest as well from the prominence given it in such national American magazines as Time.

Grand National's film, "Double Crime in the Maginot Line," is being released this month and because of the topical nature of its subject should be of special interest.

The recent community drive in connection with the Community Chest fund brought out fine support from show people here. Bob Hurwitz ably took care of the theatres and Dave Griesdorf of United Artists and H. J. Allan of Grand National looked after contributions at the film exchange.

Considerable ballyhoo in the press about a proposed visit to Winnipeg by Bette Davis, followed by the seeming disappearance of the star somewhere between Callendar, Ont., where she had seen the Dionne quintuplets and Moose Jaw for which she was heading, has been a very nice boost for the new Davis film, "Elizabeth and Essex," which Harold Bishop is showing at the Capitol next week.

A farewell luncheon will be held in honor of Ted Gould who has been transferred to the Toronto office of Regal films . . . A. W. Perry, general sales manager for Empire Universal, is a visitor here.

Ben Plottel, formerly of the Winnipeg office of Empire Universal, is now branch manager of that firm's Vancouver office . . . Frank Vaughan, formerly manager of the Vancouver office of Empire Universal, has been appointed western supervisor with headquarters at Winnipeg.

H. J. Allan of Grand National's Winnipeg office has been incapacitated as the result of a badly sprained ankle . . . Mrs. Ripstein, mother of Mona Ripstein of UA, died.

Son of Max Heppner of the Colonial, Lyone Heppner, who has been in England for the last three years, returned to this city for a holiday before returning to Toronto where he has joined the staff of Empire Universal.

Leslie Allan, son of H. J. Allan of the Toronto office of Grand National, on route to Vancouver . . . Wolfe Cohen, general manager for Warner, is expected in the city.

Jack Cohen of Columbia has returned from Calgary . . . J. Schuberg of Vancouver, who was a visitor here, has returned home.

CALGARY

AT THE last meeting of the Calgary Film Board, Joe Myers of Regal Films was appointed president for the current year.

H. Harwick, Columbia manager, just returned from a trip through eastern Alberta, struck road trouble after the snow storm. Road from Medicine Hat to Swift Current was so churned up that passage was slow and at times progress was impossible. Despite occasional poor roads in the Calgary territory, and its long trips (Calgary territory covers by far the largest mileage on the continent), Harwick states he likes the prairie country. He finds the exhibitors most congenial and hospitable.

Brighter business prospects in Alberta brought in many exhibitors from country points to Filmrow the past week. Theatremen from Lethbridge, Hanna, Sylvan Lake, Raymond, Cardston, Claresholm Macleod and Red Deer were reported buying film. Business at country points is steadily improving.

Sympathy is being extended to Abe Finstein of United Artists, whose wife is seriously ill.

Vernon Skorey of 20th-Fox is attending a sales convention at Minneapolis.

Don Elfner, shipper in Columbia office, is the latest from Filmrow to don a uniform. He joined the Signal Corps and left the other day for Kingston, Ont., with his unit.

Saskatchewan Trade Is Hosting Militia

REGINA, SASK.—Motion picture men through Saskatchewan are co-operating with boards of trade and military authorities to aid in the entertainment of the many militia and army units now under training everywhere. Special prices, special shows and free use of theatres on Sunday nights make for quite a heavy donation to the country's cause.

In Regina the theatremen, after years of by-laws prohibiting any Sunday midnight shows with consequent end to all midnight frolics at certain festive seasons, saw the city council quickly vote in favor of allowing theatres to be opened Sunday nights for free concerts for soldiers planned by various groups and boards of trade. Such concerts have been the rule rather than the exception in most other centers such as Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Moose Jaw and Weyburn and Estevan. In the last named two points the towns have alternated in treating the army men as guests though they are billeted in Weyburn, 60-odd miles from Estevan.

Most pictures shown in theatres lately have had a patriotic tinge, dealing for the most part with war. "Nurse Edith Cavell" got a big play in Regina, Manager Bill Novak arranging a series of special showings such as "Red Cross Day," "Nurses' Day," "Governor's Night," "Military Night," "Farewell Day." He used newspapers and radio, the *Leader-Post* giving plenty of space to an interview with various citizens early in the showing whereby their reactions to the picture were described. The lieutenant-governor of Saskatchewan and a large party attended after a dinner.

Brigadier C. B. Russell, D.S.O., officer commanding the Saskatchewan military district, was so pleased by the picture he added an appendage to his regular military orders suggesting all should see it. School board recommendations were also given it and patriotic organizations endorsed it.

Manager C. Bahrynowski of the Metropolitan, Regina, worked up a big campaign on "U-Boat 29" with excellent results, getting plenty of military co-operation and newspaper publicity. He used color in his advertisements in the Regina *Star*, the first time the theatre had indulged in color, with excellent eye-catching results.

F-P Provides Free Theatre For Troops in Toronto

TORONTO—A new theatre has been opened in Toronto which the general public will never see, although it is a unit of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

The chain company has reconstructed the Music Building at the Exhibition grounds into a complete "movie" for the entertainment of soldiers, the large park having been transformed into a camp for the training of overseas troops.

The transformation of the building has cost an estimated $5,000. Programs are to be presented nightly without cost, the films being supplied by various exchanges.

Apart from the camp theatre, Famous Players has drawn up a plan of co-operation with the officers of Military District No. 2, Toronto, whereby units of the force will parade at intervals to downtown theatres for scheduled performances.

Free Shows for Soldiers Started in Winnipeg

WINNIPEG—The first of a series of shows to be provided free of charge by Winnipeg theatres, for the entertainment of soldiers in garrison, was presented at the Beacon Theatre here last Sunday for 700 officers and men.

The Sunday showing was made possible by authorization from the attorney-general's department.

A. M. Knowles, secretary of the Manitoba Motion Picture Exhibitors' Ass'n, welcomed the audience.

Film on Siege of Warsaw

HOLLYWOOD — "Polonaise," a story by Brian Marlowe and Thomas Monroe dealing with the siege of Warsaw, has been purchased by Paramount for Producer Arthur Hornblow jr. Joel McCrea and Maria Ouspenskaya have been assigned roles.

Current Pound Rating Lowers Tariff Cost

TORONTO—Film distributors and others in Canada have learned with much satisfaction that the Dominion government has made a very important change with respect to the arbitrary valuation of the pound sterling for duty purposes on imports from the United Kingdom which will have the effect of reducing the cost of shipments. The act consists of accepting the current fixed market rate in Canada of the English pound at $4.43 instead of the former pegged rate of $4.86 for the determination of customs charges. This virtually means a tariff reduction of almost 10 per cent on British films, theatre requirements and other goods.

When the war broke out, one of the first measures put through by the Canadian government was the fixing of the rates of exchange to prevent chaotic conditions for business firms but the complementary arrangement for customs and excise was very much in favor of the government treasury. In other words, the framer of the regulations took every advantage for the national coffers, deliberately or unconsciously.

When the premium on the U. S. dollar was fixed at 11 per cent for purchase, it was decided to figure the duty and special excise on the American dollar valuation of the invoice for a shipment which, it was found, worked out to a customs increase of approximately 15 per cent.

On the other hand, on imports from Great Britain, the duty was still imposed on the arbitrary value of the pound at $4.86, which has been in effect many months, although the department of finance had pegged sterling at $4.43 in Canadian currency early in September. Canadian distributors are now to get the advantage of the discount on sterling funds.

Canadian Film Society Shows Four Pictures

OTTAWA—The National Film Society of Canada has opened its fifth season with the holding of a performance in the auditorium of the Government Museum in Ottawa with the presentation of a quadruple program before a large gathering of members, Canadian, English and French films being shown.

The pictures comprised "La Tendre Ennemie," a French love story; "North Sea," an English picture dealing with the life of trawler fishermen; "Behind the Headlines," a dramatized newspaper story, and "Heritage," a Canadian documentary picture of the prairie west.

The society has outlined its bookings for early performances but productions of middle and eastern Europe are conspicuous by their absence from the schedule. Russian, Hungarian, Czecho-Slovakian, Polish and German films are out. The list includes "Grand Illusion," "China Strikes Back," "La Marseillaise," "School for Husbands," "The Way of the Wild," "Time in the Sun" and "Land of Liberty."

Welfare Council List For November Out

OTTAWA—Current films approved by the Canadian Welfare Council in the November list issued by this semi-official agency for the guidance of women's and educational organizations across Canada are as follows:

"Five Little Peppers and How They Grew"—A Cinderella story for the young in heart, sincerely and sweetly presented. The family, particularly juveniles.

"What a Life"—A delightful comedy of high school youngsters baffled by the complexities of their own problems. For juveniles.

"Babes in Arms"—One of the season's liveliest comedies with music, adapted from the Broadway stage hit by Rodgers and Hart. The period covers the 10 years from 1920 when vaudeville was slowly but surely coming to an end. The entire picture holds one in its grip. An excellent picture for young and old, which you will want to see a second time.

"Hollywood Cavalcade"—Fine entertainment dealing with the history of motion pictures in Hollywood. Some of the old Mack Sennett comedies will make a h with the new generation as well as with those who still remember them. The family.

"The Real Glory"—A vigorous, semi-historical drama, depicting the efforts of the United States to teach the Philippines to protect themselves from the ravages of the Moros. The action takes place in the Philippines just following the close of th Spanish-American war. A bit exciting fo young children, otherwise adolescents and adults.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"—Produced by Frank Capra himself, this is very good entertainment, particularly to those who know Washington. However, it cannot be compared with "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." The family.

"Ninotchka"—Greta Garbo returns to the screen in this picture which is first-class entertainment of an unusual kind. The story is in the main a travesty upon the way representatives of Soviet Russia do business with the capitalistic world but it is not Soviet propaganda. It is Miss Garbo's first comedy role. The family.

"Espionage Agent"—A stirring melodrama and a timely one which serves as propaganda for the United States government to keep closer watch over spies. Adolescents and adults.

"Young Man's Fancy"—A romantic comedy and drama set in the 1870's. The family.

"Murder Will Out"—A crime-mystery melodrama. The varied settings in China and London, including a now not-so-novel blackout, are effective. Adolescents and adults.

"Rulers of the Sea"—One hundred years ago it was a daring dreamer who believed that the Atlantic Ocean could be crossed by steam navigation alone. This is an inspirational, authentic and moving drama, richly supplemented by a finely co-ordinated music score. The family.

"The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex"—Adapted from the play "Elizabeth the Queen" by Maxwell Anderson, this film has been lavishly produced in Technicolor. The crucial episode circles around the great Queen who was bringing expert manufacturers and artisans from all over the world to found the great trades on which England's future wealth and power were to be built—the Queen whose love for her England compelled her to sacrifice her womanly love. There is some excellent music. The family.

"Bad Little Angel" — A sweet little picture, excellent particularly for theatres that cater to a religious element, no matter of what denomination. The family.

The following shorts are also listed:

"Ash Can Fleet"—The story of David Bushnell whose inventions were responsible for our modern submarine and the depth bomb that destroys it. Very good. The family.

"One Against the World"—The dramatic story of Dr. Ephraim MacDowell who, in 1809, performed the first major operation and blazed the trail for the miracles of modern surgery. Educational and interesting. Excellent. Young people and adults.

"Golden West"—Clever burlesque of the old melodrama with the brave Mountie rescuing the Belle of the Golden West from the villainous kidnapper. Excellent. The family.

Shorts Provide Key to New Avenues of Publicity

WINNIPEG—Short subjects as a means of obtaining considerable publicity through numerous tieups have been intensively utilized by Manager Harold Bishop of the Capitol Theatre.

The shorts, and the tieups effected through them by Bishop in the last few weeks follow:

"Soldiers With Wings" resulted in a tie-up with the air force. "Battle Fleets of England" proved a strong attraction for members of the naval forces. A Pete Smith short, "Football Thrills of '38," was a means of obtaining a good deal of publicity from local sports writers, and "Information Please" earned the attention of the radio columnists.

"Babes in Arms" Gets Intensive Campaign

WINNIPEG—"Babes in Arms" was well exploited by Bishop with tieups with both local stations for the playing of music from the picture, cooperation with music stores and arrangements with band leaders to plug hit tunes. A clothing tieup was also made with the Hudson's Bay Company store.

Exhibitors Booking Ass'n Gets Rosen's Attention

WINNIPEG—Douglas V. Rosen has resigned as branch manager of Empire Universal here to organize the Exhibitors Booking Ass'n.

The organization, which will headquarter in the Cinema Centre here, will operate along the same lines as the similarly named Toronto unit and is intended to include all independent exhibitors in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Many of the leading exhibitors in the territory already have signed up.

Saskatchewan Feels Business Upturn

REGINA, SASK.—Business is definitely on the upgrade in motion pictures throughout nearly all Saskatchewan. The combination of billeting many soldiers in various cities and towns plus the returns from the first major crop of wheat and grains in ten years has had the expected effect—an upward surge all around.

Particularly is this true of business in the southwest "dust bowl." Rains came this year that brought 35-bushels-to-the-acre crops and a flood of money that has the farmers drunk with happiness. Towns report doing more business in two weeks than they did in eight years despite rising commodity prices due to the war. There is more money for pleasure as well and the "go to the movies" campaign now is really beginning to show results.

There is no real indication of increased admission prices, however, throughout the motion picture industry. It is still realized there is only a limited amount of money available for amusements and rising food prices are offsetting, to some extent, the looseness of money. That many pictures are being held over for several days and even into a second week indicates, however, the increased interest in theatre attendance. If business keeps up, renovations and new building, badly needed in most communities, may come next spring.

S. B. Kennedy Takes Over Cadet at Victoria, B. C.

VICTORIA, B. C.—The new Cadet Theatre, which is on the premises formerly occupied by the Rex Theatre, Esquimalt, B. C., has been taken over by S. B. Kennedy, formerly of Winnipeg and Selkirk, and after elaborate and costly improvements was opened on November 6. There was a large crowd in attendance for the premiere, double feature, starring Deanna Durbin in "Three Smart Girls" and Mickey Rooney in "Out West With the Hardys."

The New Cadet Theatre is situated in a military and naval district and the military touch prevails throughout the theatre. There are chevrons in red, white and blue on the sidelights and on the linoleum. Outside the theatre on the Neon sign there are chevrons and a large crown. It is modern in every respect with air conditioning, La Salle cushioned seats, Simplex projection machines, modern heating, up-to-date sound equipment and a well-equipped operating room.

Kennedy is a newcomer to Victoria, but has been a prominent figure in Manitoba ever since he acquired fame as a hockey goal-tender, in company with Joe Simpson, Eddie Shore, Harry Oliver and other greats. Kennedy formerly operated the Central Theatre in Selkirk, Manitoba, which he sold out to N. Rothstine.

Busy on "Winkle" Script

HOLLYWOOD—Walter Bullock is busy on the script of "Rip Van Winkle" for Producer Harry Joe Brown at 20th-Fox.

MONTREAL

BETTER business is reported along Filmrow and distributors are more cheerful than they have been for some months. Exhibitors from rural districts are completing winter bookings, and all bring the same story of improved conditions.

Paramount's Filmrow office had a visit from J. J. Unger, district manager from New York, and his assistant, Herman Lorber, who were accompanied by M. A. Mulligan, Toronto, Canadian general manager. The out-of-town executives were in to close the United Amusement deal. Unger is a former Montrealer. Twenty-five years ago he owned and operated the first Metro franchise in Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Chouinard of the Princess and Imperial in Quebec were in on a booking expedition . . . Crystal Palace of which John Dufort is manager, has changed its ten-year-old policy of playing straight pictures by introducing vaudeville to support the double bill.

Out-of-town visitors along Filmrow included Louis Rosenfeldt and David Coplan of Toronto, general and sales managers, respectively, of Columbia Pictures; Leonard Jones of Standard Amusement Co., was in Toronto booking for the Park Theatre, Verdun, and the Century, Cote St. Paul . . . Louie Rosenbloom of the Empire, Montreal, who also owns a theatre in Lachine, visited New York last week with his family.

George Panos of the System is doing good business with a timely reissue of Grand National's "23½ Hours Leave" . . . Exhibitors noted on Monkland Ave. included G. Hebert, Arcade, Brownsburg; P. Senecal, George's, Ste. Therese; Messrs. Macauley and Wilson of the Masonic Hall Theatre, Hudson Heights; Gonzague Tremblay of the Capitol, Chicoutimi and Palace, Arvida and R. Friday of the Regent, Windsor Mills.

Nick Klat, manager of the Chateau, is keeping fit by bowling with the Chateau team in the United Amusement Bowling League . . . The Rivoli has a new marquee. It brightens up the corner of St. Denis and Belanger streets.

Quebec's Cambrai Theatre is finding vaudeville a help to its double bill. It also has "giveaways" thrice weekly . . . Films of the Royal Tour are circulating around some of the social gatherings in both Montreal and Quebec.

'The Mikado," brought back to Montreal, was shown at the Rialto and Westmount theatres . . . Noel Coward, Maurice Chevalier, Sir Seymour Hicks, Jack Buchanan and Yvonne Printemps are amongst British and French stars who are entertaining British troops in France.

A plea that the Quebec government admit children to see "Babes in Arms," now at the Capitol, is voiced by S. Morgan-Powell, veteran dramatic critic. "Montreal and other cities and towns of Quebec province will be the only places where children are denied their rightful privilege of seeing such harmless entertainment," he says in describing the picture as one every child should witness.

A new marching song, "We're on Our Way," has been written by Capt. R. M. Plunkett of "Dumbells" and "Amateur Hour" fame. One verse describes an invitation to a garden party at Berchtesgaden from "a little fella'" (Hitler). It concludes: "With Chamberlain's umbrella, we will spank the little fella'."

"The Lion Has Wings," British Ministry of Information news film showing the attack by British aviators on the German warships in the Kiel Canal, will be seen in Canada shortly. Copies are being sent to all dominions.

Return of the "Dumbells" is virtually assured, although Al Plunkett, original producer, says a report that the company is reorganizing is "premature." Original members, however, got together for the Remembrance Night entertainment before troops in Ottawa.

Jack Chisholm of Associated Screen News, Toronto, has been visiting head office in Montreal, and Ross Beasley of ASN has been in Winnipeg studying the outlook for production of motion pictures.

A new theatre is being opened at Asbestos, Que., by the Johns-Mansville Co., and will be operated by Mel Lodge, owner of theatres in Danville and Richmond, Que. Lodge recently spent $12,000 *in reconditioning the Richmond Theatre.*

In the Filmrow Bowling League, Regal beat Paramount two out of three—the first time that Paramount, the champions, have taken such a beating this year.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" had its Montreal premiere at Loew's . . . Screening of "Disputed Passage" at the Palace recalls that the author, Lloyd Douglas, a few years ago was minister of St. James United Church, Montreal. He has dropped the distinguishing prefix "Reverend" and, since his success in literature and films, no longer occupies a pulpit.

French Production Shows Signs of a Revival

MONTREAL—French cinema production, which closed down completely with mobilization, has begun to revive under government efforts to hold France's place in world film production.

Producer Andre Daven, who was working on "Corsaire" when he was mobilized, was relieved from army duty and is reassembling his cast, including Charles Boyer, to complete the film within a month.

Other directors and actors will be released from the fighting force to resume film work. Paris night life also is being renewed. The Casino de Paris announced its doors will open soon with Maurice Chevalier behind the footlights.

Sequel for Jane Withers

HOLLYWOOD—"Sophomore," a sequel to "High School," starring Jane Withers, is being scripted by Jack Jungmeyer jr. and Edith Skouras for 20th-Fox.

ASN Crews Keeping Busy With Variety of Chores

MONTREAL — Associated Screen News cameramen and producers are being kept busy with a variety of subjects. The company has just finished production of a sound film, "Radiant Rockies," for the C. P. R. It also has finished French and English campaign trailers for the Red Cross of which 150 copies will be screened in theatres all over the country in the next two weeks. Star of the Red Cross film is Miss Judith Evelyn, Canadian actress, who was one of the passengers on the ill-fated *Athenia*, and whose life was saved by her fiance.

Another ASN trailer, "Democratic Way," is playing the Capitol at Ottawa. Newsreelers of ASN spent a busy Saturday at McGill, filming the McGill-Queens football game, the march past of McGill C. O. T. C., with General McNaughton taking the salute, and the laying of the corner stone of the gymnasium erected in memory of the late Principal, General Sir Arthur Currie, commander of the Canadian armies in the Great War.

Playhouse Lease Approved By Winnipeg Council

WINNIPEG—The city council approved the lease of the Playhouse Theatre to an organization headed by J. Freed of the Elm. Approval was preceded by an inter-council dispute brought on by charges that Alderman John Blumberg sought a commission as an agent in the deal for the city-owned house. The dispute was dissolved when Alderman Flye, who made the charges, recognized Blumberg's denial and apologized.

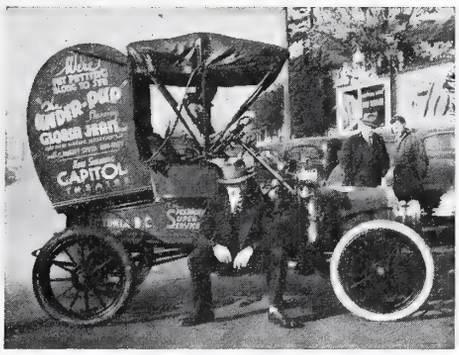
The new operators of the Playhouse will reportedly introduce a film policy.

United Amuse. Dividend Payable November 30

MONTREAL—A dividend of 45 cents a share has been declared on the "A" and "B" shares of United Amusement Corp., Ltd., bringing the total this year to 75 cents per share, same as in 1938 and 1937. There are 67,708 "A" and 13,121 "B" shares outstanding. The latest dividend is payable November 30 to holders of record November 15, and the disbursement is designated as November 15. The company's fiscal year coincides with the calendar year.

Preview "Children"

TORONTO—For the Canadian premiere of "Tell Your Children," released by Grand National, Manager R. T. Stewart of the Lyric, Hamilton, held a special preview recently for women who were the guests of Radio Station CKOC at Hamilton, the latter giving many plugs for the picture over the air. The film has been booked into theatres of many mining towns of northern Ontario, including the New Regent at Sudbury; Cartier, Timmins and the La Salle at Kirkland Lake.



Mechanical Exploitation—

This ancient model Ford, appropriately labeled, was used by Manager J. M. Robertson of the Capitol Theatre in Victoria to ballyhoo the showing of "Under-Pup." Martin Cave, assistant manager of the Capitol, is sitting on the running board.

French Film Season Begun By Theatre in Toronto

TORONTO—The Hollywood Theatre here, leading link in the Premier chain under the direction of Raymond Allen, has inaugurated a French film season with a French dialogue feature being presented each Saturday morning for the single performance, the series extending over a period of five weeks. At other hours of the day and throughout the week the Hollywood will follow its usual policy of first and second run English-language pictures.

The French series is being staged in cooperation with the University of Toronto and the secondary schools of the city.

Paramount Will Release RCMP Documentary Film

MONTREAL—Paramount will shortly release at Hollywood a documentary film made at Royal Canadian Mounted Police headquarters in Regina, telling the story of a Mountie's career from a raw recruit to a full-fledged constable of the famous force. Entitled "Scarlet and Gold," colors of the force, it shows the life of a recruit, his training, duties, recreation, instruction in scientific crime detection, and his appearance as a prosecutor in court. The film lasts 45 minutes. It is expected to be released soon to theatres throughout Canada and the United States.

Add Drummondville Unit

MONTREAL—The Hollywood Amusement Corp., headed by C. O. Auclair, will in the near future take over the Palace at Drummondville, Que. The chain now operates the Capitol and Drummond theatres there.

Adapting "Western Union"

HOLLYWOOD—"Western Union," the last novel written by the late Zane Grey, is being adapted for 20th-Fox by Curtis Kenyon and Kenneth Earl.

To "Mesquiteer" Western

HOLLYWOOD — Republic has assigned George Beck to the script of "Heroes of the Saddle" as a "Three Mesquiteers" western.

SASKATCHEWAN

AS BOTH major plays they will be giving have a patriotic flavor, the Maurice Colbourne Players—over here from England on tour—are being booked into large motion picture houses where possible because of limited scope in most community halls that would ordinarily house any visiting players. They will play the Capitol in Saskatoon and possibly the Capitol in Regina if terms can be reached. George Bernard Shaw's "Geneva" and the popular "Charles the King" are in the repertoire for this part of the country.

While 16mm pictures were a bogey last year and the years previous when crop conditions were bad, this year the 35mm men, or most of them, are not worrying much. Business is good and there is even some truth to the claim of the "small fellows" that the introduction of the 16mm film in many towns during depression has helped, rather than hurt, by stimulating interest in the bigger, better product. Now that there is some money available from the big crop, the farmers want the best and are no longer satisfied with the small film.

A smart tie-up with the Apple Caravan demonstrations held in the major Saskatchewan cities was arranged with theatremen in Saskatoon, Regina, and Moose Jaw. The caravan, touring the country from British Columbia, comprised four pretty girl apple packers in uniform who showed how apples are packed during matinee sessions at various theatres. In addition, every patron received an apple free.

Lou Geller, manager of Vitagraph, Winnipeg, a visitor to Saskatchewan points last week . . . Saskatchewan exhibitors wish Ted Gould well in his new transfer to Toronto head office of Regal Films. He was well known as manager of the Winnipeg western branch for years. No successor has been announced . . . Harry Bercovich, manager of the Rex, Regina, has been leading the campaign to raise funds for the relief of Jews in Poland.

E. A. Zorn, western manager of Famous Players Canadian Corp., recently arrived in Regina from Winnipeg by train, borrowed Manager Bill Novak's car and roared out on a speedy tour to the booming Shaunavon district in the western part of the province, returning the same night. High speed, rough prairie roads for 650 miles—$18 worth of nuts, bolts and tightening up of the car.

Otis Bowes, manager of the Grand Theatre, Regina, ill in bed with the "flu" for nearly two weeks . . . Lenore Williams, Capitol, Regina, cashier, was a hospital patient last week . . . Frank Miley, manager of the Moose Jaw Capitol, paid Regina a business visit . . . Plans are being prepared for a meeting of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n shortly.

All Saskatchewan show houses are cooperating with the Red Cross in its appeal for $3,000,000. Special trailers and lobby displays are being used.

Films and talking pictures showing proper methods of first aid work and also of motor mechanics are being used at the Balfour Technical School in Regina for tuition of a class of more than 150 women who are learning to prepare themselves for service in World War II.

J. Zaitzow, owner and operator of some dozen Saskatchewan theatres, traveled from Melville to Winnipeg on a recent business trip . . . H. A. Bercovich, manager of the Rex, Regina, also into Winnipeg on a buying trip . . . J. J. McLean, who handles the Star at Star City, reports a top notch fall season and good hopes for winter.

Manager Bill Novak of the Capitol, Regina, has been an active member of the Regina Roughrider football club executive and right now wishes he wasn't. The team had a disastrous season and Novak's on the committee that has to approach merchants and others in an effort to raise funds to pay off the deficit.

Small town theatres are going strong on the "Pal Night" idea whereby two are admitted for the price of one. It is proving even a better puller than the semi-Bank Nights used during years of depression.

Some talk of one of the old theatres in Weyburn being re-opened because of increased business through billeting of soldiers in the town. About 500 men already there and more to come. The Hi-Art, after battling long years of depression in this "no-crop" area, finds business very nice, thank you.

Auclair Completes Revamp On Montreal Hollywood

MONTREAL—Improvements at the Hollywood Theatre, on upper St. Lawrence boulevard, underway the past few months have been completed, by C. O. Auclair, who also operates the Rex and Stella theatres.

Improvements include painting and relighting of the entrance, rubber matting for the aisles, new curtain, stage additions and interior repainting. The office space, on the second floor, also is being enlarged.

Maurice Duhamel is manager of the Hollywood.

Industry Members Attend C. W. Lindsay Rites

MONTREAL—Theatres, the motion picture industry, and every phase of the musical as well as the business world was represented at the funeral of Sir Charles William Lindsay, 83, blind philanthropist, founder, general manager and president of the musical instrument firm, C. W. Lindsay and Co., Ltd., which he established in 1877, and which has since absorbed a dozen large Canadian firms in the same line.

Nick Grinde Chore

HOLLYWOOD—Nick Grinde is directing "Daughters of Today" for Columbia. Ralph Cohn is the producer.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

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MT532 Rope railings
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MT535 Luminous colors
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PRODUCTION INDEX

A CHECK-UP ON FEATURE RELEASES

Releases of 1938-39 for a seven-month period. Production number follows title. Running time in parenthesis. National release date at end of title line. Symbol ◎ indicates a BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography. This department makes no attempt at evaluation of picture quality, but merely presents a thumbnail synopsis.

Columbia

A Woman Is the Judge..9025..(60).....July 10
Drama. A woman judge finds the girl being tried for murder is her daughter who disappeared with her husband 17 years ago, and resigns her post to defend the girl. Frieda Inescort, Otto Kruger, Rochelle Hudson. Director: Nick Grinde.

Awful Truth, The..1072..(92)..reissue.....June 15
Comedy. A gay succession of events begin rolling when hubby steps out on his wife, but objects when she retaliates in like manner. Irene Dunne, Cary Grant, Ralph Bellamy. Director: Leo McCarey.

Behind Prison Gates..9033..(62).....July 28
Melodrama. A detective, posing as a criminal, barely escapes with his life when he enters a prison in the endeavor to track down his bank robber quarry. Brian Donlevy, Jacqueline Wells, Joseph Crehan. Director: Charles Barton.

Beware, Spooks!..1011..(65) .....Oct. 24
Comedy. The experiences of Joe E. Brown as a demoted police officer who trails his man to a Spook House concession. Joe E. Brown, Mary Carlisle, Clarence Kolb. Director: Edward Sedgwick.

Blondie Brings Up Baby..1013..(69).....Nov. 9
Comedy. Blondie and Dagwood are involved in a kidnapping when Baby Dumpling gets lost and they trail him to the home of a wealthy man, whose little daughter, in the meantime, has also disappeared. Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms. Producer: Frank R. Strayer.

Blondie Takes a Vacation..9010..(68).....July 20
Comedy. The Bumsteads finds themselves up to their necks in complications when they set out to save a hotel they want to stay in, from bankruptcy. Arthur Lake, Penny Singleton. Director: Frank Strayer.

Clouds Over Europe (formerly "Q" Planes)
9012..(79) .....June 20
Action Drama. Scotland Yard is called upon to solve the disappearance of secret planes, and uncovers an espionage system operating a powerful destructive ray. Laurence Olivier, Valerie Hobson, Ralph Richardson. Director: Tim Whelan.

Coast Guard..9008..(72) .....Aug. 4
Action Drama. Randolph Scott, appealed to by his wife, Frances Dee, saves Ralph Bellamy, who has been lost in a polar blizzard. The coast guard helps things along. Scott, Dee, Bellamy, Walter Connolly. Director: Edward Ludwig.

Five Little Peppers..9017..(60).....Aug. 22
Comedy Drama. The struggles of the five poverty-stricken Pepper children, until the grandfather of the town's rich boy takes a deep interest in their problems. Edith Fellowes, Ronald Sinclair, Dorothy Ann Seece, Clarence Kolb. Director: Charles Barton.

Golden Boy..9002..(100) .....Sept. 5
Drama. From the Broadway stage hit, of a brilliant boy constantly at war with himself, because of his dream to become a great musician, at the same time showing a flare for fighting. William Holden, Barbara Stanwyck, Adolphe Menjou. Director: Rouben Mamoulian.

Good Girls Go to Paris..9005..(73).....June 30
Comedy. A pretty waitress from Minnesota with a yen to go to Paris, solves her problem in hilarious fashion, lining up four boy friends to take her there. Melvyn Douglas, Joan Blondell, Walter Connolly. Director: Alexander Hall.

Hidden Power..1025..(60) .....Sept. 7
Mystery Drama. A scientist, in his research on a life-saving serum, discovers a new explosive valuable for military use, but sacrifices money and his personal happiness rather than market a chemical destructive to humanity. Jack Holt, Gertrude Michael, Dickie Moore. Director: Lewis D. Collins.

Konga, the Wild Stallion..9034..(65).....Aug. 30
Drama. A murder is committed over a horse, and the guilty man is sent to prison. A romance springs up between the murdered man's daughter and the other's son. Fred Stone, Rochelle Hudson, Robert Warwick, Richard Fiske. Director: Sam Nelson.

Lost Horizon..1071..(118)..reissue .....June 1
Drama. From the James Hilton novel, in which a group of travelers are kidnaped and brought to a strange, Tibetan civilization, where they find happiness and contentment. Ronald Colman, Jane Wyatt, Sam Jaffe, Margo. Director: Frank Capra.

Man From Sundown..9208..(59).....July 15
Western. The rangeland is over-run with a gang notorious for killing any eye-witnesses of its various atrocities, and Starrett, as a ranger, has a trick to turn. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith. Sam Nelson directed.

Man They Could Not Hang, The
9018..(64) .....Aug. 17
Horror Drama. A scientist is sentenced to hang for murder, when the medical student he had tried out his artificial heart invention on, dies. He swears vengeance, and after his death his laboratory assistant revives him, and he turns into a demon of hate, terrorizing those responsible for his hanging. Boris Karloff, Lorna Gray. Director: Nick Grinde.

Missing Daughters..9027..(58) .....May 22
Melodrama. A columnist solves the mystery of a missing girl, who is found murdered, and uncovers the dangerous ring responsible for this and other cases of missing girls. Richard Arlen, Rochelle Hudson, Marian Marsh. Director: C. C. Coleman jr.

◎Mr. Smith Goes to Washington..1101
(125) .....Oct. 19
Comedy Drama. A young politician is sent to replace a deceased senator in Washington, unaware that he is being made the puppet of a corrupt political gang. His secretary finally puts him wise, and then he takes things in his own hands. Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Claude Rains, Edward Arnold. Director: Frank Capra.

Only Angels Have Wings..9001..(122)....May 25
Action Drama. A hard-boiled manager of a South American aviation line finds love and adventure in the air. Cary Grant, Jean Arthur, Richard Barthelmess. Director: Howard Hawks.

Outpost of the Mounties..1201..(63).....Sept. 14
Western. A Royal Mounted is forced to arrest his sweetheart's brother for murder, but later learns it is a frameup and rounds up the guilty parties. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Stanley Brown. Director: C. C. Coleman jr.

Outside These Walls..9031..(61).....May 4
Drama. Released from prison, a young man finds employment closed to him because of his past. With the help of the Warden he starts a newspaper, and again fights to prove his innocence when someone implicates him in a robbery. Michael Whalen, Dolores Costello, Virginia Weidler. Director: Raymond B. McCarey.

Parents on Trial..9032..(57).....June 29
Drama. A plea for patience and understanding by parents, especially in cases involving adolescent romances and elopements. Jean Parker, Johnny Downs, Noah Beery jr. Director: Sam Nelson.

Riders of Black River..9209..(59).....Aug. 23
Western. Starrett and his friends round up a gang of rustlers who had murdered his young brother. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Sons of the Pioneers. Director: Norman Deming.

Scandal Sheet..1031..(67) .....Oct. 16
Drama. The publisher of a tabloid which prints other people's scandals is in a tough spot when scandal faces him, and he goes to jail on a murder charge rather than print the truth which would clear him. Otto Kruger, Ona Munson. Director: Nick Grinde.

Spoilers of the Range..9206..(58).....Apr. 27
Western. Charles Starrett helps the ranchers recover the money stolen from them which was to pay for a new dam. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith. Director: C. C. Coleman jr.

Stranger From Texas..1202..(55) .....Nov. 2
Western. Starrett settles a feud between two ranchmen who had formed a secret partnership; each was stealing cattle from the other and accusing one another of thieving. Charles Starrett, Lorna Gray. Director: Sam Nelson.

Those High Grey Walls..1015..(82).....Sept. 21
Drama. The story of what happens to the men in white who become prison doctors. Walter Connolly, Onslow Stevens. Director: Charles Vidor.

Trapped in the Sky..9024..(61) .....June 1
Action Drama. Portrays the efforts of a spy ring to destroy a new airplane development by the U. S. Army. Jack Holt, C. Henry Gordon, Katherine DeMille. Director: Lewis D. Collins.

U-Boat 29..1010..(77) .....Oct. 7
Action Drama. A German U-boat commander is tripped up in trying to secure secret information on British naval maneuvers. The underlying trend of the story is an indictment of mass murder, war or otherwise. Conrad Veidt, Valerie Hobson. Director: Michael Powell.

Western Caravans (formerly Arizona Cowboy)
9207..(58) .....June 15
Western. A sheriff prevents trouble that threatens when government settlers arrive to take up their claims. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Russell Simpson. Director: Sam Nelson.

First National

Angels Wash Their Faces..367..(96).....Aug. 26
Drama. Racketeers start a series of neighborhood fires, and a lad with a reform school record is blamed. When "Sleepy" dies in a fire, the Dead End Kids step in and help the D.A. get their men. Ann Sheridan, Frankie Thomas, Dead End Kids. Director: Ray Enright.

Code of the Secret Service..374..(62).....May 27
Action Drama. The secret service trail a band of counterfeiters operating from an old monastery in Mexico. Ronald Reagan, Roselle Towne, Moroni Olsen. Director: Noel Smith.

Confessions of a Nazi Spy..353..(102).....May 6
Action Drama. Based on Leon G. Turrou's articles dealing with the activities of the Nazi spy ring in America. Edward G. Robinson, Paul Lukas, Francis Lederer. Director: Anatole Litvak.

Cowboy Quarterback..366..(56) .....July 29
Comedy. A Montana cowboy sets a professional football league on fire until he gets mixed up with a couple of city slickers. Bert Wheeler, Marie Wilson. Director: Noel Smith.

Daughters Courageous..360..(107) .....July 22
Drama. A deserted wife, about to re-marry, is confronted by her returned husband. She, however, goes ahead with her plans and also manages to save her daughter from erring as she did. John Garfield, Claude Rains, Jeffrey Lynn, Fay Bainter. Director: Michael Curtiz.

Dust Be My Destiny..461..(88).....Sept. 16
Drama. A poignant story of a boy and girl-wife who battle against almost insurmountable obstacles for their share of justice and a place in the world. John Garfield, Priscilla Lane, Alan Hale. Director: Lewis Seiler.

Each Dawn I Die..356..(92).....Aug. 19
Drama. A newspaper reporter is framed on a manslaughter charge for exposing a crooked district attorney who later becomes governor. James Cagney, George Raft, Jane Bryan. Director: William Keighley.

Espionage Agent..462..(80) .....Sept. 30
Melodrama. How America's counter-espionage system intends to keep spies out of the U. S. Joel McCrea, Brenda Marshall. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Hobby Family, The..376..(54) .....Aug. 26
Comedy Drama. A family turns its hobbies into useful service when a forest fire breaks out. Sonny uses his amateur broadcasting unit to summon help, and father gets a shot of the pyromaniac responsible for the fire. Irene Rich, Henry O'Neill, Jean Sharon, Jackie Moran. Director: William McGann.

Kid From Kokomo..363..(92) .....June 24
Action Drama. A country orphan boy becomes heavyweight champion through the efforts of a fight promoter and the motherly affection bestowed upon him by an aging erstwhile actress. Pat O'Brien, Wayne Morris, Joan Blondell, May Robson. Director: Lewis Seiler.

Man Who Dared, The (formerly I Am Not Afraid)..375..(60) .....June 3
Melodrama. A remake of "The Star Witness," in which an aging Spanish war veteran wipes out a gang of racketeers who try to intimidate him at a grand jury hearing. Charley Grapewin, Jane Bryan. Director: Crane Wilbur.

No Place to Go 469..(57) .....Sept. 23
Comedy Drama. The problem of children in taking care of an aged parent who can't get along with them. Gloria Dickson, Dennis Morgan, Fred Stone. Director: Terry Morse.

Old Maid, The..452..(95) .....Sept. 2
Drama. A dramatization of mother love and sacrifice in this story of an old maid whose

child grows up unaware that the woman she calls "aunt" in her own mother. Bette Davis, Miriam Hopkins, George Brent. Director: Edmund Goulding.

On Your Toes..463..(94) .....**Oct. 14**
Musical. A ballet impresario gets a wealthy girl to back his ballet show, but she is unaware that the dance was stolen from its original author. Vera Zorina, Eddie Abert, Alan Hale, Gloria Dickson. Director: Ray Enright.

Smashing the Money Ring..470..(56).....**Oct. 21**
Melodrama. A G-man gets himself sent to prison to hunt clues to the identity of the man heading a counterfeit ring on a gambling ship. Ronald Reagan, Margot Stevenson, Eddie Foy jr. Director: Terry Morse.

You Can't Get Away With Murder..364 (78) .....**May 20**
Action Drama. A boy of the slums pals around with a police character, who kills a pawnbroker, for which murder his sister's patrolman fiance is charged. Humphrey Bogart, Gale Page, Billy Halop, Harvey Stephens. Director: Lewis Seiler.

Gaumont British

Pagliacci..(78).....
Musical Drama. Based on the famous opera, "Il Pagliacci," in which a jealous husband kills his unfaithful wife and her lover. Richard Tauber, Steffi Duna. Director: Karl Grune.

Grand National

Exile Express..301..(70) .....**May 13**
Drama. The chemist a girl works for is found dead and she is ordered deported. A reporter follows the girl, rescues her from abductors, and gets the story and the girl. Anna Sten, Alan Marshal. Director: Otis Garrett.

Frontier Scout..325..(62) .....**Oct. 21**
Western. A western with a Civil War background, in which Wild Bill Hickok as a Kansas town marshal saves his friend's cattle-commission house from cattle rustlers. George Houston, Al St. John, Dave O'Brien. Director: Sam Newfield.

Panama Patrol..314..(69) .....**May 20**
Action Drama. Uncle Sam's Cipher Bureau intercepts a note which leads to the uncovering of foreign spies operating in the Panama Canal zone. Leon Ames, Charlotte Wynters, Abner Biberman. Director: Charles Lamont.

Singing Cowgirl (formerly Lady Buckaroo) **W1-3..(57)** .....**May 31**
Western. A scheming lawyer discovers gold on an adjoining ranch, has the couple who owns it killed but is trapped when he tries to do away with the child. Dorothy Page, David O'Brien. Director: Samuel Diege.

Six-Gun Rhythm..W1-19..(57) .....**May 13**
Western. A college football hero returns to his ranch to find his father murdered and the murderers ruling the countryside. His football pals lend a hand and they clean up the mob. Tex Fletcher, Joan Barclay. Director: Sam Newfield.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever..944..(87)..July 21
Comedy. Mickey, as the hero of the annual high school play, manages to fall in love with the dramatics instructor, an infatuation that lasts clear up until a "man to man" talk with the judge. Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Cecilia Parker. Director: W. S. Van Dyke II.

At the Circus..8..(85).....**Oct. 20**
Comedy. The Marx Brothers put on a hilarious show to help a disinherited playboy raise the money in 24 hours to keep from losing his circus. Marx Bros., Florence Rice, Kenny Baker. Director: Eddie Buzzell.

Babes in Arms..9..(97) .....**Oct. 13**
Musical Comedy. The children of old-time vaudevillians put on a show of their own to aid their parents' financial plight. Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland. Director: Busby Berkeley.

Bad Little Angel..10..(77) .....**Oct. 27**
Comedy Drama. Period picture of the 1870's, in which a runaway orphan tries to overcome the "jinx" she believes she holds for anyone kind enough to adopt her. Virginia Weidler, Gene Reynolds, Ian Hunter. Director: William Thiele.

Blackmail..5..(79) .....**Sept. 8**
Melodrama. An innocent fugitive from a chain gang, is blackmailed by the guilty party until he finally tricks the latter into a confession. Edward G. Robinson, Ruth Hussey, Gene Lockhart, Bobs Watson. Director: H. C. Potter.

Bridal Suite (formerly Maiden Voyage) **937..(69)** .....**May 26**
Comedy. A spoiled playboy, after dodging his wedding three times, finally settles down when he falls in love with a maid in Switzerland. Annabella, Robert Young, Walter Connolly, Billie Burke. Director: William Thiele.

Dancing Co-Ed..3..(81) .....**Sept. 29**
Comedy Drama. The jitterbug craze breaks out when a professional dancer is planted as a co-ed in a college to insure her winning a national dance contest sponsored by a motion picture studio. Lana Turner, Richard Carlson, Artie Shaw and his band. Director: S. Sylvan Simon.

Fast and Furious..6..(73) .....**Oct. 6**
Comedy. A young married couple vacationing at a seaside resort turn amateur sleuths when a promoter of a beauty pageant is murdered and their friend is falsely accused. They are almost killed themselves before the unusual solution to the mystery is cleared. Franchot Tone, Ann Sothern. Director: Busby Berkeley.

Goodbye, Mr. Chips..945..(114).....**July 28**
Drama. A schoolmaster becomes headmaster through the inspiration and love of his young wife which carries him to success even after her death. Robert Donat, Greer Garson. Director: Sam Wood.

It's a Wonderful World..936..(86).....**May 19**
Comedy. A private detective, assigned to guard a millionaire playboy, finds himself trying to solve a murder to keep his boss from going to the electric chair for the crime. Claudette Colbert, James Stewart, Ernest Truex. Director: W. S. Van Dyke II.

Lady of the Tropics..947..(91).....**Aug. 11**
Drama. Torrid love story of the "never-the-twain-shall-meet" variety. Robert Taylor, Hedy Lamarr, Joseph Schildkraut. Director: Jack Conway.

Lucky Night..933..(82) .....**May 5**
Comedy. A bored daughter of wealth meets a young man on a park bench, and after embarking on a night in search of excitement, they wind up married. But when the spirit of excitement dies down, the marriage is threatened. Myrna Loy, Robert Taylor. Director: Norman Taurog.

Maisie..940..(74) .....**June 23**
Comedy. A showgirl, stranded in Wyoming, gets a job on a cattle ranch, and shows the woman-hating foreman a few tricks of her own. Robert Young, Ann Sothern. Director: Edwin L. Marin.

Miracles for Sale..946..(70).....**Aug. 4**
Mystery-Drama. Called upon to expose a quack ghost-chaser, a young magician soon finds himself in the midst of a pair of baffling murders. Robert Young, Florence Rice, Henry Hull. Director: Tay Garnett.

Ninotchka..7..(110) .....**Nov. 3**
Comedy Drama. A French Count goes to Russia to represent an exiled Duchess at the sale of her jewels by the Soviet government, and there meets a woman commissar representing the Soviet, and the two fall madly in love. Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas, Ina Claire. Director: Ernst Lubitsch.

On Borrowed Time..942..(99) .....**July 7**
Drama. The story of a beloved grandfather who fights death to keep the grandson he adores from the clutches of a scheming aunt. Llonel Barrymore, Bobs Watson, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Beulah Bondi. Director: Harold S. Bucquet.

Remember?..11..(81) .....**Nov. 10**
Drama. Business recalls an eloping couple starting on their honeymoon. The bridegroom, engrossed in a million dollar account, forgets his bride and she sues for divorce. But a reconciliation is effected. Robert Taylor, Greer Garson, Lew Ayres. Director: Norman Z. McLeod.

6,000 Enemies..938..(61) .....**June 9**
Melodrama. A hardboiled district attorney who sent scores of framed men to prison is himself framed and put behind the bars with 6,000 enemy inmates plotting against him. Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Paul Kelly, Harold Huber. Director: George B. Seitz.

Stronger Than Desire..941..(78) .....**June 30**
Drama. Remake of "Evelyn Prentice" in which a brilliant criminal lawyer learns his wife is involved in a murder, through the reflection in the eye of a snapshot of the murdered man. Virginia Bruce, Walter Pidgeon. Director: Leslie Fenton.

Tarzan Finds a Son!..939..(81) .....**June 16**
Action Drama. The King of the Jungle returns to share his glory with the crown prince of Tarzania. Johnny Weissmuller, Maureen O'Sullivan, John Sheffield. Director: Richard Thorpe.

Tell No Tales..935..(69).....**May 12**
Action Drama. A newspaperman, into whose hands falls a hundred-dollar bill that is part of the ransom money paid in a kidnapping, trails its source, and at each step a drama is uncovered which involves a group of individuals through whose hands the money has passed. Melvyn Douglas, Louise Platt, Douglas Dumbrille. Director: Leslie Fenton.

These Glamour Girls..948..(79).....**Aug. 18**
Comedy Drama. A taxi dancer shows a few snobbish, socialite glamour girls how people behave on her side of the tracks. Lana Turner, Lew Ayres, Tom Brown. Director: S. Sylvan Simon.

They All Come Out..943..(70).....**July 14**
Drama. Authentic shots of the interiors and system of the Federal Bureau of Prisons form the background of this story of a hungry, ragged youth who aligned himself with a gang of criminals and is sent to a reformatory. Rita Johnson, Tom Neal. Director: Jacques Tourneur.

Thunder Afloat..4..(94) .....**Sept. 15**
Drama. Enlisting for subchaser duty during the world war, the hero is reduced to an ordinary seaman for insubordination. He reinstates himself when an enemy boat sinks their ship and he saves the lives of those on board. Wallace Beery, Chester Morris, Virginia Grey. Director: George Seitz.

Wizard of Oz..949..(102) .....**Aug. 25**
Musical Fantasy. From Frank L. Baum's famous fairy tale of a little Kansas girl swept to the Emerald City of Oz by a cyclone, and portrayed on the screen in Technicolor, with lavish scenes and lilting songs. Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Frank Morgan. Director: Victor Fleming.

Women, The..1..(134) .....**Sept. 1**
Comedy Drama. A blend of satire, sentiment and comedy in this story of a wife who turned heartbreak into happiness, when she found her "friends" were trying to ruin her future. Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell. Director: George Cukor.

Monogram

Across the Plains (formerly Riders of the Rio Grande)..3855..(53) .....**June 1**
Western. Two brothers are separated in childhood, one is reared by Indians, the other by renegades. The first swears vengeance on the renegades, not knowing that his brother is at the head when their paths cross years later. Jack Randall, Dennis Moore, Joyce Bryant. Director: Spencer Bennett.

Boys' Reformatory..3820..(61) .....**May 1**
Action Drama. A young lad takes the rap so that his buddy can stay out of the reformatory and save his face with his mother. Frankie Darro, Grant Withers. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Crashing Thru..3936..(56) .....**Oct. 1**
Outdoor Drama. The story of gold, twice-stolen, and a chain of circumstances weaving themselves around a sister and brother seeking gold to pay off their dead father's indebtedness. James Newill, Warren Hull, Jean Carmen. Director: Elmer Clifton.

Danger Flight..3816..(61) .....**Nov. 1**
Action Drama. A loyal air pilot saves the company payroll from gangsters in a thrilling sky battle. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone, Tommie Baker. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Down the Wyoming Trail..3864..(62).....**May 18**
Western. A ranch foreman dresses as Santa Claus to capture a cattle rustler. Tex Ritter, Mary Brodell, Horace Murphy, Charles King. Director: Al Herman.

Fight for Peace..3831..(68) .....**Sept. 30**
Documentary. Newsreel shots of international affairs dating from the World War to the present. Includes events such as the Russian revolution, the rise of Fascism and Nazism, the Spanish Civil War, and the Sino-Japanese outbreak. Narrated by David Ross. Produced by Warwick Pictures.

Fighting Mad..3937..(..) .....**Nov. 5**
Action Drama. A girl, eye-witness to a robbery, is kidnaped by the bandits, but Renfrew rescues her, and together the two capture the crooks. James Newill, Sally Blane, Benny Rubin, Milburn Stone. Director: Sam Newfield.

Girl From Rio..3825..(62) .....**Aug. 15**
Musical Comedy. A South American singer comes to New York to save her brother from a false arrest. A job in a night club leads her to the owner and his conviction as the man who framed her brother. Movita, Warren Hull. Director: Lambert Hillyer.

Heroes in Blue..3919..(61) .....**Nov. 7**
Drama. A night watchman, with the aid of his policeman son, frames and captures the crook who had framed his youngest son. Dick Purcell, Charles Quigley, Bernadene Hayes. Director: William Watson.

Irish Luck..3826..(61) .....**Aug. 22**
Melodrama. A bellhop with a yen to be a detective gets his chance when he solves a baffling murder committed in the hotel. Frankie Darro, Dick Purcell. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Man From Texas..3865..(60) .....**July 21**
Western. A railroad trouble shooter protects New Mexico ranchers from the inroads of a land-gathering schemer. Tex Ritter, Charles B. Wood. Director: Al Herman.

Mr. Wong in Chinatown..3807..(70).....**Aug. 1**
Mystery. Wong captures the killer of a Chinese princess, who was a guest in his own house, while on a mission to purchase airplanes for her brother's province. Boris Karloff, Grant

Withers, Marjorie Reynolds. Director: William Nigh.

Mutiny in the Big House..3803..(84).....Oct. 25
Drama. A protege of a prison chaplain is forced to participate in a prison break, but comes to the rescue of the chaplain and saves his life, thereby winning a pardon. Charles Bickford, Barton McLane, Dennis Moore. Director: William Nigh.

Oklahoma Terror..3856..(52) .....Aug. 25
Western. A cowboy avenges the murder of his father, and with a vigilante group mops up a western town steeped in crime and graft. Jack Randall, Al St. John, Virginia Carroll. Director: Spencer Bennett.

Overland Mail..3857..(53) .....Oct. 31
Western. Danger and hardship are portrayed in this story of the pony express, in which a crack rider of the mails is assigned by the Federal Government to uncover a counterfeit gang operating in the west. Jack Randall, Vince Barnett, Jean Joyce, Tristram Coffin. Director: Robert Hill.

Riders of Destiny..Reissue..(..).....Oct. 20
Western. A secret service man saves the ranchers from an unscrupulous gang seeking to wrest their land from them by withholding water rights. John Wayne, Cecilia Parker. Director: R. N. Bradbury.

Riders of the Frontier..3866..(58).....Aug. 16
Western. Tex saves the girl ranch owner from the schemes of her ranch boss. Tex Ritter. Director: Spencer Bennet.

Should a Girl Marry? (formerly Girl From Nowhere)..3823..(57) .....June 10
Melodrama. Unaware that she was born in prison, a young bride is victim of a blackmail plot being aligned against her. But the blackmailer's wife prevents the plot from taking form. Anne Nagel, Warren Hull, Lester Mathews, Mayo Methot. Director: Lambert Hillyer.

Sky Patrol..3815..(61) .....Sept. 12
Action Drama. A "Tailspin Tommy" picture, in which a youth overcomes a phobia of firing guns, when he joins the U. S. Army pilots to aid in capturing smugglers and spies. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone, Jackie Coogan. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Starlight Over Texas..3859..(59).....Sept. 7
Western. The first in the series of eight prairie operas Monogram will make. Story concerns a Texas ranger in pursuit of cattle rustlers. Tex Ritter. Director: Al Herman.

Stunt Pilot..3814..(62) .....July 1
Action Drama. Second of the "Tailspin Tommy" series. A stunt pilot for a motion picture company, while making a war film, is involved in a murder mystery when real bullets are substituted for blanks and he innocently kills another pilot. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone. Director: George Waggner.

Wolf Call..3813..(65) .....May 22
Action Drama. Adapted from Jack London's novel, of a New York playboy whose father, in order to make a man of him, sends him into the Northern wilds to operate a radium mine. John Carroll, Movita. Director: George Waggner.

Paramount

Beau Geste..3902..(114) .....Sept. 15
Drama. Brotherly love and high adventure in the French Foreign Legion are vividly portrayed in this story adapted from Percival Wren's best seller and silent film of a decade ago. Gary Cooper, Ray Milland, Brian Donlevy. Director: William A. Wellman.

Bulldog Drummond's Bride..3844..(57)....June 30
Melodrama. Drummond finally marries his fiancee, despite interruptions by a bank robbery and a midnight murder. John Howard, Heather Angel. Director: James Hogan.

Cat and the Canary, The..3909..(71).....Nov. 10
Melodrama. Prospective heirs of an eccentric millionaire gather in a dilapidated mansion to hear the will read. But soon murder, mystery and terror are supplied by a prowling cat, who maneuvers in the form of an ape. Bob Hope, Paulette Goddard. Director: Elliott Nugent.

Death of a Champion..3901..(66) .....Sept. 1
Melodrama. A book salesman gets himself involved in three murders at a society dog show. Lynne Overman, Robert Paige, Virginia Dale. Director: Robert Florey.

Disputed Passage..3908..(87) .....Oct. 27
Drama. From the Lloyd C. Douglas novel of two doctors and a girl, in which one doctor sees his God as Science. Dorothy Lamour, Akim Tamiroff, John Howard. Director: Frank Borzage.

Gracie Allen Murder Case..3839..(75).....June 2
Comedy. Gracie sends the wrong man to jail, the police to an insane asylum and falls in love with the murderers, before she and Philo Vance solve a murder mystery. Gracie Allen, Warren William, Kent Taylor, Ellen Drew. Director: Alfred E. Green.

Grand Jury Secrets..3842..(68).....June 23
Melodrama. Two brothers, one a star reporter and the other, an assistant district attorney, fight against each other for honors and scoops. John Howard, Porter Hall, Gail Patrick. Director: James Hogan.

Heritage of the Desert..3843..(73) .....June 23
Western. A city-bred lad matches fists and wits with land thieves who try to deprive him of a ranch he inherits. Donald Woods, Evelyn Venable, Robert Barrat, Sidney Toler. Director: Lesley Selander.

Honeymoon in Bali..3904..(96).....Sept. 29
Comedy Drama. A fellow who knows what he wants meets a girl who doesn't know what she wants, but a tropic island decides them both. Fred MacMurray, Madeleine Carroll. Director: Edward H. Griffith.

Hotel Imperial..3836..(80) .....May 12
Drama. A war drama of a young woman who, in search of an officer responsible for her sister's suicide, falls in love with the man she hates. Isa Miranda, Ray Milland, Gene Lockhart, Reginald Owen. Director: Robert Florey.

Invitation to Happiness..3841..(99).....June 16
Drama. A low-brow prize fighter marries a high-brow girl. He loses the world's heavyweight championship and his wife, but wins the latter back again. Fred MacMurray, Irene Dunne, Charlie Ruggles. Director: Wesley Ruggles.

Island of Lost Men..3848..(64).....July 28
Drama. A crazed Eurasian, who has set up a kingdom of savages and outcast whites is foiled by the daughter of a Chinese general he had robbed and left to die. Anna May Wong, J. Carrol Naish. Kurt Neumann directed.

Jamaica Inn..3906..(106) .....Oct. 13
Costume Melodrama. A respected British country squire and local justice of the peace, turns out to be the power behind a blood-curdling crew of bandits. Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Hara, Elsa Lanchester, Leslie Banks. Director: Alfred Hitchcock.

Law of the Pampas..3955..(72).....Nov. 3
Western. Hopalong Cassidy goes to South America to deliver a herd of cattle for his employer and uncovers a murder plot against a wealthy native. William Boyd, Russell Hayden, Steffi Duna. Director: Nate Watt.

Magnificent Fraud..3847..(78) .....July 21
Action Drama. An actor masquerading as the president of a Latin American republic, at the behest of conspirators, gives his life for a democratic government. Akim Tamiroff, Lloyd Nolan, Patricia Morison. Director: Robert Florey.

Man About Town..3845..(85).....July 7
Musical. A shy producer, in love with his star who is unaware of the fact, creates some hilarious situations when he pretends to be a gay Casanova. Jack Benny, Dorothy Lamour, Edward Arnold. Director: Mark Sandrich.

Million Dollar Legs..3846..(63).....July 14
Comedy With Music. A bunch of college kids put their school on the athletic map in defiance of the wishes of the founder. Betty Grable, Jackie Coogan, John Hartley, Donald O'Connor. Director: Nick Grinde.

Night Work..3849..(61) .....Aug. 4
Comedy. A pair of foster parents prove their mettle when they save their adopted son from falling off a building, thereby having the adoption approved by the lad's steeplejack grandfather. Mary Boland, Charlie Ruggles, Donald O'Connor. Director: George Archainbaud.

$1,000 a Touchdown..3903..(71).....Sept. 22
Comedy. A frustrated Shakespearean actor reads a book on football and organizes the world's greatest eleven to save the mortgage on the college. Joe E. Brown, Martha Raye. Director: James Hogan.

Our Leading Citizen..3850..(90).....Aug. 11
Drama. A seat in Congress is the reward of a kindly lawyer who extricates his home town from a series of labor-capital-isms strifes. Bob Burns, Susan Hayward. Director: Alfred Santell.

Range War..3954..(66) .....Sept. 8
Western. Hopalong aids the ranchers who, while constructing a railroad trunk line for shipping their cattle, are victimized by an unscrupulous land-holder who raises the toll for use of his thoroughfare. William Boyd, Russell Hayden. Director: Lesley Selander.

Renegade Trail..3859..(58) .....Aug. 18
Western. Hopalong breaks up a gang of rustlers, at the same time aiding a woman rancher whose convict husband returns with threats to disclose his identity to his son who believes him dead. William Boyd, Russell Hayden, Russell Hopton, Charlotte Wynters. Director: Lesley Selander.

Rulers of the Sea..3910..(96) .....Nov. 17
Historical Drama. An historical narrative of the victory of steam over sail in the evolution of navigation. Douglas Fairbanks jr., Will Fyffe, Margaret Lockwood. Director: Frank Lloyd.

Some Like It Hot..3837..(65).....May 19
Musical. A jam session of swing music aided by laughs and romance. Bob Hope, Shirley Ross, Una Merkel, Gene Krupa and orchestra. Director: George Archainbaud.

Star Maker, The..3851..(94) .....Aug. 25
Musical Comedy. A musical dramatization of the stars of yesterday, in which Bing appears with a group of talented youngsters. Bing Crosby, Louise Campbell, Ned Sparks. Director: Roy Del Ruth.

Stolen Life..3864..(90) .....May 26
Drama. The story of twin sisters of opposite types, one of whom marries an explorer and is accidently drowned, whereupon the other assumes her identity. Elisabeth Bergner, Michael Redgrave. Director: Paul Czinner.

Television Spy..3907..(58) .....Oct. 20
Drama. A romance via television blooms amid espionage and foreign intrigue. William Henry, Judith Barrett. Director: Edward Dmytryk.

This Man Is News..3865..(75) .....Aug. 18
Comedy Melodrama. A reporter who knew too much, scores a scoop when he makes up a murder story in advance of its happenings. Barry K. Barnes, Valerie Hobson. Director: Donald MacDonald.

Undercover Doctor..3840..(67) .....June 9
Action Drama. Based on the activities of J. Edgar Hoover in his expose of doctors who get rich by treating wounded criminals. Lloyd Nolan, J. Carrol Naish, Janice Logan. Director: Louis King.

Unmarried..3838..(66) .....May 26
Comedy Drama. A tough prizefighter and speakeasy proprietress find regeneration through love of an orphan boy. Helen Twelvetrees, Buck Jones. Director: Kurt Neumann.

Union Pacific..3835..(137) .....May 5
Outdoor Drama. The history of the building of the Union Pacific railroad. Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea, Robert Preston, Lynne Overman. Director: Cecil B. DeMille.

What a Life..3905..(75) .....Oct. 6
Comedy. Without any effort Henry seems to incur the academic wrath of his teacher in high school. His troubles reach a climax when he wants to take his girl to the prom. Jackie Cooper, Betty Field. Director: Theodore Reed.

Republic

Arizona Kid, The..951..(61).....Sept. 29
Western. Friendship is in the balance when one friend is forced to capture a guerilla band to which his buddy belongs. The story is filmed against a Civil War background. Roy Rogers, Dave Kerwin, Sally March. Director: Joe Kane.

Calling All Marines..912..(65).....Sept. 21
Melodrama. Foreign agents try to steal a radio-controlled aerial bombing device from the U. S. Marines. Donald Barry, Helen Mack. Director: John H. Auer.

Colorado Sunset..846..(64) .....July 31
Western. A veterinarian's "protective association" is exposed, and with it the sheriff's protection. Autry wins the election, and the cattlemen's market again is open. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette. Director: George Sherman.

Covered Trailer..915..(..) .....Nov. 17
Comedy. Supposedly lost at sea on a ship they were to have taken to South America, but didn't, having taken a trailer trip instead, the Gleasons are arrested for forgery when they try to cash a check. James, Lucile and Russell Gleason, Harry Davenport. Director: Gus Meins.

Flight at Midnight..9111..(66).....Aug. 28
Drama. The sacrifice and courage behind the scenes of air transportation, by men who risk death for the progress of aviation. Phil Regan, Jean Parker, Col. Roscoe Turner Director: Sidney Salkow.

In Old Caliente..856..(57).....June 23
Western. Rogers, through the aid of friends, traps the real thief and clears himself of a theft charge brought against him by his employer. Roy Rogers, Mary Hart, Jack LaRue. Director: Joe Kane.

In Old Monterey..847..(70) .....Aug. 11
Western. A U. S. army sergeant poses as a cowboy to investigate the opposition of cattlemen to the government's purchase of ranch land for war maneuvers. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, June Storey, Hoosier Hot Shots, Ranch Boys. Director: Joe Kane.

Jeepers Creepers..(69) .....Oct. 27
Drama with Music. An unscrupulous coal baron whose crass materialism is circumvented by the religious simplicity and honesty of the natives. Roy Rogers, Weaver Bros. and Elviry. Director: Frank McDonald.

Kansas Terrors..961..(57) .....Oct. 6
Western. A couple of Kansas cowpunchers accompany a shipment of horses to the Caribbean Islands, where they find themselves in the midst of a conflict between the oppressed peons and a vicious island overlord. Robert Livingston, Raymond Hatton, Duncan Renaldo, Jacqueline Wells. Director: George Sherman.

Main Street Lawyer..905..(71).....Nov. 10
Drama. A district attorney is removed from office for throwing the case against a gangster, but things are finally adjusted when the real reason for his doing so is revealed. Edward Ellis, Anita Louise, Robert Baldwin, Harold Huber. Director: Dudley Murphy.

Features

THE COMPLETE CHECK-UP ON CURRENT RELEASES

Man of Conquest..801..(97) .....May 15
Historical Drama. The story of Sam Houston and his fight for Texan independence from Mexico, and Texas' ultimate entry into the Union. Richard Dix, Gail Patrick, Edward Ellis. Director: George Nicholls jr.

Mickey, The Kid..814..(66) .....July 3
Drama. A gangster's boy, born into a life of crime, fights his way out, after the taste of a better environment, in his determination to become an honest citizen. Bruce Cabot, Tommy Ryan. Director: Arthur Lubin.

Mountain Rhythm..845..(59) .....June 9
Western. Gene Autry uncovers a plot to deprive the ranchers of their grazing lands. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Maude Eburne. Director: B. Reeves Eason.

New Frontier..868..(56) .....Aug. 10
Western. A fight for a water pipe line to their desert land motivates this Three Mesquiteers yarn. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan. Director: George Sherman.

Roving Tumbleweeds..848..(..) .....Nov. 15
Western. A rancher, elected Congressman, tries to put through a Flood Control bill, but the man opposing the bill puts up a fight until his own land is threatened. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Carlisle. Director: George Sherman.

Sabotage..913..(69) .....Oct. 13
Action Drama. On the eve of his marriage, a young mechanic in an airplane factory innocently is accused of a sabotage plot when an army plane crashes during a test. A group of aged veterans bring the saboteurs to justice in a stirring climax. Arleen Whelan, Gordon Oliver, Charley Grapewin, Lucien Littlefield. Director: Harold Young.

She Married a Cop..815..(65) .....July 15
Musical Comedy. A singing policeman is framed into "doubling for a pig" by an animated cartoon producer. Phil Regan, Jean Parker. Director: Sidney Salkow.

Should Husbands Work?..816..(62).....July 26
Comedy. A wife beats her husband to a job but after queering a big deal, all is straightened when it is found the family holds a key block of stock. James Gleason, Lucile Gleason. Director: Gus Meins.

Smuggled Cargo..825..(61) .....Aug. 21
Drama. The head of the orange growers' association is framed, and a near lynching is averted. Barry Mackay, Rochelle Hudson, Ralph Morgan. Director: John H. Auer.

S. O. S. Tidal Wave..813..(60).....June 2
Action Drama. A television news commentator combats gangsters using a rival television station to telecast a horror film. Ralph Byrd, George Barbier, Kay Sutton. Director: John Auer.

Southward Ho! (formerly Headin' for Texas)
855..(58) .....May 18
Western. Conflict arises between two ex-Confederate soldiers and their ranch co-owner when they learn the latter was a Union officer. Roy Rogers, Mary Hart, George Hayes. Director: Joe Kane.

Three Texas Steers..866..(59) .....May 15
Western. A young girl is led to believe the ranch she inherited is worthless, but the Three Mesquiteers save her from being duped. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan, Max Terhune, Carole Landis. Director: George Sherman.

Wall Street Cowboy..857..(66) .....Sept. 6
Western. New York's financial barons wage a battle of wits for control of a ranch suitable for mining. Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Raymond Hatton, Ann Baldwin. Director: Joseph Kane.

Wyoming Outlaw..867..(52) .....June 21
Western. The Three Mesquiteers smash a political relief racket after the gang forces an innocent boy to turn outlaw. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan, Raymond Hatton, Donald Barry. Director: George Sherman.

Zero Hour, The..812..(62) .....May 27
Drama. How a stage star, with loyalty and courage, faces a tangled problem, when the man she is about to marry is hopelessly crippled in an automobile accident. Frieda Inescort, Otto Kruger, Don Douglas. Director: Sidney Salkow.

RKO Radio

Allegheny Uprising..006..(81) .....Nov. 10
Outdoor Drama. A chapter in American history following the war of 1759, when the government fought to suppress illegal trading in rum and the sale of weapons to the Indians. Claire Trevor, John Wayne, George Sanders, Brian Donlevy. Director: William A. Seiter.

Bachelor Mother..932..(81) .....Aug. 4
Romantic Comedy. A sales girl finds herself the "mother" of an abandoned baby on the day she is fired. The situation is brought to the attention of the owner's son, and he is jockeyed into a spot where he is the "father." Ginger Rogers, David Niven. Director: Garson Kanin.

Bad Lands..933..(65) .....Aug. 11
Western. A trapped posse of nine men, besieged by Apaches and a half-breed killer reveals the individual strength and weaknesses of its members' characters. Robert Barrat, Noah Berry jr. Director: Lew Landers.

Career..930..(78) .....July 7
Melodrama. A homespun yarn of the lives of two families in a small Iowa town, which film introduces the two winners of the "Gateway to Hollywood" contest, John Archer and Alice Eden. Anne Shirley, Edward Ellis, Samuel B. Hinds. Director: Leigh Jason.

Conspiracy..935..(59) .....Sept. 1
Melodrama. A wireless operator on an American boat is marked for death by a foreign rival faction. Allan Lane, Linda Hayes. Director: Lew Landers.

Day the Bookies Wept, The..002..(65)..Sept. 15
Comedy. A cab driver with a love for pigeons, is tricked into buying and entering in the big race a nag who dotes on alcoholics. Joe Penner, Betty Grable, Tom Kennedy. Director: Leslie Goodwins.

Everything's on Ice..946..(65) .....Oct. 6
Musical. A six-year-old skating star who executes everything on ice from the can-can to the hula. Irene Dare, Roscoe Karns, Edgar Kennedy. Director: Erle C. Kenton.

Fifth Avenue Girl..934..(80) .....Sept. 22
Comedy Drama. A satirical farce subtly deriding the rich and those who envy them, along with a smattering of current sociological theories. Ginger Rogers, Walter Connolly, James Ellison. Director: Gregory La Cava.

Fighting Gringo, The..986..(60) .....Sept. 8
Western. A band of volunteer vigilantes roam the west to aid the oppressed and to see that justice prevails. George O'Brien, Lupita Tovar. Director: David Howard.

Five Came Back..927..(75) .....June 23
Drama. A passenger plane crashes in a Brazilian jungle, and a drama of courage and cowardice is unfolded when four people have to be left behind before the plane can take off safely. Chester Morris, Kent Taylor, Lucille Ball. Director: John Farrow.

Flying Deuces..010..(65) .....Nov. 3
Comedy. Two American fish peddlers go to Paris where one of them falls in love with a married woman. They join the Foreign Legion to forget, and when they try to desert they inadvertently become heroes. Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Jean Parker. Director: A. Edward Sutherland.

Full Confession..003..(72) .....Sept. 8
Drama. A priest, bound by the sanctity of confessional, cannot reveal the confession made to him of a crime for which another man is to be electrocuted, but uses his influence to make the real murderer give himself up. Victor McLaglen, Sally Eilers, Joseph Calleia. Director: John Farrow.

Girl and the Gambler, The (formerly The Dove)**..926..(62) .....June 16**
Western Melodrama. A Latin-American Robin Hood with a dash of caballero wagers that he can woo and win a certain maiden's heart in 24 hours. Leo Carrillo, Tim Holt, Steffi Duni. Director: Lew Landers.

Girl From Mexico, The..928..(71) .....June 2
Comedy Melodrama. An advertising man flies down to Mexico to sign a radio personality for a new program and falls in love with his new fiery, Spanish star. Lupe Velez, Donald Woods, Leon Errol, Linda Hayes. Director: Leslie Goodwins.

In Name Only..936..(92) .....Aug. 18
Drama. The story of a heartless woman who married for wealth and social position, and kept her husband bound to a loveless marriage to prevent his marrying the woman he loved. Carole Lombard, Cary Grant, Kay Francis. Director: John Cromwell.

Marshal of Mesa City, The..081..(61).....Nov. 3
Western. A marshal restores law and order to a frontier town dominated by a crooked sheriff and his gang. George O'Brien, Virginia Vale. Director: David Howard.

Meet Dr. Christian..005..(63).....Nov. 17
Drama. A small town doctor wins a long-sought hospital for his community when his skill saves the mayor's daughter. Jean Hersholt, Dorothy Lovett, Paul Harvey. Director: Bernard Vorhaus.

Nurse Edith Cavell..001..(95).....Sept. 29
Historical Drama. The true story of the trial and execution that shocked the civilized world in 1915 of a World War nurse who put humanitarianism above patriotism. Anna Neagle, Edna May Oliver, George Sanders. Director: Herbert Wilcox.

Of Human Bondage..993..(83)..Reissue...July 14
Drama. A dramatization of W. Somerset Maugham's modern classic of the deep and tragic love of a medical student for a cheap waitress with a cold heart. Leslie Howard, Bette Davis. Director: John Cromwell.

Panama Lady..925..(65) .....May 12
Melodrama. A wealthy oil prospector goes through a complete rehabilitation at the hands of a dance hall girl. Lucille Ball, Allan Lane. Jack Hively directed.

Racketeers of the Range..984..(60) .....May 26
Western. A cattleman fights a slick attorney who tries to sell his girl client out to a big packing company. George O'Brien, Marjorie Reynolds. Director: D. Ross Lederman.

Saint in London, The..929..(70).....June 30
Mystery Drama. The Saint picks up a wounded man on a country road, who leads him into a web of intrigue and super-crime, with death a constant companion. George Sanders, Sally Gray. Director: John Paddy Carstairs.

Sorority House..924..(63) .....May 5
Comedy Drama. Presents a celluloid argument against the existing dangers of snobbishness among college sororities. Anne Shirley, J. M. Kerrigan, Barbara Read. Director: John Farrow.

Spellbinder..931..(70) .....July 28
Melodrama. A lawyer kills the client, for whom he had obtained acquittal when the latter marries the lawyer's daughter as protection. He then obtains clemency for himself. Lee Tracy, Barbara Read, Patric Knowles. Director: Jack Hively.

Sued for Libel..012..(65) .....Oct. 27
Drama. A bum steer, broadcast as fact by a reporter, brings on a libel suit, until further research uncovers enough unpleasant facts to cause withdrawal of the suit. Kent Taylor, Linda Hayes, Lillian Bond. Director: Leslie Goodwins.

Three Sons..004..(72) .....Oct. 13
Drama. The owner of a large department store holds big dreams for his three sons, only two of which measure up to his expectations. Edward Ellis, J. Edward Bromberg, Virginia Vale, Robert Stanton. Director: Jack Hively.

Timber Stampede..985..(58) .....June 30
Western. A railroad man and a lumber baron, who together plot to strip government land of timber, are halted in their ruthless attempts. George O'Brien, Marjorie Reynolds. Director: David Howard.

Way Down South..947..(62).....July 21
Musical. Bobby balks a scheming executor of his estate who would sell the plantation Negroes. Bobby Breen, Alan Mowbray. Director: Bernard Vorhaus.

State Rights

A Brivele Der Mamen (A Letter to Mother)
(106) .....Sphinx
Drama. The gradual disintegration of a simple family of Jews and their friends who live in a provincial Polish town, how the family comes to America one by one and the events that transpire, all shown in their relationship to the mother. Lucy Gehrman, Alexander Stein, Max Bozyk. Producer: Greenfilm, Warsaw. 10-39

Affair Laffont, The..(90) .....Trans-Atlantic
Drama. A married woman shoots her sister, whose illegitimate child she has raised, when a blackmailing father arrives and the mother is about to tell all. Corinne Luchaire. Director: Leonid Moguy. 11-39

Alexander Nevsky..(92) .....Amkino
Epic Drama. The invasion of Russia by the Order of Teutonic Knights in the 13th Century. Nickolai Cherkassov, N. P. Okhlopkov. Director: Sergei Eisenstein.

Betrayal..(80) .....World
Historical Drama. A new approach is presented in this story of Catherine the Great of Russia and the love she bore for the treacherous Count Orloff. Annie Vernay, Pierre Richard-Willm. Director: Fedor Ozep. 10-39

Bizarre Bizarre..(84) .....Lenauer
Comedy. A French satire of British customs, with an underlying plot centering around a botanist who writes mystery stories under an assumed name. Louis Jouvet, Francoise Rosay, Michel Simon. Director: Marcel Carne.

Black Limelight..(63) .....Alliance
Melodrama. A man's mistress is murdered, but his wife helps clear him of the murder charge by trapping the family lawyer who is obsessed with a homicidal mania during a full moon. Raymond Massey, Joan Marion. Director: Walter C. Mycroft. 7-39

Bombs Over London..(78) .....Film Alliance
Melodrama. A mad diplomat from an unnamed country in Central Europe uses a peace conference as a front to stage an air raid on London by wireless-controlled airplanes. Charles Farrell, Fritz Kortner, Margaret Vyner. Directors: Roger Macdougal and Alexander MacKendrick. 10-39

Buried Alive..(..) .....Nov. 15 P-D-C
Melodrama. A lad is sentenced to the chair for complicity in a prison murder, but a "hoax" execution is performed to make the guilty man confess the boy's innocence. Beverly Roberts, Robert Wilcox, Peter Lynn. Director: Victor Halperin.

Challenge, The..(65).....Film Alliance
Outdoor Drama. A thrilling mountain-climbing race between an English and Italian party to reach the top of Matterhorn, tallest of the Alpine peaks. Robert Douglas, Luis Trenker, Joan Gardner. Director: Milton Rosmer. Trenker co-directed in the Alpine scenes. 10-39

Champs-Elysees..(89).....Tri-National
Comedy. A narration of the history of the Champs-Elysees in which the love life of Louis XV is highlighted. (In French with English subtitles.) Sacha Guitry, Jacqueline DeLubac, Lisette Lanvin. Director and author: Sacha Guitry.

Conquests of Peter the Great..(94).....Amkino
Historical Drama. A dramatization of the swashbuckling monarch who led Russia out of feudalism, but was forced to commit his son to execution for an attempted betrayal. Russian cast. Director: Vladimir Petrov. 9-39

Daughter of the Tong..(56).....Metropolitan
Melodrama. G-Man Grant Withers trails a Chinese woman gangster who controls the alien smuggling racket in Chinatown. Evelyn Brent, Grant Withers. Director: Raymond K. Johnson. 9-39

Dead Men Tell No Tales..(69).....Alliance
Mystery Thriller. The matron of a boys' school wins a Sweepstakes, and falls into the hands of a murderous fiend. Emlyn Williams, Hugh Williams, Sara Seegar. Director: David MacDonald. 9-39

Death Goes North..(63).....
Action Drama. A wife aids a male conspirator in the murder of her husband to obtain valuable timber lands in the North Woods. Edgar Edwards, Sheila Bromley, Rin Tin Tin jr. Director: Frank McDonald.

Demon Barber of Fleet St...(66).....Select
Melodrama. A weird tale is unfolded as a waterfront barber tells a customer of his predecessor who lured wealthy passengers from English ships to his shop where he murdered them and looted their belongings. Tod Slaughter, Bruce Seton, Stella Rho. Director: George King. 10-39

End of a Day, The..(94).....Juno Films
Drama. The poignant story of actors at the twilight of their careers. Victor Francen, Louis Jouvet, Michel Simon. Director: Julien Duvivier. 10-39

Escape From Yesterday..(88).....Hoffberg
French Drama. A man-hunt that leads to adventure in North Africa with the Spanish Foreign Legion. Jean Gabin, Annabella. Director: Julien Duvivier. 7-39

Fighting Renegade..(54).....Victory-Principal
Western. Tim McCoy in a dual role, first as a Mexican guide and then as Bill Carson seeking a murderer, all in the interests of an Indian expedition. Tim McCoy, Joyce Bryant. 9-39

Grand Illusion..(92).....World
Drama. The effects of war are presented in this drama depicting the hardships endured by French army officers in a German prison camp. (In French with superimposed English dialogue titles.) Eric von Stroheim, Jean Gabin, Pierre Fresnay Dita Parlo. Director: Jean Renoir.

Great Commandment, The..(85)..Cathedral Films
Religious Drama. Treating of Judea during the Roman oppression and the rise of Christ. John Beal, Maurice Moscovich, Albert Dekker. Director: Irving Pichel. 11-39

Harvest..(80).....French Film Center
Drama. A film poem of a woman who leaves an itinerant scissor-grinder to marry a peasant farmer, and through her love inspires him to harvest the land wasted by others. Fernandel, Gabriel Gabrio, Orane Demazis. Director: Marcel Pagnol. 9-39

Hatred..(..).....World
Drama. A story of the sea, from the novel by O. P. Gilbert. (In French with superimposed English dialogue titles). Starring Harry Baur.

Headleys at Home, The..(60).....Standard
Comedy Drama. Friend wife hires an actor to impersonate a big financier, who comes to town, and about whom she had concocted a phoney story of school-day friendship. Complications occur when the impersonator turns out to be a bank robber. Grant Mitchell, Evelyn Venable, Benny Rubin, Vince Barnett. Director: Chris Beute. 11-39

Heartbeat..(90)..French M. P. Corp.....Sept. 4
Drama. A human drama of the honest, simple lives of the Provence peasants, with the romance centered around a girl who runs off with a scoundrel, and returns a year later, only to be humiliated by her father's code of honor. French cast. Director: Marcel Pagnol. 9-39

Hitler—Beast of Berlin..(90).....Oct. 15..P-D-C
Drama. Depicts inside Nazi Germany in this story of a brave German anti-Nazi who organizes a group opposing Hitler and his brutalities. Roland Drew, Steffi Duna. Director: Sherman Scott. 11-39

I Met a Murderer..(80).....York
Drama. An English-made film sponsored by a group of talented youthful thespians. Story concerns a young farmer who murders his nagging wife in a fit of rage, and becomes a hunted man. James Mason, Pamela Kellino, Sylvia Coleridge. Director: Roy Kellino. 10-39

Indiscretions..(80).....Tri-National
French Comedy. A middle-aged woman has an affair with a young man and her husband cleverly makes her regret it. Sacha Guitry, Betty Dausmond, Jacqueline Delubac. Director: Sacha Guitry. 6-39

Ireland's Border Line..(65).....Regal
Comedy. An itinerant cough-mixer vendor stumbles into a man and woman crook somewhere between northern and southern Ireland. Jimmy O'Dea, Myrette Morven. Director: Harry O'Donovan. 11-39

Lenin in 1918..(130).....Amkino
Historical Drama. Russian film with English titles. A biographical portrayal of Lenin, his early struggles to keep his party in power, and the events leading up to an attempt on his life. Russian cast. Director: Mikhail Romn. 7-39

Light Ahead, The..(108).....Carmel
Drama. From the S. J. Asramowitz classic, of the romance between a blind girl and a crippled bath attendant, who find conflicting forces in the smug complacency and superstitious attitude of the townspeople. Isidore Casher, Helen Beverly, David Opatashu. Director: Edgar Ulmer. 10-39

Lure of the Wasteland..(52).....
Western. Filmed in Teico-Color, and the story of a federal man assigned to recover the loot hidden by train robbers. Grant Withers, Karl Hackett. Director: Harry Fraser. 9-39

Mademoiselle Ma Mere..(78).....J. H. Hoffberg
Farce comedy. A young woman marries an elderly man to spite her father, but the marriage is never consummated. She runs off with her stepson and an annuiment leaves them free to marry. Danielle Darrieux, Marcel Simon. Director: Henri Decoin. 10-39

Marseillaise..(..).....World
Drama. A dramatization of the French Revolution. (In French with superimposed English dialogue titles.) Pierre Renoir, Louis Jouvet. Director: Jean Renoir.

Mesquite Buckaroo..(59).....Metropolitan
Western. Road agents kidnap a bronc-riding cowhand to insure their winning the high stakes. He escapes in time to enter and win the rodeo. Bob Steele, Carolyn Curtis, Frank LaRue. Director: 11-39

Mirele Efros..(87).....Credo
Drama. A Yiddish play of daughter-in-law versus mother-in-law conflict that finally ends at the bar mitzvah of a grandson. Berta Gersten, Michael Rosenberg, Ruth Elbaum. Director: Josef Berne. 11-39

Murder Is News..(55).....Warwick
Action Drama. A columnist predicts the divorce of a wealthy businessman, who later is found murdered. John Gallaudet, Iris Meredith, John Hamilton. Director: Leon Barsha. 7-39

Mutiny of the Elsinore..(73).....Regal
Action Drama. From Jack London's forceful drama of adventure and mutiny on the high seas, and the hopes and desperations of these sea-faring men. Paul Lukas, Lyn Harding. Director: Roy Lockwood.

Mystic Circle Murder..(69).....Merit
Spiritualism Expose. A newspaperman saves the girl he loves from a phoney medium about to rob her. Betty Compson, Robert Fiske. 11-39

Neighbors..(90).....Best Films
Comedy. A Jewish comedy of errors in which a mixup in names brings confusion and romance into the life of a radio announcer. Helen Gross, Joseph Orwid. Director:

New Horizons..(92).....Amkino
Melodrama. The birth of the U.S.S.R. and Maxim's appointment as commissar of the government bank. M. Shtraukh, M. Gelovani, Boris Chirkov. Directors: Gregory Kozintsev, Leonid Trauberg. 7-39

On His Own..(96).....Amkino
Drama. A sort of continuation of the screen biography of Maxim Gorky, picking up the threads where the period of childhood had come to a close and where Gorky faces the future unafraid on the brink of manhood. Alexi Lyarsky. Director: Mark Donskoi. 10-39

Oppenheim Family, The..(97).....Amkino
Drama. Based on the novel by Leon Feuchtwanger. Portrays the life of the Oppenheims under the Nazi regime terror. Russian cast. Director: Gregory Roshal. 7-39

Port of Hate..(57).....Metropolitan
Melodrama. Two friends discover a pearl oysterbed in the South Seas, one of whom gets killed and the other is left to protect the secret from pearl raiders. Polly Ann Young, Kenneth Harlan. Director: Harry S. Webb. 9-39

Port of Shadows..(68).....Film Alliance
French Drama. An army deserter and implied murderer, and a girl escaping her foster-father, meet when they seek refuge in a harbor hut. The romance ends in tragedy when the former is killed by a gangster. Jean Gabin, Michele Morgan. Director: Michael Carne. 11-39

Prisoner of Corbal, The..(73).....Syndicate
Drama From Rafael Sabatini's novel of a revolutionary terrorist who, in pursuit of a woman of noble birth, uses all sorts of traps to snare her. Nils Asther, Noah Beery, Hazel Terry. Director: Karl Grune. 9-39

Rangle River..(72).....J. H. Hoffberg
Outdoor Drama. The importance of the river to cattle raisers, in this story from the pen of Zane Grey. Victor Jory, Margaret Dare. Director: Clarence Badger. 6-39

Rasputin..(93).....Concord
Drama. The influential monk's notorious activities first in Siberia and then among the cafe society of wartime St. Petersburg. Harry Baur. Director: Marcel L'Herbier. 11-39

Return of the Frog..(70).....Select
Melodrama. An Edgar Wallace thriller in which the Frog and his henchmen return to terrorize London. Gordon Harker, Hartley Power, Rene Ray. Director: Maurice Elvey. 10-39

Royal Divorce, A..(87).....Imperator
Historical Drama. Josephine holds no love for Napoleon at the time of their marriage, but his love for her sets him out to conquer the world. When he becomes famous, she shows her affection, but it is then too late Ruth Chatterton, Pierre Blanchard. Director: Jack Raymond 9-39

Scipione L'Africano..(155).....Esperia
Historical Drama. An all-Italian film (no English subtitles) showing the conquest of Carthage by the Romans during the reign of Scipio. Isa Miranda and Italian cast. Director: Carmine Gallone. 10-39

Scorched Earth, The..(50)....B. V. Mindenburg
Documentary. An indictment of Japanese aggression in China, the film composed entirely of newsreel clips. Narrator: Cliff Howell. 7-39

Smoky Trails..(56)..Metropolitan.....July 1
Western. One of the Bob Steele series, in which Bob meets face to face the villain who shot his father in the back. Bob Steele, Jean Carmen. Director: Bernard B. Ray. 9-39

Song of the Streets..(75)..Mayer-Burstyn..Sept. 1
Drama. French version of "Dead End" kids growing up in the slums of Paris, with neglect and poverty making them potential criminals. French cast. Director: Victor Trivas. 9-39

Special Inspector..(55).....Warwick
Melodrama. A government agent is assigned to get fur hijackers smuggling their loot across the Canadian border. Charles Quigley, Rita Hayworth. Director: Leon Barsha. 6-39

Spy of Napoleon..(77).....Unity
Historical Melodrama. English-made film portraying the intrigue and machinations surrounding the reign of Napoleon III, war with Prussia in 1870, and the downfall of the French ruler. Richard Barthelmess, Dolly Haas. Director: Maurice Elvey. 7-39

Taku..(48).....Norman Dawn
Nature Drama. The story of a grizzled prospector who had been panning gold for 30 years without a strike. Filmed against a background of authentic scenic shots and photographic studies of animals in the Taku country of Alaska. Amateur cast. Director: Norman Dawn. 10-39

Texas Wildcats..(58).....Victory
Western. Tim McCoy poses as the "Phantom" to avenge the death of his partner. Tim McCoy, Joan Barclay, Forrest Taylor. Director: Sam Newfield. 7-39

Three Waltzes..(80).....Vedis Films
French Operetta. Depicts the loves of the Grandpres and the de Chalencey of 1867 France, covers three generations and Strauss's music, and brings the story to a halt in a modern film studio. Yvonne Printemps, Pierre Fresnay. Director: Dr. Ludwig Berger. 6-39

Timberland Terror..(75).....Hoffberg
Melodrama. Produced in Australia, the story deals with the timberland country, and a life guard who saves the heroine and her father's timber business Shirley Ann Richards, Frank Leighton. Director: Ken G. Hall.

Torpedoed..(66).....Film Alliance
Melodrama. How the British navy diplomatically quells a revolution in an unidentified belligerent Latin country that had attacked one of their ships. H. B. Warner, Robert Douglas, Richard Cromwell. 10-39

Torture Ship..(..).....Oct. 22 P-D-C
Melodrama. Mutiny on the high seas when eight criminals, brought aboard a liner by a scientist for a cure, become panicky at the thought of becoming scientific sacrifices. Irving Pichel, Jacqueline Wells, Lyle Talbot. Director: Victor Halperin. 11-39

Treachery on the High Seas..(68).....Times
Melodrama. Jewel thieves are after a ruby necklace on a trans-Atlantic liner. Ben Lyon, Bebe Daniels. 10-39

Tumbleweeds..(82)..Reissue..Astor .....June 9
Western. The same picture produced by William S. Hart in 1925, with Hart speaking to the audience for the first time in an 8-minute

prologue. William S. Hart, Barbara Bedford, Lucien Littlefield. Director: King Baggot. 7-39

Typhoon Treasure..(68) .....State Rights
Outdoor Adventure. A pearler whose schooner is wrecked in a typhoon trails through a perilous jungle to save the treasure from thieves. Campbell Copelin, Joe Valli. Director: Noel Monkman. 7-39

U. S. S. R. on Screen, 1939..(94).....Amkino
Documentary. Presents a collection of newsreels covering various phases of Soviet activity, including the Moscow building program and the emancipation of women. Narrated.

When Germany Surrendered..(70).....A. L. Rule
Documentary. An eloquent appeal for peace. Scenes of the battlefronts, wartime Italy, submarine warfare and hand-to-hand combat, of the World War. 11-39

Why This War..(70) .....Jewel
Documentary indicting the war-makers. Battlefront scenes and the German U-Boat campaign. Compiled by Samuel Cummins. 11-39

Will of the People, The..(55).....States Right
Documentary. A documentary compilation from the government's film archives and newsreel clips showing the Loyalist struggle against the combined Fascist forces of Franco, Germany and Italy. Commentary: By Producer Louis Frank.

Wings Over Africa..(62).....Merit Pictures
Adventure Thriller. Seven people go by plane to South Africa in search of a cache of diamonds hidden there by a deceased prospector. Filmed against a background of authentic shots of Africa, its native tribal customs and dances. Director: Ladislaus Vajda.

Without a Home..(88).....Foreign Cinema Arts
Drama. A man brings his family to America, but in his eagerness to make good in the land of opportunity, neglects his family for his job. (A Yiddish film with English sub-titles). Ida Kaminska, A. Marten, Warsaw Synagogue Choir. Director: A. Marten.

World Is Ours, The..(96).....Frank Kassler
Comedy Satire. The only remaining print in existence not destroyed by Hitler, and made a few months before he took over Czechoslovakia. The story is of two unemployed sign painters who stumble on the cache of arms hidden by the "grey hats" and warn the workers in time to break up the plot. Voskevec and Werich. Director: Mac Fric.

20th Century-Fox

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes..005..(85) Sept. 1
Mystery. A murderous fiend runs amuck in the Tower of London, in his attempt to steal the crown jewels, to the complete batflement of the great Sherlock Holmes. Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, George Zucco. Director: Alfred Werker.

Boy Friend..943..(70) .....May 19
Comedy. When a murder occurs in the police training school which Jane's brother attends, she and her sweetheart turn sleuths and capture the crooks. Jane Withers, George Ernest, Arleen Whelan. Director: James Tinling.

Charlie Chan at Treasure Island..006..(73) Sept. 8
Melodrama. Treasure Island in San Francisco's World Fair is the background setting for a couple of well manipulated murders. Sidney Toler, Cesar Romero, Pauline Moore. Director: Norman Foster.

Charlie Chan in Reno..948..(71) .....June 16
Mystery Drama. Charlie Chan finds the solution of a murder by the elimination process difficult because of dislike for the victim by so many individuals. Sidney Toler, Ricardo Cortez, Phyllis Brooks. Director: Norman Foster.

Chicken Wagon Family..002..(65).....Aug. 11
Comedy. Leo Carrillo takes his family, chicken wagon and all, to New York, where they regain a sound economic footing with the aid of Jane Withers. Carrillo, Withers, Spring Byington. Director: Herbert I. Leeds.

Drums Along the Mohawk..015..(103) ◎..Nov. 10
Historical Drama. A pictorial record of the plight and hardships of the Mohawk Valley pioneers against Indian raids during the American Revolution. Claudette Colbert, Henry Fonda. Director: John Ford.

Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women..001..(82) Aug. 4
Comedy. A home town girl wins back her boy friend when, in addition to becoming New York's leading model, she also saves him from a shooting charge. Ann Sothern, Linda Darnell, James Ellison. Director: Gregory Ratoff.

Escape, The..010..(60) .....Oct. 6
Drama. A kindly, big city doctor unfolds this tale of a group of tenement kids he had brought into the world and relates the events leading up to their criminal careers. Edward Norris, June Gale, Frank Reicher, Amanda Duff, Henry Armetta, Kane Richmond. Director: Ricardo Cortez.

First World War..Reissue..062..(78).....Oct. 27
Documentary. A symposium of chronological events of the World War, divided into 11 chapters, showing the events leading up to the war, the personalities involved, and warfare on the high seas, in the air and in the trenches. Bonny Powell, Russell Shields, Lou Lehr, Louis de Rochemont. Dialogue: Pedro de Cordoba. Edited by: Laurence Stallings.

Frontier Marshal..951..(70) .....July 28
Outdoor Drama. How a sure-shot he-man proved the scourge of Arizona's early bad men and brought law enforcement upon wild Tombstone. Randolph Scott, Nancy Kelly, Cesar Romero. Director: Allan Dwan.

Gorilla, The..944..(66) .....May 26
Comedy Mystery. A mad gorilla, on the loose, terrorizes a vicinity, and the Ritz Brother Detectives are assigned to the case. Ritz Bros., Anita Louise, Patsy Kelly. Director: Allan Dwan.

Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence..019 (62) .....Nov. 3
Drama. A young ranch owner, en route to Arizona, meets a girl refugee from Spain, and the two marry to escape arrest. Jean Rogers, Raymond Walburn, Glenn Ford. Director: Ricardo Cortez.

Here I Am a Stranger..009..(82).....Sept. 29
Drama. So that her infant son may have security and education, a woman divorces her irresponsible husband and marries a wealthy man. The lad grows to manhood only to find himself in a conflict between the world he was born into and the world his mother had created for him. Richard Greene, Richard Dix, Brenda Joyce. Director: Roy Del Ruth.

Hollywood Cavalcade..007..(96) ◎.....Oct. 13
Musical. A history of motion pictures and their development from the days of custard pie tossing, Keystone Kops, and the first super-spectacles, through the birth of sound. Alice Faye, Don Ameche, J. Edward Bromberg, and others. Director: Irving Cummings.

It Could Happen to You..950..(72).....June 30
Comedy Drama. A faithful wife didn't think it could happen, but a dead woman is found in the back of her husband's car when he returns from his boss's party. Stuart Erwin, Gloria Stuart, Douglas Fowley. Director: Alfred Werker.

Jones Family in Hollywood, The..946..(60) June 2
Comedy Drama. The family of Pa Jones tags along when he goes to Hollywood as a delegate to the American Legion convention, and are bitten by the motion picture bug. Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Shirley Deane. Director: Malcolm St. Clair.

Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation..952..(65).....July 7
Melodrama. By dint of brainwork and jui-jitsu Mr. Moto saves the crown of the Queen of Sheba, reposing in a museum, from the itchy fingers of an arch-criminal. Peter Lorre, Joseph Schildkraut, Virginia Field. Director: Norman Foster.

News Is Made at Night..953..(71).....July 21
Action Drama. An editor and his cub reporter unmask a "friend" who is responsible for a wave of murders designed to cover his own criminal record. Preston Foster, Lynn Bari. Alfred Werker directed.

Pack Up Your Troubles..014..(75).....Oct. 20
Comedy. The Ritz Bros. can't get vaudeville bookings and join the U. S. cavalry during the World War and wind up as mule guardians and heroes. Jane Withers, Ritz Brothers. Director: H. Bruce Humberstone.

Quick Millions..004..(61) .....Aug. 25
Comedy. The Jones Family inherit a gold mine in the west, but arrive to find the property being used as a hideout by bank bandits. Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Eddie Collins. Director: Mal St. Clair.

Rains Came, The..011..(103) .....Sept. 15
Drama. The film version of Louis Bromfield's best seller, of love, romance, and a breathtaking earthquake spectacle, in exotic India. Myrna Loy, Tyrone Power, George Brent. Director: Clarence Brown.

Road to Glory..061..(101)..Reissue.....Oct. 13
War Drama. A love triangle in which an embittered French captain loves a war nurse who loves a lieutenant in the captain's army. Fredric March, Warner Baxter, Lionel Barrymore, June Lang. Director: Howard Hawks.

Rose of Washington Square..942..(86)....May 12
Musical. The songs of yesteryear are highlighted in this story of a burlesque showgirl who turns down a theatrical contract to marry a confidence man. Alice Faye, Tyrone Power, Al Jolson, Marie Wilson. Director: Roy Del Ruth.

Second Fiddle..949..(85) .....July 14
Musical Comedy. A school teacher wins a screen test contest, and a press agent tries to promote a publicity romance between her and a waning matinee idol, but falls in love with her himself. Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power, Rudy Vallee. Director: Sidney Lanfield.

Shipyard Sally..018..(80) .....Oct. 20
Comedy. Sally and her father give up the stage and buy a shipyard pub in the shipbuilding town of Clydebanks. She takes the problems of the impoverished commoners to her heart and soon becomes a fighting champion for the working class of England. Gracie Fields, Sydney Howard. Director: Monty Banks.

Stanley and Livingstone..003..(100) ◎ ..Aug. 18
Adventure Drama. A dramatization of the most daring assignment in journalistic history. Henry M. Stanley, New York Herald reporter, fights death and pestilence in the wilds of Africa, in his search for Dr. David Livingstone, missionary-explorer. Spencer Tracy, Nancy Kelly, Richard Greene. Director: Henry King.

Stop, Look and Love..008..(57) .....Sept. 22
Comedy. The story of a well-meaning but meddlesome mother who drives away her daughters suitors by talking too much. Jean Rogers, William Frawley, Robert Kelland. Director: Otto Brower.

Susannah of the Mounties..954..(78).....June 23
Outdoor Adventure. Shirley, as sole survivor of an Indian massacre, is taken under the wing of a Canadian Mountie. She averts another uprising and saves the latter's life when the Blackfeet tribe try to burn him at the stake. Shirley Temple, Randolph Scott, Margaret Lockwood. Director: William A. Seiter.

Too Busy to Work..016..(64).....Nov. 17
Comedy. Pa Jones neglects his drug store to carry out his official duties as Mayor. His wife counteracts by neglecting her housework for the local stage. Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Joan Davis. Director: Otto Brower.

20,000 Men a Year..013..(84).....Oct. 27
Action Drama. A reckless, old-time pilot becomes head of an aviation training school for collegians, under government sponsorship. Randolph Scott, Preston Foster, Margaret Lindsay. Director: Alfred E. Green.

Ware Case, The..8014..(72) .....July 21
Mystery Drama. A mutual friend frees a bounder husband from a murder charge. When the husband learns the friend loves his wife, he admits the crime and kills himself. Clive Brook, Jane Baxter. Director: Robert Stevenson.

Young Mr. Lincoln..947..(101) ◎ .....June 9
Historical Drama. A portrait of Lincoln's earlier years as a rail-splitter, humorist, pie-eating contestant, and his experiences as a lawyer. Henry Fonda, Alice Brady, Arleen Whelan. Director: John Ford.

United Artists

Captain Fury (90) .....May 26
Action Drama. An exiled Irelander breaks the rule of a tyrant and saves the land holdings of the Austrian Colonists. Brian Aherne, Victor McLaglen, George Zucco, June Lang. Director: Hal Roach.

Eternally Yours..(95) .....Oct. 12
Comedy. On the eve of her marriage to a man she does not love, the granddaughter of a bishop runs away to become the wife of a magician. Loretta Young, David Niven, C. Aubrey Smith. Director: Tay Garnett.

Four Feathers..(109) ◎ .....Aug. 4
Adventure Drama. A military spectacle of the British Sudan. A man wins redemption from the charge of cowardice over overwhelming odds. Ralph Richardson, C. Aubrey Smith, June Duprez. Director: Zoltan Korda.

Housekeeper's Daughter..(80) .....Oct. 26
Comedy. The daughter of a housekeeper in a wealthy home is involved in a murder when a rejected suitor seeks refuge in their home. The son of the household, who is a newspaper reporter, helps the girl out of her difficulty and a romance blossoms. Joan Bennett, Adolphe Menjou, John Hubbard, Peggy Wood. Director: Hal Roach.

Intermezzo..(65) .....Sept. 22
Romantic Drama. A poignant love story of a maestro who falls in love with his daughter's music teacher. Leslie Howard, Ingrid Bergman. Director: Gregory Ratoff.

Man in the Iron Mask (110).....Aug. 11
Melodrama. Semi-historical spectacle of the legendary twin of Louis XIV, condemned to life imprisonment as a masked mystery man. Louis Hayward, Joan Bennett, Warren William. Director: James Whale.

Real Glory, The..(95) .....Sept. 29
Melodrama. Based on the history of the building by America of a native army in the Philippines and the overthrow of the fanatical and rebellious Moros. Gary Cooper, Andrea Leeds, David Niven. Director: Henry Hathaway.

They Shall Have Music..(120).....Aug. 18
Drama with Music. Jascha Heifetz makes his first screen appearance, as a conductor who saves a tenement district music school from

financial collapse by conducting a concert with the children as musicians. Jascha Heifetz, Andrea Leeds, Joel McCrea, Walter Brennan. Director: Archie Mayo.

Winter Carnival..(90) .....July 28
Comedy. Dartmouth College's annual winter carnival is background for this campus romance of winter sport and tender love. Ann Sheridan, Richard Carlson. Director: Charles F. Riesner.

Universal

Call a Messenger..20..(66) .....Nov. 3
Comedy Drama. Faced with the choice of reform school or a job, the leader of a boys' gang chooses the latter and gets his friends to follow. Billy Halop, Mary Carlisle, "Little Tough Guys." Director: Arthur Lubin.

Desperate Trails..4058..(58).....Sept. 8
Western. The hero discovers the sheriff and banker in cahoots with the outlaw gang who run the town. John Mack Brown, Bob Baker, Fuzzy Knight, Frances Robinson. Director: Albert Ray.

Destry Rides Again..(..) .....Nov. 17
Action Drama. A saloon entertainer sacrifices her life to help the man sent to investigate the town's crooked mayor. Marlene Dietrich, James Stewart, Brian Donlevy. Director: George Marshall.

Ex-Champ..3010..(72) .....May 19
Action Drama. A retired ex-champ loses his job as doorman, and takes on the training of a young lad who wins the coveted belt and the ex-champ's daughter. Victor McLaglen, Nan Grey, Tom Brown. Director: Phil Rosen.

First Love..3002..(84) .....Nov. 10
Comedy with Music. A modern Cinderella who lives with relatives too busy to look after her, becomes friends with the servants who chip in and buy her a dress ensemble for a dance, where she meets a modern Prince Charming. Deanna Durbin, Helen Parrish, Robert Stack, Eugene Pallette. Director: Henry Koster.

Forgotten Woman, The..(3031)..(68).....July 7
Drama. A young woman becomes innocently involved in a crime mesh and is sent to prison, where her baby is born. She is almost the forgotten woman, until one of the gangsters makes a deathbed confession. Sigrid Gurie, William Lundigan, Eve Arden. Director: Harold Young.

Hawaiian Nights..24..(64) .....Sept. 8
Musical Comedy. A hotel magnate sends his swing-crazy son to Honolulu to work in a hotel there, but he meets a young woman managing a rival hostelry and with his orchestra helps put the place on its feet. Johnny Downs, Mary Carlisle, Eddie Quillan. Director: Albert Rogell.

Hero for a Day..4035..(66).....Oct. 6
Comedy. An old graduate of a small Texas college shows the Texas football team that the college spirit consists of more than just football, while his niece falls in love with the big star of the team. Anita Louise, Charley Grapewin, Dick Foran. Director: Harold Young.

House of Fear, The..3038..(66).....June 30
Mystery Drama. A producer restages a play to track the murderer of a Broadway stage star. William Gargan, Irene Hervey, Alan Dinehart. Director: Joe May.

I Stole a Million..3007..(78) .....July 21
Drama. A criminal, through no fault of his own, in fighting back to go straight, sacrifices his own life to ensure the happiness of his wife and child. George Raft, Claire Trevor, Dick Foran. Director: Frank Tuttle.

Inside Information..3040..(62).....June 2
Action Drama. A rookie cop uses scientific methods to capture jewel robbers. June Lang, Dick Foran, Harry Carey, Mary Carlisle. Director: Charles Lamont.

Legion of Lost Flyers..53..(64).....Nov. 3
Melodrama. Innocently blamed for a fatal air crash, the hero turns up at an Alaskan airport where he meets the man responsible for the crash. A series of daring, exciting events ensue before the villain confesses his guilt. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Anne Nagel, William Lundigan. Director: Christy Cabanne.

Little Accident..(65) .....Oct. 27
Comedy. Baby Sandy saves a newspaper columnist from being fired, wins a baby contest and "adopts" herself some new parents. Hugh Herbert, Baby Sandy, Florence Rice. Director: Charles Lamont.

My Man Godfrey..(93)..Reissue.....June 2
Comedy. A "socialite hobo" lands a butler's job in a wealthy, madcap household with two wild daughters who cause no end of trouble when they both fall in love with him. William Powell, Carole Lombard. Director: Gregory La Cava.

Mikado, The..4044..(92) .....Sept. 8
Musical Operetta. Gilbert & Sullivan's musical operetta, the story of Nanki-Poo, son of the Mikado, who marries Yum-Yum against his father's wishes. Kenny Baker, Jean Colin, D'Oyly Carte Troupe. Director: Victor Schertzinger.

Mutiny on the Black Hawk..4051..(66)....Sept. 1
Outdoor Drama. A government agent is assigned to stop slave running in the South Seas, and leads a successful mutiny to accomplish his ends. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Constance Moore. Director: Christy Cabanne.

Oklahoma Frontier..4059..(58).....Oct. 20
Western. A lad holding a map to a claim left by his father is murdered and the hero is falsely accused of the crime. He escapes and with the aid of his sweetheart finds the real murderer. Johnny Mack Brown, Bob Baker, Anne Gwynne. Director: Ford Beebe.

One Hour to Live..30..(60).....Nov. 10
Action Drama. In tracking down a big shot gangster, a hard-boiled inspector is stumped when he finds the police commissioner involved. Charles Bickford, Doris Nolan, John Litel. Director: Harold Schuster.

Rio..(75) .....Sept. 29
Drama. A ruthless French swindler is sent to a South American penal colony. His wife follows him and works as an entertainer in a cafe, where she meets and falls in love with a young American. Her husband is killed while trying to escape and she is left free to marry the American. Basil Rathbone, Sigrid Gurie, Robert Cummings, Victor McLaglen. Director: John Brahm.

Road Back, The..(79)..Reissue .....Nov. 3
Drama. Sequel to "All Quiet on the Western Front," and a further plea against the deplorable futility of war, and the difficult post-war adjustment that faces those who come back. John King, Richard Cromwell, Slim Summerville, Andy Devine. Director: James Whale.

Sun Never Sets, The..3009..(94).....June 9
Drama. Two brothers in the British civil service find themselves faced with an international crisis that might rock the entire world if their heroic efforts fail. Douglas Fairbanks jr., Basil Rathbone, Barbara O'Neil, Lionel Atwill. Director: Rowland Lee.

They Asked for It..3040..(61) .....May 26
Action Drama. A small town newspaper, trying to capitalize on sensational news, points to the death of a farmer as murder, and gradually uncovers enough evidence to prove it was real murder. William Lundigan, Joy Hodges, Michael Whalen. Director: Frank McDonald.

Tower of London..(..) .....Oct. 20
Melodrama. Imprisoned in the Tower for refusing to marry the King's choice, the hero is released after the King dies. To save the throne from the King's scheming brother, he helps an exiled King to regain the throne. Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff, John Sutton, Barbara O'Neill. Director: Rowland V. Lee.

Tropic Fury..4052..(63) .....Oct. 13
Drama. A dictator with a Napoleon complex rules the jungles, making slaves of the rubber plantation workers. But the yoke of his rule is broken when the natives revolt. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Beverly Roberts. Director: Christy Cabanne.

Two Bright Boys..4017..(70) .....Sept. 15
Drama. A gambler and his son, who are hired by an unscrupulous oil operator to obtain land from a widow and her son, become good friends with the latter and help them instead. Jackie Cooper, Freddie Bartholomew, Melville Cooper. Director: Joseph Santley.

Under-Pup..10..(88) .....Sept. 1
Drama with Music. The adventures of an east-side tomboy in a snobbish camp of socialite girls. Gloria Jean, C. Aubrey Smith, Virginia Weidler.

Unexpected Father (Formerly Sandy Takes a Bow)..3008..(89) .....July 14
Comedy. Baby Sandy, the child sensation in "East Side of Heaven," plays the starring role in her second film, as an orphan who is cared for by her mother's dancing partner. Measles and the authorities intervene, but the baby goes on a hunger strike until she is returned. Baby Sandy, Shirley Ross, Dennis O'Keefe, Mischa Auer. Director: Charles Lamont.

When Tomorrow Comes..3003..(90) .....Aug. 11
Drama. Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer fall in love, but she agrees to forget about him when Boyer introduces her to his wife, who is mentally ill. Boyer, Dunne, and Nydia Westman. Director: John Stahl.

Witness Vanishes, The..4027..(66) .....Sept. 22
Melodrama. The publisher of a London newspaper is railroaded to an insane asylum, from which he escapes, having vowed vengeance against the four men who had framed him. Edmund Lowe, Wendy Barrie, Barlowe Borland. Director: Otis Garrett.

Warner Bros.

A Child Is Born..415..(79) .....Sept. 30
Melodrama. Comedy and tragedy is enacted in the maternity ward of a hospital, in which is shown the joy with which some women usher life into the world, others resentfully, still others are denied fulfillment. Geraldine Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Lynn, Gale Page, Johnnie Davis. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Dead End Kids on Dress Parade..(62).....Nov. 18
Comedy Drama. The Dead End Kids at military school. The academy head promised a dying friend to look after his son, but the boy proves a source of perpetual trouble. Billy Halop, Bobby Jordan, Leo Gorcey, John Litel. Director: William Clemens.

Hell's Kitchen..312..(81) .....July 8
Action Drama. A philanthropic gangster on probation takes charge of a wayward home for boys, but pandemonium breaks out when the gangster is framed and the institution threatened. Dead End Kids. Directors: Lewis Seiler and E. A. Dupont.

Indianapolis Speedway..315..(82) .....Aug. 5
Drama. A racer tries to keep his kid brother from the track and from the latter's girl. He fails in both, but reconcilation comes when both ride to victory in the big race. Pat O'Brien, Ann Sheridan. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Juarez..301..(127) .....June 10
Historical Drama. An Indian boy becomes Mexico's liberator in its fight for Democracy in 1864. Paul Muni, Bette Davis, Brian Aherne. Director: William Dieterle.

Kid Nightingale..411..(58) .....Nov. 4
Comedy Drama. A prizefighter with operatic aspirations becomes a public hero, and after winning the championship match decides to launch his musical career. John Payne, Jane Wyman, Walter Catlett. Director: George Amy.

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase 419..(60) .....Sept. 9
Melodrama. Two sisters plan to donate their estate for a children's hospital, but someone else finds the property valuable for a purpose, and uses murder to thwart the original plans. Bonita Granville, Frankie Thomas. Director: William Clemens.

Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter..324..(69)..June 17
Drama. Nancy does some more detectifying in her own way to save an innocent man from the electric chair. Bonita Granville, Frankie Thomas, John Litel. Director: William Clemons.

Naughty But Nice..311..(90) .....July 1
Comedy With Music. A music professor, raised by maiden aunts, goes to New York to market his rhapsody, and meets a fourth aunt who shows him the swing side of music. Dick Powell, Ann Sheridan. Director: Ray Enright.

Pride of the Blue Grass..418..(65).....Oct. 7
Melodrama. The poignant story of a jockey's devotion to a blind horse. The lad is unaware of the horse's affliction until he loses several races, after which the youth, by love and diligence, trains him to jump by signals. Edith Fellows, James McCallion. Director William McGann.

Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex..402 (100) ◎ **.....Nov. 11**
Drama. A characterization of England's most famous queen, against a background of pomp, pageantry, intrigue and sweeping romance. Bette Davis, Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland. Director: Michael Curtiz.

Roaring Twenties..403..(104) .....Oct. 28
Drama. The hectic period between the end of the World War and the collapse of the financial bubble in 1929. James Cagney, Priscilla Lane. Director: Raoul Walsh.

Torchy Plays With Dynamife..326..(59)..Aug. 12
Comedy. Newspaperwoman Torchy goes to jail to get next to a gangster's girl. In a jailbreak she saves the girl's life and the gangster is apprehended. Jane Wyman, Allen Jenkins. Director: Noel Smith.

Torchy Runs for Mayor..322..(60).....May 13
Comedy Drama. When Torchy's paper refuses to print an expose of crooked city politics, she decides a new mayor is necessary and through the perpetration of a practical joke becomes the winning candidate. Glenda Farrell, Barton MacLane. Director: Ray McCarey.

Waterfront..325..(59) .....July 15
Action Drama. The lives, loves and hates of the longshoremen and stevedores. Gloria Dickson, Dennis Morgan, Ward Bond. Director: Terry Morse.

Alphabetical Index of Feature Releases

Designed as a Time-Saving Guide for Exhibitors Who Know the Title of a Picture, but Do Not Recall the Producer or Distributor. All Pictures Listed Here Appear in the PRODUCTION INDEX in Alphabetical Order Under the Proper Company Headings. Date Following Title is Issue of Review.

A

A Brivele Der Mamen (SR) Oct. 7
A Child Is Born (WB) Aug. 5
A Woman Is the Judge (Col) July 8
Across the Plains (Mono) June 3
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26
Affair Laffont, The (SR) Oct. 21
Alexander Nevsky (Amk) Apr. 15
Allegheny Uprising (RKO)
Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever (M-G-M) July 15
Angels Wash Faces (FN) Aug. 5
Arizona Kid, The (Rep) Oct. 7
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col) reissue

B

Babes in Arms (M-G-M) Sept. 23
Bachelor Mother (RKO) July 1
Bad Lands (RKO) July 29
Bad Little Angel (M-G-M) Oct. 28
Beachcomber, The (Para) Dec. 3
Beau Geste (Para) Aug. 29
Behind Prison Gates (Col) Aug. 5
Betrayal (SR) Sept. 23
Beware, Spooks! (Col)
Bizarre, Bizarre (Lenauer) Apr. 15
Black Limelight (SR) July 8
Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16
Blazing Sixes (WB)
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col) Nov. 11
Blondie Takes a Vacation (Col) July 22
Bombs Over London (SR) Sept. 16
Boy Friend (20th-Fox) May 13
Boys Reformatory (Mono) May 6
Bridal Suite (M-G-M) May 27
Bulldog Drummond's Bride (Para) June 24
Buried Alive (SR)

C

Cafe Society (Para) Feb. 11
Call a Messenger (Univ) Sept. 9
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16
Captain Fury (UA) May 13
Career (RKO) July 1
Cat and the Canary (Para) Oct. 7
Challenge, The (SR) Oct. 7
Champs-Elysees (Tri-Nat'l) Feb. 25
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 5
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox)
Clouds Over Europe (Col) June 10
Coast Guard (Col) Aug. 19
Code of the Secret Service (FN) May 13
Colorado Sunset (Rep) Aug. 5
Confessions of a Nazi Spy (FN) Apr. 29
Conquests of Peter (Amk) Sept. 2
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2
Covered Trailer (Rep) Nov. 18
Cowboy Quarterback (FN) June 8
Crashing Through (Mono) Nov. 4

D

Dancing Co-Ed (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Danger Flight (Mono)
Daughter of the Tong (SR) Aug. 26
Daughters Courageous (FN) June 24
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO) Sept. 9
Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (WB) Nov. 4
Dead Men Tell No Tales (SR) Aug. 5
Death Goes North (SR) Aug. 12
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2
Demon Barber of Fleet Street (SR) Oct. 7
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21
Destry Rides Again (Univ)
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21
Down the Wyoming Trail (Mono) June 17
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) Nov. 4
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

Each Dawn I Die (FN) Aug. 19
Easy Money (Inv)
Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (20th-Fox) July 29
End of a Day (SR) Sept. 23
Escape From Yesterday (SR)
Escape, The (20th-Fox)
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7
Everybody Dance (GB)
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9
Exile Express (GN) Feb. 18
Ex-Champ (Univ) May 20

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Federal Man-Hunt (Rep) Jan. 14
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2
Fighting Mad (Mono)
Fighting Renegade (SR) Sept. 9
First Love (Univ) Nov. 11
First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34
Five Came Back (RKO) June 10
Five Little Peppers (Col)
Flight at Midnight (Rep) Sept. 2
Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14
Forgotten Woman, The (Univ) July 8
Four Feathers (UA) June 24
Frontier Marshal (20th-Fox) July 29
Frontier Scout (GN) Sept. 17
Full Confession (RKO) Aug. 26

G

Gang's All Here (Asso-Brit.) Apr. 29
Girl and the Gambler, The (RKO), June 10
Girl From Mexico (RKO) May 20
Girl From Rio (Mono) Aug. 12
Golden Boy (Col) Aug. 19
Good Girls Go to Paris (Col) June 24
Goodbye, Mr. Chips (M-G-M), May 20
Gorilla, The (20th-Fox) May 27
Gracie Allen Murder Case (Para) May 13
Grand Jury Secrets (Para) May 20
Grand Illusion (World)
Great Commandment (SR) Oct. 21

H

Harvest (SR) Aug. 5
Hatred (World)
Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26
Headleys at Home (SR) Oct. 28
Heartbeat (SR) Sept. 9
Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence (20th-Fox) Oct. 7
Hell's Kitchen (WB) June 24
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30
Heritage of Desert (Para) Mar. 25
Hero for a Day (Univ)
Heroes in Blue (Mono) Nov. 18
Hidden Power (Col) May 27
Hitler—Beast of Berlin (P-D-C) Nov. 11
Hobby Family (FN) Aug. 26
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox) Oct. 7
Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16
Hotel Imperial (Para) Apr. 22
Housekeeper's Daughter (UA) Sept. 16
House of Fear, The (Univ) May 20

I

I Met a Murderer (SR) Oct. 7
I Stole a Million (Univ) July 22
Illegal Traffic (Para) Nov. 5
In Name Only (RKO) Aug. 12
In Old Caliente (Rep) July 15
In Old Monterey (Rep) July 29
Indianapolis Speedway (WB) July 15
Indiscretions (SR) May 20
Inside Information (Univ) June 10
Intermezzo (UA) Oct. 7
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20
Ireland's Border Line (SR) Oct. 21
Irish Luck (Mono) Aug. 26
Island of Lost Men (Para) July 29
It Could Happen to You (20th-Fox) June 3
It's a Wonderful World (M-G-M) May 13

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8
Jeepers Creepers (Rep) Nov. 4
Jones Family in Hollywood (20th-Fox) May 27
Juarez (WB) Apr. 29

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21
Kid From Kokomo (FN) May 27
Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col)

L

Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12
Law of the Pampas (Para) Oct. 21
Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ)
Lenin in 1918 (SR) July 8
Light Ahead (SR) Oct. 7
Little Accident (Univ)
Lost Horizon (Col) reissue
Lucky Night (M-G-M) May 6
Lure of the Wasteland (SR) Aug. 26

M

Mademoiselle Ma Mere (SR) Sept. 30
Magnificent Fraud (Para) July 1
Main Street Lawyer (Rep) Nov. 11
Maisie (M-G-M) June 17
Man About Town (Para) June 17
Man From Sundown (Col) Aug. 5
Man From Texas (Mono) Aug. 12
Man in the Iron Mask (UA) July 8
Man of Conquest (Rep) Apr. 15
Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19
Man Who Dared (FN) Apr. 8
Marseillaise (World)
Marshal of Mesa City (RKO) Oct. 7
Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mesquite Buckaroo (SR) Oct. 28
Mickey the Kid (Rep) July 1
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7
Million Dollar Legs (Para) July 15
Miracles for Sale (M-G-M) Aug. 5
Mirele Efros (SR) Oct. 28
Missing Daughters (Col) Apr. 29
Mountain Rhythm (Rep) July 8
Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation (20th-Fox) Nov. 19
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14
Mr. Wong in Chinatown (Mono) July 22
Murder Is News (SR) July 8
Mutiny in Big House (Mono) Oct. 21
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24
Mutiny on Elsinore (Regal) Feb. 25
My Man Godfrey (Univ) reissue
Mystic Circle Murder (SR) Oct. 21

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB)
Naughty But Nice (WB) June 10
New Frontier (Rep)
New Horizons (SR) May 27
News Is Made at Night (20th-Fox) July 8
Night Work (Para) Aug. 12
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14
No Place to Go (FN)
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26

O

Of Human Bondage (RKO) reissue
Oklahoma Frontier (Univ)
Oklahoma Terror (Mono) Oct. 7
Old Maid (FN) Aug. 5
On Borrowed Time (M-G-M) July 8
On His Own (SR) Sept. 23
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para)
Only Angels Have Wings (Col) May 20
Oppenheim Family, The (SR) June 3
Orphans of the Pecos (Vic)
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug. 5
Outpost of the Mounties (Col)
Overland Mail (Mono)

P

Pacific Liner (RKO) Dec. 31
Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14
Pagliacci (GB)
Panama Lady (RKO)
Panama Patrol (GN) Feb. 25
Parents on Trial (Col) July 8
Port of Hate (SR) Aug. 19
Port of Shadows (SR) Nov. 11
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23
Prisoner of Corbal (SR) Sept. 9
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7

Q

Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5

R

Racketeers of the Range (RKO) May 20
Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16
Range War (Para) Aug. 12
Rangle River (SR) May 20
Rasputin (SR) Oct. 21
Real Glory (UA) Sept. 23
Red River Range (Rep) Apr. 29
Remember? (M-G-M) Nov. 11
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29
Return of the Frog (SR) Oct. 7
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30
Riders of Destiny (Mono)
Riders of the Frontier (Mono)
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30
Road Back (Univ) reissue
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21
Rose of Washington Square (20th-Fox) May 13
Rough Riding Rhythm (Conn)
Royal Divorce, A (SR) Sept. 9
Roving Tumbleweeds (Rep)
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14
Saint in London (RKO) July 1
Scandal Sheet (Col)
Scipione L'Africano (SR) Oct. 14
Scorched Earth (SR) May 27
Second Fiddle (20th-Fox) July 8
She Married a Cop (Rep) July 1
Shine On, Harvest Moon (Rep) May 27
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox)
Should a Girl Marry? (Mono) Aug. 5
Should Husbands Work? (Rep) July 22
Singing Cowgirl (GN) June 3
Six-Gun Rhythm (GN) Feb. 18
6,000 Enemies (M-G-M) June 3
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 16
Smashing Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21
Smoky Trails (SR) Aug. 19
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26
Some Like It Hot (Para) May 13
Song of the Streets (SR) Aug. 12
Sorority House (RKO) Apr. 22
S. O. S. Tidal Wave (Rep) June 3
Southward, Ho! (Rep) June 17
Special Inspector (SR) May 6
Spellbinder (RKO) July 15
Spy of Napoleon (SR) May 27
Stand Up and Fight (M-G-M) Jan. 7
Stand-In (UA) Oct. 9
Stanley & Livingstone (20th-Fox) Aug. 5
Star Maker, The (Para) Aug. 19
Starlight Over Texas (Mono)
Stolen Life (Para) Apr. 29
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2
Stranger From Arizona (Col) Sept. 24
Stranger From Texas (Col)
Stronger Than Desire (M-G-M) July 1
Stunt Pilot (Mono) July 8
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21
Sun Never Sets (Univ) June 10
Susannah of the Mounties (20th-Fox) June 17

T

Taku (SR) Sept. 16
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14
Tell No Tales (M-G-M) May 20
Texas Wildcats (SR) June 24
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M) Aug. 26
They All Come Out (M-G-M) July 8
They Asked for It (Univ) July 8
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30
Three of a Kind (Inv)
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30
Three Texas Steers (Rep) June 24
Three Waltzes (SR) May 20
Timber Stampede (RKO) June 24
Timberland Afloat (M-G-M)
Timberland Terror (SR) Aug. 5
Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5
Torchy Runs for Mayor (WB) Apr. 1
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox) Nov. 4
Torture Ship (SR)
Torpedoed (SR) Oct. 7
Tower of London (Univ)
Trapped by G-Men (Col) reviewed (River of Missing Men) Sept. 11
Trapped in the Sky (Col) Feb. 18
Treachery on the High Seas (SR) Sept. 30
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16
Tumbleweeds (SR) reissue May 27
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23
Typhoon Treasure (SR) May 27

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23
U. S. S. R. (Amk) Aug. 19
Under Suspicion (Col) Nov. 27
Undercover Doctor (Para) May 27
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2
Unexpected Father (Univ) July 22
Union Pacific (Para) May 6
Unmarried (Para) May 27

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9
Ware Case, The (20th-Fox) July 29
Waterfront (WB) July 1
Way Down South (RKO) July 15
Western Caravans (Col)
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23
When Germany Surrendered (SR) Oct. 21
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ)
Why This War (SR) Oct. 21
Will of the People (SR) Mar. 4
Wings Over Africa (SR) Aug. 5
Winter Carnival (UA) July 15
Without a Home (SR) Apr. 15
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19
Wolf Call (Mono) May 27
Women in the Wind (WB) Feb. 4
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2
World Is Ours, The (SR) Aug. 19
Wyoming Outlaw (Rep) July 15

Y

You Can't Get Away With Murder (FN) Jan. 28
Young Mr. Lincoln (20th-Fox) June 10
Youth Takes a Fling (Univ) Oct. 1

Z

Zero Hour, The (Rep) May 27

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The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

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In This Issue:

Plain Talk . . .

By BEN SHLYEN



WILLIAM POWELL, MYRNA LOY in "ANOTHER THIN MAN" with Virginia Grey, Otto Kruger, C. Aubrey Smith, Ruth Hussey, Nat Pendleton, Patric Knowles, Tom Neal, Screen Play by Francis Goodrich and Albert Hackett, Based on an Original Story by Dashiell Hammett, Directed by W. S. VAN DYKE II, Produced by HUNT STROMBERG, An M-G-M Picture.

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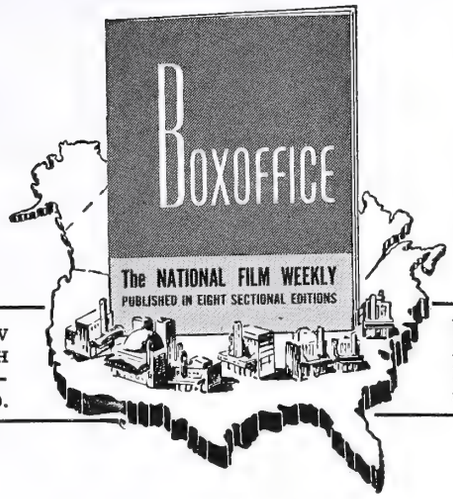
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OF HIGH EXPLOSIVE CONTENT

IT reads:

> "Be it resolved that the motion picture screens of America be barred to propaganda of any sort that might affect the best interests of the U. S. A., and be it further resolved that the ultimate purpose and desire of the motion picture industry is to provide entertainment."

On the second half of this resolution passed by the directors of the MPTOA at their White Sulphur Springs conclave, all should be calm enough. Entertainment, of course, is the prime function of this business although in what specific terms and by what specific approaches the function might best be applied is, and no doubt will continue to be, a matter susceptible to many pros and a lot of cons.

To some inside the industry and to many more outside of it, there prevails the belief films cannot maintain their majority, if they have reached it, by continuing solely on a he-and-she basis; and that, in flowering, subject matter dealing with the issues of the day is inescapable and that, in the doing, the escapist formula must be reshuffled to make some room for the realistic. It might be remarked for the who-knows-how-many time, we feel that way about it exactly.

The counter-argument rushing in to answer this has always been the red herring cry that this means "propaganda" for whatever the cause or causes may be. It is not, but, if it should be, certainly it would be neither more one-sided nor less propaganda than that which sticks out of the average film now made in Hollywood. Law and order, love of country, right over wrong—all these and more which the production code makes mandatory are as much "propaganda" as was the semi-classic instance of "Dead End" with its powerful, but undertoned, attack on the evils of big city slum housing. No exhibitor, so far as we know, refused to play that film on the ground it reeked of propaganda.

The idea, often sounded here, calls for entertainment and plenty of it, but it includes leeway for something that ought to be said, nicely camouflaged and incorporated only if dramatically correct and fitted into its proper place in the story unfolded. It is as simple as all that. And so much for that.

The first portion of the MPTOA resolution which is responsible for this discussion impresses as a potential trouble-maker of high explosive content. The dynamite latent in it stems directly to the looseness with which its intent is expressed. Actually, what the exhibitor group had in mind was the type of film which might inflame and aid in the fulminating of a war psychology. It does not make the point clear, however. It merely discusses in vague terms "propaganda of any sort that might affect the best interests of the U. S. A."

Now. Who is to determine what those best interests may be? Within the framework of the present language any film which is at all critical of the government, or certain aspects of its policies, could be viewed as subversive with the greatest of ease. Any number of films have included cracks about the income tax. Some have remarked about the extent of the government's actual, or attempted, interference in the conduct of private industry. Washington, or what is more likely some congressman in Washington who does not agree, could construe this as anti-best interests. Out of the blue, some legislator might argue this sort of internal criticism, especially in these times, places the nation in a false international light.

Under its poorly expressed wordage and provided any exhibitor decided to be faithful to the mandate, the Capra film might find itself barred. Yet, there is a wide difference of opinion as to whether or not "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" maligns the senate or whether it does not, as we, for one, believe, emphasizes its democratic indestructibility.

In its current form, the first half of this resolution opens the avenue to the pleadings of special causes aimed at choking off something on celluloid that has a right to be told. It strongly suggests anti-crime films cannot be made because other nations might lower their appraisal of the United States. It implies the exposure of political corruption cannot be allowed for the same reason.

As a matter of fact, in the clear abridgement of the right of free thinking and expression which can be quickly read into this situation by those who may seek to press the issue for their own gain, the MPTOA unwittingly gives strength to a further interference on the part of those who would turn motion pictures into channels for their own special interests.

Kann

HOLIDAY WEEKS TO GIVE BROADWAY SPLURGE OF MORE THAN $10,000,000 IN NEW PRODUCT

Majors Unlimber Battery Of Hits to Blast Out Amusement Dollar

By DAVE GOLDING

NEW YORK—More than $10,000,000 worth of Hollywood product will be on display in Broadway showwindows during the Christmas-New Year holidays, a checkup by BOXOFFICE shows. This is said to be the first time in the industry's history that so many important pictures, and with virtually every major distributor represented, will bow in the country's leading first run theatres at the same time.

Flagship of the first runs will be M-G-M's "Gone With the Wind," costing $4,000,000, and due to open simultaneously at the Astor and Capitol, December 19, at two-a-day and three-a-day showings, respectively. The company is going to town on the opening, promising something new in the way of premieres when the dual event takes place.

Another opening of importance is Max Fleischer's first animated Technicolor feature, "Gulliver's Travels," which goes into the Paramount, December 20, under present plans. Estimated cost on this animated production, is said to be well over $1,000,000.

Parade of Big Ones

Major attraction at the Music Hall will be RKO's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," figured at $2,500,000, which is tentatively set for December 28. The Christmas week feature is expected to be M-G-M's "Balalaika," also listed in the $1,000,000 category.

The Roxy has "Everything Happens at Night" with Sonja Henie, scheduled to be followed by another 20th-Fox Technicolor special, "Swanee River." The total celluloid cost is reported at $2,000,000.

The holiday feature at the Strand will be "Four Wives," followup to "Four Daughters" in the Warner lineup, while the Rivoli has spotted "The Light That Failed," one of Paramount's more promising productions, according to a number of circuit buyers in the east who have seen it. The latter is estimated at $1,000,000 negative cost.

More Big Ones on the Way

New York—As the New Year rolls around, there will be several other large investment products coming through.

"Pinocchio," said to cost Walt Disney about $2,000,000, was originally planned as a Christmas release, but is not expected to be exhibited before the middle of February.

After conferring with Darryl F. Zanuck on the coast, Herman Wobber, 20th-Fox general sales manager, withdrew "The Blue Bird" from national release and will have it go out as a roadshow after the first of the year. The picture, starring Shirley Temple, is said to cost well over $1,000,000. Technicolor is an added feature.

Another RKO outstanding effort and costing $1,125,000 is "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," which has been sneak previewed on the coast where Harry M. Goetz, co-producer with Max Gordon, is completing final editing and cutting. This will be ready after the first of the year.

"Wind" Is Set for Precedental Policies in Key Situations

NEW YORK—Unprecedented in the annals of modern exhibition are the engagements of "Gone With the Wind" in New York and Los Angeles.

With a total of 11 houses set to take on the film in pre-release form, the idea of showing it simultaneously in two cities on continuous and reserved seat policies has never before been attempted.

As reported exclusively by BOXOFFICE on November 11, the New York engagement will be a day-and-date affair at the Capitol and Astor, beginning December 19, with the latter house on a two-a-day schedule at $2.20 top, while the other Loew showwindow will run three shows daily, with four over weekends. The Capitol scale will be 75 cents for any seat at matinees, $1.10 for orchestra and balcony seats and $1.50 for loges at night. The Astor afternoon shows will be 75 cents and $1.10, with the evening scale at $1.10, $1.65 and $2.20.

The plan on the coast is identical, with the Carthay Circle in Hollywood playing the film on the same basis as the Astor, and the United Artists in Los Angeles running it on the Capitol policy, when both houses begin simultaneous engagements December 29. The Carthay Circle will have a preview show December 28.

The advanced price scale at seven other houses will be 75 cents matinees, with evenings at $1.10 for orchestra and balcony and $1.50 for loges. The tax situation in certain localities may impel theatres to keep the orchestra-balcony setup at $1 flat. The world premiere at the Grand, Atlanta, now is set for December 14. Lowell Calvert, eastern representative for Selznick-International, is one of the few eastern executives who will attend.

Other dates set for the film follow: Colonial, Reading, Pa., December 21, two shows daily; Regent, Harrisburg, December 21, three shows; Boyd, Philadelphia, December 21, three shows; Orpheum and State, Boston, simultaneously on December 21, the former at three shows, the latter in the Back Bay section, two shows; Capitol, Cincinnati, December 21, three shows. The twin Boston engagements are not unorthodox, since the policy at the two Loew's houses always is day and date. However, the 8 p. m. show at the Orpheum will be on a reserved-seat basis, as will the two performances at the State.

Since the normal changeover day at Loew's out-of-town theatres is Thursday, which coincides with December 21, it is not planned to close the houses prior to beginning the "Wind" engagement. The Capitol in New York, however, probably will be dark four days before the December 18 preview. Following the current "At the Circus," bookings call for two weeks of "Another Thin Man," and one week of "Remember?," which should terminate December 14.

If the merchandising policy planned materializes, all advertising and exploitation will be devoid of scene stills. The newspaper campaign will be confined to a straight black and white treatment, while the lobbies of both theatres will be entirely without art from the film.

Expect "Mice" to Play at Roxy After "Daughter"

NEW YORK—"Of Mice and Men," which was expected to go into the Music Hall, will most likely play the Roxy after "Housekeeper's Daughter." Both are Hal Roach pictures. The latter, set to start December 1, has been delayed until December 8, but no date has been slated for the Roxy booking.

"Raffles," recently completed by Samuel Goldwyn, will have a Music Hall showing, as will Edward Small's "My Son, My Son."

Battery of Lawyers West For FWC Suit Hearing

LOS ANGELES—Richard Dwight and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, attorneys for National Theatres and 20th-Fox; Bert Shipman of Mudge, Stern, Williams & Tucker, counsel for 20th-Fox, and John Howley of Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Lumbard, RKO lawyers, are due from New York next week for the December 4 hearing on motions for bills of particulars by defense counsel in the government contempt proceedings against FWC. These men will supplement the local legal setup.

Plain Talk...

IT HAS become bromidic to say that history repeats itself; nevertheless that does happen quite frequently and this industry is not immune from this habit of time and events.

The events of current motion picture history, with the war upheaval in Europe and the urgency this situation has brought about in high quarters in New York and Hollywood has permeated the whole of the industry to the point of reaching crisis proportions. This condition was reminiscent of those days in early 1933 when "bank holidays" were declared.

Looking back through our files we discovered an editorial we wrote on the day President Roosevelt was inaugurated, March 4, 1933. The subject was titled "The Battle of the 'C's.'" Because the message contained in that editorial is as apropos today as it was six and one-half years ago, we reprint it in full herewith:

> The words chaos, crisis, calamity, have been used all too often to describe changing conditions in the world at large and in the motion picture industry in particular. To the shrinking type of individual those words throw a fearful meaning that cause him to shrivel up within himself and even estop him from doing the ordinary things required by a normal business routine. But the man with courage, confidence and co-operation, the gloomy group of "three C's" serve only as an accelerator; they stir him to the need for more aggressive business enterprise; and he sets himself to the task with a determination to overcome ill-boding appearances and adverse circumstances. In other words, the conditions that have been witnessed during the past two years and the unusual circumstances that have presently developed are a challenge to leadership.
>
> We can't kid ourselves and simply whistle "Say It Isn't So" or some other tune that suggests a similar theme. But there is always a way out of a difficult situation for the fellow who will get about to look for it.
>
> The new Federal administration is coming into power under a very heavy cloud; it is confronted with problems, perhaps more severe and difficult of solution than has confronted any administration in more than half a century. But there is a pledge and a determination on the part of its leaders to overcome those obstacles and, with the confidence and the co-operation of the people, they will succeed.
>
> Leadership and confidence are the two great teammates that, working hand in hand, never fail to succeed. However, leadership alone, though it may be confronted with the obstacles thrown in its path by lack of confidence, will make the grade, if it is strong leadership.
>
> Applying this thought to the motion picture industry one may say that its leaders in thought and action have been in a state of inactivity through recent months. And, too, there has been much evidence of lack of confidence. But, aside from the need of leadership by one man or several for the entire industry, there is need of confidence in one's self and in the future to make of each individual a leader of himself in his own affairs. Perhaps this sounds a little involved, but we believe that every man in business today can pull himself out of the hole by the application of the "three C's" that spell courage, confidence and co-operation. It will be a great day for this industry, when, in every corner of it there is the hum of activity that is the result of applied leadership!

The problems that have been brought about will be solved. But there must be care in arriving at the solution to bring about lasting—not temporary—results. And to achieve such results is no seven-day undertaking. It will require, in addition to the "three C's," patience and understanding. And that is no one-sided affair.

To date a number of spontaneous moves have been made; there will be others. Many will be wrong; but some will be right. Those that will be rightest are those that look far beyond the present.

Ben Shlyen

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

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KANSAS CITY—4804 East Ninth St., Jesse Shlyen, Midwest editor. Telephone CHestnut 7777.
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MEMPHIS—399 So. Second St., Carolyne Miller.
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MINNEAPOLIS—507 Essex Bldg., Maurice Wolff.
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PHILADELPHIA — 903 Manning St., Joseph Shaltz.
PITTSBURGH—1701 Blvd. of the Allies, R. F. Klingensmith. Telephone Atlantic 4858.
PORTLAND, ORE.—404 Pacific Bldg., Robert L. Thomas.
ST. LOUIS—5149 Rosa Ave., David F. Barrett. Telephone Flanders 3727.
SALT LAKE CITY—167 South State St., Viola B. Hutton. Telephone WAsatch 165.
SAN FRANCISCO—606 Grant Bldg., 1095 Market St., Tommy Gray. Telephone Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2321 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Telephone MAin 7716.
WASHINGTON—1426 G. St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY, ALTA.—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Telephone Walnut 5519.
REGINA, SASK.—The Star, Andy McDermott.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—161 Princess St., D. Fetherston.
TORONTO, ONTARIO—242 Millwood Road, Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER, B. C.—615 Hastings, C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

WILLIAM BOEHNEL, critic of the "New York World-Telegram" whose to-the-point commentaries on films occasionally find their way to this page, thinks foreign pictures have the edge on Hollywood. Yet, he believes, and many subscribe, that the Gold Coast has a swell chance to regain its once uncontested superiority what with English and French production largely frozen as a result of the war.

Castigating plans to drop some films and wholesale firing of employes, Boehnel fails to see how this will solve anything. And says:

> "But cutting pay rolls and dropping contemplated films formerly scheduled hardly seem to me to be the answer. Whether Hollywood wants to admit it or not, production costs have almost always been entirely out of proportion to the results obtained. Where an American company spent a million dollars or more to make a film, some European producer has turned out something equally as good or better for one-half or one-quarter, or even less, of that sum. For if the simple truth must be stated bluntly, the best way for Hollywood to retrench is to eliminate its inefficiencies and, in place of unlimited sums of money, use imagination, intelligence and inventiveness in production.
>
> "Film for film, I think Hollywood has been completely outclassed recently by its foreign rivals. But, now that competition is gone for the time being at least, Hollywood has a free hand to do the things it should have begun doing long ago. And one of these things, I think, is that Hollywood must realize that an unlimited budget for a picture has never been, and never will be, a satisfactory substitute for freshness, efficiency and originality."

Seems to this typewriter pusher these last few lines have a strangely familiar ring. Could he have read them in BOXOFFICE by any chance?

Lubitsch Talks

Discussing the temperaments of various stars whom he has directed, Ernst Lubitsch naturally gets to Garbo on the strength of "Ninotchka." A quote from a bylined story in the "New York Times:"

"Garbo never looks at rushes. She feels in doing so she might be so depressed that she couldn't go on."

Talking out of shop, Ernst?

Unnecessarily So

It appears Pandro Berman one night determined to see how RKO was filming the storming of Notre Dame in "The Hunchback." A spectacular incident, Berman was persuaded to remark, according to a coast columnist, "We're sitting in on the passing of an era. This is doubtless the last of the million dollar epics for a long time to come."

Not if they're at one million and epics at the same time. The home market, as various of these musings from time to time and of late have noted, can absorb them at that negative cost. Berman, therefore, is unnecessarily concerned and that, of course, goes for anyone else who may have calculated the uncertain future similarly.

Ironic

Recently, the American commercial attache at Berlin reported a plan to reorganize the Slovakian industry. The question of German film imports was carefully discussed and the first step reached was a decision to prohibit the exhibition of films of the wild west or gangster type.

So the gangster type is out! The Nazis must be going soft.

Always Faithful

Because they did not look sufficiently like the mosquitoes that patronize the swamps of Payette Lake, Idaho, doubles in the form of powdered cattail rushes were used in one of the sequences of "Northwest Passage."

Metro insists upon it.

Hollywood Wisdom

This is Joan Bennett, profoundly plumbing herself and her emotions, according to Frank Seltzer. His business: Press agentry. With the essential background, the wisdom:

"I am through with the phase of my life that blonde hair represents. I am through with that phase of my career, as well. My attitude towards many things is much more serious now."

Toward blonde hair apparently, too.

Take It Slowly

Publicity mouthings credited to Dorothy Lamour for her role in "Disputed Passage:"

"Physically, I am an Occidental, but psychologically I am an Oriental."

Must have been mighty confusing at times.

Let the other boys crank out big adjectives!



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"Our Neighbors—THE CARTERS"

DECEMBER

"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS"

"The Great VICTOR HERBERT"

"GERONIMO!"

Paramount Pictures

PHILADELPHIA DECISION WILL "RUIN" MAJORS IF NOT ULTIMATELY UPSET, IN LAWYERS' OPINION

Can't Tell From Ruling "Whether on Foot or Horseback," View

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—"If the circuit court of appeals in Philadelphia affirms the interlocutory decree as written by Federal Judge John Kirkpatrick in the Landis, Vineland, N. J. case, it will ruin us in that territory," a distributor attorney told BOXOFFICE, after going over the judge's decision step by step.

"From the decision, we don't know whether we are on foot or horseback," the lawyer added. "We regard it as a mandatory injunction to sell first run to the Landis regardless of all other circumstances."

Other attorneys, in commenting on the decree *nisi*, state it is contrary to itself and "one of the screwiest decisions ever seen."

Regarded as one of the most important anti-trust cases pending in these parts, an appeal by distributors is scheduled for hearing in January. It was expected to come up in March but because of the importance of the issues involved, it will be heard within the next two months. Meanwhile, distributor counsel is working on the record, after which briefs will be filed by both sides.

In various instances, it is pointed out by distributor counsel, Judge Kirkpatrick refers to the vicinity of Vineland. "Monopoly in the vicinity of Vineland never entered the case," is the answer by film lawyers.

Then, it is added, "not a word is in the record of testimony about conspiracy or monopoly. Yet paragraphs 2 a and b in the judge's decision makes an issue out of it."

See Contradictions

Another point particularly nettling to distributors is that which says "we can't sell to Warner until we have offered our product to the Landis. This is contradictory to the preceding paragraph which says you can sell Warner first run if it has not overbought, but it must be day and date with the Landis."

In answer to this, the lawyer puts a question: "What are we to do if Warner decided to sell its two theatres in Vineland? Can we sell the succeeding exhibitor first run?

"Under this decision we can't make a contract with Warner, or attempt to negotiate until we first negotiate with the plaintiff." The only out here, it is stated, is that the Landis must be sold first run.

The clause referring to dissipation of product evoked a laugh, and the following answer: "What distributor wants to dissipate product? You know as well as I

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Judge Kirkpatrick's Decree

PHILADELPHIA—*Listed as Civil Action No. 364, the decree* nisi *entered by Federal Judge Kirkpatrick in the John C. Gittone suit against Warner, et al., is as follows:*

"This cause having come on to be heard at this term, and the defendants appearing by their attorneys, testimony having been taken, it is preliminarily and until further order of this court ordered, adjudged and decreed as follows:

"1. The conspiracy to restrain and monopolize interstate trade and commerce in motion picture films alleged in the complaint herein and specifically set forth in the findings of fact filed herewith, is hereby declared illegal and in violation of the act of congress of July 2, 1890, commonly known as the Sherman anti-trust act, as amended and supplemented by the act of congress of October 15, 1914, commonly known as the Clayton act.

"2. The defendants herein, and each of them, and each and all of their respective parent, associated and subsidiary corporations, and each and all of their respective officers and directors, and each and all of their respective agents, servants and employes, and all persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf, or any of them, be and they are hereby enjoined and restrained from:

"(a) monopolizing or attempting to monopolize the exhibition of motion pictures in Vineland, New Jersey, and its vicinity, or from entering into, engaging in, accomplishing or consummating, directly, expressly or impliedly, any monopoly similar to that set forth in the findings of fact and declared illegal in the conclusions of law recited hereinabove;

"(b) restraining or agreeing or conspiring to restrain interstate trade and commerce in said exhibition of motion pictures or from entering into, engaging in, accomplishing or consummating, directly or indirectly, expressly or impliedly, any restraint of interstate trade and commerce similar to that set forth in the findings of fact and declared illegal in the conclusions of law recited hereinabove;

"(c) conspiring to protect or perpetuate any such monopoly of such restraint of or agreement or conspiracy to restrain said interstate trade and commerce or from entering into, engaging in, accomplishing or consummating, directly or indirectly, expressly or impliedly, any conspiracies similar to that set forth in the findings of fact and declared illegal in the conclusions of law recited hereinabove;

"(d) enforcing, continuing, performing or acting under any provisions in the license agreements between the distributor defendants and the exhibitor defendants, granting to the exhibitor defendants the right to exhibit on first run exhibition in the Grand and Globe theatres in Vineland, N. J., to the exclusion of the exhibitor plaintiffs the motion pictures recited in said license agreements, or from entering into, executing or performing, directly or indirectly, expressly or impliedly, any similar provisions in any other license agreements, franchises or arrangements whatsoever;

"(e) entering into or performing any contracts, agreements, franchises or licenses for the exhibition of motion pictures in Vineland, N. J., and its vicinity, the individual or collective effect or which will restrain interstate commerce in, or create, protect or perpetuate a monopoly in or of, the exhibition of motion pictures, or any part of such exhibition, in the said territory;

"(f) discriminating with respect to the licensing of motion picture film and all terms and conditions thereof, including prices, availability and protection, as between and among any and all motion picture exhibitors in Vineland, N. J., and its vicinity;

"(g) licensing first run product to the exhibitor defendants to the exclusion of the exhibitor plaintiffs, with respect to the exhibition of motion pictures in Vineland, N. J., and its vicinity;

"(h) licensing to the exhibitor defendants for exhibition in Vineland, N. J., and its vicinity more first run motion pictures than are reasonably necessary for the proper conduct of their business;

"(i) granting to the exhibitor defendants the exclusive choice of motion pictures distributed by distributor defendants for exhibition in Vineland, N. J., and its vicinity before the same have been offered to the exhibitor plaintiffs;

"(j) giving or attempting to give the exhibitor defendants the right to select or contract for motion picture films to be exhibited at the theatres operated by them in Vineland, N. J., and its vicinity before negotiations are entered into for film contracts with the exhibitor plaintiffs;

"(k) licensing motion pictures to the exhibitor plaintiffs under terms and conditions more discriminatory, harsh and burdensome than are imposed on the exhibitor defendants;

"(l) excluding exhibitor plaintiffs from contracting for the exhibition of first run product; or

"(m) dissipating, or permitting or allowing the dissipation of, motion picture product directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever.

"3. Nothing in this decree contained shall be construed as prohibiting any lawful conduct by any one or more defendants in the distribution and/or exhibition of motion pictures, anything in this decree to the contrary notwithstanding.

"4. Plaintiffs shall enter bond with surety to be approved by the clerk of the court in the sum of $10,000."

"LIFE OR DEATH" OUTLOOK IMPELS BRANDT TO MAKE "ACTION" TOUR ON EXHIBITOR PROBLEMS

A Second Exchange Delegate Chosen

NEW YORK—U. E. Crick, head shipper in the M-G-M Memphis exchange, is the second film exchange union delegate chosen to sit in with major distributor representatives on a new contract. The current pacts, some of which are for 18 months and less, expire simultaneously the end of the month. Although no date has been set for a meeting, whatever deal is eventually arrived at will be retroactive to December 1.

Five other district union representatives have yet to be selected by their groups. Lou Johnson, chief shipper at the M-G-M New York exchange, has been named to represent New York, Albany, Buffalo, Boston and New Haven. Crick will represent Memphis, New Orleans, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Charlotte and Atlanta.

Warner Signs Contract With National Poster

NEW YORK—Contracts have been signed by National Poster Ass'n and Warner whereby the former immediately takes over distributor's accessory department in all key cities. The deal is for a term of years and works on a royalty basis. Negotiations are under way with other distributors, according to a spokesman for National Poster, but nothing is expected to be concluded for a few weeks. Whether or not the Warner exchange employes in poster departments will go over with National Poster members in key cities could not be ascertained. It is figured the transition will take about a month.

National has 40 members consisting of poster renters in all key cities. Its executive board, consisting of Simon Libros, president; George P. Aarons, secretary and general counsel, both of Philadelphia; E. Behrend, Harry Schlit and Louis Weinzimmer of New York, met here during the week to discuss a second deal with a distributing company.

Major Counsel Busy On Time Schedule

New York—Distributor counsel is working out a time schedule for each company for the government on the interrogatories. When completed the combined results will give Paul Williams an idea how much time to stipulate for the defendants in the all-industry suit to answer the A to Z quiz. Some companies will seek six months, others may ask for considerably less time. Just how the government will arrive at a happy medium, or whether there will be a uniform date set for all the answers is not known.

Not Now Concerned About Industry Code; Denies "Third Group" Aims

NEW YORK—Harry Brandt's cross-country tour in the interests of exhibitor problems is impelled by a "life or death" outlook that demands "immediate and concerted action" not only among small independent operators but affiliated groups as well, the ITOA head told BOXOFFICE as he set off on the first leg of a journey that will take him to at least 13 key cities.

Admittedly not concerned with resumption of trade practice code negotiations, Brandt said his goal is an "honest arbitration system." While discussing the various aspects of his trip he took occasion to deny he is seeking to plant the seeds for a third national exhibitor organization.

"What I have in mind is much more than another exhibitor organization—although MPTOA is headed in one direction and no one trusts Allied—and much more than a code," Brandt declared. "We don't need a code. After all, the few good points we managed to agree on in the code embody financial aspects of operation, such as cancellations and elimination of score charges.

Cites "More Important" Things

"There are other things that reach the heart of our business that are more important and must be taken care of first," he continued. "I mean honest arbitration. This is a matter for distributors and exhibitors alike. I mean to point out the flaws to independents and affiliated exhibitors so that they get a collective idea of what is happening."

Asked to define "flaws," Brandt replied: "I mean just what the government says in its suit against the industry. It is a just suit. I don't think anyone can say the independent exhibitors are responsible for the corruptive practices that have been and are still going on. Then it must be the affiliated companies. The distributors have not yet reached the stage where they are to give up these things willingly."

The ITOA head observed that grosses at his theatres, which either through ownership or buying and booking deals number about 80, "have gone down straight, not at an angle, during the past two weeks. When I looked around for the answer," he asserted, "I found production, distribution and exhibition being hampered in every direction. And it looks as though it must get worse unless someone does something about it."

In justification of his theory of "honest arbitration," Brandt said he was encouraged at the response he received when he recently invited the principal independent and affiliated circuits to set up an arbitration board for the metropolitan area. While no tangible steps have been taken

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"First Run" Still Proves Puzzle

NEW YORK—Interrogatory No. 40, propounded by the government to elicit from distributors and major circuits revenues of all first run theatres, continues an enigma despite "substantial progress" made at two meetings recently between Paul Williams and William P. Farnsworth, for the government, and distributor counsel.

Williams has changed the definition for a first run to mean a theatre where a picture is first exhibited in a city, town, village or political community. Revenue is to be figured on a run basis instead of on a theatre basis. Which has distributor counsel all the more confused.

Further clarification is to be sought at another meeting to be held on, or before, December 1.

Distributors say while a picture may be first run in its town, this becomes quite confusing in small towns. While a theatre may be operating as a first run in a town, city or village, it may be fifth to 15th run in the zone over which more than one house has protection.

And while sales managers are willing to hand out first-run figures, they can't tell what type of first run the government wants until Williams expands further on his definition.

Not one interrogatory has been eliminated from the original list in its entirety, although substantial progress has been made in cutting down time, scope of information and other extraneous data originally sought.

Al Bickford of Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett; E. C. McLean of John W. Davis' office, and John Howley of Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Lumbard have been the three principal attorneys for distributors at the Williams conferences, with Austin C. Keough, Robert W. Perkins, I. Levinson, Ben Pepper and Peter Bull sitting in at various times.

Rehashing the Hash Over a Suit

New York—Although there have been reports for some time the all-industry suit would never come to trial, and denied as many times by distributor counsel, Danton Walker, Broadway columnist for the New York "Daily News," on Monday brought up the subject again, this time telling where the settlement will take place.

Says Walker: "The government's suit against the various movie companies for alleged violation of the anti-trust law will never reach the court room. Whatever settlement is to be made will be made behind the scenes."



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BOXOFFICE FLASHES

Executives Due on Monday

HOLLYWOOD—Will H. Hays, Nate J. Blumberg, Fred Myers, Barney Balaban, Stanton Griffis, Neil F. Agnew, Russell Holman and Bryan Foy are due Monday from New York on the Super Chief. In Chicago, Blumberg said he was interested in the Jules Levy production to be made with the Ritz Brothers, "The Boys From Syracuse." Levy is due here shortly.

With "The Golden Key"

CHICAGO—A Russian version of "Pinocchio" has arrived in New York under the title, "Pinnochio, the Golden Key." It is a puppet film, utilizing puppets, human actors and animals. According to present plans, states Mannie Stutz, it will be dubbed in English and released during Christmas.

UA Circuit Profits

NEW YORK—UA Theatre Circuit reports a net profit of $138,811 for the year ended August 31, last. The company is interested in 250 theatres all over the country, although it operates none. Directors are slated to be reelected Monday in Baltimore. Two days later all officers are scheduled to be continued at annual elections here.

Censors and "The Beast"

BOSTON—The Sunday and weekday censor boards have passed "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," which is going out in this state as "A Nation in Chains."

BALTIMORE—The Maryland censor board has consented to pass "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" if a change in the forward emphasizes the picture is based on the novel "Goose Step."

RICHMOND—After passing the picture,"Beast of Berlin," the state censor board withdrew its approval because of local opposition.

NEW YORK—Providence and Chicago have turned down "Beast of Berlin" and Ohio is still considering it.

Goetz in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD—Ben Goetz, former British production head for M-G-M, has arrived from Palm Springs where he had been recuperating from an operation. He plans to work out a deal for independent production for major release.

GN Consolidates

NEW YORK—Effecting economies until reorganization and new financing are completed, GN has consolidated the Albany branch with Buffalo, Omaha with Des Moines, New Haven with Boston, Milwaukee with Chicago and plans are being made for handling of company's shipments locally in Portland, Ore., Seattle and Salt Lake City, according to General Sales Manager Sol Edwards. Deal has been made for Fred Scott's "Ridin' the Range," and two British films. Edwards promises to reopen consolidated exchanges as soon as financing, reorganization set.

Argue Philly Ruling Would "Ruin" Majors

(Continued from page 9)

we want to get every nickel we can out of it."

Paragraph three tops them all, in the opinion of distributor attorneys, who point out that after the judge states "we cannot do all these things, he then goes on to say 'nothing in this decree contained shall be construed as prohibiting any lawful conduct by any one or more defendants in the distribution and/or exhibition of motion pictures, anything in this decree to the contrary notwithstanding."

It's all too much for some lawyers. They admit it frankly and feel confident that somewhere along the line they will get a favorable order, even if an appeal has to be taken to the supreme court.

Judge Kirkpatrick lives at Easton, Pa., and during the hearings mentioned the fact his town has three theatres and all are doing well. He could not understand why the Grand, Globe and Landis in Vineland were having such difficulty. The analogy, according to distributors, does not hold water, "because we know all of the Easton houses are not making money."

Little comfort is expected from the circuit court of appeals in Philadelphia which is described as "full of new dealers." Unless a favorable verdict is handed down before it is slated for the supreme court, distributors will fight the Gittone case to the finish.

Supplemental Memorandum In the Vineland Case

PHILADELPHIA—In a supplemental memorandum on the Vineland case, Judge Kirkpatrick stated: "A fair division of first-run features will naturally affect Warner earnings, but will take away its virtual monopoly, and place it on a competitive basis."

Loew Subsidiary Dividend

NEW YORK — Directors of Cleveland Theatres, Inc., Loew subsidiary, have declared a semi-annual dividend of $2 on the preferred, due December 1.



Rewarded—

Joe Vogel just said "thanks" when Nicholas M. Schenck notified him he had been elected a Loew director. "I don't make any speeches," Vogel states. "It was just thanks and I let it go at that." He recently celebrated 30 years with the circuit.

"Life or Death" Trek by New York ITO Head

(Continued from page 10)

in this direction he has been assured of "definite action" once the machinery is finally evolved, he declared. "No one turned it down," he observed.

Brandt said he intends to take the findings of his cross-country tour to Washington to bolster the arguments he put before Attorney General Frank Murphy recently in an endeavor to reopen code negotiations.

"If the government sees it our way we should surely get arbitration and possibly a revival of code negotiations," Brandt declared. "In any event, if we can make the distributors and independent and affiliated exhibitors see it our way I don't think we can fail to get arbitration. Finally, if I can get the exhibitors alone to go along with me we'll force the distributors' hand."

Brandt's trip will take him to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Omaha, Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas and New Orleans. He declared he is making the journey, which will consume about four weeks, at his own expense.

Paramount Is Abandoning Memphis Accessory Unit

MEMPHIS — The local Paramount exchange is preparing to abandon its accessory department in a new building being built here for the company and slated to be ready July 1. No space is being allowed for the poster department which is a virtual confirmation of reports in New York that National Screen will take over the department in all key cities.

Bioff Is Sought on "Pander" Charge

Chicago—State's Attorney Courtney is seeking the extradition of William Bioff, industry labor leader on the west coast, from Hollywood on a 17-year-old "pandering" charge. It is understood he was to surrender to coast authorities over the weekend.

First Exchange Union Parleys Next Week

NEW YORK—The first meeting between representatives of film exchange unions and distributors may take place next week, according to information received by sales managers. Gradwell L. Sears, head of the labor committee for distributors, is on tour of Warner branches but Carl Leserman, his assistant, will take over in the event Richard Walsh of the IATSE decides to hold the sessions on a new contract for all back room employes in exchanges throughout the country.

Judge Crane of the appellate court has not yet signed an order approving Milton J. Handel, Columbia University professor, as fifth arbitrator in the Local 306—major circuit wage increase dispute. It is learned that important independent circuits such as Randforce and Skouras have not been affected by the ITOA 10 per cent boost, the angle being the more important circuits pay salaries in excess and under a different scale than simon pure independent circuits.

Celebrities Cooperate In Red Cross Drive

NEW YORK—Adrienne Ames, Bob Benchley, John Mason Brown, Rachel Crothers, Ruth Draper, Harvey D. Gibson, Lillian Gish, Gertrude Lawrence, Philip Merivale, Austin Strong, Peggy Wood and Alexander Woollcott are among the theatrical celebrities who have placed their signatures on the special book of the New York Chapter of the American Red Cross which is a major attraction at the midtown information exhibit in the International Business Machines Bldg.

Set Westway Trust Suit Trial for December 8

BALTIMORE—The trial in the anti-trust suit brought by Westway Theatres against major distributors has been scheduled for December 7 before Judge Chestnut. It is probable distributor defendants will seek a postponement.

FWC Attorney West

NEW YORK—Charles Buckley, FWC attorney, flew to the coast on Friday.

Schine Counsel Beats Arnold To Punch on Philly Ruling

BUFFALO—Willard McKay and Tom Penny of Penny & Penny, local counsel for Schine in the government suit, combined to beat Thurman Arnold to the punch when the assistant attorney general recently sent a copy of the interlocutory decree in the Gittone-Warner, et al., case in Philadelphia to Judge Knight, who has before him a motion for a temporary injunction.

When Arnold sent the decision to Judge Knight, he also advised defense counsel, ten of them, by mail of his move. Two different lists of attorneys' names were sent out and each of the lawyers on the list received a copy of the decree and memo.

Hence, when Willard S. McKay, New York counsel for Schine, received his copy he immediately called Penny on long distance, advising the latter to get in touch with Judge Knight at once. Penny contacted the judge and informed him of the letter from Washington and also added it did not contain all the facts.

As a result the judge knew about the Arnold letter, and the other facts, before receiving it. Later, John Lord O'Brian, Edward C. Raftery and McKay wrote Judge Knight and informed him of the appeal taken in the Quaker City case and that "it would be fought to the limit."

In one list, attorneys names embraced McKay, William Donovan of Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Lumbard, and others, while the second list included Frederick H. Wood, O'Brian, Charles D. Prutzman, Richard Dwight of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, the local UA exchange, and Schwartz & Frohlich.

The denial in Columbus, Ohio, by J. Real Neth that Schine would take his group of six theatres caused some surprise here in view of an affidavit on the record by the independent exhibitor.

No one can explain the reason for Neth's action. It is assumed that until BOXOFFICE published the article of his proposed sell-out there was no hitch in the deal.

Because of the heavy calendar by Judge Knight who is sitting in both the criminal and civil term this month, no decision on the preliminary injunction is expected for at least another week or so.

Reports are current J. Myer and Louis Schine are turning their eyes toward Florida where they may expand their theatre interests. Myer is understood to have conferred with McKay in New York, Friday, on this angle. Insiders state there is nothing definite, but it is an idea in the minds of some Schine executives. However, it is pointed out no definite moves will be taken until Judge Knight hands down a verdict on the enjoinder.

Both Schines usually spend several weeks a year in Miami during the winter. It is understood the territory is ripe for new theatres, what with a current building boom in full sway. However, important opposition in Wometco, Steve Lynch and E. J. Sparks may prevent such a move by Schine. Then again, it is said, Warner and Paramount have been having considerable difficulty with Sparks on product deals which, if true, may give force to an opening for expansion by Schine, or anyone else for that matter.

Votes on Open Sunday

MIDDLEBURG—This town of 950 population will vote Monday on Sunday film shows. Cobleskill, with 2,560 population, is the only Schoharie county town currently operating on Sunday.

Affidavit on Schine-Neth Deal

Buffalo—In the local federal court is the following affidavit, signed by J. Real Neth on September 13, 1939, before Notary Public A. L. O'Ryan at Columbus, and entered as part of the record for the defense in the government suit against Schine:

"J. Real Neth, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

"I live at 111 South Harris Ave. in the city of Columbus, state of Ohio.

"I am president and principal stockholder of the J. Real Neth Theatres Co. The said corporation operates six theatres in the city of Columbus, state of Ohio, to wit:

"Markham, Clinton, Eastern, State, Cameo and Lincoln.

"All of these theatres, except the Lincoln, are owned in fee and the Lincoln is held under lease. These theatres are what are known as 'suburban theatres.'

"My corporation has operated these theatres for upwards of 15 years. Recently I had an accident resulting in a broken leg, which was followed by a serious illness, from which I have only partially recovered. I am 51 years of age and as a result of my illness, I made up my mind a short time ago to dispose of my theatre interests, because I desire to be relieved of the responsibility of managing and operating these theatres. Accordingly I canvassed the motion picture industry for a responsible theatre operator, to which I would feel safe in leasing my theatres. As a result of my canvass, I became convinced that the most desirable tenant that I could obtain would be the Schine interest.

"Accordingly, I send word to Mr. John May, who is an officer of one or more of the Schine corporations, advising him that if the Schine interests were interested in leasing my theatres, I would be glad to discuss a deal with him.

"Shortly thereafter Mr. May came to Columbus and discussed the matter with me, since which time he has made several visits to Columbus for the purpose of discussing the deal. At the present time we have practically agreed upon all of the terms of a deal, under which the Schine interests will lease the above mentioned six houses from my corporation. My dealings with the Schine interests have been pleasant in every way and I anticipate that if a deal is closed it will be a most satisfactory one to me. I approached the Schine interests of my own volition, they are not in competition with me in any of my situations and no one representing the Schine interests has at any time made any threat to or any suggestion that the so-called 'Schine buying power' could be used against me."

Balaban Denies Talk Of Roosevelt Link

NEW YORK—Denials of a report linking James Roosevelt with Paramount and another that would see Samuel Goldwyn's "The Westerner" distributed through the company were made by Barney Balaban prior to coast departure with Stanton Griffis, Neil F. Agnew, John W. Hicks jr., and Russell Holman.

A Roosevelt-Pandro Berman independent production unit was said to have made overtures to Paramount for distribution, according to coast reports. When asked about them Balaban said he has "never heard about it and knows nothing about it other than what I have read in the trade papers."

In respect to reports that Paramount might distribute the Goldwyn film, which stars Gary Cooper, Balaban declared: "Goldwyn has a contract with UA, and I don't think anyone would risk interfering with that arrangement. Certainly we are not!"

Only a routine checkup on properties either in work or in preparation is on the Hollywood agenda, Balaban declared. It is the first trip west for most of the group in about four months.

Spitz to Chicago; Denies Tieup With Roosevelt

NEW YORK—Leo Spitz, special counsel for RKO and Universal, left for Chicago over the weekend. Before departing he denied any interest in reported stories he is associated with a new James Roosevelt or Pandro Berman company.

Wobber Sees Business Improvement Soon

NEW YORK—Herman Wobber, general manager of distribution of 20th Century-Fox, back from a swing through the key spots, says he noticed "a better feeling among the exhibitors as far as business is concerned."

Wobber thinks business is on the upbeat and looks for a decided improvement by the end of the year.

No plans have been set, according to Wobber, on the Shirley Temple film, "The Bluebird." The picture will not be roadshowed here until shortly after the first of the year.

Alert Usher Averts Panic During Theatre Fire

FLORENCE, S. C.—Quick thinking by Woodrow Cook, 17-year-old usher at a theatre here, saved the audience when flames broke out under the balcony.

He stopped the projector, walked on the stage and said: "Folks, you know there is a state law requiring fire drills to be held in theatres. We are going to have one now."

He asked the patrons to form a line and file out. A few minutes after they were on the street, parts of the room began collapsing. The fire eventually razed the building.

Audience Grows in Air Raid Alarm

New York—Youthful enterprise is always at work even during war-time, according to a London trade paper, which reports the following incident. A children's matinee was in progress at one of the Hull theatres when an air raid warning sounded. The youngsters, about 400, left at once in accordance with the prearranged plan. When the alarm, which did not last long, was over, the kids presented themselves for readmission. But to the manager's surprise, the audience had grown during the interim and over 600 filed by him.

Allied Meet Ignores Offer for "Bingo"

SYRACUSE—No recognition is being taken of offers by outside operators to lease theatres for installation of $1 Bingo games, members of Allied of New York reported at a local unit meeting here. Although the practice already prevails here, game interests are anxious to operate in bona fide theatres, it was said. This would help give patrons the impression that films are the main attraction, whereas Bingo operators are known to be solely interested in selling the game, with cash and merchandise as "bait."

The unit also went on record as opposed to the Neely bill.

Fifth for Edward Levine

PORTSMOUTH, VA.—His fifth theatre in Norfolk area has been opened by Edward Levine, with the start of operation at the new State here.

Pommer on Coast For RKO Starter

HOLLYWOOD—Erich Pommer arrives here Monday to begin work on the first of the two pictures for RKO. It will be an original starring Maureen O'Hara and is slated to go before the camera the latter part of January.

Pommer and Charles Laughton, as a result of the war, temporarily have suspended all activity with their organization, Mayflower Pictures Corp., and have signed individually with RKO.

Laughton's initial assignment will be in a film produced and directed by Leo McCarey.

The Laughton picture which Pommer will produce probably will be a screen version of either "Life With Father" or "The Man Who Came to Dinner," depending on which play the company will be able to buy.

It is understood Laughton, who is in New York, was particularly impressed with the possibilities of the George S. Kaufman-Moss Hart play.

Film Alliance Heads on Tour of Key Cities

NEW YORK—Nat Wachsberger, general manager of Film Alliance, and Norman Elson, sales manager, are on a tour of key cities which will take them to the coast. They will visit the 15 FA exchanges and also set up additional distribution agencies in exchange centers where the company is not represented.

The company has closed with the Wilby-Kincey and E. J. Sparks circuits for "Torpedoed!"



—Cosmo-Sileo Photo

Study in Cause and Effect—

The cause that brought the film executives pictured above to the dais was the charter presentation meeting of Cinema Lodge of B'Nai B'Rith. The effect, after a few of them addressed an assemblage of well over 100, *was a flood of membership applications;* 52 *to be exact, that has swelled the organization's roster to more than* 200. *Listening at the moment to Harry Goldberg of Warner, who is at the microphone, are, left to right in the front row: Emanuel Sonnenreich, S. Tekulsky, Dr. Samuel Ravinett, Rev. C. Jeffares McCombe, Jeremiah O'Carrol, Harry B. Epstein, Harry Cohen, A. W. Schwalberg, president, John G. Paine, William Scully, William F. Rodgers, George J. Schaefer and Gradwell L. Sears. Same direction, rear row: Jack Warner jr., Abe Montague, John J. O'Connor, Abe Schneider, Harold Rodner, Larry White, Stuart Aarons, Max Blackman, Leonard Schlesinger and Jules Levy.*

BROADWAY

J. MILSTEIN flew to the Notre Dame-University of Southern California game in Chicago over the weekend . . . Mildred Seidell, columnist for the Atlanta *Georgian*, is in town and checking up on her various friends in the film industry . . . Lep Friedman of Loew's has started a new chain letter whereby the recipient of each missive winds up with 216 golf balls for one . . . Another pigskin fan is Sylvia Sewards, C. C. Moskowitz's secretary, who is all geared up for the Redskin-Giant game next week . . . Gene Murphy of Loew's spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Pittsburgh . . . Mike Rosen, assistant to C. C. Moskowitz on labor matters, was out several days with a cold . . . Joe Vogel and Oscar Doob, by the way, will be among those present at the Atlanta premiere of "Gone With the Wind."

Obits of the Week: Herman Starr of Music Publishers, Inc., WB subsidiary, is mourning the loss of his father, Abraham I., 75, and Si Seadler, happy-go-lucky M-G-M ad-ite, is receiving condolences on the loss of his mother-in-law . . . Maurice Black, father of Mrs. Joseph Bernhard, passed away at the age of 70 . . . May Levitan of Loew's publicity department is on a cruise to Miami . . . Carl Shalit, Columbia district manager with headquarters in Detroit, spent several days in town with Rube Jackter, but insisted on going home for Thanksgiving. He said last year he spent the turkey holidays here and was snowed in at the St. Moritz Hotel (plug for the Skourases) for two days . . . Clay Bond describes his golf: "Half way 'round, it stinks; the other half way it's all right" . . . Sam and Joseph Varbalow, Camden exhibitors, were in town during the week and caught up with Earle W. Sweigert, Philadelphia Paramount branch manager, for lunch at the Astor . . . Bob Lynch was another Tuesday visitor from the Quaker City . . . Franchot Tone flew in from the coast the other day to spend several weeks here.

Proudest poppa at 20th-Fox is William Kupper, whose son, Bill jr., as captain and guard of the Lawrence (L. I.) high school football eleven, led the team through an undefeated season . . . General Sales Manager Herman Wobber gets to the office so early, he's ready for lunch at 9:30 ayem . . . Dave Blum, Loew foreign publicity director, will think twice before he sells Arthur Loew any more turkeys. On a bill for 16 turkeys, Loew sent Blum three checks of various amounts from three different banks, a money order and stamps. Incidentally, the Thanksgiving turkey at Sardi's comes from the Blum farm . . . Dan Michalove, assistant to S. R. Kent, returns from Australia sometime during January . . . Thomas Patrick Mulrooney of United Artists has finally made up his mind and has purchased the Dodge . . . Sam Eckman, M-G-M's managing director in England, cables that Liverpool exhibitors were so enthralled by Lana Turner in "Every Other Inch a Lady" (known here as "Dancing Coed") that they sat through an air-raid warning to see the picture.

Spyros Skouras has a new hobby. It's calling reporters by a wrong name, something like Davidson . . . Leo Spitz rushed home—after a few months in New York—to be on hand for the Notre Dame-University of Southern California game at South Bend, Ind. . . . Lynn Farnol invited the trade paper boys to meet Sam Wood, director of "Raffles" and now working on "Our Town" for Sol Lesser, at the Plaza the other noon. In the party were Sherwin Kane, Abel Green, Don Mersereau. It is learned the picture may go into the Roxy instead of the Music Hall . . . Charles Laughton is in town on radio deals before his next picture assignment . . . James Roosevelt heads for the coast in a few days. He has only been in town briefly from his last Hollywood visit . . . Jane Bryan of "We Are Not Alone" was hosted by W. G. Van Schmus the other evening with Grad Sears, Carl Leserman, Charlie Einfeld and Mort Blumenstock joining in the festivities.

Archie Weltman of Loew's legal department is recuperating in Atlantic City from his recent operation and is expected back on the job at the end of the month . . . Tyree Dillard jr. visited friends in the country over the Thanksgiving holidays . . . Lewis Milestone, director of "Of Mice and Men," will come to New York for the opening of the picture . . . E. K. (Ted) O'Shea has had tough luck with a cold in his eyes and nose at the same time . . . Walter Connolly is in town from the coast, taking it easy for a couple of weeks . . . A. P. Giannini, brother of A. H., was a secret visitor at President Roosevelt's Hyde Park mansion over the weekend . . . Melvyn Douglas is here for his first vacation in three years . . . Henry Koster has returned to the coast after a three-week layoff from Universal production . . . Bob Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck have reported back on the M-G-M lot after visiting the big town and taking in a number of the big football games in the east.

Jules Levy is back from a short coast visit and has been seeing a lot of Leo Spitz . . . Harry Buxbaum, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, has been named chairman of the Motion Picture Exchanges Committee for the Jewish Federation Drive . . . Bryan Foy, Warner producer, is here from the coast for a round of the Broadway plays . . . Nate Blumberg and Mrs. B. 20th Centuried to the Universal studios over the weekend . . . Sidney Samuelson confides his health is "super-excellent" . . . Harry Browning, publicity manager for M&P in Boston, in for conferences with Bob Gillham . . . Barney Balaban was in Chicago to attend the Morris Katz funeral . . . Gradwell L. Sears is on a two-week trip that will take him to Atlanta, New Orleans, Dallas, Memphis, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Cleveland . . . The M-G-M exchange Pep Club will hold its annual dinner-dance-show at the Hotel New Yorker December 15. Eddie Susse and Alex Arnswalder are penning the show, which will be put on by club members.

Romance in the Early Stages

New York—A Columbia romance is in the making for a couple, each less than two, believe it or not, and take it from their fathers.

Rube Jackter's daughter, Susan, is 16 months old. Abe Schneider's son, Harold, is close to that age.

When BOXOFFICE asked the two Columbia executives what they were most thankful for this Thanksgiving, both mentioned their offspring and frankly admitted they are planning on a marital merger for them.

Erif's Literary Activity Is Doubted

Dear Ed:

Erif Shobbus, in his latest babble, claims to have read a new book called "Marriage, Morals and Mothballs." I, for one, don't believe him—and for two excellent reasons:

1. The book is written in English.
2. It costs two bucks.

Of course, if looking at the chapter headings at a book-counter constitutes reading a book, then I can lay claim to having read:

"The Encyclopedia Brittanica"
"Plato"
"Aristotle"
"Gone With the Wind"

Let him stop aspiring to be an intellectual and stick to that broken down shooting gallery he euphemistically calls a theatre.

A showman he calls himself because he puts on a "Triple-Doom" show consisting of three U-Boat pictures so as to capitalize on the submarine scare. The dope doesn't tell you that last week, in response to a patron's request for the Hardy Family series, he put on three Laurel and Hardy pictures.

He probably wants to forget that he double-billed a "Charlie Chan" picture with a "Mr. Moto" and, to top it all, gave away copies of "Inside Asia" the same night as "Screeno" prizes.

The nit-wit doesn't know that I know that he wrote to the 20th Century-Fox exchange for some stills of Gene Krupa to be used for a campaign on "Drums Along the Mohawk." I'll bet the dope thinks that "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" is a picture about a couple of towns in New Jersey.

A few more flashes of genius like these and Erif will win permanent possession of an Oscar in the shape of an 8-ball.

—ALI GAGA

20 Millions From England Yearly

NEW YORK—Approximately $20,000,000 will be remitted to film companies from England as a result of the restrictions put into effect by the British government, a checkup of home offices shows.

Official regulations put into effect by the British Board of Trade apply only to seven major companies. Universal is being handled separately since it releases through General Film Distributors.

The amount for the seven companies is $17,500,000. Universal's share should bring the sum close to $20,000,000 as first reported in BOXOFFICE, November 18.

London—Film rentals remitted to American producers from exhibition of their films in Great Britain will be cut 50 per cent under regulations fixed by the Board of Trade.

In a letter to Sir F. White, chairman of the Films Council, Oliver Stanley, president of the Board of Trade, says it has been agreed that from November 1, 1939 to October 31, 1940 American companies will be permitted to remit in dollars an amount representing 50 per cent of past remittances based on the average for the last three years.

Disposal of remaining revenues will be supervised by a control organization representing the companies and the Board of Trade. Any foreign exchange, however, accruing to companies as a result of distribution overseas of films made in Britain will not be subject to control, but will remain at the disposal of the companies.

Quota films made by American producers which may be shown in Britain will be maintained at present levels until March 31, 1940. Immediate consideration, however, will be given to the possibility of replacing quota provisions after that date by an alternative arrangement. Under this plan American film renting companies would spend in Britain an amount equivalent to the obligations they would have incurred during that period under the Films Act, either on production in Britain or by way of loans to finance production. Assurance has been given the companies they can continue to bring films freely to Great Britain and that there will be no attempt to create an artificial shortage.

American producers have been deriving about 25 to 35 per cent of their total rentals from export markets and of this amount half or roughly 12 to 17 per cent has come from Great Britain. As a result of the war and the need for exchange, the British government has had under consideration for some time the necessity of restricting exports of funds from Great Britain by the American producers.

The restriction just fixed will not affect reported incomes of the film companies, but will, of course, restrict export of cash. Many American companies, including Paramount and Warner, anticipated action of this sort by borrowing substantial sums in Great Britain, thus they will be able to pay off these loans with cash accumulated under the new restrictions. Other American producers are already short substantial amounts of Sterling Exchange as a hedge.

Hold Hope Racing May Be Warded Off Until 1941

NEW YORK—Allied of New Jersey is hopeful the current legislative deadlock may ward off state-sponsored horse racing until 1941, according to Lee Newbury, president. The general feeling of exhibitors, however, is that they will ultimately face what they fear will be a highly competitive form of amusement, since proponents of a racing bill are sure to offer a new proposal when the state assembly convenes in January.

Newbury says northern New Jersey and Philadelphia independent operators are running about 10 per cent behind last year. He attributes the drop to "unsettled conditions" and a run of product that is "not particularly timely."

Reading Time in The Cost

New York—Chalk up part of the production cost on "Gone With the Wind" to the three days it took Sam Wood to read the book.

Wood was among the Hollywood coterie who had been set on seeing the story on film rather than on paper. When Victor Fleming, the director of the Selznick epic, took sick, Wood was called in to handle the reconstruction of the south sequences. The first thing he had to do was spend three days and nights reading the book, for which he was paid. On the fourth day he undertook the job assigned to him.

Loew Chain Workers Guests at Party

NEW YORK—For being good boys during the lean summer months 200 Loew's district managers, theatre managers, assistants and about 200 more wives, sisters or girl friends were treated to a gargantuan midnight party by the management at the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf-Astoria "Franksgiving" night. It might have taken the official family a couple of months getting around to rewarding the managerial personnel for their hard work but it seemed to be well worth the delay.

On top of lots of beefsteak and dancing—a hard combination to beat—there was enough planned and impromptu entertainment to keep the crowd in a highly amused state for days. A compromise was reached by calling the party off just before daybreak.

President Nicholas M. Schenck, C. C. Moskowitz, Leopold Friedman, Joseph R. Vogel, Marvin Schenck, Oscar A. Doob, Ernest Emerling, Eugene Picker, Harry Moskowitz, Harry Bernstein, and J. T. Mills were among the home office group. They acquitted themselves nobly in the community singing, led by William Downs, district manager.

A special edition of the New York *Mirror* caused something akin to a libelous sensation. A Florodora Sextette was very much on the dazzling side, until the crowd found out it comprised managers Eric Van Dyke, Edwin Burke, Nat Adelson, Robert Kilgore, Jack Fieman and Sam Pearlman. Then there was the Harry Karasik Ninotchka-Balalaika Symphony Orchestra. Which meant Harvey Everett, Ed Douglas, Herman Silver, Sam Rose, Downs, Richard Bosch, Sydney Kane, Joe Rubenfeld, Abe Kaplan, Martin Rosenburgh and Larry Stark were hiding behind a heap of black beards.

A Marx Bros. Circus Screeno, m.c.'d by Seymour Mayer, brought to the fore and the floor John Judge, Herman Dolinsky, Edward Corbett, James Grady and Van Dyke. Gilbert and Fay Marbe performed a Blue Danube waltz. Eight professional dancers showed the crowd how to dance La Conga. Everybody received favors. A cameraman and talent scout scoured the affair for "new faces." Up to press time no contracts were reported.

May Have Way Out Of Italian Tangle

NEW YORK—Assumption of production duties by the American companies in Italy may be the way back for distribution if the scheme proposed by Roberto Dandi, director general of Industrie Cinematografiche Italiane, is accepted here.

With a great deal of money of the companies still "blocked" in Italy, Dandi feels the frozen revenue can be utilized to a good advantage by the production of Spanish pictures for the Latin American market.

According to Dandi, there is a clause in the monopoly decree which states an Italian producer who makes a foreign picture in conjunction with a foreign firm can distribute an unspecified number of foreign films.

To a certain degree, the plan is a modification of a quota law which has been announced in Spain. Dandi intimates if the American companies helped finance the production of Spanish pictures in Italy, it would react favorably upon the Franco government.

He realizes the determination of American companies to resist any advances to resume in Italy unless they can establish their own offices.

But, he says, it is very doubtful if they ever will be allowed to return under the old conditions. Dandi contends the monopoly is here to stay and one of its functions is to help the Italian industry against all competition.

The problem, he maintains, is a currency one and he is fairly optimistic it will be settled in due course.

Dandi, cancelled his sailing on the *Conte de Savoia*, and instead leaves for Hollywood during the week where he expects to spend about ten days looking over production.

October Collections Under September, But Over '38

WASHINGTON—Admission tax collections in October declined from the high level of September but for the third consecutive month topped 1938, it is disclosed by the monthly report of the bureau of internal revenue.

Receipts for the period totaled $1,727,931, some $125,000 under the $1,852,256 of September, but $131,000 above the $1,596,367 of October a year ago.

The bureau's report showed that for the first time since February losses from 1938 have been overtaken, total collections for the ten months ended with October being $15,784,133 against $15,655,832 for the corresponding period last year.

On "One Union" Task

NEW YORK—Bernard J. Reis, accountant for the Associated Actors and Artistes of America, has assumed the task of working out a plan for "one big union" suitable to all member groups. Until recently the job had been in the hands of a subcommittee which found some details too complicated.

Arnold Warns Labor Against "Abuses"

WASHINGTON—Organized labor will face prosecution for violations of the anti-trust laws for any activities in restraint of trade which "have no reasonable connection with wages, hours, health, safety and speedup systems of the establishment and maintenance of the right of collective bargaining," under a policy which has been enunciated by assistant attorney general, Thurman Arnold.

Voiced in a letter written by Arnold to the Central Labor Union of Indianapolis, this policy, it was made clear at the department, is not confined to any individual union or any particular area but will apply to organized labor generally throughout the country.

Recent investigations of activities in the building industry by the department of justice have brought union activities to the fore, and some months ago prompted a general warning that illegal activities of labor would be tolerated no more than those of industry.

Department officials refused to comment as to the application of the Arnold policy to studio labor specifically, but pointed out that his statement, that when labor activities go beyond the point of having any connection with the general well-being of the workers they cease to fall under the cloak of protection which the government has thrown around organized labor, indicated a line beyond which labor organizations could not legally go.

Urges Voluntary Action

Specifically, Arnold urged in his letter that the unions voluntarily undertake to bring about a number of reforms to eliminate what he termed "unreasonable restraints of trade," enumerating, among others, efforts to prevent the use of cheaper material, improved equipment or more efficient methods; efforts designed to compel the hiring of useless and unnecessary labor; efforts designed to enforce systems of graft and extortion, as when a "racketeer, masquerading as a labor leader, interferes with the commerce of those who will not pay him to leave them alone," and serious jurisdiction disputes designed to destroy an established and legitimate system of collective bargaining.

While the department official's letter was concerned chiefly with the situation in the construction industry, it was held at the department that the limitations laid down therein were applicable also to organized labor in any other industry, and it was stressed informally that the construction industry is by no means the only one in which there is an unsatisfactory labor condition.

Arnold, himself, intimated this in his letter, in which he pointed out that the building industry presents a number of examples of the "type" of union activity which will be prosecuted.

Department officials refused to discuss the Arnold letter, stating that it represented his personal opinion only and intimating that it did not necessarily reflect the attitude of the department.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

BARRICADE (20th-Fox)—There is a sheerness about this that impels a lack of impression. Warner Baxter's screen generalship and some action excitement supply the better part of the popular elements. Co-featured are Alice Faye and Charles Winniger. Gregory Ratoff directed.

BIG GUY, THE (Univ)—Among the better prison films. The cast is good, the direction keeps action moving at a lively clip. It is acceptable entertainment. Victor McLaglen, Jackie Cooper, Edward Brophy, Peggy Moran. Arthur Lubin directed.

FOUR WIVES (WB)—The wide popularity of its predecessor, "Four Daughters," should help this one. Unfortunately, however, as wives they prove considerably less entertaining than they did as daughters. Claude Rains, Jeffrey Lynn, Eddie Albert, Priscilla Lane, Rosemary Lane, Lola Lane, Gale Page. Michael Curtiz directed.

NIGHT OF NIGHTS, THE (Para)—A Pagliacci theme with occasional moments of emotional appeal, but lacking the necessary elements to win rating as general audience entertainment. Pat O'Brien, Olympe Bradna, Roland Young. Lewis Milestone directed.

RETURN OF DR. X, THE (WB)—The mad scientist returns from the grave with a load of chills sufficiently hefty and frigid to assure their money's worth to all who shop for thrills, shivers, gasps and shrieks in their entertainment. Humphrey Bogart, Rosemary Lane, Wayne Morris. Vincent Sherman directed.

SAGA OF DEATH VALLEY (Rep)—Especially entertaining is this Roy Rogers western, rating as one of Joe Kane's better directorial efforts. With Rogers are George Hayes, Donald Barry and Doris Day.

SHORS (Amkino)—Just another historical remnant in the Russian propaganda pattern, despite its production magnificence, massiveness and grand characterizations. E. Samiolove, I. Skuratov, A. Khvilia. Alexander Dovzhenko directed.

SONGS AND SADDLES (SR)—Mighty meager western program fare, that just about shaped up as midweek filler. Gene Austin, Lynne Berkley, Henry Roquemere. Arthur and Max Alexander produced; Harry Fraser directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Sees "Wind" Good For 12 Million

CHICAGO—"Gone With the Wind" is expected to gross $12,000,000 in the domestic market, Al Litchman, assistant to Nicholas M. Schenck, stated at a two-day mid-season M-G-M sales meeting here over the weekend. With David O. Selznick, producer of the $4,000,000 spectacle on hand, a sales policy was outlined to division, district and branch managers, in addition to home office executives including William F. Rodgers, E. M. Saunders, Tom Connors, Alan Cummings, Howard Dietz, Si Seadler, William R. Ferguson, E. A. Aaron, Mike Simons and J. S. MacLeod. Lowell Calvert, eastern representative for Selznick International, also was on hand.

Plans for 11 openings set on the picture were also discussed. District managers in attendance included John T. Flynn, George A. Hickey, Harris P. Wolfberg, J. J. Maloney, Charles E. Kessnich, N. Maurice Wolf and Edward T. O'Shea.

Lichtman was slated to go to New York for a quick visit with Schenck and David Bernstein, treasurer, before returning to the coast.

New Dividend

NEW YORK—Marcus Loew's Theatres, Ltd., has declared an accumulations dividend of $3.50 on the preferred, payable December 15 to stockholders of record 13 days previous. After the above disbursement, dividend arrears will amount to $14.

Grand National Losing $4,000 Weekly, Report

NEW YORK — Second Grand National hearing before Referee Peter B. Olney jr. in federal court revealed the company is losing more than $4,000 weekly, with losses for the year exceeding $800,000. No films were produced during this year. A creditors' committee was formed consisting of Thomas J. Shanahan, Hap Hadley, Richard F. Walsh, Henry Waldman, Allen E. Freedman, and Samuel Sedran. Harry Fromberg, New York attorney was elected tentative trustee, and bonded for $20,000.

Next meeting was set for Wednesday, at which time Earle W. Hammons will report to the creditors' committee the result of a meeting with the RFC and Erpi on finances. Everything will remain in status quo until then. Hammons and the company were again attacked by creditors who charged GN is hopelessly insolvent, pointing out that largest asset, re-issue rights and trademarks, now carried on books at $1,060,922, was once carried at $12,166.

Has 17 French Shorts

NEW YORK—French Cinema Center, Inc., is releasing 17 short subjects produced in France. Twelve of the subjects have English commentaries and five have superimposed titles.

Builds in Covington

COVINGTON, VA.—Jeff Hoffheimer of Norfolk is building a new 550-seater here which will be known as the Visulite. Opening is expected around February 1.

PHILADELPHIA

BOB LYNCH and S. E. Applegate, Metro men, hopped off like the wind to Chicago for a sales meeting to lay the groundwork for the campaign on "Gone With the Wind" . . . Dr. I. Q. has wound up his seven weeks' stay at the Stanley, has gone on to new fields. He probably ran out of questions . . . Joseph Bernhard is mourning the death of his father-in-law . . . Jim Seeley, Metro cameraman, who was injured about a month ago while filming the dynamiting of a still in New Jersey, is still in a Vineland hospital, getting his broken arm fixed up . . . George P. Aarons, UMPTO secretary, visited Cleveland and New York on some National Poster Ass'n matters.

Pop Korson has taken the Erlanger for first run on the "Beast of Berlin" . . . Aimee Torriani, Italian actress, stopped over for a visit, on her way to New York . . . William Goldberg dropped in to see how the wheels are turning at the Studio . . . A big delegation from the trade attended the opening of Leo Posel's Tyson. Many are wondering about his reported plans to build another house on the same street, some blocks away . . . Earl Rohrbaugh, who'll operate the new Oxford, was a Vine Street visitor . . . Ditto Mr. and Mrs. John Roberts and John Nolan of the Comerford chain.

Max Korr, who has the Earle, Allentown, has taken over the Diamond, Birdsborough, from Henry Sork . . . Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, chief aye-and-nay-sayer of the censor board, will be feted by local Republican women (she's their former chief) at the Penn A. C. . . . The blushing bride of Al Goodwin, Quality Premiums, is identified as Bernice Halperin, a North Philly girl . . . The Variety Club will hold open house after the Penn-Cornell game, so the mourners—we're not saying which side—can drown their sorrows in drink . . . Latest notables to accept invitations to the Variety Club dinner are Governor Arthur H. James, ex-Governor Harold Hoffman, Mayor-elect Robert E. Lamberton, and ex-Mayor Jimmy Walker.

Louella Parsons, film gossiper, is coming to the Earle with a covey of starlets—Ronald Reagan, Jane Wyman, Susan Hayward, June Preisser, Joy Hodges, Arleen Whelan . . . Maurice Gable, Boyd, president of the Warner Club, is arranging a record Christmas party for circuit employes, plans to have a name band present . . . Stanley Arnold has been boosted from the S-W mailing department to the out-of-town booking department . . . Ted Minsky moves up to the job of booking trailers . . . Helen Faber, Ted Schlanger's secretary, has her own office now, but she acts just as democratic as ever.

Wilmer and Vincent announce their new house in West Reading will be ready to open in a month . . . The Atlantic Theatres' new house in Woodbury will be christened the "Wood," will open December 1 . . . Bill Israel, Earle, wanted to have Hal Kemp broadcast over KYW's early morning program, found that Hal doesn't get up in the morning—so he solved the problem by making a recording during Hal's waking hours . . . Harold Davis, WDAS, interviewed Hoot Gibson and George Hall.

A new house is reported contemplated in New Oxford . . . The Cumberland, in New Cumberland, opens after the first of the year . . . Cy Cohen now is running the works at Affiliated's Frolic . . . The Boyd, Allentown, has redecorated its lobby . . . The Allentown Women's Club is raising its voice in behalf of better pictures. Members are calling on managers for cooperation.

$75,000 Asked by Mobeel in Suit

NEW YORK—Mobeel Enterprises, operators of the Glenwood, Brooklyn, have filed suit in federal court for $75,000 triple damages under the Sherman anti-trust laws against Century Circuit, Loew's, Warner, 20th Century-Fox, RKO, Paramount, United Artists, Vitagraph, Universal, Big U Film Exchange, Columbia, Monogram and Republic.

Mobeel claims to have acquired the Glenwood in December, 1937, from Albert Weinstein. The lease then had three years to run. The house was being operated as a third run and at a profit. In July, 1938, Century acquired the College, within two blocks of the Mobeel, and started anti-trust actions which led to this action.

It is asserted Century's theatre received concessions in price, long terms of credit, priority, exclusive playing dates, right of selection, cancellation and rejection privileges, etc. The only films which the Glenwood could get were those not wanted by Century. To make certain of no competition, it is claimed Century bought all the product of all defendants. The results were that a theatre which showed a profit in 1937 lost money in 1938, and the only way it kept open was by exhibiting old pictures or product not wanted by Century. An injunction also is sought.

New Philadelphia Trust Suit by Independent

PHILADELPHIA—Another suit by an independent exhibitor has joined the growing list of court actions involving contract and clearance practices.

The complainant is Henry Friedman, operator of the Lansdowne, who, together with the owners of the building, filed suit in U. S. district court asking triple damages of $210,000 on the grounds of violation of the Sherman and Clayton anti-trust laws. He claims preferential rights given the Warner chain injured his business.

The complaint, filed by Attorney Harry N. Ball, lists the defendants as Warner Brothers Pictures, Warner Brothers Circuit Management Corp., Stanley Company of America, Vitagraph, Paramount, RKO Radio, Loew's, 20th-Fox, Columbia, Universal and United Artists.

BALTIMORE

A $30,000 FIRE destroyed the ball room at Gwynn Oak Park last week. The ball room was operated by James L. Whittle, Avenue, and Arthur B. Price, Aurora. The fire was discovered by a watchman at 4:30 a. m. . . . Ernie Woods, Baltimore film maker, is up and around again after being confined to bed with a bad cold . . . Ted Routson, publicity chief, Hippodrome, is holding rehearsals of the Baltimore Follies at the auditorium of the Baltimore Press Club . . . Henry Dusman of J. F. Dusman & Co. has just returned from a trip to New York . . . Edward Kimpel sr., Capitol, reports that the Capitol was renovated and now has a streamline boxoffice. Renovation was handled by Walter MacNeill, Rome theatres maintenance chief.

Robert Marhenke, Broadway manager, sat as magistrate at the southern police station last Saturday . . . Lawrence O'Hare is now a salesman for the J. F. Dusman Co. . . . U. S. Army recruiting office has tied in with newsreels showing U. S Coast Guard in action, and has placed men in uniform and displays of latest machine guns, anti-tank guns and trench mortars. So far they have graced the lobbies of Nathan Cantor's Astor; Leo Holman's Lord Calvert; Bob Ashcroft's Apollo, and Tom Goldberg's Walbrook . . . Jeanette MacDonald will appear at the Lyric in the near future, it was announced.

Bill Saxton, Loew's Century, has placed a large barrel in his lobby for Christmas donations as on Sunday morning, December 24, a huge Christmas party for some 6,000 children will be held . . . Miss Anna Reid was injured by accidently falling from a pair of eight-foot stilts just as the curtain closed at the Hippodrome. She was taken to the Maryland General Hospital . . . When the Variety Club Tent No. 11 met at the Willard Hotel, Saturday, November 18, among those attending from Baltimore were Leon Back, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dusman, Sidney Goldstein, Frank Hahn, Bill Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kimpel jr., Jack and Al Levine, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Rome, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Rome, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Rome, Mr. and Mrs. William Saxton and Mr. and Mrs. John Shapiro . . . Rodney Collier, Stanley, announces that the Amateur Press Club was invited to review "Elizabeth and Essex." Prizes will be given for the best review.

Rome Theatre exploitation contest for last week was won by Nathan Cantor, Astor; Bob Ashcroft, Apollo, and R. Marhenke, Broadway . . . It is reported a new theatre will be built in Westport . . . Will George, Lafayette, goes in big for rabbit hunting these days . . . Will someone ask Pappy Will Zell, Harlem, to show you his baby's picture? . . . Joe Fields, Rivoli, spends most of his afternoons where his new home is being built . . . What champ pinochle player lost ten straight games to Harry Silver, Overlea? . . . Mac Weinberg, Little, announces that "Harvest" will go into a third week at the Little.

Remodel at Lowville

LOWVILLE, N. Y.—Ernie Wolfe has installed a glass front at the Avalon, and may make interior improvements.

WASHINGTON

HARDIE MEAKIN adorned his cashiers in cap and gown for advance bally on Kay Kyser's quiz-bang which opened on the holiday . . . Rudy Berger, Metro branch manager, trekked to Chicago for a meeting of branch managers at the Drake Hotel . . . Frank La Falce, Warner theatres publicity chief, journeyed to his home in Newark to observe the first half of a Thanksgiving double-bill . . . General Manager Spud Querry of the Lincoln Theatre Corp. of Marion, Va., had a formal opening for the new "Zephyr" theatre in Abingdon, Va. . . . Leo Schimel of Warner theatres has returned following an illness . . . Bob Long, Metro home office auditor, is making a periodic check at the local exchange . . . Bernie Kreisler visited the Virginia accounts with Salesman Barney Frank . . . Harry Bachman, Monogram, has returned from a trip to Roanoke and surrounding accounts . . . Birthday greeting to 20th-Fox's Mary Hughes.

Herman Rubin, manager of Neighborhood's Century and Bluebird in Petersburg, while attending as a guest at Universal's Pep Club luncheon was called upon to select the winning ticket in the drawing for the combination Victrola-radio which was sponsored by the Pep Club. Miss Alice Reighley was declared the winner. The holders of the next two tickets, namely, Harold Depkin jr. of Salem, Va., and J. Lawrence Schanberger of Baltimore, received a year's subscription to the Saturday Evening Post *. . . Coy Campbell of Fieldale has redecorated his theatre front . . . M. Lea of Schoolfield has made extensive plans for the opening of the Lea in Danville with a thorough renovating program now in progress . . . A. C. Rudd of the Palace, Winchester, Va., publicized the showing of "Little Accident" by having a mammy perambulate a carriage about town with a real babe under blankets . . . "Rusty" Duncan of Warner theatres is quite tickled with her new chapeau; that bird is no longer in the gilded cage.*

Ray Irvin of the Metro exchange in Charlotte, and formerly of the Washington branch, has announced his intentions. Reports have it that she is a Georgia peach . . . Mrs. Frank Scully is recuperating in Garfield Hospital . . . Opal Long, Republic, entertained her mother over the holiday . . . Barbara Massingale, former telephone greeter at Universal, has resigned and returned to her home in Texas, Josephine Chamison replacing her . . . Syd Goldberg, former salesman for Trio-Preferred, has joined the Columbia staff in Pittsburgh, with Al H. Livezey replacing him . . . C. W. Vellines of Norfolk will reopen the Olney Theatre, same having been a dark house for the past five years.

Six theatres in the Warner Neighborhood group featured their special Saturday morning shows with 100 *minutes of cartoons . . . Metro's Marge Dermody and Harriet Kenworthy have recovered from the flu . . . Warner theatres honor roll for unusual exploitation feats named Edward Purcell of Staunton for his work on "Pride of the Blue Grass;" Don Nichols, Virginia, Harrisonburg, on "Espionage Agent;" Frank Shaffer, Dixie, Staunton, on "Bill of Rights;" Roy Sherman, Savoy, on Halloween lobby . . . Bernie Sieman, Columbia home office executive, visited the local exchange for a few days . . . 20th-Fox's Ira Sichelman took his family to New York for Thanksgiving . . . Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Berger celebrated a wedding anniversary November* 27 *. . . 20th-Fox's Mary Hughes is wearing a sparkler on the proper finger, and Pete Prince can tell you more about it.*

Kelly Field Man for Boston Allied

Boston—E. Thornton Kelly, formerly executive secretary for Allied of New York, has been appointed field representative for Independent Exhibitors, Inc., the local Allied unit. Connecticut will be Kelly's specific field for the next few months.

Herman Sussman Reported To Have Leased Amenia

ALBANY—Herman Sussman, uncle of William Sussman, 20th Century-Fox eastern division manager, and operator of houses in Brewster, Mount Kisco and another Westchester County community, is reported to have taken a lease on the Amenia Theatre in Amenia, 25 miles from Poughkeepsie.

Lou Bucken, who has been running the Amenia, discarded his plans for construction of a new theatre and bowling alleys. Instead, he will move into an unused church, according to reports on Filmrow. This may be done by January 1. Sussman is said to be preparing for the conversion of the Amenia from an upstairs to a downstairs theatre.

Amenia's population is about 2,000. Vacationists help business during the summer.

Guests at "Drums"

KINGSTON—All residents of Hurley, N. Y., 190 direct descendants of the first settlers of the Mohawk Valley, were guests of Walter Reade at the opening of "Drums Along the Mohawk," at the Broadway.

RKO Xmas Gift Books

NEW YORK—RKO Christmas Gift books have gone on sale throughout the circuit, according to J. J. O'Connor.

Corporation News

ALBANY—The Genesee Street Theatre Co. and the Model Theatre Co., Inc., both of Erie County, have dissolved.

Biddo, Inc., recently formed to conduct a games business in motion picture theatres, has changed its corporate title to Name-O, Inc.

American I. G. Chemical Corp., a Delaware company, made a change in name to General Aniline & Film Corp.

Film Audiences for Democracy, Inc., New York, has been formed under the membership section of the incorporation laws. George Horowitz, 261 Broadway, is the attorney.

ALBANY

MEMBERS of Warner Club will go swanky night of December 9 when a banquet and ball is to be held in Hendrick Hudson Hotel, Troy. This being first formal affair of the social organization in four years, a large attendance is expected, with guests from points as distant at New York City and Buffalo. Max Friedman, head booker for Warner theatres upstate and president of Warner Club, is in general charge. Among those assisting are: Leo Rosen, manager of the Troy, Troy, chairman of entertainment committee; Andy Roy, manager of Strand, Albany, chairman of publicity; Ray Powers, Albany office manager of Warner; Jim Faughnan, contact manager of Warner theatres, and Bob Rosenthal, manager of Ritz, Albany, ticket committee . . . Si Fabian was in town for a huddle with Lou Golding, division manager, and house manager . . . Kay Chmielin, a stenographer in Warner Theatres zone office, was married to Joel R. Davis of Albany.

Bernard Kranze, RKO manager, made a quick trip to New York . . . Harry Berkson, upstate Monogram franchise holder, visited the local exchange en route from Buffalo to New York . . . "Culinary Carving," a short shown through the courtesy of Metro, was one of the features of a giant "Homemaker's Party" given by the Times Union *in Fabian's Palace. The theatre received a heavy payoff in publicity. Forrest Willis, WOKO star announcer, was master of ceremonies.*

Accounts in this area heretofore served by the Albany Grand National branch, henceforth will be served out of Buffalo. The local office has closed, and Manager Paul J. Richrath and Booker William F. Murray have been transferred to Buffalo.

Mrs. Frances McGraw, who formerly operated houses now owned by the Schine circuit, died in Little Falls recently. She had been inactive in the business since 1926.

Harry Hellman and his son, Neil, played host to several hundred children from the Brady and Child's Hospital and La Salle Institute at a matinee party in the Paramount. The Paramount has been staging amateur nights on Monday, while the circuit's Palace in Troy has been running them on Saturday.

Off to Boston for a second trip were Moe Grassgreen, manager; Fred Sliter and Benny Dare, salesman, and Dan Houlihan, booker, all of 20th-Fox, for a district conference of exchangemen participating in the Kent drive. Herman Wobber, general sales manager, and Moe Levy, drive leader, were among the speakers.

Takes Delmar Hall

ALBANY—Roger Harmon, operator of the Bright Spot at Rennsaeler and the Delmar at Delmar, has taken over Firemen's Hall at Clinton Heights for film shows one or two nights weekly.

RICHMOND

THE sudden cold weather of last week put a big dent in the boxoffices of every theatre in town. In addition the annual Community Fund Drive hurt plenty . . . The advertising department of Neighborhood Theatres is now issuing a twice monthly tabloid featuring stories and art layouts of feature attractions playing their houses. The papers are distributed house to house . . . Leon Nelson jr., who has made quite a name of a golfer here, has been promoted to supervisor of checkers for Warner Pictures, with office in Washington . . . A. Frank O'Brien, Sam Bendheim jr., Morton G. Thalhimer and Allen Sparrow were among the Richmonders who attended the Variety Club annual banquet in Washington . . . Charlie Thorp, doorman of the Carillon, is father of a baby girl, Dolores Jean . . . Mrs. John Doherty, wife of the Colonial projectionist, lost her mother recently . . . Jerry Doolittle has been relieving Mervin Ullman, Altec engineer, for a few days.

Dave Peterson, Altec engineer, was in town from Washington, driving a new Chrysler . . . Charlie Yerby, assistant manager of Loew's, was visited by his brother, Harry, and his bride . . . Joe Mullen, who was manager of the Bellevue, came down from Arlington for a visit last week . . . Ben Caplon, Columbia salesman, was a recent visitor . . . Natives who went to the Duke-Carolina game included Harry Nordin, Georgie Farthing, Billy Patterson from the home office of Neighborhood Theatres and Gordon Pulliam from the Byrd . . . Garrett Leahey, manager of the Westhampton, went hunting on his day off last week to help open the season . . . The state corporation commission has issued a charter to National Enterprises, Harrisonburg, with a capital of $25,000. *Sam Roth, president and L. G. Payne of Fredericksburg, secured the charter . . . Mike Siegal, owner of a number of fight pictures for this territory, was in town talking about the Dempsey-Willard pictures which have never been shown here . . . Mildred Harris Chaplin made a personal appearance at the National . . . N. C. Haefele, Baltimore branch manager for National Theatre Supply Co., was in town.*

The State team took three games from the Colonial last Monday night and are now leading the league by four games, having won 11 and lost one . . . Charlie Hulbert, manager of the Lee, who withdrew his team from the league, is now rolling for the Park boys . . . John Curtis Caldwell, owner of the Lee in Appomattox, was elected president of the newly organized Lions Club in that town . . . Al Nowitsky, manager of the National, flew to Fredericksburg with "The Dawn Patrol" . . . Allen Sparrow, manager of Loew's, and his wife, visited Norfolk . . . Mrs. Ida May Wells, widow of Jake Wells, widely known throughout the south, died in Pensacola, Fla.

A. T. Hall, cameraman for Pathe News, recently presented a ten-reel story of the war in the Far East at the John Marshall High School . . . Eddie Martin, salesman for Republic Pictures, was a recent visitor . . . Herman Nowitsky, chief of maintenance for the Wilmer and Vincent circuit, was in town . . . Robert Hatcher is a new member of the service staff at the National . . . "Mac" McLaughlin came down from Baltimore to relieve Mervin Ullman, local Altec engineer, for several days.

The recent Theatrical Ball at the Mosque, under the sponsorship of the Lichtman Theatres Employes Ass'n, netted several hundred dollars for the employes' fund . . . Jerry Newcomb, member of Sam Gordon's service staff at the Venus, skidded his car while crossing the Ninth Street Bridge and damaged it considerably . . . William Rippard, manager of the Eaco, Farmville, was a spectator at the recent football game at the Stadium, also Harold Wood of the Neighborhood Theatres home office.

Frank Mathews, maintenance engineer of the Capitol Theatre, went fishing and caught one this long . . . Warren Connor, Altec official, was a visitor here the other week . . . Charlie Yerby, assistant manager of the Loew's Theatre, visited his mother in Portsmouth last Tuesday . . . Floyd Stawls, manager of the Carillon, also visited down on the coast, calling on his family in Norfolk . . . Allen Brown and his wife drove up to Washington the other day . . . Otis Kyger, former relief manager for Wilmer and Vincent here, and now stationed in Reading, has summoned his family.

Otis Bugg and Floyd Armstrong, projectionists at the National, attended the recent convention of the SMPE in New York . . . Morton G. Thalhimer, president of Neighborhood Theatres, made a flying trip to California . . . Frank Storino, manager of the Lincoln, has returned with his bride from honeymooning in New York . . . Muriel Stevenson, secretary to Frank O'Brien, city manager for Wilmer and Vincent, visited New York.

A driving contest, in which safe and courteous drivers will receive guest tickets to local first runs is underway. Drivers selected by a state trooper and city police officer, who will ride the city streets for one hour each day, get tickets to the theatres. The six weeks' contest is being sponsored by the state division of motor vehicles, the News Leader *and Loew's, Colonial, State, Capitol and Byrd. Each day the numbers of ten drivers will be published in the paper and they will receive tickets at the division of motor vehicles.*

Paramount Dividends

NEW YORK—Regular quarterly dividends on the first and second preferred have been declared by Paramount's directors. On the former, it is the usual $1.50 and on the latter 15 cents, payable December 26, as of record December 8.

Pre-Christmas Remodeling

NORFOLK, VA.—The Granby, Wilmer & Vincent house here, will be closed for a partial remodeling a week prior to Christmas, according to Manager Westbrook.

See Little Peace Hope In Musicians' Tangle

PHILADELPHIA—The controversy between the Warner chain and Local 77, American Federation of Musicians, is moving toward a showdown, as the present contract's expiration date—Saturday, December 2—approaches.

Neither side is very hopeful about reaching an agreement soon.

A Warner informant explained that the company has no quarrel over wages or working conditions, but is insisting on the right to employ musicians only where and when it chooses to use vaudeville. The musicians are insisting that the orchestras now employed at the Fox, Earle and half a dozen neighborhood houses be retained, whether there are flesh shows or not.

Rex Riccardi, secretary of the musician's local, declared the S-W attitude constituted a "lockout." He stated:

"We are asking the stage hands' and projectionists' unions to back us up in our demand that Warner keep faith with the musicians, and keep us in theatres where we are presently employed."

At present, Warner is paying three orchestras—assigned to Frankford, Alhambra and Kent—which haven't been used there for several weeks.

Duals for Six Warner Philadelphia Houses

PHILADELPHIA—Double features are slated for six local Stanley-Warner houses and are already in operation in three out-of-town houses in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, a S-W spokesman reveals.

The houses to start duals are the Germantown, Strand, Keystone, Imperial 2nd, Imperial 60th and Lindy. The three already following the policy are the Strand, Reading; Clementon, Clementon, (N. J.) and Princess, Camden (N. J.)

Independents are trying to derive some consolation from a S-W statement that duals will be instituted only in situations where the competition makes it absolutely necessary.

The S-W spokesman expands the statement to add that "we are going to study results in these theatres before determining whether to extend the policy elsewhere."

Around 500 at Capitol Variety Dinner-Dance

WASHINGTON—Around 500 persons dined and danced at the annual party of Variety Club, Tent No. 11, at the Willard Hotel November 18. The combined stage shows from the Earle and Capitol theatres, with George Beatty serving as master of ceremonies, highlighted the entertainment program, augmented with the surprise appearance of Jackie Heller who flew in from Pittsburgh for the occasion.

The party was under the direction of General Chairman Hardie Meakin, who was assisted by a large committee.

Catskill House Closes

EAST DURHAM, N. Y.—Millard Tubbs has closed Lawyer's Hall in this Catskill Mountain town. It is a summer situation.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Believe Conference Will Hatch Peace

What effects—dire and otherwise—a general strike would have upon Hollywood's various motion picture studios formed the chief topic of discussion for local railbirds as both participants in the film colony's latest and most bitter labor battle expressed optimistic beliefs that a peaceful settlement would be reached at the meeting scheduled between the producers, the IATSE and other American Federation of Labor crafts. These harbingers of peace followed postponement of the labor contingent's strike ultimatum after producer-union conferences, at which the producers' pleas for additional time were granted.

Dopesters are in agreement that studios would be hardest hit by a walkout in direct proportion to the number of pictures each has in production at the present time. Hence such plants as Paramount, which is filming eight, and Metro, with an equal number in work, would be well-nigh paralyzed. On the other hand, 20th Century-Fox, with only two in production, and Warner, Columbia and Universal, with three each, would survive a strike thrust in much better fashion. The latter studios, particularly Warner and Fox, are well ahead of schedule on their 1939-40 programs and, if need be, could "sit out" a strike for several months without seriously hampering schedules. Further, it is pointed out, it would be vastly more expensive to halt a picture currently in work than to shift schedules on films which have not yet hit the cameras.

"Some progress" was made in the meeting, according to an official statement issued immediately afterward. Representing the producers were Joseph M. Schenck, E. J. Mannix, Y. Frank Freeman, M. B. Silberberg and Walter Wanger. Committee for the laborites comprised William Bioff, Meyer Lewis, J. W. Buzzell and Walter Redmond. Bioff seeks to retain the 10 per cent increase recently granted 12,000 IATSE workers, and to gain similar boosts for members of the machinists, plasterers, welders, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and teamsters' unions. Producers are endeavoring to stave off definite action until December 5, when the annual producer-labor parleys are slated to get under way in Newark, N. J.

Meantime leaders of the Screen Publicists Guild were preparing to take action should their demands for added salaries retroactive to October 9 remain unfulfilled. The SPG claims producers approved a closed shop agreement on that date but have never signed the contract. Producers contend, however, that further discussion of certain clauses in the pact is necessary before it can be put into effect. SPG leaders have admitted they have been negotiating with both the CIO and the IATSE, giving strength to rumors that, should their demands not be met by the producers, a national affiliation may be sought.

A plan to organize white-collar workers in the major plants into one inter-studio union is to be discussed at a mass meeting November 30, which will be attended by representatives from every lot save Warner and Paramount. Workers at those two plants already hold contracts which they have deemed satisfactory. Organizers have held preliminary parleys with IATSE officials concerning the possibility of affiliating with that organization.

Last vestiges of the recent IATSE Local 37 jurisdictional battle, won by the IA when it defeated the United Studio Technicians Guild in a national labor relations board election, were washed out when George Browne, IA president, dissolved the local and received its rebel members back into the international's fold.

Overruling a Screen Actors Guild demurrer, superior court has ordered set down for trial the suit filed by Ed Helm, Class B player, seeking to force the SAG to give its B membership full voting privileges. A request that the 300-mile Guild shop limit be extended is contained in a petition being circulated by cowboy members of the SAG, who claim they have lost considerable work through the use of non-Guild riders on western locations.

Renewed Investigation Looms On the Industry's Horizon

Although reports from Washington indicated that the industry is to be provided with still another headache through the decision of Attorney-General Frank Murphy to reopen his investigation into charges of anti-trust violations, income tax evasions, labor racketeering and other asserted irregularities, and was dispatching his special assistant, Charles H. Carr, back to the coast to continue the probe, federal attaches hereabouts professed to have received no notification as to when —and if—Carr is to check in.

Secure Second Postponement

Meantime Albert J. Law and Harold Collins, special department of justice investigators, secured a second postponement—this time until December 4—of the U. S. district court hearing on the government's criminal contempt charges against Fox West Coast and nine major distributors. Collins declared he and Law had been unable to complete their work of compiling a bill of particulars, as requested by the defendants, by November 20, to which date they once had the hearing set back. If the bill of particulars is accepted by the defendants, Collins said, a date for trial will be set immediately; if, however, the bill is argued, he and Law will endeavor to supply further specifications. Defendants assert the government action fails to set forth sufficient facts to inform them wherein, according to the charge, they have violated the 1930 consent decree.

Carr was dispatched to Hollywood some three months ago by the attorney-general and, after considerable probing, impanel a federal grand jury, before which appeared such industry figures as Darryl Zanuck, William Goetz, Louis B. Mayer, S. J. Briskin, Harland Holmden, Joseph Carpenter and other producer and labor executives, as well as a number of actors. The jury wound up its session, however, without any indictments being returned, and Carr returned to Washington bearing a voluminous file of data.

Reports from Washington were that the grand jury may again be impaneled, Murphy declaring it is the intention of his department to "completely exhaust every lead that might indicate violations of the law."

Labor Issues Usurp Hays Office Time

Still snowed under by the pressure of business in connection with the IATSE's threatened strike, officials of the Hays organization here have been unsuccessful in finding time to cope with other more routine matters, which are being neglected in favor of the more ominous labor situation.

Plan Top-Flight Premieres for Six Forthcoming Features

Revival of premieres and elaborate first-night screenings for current pretentious Hollywood product is rapidly assuming the proportions of a landslide, no less than six forthcoming features having been booked to make lavish bows either in the film capital or in some other part of the country.

Most recent additions to the schedule:

RKO Radio's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," which will have its world premiere at the Pantages Theatre December 14, ten days before the Charles Laughton starrer opens its regular run on Christmas Day. Studio executives advanced the premiere date from Christmas Eve because they felt the latter date would not be propitious in view of other holiday activities. The exploitation staff is currently drafting plans to make it a gala affair and reports that reservations from every branch of Hollywood endeavor are already pouring in.

Altering plans under which it was to make its bow in Wetherford, Tex., Paramount will world premiere "The Great Victor Herbert," musical co-starring Allan Jones, Mary Martin and Walter Connolly, at the Carthay Circle Theatre November 28. Studio's original plan to stage the opening in Wetherford—Miss Martin's home town—fell through because the date conflicted with a stage engagement for the singing star.

Monogram, bitten by the premiere bug, will introduce "The Gentleman From Arizona" to press and public early in December in Phoenix, Ariz. This is the first in a series of four films produced by Golden West Pictures for Monogram release, directed by Earl J. Haley and featuring Craig Reynolds and John King. The Arizona locale was decided upon for its screen debut because the film was shot entirely in that state, using the Magnacolor process.

Then, of course, Metro's release of Selznick International's "Gone With the Wind" will be unveiled in Atlanta, Ga., December 15, while RKO Radio is selecting various key cities as locales for sectional premieres of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

Highlighted by an official three-day "Valley of the Sun Geronimo Celebration," Paramount's "Geronimo" was given its world premiere November 25 in four simultaneous showings—one at Safford, two in Phoenix and another in Tucson. Attending were Preston Foster, Chief Thunder Cloud and Monte Blue, of the cast; Patricia Morison, Robert Preston, J. Carrol Naish, William Frawley, Joseph Allen jr. and Director Paul H. Sloane. Premiere was broadcast coast-to-coast from Phoenix by George Fischer via his "Hollywood Whispers" program.

An impressive contingent of personalities will attend the "Gone With the Wind" debut in Atlanta. Headed by David O. Selznick and Director Victor Fleming, they including Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Olivia de Havilland, Ona Munson, Laura Hope Crews, Evelyn Keyes and Ann Rutherford. Daniel T. O'Shea, S-I's secretary, and Russell Birdwell also are in the delegation, which will participate in a three-day round of social activities.

Studios Bear Down On Schedules

Apparently still intent upon cleaning up their 1939-40 schedules as rapidly as possible—for which the European war is held largely responsible — most of the major lots are continuing to chart heavy schedules for the next two-month period, an action that will assure a steady flow of product well into spring no matter what turn developments abroad may take.

Still in evidence, however, is the feeling that a production slump and attendant personnel purge are near-certainties with the windup of 1939-40 schedules and during the hiatus until camera work begins on 1940-41 slates.

Meantime, however, Warner has added four vehicles to go into work by December 1, including "We Shall Meet Again" and "All It All Came True," both top-budgeters. Paramount has slotted another four to begin after the first of the year. An equal number of high-budgeters, plus several programmers, are set for starts at Universal during the next six weeks, the lead-off to be Deanna Durbin's "It's a Date." RKO Radio plans to gun five within a single week, beginning November 27. Metro, maintaining an average of from five to seven in work each week, will start "Waterloo Bridge," December 15 and two others—"Marx Brothers Go West" and "Edison, the Man," before that time.

Currently dark, but scheduled to open up before the end of the month, are Republic and Monogram—the former preparing "Dark Command" and the latter set to gun "Rip Van Winkle."

On the executive side, Alexander Korda is conferring with Murray Silverstone, chief of United Artists' operations, concerning his future production plans. Korda has been here the past two weeks and intends to return to England before the first of the year. Whether or not he will resume production there or transfer to Hollywood has not been disclosed. A similar problem is being threshed out by Irving Asher with Harry and Jack Cohn of Columbia. Asher halted his English operations at the outbreak of the war and journeyed to Hollywood to map plans for the future.

"Son" to Bischoff

Sam Bischoff has been handed the production reins on Warner's "My Son," slated as a vehicle for James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart.

Laurel-Hardy Pictures to Make Two Films Yearly

Plans disclosed for the newly-formed Laurel-Hardy Pictures Corp. by Attorney Ben Shipman, legal representative for the two veteran comedians, and a member of the firm's board of directors, indicates the company will swing into action some time in February or March on a production schedule of two pictures yearly. Shipman declared a major release now is being negotiated. Exact date of the L-H production start, the attorney said, is dependent upon completion of the comedians' present contract with Hal Roach, under which they are slated to make two more four-reelers for United Artists release.

The comedians will make outside commitments in addition to the two pictures which they will produce, starring themselves, annually. Incorporation papers were filed in Sacramento recently.

Wright Mum on GN

Refusing to comment on the outcome of his parleys in New York with E. W. Hammons, president of Grand National, Loyd Wright, attorney and trustee for the film company, returned from New York after a stay of nearly two weeks. Immediately upon checking in, Wright called a meeting of GN creditors at which they voted to accept a proposition submitted by Hammons, under which they would accept 25 per cent of their claims in cash and retain another 25 per cent participation in the loan which the GN president is endeavoring to secure. Hammons recently filed another petition for GN in bankruptcy court to stage off creditors until his long-expected RFC loan comes through. Still in New York with him is Franklyn Warner, president of Fine Arts Pictures, a GN affiliate, who has been joined there by David Blankenhorn, of Cosmocolor Corp. Blankenhorn and Warner are associated in the production of four films using the Cosmocolor process, for which an RKO Radio release has been obtained.

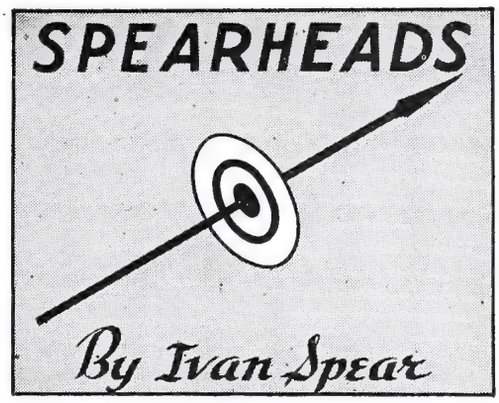
Starting date of Academy Pictures' initial production venture, "And So Goodbye," was postponed until November 29 because of the sudden illness of Richard Carlson, slated to play the male lead opposite Jean Parker. Lee Garmes heads the company, which will release through RKO Radio.

Selznick Renews Rental Lease on Pathe Lot

Selznick International has renewed its rental lease on the RKO Pathe lot in Culver City, where it has been headquartering for the past three years, under terms of a deal negotiated by Daniel T. O'Shea, vice-president-elect of S-I, and Hal Lewis of RKO Radio. Operation of the studio will revert to Lewis, however, who will be in charge of other rentals.

Helms "Golden Gloves"

George Dmytryk has been assigned to direct Paramount's "Golden Gloves," rolling late this month with Robert Ryan, screen newcomer, in the lead.



AN OPEN LETTER to John Joseph, Publicity Director, Universal Studio, Universal City, Cal.:

Dear John:

Recently you staged a press preview of your company's super-chiller, "Tower of London." At least the function was heralded as a press preview. Your invitations declared it was a press preview, which fact was confirmed by the programs you caused to be distributed at the Alexander Theatre. Hence, and because you are known far and wide in the industry as a sincere and thoroughly honest young man, it must have been a press preview.

In view of which it was a trifle difficult for those representatives of the press who drove to the far reaches of Glendale for the doubtful pleasure of seeing and reviewing the blood-stained chronicle of medieval murder, torture and intrigue to understand why they were required to join the victims of sanguinary Richard III and also submit to a bit of suffering.

Perhaps you never sat in the smoke-filled atmosphere and the rack-like chairs of the Alexander's precipice, sometimes termed, with quaint Glendalian naivete, a balcony.

Now, balconies are O. K. in their place and quite probably are highly necessary adjuncts of motion picture theatres.

But there is a very definite question as to the public relations wisdom of inflicting them on the press—and, remember, it *was* a press preview—while the comfortable seats and fresh air of the first floor are reserved for the use of every director, producer, actor, agent and technician, as well as their respective coteries of relatives, friends, sweethearts and neighbors, who can exert sufficient influence on the front office to promote a pair, or a handful, of preview tickets.

For the sake of the records, and in the best interests of your company's product, it is suggested that henceforth you follow one of two procedures:

(1) Stop calling your initial showings of pictures "press previews" and let it be understood that they are really occasions for your Thespic, production and executive personnel to take bows.

(2) Or, hold all of your press previews in a projection room on the lot, as you have done in the past on your less important pictures, so that the reviewers can see your product with a reasonable amount of comfort and with a minimum of delay and inconvenience.

➞

Hollywood finds fame afield. Press agent for Director Sidney Lanfield plants a yarn to the effect that his client was awarded a Ph. D. by the University of Chicago, his alma mater, for a thesis dealing with the evolution of jitterbug music.

➞

Which is rivaled only by the one concerning the alleged use of five trained butterflies by Director Edward H. Griffith in Paramount's "Safari." They were rented, it is asserted, at a cost of $25 an hour from one Haley Danning—who, the story goes, makes a specialty of tutoring the insects for film work.

The item, in addition to being highly improbable, failed to amplify on what the butterflies were trained to do . . . Perhaps to say, "Yes, Mr. Griffith"?

➞

Further on the matter of mythical animal casting, Metro avers to be seeking a diving horse for scenes in "Marx Brothers Go West," in which the steed will be required to jump off high towers and buildings.

Which invites the rather obvious comment that dives are not unknown in connection with the cinematic offerings of the Freres Marx.

➞

Universal has donated "Mutiny on the Blackhawk" and "Hawaiian Nights" to the USC football team for the avowed purpose of offering its members relaxation while on the long train trip back to South Bend for the annual grid clash with Notre Dame.

Which may have accounted for the sudden rise in the odds favoring the Irish to win.

➞

If the scripts for George O'Brien's gallopers at RKO Radio continue the time-honored practice of having him clean up cow towns, the veteran action star can qualify for a membership in the white wings' union and an annual vacation on the former estate of Otto Kahn.

Intrigue, Injuns and Inexplicable

Thanksgiving came early for Hollywood's always hungry reviewers, inasmuch as the usual weekly preview spread included a sizeable helping of turkey—as well as all of the fixin's.

Three out of the seven celluloid courses served at the producers' debuting banquet were sufficiently pretentious from a budgetary standpoint to have served as the piece de resistance, albeit none of them quite lived up to the entertainment standards their respective buildups forecast for them. In brief, the Thanksgiving film turkey was big enough, but a bit tough in spots.

Probably the most succulent slice was Paramount's "Geronimo," albeit its flavor was the familiar blend of soldiers and Indians, doing their time-honored routine amid a spectacular and lavishly handled production mounting. Verily a natural for those who crave action for their screen palates, the picture can be depended upon to corral top grosses in its category. Paul H. Sloane, who both wrote and directed, reaches heights in his handling of the battle scenes, his scripting effort appearing very comparable in theme to the same company's hit of a few years ago, "Lives of a Bengal Lancer." Cast is entirely competent, although boasting no high-powered names for the marquee. A distinct asset is the natural beauty of the backgrounds against which the action was laid, strikingly photographed. Production was under the direct supervision of William LeBaron.

Universal's "Tower of London" proved to be a satisfactory helping of dark meat which will be relished by those who like chills in their screen fare. Impressive in pageantry and spectacle, and enacted by a superior cast, it was produced and directed with intelligence and distinction by Rowland V. Lee, whose painstaking preparatory care is evident throughout. The original screenplay by Robert N. Lee portrays, with more-or-less historical accuracy, the murderous intrigues of England's Richard III, liberally garnishes the motivation with an abundance of horrors and, consequently, assumes a grim atmosphere which is tempered only slightly by a slender and secondary romantic thread. As an example of the murder-torture-battle-bloodshed school the enterprise is worthy of top mention.

That inescapable portion of every Thanksgiving turkey—the neck—was the Warner offering, "Four Wives." Utilizing the same cast as was featured in its widely popular predecessor, "Four Daughters," this latest episode in the lives of the "Lemp" sisters will probably garner a fair reception although, unfortunately, the girls are considerably less entertaining as wives than they were before their marriage. Largely this is due to the weaknesses of the screenplay by Julius J. and Phillip G. Epstein and Maurice Hanline, which fails to establish a clear-cut purpose and motivation, and the film's lack of pace, probably attributable to Michael Curtiz's direction, which falls short of his usual high standards. Producer Henry Blanke imparted his customarily tasteful mounting.

* * *

For most tastes the cranberry sauce furnished by the "B" departments will, possibly, prove more enjoyable, with three offerings rating as thoroughly acceptable. Top-rate as to story and direction, Columbia's "The Amazing Mr. Williams" adds up to an above-par feature which should delight the average customer. Another in the crop of suave-sleuth features, it emphasizes comedy and plays down the mystery and suspense in a nicely-handled screenplay by Dwight Taylor, Sy Bartlett and Richard Maibaum, based on an original by Bartlett. Everett Ris-

(Continued on page 21)

Cinémarks

The Masquers held their first seidel night of the fall season November 20 with Edward Arnold as seidelmaster . . . Edward Dmytryk, Paramount director, checked in from a vacation in New York . . . Lillian Rock, of the Paramount studio hospital nursing staff, is in charge of the studio club's annual Christmas party, to be held at the Breakfast Club, December 17.

*

Dan Kelly, Universal's casting director, has returned from a two-week trip to New York . . . Robert Montgomery is vacationing on the desert, having wound up an M-G-M acting chore.

*

Harlan Thompson is back at Paramount after attending the golden wedding celebration of his parents in Neosho, Mo. . . . Sam Wood is glimpsing the current Broadway plays, having no immediate directorial assignment under his Samuel Goldwyn contract . . . John Garfield was guest of honor at a luncheon and meeting of the Beverly Hills auxiliary of B'nai B'rith, reading excerpts from "Johnny Got His Gun," best-seller by Dalton Trumbo.

*

Melvyn Douglas and his wife, Helen Gahagan, planed to New York to catch the current shows . . . The death of his father, Morris Katz, in Chicago, called Sam Katz, Metro producer, east . . . Director Richard Thorpe spent a few days in Gotham after cleaning up an M-G-M assignment . . . The Hollywood Theatre Alliance, headquartering in the old Writers' Club, staged a housewarming November 18, attended by Frank Tuttle, Garson Kanin, Bernard Vorhaus, Edward Eliscu, Mortimer Offner, Michael Blankfort, Henry Myers, Ira Gershwin, Sigmund Romberg and other members.

*

The Helpers, comprising a group of young matrons in the film colony, staged its annual show Thanksgiving Eve at the Biltmore Bowl, the proceeds being utilized to maintain a children's clinic for the prevention of tuberculosis. Maxwell Arnow and Jerry Hoffman handled the program and Lou Holtz and Fred Keating shared honors as masters of ceremonies. Patrons included Archie Mayo, Norman Taurog, Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Deanna Durbin, Joe E. Brown, Hugh Herbert, Pat O'Brien, Robert Young and others.

*

Richard Rosson, Metro director, is scouting railroad locations near Sonora for "Young Tom Edison" . . . Mrs. Frank Borzage, wife of the director, is vacationing for two weeks in New York.

*

Michael Fessier, Warner writer, has reported back to the studio after a vacation in the northern part of the state . . . Adolph Zukor, chairman of Paramount's board of directors, and Mrs. Zukor pulled out for Tucson, Ariz., on the first leg of a journey to Cuba, Mexico and Central America. Zukor will attend Paramount's Mexican sales convention in Mexico City.

Ending a three-week vacation in Honolulu, Roy Disney is back at his desk at the Disney cartoon plant . . . Fred C. Quimby, Metro short subjects supervisor and head of the cartoon unit, is attending the company's sales meeting in Detroit.

*

Edward T. Lowe is back at his desk as a Paramount producer after spending a holiday with his parents in Mississippi . . . Masquers' annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway was handled by George Meeker . . . Wesley Ruggles and Claude Binyon attended the U.S.C.-Notre Dame football game at South Bend, Ind., making the journey by plane.

*

Completing an assignment at 20th Century-Fox, Scripter Lamar Trotti is spending a three-week holiday in New York . . . Charles Coburn is scheduled to be the principal speaker November 28 at a meeting of the Westwood Hills Women's Club, discussing the plan now underway at UCLA for a summer training course in dramatics. Coburn each year directs the Mohawk Drama Festival at Union College in Schenectady and is aiding the local university in outlining the plan.

Number of Executives Visiting the Plants

With a contingent from Paramount, plus Republic's head man, Herbert J. Yates, due in next week and a delegation of United Artists executives headed by Murray Silverstone already here, the local film scene is undergoing a bull market insofar as visiting executives are concerned.

President Barney Balaban, Stanton Griffis, chairman of the executive committee, and Neil Agnew, sales chief, are slated to stage preliminary huddles with studio executives on plans for the company's 1940-41 production program. Conferences are being held earlier than ever before, as the studio is farther ahead on its current year's program than at any time in the company's history. While here the visitors will attend the world premiere of "The Great Victor Herbert" November 28 and are scheduled to examine plans for the new Paramount studio to be built in West Los Angeles.

They will parley with Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, William LeBaron, managing director of production, and David Rose, British production head, who was expected to precede them to the coast.

Planning an indefinite stay, during which he will map plans for the 1940-41 production quota, Republic's Yates is scheduled to arrive about the end of the month. The North Hollywood plant is currently idle, but will probably have at least one picture, "Dark Command," starring John Wayne, in work by the time Yates arrives.

Scanning pictures in production, cutting and in preparation, UA's Silverstone was accompanied by Jack Schlaifer, vice-president in charge of the western sales territory, and Al Margolies, New York publicity director. They are huddling with the various UA producers concerning sales policies and exploitation plans for forthcoming product, including Walter Wanger's "Send Another Coffin," Selznick International's "Rebecca" and Edward Small's "My Son, My Son." Another UA producer, Sol Lesser, is in New York scouting current plays for possible film material and conferring with Thornton Wilder concerning production plans for the latter's play, "Our Town," which will be Lesser's first for UA.

Expected in from New York by the end of the month is Jack Cohn, Columbia vice-president, who has confabs on tap with Harry Cohn, company president. Latter checked in from the east two weeks ago. Irving Asher, who has been producing in England for Columbia release, has returned to Hollywood after a short stay in New York, and is huddling with Cohn relevant to the possible resumption of production abroad—which was halted with the outbreak of the European war.

Another eastern arrival, called here because of the urgency of the IATSE strike threat in the studios, was Joseph M. Schenck of 20th Century-Fox. He has been named vice-president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and will function as California state chairman in the organization's coming drive for funds.

Moray Back to New York

Ending a series of studio conferences with Bryan Foy and Gordon Hollingshead on Warner's short subjects program for 1940-41, Norman H. Moray, Vitaphone sales manager, has returned to New York. He will come back to Hollywood about March 1 to huddle with Jack Warner and other studio executives on final preparations in connection with next season's shorts lineup, on which the quota of historical featurettes is to be increased. Moray will visit Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta, Charlotte and Washington en route east, holding sales meetings in each territory with the Vitaphone forces.

Another Warner executive, S. Charles Einfeld, publicity-advertising chief, is due in November 27 after spending several weeks in New York, during which he mapped the campaign for the opening of "We Are Not Alone," starring Paul Muni, at the Radio City Music Hall.

Continuing conferences regarding his next production venture, Boris Morros has extended his stay in New York for another two weeks.

The Paramount contingent also included John W. Hicks jr., vice-president in charge of the foreign department, and Russell Holman, New York production executive. The visitors will remain about ten days.

Another expected arrival was President Nate Blumberg of Universal, who will check in from New York for conferences with Cliff Work, Matty Fox and other studio executives and will remain through the Christmas holidays.

Jack Cohn was joined at Columbia by Nate Spingold, eastern sales executive.

REVIEW FLASHES

BARRICADE (20th-Fox)—There is a sheerness about this that impels a lack of impression. Warner Baxter's screen generalship and some action excitement supply the better part of the popular elements. Co-featured are Alice Faye and Charles Winninger. Gregory Ratoff directed.

BIG GUY, THE (Univ)—Among the better prison films. The cast is good, the direction keeps action moving at a lively clip. It is acceptable entertainment. Victor McLaglen, Jackie Cooper, Edward Brophy, Peggy Moran. Arthur Lubin directed.

FOUR WIVES (WB)—The wide popularity of its predecessor, "Four Daughters," should help this one. Unfortunately, however, as wives they prove considerably less entertaining than they did as daughters. Claude Rains, Jeffrey Lynn, Eddie Albert, Priscilla Lane, Rosemary Lane, Lola Lane, Gale Page. Michael Curtiz directed.

NIGHT OF NIGHTS, THE (Para)—Pagliacci theme with occasional moments of emotional appeal, but lacking the necessary elements to win rating as general audience entertainment. Pat O'Brien, Olympe Bradna, Roland Young. Lewis Milestone directed.

RETURN OF DR. X, THE (WB)—The mad scientist returns from the grave with a load of chills sufficiently hefty and frigid to assure their money's worth to all who shop for thrills, shivers, gasps and shrieks in their entertainment. Humphrey Bogart, Rosemary Lane, Wayne Morris. Vincent Sherman directed.

SAGA OF DEATH VALLEY (Rep)—Especially entertaining is this Roy Rogers' western, rating as one of Joe Kane's better directorial efforts. With Rogers are George Hayes, Donald Barry and Doris Day.

SHORS (Amkino)—Just another historical remnant in the Russian propaganda pattern, despite its production magnificence, massiveness and grand characterizations. E. Samiolove, I. Skuratov, A. Khvilia. Alexander Dovzhenko directed.

SONGS AND SADDLES (SR)—Mighty meager western program fare, that just about shaped up as midweek filler. Gene Austin, Lynne Berkley, Henry Roquemere. Arthur and Max Alexander produced; Harry Fraser directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

"U" Remaking "Deacon"

Universal has added a re-make of "Alias the Deacon" to its winter production schedule, with Richard Wallace set to direct from a script being written by Nat Perrin. It gets the gun January 7.

Anti-Nazi League to Intensify Activity

Declaring that "changing events" call for a period of intensified activity, the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League, through its executive board, has prepared and issued a far-reaching statement of policy, titled a "Declaration of Democratic Action," in which it sets forth a concrete program, including a general membership discussion as to whether the HANL's name should be changed.

To keep America neutral and to preserve the bill of rights are listed as the two major aims of the HANL—for which the organization will strive through an expanded schedule of education, mass meetings, public protests and investigations of asserted violations of civil liberties. The resolution was drafted by a committee headed by Donald Ogden Stewart, League chairman; Frank Tuttle, Dudley Nichols and Bern Bernard.

Meantime representatives of 47 widely-divergent groups joined forces under the Southern California Committee of the American Union for Concerted Peace Efforts at an organizational meeting and unanimously ratified a common program of action to keep America out of the European war. Herbert Biberman, writer-director and member of several liberal groups, presented a report opposing war as the way to end Hitlerism and warning that this country's entrance into the conflict would precipitate results as dire as those which followed the last World War. Among the organizations participating were the HANL, the Motion Picture Artists Committee, Associated Film Audiences and the Motion Picture Democratic Committee.

The Associated Film Audiences began a series of special screenings November 20 at the headquarters of the Hollywood Film Alliance. Initial program included a French film, "A Nous La Liberte," a documentary, "Harvesters of the Forest," and "Easy Street," an early Charlie Chaplin comedy.

Martin Berkeley, film scenarist, reviewed "Hitler Is No Fool," a new book by Karl Billinger, at a luncheon meeting of the liberal arts committee of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Two Top Spot Film Roles To Madeleine Carroll

Two choice film roles have been picked off by Madeleine Carroll, the star having been selected for one of the feminine leads in Edward Small's "My Son, My Son" and for one of the top spots in Cecil B. DeMille's forthcoming Paramount release, "Northwest Mounted Police," to be filmed in Technicolor. The Small vehicle, being produced for United Artists, is now in work, while DeMille plans to begin shooting late next month.

Berkeley Gets "Good News"

Next assignment for Director Busby Berkeley at Metro will be "Good News," co-starring Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland.

SPEARHEADS

(Continued from page 19)

kin's production, and direction by Alexander Hall leave nothing to be desired.

Metro presented an engrossing chapter in the career of that ingratiating young medico in "The Secret of Dr. Kildare," destined to be well-received by "Kildare" fans and general audiences alike. The script by Willis Goldbeck and Harry Ruskin deftly blends three distinct story motivations into a neatly-tailored whole, and Harold S. Bucquet imparted careful and evenly-paced direction.

Twentieth Century-Fox has a sure audience pleaser in "The Honeymoon's Over," a simply-handled programmer loaded with homey comedy, smoothly directed by Eugene Forde.

* * *

To carry out the tradition that no film feast is complete without the standard garnishment of sagebrush, RKO Radio contributed "Legion of the Lawless," in which George O'Brien again is successful in cleaning out the lawless element in a border town. Bert Gilroy's production calls for a maximum of ridin' and shootin', while David Howard packed enough spirit and action in his direction to satisfy western fans, juvenile and adult alike. Doris Schroeder wrote the script from an original by Berne Giler.

Judell to Supplement Slate On Completion of Studios

While maintaining a steady schedule at its local headquarters on the Grand National lot, Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp. will supplement its activities early next month when, upon completion of studios in Prescott, Ariz., production work will start on the first of three series of eight westerns.

First to get under way will be "The Sagebrush Family Trails West," featuring Bobby Clark, 13-year-old cowboy. Peter Stewart will direct, beginning December 4. Initialer in a western series starring Tim McCoy, "Texas Renegades," gets the gun in Arizona December 11. This will be followed by "The Man From Oklahoma," starring George Huston.

Opening of the Arizona plant will be celebrated by the Prescott chamber of commerce and other civic organizations upon completion of the first Clark starrer, and will be known as "Bobby Clark" day.

Meantime Judell's "Mercy Plane" is nearing completion on the GN lot. It will be followed by "Gold Star Mothers," now being cast.

Lesser to Concentrate on Big Productions for UA

Sol Lesser, with the cancellation of his two remaining Bobby Breen pictures for RKO Radio release, has declared his intention of devoting his full time to his big budget films for United Artists release. To date, however, his Principal Pictures company personnel remains intact with Barney Briskin as producer and no switches being made to Sol Lesser Productions, the UA company.

Hollywood Personnelities

Options

—Paramount

ALLAN JONES signed to appear in two more features, the first to be "The Count of Luxembourg," an operetta by Franz Lehar.

CLIFFORD GOLDSMITH, author of "What a Life," joins writing staff to prepare a sequel.

WANDA McKAY, stock player, held for another term.

—Warner Bros.

IRVING RAPPER, dialogue director, given new contract.

Cleffers

—Metro

EDWARD WARD set as musical director on "Young Tom Edison."

FRANZ WAXMAN completes special "tempo" musical sound tracks to be used as background for dance scenes in "Florian."

—Paramount

VICTOR YOUNG, leading 53-piece studio orchestra, begins waxing score of "Gulliver's Travels," feature-length Technicolor cartoon.

CHARLES HENDERSON set as musical director on "Buck Benny Rides Again."

SIGMUND KRUMGOLD scoring "Typhoon," Technicolor feature starring Dorothy Lamour.

—RKO Radio

LEON LEONIDOFF to direct dance sequences in "Irene."

—Edward Small

"My Son, My Son," original tune by L. WOLFE GILBERT and LEW POLLACK, purchased as theme for Small's picture of the same name.

—Universal

EDDIE CHERKOSE and JACQUES PRESS sell their original tune, "How Was I to Know," for use in "Charlie McCarthy, Detective."

SAM LERNER and BEN OAKLAND sell their original tune "Almost," for use in "Charlie McCarthy, Detective."

—Warner Bros.

HOWARD JACKSON, studio composer, presented parts of Max Steiner's score for "We Are Not Alone" at a luncheon and meeting of the California Federation of Music Clubs.

Story Buys

—Columbia

"The Doctor of Lennox," forthcoming novel by A. J. Cronin, as a Wesley Ruggles production.

"Passage West," by Sidney Bedell and Frederick Frank. Fred Kohlmar will produce.

—RKO Radio

"Kiki," screen rights to which were owned by Mary Pickford. Cliff Reid will produce and Garson Kanin will direct.

—Republic

"The Last Headline," by Frank MacDonald, to Republic. He has also been set to direct.

—20th Century-Fox

"For Women Only," by Hilda Stone, for production by the Sol Wurtzel unit as a sequel to "Hotel for Women."

Scripters

—Columbia

S. K. LAUREN to "This Thing Called Love" for Producer William Perlberg.

KEN ENGLUND borrowed from Walter Wanger to collaborate with GEORGE SEATON on "The Doctor Takes a Wife."

—Edward Small

LEWIS MELTZER borrowed from Columbia to work on "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," the Washington Irving classic.

—Metro

ROBERT LEES and FRED RINALDO to "Good News," which Arthur Freed will produce with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland co-starred.

ANNA LEE WHITMORE to "The Ziegfeld Girl."

COREY FORD and ALASTAIR MACBAIN to "Canterville Ghost," a Milton Bren production.

JULIEN JOSEPHSON to an untitled "Tarzan" feature. Lucien Hubbard will produce.

HUGO BUTLER and MARGUERITE ROBERTS to "Willow Walk," Joseph Mankiewicz production which will star Robert Montgomery.

DORE SCHARY to "Broadway Melody of 1941." Jack Cummings will direct.

—Paramount

FRANCES MARION to "Miss Susie Slagle's."

LOUIS KAYE to polish "The Road to Singapore," now in production.

JOHN BALDERSTON to "Victory," from a story by Joseph Conrad.

GARNETT WESTON to "The Way of All Flesh."

BARTLETT CORMACK to Cecil B. DeMille's "Northwest Mounted Police."

HORACE McCOY and WILLIAM LIPMAN to "The Woman From Hell," a story by J. Edgar Hoover, which Edward T. Lowe will produce.

CHARLES BRACKETT to "Triumph Over Pain," forthcoming Arthur Hornblow jr. production.

—RKO Radio

SAM and BELLA SPEWACK to "Kiki."

—Republic

BETTY BURBRIDGE to "Down by the Old Mill Stream."

ELIZABETH PAGE to "Dark Command," forthcoming John Wayne starrer.

GERALD GERAGHTY to "Grand Old Op'ry," forthcoming Gene Autry starrer, which William Berke will produce.

SCOTT DARLING to "Girl From God's Country," in which Charles Bickford will be starred.

CHARLES BELDEN to "The Wolf of New York."

JACK TOWNLEY to "Everybody's Happy," next "Higgins Family" picture.

—20th Century-Fox

CLARK ANDREWS and DAVID BURTON to "Marriage in Transit."

—Universal

WILLIAM CONSELMAN to "If I Had My Way," forthcoming Bing Crosby starrer, which David Butler will produce and direct.

—Walter Wanger

SONYA LEVIEN to "So Gallantly Gleaming," a story by Peter Ordway and Harvey Thew, based on the life of General John Fremont.

—Warner

ROBERT ROSSON to "My Son."

JOHN MEEHAN to "We Shall Meet Again," forthcoming Merle Oberon starrer.

FRED NIBLO jr. to "Patent Leather Kid." George Raft will be featured.

NORMAN REILLY RAINE to "Benefit of Mankind."

Technically

—Academy Productions

FRED PARRISH to handle still photography on "And So Goodbye."

STEPHEN GOOSSON to design sets for "And So Goodbye."

—Samuel Goldwyn

GREGG TOLAND to photograph "The Westerner."

—Metro

GEORGE MACON and JOHN WATERS, technical advisors on "Arouse and Beware," are hunting locations for battle scenes in the Civil War picture.

ARTHUR GRUBE, head of the Los Angeles division of the U. S. Secret Service, acting as technical advisor on "Counterfeit," current "Crime Does Not Pay" short.

LEN SMITH photographing the Fred Astaire-Eleanor Powell dance sequences in "Broadway Melody of 1940."

EDDIE WOEHLER set as assistant director and ART SMITH as unit manager for "Arouse and Beware."

JERRY BRESLER replaces HORACE HOUGH, ill, as assistant director on "Shop Around the Corner."

AL SHENBERG set as assistant director on "Marx Brothers Go West."

DR. E. SHACKMAN signed as technical supervisor on scenes for "Congo Maisie."

TOM ANDRE and MARVIN STUART named production assistants on battle scenes in "Arouse and Beware."

RALPH SHUGART, HOWARD FELLOWES, FRANK MACKENZIE and HOWARD VOSS handling sound on "Arouse and Beware."

GILL KURLAND scouting locations for "Congo Maisie."

—Paramount

JOE YOUNGERMAN heads location troupe of 55 actors and technicians to 29 Palms for scenic backgrounds and cattle roundup shots for "Buck Benny Rides Again."

—Republic

ART SITEMAN set as unit manager on "Dark Command."

KEN HOLMES and PHIL FORD named assistant directors on "Dark Command."

MACK D'AGOSTINO set as unit manager on "Drums of Fu Manchu."

—Edward Small

STANLEY LOGAN signed as dialogue director on "My Son, My Son."

HELEN TAYLOR to design feminine costumes for "My Son, My Son."

—Universal

MAURICE WRIGHT editing "Danger on Wheels," Richard Arlen-Andy Devine co-starrer.

Penner and RKO to Part; Disagree on New Pact

Unable to agree on terms of a new contract, Joe Penner will leave the RKO Radio acting roster upon completion of his next assignment, "Glamour Boy No. 2," which is scheduled to get under way November 27, studio attaches disclosed. Penner has been with the studio for the past four years. His last film was "The Day the Bookies Wept." Future plans for the radio-screen comedian have not been announced.

Edward Gross has been handed a term contract as associate producer at Republic. Gross recently returned from New York, where he had been working to complete organization of Rainbow Productions, an independent unit, plans for which now are indefinite. Likewise indeterminate at the present time is the status of a contract which Gross holds with Buck Jones for the production of four action features starring the veteran screen cowboy. Gross formerly was associated with Sol Lesser and with David L. Loew.

Republic's writing staff dwindled in size again with the departure of Lionel Houser, who completed work on the script of "Dark Command." Only seven writers are currently on the lot, a new low for the year.

Jane Bryan East for P. A. With "We Are Not Alone"

Scheduled to make a personal appearance in connection with the New York opening of Warner's "We Are Not Alone," Jane Bryan, who shares co-starring honors with Paul Muni in the picture, has trained east. She will spend several weeks there doing interviews and radio broadcasts, now being set by Warner publicists.

Hugh Herbert opened a week's p. a. engagement in Minneapolis November 24, following which he is scheduled to return to Hollywood and picture-making activity.

An all-time record for a p. a. tour by a screen star is being claimed following the return of Eddie Cantor from a seven-week itinerary in theatres between Chicago and Brooklyn. Figures released assert he played to 843,217 persons and grossed $268,509—all in the 40-75-cent admission bracket. Cantor's act included Leni Lynn, Metro starlet; the Mad Russian; Mr. Guffy and the star's pianist. Stopovers were made in Pittsburgh, Boston, Brooklyn, Washington, Chicago, Columbus, Toledo, South Bend, Rockford, Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester.

Laughton and Pommer Sign RKO Contracts

Suspending activities of their Mayflower Pictures Corp., English production unit, because of war conditions, Charles Laughton and Erich Pommer have inked individual contracts with RKO Radio. Laughton will star in an untitled story to be produced and directed by Leo McCarey, this to be followed by a second which Pommer will produce. Pommer will debut as an RKO Radio producer with a picture starring Maureen O'Hara, to follow her forthcoming assignment in "A Bill of Divorcement."

"Laddie" Again

After a four-year rest, RKO Radio will again film "Laddie," the novel by the late Gene Stratton Porter. Cliff Reid has been set as producer for the feature which the same company made previously with Gloria Stuart. Bert Granet is scripting.

Production Falls to 40 as Holiday Stops Work

The observance of Thanksgiving Day, causing a general shutdown in all the studios, contributed to bringing down the production total to 40, several notches under the mark attained in recent weeks.

Columbia gunned two pictures—"Daughters of Today" and "Five Little Peppers Midway"—to raise its total to five. Metro held to its eight-picture total by starting "Arouse and Beware" and finishing "The Earl of Chicago." Monogram broke a long idle spell by signalling a start on "Front Page Lady."

Three went into work at Paramount, giving that plant a total of eight. Starting were "Golden Gloves," "The Way of All Flesh" and "The Man From Bar 20." Republic hit an idle stretch by completing "The Days of Jesse James" and "The Narrow Path." RKO Radio, likewise with no new starts, is filming five.

Hitting a seasonal low, 20th Century-Fox has but two in production, starting "Shooting High" and finishing "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Little Old New York." United Artists producers are filming four, Selznick International having completed "Rebecca." An equal number is in work at Universal, including a new start, "Road to Romance." Gunning "We Shall Meet Again," Warner nevertheless is far below par with only three in work.

RCA Television Topic at SMPE Unit Meeting

Discussion of the new RCA television transmitter-receiver demonstration unit highlighted a meeting of the Pacific Coast section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers held November 20. Wesley C. Turner and Irving Steinberger demonstrated the unit, which was made available to the film engineers prior to shipment east after it was displayed at the San Francisco World Fair.

Homer Tasker was chairman of the meeting, held in the RCA building.

Jules Levy Returns East After Coast Huddles

Jules Levy, former sales manager for RKO Radio, has returned to New York after spending some time in film colony in conference with a number of local studio executives. Levy, prior to his departure, had no announcement to make as to his plans for the immediate future, although he had disclosed earlier that he plans to enter the independent production field.

Hope-Goddard Again

Paulette Goddard has been signed for the feminine lead opposite Bob Hope in Paramount's "The Ghost Breakers," reviving the Hope-Goddard team which appeared in "The Cat and the Canary." Elliott Nugent will direct for Producer Arthur Hornblow jr.

Film Critics Meeting To Be in Hollywood

DETROIT—The first convention of the National Film Critics of America will be held late in February or early in March in Hollywood it was decided at a special meeting here of the executive committee.

The organization of newspaper film editors will award prizes for the best performances in 1939 by a male and female star, and for the best supporting players. It also will select the best picture of the year, and name the young man and woman, new to pictures, most likely to succeed during the coming year on the basis of their freshman work in films.

Selections will be made by a nominating committee for the stars, supporting players and best picture.

Into Twelve Districts

The country has been divided into 12 districts by the critics with a governor in charge of each one.

Number I district will comprise New York and New Jersey.

Governors and the district from which they were named follow: Prunella Hall, Boston *Post,* district II, comprising Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut; Harold W. Cohen, Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette,* district III, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and the District of Columbia; Eddie Cohen, Miami *News,* district IV, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida; Boyd Martin, Louisville *Courier-Journal,* district V, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

Harry Martin, Memphis *Commercial-Appeal,* district VI, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas; Buck Herzog, Milwaukee *Sentinel,* district VII, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin; Keith Wilson, Omaha *World-Herald,* district VIII, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska; Merle Potter, Minneapolis *Times-Tribune,* district IX, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota; John Rosenfield, Dallas *Morning News,* district X, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and New Mexico; Herbert Larson, Portland *Oregonian,* district XI, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, and Jimmy Starr, Los Angeles *Herald-Express,* district XII, California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

Roly Young of the Toronto *Globe and Mail* was named governor of the Canadian and Nova Scotian district.

Potter, Herzog and Wilson met here as members of the executive committee. Only member absent was Harry Martin. The committee plans to hold occasional meetings.

Switch Helms

Directorial assignments on two forthcoming Paramount productions have been switched. Kurt Neumann has been taken off "Golden Gloves" and assigned to "A Night at Earl Carroll's," while Edward Dmytryk, originally scheduled to direct the "Carroll" vehicle, moves over to "Golden Gloves."

S-I Studios Will Close Three or Four Months

A shutdown of from three to four months, during which the studio will be operated by a skeleton maintenance staff, has been ordained at Selznick International, with some 200 office workers and salaried technicians receiving two-week notices of the impending layoff. Actual shutdown will go into effect when "Rebecca," now being completed by Director Alfred Hitchcock, has been edited and scored.

David O. Selznick, head of the company, plans an extended vacation. Daniel T. O'Shea, who succeeds Henry Ginsberg as vice-president January 1, will remain in charge of the lot. Don Roberts, who has been handling publicity for the studio, will report back to the Russell Birdwell publicity staff.

American History Leads WB Featurette Lineup

Leadoff picture on Warner's 1940-41 program of historical featurettes will be "The American Cavalcade," tracing the country's history from its discovery by Columbus to the present day. Film will be made as a two-reeler in Technicolor from a script by Charles Tedford. Gordon Hollingshead will supervise production.

Mervyn LeRoy Assigned To "Waterloo Bridge"

"Waterloo Bridge" will be directed for Producer Sidney Franklin at M-G-M by Mervyn LeRoy, with Robert Montgomery and Vivien Leigh as the co-stars.

Two Set at 20th-Fox

Two directorial assignments have been made at 20th Century-Fox. David Burton will pilot the untitled sequel to "Hotel for Women," featuring Lynn Bari and Joan Davis. H. Bruce Humberstone will direct the next "Cisco Kid" feature for Producer John Stone.

Lang Assigned

Walter Lang has been assigned to direct 20th Century-Fox's "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," starring Linda Darnell, with Roland Young in a featured role. Shooting starts in January.

Leads for "Susan"

"Susan and God," which George Cukor will direct for Producer Hunt Stromberg at M-G-M, will have Fredric March and Greer Garson in the leads. Picture hits the cameras in January.

Borrow Billie Burke for "Irene"

RKO Radio has borrowed Billie Burke from M-G-M for one of the toplines in "Irene," the Anna Neagle starrer, which Herbert Wilcox is producing and directing.

Committee Heard on New Pacific Unit

SEATTLE—A special meeting in the Northwest Film Club quarters was attended by executive members of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the Northwest to hear the report of a special committee formed recently to gather data concerning the Pacific Coast Conference of the Independent Theatre Owners.

At the annual convention of the MPTO, it was agreed that the organization would join the Conference and the committee was selected to iron out the details.

Fred Mercy jr., chairman, reported favorably on all findings, and it was motioned that a general meeting of all independent exhibitors of Washington and northern Idaho be called for December 5. This get-together will take place in Seattle and the committee there will make its recommendations. It is expected that at this meeting the new organization will be formed and arrangements made for the election of officers.

Among those attending the MPTO meeting besides Mercy were Bill Ripley, Longview; Gene Groesbeck, Enumclaw; John Danz, president of Sterling Theatres, Seattle; Hugh Bruen, Whittier, Cal., executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference of ITO; L. O. Lukan, president of the MPTO of Seattle, and Jim Hone, executive secretary of the MPTO of the Northwest.

Grombacher Reported to Reopen the Esquire

PORTLAND—Reports are that the Esquire will reopen, possibly within the week, under the management of Ray Grombacher, former Spokane operator and since then manager of the Liberty here. Tentative plan was to divide the week between foreign films, such as the house previously featured, and standard productions. No announcement had been carried by local dailies early in the week.

Add to Soldiers' Home Theatre at Sawtelle

SAWTELLE, CAL.—Latest addition to the Old Soldiers' Home is a 1,486-seat theatre, being constructed by the Veterans' Administration of Washington at a cost of $66,-700. Filmery will be finished in about six months. Construction is of concrete and reinforced steel and is being done under the supervision of A. M. Gordon.

W. E. Callaway Returns From Eastern Confabs

LOS ANGELES—W. E. Callaway, Warner coast district sales manager, has returned from New York after parleys with Gradwell L. Sears, the company's sales head, concerning plans for handling "We Are Not Alone" in this territory.

Local 150 Reelects Three Officials Unanimously

LOS ANGELES—Members of IATSE Projectionists Local 150 unanimously reelected E. C. Hamilton president, M. J. Sands secretary-treasurer and T. W. Armentrout business manager in a general meeting November 17. The three were chosen for new terms as sole candidates, no other members running for the offices.

Primary balloting on contested offices will take place December 11, with a runoff, if necessary, December 26. These include J. B. Kenton, John Maynard and R. L. MacDonald, for vice-president; R. W. Haywood and G. J. Schaffer, business agent; W. H. Fife, R. L. Haskell, E. L. Robbins, W. G. Crowley, L. D. Mitchell, E. E. Spicer, M. Nielsen, Nat Goldstein, L. M. Wutke, P. R. Cramer, C. A. Vencill, J. R. Pylet, E. L. Marvin, J. H. MacDonald, A. L. Feinstein and R. M. Carlson, executive board.

Local 159 Holds 31st Anniversary Banquet

PORTLAND — Motion Picture Operators' Local 159, IATSE, held its 31st anniversary banquet Monday night, November 20, at Columbia-Edgewater Country Club. Close to 250 members, wives and visitors attended. Guests introduced by President G. G. Speck included O. M. Jacobson, international representative; C. Kirkpatric, Centralia; Boyd Andrews, Olympia; W. H. Jarmon, Tacoma; Russ Phelan, of the newly formed ushers' union; Carl Adams, representing film exchange employes; Eugene Allen, editor of the Oregon *Labor Press*, and Gust Anderson, secretary of the Portland central labor council. A 12-piece orchestra provided music for the dinner-dance. Leslie Smith headed the committee in charge of arrangements.

Warner Day-and-Dates Two L. A. Theatres

LOS ANGELES—A day-date, first-run policy has been established by the Warner circuit in its Wiltern and Beverly theatres. To be a permanent procedure, it will serve as a clearing house for Warner program product which otherwise would be sloughed off or completely ignored in the circuit's two top-flight day-date houses, the Downtown and Hollywood. Opening bill was "The Return of Dr. X" and Republic's "Main Street Lawyer."

Stars Help Xmas Basket Benefit at Flagstaff

FLAGSTAFF, ARIZ.—To stimulate interest in the theatre's Christmas Basket fund for needy families, personal appearances were made at the Orpheum by Errol Flynn, Miriam Hopkins, Randolph Scott, Humphrey Bogart and other members of the cast of Warner's "Virginia City," which has been on location for several weeks in this area.

Ready "Marriage in Transit"

HOLLYWOOD—Clark Andrews and David Burton are teamed on the script of 20th-Fox's "Marriage in Transit."

Trade Neutral Toward Zanuck-Fabian Row

LOS ANGELES—An almost unanimous unwillingness to take sides in the dispute characterized the reaction of showmen hereabouts to the open letter from Darryl Zanuck, production head of 20th Century-Fox, taking to task Si Fabian, of Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady, N. Y., for pulling "Drums Along the Mohawk" out of the house after six days despite record grosses.

Most operators explained they did not want to commit themselves because, as yet, they have not learned the reason behind Fabian's action. In general, Zanuck's appeal to the nation's showmen to cooperate in the wartime crisis by extending runs wherever possible fell on deaf ears. What comment was forthcoming took the form of support for Fabian. For example:

Sol Moehler, executive of the Harry Vinicof circuit, declared he did not blame Fabian for pulling "Drums Along the Mohawk" out, high grosses or not, because "when a studio makes a percentage picture it gets all the gravy and we get none."

Murray Hawkins, of the Swan circuit, had this to say:

"If the distributors wouldn't predicate their new year's contracts according to the amount of business done in the preceding year, it would give us exhibitors the incentive to plug pictures for extended runs." He refused further comment, however, on the grounds he did not know the circumstances under which Fabian pulled the picture.

Robert H. Poole, executive director of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., declared he intends to wait receipt of more complete details concerning the situation from both Zanuck and Fabian before he can make any official comment for the ITO. Likewise maintaining a discreet silence were Fox West Coast circuit executives, who asserted they could have nothing to say in the absence of President Charles Skouras, who is on a business trip north.

John Ludwig's Melvan in Los Angeles Opened

LOS ANGELES—With a number of Universal contract players making personal appearances, John Ludwig opened his Melvan Theatre, an 800-seat house, here. The house is being managed by Joe Leo on a 25-cent admission scale. Initial attractions were Metro's "Lady of the Tropics" and Universal's "Hero for a Day." The theatre is completely modern throughout. Equipment was furnished by the Breck Photoplay Supply Co.

Ludwig also operates the Roosevelt in Milwaukee, where he has been in show business for many years. Currently he is conducting a survey in several other states with the view of constructing other theatres.

Townley Gets "Happy"

HOLLYWOOD—Jack Townley is scripting "Everybody's Happy," next in the Higgins Family series for Republic.

SEATTLE

BIGGEST excitement of the week was the earthquake that shook the whole northwest a few seconds. Only real damage was done at Tacoma, but the shake was strong enough to throw many a scare into Seattle folks. Downtown theatres witnessed their patrons dashing out, while hotels experienced the sight of their guests scrambling for the sidewalks. Hugh Bruen, in from California, said that on looking out of his swaying hotel room he saw all the larger buildings swaying from seven to ten inches. The quake did not do the show business any good for a couple of days, because many folks had the idea there was a second one coming . . . The janitors' union, affiliated with the Theatrical Federation, is now endeavoring to unionize Filmrow. Requests sent to exchanges have been sent on to the New York home offices.

Surprise of the week was the resignation of A. J. Sullivan after six years with National Screen Service. Sullivan is leaving to join the staff of United Artists in Spokane. Jack Flannery, boss of National, said that he has no idea who will replace Sully but does not expect anyone on the job until after the first of the year . . . Erwin Fey, exhibitor from Renton, announces he will build a new theatre in that town. Plans already have been drawn by Bjarne Moe and work will start within the next forty days. New house will seat approximately 550 . . . The Northwest Film Club has acquired the services of Mrs. Lillian Thompson, noted bridge expert, to act as instructor for the game every Friday evening.

Coast division managers of distributing companies all seem to be in town at the same time. Now here are: Jerry Safron, Columbia; Harry Cohen, RKO Radio; W. E. Callaway, Warner Bros., and Al O'Keefe of Universal. Bill Heineman, sales chief of the western division for Universal, also has arrived. Bill came in by plane from Montana where he has been doing some hunting with northwest exhibitors. A good gang of exhibitors and circuit heads were at the plane to welcome Bill and the dailies were generous with stories and art, for Bill was once a poster clerk in Seattle. Rex Thompson of Port Orchard and Ned Edris of Hamrick-Edris theatres in Tacoma were Bill's hunting companions and all managed to garner a large buck.

The social event of the week was the church wedding party of Betty Pritchard and Frank Christie. Society turned out en masse, but show business was represented by Glenn Haviland of Paramount, who acted as best man, and Dwight Spracher of Paramount, who was one of the ushers. Frank, the groom, is head booker for Fox-Evergreen theatres, while Betty has been his secretary for some time. The happy couple is now honeymooning in California . . . Basil Gray, business agent for the stagehands' union and executive of the Theatrical Federation, thinks stage entertainment is due for a healthy comeback. Seattle now has five spots playing vaudeville weekly. They are the Palomar, Rivoli, Embassy, Show Box and the Ranch . . . The Moore and the Metropolitan each feature well known concert artists and the Met brings in Broadway stage attractions when available.

Fred Hartman, for years with the Sterling chain, has once again joined the circuit and is busy renewing old acquaintances . . . Pat Madigan of Metro was selected by the exchange employes union to act as delegate to the regional meeting held in San Francisco . . . Frank Hargrave of American Seating Co. was successful in selling to the city a large number of seats for busses now being built for the new transportation system . . . R. J. Peratovich, exhibitor and merchant of Klawock, Alaska, is in town buying and booking pictures . . . Art Aaronson of Southern Poster is here from Los Angeles visiting with Don Beckman, manager of Western Poster . . . Glenn Haviland back to Spokane now that the wedding is over for the Frank Christies . . . Cliff Challew, manager of the Liberty, was changing to his street clothes from tux when the big earthquake happened. He emerged from his office in tux trousers and sports shirt singing "California Here I Come." He claims it made him homesick.

Eddie Prisk, assistant to Colonel Dow of the Tower in Bremerton, has been ordered to report to the Revella Theatre in Ketchikan, Alaska, to relieve Eddie Abegglen while Ed takes a vacation. Both houses are in the Ben Shearer circuit . . . Claude and Mrs. Jensen of the Jensen-von Herberg chain in from Portland to take their first gander at the new von Herberg youngster born a couple of weeks ago. They moved out of their hotel room the minute the quake was over . . . The laugh of the shake-up was handed out by Eddie Hudson of General Film, who was visiting here from Portland. Eddie was in bed when the walls started to do tricks. He jumped up in a hurry and got his foot caught in his pant leg and could not get it in or out. By the time he did get his pants on the excitement was over, but just the same Eddie stayed on the sidewalk for a couple of hours after.

H. S. McLeod, head of TUSCO Theatre Equipment in the Northwest, in from Portland for a couple of days, then back and taking with him the sample Holmes projector for display . . . Leroy Johnson, general manager for the Jensen-von Herberg circuit, and his wife Alys postcarding from Salt Lake where he arrived after a record breaking drive. The way he is traveling, he is only about one day out of Seattle . . . Keith Beckwith and Eddie Miller captured the high honors in the bridge tournament at the Film Club this week . . . Mrs. M. S. Bornstein lunching on the Row with her daughter, Mrs. Wally Rucker . . . Fredi Shartin home from her visit in Los Angeles.

Sheldon Retchin, of the Warner sales staff, is gaining local fame as a basketball player. Sheldon has joined the Alpine gang in the city league and is now one of the star players . . . Word from Portland that Toby Leitch has joined the ranks of benedicts and has settled down to home life. Congrats to you, Toby and "Silvertop" . . . Ed Halberg from Port Angeles proudly showing a BOXOFFICE *clipping of his brother Evar seated chatting with Wayne Morris at the Warner studios . . . Stanley Gottstein of National Screen taking a whole evening to enter his exams for civil service . . . Vete Stewart, Portland manager for Warner, here for a day with the division manager . . . Carl Walker, coast division head for Warner Theatres, visiting for a few days and looking grand.*

Golf foursome of the week was J. T. Sheffield, head of Republic; Paul Westlund of the American Theatre; Gene Groesbeck of Enumclaw, and Ernie Shields of Kent . . . The Hollywood Theatre cooperated with the Roosevelt Commercial Club and gave a special show for Thanksgiving and gathered a truckload of food for poor families . . . W. B. "Bill" McCurdy in town in advance of the stage play, "Golden Boy," due here shortly at the Metropolitan . . . G. E. Hutchings in from Dishman for the first time since he opened his new theatre there . . . Harry Smith over from Spokane in the interest of his equipment business . . . Clarence Farrell over from Ellensburg.

Murray Peck, manager and master of ceremonies at the Rivoli, renewing friendship with Jimmie Greer and Leon Mojica, the band leaders . . . Earl Pederson being billed as the "Silver Voice Thrust" and there was a reason . . . Henry Davidson over from Port Angeles, his first trip since the long vacation tour . . . Lynn Peterson over from Bremerton and telling his newest story . . . Walter Olson delivering eggs from his brother's ranch . . . B. F. "Ben" Shearer stopping to give a life to a streetcar waiter . . . B. C. Johnson telling of a new gag he has with his monthly programs.

Roseville Roxy Burns

SAN FRANCISCO—The Roxy Theatre at Roseville was destroyed by fire of undetermined origin. It is reported that the fire resulted in a total loss. The house had been operated by John Peters and Jimmy Lima. Rebuilding plans have not yet been announced.

Next Crosby for Universal

HOLLYWOOD—Next Bing Crosby starrer for Universal is "If I Had My Way." David Butler will produce and direct, with William Conselman scripting.

'Tomorrow's Exhibitors'

Combining Smart Showmanship with Smart Merchandising, taking advantage of every opportunity to promote a service unmarred by inconveniences to their clientele, will

"Automatically Increase Box Office Take"

Burch Super Showman popcorn machines, and candies of all kinds completing this service, will play an important role in Theatre earnings.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

S' FRANCISCO

THE town had on a really festive Thanksgiving air all this week. Night and day the downtown streets were packed with shoppers and "Turkey Day" talk featured most conversations. During the week, hundreds of turkeys were given away at the theatres and special holiday bills planned by the exhibitors played to packed houses. The city staged a huge Mardi Gras celebration Tuesday night which featured bands, floats and all forms of entertainment designed to make gay spirits prevail. However, if you ask San Franciscans, the turkey-carving that took place around noon Thursday rated top-billing in their book.

British Empire Night was celebrated at the Fox Monday evening, when Consular-General P. D. Butler and members of various local British organizations attended the screening of "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" . . . Louella Parsons and her company of "Stars of 1940" *were a distinct hit at the Golden Gate this week on the first stop of their personal appearance tour. What made an impression locally is that each star put on a real act and did not follow the traditional performances of such shows, which heretofore had contained no more than a "hello" from each performer. The company included Ronald Reagan, Jane Wyman, Arleen Whelan, Susan Hayward, Joy Hodges, and June Preisser—and how everyone went for the latter two!*

An estimated crowd of 30,000 jammed the environs of famed Fisherman's Wharf here Sunday to catch a glimpse of the marriage of Yankee-slugger Joe DiMaggio to film-actress Dorothy Arnold at SS Peter and Paul's cathedral . . . Leo Carrillo and Tamara Geva are due at the Curran December 4 in "Red Bumblebee," and Republic is thinking about reissuing "Manhattan Merry-Go-Round," which features that pair and Joe DiMaggio, around the same date. Taking advantage of some very nice publicity, we'd say!

The Sunday roto section of the Chronicle *featured a three-page spread on "Ninotchka," which opened at the Paramount this week. All we can get out of Ed Beck, Metro p. a. here, is that he "managed" for the spread . . . Screenings this week included: M-G-M's "Ninotchka;" Warner's "Return of Dr. X;" and Republic's "Main Street Lawyer" . . . Irving Ackerman tells us he soon will become interested in two or three more theatres in this area . . . "Babes in Arms" is in its fifth Market Street week at the St. Francis.*

Ramblings on the Row: Circuit and exchange employes for the most part had Thursday off, and many took advantage of the holiday by taking trips out of town . . . Doc Henning of Pacific Premium is back in town after a New York jaunt—and he came back driving a new car that he picked up in Detroit . . . Walter Preddy and Lawrence Borg have purchased the properties housing the Ellis and Bay Shore theatres . . . Ken Hodkinson, a former Filmrowite, was in town for a few days from Bend, Ore., where he is building a new theatre which will open soon . . . The Solano at Fairfield has been sold by the Redwood circuit to T. R. Moore . . . Lynn Ruggles, booker for the Matson Line, has returned from a short vacation spent traveling in California.

Around the Row we saw: Bill Wagner, El Campanil, Antioch; G. Bilyeu, Port Chicago Theatre, Port Chicago; Herb Harris, Stockton; Arthur Barnett, Rex, Oakland; G. W. Taylor, Pescadero; and G. W. Page, Calistoga; Dan Nunan, Turlock; and O. R. Restano, Sonora . . . The equipment houses continue to hint of forthcoming new houses and remodelings in the Bay area, but are holding up definite information . . . Mel Klein, Columbia booker, is back at work after a cold had laid him up for several days.

Bill Stober Will Manage New Theatre for Sohns

SEATTLE—Bill Stober, for the past few years connected with TUSCO theatre equipment Co., is leaving the company to take over management of the new Den Theatre now being built at Lake Burien, a suburb of Seattle, by Mel Sohns of Kirkland. Grand opening has been set for Christmas Day.

Admit Juveniles Free at Four Long Beach Houses

LONG BEACH, CAL.—All children under 12 years of age were admitted free to special Thanksgiving Day matinees staged in Fox West Coast's West Coast and State theatres and at Milt Arthur's Palace and Long Beach houses, the stunt having been worked out by Arthur in collaboration with George Bowser, district manager.

PORTLAND

TOWN and civic leaders participated in the opening Tuesday night of the Joy Theatre, A. A. Taggart's new $40,000 house in Tigard. Seating 500, it is air-conditioned and boasts modern construction features and equipment. A florist shop and a coffee shop share the building . . . W. E. Callaway of Warner, flying through to Seattle from the south, stopped in Portland to pick up Vete Stewart, local manager . . . The Hamrick-Evergreen staff looked forward to a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Newman sr., of Seattle, who were expected to spend Thanksgiving with Frank jr. and family.

William J. Heineman of New York, western sales chief for Universal, was a Portland visitor last week. A. J. O'Keefe, western district manager, came along from California . . . Here also was Harry Cohen, district manager for RKO . . . Mentalist Jay Clarke rated a week's holdover at the Liberty, with a special morning matinee for ladies only. What price feminine intuition?

Sammy Sigle down from Seattle, helping put over "Eternally Yours" at the Broadway . . . Western Poster's Don Beckman another fugitive from Sound City . . . And Art Aaronson of Southern Poster calling from Los Angeles . . . Relatives from Canada visiting Sylvia Haycox, notice all men wear hats in the States. Wait until they hit a college town.

Exhibitors traveling farthest to call last week included K. Piercy, Prineville; G. L. Rose, Milton-Freewater; Don Meyers, La Grande, and Lee Ryan, Ashland . . . Jack Kloepper away on a junket to Medford, and Jack O'Brien to Baker . . . Johnny Harvey, Universal booker, will be back at his desk in time to read this. He's been visiting his parents in California.

Mrs. Mark Corey was hostess at a bridge and cocktail party Saturday afternoon at the Corey home. Guests included Mrs. Ted Gamble, Mrs. Jack Kloepper, Mrs. Al Anderson, Mrs. Vete Stewart, Mrs. Howard Mapes, Mrs. Lou Amacher, Mrs. Tom Shearer, Mrs. Jennie Beale, Mrs. Charlie Powers and Mrs. Humble.

The new Liberty Theatre at Gilchrist, built by the Gilchrist Lumber Co., will open around Christmas under the management of B. A. Stover, of Bend, according to word along Filmrow. The house, seating 500, *is being completely equipped by the B. F. Shearer Co., including Motiograph projectors, RCA sound equipment and Heywood-Wakefield full upholstered chairs. The local Shearer outlet also is supplying equipment for Keller and Randall's new house at Salem, to open about January* 1. *And a new carpet installed by the Capitol here.*

Sally Rand's star-studded revue twinkled at the Orpheum Theatre without Sally Monday. The world's fairly famous fan dancer boarded a Southern Pacific train Sunday heading south, chartered an airplane at Klamath Falls and arrived at San Francisco to fill a booking in Uncle Sam's bankruptcy court in San Francisco. She arrived back by air Monday night, too late to appear that day. The Orpheum held the show for a second week. "Sally Sand," another fan dancer, also was held over at Paul's Music Hall and Cabaret.

H. G. Mapes of Star Film Exchange is planning for his annual New Year's party, to which the entire film industry is invited, from ushers to producers, without regard to geographical boundaries. The custom is to gather at the Star establishment anytime after noon on the day before New Year's and see the old year on its way. Last year, more than 1,800 *Tom and Jerrys went down with* 1938. *That's hearsay, but* BOXOFFICE'S *representative plans to cover the affair personally this year to provide an authentic report. Come yourself, if you are able.*

ITO Hosts Community Merchants at Meet

LOS ANGELES—With local newspapermen and community merchants sitting in as guests, the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz. held a general membership meeting and luncheon November 20 to discuss current problems. Invitation to newsmen and merchants was issued by Robert H. Poole, the ITO's executive director, in an effort to secure closer cooperation between them and neighborhood independent houses, and to bring to their attention the value to the community of the independently operated theatre.

Topics up for discussion included the ITO-Warner zoning and clearance "conciliation," the new state labor act and its effect on exhibition, and current activities of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Operators, of which the ITO is a charter member. Members decided to observe November 23 officially as Thanksgiving Day, with special matinee programs and holiday prices on that day, and agreed against the advisability of observing November 30 because schools will be open and it will, they felt, be difficult to establish matinees in view of that obstacle.

Ground work for ITO participation in the annual Community Chest drive, now under way, was laid, with the entire membership expressing eagerness to cooperate as in the past. ITO headquarters will serve as clearing house for funds collected by various members in their theatres.

Rites in Los Angeles for West Coast Showman

LOS ANGELES—Death from a lingering illness came to Emil Umann, veteran theatre operator and publicist, on November 21. He was 37. Services were held at Home of Peace Chapel November 23 with burial following in Home of Peace Cemetery. Surviving are his widow, mother, three brothers and two sisters.

Umann operated the Regina Theatre in Beverly Hills. A native of Russia, he came to the United States as a child and, during his career, worked for Loew's Warfield Theatre in San Francisco, was an exploiteer for William Fox and Rodney Pantages, and was press representative for the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco under Cliff Work, now studio manager at Universal. He opened the Regina Theatre in April, 1937.

Cullen Espy District to First in FWC Drive

LOS ANGELES—Displacing Thornton Sargent's Los Angeles first-run district, Cullen Espy's No. 1 Fox West Coast Theatres district has moved into first place in the fourth annual National Theatres drive at the end of the ninth week. Sargent moved down to third after eight weeks in the top spot, John Hamrick's Evergreen circuit—FWC subsidiary—jumping into second.

AN INVITATION to sit in on a meeting of the Oregon Independent Theatre Owners in Portland, December 6, has been accepted by Robert H. Poole, executive director of the Southern California ITO. He leaves for the north December 1 . . . Jennie Dodge, operator of the Mission Theatre in Ventura, has returned from an extended vacation in New York.

Business called Jimmy Burden, Warner salesman, to San Diego . . . Bill Swanson has postponed the opening of his next stage show indefinitely while his Beaux Arts Theatre is being remodeled. He recently concluded a successful run of "White Cargo" and at the same time kept busy by operating the Ojai Theatre, a film showcase, in Ojai.

Funeral arrangements are being planned following the death here of Harry Popkin's father. Popkin is a partner in the Popkin-Ringer circuit . . . Vacationing locally is Johnny Harvey, Universal booker from Portland, who checked in just as local exchange-ites began giving the office a thorough cleanup and remodeling . . . Bill Heineman, Universal's western district sales head, came in from a hunting trip.

Paul Catom, operator of the Maynard Theatre, and Hazel Payne, of Clarksville, Ark., were married in Tijuana, Baja, Cal. . . . A loyal U.S.C. rooter, Fred Hershon, who operates the Trojan Theatre near the university campus, boarded the school's "Trojan Special" to train for South Bend and attend the U.S.C.-Notre Dame football classic . . . Hally Chester of screendom's "Little Tough Guys" was a Filmrow visitor.

Sam Nathanson of Coast Pictures checked in from San Francisco, where he set up a branch office with his brother Dave in charge . . . Remodeling jobs are being done on the San Carlos Theatre in San Carlos, a Jimmy Edwards house, and on Ned Calvi's Lomita in Lomita . . . Booking visitors: Clarence Mullins, World Theatre; Francis Terrizo, Mission; Bob Dunnegan, Liberty, Blythe, Ariz.; Paul Glick, in from Canoga Park; Ben Bronstein of the Union; Seth Perkins, San-Val Drive-In, Burbank; Harry Vinicof, Vinicof circuit; Harold Glass of the Gordon; Claude Spaeth, manager of the Congress; Ben Peskay, Banner Theatre; Sam Decker, in from Palms.

Fred Hershon, partner in the Garden Theatre, Belvedere, has purchased Jack Goldberg's interest in the house and will take over its operation November 26 . . . Charles Skouras, Fox West Coast president, and W. H. Lollier checked in from a theatre-inspection tour through northern California . . . United Artists held a trade screening of "The Housekeeper's Daughter" at the Fox Boulevard Theatre November 21.

Ralph Dostal, Columbia booker, is breathing a bit easier these days. His car, stolen from Filmrow, was recovered undamaged in Santa Monica.

Dave Rector, booking for his Ebell Theatre in Long Beach, disclosed he plans to construct a new house in Lenox, Calif. . . . Ground has been broken for the Hawaii Theatre, new house to be constructed on Hollywood Blvd. by Jay Sutton and Albert Galston, operators of the Marcal and Center.

Lorraine Valuskis, operator of the Bell Theatre in Bell, has dropped her Warner contract and lowered prices from 25 to 10 cents . . . Jimmy Burton, Warner salesman, checked in after a trip through the Arizona territory, and Sam Milner, who sells for Universal in the same state, pulled out on a periodic sales jaunt.

L. W. Gray has moved in as manager of the Fox Belmont Theatre in the Long Beach area, temporarily replacing Fred A. McSpadden, granted leave of absence because of illness . . . Harry Zeidell, manager of the Fox Alpha in Bell, is the proud father of twin daughters born to Mrs. Zeidell at the Bell maternity hospital November 12.

Al O'Keefe Universal's western district manager, off to Seattle . . . Lillian Coates, contract clerk at Universal, on sick leave, with Mrs. Merle Shapiro filling in . . . Coast Pictures has donated to the L. A. Griffith Park Zoo the diamond-black rattlesnake it had been displaying in the office window, a gift of Chick Sturdivant, Yuma, Ariz., showman.

C. T. Lynch, Metro exchange manager, and George Hickey, western division manager, are attending the company's sales parley in Chicago. They're headquartering at the Drake Hotel . . . Richard L. Bare is installing Simplex sound in his new theatre out Claremont way, and which he will call the Village.

Sam Milner, Universal salesman, is back on his Arizona stand . . . Bookings for his theatre brought "Ote" Lewis in from San Gabriel.

Rose Arnold, mother of Agnes Arnold, of the Fox West Coast secretarial staff, passed away at the age of 70 . . . Scheduling conferences with circuit executives and partners of the chain, President Charles Skouras of Fox West Coast has headed toward northern California for a few days.

Majestic exchange is undergoing a remodeling and redecorating job . . . Earl Strebe opened his Palm Springs Theatre November 23 with "Ninotchka" as the initial attraction. House has been reseated with Krohler Push-Back chairs.

Adapts Broadway Play

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has assigned Delmer Daves to write the screenplay of "The Night of January 16th," from the Broadway play.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
1964 So. Vermont RO. 1145
LOS ANGELES

SALT LAKE

A SPECIAL showing of the Metro short, "Drunk Driving," was attended by Chief of Police William C. Webb and other officers, reports Sam Gardner, branch manager . . . The *Tribune-Telegram's* annual four-day winter sports show brought capacity crowds to the auditorium here.

The motion picture committee of the Salt Lake Federated Women's Clubs met to hear recommendations and reports of the committee's progress.

Eddy Diamond is managing operations at the Broadway Theatre, owned by Joe Kerikas . . . William McFarlane of the Manti Theatre, Manti, Utah, has moved into his new home there.

Dave McElhinney of M-G-M is recovering from injuries suffered in a recent fall . . . Joe McIlhinney, associated with 20th-Fox's local branch, has been assigned to Singapore.

A spelling bee tieup with a local radio station, and providing cash prizes and a radio, has resulted gratifyingly for the Capitol Theatre . . . Manager W. W. McKendrick has completed a deal with Intermountain Theatres, Inc., for the new season's Monogram product.

"Hi" Knutson, operator of theatres in four towns in Montana (all called State), is visiting in Salt Lake City, according to Joe Madsen, United Artists office manager here. Knutson operates the State theatres in Livingston, Gardiner, Big Timber and Harlowton. He only visits this city about twice a year to arrange his bookings.

Hagenbeck-Wallace Sues F&M Circuit

LOS ANGELES—Charging breach of contract, Hagenbeck-Wallace Shows, Inc., has filed suit in U. S. district court against Fanchon & Marco, Inc., seeking $15,475 in damages plus interest and court costs. Plaintiff charges F&M signed a contract last May agreeing to lease a Hagenbeck-Wallace circus for a five-week tour through southern California; that the plaintiff delivered equipment and livestock to F&M, and fed and cared for the animals and equipment for four weeks; and that, at the end of that time, the defendant returned the property and refused to continue operation of the circus.

Hagenbeck-Wallace sets the rental figure in its action at $2,500 weekly.

Gets Italian Film

LOS ANGELES—Bill Smith of Jewel Productions has been named coast distributor of "Stella Del Mare," Italian-made musical starring Galliano Massini, Italian operatic tenor.

Two Handle Same Title

LOS ANGELES—Both Coast Pictures and Majestic are handling pictures titled "The Living Dead." The former's film was made in Germany and smuggled into this country. Latter is an Alliance Films production, made in England.

Oregon Exhibitors To Meet Dec. 6

PORTLAND—A statewide meeting of exhibitors, called for the purpose of setting up an independent exhibitors' organization in Oregon, will be held at the old Heathman Hotel at noon Wednesday, December 6. R. H. Poole, executive secretary of Independent Theatre Owners of Southern California and Arizona, will be principal speaker.

The proposed organization will embrace all of Oregon and others in the Portland territory, including those of southern Oregon and northern California not affiliated with their own state groups.

William Graeper, manager of the Egyptian Theatre, of Portland, heads a committee to call the initial meeting. It is planned ultimately to affiliate with the Pacific Coast Conference group, Graeper said.

New Production

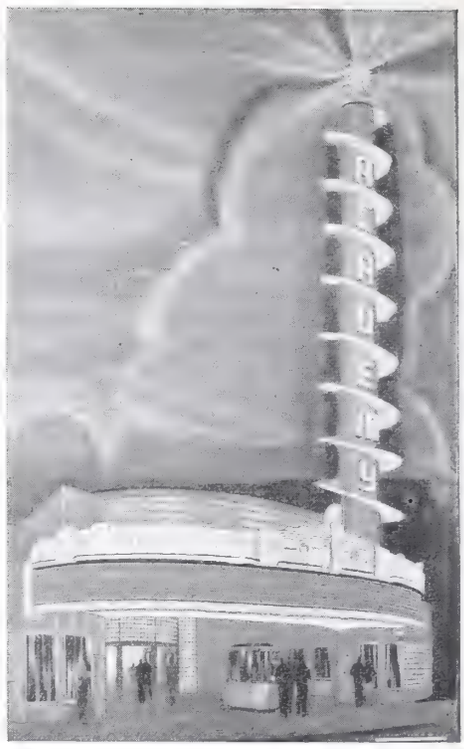
SEATTLE—The following announcement was mailed to the many friends of J. G. von Herberg, of the Jensen-von Herberg Theatres in Seattle:

SENSATIONAL
NORTHWEST PREMIERE!
A real life drama.
Presented by
The Kansas Wonder Girl
GENE DENNIS
(Mrs. J. G. von Herberg)
AH WA! AH WA!
featuring
The New Baby Star
JAY GENE von HERBERG
Produced by .....J. von Herberg
Technical Director.....Dr. Richard O'Shea
Setting .....Swedish Hospital
Date of premiere: Nov. 6, 1939
at 12:22 o'clock p. m.
A 20TH CENTURY PRODUCTION
If it's a J. von Herberg production
It's Super Colossal!
MUSICAL INTERLUDES
"We're sitting on Top of the World"
.....Family Ensemble
"How'm I Doin', Hey! Hey!"
.....Baby and Nursery Chorus
First encore—"Wa Hoo"
Second encore—"Goona Goo"
Sound effects by Baby Star in person.
Wardrobe by Vanta (Subject to change without notice)
Entire Production Underwritten and Financed by "POOR PA"

Comments:
Personal appearance tour for Coming Year Under Management of Dr. Walter Bale Seelye
WORD FROM THE STAR
"Mother is doing fine—Father's doing okay too—and MIGHTY PROUD."

Gets Maynard Re-Issue

LOS ANGELES—Coast Pictures has acquired for reissue "Phantom Rancher," starring Ken Maynard, and Tim McCoy in "Straight Shooter."



Newest for FWC—

Latest addition to the Fox West Coast circuit, the Academy Theatre in Inglewood, Calif., which opened amid gala festivities, is depicted here in an architect's conception of the finished structure. Seating nearly 1,200, it has a 40-cent admission scale and is managed by James Brinton. Architect S. Charles Lee provided such appurtenances as the tallest theatre spire in America, 150 feet high; the largest marquee in Southern California, using 946 letters; and a parking area serving 352 automobiles.

Increase in Tourists

SALT LAKE CITY—Utah tourist travel jumped approximately 21 per cent the first 10 months of 1939, compared with the corresponding period of 1938.

Speed Inglewood Construction

INGLEWOOD, CAL.—The new Argo Theatre, a unit in the Milt Arthur chain, is being rushed to completion and is expected to be open within three weeks.

Irvine Buys Out Steiner

LOS ANGELES—D. B. Irvine has purchased the Rio Theatre from Esther Steiner. Irvine also operates the Gem in Southgate.

Exhibitor Into Thespic Ring

Pasadena, Cal.—After years of experience as an exhibitor, Joe Green, veteran operator of the Raymond Theatre, is soon to take a fling at the acting profession. He has been signed for a featured role in "Trail Blazers," independent feature to be produced by Retsama Pictures, in which he will portray Claire Windsor's father.

Metro Sales Chiefs Convene in Chicago

CHICAGO—M-G-M district and branch managers were here this weekend to hear details and plans of the sales policy and exhibition plans on "Gone With the Wind." The meeting was held Saturday and Sunday at the Drake Hotel.

Here from New York were William F. Rodgers, Eddie Saunders, Tom Connors, Alan Cummings, Howard Dietz, Si Seadler, William R. Ferguson, Eddie Aaron, Mike Simons, and L. V. Calvert of the Selznick office.

From the coast came Al Lichtman and David O. Selznick.

District managers here were J. T. Flynn, G. A. Hickey, Harris P. Wolfberg, J. J. Maloney, C. E. Kessnich, M. N. Wolf and E. K. (Ted) O'Shea.

Branch managers attending included: Ralph Pielow, Albany; R. Avery, Atlanta; J. P. Byrne, Boston; R. W. Maw, Buffalo; B. H. Rosenwald, Charlotte; W. E. Banford, Chicago; E. M. Booth, Cincinnati; Frank Drew, Cleveland; L. Bickel, Dallas; H. A. Friedel, Denver; D. C. Kennedy, Des Moines; F. J. Downey, Detroit; W. W. Willman, Indianapolis; F. C. Hensler, Kansas City; C. T. Lynch, Los Angeles; J. F. Willingham, Memphis; Sam Sherman, Milwaukee; W. H. Workman, Minneapolis; T. J. Donaldson, New Haven; C. J. Briant, New Orleans; J. Bowen and B. Abner, New York City; W. B. Zoellner, Oklahoma City; H. J. Shumow, Omaha; R. Lynch, Philadelphia; B. Bishop jr., Pittsburgh; L. Amacher, Portland; J. X. Quinn, St. Louis; S. J. Gardner, Salt Lake City; L. C. Wingham, San Francisco; M. Saffle, Seattle, and R. Berger, Washington.

Outlines History and Aims Of Indiana's Film Group

BLOOMINGTON, IND.—The history and aims of the Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays were outlined at a meeting of the local Council of Women by Mrs. Ross Lockridge.

The address originally was to have been made by Mrs. Martha B. McFadden, president of the Bloomington Indorsers, which was organized less than a year ago.

Indianapolis Chapter Will Hold Meeting December 5

INDIANAPOLIS—The local chapter of the Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays will meet in regular monthly session on December 5 at the Claypool Hotel.

Fox Varsity Corp. Seeks Return of Tax Payment

MILWAUKEE—The Fox Varsity Corp., operator of the Varsity Theatre, filed suit in federal district court against Otto A. LaBudde, collector of internal revenue, for the return of $263.40 capital stock tax paid under protest for the period of July 1, 1936, to June 30, 1937.

Xmas Basket Party Plans Underway

Chicago—Shortly after BOXOFFICE went to press last week, and after this publication had contacted several industry leaders on the matter, plans for the fifth annual Movie Christmas Basket Parties at all local theatres were made. The date will be Thursday, December 21, and chairmen again this year will be Jack Kirsch of Allied and Morris Leonard of the Exhibitors Association. Cost to exhibitors will be $5.00 per theatre, which will include trailers, one-sheets for the lobby, bags for food stuffs, etc. Film will be furnished free by the film companies, with all the unions furnishing the labor of their members gratis.

Taverns in Sheboygan Move Against Ascap

MILWAUKEE—The Tavern Music Protective Ass'n of Wisconsin's movement for a test case against Ascap on charges of discriminatory and arbitrary fees is gaining momentum with the formation of a Sheboygan chapter.

The organization has gained as its champion in that city, Charles E. Broughton, editor of the Sheboygan *Press*, who in editorials has commended tavernkeepers and hotelmen for their stand and has stamped the business methods of Ascap as being "questionable."

Broughton has demanded that the secretary of state, Fred R. Zimmerman, force Ascap to adhere to chapter 177.01 of the Wisconsin statutes or cease its activities in the state. This statute requires that an organization such as Ascap secure a license from the secretary of state to operate.

"The first consideration of the officials of this state is the welfare of the people of Wisconsin and Mr. Zimmerman is in a position to guard their welfare and at the same time fulfill a duty that his office has a right to exact. It is our belief that Mr. Zimmerman will act with dispatch and call the Ascap to account. No one has any right to jeopardize the welfare of Wisconsin citizens by threats from without the state, and on the other hand refuse to abide by our laws," one editorial stated in part.

Predicts a General Return To Singles Within Year

MILWAUKEE—Benjamin J. Miller, secretary of Variety and secretary of the former Film Board of Trade, in an address to the Propeller Club at the Republican Hotel here predicted that within a year the single feature programs again will prevail. "The movie industry is anxious to give the public what it wants, and I believe the people are getting tired of long programs," Miller said.

Product Buying Brisk In Chicago Area

CHICAGO—Buying continues brisk, with all of the exchanges starting now to work on odds and ends to be cleaned up before the end of the year.

Universal and Paramount continued to lead, both well past the 425 mark, out of a possibility list of a little over 500 for the entire Chicago exchange area. Next in line continues still 20th Century-Fox and M-G-M, with Columbia, RKO, Warner and UA trailing among the majors. However, Monogram and Republic are well sold among the exhibitors in this territory, as all exhibitors are planning to use either one or both of the top independents to bolster their total lineup for the year.

As is already known, UA has completed its deal with B&K and Great States for its current season's product and now will no doubt go out and clean up its contracts pending with other circuits and independents.

Buying Cooperative Plans Seem Destined to Wait

CHICAGO—With most exhibitors locally starting to talk terms now with Warner, 20th-Fox, RKO, and United Artists—the companies against which they were holding out earlier in the buying season—it begins to appear that the projected buying cooperative of independent exhibitors will be shelved for the current season.

There would be nothing for the indes to gain by banding together at this time of the year. Practically all of the top circuits and most of the independents already have bought their requirements.

However, most independents queried about the cooperative have not given up the thought. It appears that they will continue making preparations that, it is hoped, will make possible operations by the time the 1940-41 buying season starts early next fall.

Orders Discontinuance of "Ten-O-Win" in Oshkosh

MILWAUKEE—While the city attorney's office here was studying a police complaint on "Krazy Auction" conducted by several local theatres, Dist. Atty. Lewis C. Magnusen at Oshkosh ordered the Oshkosh Theatre to discontinue "Ten-O-Win."

Magnusen advised the theatre that the game constitutes a lottery and a public nuisance under the recent state supreme court decision.

The "Krazy Auction" complaint here was brought by police to Dist. Atty. Herbert J. Steffes, who, in turn, referred it to the city attorney's office. The Comet Theatre, north side neighborhood house, was cited in the complaint.

Collaborate on "Gables"

HOLLYWOOD—Lester Cole and Harold Greene will collaborate on the screenplay of "The House of Seven Gables" for Universal.

MILWAUKEE

WARNER-SAXE's Modjeska, south side nabe, has installed new seats . . . Fox is conducting a $200 "Search for Talent" contest at its Zenith, Paradise, Venetian and Riviera theatres here in cooperation with a local clothing firm.

The local Warner Club staged its annual party at the Chateau Country Club . . . Mrs. Benjamin J. Miller, president of the Variety Club auxiliary, entertained members of that organization at a tea at her home. Mrs. Jack Silliman and Mrs. Frank Fischer poured.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Arthur Kerlin post No. 16 staged a benefit matinee theatre party at the Majestic in Cudahy with canned goods as the admission price.

Fox has held over "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and "Drums Along the Mohawk" at its Palace and Wisconsin theatres here, respectively. First flicker was soloed the first week but is being dualed the second, while the B film on the Wisconsin program has been changed for the second week.

The Embassy at Neenah, which operated only weekends during the summer, is again on a full time schedule, according to Gilbert Courshon, manager.

Walter Bie, local attorney, appeared on Armistice Day programs arranged by the American Legion at Standard Theatres' Bay and Strand theatres and Fox's Orpheum in Green Bay.

Edward Benjii, manager of the Capitol in Madison, arranged for pictures of the Wisconsin-Purdue and Wisconsin-Minnesota football games, which were shown at the theatre the day following the games.

Horror shows built around appearances of Dr. Silkini and the flickers "The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" and "The Return of the Frog," have been getting a big play in many Wisconsin houses.

Fred H. and William S. Smith are going ahead with plans for their new 750-seat house in Menomonie originally announced some six months ago . . . Even the Greendale in Greendale, model federal housing project, has succumbed to the lure of dish night and is offering free dinnerware on Thursdays and Fridays.

Standard Theatres' Bay in Green Bay is now playing vaudeville on Saturdays and Sundays at no increase in admission prices . . . The Slinger Theatre at Slinger is dark . . . August C. Geyer, operator of a theatre at Palmyra, is erecting a new house at East Troy.

Buys Chilton Rex

CHILTON, WIS.—Edward M. Starkey of Berlin, Wis., operator of the Rex Theatre there, has purchased the Chilton Theatre here from Mr. and Mrs. John Steenport, who have operated the house since it was built in 1931.

Label "Opera House" Is No Tax Shield

CLAYTON, MO.—While modern neighborhood theatres may present films that are described as "stupendous" and "supercolossal," such superlatives are not sufficient for them to qualify for the tax exemptions accorded the old village opera house, Judge John J. Wolfe of the St. Louis county circuit court has decided.

The efforts to place the modern theatre in the same tax class with opera houses developed from a suit brought on behalf of the St. Louis Amusement Co. which operates as part of its chain the Maplewood Theatre, Maplewood, Mo.; Richmond, Richmond Heights; Tivoli, University City, and the Shady Oak, Clayton, all within the jurisdiction of St. Louis county for tax purposes. The company invoked an 1875 Missouri statute in resisting a $100 amusement tax levied by the St. Louis county court against each of its houses.

The 64-year-old statute provides "that no tax shall be levied or collected by a county, village, third or fourth class city or in cities of special charters and having less than 5,000 inhabitants, upon any theatrical or minstrel performance held in any village opera house."

During the course of the hearing before Judge Wolfe, counsel for the company and the county debated at length on the meaning of the village opera house.

Both sides agreed that motion picture shows are theatrical performances; but the big issue was whether the theatre could qualify as an opera house within the meaning of the statute.

The plaintiff's attorneys argued that while motion pictures had not been invented in 1875, and that this type of theatrical performance necessarily could not have been in the minds of the legislators when the bill was passed, nevertheless they certainly contemplated that the law should cover all kinds of dramatic exhibitions, including those similar to modern motion pictures. They contended that in 1875 the opera house was synonymous with the theatre.

Counsel for the county on the other hand said that the old village opera house can better be identified as an auditorium, town hall or meeting place where "local talent presents melodrama and minstrels, where magic lantern shows and third-rate troupes of actors performed."

Judge Wolfe took the view that the theatres could not qualify for the tax exemption.

Stage Show and Premiere For St. Louis Rio Bow

ST. LOUIS—The 1,000-seat $150,000 Rio Theatre, erected by the Riverview Theatre Corp., opened here with a gala stage show and a premiere showing of "Rulers of the Sea."

The theatre will be managed by the Fanchon & Marco interests in conjunction with the St. Louis Amusement Co. fleet. The price scale for the new house is to be adults 35 cents and children 10 cents.

INDIANA

EARL W. PENROD, the Bank Night man in Indiana, made a trip to Chicago . . . Edward R. Budd, who for the past few years has been with Guercio & Barthel in Chicago, has been transferred to the Ger-Bar office in Indianapolis as salesman.

Dick Vlastos, operator of theatres in Fowler, Knox and Williamsport, Ind., will also operate the new Fowler in Fowler, Ind., now under construction and being built by business men of that town. The new Fowler is expected to open around December 15.

The Settos circuit is planning to open the new Vogue in St. Mathews, Ky., around the first of December. The theatre is being equipped by Ger-Bar of Indianapolis with projectors and lamps.

H. H. Johnson, operator of the Ohio and Madison theatres in Madison and the Palace and Ritz in Rensselaer, Ind., recently purchased new sound for the Palace in Rensselaer, which is managed by Floyd M. Kendall.

John Servaas, operator of several theatres in Indiana, has purchased new projectors and sound for the Indiana Theatre, Martinsville, which was recently destroyed by fire. The theatre is being rebuilt and Servaas expects to reopen it in December.

Art McRaven, sales manager for Big Feature Rights, is confined to his home with the flu. Joe Bohn, office manager of the same company, has been in Owensboro, Ky., for a few days on business.

Newly-Named ATOI Board Holds Initial Meeting

INDIANAPOLIS—The first monthly meeting of the newly-elected ATOI board was held last Tuesday at association offices with the following in attendance:

H. Lisle Krieghbaum, Rochester; Harry Markun, Ernest Miller, Marc J. Wolf, Earl Bell, Oscar Kuschner, and Tom C. Baker all of Indianapolis; Leonard Sowar, Muncie; Joe Schilling, Connersville; Roy E. Harrold, Rushville; Trueman Rembusch, Franklin; Sam J. and Harry Switow of Louisville, Ky.; Sam W. Neall, Kokomo; H. H. Johnson, Madison; Walter F. Easley, Greensburg; Harry P. Vonderschmitt, Bloomington; Alex Manta, Indiana Harbor; and Don R. Rossiter, association secretary.

Holdup at Vogue

INDIANAPOLIS—A youthful bandit with a painted mustache held up Martha Walpole, cashier at the Vogue, north side house, and escaped with an unannounced amount of cash.

LeFevre to Hollywood

INDIANAPOLIS—Ned LeFevre, announcer for station WFBM and formerly with the Federal Theatre Players, has been called to Hollywood to appear on Producer Jesse Lasky's "Gateway to Hollywood" program.

Moon Only Explained How Combine Works

DETROIT—Further clarifying his position in connection with reports that he would head a new independent booking combine in Chicago, Raymond E. Moon, general manager of Mutual Theatres, said this week he had explained the workings of such a combine to interested Chicago exhibitors.

"They have problems they think can be solved by such an organization," Moon said, "and I told them what has been done in Detroit. As far as I know, however, they have no further plans affecting me."

Moon said he talked to Chicago Allied leaders at a meeting of the board of directors there.

B&K Builds Exploitation Around Color in Two

CHICAGO—With release dates of two Technicolor pictures—UA's "Four Feathers" and 20th Century-Fox's "Hollywood Cavalcade"—coming at the same time, B&K used the Technicolor theme as a selling angle. The two pictures were shown simultaneously at the circuit's big three, the Tivoli, Marbro and Uptown.

Copy featured that this was the first time that two Technicolor pictures were shown on the same double-feature program at once.

Six Sound Installations Announced by Klein

CHICAGO—Eddie Klein of RCA Photophone announces several recent installations in this area. They include:

Oriental, operated by Moe Annenberg, Milwaukee; Picadilly, recently remodeled by the Schoenstadts, Chicago; Coronet, B&K, Evanston, Ill.; Rex, Lou Reinheimer, Chicago; new theatre being constructed in Pontiac, by Eddie Zorn, and ready for opening about December 1; Kiel Theatre, Eskin circuit, Kiel, Wis.

Judell Prepares to Fight "Beast" Ban in Chicago

CHICAGO—With Harry Costello, police film censor, having rejected the film a second time, it is understood that Ben Judell's local office is going to fight the banning of "Beast of Berlin." Working with Branch Manager Abe Fischer to have the ban lifted, are members of the Civil Liberties League of Chicago and similar groups.

F. D. Nessel's Campaign On "Invitation" Best

CHICAGO — James Donohue, Paramount branch manager, announced that F. D. Nessel, manager of the State Theatre, Anderson, Ind., won the $50 award given by Paramount for the best exploitation campaign on "Invitation to Happiness," by any manager in the Gregory circuit.

CHICAGO

WE UNDERSTAND that M-G-M's star pipe smoker, Jack Shumow, has discovered a brilliant new English "blend."

Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck attended the Notre Dame-Southern California game Saturday. They requested, by the way, tickets on the Notre Dame side. Also attending were Jack Kirsch of Allied, Charlie Cooper, Tippy Harrison, Jimmy Coston and Harry Goldman.

Lou Berman, Universal booker, is a papa. It's a baby girl, Noreen Joy, and both mother and daughter are doing well at Passavant Hospital.

Russell Lamb of Mt. Morris, Ill., is building another new theatre there. The house will be ready within the next few months.

Jimmy Cagney was through here on the Santa Fe Chief en route to Martha's Vineyard, Mass., with the missus, for a couple months' rest.

Jim Jovaney tells us that his Superior Pictures has a picture that several circuits are using. It's "Mutiny of the Elsinore," based on the Jack London story, and starring Paul Lukas. It's set for the B&K, Essaness, Warner and Fox-Wisconsin circuits.

Dave Katz of Hollywood Advertising is around showing off his new line of Christmas valances, etc. . . . Mrs. Mike Godshaw, wife of the National Screen city salesman, is recovering slowly from a recent illness . . . Joe Skora reopened the Easterly on Thanksgiving Day . . . Roosevelt's Thanksgiving Day, that is.

Quite a novel mailing piece is that radio folder sent out by RKO's Leon Bamberger on the new Kay Kyser-Adolphe Menjou film, "That's Right, You're Wrong . . . Al Dezel is getting a lot of dates these days on his latest reissue, "The Lash."

The Warner Club will give a Christmas party for all brothers and sisters and children of club members the week between December 18 and 23 at the club rooms, on the sixth floor of the Warner Bldg. . . . Filmdom's Victor Moore, appearing with Sophie Tucker and William Gaxton in "Leave It to Me," is helping celebrate the golden jubilee of the Auditorium Theatre here. The anniversary date is December 9.

Jane Bryan of the Warner lot arrived on the Santa Fe Super Chief this week en route eastward. Another passenger was Lawrence Tibbett, arriving here for an operatic engagement.

Ben Shlyen, publisher of BOXOFFICE, was a weekend Chicago visitor, en route to New York.

Bill Bishop, M-G-M exploiteer, was back at the office this week, after being on the sick list for a couple days . . . Park Agnew, M-G-M home office representative, and Charlie School, home office auditor, were at the local exchange the forepart of this week.

Foreign Product Is Enough for Year

CHICAGO—There may be foreign product for well over a year in store for foreign film houses in the midwest, but patronage at such houses has dropped off since the start of the war. That is the opinion of Mannie Stutz, operator of the Sonotone Theatre here, which until the start of the war was almost exclusively the home of Russian Amkino product, but which now is using other foreign product, mainly French.

Besides the fact that there are many pictures available in New York for Russian, French, German and Scandinavian-language theatres, some ships are continuing to get through the blockades with new product. Seven new pictures have just arrived from Russia in New York. Among them is the Russian version of "Pinocchio," called, "Pinocchio, the Golden Key." It is another film utilizing puppets, human actors and trained animals. According to present plans, this one will be dubbed in English, and will be released around the Christmas holidays.

Charles Boyer is completing a French film in Paris, while on leave from his intelligence department duties. It is "Le Corsaire" (The Pirate), and will be shown here as soon as it is brought over. Similarly, Jean Gabin, France's number one mail star, is on leave planning to make another picture. Danielle Darrieux is set for another picture, with her director-husband, Henry Decoin, handling the direction, provided he can get leave from the propaganda division of the French government.

Essaness has plenty of product available, too, for its Swedish house, the Julian.

Joe Pastor, operator of the German Kino Theatre, is understood interested in the new Little Theatre, opened on Lincoln Avenue. This house, like the Kino, will show German product, including UFA, Terra and Bavaria Films releases.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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Mo. High Court Sends Nick to Appellate

JEFFERSON CITY — Ordering the case transferred to the St. Louis court of appeals, the Missouri supreme court has declined to assume jurisdiction over the appeal of John P. Nick, vice-president of the IATSE, and Clyde A. Weston, former business agent of Local No. 143, from the order of Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley ousting them from control of the assets and control of the union.

The unanimous opinion of the high court ruled that it was without jurisdiction since the case failed to show a monetary interest of $7,500, the amount required for it to take jurisdiction, and also because no proper constitutional question was raised.

Receivership Hearing Is Continued to Nov. 27

ST. LOUIS—Acting on his own motion, Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley has continued to November 27 the hearing of the permanent receivership action affecting the IATSE Local No. 143.

Judge Oakley reset the case after he had refused to set aside a default decree he entered against John P. Nick, vice-president of the IATSE, and Clyde A. Weston, deposed business manager of the union.

Judge Oakley, it will be recalled, overruled a motion by defense intervenors for a change of venue on the grounds that he is prejudiced.

Rudolph Accepting Bids For New Troy Theatre

TROY, MO.—Charles Rudolph has announced that bids will be received from contractors December 2 on the construction of his new theatre to be erected here.

The building is to be of brick construction and the equivalent in height to a three-story structure.

Buchholtz Accepts Building Bid at New Haven, Mo.

NEW HAVEN, MO.—A bid for the construction of the new theatre here for Walter J. Buchholtz of New Haven has been accepted. It is probable the contracts will be awarded within the next several days. The building is to be one-story with balcony and basement and will include a store.

Munchkin Plugs "Oz" For Chicago Houses

CHICAGO—Larry Stein, Warner publicist, made a tieup with the Oscar Mayer Co. here, whereby the company sends out a sound wagon with the personal appearance of one of the Munchkins in "The Wizard of Oz." The tieup is for the picture, and plugged the Ogden, Rhodes, Highland, Frolic, Shore and Symphony theatres. The Orpheum in Hammond has been included and will be visited the afternoons of December 9 and 10.

BOWLING

CHICAGO—Standings in the Warner Circuit Bowling League:

	Won	Lost
Avalon	20	10
Yannigans	19	11
Avalon Cubs	19	11
Beverly	18	12
Capitol	17	13
Ogden	16	14
Cosmo	15	15
Highland	14	16
Stratford	12	18
Hammond	10	20
Jeffery	10	20
Dead Enders	10	20

Ted Turrell remains at the head of the individual Warner League bowlers with a 176 average. Jones is second with 172, and the next five leaders in the order named are Busch, 168; Shire, 166, and Biltgen, 166.

Paramount, Film Carriers Tied for Top Honors

CHICAGO—The Film Bowling League continues a merry scramble for top honors, with Paramount and Film Carriers tied for first and four other teams crowding them. Republic continued its wild spurt of recent weeks by taking two from Film Carriers, dropping them into a tie with Paramount for first, who won two from National Screen. Universal won two from Photoplay while Warner was taking 20th Century-Fox for a pair. The standings:

	Won	Lost
Paramount	16	11
Film Carriers	16	11
Republic	15	12
National Screen	14	13
Photoplay	14	13
Warner Bros.	13	14
Universal	11	16
20th Century-Fox	9	18

Waldon Ryan Is Winner In Warner Contest

CHICAGO—Waldon Ryan of the Rhodes Theatre is winner of the assistant managers' exploitation contest for Warner houses and receives the Jimmy Coston Victory Trophy.

Other entrants finished in the following order: Francis Buckles, Frolic; Frank Reiger, Grove; Harry Corbett, Hamilton; Joseph Real, Highland; George Gross, Jeffery; Ed Friedwald, Oakland Square; Leo Ryan, Ogden; E. Sedlack, Shore, and Jerry McWhorter, Beverly. Honorable mention for other campaigns went to McWhorter, Friedwald, Corbett, Gross and Leo Ryan.

Judges of the contest were Charlie Ryan, Harry Turrell, Herb Wheeler and Larry Stein.

Rites for Morris Katz, Film Pioneer, Held in Chicago

CHICAGO—One of the pioneers of the film industry in Chicago, Morris Katz, was buried on Monday. He died suddenly last Friday. He was one of the founders of Balaban & Katz Theatres, together with his son, Sam, and A. J., and Barney Balaban in 1917. Prior to that the Katz family had operated several small theatres in Chicago.

Katz, who was 70, had retired from active participation in B&K about a decade ago. Attending the funeral were his sons, Sam, who flew here from the west coast where he is an M-G-M producer; Harry, who is a circuit operator in the east, and his two daughters.

Keep Pickets Before Seven F&M Houses

ST. LOUIS—While Circuit Judge Julius R. Nolte has under advisement the suits brought by the Fanchon & Marco Service Corp., the Eden Theatre Co., and the St. Louis Amusement Co. to restrain picketing at the Fox Theatre, a St. Louis deluxer, and at six neighborhood and suburban houses in the St. Louis Amusement fleet, the faction in IATSE Local No. 143 opposed to John P. Nick, vice-president of the IATSE, continues to picket the affected theatres.

After hearing six days of testimony in which the plaintiffs charged that the anti-Nick faction in the union had attempted to "extort" a contract and the union officials in turn had replied that the Fanchon & Marco interests had favored members of the local friendly to Nick, Judge Nolte declined the plaintiffs' request for an immediate injunction, and allowed counsel 17 days in which to file briefs.

Judge Nolte indicated he would not attempt to pass on one of the main issues raised by the companies—the right of the management to select operators of their own choosing and to shift them from theatre to theatre as it sees fit. The court held that point involved the element of collective bargaining.

So the issues are narrowed as to whether a labor controversy exists such as would justify picketing, and, if so, whether the tactics of the pickets are legal.

In this connection, Judge Nolte said: "There is great doubt in the court's mind as to the propriety of the circulars issued by the pickets and, if the court would grant an injunction, it would probably affect the literature. The court will not issue an injunction now, but may later set rules for picketing.

"I don't think the movie people (Fanchon & Marco) have been guilty of moral turpitude as charged. I am greatly disturbed over taking jurisdiction in this case without the union receiver being made a party to the action."

Last April, Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley of St. Louis named William M. Brandt, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis, and J. A. McKeown as co-receivers for the union, ousting Nick and Clyde A. Weston, business agent, from control of Local No. 143.

Two Wehrenberg Houses Cooperate on Benefit

ST. LOUIS—Benefit matinees were given the afternoon of November 18 at the Studio Theatre, Pine Lawn, and the Normandy Theatre, Normandy, under the auspices of the Normandy Kiwanis Club, through the courtesy of Edward E. Rudolph, manager of the theatres, which are part of the Fred Wehrenberg circuit. Admission to the matinees was obtained by the payment of canned goods. The food is to be distributed by the Kiwanis club to the needy families of the Pine Lawn and Normandy district on Thanksgiving Day.

Lincoln Paper Readies Reader Poll on Films

LINCOLN—The Sunday *Journal* and *Star* here is getting ready to embark on its biggest attempt in the matter of polling among its readers, the ten best motion pictures.

Some 85 exhibitors in county seat towns have been invited to participate by offering local prizes, in addition to the city-wide participation which will occur here with the Lincoln Theatres Corp., three houses; the Nebraska Theatres, Inc., trio, and the Capitol, Bob Livingston's independent.

Top prize in the Sunday *Journal* and *Star's* contest is a free trip, all expenses paid, to Hollywood for a three-day stay, and tour of M-G-M, Fox, and Warner's studios. This prize can be won by anyone participating.

In addition, each participating theatre offers nine passes—an annual, one for six months, three months, one month, and five singles. These will be awarded to winners in various local areas.

Contest, which drew 6,300 entries in 1938, will run throughout the month of December.

"Spook" Show Is Put on by Ferguson at Osawatomie

OSAWATOMIE, KAS. — R. W. Ferguson, manager of the Osawa here, put on one of the most successful "spook" shows on Hallowe'en night the town has even seen. Playing "The Man They Could Not Hang," Ferguson had six nooses hanging in the lobby and foyer made of one-inch hemp rope, for three weeks in advance. In addition, there was a hand painted hangman's noose cutout of box board and painted with background which carried copy on the spook show. A prize was given for the best costume, and Ferguson offered $5 to anyone who'd spend a night in the local cemetery and relate his experiences from the stage during the spook show.

Roy Palmquist Joins 'Nap-Ads' Company

KANSAS CITY—Roy Palmquist, for the past two years with Universal and prior to that with Paramount for 12 years, has been named representative in the local territory for "Nap-Ads," a Victor A. Cornelius, Inc., service.

Holmes Agency Open

KANSAS CITY—The Holmes Projector Theatre Supply is now operating at 1820 Wyandotte St. under the management of L. S. Brown. The firm specializes in the distribution of 35mm standard projectors, 35mm portable projectors and 16mm sound projectors. The area serviced covers Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and northern Texas.

Scripts "Susie Slagle's"

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has assigned Frances Marion to the script of "Miss Susie Slagle's."

Theatre Suffers as Hawkeyes Win

Iowa City, Ia.—The Iowa Hawkeyes' phenomenal football success isn't doing Iowa City's theatre business any good.

During the Friday evening pep meeting before the Iowa-Minnesota game, a large crowd gathered at the Englert Theatre and were held back by a cordon of police and deputized policemen. One of the deputies was forced back through a glass door of the theatre and suffered minor cuts and bruises. Eggs flew freely at the demonstration and splattered the front of the theatre.

Prize Protection Plan May Extend Scope

LINCOLN—If Bob Livingston's test case, being worked on his own without benefit of courts, lawyers, or advisers, against radio, works out over the next few weeks, he's going to submit it to the major theatre chains of the country.

He started something like this: The theatre has given Sunday and Thursday nights to radio already, and that not being enough, by the Horace Heidt Pot of Gold show, a major bite has been taken out of Tuesday after sundown. Pot of Gold spins the wheels of chance in the studio in New York, and gives $1,000 to any guy who is home and answers the phone when the long distance call is made.

Livingston advanced, captaining 1,000 silver dollars of his own, and hoped to launch a counter offensive over a period of the next few weeks which will kill off the fear among his prospective patronage that they might miss the gravy if they leave home.

Livingston's ad, on the Capitol Theatre, insured any person, if called, but not at home, but in the Capitol Theatre, would be paid $1,000. Since Pot of Gold gives $100 to the person if not home, his ad points out that presence at the Capitol is worth $100 more to the patron than being at home if the call is made.

Livingston has averaged up his Tuesday attendance since the Pot of Gold show started, and will take count for a couple of months more to find out whether the guarantee has retrieved any business. If successful, he will then broach a proposition to the circuits.

This will be it: If he can interest Loew's, RKO, and Paramount chains, he will have each house assessed $1 each week, a cinch to make a pot of $2,000 or more. Each theatre can then advertise its patronage as insured against the loss that many of them seem to fear. The chances are so slim that anybody will be involved who is in the theatre, Livingston believes five weeks of assessment will build up a protective fund which will cut down need of further war chest. Each theatre in on the proposition is protected cheaply against a major loss.

Ascap Findings Are Nearing Publication

LINCOLN—Newspapermen were told this week to expect a break soon in the anti-Ascap case, that the trio of judges—Gardner, Donohue and Munger, who heard the case argued in September—were about to publish their findings.

Both sides, it is understood, are ready to push the test case of Ascap constitutionality to the United States supreme court, whichever way the case goes in the federal court hearing here.

Ascap is now, and has been, since May, 1937, when the governor signed the anti-Ascap bill, operating under an injunction issued by the court restraining enforcement until the constitutionality was determined. The court was in receipt of pleas by the state to make the injunction dismissal, and refuse Ascap the right to conduct its "monopolistic" business in Nebraska.

Rachman's Second Parole Appeal Hearing Nov. 27

LINCOLN—Jules Rachman, former Omaha exhibitor who shot Harry and Sam Goldberg, his two cousins and business associates, on Dec. 2, 1932, comes up before the pardon board here Monday for the second time since he entered prison, Feb. 13, 1933.

He was refused leniency at the time of his previous pardon board appeal. He is sentenced to 15 years for the dual murder, but with good time, should the board refuse him again, he'll be eligible for freedom in 1941.

Rachman has a fine record in the penitentiary, having had a great deal to do with writing the present institution's honor system, and operating the prison's theatre. He has held every big inside assignment given to prisoners, and has no black marks against him.

Pardon board is made up of Governor R. L. Cochran, Secretary of State Harry Swanson, and Attorney General Walter Johnson.

Give Talent to Benefit Show at Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS—Acts from local theatres and night clubs participated in a benefit show at the Minnesota Theatre arranged by Cedric Adams, *Star-Journal* columnist, to raise funds for a small boy who lost both his legs when he was run over by a train. Nearly $2,000 was realized and turned over to the lad's parents.

Judy and Mickey Again

HOLLYWOOD—"Good News," to again team Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, is being adapted by Robert Lees and Fred Rinaldo. Arthur Freed will produce for Metro.

Doing "Tarzan" Original

HOLLYWOOD—Julien Josephson has been assigned to write an untitled "Tarzan" original. Lucien Hubbard will produce for Metro.

DES MOINES

AT LAST we've found someone who believes our story about the black eye . . . it's Grace (Ibinaround) Simons . . . Grace, by the way, is wrestling with the problem of getting her LONG fur coat outa hock while she's still paying on her SHORT fur coat . . . She calls that trouble! What if she couldn't figger out how to get ANY fur coat? (We buy little extra pairs of patent leather slippers and Cod Liver Oil for Mitzi, instead, Grace.)

Iowa Film wives and sweethearts were in on the turkey dinner the outfit threw at Red's barbecue Sunday . . . Chuck Plows (know him, Stan Mayer?), Iowa Film's most popular driver, backed into Johnny Moran the other day . . . Johnny wouldn't have complained, but he wasn't in his truck.

Looking at the Brantons (of the Tri-States Brantons), it's very obvious that their little 12-year-old Nancy has rightful claim to her extraordinary good looks from both sides of the family . . . but to which parent does she owe the personality we hear she has? She's taking ballroom dancing now, and they say even Nancy is amazed at the number of cut-ins by admiring young gents.

John Sherman was looking like the cat who just ate the canary over at Service Theatre Saturday . . . it wasn't a canary though, it was the fried chicken g. f. Hulda Clement plied him with the day before . . . National Screen kids rigged up their sample talking Santa outside Friedman's office so they can talk through it and let the boss in on what they want for Christmas . . . So far, Joe Smith's accent has received all the ribs in this column, but now Ben Lass is in for it . . . It was he who made us think those National Screen dolls were called "Little Sanda's."

Ann Lipovac was hit in the head with a rotten apple when she opened the window outside of which an absent-minded fellow employe had put one to cool weeks before . . . Beverly Press says she'll be Alec Rosenfeld's yes-woman on January 7 . . . Glenn Wilson, who argued with the doctor because he couldn't let him take three-days-old Robert Dale down on the Row, didn't wait much longer . . . Bob had his first squint at Pappy's workshop when he was just three weeks old.

All those fellows you saw wandering around High Street without any shirts were the smart Filmrowers who bet their first one on Notre Dame and their remaining one on Minnesota . . . Madrinne Silkebaken now has the expected addition to her family . . . it's a new red 1940 *Pontiac . . . Everybody was looking for A. H. Blank Friday, and why not? A. H. had a special car chartered to take him and entourage to the Iowa-Minnesota game.*

A cheery and gay-though-sober party from Filmrow was seen making whoopee over coffee at the Casa Loma the other 2 a. m. . . . Included were the Ben Lasses, the Mel Evidons, and the Jerry sp---whoa--- we mean Jerry Spandau and Esther . . . The alleged Chick Friedman nuptials were apparently a figment of some Filmrower's fevered imagination . . . Lou Elman must have gone from Michael's to the Row via plane Friday, for we saw him eating there when we left to telephone National Screen and by the time our call was completed, Lou was at National Screen!

Did we ever tell you about Florence Wylie, Jean Wylie's handsome mother who models gowns for Yonker Tearoom fashion shows? Jean's not so hard to look at herself, you're probably thinking if you've seen Jean . . . Bill Petite, DM Theatre assistant manager, should be told that after seeing to it that Clayton's Oakley worked at the boxoffice, we even made a dime on the deal (we found it just inside the door).

Because Harry Holdsberg has the flu, he has a telephone and a new pair of the cutest house slippers (that's what Madge Ward said) in his room at the Methodist Hospital . . . and whata room! The slippers were a present from Harry's sorrowing co-workers, and the card that Rol Gilatt designed to go with was a scream . . . It pictured a nifty little head stone to cheer up the ailing Holdsberg; a bevy of beauteous nurse angels hovering over the slumbering patient; a more realistic "Cavell" pursuing the frightened Harry with a rather intimate piece of hospital equipment and, finally, the sweating and recovered theatre manager being presented with the bill.

Ralph Abbott of the Jam Handy Co. was through here this week en route to Detroit . . . Bert Thomas rescued a Filmrow gal's gloves from out front at Republic where she'd dropped them . . . Opie Judd

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

HAYDEN PETERSON is back into the State Theatre at DM . . . It's a partnership agreement with Bob Boller . . . And in this connection, we've been hearing some fascinating tales about a goddess of the boxoffice, love, and parental disapproval.

Harry Hirchsteiner of the Family in DM has been another victim of the flu . . . That fellow dressed up like Groucho Marx out front of the Paramount was pulling 'em in off DM streets to see the three allegedly funnies.

Ernie Cass of the Orpheum in Strawberry Point is reported stymied somewhere in Texas with that nice new plane of his . . . too much rain.

Bob and Zoe Dawson paid a friendly call on Harry Huddleston's new house going up at Earlham.

George Frick of Graettinger used to be in the drug business "before they got to be hamburger joints."

Lyle Nolan (after finally getting enough gas to fill it up) drove his Packard in from Ruthven the other day . . . Lyle won't admit it, but the big gear shift job stalled and refused to budge back out of the city . . . The first time he had it in town, he emptied the pumps of one filling station and the tank was still half empty!

That smartly dressed woman lunching in at Brown's the other day was Kathryn Davis of the Monte in Montezuma . . . The natty-looking gent over at the other table was Charlie Peterson of Hampton.

We still haven't seen the elusive G. H. "Max" Maxon of the Strand in Jewell, but we've found out this much: He's short, pleasingly plumb, and veree pleasant. If reputation means anything, though, he couldn't be any better natured than Butch Lambert of the Monte in Monticello . . . Filmrowers say Lambert is Iowa's sweetest-tempered exhibitor.

We'll never understand why Ralph Green (psst! he's the young good-looking one on the left with the black hair and blue eyes), new owner of the Dodge at Ft. Dodge, changed the theatre's name from "The Polkadot."

We've been told that Hal Schroeder of the Lake View at Lake View knows more five-syllable words having an uncomplimentary connotation than anyone in the business.

Bob Fulton and Rose of the Paramount in Waterloo are taking a three weeks' leave of absence so that Bob can recuperate in the south . . . Kermit Carr of the Ottumwa in Ottumwa will watch the Paramount ducats for Bob in the interim.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Field of the Pioneer circuit in Minneapolis were visiting in DM last weekend . . . So were the Eddie Rubens of that town . . . Musta been the Iowa-Minnie game.

Sneak shots: Verne Hageman of the Waverly and Bremer theatres in Waverly, acting very business-like about it all . . . M. L. Dickson of the Temple in Mt. Pleasant not looking that way at all . . . Floyd Puffer of Cresco with his mind still on football . . . A. C. Ludwig wondering if the new baby's O. K. . . . Roy Baltsey of the Bussey in Bussey stuttering about something or other . . . Earl Kerr of Marshalltown—the perfect bachelor always . . . W. J. Newcomb of the Iowa at Williamsburg looking exactly what he is—one of the youngest, gayest and peppiest exhibs in the state.

Jack Bouma from the Rialto in Pocahontas and H. A. Johnson of the Diagonal at Diagonal were on the Row.

and Dimples Lohman have been shopping in secondhand shops for safes, trunks and shot guns (and don't ask us why).

Ask Art Anderson about the new word he added to our vocabulary one day . . . Since Omaha has come into Lou Levy's life, he's seldom seen on the DM Row . . . Elmer Tilton is another who divides his attention between DM and that Nebraska town.

Emil Franke's been watching Screeno, newly installed in the Orpheum, closely, and is highly optimistic . . . And those 80 hospital nurses' reservations for "Cavell" have been keeping him cheerful, too. Not missed in the "Dancing Co-ed" scenes here was Carolyn Frasher, who formerly lived in DM and appears in the M-G-M film (lookee, Mr. Kennedy) as a co-ed.

Rufus Blair's trip for Paramount is paying big dividends. A full page of R&T roto tomorrow presents the "10 best for 1940" as picked by Paramount . . . and the magazine section cover last Sunday was turned over to that traveling man, Mr. Gulliver . . . "Gulliver's Travels," by the way, will hit the screens ahead of RKO's "Pinocchio." If we remember correctly, it'll be on view about Christmas time, while Disney's latest won't be released until Easter.

"Cavell" outdid "Allegheny Uprising" at the Orpheum . . . Everybody's speaking very highly of Burton Jerrell's Iowa-Notre Dame football film (we got stung with some not of the Iowa Flashes caliber, Jerrell) and those who saw them made a bee-line for the Flashes recording of the Iowa-Minnesota classie (or was it?)

We very nearly didn't recognize Howard Dunn in the Shrine lobby, he's getting to be such a chubby one . . . We spoke anyhow but weren't sure until we spied him with the pretty Tri-States' Hazel . . . Being loyal M-G-Mers, the Dunns couldn't miss seeing the legit version of Leo's film, "On Borrowed Time" (how'm I doin', Kennedy?)

Kenneth Casey, who steals apples in the touring production and understudies the Pud role, pays the film an odd compliment. "I haven't seen the movie 'On Borrowed Time'," sezzee. "I'm afraid I wouldn't be interested in the play if I saw the picture." Another who hadn't seen the film was Don Grant, who grabbed Clayton's assignment to review the play here and then credited John Barrymore with the "Gramps" part in the M-G-M production.

That Los Angeles real estate firm which is publicizing Carl Weeks' new 14-room French Norman house in the Westwood Hills district of L. A. as Weeks' California home, isn't getting the idea across here. The Armand Co. president insists the $25,000 structure is an investment.

Those blonde Ames, Ia., Leininger twins —Medeia and Zellettia, you figure which is which—who have their eyes on Hollywood, took a step in the right direction when they got a chance to perform for the Chicago Association of Dancing Masters at the group's Des Moines meeting.

Johnny Neagle, *R&T's* most colorful photographer, took a shot of the Orpheum marquee featuring "Anna Neagle" . . . He's blowing it up for his Mommy who's name

(Continued on page 37)

KAYCEE

THE story of the week concerns Joe Stark, perspicacious film salesman for Paramount, who went calling on McDonald & McDowell of the Rich Theatre, Caldwell, Kas., the other day. They suggested that it would be a fine night for duck shooting on their private lake near Caldwell, and invited Joe to participate. At the lake the three slipped up to the water and looked. There, floating about, was a large flock of ducks. "You shoot, don't you, Joe?" Sure, he did. So McDowell & McDonald suggested he slip around the lake, approach cautiously, and bag a few. It was tedious work, but Joe did. He was able to get very close (surprisingly close), and let go with both barrels. The splinters from the M&M decoys flew all over the place.

A tip for those who get their copies of BOXOFFICE *"swiped." Lew Chatham of Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc., keeps his locked in a cabinet in his office. No one has tried to seal the cabinet—yet—he says.*

H. J. Griffith of Griffith-Dickinson is due back in town any day now from a deer hunting trip 80 miles south of Austin, Tex.

Hearing by the zoning board of Bertram Rosenberg's application to rezone the City Ice plant at 4826 Oak for a $100,000 theatre, will be heard by the board December 6.

Dave Williams was scheduled to reopen the old Valley Theatre in St. Joseph, Mo., over the weekend. It has been renamed the Grand.

E. G. Swank and his son, Warren, of Burlingame, Kas., were Filmrow visitors this week. Others on the Row included Louis Griefe, Windsor, Mo.; Gus Diamond, Salina, Kas. . . . Wm. "Benny" Benjamin is in town for the holidays . . . Vaughan Mann, manager of Frank Cassil's Rialto, St. Joseph, Mo., was a guest at the Variety Club luncheon Monday.

Big news of the week was the marriage here last Tuesday of Mike Roth, National Screen Service, Omaha, and Sally Silverman of New York. The ceremony was performed by Rabbi Samuel Mayerberg.

Variety Club will have a free dinner this Monday night at the clubrooms. All members are urged to attend the dinner and meeting following.

Jerry Zigmond, Newman maestro, is responsible for the "biggest" piece of publicity on the Movie Ball. It concerned *Time* magazine and the Movie Ball's general chairman, Earl Jameson.

It is about time for the Variety Club-Kansas City Star *bowling tournament to begin rolling, and Frank Hensler, who handles for the club, and Ernie Mehl, for the* Star, *have some big plans for the affair this year. The money goes to the school board to supply milk to underprivileged children.*

About 30 members of the police force, including Chief L. B. Reed and his young son Dwight, were guests of Variety Club last Thursday night at a showing of three short subjects: Columbia's "The Building of Boys," RKO's "American Royal," and Metro's "Drunk Driving." The police were enthusiastic about all three pictures. George Baker, chief barker of Variety, handled the projection machine. Representing Variety Club were Arthur Cole, R. R. Biechele, A. F. Baker, Sam Abend, Stanley Goldberg, Ben Marcus. Mrs. George Baker attended the showing also.

The Fox Esquire has a new canopy extending from boxoffice to street edge, as a covering for patrons purchasing tickets. Looks nifty.

We ran into Robert Kail, assistant manager of Loew's Midland, the other (Thursday) evening on his way to the Pla-Mor to judge a dancing contest, and to present the winner with a silver cup from the Midland. Runners-up were given consolation prizes of passes. The promotion was in connection with "Dancing Daughters." Kail said it was his first appearance as a judge.

Al Hauetter of the Modern Theatre Decorators here is in exile for some months. Currently stationed at LeMars, Ia., where he is working on the Elite and Royal for the March Brothers, he is scheduled to do the entire March Brothers circuit—the Coyote and March at Vermillion, S. D., and the Crystal and Gay at Wayne, Neb. The remodeling and redecorating program calls for new marquees, seats, etc.

Johnny Scott, Republic booker, points out in response to many queries that "Jeepers Creepers," featuring the Weaver Brothers and Elviry with Roy Rogers, is not one of the Roy Rogers western series. The featured team is the original Arkansaw Travelers, from Springfield, Mo.

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Likely Licensing of New Houses Dismays Twin City Exhibitors

MINNEAPOLIS—Twin City exhibitors are alarmed over the increasing theatre opposition impending or threatening.

The St. Paul city commissioners have gone on record to issue as many permits for new theatres as are applied for, opening up the entire city for additional showhouses with the exception of two districts.

Three permits for new theatres already have been issued in St. Paul and, it has been indicated, there'll be more to follow.

In Minneapolis six applications for permits to build new theatres are pending before the city council license committee.

The committee will meet December 6 to take definite action on the permits. Its recommendation for rejection or issuance of the licenses will go to the council.

President W. A. Steffes of Northwest Allied fears that if the Minneapolis city council issues one of the permits it will be only a question of time before everybody so desiring will be allowed to build a new theatre. This would mean the construction of from six to a dozen show houses within the course of two years, he believes.

At several public hearings held by the council license committee, Steffes, other independent leaders and representatives of the Minnesota Amusement Co. have protested against the issuance of any more new theatre licenses. They contend that the city already is far overseated and present investments would be jeopardized. Moreover, they claim, few theatres have been operating at a profit of late.

Film Containers a Paper's Giveaway

Minneapolis—Latest local giveaway is in tin film boxes—not by any theatre, but by Merle Potter, Times-Tribune film editor. Boxes were turned over to Merle by the exchanges and he advertised in his Monday column that the first 100 people calling at the paper's want ad department would receive six each. The cans are good as receptacles for cookies, cakes, pies, nails, sewing material, etc., Potter pointed out.

Three Films Stand Out in Doldrums

MINNEAPOLIS—While business for the most part has been in the doldrums, the boxoffice situation hereabouts has not been without its rays of sunshine. Outstanding pictures continue to chalk up highly profitable grosses.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is just finishing a three-week loop run that pulled exceedingly big business. "First Love," at the Orpheum, is in its second week. The first seven days drew fine crowds.

"Drums Along the Mohawk," at the State, was another big grosser last week and has moved over to the Century for an extension of its loop first-run.

Legitimate roadshows, however, have started to slip. After a great start with Lunt & Fontanne and "Tobacco Road," the season went into a bear trend. The last two road attractions, "What a Life" and "I Married an Angel," did poorly.

The fact that considerable money has been spent in recent weeks on University of Minnesota football and football celebrations undoubtedly is responsible for some of the boxoffice slump. The general public is finding its entertainment funds depleted.

Robert Montgomery Vehicle

HOLLYWOOD—Next Robert Montgomery starrer for Metro will be "Willow Walk." Hugo Butler and Marguerite Roberts have been assigned to script the Joseph Mankiewicz production.

Warner Percentage Demands Incense

MINNEAPOLIS—With Warner Bros. the present storm center, the usual selling season conflict over film prices is being intensified in the Twin Cities currently.

It develops that there has been a considerable amount of blind checking of independent situations by the various exchanges. While the independent exhibitors charge that they're being overcharged for film and require reductions in order to make both ends meet, branch managers insist most of the independents "have not been paying enough."

One branch manager cites, as an example, one of his pictures which grossed $350 for an independent neighborhood house. The rental received by the exchange for this picture was only $30, or less than 10 per cent, the manager says. This instance is claimed to be typical. On outstanding pictures the exchanges contend they're entitled to a 25 to 35 per cent split at the least.

In the case of Warner Bros. the independents' squawk is occasioned by the company's percentage demand. The company's deal for the Twin Cities calls for four percentage pictures. Although independent exhibitors individually deny any boycott, the fact remains that there has been no buying as yet of Warner's new-season product by Minneapolis and St. Paul theatre owners.

Metro Is Excepted

Twin City independents are dead set against percentage, but make a single exception in the case of M-G-M. The four percentage picture deal has been an established M-G-M policy and the company has refused to deviate from it. Because the exhibitors apparently feel they can't get along without M-G-M product, the company has been able to enforce its demand.

Capitulation to the Warner demand will establish a precedent and lead other companies to insist on percentage, the exhibitors feel. Accordingly, they declare they'll fight to the last ditch.

Warner Bros., however, have a different version. C. K. Olson, branch manager here, says his company hasn't been receiving anywhere near what its pictures were worth. All that it now asks from Twin City independents, he says, is "a fair and square deal."

"For top bracket pictures," says Olson, "Warner Bros. simply feels that it is entitled to a fair percentage of the gross. Because of a disappointing previous season, the company found itself, in 1938-39, in the position of delivering a consistently good flow of product at figures far out of line in relation to the product's boxoffice drawing power."

Potter Hosts at Clam Bake

MINNEAPOLIS—Merle Potter, *Times-Tribune* film and drama editor, will be host to fellow Twin City Variety Club members at a clam bake December 4. The entire membership has been invited by Merle.

Even Job Landing Was Done in Character

MINNEAPOLIS—While Jacob Wilk, head of Warner Bros.' story department, was in Minneapolis, Merle Potter, *Times-Tribune* film editor, learned how Jake got his job as assistant dramatic editor while attending the University of Minnesota.

"Frank Wiltberger, custodian of the Tribune Bldg., was around when Wilk got his job on this paper," says Potter. "He says that one night Dr. Caryl B. Storrs, brilliant *Tribune* critic of that time, came back to his desk late one night to report on a play, found a young fellow banging away on his typewriter. Dr. Storrs demanded to know by what right he was so doing, was told that the trespasser was his new assistant.

"The doctor wanted to know who had done the hiring, the fellow said he had hired himself. That was the way Jake got his first job on a newspaper. He was so engrossed by his interest in the theatre that he stayed on for quite some time before he was put on a regular salary."

During his local visit, Jake told about a time he once had a story conference with Darryl Zanuck and George Arliss concerning the possibility of Arliss doing a picture based on the life of Alexander Hamilton. Zanuck and Arliss claimed it would be a natural. Wilk bet that not more than one out of every ten persons asked at random could identify Hamilton. The poll was taken, Wilk won, but he was overruled and the picture was made anyway. It wasn't a success, which proved Wilk's point: it's not safe to gamble too much on the general information possessed by the average motion picture audiences.

Mike Roth Leaves Bachelor Ranks

Lincoln—If Mike Roth sold firecrackers instead of Christmas trailers here this week he admitted he had a reason. He's the National Screen Service, Omaha. After wooing Sally Silverman of New York City for nine years, he summoned the courage to propose. Date, November 21.

A "Grave" Before Theatre For "Frontier Marshal"

FAYETTE, MO.—For "Frontier Marshal," Irwin W. Tucker of the Fayette here set up a rectangular frame 2x6 feet on the sidewalk in front of the boxoffice. He filled the frame with dirt to resemble a grave. At the head was a cross reading "Here Lies Butch Kelly. He Thought He Could Beat the Marshal of Tombstone to the Draw."

For "Lady of the Tropics, Tucker put out 500 cards through a double slit in which was inserted a kitchen match. The card advertised "The World's Perfect Match" and contained players, title, dates and theatre.

Uses Personal Approach To Sell "Rains Came"

OLATHE, KAS.—For "The Rains Came," Charles Hoge, manager of the Dickinson here, sent personal letters to all doctors, dentists, and osteopaths, pointing out the special interest the picture had for medical men. In addition, Hoge dressed a boy in raincoat and equipped him with an umbrella. On his back was a sign advertising the picture, theatre, and playdate. Hoge also got the younger crowd around town to start using "Rains Came" as a by-word. They even used it for a while instead of "Hello."

DES MOINES

(Continued from page 35)

is Anna Neagle, too . . . An old two-reel comedy of the silent variety convulsed the *R&T* employes at their Tromar party last Sunday . . . Wish we could discover the secret of Carl Skoloff's happy-go-lucky man Friday . . . C. R. Smith is never without a smile and a cheery word.

The Newspaper Film Critics of America seem to be having a mild and polite misunderstanding with the New York Film Critics Circle. The Circle, it seems, wrote the NFCA declining to affiliate itself with that group. But the NFCA wrote back quicklike to inform the Circle that it hadn't been invited to join!

Director Sells Story

HOLLYWOOD—"The Last Headline," a story by Frank MacDonald, has been purchased by Republic. MacDonald also has been set to direct.

LINCOLN

BIGGEST man in town this week: Ralph Goldberg, from Omaha, all 337 pounds of him.

Joe Scott in for gab and more promises (about big pictures) than a political campaigner two days before election. Difference is that Joe's promises are usually kept . . . Speed Lambert, waiting for the Chicago conference of M-G-M publicists, at which all details will be ironed out, couldn't give a definite word about "Gone With the Wind," other than to say the kickoff would be in Atlanta, December 15. Incidentally, Bill Hebert, lately with Cecil B. DeMille, more recently with Selznick-International, but now with Metro, writes from Atlanta to say 61,000 *requests have been made for the* 2,100 *seats available for the Georgia premiere.*

The M. E. Lofgren boy, a 6½ pounder, born last Thursday almost wore his father and Ed Vaughan to a frazzle. Was so long en route Vaughan had to go on hospital corridor patrol duty with his brother manager. Vaughan, official spokesman after the event, said there was no truth to the rumor that he would be named Stuart, after the house his dad manages . . . J. H. Cooper's last trip was marked by the theatrical gent being in rare good humor.

Salvation Army is paging Bob Huffman, Lincoln Theatres Corp. city manager, to throw a canned food matinee prior to Christmas . . . T. B. Noble jr. comes up from Oklahoma City next weekend for two reasons—to see the Oklahoma-Nebraska game, and to bring Howard Federer's coat back (borrowed in 1938).

Luke Smith has been ribbed so much he's almost ready to marry the girl to shut the boys up . . . Leo Drennan, recently loosed from the Nebraska here, where he was assistant manager, is now with the Goldberg string in Omaha . . . Harold Hellerich has yet to hear whether he's to be sent to the shadow of the mountains.

Harold Schoonover, Aurora, was the first exhibitor to join up with Sunday Journal *and* Star's *poll of motion pictures. Quickly in after him came R. E. Falkinburg, Lexington, and Fay Honey, Tecumseh . . . Sol Francis is due any day to collect a fish dinner, and Joe Rosenberg, a "spare rib" . . . Non-prosperity note: Bob Livingston's landlord has done his quarters over completely.*

BOXOFFICE, to Grand Island for a weekend, should have some dope about Harry Schiller, Bill Youngclaus, Carl Rose, and Izzy Kuhl, the lads en route, for next issue . . . Harvey Traylor says there's a difference between "wanting" and being "in want." He explains it this way: His girl friend "wants" him, but if she had him, she'd be "in want"—and so would he.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

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Independent Theatre Owners Association
1214 Brush Creek Road — VAlentine 2770
E. E. Webber jr., Pres. John Wolfberg, Sec.

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
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239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: Hland 2694

MINNEAPOLIS

GORDON GREENE, Minnesota Theatre managing director, downed by light attack of flu . . . W. H. Workman, M-G-M branch manager, back at his desk and recovered from the slight illness that had him in the hospital for a spell . . . Hugh Herbert of the films, playing a Minnesota theatre personal appearance engagement, a guest at the Twin City Variety Club's open house . . . Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, a visitor.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Leo and Roy Allender, Northome, Minn.; Arvid Olsen, Grantsburg, Wis.; A. Siverson, Osakis, Minn.; Ernott Hiller, Crookston, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Don Anderson, Pine Island, Minn., and Bill Smith, Menominee, Wis.

Al Putz, M-G-M office manager, still plugging away at bowling, but the boys say that if he can't better 107, his best figure to date, they'll have to put him on the office's girls' team . . . Cyril Lebedoff received a letter of inquiry from far away Amsterdam, N. Y., regarding his Homewood Theatre's cornbeef sandwich giveaways. The exhibitor there wanted all the details.

Leo Murray, Lyceum manager, claims he's doing big with Swedish pictures on the weekends. His next legitimate attraction is Katherine Cornell in December . . . W. A. Steffes has an exceptionally fine speaking play offering, "On Borrowed Time," starring Taylor Holmes, at his Alvin Theatre November 29 and 30 . . . Jewish pictures going over swell at the Homewood Theatre, according to Cyril Lebedoff who asserts that they attract many out-of-town patrons.

Helen Manion and Bill Soper, secretary and poster clerk, respectively, at Universal, put out of commission temporarily by the flu . . . Frank Mantzke, formerly here but now Universal branch manager at Milwaukee, still a loyal Gopher football fan despite the team's numerous defeats this season. Came up all the way from Milwaukee to see the Minnesota-Wisconsin game. In the face of the Bierman team's losing streak nearly 50,000 turned out for the traditional clash.

After a profitable week at the St. Paul Orpheum United Artists' "Real Glory' is ensconced at the Orpheum here and attracting plenty of attention . . . Increasing business has compelled National Screen to augment its office staff. Katherine Houleihan, Jeanette Silver and Leah Guttman have just been added . . . RKO looking forward to "Hunchback of Notre Dame," which "Nickey" Goldhammer, district manager, predicts will be one of the season's outstanding boxoffice hits. December 29 is its release date.

Sam Shapin of Warner's homeoffice maintenance department in town . . . Charlie Weiner of Monogram attended the farewell banquet given in Winnipeg for Ted Gould prior to his departure for Toronto where he assumes the duties of M-G-M branch manager . . . Stella Carlson of Warner's office staff, recently a bride, ill with flu . . . "Hy" Chapman of Columbia exultant because the Granada, Duluth, broke a two-day house record the first two days of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." Takings were unbelievably big. Picture ran three weeks in downtown Minneapolis to unusually fine grosses.

Plenty of the Filmrow bunch witnessed the Iowa-Minnesota football game at Iowa City. Ben Friedman and Abe Kaplan, accompanied by Syd and Bill Volk, drove there. So did Cyril and Mary Lebedoff. Among those who went by train were Ben Blotcky and Charlie Rubenstein . . . Bennie Berger forgot his resolve not to wager on any more football games this season and, in consequence, took it on the financial chin again.

"Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, planning business trip to Chicago . . . Charles School, M-G-M homeoffice auditor, off to his next stand, Chicago, after a brief stay here . . . Columbia's "U-Boat 29" mopping up in this territory . . . Edward Auger, RCA Photophone general sales manager, in from Philadelphia to confer with A. P. Bill, local representative.

Gordie Greene, Minnesota Theatre managing director, flew as far as Chicago en route to New York to book big name acts for his showhouse. When he heard about the big benefit performance at his theatre for a young boy who lost both legs in a railroad accident, he returned immediately to help make the event the big success that it proved to be. He brought a sizable contribution from Hugh Herbert . . . The Minnesota football games are breaking into the national newsreel coverage. Both the Michigan and Iowa contests were "shot" by Paramount News.

"Hotel for Women" Sequel

HOLLYWOOD—"For Women Only" has been purchased by 20th-Fox from Hilda Stone as a sequel to "Hotel for Women." The Sol Wurtzel unit will produce.

OMAHA

LAWRENCE BURKEY, Ritz Theatre, Deshler, Neb., denies up and down to film peddlers who hit his town that he is a ping pong addict, as revealed in a recent issue of BOXOFFICE. Well, Lawrence, that information came to us from the same source that told us your birthday is June 9 and your wedding anniversary July 23. Do you need any more proof that we have the goods on you?

Chet Werden, Capitol, Hartley, Ia., was in town wearing a snappy green suit . . . Howard Harvey's daughter is now two years old. Doesn't time fly? . . . Swain A. Madsen, Warner booker, has a birthday this week. Also a birthday for Adele Anderson, Warner.

The Scott-Ballantyne staff celebrates as follows this week: F. A. Thomassen, fourth wedding anniversary; Jim Snapp, birthday; Gus Harms, 35th wedding anniversary . . . Sol Francis, local Monogram boss, also has a birthday and congrats to Will Singer, Brandeis manager, on a birthday.

Clare E. Mosher, Casino, Sac City, Ia., says he believes the film industry should quit making so many small pictures and concentrate on "bigger and better" pictures, giving them more playing time. Mosher declares that today's public is "movie educated" and can't be tricked into attending inferior productions.

Bill Foley, former RKO salesman, and Bernie McCarthy, former RKO branch manager at St. Louis, now operate a sign business in the Brandeis Theatre building, Omaha . . . L. W. Riddell and Ralph W. Fitch have opened the Alta Theatre at Alta, Ia., our scouts tell us. Don Coughlin formerly had the house.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Merrill, Lyric, Edgar, Neb., were on Filmrow. Also Allen Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.; Vernon Van, Strand, Wakefield, Neb.; Frank Good, Iowana, Red Oak, Ia.; Bob Fridley, Roxy, Danbury, Ia. . . . No rumors about Christmas bonuses along Filmrow exchanges, so far.

Dr. Frank E. Rider, dentist and exhibitor, is very outspoken about the film industry. He says pictures should be "entertaining, not sad pictures and not historical." He thinks the producers should spend more time on "better" pictures . . . Pinky McIlvaine, Brandeis assistant manager, has decided he can't pick football winners.

Manager Don Allen of the Omaha and Ted Emerson, Tri-States horn blower, pulled a stunt for "Babes in Arms," announcing that all "babes" would be admitted free the opening day if an adult held the "baby" all during the show. Part of the stunt was a picture in the paper of a Creighton football player holding a co-ed on his lap during the show. After the picture appeared, there was some explaining to do, for a while!

Paul Walter, Ritz, Eldon, Ia., says he gets the best business out of grade-A action pictures . . . Edward Morris, Princess, Eagle Grove, Ia., is an ardent foe of double features. He believes that if the double feature policy is continued nationally, the industry will suffer . . . Bob Ballantyne was out of town on business.

Don McLucas, United Artists boss, is having a recreation room built in his basement . . . Walt Green of Fepco is now in the public utilities business. Walt and a neighbor paid for a water line to their homes west of Omaha. Now, if you want to get water from the line, you gotta pay Walt!

Milt Overman, general manager for Ralph Goldberg, says you're getting old when you start talking about the "good old days" . . . And that reminds us that Jay Schlank and Ed Rostermundt, UA film peddlers, celebrated birthdays this week.

Charges UA Breach Of Bexley Pact

COLUMBUS—Damages of $25,275 is demanded of United Artists by Ardmore Amusement, Inc., operators of the Bexley Theatre, in a suit filed in common pleas court charging breach of contract. It is contended that UA had contracted with the Bexley for exclusive first run in the suburb, later sending pictures to the Drexel Theatre, owned by the Chesbrough circuit. UA was sued through state agent David M. Donley of Cleveland.

Mentioned specifically in the petition was "Goldwyn Follies of 1938." UA, according to the petition, offered the theatre the May 8, 1938 date in conformance with a contract dated Oct. 7, 1937, for UA product. This date, it is charged, was in turn accepted and confirmed, yet on May 8 the prints were not delivered, the Bexley being forced to close for the day. The Drexel used the picture on that date, it is stated. A total of $15,155 is asked for this alleged breach of contract.

For failure to deliver "Adventures of Marco Polo" in June of 1938 the sum of $5,120 is asked. Also cited were five London productions, one Korda and one Wanger, $5,000 being asked for contract violations on these. The petition sets out that substitute prints were obtained on the playdates scheduled for these films.

"We had tried to settle this matter for over a year," Manager Bert Williams of the Bexley said. "United Artists officials have been here on several occasions, but satisfactory arrangements were impossible. Court action was our only alternative."

Manos-Lipsie Theatrical Enterprises Will Move

GREENSBURG, PA.—Manos-Lipsie Theatrical Enterprises will remove its home office from the *Tribune-Review* Bldg. to the Greensburger Hotel around December 1. The hotel is the old Rappe Hotel, purchased about five years ago by Manos and now closed for extensive remodeling.

New theatrical offices, now being equipped, are on the second floor of the Greensburger. Executive and department offices will be convenient and modern in every way and will be a great improvement over the old headquarters.

Detroit Censor Ruling Is Lifted Against Red Film

DETROIT—A censor's ruling against the Russian film, "Three Women," was lifted by legal agreement when both parties to the suit in federal court consented to the action. The suit was filed in 1936 when the film was released here. It was banned at the time on the ground it was "revolutionary."

Since filing of the suit, however, a Michigan supreme court decision restricted the right of censorship chiefly to cases where the film may be considered immoral or obscene, and specifically put a stop to any ban on political grounds.

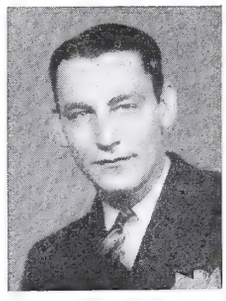
Industry Duped, Says Dies

Detroit—The motion picture industry was linked with German spy activities in a statement issued here by Representative Martin Dies, in town in connection with hearings before the Congressional Committee he heads. Dies said that an unidentified "German lecturer and author" posed here, about a year ago, as representative of a German film company, and was admitted to various industrial plants where he took films, now understood to be of value in a possible sabotage program. The "lecturer" was not identified.

Bondurant Is First In Manos Contest

GREENSBURG, PA.—Fifteen hundred dollars was distributed in the annual Manos Theatre Managers Good Will Contest, with awards presented at a banquet here this week.

Manos Chain Goodwill Winners



H. C. BONDURANT
Manos Theatre,
Ellwood City.
1st Prize



GEORGE KERR
Empire Theatre,
Homer City.
2nd Prize



E. M. DOCK
City Manager,
Vandergrift.
3rd Prize

H. C. Bondurant of the Manos, Ellwood City, was the first prize winner. He has been with the circuit only nine months, having come here from Bristol, Tenn., where he was assistant manager for Paramount Theatres under Bernard Buchheit, now assistant to Michael Manos of the local enterprises.

George Kerr of the Empire, Homer City, was second prize winner. He is a veteran of more than a dozen years with William Lipsie, Manos' partner, and was the first prize winner in the drive the two preceding years.

Winner of the third award is E. M. Dock, city manager at Vandergrift, who has supervision over the Casino, Manos and Arcadia. With the company for half a dozen years, he was the second prize winner last year.

There was a tie for fourth honors, with the fourth and fifth prizes being awarded to Dick McCool of Latrobe and Harry Alberth of Hollidaysburg.

Sixth winner was V. L. "Doc" Wadkins, city manager at Indiana, key spot of the Manos operations; John Ward of the Manos, Blairsville, was seventh, and W. G. "Bill" Bryan of the Manos, Elkins, W. Va., was eighth.

The veteran circuit operators, Manos and Lipsie, stated that the third annual good will business contest was the most successful to date. Standings of the managers in the eight-week drive was determined by the greatest gross increases over set figures established by the home office.

Supervisor of the 18-theatre contest was Bernard Buchheit, Manos' right-hand man (who takes the left hand position also).

Manos and Lipsie are wholeheartedly in favor of their annual managers good will contests and are always eager to pay for work well done.

The drive this year was concentrated on newspaper space, with much promotion; giveaways included automobiles and electric stoves with many articles on the lists of the various theatres in the competition.

The net result of the circuit drive was a ten per cent increase in grosses over last year's contest figures. The increase as announced was above the costs involved in the eight-week drive.

Says Amusement Tax Is "Confiscatory"

LOUISVILLE—After a thorough investigation, a special legislative committee appointed by Mayor Joseph D. Scholtz reported back that Kentucky's amusement tax is the highest of its kind in the land and recommended that steps be taken to bring the matter before the state legislature in an effort to effect a substantial reduction.

The tax was termed "confiscatory." It ranges from one cent on 11 to 18 cent admission prices up to 43 cents on tickets costing $3.

It was pointed out that 19 shows had cancelled their Louisville engagements this year, but it was not determined just how many of these did so because of the tax alone.

In a recent report, Memorial Auditorium, seat of cultural entertainment in the city, was shown not to have earned its operating costs during the last year.

The fight on this issue will be of interest to Louisville theatres as well as to the stage, since the tax has, in some measure, been beneficial to the film industry.

Ohio Tax Commission Hearing in January

COLUMBUS—From all indications the two taxpayer's suits against the old Ohio tax commission, as pertaining to an alleged non-payment of sales tax on film rentals, will come up for hearing early in January. Action has been pending since late last winter, but now it seems quite obvious a showdown will be in order within six weeks.

New Shea Unit Slated

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO — Completed plans for a new theatre here have been received by E. C. Grainger, general manager for Shea Theatres. Bids for construction will be received immediately after December 1. Opening of the new house is planned for spring.



—Courtesy Oil City Derrick

Silver Anniversary Party—

Ray Corrigan (first at the left), star of Republic Westerns, helped Lewis V. Hepinger (extreme right foreground), Clarion, Pa., exhibitor, celebrate his 25th anniversary in the business at Clarion recently. Included in the celebrants here are George W. Collins, Republic Pittsburgh exchange; Dick Lidstone, of Hepinger's Orpheum staff; J. D. Chaffin, representative for Corrigan and Max Terhune; Hal Carey, national champion yodeler; Roger Lidstone, "Bob" and "Chug" of the Orpheum; Pete Samuel, manager of the Garby Theatre in Clarion; M. Widmore, attorney for Hepinger; Buddy Hall, Ozark hill-billy musician; George "Lonesome" Morris, from Sally Rand's Nude Ranch, and James H. Madden, Parkers Landing exhibitor.

Television From N. Y. To Pittsburgh Seen

PITTSBURGH—A prediction that before the end of 1940 there will be a television network extending out of New York City, was made here by A. H. "Doc" Morton, vice-president of NBC in charge of television. His speech, before the Rotary Club in the Fort Pitt Hotel, was followed by a television demonstration.

He stated that reception of sight broadcasts would be made possible either by use of co-axial cables, set up by telephone experts who now make possible the sound networks, or by booster stations picking up visible broadcasts and "kicking them along to receiving stations in distant cities." He predicted that Pittsburgh would see broadcasts originating in New York and that other cities would see broadcasts originating here, particularly at KDKA, the NBC-blue network station operated by NBC.

More is unknown about television than is known, he emphasized.

That which is known must be credited to Dr. Vladimir Zworkyn, formerly of Wilkinsburg, Pa., who has transferred his research from the local Westinghouse laboratories to the RCA laboratories in Camden, N. J.

At the present time there are 1,500 television sets in use in New York City, receiving 12 hours of broadcasting each week, according to the NBC executive.

New Pact to Rapper

HOLLYWOOD—Irving Rapper, Warner dialogue director, has been given a new contract.

Bank Night Appeal Seen Likely at Troy Theatre

TROY, OHIO—Attorneys for the Troy Amusement Co., which operates the Mayflower Theatre here, has indicated that an appeal would be filed in the supreme court from the decision of Judge Richard L. Cameron of Marysville holding that Bank Night as carried on at the theatre constituted a lottery under Ohio laws.

The decision came as Judge Cameron dismissed an injunction suit filed by the company to prevent its equipment from being seized under a search warrant. The company immediately announced that Bank Nights scheduled for the current week had been cancelled.

Bring Road Shows

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—Community Enterprises, Inc., a non-profit organization, will bring four New York roadshows to its stage. Tickets for all four shows are five dollars, and the proceeds will go to the purchasing of equipment for Charleston's playgrounds.

Opens New Theatre

MCARTHUR, OHIO—W. Smith, Nelsonville exhibitor, has leased the Community Hall here and is doing extensive remodeling. The house will have approximately 500 seats. The house will be McArthur's first permanent theatre.

Mrs. Laughrin Has Club Plan

CLEVELAND—Mrs. Katherine Laughrin has opened an office in the Film Bldg. for the sale of the aluminum club plan in theatres.

CINCINNATI

LETTERS recommending "Drunk Driving," M-G-M short, were received by E. M. Booth, branch manager, from City Manager Sherrill and Safety Director Wernke, who, with A. F. Sommer, president of the Traffic Safety Council and Police Chief Weatherly and police officers of the city, were guests at an invitational preview. So enthusiastic were the safety officers, another preview has been arranged for rookie policemen. "Everybody who drives an auto should see this picture," declared the city manager. The short is playing RKO Palace.

Two disastrous fires were reported this week. Flames razed the Crawford Theatre, Glouster, Ohio, operated by L. A. Martin, who also operates the Palace in this town. At Ward, W. Va., the Ward, operated by Gene Hensley and Archie Clemons, was destroyed. The company operates a number of theatres in smaller West Virginia towns.

William Onie of Monogram reports "Mutiny in the Big House" is doing an excellent business. In December, "Gentleman From Arizona," Monogram's Technicolor feature and the first picture made in Arizona, will be released.

Midwest Theatre Supply completely equipped Willis Vance's new State Theatre at Newport, Ky. Midwest is also completely equipping Rush Cassaday and Fred Fairchild's Eden at Inez, Ky. New house will seat 342.

The new McArthur Theatre, McArthur, Ohio, with 396 seats, is set for December 3 opening. W. A. Smith, owner, also operates the Orpheum at Nelsonville . . . Queen City Variety is planning its annual Christmas party for underprivileged children and is anticipating a guest list of 1,500.

C. D. Tipton, Huntington, W. Va., came in to attend the Xavier vs. Marshall game at Avon field . . . Chris Pfister of the Mayflower, Troy, lost a court battle on Bank Night. The supreme court upheld a lower tribunal decision that Bank Night is illegal in Troy.

Republic's new Gene Autry, "South of the Border," will be ready for mid-December release . . . Lee Goldberg announces "North Sea Patrol" booked by RKO. Goldberg adds the release from prison of Al Capone has created a demand for "Scarface."

Rudy Skirball has changed the name of his recently acquired theatre at Ironton, Ohio, from the Southside to the Ohio . . . Louis Martin is reopening the Court at Cambridge . . . Joe Goldberg, Big Features, was in town on business.

On the Row: George Delis, Portsmouth; W. T. Cain, Louisa and Paintsville, Ky.; William Gabhardt, Harrodsburg; Tom Broad, St. Mary's; Price Coomer; J. Robinson, Majestic, Springfield, Ky.; C. A. Rowlands, Parsons and Main theatres, Columbus, and many others.

Warner's Ruth Reynolds and Big Features' Esther Hyman were on the sick list . . . "Mr. Smith" went into its fifth week downtown.

CLEVELAND



—Photo by Jordan

New Trade Merger—

Edward Donahue, manager of the Ohio Theatre, Louisville, and his bride, the former Kathleen Ulsh, cashier at the Elko Theatre at New Albany, Ind.

Remodeling in Vandergrift To Cost Around $25,000

VANDERGRIFT, PA.—A $25,000 remodeling program is under way at the Manos-Lipsie Casino Theatre here. The Arcadia here is being newly seated and the Band Box will be modernized with a glass front and marquee. Alvin Seiler is furnishing new equipments.

Announces Plans

CLEVELAND—Nat L. Lefton, Republic Ohio franchise owner, announced following a recent directors' meeting, that Raoul Walsh will direct "Dark Command" for Republic. Included in the cast are John Wayne, Brian Aherne, Claire Trevor, Donald Meek, John Carradine and Charles Bickford. Republic also plans to feature Roy Rogers in a series of features based on highlights in the history of American industries.

Crawford Demolished

GLOUSTER, OHIO—Local fire fighters battled almost 18 hours to control a fire that destroyed the Crawford Theatre building here, with all contents at a loss placed by the owner at $50,000. Included in the loss were 500 seats and two projection machines. Only the wall remain. Mr. Crawford reported there was $7,000 insurance on the building.

Ohio Passes "Polygamy"

CLEVELAND—"Child Marriage in Polygamy," a Continental picture, has passed the Ohio censor board with only a few minor eliminations, after resting there for eight months. George Kendis and John Himmelein have the Ohio and Kentucky distribution rights. It carries a Hays seal.

ROY HAINES, Warner district manager; Herbert Ochs, Cleveland Vitagraph branch manager; Ralph Kinzler, Cincinnati Vitagraph branch manager; Milton A. Mooney and Harry Bugie of Co-operative Theatres of Ohio, sat down at a round table in Cincinnati last week and worked out a deal for Co-operative Theatres' members of the southern Ohio territory. Northern Ohio was set several weeks ago.

"Information Please," released through RKO, is winning praise as a "different" type of short and one that has boxoffice appeal all its own. The first release was shown at the Allen and is now playing at Keith's East 105th St. . . . Jack Levy, assistant general sales manager for National Screen Service, spent a day in town conferring with local NSS representative, Nat Barach.

Another important visitor of the week was Sam Galanty, Columbia district manager. It was a routine visit with the local branch manager, Lester Zucker, and involved no important trade announcements . . . Nat Holt, RKO Great Lakes division manager, was in New York looking over the vaudeville field and picking the best of the bunch for engagements at the RKO Palace.

Harry Reinhart, Canton independent circuit owner, will spend the winter on the west coast again, same as last year, including a second visit to Hawaii. Only this year he and the Mrs. plan to stay away until late spring . . . Al Sunshine of Hollywood Advertising Co. is calling on the trade with the newest release of theatre banners, flags and valances.

Warner's lease on the Plaza, Sandusky, expires January 1. It is rumored it will then be operated by the Alden Seitz Amusement Co., which also operates the State and Sandusky (formerly the Ohio).

"Drums Along the Mohawk" was held for 12 days at Warner's Hippodrome, business being 35 per cent above average the first seven . . . Milt Harris, Loew publicity director, after spending two years in girth reducing, is back just where he started.

Visitors along Filmrow: Tom Long, Palace, Akron; Earl Seitz, State and Sandusky, Sandusky; Leo Jones, Star, Upper Sandusky; Harry Reinhart of Canton; Joe Trunk of Youngstown; P. R. Touney of Wauseon; George Shenker, Lorain; Peter Wellman, Girard; Joe Scalon, State, Bellevue; B. Raful, Rialto, Kenmore; Charles Stalder, Nixon, Akron; George Manos, circuit owner.

R. C. Wahl, original owner of the Clark Theatre, Cleveland, is operating it again. During the past few years, the house has been leased to not less than six parties.

Some 40 members of the Warner Club attended the stag staged in honor of Harold Bein, who has announced November 26 as his wedding day, and for Allen Shapiro, who was married first and announced it later. Both groom and prospective groom were presented with a fine leather wallet and matching key case.

Those daily DID YOU KNOW postcards that Al Gregg, Republic publicity man, is using to tell the exhibitors what makes Gene Autry such outstanding copy for magazine and newspaper writers and the target for more fan mail than anyone else in Hollywood, has brought home the bacon to Republic.

"Smiley" Burnette, Gene Autry's sidekick, is booked to play a personal appearance engagement at Ray Wallace's Morrison Theatre, Alliance, early in December. Burnette, it is said, plays 52 different musical instruments as well as being a comedian of note.

With a certain amount of pardonable pride, Ralph Redmond and Urban Anderson of the recently formed Hunting Club, announce they passed out of the clay pigeon practice class and have two real pheasants to their credit. They bagged the birds out Chargin Valley way.

Louis Gross and Eddie Johnson could not wait till those two deer they shot last week had sufficiently aged to stage a venison steak party, which came off in proper style . . . Joe Swee moved over from the Universal booking desk to the RKO office managers' desk last Monday. His successor at Universal is unnamed at this moment.

Announcement was made over the weekend of the engagement of LeRoy Kendis, son of Philip Kendis of Exhibitors Poster Service Co., to Miss Charlotte Gottlieb of this city. Culminating a romance of two years, the couple plan to be married in the spring.

Frank Drew, M-G-M branch manager, was in Chicago attending the mid-season meeting of district and branch managers . . . O. K. Fischer, district manager for Hollywood Amusement Co., spent a few days in town visiting with Sales Representative Jack Greenbaum and exhibitors in the territory.

Several in Ohio Adopt Book Giveaway Deal

CLEVELAND—Book Night is the latest business booster idea to hit the territory. Among those who are giving away the Standard Encyclopedia handled by the Consolidated Book Publishers of Chicago, are Schine's Van Wert Theatre, Van Wert; State and Civic, Fostoria; Star and Strand, Delaware, and the Athens and Ohio, Athens. Jerry Morrison, Film Bldg., is selling the deal.

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Motion Picture Screen Resurfacing Co.
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PITTSBURGH

BERNARD BUCHHEIT, assistant to Mike Manos, has signed an application for non-residence membership in the Variety Club . . . Abraham Bernstein, New Universal exploitation representative, was here in advance of the opening of "Tower of London," now at the Alvin. He stated this was a test engagement and that the advertising appropriation had been increased . . . Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO secretary, is scheduled to address the Rotary Club at Jeannette, December 11 . . . Elbert Smith is succeeded as manager of the Melrose Theatre, Brentwood, by William Moss, son of the owner, John P. Moss.

Much credit for the planting of the early ballyhoo for "Gulliver's Travels" can be traced back to Bob Clark, local ad sales manager for Paramount . . . Local musicians' union will go to court to test the state liquor control board's ruling that dancing must stop at midnight on Saturdays in clubs and hotels . . . Gabe Rubin has withdrawn from the foreign picture theatre enterprise at Cleveland and is devoting all his time to the local Art Cinema.

Saul Steinfeld, in charge of RKO accessory sales, put a ring on the proper finger of his one-and-only Betty Goldstein the other evening and they will take the marriage vows in about seven weeks . . . Michael Karolcik, Perryopolis exhibitor, received Filmrow's congratulations on his re-election as a Fayette county commissioner. Again, best wishes, Mike . . . Harris Alvin hopes to get the world premiere of 20th-Fox's "Swanee River," based on the life and music of Pittsburgh's Stephen Foster . . . Filmrow's motorcycle patrolman, George Stone, is back on the job after two months' absence, most of which time was spent in a local hospital following a cycle accident.

Recently we reported the marriage of young Jack Richman, son of the William Richmans, north side exhibitors, and Miss Harriet Gordon. Now we are told that the bride is a sister of Mrs. Abraham Rothenstein, wife of the West Aliquippa exhibitor. Bridegroom's brother, Melvin Richman, is engaged to Miss Sylvia Chotiner, and Louis Rothenstein, Cambridge Springs exhibitor and brother of the West Aliquippa exhibitor, is engaged to Miss Celia Wein of Clarion.

Frank & Seder department store's Christmas show is the "Lone Ranger and his Cavalcade of the West." Admission price being a quarter . . . Hersh W. Kreitenberg, 44, of Chicago, pleaded guilty in criminal court to a charge of robbing the WB Schenley Theatre on October 29. He used a toy pistol and was caught by Charles Steinhauser, assistant manager, and held a prisoner until police arrived . . . Harry Fry, Wampum exhibitor, is well and on the go again after undergoing an operation for the removal of a growth under his right armpit . . . Bill Bryan, manager of the Manos Theatre, Elkins, W. Va., spent the Thanksgiving holiday vacationing at his home in Birmingham, Ala., his wife and son accompanying him.

John "Bo-Peep" Robinson, projectionist at the Stuckey Theatre, Everett, Pa., suffered a broken leg when struck by a flying

(Continued on page 48)

Four Detroit Acers Hold Over Films

Detroit—That local exhibitors are cooperating in the move for increased playing time for stronger films, is indicated by holdovers at four of the city's six first-run theatres. The Fox is continuing "Drums Along the Mohawk," and United Detroit circuit is moving "Remember" from the United Artists to the Palms-State. The Adams is holding "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," which started at the Fox, a fourth week, while the Cinema is extending extra time to "Lucrezia Borgia."

Workings of Combine Outlined by Moon

DETROIT—Further clarifying his position in connection with reports that he would head a new independent booking combine in Chicago, Raymond E. Moon, general manager of Mutual Theatres, said this week he had explained the workings of such a combine to interested Chicago exhibitors.

"They have problems they think can be solved by such an organization," Moon said, "and I told them what has been done in Detroit. As far as I know, however, they have no further plans affecting me."

Moon said he talked to Chicago Allied leaders at a meeting of the board of directors there.

Auditorium Is Opened

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—Charleston's new half-a-million municipal auditorium was officially opened last week, with addresses by Mayor D. Boone Dawson and other prominent citizens. The auditorium will seat 3,500 people and is equipped with air conditioning.

COLUMBUS

HERE'S one for the book—shades of Diogenes and his lantern! Clint Wander, Loew's Broad manager, received an apologetic note from a 12½-year-old youngster, explaining that the writer had attended the show on a child's ticket. Enclosed were five three-cent stamps to make up the difference!

Add irony: Fire Chief John Crawford of Glouster also owned the only theatre, the Crawford. Last week fire completely razed the building to the tune of a $50,000 *loss. Of the loss only* $7,000 *was covered by insurance.*

The Troy Amusement Co. (Mayflower and Jewel theatres in Troy) has announced it will appeal a common pleas court ruling, that Bank Night as conducted by the company is a lottery, to the Ohio supreme court. At the same time the c. p. court dismissed an injunction sought by the company to prevent seizure of theatre equipment.

Financial news: State securities board has approved for registration 250 *shares of common stock of the Ibis Theatre, Inc., Toledo. Each share has a stated value of* $100.

The Hollywood Theatre may close after the first of the year . . . The Indianola has dropped daily matinee performances . . . McArthur's new Vinton is scheduled to open in two weeks.

Morton M. Payne, the Cleveland lad behind the 16*mm invasion, has opened a local office in the Majestic Theatre Bldg. He is working with Don Volpe and Jimmy Leeper under the name Midwest Attractions.*

C. Harry Schreiber informs us the RKO Grand Theatre will close Thursday next, not to be reopened until the holidays. And that Martha Raye is set for a week commencing Friday at the Palace . . . Sorry to report that Rudy Knoepfle, Republic salesman, is ailing in Cincy . . . Charles Levy, RKO exploitation boss in New York, was in town over the weekend.

LOUISVILLE

HAROLD MARSHALL, M-G-M field representative out of the Indianapolis office, staged a special preview of "Ninotchka" at the Towers Theatre in Louisville.

Tom Muchmore is back in town to take over the managerial reins at Settos' new Vogue Theatre at St. Matthews, suburban Louisville, which will open early next month. Tom formerly managed Settos' Ohio Theatre in downtown Louisville, which will be razed the first of the year to make way for a department store expansion.

Settos' new Grand Theatre at Linton, Ind., is scheduled to open the middle of December. W. P. Frey, former Louisville man, has been on the scene supervising construction.

What formerly was the Arcade at Cloverport, Ky., is now the Rio, owned by Bill Conway of Cannelton, Ind. . . . The Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. reported it has been swamped with orders for new drapes.

Falls City sold some new equipment at Don Reda's Bonny Blue Theatre at St. Charles, Va. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lee Goldberg, Cincinnati, were in town spending Thanksgiving Day with relatives and friends. Goldberg heads Big Feature Rights. His brother, Joe, Louisville representative for the firm, left on a week's trip through southeastern Kentucky following a week in the Bluegrass.

"First Love" was held over for a second week at the Brown.

DETROIT

BEN WAGNER, who runs the Grant Hotel, has just taken over the Clifford near the Film Exchange . . . Roger Kennedy is the chief at IATSE headquarters late in the afternoon. President Frank Kinsora doesn't stay that late.

Frank Stuart, manager of the Majestic, reports his cashier was held up. The bandit got $30 . . . Ray Schreiber has a swell headquarters for conferences back of the Colonial projection booth.

Jane Schermerhorn of the Times discloses Harry Remington, Fox exploiteer, doesn't know the rhumba . . . J. C. Ritter of the Rialto and Rivola has been nominated as "dean" of local filmdom because of his past office as president of Allied States.

George W. Sampson, managing the new Esquire in Grosse Pointe, is the "advance guard" of the eastern front . . . The Goldberg Twins seem to have an easy, matter-of-fact touch in running their theatres.

A. Milo (Bring-'Em-Back) DeHaven, manager of Sam Brown's Woodward Grand, is doing a good job on that revival policy at the Belmont in Highland Park . . . George McArthur says he's getting his lungs in training to do a good job of hollering.

Harry L. Joyce, head of American Amplifying Apparatus, which handled theatrical sound installations here, died recently. His widow survives . . . Children's Cinegraf Co., operated by Bessie M. Just, has gone out of business. They were commercial film producers.

Henry Sadlowski is repainting the front of the Crane Theatre . . . Ralph Ravenscroft, Paramount studio executive, was a Detroit exhibitor . . . John C. Sauer is organizing the Indian Village Sound Engineering Co. to handle sound and p. a. theatrical work.

Franklyn K. Morgan is opening offices for the Fluorescent Light Supply Co. in the Barlum Tower to specialize in theatre lighting jobs . . . Alfred Ackerman, East Side Theatre, is father of an eight-pound girl born November 3. Says she'll be "future movie star of the Ackerman Flickerless Opera House."

Stanley L. Almas has installed a new public address system in the Colonial . . . Charles M. Reagan of N. Y. C. and Allen Usher, district manager, were Paramount officials on the visiting list.

Art Robinson got an official O. K. for remodeling at his newly-acquired Madison Theatre . . . Wade Allen of the Fine Arts and Arcade was in northern Michigan hunting deer.

Clifford Rancourt, formerly of Associated Theatres' Loop, is new manager of the Regal for Joseph Ellul. Tony DeLisle, former manager, had to go north because of his health.

Joseph Ellul, back after the closing of the N. Y. Fair, is busy making changes at his Empress . . . Dave Kaplan has some unique ideas in those new "Hollywood Flashes."

Alice Gorham, UDT exploiteer, headed the Funfest of the Women's Advertising Club Saturday. She's president . . . Syd Bowman, UA booker, is said to be winning on all the football games this fall.

John Dembeck, M-G-M booker, was the tux-coated m. c. at the M-G-M party . . . Leo Sanshie is way out in the lead in the S. R. Kent Drive, among 20th-Fox bookers. Floyd Keiller is holding the team lead.

Lloyd Hammond, independent producer, has become an expert on picking out his film bills . . . Joe Reich is back at his old tricks with Lew Arozian.

Earl Hudson, UDT chief, and John Howard, Paramount manager, had a group of lake captains in for a special preview of "Rulers of the Sea" at UDT's screening room.

William Graham, formerly assistant manager of Chester Brown's Latin Theatre, has rejoined the staff of Cinema Service . . . Jay Conover, Grand National booker, tells a tale of flat tires. Ask him.

Hal Burriss of Coulter Premiums is back from a hunt without his buck. Says they wouldn't let him use his own dice . . . Al Dezel is getting the grand salaam from Carl Zipper, Excellent booker.

Mannie Gottlieb, ex-Universal manager, was in town for a few days from Chicago on personal business . . . Joe Friedman, another former Universal manager here, was in town on annual visit from London. He's now foreign manager for Columbia. Mrs. Friedman accompanied, renewing acquaintances.

Jack Saxe, Variety Dough Guy, admits he's getting cynical . . . The Spann circuit lives up to its name, George Custer of Monogram points out—"Span (n)s" the town, with one theatre at each end.

Charles Garner, roadshow distributor, advises he isn't dead. That was another Charles Garner who was killed in the auto accident down river. (Please omit flowers) . . . Peter Simon, independent producer, is recovering from a severe cold.

Ralph Ruben, Amusement Supply boss, says he doesn't believe in listening to the "little bird" any more . . . Robert Smith, fourth man convicted in the Senate Theatre holdup, was sentenced to 12 to 20 years.

ATHLETES, ATTENTION PLEASE: A basketball organization is being formed. Promoters include Dave Kaplan and Del Fear. Official organizer is Sam Wilson, shipping clerk at Republic. All basketballers report to Wilson. There will probably be teams from various theatre organizations, and a complete industry league is in the offing. Games will be played at 9 p. m. Mondays at the Central High School Gymnasium.

Samuel X. Gaylord, 78, former president of the Miles Theatre Co., and pioneer department store operator, died Thursday. Two grandsons survive.

Cully Buermele has a "suppressed desire" to be a football player . . . Jack Douglas was emcee for the Variety Frolic Saturday . . . Mannie Gottlieb was back from Chicago, renewing Detroit acquaintances.

Max Blumenthal, Film Projection Room, is getting a new Chevrolet . . . Harris Silverberg, National Screen Service, has appointed himself unofficial doorman.

Walter Moon, president of the Vivi-Tone Company, is spending more of his time over at the Grand River Avenue store these days . . . William Lesley has formed the Detroit Comfort Theatre Seating Co.

Harry Russell, booking agent, has closed his office here and is opening in the Ohio territory . . . Ray Miller is passing out cigars. Occasion is a baby daughter . . . Frank A. Seaver, formerly with Campbell-Ewald Co., is joining the creative contact staff of Jam Handy Picture Service.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Judy Garland's father, Frank A. Gumm, used to be manager of the Temple Theatre of Ironwood—and before that used to sing at both the Temple and Rialto.

Marshall, Mich., is to have color films of local scenes sponsored by the local Legion post . . . N. D. Reiss, head of Modern Talking Picture Service, was away on a rush trip to Flint.

Jeff Williams of Roseville and East Detroit was along Filmrow with Bruce Harsen, who is his general supervisor . . . Jack Moule of the Tuxedo, Highland Park, is putting on another cartoon party for youngsters.

Canned Food Shows

DETROIT—A total of 125 bushels of canned food to be distributed to needy families on Thanksgiving and Christmas were collected from 3,000 youngsters as admission for special shows at Associated Theatres two houses in Wyandotte, local suburb.

$5,000 for Front

INDIANA, PA.—Manos circuit is installing a new $5,000 front at the Indiana Theatre. Flexlume is revamping the marquee and the front will be of carrara glass.

Assign S. K. Lauren

HOLLYWOOD — Columbia's "This Thing Called Love" is being whipped into screen form by S. K. Lauren for Producer William Perlberg.

For Immediate Disposal
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W. S. BUTTERFIELD THEATRES, INC.
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Katz Spokesman for Pitt Film Exchange Staffs

PITTSBURGH—Lawrence J. Katz, executive of the IATSE and the state federation of labor, is representing the film exchange employes union in New York confabs on wage scales and working conditions. Current two-year contract expires November 30, and it is known that wage increases are being sought. Katz, International representative of the operators union, is representing the Philadelphia film exchange employes union as well as the Pittsburgh local, having been voted this power at a recent regional meeting in the former city. Ted Tolley is president of the Pittsburgh local.

Mervis Brothers Renovate Brighton Road Paramount

PITTSBURGH—The Paramount Theatre, Brighton Road, has been remodeled and modernized under plans of the Mervis Bros., local circuit operators. New front is of carrara glass from the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. and the new marquee is from Flexlume. Decorations were completed under the direction of Billy ZeVan.

DeFallo Ends Lease

CLAYSVILLE, PA.—Clay Theatre lease, held by Eugene DeFallo, was terminated last Saturday. It is understood that the house, now dismantled, will be operated by the owner, a Mr. Zitiker of Warren, Ohio. DeFallo told a BOXOFFICE reporter that he has no definite plans for the future.

View "Beast of Berlin"

PITTSBURGH — Producers Distributing Corporation's "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" was previewed by a special audience of exhibitors and representatives of veteran associations at a screening in the State Theatre, downtown.

Stahl Considers Sites

PITTSBURGH—Two theatre sites in Homestead Park are being considered by John Stahl, owner of the Stahl and Elite Theatres, Homestead. It is expected that a selection will be made at an early date and that construction will get under way shortly thereafter.

"I am on the road selling film advertising and I want to subscribe to BOXOFFICE because it gives me information about exhibitors and changes among exhibitors in my Iowa territory. So please start my subscription with the current issue."

—MEL FORTMAN,
Des Moines, Iowa

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

To Greater Booking

PITTSBURGH—On his last visit to Filmrow a month ago, Peter Gorris was anxious to book as far in advance as possible. He told bookers and other friends in the industry that it was his farewell to the celluloid colony; he said he was going to die.

Ill for a long period, but remaining active on the job as best he could in recent months, the veteran exhibitor kept his rendezvous with death November 16.

Gorris entered the industry in the Nickelodeon days, opening his first theatre in 1912. Scene of this initial venture was McKeesport, where he operated theatres for many years. For a long period he was a partner of Frank Panoplos. In more recent years he operated in other situations, including Carnegie, and for several years past he has been in exhibition at Glassport. He suffered advanced asthma for a number of years and his heart became weaker with the passing of time. The veteran showman, who at one time was healthy and wealthy, and who had suffered financial reverses, was taken to McKeesport hospital shortly before the end came. He is survived by a wife and three children, two boys and a girl.

In his sixties, "Pete" Gorris had many old-time friends in the motion picture business.

John Gorris, brother of the deceased, who was formerly a local theatreman at Clairton, Wilson and Elizabeth, but who in recent years has been in the restaurant business in eastern Pennsylvania, arrived here to look after the Star Theatre, Glassport, before "Pete" was fatally stricken.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, November 19, at the Greek Orthodox Church, McKeesport.

John (Gus) Bernower

CANTON, OHIO—John (Gus) Bernower, pioneer theatre builder here years ago, died November 14 at his home in Glendale, Cal., at the age of 79 years. Years ago Bernower saw a future in the motion picture industry and joined an associate in building one of the first motion picture theatres here, formerly the Alhambra, now Warner's Ohio. His widow and one son survive. Services and burial were in Glendale.

Constantine Wowra

BARBERTON, OHIO—Constantine Wowra, 69, well-known theatre operator here, died November 16 at St. Petersburg, Fla., where he was spending the winter. Owner of the pastime Theatre here, he retired as manager four years ago. His widow and five daughters and three sons survive.

Building Another

CYNTHIANA, KY.—Karl Rohs, owner of the Rohs Theatre, is building another one here—the Opera House, which will seat about 750. It will go up on the site of an old theatre which also was known as the Opera House. It will be ready in early spring.

Well-Timed Birth May Mean a Bank Account

PITTSBURGH—A number of theatres in the local area are tying in with a savings bank account stunt which is being arranged by Charlie Baron, M-G-M exploiteer, in connection with the release of "Another Thin Man," in which William Powell returns to the screen after an absence of two years, with Myrna Loy, and their screen baby "Nick Charles jr." The theatres will open savings accounts for the first baby boy born in the town during the first hour of the opening of the picture or during the first day of the engagement. Local banks and doctors will cooperate with the theatres on reports of "blessed events." First five to announce this plan are Pat Notaro, Columbia, Sharon; Ed Claffey, Academy, Meadville; Herman L. Stahl, Drake, Oil City; Mrs. Dorothy Brown, Orpheum, Franklin, and F. F. Bowers, Sheas, Bradford.

Open at Farmington

FARMINGTON, W. VA.—Alpine Theatre, formerly operated by the Alpine circuit, and now known as the Farmington Theatre, was reopened several days ago after considerable remodeling. A. C. Morris is the new operator. Morris continues in exhibition at Masontown and Fairview, W. Va., using portable equipment.

Have Free Feature

CLEVELAND—The Lake Shore Sales Co., in association with Modern Talking Pictures, has arranged to handle the distribution of "The Middletons at the World's Fair," a 50-minute feature which is available to exhibitors free of charge. This feature was reviewed by BOXOFFICE October 7.

Howard Biggio Back Home

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO—Howard Biggio, one of the brothers who own and operate the Grand Theatre here, has returned home after spending four years gold prospecting in California.

Renovates in Clarion

CLARION, PA.—Lewis Hepinger's Orpheum is being remodeled at a cost of around $5,000.

There Is Now

PITTSBURGH—An RKO mogul was still on the job following the world premiere of "Allegheny Uprising" at Loew's Penn. He was busy pointing out merits of the production and lauding the performance of Claire Trevor, who appeared in person, stating that the "part was just written for her."

Neil Swanson, author of "First Rebel," from which the photoplay was adapted, who had made no comment on the picture, stopped the zealous one with the direct statement:

"There is no girl in my book."

This **LIVELY** fellow is another of the **THOUSANDS** who get great and regular **PRACTICAL** value in **BOOKING** and **DATING** and keeping an accurate **RECORD** of pictures.

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WHAT MR. LIVELY HAS TO SAY

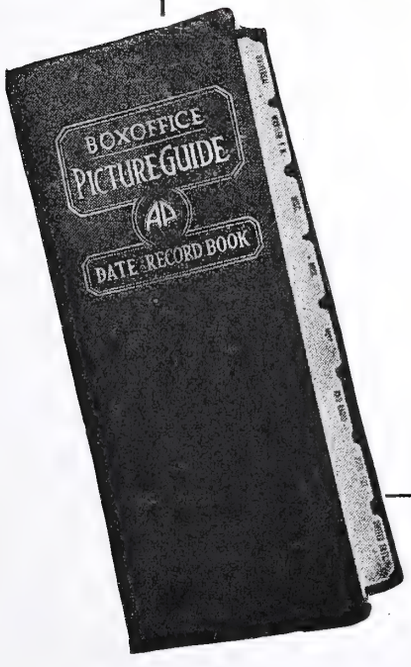
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Gentlemen:

A few weeks ago I renewed my subscription to BOXOFFICE for a period of two years.

I depend entirely on my PICTURE GUIDE for booking on three houses. My present Guide is just about completely filled and I would appreciate it if you will either send me a new one or new pages for the old one.

Thanks a lot for your cooperation in the above.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) *G. B. Lively*

One of the Many **PLUS** Services of

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BOXOFFICE

Brandt Confers With Pitt Independents

(See page 10 for more details)

PITTSBURGH—Harry Brandt, head of the ITOA, a visitor here Tuesday, told a BOXOFFICE reporter that his tour of a dozen key cities of the United States was for the purpose of consolidating the opinions of theatre owners on industry problems, naming the Neely Bill, which he bitterly opposes, as the first consideration, and the appearance of film stars on the air as of second importance.

Brandt's plea here, made before approximately a dozen members of the industry, for a new system of clearance and arbitration, made but small impression. M. A. Rosenberg, head of the local Allied unit, declared to Brandt that national Allied and its individual units were behind the Neely Bill.

Among the independents attending were M. N. Shapiro, Archie Fineman, Ray Wheeler, Art England, Bennett Amdur, Alex S. Moore, William Finkel, Gabe Rubin and Manny Greenwald.

Republic Maintains Lead In Pitt Bowling League

PITTSBURGH—Republic held its lead in the Filmrow Bowling League after games rolled last Friday. Peter Quiter of New Universal took the weekly award of $1 for high score, rolling a 196 game. Standing of the teams to November 24:

	Won	Lost
Republic	18	6
Universal	17	7
Columbia	17	7
Loew's	15	9
All Stars	11	13
20th-Fox	9	15
Monarch	7	17
RKO	2	22

Republic Also Leads All In Detroit Bowling Race

DETROIT—Standings in the local Film Bowling League:

	Won	Lost
Republic	22	6
United Artists	20	8
Film Drug	17	11
Film Truck	15	13
Co-Operative	12	16
Monogram	11	17
20th-Fox	8	20
Amusement Supply	6	22

High scorers of the week: Jack Susami, 213; Max Blumenthal, 205, and Al Rupert, 201.

Motiograph Leads Bowling League Race in Detroit

DETROIT—Latest standings in the Nightingale Club:

Team	Won	Lost
Motiograph	20	12
Oliver Theatre Supply	19	13
McArthur Theatre Equipment	19	13
National Theatre Supply	18	14
National Carbon	15	17
Amusement Supply	13	19
Brenkert Projectors	13	19
Lorenzen Flowers	11	21

High series were rolled by: Sherman Lambly, 598; Jack Lindenthal, 550; John Hall, 552; Ferdinand Wise, 529; Michael Badarak, 525; W. Fouchey, 507, and Thomas Smale, 506.

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from page 44)

rock which was dynamited in the construction of the new highway from Irwin to Harrisburg. He was accompanying Ace Stuckey, who is taking movies of the highway, when the blast occurred, according to word received in the film center.

Art Morrone of Superior Supply is recovering nicely at Mercy Hospital after undergoing an operation last Saturday morning . . . Ida Henn returned to work at Republic Pictures this week after recovering from injuries sustained in an accident ten months ago . . . The Harry Kalmines flew to New York to take in the Conn-Lesnevich fight . . . Jay Allen Mundstuk (JAM) is the name of M-G-M's West Virginia sales representative's son . . . Ken Blakely of Kellers Theatre, North East, Pa., was a Filmrow shopper this week . . . Louella Parsons, Hollywood correspondent, comes to the stage of the Stanley the week of December 1, with Arleen Whelan, Ronald Reagan, Susan Hayward, Jane Wyman and June Preisser.

Burtus Bishop jr., M-G-M branch manager, and John J. Maloney, district manager, attended a mid-season sales meeting at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, November 25 and 26. Bishop will holiday at Charlotte over the Thanksgiving (30) weekend . . . August Gonlin, the "sick committee" of the exchange employes union, has been busy of late visiting local film workers who are on the injured or sick list. He's a Republic employe.

National Screen Service may go ahead with its local building program after the first of the year . . . Lew Lefton reports that "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" is being booked by many of the finest theatres and is cleaning up in the territory . . . Max Shulgold and Lawrence Carettie are happier these days now that GN is being refinanced . . . Ernest Fox has been named assistant manager at Loew's Penn, having been transferred from Loew's Midland, Kansas City, Mo.

Mary Jane Thomas Hoon of the Republic office has resigned her position to be a housewife. Her hubby is Roy Hoon of the Warner exchange. Gertrude Ball is the new girl at the Republic office, replacing Mary Jane at the switchboard.

Walter Thomas, manager of Acme Distributing Co., is booking 50 local area theatres in a tieup with Westinghouse Electric Co., with each theatre giving away a latest model refrigerator in exchange for showing a 50-minute Technicolor production, "The Middleton Family," enacted by members of the radio cast. Local Westinghouse dealer furnishes several displays, including one for the theatre, heralds, etc. Moe Gould has joined the sales staff of Acme, according to Walt Thomas . . . Among guests at Jim Alexander's Round-Up party at the Variety Club last Saturday evening were Mrs. Charles Stanton of Atlantic Screen Service and Ralph Stantley, her assistant. Ray "Tucson" Corrigan's entertainment was a decided hit. Alexander hosted 20 guests at a 2:30 a. m. breakfast. Corrigan took the "hot" seat at the Variety Club, and exclaimed "that horse sure can kick!"

Cartoon Characters Herald Xmas in Shop Windows

PITTSBURGH—In addition to the calendar, another reminder that Christmas is really near was the Santa Claus parade featuring the "Pinocchio," "Tarzan" and "Gulliver" floats, which took over the Triangle and the North Side last Saturday. Pinocchio, hero of Walt Disney's new feature film, with Gepetto, Figaro the Cat, the Blue Fairy and the rest of the troupe are occupying the windows of one of the department stores. Another store features Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels" in the windows and the toy department of this store features "Andy Panda," new cartoon figure of Universal. Another store's window features "The Lone Ranger," and the toy department here has a "Lone Ranger" exhibit for which the admission price is 25 cents. Dozens of books, novelties and mechanical toys of these film characters are being featured at all stores. The old favorites, Mickey Mouse, Krazy Kat, Donald Duck, Pluto, Wizard of Oz, and Snow White characters are also offered, and new Gene Autry books, song books and novelties have made their appearance.

Harris circuit theatres are pushing the sale of numbered book tickets, offering four Packard autos . . . George Jaffe of the Casino Theatre lost a brother, Joseph Jaffe, who died last Friday of complications superinduced by injuries suffered in an accident three years ago. George's son, Ben, died only a few weeks ago . . . Local community fund's new sound film "The Whisle Blows" depicts the labors of 80 or more agencies performing social work in Allegheny County . . . Billy Conn, light-heavyweight champion, and Pittsburgh's pride and joy, is scheduled to go to Hollywood and star in "The Life of Jim Corbett."

M. N. Shapiro and Archie Fineman have installed the first Ashcraft "Cyclex" projection system at their Hazelwood Theatre and many exhibitors and machine operators are studying it in operation . . . The Mannie Steinbergs are expecting.

Dave Kimelman, Paramount manager, returned home from Montefiore Hospital in time for Thanksgiving. He was under observation for a week and a half and was reported well upon arriving at his home . . . M. A. Wally of the New Universal real estate department, was here on business this week . . . AMPTO of W. Pa., as is an annual custom, is distributing trailers for the annual appeal for the Tuberculosis League of Pittsburgh . . . Paramount visitors this week included Harry Goldstein, district manager; Duke Clark, Cleveland manager; William Sharpe, district ad sales manager, and Lester Coleman, playdate auditor.

Ascap representatives at Monday's Variety Club dinner were William J. O'Brien jr., R. J. Powers, Andrew Jackson, H. O. Bergkamp and J. A. Henderson . . . J. C. Lund, Notopoulos manager at Aliquippa, was the first to mail his check for the Christmas Relief Fund of the Film Mutual Aid. Other contributors will be published next week.

Cinema Club Nominates 16 Board Candidates

BOSTON—Sixteen men were nominated by the Cinema Club for possible election to the executive board of seven members. It was announced the election will be held on December 6.

The following members were nominated: Charles Wilson, William J. Cuddy, G. Govan, Samuel Berg, Harry P. Smith, Thomas Fermoyle, Charles Repec, Herbert Higgins, Abraham Barry, Dan Seletsky, David W. Grover, Thomas Farrell, Harry Schlar, John A. Glazier, Walter Silverman and Al Wheeler.

Following selection of the executive board, members of the board will choose a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

Forty-Five Features Pass For Showing on Sunday

BOSTON—Forty-five feature pictures and shorts were passed by Eugene M. McSweeney, commissioner of the department of public safety, for exhibition on Sunday. Among the films were "Allegheny Uprising," "Honeymoon's Over," "Main Street Lawyer," and "Meet Dr. Christian." "The Mill on the Floss," which appeared in the October 13 bulletin with eliminations requested, was corrected by Imperial and passed by the bureau of Sunday censorship.

Seven vaudeville acts were passed in their entirety, while eight were disapproved in their present form and two were banned outright.

Hub Universal Exchange Holds Drive for Kelly

BOSTON—Universal is celebrating Branch Manager William Kelly's 20th anniversary with the exchange by a special sales drive culminating in "Bill Kelly Week" from December 24 to 30. The entire office force met to decide what sort of honor they could provide Kelly. The personnel finally decided to give him the biggest month's business the exchange has ever seen. To date the results have been gratifying, according to Jim Murphy, office manager. Plans are going ahead for a special party.

New England Theatre Circuits in Merger

NEW HAVEN—Certificate of ownership, merging Poli New England Theatres, Inc., and Eastern Theatres, Inc., pursuant to action taken at a board of directors meeting in October, has been recorded in the town clerk's office here. All liabilities and obligations, including principal and interest on all the outstanding bonds of Poli New England Theatres, Inc., are assumed, and Eastern Theatres, Inc., relinquishes its corporate name and assumes the name of Poli New England Theatres, Inc.

The document, signed by David Bernstein, vice-president, and Leopold Friedman, secretary, states the board deemed this merger "advisable pursuant to a plan of complete liquidation to the end that this corporation will be possessed of all the estate, property, rights, privileges, and franchises of said Poli New England Theatres, Inc."

Both companies were incorporated in 1933 in Delaware.

WB Managerial Lineup Is Shifted in New England

NEW HAVEN—Following resignation of Howard Pettingill from managership of the Warner, Bridgeport, and William Hatkoff, from the Rialto, South Norwalk, Warner has announced several shifts in the managerial lists. Manny Kugell has been transferred from the Palace, South Norwalk, to manage the Warner, Bridgeport, and George Harvey from the Empress, Danbury, to the Palace, South Norwalk. J. Miklos, assistant manager of the Embassy, New Britain, has been promoted to manager of the Broadway, Norwich, while Jay O'Sullivan goes from the Norwich house to the Empress, Danbury. A. Montefalco, assistant at the Commodore Hull, Derby, and manager of the three-a-week Tremont, Ansonia, has been moved to the Rialto, South Norwalk, as manager, while J. Landino, chief-of-service at the Roger Sherman, New Haven, takes over the Tremont.

BRIDGEPORT

MANAGER MATT SAUNDERS, Morris Rosenthal, Harry Rose and Manny Kugell were the guests of honor at the annual dinner of the carriers of the *Post* and *Telegram*. It was the way the boys took to pay back the managers for many favors granted during the year.

Anthony Porgorzeski has resigned as student assistant manager of the Majestic. Seth Hoag, doorman, has been advanced to fill the vacancy.

Harry Shaw, Lou Brown and their wives were in town for the opening of burlesque at the Lyric.

Jack Sydney sr. has returned to Hollywood after a visit with his son, Jack, assistant manager at the Loew-Poli.

The Manny Kugells (he's the new manager at the Warner) are awaiting the stork . . . Leonora Shallet has joined the Loew-Poli staff.

George Harvey has been transferred from the Empress at Danbury to manager of the Palace, Norwalk.

Elsie Knox of Greenwich has been signed for six months by 20th Century-Fox.

The Capitol did well with "The Goldwyn Follies" and "The Last of the Mohicans" on a twin revival bill.

Bingo games are even beginning to appear on Sunday nights . . . Ralph Mauro is back from a business trip to Boston.

Entrance Change Denied Loew College Theatre

NEW HAVEN—The petition of the Loew-College Theatre for permission to close the College Street entrance and roof over the Chapel Street entry to be used as a main entrance and exit, was unanimously denied by the board of examiners of appeals from decisions of the building inspector. The decision does not prevent the theatre from using the passageway but merely from incorporating it into the building as a lobby.

It is believed that the Union League Club adjoining the entrance is the chief opponent to the granting of the permit. Lease of Loew's, Inc., on the entrance way on Chapel Street expires in January, 1940. Negotiations will continue the attempt to secure the permit.

Master Recording Studios Will Be Ready December

BOSTON—Maurice Master, president of Master Motion Picture Co., announced that his new sound recording studios will be ready shortly after December 1. Workmen are now soundproofing the building at 50 Piedmont Street, adjoining 48, where Master is now located.

"We have bought the entire building," Master told BOXOFFICE, "and will spend several thousand dollars to make it the most modern recording studio and laboratory in New England."

Production of 16 millimeter sound Kodachrome moving pictures will be started as soon as the studios are completed.

Grand National Closes New Haven Exchange

NEW HAVEN—The local Grand National exchange has closed, along with nine other smaller offices of the company in various cities. The Connecticut territory will temporarily be handled out of Boston. The New Haven branch was established almost four years ago.

Staffs Hear Wobber

BOSTON—General Sales Manager Herman Wobber of 20th Century-Fox's New York office spoke to a combined meeting at the Boston exchange of Albany, New Haven and New England salesmen. Wobber discussed the 1940 product and future sales campaigns.

Extend "Mohawk" Run

NEW HAVEN—"Drums Along the Mohawk" and "Too Busy to Work" were moved to the College for a second week. "Disputed Passage" and "Zenobia" stayed five extra days at the Paramount.

Smoke Interferes With Show

BERLIN, N. H.—The Albert Theatre's first stage show in many months was smoked out here recently when fire broke out in the business block across the street.

NEW HAVEN

BUSINESS is not generally on the upswing, exhibitors say. Only the good pictures are pulling . . . No unusual Thanksgiving activity planned in the downtowns or nabes, what with usual turkey giveaways ruled out as a lottery . . . Poli, Worcester, is the only Loew-Poli house to schedule a Thanksgiving eve midnight show, featuring "Another Thin Man," with no advance in prices . . . Midnight New Year's Eve shows will be numerous.

Pathe Newsreel's 140 *feet of the Advertising Club dinner in honor of Yale and New Haven's Dr. William Lyon Phelps gives the governor's award of honor presentation speech, Dr. Phelps' talk, and a view of all the notables including Gene Tunney, Grantland Rice, John Kieran, Mayor Murphy, and Barney Pitkin. The reel played at the Roger Sherman. Barney's screen debut is O. K. too, and the talent scouts are watching him . . . Friends on the Street extended best wishes to I. Levine, Jeanette Berliner, Katherine Lavalle and Domenick Somma at a special informal luncheon party in their honor at Garden Villa on the closing day of the local Grand National office.*

In addition to all the exchange managers, patrons for the exchange employes' Movie Ball and Floor Show, December 5, at Baybrook Inn now number 75, including Harry F. Shaw, who will also m. c., Earl Wright, Henry Germaine, Milton Hyams, Morton Katz, Ben Lourie, Pete DeFazio, Bill Cinelli, A. L. Titus and many others . . . Bob Hoffman and Jerry Massimino are filling up the souvenir advertising program. The Mayor and many other notables have been invited, and a big time is promised.

The Metro Pep Club will have its own annual Christmas party the week of December 17, *with George Weber, president, in charge of arrangements. Thanksgiving features with nary a turkey along the Rialto: "Rulers of the Sea" at the Paramount, "Another Thin Man" at the Poli, "That's Right, You're Wrong" at the Roger Sherman, probably "Ninotchka" holdover at the College, and "A Woman Is the Judge" at the Bijou.*

"First Love" lasted two weeks beyond its initial week in Hartford, transferring to the Regal for the last two. The boys admiringly call the E. M. Loew's Hartford manager "Bing Landers," now that he's held "Mr. Smith" for four weeks. It was "Bing Bang" after the five-week run of "It Happened One Night," though . . . "Disputed Passage" held five extra days at the Paramount, New Haven, and Allyn, Hartford . . . "Mr. Smith" stayed on at the Palace, South Norwalk, for three extra days . . . "Drums Along the Mohawk" piled up a terrific weekend at the Poli, New Haven, and rated a transfer to the College for another week . . . Elm Street, Worcester, held "Mr. Smith" three weeks . . . First New England showing of "Allegheny Uprising" at the Warner, Worcester, this week, with early morning opening.

Ice Vanities at the Arena November 21 *through* 25*th brought a cast of* 50 *and plenty of customers . . . Capitol, Danbury, has Wednesday and Thursday bargain days, with matinee admission* 15 *cents and evening,* 15-20 *cents . . . Exhibitors still complaining of Tuesday night slump on account of big radio cash giveaway . . . Think the exhib out west who offered* $1,000 *to any patron in his theatre who could prove he had missed the award by leaving his phone, a smart idea . . . Middletown Theatres, Inc., former operators of the Palace, Capitol and Middlesex theatres, Middletown, have filed final certificate of dissolution.*

Picketing continues as operators resume their intermittent fight of several years with E. M. Loew's, Hartford . . . Local No. 74 of IATSE will nominate and elect officers for the coming year at a meeting November 26, Frank S. O'Connell presiding . . . Windsor theatres continue their separate ways, the renovated Lockwood-Gordon house promised for next month. The Shulman Plaza is due shortly after . . . George Comden's absence from Meadow Street reported due to renovating plans at the Fine Arts, Westport . . . Mrs. Virginia Rossi is recovering the seats of her Alhambra, Waterbury . . . The Cameo, Waterbury, operated by Jerry Mascoli, will have new RCA sound in December . . . Cheshire Theatre will be Natale DeFrancesco's Christmas present . . . Steel for the new Bailey house in Whitneyville arrived this week and work is now proceeding . . . When Mrs. Joseph Shulman completes the interior decoration of the new Plaza, Windsor, she will bask in a little Florida sunshine . . . Ben Simon, Earl Wright and Sam Germaine attended the regional meeting of 20th-Fox in Boston, with Herman Wobber, general sales manager, and M. A. Levy, national drive captain, presiding.

Mildred Considine, wife of Bob Considine, Mirror *sports columnist, was the guest of the Lou Browns for the Yale-Princeton game . . . William P. Jefferson of American Display toured the Poli circuit with Lou Brown last week . . . Frank Soule, Republic traveling auditor, spent a few days in town . . . John Murphy and Ben Joel of the New York Loew office were among the Yale-Princeton spectators . . . With Mr. and Mrs. Lou Weinberg, Columbia, the game was second feature. First was Arthur Weinberg, a student at Yale . . . Sympathy to Bob Portle of the Plaza, Worcester, on the passing of his sister . . . Harry F. Shaw is arranging the acts for the annual B'nai B'rith dance and show November* 29 *. . . Burlesque had a good opening at the Lyric, Bridgeport, leased to Max Rudnick . . . This is the last week of Kash Kwiz at the Poli, Waterbury. Although the idea looked better every week, other complications made it simpler to discontinue.*

Fred Van Doren of the Hamilton, Waterbury, who is building a new 600-seater on the west side of Waterbury, has struck what amounts to gold—he has excavated almost enough bricks from his lot to build a theatre . . . E. H. Ralston of the Strand, Seymour, has been on the sick list and still talks about closing the theatre . . . As both the Lockwood-Gordon and the Shulman theatres in Windsor race toward completion, it looks like a twin premiere next month . . . Joe Einhorn is booking "The Drunkard" in 16mm about the state. King Cole supplies the sound machines . . . Dick Anderson of the RKO home office was a visitor . . . Warner's Palace, South Norwalk, booked a single performance of Clifford and his midnight spook party, along with "The Thirteenth Guest" on the screen, charging 40 cents . . . The Empress, South Norwalk, tried a double chill with "Torture Ship" and "Dead Men Tell No Tales" . . . The Poli, New Haven, gets an improved reader board effect with the use of four three-foot fluorescent tubes to light up from below.

Edward Fitzpatrick of the Poli, Waterbury, rented the house to a local merchant for a special morning show featuring a western and short subjects . . . Proven Pictures, Hartford, is putting on late evening shows on "Human Wreckage" . . . Jack Haley a draw at the State . . . Also Jimmy Durante . . . Ten-O-Win continues at the Plaza, Worcester, now the only Loew house to use cash . . . Dick Cohen has sold Fred Van Doren his new Silverglo aluminum deal for two days a week . . . Mutual Display anticipates the holiday spirit with its attractive 40x60 *and* 30x40 *Xmas and New Year posters . . . Seating of the Globe, Bridgeport, is practically finished . . . Reseating of the balconies of Palace, Hartford, and Bijou, New Haven, proceeds, with workmen on the night shift only . . . Bob Russell of the Poli was m. c. at a dinner in honor of Ralph Gottlieb who leaves WBRY for GBI, Scranton.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE CAPITOL in Concord played host to a group of state officials and employes, headed by Gov. Francis P. Murphy and the executive council, at a special showing of the sound film, "The Ninth State," depicting New Hampshire.

Word has been received from the West Coast that a group of the Peterborough Players, now in Hollywood, recently staged a party there for Lincoln R. Lounsbury, one of the actors.

Strangers seen at the stage door of the Strand in Manchester, where vaudeville now vies with films, were not "Stage Door Johnnies," but merely prospects for two trained Poodles which Clem Belling, who had a girl and dog act there, advertised for sale.

A contribution toward purchase of a motion picture machine for use in local schools has been voted by the North Hampton Junior Woman's Club.

Mrs. Beatrice Gagne, secretary to Peter Gagne, owner of the Somersworth Theatre and also collector of internal revenue for New Hampshire, has been elected secretary of the New Hampshire unit, national association of collectors of internal revenue.

The Broadway in Dover offered five vaudeville acts with its pictures at a big midnight show marking Armistice Eve.

BOSTON

HARRY REINERS of the RKO home office is back here in connection with the showing of the new Kay Kyser picture, "That's Right, You're Wrong," scheduled at RKO Boston for the day before Thanksgiving. Charley Becker, a newcomer to the home office exploitation department, is making the rounds with Reiners in order to learn the ropes . . . Lois DeFee, whose performance resulted in the suspension of the Gayety's license for a week, put in three days at the Capitol in Pawtucket and three days at the Court Square in Springfield, all E. M. Loew houses.

Wally Brown, former Malden boy, headlined the vaudeville bill at RKO Boston. He was auditioned for a part in a New York musical "Two for the Show" and also by Eddie Dowling. Twentieth Century-Fox has scheduled Wally for a screen test at the end of the month. He has appeared several times with Rudy Vallee . . . RKO Publicists Jack Granara and Joe Ehrlick have tied in with Filene's on "Little Accident" . . . Maxwell Fox, Variety's Boston representative, rode to Philadelphia with members of the "Hot Mikado" company. He has some business to transact in town and the show manager suggested he go along on the special.

Mayor Maurice Tobin, Governor Leverett Saltonstall and Police Commissioner Joseph F. Timilty all wired congratulation to Kay Kyser at Rocky Mount, N. C., where the world's premiere of his new picture was held . . . The E. M. Loew office is planning to hold a Christmas party during the holiday week.

Walter Dyer, Jim Donovan, Jim Murphy and Harry Martin, all of Universal, attended the Boston College-Boston University football game at Fenway Park . . . Ted Shaps, auditor for a number of theatres and exchanges, has been a constant visitor to his mother's bedside at City Hospital . . . Mary Brady's mother has been seriously ill after a heart attack. Mary is with Monogram.

Tom O'Brien, Monogram booker, joined Frank Lydon's retreat group at Campion Hall, Andover, Mass. The next retreat will be held during the weekend of March 10, at the same place. Reservations are in order now . . . Eddie Segal of Warner's contract department was married to Muriel Lieber. The night before the wedding, Warner associates held a stag for him in the Warner clubroom and presented Eddie with a sum of cash . . . Business is rushing at the Theatre Service Supply Co. Everyone is working overtime these days.

Bill Murphy, Imperial's manager, has been out with a cold . . . Sylvia Wolkan, Warner stenog, is out with la grippe . . . William Kremmel, Warner shipper, passed out cigars after the arrival of a 7 lb. 11 oz. boy . . . Marie O'Connor and Merrie Andre, two National Screen pretties, attended the Harvard-Army game . . . Phil Sherman, former New Haven salesman for Monogram, was in town . . . Will Harrison, National Screen Service, is father of a 7½-pound boy. Mrs. Harrison is at Lawrence Memorial Hospital . . . Warren Gates, Warner booker, will be passing out two cigars any day now. He and Mrs. Gates expect twins.

Pauline Winston, Columbia, is out with a cold . . . The Columbia Club, composed of exchange employes, will hold a Christmas party at an undecided place . . . Charles Repec, M-G-M booker, is on the sick list . . . Dick Sears, Universal newsreelman; Larry Ellis, Fox Movietone; Nemo Gaskill of News of the Day, all made pictures of the Byrd Expedition's departure. Howard Winner of RKO Pathe News came in with a crew from New York to make the story.

Universal screened "Tower of London" at the State House . . . The 14-year-old Metropolitan Building has received a face-lifting and is once more white . . . Metropolitan Publicists Paul Levi and Marty Glazer had stickers printed announcing the showing of "Drums Along the Mohawk" at the Met. These were attached to posters on newsstands showing the cover of Movie Story *magazine, featuring the story of "Drums Along the Mohawk."*

Rufus Blair, associated with Hollywood Studios of Paramount, arrived to help out with "Gulliver's Travels" and "The Great Victor Herbert." He tied in with Jordan Marsh on the Christmas week showing of "Gulliver's Travels," a Fleischer full-length cartoon . . . Meyer Marcus, M&P exploiteer, is still trying to get an inside straight in a poker game.

Phil Engel of Warner Brothers was in town from New York in advance of "Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex," due to open December 6 at the Metropolitan . . . Phil Smith left on a two-week trip to New York and the middle west to look over his outdoor theatres . . . Mario Daru, Paramount publicity man, enjoys good hunting practically outside his back door at Concord. If rabbits are not to be found there, he ambles over the town line to nearby Lexington.

Louise Buckley, United Artists cashier, is vacationing . . . Paul Levi and Marty Glazer mailed out some 2,500 letters to all the doctors in greater Boston telling them not to miss "Disputed Passage" at the Met . . . Republic's anniversary picture, "Main Street Lawyer" has been booked into the Paramount and Fenway.

Jeanette Berliner is doing some special work at the Grand National office. She is in from the New Haven exchange . . . Tex Fletcher, Grand National's western star, will make personal appearances at the Larcom, Beverly, Mass.; Strand, Winsted Ct.; New Bedford, New Bedford, Mass.; Colonial, Southington, Ct., and Rialto, Windsor Locks, Ct., before returning to Boston to fill additional bookings. He will start work on a new picture in January.

Jim Murphy, Universal's office manager, looks very dapper these days with two complete blue outfits from suit right down to hat and handkerchief. He is going to spend Thanksgiving in New York, while Harry Martin, Universal salesman, will visit Canada . . . Mr. and Mrs. Facano, operators of the Cummings in Fitchburg, have taken over the Crown in Lowell from Irving Dunne and Eddie Hosmer.

William Alperin, recently honored with a stag party, has announced that he will honeymoon in the south . . . Phil Regan visited the film district, stopping off at the Republic exchange . . . Joe Brennan, Allied Theatres prexy, has been traveling throughout Massachusetts . . . Jack Saef, Ben Rosenberg and John Carroll, put over that scare stunt in great fashion for "The

(Continued on next page)

3 in 1

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HARTFORD

RUDY FRANK, publicity plugger for Harris Brothers' State, had Jack Haley and Mary Carlisle on the air over local stations nine times last week when the two stars were in town.

Theatremen in the state get a nice break what with with November 23 and November 30 as holidays.

In and about the state: Lee Aines has been promoted from usher to doorman at the Loew-Poli, Bridgeport . . . New sound was installed in the Windsor, Windsor. The contract was signed, it appears, by the Lampert Theatre of Windsor, Inc. . . . New cashier at the Lido, Waterbury, is Madeleine Fusco . . . Maurice Shulman's new theatre in Wethersfield is slowly taking shape.

Resigned from the usher corps at the Globe, Bridgeport, is George Puma . . . Randy Maller, Strand, New Britain, had a bad case of intestinal grippe recently, at which time Assistant Bill Humphrey carried on in Randy's absence . . . Business appears to be picking up in Bristol, judging from the lines at the boxoffice of that town's theatres.

Eddie Downs, service staff usher, Loew-Poli, is, so they say at the house, practicing to be a boxer . . . Charlie Niles, Hartford *Times*, has been switched from writing film reviews for the theatre department to broadcasting news bulletins over WTHT, the *Times'* station.

In Worcester recently: Harry F. Shaw, division manager, Loew-Poli circuit, together with Lou Brown, publicity . . . Seen last Thursday afternoon walking along Main Street with Jack Feschler, assistant manager, was Louis Cohen, Loew-Poli Palace.

Formerly in Hollywood and now doing publicity for Governor Baldwin is Roger Doulens, according to latest reports . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" played four weeks at the E. M. Loew's in town. Theatre reported SRO business . . . Jimmy Durante together with Gray Gordon and his "Tic Toc" orchestra hit town last Friday at Harris Brothers' State.

Assistant Manager Tommie Shea, Loew-Poli, Bridgeport, resigned from that post some days ago after having been with the house for four years. Tom, according to latest reports, is working at the Bridgeport Brass Co.

In Boston some days ago was Manager Morris Saffner, Olympia, Woonsocket, Rhode Island . . . Also in the Hub City some days ago from Rhode Island was Louis Vail, Warren . . . "Human Wreckage" played at Hartford's Proven Picture Theatre on Monday at a late evening showing.

Harris Brothers' State publicity man, Rudy Frank, it seems, is doing a nice job in the way of publicity for that house, inasmuch as he's succeeded in landing free plugs in the local press, and other papers throughout the state. Incidentally, SRO business occurs frequently at that house nowadays.

Loew-Poli news: Jack A. Simons, manager, spent last Thursday and Friday in New York . . . Student Assistant Russell G. Grant is photographing lobby displays for future use of the theatre . . . House cashiers are receiving many compliments on their personal appearance in the boxoffice by patrons . . . Marty Cherlin and Johnnie Kelly, service staff, went for their first airplane ride last Thursday.

Daly Theatre, located along Hartford's main stem, held a special kid's show last Saturday morning at which time kids were admitted for only a card and a five-cent piece . . . Last Saturday, too, Loew-Poli Palace did the same thing—only on different scale, with the Lone Ranger Club renting the house for the morning.

More Loew-Poli doings: Peter Leonard, service staff porter, is saving his money these days in order that he may be able to go to Columbia University in New York . . . Tommy Vaughan is the handsome new house policeman that everyone sees around there nowadays . . . Russ Grant, student assistant, is practicing to be a first-class musician so that he may mystify his Hartford theatre friends . . . Mrs. Agnes Tucker, matron, has been out for some days now, due to a cold. Mrs. T's position is being filled by Hertha May, relief matron.

M&P's Allyn Theatre held over "Disputed Passage" last week for another week's run. Manager Walter Lloyd reports that film did "pretty good business" throughout its run . . . Maurice Schulman, owner and operator of the Webster Theatre, was in Philadelphia some days ago . . . Jim McCarthy, manager, Strand, a Warner unit, was in New York and Pennsylvania last week and through the days up to this Thursday.

Enlist Theatres' Aid in Hunt for Hartford Lad

HARTFORD—Motion picture theatres here some days ago were asked if they knew anything of the whereabouts of Bernard Sweeney, a 15-year-old East Hartford schoolboy who, his father reports, "is inclined to theatres."

Following is his description: Brown hair and eyes; five feet three inches tall; weight approximately 120 pounds.

Independent Exhibitors Put Kelly in Field

BOSTON—T. Thornton Kelly, former secretary of New York Allied, was appointed field representative for Independent Exhibitors, Inc., following a meeting held here Tuesday, and presided over by Nathan Yamins, president.

Kelly will concentrate for the next few months in Connecticut, which recently was included in the Boston territory.

Stage Presentations Are Extended in Manchester

MANCHESTER, N. H.—Vaudeville is going so well with pictures at the Strand Theatre here that the management has announced stage shows three days a week, instead of two days.

Each year the Strand starts vaudeville in October and continues through May.

Sign Hartford Girl

HARTFORD—Elsie M. Kornbrath, 22-year-old Hartford girl, has been signed to an acting contract by 20th-Fox in Hollywood.

BOSTON

(Continued from preceding page)

Cat and the Canary" showing at the Paramount and Fenway. M&P Theatres showing the picture will use the same contest calling for a brave woman to sit through a midnight showing of the picture —alone in a darkened theatre—for $25.00 *cash.*

Gerald Partington, RKO's assistant chief of service, is back on the job, after a stay in the hospital . . . Harry Browning, M&P's publicity chief, has acquired a new 18-foot motorboat for use in Mystic Lake . . . Charles Stern, United Artists eastern sales manager, was in town for a few days . . . Plans are being made for the United Artists annual Christmas party.

The Rialto, Lowell, has acquired new draperies, lamps and a generator from Capitol Theatre Supply . . . National Theatre, Boston, has installed new lamps . . . Hartland, Maine theatre has new projectors and sound equipment . . . Roy E. Heffner, Bank Night owner, is preparing to file six new cases against New Hampshire exhibitors . . . Frank Lydon, Arthur Howard, Wilbur Peterson and Les Bendslev returned from the Allied regional meeting in Philadelphia.

The Idle Hour at Hardwick, Maine, reopened after a short shutdown following a fire. Damage was caused by smoke and water . . . The local 20th Century-Fox exchange is in 11th place in the S. R. Kent sales drive that ends December 16 . . . Charley Ganellas of the Deering Theatre, Deering, Me., was in town booking . . . Ditto Al McEvoy, who operates the Attleboro, Mass., theatres, and Mrs. McEvoy. Al's brother, Ed, is with RKO in New York.

Harry Asher has booked "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" into the Empire, Portland, Me. He also booked "Torture Ship" for the entire M&P, Warner and Morse and Rothenberg circuits . . . Allied Exhibitors, according to Frank Lydon, are getting ready for the big push to put through the Neely Bill unless major distributors remedy conditions by their own free will . . . The father-in-law of Jim Caddigan of 20th Century-Fox passed away . . . New equipment has been installed by Capitol Theatre Supply in the following houses: Liberty, Providence, R. I.; State School, Pownal, Me.; Casino, Newport, R. I.; Hospital Training School, Canton, Mass., and Modern, Brockton, Mass. . . . Ken Douglass has sold Cyclex lamps to the Regent, Arlington, Mass.

Suit for Writ Dropped By Okla. Theatres

OKLAHOMA CITY—Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., has filed a motion to dismiss its action in U. S. federal district court for the western district of Oklahoma, requesting a dismissal without prejudice. Judge Edgar S. Vaught granted the dismissal and the case was closed.

In the action, Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., operating the Odeon Theatre at Shawnee, Okla., had requested an injunction from the court ordering distributors and the Griffith Amusement Co. to restrain an alleged conspiracy to keep it from securing film. It alleged that ample films were in vaults in Oklahoma City for which no Shawnee contracts had been signed and that distributors refused to contract with it for these films. The Griffith circuit operates three theatres in Shawnee.

Griffith officials expressed surprise at the filing of the motion as they were fully prepared to go to trial with the case on the date set, December 11. Griffith and distributor attorneys had notified plaintiff attorneys before the scheduled pre-trial conference, that they were ready to go ahead with trial of the case and came to the pre-trial conference date with this line of procedure in mind.

Eager on Injunction Case

It is understood that defense executives and their counsel were all eager to have the injunction case brought into court as it involved several of the principals involved in A. B. Momand's $4,500,000 anti-trust action against major distributors and the Griffith companies. This action has gone through all of the pre-trial stages and all motions have been filed and disposed of in Judge A. P. Murrah's court. No definite date has been set for the trial of the damage action but it is understood here that this date will be set in the immediate future and that the trial itself may get underway shortly after the first of the year.

Other theatre interests in the state had also focused a sharp eye on the injunction case inasmuch as fundamentally it involved the right of the distributor to sell to whom he pleased and also embodied much of the alleged conspiracy arguments presented in numerous other actions over the nation. A number of points similar to the department of justice cases in various district courts were also noted by some trained observers.

Defendants in the Oklahoma Theatres, Inc., action were 20th Century-Fox Film Corp.; Paramount Film Distributing Corp.; Vitagraph, Inc.; Loew's, Inc.; RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.; Columbia Pictures Corp.; Universal Film Exchanges, Inc., and the Griffith Amusement Co.

The action was a complaint in equity and was brought "to enjoin and restrain depreciation of certain rights, privileges and immunities secured to the plaintiff by the constitution and laws of the United States and to enjoin and restrain acts of the defendants perpetuated for the unlawful purpose of inflicting upon the plaintiff, by concert of acts, an injury to its business and compelling it to discontinue its operation of the Odeon Theatre, owned and operated by the plaintiff in the City of Shawnee, Okla."

Oklahoma City Presently Free Of Giveaways; Singles Gain

OKLAHOMA CITY—Slowly but surely duals and giveaways are disappearing from local theatres with giveaways dead at present. Where at one time six houses had giveaways of one kind or another, not a single theatre, first run or subsequent, now has any continuous giveaway policy.

Duals are putting up a harder fight with only one first run, the Liberty, holding them.

The State dropped doubles six weeks ago when "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" came in. It stayed three weeks and was followed by single bills of "Golden Boy" and "Jeepers Creepers." Previously, Standard discontinued doubles at the Plaza in favor of moveovers from downtown houses at the top 40-cent admission.

Griffith dropped doubles at their downtown Rialto some weeks ago, substituting top-flight films and three or four shorts. The policy has been profitable.

Duals are still strong in the neighborhoods, although consideration is being given toward slicing them there in one or two houses.

Tex. Omnibus Tax Bill Keeps Trade Keyed

AUSTIN, TEX.—State show business people are casting wary eyes on an omnibus tax bill to pay pensions which would levy something over $21,000,000 a year additional taxes—by far the heaviest single tax imposition in Texas history.

Reason is that a little item of slapping an amusement tax on tickets over 50 cents is included in the indefinite setup.

This levy, according to a spokesman in Austin who asked that he not be named, would be in addition to the present federal tax.

Sponsors of the omnibus tax bill are rounding up state representatives in an effort to have them pledge their support to the proposal. Gov. W. Lee O'Daniel, meanwhile, is watching the sponsors. If they get together, he'll indicate whether he'll convene an official session of the legislature.

Drive-In Land Owner Sues the Operators

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.—Suit for $7,500 damages to his land has been filed in 117th district court by G. W. Hatch against Nick and Pete Katsaris, owners and operators of the newly launched Texas Drive-In Theatre.

Hatch's petition alleges that the defendants had said they would not damage the land when they obtained the lease of the property as a site for the outdoor house. At the time, the land was level and was in cultivation, it was said.

The petition sets forth that a series of ten ramps, each 400 feet long and from two to three feet high, were built. Mud shell then was placed in a portion of the area in front of the screen. Hatch charges that the series of ramps, the attendant excavations and the mud shell combined to damage the land for farming purposes. Of the $7,500 sought as damages, $2,500 was listed as exemplary.

Stimulator Pulls

MADISONVILLE, TEX.—With a giveaway plan called Boxoffice Insurance, R. B. Weatherall, owner of the Plaza, broke his all-time gross record a few nights ago. Weatherall is also using the stimulant at his new theatre at Teague.

Story by Edgar Hoover

HOLLYWOOD—"The Woman From Hell," a story by J. Edgar Hoover, is being adapted by Horace McCoy and William Lipman for Producer Edward T. Lowe at Paramount.

Stage Unit Plans Interest Theatres Over Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY—State theatres are seriously toying with the idea of stage unit experiments during the forthcoming winter months, it appears from the number of units that have been given one-week tests during the last month.

Locally the large road shows such as "Moulin Rouge" and "What a Life" have played to handsome audiences. It is understood that Standard Theatres will probably institute a test run of vaudeville at the Liberty Theatre here within the very near future.

The Liberty is an old vaudeville house and has been used for several years as a vaude-picture house. Most profitable operation in the past has been on a four-day vaude-pix run and three-day double bill run. Extension of the acts to a full week may be attempted if calibre of these acts themselves and patronage warrants it.

Over the state a number of personal appearance and touring stage units have secured some good dates. Grosses in most cases have been satisfactory and interest seems to be mounting in even the smaller towns. Result may be a return of vaudeville of all types and classes which once found Oklahoma a happy tapping grounds.

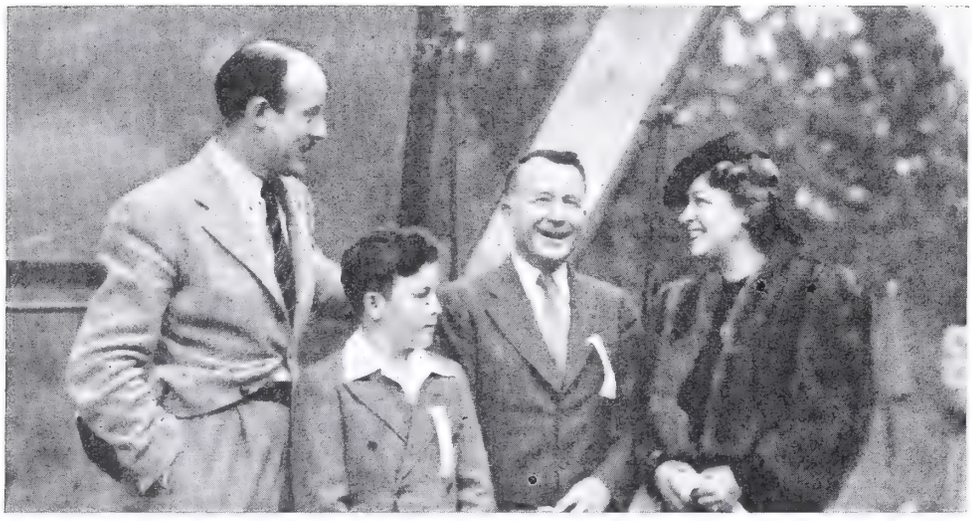
Borrows Ken Englund

HOLLYWOOD — Columbia has borrowed Ken Englund from Walter Wanger to collaborate with George Seaton on the script of "The Doctor Takes a Wife."

Scripts Next for Hornblow

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Brackett has been assigned to the script of "Triumph Over Pain," forthcoming Arthur Hornblow jr. production for Paramount.







"On Location" in Georgia—

As the guests of Paramount for the Billy Lee starring picture, "The Biscuit Eater," being filmed at Albany, Ga., were these trade figures among a host of film and newspaper leaders over the Southeast: TOP ROW: Robert M. and Mrs. Wilby of the Wilby-Kincey circuit and Richard Lane (center), who appears in the film. CENTER ROW: Lester Matthews and Helene Millard, who appear in the film, flanking M. F. Price and M. F. Price jr. of the Pal Theatre at Vidalia, Ga. BOTTOM ROW: Left to right, R. E. Martin, Martin circuit, Columbus; O. C. Lam, Lam Amusement, Rome; E. E. Whitaker, Lucas-Jenkins chain, Atlanta; T. H. Thompson, Martin-Thompson Theatres, Hawkinsville; Riley Davis, Theatrical Printing Co., Atlanta, and A. E. Adams, Martin circuit, Columbus, all in Georgia.

Hold "On Location" Party in Georgia

ALBANY, GA.—Rarely has production found its environmental satrapies so cooperative as did the Paramount unit, on location here filming the Billy Lee Starrer, "The Biscuit Eater."

The hospitality started at the top rung of Albany civic society when Mayor W. J. Collins, in his welcome to the exhibitors and newspapermen from ten southern states, who were invited to witness scenes on the location by Y. Frank Freeman jr., and the Albany *Herald*, designated November 16 as "Biscuit Eater Day." The chamber of commerce backed up the mayor's proclamation by an offer to provide recipes for true southern biscuits to all and sundry of the Yankee and western worlds upon receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

A barbecue, at which Freeman was host after the end of the day's camera work, gave succulent expression to the proclamatory welcome, and entertainment arranged by Albany Exhibitor A. C. Gortatowsky concluded the day with the singing of Negro spirituals and plantation melodies by a choir of 100 from the Georgia Normal School and serenades by the Albany High football team.

Among distinguished guests who accepted invitations to the affair were U. S. Senator Walter F. George and Gov. E. D. Rivers.

Exhibitors attending include E. V. Richards, G. J. Dureau, Robert Blair, L. C. Montgomery, Turk Carter and A. Higgenbotham of the Paramount Richards Theatres, New Orleans; Arthur Lucas, William K. Jenkins, E. E. Whitaker, T. H. Reed, A. C. Cowles and William Pratt of the Lucas and Jenkins Circuit, Atlanta; M. A. Lightman of the Paramount Lightman Theatres, Memphis; R. B. Wilby and J. H. Harrison of the Wilby-Kincey circuit, Atlanta.

R. E. and Hugh Martin and A. E. Adams of Columbus, Ga.; J. H. Thompson of Hawkinsville, Ga., and Charles Karr of Atlanta, all of the Martin circuit; Earle M. Fain of the Fain circuit, Leesburg, Fla.; Louis Rosenbaum of Muscle Shoals Theatres, Inc., Florence, Ala.; Abe H. Borisky of Independent Theatres, Inc., Chattanooga, Tenn.; Earl Hendren of Cherokee Amusements, Inc., Erwin, Tenn.; R. T. Hill of Cumberland Amusement Co., Tullahoma, Tenn.

H. S. Johnson of Pal Theatres, Inc., Vidalia, Ga.; N. H. Waters of Waters Theatre Co., Birmingham, Ala.; Thomas E. Orr of Amusement Enterprises, Inc., Albertville, Ala.; Lester Neely Theatres, Marion, Ala.; R. E. Hook of Hook Theatres, Aliceville, Ala.; O. C. Lam of Lam Amusement Co., Rome, Ga.; H. V. Manning of Etowah, Tenn., and J. C. H. Wink of Dalton, Ga., of Manning and Wink; Mrs. L. S. Bach and Charles King of Bach Theatres, Atlanta.

H. T. Spears of Bailey Theatres, Inc., Atlanta; L. J. Duncan of Al Dun Amusement Co., Westpoint, Ga.; Nat Williams of Interstate Enterprises, Inc., Thomasville, Ga.; C. M. Bridges of Dixie Amusement Co., Swainsboro, Ga.; George L. Denton of Denton Theatres, Knoxville, Tenn.; Frank Merritt of Acme Theatres, Birmingham, Ala.; F. C. Mulling of Mullin circuit, Haines City, Fla.; Mort and Gus Seligman of Jacksonville, Fla.; Walter J. Brackin of Ozark, Ala.; George Gaston of Atlanta, Ga.; A. L. Covart of Edison, Ga.; J. C. Peters of Blakely, Ga.; L. R. Dean of Butler, Ga.; Mrs. F. O. Adams, Cairo, Ga; R. K. Dunn, Camilla, Ga.

E. J. Hunter, Colquitt, Ga.; F. J. Wood, Cordele, Ga.; M. G. Lee, Cuthbert, Ga.; Ellison Dunn, Donaldsonville, Ga.; Mrs. Bessie D. Loypess, Fort Gaines, Ga.; J. P. Rampey, Lakeland, Ga.; F. A. Ricks, Reynolds, Ga.; H. H. Newman, Sandersville, Ga.; Mrs. W. B. Smith, Tennille, Ga.; C. E. Beach, Thomaston, Ga.; T. E. Woodruff, Unadilla, Ga.; W. E. Griffin, Vienna, Ga., and Fred McLendon, Union Springs, Ala.

Polishes "Singapore"

HOLLYWOOD—Louis Kaye is polishing the script of "The Road to Singapore," now in production at Paramount.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

JOSEPHINE IMBROGULIO, a recent graduate of State Teachers College of Hattiesburg, Miss., has entered the theatre business by taking over the Richton Theatre at Richton, Miss.

J. L. McRae, formerly in the automobile business at Ellisville, Miss., has acquired the Rex at Collins, Miss., from W. H. Hurt of Waynesboro, Miss., and will redecorate and increase seating capacity downstairs and in the balcony.

M. M. Bailey, managing the Lamar Theatre at Purvis, Miss., is the proud father of a son to be named Charles William.

Called around to see W. J. Ilsley, who manages the theatre at Columbia and Tylertown, Miss., for Solomon Bros., and was informed that his son, W. J. Ilsley jr., who is just finishing at Marion Military Institute, will enter the naval academy at Annapolis early next year.

G. B. Wilkes, who resides at Lilly, La., is planning a theatre at Epps, La., but no details were available at this time.

The Roxy, formerly the Gulf, at Pensacola, long operated by Ed Ortte of Clermont Harbor, Miss., has been turned back to its owner, a Mr. House, and will now be operated by him.

Leo Seicshnaydre, branch manager of Republic in New Orleans, was quite ill with a cold recently and, being unable to attend a sales meeting at Atlanta, sent his booker, Jack Duffy, to represent him. Jack was delayed in getting away to his train and was forced to go by plane, which was his first experience with this mode of travel. He advises he enjoyed the trip.

Ben Lee of Cutoff, La., who has had his theatre leased to Jeff Rebstock of Golden Meadows and "Bill" Castey of New Orleans, recently resumed control.

B. P. Sposito, who lives in Thibadoux, La., is erecting a new theatre at Pierre Port to be opened in the near future.

Mrs. Jeff Rebstock, wife of Jeff Rebstock of Golden Meadows, La., is in the Hotel Dieu (hospital to you) for an examination at New Orleans.

Mr. and Mrs. "Bill" Castay of the Louisiana Motion Picture Equipment Co., New Orleans, are expecting a blessed event early in 1940. This will be their first heir, or heiress, and our sincere good wishes are in order.

Johnny Serio, who operates the Century Theatre at Morganza, La., has been quite ill for some time and was in the hospital at New Orleans. He now is recuperating with friends there. This was passed on to us by G. Y. Harrell, who represents Republic in Louisiana.

Sam Pasqua, who operates two houses at Gonzales, La., showed us the new Simplex projection equipment just installed in his new Pasqua Theatre there as final adjustments were being made by the RCA representative.

R. L. Royal, who operates theatres at Hattiesburg, Lumberton and Purvis, all in Mississippi, recently made a connection with Ted Toddy, who operates the Dixie Film Exchange in Atlanta, to sell their product in the Mississippi and Louisiana territory.

Harvey Hurt, who operates a theatre at Waynesboro and Dekalb, Miss., is in the hospital at Laurel, recuperating from injuries sustained in an automobile accident recently.

Beverly Godwin, who manages Saenger's Century Theatre at Jackson, Miss., had the misfortune to lose his father recently. His father was a life-long resident and much respected in Jackson.

Joe Barcelona who has three theatres in Baton Rouge recently opened his new house, the Avenue, under the management of Charles Frye.

Lou Langlois of New Roads, La., could tell quite a yarn about a duck hunting party planned recently and another one fulfilled if he cared to. Sorry we missed you last week, Lou. We found out, however, that you were prowling around somewhere with Jack Price.

Your correspondent spent a day on the Row at New Orleans recently and had an enjoyable visit with Monogram's Harry Spann, Republic's Leo Seicshnaydre, Duke Duvall, etc., etc., and hopes to be there again before long.

Give More Time to Top-Flight Films

OKLAHOMA CITY—Extended runs continue to bring in extra money on first runs at local houses where both Standard Theatres and T. B. Noble are playing top films to their utmost. An effort is being made by both competitors to keep only topnotch attractions on first-run screens here, as experiments have led to the conclusion that more money can be taken in by extended playings and moveovers than by in-and-out runs.

"Babes in Arms," for example, drew four continuous weeks here, setting some kind of a record. Few are the films that can click off four straight here at top prices. "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" did three weeks at the State. Standard has been getting two weeks out of every picture of any importance whatever, moving them from the downtown Midwest and Criterion to the suburban Tower and Plaza at downtown prices.

Plans are being made for long runs on "Gulliver's Travels," "The Real Glory," "Rulers of the Sea," "Ninotchka" and other hits due soon.

Two NTS Equipment Orders

DALLAS—Two equipment orders are reported by the local branch of National Theatre Supply. Lyons & Huffman have purchased Simplex sound, projectors, bases, magazines, lamps, lenses and automatic rewind for their Texan Theatre, Jayton, Tex., while J. V. Carter of the Majestic, Comanche, has ordered Simplex sound, mechanisms, magazines, pedestals, changeovers and turntable.

Charles Bickford Starrer

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Bickford will star in Republic's "Girl From God's Country," with Scott Darling set to script.

YOU HAVE TO BE GOOD TO GO PLACES

Simplex SOUND

TRADE MARK REG'D.

IS GOING PLACES

SO IT MUST BE GOOD

Just Listen--You'll Buy

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

Narrow-Film Shows Still Are Causing Concern in Texas

DALLAS—Although some trade notice has been given to 16mm films and the potential competitive elements the midget celluloid may have to the regular 35mm in regular theatres, instances continue to sift in where people are going to see attractions on the smaller-print basis, all of which is causing the former meagerly interested to view the matter with some alarm.

The latest instance comes from the Rio Grande Valley. "Spain in Arms," with actual scenes from the Spanish civil war, were shown November 17 in St. Paul's Parish Hall, Mission, Tex. The public was invited free, yet a free will offering was taken.

In the same area, it was pointed out that a tent show at Falfurrias, Tex., has recently secured some of the 16mm theatrical films.

In this instance, catalogues have been circulated throughout the Texas areas, listing many films, features and a complete coverage of shorts, but mostly from independent producers. These particular catalogues seen came from United Educator Film Co., underneath which name was given that of Keystone State Amusement Circuits, and the addresses were Pittsburgh, Penn., and Memphis, Tenn.

Another pamphlet from these concerns promotes the idea on "How to organize a Movie Circuit," and in another department 10 cent "movies" were advocated as "the most profitable."

A Month of Appearances Slated for Roy Rogers

OKLAHOMA CITY—Roy Rogers, Republic Pictures western star, is slated for a month of personal appearances in Oklahoma and Texas immediately upon completion of his new picture, "Days of Jesse James," which goes into production immediately.

Heretofore he has not made any major personal appearance dates in Oklahoma, though Gene Autry, Tex Ritter, Ken Maynard and many other cowboy stars have been appearing month in and month out on theatre stages over the state for the past year.

QUALITY POPCORN

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERB—JUMBO
SOUTH AMERICAN HULLESS
HYBRID JAP HULLESS
All Iowa's Finest Corn
A Trial Will Convince You of Our Popcorn's Super Quality

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A Pure, Sweet, Neutral Cocoanut Oil, Well Colored

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Broadcasts by Stars Rankling Outstate

OKLAHOMA CITY—Small town exhibitors throughout the state continue to wax vehement on the question of star appearances on big chain radio programs and still are busy writing letters and threatening to do something about it. However, locally, exhibitors are attempting to cash in on such appearances whenever possible and do not feel so strongly against the big name shows on the radio.

Reason for the small town exhibitors' attitude is of course that patrons there are much more apt to stay home and listen to such programs than come to the theatre; or so they have shown in the past. Biggest drop has been on Thursday and Friday nights, but exhibitors report Wednesday also is getting a kick at the boxoffices with chief blame being laid to Kay Kyser.

When questioned on this particular instance these same exhibitors were most anxious to play Kyser's forthcoming, "That's Right, You're Wrong," however, as they have felt certain their "stay-at-home-audiences" would be out for this one.

Theatre-Radio Cooperation Increases in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY—A closer welding of theatre and radio interests in the metropolitan cities of the state is in the offing with radio programs being spotted in theatres for regular runs and co-op arrangements flourishing better than in the past.

Locally WKY has concluded a deal whereby its ace-high Yellow Cab show will emanate from the stage of the Criterion once a week. In return the Criterion gets full week plugs on how good its current attractions are.

KTCK has a swap deal with Standard Theatres; passes for blurb time, that has been working out satisfactorily for some time.

Over the state other radio stations and theatres are gradually working out talent arrangements as well as co-operations on exploitation and publicity stunts that is resulting in a much closer bond of harmony between both.

Tribute to Rogers

CLAREMORE, OKLA.—Claremore celebrated the 60th birthday anniverary of its beloved Will Rogers, with floral tributes dropped from airplanes on the late humorist's memorial during the anniversary program.

Urges Safety Film Series

OKLAHOMA CITY—A continuous outdoor "free" show of newly issued safety pictures has been proposed by Councilman Percy Jones. He suggests this be done in cooperation with the police department's safety work.

OKLA. CITY

L. C. GRIFFITH, operating head of the Griffith circuit here, has returned from New York where, with Attorneys Jed Dudley of Oklahoma City and George Rice of Dallas, conferences were held with legal representatives of other defendants in the department of justice action now pending in federal court here.

It is understood vaudeville has been booked by Standard Theatres for one of their houses here during the winter for a 10-week run. House will probably be the Liberty which has been used for such dates in the past.

To the friends of Bob Pfotenhauer over the state: We have a missive from Bob in Pueblo, which relates he is doing swell and is a mighty happy lad. Judging from some of the promotional stunts Bob's been pulling, he's helping the boxoffice at the Chief Theatre no end.

Walter B. Shuttee, general manager for Standard Theatres here, had a slight attack of flu . . . T. B. Noble jr., Mrs. Noble and their son, Tommy, drove to Columbia, Mo., for the Oklahoma-Missouri game.

Stunt for the State Theatre on Republic's "Jeepers Creepers" had the doorman fixed in true hillbilly style with over-sized pants, ragged shirt, big black hat and enormous prop whiskers. Added touch was pants held over one shoulder with a piece of rope.

Bowling results in the Variety Club League last week: RKO took two out of three matches from Paramount; Griffith Amusement won two and lost one to National Theatre Supply; 20th Century-Fox took two and lost one in their setto with Warner, and Standard Theatres hung the same token on Clark Poster. This week's 200 *club members: Parks of National Theatre Supply,* 237; *Marker of 20th-Fox,* 210; *Peel of Warner,* 243, *and Troop of Clark,* 220.

"Drunk Driving" Short Has Austin Officials' Help

AUSTIN, TEX.—The M-G-M short, "Drunk Driving," of the "Crime Does Not Pay" series, fitted so perfectly with the state highway department's campaign to rid Texas of drunken drivers that Gerald Raines, manager of the State, really got in the publicity groove when the short played his house recently.

A number of city and state traffic and safety officials were specially invited guests of Manager Raines. They, in turn, made statements to the press, lauding the short.

Two lobby displays pointed up the short with newspaper headlines and stills from the film.

Adapts "Patent Leather Kid"

HOLLYWOOD—The remake of "Patent Leather Kid," to feature George Raft, is being adapted by Fred Niblo jr. for Warner.

Rodgers, Kuykendall Parley Speakers

CHARLOTTE — William F. Rodgers, M-G-M's general manager of sales and distribution, and Ed Kuykendall, president of National MPTOA, will be the headline speakers at the annual convention of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina in Charlotte, December 3 and 4, it was announced Wednesday by Pauline Griffith, executive secretary of the association.

Officers and directors will meet Sunday night, and the convention proper will fill the day Monday, concluding with a banquet and dance at night, featured by the appearance of Ann Rutherford. H. E. Buchanan of Hendersonville will be toastmaster.

The afternoon session will be closed to all except exhibitors, and lively discussions are anticipated. Among those scheduled to participate are Henry Anderson, Charlotte, exhibitors' attorney; J. I. Sims, Orangeburg, S. C.; H. R. Beery, Hartsville, S. C.; George Carpenter, Valdese, N. C.; George W. Parr, Lancaster, S. C.; O. I. Sheeley, Clinton, N. C.; Roy Rowe, Burgaw, N. C., and H. E. Buchanan.

President Lyle Wilson of Roanoke Rapids, N. C., will preside. Mayor Ben Douglas will welcome the exhibitors and Chas. W. Picquet of Pinehurst, former president, will respond.

Jimmy Livingston and his orchestra will play at the banquet.

The Carolinas

TWO Main Street brick buildings occupied by the Ritz Theatre and the City Motor Car Co. were completely destroyed by fire in Union, S. C., last week. The blaze started in the theatre's control room, and the loss was estimated at about $45,000.

Lyle Wilson, president of the TO of N. and S. C., from Roanoke Rapids was in Charlotte last week working with Frank Beddingfield, program chairman, and Pauline Griffith, secretary, on the program for the December convention meeting in Charlotte.

The Pineville Theatre has been taken over by J. O. Childress from Mrs. J. M. Adcock . . . D. C. Deaton jr. has taken over the Biscoe at Biscoe from G. L. Faw.

Harry Hardy of the North Carolina Theatres went last week to Albany, Ga., where he was invited as a guest of the Paramount Studios. The entire Hollywood cast and directors are on location there making "The Biscuit Eater," which will be released early next year.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Kincey and Mr. and Mrs. John Vickers attended the Duke-Carolina football game last Saturday at Durham.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Picquet of Pinehurst, Roy Rosser of Sanford and Clinton, and Mrs. M. W. Johnson of Durham were seen along the Row last week.

Burglars have been jailed who recently robbed the Carolina at Hickory of a safe.

Woodrow Cook, an usher, discovering a fire under a balcony in a theatre in Florence, S. C., stopped the picture and announced to the patrons that a state law required fire drills in theatres and that one would be held at that moment. The crowd went out calmly. A few minutes later the roof of the house fell in. Damage was estimated at about $35,000.

The Sound Engineering Service has installed new equipment in the State at Shelby, the Wake at Raleigh, the Salley at Salley, S. C., and the Strand at Walhalla, S. C.

Meltz Drops Case Against Ascap for Retrial

MONROE, LA.—Attempts to win a retrial on a copyright violation suit brought by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers against Morris Meltz of Ferriday, La., ended in a compromise here. Meltz sought a retrial on a suit Ascap had won, basing his claim that the violation was involuntary since the films in which the songs were rendered bore no notice of copyright. Ascap lawyers retorted this was unnecessary in a mechanical reproduction. Meltz compromised.

RKO Buys "Kiki"

HOLLYWOOD—RKO has purchased screen rights to "Kiki" from Mary Pickford. Cliff Reid will produce and Garson Kanin will direct.

ATLANTA

OUT-OF-TOWN exhibitors in Atlanta included: Harold Laird, booker, Lam Amusement Co., Rome, Ga.; Hugh Manning, Etowah, Tenn.; Hal H. Macon, State, Statesboro, Ga.; H. J. Woodward, Strand, Winder, Ga.; J. S. Tankersley jr., Ellijay, Ellijay, Ga.; Aubrey Gay, booker, Al Dun Amusement Co., West Point, Ga.; Wendell Welch, Strand, Dallas, Ga.; Col. Thos. E. Orr and Hammond Green, Albertville, Ala., and Frank Harris, Wilby Theatres.

H. P. "Dusty" Rhodes, Republic Pictures Corp., Charlotte, was in Atlanta to see the Tech-Kentucky game.

Friends of Ernest Pelegrin, Poster Exchange, and Wilmer Anderson, Theatrical Printing Co., will be glad to know they are both improving from their recent illness.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" was held over for its fifth consecutive week at the Rialto.

Dan Cupid seems to have been working overtime at Theatrical Printing Co. R. L. Smith announces the date of his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Castleberry will take place New Year's Eve. J. W. Castleberry will wed Miss Hellon Eason on December 15.

The Jolly Club will hold its next dance Friday, December 1, at the American Legion Hall. Music will be furnished by Tom Crowley and his orchestra.

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MEMPHIS

EXHIBITORS seen along the Row: Buster Clark of the Alamo Theatre, Pine, Bluff, Ark.; Burris Smith, Imperial, Pocahontas, Ark.; J. W. Wofford, Union, Miss.; J. F. Wofford, Eupora; C. M. Mounger, City, Calhoun City, Miss.; E. C. Eudy, Ackerman, Ackerman, Miss.; C. H. Collier, Drew, Miss.; Charles Collier, Shaw, Miss.; B. F. Jackson, Ruleville, Miss.; W. F. Ruffin, Covington, Tenn.; Gordon Lee Hutchins, State, Corning, Ark.

Dr. S. E. McDonald, who operates the Bells Theatre at Bells, Tenn., was a very unusual Filmrow visitor the past week and while here purchased a new carpet for his house.

Leon Pickle, Malco's city manager in Henderson, Ky., paid the local office a short visit this week.

United Artists was well represented the past week when Jimmy Greig, salesman out of St. Louis, and Milton Dureau, salesman out of New Orleans, were in Memphis —this being the dividing line of the territories.

H. H. Evans of the Evans Theatre at Mountain Home, Ark., was a recent Filmrow visitor and while here purchased a new popcorn machine.

L. R. Allen, Commonwealth booker out of Kansas City, and K. K. King, the circuit's manager in Searcy, Ark., were in town advancing their bookings and while here advised they were closing the Plaza Theatre at Harrison, Ark., except on Friday and Saturday . . . Harry Willard of the Jam Handy organization of Detroit, was a recent Filmrow visitor.

M. A. Lightman advises that he has purchased new projection equipment for his Paramount Theatre, Helena, Ark.

Bob Bostick, Ollie Bland, Peter Dawson and Conrad Bach, all of National Theatre Supply Co., drove down to Atlanta to see the Duke-Georgia Tech game—Tech being their alma mater. While in Atlanta they visited Norman (Cal) Colquohoun, RKO salesman, who was formerly of Memphis.

Stanley Hand, district manager for Altec out of Chicago, paid Memphis a visit the past week . . . Ollie Williamson, branch manager for Vitagraph, has returned from a district meeting in St. Louis at the Park-Plaza Hotel.

John Harvey jr. was in Memphis the past week negotiating contracts for his new 300-seat house, which is to be opened on November 27 at Hampton, Ark., which will be known as the Progress. This is the first theatre operation ever to be in Hampton.

Frank Norman, Warner shipper, is mighty happy these days, due to the visit of the stork to his home the past week. Ronald Eugene, who weighed six pounds, made his arrival on November 14. Mildred Norman, Frank's wife, is well known on Filmrow, having been employed at Universal for a number of years. This is their second son.

Joe Mayo of the Monogram Southern Exchange is vacationing in Turner, Ark., his home town . . . Filmrow was well represented on November 17 at opening of P. E. Morris' new theatre, the Honey, in Indianola, Miss.

Joe Applebaum of the Roosevelt Theatre, Hollandale, Miss., was a recent Filmrow visitor . . . F. G. "Bob" Roberts of the Ritz, Bald Knob, Ark., and Mrs. Roberts were seen on the Row advancing their bookings the past week.

G. E. Sibley, who opened the New Theatre at Adamsville, Tenn., some 60 days ago, and which was the first theatre operation for the town, was in and advised that his business had been very satisfactory and that he was learning a lot about the show business he didn't know before.

A very unusual Filmrow visitor the past week was R. L. VanMeter of the Judd Theatre, Judsonia, Ark.

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Third House Planned in Small Texas Situation

DALLAS—Nocona, Tex., of 3,000 population or less, is in line for its third theatre as G. Farris Squibb says he will open his new theatre there on next Friday or Saturday.

Lutzer Brothers, Dave and Jake, Universal salesmen and associates, have been in the town for the past several years. Recently their Nocona theatre burned, and they turned to the Roxy for handling the town with plans for rebuilding or a second theatre.

Other parties considering and dropping the competitive situation, G. Farris Squibb and associates decided to enter the town and made arrangements to occupy a new building.

In the meantime, the Lutzers remodeled and opened the Ritz in addition to the Roxy.

Contending he found himself unable to get product, Squibb notified all exchanges by registered mail, that his theatre would definitely open, and this was said to be in advance of the Ritz remodeling. Squibb journeyed to Austin and saw Attorney General Mann personally, who instigated the recent state probe of film companies and circuits.

Squibb later retained Pat S. Russell, well-known attorney, to assist him in his product situation. Squibb, so far, it is said, has completed no 1939-40 contracts.

A Story to Columbia

HOLLYWOOD—"Passage West," by Sidney Bedell and Frederick Frank, has been purchased by Columbia for Producer Fred Kohlmar.

Meehan on Oberon Starrer

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has assigned John Meehan to the script of "We Shall Meet Again," forthcoming Merle Oberon starrer.

TENNESSEE

CRESCENT Amusement Co., Nashville, recently moved the marquee and equipment of the Roxy Theatre, Union City, to Murfreesboro to be used in the construction of a theatre there.

Tennessee Theatre, Knoxville, conducted a "Why I Never Married" essay contest in promoting a showing of "The Old Maid." Only unmarried women of above 35 years were eligible and a single prize of $25 was given. The response to the contest was good, according to Manager Eugene Street.

The Ritz Theatre, at Evergreen and Poplar, Memphis, has been purchased by Bernard Haberfield and David Flexer of Amory, Miss., from Henry Wurzburg, who bought it five years ago as an investment. The purchase price is said to have been $50,000. Haberfield and Flexer already operate several theatres in Mississippi and plan to operate the Ritz. The theatre building, of brick, steel, and stone construction, was built 12 years ago and was remodeled inside and out two years ago. It has a seating capacity of 800.

Princess Theatre, new Crescent Amusement house in Harriman, opened November 16, with many of the Crescent officials over from Nashville to witness the dedication. L. W. Bevel is manager. "Fifth Avenue Girl" was the feature of the opening program. Vaudeville was offered for the special opening program. Lowell Blanchard, announcer for WNOX, Knoxville, conducted a "Man on the Street" radio broadcast in connection with the opening.

After the city commission of Jackson refused to consider or vote on Sunday films, the matter was referred to the Madison county election commission which will set a date for a referendum vote in the city on the question.

The Palace Theatre office, Crossville, was recently entered and $30, some rare coins, and a pistol, the property of Manager Edward Johnson, were taken. The burglars entered by a rest-room window.

Manager Willie Greer gave free passes to the New Court, Huntingdon, the first 15 to "drugstore quarterbacks and filling station experts" who could guess the exact score in a local football game between Huntingdon and Bruceton.

The management of Ryman Auditorium, Nashville, when a censorship committee banned a showing of "Tobacco Road" on November 23, chose to contest the decision and the show is expected to go on under a court injunction. The show was presented in Nashville without opposition two years ago.

Scorn for "Mr. Smith" From Okla. Press

OKLAHOMA CITY—Several state editors took time out from interpreting the war news this last week to take potshots at Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," and its portrayal of Washington correspondents as "inebriates" and the improbability that a powerful politician could completely suppress the news in a whole state.

The Ponca City *News* called the film "a libel and a travesty on the newspaper business."

"There certainly are a few newspapers that can be controlled, but no one man ever has been able to control all the newspapers in a state and thus prevent real news from reaching those most entitled to know it," the editorial said.

Under the caption, "Mr. Smith Goes Haywire," the Tulsa *Tribune* severely criticized the picture and the "appalling ignorance" or "appalling contempt for truth" manifested by motion picture producers.

Of the portrayal of the Washington correspondent as a drunkard, the *Tribune* commented: "We have spent many a sober hour with Washington newspapermen. In fact, we have never seen a Washington newspaperman drunk anywhere—on duty or off—and we know a drunk newspaperman when we see one."

Walter M. Harrison, managing editor of the *Daily Oklahoman* and the Oklahoma City *Times*, in his column, "The Tiny Times," also criticized the representation of Washington correspondents as inebriates and news falsifiers and ridiculed the idea that one person could completely suppress the news in an entire state.

The Shawnee *News* and *Star* was not so hostile in its criticism as were the other state papers. The editorial commented that the portrayal of the politician suppressing the news in the picture is not basically untrue, and went on to say that it had seen "instances of suppression of news, or at least the distortion of facts, by the press."

Of the picture as a whole, the editorial said that "the producers overlooked a good opportunity to debunk a few more sacred cows of Congress."

Dallas Variety Club Sets Fourth Annual Jamboree

DALLAS—Variety Club's fourth annual New Year's Eve Jamboree will be held January 31 at the Adolphus Hotel.

There will be "open house" in the clubrooms the night of December 30, according to Miss Bonnie Long, executive secretary. The Jamboree will fall on Sunday night and Monday morning. Hyman Charninsky's orchestra will furnish music.

The dinner will be served hot and cold. They are calling it a "Smorgasbord Buffet Supper." Favors, as usual, will be had for all.

Affair will be restricted to Variety members and friends. Tickets are $5 per person.

DALLAS

FRANK BENSON, Majestic and Ritz at Bowie, took his trip north and east, to the World's Fair and everything, just in time to return home and go to bed, under doctor's orders, for some kind of nervousness. According to the doctor, he couldn't smoke, drink, chew, or even put through an exploitation campaign, but the MD was wrong on the latter score because exploitation is Frank's meat, whether school keeps or not. Interesting from his trip was his assertion: "I think Texas showmen have it all over those in the states I have traveled. I was in a number of towns of 5,000 to 8,000 population with only one show. Can you by any stretch of your imagination think of such circumstances in the southwest?"

C. V. Grigga, the general sales manager for American Desk Mfg. Co., is back from a trip to New York, where through his brokers he picked up a 3,000 chair deal for two theatres in Venezula. Seats delivered south of the equator, figuring duty, cost about double the delivered price in North America, it was learned.

W. S. (Bill) Hurst, the former Columbia representative, who leased the Ritz at Denton from E. L. Black, and who made remodeling improvements in the house, was on the Row with his usual vim and vigor. Bill now is a full-fledged exhibitor and apparently is well pleased with the new undertaking.

Carl Garner of Llano wants it known that he in no way recommends that film men or exhibitors ply the adjacent Llano country for deer because of a prolonged drouth. He says there are bucks in the area, but that food had been insufficient to make them into prize game.

Filmrow sat up and took notice as Interstate's exploitation truck with difficulty made the conjested corner at Harwood and Jackson plugging Columbia's "U-Boat 29," which the circuit is roadshowing. The current run for the week was at the Rialto on Elm Street.

J. M. (Soda) Reynolds, the Allied contact man, has been off the Row for ten days and that is news to his friends. A checkup finds that he has been plying the Texas Panhandle and other western sections of the state raking in dues and new members for the Allied body. Further information was that he spent last Sunday with Homer Mulkey at Clarendon and that Homer and Soda attended Sunday School class together there on that Sabbath morning.

Lonnie Legg, owner of the newly remodeled Superba Theatre at Benison, was on the Row booking ahead for that subsequent-run house.

Hal Norfleet, who recently went down to Beaumont to handle an exploitation and publicity assignment for Jefferson Amusement Co., has been in Dallas the past few days.

Mrs. Morris Schulman gets the credit for one of the neatest and cleverest invitations to a theatre opening. This week the postman passed them out to friends on Filmrow. They were done in blue and black with indication on the front of the new and thoroughly modernized Queen Theatre at Bryan which opened this week. Evidently Mrs. Schulman linked the Queen with the Texas Aggies, quartered with their followers only five miles distant from the new Queen.

Col. H. A. Cole, national Allied president, sat in his office pondering figures which he kept secret. He said all was quiet on the Allied front.

John Franconi, of the Monogram exchange, says his company has closed with the R. E. Griffith theatres in Texas for the Westex group, Consolidated, Long-Griffith and Jack Pickens houses for use of Monogram's 1939-40 product.

Charles Rook, former owner of theatres at Watunga, Okla., told friends here he is looking for situations in Texas.

Arthur Keyes, the former impresario of theatres at Quanah, selling several months ago to Oskar Korn, has been on a visit to California, which he said he enjoyed immensely. He said he is ready to settle down in Texas show business again if and when he can find the right spot. Keyes, it is understood, recently attempted to negotiate for a Dallas neighborhood theatre.

Ted Lewis of the Little Princess at Texarkana was on the Row a couple of days. Ted seems to be in the best of physical condition.

National Screen Service's Dallas personnel will be honored at luncheon Monday, November 27, by Tent No. 17 of Variety. The occasion promises to be an auspicious one as Chief Barker R. J. "Bob" O'Donnell has announced that William McCraw, former attorney general of Texas and well known as an after-dinner talker, will share the spotlight with Alexander Woollcott, celebrated humorist. O'Donnell will preside.

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NEW ORLEANS

THE EVANGELINE Theatre at New Iberia has been thoroughly renovated with new seats, screen, etc., and all that goes to make it the coziest house in southwestern Louisiana . . . Miss Rose Carr, stenographer for the Atlantic Films, has recovered from her recent illness and is again at her desk . . . B. W. Castleberry, manager of Affiliated Films, is now confined to the Veterans' Hospital in Biloxi for illness that came on him suddenly last week. In the meantime, Assistant Manager Crockett is acting as skipper . . . J. D. D'Aquinn of the Peoples Theatre, Laplin, La., was in the city last week looking over films for his house. D'Aquinn spent a pleasant afternoon with Frank Goodrow of the Atlantic Films who showed him the latest in the independent line.

Joe Skirball, national publicity man for Grand National's "Birth of a Baby," now occupies a desk in Grand National's local office and is busy booking the film for the New Orleans area . . . Joy Houck threw a party last week in honor of his Uncle William Houck who came in to see his nephew and congratulate him on his success in this section. There was music, dancing, refreshments and all that goes to make up a r-e-a-l good time . . . Vincent Lopaz, band leader at the Jung Hotel, is leaving for the west coast to be featured in a film by Paramount to be called "Nola." It's his first attempt before the camera.

Warren Salles, proprietor of the Garden Theatre in the upper section, promoted a show before Thanksgiving Day for the benefit of the poor in the immediate neighborhood of his theatre. Donations of groceries were accepted as admissions. Another grocery matinee will be held for the Xmas celebration when groceries and clothing will be obtained in the same manner. The Garden is an independent theatre and the custom has been followed for a number of years.

Stanley Faiylor of the Gloster and Crosley theatres, Miss., was a welcome visitor to New Orleans this week . . . Allan Jones, singing film star, will appear in concert at the Municipal Auditorium January 14. Jones sang in "Honeymoon in Bali."

"It costs $5,500 a day to make a motion picture and if a director can get enough action on celluloid to screen for one minute, he considers that his day has been well spent," Bruce Manning, Hollywood scenarist, told BOXOFFICE while visiting here this week . . . Newsreel men filmed the annual sugar cane festival in New Iberia this week, the city celebrating a century of progress. Phil Sliman of Atlantic Films visited New Iberia, his home town, during the celebration . . . The Louisiana Council for Motion Pictures sponsored a bridge party at the Monteleone Hotel this week to raise funds for a motion picture institute. Mrs. Albert S. Tucker was chairman of the card party entertainment.

Forgotten man: Ben Piazzi, 20 years ago manager of the RKO Orpheum, transferred to California; later went in the producing business.

Okla. Buying Pool Plan Marks Time

OKLAHOMA CITY—The much discussed buying pool of Oklahoma independents seems to have been buried for good with sponsors having made no move to revive it. However, it is known that should the department of justice be unsuccessful in the prosecution of its anti-trust suits, in particular the Griffith suit here, an effort may be made to revive the pool idea.

It was first brought forth by the sponsors of the present Allied of Oklahoma organization who dropped it on the advice of Col. H. A. Cole when their organization was begun. Suggestions that it be incorporated into the setup of the independent organization were voted out in organization meetings as leaders advised the organization must first secure strength before tackling such a project.

The pool calls for share ownership in a corporation setup to serve as buying and booking adviser and part-agent in the purchase of product and equipment for its members.

At present Allied of Oklahoma, after a disappointing start of organization, is in the throes of building its membership with all efforts of its officers and directors extended in that direction. It is unlikely that they will adopt any effort toward revitalizing the buying pool idea until that effort has brought results in a larger organization.

Holmes Distributor

KANSAS CITY—Holmes Projector Theatre Supply Co. has opened a storeroom here at 1820 Wyandotte St. to service Oklahoma, Arkansas and northern Texas as well as the local territory. L. S. Brown, manager, says the company will handle 16mm and standard equipment.

Corpus Christi

BRUCE L. COLLINS, manager of the Corpus Christi Theatres, Inc., was among the first of the local hunting enthusiasts to answer the opening bugle of the season . . . Nick and Pete Katsaris are now the sole owners of the Texas Drive-In Theatre, having bought out their partner, George Winter.

Hilliard T. Hightower, advertising manager of the C. C. Theatres, Inc., recently "limped back" from San Antonio after having been initiated into the inner mysteries of the Shrine, Alzafar Temple.

Local papers gave a recent short on big game fishing at nearby Aransas Pass a big send-off and as a result the RKO briefie really packed 'em in. Dick Furman, vice-president of the C. C. Chamber of Commerce, and a host of other local worthies made their film debut in the short.

The Texas Drive-In Theatre, out on Highway 9, is getting out an attractive two-color offset weekly program . . . "When Tomorrow Comes" was Saturday's midnight show, and business was up to expectations.

SANTONE

IT'S A BOY in the Truman Hendrix household. The proud daddy is a film salesman here out of the Dallas office . . . Herb Reed has opened his film service transfer line between Santone, Eagle Pass and Del Rio.

Jimmy Ryan over at the Joy Theatre here, informs us that his boss, Tol Teeters, is out on the road touring the Northwest with his tent show billed as "Lucky Tol's Show." Biz is reported as satisfactory . . . "Billy" Rau, head man at the Community, Confort, was a recent caller at "Henry's Place" on North Main here.

Working 18 years for the same boss is a record in itself. That is the case of Buddy Welker, major domo at the Empire. V. D. started at the old Majestic (now the State) back in 1921, and has been working ever since for Interstate circuit. He is really San Antonio's oldest man in point of service.

Rex Preis, the KTSA staff orchestra director, celebrates another milestone November 28 . . . Mary Schmeck of the same staff had a birthday last Saturday . . . Vernon Geyer, erstwhile theatre organist, now back at the KMA Console from a five-week stay in New York seeing the sights.

Recent visitors here include Edward Albert, actor, from Hollywood, who was registered at the Saint Anthony Hotel, and Lee Orr, cameraman for 20th-Fox, who is making his headquarters at the Plaza Hotel.

New Azteca Film release for the current week is announced as "Papa Soltero" starring Tito Guizar, the Mexican singing star and guitar player. Guizar made a guest appearance here recently on KMAC.

John Floore, Oliver Thomas, Henry Crum, Ralph Labutis, the big four huntsmen, are getting in some duck and deer hunting these cool crisp days during their spare time up around the Medina Lake country. We'll just bet that Hank Schneider is itching to get in on his share of the kill . . . Tommy Caraway and Searcy Lacy are keeping their ears glued to the radio in order to keep up with the football games while they work.

Two men were arrested here by detectives and were being grilled in connection with recent theatre robberies in Austin, Denton and Fort Worth. They were driving a new sedan, bearing an out-of-town license, which also was seized by the local officers.

The local theatre ushers have formed basketball teams which play every Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock out at the Woodlawn Lake pavilion. In the first game the Texas Theatre Tornados trimmed the State Theatre boys 20 to 8.

The Broadway has changed its prices to 15 cents in the balcony and 25 cents lower floor after 5 p. m. . . . When Leonard Rodriguez, an employe of the Joy Theatre, opened the house Sunday morning, he found that the office safe had been forced open by burglars and robbed of $500, which was in a strong box.

Assures Film Board Will Not Interfere

OTTAWA—In a special declaration with regard to the policy of the national film board, for which John Grierson of London, England, was recently appointed Dominion film commissioner, Hon. W. D. Euler, Canadian minister of trade and commerce, has emphasized that the board and the commissioner will not interfere with commercial moving picture companies now operating in Canada. In a statement, Euler, declared:

"The main concern of the new board will be the organization of a central government film distribution and public information service. The national film board will not interfere in any way with commercial film organizations. The national aspect is designed to coordinate existing departmental film activities, each of which has been carrying on in furtherance of some proposed policy or aim in which it is directly interested. The department of trade and commerce has maintained a motion picture bureau which has developed to a great degree during the past number of years. The appointment of the minister as chairman and of J. G. Parmelee, deputy minister of trade and commerce, as a member of the board, is therefore appropriate."

United Amusement Voting Trust Paper Privileged

MONTREAL—As it has been brought to the attention of the Montreal curb market that the class "A" stock of United Amusement Corp., Ltd., is divided into 11,059 voting shares and 56,649 shares covered by a voting trust agreement, the voting trust certificates will be admitted to trading privileges in the unlisted department. Both class "A" and class "B" shares of the company now are traded on the unlisted section.

Of 75,000 authorized class "A" shares of no par value, 67,708 shares are issued and outstanding, of which 56,649 are covered by the voting trust agreement. Of 25,000 authorized non-voting class "B" shares, 13,121 are issued and outstanding.

Tie for Prize

TORONTO—The judging on the nation-wide contest for exhibitor campaigns for "Man of Conquest" has been completed and the result was a tie for first place with the $100 cash award being divided between Lorne Moore, manager of the Grand Theatre at Sudbury, Ont., and Thomas McKnight, manager of the Patricia Theatre, London, Ont. Honorable mention was awarded to T. Mascaro, manager of the Granada Theatre, Hamilton, Ont., who has recently been appointed manager of the Capitol Theatre at Belleville.

Buys Next Cronin Novel

HOLLYWOOD—"The Dr. of Lennox," forthcoming novel by A. J. Cronin ("Citadel" and "Goodbye, Mr. Chips"), has been purchased by Columbia as a Wesley Ruggles production.

Urge Check on Benefit Propositions

Toronto—Exhibitors in Canada have been warned to check on the credentials of persons who offer propositions for benefit performances in aid of soldiers or their dependents, some questionable promotion schemes having been uncovered. Responsible organizations have been registered with the Dominion government under the War Charities Act under which they are required to file financial reports, it is pointed out.

Tax Concession Granted During Reconstruction

TORONTO—Because his Regent Theatre in Sudbury, Ont., was dark for more than three months when it was being reconstructed, Robert T. Stevens has been granted tax concessions by the court of revision effective this year only. The business tax was reduced by $117.42, this being equivalent to one-third of this levy for a period of four months while the property tax was cut by $222.20 for the same proportion. The city accepted the decision when it was found that provision for the situation is made in the Assessment Act.

Stevens is rebuilding the Orpheum Theatre at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., which has been closed for a number of years under a lease agreement with Famous Players Canadian Corp. Alterations to cost $30,000 will be made prior to the reopening of the theatre. He also operates theatres at Sturgeon Falls and Creighton Mine in Northern Ontario. Angelo Stevens, a brother, is manager of the Regent Theatre, a Famous Players' house at Ottawa, Ont.

Ontario Legislature Is Summoned for Jan. 10

TORONTO—The next session of the Ontario legislature has been called to open at Toronto on January 10 when further wartime measures will be dealt with. The eyes of theatremen throughout the Province will be directed to the legislature assembly because of the recent suggestion from a reliable source that the question of reviving the amusements tax for war revenue purposes will be considered. Such a move has been denied, but there is more than a possibility that the subject will be brought up because of the number of feelers that have been thrown out. The whole tax was abolished in June, 1937, insofar as Ontario was concerned, but the levy has remained in other provinces.

Council Retrenches

OTTAWA — Formal announcement has been made by the Canadian Welfare Council that its recommendations on continental feature films, included in its list of approved pictures for the guidance of educational and patriotic organizations in the Dominion, have been discontinued until further notice.

Scripts "My Son"

HOLLYWOOD—Robert Rosson has been assigned to script "My Son" for Warner.

Will Not Relax Ban On Juvenile Fans

MONTREAL — To the disappointment of distributors and exhibitors throughout Quebec, the Hon. Wilfrid Girouard, K. C., recently named attorney general, has announced that he has "no intention" of modifying the law which prohibits admission to motion picture theatres of children under the age of 16. Local theatre men had expected a more liberal attitude.

Girouard said that, since assuming office November 8, he had received a great many requests that the juvenile ban be modified. "But," he added, "after studying the situation and the suggestion, I have decided that it would be in the best interests of all concerned to keep the existing law in force."

The ban on juveniles resulted from the burning of the Laurier Palace cinema ten years ago when 78 lives were lost. It was passed by Quebec legislature under the regime of the late Liberal premier, Hon. L. A. Taschereau.

"Royal Tour" Premiere's Proceeds to Red Cross

OTTAWA—"The Royal Tour," the Canadian government's feature-length picture of the visit of the British Monarchs to the North American Continent, had its premiere at the Capitol Theatre, Ottawa, during the past week under an arrangement with Famous Players Canadian Corp., whereby the proceeds are being turned over to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

The feature, produced by F. C. Badgley, director of the Canadian government motion picture bureau, is a complete record of the tour with one notable exception—the film does not include any shot of the meeting of Their Majesties and the Dionne quintuplets at a special reception in the Parliament buildings at Toronto. This omission was due to the exclusive screen rights granted to a film producer in the U. S. by the Dionne guardians.

Canadian Pacific Ship Appears in Telecast

MONTREAL—The Canadian Pacific Railway figured in a notable radio "first" in Los Angeles when four reels of a travel film produced by the company, "An Empress Looks at the World" was cast by television over the Don Lee network from Station KHJ in the southern California city.

The film, depicting the world cruise of the Canadian Pacific flagship, *Empress of Britain*, was successfully broadcast to the 700 registered television sets in the Los Angeles area, and an estimated 3,500 persons listened and "looked" in.

Details of the telecast, first of its kind ever attempted, were contained in a letter received here from Harry A. Lee, Canadian Pacific's general agent, passenger department, in Los Angeles.

Gets "Wolf of New York"

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Belden is scripting "The Wolf of New York" for Republic.

MONTREAL

RENTAL agencies or film exchanges in Canada in 1938 remained unchanged as to number of offices, the Dominion bureau of statistics reports, but their total revenue rose by 7.8 per cent over 1937 to $10,218,700, which compares with a 3.5 per cent increase in the receipts taken by the motion picture theatres of the Dominion in the same period. Sixty-two offices operated in 1938, employing 385 males and 263 females, whose aggregate salaries totaled $1,081,900.

Although no new theatres are being built in this neighborhood, a larger number than usual are being overhauled, remodeled and re-equipped. The Westmount is one of those that has just been refurnished. Many minor alterations have been made to a number of houses in different parts of the city.

Work will start in the near future on alterations to the Center Palace which will include complete interior and exterior remodeling, a new marquee and accoustical correction. Eliasoph and Greenspoon are the architects. The same architects have just finished remodeling the 1,200-seat Royal Alexandra at Lachine at a cost of $7,000.

A film trade corporation will be formed in Britain for the purpose of sending new films to the troops in France. It will be composed of representatives of film owners and cinema owners, and, in the words of a British film critic, will ensure that the army will be able to go to the movies.

Crystal Palace is the latest Montreal theatre to present a stage show. The Francais staged six acts of vaudeville, featuring Latasha and Laurence, dancers from Warsaw.

Because the name of the city intrigued her, Bette Davis planned to visit Medicine Hat, and the Junior Board of Trade arranged a big reception for her. At the last minute Miss Davis wired that owing to bad weather she had been obliged to change her route and could not go to Medicine Hat.

Elissa Landi lectured in Brantford and had an awkward quarter of an hour there. Entering a restaurant she sat down and ordered a meal which she proceeded to consume all unaware that the section had been reserved for the local Lions Club. Looking up, she found herself surrounded by men. Although most knew who the pretty stranger was they decided to "give her a break" and she was allowed to finish her meal without interruption.

Interviewing a theatre manager in an effort to persuade him to run a "short" advertising the Poppy Day campaign, which had been prepared by ASN, a committeeman was finding his man rather reluctant to interrupt his schedule. Just then marching troops swung around the corner. The manager watched them. "Send me a print. I'll run it for a week," he announced.

First local showing of the official film of the Royal Visit was given at the Winter Club . . . Gracie Fields, whose films are gaining popularity locally, is going to France to entertain the troops . . . It is understood here that Cecil B. DeMille's western Canadian film, "The Northwest Mounted Police," will be given its world premiere in Winnipeg next May.

Guardians of the Dionne quintuplets are considering offers for exclusive rights to photograph the quints as the N. E. A. contract expires at the end of the year and will not be renewed. N. E. A. complained that its contract was violated when other photographic agencies obtained pictures of the quints in Toronto during their visit to the King and Queen. Since May 22, N. E. A. has made no pictures of the quints, and, under a settlement just reached, it will make no more.

Newfoundland, whose tax on films was limited to 65 per cent import duty on a valuation of $4 per reel has notified exchanges that it is enforcing a 1929 statute levying a tax of 12 per cent on the net business which they do in Newfoundland.

Several Filmrow notables were seen at the opening at His Majesty's of Bernard Shaw's satirical play, "Geneva." Amongst them were Harry Paynter of Empire-Universal; M. Isman of Warner; Ben Garson of the Midway and other theatres, and D. A. Murray of United Amusement Corp.

Ed English, province of Quebec manager for 20th-Fox, spent a few days in Buffalo, N. Y., attending the seventh Kent Drive meeting . . . Miss A. Chouinard of 20th-Fox starred at the last session of Filmrow Bowling League when she established a high single record for the league and also took high three.

"U-Boat 29" is wartime fare at the Capitol—Garbo drew throngs to the Palace to see her initial comedy effort, "Ninotchka"—"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" concluded a second week at Loew's—The Princess is showing "The Cat and the Canary"—Leslie Howard is seen in "Intermezzo" at the Orpheum—"Stanley and Livingstone" played the Imperial on its return to Montreal.

Confirmation of the decision of Filmrow distributors to remain in that location, instead of seeking new headquarters downtown, is seen in the remodeling of RKO office there . . . RKO's province of Quebec manager, M. Plottel, announces the closing of the United Amusement deal in which RKO has better representation than ever.

Edmond Beaumont of the Francais, Quebec and the Cinema de Levis, Levis, Que., was one of the rarer visitors to Filmrow.

George Lafond, formerly of Drummondville, is understood to be contemplating erection of a new theatre, but he will give no hint of its location . . . Harry Paynter, province of Quebec manager of Empire-Universal, spent the weekend revisiting his home town, Toronto. He reports that his office came second in both the Empire and the Universal exhibitors' testimonial drive.

WINNIPEG

THE British film, "The Lion Has Wings," slated for the Capitol, is of special interest to Winnipegers because the outdoor photography of the picture was done by a former resident of the city, Osmond Borradaile. He also did the outdoor photography on "Four Feathers" and "Drums."

At the Garrick "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" has gone into its fourth week. The prediction that it may not be out of the house before Christmas seems to be not as far-fetched as it sounded when made a few weeks ago in this column.

Latest addition to the ranks of functioning houses in the city is the reopened Playhouse Theatre. Dark for several years, the house has been taken over by J. Freed of the Elm and his brother, Max. The house opened on Saturday with a bill of vaudeville and first-run films.

The Main street Bijou, Helmer Jernberg's house, has turned to a policy of first run Main Street shows.

With the war well into its third month, Canadians seem to have become accustomed to the new conditions and are settling down to some sort of normal existence. Business in the city has been very good and reports from outside points indicate that this condition is prevalent throughout the west.

Leno Toraldo has introduced a new feature at the Uptown in the form of a revival night. A revival of some old film of a year or two ago is played in connection with the regular showing.

T. J. Gould, formerly manager of the Winnipeg office of Regal Films, and now transferred to the company's Toronto office, was honored at a banquet tendered him before his departure for the east.

Leaving town: Ben Plottel to Vancouver to take over the office of Empire Universal . . . Harry Cohen of Warner to Calgary . . . J. Miles, president of Western Theatre, Ltd., to Toronto . . . Douglas V. Rosen of the Exhibitors' Booking Ass'n to points in Saskatchewan . . . N. Rothstein to Saskatchewan . . . A. W. Perry, general sales manager for Empire Universal, back to Toronto after a trip west and a brief stay in town.

Arriving in the city: Wolfe Cohen, general manager for Warner . . . Charles Bahrynowski of the Metropolitan, Regina, Sask. . . . Joe Derry of the Palace, Kenora, Man. . . . D. Griesdorf, Winnipeg manager of UA, back from a trip to Calgary . . . C. M. Weiner, Monogram, Minneapolis, Minn., here to attend the banquet given in honor of T. J. Gould.

On the sick list: Harold Bishop of the Capitol with a bad cold . . . I. Allan with a badly sprained ankle.

MARITIMES

WHEN G. M. Hoyt, Empire-Universal branch manager, returned from Newfoundland the early part of this autumn, he brought with him a pup, a Newfoundlander. "Skipper," as he was called, was growing into a huge animal and was a great favorite with everyone at the Film Center. Recently, he became sick and nothing could be done to save his life.

Nancy MacDonald, stenographer at Empire-Universal, has returned to the office after an absence of four weeks due to an operation and ensuing illness . . . At the November meeting of the Film Girls' Patriotic Club, a most interesting chat was given by Mrs. George E. Barbour of Saint John, a nurse in the last war, on her experiences in France and England. At the meeting, 17 knitted articles were turned in to the Red Cross. More are expected in the near future.

Harold E. Gaudet of the Capitol, Summerside, P. E. I., returned recently from a visit to Boston and called on Filmrow en route home . . . John H. Bustin, owner of the Imperial, Windsor, N. S., is opening a theatre in Hantsport, N. S. . . . R. G. March, 20th-Fox branch manager, and L. S. Kerr, booker, attended a S. R. Kent Drive meeting in Boston.

Vaudeville Bookings Drop In Canadian Theatres

MONTREAL—In comparison with 1937, a noticeable falling off in professional vaudeville programs in Canadian moving picture theatres is evident. Some pictures appear to be making greater and greater inroads into the professional field and in 1938 only 99 theatres booked vaudeville for a total of 3,171 days or about 32 days each. Quebec theatres held almost 1,600 days of professional shows while Ontario fell off almost 50 per cent to 453 days. Manitoba and British Columbia had the only other notable figures with 425 and 341 days respectively. On the legitimate stage an increase is shown. In 1938, 53 theatres presented 426 days of stock company shows. Manitoba led in 1937 and again last year in these representations with 124, followed closely by Ontario with 117, and Quebec with 112.

Amateur night performances are still increasingly popular. While many of them are sponsored by industrial firms for advertising purposes, theatregoers appear to enjoy the variation from an all picture program even though the performers are amateurs. The number of "amateur" nights increased from 1,104 to 1,532 in 1938. In Ontario the increase was 56 per cent to 751 performances, 44 theatres sponsoring this form of entertainment. In Quebec, 25 theatres sponsored 468 nights; 11 theatres in Alberta averaged eight nights, and 15 in British Columbia gave 85 nights to amateur shows.

Scripts One for Wanger

HOLLYWOOD—Sonya Levien is scripting "So Gallantly Gleaming" for Producer Walter Wanger. Film is based on the life of General John Fremont from a story by Peter Ordway and Harvey Thew.

An Oral Index of Giveaways

Toronto—One who has raised his voice in protest against the giveaway wave now reaching high proportions among both independent and chain theatres of Ontario is Samuel Firestone, veteran independent who is the owner of the Aster and Esquire theatres in Toronto and the Esquire in Brantford, Ont.

"There are premiums every night in the week and the situation is worse now than it has ever been in Canada," declared this pioneer. "There are dishes, foto-nites, mystery nights, quiz nights for cash prizes and tokens, always some special inducement—and the theatres are not selling pictures any more. It's a case of what they can give away. Of course I am feeling it. I am not giving premiums and I can see the people going for the dishes. I do know how it is going to end—something has got to happen—but right now the situation is rotten."

Theatres in Dominion Increasing Yearly

MONTREAL—A steady increase is shown each year in Canada in the number of theatres. Building is fairly active in Ontario, Quebec, Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, while in the Prairie Provinces, although a few theatres are constructed each year, the large increase is due to the installations of permanent projection equipment in community halls which are so prevalent in these provinces. In 1938, 94 buildings were permanently equipped as theatres, while 21 theatres previously closed were remodeled and opened for at least part of the year. The "theatres closed" include only those theatres which were operated for some part of 1937 and were closed for the entire 12 months of 1938. Twenty-nine such closures occurred, mostly in small theatres located in Saskatchewan.

Scattered Status Varies Scale of Operations

MONTREAL—Wide distribution of theatres in Canada from small rural villages to down-town city areas account to some extent for an extensive variation in scale of operations. Many small theatres continue to operate throughout the Dominion; the number increased slightly during 1938 when 199 theatres, each having receipts of less than $2,500 were in operation. These secured less than one per cent of the total admissions to Canada's theatres. More than 38 per cent of all theatres had annual revenues of less than $10,000 each. These secured less than five per cent of the total admissions and receipts.

In the urban centers there were 12 theatres each of which exceeded the $200,000 mark, having nearly 10½ million admissions and annual receipts of $3,714,410. The Prairie Provinces contain many of the smaller theatres. Sixty-six per cent of the theatres in this division have receipts of less than $10,000 per year whereas only 15 per cent of the theatres in Ontario are in this group.

VANCOUVER

WOLFE COHEN, Canadian general manager for Warner, is due this week on one of his periodical visits to Vancouver, and when he is here, there is a lot of foot work, as he is an indefatigable worker, making it a point to see all present, and prospective, customers.

Ben Plottel, now in Winnipeg, is said to be coming on here to take charge of the office of Empire Universal Films, in place of Frank Vaughan, who will make his headquarters in that prairie metropolis as western manager.

The B. C. Institute of Cinematography, whatever that means, has applied to the council for permission to stage a traffic safety thriller on a business street. It is to be named "You Bet Your Life" and its purpose is to point out to the pedestrian the dangers he, or she, encounters at the crossings. As the climax is "a fatal accident," the council has hesitated to grant permission for fear it may cast discredit upon the city's traffic management.

W. Hansher—Bill to everyone—is away from the Paramount office for a few days.

Larry Bearg, Famous Players district manager, is out on the war-path for the War Chest, determined to exceed the quota set for him . . . Frank Boothe, son of Howard Boothe, Dunbar Theatre, has a wedding date on the 21st, to be followed by a honeymoon trip in California.

Doug Calladine is another bridegroom elect, but does not propose to go further than Oregon on his trip. When not at leisure, Doug is to be found in the projection booth of the Rio, Archie Calladine's theatre.

Dave Borland, manager of the Capitol, Prince Rupert, came down to Vancouver to attend his mother's funeral.

Canadian Reports Reveal 64 Itinerants Operating

MONTREAL—Although the trend is toward permanent theatres in most of the provinces, 64 itinerant operators filed reports in Canada for 1938. A description was also given by each of the size of equipment in use and by far the greater number was found to be using substandard or 16 millimeter projection equipment. In all, 53 of these operators used 16mm projectors and received a total of $105,392 for 539,792 paid admissions while 11 operators using standard equipment had receipts of $28,754 and 91,804 admissions. Saskatchewan still appears to be the "home" of itinerant operators, 24 reporting from that province with total receipts of $46,167.

Adapts Conrad Story

HOLLYWOOD—John Balderston is adapting "Victory," from a story by Joseph Conrad, for Paramount.

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MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
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M-G-M (12) **84 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 24, '39**

An engrossing chapter in the career of young Dr. Kildare, successfully blending into an acceptable whole three separate and distinct story motivations, this should be well-received by Kildare fans and general audiences alike. Performances by the principals, including Lew Ayres, Lionel Barrymore and Laraine Day, are on a par with previous episodes and the picture emerges as quality program material. This time Ayres and his superior, Barrymore, are engaged in research to stamp out pneumonia. Barrymore, overworked, risks his life by refusing rest. He is forced to take a holiday, however, when Ayres deliberately quits as his assistant and accepts an assignment to cure a neurotic society girl. A third subplot deals with the illness of Ayres' father, which Barrymore diagnoses and cures. Harold S. Bucquet directed.

Lew Ayres, Lionel Barrymore, Lionel Atwill, Laraine Day, Nat Pendleton, Helen Gilbert, Samuel S. Hinds.

The Secret of Dr. Kildare F — Drama

Universal (——) **92 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Through the sheer weight of impressive pageantry and spectacle and a superior cast, headed by Basil Rathbone, this medieval melodrama contrives to transcend its story weaknesses and emerges as highly acceptable entertainment with a particularly strong appeal for those who relish chills in their film fare. With more or less historical accuracy, liberally garnished with plenty of horrors, the picture portrays the murderous intrigues to which Richard III resorted to attain the English throne. As a consequence the screenplay takes on a grim tone which is but slightly relieved through an intertwining thread of romance that is secondary to the dominating murder-torture-battle-bloodshed theme. Noteworthy in the supporting cast is the work of Nan Grey and Ian Hunter. Rowland V. Lee produced and directed with distinction.

Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff, Barbara O'Neil, Ian Hunter, Vincent Price, Nan Grey, Ernest Cossart, John Sutton.

Tower of London F — Historical Drama

Columbia (——) **59 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

The exhibitor should have little difficulty in selling this western to his audiences. It is as finished and entertaining a film as could be hoped for in this category. The story manages to hold up throughout and is more coherent and plausible than the run-of-the-mill offering. It offers Tim McCoy in his familiar role as peacemaker. He is engaged to settle a range war between rival ranchers. After a murder and incidental shooting he eventually gets to the scene of operations. And in good time he rounds up all sorts of evidence that points at a hitherto unsuspected character. The conclusion comes when an auctioneer is about to sell a ranch property. McCoy arrives in time, staves off the sale and settles accounts. David Selman directed.

Tim McCoy, Billie Seward, Edward Le Saint, Ward Bond, Jack Rockwell, Alan Sears.

Justice of the Range F — Western

Paramount (——) **89 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Time-honored formula of soldiers and Indians, given a lavish and spectacular production mounting, and treated to an engrossing screenplay with authentic historical background, here is a field day for the action addicts. While the cast lacks high-powered marquee material, it proves competent throughout and the picture is dependable as a top money offering in its category. The story, with a plot very comparable to that used in "Lives of a Bengal Lancer," deals with the marauding Apache chief, after whom the feature is named, who terrorized the Southwest for many years after the Civil War, and his ultimate capture by the army. Particularly impressive in their scope and action are the battle scenes and the natural beauty of the backgrounds against which the feature was filmed. Paul H. Sloane directed and also is credited with writing the screenplay.

Preston Foster, Ellen Drew, Andy Devine, Gene Lockhart, William Henry, Ralph Morgan, Marjorie Gateson.

Geronimo! F — Historical Western

Warner Bros. (471) **55 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 9, '39**

A compact little thriller with plenty in the excitement line for satisfaction that goes with a well-balanced program. The cast rarely rises above the "melo" type of dramatics but it delivers the contributing causes of the story convincingly and with skill. Dick Foran, Maxie Rosenbloom and Jane Wyman are a trio of private sleuths, the latter more of an amateur, who get themselves involved in depredations of a crooked lawyer and his skullduggery. The plot builds with deft strokes. For the climax there is the good old Santa Monica highway for a chase sequence and a rip-snorter of a fight in which the furnishings of the crook's house are demolished. Foran and Wyman clinch romantically and Rosenbloom supplies his reliable comedy. Noel Smith directed.

Dick Foran, Jane Wyman Maxie Rosenbloom, Gloria Dickson, John Ridgely, Morgan Conway, John Eldridge.

Private Detective F — Melodrama

20th Century-Fox (021) **72 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 1, '39**

One of the poorest, most wearisome and involved episodes in the veteran sleuth series, this will find it tough going everywhere but with the most confirmed Charlie Chan fans. Script is a hopelessly complicated jumble, and Sidney Toler, as the Chinese detective, is given so little to do that his services could almost have been dispensed with entirely. Most of the work and a majority of the entertainment content is contributed by Harold Huber as a stupid French police officer. Action takes place during a test blackout of the city of Paris, shortly before the Munich conference, which dates the plot considerably, and involves the murder of an exporter of contrabrand munitions. There is the usual over-abundance of suspects but a surprising lack of action. Directed by Herbert I. Leeds.

Sidney Toler, Lynn Bari, Harold Huber, Douglas Dumbrille, Noel Madison, C. Henry Gordon, Dorothy Tree.

City in Darkness F — Mystery Melodrama

Columbia (——) **80 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 23, '39**

Comedy—but good—rather than mystery or suspense affords the dominant note in the latest adventure of Kenny Williams, Columbia's contribution to the current crop of suave sleuths. Melvyn Douglas portrays the detective with the same flare that characterized his delineations in two predecessors; while his girl friend again is enacted by John Blondell, more pulchritudinous than ever before. The picture is substantially produced; the story and direction are top rate. All of which adds up for an above-par feature which will prove pleasing to the customers in average situations. Douglas and Miss Blondell, the mayor's secretary, want to get married. Every time they head for the altar a crime is committed which postpones the ceremony while the groom goes a-sleuthing. Wedding bells come with the fadeout. Directed by Alexander Hall.

Melvyn Douglas, Joan Blondell, Clarence Kolb, Ruth Donnelly, Edward S. Brophy, Donald MacBride.

The Amazing Mr. Williams F — Mystery Comedy

RKO Radio (082) **59 Minutes** **Rel. Jan. 5, '40**

George O'Brien carries out his now-familiar assignment—cleaning out the lawless element in a border town—with accustomed ease in a typically brisk and action-laden western which should bring forth no complaints from the sagebrush fans, juvenile or adult. Production is well-handled, calling for a maximum of riding, shooting and fighting and a minimum of action-slowing romance, all neatly blended in David Howard's spirited direction. This time O'Brien is a western lawyer who rides into a frontier settlement just when the crooked element is trying to gain control of the town and sell out the right-of-way to a railroad which plans to build in that direction. O'Brien puts things aright after the usual battle of wits and fists with the villain, Norman Willis.

George O'Brien, Virginia Vale, Norman Willis, Delmar Watson, Herbert Heywood, Bud Osborne.

Legion of the Lawless F — Western

Republic (848) **64 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 15, '39**

The public could not possibly demand more of Gene Autry than is offered in this film. It is loaded with incidents related more or less to the current vogue in film fare and in addition it touches on the subject of migrant agricultural workers. In between Autry sings, Smiley Burnette clowns and Mary Carlisle supplies the feminine and romantic interest as a special events radio commentator. The plot has Gene going from flood refugee work to Congress, in due time, and effecting a general reform on conditions. The story is studded with much vivid action. It moves along with the dramatic emphasis in the proper places and manages, in spite of the varied story content, to be coherent and attention-holding though not thoroughly convincing. George Sherman directed.

Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Carlisle, Douglas Dumbrille, William Farnum.

Rovin' Tumbleweeds F — Western

SELLING ANGLES: **"Justice of the Range"**

The press book for this film no doubt has plenty of suggestions to aid in selling it. It is a good western, more than a cut above the regular product and will probably be effective, if the fact that McCoy is featured in a role far above his usual standard is emphasized. Otherwise it should receive standard exploitation treatment. Life size colored lobby cutouts of McCoy should be on the must list. Hand out pictures of the star, organize a club with his name and cater mostly to the juvenile trade with contests.

CATCHLINES:

The Double Cross Was the Brand Until McCoy Caught Up With the Iron Wielders.

Hunted for Murder, Tim McCoy Hunts His Accusers to Prison.

SELLING ANGLES: **"City in Darkness"**

Tie up on title with the power and light company by offering prizes to school children for essays on street and city illumination. Prepare lobby layouts of newspaper headlines telling of blackouts in London, Paris and Berlin. Tie up with local library on special display of books relating to spies, military codes and war-time adventure. Build a Parisian effect in the lobby, showing the Eiffel Tower and other landmarks.

CATCHLINES:

Blackout in Paris As Charlie Chan Seeks a Murderer Among International Plotters.

A Paris Blackout Becomes a Night of Horror As a Killer Stalks His Victims.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Rovin' Tumbleweeds"**

There are excellent opportunities to tie in with the Red Cross and the publishers of "Radio Guide" in addition to the regular Autry lineup of stunts, in connection with the presentation of this one. Both are well represented in the production. Another possible tie-in is indicated in the nature of the story where it concerns the troubles of migrant workers at the hands of county officials, a timely topic, particularly in the west. Post pictures of the star all over the lobby.

CATCHLINES:

Gene Autry Rides From the Prairie to Congress.

Exchanging His Saddle for a Social Problem, Gene Autry Goes to Washington.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Tower of London"**

Emphasize the historical angles in this one, making a special play for the patronage of students of grammar and high schools, particularly those enrolled in English history courses. Give the marquee credits to Basil Rathbone and Boris Karloff, touting the film as the "chill sensation of all time." Make over the theatre front to resemble the walls of a medieval castle and transform the boxoffice into a "tower." Get two school athletes to hold a fencing duel on the stage as an added attraction.

CATCHLINES:

Intrigue . . . Plots and Counter-Plots . . . As a Usurper Writes a Bloody Chapter in England's History.

It Out-Chills "Frankenstein" . . . Out-Thrills "Robin Hood" . . . This Story of a Madman on the Throne of England.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Private Detective"**

As a trio of fast-moving sleuths, Jane Wyman, Dick Foran and Maxie Rosenbloom rate quite a bit of attention in the line of exploitation. Possibly they could be built up in the "Musketeer" manner and profitably put over with the audience. The story has the standard fixtures of a mystery show with the criminal intent in plain view. There is no dearth of the sock 'em and slug 'em element that manages to hit the spot. Appeal to the masses in your ad copy. Direct your campaign to lovers of detective yarns.

CATCHLINES:

Come and See Dick Foran Unveil a Crooked Lawyer in Spectacular and Vivid Style.

His Plot Almost Succeeded—Then Foran Got on His Trail.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Legion of the Lawless"**

George O'Brien, one of the most popular action stars, deserves the marquee and advertising credits. Transform theatre front and lobby into a frontier-town effect. Dress attendants as cowhands. Tie the title, with police cooperation, into a local "safe driving" week with some such slogan as: "Let's crack down on the 'Legion of the Lawless' who are making driving a menace!" Make tie-ups with libraries and bookstores on western novels, such as those by Harold Bell Wright and Zane Grey.

CATCHLINES:

Roaring With Excitement, the Flaming Story of the Deadliest Killers in Border History.

Blazing Guns Play a Symphony of Roaring Romance in George O'Brien's Fastest, Fightingest Western Adventure.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Secret of Dr. Kildare"**

Another in the now-established series, this has a presold audience awaiting it. Dress theatre attendants as internes and nurses; print, for your mailing list, "Prescriptions" recommending the picture as a cure for "that bored feeling." If there is a Dr. Kildare in your community, make sure that he attends the showing as a special guest. Stage a special matinee for doctor's wives, nurses and local hospital attendants.

CATCHLINES:

Another Heart-Warming Episode in the Career of Young Dr. Kildare.

Your Favorite Physician . . . Young Dr. Kildare . . . Faces Another Problem in His Struggle to Make a Career of Humanity.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Geronimo!"**

Covering a significant phase of American history, this can be tied into school essay contests based on handling of Indians in early days as compared with the present. Secure a display of Indian relics, such as moccasins, arrows, tomahawks, etc., and set them up in the lobby with a genuine redskin, or someone made up to look like one, smoking a peace pipe. Scour the community for possible veterans of the Apache wars, have them interviewed for newspapers and invite them to theatre as special guests of honor.

CATCHLINES:

A Fighting Picture of Fighting Times . . . Throbbing With the Savagery of a Race Inspired to Kill.

Drama . . . Excitement . . . Romance . . . In the Days When Men Were Merciless Adherents of the Law—Kill or Be Killed.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Amazing Mr. Williams"**

Stress the fact that this reunites Melvyn Douglas and Joan Blondell as a romantic comedy team, giving each equal credit in exploitation and advertising. The comedy-mystery angle suggests a contest such as "Are Women Smarter Than Men?" conducted through a local newspaper, in which men and women vie to answer a series of brain-twisters. Conduct a teaser campaign, sniping the locality with posters carrying only the picture title. Point out the film is a semi-sequel to "There's Always a Woman" and "There's That Woman Again."

CATCHLINES:

The Amazing Mr. Williams Steps Into an Astounding Mystery When He Deserts His Law Books to Become a Detective.

The Hilarious Story of Mr. Williams . . . Who Knew Everything About Law, But Nothing About Murder.

Short Subject Reviews

Popular Science

Paramount (No. 2) 10 *Mins.*

Above average for general audience interest. Presentation of latest scientific developments starts off with a new wrinkle for preserving meat. It's a rubber jacket frozen over the surface. Then there is a method whereby concrete houses are made to order in 48 hours. The scene shifts to Hawaii where machines for picking, and preparing pineapples are demonstrated. Next is a humorous interlude by a hair-brained professor. Concluding the reel is an absorbing visit to the Underwriters' Laboratories of Chicago where articles are tested for safety and performance.

Mendelssohn's Wedding March

M-G-M (Miniature) 8 *Mins.*

James FitzPatrick has taken an incident from the life of the composer here and translated it into a rather pleasant musical moment. Liberally interspersed with appropriate music, the story tells how Mendelssohn aided a talented peasant to go to Leipsig to study, and solved his romantic problem. It is in Technicolor and a cut above the usual.

Zoo in Manhattan

Central Films 10 *Mins.*

Here is a clever and tastefully gotten up vignette of the Central Park Menagerie. The photography is fine and the selection of animal shots are in good style. The running comment adequately describes the views. Worthwhile because of the rarity of subject matter.

Information Please

RKO-Pathe (No. 3) 10 *Mins.*

For the sophisticates this is entirely too brief. For the general run of audiences, the probability rests with them. Radio audience will like it. F.P.A. sings an old time ballad. John Kieran calls a catfish a mackerel and Oscar Levant pulls a few nifties. Guest informant is Clarence Budington Kelland.

Dad for a Day

M-G-M (Our Gang) 11 *Mins.*

One of the youngsters in the gang is fatherless when the boys are about to go on a father-and-son picnic. With the aid of his fellows he gets a father, inadvertently topping off a romance. It's the usual sort of thing, homespun—and effective.

Ski Birds

M-G-M (Pete Smith Specialty) 8 *Mins.*

For a new slant on the ski business, Pete Smith traces it historically and brings it up to present day streamlining. Plenty of action, spills and data, with the usual Smith gags and sound effects. Good for laughs and thrills.

SHORT OF THE WEEK

"Autograph Hound"

RKO (Disney Cartoon) 8 Mins.

Donald Duck goes Hollywood for a fine piece of entertainment which should more than satisfy the children and also give adults a good time. Hit with the autograph bug, Donald wangles his way into a couple of studios for autographs of Mickey Rooney, Sonja Henie and a few of the others until word gets around he is the famous Disney duck. The stars drop everything and chase Donald for his autograph, even the lumpy gateman who has been chasing the duck off the lots. The color work is beautiful and, en toto, it is a short which will garnish any program with just the right thing it needs.



Riding the Range

RKO (Novelty) 18 *Mins.*

Ray Whitley and his musical troupe supply almost two reels of western music and a carbon-copy type of plot. The effort has been produced in good style, the recording is pleasant, as is the music, though not particularly the last word. The supporting cast includes many faces familiar through western film appearances. But it should fill the gap as a breather between shows.

Aqua-Rhythm

Paramount 10 *Mins.*

(Grantland Rice Sportlight)

Thirty graceful and attractive members of the Tarpon Swimming Club of the Florida State College for Women demonstrate the art of formation swimming. The girls go through some intricate routines with ease. All of which makes an interesting sports reel.

American Royal

RKO-Pathe (Reelism) 9 *Mins.*

The title of this item is the name of an annual prize cattle and horse exhibition in Kansas City. It has been well-filmed and a prime assortment of animals are put through their paces. Rather good.

Let's Talk Turkey

M-G-M (Pete Smith Specialty) 10 *Mins.*

Whether your state celebrates Thanksgiving early or late this year this is a short that should be played at once. It also is good for ensuing holidays. Mr. Averageman struggles with the bird while his family and relatives look on in disgust. He serves up all kinds of barbaric cuts and accounts for humor that is expected but nevertheless quite entertaining. The proper way to carve also is shown.

Never Sock a Baby

Paramount (Popeye the Sailor) 6 *Mins.*

Popeye learns it does not pay to spank babies. After spanking Swea' Pea, Popeye has a wild dream in which all sorts of adventures befall Swea' Pea who has fled because of the licking. The cartoon is on the weak side.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Movietone News, No. 19: King George inspects munitions factory, remains of German plane, Dover patrol, French tighten blockade, heavy rains at front, Polish legions prepared to fight again, President Lebrun looks over war zone, Belgians dig in, Italy stresses neutrality, Roosevelt observes Armistice Day, LaGuardia opens Red Cross drive, flying fortresses reach Brazil, football highlights.

News of the Day, No. 217: France reinforces flooded front, President Lebrun inspects war zone, King George tours munition plant, U. S. renews peace pledge, Nobel prize for U. S. scientist, football highlights.

Paramount News, No. 22: Thanksgiving doubleheader, North Sea patrols, U-boat prisoners, German plane downed near Liverpool, Polish soldiers now in French uniforms, President Roosevelt observes Armistice Day, Canadians mark occasion, football upsets.

RKO Pathe News, No. 34: Allied fleets blockade Germany, floods swamp front, volunteer Polish legion in France, Nazi prisoners in British camps, President Roosevelt observes Armistice Day, U. S. scientist wins Nobel prize, gridiron thrills, N. Y. spurs Red Cross drive.

Universal Newsreel, No. 823: British down Nazi plane, destroyers patrol channel, U-boat prisoners, F.D.R. leads rites for war dead, Nobel prize for "atom smasher," Italian colonists off to Africa, snow cruiser snarls traffic, gridiron thrills.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Movietone News, No. 20: Germans carry on siege of propaganda along Siegfried line, Duke of Windsor at front, also Premier Daladier, Churchill is another visitor, King George presents decorations, Finland digs in, Roosevelt lays cornerstone for Jefferson Memorial, snow cruiser goes aboard ship, Marines celebrate birthday, Lew Lehr, hockey season opens, gymnastics, Pitt beats Carnegie Tech.

News of the Day, No. 218: Germans spread propaganda at front, Daladier and Churchill in war zone, air heroes honored in England, survivors of torpedoed ship, hog-calling in south, Harvard beats Army, Pitt takes Carnegie Tech.

Paramount News, No. 23: Admiral Byrd starts voyage, famous sculptress mutilates statues, Daladier, Churchill and Duke of Windsor pictured at front, "City of Flint" homeward bound, pictures of the rescue of the "City of Mandalay."

RKO Pathe News, No. 35: Jefferson Shrine cornerstone laid, King honors air heroes, Nazi prisoners in England, Italy celebrates World War victory, Byrd's ship heads for Antarctica, "City of Mandalay" sunk by U-boat.

Universal Newsreel, No. 824: American ship rescues U-boat victims, leaders visit front, British arm merchant ships, King honors British fliers, Queen leads sewing circle, President lays cornerstone, U. S. trains 1940 census takers, Byrd sails, hog-calling in south, panda shines for film stars, old jallopies open auto show.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

Columbia

Little Adventuress

Good. Played it with a Cassidy picture to a real house. Did better than Jane Withers' picture. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Only Angels Have Wings

Disappointing. An all-talkie with practically no action. Title fools them. Business below par. Friday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

U-Boat 29

This importation played to a small matinee crowd that was so well pleased that the word-of-mouth reaction made the night business vigorous. The British sure know how to make this type of stuff exciting to the last flicker. Any house can do business with it, even if the cast is unknown. Wednesday. Weather: Rain. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562. —Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Western Caravans

Another all right Charles Starrett western. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State Theatre, Lewellen, Neb.

First National

Angels Wash Their Faces

The Dead End Kids sure are one bunch when they are in a show. It will get business. Played on Hallowe'en. This picture should do good everywhere. Step on it and get what it's worth. Weather: Cold. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 200.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Angels Wash Their Faces

A fairly good picture. Seemed to please. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Dust Be My Destiny

A low-bracket picture that is worthy of a weekend playdate. My audience comment on this feature was very favorable. Attendance fair. Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Each Dawn I Die

Very fine picture. Plenty of drama and suspense. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way Theatre, Sheridan, Ore.

Old Maid, The

A swell show that grossed better than I had anticipated. I advertised that should anyone fail to agree it was a good show, his or her admission price would be refunded. Not one person took advantage of same. Sat., Sun. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, *4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.*

On Your Toes

Zorina is poetry in motion, with all the personal appeal you could want, both as an actress, dancer and woman. But the show as a whole is slow. Then, too, not so many people like, or will even tolerate ballet dancing. It has the same effect as opera singing. They stay home and listen to jive on the radio. Business punkl Saturday. Weather: Clear, cool. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Babes in Arms

One of the brightest items to come along the assembly lines in quite a spell. Practically everybody that saw it felt that their money had been well spent. The catch in the thing for us was that too many of our patrons would not come to another Rooney show. They are getting an awful lot of Rooney these days. Mon., Tues. Weather: Clear. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Blackmail

Very good Robinson vehicle. An action picture and no disappointments. Metro deserves credit for doing a finished job on their pictures. Audience reaction: All favorable. Boxoffice: Above average Saturday. Admission: 40-10. General patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Champ, The (Reissue)

This still proves to be a definite boxoffice attraction. Mon., Tues. Weather: Rain. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Goodbye, Mr. Chips

Played this picture against my better judgment. It's a swell show for the sophisticated audience, but strictly not a small town picture. My advice to the small town exhibitor is to pass it up. Attendance poor. Sat., Sun. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Hardys Ride High, The

Not up to the others in the series, but still gets business. Sunday. Weather: Fair and cool. Admission: 20-10. Neighborhood patronage. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Maisie

Something new and different. Ann Sothern's bright cracks brought in a few extra patrons. Enjoyed by all who saw it. Fri., Sat. Weather: Bad. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 900. Capacity: 350.—T. W. Barrow, Lone Star Theatre, Eldorado, Tex.

Monogram

Lure of the Wasteland

Ordinary run-of-the-mill western done up in color that is a mess. However, the title will get them in on a weekend (when it should be played) and this type audience isn't hard to satisfy so long as it's a western. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Paramount

Double or Nothing

Although we picked this up in liquidating our contract, it still did nice business. Crosby popular in this situation. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Rain. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Heart of Arizona

Best weekend business in sometime. Weather: Cold. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

In Old Mexico

Hopalong Cassidy and Windy are always good. Friday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Never Say Die

Played this during the town's fall festival. Pleased generally. Saturday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.

Our Leading Citizen

Consider this the best Bob Burns picture to date, but some of his other pictures have hurt him at the boxoffice. If you can put this picture over, your audience will enjoy it. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Star Maker, The

Probably the best Crosby since "Pennies From Heaven." It seems to me I can "smell" Crosby's personal touch behind the story and perhaps even behind some of the direction. If I'm right, the fragrance is entirely acceptable, for it turns out to be a swell show. Would like to have heard Damrosch and orchestra play a little more. Cast all good. Audience reaction: All comments favorable. Boxoffice: Only about average Thursday-Friday. Admission: 40-10. General patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Republic

In Old Caliente

Very satisfactory picture that did gratifying business. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

In Old Monterey

This is the best western I have ever played. Had lots of good comments on the show and some folks saw it twice. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 300.—Melville Danner, Kozy Theatre, Granite, Okla.

RKO Radio

Fifth Avenue Girl

Without doubt Ginger Rogers is becoming one of our most subtle actresses. Balance of cast seemed to enter into the spirit and did a fine job all around. La Cava's guiding hand shows through. Seems to me we exhibitors had better pay a little more attention to who directs these pictures from here out. Audience reaction: Comments all favorable. Boxoffice: Above average Sunday-Monday business. Admission: 40-10. General patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Flying Irishman

Terrible, very uninteresting and priced much too high. Wednesday. Weather: Mild. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Mother Carey's Chickens

Very entertaining. Should be made into a group series. Thursday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Nurse Edith Cavell

A very striking documentary film, but also very strenuous as entertainment. If they like sober stuff in the serious vein, then it will do business. Playing here on a weekend, it was not light enough to "take" the crowds. With no form of opposition, besides the ever-present bridge clubs, it turned in a weak gross. Saturday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

20th Century-Fox

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

If your patrons enjoyed "Hound of the Baskervilles," they'll enjoy this one too. It's equally as good, with plenty of thrills and suspense. Attendance only fair. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175. —Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Down on the Farm

Brother exhibitors, play this by all means. Your weekend customers will come back after seeing this hilarious comedy. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Here I Am a Stranger

This is one of the finest pictures I have ever run. Play this on a Sunday-Monday. It will please 100 per cent. Played on Tuesday, one night only. Good crowd. All enjoyed it. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 200. —Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

United Artists

Real Glory, The

This is the second example in two months of the fact that Goldwyn does not always make hits. Title should have been "Real Gory." The goriness of it kept away many of the women, and without them we might as well close up shop—the second day we darn near did. Cooper seemed uninterested in the whole matter, as was the audience. Mon., Tues. Weather: Clear. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

South Riding

One of our regrettable incidents. This picture leaves a smell in your theatre, to say nothing of the failure to make film rental. English pronunciation is very bad. Don't play it. It's too hard to take. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Rain. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

Stagecoach

We played this one way behind the caboose, but it still went over. Probably the best thing Walter Wanger has ever done and a decided departure from his "jumpy" stories and direction. No better cast could have been selected and their work is tops. Audience: They all liked it. Boxoffice: Above average Sun., Mon. Admission: 40-10. General patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Universal

Rio

This production evidently cost a pile of money and came forth with a good cast. As entertainment, however, it missed the mark quite widely. Business was not exactly bad, many coming on the cast value alone, but the amount of satisfaction received was scant. We didn't offer anybody their money back. Wednesday. Weather: Rain. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Three Smart Girls Grow Up

A real up and coming picture. Lots of zip. All reports favorable. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way Theatre, Sheridan, Ore.

Warner Bros.

Dodge City

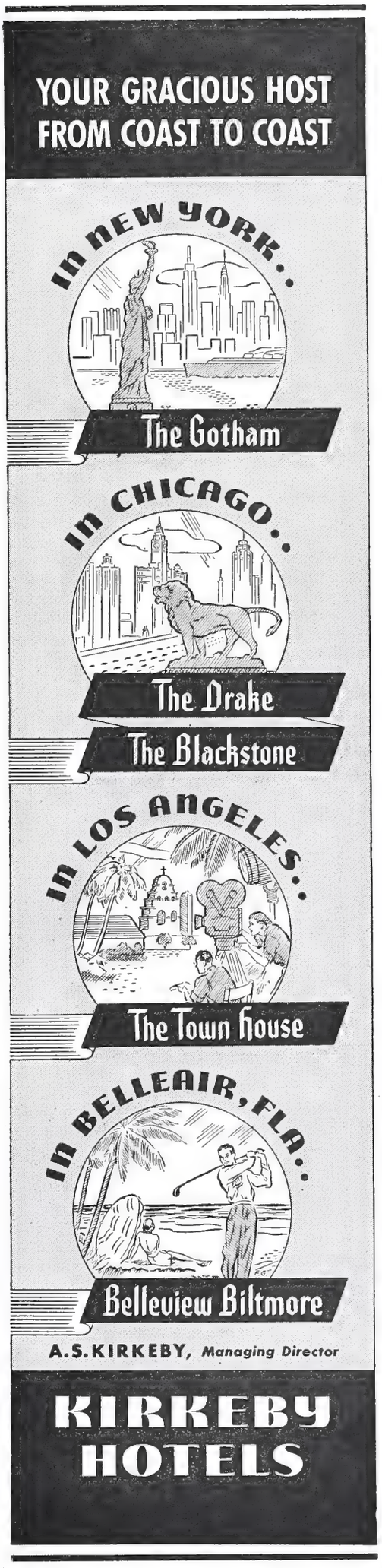
Played this feature late, but did fairly good business on same. Considered the picture superior to "Jesse James," with the exception of the boxoffice draw. Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Naughty But Nice

Nice little picture. Hate to lose Powell. Ann Sheridan not as good as expected. Business very good. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,400. Capacity: 300.—Lester Meyer, Strand Theatre, Chillicothe, Tex.

Valley of the Giants

If you are in a rural town and haven't played this, pick it up. Did very good business and satisfied all. A Technicolor picture of the California redwoods that will bring them in and the action will more than satisfy. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 250.—Everett Clapp, American Theatre, Sidell, Ill.



Selling Seats

PRACTICAL IDEAS BY PRACTICAL SHOWMEN

Donald Duck Show Popular in Texas

FORT WORTH, TEX.—A special "Donald Duck Jinx Show" was executed by Lowell T. Bodiford, manager of the Parkway. The stunt proved successful since the theatre grossed well over an average Friday business.

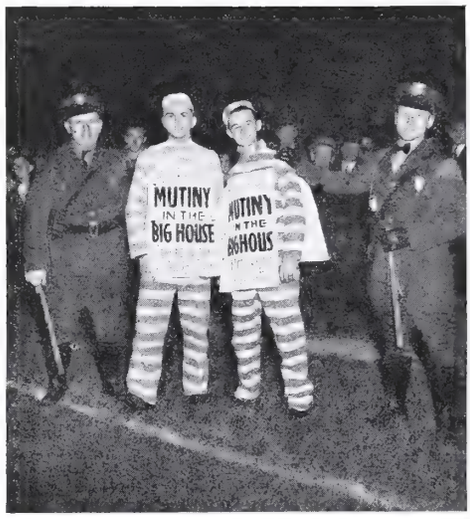
The spook shorts booked for the show consisted of "Case of the Stuttering Pig," "Attic of Terror," "Magician Mickey," "The Timid Ghost," "Lonesome Ghosts" and "Donald's Lucky Day."

Highlights of the campaign included mailing of bottles of smelling salts to critics as a gag to obtain stories on the show; pass-out checks distributed in various parts of the city to be used in case patron passed out; a shocking machine in the lobby for ballyhoo; and ghost ballyhoo sent to night football games and downtown.

A National Screen trailer was used a month prior to playdate. Four ghost jinx dummies were spotted with sheets and copies in various parts of the theatre. A mammoth "Donald Duck" was painted on sidewalk ten days in advance with copy covering entire outer lobby. A papier mache cat head and costume was used for street ballyhoo. Want ads asking for real live ghosts ran in daily paper and elicited quite a response.

The theatre is affiliated with the Interstate Circuit, which for years has been fighting against double features and has proven by actual experience that good short subjects can take the place of a second weak picture.

Do your part in the annual rollcall of the American Red Cross. Help this worthy cause in every way you can.



"Convicts" Cheered—

Twelve thousand enthusiastic Wilkes Barre football fans cheered and howled as two convict bally men advertised the opening of Monogram's "Mutiny in the Big House" at the Penn Theatre in Wilkes Barre, Pa. The bally men were escorted by two policemen as they paraded with the band between halves of a championship game between Kingston and Larksville high schools.

Form Old Maid Group As Stunt in Atlanta

ATLANTA—Organization of the "National Ass'n of Happy Old Maids" was formed here as a result of a tieup between the Fox Theatre and Atlanta *Constitution*. Over 400 women sent in applications. The stunt was climaxed when the first 100 members attended a dinner and then were present at the opening of "The Old Maid."

One of the Old Maids was dubbed "Old Maid Glamour Girl" and she was selected to cut a huge wedding cake.



Landgoing Sub Plugs the Real Thing—

Use of an old car fitted to resemble a submarine, as shown above, was made to exploit Columbia's "U-Boat 29" when it was shown at the Strand in Springfield, Ill. The car was driven through local streets and nearby towns.

NUGGETS

LOU SOSNA, Sosna Theatre, Moberly, Mo., bought an entire page in the Moberly *Democrat* to tell of his purchase of Warner-First National 1939-40 product. Ad contained synopsis of "The Old Maid," first in the lineup, scenes from coming pictures, and write-up of recent improvements in the house.

●

When Louis Cohen of the Palace, Hartford, Conn., played "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," he placed in a local optical and camera store, a sign reading: "Even Sherlock Holmes finds nothing wrong with these (the store's) values. Meet him at the Loew-Poli Palace Friday together with Richard Greene in 'Here I Am a Stranger.'"

●

In his lobby advertising, Eddie Selette, Albany, Albany, N. Y., emphasized the Warner short subject "Old Glory" with a spread from *Click* magazine.

●

United Artists' World Window short subject, "Eternal Fire," has received a vote of honorable mention by the Good Housekeeping *Shorts Preview Board which reviewed selected shorts submitted by distributors. It is the only award of merit voted a travel subject.*

●

RKO has hit the bell with another novel sales promotion mailing piece. This one is for "That's Right, You're Wrong," which has been sent to exhibitors in the United States and Canada. The piece is a cardboard miniature of a radio with the panels opening to reveal scenes from the film.

●

Irving Blumberg, Warner Oxford, Philadelphia, submits a suggestion which should find favor among many patrons. With Xmas not far, Blumberg suggests exhibitors start advertising a "Free Checking Service." Similar tieups can be arranged with local merchants since it gives the prospective buyer two reasons for coming to town.

●

Four beautiful girls from the Model's Guild dressed in Elizabethan costumes were used by the management of the Boyd, Philadelphia, to distribute parchment scrolls signed by Bette Davis and Errol Flynn to patrons who attended the premiere of "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex."

●

A rusty, battered old bathtub advertised as the container used in mixing bathtub gin proved a crowd stopper for a lobby display on "The Roaring Twenties" arranged by David Dallas of the Kansan, Parsons, Kas. He also stopped traffic with a 1920 *model car bedecked with a half dozen attractive girls dressed as* 1920 *flappers with signs and music advertising the picture.*

Boxoffice Barometer

A Computation of What the Pictures Did in Their First Runs in Principal Centers as Compiled From the Weekly Reports in BOXOFFICE. Number of Runs Follows Initials of Distributors. Pictures With Less Than 5 Runs Not Listed. Average Theatre Gross Figured at 100%.

	RUNS	PER CENT
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox)	9	100
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue	10	115
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN)	10	100
Beau Geste (Para)	10	120
Behind Prison Gates (Col)	5	95
Blackmail (M-G-M)	15	95
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox)	11	95
Charlie Chan in Honolulu (20th-Fox)	9	95
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox)	7	95
Coast Guard (Col)	8	100
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO)	8	100
Dust Be My Destiny (FN)	16	105
Espionage Agent (FN)	12	90
Fast and Furious (M-G-M)	10	95
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO)	19	110
Five Little Peppers (Col)	5	95
Golden Boy (Col)	13	100
Hawaiian Nights (Univ)	13	95
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox)	13	85
Hidden Power (Col)	5	90
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox)	19	120
Honeymoon in Bali (Para)	19	115
In Name Only (RKO)	7	105
Indianapolis Speedway (WB)	8	100
Man They Could Not Hang (Col)	6	100
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ)	5	100
Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB)	6	100
No Place to Go (FN)	5	85
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO)	11	105
Old Maid (FN)	13	115
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para)	14	90
Rains Came, The (20th-Fox)	23	130
Real Glory, The (UA)	10	125
Star Maker, The (Para)	6	105
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox)	8	95
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M)	8	95
They Shall Have Music (UA)	11	95
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M)	21	105
U-Boat 29 (Col)	8	110
Under-Pup (Univ)	11	100
What a Life (Para)	10	105
Winter Carnival (UA)	7	100
Women, The (M-G-M)	13	130

CITIES FROM WHICH AVERAGES WERE COMPUTED: With comparative figures indicating the percentage of average business (100 per cent) achieved by individual cities as compiled from the first run records of each.

City	Pct.	City	Pct.	City	Pct.	City	Pct.
Boston	90	Denver	110	Minneapolis	100	Philadelphia	100
Charlotte	95	Detroit	95	New Haven	110	Pittsburgh	100
Chicago	100	Indianapolis	90	New Orleans	95	Portland, Ore.	110
Cincinnati	120	Kansas City	100	New York City	125	Salt Lake City	115
Cleveland	105	Los Angeles	120	Oklahoma City	100	Seattle	90
Dallas	100	Milwaukee	115	Omaha	125		

"MR. SMITH" STILL HOLDS NATION'S TOP SPOT

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—
Chicago 250

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—
Milwaukee 190

DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK—
Kansas City 180

ROARING TWENTIES—
New York City 180

DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK
(dual)—Detroit 160

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON
(dual)—New Haven 160

ROARING TWENTIES—Cleveland
(2nd wk.) 160

EXTENDED RUNS

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, 26th and final week, New York City.

Harvest, 8th wk., World, New York City.

Rasputin, 6th wk., 55th St. Playhouse, New York City.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 5th wk., Cincinnati; 3rd wk., Dallas.

Babes in Arms, 4th wk., Oklahoma City, Pittsburgh.

Port of Shadows, 3rd and final wk., Central, New York City.

The Real Glory, 3rd loop wk., Chicago.

The Roaring Twenties, 3rd loop wk., Chicago.

BOSTON

Fenway—**Torpedoed** (Film Alliance); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox) 90
Memorial—**First Love** (Univ); **Meet Doctor Christian** (RKO) 120
Metropolitan—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox).....115
Orpheum—**The Real Glory** (UA); **Scandal Sheet** (Col) 105
Paramount—Same as Fenway 100
State—Same as Orpheum 110

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**Flying Deuces** (RKO) 90
Carolina—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox) 90
Imperial—**The Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA), 1st half 100
Imperial—**Intermezzo** (UA), 2nd half 90
State—**Down the Wyoming Trail** (Mono)..... 90

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), held 2nd wk. 250
Chicago—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), plus stage show; moved to Garrick for 2nd wk...100
Garrick—**Roaring Twenties** (WB), 3rd loop wk.. 85
Oriental—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **In Name Only** (RKO), both 2nd run, plus stage show..... 90
Palace—**First Love** (Univ); **Full Confession** (RKO), 2nd wk. 90
Roosevelt—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), held 2nd wk..120
State-Lake—**The Hidden Staircase** (WB), plus stage show. 90
United Artists—**The Real Glory** (UA), 3rd loop wk. 85

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 120
Capitol—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 4th wk., held over for 5th 120
Lyric—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), 2nd wk...100
Palace—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), held 130
Shubert—**Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox), plus stage show, Folies Bergere 130

CLEVELAND

Allen—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), 2nd wk...160
Hippodrome—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox) 135
Lake—**Those High Grey Walls** (Col); **Beware, Spooks!** (Col) 80
Palace—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO). Stage: Constance Bennett in person and 5 acts vaudeville 105
State—**Remember?** (M-G-M), 6 days 100
Stillman—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 2nd wk., 6 days.100

DALLAS

Capitol—**Hero for a Day** (Univ), 1st half..... 80
Capitol—**Tropic Fury** (Univ), 2nd half..... 90
Majestic—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M).....125
Palace—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox).100
Rialto—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ).125
Tower—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk. 100

DENVER

Aladdin—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), after a wk. at the Denver 140
Broadway—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Full Confession** (RKO), after a wk. at the Orpheum 110
Denham—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 135
Denver—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox).125
Orpheum—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **Dancing Coed** (M-G-M) 85
Paramount—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox); **Five Little Peppers** (Col) 110
Rialto—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Scandal Sheet** (Col) 115

DETROIT

Adams—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), (After 2 wks. at the Fox); **Miracle of Main Street** (Col) 100
Cinema—**Lucrezia Borgia** (SR) 150
Fox—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox).....160
Michigan—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB); **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (Para) 105
Palms-State—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), after 1 wk. at the Michigan; **At the Circus** (M-G-M), after 1 wk. at the United Artists..... 95
United Artists—**Remember?** (M-G-M) 110

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), held 180
Midland—**Eternally Yours** (UA); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 95
Newman—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), hold-over. 85
Orpheum—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **Full Confession** (RKO) 85
Tower—**Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 110
Uptown—Same as Esquire 150

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox).....135
Downtown—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB), 2nd wk.....100
Four Star—**Intermezzo** (UA) 100
Hillstreet—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk. 125
Hollywood—Same as Downtown 100
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet 125
Paramount—**Our Neighbors—the Carters** (Para), plus stage show 100
State—Same as Chinese 150

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col)..190
Riverside—**U-Boat 29** (Col), plus stage show..100
Strand—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox) 120
Warner—**Eternally Yours** (UA); **On Your Toes** (FN) 100
Wisconsin—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox)....150

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Marshal of Mesa City** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO) 90
Century—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. 100
Esquire—**Champs Elysees** (French) 70
Gopher—**The Under-Pup** (Univ) 135
Minnesota—**The Covered Trailer** (Rep), plus stage show (Eddie Peabody and Milt Herth).100
Orpheum—**Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M), plus stage show (Phil Spitalny's "Hour of Charm").....135
State—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 90
World—**The Road to Glory** (20th-Fox) reissue.. 80

NEW HAVEN

College—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk...160
Loew-Poli—**Drums Along the Mohawk.** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox).....120
Paramount—**Disputed Passage** (Para); **Zenobia** (UA) 120
Roger Sherman—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB); **Kid Nightingale** (WB)....130

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**I Stole a Million** (Univ)..... 85
Globe—**The Women** (M-G-M) 95
Liberty—**Birth of a Baby** (GN), 2nd wk.....100
Orpheum—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO) 125
Saenger—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 125
State—**Remember?** (M-G-M) 130
Tudor—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 90

NEW YORK

Astor—**Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (M-G-M), 26th wk.—final. 65
Capitol—**Dancing Coed** (M-G-M) 90
Paramount—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para), plus stage show. 115
Radio City Music Hall—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), plus stage show 140
Rivoli—**First Love** (Univ) 130
Roxy—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., plus stage show.....130
Strand—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), plus stage show 180

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO).....100
Liberty—**Hawaiian Nights** (Univ); **Conspiracy** (RKO), 4 days 100
Liberty—**Quick Millions** (20th-Fox); **Forgotten Woman** (Univ), 3 days 110
Midwest—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox) 135
Plaza—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 4th wk.....100
State—**Golden Boy** (Col) 90
Tower—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), move over from Criterion 80

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **On Your Toes** (FN) 95
Omaha—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox) 130
Orpheum—**First Love** (Univ); **Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox) 120
Paramount—**All Quiet on the Western Front** (Univ), reissue; **Hero for a Day** (Univ)..... 95
State—**Zenobia** (UA); **Charlie Chan at Reno** (20th-Fox) 95

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**The Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA)...115
Boyd—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk. 140
Earle—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para), with Hal Kemp's orch. on stage 130
Fox—**First Love** (Univ) 110
Karlton—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB) 145
Keith's—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk....130
Stanley—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 90
Stanton—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB) 120

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. 135
Barry—**Dead Men Tell No Tales** (Alliance); **The Vampire Bat** (Univ), reissue.....110
Fulton—**Return of the Frog** (SR); **Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (SR)..... 75
Penn—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO) 120
Senator—**The Escape** (20th-Fox); **Quick Millions** (20th-Fox) 60
Stanley—**At the Circus** (M-G-M)..... 90
Warner—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 3rd d. t. wk. 130

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Eternally Yours** (UA); **Espionage Agent** (FN) 120
United Artists—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Little Accident** (Univ) 135
Mayfair—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk., transfer 110
Paramount—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..100
Liberty—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox)..... 95

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**Night Work** (Para); **Beau Geste** (Para), 2nd run 110
Centre—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 115
Paramount—**The Women** (M-G-M) 115
Studio—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 115
Utah—**Call a Messenger** (Univ); **Cat and the Canary** (Para) 105
Victory—**The Eagle and the Hawk** (Para); **Southward, Ho!** (Rep) 100

SEATTLE

Fifth Avenue—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox) 100
Liberty—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk. 130
Music Box—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA), 2nd wk. 90
Orpheum—**Cat and the Canary** (Para); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 90
Palomar—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 90
Paramount—**First Love** (Univ); **Little Accident** (Univ), 2nd wk.....120
Roosevelt—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), 2nd wk. 90

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

A

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M) Feb. 18 923
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26 005
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue Sept. 30.
All Women Have Secrets (Para) 3914
Allegheny Uprising (RKO) Oct. 28 006
Amazing Mr. Williams (Col) Nov. 25 .....
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5 367
Another Thin Man (M-G-M) Nov. 18 13
Arizona Kid (Rep) Oct. 7..... 951
Asking for Trouble (GB).....8012
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col), reissue.....1072

B

Babes in Arms (M-G-M) Sept. 23 9
Bachelor Mother (RKO) July 1 932
Bad Lands (RKO) July 29..... 933
Bad Little Angel (M-G-M) Oct. 28 10
Balalaika (M-G-M) .....
Barricade (20th-Fox) 026
Beau Geste (Para) July 29....3902
Behind Prison Gates (Col) Aug. 5 9033
Beware, Spooks! (Col) Oct. 28..1011
Big Guy (Univ) .....
Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16... 3
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col) Nov. 11 1013
Blue Bird (20th-Fox)..... 025

C

Cafe Hostess (Col) .....
Call a Messenger (Univ) Sept. 9. 20
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16 912
Cat and the Canary (Para) Oct. 7 3909
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 12 006
Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (20th-Fox) Nov. 25 021
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3 948
Charlie McCarthy, Detective (Univ) .....
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox) Aug. 19 002
Chip of the Flying U (Univ)...
Cisco Kid and the Lady (20th-Fox) 012
Coast Guard (Col) Aug. 19....9008
Colorado Sunset (Rep) Aug. 5.. 846
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2..... 935
Covered Trailer (Rep) Nov. 18.. 915
Cowboy Quarterback (FN) July 8 366
Cowboys From Texas (Rep).... 962
Crashing Through (Mono) Nov. 4 3936

D

Dancing Co-ed (M-G-M) Sept. 30 3
Danger Flight (Mono) Nov. 4...3816
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO) Sept. 9 002
Day Time Wife (20th-Fox) Nov. 18 020
Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (WB) Nov. 4 413
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2 3901
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21.4058
Destry Rides Again (Univ).....
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21 3908
Distant Fields (RKO) .....
Dr. Cyclops (Para) .....
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) Nov. 4..... 015
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

Each Dawn I Die (FN) July 22. 356
Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (20th-Fox) July 29.... 001
Emergency Squad (Para).....
Escape, The (20th-Fox) Nov. 11. 010
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30.. 462
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7...
Everything Is Rhythm (Astor).
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 946

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14 6
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38 3831
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2. 986
Fighting Mad (Mono) 3937
First Kiss (20th-Fox) 020
First Love (Univ) Nov. 11.....3002
First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34..... 062
Five Little Peppers (Col).....9017
Flight at Midnight (Rep) Sept. 2 9111
Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14.... 010
Four Feathers (UA) June 24...
Four Just Men (Mono) .....
Four Wives (FN-WB) .....
Frontier Marshal (20th-Fox) July 29 951
Fugitive at Large (Col).....1026
Full Confession (RKO) Aug. 26. 003

G

Gentleman From Arizona (Mono)
Geronimo! (Para) .....
Girl and the Gambler (RKO)...
Girl From Rio (Mono).....3825
Golden Boy (Col) Aug. 19.....9002
Goodbye, Mr. Chips (M-G-M) May 20 945
Great Victor Herbert, The (Para) .....
Green Hell (Univ) June 10.... 926
Gulliver's Travels (Para).....

H

Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26 24
He Married His Wife (20th-Fox) 023
Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence (20th-Fox) Oct. 7..... 019
Henry Goes Arizona (M-G-M).. 2
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30..... 009
Hero for a Day (Univ).....4035
Heroes in Blue (Mono) Nov. 18..3919
Hidden Power (Col) May 27....1025
His Girl Friday (Col).....
Hitler—Beast of Berlin (P-D-C) Nov. 11 .....
Hobby Family (FN) Aug. 26... 376
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox) Oct. 7 007
Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16 .....
Honeymoon's Over (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 024
Housekeeper's Daughter (UA) Sept. 16 .....
Hunchback of Notre Dame (RKO) 015

I

Indianapolis Speedway (WB).... July 15 315
In Name Only (RKO) Aug. 12.. 936
In Old Monterey (Rep) July 29. 847
Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday (20th-Fox) 022
Intermezzo, A Love Story (UA) Oct. 7 .....
Invisible Killer (P-D-C) .....
Invisible Man Returns (Univ)...
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20 3841
Irish Luck (Mono) Aug. 26....3826
Island of Lost Men (Para) July 29 3848
Isle of Destiny (RKO).....

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8.....3906
Jeepers Creepers (Rep) Nov. 4..
Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President (M-G-M) .....

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21... 961
Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16. 411
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col) Nov. 11 9034

L

Ladies Know Too Much (UA)..
Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12 947
Laugh It Off (Univ) Nov. 11...4026
Law of the Pampas (Para) Oct. 21 3955
Legion of the Lawless (RKO).. 082
Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ)... 53
Llano Kid (Para) Nov. 11.....
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Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19 9018
Married and in Love (RKO)... 014
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Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mexican Spitfire (RKO) .....
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7....4044
Miracle of Main Street (Col)...1032
Miracles for Sale (M-G-M) Aug. 5 946
Missing Evidence (Univ) Oct. 7.4028
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14 1101
Mr. Wong in Chinatown (Mono) July 22 3807
Mutiny in the Big House (Mono) Oct. 21 3803
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24 4051
My Love for Yours (Para).....

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26..... 419
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New Frontier (Rep) Aug. 19.... 868
Nick Carter, Master Detective (M-G-M) .....
Night of Nights (Para) 3912
Night Work (Para) Aug. 12...3849
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14..... 7
No Place to Go (FN) Sept. 23... 469
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26 001

O

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Old Maid, The (FN) Aug. 5..... 452
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14.... 463
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para) Sept. 30 3903
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16 30
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug.5
Our Neighbors—the Carters (Para) Nov. 11 3911
Outpost of the Mounties (Col)..1201
Overland Mail (Mono) Nov. 18.3857

P

Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14..... 014
Phantom Strikes (Mono) Nov. 18 3923
Pioneer Days (Mono) 3858
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23 418
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Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7..... 402

Q

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Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 004

R

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Range War (Para) Aug. 12.....3954
Real Glory, The (UA) Sept. 23..
Remember? (M-G-M) Nov. 11... 11
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29.3859
Reno (RKO) Nov. 18..... 008
Return of Dr. X (WB-FN).....
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30 9209
Riders of Destiny (Mono) reissue
Riders of the Frontier (Mono) Sept. 9 3866
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30 .....
Road Back (Univ) reissue.....
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36..... 061
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21. 403
Roll, Wagons, Roll (Mono).....3951
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Sagebrush Trail (Mono) reissue
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Scandal Sheet (Col) Oct. 28....1031
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Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox)..... 018
Should Husbands Work? (Rep) July 22 816
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 23.....3815
Smashing the Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21 470
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26. 825
Spellbinder (RKO) July 15..... 931
St. Martin's Lane (Para).....
Stanley and Livingstone (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 003
Star Maker (Para) Aug. 19....3851
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2 008
Stranger From Texas (Col).....1202
Submarine Patrol (20th-Fox) Nov. 5 909
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21.. 012

T

Taming of the West (Col).....1211
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3 939
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14....3907
That's Right, You're Wrong (RKO) Nov. 18 011
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M) Aug. 26 948
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29 3865
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30 1015
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30.... 004
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M) Sept. 23 4
To the Rescue (GN)..... 328
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 016
Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5 326
Torture Ship (P-D-C) .....
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16.....4052
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23 4017
Two Thorobreds (RKO) 013
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28 013

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2..... 10

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
We Are Not Alone (FN) Nov. 11
West of Carson City (Univ)....4061
West of the Divide (Mono).....
Westbound Stage (Mono) 3952
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ) Aug. 19 3003
Winter Carnival (UA) July 22..
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19. 949
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Y

Yukon Flight (Mono) 3938

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939-40, Unless Otherwise Specified.

◎Indicates short of the week.

◎Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

Andy Clyde Gets Spring Chicken (..) .....Dec. 15
Glove Slingers (..) .....Nov. 24
Now It Can Be Sold (17)...June 2
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17) .....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Teacher's Pest (16½).....Nov. 3
The Awful Goof (..) .....Dec. 22
The Chump Takes a Bump (18) .....May 5
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18) .....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..) .....Aug. 11

CINESCOPES

World of 1960 (Futurama) (..) .....Nov. 24

COLOR RHAPSODIES

A Boy, a Gun and Birds (..) .....Jan. 12, '40
Crop Chasers (8) .....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (6½) .....
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7) .....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7) .....May 26
Mother Goose in Swingtime (..) .....Dec. 8
Mountain Ears (7½) .....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7) .....June 30
The House That Jack Built (7) .....Apr. 14

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (..) .Nov. 17
Historic Cities of India (10).....
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions) ..(9½) .....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10) .....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)...Oct. 27
Morocco (10) .....Aug. 11
New Hampshire (..).....Dec. 22
Sojourn in India (..) .....July 7

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 3 (College Songs) (10) .....
No. 4 (Stephen Foster Songs) (..) .....Nov. 17
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11)...Apr. 21
No. 9 Songs of the West (10) .....May 19
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16

FABLES CARTOON

Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6
Park Your Baby (..).....Dec. 22

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

Elias Howe (11) .....
No. 1 Charles Goodyear (10½) .Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10).....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (11) .....Oct. 12
No. 2 (10½) .....Mar. 23
No. 3 (11) .....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6).....May 12

MUSIC HALL VANITIES
(New series)

A Night at the Troc (10).....Mar. 2
Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10)...May 19

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..).....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1
The Mouse Exterminator (..) .....Jan. 26, '40

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7).....Apr. 28
Scrappy's Rodeo (6) .....June 2
Scrappy's Sideshow (7).....Mar. 3

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 18)

No. 1 (..) .....Sept. 15
No. 2 (10) .....Oct. 20
No. 7 (10) .....Mar. 17
No. 8 (9½) .....Apr. 8
No. 9 (10) .....May 12
No. 10 (10) .....May 26
No. 11 (10) .....June 29
No. 12 (10) .....July 28

(Series 19)

No. 1 Art of Make-Up (9½)....
No. 2 Training Animal Stars (..) .....Nov. 10
No. 3 .....Dec. 1
No. 4 .....Jan. 5, '40

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10) .....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (9½).....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5
Jai Alai (..) .....Nov. 17
Jockeys Up (10½) .....June 2
Navy Champions (9½).....Mar. 17
Technique of Tennis (8½)...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½) .....Apr. 7
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½) .....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17).....June 30
Three Sappy People (18½).....
We Want Our Mummy (17) .....Feb. 24
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16) .....May 19

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (10½) Smithsonian Institute .....Oct. 20
No. 2 Inside the White House (11) .....Feb. 21
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10) .....May 26
No. 4 Library of Congress (10) .....Aug. 4
Smithsonian Institute .....Nov. 10

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (..) .....
Help Wanted (21).....June 10
Money to Loan (21).....Mar. 11
While America Sleeps (21) .....Apr. 15

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11) .....Sept. 2
Colorful Curacao (9) .....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Imperial Delhi (8) .....Feb. 18
Java Journey (10) .....Mar. 18
Picturesque Udaipur (8).....May 13
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10).....May 13
Ice Antics (9) .....Feb. 11
Love on a Tap (11).....Mar. 18
Prophets Without Honor (11) .....May 20
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11).....May 27

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15
Somewhat Secret (21).....Mar. 25

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)

◎Art Gallery (9) .....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11) .....July 15
Jitterbug Follies (9).....Feb. 25
◎Little Gold Fish (8).....Apr. 15
Mama's New Hat (9).....Feb. 11
◎The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9) .....June 10
Wanted No Master (8).....Mar. 18

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY
Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Auto Antics (10) .....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11) .....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29
Dog Daze (11) .....July 1
Duel Personalities (10).....Mar. 11
Joy Scouts (10) .....June 24

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia...June 24
Story of Alfred Nobel (11)..Feb. 18
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11) .....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10).Mar. 18
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia .....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9) .....July 1
Football Thrills of 1938 (..).Sept. 16
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cure (Sepia) (9)....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).....Apr. 8

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9).....Mar. 18
Dark Magic (10) .....May 13
Home Early (9) .....May 27
How to Eat (10) .....June 10
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7)....May 12
Rhythm on the Reservation (7) .....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7).Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7).....June 9
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8) .....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES
(New Series in Cinecolor)

Chile (10) .....Nov. 10
Ecuador (10) .....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10) .....May 26
Peru (9) .....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10) .....Sept. 8
Here's Hal (10) .....Nov. 24
Hal Kemp and orchestra.
Moments of Charm of 1940 (Cinecolor) (11) .....Oct. 27
Phil Spitalny and Girl Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10) .....May 5
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10) .....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10).....June 2
Richard Himber and his orchestra.
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10) .....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Three Kings and a Queen (11) .....Apr. 7
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Bits of Life (11).....Nov. 17
Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10).....Oct. 20
Circus Co-Ed (10) .....Mar. 10
Farewell Vienna (10) .....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10).....Apr. 14
Public Hobby Number One (11) .....Sept. 22
Swans (10) .....May 19
That's Africa (10) .....Feb. 10

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 8 (10) .....Mar. 3
No. 9 (10) .....Apr. 7
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11) .....May 5
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and sons of the year.
No. 11 (10) .....June 2
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10) .....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

◎Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22) .....Apr. 7
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7).....June 16
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7) .....July 28
Leave Well Enough Alone (7) .....Apr. 28
Never Sock a Baby (6).....Nov. 3
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

No. 4 (10) .....Mar. 10
No. 5 (11) .....May 12
No. 6 (11) .....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-I (11) .....Sept. 15
No. J9-2 (10) .....Nov. 3

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

Aqua-Rhythm (10) .....Nov. 24
A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
A Dog Is Born (10).....Nov. 3
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10)....June 9
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12
Good Skates (10) .....Apr. 14
Ice skating with champions.
Hydro-Maniacs (10) .....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10).....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.

The Blue Danube Waltz (10).Sept. 29
Merry Wives of Windsor (9)..Oct. 27
William Tell (11) .....Nov. 24

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

No. 1 (11) .....Oct. 13
No. 2 (11) .....Nov. 17
No. 5 (10) .....Apr. 14

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

Autograph Hound, The (8)....Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9
Donald's Cousin Gus (7).....May 19
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8).....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
The Pointer (8) .....July 21
◎The Hockey Champ (7)....Apr. 7
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15) .....May 19
Clock Wise (16) .....Mar. 24
Father-in-law's grandfather clock drives Edgar nuts as he unsuccessfully tries to get rid of it.
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28
Kennedy the Great (19).....Dec. 1

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Sales Slips (17) .....July 21

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Home Boner (20) .....Mar. 10
Moving Vanities (17).....May 5
Ring Madness (19).....June 30
Truth Aches (19) .....Nov. 3

MARCH OF TIME

No. 8 (18) .....Mar. 17
No. 9 (19) .....Apr. 14
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20) .....May 12
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19) .....June 9
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22) .....July 7
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18) .....Aug. 4
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19) .....Sept. 1
Soldiers with wings.
No. 2 (19) .....Sept. 29
The Battle Fleets of England.
No. 3 (18) .....Oct. 27
Uncle Sam—The Farmer.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11).....May 12
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11).....Apr. 14
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.
Samovar Serenade (10).....Mar. 17
Codolbon & His Gypsy Orchestra, Moscow Choir, Karavaeff, Luba Malina.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11) .....Sept. 8
No. 2 (11) .....Oct. 6
No. 3 (10) .....Nov. 3

PATHE NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16)....Oct. 20
Coat Tales (18) .....Nov. 17
Dog-Gone (16) .....Apr. 21
Marriage-Go-Round (18).....July 28

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Devil Drivers (9).....June 16
Hunting Hounds (9) .....Sept. 29
Ice Cutters (9) .....Oct. 27
Kennel Kings (9) .....Aug. 11
Riding the Crest (9).....July 14
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9).....May 19
The golfers show how it's done.

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Ranch House Romeo (17).....Apr. 7
Sagebrush Serenade (19).....June 16

REELISMS (New Series)

Acres of Plenty (9).....Oct. 13
Air Waves (10) .....Mar. 10
Nevada Unlimited (8).....Sept. 15
Pack Trip (9) .....Aug. 18
Pilot Boat (9) .....Feb. 3
Soldiers of the Sea (9).....Apr. 7
Swinguet (8) .....May 26
Television (9) .....May 5
World of Tomorrow (9).....June 23
Zoo (9) .....July 21

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19).....July 21
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) Aug. 18
Filming the Fleet (11).....Oct. 27
Sand Hogs (10) .....May 12

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10).....Sept. 1
Clocking the Jockeys (11)....Nov. 24
Hunting Dogs (11) .....Mar. 3
Inside Baseball (11) .....Apr. 14
Sports Immortals (11).....June 23

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11)..Aug. 4
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11)..Nov. 10

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts, No. 3 (11) .....Mar. 31
Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..)..July 7
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10).Sept. 15
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..)..Dec. 22

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS

Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10) .....Sept. 29
Muscle Maulers (11) .....Apr. 14
The Silly Season (..).....Dec. 8

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..) .....May 26
Isle of Pleasure (11).....Feb. 3
Mystic Siam (10) .....Mar. 17
Tempest Over Tunis (11)....June 9
The Evergreen Empire (..)..Oct. 13
Viking Trail (10) .....Feb. 17

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..).....June 16
A Mouse and a Million (..)...Nov. 3
Africa Squawks (7) .....June 30
Barnyard Baseball (7) .....July 14
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) May 5
Frozen Feet (7) .....Feb. 24
Gandy Goose and G-Man Jitters (7) .....Mar. 10
Hook, Line and Sinker (7)..Sept. 8
Nick's Coffee Pot (7).....May 19
Nutty Network (7) .....Mar. 24
Sheep in the Meadow (7)....Sept. 22
The Cuckoo Bird (7) .....April 7
The First Robin (..).....Dec. 29
The Golden West (7).....Aug. 25
The Hitch-Hiker (..).....Dec. 1
The Old Fire Horse (..)....July 28
The Orphan Duck (7).....Oct. 6
The Prize Guest (7).....June 2
The Three Bears (6).....Feb. 10
The Watchdog (..).....Oct. 20
Their Last Bean (7).....April 21
Two Headed Giant (7)....Aug. 11
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) Nov. 17

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7)..Sept. 4
Bird on Nellie's Hat.....June 19
Bola Mola Land (7).....May 29
Charlie Cuckoo (7).....Apr. 30
Crack Pot Cruise (7).....Apr. 10
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8) .....Oct. 9
Little Tough Mice (7).....Mar. 13
Magic Beans (7) .....Feb. 13
Nellie of the Circus (7).....May 8
One Armed Bandit (7).....Mar. 27
Scrambled Eggs (..) .....Nov. 20
Silly Superstition (7).....Aug. 28
Slap Happy Valley (7).....Aug. 21
Sleeping Princess (..).....Dec. 4
Snuffy's Party (7) .....Aug. 7
Stubborn Mule (7) .....July 31
The Birth of a Toothpick (7) .....Feb. 27
The Sleeping Princess (..)..Nov. 20

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 60 (10) .....Feb. 20, '39
No. 61 (9) .....Mar. 13
No. 62 (9) .....Apr. 10
No. 63 (9) .....May 15
No. 64 (9) .....June 26
No. 65 (9) .....July 17
No. 66 (9) .....Sept. 25
No. 67 (9) .....Oct. 16
No. 68 (9) .....Nov. 13
No. 69 (9) .....Dec. 11

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19) .....Mar. 15
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17) .....Apr. 12
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18).....July 12
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Pharmacy Follies (18).....May 17
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18).....June 14
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17).....Aug. 9
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7) .....Aug. 15

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 59 (9) .....Feb. 6
No. 60 (9) .....Mar. 6
No. 61 (9) .....Apr. 3
No. 62 (9) .....May 1
No. 63 (9) .....June 5
No. 64 (..) .....July 3
No. 65 (9) .....Aug. 7
No. 66 (8½) .....Sept. 18
No. 67 (9) .....Oct. 9
No. 68 (9) .....Nov. 6

TWO REEL MUSICALS

Rhumba Land (18½).....Nov. 15
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17).....Sept. 6
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Snow Follies (..) .....Dec. 13
Lillian Roth, King Sisters, Bruce Holden, Consolo and Melba, Morell Sisters and Billy, Ann Triolo, Lola Jensen and Fonchonettes.
Swing Hotel (18) .....Oct. 18
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21).....Sept. 6

UNIVERSAL NEWS

Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (20).....Mar. 25
A Swing Opera (20).....July 22
Broadway Buckaroo (20).....June 3
Home Cheap Home (20).....Mar. 18
Projection Room (20).....Mar. 4
Rollin' in Rhythm (20).....Apr. 15
Seeing Red (20).....Aug. 26
Seeing Spots (20).....Apr. 29
Slapsie Maxie (17).....Sept. 10
Sophomore Swing (20).....Jan. 21
Small Town Idol (20).....Feb. 11
Sundae Serenade (20).....Feb. 25
You're Next to Closing (20) .....May 13
Wardrobe Girl (20).....June 17

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

American Saddle Horses (..).Nov. 11
For Your Convenience (10) .....May 20
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10) .....Sept. 30
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10) .....Feb. 25
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4..Apr. 22
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (9) .....June 10
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10) .....Aug. 5
Modern Methods (9).....July 15
The Roving Camera (10)...Mar. 25

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7) .....Apr. 1
Jeepers Creepers (7).....Sept. 23
Naughty Neighbors (7).....Oct. 7
Pied Piper Porky (..).....Nov. 4
Polar Pals (7) .....June 3
Porky and Teabiscuit (7).....Apr. 22
Porky, the Giant Killer (..)..Nov. 18
Porky's Hotel (7) .....Sept. 2
Porky's Movie Mystery (7)..Mar. 11
Porky's Picnic (7).....July 15
Porky's Tire Trouble (7).....Feb. 18
Christopher Columbus jr. (7) .....May 13
Scalp Trouble (7).....June 24
Wise Quack (7).....Aug. 5

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10) .....Apr. 29
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10) .....Mar. 18
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (10) .....Apr. 8
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10) .....Aug. 12
Jerry Livingston & Orchestra (10) .....Feb. 4
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10) .....May 20
Leith Stevens & Orch. (10) .....June 10
Rita Rio & Orch. (10).....July 1
Rubinoff and His Orchestra (10) .....Nov. 11
Russ Morgan & Orchestra (11) .....Feb. 25
Swing Styles (10).....Sept. 2
Vincent Lopez and Orch. (10) .....Sept. 30
Will Osborne & Orch. (..) .....July 22

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

A Day at the Zoo (7).....Mar. 11
Bars and Stripes Forever (7).Apr. 8
Believe It or Else (7).....June 3
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7) .....Apr. 22
Dangerous Dan McFoo (7) .....July 15
Detouring America (7).....Aug. 26
Fagin's Freshmen (..).....Nov. 18
Fresh Fish (7) .....Nov. 4
Goldrush Daze (7) .....Feb. 25
Good Egg, The (7).....Oct. 21
Hare-um Scare-um (7).....Aug. 12
Land of the Midnight Sun (7) .....Oct. 7
Little Brother Rat (7).....Sept. 2
Little Lion Hunter (7).....Oct. 7
Naughty But Mice (7).....May 20
Old Glory (10).....July 1
Prest-O Change-O (7).....Mar. 25
Robinhood Makes Good (7)..Feb. 11
Sioux Me (7) .....Sept. 9
Snow Man's Land (7).....July 29
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7)...May 6

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (20).....Aug. 12
Lincoln in the White House (21) .....Feb. 11
Quiet Please (18) .....July 1
Royal Rodeo (..) .....Nov. 25
Sons of the Plains (19).....July 30
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20).....May 20
The Monroe Doctrine (16)..Oct. 14

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10)....Feb. 18

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (10).....Apr. 15
Dean of the Pasteboards (10) .....May 27
Gadgeteers (10) .....Feb. 18
One Day Stand (10).....Aug. 19
Sword Fishing (10).....Oct. 21
Tax Trouble (10) .....Mar. 18
Vote Trouble (10).....Sept. 9
Witness Trouble (10).....July 29

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11)..Mar. 4
Chained (11).....Apr. 1
Haunted House (11).....June 3
High Peril (12) .....Feb. 18
Lives in Peril (11).....July 7
Three-Minute Fuse (11).....July 29
Verge of Disaster (10).....Aug. 26
Voodoo Fires (11) .....May 6

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician .....May 6
12 chapters.

Secret of Treasure Island...Mar. 17
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.

The Shadow .....Jan. 5, '40
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters .....June 10
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.

Dick Tracy's G-Men .....Sept. 2
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.

Lone Ranger Rides Again....Feb. 25
15 Chapters. Rebert Livingston, Jinx Falken, Chief Thunder Cloud.

Zorro's Fighting Legion.....Dec. 16
12 Chapters. Reed Hadley.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers (..).....Apr. 11
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.

Oregon Trail (15 chapters)...July 4
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol ❶ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography.

	JULY 29	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 12	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2
COLUMBIA	[28] Action Drama **9033** **Behind Prison Gates** (62) (For. Escape From Alcatraz) Brian Donlevy Jacqueline Wells R—Aug. 5	[4] Action Drama **9008** **Coast Guard** (72) Randolph Scott Frances Dee **R—Aug. 19**		[17] Melodrama **9018** **Man They Could Not Hang** (64) Boris Karloff **R—Aug. 19**	[22] Comedy Drama **9017** **Five Little Peppers** (60) Edith Fellows [23] Western **9209** **Riders of Black River** (59) C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	[30] Wild Horse **9034** **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (65) R—Nov. 11
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	[28] Drama **945** **Goodbye, Mr. Chips** (114) Robert Donat R—May 20	[4] Drama **946** **Miracles for Sale** (70) Robert Young Florence Rice Henry Hull R—Aug. 5	[11] Drama **947** **Lady of the Tropics** (91) Hedy Lamarr Robt. Taylor **R—Aug. 12**	[18] Comedy Drama **948** **These Glamour Girls** (79) Lew Ayres-Lana Turner Anita Louise **R—Aug. 26**	[25] Comedy Fantasy **949** ❶◎**Wizard of Oz** (102) Judy Garland Frank Morgan **R—Aug. 19**	[1] Comedy Drama **1** **The Women** (134) Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell **R—Sept. 2**
MONOGRAM		[1] Mystery **3807** **Mr. Wong in Chinatown** (70) Boris Karloff Grant Withers Mary Reynolds R—July 22		[15] Drama with Mus. **3825** **Girl From Rio** (62) Movita-Warren Hull R—Aug. 12 [16] Western **3866** **Riders of Frontier** (58) Tex Ritter R—Sept. 9	[25] Western **3856** **Oklahoma Terror** (52) Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 [22] Melodrama **3826** **Irish Luck** (61) F. Darro-D. Purcell R—Aug. 26	
PARAMOUNT	[28] Drama **3848** **Island of Lost Men** (64) Anna May Wong R—July 29	[4] Comedy **3849** **Night Work** (62) Mary Boland Charles Ruggles **R—Aug. 12**	[11] Comedy Drama **3850** **Our Leading Citizen** (90) Bob Burns Susan Hayward R—Aug. 5	[18] Melodrama **3865** **This Man Is News** (75) Barry K. Barnes V. Hobson R—July 29 [18] Western **3859** **Renegade Trail** (58) William Boyd R. Hayden R—July 29	[25] Musical Comedy **3851** **Star Maker** (94) Bing Crosby Louise Campbell R—Aug. 19	[1] Melodrama **3901** **Death of a Champion** (66) Lynne Overman Virginia Dale **R—Sept. 2**
REPUBLIC	[26] Comedy **816** **Should Husbands Work?** (62) Gleason Family Marie Wilson **R—July 22**	[31] Western **846** **Colorado Sunset** (64) Gene Autry-S. Burnette R—Aug. 5	[10] Western **868** **New Frontier** (56) Three Mesquiteers R—Aug. 19	[14] Western **847** **In Old Monterey** (70) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette **R—July 29**	[21] Action Drama **825** **Smuggled Cargo** (61) Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay R—Aug. 26	[28] Drama **9111** **Flight at Midnight** (66) Phil Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner **R—Sept. 2**
RKO RADIO	[28] Melodrama **931** **Spellbinder** (70) Lee Tracy-Barbara Read R—July 15	[4] Comedy **932** **Bachelor Mother** (81) Ginger Rogers David Niven R—July 1	[11] Western **933** **Bad Lands** (65) R. Barrat-N. Berry jr. R—July 29	[18] Drama **936** **In Name Only** (92) Carole Lombard Cary Grant Kay Francis **R—Aug. 12**		[1] Melodrama **935** **Conspiracy** (59) Alla[illegible] Hayes R—Sept. 2
20TH-FOX	[28] Outdoor Drama **951** **Frontier Marshal** (70) Randolph Scott Binnie Barnes R—July 29	[4] Comedy Drama **001** **Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women** (82) Ann Sothern James Ellison R—July 29	[11] Comedy Drama **002** **Chicken Wagon Family** (65) Jane Withers Leo Carrillo Marjorie Weaver R—Aug. 19	[18] Adventure Drama **003** Stanley and Livingstone (100) Spencer Tracy Nancy Kelly Richard Greene R—Aug. 5	[25] Comedy **004** **Quick Millions** (61) (The Jones Family) Jed Prouty Spring Byington R—Aug. 5	[1] Detective Drama **005** **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (85) Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26
UNITED ARTS	[28] Comedy **Winter Carnival** (91) Ann Sheridan Richard Carlson R—July 22	[4] Drama ◎**Four Feathers** (109) Ralph Richardson June Duprez R—June 24	[11] Melodrama **Man in the Iron Mask** (110) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—July 8	[18] Drama with Music **They Shall Have Music** (120) Andrea Leeds Joel McCrea Jascha Heifetz R—July 15		
UNIVERSAL			[11] Drama **3003** **When Tomorrow Comes** (90) Charles Boyer Irene Dunne R—Aug. 19			[1] Comedy Drama **10** **Under-Pup** (88) **Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey** **R—Sept. 2** [1] Outdoor Drama **4051** **Mutiny on the Black Hawk** (66) **R—June 24** R. Arlen-A. Devine
WARNER-F.N.	[29] Comedy **FN366** **Cowboy Quarterback** (56) Bert Wheeler Gloria Dickson R—July 8	[5] Melodrama **WB315** **Indianapolis Speedway** (82) Ann Sheridan Pat O'Brien R—July 15	[12] Comedy **WB326** **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (59) Jane Wyman Allen Jenkins R—Aug. 5	[19] Drama **FN356** **Each Dawn I Die** (92) James Cagney Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan **R—July 22**	[26] Comedy **FN376** **Hobby Family, The** (54) Irene Rich-H. O'Neill R—Aug. 26 [26] Drama **FN367** **Angels Wash Their Faces** (96) Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5	[2] Drama **FN452** **The Old Maid** (95) Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins **R—Aug. 5**
MISCELLANEOUS						

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14
COLUMBIA					
5 Drama 9002 **Golden Boy (100)** **Stanwyck-Holden** **R—Aug. 19** 7 Mystery Drama 1025 **Hidden Power (60)** **Jack Holt-Gert. Michael** **R—May 29**	14 Outdoor Action 1201 **Outpost of the Mounties** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredith (63)	21 Drama 1015 **Those High Grey Walls** (82) Walter Connolly Iris Meredith R—Sept. 30		7 Action Drama 1010 **U-Boat 29 (77)** Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23	
GRAND NAT'L					
MGM					
8 Melodrama 5 **Blackmail (79)** **Edw. G. Robinson** **Ruth Hussey** Gene Lockhart **R—Sept. 16**	15 Drama 4 **Thunder Afloat (94)** **Wallace Beery** **Chester Morris** **Virginia Grey** R—Sept. 23		29 Comedy Drama 3 **Dancing Co-ed (81)** **Lana Turner** **Richard Carlson** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 6 **Fast and Furious (73)** Ann Sothern Franchot Tone R—Oct. 14	13 Musical Comedy 9 **Babes in Arms (97)** Mickey Rooney Judy Garland R—Sept. 23
MONOGRAM					
	12 Action Drama 3815 **Sky Patrol (61)** **John Trent** **Marjorie Reynolds** R—Sept. 23		30 Documentary 3831 **Fight for Peace (68)** R—Apr. 23, '38	1 Outdoor Drama 3936 **Crashing Thru (56)** **James Newell** **Jean Carmen** R—Nov. 4	
PARAMOUNT					
8 Western 3954 **Range War (66)** Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden **R—Aug. 12**	15 Drama 3902 **Beau Geste (114)** Gary Cooper Ray Milland **R—July 29**	22 Comedy 3903 **$1,000 a Touchdown (71)** **Joe E. Brown** **Martha Raye** R—Sept. 30	29 Comedy Drama 3904 **Honeymoon in Bali (96)** **(For. My Love for Yours)** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16	6 Comedy 3905 **What a Life (75)** Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23	13 Drama 3906 **Jamaica Inn (106)** Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**
REPUBLIC					
6 Western 857 **Wall Street Cowboy (66)** Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9		21 Melodrama 912 **Calling All Marines (65)** Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16	29 Western 951 **Arizona Kid (61)** **Roy Rogers** **Sally March** R—Oct. 7	6 Western 961 **Kansas Terrors (57)** Three Mesquiteers R—Oct. 21	13 Action Drama 913 **Sabotage (69)** **Arleen Whelan** **Gordon Oliver** R—Oct. 14
RKO RADIO					
8 Western 986 **Fighting Gringo (60)** Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2 8 Drama 003 **Full Confession (72)** V. McLaglen-S. Eilers R—Aug. 26	15 Comedy 002 **Day the Bookies Wept** (65) Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9	22 Comedy Drama 934 **Fifth Avenue Girl (80)** Ginger Rogers James Ellison R—Aug. 26	29 Drama 001 **Nurse Edith Cavell (95)** Anna Neagle George Sanders **R—Aug. 26**	6 Musical 946 **Everything's on Ice (65)** Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9	13 Drama 004 **Three Sons (72)** Edward Ellis Virginia Vale R—Sept. 30
20TH-FOX					
8 Melodrama 006 **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (73)** Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore **R—Aug. 12**	15 Drama 011 **The Rains Came (103)** **Myrna Loy-Tyrone Power** **George Brent** R—Sept. 16	22 Comedy 008 **Stop, Look and Love (57)** Jean Rogers William Frawley **R—Sept. 2**	29 Drama 009 **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30	6 Melodrama 010 **The Escape (62)** Kane Richmond Allan Duff R—Nov. 11	13 Musical 007 **Hollywood Cavalcade(96)** **Alice Faye-Don Ameche** R—Oct. 7 13 Drama 061 **Road to Glory (101)** (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter
UNITED ARTS.					
		22 Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story** (70) Leslie Howard Ingrid Bergman John Halliday R—Oct. 7	29 Melodrama **The Real Glory (95)** **Gary Cooper** **Andrea Leeds** R—Sept. 23		12 Comedy **Eternally Yours (95)** **Loretta Young** **David Niven** R—Oct. 7
UNIVERSAL					
8 Musical Comedy 24 **Hawaiian Nights (64)** Downs-Carlisle; R-Aug. 26 8 Western 4058 **Desperate Trails (58)** **John Mack Brown** **Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight** R—Oct. 21	15 Drama 4017 **Two Bright Boys (70)** **Jackie Cooper** **Freddie Bartholomew** R—Sept. 23 8 Musical 4044 **Mikado (92)** Kenny Baker; R-Jan. 7	22 Melodrama 4027 **The Witness Vanishes** (66) E. Lowe-W. Barrie	29 Drama **Rio (77)** **Sigrid Gurie** **Basil Rathbone** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 4035 **Hero for a Day (66)** Anita Louise-Dick Foran 29 Drama Reissue **All Quiet on the Western Front (93)** Lew Ayres R—Sept. 30	13 Drama 4052 **Tropic Fury (63)** R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16
WARNER-F.N.					
9 Com. Melo. WB419 **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (60)** Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas **R—Aug. 26**	16 Drama FN461 **Dust Be My Destiny (88)** **John Garfield** **Priscilla Lane** **R—Aug. 19**	23 Comedy FN469 **No Place to Go (57)** Fred Stone Gloria Dickson Denis Morgan R—Sept. 23		30 Melodrama FN462 **Espionage Agent (80)** J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30 7 Melodrama WB418 **Pride of the Blue Grass** (65) R—Sept. 23 E. Fellows-J. McCallion	14 Musical FN463 **On Your Toes (94)** Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14
MISCELLANEOUS					

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

APRIL, 1940						
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	OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25
COLUMBIA	19 Comedy Drama **1101** **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (125) **Jean Arthur** James Stewart; R-Oct. 14 16 Drama **1031** **Scandal Sheet** (67) Otto Kruger R—Oct. 28	24 Comedy **1011** **Beware Spooks!** (65) **Joe E. Brown** Mary Carlisle R—Oct. 28 29 Drama **1032** **Miracle of Main Street** (..) Walter Abel-Margo	2 Western **1202** **Stranger From Texas** (55) Charles Starrett	9 Comedy **1013** **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (69) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 11		23 Mystery Comedy **The Amazing Mr. Williams** (80) Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas R—Nov. 25
GRAND NAT'L						
M-G-M	20 Comedy **8** **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14	27 Comedy Drama **10** **Bad Little Angel** (77) Virginia Weidler Henry Hull R—Oct. 28	3 Comedy Drama **7** **Ninotchka** (110) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas R—Oct. 14	10 Drama **11** **Remember?** (81) Robert Taylor Greer Garson R—Nov. 11	17 Comedy Drama **13** **Another Thin Man** (102) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Nov. 18	24 Drama **12** **Secret of Dr. Kildare** (85) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Nov. 25
MONOGRAM	20 Western **Riders of Destiny** (54) (Reissue) John Wayne 20 Western **Sagebrush Trail** (55) (Reissue) John Wayne	1 Action Drama **3816** **Danger Flight** (61) John Trent R—Nov. 4 25 Drama **3803** **Mutiny in the Big House** (84) C. Bickford-B. MacLane R—Oct. 21	31 Western **3857** **Overland Mail** (53) **Jack Randall** R—Nov. 18	5 Action Drama **3937** **Fighting Mad** (60) James Newell 7 Melodrama **3919** **Heroes in Blue** (61) D. Purcell-B. Hayes R—Nov. 18	15 Mystery Drama **3923** **Phantom Strikes** (58) Sonnie Hale Wilfred Lawson R—Nov. 18	25 Western **3951** **Roll, Wagons, Roll** (..) Tex Ritter
PARAMOUNT	20 Drama **3907** **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14	27 Drama **3908** **Disputed Passage** (87) Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff John Howard R—Oct. 21	3 Western **3955** **Law of the Pampas** (72) **Wm. Boyd** R—Oct. 21	10 Melodrama **3909** **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7	17 Drama **3910** **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	24 Comedy **3911** **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (85) Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter R—Nov. 11
REPUBLIC		27 Drama with Music **Jeepers Creepers** (69) Weaver Bros. & Elviry Roy Rogers R—Nov. 4	3 Drama **905** **Main Street Lawyer** (71) Edw. Ellis Anita Louise R—Nov. 11	10 Comedy **915** **Covered Trailer** (66) Gleason Family R-Nov. 18	16 Western **848** **Roving Tumbleweeds** (64) R—Nov. 25 Gene Autry-S. Burnette	22 Western **Saga of Death Valley** (..) Roy Rogers-Geo. Hayes
RKO RADIO		27 Drama **012** **Sued for Libel** (65) K. Taylor-L. Hayes R—Oct. 21	3 Comedy **010** **Flying Deuces** (65) **Laurel & Hardy** R—Oct. 14 3 Western **081** **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7	10 Outdoor Drama **006** **Allegheny Uprising** (81) **John Wayne** **Claire Trevor** R—Oct. 28	17 Drama **005** **Meet Dr. Christian** (63) J. Hersholt-D. Lovett R—Oct. 21	24 Musical **011** **That's Right, You're Wrong** (90) Kay Kyser and Orch. Adolphe Menjou Lucille Ball R—Nov. 18
20TH-FOX	20 Comedy **018** **Shipyard Sally** (80) Gracie Fields S. Howard 20 Comedy **014** **Pack Up Your Troubles** (75) Jane Withers R—Oct. 14	27 Action Drama **013** **20,000 Men a Year** (84) R. Scott-M. Healy R—Oct. 28 27 Documentary **062** **First World War** (78) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34	3 Drama **019** **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford R—Oct. 7	10 Drama **015** **Drums Along the Mohawk (103)** **Claudette Colbert** **Henry Fonda** R—Nov. 4	17 Comedy **016** **Too Busy to Work** (64) Jones Family R—Nov. 4	24 Comedy Drama **020** **Day Time Wife** (71) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 18
UNITED ARTS		26 Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughter** (80) **Joan Bennett-Wm. Gargan** **Adolphe Menjou** R—Sept. 16				23 Melodrama **Ladies Know Too Much** (..) Pat O'Brien-Ruth Terry
UNIVERSAL	20 Western **4059** **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) **Johnny Mack Brown**	27 Comedy **4019** **Little Accident** (65) Sandy Henville Florence Rice R—Nov. 4	3 Melodrama **20** **Call a Messenger** (66) R. Armstrong-R. Kelly Little Tough Guys R—Sept. 9 3 Drama Reissue **Road Back** (79) Richard Cromwell	10 Action Drama **30** **One Hour to Live** (60) Charles Bickford R—Sept. 16 3 Melodrama **53** **Legion of Lost Flyers** (64) R. Arlen-A. Devine	10 Romantic Com. **3002** **First Love** (84) Deanna Durbin R-Nov. 11 17 Melodrama **Tower of London** (..) B. Rathbone-B. Karloff R—Nov. 25	24 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns** (..) Nan Grey-Vincent Price 24 Western **4060** **Chip of the Flying U** (55) Johnny Mack Brown
WARNER-F.N.	21 Melodrama **FN470** **Smashing the Money Ring** (56) **Ronald Reagan** **Margot Stevenson** R—Oct. 21	28 Drama **WB403** **Roaring Twenties** (104) James Cagney Priscilla Lane R—Oct. 21	4 Com. Drama **WB411** **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman R—Sept. 16	11 Drama **WB402** **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7	18 Com. Drama **WB413** **Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (62)** Billy Halop **Bobby Jordan** R—Nov. 4	25 Drama **FN** **We Are Not Alone** (111) Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson R—Nov. 11
MISCELLANEOUS		22 Melodrama **P-D-C** **Torture Ship** (57) **Lyle Talbot** **Irving Pichel** **Jacqueline Wells**	29 Drama **P-D-C** **Hitler—Beast of Berlin** (90) **Roland Drew** **Steffi Duna** **Greta Grandstedt** R—Nov. 11	6 Melodrama **P-D-C** **Buried Alive** (..) Beverly Roberts Robert Wilcox	14 Drama **P-D-C** **Invisible Killer** (..) Grace Bradley Roland Drew	

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SEPTEMBER, 1940						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 6
]Drama **ife Hostess** (..) eston Foster nn Dvorak	17 Drama **1026** **Fugitive at Large** (66) J. Holt-P. Ellis 7 Western **1211** **Taming of the West** (54) B. Elliott-I. Meredith R—Oct. 21			25 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday** (..) Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy	
]Drama **e and Ethel Turp Call on the President** (..) nn Sothern alter Brennan	8 Comedy **2** **Henry Goes Arizona** (..) Frank Morgan Virginia Weidler	15 Drama **Nick Carter, Master Detective** (..) Walter Pidgeon Rita Johnson	22 Comedy **Judge Hardy & Son** (..) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone	29 Drama with Music **Balalaika** (..) Nelson Eddy Ilona Massey	
] Action Drama **3938** **ukon Flight** (..) mes Newill]Drama **entleman From Arizona** (..) Reynolds-J. King	10 Western **Reissue** **West of the Divide** (55) John Wayne 10 Western **Reissue** **Lucky Texan** (56) John Wayne	15 Western **3858** **Pioneer Days** (..) Jack Randall 15 Melodrama **Four Just Men** (..) Hugh Sinclair-Anna Lee	22 Western **3952** **Westbound Stage** (..) Tex Ritter		
] Drama **3912** **ight of Nights** (..) at O'Brien lympe Bradna	8 Western **3913** **Llano Kid** (69) **Tito Guizar** **Gale Sondergaard** R—Nov. 11	15 Drama **3914** **All Women Have Secrets** (..) Joseph Allen jr. Jean Cagney	22 Technicolor Cartoon **Gulliver's Travels** (..)	29 Drama **The Great Victor Herbert** (..) Allan Jones Mary Martin	5 Action Drama **Emergency Squad** (..) William Henry Louise Campbell
8] Western **962** **owboys From Texas** (..) hree Mesquiteers					
] Drama **008** **eno** (73) ichard Dix ail Patrick —Nov. 18	8 Melodrama **013** **Two Thorobreds** (..) Jimmy Lydon Joan Brodel		22 Drama **014** **Married and in Love** (..) Barbara Read Alan Marshal	29 Drama **015** **Hunchback of Notre Dame** (..) C. Laughton-M. O'Hara	5 Drama **Isle of Destiny** (..) W. Ford-W. Gargan 5 Western **082** **Legion of the Lawless** (..) Geo. O'Brien
] Melodrama **021** **han in City of Darkness** (72) R—Nov. 25 dney Toler-L. Bari] Melodrama **022** **spector Hornleigh on Holiday** (..) Harker-A. Sims	8 Melodrama **026** **Barricade** (..) Alice Faye Warner Baxter	15 Comedy Drama **024** **Honeymoon's Over** (70) Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver R—Nov. 4	22 Fantasy **025** **Blue Bird** (..) Shirley Temple Sybil Jason	29 Outdoor Drama **012** **Cisco Kid and the Lady** (..) Cesar Romero Marjorie Weaver	
] Musical **4026** **ugh It Off** (63) Moore-J. Downs —Nov. 11] Melodrama **g Guy** (..) McLaglen-J. Cooper	8 Action Drama **4054** **Man From Montreal** (60) Richard Arlen Andy Devine R—Nov. 11	15 Western **4061** **West of Carson City** (55) Johnny Mack Brown Bob Baker 15 Melodrama **4028** **Missing Evidence** (64) P. Foster R—Oct. 7	22 Comedy **Charlie McCarthy, Detective** (..) Edgar Bergen-C. Moore "Charlie" & "Mortimer"	29 Drama **Green Hell** (..) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett 29 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again** (..) M. Dietrich-J. Stewart	
] Mystery Drama **FN** **eturn of Dr. X** (62) ayne Morris iscilla Lane umphrey Bogart	9 Com. M'drama **FN471** **Private Detective** (55) Jane Wyman Dick Foran R—Nov. 25	16 Drama **FN** **Mad Empress** (..) Medea Novara Lionel Atwill		25 Drama **Four Wives** (..) Lane Sisters Claude Rains	
					BOOKING CHART Concluded on Following Page

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

In The Making

JANUARY 13	JANUARY 20	JANUARY 27	STARTING	COMPLETED
			Five Little Peppers Midway—Edith Fellows. Director: Charles Barton. Producer: Jack Fier. Original: Margaret Sidney. **Daughters of Today**—Rochelle Hudson, Glenn Ford, Frieda Inescort, Lola Lane. Director: Nick Grinde. Producer: Ralph Cohn.	
			Arouse and Beware—Wallace Beery, John Howard, Victor Varconi, Dolores Del Rio. Director: Leslie Fenton. Producer: Edward Chodorov. Original: MacKinlay Kantor.	**The Earl of Chicago**—Robert Montgo ery, Edward Arnold, Reginald Ow E. E. Clive. Director: Richard Thor Producer: Victor Saville. Origin Brock Williams.
			Front Page Lady—Producer: T. R. Williams. Screenplay: Charles Williams. **Mr. Wong at Headquarters**—Boris Karloff. Director: William Nigh. Producer: W. T. Lackey. Original: Hugh Wiley. Screenplay: Scott Darling.	
12 Drama **Geronimo!** (..) P. Foster-E. Drew 12 Western **Santa Fe Marshal** (..) William Boyd			**The Man From Bar 20**—William Boyd, Russell Hayden. Director: Lesley Selander. Producer: Harry Sherman. Original: Clarence E. Mulford. Screenplay: Maurice Geraghty. **Golden Gloves**—Robert Ryan, Jean Cagney. Director: Kurt Keumann. Producer: Stuart Walker. Original Screenplay: Maxwell Shane.	
			Heroes of the Saddle—Robert Livingston, Duncan Renaldo, Raymond Hatton. Director: William Witney. Producer: Harry Grey.	**Days of Jesse James**—Roy Roge Pauline Moore, George (Gabby) Hay Dorothy Sebastian. Director: Joe Kar Producer: Joe Kane. **The Narrow Path**—Charles Bickfor Doris Day, Owen Davis jr., Shei Bromley, Paul Guilfoyle. Directo John H. Auer. Producer: Robe North. Original: Robert Presnell.
12 Comedy **Mexican Spitfire** (..) Lupe Velez	19 Drama **Swiss Family Robinson** (..) Thomas Mitchell Freddie Bartholomew Edna Best	26 Melodrama **Marines Fly High** (..) Richard Dix Chester Morris Lucille Ball	**Irene**—Anna Neagle, Ray Milland, Roland Young, May Robson. Director: Herbert Wilcox. Producer: Herbert Wilcox. Screenplay: Alice Duer Miller.	
19 Drama **023** **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly			**Young As You Feel**—Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, June Carlson, June Gale. Director: Mal St. Clair. Producer: John Stone. Screenplay: Joseph Hoffman, Stanley Rauh. **Shooting High**—Jane Withers, Gene Autry. Director: Alfred Green. Producer: Sol Wurtzel. Screenplay: Lou Breslow, Owen Francis.	**Grapes of Wrath**—Henry Fonda, Ja Darwell, Dorris Bowdon, Eddie C lan, Charley Grapewin, John Arle Director: John Ford. Producer: N nally Johnson. Original: John St beck. Screenplay: Nunnally Johns **Little Old New York**—Alice Faye, R ard Greene, Fred MacMurray. Di tor: Henry King.
			My Son, My Son—Brian Aherne, Madeleine Carroll, Louis Hayward, Josephine Hutchinson. Director: Charles Vidor. Producer: Edward Small. Original: Howard Spring. Screenplay: George Bruce. **Westerner**—Gary Cooper, Doris Davenport, Walter Brennan. Director: William Wyler. Producer: Sam Goldwyn.	**Rebecca**—Laurence Olivier, Joan Fo taine, Judith Anderson, Reginald De ny, George Sanders, Nigel Bruce. D rector: Alfred Hitchcock. Produce David O. Selznick. Original: Daph DuMaurier.
			Honeymoon Deferred—Edmund Lowe, Margaret Lindsay, Tom Brown, Peggy Moran. Director: Lew Landers. Producer: Ken Goldsmith. Original Screenplay: Roy Chanslor, Elliott Gibbons.	**The Invisible Man Returns**—Sir Cedr Hardwicke, Vincent Price, Nan Gre Cecil Kellaway. Director: Joe Ma Producer: Ken Goldsmith. Screenpla Joe May, Kurt Siodmak.
				The Fighting 69th—James Cagney, P O'Brien, George Brent, Alan Hal Ronald Reagan. Director: Willia Keighley. Producer: Lou Edelman.
			The Sagebrush Family Trails West—Bobby Clark. Director: Peter Stewart. Producer: Ben N. Judell (Producers Pictures Corp.)	

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

SELLS AND BUYS EQUIPMENT, THEATRES, SERVICES

Clearing House

• Classified Ads 10c Per Word, Payable in Advance. Minimum $1.00. Display Rates on Request. •

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

NEW AND FACTORY REBUILT theatre sound equipment for all makes of projectors (35mm) at special low prices. Cash or terms. Sound Division, THE CINCINNATI TIME RECORDER COMPANY, Cincinnati, Ohio.

WHERE TEAMWORK COUNTS—Demand S.O.S. Equipment. Low cost, guaranteed service, plus easy time payment plan make an unbeatable combination! Write S.O.S. CINEMA SUPPLY CORP., NEW YORK.

FOR YOU WHO HAVE SIMPLEX PROJECTORS — Complete rear shutter, only $29.50! Better projection—increased efficiency by installing this modern improvement. Write S.O.S. CINEMA SUPPLY CORP., NEW YORK.

USED EQUIPMENT

WANTED—One or two Motiograph deluxe projectors. Also pair baby Strong Lamps with rectifiers to fit RCA portables. O. C. JOHNSON, Rivoli, Falls City, Neb.

WANTED—Complete Powers 6B projectors or heads only. Prompt payment. Must be 6B's. B-1186, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

BOOKS

THEATRE RECORD BOOK—Flexible back; OO ringbinding. Each $1.25. Send for one, returnable if not satisfactory. STEBBINS THEATRE EQUIPMENT CO., 1804 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, Mo.

SOUND EQUIPMENT

YOU'LL REALLY HAVE TO "HOLD THAT LINE" when you install a new S. O. S. sound system! Increases "box office"—satisfies patrons. Thousands of successful installations the world over on guaranteed complete systems. $239.50 up. S. O. S. CINEMA SUPPLY CORP., NEW YORK.

DRAPERIES

COMPLETE BEAUTIFUL STAGE SETTING, ONLY $50.00! An S.O.S. drapery department special—send for sample materials and diagram—see how amazingly attractive your proscenium can be. S.O.S. CINEMA SUPPLY CORP., NEW YORK.

AIR CONDITIONING

ATTRACTIVE PRICES on new and slightly used air conditioning units, air filters, washers, blowers, compressors (refrigeration), cooling coils, heating coils, motors, pumps, stokers. Cash or deferred payments on approved credit. Write us your requirements. Conditioned Air Co., 926 N. Cass St., Milwaukee, Wis.

THEATRE TICKETS

UNEXCELLED QUALITY—50 rolls stock tickets, $12.50; 20 rolls, $5.80; 100,000 special printed rolls or machine tickets, $14.90. Shipping charges paid to 1,000 miles. Cash with order. Kansas City Ticket Co., Dept. B, 1717 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, Mo.

SEAT RECOVERING

ARTIFICIAL LEATHER MOLESKIN—81c per yd.; Sateen, 60c yd. Six seats from two yards. Samples on request. Commercialeather, 116 Merrimac St., Boston.

THEATRE CHAIRS

USED CHAIRS AT BARGAIN PRICES! 16,282 seats available, many types to choose from. Veneer, upholstered, 75c up. Free list. S.O.S. CINEMA SUPPLY CORP., NEW YORK.

POSITIONS WANTED

PROJECTIONIST—35, married; over 20 years' experience; anywhere. B-1177, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

ACCOUNTANT—Executive ability, five years experience with large chain theatres. Ten years in public accounting, specializing in income taxes and systems. B-1182, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

MANAGER—Not a super hot-shot, but sober and capable business man of 18 years experience in every detail of theatre operation. B-1183, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

PROJECTIONIST—Thoroughly experienced; go anywhere; no liquor or tobacco; steady and reliable. GLENN SMITH, Fayetteville, Ark.

PROJECTIONIST—Experienced; do art work; references. W. BEHRENS, 902 N. Eighth, Sheboygan, Wis.

OPERATOR—Experienced, young. No drinking or smoking. References. HAROLD CHAPMAN, Primghar, Iowa.

THEATRES FOR SALE

COLORED THEATRE — Only one in town; drawing possibilities, 7,500; modern equipment. $750.00 handles. B-1190, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

THEATRE FOR SALE—To quick buyer with cash; located in West Virginia, town of 1,500; 400 seats. B-1188, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

ONLY COLORED THEATRE—500 seats; 7,000 colored population; bargain for quick sale. No letters answered. COZY, Topeka, Kas.

THEATRES WANTED

WANTED TO LEASE—Theatre in northern California or San Francisco territory. L. VAUGHAN, 355 Eddy St., San Francisco, Calif.

HELP WANTED

OPERATOR—Efficient in sound and capable of assisting with sign and art work. Good opportunity for first class man. B-1176, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

OPERATORS AND MANAGERS—Every state; movie circuits. No. 518 State Theatre, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

COMBINATION HOUSE MANAGER and advertising man wanted for small Texas circuit. Must be good artist and sign man with exploitation ideas, ability and energy. Splendid opportunity for advancement to man that can and will deliver. B-1179, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

RELIABLE MEN—Operator's or manager's experience. Dept. B-1, SOUTHERN VISUAL, Box 2404, Memphis, Tenn.

THEATRE MANAGER—For small town. Some experience in theatre work necessary. References first letter. B-1189, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Christmas Gift Suggestion

BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.
Please send BOXOFFICE Gift Subscription to:

Name .....
Address .....
City & State.....
☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ 3 Years

Signed .....
Address .....
City & State.....

☐ $2.00 for 1 Year ☐ $3.50 for 2 Years ☐ $5.00 for 3 Years
☐ Remittance Enclosed ☐ Send Invoice

• Address copy to BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. Ninth St., Kansas City, Mo. Forms close Monday noon preceding publication date.

A SERVICE TO THE INDUSTRY—AND PUBLIC

This Award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 200 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and other civic groups.



The NATIONAL SCREEN COUNCIL Is Sponsored By

BOXOFFICE

MICHIGAN STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

May 23, 1939

BOXOFFICE
4804 E. 9th Street
Kansas City, Mo.

Gentlemen:

I want to thank you for sending me your publication "Boxoffice" for the last 2 years. I have used it constantly in my motion picture work.

I am the Organizer, Past President and Director of the Greater Detroit Motion Picture Council, and have now taken over the Preview Chairmanship of this Council.

I am glad not only to get the previews listed in your magazine but the chart on releases and especially the Barometer, which is of great value to me.

Our Council is organized to do constructive work along motion picture lines; to promote fine pictures and fine endeavors, and to register, with the producers, any complaints which it may have. I wish to state that the "Industry's Self Regulation and Safe Censorship" is making our work much more palatable than in the past when there was little to promote. We wish to co-operate with the producers and the industry in getting into our theatres the discriminating audience which wants the highest quality of motion picture entertainment.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Treesa Way Merrill.

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

COMMITTEE ON MOTION PICTURES

MRS. WILLIAM A. BURK, WESTERN PREVIEW CHAIRMAN

359 NORTH BRONSON AVE., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

September 14, 1939

BOXOFFICE
4804 East Ninth Street
Kansas City, Missouri

Gentlemen:

May I tell you that I appreciate the privilege of voting on outstanding motion pictures of the month; that I appreciate the notices and that I am most grateful to be the recipient of BOXOFFICE each month? It is laden with interesting information and news, not only on pictures but on current events.

The choice of STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE, for the month of August, was a perfect one. Merit is due each contributor to that notable screen presentation.

Personally I feel our pictures for the greater number are something to crow about. The excellence of structural values, the stories, and the entertainment values are all worthy of commendation.

"Young Mr. Lincoln" and "On Borrowed Time" for the previous months, were wisely chosen.

Again may I say THANK YOU.

Most cordially,

Mrs. William A. Burk.

These Awards are made while the pictures are "alive" in their interest to the public. Alert exhibitors have, for the past seven years, taken advantage of the opportunity they are afforded to secure the cooperation of progressive motion picture groups in their cities.

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

DECEMBER 2, 1939 25c Per Copy. Per Year $7.50 in U. S. and Canada. Foreign $10. NATIONAL EDITION



FOR NOVEMBER

LESS RADIO GOLD FOR FILM NAMES

Page Four Tells Why



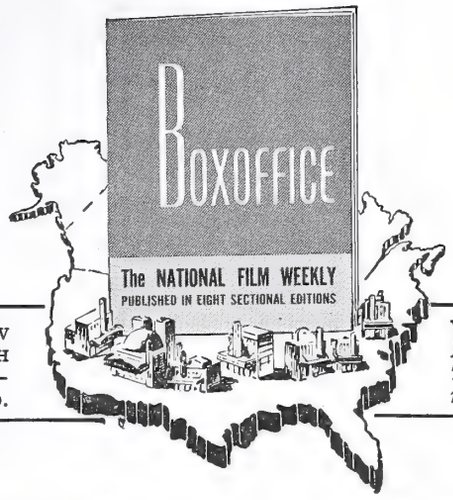
DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT ON A LIMB–

while the M-G-M Hit Parade passes by!

Enjoy the most amazing year of successes in all film history. And just think, it's only November! Oh, boy!



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ONCE IN A LIFETIME

REMARKS an important industry figure who is without name for this purpose:

"You've been sounding off rather persistently of late about self-sufficiency. You think the business has been walking with its rear end to the sun because it got itself to the point where the foreign gross wags the rest of the body.

"But you forget that all nations and, therefore, all industry go stagnant unless they deal in international commerce and that, without developing markets other than our own, there won't be progress. The public overseas wants American product. We know this by past performance. Why shouldn't we continue to feed markets which are susceptible to the product? Answer me that."

The friendly challenge is accepted.

This page has never carried any argument against the normal development of foreign trade. Every possible commercial enterprise does it and so should films. Of course.

But when a business with hundreds of millions invested ties itself in knots to a star, far removed from its effective control by reason of nationalism, politics and now war, and to a point where its first consideration which ought to be the home market is submerged, then the doors leading to criticism properly should be thrown open wide in an effort at adjustment.

The great trouble has been, and is, that Hollywood, either given the privilege or assuming it, has gone merrily and unconcernedly on its way, ignoring the ominous conditions of quota, money restrictions and dictatorship and depending on the foreign to pull its negative cost mistakes out of the hole. Instead of doing the smart trick of making product at a rational cost ceiling with an appeal here, as well as there, the dependence frequently has been placed on there. It is hardly sound business and that ought to be obvious enough.

The developments in the news, for several years now, have been telling what was on the way. No one, therefore, can plead surprise. No one can be quickly excused because of lack of information. The alibi, very apparently, has to be better than that.

But what's been done, luckily, can be undone in this case and there ought to be unbridled rejoicing as a consequence. It will not be easy, of course. Many expensive negatives, already completed and awaiting their chance, may turn into a loss. The future wailing wall is quite apt to be a busy place.

It is now the future that bears all the considerations so that mistakes of past and present might be averted. We continue to believe the industry has an unparalleled opportunity to solidly reinforce its none too secure pins by committing itself to a program of self-sufficiency right here at home. We repeat that, if the domestic field can absorb pictures costing as much as $1,000,000 and, in rare cases, modestly beyond, this is the exact direction in which the business should head.

They say the ceiling here is indeterminate. Some organized effort should be undertaken then to find out how much there is to that theory. Thorough market research might reveal a method of bringing the steadies in more often and turning out a new batch of customers.

Attention to the foreign should continue, naturally, but first call belongs to the market immediately at hand.

Let the controls be worked from a master board set up on domestic soil and at the tender mercies of no foreign vagaries.

Let the luxury money, if there is to be any, come from abroad, but make certain the groceries are available around the native corner.

It can be done. The industry, pushed reluctantly toward a reshuffle by circumstances it could not control but of which it certainly should have been aware, has the chance of its lusty existence to get set for the future. Its luck in this regard stills holds.

What will it do with its once-in-a-lifetime opportunity? That's the poser.

Kann

GOLDEN ERA OF RADIO GOLD FOR FILM NAMES SEEN FADING; ADV. AGENCIES EXPLAIN WHY

Trend to Lower-Priced Talent; Swing From "Name" Value Only

By LEONARD WEISBERG

NEW YORK—The Aladdin's lamp that lit the golden way for film stars to collect fabulous sums on radio programs has dimmed. Flickering, too, is the demand for their services, say those who should know.

On the premise large advertising agencies were, in the first instance, responsible for the appearance of Hollywood personalities on air shows, BOXOFFICE tapped them and came up with a bucketful of whys and wherefores.

What follows is an exposition of the situation as it applies explicitly to why stars are on the air shows, their values and their probable future on the ether. Also what may be an answer to independent exhibitors who charge a certain competition, Hollywood air-wise, is hurting the boxoffice. The testimony is that of the agencies.

What they hope to establish is that:

(1) There is a definite shift to lower-priced air shows, which automatically will eliminate many film stars.

(2) Variety, or comedy shows, are more popular than straight dramatic programs, and the variety show can be assembled more easily in the east.

(3) The most tangible benefit to an advertiser is continuity of impression, which means five daytime shows a week at a cost of $2,000 each are better than one Hollywood show at $10,000.

(4) There always will be some film stars on radio, but the so-called incompetents are being weeded out, as are those who offer a "name" value only.

(5) Producers and exhibitors should recognize radio is here to stay and resolve to use it and the stars to mutual advantage.

About Same as 1938

These are the impressions which coincide with a lineup of 21 Hollywood type air shows currently available compared with 25 at the same time last year. The stars who participate in each, on a more or less permanent basis, total about 35, about even with 1938. There is no method to determine the number of guest stars who will make appearances on big shows in the next few months, but agencies declare they have less money for this purpose than they did a year ago, and there will be a trend away from "names for name's sake."

Even as new Hollywood programs and names are in the air, one agency radio director offers evidence he has four new shows in mind, not one of which is being considered for the coast or for a film personality.

"Our clients," he claims, "generally are cutting down budgets this year. This means there will not be room for film names, even though their prices are less than before. Even should a client come along with a large budget we do not automatically think of Hollywood for a point of origination or cast. We buy those people's talents for performance values only—for the job they can do—not just for the name.

"It is obvious that with so many players in Hollywood," he adds, "some are bound to fit into certain programs. Yet, oddly enough, and while a particular star looks as though he or she might enhance a show, there are factors which often prevent us from considering these people. Temperament, conflict with studio obligations, differences of opinion over material, indifference of producers to our problems and prices that are way out of line are a few."

Coming around to the straight dramatic versus variety show presentation, as they apply to listening ratings and probable consumer values, the impression prevails the latter type is desirable. Here's the way the impression is qualified by an expert who was one of the first in the radio field and is credited with purchasing more Hollywood talent than any other man.

"There will always be a radio audience, regardless of who is performing. It is conceded names draw a larger audience. When a Hollywood star appears in a good dramatic sketch this exposes so many people to the theme of the sketch, particularly if it is a popular film. It is like reading a book; the audience feels it has a stake in the property and wants to see it.

"However," he continues, "a picture is a product and you should not overplay it. Often a dramatic offering demands too much of an audience. You shouldn't give the public too much of anything; just a lot of people talking does not constitute an idea. On the other hand, a well-balanced variety show, where the performers are given to taking the public into their confidence by way of kidding each other, the presentation of good music, a little novelty and a well-handled sketch has proven a more successful approach."

And in the opinion of this source, a variety show is not only more easily and better assembled in the east, but is cheaper here.

"New York Still Center"

"New York is still the center of the entertainment business," he declares. "If this type of show continues to build in popularity, as I think it will, there will be a definite shift to the east. To prepare such a show in Hollywood means nothing more than hanging on to the long distance telephone. There are better novelty acts in New York and there is a wider field for dramatic talent, when it is needed. It is important to remember that the advertising money is in New York."

Point three embraces the traditional slogan that "emphasis is the success of advertising." Significant, then, is an observation that goes like this:

"The big $10,000 and $15,000 programs, made so expensive largely because a big Hollywood name gets $5,000 for a single performance, including a fairly large number of rehearsing hours, is on the wane. It is a one-shot proposition. Yet we find that five daytime programs a week, each, say, costing $2,000 will reach as large an audience, is cheaper and give us infinitely fewer headaches. Probably the largest and most important consideration in favor of this type of radio show is the loyalty factor to the product being advertised. Obviously, there is no money for

(Continued on page 18)

How One Exhibitor Ties In

New York—As an example of how he claims Hollywood names on air shows can be utilized to benefit exhibitors, the radio director of Lux Silver Theatre puts in evidence a letter from a Baltimore theatre operator.

The writer asks for advance information on names of films to be dramatized over the Silver Theatre, Monday nights, for the next six weeks. He has a second-run house and would like to repeat a formula he had "very definite success with on three occasions in the past."

The plan consists of booking for Tuesday showings films presented on the Silver Theatre, Monday evenings. He places newspaper ads Monday nights calling attention to his Tuesday bill, making reference to the radio dramatization of the same film as presented on the Lux program.

33 Film Names on Steady Shows

New York—Film personalities whose backgrounds are normally associated with the screen—not radio—and who are down for spots of a rather permanent—not guest star—nature on the current season's ether programs, follow:

Don Ameche, Kenny Baker, Jack Benny, Edgar Bergen, Nigel Bruce, Bob Burns, Burns & Allen, Bing Crosby, Cecil B. DeMille, Andy Devine, Nelson Eddy, Judy Garland, Nan Grey, Jean Hersholt, Bob Hope, Walter Huston, Arthur Lake, Dorothy Lamour, Jesse Lasky, Herbert Marshall, Tony Martin, Ona Munson, Conrad Nagel, Gale Page, Joe Penner, Roger Pryor, Basil Rathbone, Edward G. Robinson, Penny Singleton, Virginia Verrill, Donald Woods and Roland Young.

20TH-FOX MAY CUT OUTPUT, BUT NOT BUDGET; DECISION SOON; SCHENCK AND ZANUCK FOR IT

Work on A to Z Quiz Reduced Almost Half by Arnold

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—Approximately half of the work originally scheduled for distributors on the list of interrogatories in the all-industry suit will be eliminated, it is learned, as a result of an exchange of letters between Al Bickford of Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett, head of a committee for distributor counsel, and Thurman Arnold, trust buster in charge of the case.

After various conferences between distributor and government counsel on definitions and interpretations of questions outlined in the A to Z quiz, Bickford sent Arnold a letter on the understanding reached. In return, Arnold has sent back a confirmation which, in the opinion of some, expands favorably on the oral agreement.

Months of work by numerous counsel has been discarded by the government's decision, particularly as it affects interrogatory 40, the one which has nettled major counsel the most because of its scope.

Originally, the government sought to have furnished first run revenues on all pictures for the three seasons starting 1935-36. This included affiliated and non-affiliated houses.

The compromise now limits each company to five pictures released during the 1936-37 season. The films are named and grosses from all theatres are required. Further, only five cities have to be accounted for, these being New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Mo., and Atlanta.

Each of the five major circuits operate in the cities mentioned. Not only are grosses from these houses wanted, but also from unaffiliated units. In New York, Loew's and RKO operate the bulk of major circuit situations. In Philadelphia, it is Warner. In Cincinnati, RKO with Ike Libson as partner. In Kansas City, Loew, RKO and Paramount have a few theatres while in Atlanta, Wilby-Kincey, Paramount affiliate, dominates.

In listing the five films for each distributor, a top picture, one in the medium bracket and sloughs are included. In all, revenues on 40 pictures are now required where under the previous request a minimum of 1,050 would have to be accounted for on the basis of 350 being annually produced by the eight majors.

Distributors figure a great deal of money will be saved by Arnold's gesture, although it may be necessary to make a survey of grosses on each picture for 1935-36 throughout the country if it is seen the cities outlined by the government are not a fair barometer.

It's All Quiet on All Fronts

New York—Although the government has anti-trust suits pending against independent circuits and distributors in New York, Buffalo, Nashville and Oklahoma City, not one date has been set by the courts for the beginning of a trial.

Attorneys for respondents are busy in all instances on preliminary motions, the latest being a department of justice contempt proceeding against FWC. In this case, the latest date for a hearing on the defendants' motion for a bill of particulars has been set for December 4.

Plan Envisions Ouster of "B's" and Dollar Spread Over Fewer Films

By RED KANN

HOLLYWOOD—Sidney R. Kent, president of 20th Century-Fox, is due here from New York about January 1 to determine with studio officials if the company ought to cut production by eliminating the "B's" and concentrating on virtually a full line of "A's" for 1940-41.

Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board, is for a reduction in numbers. So is Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production. But the final decision will have to be worked out of joint meetings with Kent and Herman Wobber, general manager of distribution and, as Schenck puts it, "after we get additional information about the world situation."

Both Schenck and Zanuck view a slash in numbers as the only effective way out which they have been able to envision, they declare. Their plan provides for no budget curtailments, but a spread of the total dollars available to them over fewer pictures on the well-known theory they will be better. Zanuck, on the other hand, goes further than Schenck. Says he:

"I would also cut out the small 'A's'. I can't sacrifice the genuinely outstanding picture by stinting on its cost. But I also know that this must be balanced off with a number of pictures at, let's say, $500,000 each. These are apt to be the in-betweeners. At the same time, I would cut the meaningless 'B's', although I think some in the smaller groups like the Jones Family and the Chans are necessary for purposes of training and bringing forward new talent."

Schenck and Zanuck, separately interviewed, both recognize the stiffness of the competition which confronts the industry today. They also express themselves as well aware of the double feature situation and are of the opinion that the market is glutted and the public surfeited with mediocrity. These are several of the factors which lead into their conviction that the future points up the need for fewer pictures. They say exhibition will adjust itself in accordance.

Podell and Distributors Discuss Industry Suit

HOLLYWOOD—David L. Podell, who has been retained by the government to prosecute major companies in the all-industry suit, is here conferring with top flight executives on matters pertaining to the suit. Podell has been assisting Paul Williams, assistant to the attorney general, in New York meetings with distributor home office counsel. During the past few weeks, William P. Farnsworth has been aiding Williams.

Raftery in Baltimore On Westway Case

BALTIMORE — Edward C. Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, UA counsel in New York, has consented to act as associate counsel for the defense in the Westway clearance case involving the Durkee Edgewood. The case goes to trial December 7. Raftery has been here for 10 days and will not leave until the hearings start.

The Biltmore is objecting to a 14-day clearance by the Edgewood, a new theatre. The plaintiff contends there should be a day-and-date playing arrangement. Major companies are co-defendants.

March Date May Be Set for Answers to Interrogatories

NEW YORK—Federal Judge John C. Knox met with government and distributor counsel Friday in an effort to work out a date by which answers to the plaintiff's interrogatories should be ready. Indications are a March date may be set.

Fried Trust Suit Is Set For Trial December 11

PHILADELPHIA — The Harry Fried suit against Warner and major distributors is set for trial December 11.

Henry Friedman, operator of the Lansdown, has filed suit against Warner and major companies claiming violation of the anti-trust laws.

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

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SEATTLE—2321 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Telephone MAin 7716.
WASHINGTON—1426 G. St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY, ALTA.—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Telephone Walnut 5519.
REGINA, SASK.—The Star, Andy McDermott.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—161 Princess St., D. Fetherston.
TORONTO, ONTARIO—242 Millwood Road, Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER, B. C.—615 Hastings, C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

A FANTASTIC film story, but unlike many which make the rounds, a true tale:

Tired of the strings which tied them to the major studios, a limited group of well-established drawing power, its members not entirely stars, became interested in the formation of their own units. What with income taxes running the way they run and a desire to make fewer pictures each year, the general plan called for two from each unit. There were to be three to five units in the aggregate.

A substantial portion of the financing had been arranged; some producer-distributor was to supply the rest. It looked like a deal in one important direction. But, as it turned out, the negotiations there came a cropper and this is how and why:

The head of the studio did the murdering act. Not because his company could not have used the output; it could have. In fact, almost any of the majors could have. The deal was killed by one man because of the effect on his regular producers. At least, that's what he said. What he meant was that he and his administration stood a first-class chance of being shown up pretty sadly by comparison.

Was he thinking of the good of his company or was he thinking of himself?

You decide.

From Magic Land

It is said of John Ellis, photographer for M-G-M and also a bird fancier, that he develops birds with colorings and characteristics to match personalities of some of Hollywood's Duses and Bernhardts. To wit: Llona Massey presumably has been presented with a canary of her exact coloring and Hedy Lamarr with a thrush that is said to "possess that certain something even to the degree of Lamarr herself."

Ellis does this wonder work by first selecting a winged one that "in spirit parallels its intended mistress or master." There is no explanation offered as to how exactly all of this comes about.

But that's not particularly important. What's breath-taking in its potentialities is who finally gets the crow. Then Hollywood will know war, finally, has invaded its borders.

On Garbo Again

Some of the publicity blather let loose on behalf of Garbo these days is getting to be much too much. For instance, in the chit-chat manner, this:

"Greta Garbo revealing that she has at last satisfied her desire of long standing to ride on the top deck of a bus." In heaven's or Ninotchka's name, who's been stopping her?

Danger in It

Bill Powell is supposed to have dusted off his collection of old volumes, banded together under the general title of the "World's Dullest Books." One is a report on wool. All of them are reputedly so dry no one will bother to go beyond the cover.

Hollywood is the place where fads catch on over night. Now, if someone applies the same general idea to films——

Transfer in Glamour

Hollywood bulletin:

Madeleine Carroll appears in the opening scenes of "Safari" clothed only in a towel.

Dorothy Lamour, out of sarongs for "Disputed Passage" and back for "Typhoon," wears one exactly once in "The Road to Singapore;" conventional garb the rest of the time.

There may be letters in the "London Times" about this.

About "Oscar"

"Westerns have been the backbone of the industry since Hollywood began. They are in a distinctive class and deserve distinct considerations," states Harry Sherman in proposing a special Academy award for the bangtails.

Explanatory note: Sherman produces the Hopalong Cassidys.

Generous Gal

Susan Hayward, in a "New York World-Telegram" interview:

" . . . I want to go to shows and night clubs. Not with any one in particular. I'm not in love with any one in particular. I am in love with everybody. I am in love with everybody in the whole world."

Including the Scandinavians?

Paramount's Lyrical, Laughable, Lovable Epic of Lilliput Land

"GULLIVER'S" TRAVELS

in Technicolor!



A FULL-LENGTH FEATURE CARTOON! ... The Most Wonderful Two Hours of Entertainment the Screen Has Ever Known!

ADVENTURE with the shipwrecked Gulliver among the tiny Lilliputians—25,000 of them!

LAUGH till your sides ache at the antics of these lovable little folk, especially Gabby, the town crier, who discovered the giant Gulliver, but couldn't find himself in the dark!

MEET the inhabitants of this wonderful isle: King Little and his terrible-tempered rival, King Bombo...the two singing lovers, Princess Glory and Prince David...The three dastardly spies, Sneak, Snoop and Snitch...Twinkletoes, the carrier pigeon . . . and thousands more!

SPECTACLE as Gulliver, single-handed, captures the entire enemy fleet . . . as tiny Lilliputian horses drag the giant to the King's castle!

SONGS ...a hit parade of them by Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger, including "Faithful Forever," "Bluebirds in the Moonlight," "I Hear a Dream," "We're All Together Now," "All's Well," "Faithful," "Forever!"



A Paramount Picture • Produced by Max Fleischer • Directed by Dave Fleischer

Copyright 1939, Paramount Pictures Inc.

"IT'S A HAP-HAP-HAPPY DAY"—Words and Music by Al. J. Neiburg and Sammy Timberg & Winston Sharples

14,000,000 people will read this ad in LIBERTY!

A *GIANT* of a picture . . .

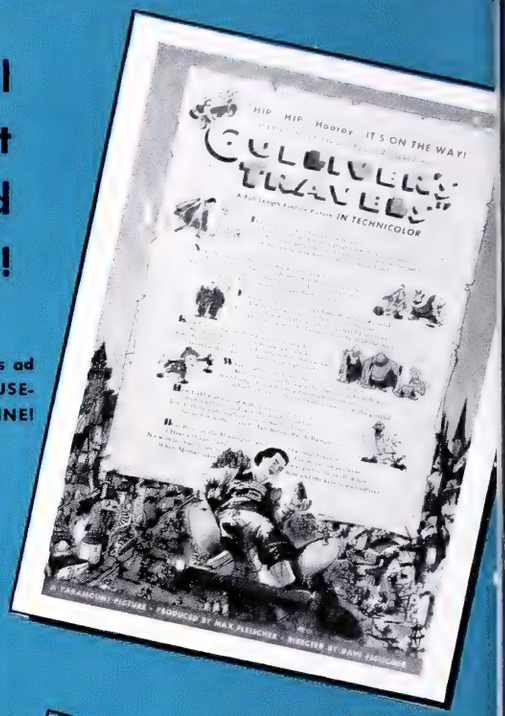
backed by a *GIANT* of an advertising campaign!



$250,000 ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN!

More than 100,000,000 readers of these national publications will read the great news that "Gulliver" is coming . . . and every ad is timed to break so that exhibitors reap fullest benefits!

30,500,000 people will read this ad in COLLIER'S, LOOK, GOOD HOUSEKEEPING, PARENT'S MAGAZINE!



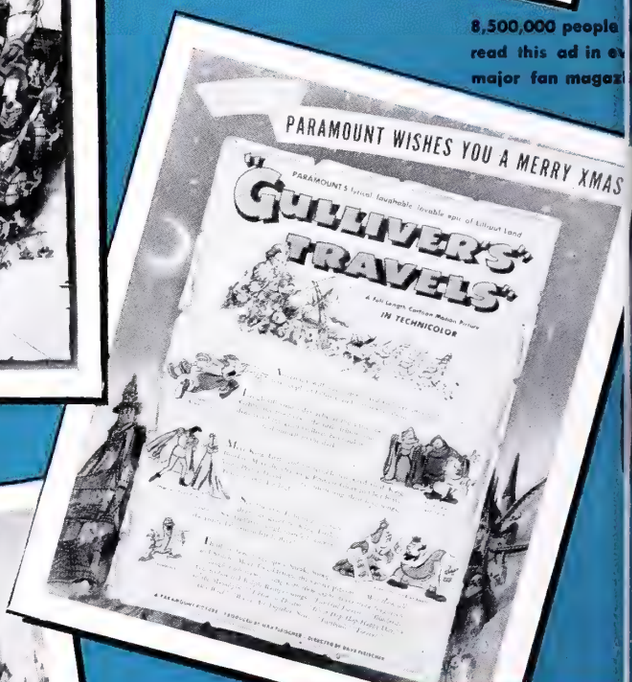
8,500,000 people read this ad in ev major fan magaz



12,500,000 people will read this ad in the SATURDAY EVENING POST!



24,500,000 people will read this ad in LIFE and the N. Y. SUNDAY MIRROR!





17,000,000, people will read this ad in THIS WEEK Sunday Supplement.

. . . AND MILLIONS MORE WILL READ ABOUT "GULLIVER'S TRAVELS" IN PARAMOUNT'S GIANT NEWSPAPER CO-OPERATIVE AD CAMPAIGN!

"GULLIVER" LICENSEES DO A NATIONAL SELLING JOB FOR YOU
. . . spending more than $100,000 to promote "Gulliver" merchandise in national magazines — and every ad is a boost for the picture!

Paramount Pictures

COAST UNION INCREASE ONLY A BEGINNING; STUDIOS FACE "BIG 4" ON BASIC PACT DEAL

Boost Demands for Other Crafts Certain When Confabs Begin

HOLLYWOOD—It's only the start.

The 10 per cent wage increase handed out last week is slated to be only part of a pattern which will be woven when producers and representatives of the basic unions employed in the industry meet at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, N. J., December 5 to discuss a new agreement.

The current pact, which is a five-year arrangement, expires in 1941. Representatives of employer and employe, under its provisos, are supposed to meet once a year to air terms governing the succeeding year's operations. A deferred meeting was held in September, but at the time, George Browne of the IATSE was busy on the Four A's situation and the session was, therefore, set back.

Teamsters, musicians, carpenters and electricians, each representing one of the so-called Big 4 internationals, will have considerable to say at the impending sessions. Pat Casey, labor contact for the producers, left here Thursday for the palavers. Likewise did the bargaining agents for each of the unions involved.

New Demands Foreseen

The inside word here is that it will not be a funfest and that, early along the line, demands for pay increases to cover these four crafts will inevitably hit the deck.

While producers granted the demand of the labor contingent, headed by William Bioff, for a blanket 10 per cent increase for some 11,000 American Federation of Labor workers at this time, they emphasized that the capitulation came only in the face of a definite strike threat, and with the provision that the arrangement is only temporary. Laborites also were successful in rebuffing the producers' request that a 10 per cent wage boost for 12,000 IATSE employes, granted last August, be rescinded. The latter raise, therefore, stands.

Terms were explained fully in a letter from the producer committee to Bioff, in which the 10 per cent wage boost was agreed to, effective as of October 10, 1939. The agreement provided, however, that "on or about February 15, 1940, you will give us an opportunity to show you that the condition of this industry makes a continuation of the wage increase impractical and further to show you that we have taken every possible step within our power to readjust our business so as to make it possible to continue without recalling these wage increases."

Again citing the difficulties presented by the loss of revenue due to the European war, the producers asked the unions involved to agree to arbitration if a deadlock ensues at the February parleys. The letter to Bioff, terms of which were accepted, was signed by Joseph M. Schenck, chairman; Y. Frank Freeman, E. J. Mannix, Walter Wanger and M. B. Silberberg.

The missive was sent the labor delegation November 25. On the preceding day, Bioff's committee had met with the producers in a session resulting in a deadlock, when producers declared they were "not in a position to grant the demands for wage increases at this time." This declaration brought forth a strike ultimatum giving the producers until the next day to capitulate.

Affected by the raise are members of the machinists, plasterers, laborers, building service employes, molders and welders unions, all American Federation of Labor affiliates. Exact amount of the increase in dollars and cents has not yet been tabulated, estimates so far running from a low of $250,000 to a high of nearly $3,000,000. Studio auditors have begun work computing the amount of back wages to which the unions affected are entitled, a task that is expected to require several days.

Newspaper Raps 'Capitulation;' Sees Labor in Studio Saddle

LOS ANGELES—Producers come in for a lashing by the Los Angeles *Times* which editorially decries the 10 per cent union increase and flatly asserts the studios have given up control of their own business.

"If past experience is any standard by which to judge, the producers may find that they have bought only a temporary peace at an extremely high price. This price is not the $5,000,000 or so a year which the pay increase represents and which no one grudges the workers if the industry can stand it, but in the loss of control by the producers of their own business," the paper states.

"Their (the producers') abrupt reversal of a stand taken after long consideration is superficially indicative of a lack of decision and cohesiveness which is itself an invitation to further exploitation. They would have done better to yield in the first place, if they were going to yield. As it is, they appear to have made William Bioff a present of the whip hand, and he will be less than a labor boss i he does not use it. The tentative agreement to arbitrate may mean much or little, with the chances favoring the latter. The time to arbitrate is before a settlement, not afterward.

"There may of course be more in this 'settlement' than meets the eye. If, as has been repeatedly hinted, Bioff has agreed, off the record, that the producers may recoup part of the cost of the wage increase by laying off employes, the peace is likely to prove even shorter-lived than otherwise. Such an unenforceable understanding would be a source of endless trouble and one inviting immediate and unredressable repudiation. Rather than put themselves in such a false position, the producers would do better to take the money out of other production costs and from the higher salary brackets. On the basis of what the public has been permitted to know of these negotiations, they can hardly afford to add another mistake to the number already made.

"The first and biggest of these, from which have flowed all the rest, was in abandoning the industry's free labor principle and embracing a closed shop agreement with the Bioff unions. The second was in granting wage increases to only a third of the studio craftsmen when all would appear entitled to equal consideration. The third was in the belated realization of the war's effects on the industry, the first concession having been made nearly a month after the outbreak of hostilities. The latest, though perhaps not the last, was in taking a stand and then reversing it.

"Prosperity for the film industry and for the armies to which it gives employment, to say nothing of its importance as an entertainment medium, means a great deal to Los Angeles. It is something to be had only through dependable peace and uniform fair dealing. No duress agreement which does not honestly contribute to both can be of any permanent benefit to the industry or to the community."

Schenck Says Studios Emerged Victorious

HOLLYWOOD—While estimates of the extent of the 10 per cent wage increase range from dollars to millions, Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the producers' committee, tells BOXOFFICE the sum represented will not exceed $250,000.

Schenck feels the studios emerged victorious and stresses the arbitration formula which accompanies the pay increase. "It establishes a precedent which will be important not only in future labor negotiations here, but which will bear on those to be held in the east in connection with the renewal of the basic studio pact with the other internationals," he says.

"The studio wage earner is entitled to the increase. The only question involved is whether or not we are in a position to give it to him," he further remarks.

M-G-M'S PRODUCTION BUDGET OF $40,000,000 TO CONTINUE UNCHANGED, SAYS AL LICHTMAN

Sees No Letup in Big Ones; Predicts $13,000,000 for "Wind" in U. S. Market

By GENE RICH

CHICAGO—Despite the fact that conditions are making for a more conservative attitude than heretofore prevailed, M-G-M will definitely stick to its production budget of approximately $40,000,000 for this season, Al Lichtman, vice-president of Loew's, Inc., told the midseason sales conference here. "We feel there still is room for big pictures and will continue to make them," he added.

The Metro executive said next season's plans still are incomplete but contended there will be plenty of star-studded casts over the Leo trademark by the time 1940-41 rolls around.

Given a rousing welcome by district and branch managers, led by Sales Manager William F. Rodgers, as he arrived for the meeting, Lichtman was enthusiastic over the outlook for "Gone With the Wind" and for other 1939-40 product. There have been reports that "Wind" should gross domestically between $10,000,000 and $12,000,000, but Lichtman made it clear that such estimates are only "piker thoughts."

"The least 'Wind' will do in the domestic market will be $13,000,000," he said, and added: "That's putting it mildly."

Metro will stick to its short subjects schedule of 78 subjects comprising 84 reels, outside of the newsreel, Lichtman declared. He arrived here the day the Hedy Lamarr contractual settlement was announced, and said she would work on retakes with Spencer Tracy first on "I Take This Woman," which was shelved some months ago. Tracy, himself, will first make "Edison, the Man," which began production Friday. "I Take This Woman" will roll in at about $1,250,000, with the retakes to be made. Miss Lamarr's next after those retakes will be a drama with musical background, based on a Hungarian play.

Lichtman said M-G-M is hoping England will soon permit production to be resumed, and the company, which has been unusually successful with its British-made product, would resume operations immediately on permission from the British government. Victor Saville would return to England. And Lichtman added he was hoping Ben Goetz also would return.

After speaking to the convention here, Lichtman left for New York. He planned to return to the coast December 1, with his schedule calling for his return on the lot by Monday, December 4.

FitzPatrick to Vacation

HOLLYWOOD—James A. FitzPatrick, producer of the TravelTalks for M-G-M, leaves December 28 for a six-week Honolulu vacation.



—All-Event Photo

Metro Sales Tops at Sales Meet—

Tom Connors, eastern and Canadian sales manager; William F. Rodgers, general sales manager; Al Lichtman, Loew's vice-president, and Edward M. Saunders, western sales manager, as Lichtman arrived in Chicago for the midseason meeting of district and branch managers.

All "Wind" Engagements to Be On Percentage, States Rodgers

CHICAGO — Small-towns and medium-sized cities will get the same general consideration from Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer on playdates for the much-anticipated "Gone With the Wind," delegates to the midseason district and branch managers' convention here were told. At the same time, it was generally understood that all engagements will be on the 70 per cent basis, although William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, neither denied nor confirmed this. All engagements definitely will be percentage.

"It is not the intent of M-G-M to keep the picture out of the territory while it is running in the key cities," Rodgers told BOXOFFICE. He had no comment to make on the reports that M-G-M would guarantee exhibitors at least a 10 per cent profit hike over their usual profits.

Rodgers said that negotiations for opening the picture in all important cities will begin immediately, and that it will open nationally either the second or third week in January for regular runs at advance prices. M-G-M is asking that the minimum prices be 75 cents for morning and afternoon and $1.00 at night. Theatres that have loges, boxes, or other distinctive seat sections may ask a minimum of $1.50 for these seats. It will be optional whether the seat sale is general or reserved.

Commenting on the plans, Rodgers said: "It might be added that M-G-M is presenting 'Gone With the Wind' on the modern, 1940, streamlined basis." It is understood that because of the length and cost, the film possibly may never be shown at popular prices, and that it will run for months indefinitely at the advanced scale.

Rodgers said that in larger cities and where the conditions warrant, it is expected to run the presentation simultaneously in as many as five or six theatres. As an example, he said that after the picture has shown for two weeks or so in the Chicago loop, certain houses might be selected on the north, south

(Continued on page 26)

Closer Would Be 70 Per Cent

Chicago—Someone was kidding with Metro's Bill Rodgers on what percentage Leo would seek on "Gone With the Wind." He was asked: "Was that figure of 75 per cent to Metro and 25 per cent for the exhibitor appearing recently in BOXOFFICE right?"

"No," he came back, "but you're getting close to it."

Ala!



Discovered ● **The only star who can open three days before Christmas, *do business these three days*— AND THEN OVERFLOW ANY THEATRE IN THE LAND FROM THEN ON!**

CHRISTMAS COMES THRE

for those who open

DECEMBER 22ND

with

Universal's



EDGAR
BERGEN
and CHARLIE
McCARTHY

in "CHARLIE McCARTHY Detective"
(Tentative title)

DAYS EARLIER THIS YEAR!

National release date



with

Mortimer Snerd • Robert Cummings
Constance Moore • John Sutton
Louis Calhern • Edgar Kennedy
Samuel S. Hinds • Harold Huber

Original story by Robertson White and Darrell Ware

DIRECTED BY FRANK TUTTLE
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, JERRY SACKHEIM

Boxoffice Goes to a Train Departure . . .

Probably the greatest array of film executives and personalities leaving New York the same day for Chicago, South Bend, Ind., and Hollywood was on November 24. Grand Central was overwhelmed with the many friends, relatives and well-wishers for the carload of film men, some of whom brought their wives along, and who left for one reason or another. It was a great day for reporters and photographers. The accompanying pictures are only part of the crowd that departed, but it gives a pretty good idea of what took place.

Bound for Chicago was Charles Reagan, Paramount western division manager, for conferences with Jules Rubens of Great States. Here he is seen with two of his customers. The top picture shows Reagan standing with C. V. Jones, general manager of the Robb & Rowley circuit of Texas, while Ed Rowley is seated. This exclusive photo was taken in the diner of the Lake Shore Limited one minute before the train pulled out. Reagan spent several days in the field before returning to New York while the R&R executives continued on to Dallas after the Notre Dame-USC game at South Bend.

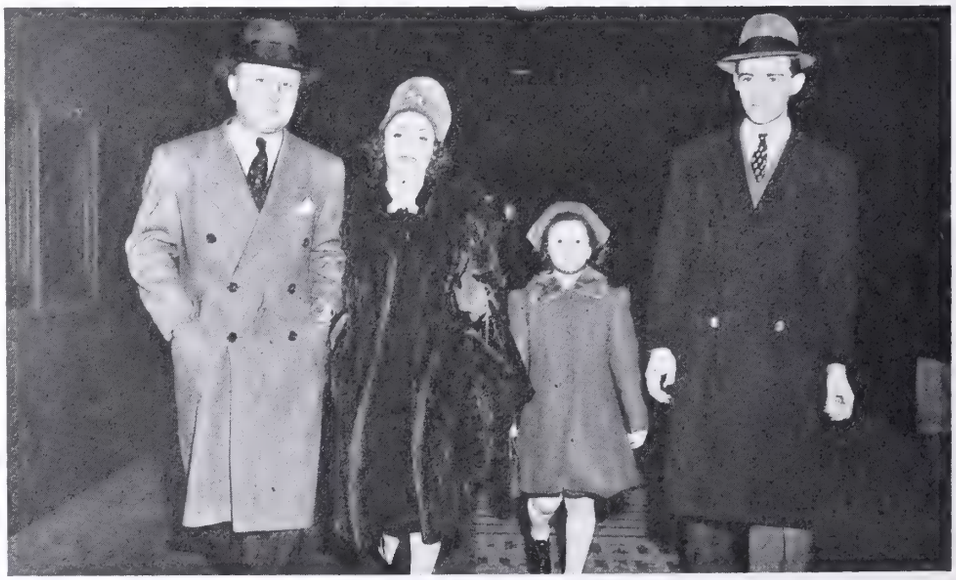
Seeing Leo Spitz and Nate Blumberg off were Jules Levy, his wife and daughter, Audrey. They are in the picture second from top, on this page. Levy, with Spitz acting as his attorney, has concluded arrangements with Universal whereby he will produce "The Boys From Syracuse" on the coast with the Ritz Brothers. Levy plans to head for Hollywood shortly. The patch on his face covers a scar from a recent operation at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

In the picture below Levy and his family are Barney and Mrs. Balaban and two of their three children, Judith and Burton. The children did not accompany their parents









—Photos by Cosmo-Sileo

. . . Sees Film Personalities Head West







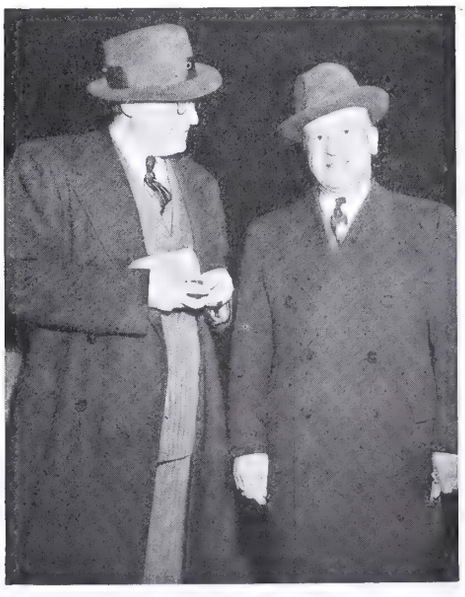
west. Far left, opposite page, the picture of Stanton Griffis and Balaban was taken in the corridor of the 20th-Century Ltd. Both Paramount executives are on the coast for production conferences and are expected back in New York in a week or so. John W. Hicks, Neil F. Agnew, Russell Holman are also on the coast but got by the photographer without being snapped.

On this page, lower right, is Henry Koster, director of the Deanna Durbin pictures for Universal, with Louis Goldberg, RKO circuit district manager, as they saw Blumberg and his wife and Fred Meyers and his wife off for Hollywood.

The next picture, on the same level, shows Meyers, assistant to John J. O'Connor, vice-president and general manager of the RKO circuit; Sol Schwartz, district manager with the circuit; Goldberg; Harry Mandel, publicity and advertising head for the circuit; Blumberg and O'Connor. O'Connor says he will leave for the coast sometime in the spring as it is now Meyers' turn. Meyers went west last year about the same time. He will make several stopovers on his return.

Heading for the two-day M-G-M sales meeting in Chicago, among others from the home office, were Rudy Berger, Washington branch manager; Ben H. Rosenwald, Charlotte manager, and Thomas J. Donaldson, New Haven manager.

The top picture on the left shows Sam Wood, director of "Raffles," for Samuel Goldwyn, and now working on preliminaries with Sol Lesser on "Our Town," with King and Mrs. Vidor, as the trio left for South Bend and the pigskin fracas. Vidor has been vacationing in the east after finishing "Northwest Passage" for M-G-M, and now has another story all lined up for either Clark Gable or Spencer Tracy. After the game, Wood returned to New York, while the Vidors continued west.



—Photos by Cosmo-Sileo

HORROR GE



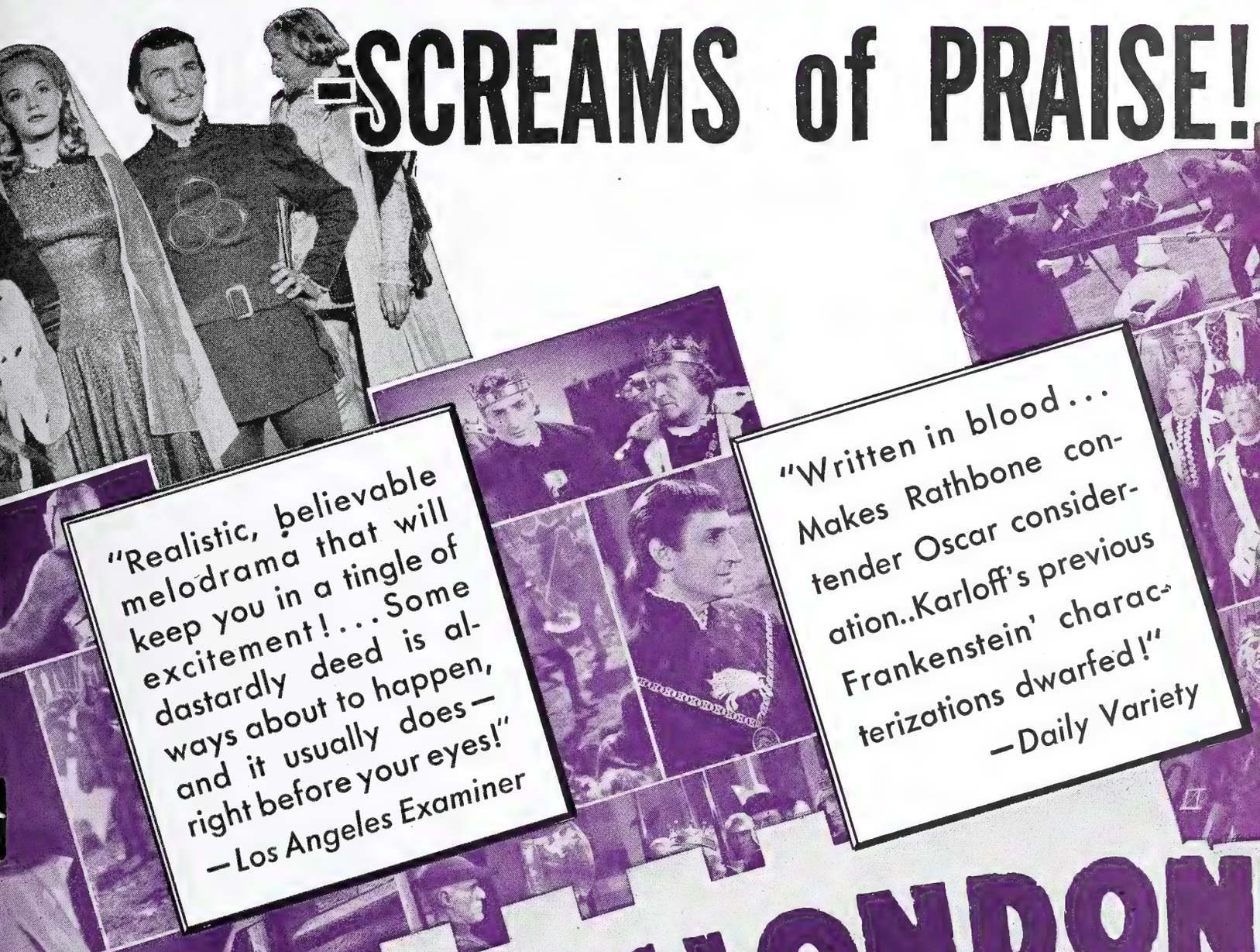
"TOWER" breaks week-end record, Majestic Theatre, Providence... "TOWER" shoves Alvin Theatre, Pittsburgh 50% above record opening!.. "TOWER" booked into 45 RKO theatres, New York, day and date!!!

"A picture of which the industry can justly be proud for sheer quality in every department... Here is history unsoftened... amazingly vivid!"
—Hollywood Reporter

"One of the most unusual features ever produced... A witch's Sabbath of destruction ...Breaks away from the conventions!
—Los Angeles Times

TS SCREAMS

=SCREAMS of PRAISE!



"Realistic, believable melodrama that will keep you in a tingle of excitement!... Some dastardly deed is always about to happen, and it usually does— right before your eyes!" —Los Angeles Examiner

"Written in blood... Makes Rathbone contender Oscar consideration..Karloff's previous Frankenstein' characterizations dwarfed!" —Daily Variety

TOWER of LONDON

starring

BASIL RATHBONE

with

BORIS KARLOFF • BARBARA O'NEIL
IAN HUNTER • VINCENT PRICE
NAN GREY AND A CAST OF THOUSANDS

Original screenplay by Robert N. Lee
Produced and Directed by ROWLAND V. LEE
A ROWLAND V. LEE PRODUCTION
A NEW UNIVERSAL PICTURE

No Friday Programs; Sunday Top With 5

NEW YORK—Friday nights no longer boast four radio programs peopled with Hollywood film folk. In fact, there are no Friday night air shows with screen stars.

This and other pertinent facts relating to what has happened in day-to-day programming of Hollywood-type air shows as compared to the setup last year is available in the following recapitulation:

There are five Sunday shows as against four last year. Kenny Baker has parted company with Jello to take up permanently with Texaco on Wednesday. Roger Pryor is a newcomer on the Screen Guild show. During Don Ameche's illness, the m. c. spot on the Chase & Sanborn hour is being handled by Rudy Vallee for four weeks.

Monday has four shows. However, "Blondie" is new, as are its players, Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake, both of whom are stars of the same film series for Columbia.

Tuesday night shows have dropped from six to four. The "Hollywood Screenscoops" program is not on the airlanes. Neither is the Al Jolson show for Lever Bros. "Dr. Christian" has been shifted to a Wednesday spot. Ona Munson is taking the place formerly held on "Big Town" by Virginia Verrill, who is featured vocalist on a new show the same evening.

Wednesday boasts three new shows, but the stars are holdovers of programs that were in other broadcasts. The only newcomer will be Gale Page, who is scheduled to take up a permanent spot in a few weeks on Hollywood Playhouse, when Herbert Marshall is replaced by Jim Ameche.

Thursday brings in a new program featuring Donald Woods and Nan Grey. Otherwise the programs are as full of film names as last year, except that M-G-M has relinquished its sponsorship of "Good News of 1940."

Whereas Friday night last year boasted four programs, there are none this season. Jack Haley's show for Continental Baking has been dropped. The other shows merely have been shifted to earlier nights in the week.

The Saturday night show for General Foods, which starred Joe E. Brown last year, also has been dropped.

It is generally felt that programs featuring Robert Benchley, Cliff Edwards, Hedda Hopper and Orson Welles are not competitive to theatres in the sense the stars are not classed as outright film players whose livelihood is derived from Hollywood.

The Ether Lineup

NEW YORK—*Here is an hour-by-hour, day-by-day breakdown of air shows which use Hollywood talent, in all or in part. The current season shows* 19 *such programs, as compared to* 25 *during the* 1938-39 *air season. The shows for both seasons are detailed for a quick check on new voices (the* 1938 *season a* BOXOFFICE *reprint), who is still around and who is not. Periods given are eastern standard time.*

1939

Sunday

6:00-6:30 p. m.—Silver Theatre, with Conrad Nagel as director-actor. CBS.

7:00-7:30 p. m.—Jello program, starring Jack Benny with Andy Devine. NBC Red.

7:30-8:00 p. m.—Screen Guild Theatre for Gulf Oil Corp., starring Roger Pryor. CBS.

8:00-9:00 p. m.—Chase & Sanborn hour, with Dorothy Lamour, Edgar Bergen, "Charlie McCarthy" and weekly guest stars. NBC Red.

Monday

7:30-8:00 p. m.—"Blondie," for Camel cigarettes, co-starring Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake. CBS.

8:00-8:30 p. m.—"The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," for Grove Laboratories, starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. NBC Blue.

9:00-10:00 p. m.—Lux Radio Theatre, directed by Cecil B. DeMille, with weekly guest stars for Lever Bros. CBS.

Tuesday

7:15-7:30 p. m.—Jimmy Fidler's Hollywood gossip for Drene Shampoo. CBS.

8:00-8:30 p. m.—"Big Town," featuring Edward G. Robinson and Ona Munson for Lever Bros. CBS.

10:00-10:30 p. m.—Variety show, starring Bob Hope and Judy Garland for Pepsodent. NBC Red.

10:30-11:00 p. m.—"Uncle Walter's Dog House," with Virginia Verrill as soloist. NBC Red.

Wednesday

7:30-8:00 p. m.—Burns and Allen, sponsored by Lehn & Fink Products. CBS.

8:00-8:30 p. m.—Hollywood Playhouse, starring Herbert Marshall NBC Red.

9:00-10:00 p. m.—Texaco Star Theatre, with Kenny Baker, Ken Murray, Frances Langford and guest stars. CBS.

10:00-10:30 p. m.—"Dr. Christian," starring Jean Hersholt for Chesebrough Mfg. Co. CBS.

Thursday

8:30-9:00 p. m.—Tip Top Show, starring Joe Penner and weekly guest. NBC Blue.

8:30-9:00 p. m.—"Those We Love," dramatic sketch with Donald Woods and Nan Grey. NBC Red.

9:00-10:00 p. m.—"Good News of 1940," Walter Huston, m. c., Roland Young and guests. NBC Red.

10:00-11:00 p. m.—Kraft Music Hall, Bing Crosby, Bob Burns and guests. NBC Red.

Sunday

6:30-7:00 p. m.—"Gateway to Hollywood," directed by Jesse Lasky, with guest stars. CBS.

Monday

8:00-8:30 p. m.—"Tune-Up Time," with Tony Martin as featured male vocalist. CBS.

1938

Sunday

6:00-6:30 p. m.—A new star each week for "The Silver Theatre," International Silver program, which starts October 2. CBS.

7:00-7:30 p. m.—Jack Benny for Jello. NBC Red.

8:00-9:00 p. m.—Chase & Sanborn hour, with Don Ameche, Nelson Eddy, Dorothy Lamour, Edgar Bergen and "Charlie McCarthy." NBC Red.

9:00-9:30 p. m.—"Hollywood Playhouse" for Woodbury's. Open date not set, but will start with Charles Boyer who will head the show until January 21, when Tyrone Power resumes. NBC Blue.

Monday

5:45-6:00 p. m.—Tom Mix for Ralston-Purina. Monday to Friday, same hour. NBC Blue.

7:30-8:00 p. m.—"Camel Caravan" for Camel cigarettes, starring Eddie Cantor. Starts October 3. CBS.

9:00-10:00 p. m.—Lux Radio Theatre, with Cecil B. DeMille and Co., for Lever Bros. CBS.

Tuesday

7:15-7:30 p. m.—"Hollywood Screenscoops," by George McCall for Old Gold. Also Thursdays. CBS.

8:00-8:30 p. m.—"Big Town," serial with Edward G. Robinson and Claire Trevor for Lever Bros. Started September 20. CBS.

8:30-9:00 p. m.—Al Jolson show, with guest stars, for Lever Bros. Starts September 20. CBS.

10:10-10:30 p. m.—"Dr. Christian," starring Jean Hersholt. Starts October 18. CBS.

10:10-10:30 p. m.—Bob Hope will head a new show, sponsor of which is now indefinite. Starts September 27. NBC Red.

10:30-10:45 p. m.—Jimmie Fidler's Hollywood gossip, for Drene Shampoo. Also Friday. NBC Red.

Wednesday

9:30-10:30 p. m.—"Texaco Star Theatre," with Adolphe Menjou as m. c., and Una Merkel, Charles Ruggles, Kenny Baker and Jane Frohman. Max Reinhardt will supervise dramatic sketches. Starts October 5. CBS.

Thursday

7:30-8:00 p. m.—General Foods Show, starring Joe Penner. Starts September 29. CBS.

7:15-7:30 p. m.—"Hollywood Screenscoops," with George McCall for Old Gold. CBS.

9:10-10:00 p. m.—"Good News of 1939," with Frank Morgan, Fanny Brice and M-G-M players. For General Foods. NBC Red.

10:00-11:00 p. m.—"Kraft Music Hall," with Bing Crosby and Bob Burns for Kraft-Phenix cheese. NBC Red.

11:15-11:30 p. m.—Elza Schallert, on picture reviews, and guest star. NBC Blue.

Friday

7:15-7:30 p. m.—Jimmie Fidler's "Hollywood Gossip," for Drene Shampoo. NBC Red.

7:30-8:00 p. m.—Continental Baking Co., show starring Jack Haley. Starts October 14. CBS.

8:30-9:00 p. m.—Burns and Allen for Chesterfield cigarettes. Starts September 30. CBS.

9:00-10:00 p. m.—"Hollywood Hotel" for Campbell's Soups. Herbert Marshall as m.c. William Powell joins cast Oct. 21, with Frances Langford. CBS.

Saturday

7:30-8:00 p. m.—General Foods show, starring Joe E. Brown. Starts October 8. CBS.

8:00-8:30 p. m.—Quaker Varieties, starring Tommy Riggs and "Betty Lou." Starts October 1. NBC Red.

Radio Gold for Film Names Is Waning

(Continued from page 4)

a film name on the $2,000 programs."

Straight down the line are unequivocal assertions that "the rush for Hollywood names for name's sake" is over. A novelty at first, the movement has settled down to a colder appraisal of values and "the job to be done." Agencies admit they were "taken in" with names when Hollywood first became the mecca of coast broadcasting. "But not any longer," goes a consolidated view. "Even the biggest names must fit our ideas, not vice versa."

In support of the theory that radio can be beneficial to producers and exhibitors, emphasis is placed on those incidents where fullest cooperation from both interests have brought praiseworthy comment from the industry. Almost without exception, there is no rebuttal to the charge by some exhibitors that the presence of stars on radio is affording disastrous competition.

That there is no counter argument to the exhibitors' charges of competition is the asserted conviction that evidence to support the charges is lacking. This attitude, in one quarter, brought a paradoxical remark: "The baseball magnates said the game and their receipts would die if the games were broadcast. "Well," went the succinct argument, "baseball just wound up its greatest year."

Guild Taps N. Y. Talent Field

New York—The Screen Guild Show, heard each Sunday at 7:30 p. m., over CBS from Hollywood, was shifted to the east for three performances "because we wanted to tap the New York talent field," the program's director states. Virtually every talent and labor union on the coast contributes services free to the program. The money Gulf pays for the show is turned over to the Motion Picture Relief Fund.

"We wanted a change of pace for the show," declares Hubbel Robinson jr., of Young & Rubicam. "Also, Gulf dealers in this territory wanted to see it."


BACHELOR MOTHER
IN NAME ONLY
GUNGA DIN
LOVE AFFAIR
FIFTH AVENUE GIRL
NURSE EDITH CAVELL
HITS!
ALL OF THEM!
and now—
SIX MORE SMASH HITS FROM RKO...
THE TALK OF THE INDUSTRY.....

KAY KYSER *and* ADOLPHE MENJOU *in*

THAT'S RIGHT— YOU'RE WRONG

with MAY ROBSON · LUCILLE BALL · DENNIS O'KEEFE · EDWARD EVERETT HORTON · ROSCOE KARNS · MORONI OLSEN *and* KAY KYSER'S BAND *featuring* GINNY SIMMS · HARRY BABBITT SULLY MASON · ISH KABIBBLE *and* "THE COLLEGE OF MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE" · *Produced and directed by DAVID BUTLER · Screen play by William Conselman and James V. Kern*

The laugh-swing sensation now sweeping the nation!... Thrilling Thanksgiving attraction in scores of first runs Coast to Coast and, according to all reports, a picture destined to top the top grosses everywhere!







CHARLES LAUGHTON *in Victor Hugo's* THE

HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

with SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE · THOMAS MITCHELL · MAUREEN O'HARA · EDMOND O'BRIEN · ALAN MARSHAL · WALTER HAMPDEN · KATHARINE ALEXANDER · PRODUCED BY PANDRO S. BERMAN · DIRECTED BY WILLIAM DIETERLE · Screen Play by Sonya Levien · Adaptation by Bruno Frank

One of the greatest motion pictures of all time! . . . Everything about it pointing to such crowd-pulling power as to establish new box-office records . . . Produced on a scale of such magnitude and magnificence as to dwarf all previous conceptions of the possibilities of the screen! . . . ALL SET AS THE INDUSTRY'S SHOW EVENT FOR NEW YEARS!







VIGIL IN THE NIGHT

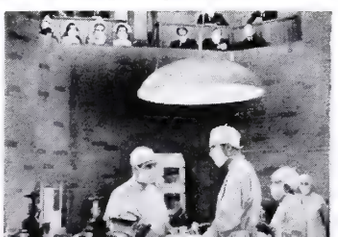
starring

CAROLE LOMBARD · BRIAN AHERNE · ANNE SHIRLEY *with* JULIEN MITCHELL · ROBERT COOTE · FROM THE NOVEL BY A. J. CRONIN

Produced and Directed by GEORGE STEVENS · PANDRO S. BERMAN in charge of production

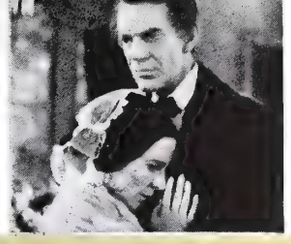
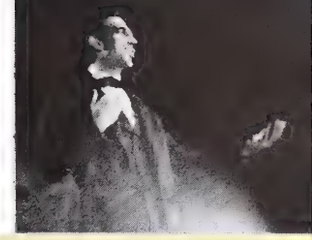
For a ready-made audience numbering practically all of the picture-goers of the nation comes this rich fulfilment of their greatest expectations... Drama —deep, tense, absorbing and tremendously exciting... in the atmosphere that makes this great picture relate to the nursing profession as "The Citadel" related to the medical profession.









ROBERT E. SHERWOOD'S PULITZER PRIZE PLAY

ABE LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS

starring

RAYMOND MASSEY GENE LOCKHART • RUTH GORDON • MARY HOWARD
DOROTHY TREE • HARVEY STEPHENS • MINOR WATSON • ALAN BAXTER
PRODUCED BY MAX GORDON • DIRECTED BY JOHN CROMWELL • Screen Play by Robert E. Sherwood

Never in screen history has a more moving story been filmed than in this — THE GREAT AMERICAN MOTION PICTURE! . . . Some who see it will say it's the greatest picture ever made; many more will gloriously thrill to the privilege of being a part of what it represents; all must agree that the screen has no greater power than to lay life itself in the hearts of a people! . . . Like Lincoln himself, the picture towers in majesty—ALONE!







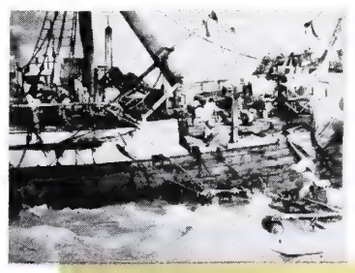
ALLEGHENY UPRISING

starring

CLAIRE TREVOR • JOHN WAYNE *with* **GEORGE SANDERS • BRIAN DONLEVY • WILFRID LAWSON • ROBERT BARRAT • JOHN F. HAMILTON • MORONI OLSEN • EDDIE QUILLAN** • Produced by P. J. Wolfson • Directed by William A. Seiter • PANDRO S. BERMAN in Charge of Production • Screen Play by P. J. Wolfson

RKO RADIO'S giant of action shows . . . Now playing throughout the country to some of the most satisfactory grosses theatres have known in months . . . A big show for big business RIGHT NOW!



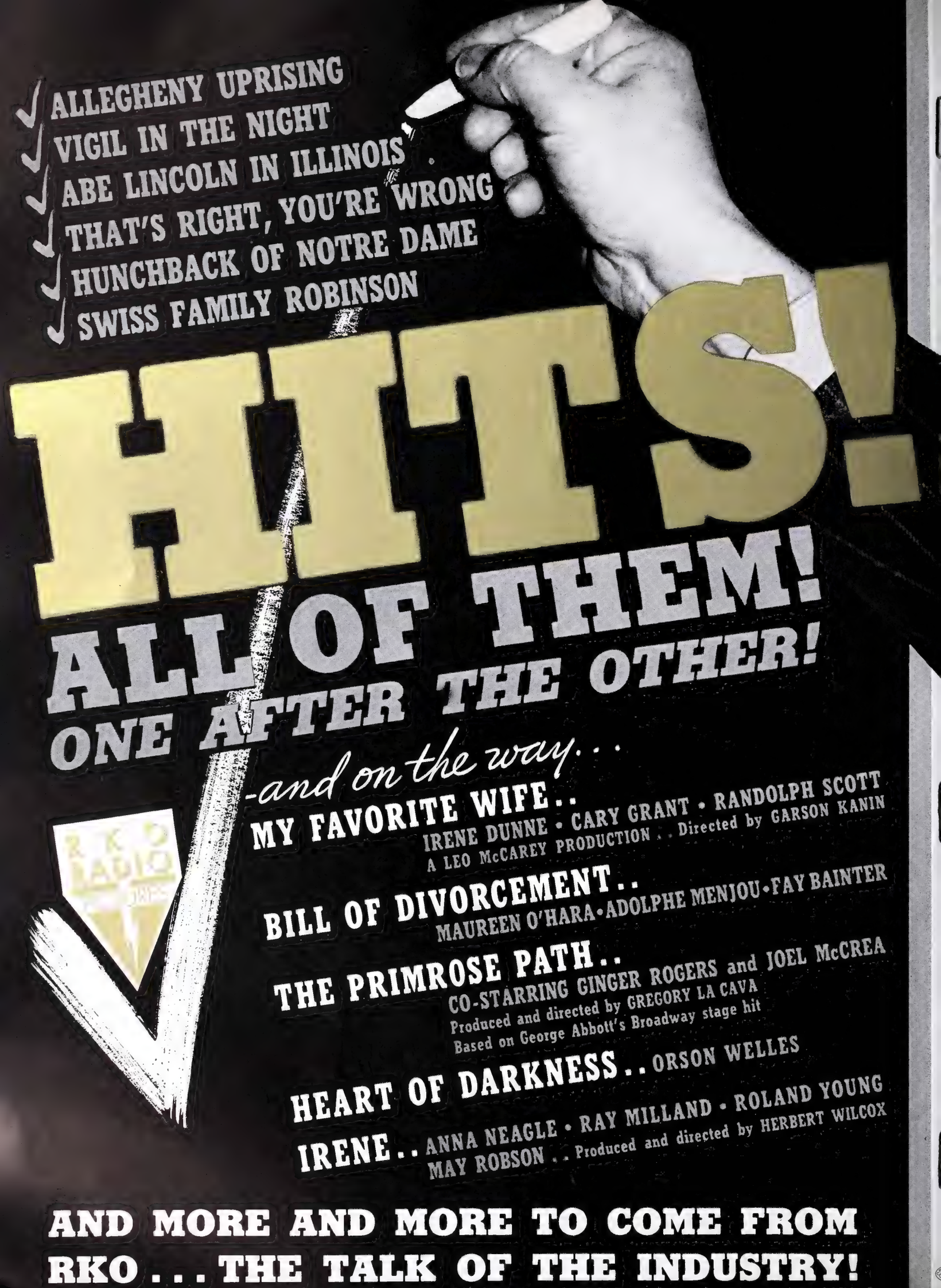



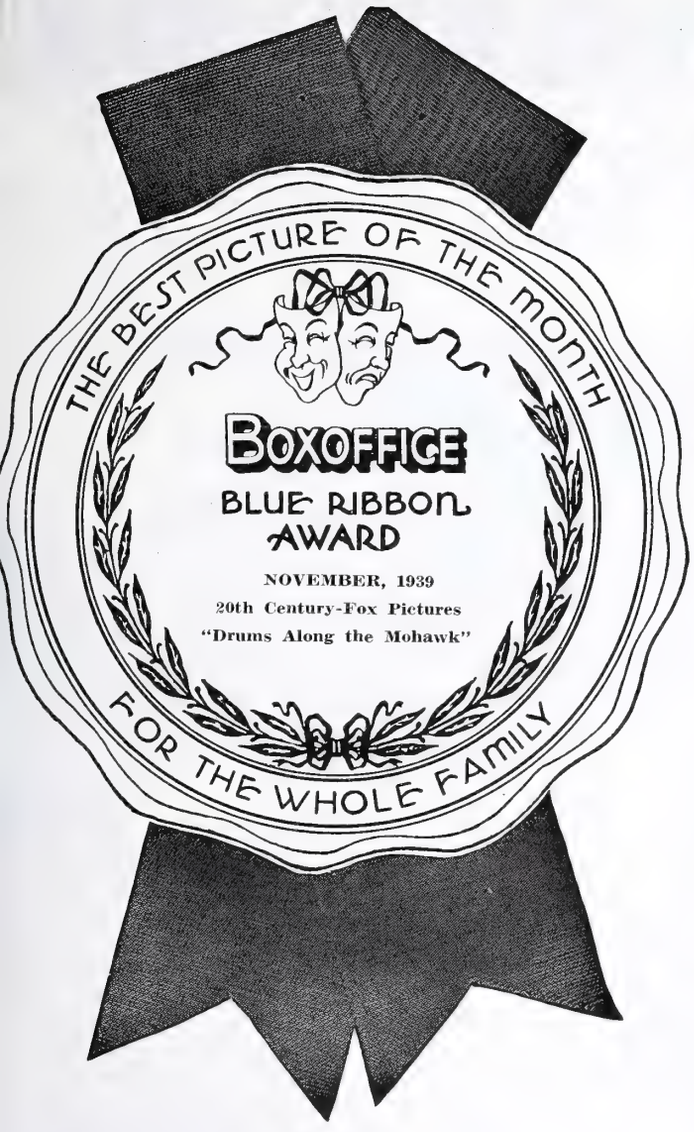

SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON

with

THOMAS MITCHELL • EDNA BEST • FREDDIE BARTHOLOMEW • TERRY KILBURN • TIM HOLT • BABY BOBBIE QUILLAN .. A "THE PLAY'S THE THING" PRODUCTION • Produced by GENE TOWNE and GRAHAM BAKER • Directed by Edward Ludwig

Six months ago we promised that you could look for one of the greatest novelty adventure dramas the screen ever knew in "Swiss Family Robinson"...Now it's virtually completed, and the results justify the most enthusiastic claims any company ever made for a great attraction.


ALLEGHENY UPRISING
VIGIL IN THE NIGHT
ABE LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG
HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME
SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON
HITS!
ALL OF THEM!
ONE AFTER THE OTHER!
-and on the way...
MY FAVORITE WIFE..
IRENE DUNNE • CARY GRANT • RANDOLPH SCOTT
A LEO McCAREY PRODUCTION .. Directed by GARSON KANIN
BILL OF DIVORCEMENT..
MAUREEN O'HARA • ADOLPHE MENJOU • FAY BAINTER
THE PRIMROSE PATH..
CO-STARRING GINGER ROGERS and JOEL McCREA
Produced and directed by GREGORY LA CAVA
Based on George Abbott's Broadway stage hit
HEART OF DARKNESS.. ORSON WELLES
IRENE.. ANNA NEAGLE • RAY MILLAND • ROLAND YOUNG
MAY ROBSON .. Produced and directed by HERBERT WILCOX
AND MORE AND MORE TO COME FROM
RKO . . . THE TALK OF THE INDUSTRY!



This Award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 200 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.



"Drums Along the Mohawk" Takes November Blue Ribbon Award

"Drums Along the Mohawk," 20th Century-Fox's vivid Technicolor film of Indian warfare, has been selected by the National Screen Council as the outstanding November release, and winner of the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for that month.

Twentieth-Fox has won two other Awards this year, for "Young Mr. Lincoln" (June) and "Stanley and Livingstone" (August).

"Drums Along the Mohawk" portrays early America in the days when pioneers were building new frontiers in the wilderness, and fighting against the onslaught of the savage Iroquois, the women fighting side by side with their menfolk. The story opens with a city-bred bride beginning her married life as a pioneer in Mohawk Valley and adjusting herself to a life of hardship and privation. She and her husband find their fortunes progressing, only to have tomahawks swoop down and destroy all they had built.

Cast of Characters

Lana (Magdelana) ..... CLAUDETTE COLBERT
Gilbert Martin ..... HENRY FONDA
Mrs. McKlennar .. EDNA MAY OLIVER
Christian Reall ..... EDDIE COLLINS
Caldwell ..... JOHN CARRADINE
Mary Reall ..... DORRIS BOWDON
Mrs. Weaver ..... JESSIE RALPH
Reverend Rosenkrantz ..... ARTHUR SHIELDS
John Weaver ..... ROBERT LOWERY
Gen. Nicholas Herkimer ..... ROGER IMHOF
Joe Boleo ..... FRANCIS FORD
Adam Helmer ..... WARD BOND
Mrs. Demooth ..... KAY LINAKER
Dr. Petry ..... RUSSELL SIMPSON
Landlord ..... SPENCER CHARTERS
Jacob Small ..... SI JENKS
Amos Hartman ..... J. RONALD PENNICK
George Weaver ..... ARTHUR AYLESWORTH
Blue Back ..... CHIEF BIG TREE
Dr. Robert Johnson ..... CHARLES TANNEN
Capt. Mark DeMooth .. PAUL MCVEY
Mrs. Reall ..... ELIZABETH JONES
Daisy ..... BEULAH HALL JONES
Paymaster ..... CLARENCE H. WILSON
General ..... LIONEL PAPE
Rev. Daniel Gros .. EDWIN MAXWELL
Mr. Borst ..... ROBERT GREIG
Mrs. Borst ..... CLARA BLANDICK

Production Staff

Executive Producer ..... DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Associate Producer ..... RAYMOND GRIFFITH
Director ..... JOHN FORD
Screenplay ..... LAMAR TROTTI, SONYA LEVIEN
Based on novel by ..... WALTER D. EDMONDS
Photography .... BERT GLENNON, ASC
Photographed in Technicolor:
Director of Photography ..... RAY RENNAHAN, ASC
Technicolor Director ..... NATALIE KALMUS
Associate ..... HENRI JAFFA
Music by ..... ALFRED NEWMAN
Art Direction ..... RICHARD DAY, MARK-LEE KIRK
Set Decorations .... THOMAS LITTLE
Film Editor ..... ROBERT SIMPSON
Costumes ..... GWEN WAKELING
Sound ..... E. CLAYTON WARD, ROGER HEMAN

IF AUDIENCES WANT



More laughs per foot of film than any picture we've seen this season!



A "PINCH" . . . AND A HUG!



HAIR-RAISING MYSTERY!

"Swell comedy that should please in any situation...perfect screen fare for the laugh loving audiences of today."
—Showman's Trade Review

"Loaded with laughs...swell dialogue ...original situations...uproarious entertainment down to the last scene."
—Los Angeles Examiner

"A peak load of humorous entertainment...merit enough to entitle all hands to a congratulatory slap on the back."
—Motion Picture Daily

IT ROLLED 'EM IN THE AISLES AT THE ORPHEUM IN NEW ORLEANS!

"...a new high in comedy drama!"
—New Orleans Item

TO LAUGH HERE IS A LAUGHING TRIUMPH!



ARRESTING SITUATIONS!

Selected by the Bijou Theatre, Springfield, Mass., and E. M. Loew's Theatre, Hartford, Conn., for their Thanksgiving Attraction.



A FEAST OF MIRTH!

MELVYN DOUGLAS • JOAN BLONDELL

The Amazing Mr. Williams

with

RUTH DONNELLY · CLARENCE KOLB · EDWARD BROPHY · JOHN WRAY

Screen play by Dwight Taylor, Sy Bartlett, Richard Maibaum

Directed by **ALEXANDER HALL** · Associate Producer **EVERETT RISKIN**

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Atlanta "Wind" Crazy As Premiere Nears

ATLANTA—With all of the 2,000-odd tickets sold out at $10 each for Loew's Grand Theatre, M-G-M and Loew's sidetracked a carload of grief when the house for the "Gone With the Wind" premiere was turned over to the Atlanta Community Fund and the mayor's committee. Requests continue to pour in and cannot be accommodated. This has turned into a major problem. Since the distributor and circuit washed their hands of the ticket handling, all inquiries are being turned over to the local fund.

After the first screening, December 15, 8,000 persons strong will turn out for the local charity ball. All tickets for this event, likewise, have been sold out, what with Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh and others of the cast to assemble here with David O. Selznick, the producer, and a number of other coast and New York executives.

In brief, Atlanta has gone "Wind" crazy. Bill Ferguson, head of M-G-M exploitation, made his second trip here over the week-end to confer with E. B. Coleman, field exploiteer, on publicity and other arrangements. Bill Hebert is on special publicity.

After the $10 premiere, the Grand will adopt a two-a-day policy with 75 cents for matinees and $1.10 evenings. New York, Los Angeles and Boston also will have two-a-day showings.

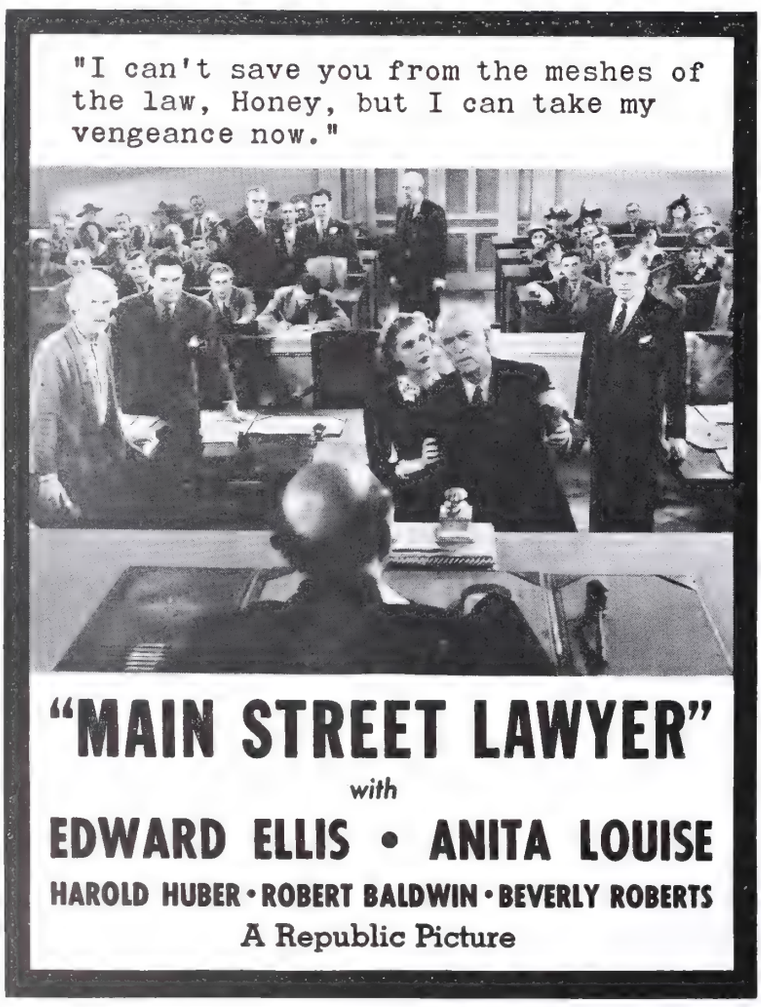
Metro Starts Field Bonus System

Chicago—M-G-M is instituting a bonus system for the American exchanges whereby it will be possible for every employe in every exchange to participate, it was announced at the company's midseason meeting here. It will go into effect for the current year and is the first time that any company has offered all its employes the opportunity of participating in bonuses throughout the year.

Vidor's Next Metro Will Star Gable or Tracy

HOLLYWOOD—Returning from an extensive vacation in New York and a stop-over at South Bend, Ind., for the Notre Dame-USC game, King Vidor states his next for M-G-M will be "The Witch in the Wilderness," a novel by Desmond Holdridge with either Clark Gable or Spencer Tracy in the lead.

Vidor recently completed the all-Technicolor version of "Northwest Passage," which is to be released in 12 reels. He says the ending has been left open for a sequel in the event M-G-M decides on a followup. His two-year contract, which began when he directed "A Yank at Oxford" in England, is up in six months. Whether he will renew is a matter for the future, he declares.



Says All "Wind" Dates To Be on Percentage

(Continued from page 10)

and west sides of the city, where the picture will also be shown at the same advanced prices.

The three-hour-and-forty-minute feature will have three showings daily on the unreserved seat sale basis, with approximately 30 minutes time elapsing between showings. This time will enable theatres to turn over crowds with the least possible confusion. Of this time, the house lights must be up for 20 minutes. For the other ten minutes the theatre, at its convenience, might show a newsreel. The length of the intermission for the picture itself, will depend upon the individual circumstances.

To discourage patrons from arriving in the middle of the picture, all ads will emphasize the starting time of the picture daily. Rodgers emphasized that M-G-M is anticipating "tremendous attendance."

The regular exploitation staff will assist exhibitors in publicizing the run of the picture. There will be no additions to what Rodgers termed "the largest and best exploitation staff of any film company."

Rodgers said that he had given the studio an order for 350 of the Technicolor prints for the initial domestic engagements. While Arthur Loew, head of M-G-M's foreign distribution department, has not made his plans known, it is understood that division will utilize about the same number of prints, the cost of each of which is about $1,000.

The M-G-M sales head said that the advance ticket sale for the Atlanta engagement, after the opening night, is the largest the company has experienced anywhere at anytime for any engagement.

Speakers during the convention here were Rodgers, Al Lichtman, who stopped off en route to New York; Howard Dietz, Edward Saunders, Tom Connors, and L. V. Calvert, New York representative for David O. Selznick.

Quimby Says Metro Tops Last Year's Shorts Progress

NEW YORK—Here for a week, Fred C. Quimby, M-G-M short subjects manager, stated the company is ahead of last year on production of shorts and the entire program will be completed in January. There are 79 on the current schedule. It is too early to tell about plans for next year, he added, but there will be no shutdown of his department.

Zukor Skips Mexico Trip; Attends Cuban Meets

NEW YORK—Adolph Zukor, chairman of the Paramount board, has skipped his scheduled trip to Mexico and now is in Cuba attending a series of meetings and banquets held in his honor with Jack Rappaport, manager for Cuba.

Zukor is expected to return here shortly before the Christmas holidays.

GETTING THE BIG CHEERS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Sonja
HENIE
in
EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT NIGHT
with RAY
MILLAND
ROBERT
CUMMINGS

SWANEE RIVER
The story of Stephen C. Foster—the Great American Troubadour
in **TECHNICOLOR** with
DON **AMECHE** · ANDREA **LEEDS** · AL **JOLSON**

20th CENTURY FOX

Darryl F. Zanuck
in Charge of Production

BOXOFFICE FLASHES

No Changes in M-G-M Program

MEMPHIS—Al Lichtman, en route to the coast from New York via American Airlines, stated M-G-M will have 52 "great pictures" for 1940-41 at the same total production cost as the current season, $40,000,000 approximately. He does not intend to attend the Atlanta premiere of "Gone With the Wind."

Selznick to Vacation

HOLLYWOOD—After completing "Rebecca," David O. Selznick plans a six-month vacation, following which he will decide upon future production.

Not Seeking Theatres

BALTIMORE—No new deals for additional theatres are under way, it was stated following annual stockholders meeting of UA Theatre Circuit. The circuit is interested in about 250 nationally. Dennis F. O'Brien presided at the local meeting. William P. Philips, vice-president and treasurer, presided at the New York directors' meeting two days later when the regular $1.25 preferred dividend was declared. There were no changes in director or executive setups.

Brandt Expounds His System

CHICAGO—Here on a stopover on his barnstorming tour, Harry Brandt, head of the ITOA of New York, repeated he is seeking an arbitration system for trade practices generally and not limited to contracts. From here he headed for Detroit.

18 Finally Rejected

ALBANY—Of the 1,920 films submitted to the film division of the state education department for the year ending June 30, last, 24 were rejected. Of these 24, six were approved after eliminations were ordered.

Detroit Adds 44 Houses

DETROIT—In two and a half years 44 new theatres have been added to the local theatre map for a total of 26,917 more seats. The average size of new theatres is 650 seats.

All for the Same Cause

MILWAUKEE—Many local exhibitors in this vicinity and all over the country, are joining hands in holding special shows for collection of toys, gifts and food, instead of admissions, for annual Christmas parties. Locally, 50-odd theatres are participating.



Roosevelt Reportedly Behind 'Dream' Firm

NEW YORK—Latest in the rumors involving James Roosevelt, Samuel Goldwyn executive, is he is anxious to finance a new film company in which David O. Selznick will be the producer, Frank Capra the director, and Robert Riskin the scripter.

Capra and Riskin recently formed a new producing outfit on the coast with the understanding, it is said, Columba will have first crack at release. It is further reported that if Capra and Riskin go in with the Roosevelt setup, the arrangement will stand. However, other sources say the son of the president is angling for a UA release, too.

On his departure for the coast, Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, scotched reports Goldwyn is negotiating to release Gary Cooper's next picture through the company. Said Balaban, "Goldwyn has a contract with UA, and I don't think anyone would risk interfering with that arrangement. Certainly we are not!"

Leo Spitz denies he is interested in reports linking him with Pandro Berman and others forming new producing units.

Basis for Exchange Pact Talks With Union Sought

NEW YORK—Having completed the election of seven delegates who will represent the Film Exchange Employes Union, IATSE affiliate, in negotiations with major distributors for a new contract, the regional groups are endeavoring to set up requests that will form a basis for the conferences over new terms and working conditions. The present pact expired November 30, having been in force a little over a year.

Delegates who will represent the union are Lou Johnson, New York; Lawrence J. Katz, Pittsburgh; W. E. Crick, Memphis; Leo C. Bishop, Chicago; Marie Holdsworth, Des Moines; Lee Cronk, Denver, and F. J. Smith, San Francisco.

Beg Pardon, Please

NEW YORK—Reports National Poster Association had made a deal to take over Warner accessories are denied on both fronts. The arrangement, according to the distributor and rental association, is for one year and permits National members to sell the company's accessories, a right not previously granted. The deal does not disturb Warner exchange personnel whatsoever.

Rose Return Delayed

NEW YORK—The return of David Rose, Paramount's production chief in England, has been delayed because of the canceled sailing of the *Statendam*. Arrival here was scheduled for Monday. Rose is making other arrangements and may take the Clipper from Lisbon, Portugal.

Mayer East December 10

NEW YORK—Louis B. Mayer is due from the coast December 10.

Cash Curb May Force Quick British Start

HOLLYWOOD—Immediate resumption of production in England by American companies may be a direct aftermath of Britain's reduction of remittances to U. S. distributors by 50 per cent.

Hardly had the new currency export regulations been announced by the Board of Trade than David Rose, head of English production for Paramount, boarded a boat for New York to discuss getting new films under way. This is disclosed by Stanton Griffis, chairman of the company's executive committee, who is here with other Paramount officials on studio conferences, including John W. Hicks jr., head of foreign activities.

The group has been here a week and Rose is expected to come on from New York. However, Barney Balaban, president, may cut short his visit to fly east for home office conferences with Rose.

Griffis' words when asked for his reaction to the 50 per cent cut in film rental remittances were: "We don't mind it a bit. That portion of rentals which remains in England simply will go toward liquidating our debts."

This is borne out in a London dispatch announcing new remittance arrangements, which said Paramount and Warner anticipated action of this sort by borrowing substantial sums in Great Britain and will be able to pay off these loans with cash accumulated under the new restrictions. Universal also is said to be in this position.

Quota Holds to March 31

Export currency regulations include a provision that American quota films which may be shown in Britain will be maintained at present levels until March 31, 1940. This, of course, impels American producers to resume production that was stalled at the outbreak of war.

Although confirmation is lacking, it appears imminent that Ben Goetz, who recently resigned as production head in England for M-G-M, will take up his former post without undue delay. He has been at Palm Springs recuperating from a serious operation in the east. However, when Nicholas M. Schenck, M-G-M president, recently returned from the coast, he declared it was the company's intention to get English production under way as soon as the currency restrictions were formally set up. He said "We want to produce in England as soon as the government will let us."

Alperson Rejoins Chain As Fitzgerald Aide

MILWAUKEE—Edward L. Alperson has rejoined National Theatres as assistant to Harold J. Fitzgerald, president of Fox Wisconsin Theatre Agency, Inc., local unit in the national circuit. Alperson has been on the job for about a week, having accompanied Fitzgerald from New York where the assignment was concluded with Spyros Skouras. Up until recently Alperson headed Grand National, which he organized after leaving the post of executive film buyer for National.

"Gulliver's Travels" Available At 40% or Profit Sharing

Mid-Continent Meeting Calls Robert Gillham

KANSAS CITY—Robert H. Gillham, publicity and advertising head for Paramount, met here during the week with Jack Dailey, Bill Lansburg and Karl Kruger, field exploiteers, on "Gulliver's Travels."

Studio matters were discussed with Cliff Lewis, studio advertising and publicity head, the middle of the week. The two sessions here avoided a coast trip for Gillham, who returned to New York later in the week.

Einfeld Back East in Month For "Fighting 69th" Campaign

CHICAGO—En route to the coast after several weeks in New York, S. Charles Einfeld, publicity and advertising head for Warner, stated he will return east in about a month to work on the international campaign for "The Fighting 69th."

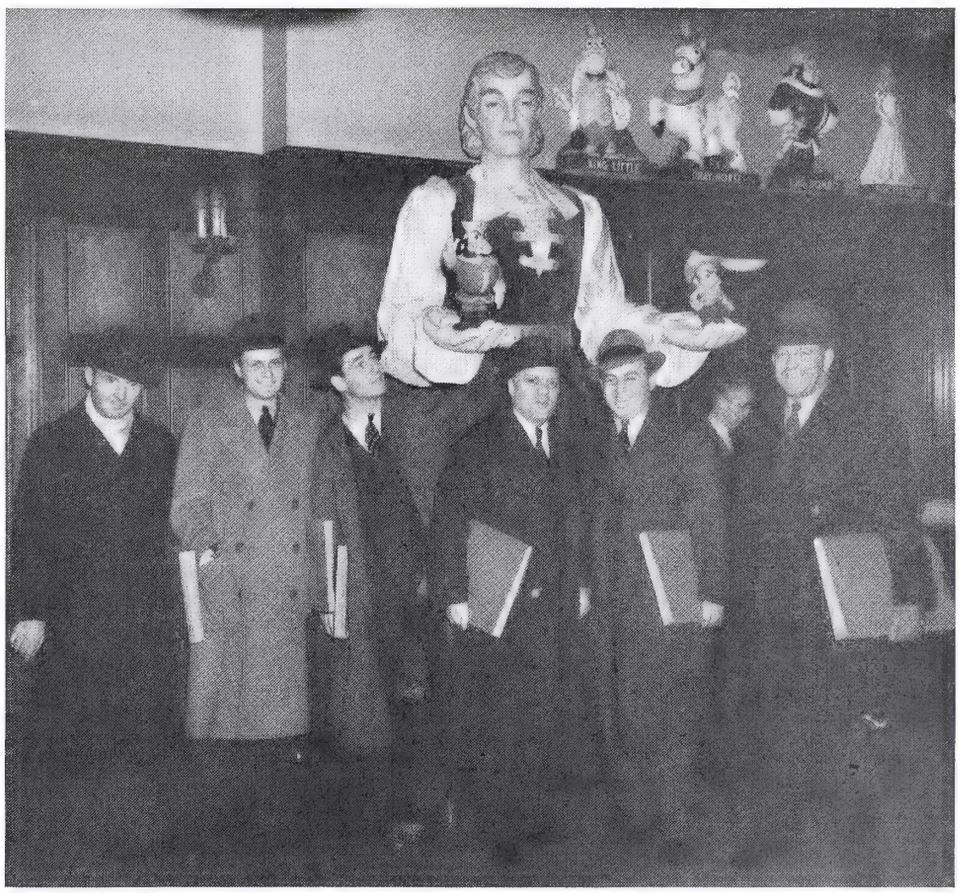
NEW YORK—Paramount is selling "Gulliver's Travels," full length cartoon, at either 40 per cent or "top flat rentals" in which a profit-sharing arrangement is agreed upon when the gross hits a certain figure, it is learned.

Exhibitors who play the film late were taken into consideration when the profit-sharing plan was decided upon, it is said, in realization of what the company hopes will see extended and moveover run engagements getting "the cream of the business." These bookings will be at percentage.

The film is being sold on separate contracts, but is included in the 1939-40 lineup, which means it cannot be bought unless an operator takes the company's entire program.

Yates Back Dec. 20

HOLLYWOOD—Herbert J. Yates is due to return to New York by December 20. He has been here about a week.



Travel Ahead of Gulliver—

Just the first section of a long train of Paramount exploiteers who will blanket the country in behalf of "Gulliver's Travels" is this group of six, already pitching away as follows: Left to right, Ralph Ravenscroft covering Detroit, Indianapolis, Louisville, St. Louis and Cincinnati; Thomas Jefferson for New York state; Harlan Hobbs for Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Birmingham and Nashville; Vernon Gray for Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore and Richmond; Clinton Bolton in Boston, Providence, Worcester, Hartford, New Haven, Springfield and Portland, and Ben Hill, covering Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

May Ask Clearance Slashes for "Wind"

NEW YORK—M-G-M may decide to ask first runs playing "Gone With the Wind" to waive a portion of clearance in order to set up as many subsequent bookings as possible in a predetermined plan to "milk the country as dry as it has ever been milked by a film."

Calculations on paper appear to indicate the film may run seven and eight weeks where normal runs seldom go beyond two or three weeks. With this in mind, home office sales conferences are leaning to the impression it may be necessary to request first runs to permit neighborhood de luxe operators to play "Wind" day and date before the usual protection period has expired.

Lending weight to the potentialities of this formula is the determination to set as many moveover engagements as possible, which, on top of extended first runs would hold the film up from subsequent bookings for well over a year if the clearance waiver idea is not effected.

A still further aspect in this connection is the reaction the company has had through a questionnaire sent to about 5,000 persons in ten towns strategically located throughout the country. According to those who have seen the replies about 95 per cent who have taken the trouble to answer say they intend to see the film and are willing to pay up to $2.

To test the clearance waiver idea M-G-M may set the film in three de luxe neighborhood houses in this area after it has completed about half its anticipated run at the Capitol, a Loew-M-G-M Broadway showwindow, which has 28 days clearance over next run.

The company is currently working on about 24 exchange center bookings that will bring the film in shortly after January 5. The next move will be to set dates in the usual first runs in larger towns, with this batch of openings scheduled for latter January.

Schine Rejects McKay Southern Entry Idea

NEW YORK—J. Myer Schine will not accept the suggestion made by Willard S. McKay, his local attorney, to expand the Schine circuit into southern regions. The head of the independent circuit has turned down the proposal and now McKay intends to interest other parties in a move to build and operate in the state of Florida.

McKay has a home in Miami and his wife spends her winters there. He believes there is an opportunity for an enterprising theatre operator to enter the territory. However, as far as the Schines are concerned, it is no dice.

Rose Is Due

NEW YORK—David Rose, Paramount's British production chief, arrives on the *Statendam* either Tuesday or Wednesday. The boat was delayed in Rotterdam 48 hours before sailing.

RKO Board to Meet On Atlas Plan

New York—RKO's board, slated to meet this week, will convene the latter part of next week instead, to consider the new Atlas financing proposal.

Will Name Berman's Successor January

NEW YORK—Selection of an RKO production chief to succeed Pandro S. Berman, it is learned, will be made in January. George J. Schaefer, president, leaves for the coast shortly after the first of the year. He expects to remain in Hollywood three to four weeks.

Berman was officially slated to wind up his duties Friday and take a long vacation, although his contract does not expire until the spring.

10 Per Cent Increase May Be Request at Newark

NEW YORK—The three unions that will open negotiations with major companies at Newark, N. J., December 5 over new terms and working conditions as provided each year under the five-year basic agreement, are expected to ask for a ten per cent wage increase, in the opinion of a union spokesman.

"Anything is liable to happen," this source declares, "but the sentiment of the unions is that they are entitled to the same increase granted IATSE workers on the coast." Musicians, electricians and carpenters unions are involved.

Lou Johnson Unopposed In B-51 Election

NEW YORK—Lou Johnson, president of Local B-51, Film Exchange Employes Union, will be unopposed when the union holds elections at the Capitol Hotel Monday night. Leo Braun has again been nominated as vice-president. Other candidates are Dave Newman and William Lytle for the combination post of financial secretary and treasurer; Gerald Lee and Herman Berland for recording and corresponding secretary; August Kubart and Harry Bernstein for sergeant-at-arms.

From the following 9 exchanges, members will elect eight representatives to comprise the executive and grievance board: Carmen George, Joseph Richichi and Joseph Patterson, M-G-M; Leonard Brooks, Perry Strow and Emanuel Gross, Warner; Ned Gerber and Rubin Beloff, 20th Century-Fox; Selig Epstein and Herbert Williams, RKO; Victor Petitto and Harry Goldberg, Columbia; Harry Newman and Irving Dreeben, UA; Conrad Forschner, Paramount; Frank Gollotto, Universal, and John Buvalik, Republic.

The following candidates for members of the board of trustees have been nominated, of which three will be elected: Irving Damrauer, Rose Gunty, Ben Block, Al Kovner and Jerome Nodell. Successful candidates serve one-year terms, beginning January 1.

Confident Federation Quota Attainable

NEW YORK—Enthusiasm is high that the amusement division of the New York and Brooklyn Federations of Jewish Charities will raise its $250,000 quota. During a campaign luncheon, presided over by Co-chairman David Bernstein and Major Albert Warner, at the Hotel Astor, Bernstein predicted the division would beat last year's figures. A full report by all company committees will be read at the next meeting on December 12.

Mid-drive reports were presented by Harry Buxbaum, chairman of the motion picture exchanges committee; B. S. Moss, head of the accessories committee, and Joseph H. Seidelman of Universal. In the absence of Harry Brandt, who is on the coast, Samuel Rinzler was appointed to take charge of the work being done by the independent theatres committee. Max A. Cohen, Charles Moses and David Weinstock will work with him.

Allied of New York Will Fight Bingo Proposal

NEW YORK—Allied of New York members will be urged to fight a proposed bill that would legalize Bingo games in the state when the unit meets in Buffalo, December 13, a spokesman declares.

The organization views the bill, which is threatened by Assemblyman Max Turshen of Brooklyn, as "spelling ruin" to theatres if the January legislature passes it. The assemblyman recently unsuccessfully defended 12 organizers of Bingo games convicted of violating the penal laws. After the court sentence, he observed: "We legislators have taken care of pari-mutuels, now we'll take care of this."

Elections will take place at the meeting. Max A. Cohen, president, is expected to continue unopposed. The statewide session also will consider adoption of new by-laws and possibly plan a concerted attack against the Neely bill.

"Misallocations" to Get N. J. Allied's Study

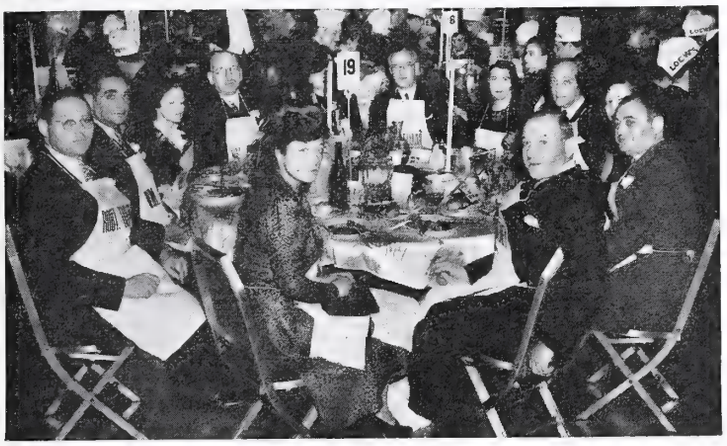
NEW YORK—Allied of New Jersey has appointed a committee to study allocations of pictures "which we feel have been misallocated over the past few months" by some companies, Lee Newbury, president, declared after a unit meeting at the Hotel Astor. After the committee makes its report the organization "will ask for corrections" if the situation warrants, Newbury added.

Members discussed the cash game condition as it affects theatres in Essex county, where a police ban caused discontinuance of the practice Friday. While it is felt too early to determine how exhibitors will fight the ban, the situation is being watched with a view to establishing a test case, Newbury said.

Resume Monthly Meetings

ALBANY—Eastern New York unit of Allied is resuming monthly meetings at the Ten Eyck Hotel.

Here's the Party You Missed Unless You're a Loew-ite















—Mercury Studios

The rarefied atmosphere of Park Avenue, some 60 stories up where the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf-Astoria begins, has witnessed some swanky affairs. But the party given by Loew's for the managerial personnel, as witness above, is probably the first informal fun-and-food frolic that has given a billing like "Eat, Dance and Make Mary" and got away with it. Up top, in the left-most corner, is most of the circuit's official family. On the left, in glasses, is Gene Picker, and swinging clockwise, are Marvin Schenck, Mrs. Nicholas M. Schenck, C. C. Moskowitz, Mrs. Oscar A. Doob, President Nicholas M. Schenck, Mrs. Marvin Schenck, Joseph R. Vogel, Mrs. Eugene Picker, Oscar A. Doob, Leopold Friedman and Mrs. Friedman. On the opposite side of the page is a homemade Sour Soviet Symphony. The audience was to guess what was being played and readers are invited to guess who's hiding behind the foliage. Anyhow, in the group are Serge Karasik, Harvi Everettow, Eduardo Douglaff, Abrahamanoff Kaplansky, Martino Rosenburghiff, Larry Starkislaw, Juseff Rebenfeldow, Sidinsky Kanetplay and William Downsky. There being little, if any, necessity for identifying the next photo, let it be noted, merely for the record, that the galaxy of moth-eaten beauty in the Sexless Sextette is made up, from left to right, of Jack Feiman, Bob Kilgore, Nat Adelson, Eric VanDyck, Ed Burke and Sam Pearlman. The next shot will give you an idea of what you, too, would look like if you entered a group class supposed to bring out the finer points of the La Conga, which is a dance, not a drink. The gent in the slouchy piece of man's millinery is none other than Larry Beatus, who is enacting a scene from a scene he seen years ago. There is no connection between the angle his gun is pointing and the next photo, which is part of "The Blue Danube" waltz performed by Fay Marbe and her brother, Gilbert, manager of the Ziegfeld. Merely to prove you're not seeing pink elephants, the last photo is "Doc" Dolinsky's impersonation of Shirley Temple.

A Protest to Japan Viewed as Logical

NEW YORK—Action by six American representatives in Tokyo in asking United States Ambassador Joseph C. Grew to file a formal protest is viewed here as only logical as a result of failure of the Japanese government to live up to its formal agreement made with distributors in October, 1938.

At that time, Finance Ministry agreed to permit the import of $30,000 worth of film based on a fixed valuation of 1.5 cents per foot, during the ensuing year. Remittances are kept in the San Francisco branch of the Yokohoma Specie Bank without interest for three years.

Main gripe of the companies is that $1,500,000 in receipts are frozen in Japan by the government's refusal to grant further permits. According to the agreement, the permits were supposed to have been used by January 1, 1939.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government has been extending the agreement by declining to grant the full amount. Approximately half of the agreed total in permits has been issued to distributors.

According to one foreign manager, the complaint made by the representatives that the Japanese are guilty of discriminatory tactics and restraint of trade is "a reasonable one."

It is his opinion the companies are being used as a "football" in the political conflict between military and civilian groups. Another factor which has not helped matters, he believes, is the action by the United States in terminating its trade treaty with Japan on January 1.

The picture in Japan is not pleasant, according to spokesmen. On the first of the year the new film law goes into effect. Aside from placing rigid control of the industry in the hands of a film commission, it states a theatre cannot show more than 50 foreign pictures during the year.

As yet, this prohibitive provision has not been clearly explained but exhibition of American pictures in the future may be sharply curtailed. It is also understood operations will be more hamstrung than ever.

Warner Net Nears Two Millions for Last Year

NEW YORK—A net profit of $1,740,907 is reported by Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., for the year ending August 26, equivalent to 36 cents per share on the common. This compares with $1,929,721 for the same period last year, or 41 cents a share.

As a result of the European war, revisions have been made in the amortization table in anticipation of the decline in foreign income. Decrease in rates of foreign exchange have reduced film rentals from abroad. Amortization charges, accordingly, are increased to $674,780, of which $551,371 is due to the war.

The gross income, after eliminating inter-company transactions, was $102,083,131 as compared with $102,205,911 for the previous year. No dividends have been paid on the preferred since March 2, 1932.



—Metropolitan Photos

"Here's Where We Land"—

That is what Joseph Friedman, Columbia's managing director for England, is telling Foreign Manager J. A. McConville. Friedman arrived on the continent with Jack Segal, manager of foreign exchange operations, standing on the right, over the weekend by Clipper. First task for Friedman will be to see whether it will be feasible for Irving Asher to return to England and resume Columbia's quota production. Segal remains on the continent to determine the future of French offices opened before the war. He will also visit Spain and Italy. The map, as can be plainly seen, is pre-Munich.

Odeon Deal Set by Paramount Same as Pre-War Discussion

Near Half Million Yearly For Navy Film Shows

WASHINGTON—Approximately $400,000 a year is spent by the Navy for motion picture programs and equipment for its enlisted personnel throughout the world, it is disclosed in the annual report of the chief of the bureau of navigation to Acting Secretary Charles Edison.

"Motion pictures are shown regularly aboard ship and at shore stations," it was explained by Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, chief of the bureau, in the report. "No admission is charged for these showings, and their cost is borne partly by the welfare and recreation appropriation but mainly by ships' store and ship's service store profits of the activities using the pictures.

"Programs are leased from the producers and, after circulation within the Navy, are returned to the lessors. Two prints each of about 350 motion picture programs are now leased annually. This service cost $343,000 during the past fiscal year. Of this sum, $85,0000 was from the welfare and recreation appropriation, and the balance from ships' store and ship's service store profits, and the bureau's reserve.

"Sound motion picture equipment was placed aboard ships and stations of sufficient size in 1931 and 1932. Ships commissioned in the meantime have also been equipped. In 1938 this bureau began a replacement program of such machines as could not be economically retained in use. Twenty-three units were replaced during the year 1939 at a cost of $55,000."

CHICAGO — The Odeon-Paramount deal whereby Odeon takes over all of the wholly owned Paramount houses in England is the same one that was discussed before the start of the war, according to Barney Balaban, Paramount president, who stopped off in Chicago en route to the west coast. With Balaban was Stanton Griffis, chairman of the executive committee.

Balaban said that the deal includes all of the houses except the Plaza and the Carlton, and that the latter house will be kept by Paramount for the duration of the war, except at Paramount's option, at which time it can turn over that house also to Odeon. Two short-term houses, one in Birmingham and one in Cardiff, also are excluded from the deal.

The Paramount president said that business conditions are improving in this country and that he looks to even better business in the near future.

En route to look over the situation at Universal was Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president. Well satisfied with business thus far, Blumberg said the company has several hundred more contracts now than at the same time last year. "And they are continuing to come in," he added.

He appeared particularly pleased over the pre-release reception given to the Marlene Dietrich-James Stewart film, "Destry Rides Again." "Tower of London," with Basil Rathbone, and "Big Guy," with Victor McLaglen and Jackie Cooper, he intimated, too, are living up to all expectations.

NOW IN SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR

ANNOUNCED over a year ago, Eastman's three new negative films scored an instant success. Today, Plus-X, Super-XX, and Background-X are firmly established favorites. Throughout the industry their unrivalled photographic quality and trustworthy uniformity receive well-merited acclaim. Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y. (J.E. Brulatour, Inc., Distributors, Fort Lee, Chicago, Hollywood.)

EASTMAN

PLUS-X
for general studio use

SUPER-XX
for all difficult shots

BACKGROUND-X
for backgrounds and general exterior work

BROADWAY

JOHN FRIEDL of Minneapolis, visiting Leon Netter at Paramount, advises L. J. Ludwig of Minnesota Theatre Corp. is "getting along fine" at the hospital to which he was removed following the automobile accident he was in near Waseca, Minn., November 1. Charles Burton of the circuit's home office maintenance staff, who was also in the crash, is back at his desk, although he's using a cane to help . . . Arthur Freed, producer of "Babes in Arms," is around for a little holiday . . . Julian Rifkin, general manager of Rifkin Theatres in Northampton and Holyoke, Mass., and son of Herman, New England distributor, is engaged to Miss Lee Adaskin of Springfield. A spring wedding is planned . . . Harry M. Bessey, Altec secretary-treasurer, is back at his desk after a trip to the south.

That Tin Pan Alleyish air surrounding J. J. Milstein is a sudden interest the Edward Small eastern representative is taking to plug "My Son, My Son," from the film of the same name, with lyrics by L. Wolfe Gilbert and music by Lew Pollack, and a request to "please announce title of production when broadcasting this number" . . . Ray Milland is on tap from Hollywood . . . The committee in charge of the annual Warner Club Kiddie Xmas Party consists of Ralph Budd, Harry Mayer, Harold Rodner, Sam Schneider, Jules Levey, Max Blackman, Stuart Aarons, Robert Salomons, Irving Birnbaum and Nat Fellman . . . Martin Starr is planning to have May Robson, who is visiting from the coast, appear on his "Hollywood Starr Dust" broadcast over WMCA . . . Wallace Ford is on the local scene from the coast.

When the winter ice breaks up next spring in Maine, Hunter Perry of Charlottesville, Va., is going to be the guest of Maurice N. Wolf, M-G-M's Boston district manager, who promises some fancy trout fishing. It was all arranged over a Hunting Room luncheon table, with Ted O'Shea and Monty Gowthorpe as witnesses . . . Nearby were John Nolan, Comerford city manager in Scranton, Johnny Robertson of the same office and Harry Spiegal, circuit partner. The trio had just closed a deal with RKO . . . Lou Weinberg had Tracy Barham and George Fetick of Hamilton, Ohio, in tow. Eddie Grainger came along to make it a foursome. Spotted around were Laurence Bolognino, Benjamin Pepper, Si Seadler and Howard Dietz.

Burgess Meredith, Roman Bohnan and Betty Field of "Of Mice and Men" are in New York and will be cocktailed by UA next week in honor of the Hal Roach production . . . Incidentally, Allan Jones, Mary Martin and Walter Connolly of "The Great Victor Herbert" also are around town, the former two to appear at the Paramount starting Wednesday . . . Monte Proser flew to the coast Thursday for a week and expects to open his new night club here Christmas Day . . . Gunther R. Lessing, Walt Disney general counsel, is here from the coast with the missus . . . Charles Stern has been up to Gloversville for a visit with the Schines during the week . . . Joe Moskowitz had Sid Silvers in tow the other day with Joe Pincus as a third hand.

Julius Gordon, son of Sol Gordon, Jefferson Amusement head of Beaumont, Tex., left for home Wednesday night after a visit to the Paramount home office . . . Harold Eskin and Clarence Eiseman made a twosome at the Astor the other noon . . . Bill Grady, M-G-M studio talent scout, arrives Monday from Hollywood for a brief visit . . . John Howley flew to Nevada and Los Angeles, Thursday. In the latter city he will join Richard Dwight and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey at the FWC hearing Monday in federal court. Henry Koster left for the coast Thursday after several weeks here . . . Jack Goldstein of Buffalo was in to see Louis Weinzimmer and Harry Egert.

William Philips recently returned from Dallas where he spent a few days looking into Robb & Rowley operations. As v. p.



Accept Award in Person—

When Good Housekeeping *awarded World Windows an honor of merit, the producers of the shorts, Count and Countess Keller, were just in time to receive the honor. Mary Hamman, film editor of the magazine, presents the award to the UA producers on their return from India. Miss Hamman is in the center.*



—Metropolitan Photo

Both Seem Pleased—

Boris Morros (left), producer of "The Flying Deuces," visits the Rialto where Arthur Mayer put on a Hollywood opening for the Laurel and Hardy feature being released by RKO.



—Cosmo-Sileo Photo

Via Air for Airer—

Rosemary Lane, Warner star who appears currently in "Four Wives," as she arrived in New York from the coast to take part in a radio broadcast on the George Jessel program.

and treasurer of United Artists Theatre circuit, which owns 50 per cent of the Texas string. Philips makes at least one trip a year. Since UA bought into the southern chain, R&R has increased its theatres from 65 to 80 . . . Joe Vogel is being kidded quite a bit since he was elected a director of Loew's, mostly by his own cohorts . . . J. Myer Schine was in town Wednesday, but spent most of the day with Willard S. McKay, his local counsel . . . Lynn Farnol gave a swanky party to the press the other night at his home in honor of Sol Lesser, latest addition to the UA producer ranks . . . Archie Mayo is vacationing in these parts again and hasn't failed to check up on Bob Goldstein, Joe Moskowitz and Irving Hoffman, and the mob.

Harry Schroeder, head of UA's foreign statistical department, is the beaming father of a six-and-a-half-pound baby boy, christened William . . . L. Jack Schlaifer has returned from the coast after making a stopover in Chicago . . . Herman Wobber hopes to spend the Christmas holidays on the coast with his family . . . The winter exodus to Florida started Saturday when Harriet Kaplan, secretary to Eddie Golden, and Fay Gillis of UA left on vacations . . . The Washington-Giant sellout Sunday caused the biggest scramble among film executives for cherished ducats . . . Arthur Silverstone's seven-year-old boy, Paul, is recovering nicely from a mastoid operation at Mt. Sinai . . . So is Dave Gould, M-G-M's manager at Puerto Rico, at the French Hospital.

Longest luncheon table seen at Lindy's in many a day consisted of Ernie Emerling, Harry Gold, Morris Kinzler, Morris Helprin, Tom Walker with a newly adorned mustache; Monroe Greenthal, Manny and Arthur Silverstone, Lou Berg and Bernie Waldman. In the adjoining booth, Marvin Schenck, Gene Picker and Bill Moses. Other diners included J. A. McConville, Paul Graetz, Lou Weinberg, Harold Rinzler, Jack Kaplan, Max Fellerman, Walter Gould and Harry Alexander.

Bill Gleicher of M-G-M sales is beamin' from ear to ear, on account of he's the poppa of a newborn son weighing 6 pounds, tagged Norman J. Mrs. G. is doing well at Polyclinic . . . To the Roxy's Homer Harman goes a pair of self-lubricating cuff links for the neatest trick of the week. Harman put six beauteous blondes along the Main Stem, carrying portable radios to further attract attention—which wasn't necessary—and had them hand out small cards reading: "If you want to meet the 'Housekeeper's Daughter'—The gal who does things she hadn't oughter—Dig into your pocket for change of a quarter—And call CI 7-6015." Those who called found a lovely voice at the end of a private telephone in the Roxy urging them to see the film . . . Freddie Schwartz and Henry Randel of Paramount talking everything but shop in the Astor lobby . . . Johnny Murphy, assistant to Joseph R. Vogel, has the mild weather to thank for a stiff back, brought on by so much out-of-door enthusiasm and 63 holes of golf over the weekend.

Rae Ceil Picker, whose daddy is Leonard Picker, Columbia attorney, is expecting a brother or sister around next March . . . Emil K. Ellis, film attorney, is burned up because he took his family to Atlantic City for the weekend in quest of that much publicized ozone, only to walk smack into three days of rain and sleet, while his friends were enjoying a delayed spring in Gotham . . . Lou Johnson, president of Local B-51, Film Exchange Employes Union, grabbed hold of the wrong bottle while taking a bath. The result alarmed him so he was ready to call a doctor. The bottle contained bubble bath soap . . . Rosemary Lane is here from the coast for a vacation, which means taking in the Broadway plays . . . The J. Cheever Cowdins have taken a new apartment at three east 67th St. . . . Walter C. (Andy) Anderson, who for 15 years was a pianist and organist on the RKO circuit, is dead as a result of a heart attack. He was 41.

George Lynch, Schine film buyer, spends some of his weekends in town, now that most of the sales managers, district and branch managers have been traveling to Gloversville to see him. He likes good old Broadway and makes no bones about it, either . . . Ben Pepper of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery spent two years in Russia and he comes to bat to object to the pronunciation of "Ninotchka." He says the right way is Neenchka, that chka is an endearing term added to the name Nina, which is a very simple name. Si Seadler was probably right when he said in his ad copy, "don't pronounce it, see it."

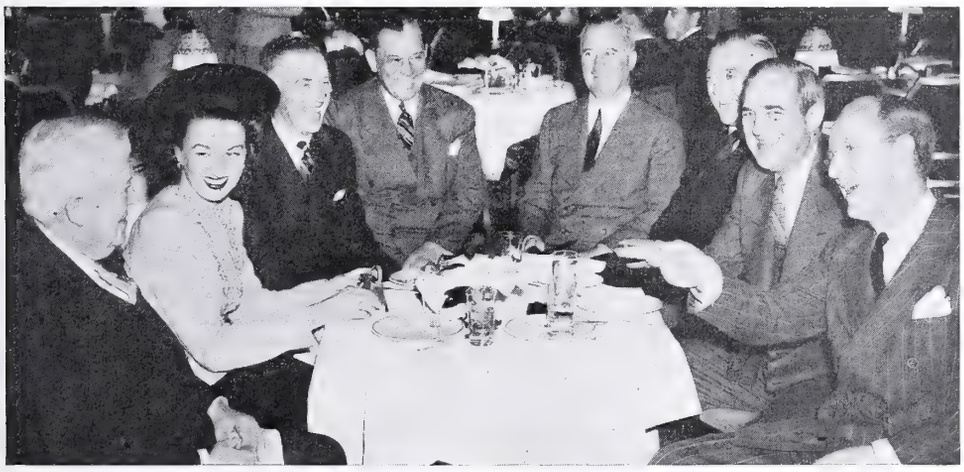
Betty Ann Batcheller is in from the coast seeing the plays and visiting friends in Westchester . . . Vivian Moses has gone and married Miriam F. Brandon . . . Pat Garyn was in from Dallas and Memphis over the weekend and checking up on his old friends . . . Fred C. Quimby, M-G-M short subject manager, got a laugh out of the fact that James FitzPatrick, the travelogue man for Leo, is going to Honolulu, of all places, for a vacation . . . Al Lichtman didn't waste much time reaching Nicholas M. Schenck's office after arriving from Chicago with Howard Dietz and Quimby . . . Mrs. James R. Grainger has returned from the coast. Her son, Edmund, also is in town.



—Metropolitan Photos

In the Limelight—

Ben Shlyen, publisher of BOXOFFICE, *on the left, meets Ginny Simms and Kay Kyser, stars of "That's Right, You're Wrong" at a party tendered by RKO at the Starlight Roof. Everybody was in a happy frame of mind, as this picture indicates.*



—Metropolitan Photos

Among RKO's Bigwigs—

Kay Kyser and Ginny Simms meet the RKO executive body at the Waldorf-Astoria. Starting with W. G. Van Schmus, the silver-haired gentleman of the Music Hall at the left, the cast of characters are Miss Simms, A. W. Smith jr., Cresson E. Smith, Richard Patterson, chairman of the RKO board; Phil Reisman, Ned E. Depinet and last, but not least, none other than the ol' professor himself.

Hammons Has Week to Secure Financing

NEW YORK—Most important legal development of the week was the third meeting of Grand National creditors before Referee Peter B. Olney jr. when an extension to Wednesday was granted company officials to secure financing from Erpi and the RFC. The hearing was bitter throughout with Saul Rogers, attorney for the company, intimating that creditor attorneys desired liquidation to "pluck legal fees from GN's carcass." The referee informed creditors he believed GN was bluffing in its statement it could not raise $4,000 indemnity to cover losses for the next week. Creditors refused to chance upsetting a possible deal and gave E. W. Hammons a week to secure money. If it is not forthcoming liquidation is probable.

Next in importance was the granting of an award of $152,536 to Edward Sheldon and Margaret Ayer Barnes by Federal Judge Vincent L. Leibell, for plagiarism of their play "Dishonored Lady" in "Letty Lynton." Both sides are appealing to the supreme court. The decree is in conformity with a circuit court ruling awarding the plaintiffs one-fifth of the net profits. Defendants include Loew's and subsidiaries. Award includes attorneys' fees of $34,595 to O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, and $2,951 costs.

All major companies filed general denials in the $750,000 anti-trust action of Folley Amusement. Plaintiff claims the Folly, Brooklyn, was put out of business by being deprived of product. Examination before trial of the president of Folley is set for December 7. Examination before trial of Benjamin Green, president of Lenrose Amusement Corp., operator of a Newark independent house was also set. Charges are identical to those in the Folley suit, with triple damages of $150,000 being sought.

Meridian Pictures, formed in 1935 to sell and lease trailers, was dissolved by order of Supreme Court Justice William T. Collins. The company had $119 in assets and $56,768 in liabilities, with no future possibilities.

James Richards and Lester and Mildred Soman filed suit for an accounting of profits they never received. The action is against Mary Pickford, Film Treatizor and various officers of the company. The defendant company, of which plaintiffs are officers, never really got under way due, it is claimed, to the neglect of Miss Pickford, who controls it. An accounting is sought. Film Treatizor is a fluid for cleaning film.

The Lone Ranger, Inc., filed a $10,000 action against Republic claiming it owned all rights to the character and desired to break a contract with film company because it unmasked the ranger, thus hurting his radio appeal. Inspection of Republic books and an injunction against the film, "The Lone Texas Ranger," are sought.

Leland Hayward, agent, was examined before trial in connection with Samson Raphaelson's $25,000 action against Robert T. Kane. The writer charges breach of a ten-week writing contract at $2,500 weekly.

Hearing Delayed to December 15

New York—By mutual agreement, the hearing scheduled for Friday to set the date for the all-industry suit was delayed to December 15. In the interim, majors and the government are attempting to set date without court procedure. Stipulations may be entered by both sides, thereby shortening the trial once the date is set.

Expect Cohen Will Retain Helm of N. Y. Allied

NEW YORK—Max A. Cohen, president of Allied of New York, is expected to succeed himself at the organization's election meeting in Buffalo, December 13. The statewide session also will consider adoption of new by-laws and possibly plan a concerted attack against the Neely bill.

An Allied spokesman declares everything possible will be done to fight the threatened proposal in the January legislature of a bill by Assemblyman Max Turshen of Brooklyn to legalize Bingo in New York.

Western Electric Board to Choose Bloom Successor

NEW YORK—The board of directors of Western Electric will meet December 12 to elect a successor to Edgar S. Bloom, who has retired as president after 43 years with the company. Bloom will assume the post of director of purchases with the British Purchasing Commission. F. Johnson, who has been vice-president of Bell Telephone Co. since 1935, has been named director of administration of the commission. Bloom's retirement is in line with company's rules for employes over 65.

ITOA Expects Big Turnout For Brandt Testimonial

NEW YORK—The ITOA expects about 1,000 persons to attend the all-industry dinner to be tendered to Harry Brandt, president, in commemoration of his 25th anniversary as a theatre operator at the Hotel Astor, December 21. Brandt is presently on tour of principal cities in the interest of exhibitor problems but will return in time for the affair.



HARRY BRANDT

David Weinstock is chairman, Milton C. Weisman, treasurer, and Howard Dietz is publicity head of a large committee. The dinner will feature a "minimum of speeches," it is said.

Hedy Ends Walkout

HOLLYWOOD—Ending a walkout over a salary dispute which began September 20, Hedy Lamarr has "voluntarily" reported back to M-G-M, according to a studio announcement. She begins work immediately on "I Take This Woman" opposite Spencer Tracy.

Relieve Cincy From Reporting Grosses

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—Cincinnati has been eliminated from the government's list of five cities for which it seeks grosses on 40 pictures from the eight major companies. No replacement is made and distributors will limit their figures to first and subsequent runs, affiliated and non-affiliated houses, in New York, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Mo., and Atlanta.

The pictures released in the 1936-37 season and listed by Thurman Arnold include two top attractions, two mediocre and one slough, according to defense counsel.

Company by company, the pictures for which grosses are sought are:

Columbia

"Theodora Goes Wild," "Pennies From Heaven," "Craig's Wife," "More Than a Secretary," and "Legion of Terror."

Loew's-M-G-M

"Captain's Courageous," "After the Thin Man," "Last of Mrs. Cheney," "Old Hutch," and "April Romance."

Paramount

"The Plainsman," "The Big Broadcast," "Swing High, Swing Low," "Valiant Is the Word for Carrie," and "Clarence."

RKO

"Shall We Dance," "Winterset," "Racing Lady," "Bringing Up Baby," and "There Goes My Girl."

20th-Fox

"Lloyds of London," "Girl's Dormitory," "To Mary—With Love," "Chan at the Race Track," "As You Like It."

Universal

"My Man Godfrey," "Three Smart Girls," "Top of the Town," "Luckiest Girl in the World," and "Love Letters of a Star."

United Artists

"A Star Is Born," "History Is Made at Night," "Come and Get It," "The Garden of Allah," and "Dreaming Lips."

Warner Brothers

"Anthony Adverse," "Charge of the Light Brigade," "Singing Marine," "Black Legion," and "Isle of Fury."

Sommerer Is Named RCA Manufacturing Manager

NEW YORK—Harry L. Sommerer has been appointed manager of manufacturing for all plants of RCA Manufacturing Camden and Harrison, N. J., Hollywood Co. He will have supervision of plants at and Indianapolis, with headquarters at Camden. Sommerer has been associated with RCA-Victor for 30 years.

Look for $3,000,000 Gross On "Gulliver's Travels"

NEW YORK — After conferences with Paramount theatre partners, Leon Netter anticipates "Gulliver's Travels" will gross $3,000,000 in the domestic market. There are nine field exploiteers now working on the picture scheduled to be released around Christmas.

Musicians Contract Vexes S-W Chain

PHILADELPHIA—The possibility of labor difficulties loomed for the Stanley-Warner chain here, as BOXOFFICE went to press.

The trouble arose from the stalemate in negotiations with the American Federation of Musicians' Local 77 on renewal of a contract which expired midnight November 30.

Rex Riccardi, secretary of the local, told trade paper reporters he would attempt to persuade IATSE officials to pull their members out on a sympathy strike in the midtown Earle and Fox and five neighborhood houses in which musicians were employed under the past contract.

However, after a trip he and Frank P. Liuzzi, local president, made to New York to confer with their own international officers, Liuzzi denied the musicians would seek a sympathy strike. Liuzzi declined further comment pending another meeting of the local's officers.

Ted Schlanger, S-W zone chief, told the management's side of the story in newspaper ads announcing the closing of the Earle after the last performance November 30. The ads said in part:

"We have requested the Musicians' Union to furnish us with the necessary musicians for the Earle Theatre, and, of course, have offered to pay them union wages and conform with all union regulations concerning them. The union, however, has refused to furnish us with musicians for the Earle unless we will agree to pay for musicians at a number of our other theatres where we cannot use them (the Fox and five neighborhood houses).

"If and when it becomes possible for us to secure the musicians that we need for the Earle, we shall be glad to reopen the theatre."

S-W has gradually discontinued the use of orchestras in the Fox and the neighborhoods over the last two months, although the musicians assigned there were paid full salaries up to November 30.

Philly Neighbor County Bans Bingo Playing

PHILADELPHIA—Bingo games are banned in adjoining Delaware county, District Attorney William B. McClenachan jr. announces.

Leaders of an American Legion post and officials of St. Cyril's Church, which have been conducting games three nights a week in large rented halls for assertedly charitable purposes, say they will comply with the order.

Theatres are up in the air as to whether to drop games or continue them. "We have been given no official announcement," said Henry Friedman, of the Lansdowne. "We don't know what the exact status is."

Condition Empire

WATERVLIET, N. Y.—Monticup & Yachwak are conditioning the Empire here for reopening. The theatre has been closed for several years, with the exception of occasional foreign language films.

PHILADELPHIA

THE THANKSGIVING idea was played from a variety of angles by local theatre managers . . . Joe Conway, Egyptian, ran bang-up newspaper ads announcing, "See Our Two Turkeys." Underneath, in small type, were the names of pictures on a twin bill . . . Turkey giveaways were pulled off by many, including, among others, Sol Getzow, Ogontz; Marty Aninsman, Leader, and Nate Watkins, Avon . . . Sid Poppay, Majestic, Gettysburg, tied up with the Lions Club in a special benefit show for which food was accepted as admission ducats . . . And, incidentally, the Horlacher Social Club raffled off 25 turkeys, and outsiders copped 21 of them. Out of 300 members, there were only four who had a date with fickle Lady Luck.

Promoters of the Clem Rizzo benefit at the Fays said it netted a big wad of dough for the family of the late Vine Streeter . . . Mert Nason, Paramounter, is off on a late vacation . . . Out at 20th-Fox it's hard to concentrate these days, the wedding bells never seem to stop ringing. Sylvia Niden is now Mrs. Samuel Rosenfeld, and Mae Borden is Mrs. Herbert Effinger. Herbert is a former exhibitor in this territory . . . Edgar Moss, 20th-Fox boss, is back from a visit to Baltimore . . . Showmen Club politicians are stacking up on cigars for the election at the next meeting.

The Metro grapevine: Helen Alter seemed a very bashful girl last week—but friends revealed she temporarily lost her voice . . . And Joe Farrow and Ben Hayney also seem to have lost their voices—but that's because the end of the local football season left them with nothing to talk about . . . Mrs. Rube Shapiro, who was Bea Weinstein when she worked around the Metro office, dropped in to visit old friends . . . Bill Gabriel's family is back from Havana, spouting Spanish like born Cubanos . . . Frank Sculli's dazed look comes from hanging curtains, arranging furniture and unpacking boxes in his new home.

Tom Loftus, Clark Films, and the Mrs. chalked up the 20th year of wedded life November 26 . . . Birthday parties, if they still go for such things, are in order for Lewen Pizor, December 3; Dave Rosen, Clark Films, December 9, and Florence Rose, Criterion, Bridgeton, December 14 . . . The boys are waiting for Proud Poppa Iz Barowsky, Rex, to distribute the cigars, or at least cigarettes, in honor of his new son . . . Frances Cantor, National Penn Printing, is dazzling friends with an engagement ring.

The Astor, Allentown, closed for good on Sunday . . . Mrs. Jacob Friedman, Franklin, Allentown, is now also operating the Cameo in the same town . . . Ben Amsterdam opens his Wood, Woodbury, December 7 . . . M. E. Shively, Mid-State Theatre Corp., is putting up a house in Watsontown . . . Wilmer and Vincent's new venture in West Reading is due to open Christmas . . . Charles Kessler claims he has a new "police-proof" theatre contest.

Milton Berle has accepted invitation to be ringmaster at the Variety Club banquet, December 10 . . . Al Boyd, Boyd, Chester, appears to have been trying to kid a local exchange that made him contract a film for a 15-day run in order to get first run. His second day ad in the papers was "Last 14 days." Next day, he advertised, "Last 13 days," and so on . . . Charlie Dutkin, Girard, is battling illness in a local hospital. Walt Potamkin is pinch-hitting . . . Jules Hurtig, Shubert, was also sent to the hospital after a stroke . . . Exchangites are busy planning the usual Christmas parties—only many say this year's will be "bigger, better," etc.

Exhibitors report exchanges are using a lot of persuasion in a drive to get longer runs . . . Mrs. Ted Schlanger and her sewing circle ran a charity luncheon at Benny the Bum's, attended by the young stars appearing at the Earle, "chaperoned" by Louella Parsons . . . The same stars—Ronald Reagan, Jane Wyman, Susan Hayward, Joy Hodges, June Preisser, Arleen Whelan—were also cocktail-partied at the Ritz and the Warner Club. And they still look in good health.

Marty Goldenberg, enticed the U. of P. boys to his State with ballyhooed newsreel shots of their Mask and Wig club in action . . . Sam Phillippe, Plaza, showed how to utilize waste time by running a special school showing of "Midsummer Night's Dream" during an afternoon when the house is usually closed . . . Iz Wiernik, Strand, worked up an Oldsmobile autoparade for the "Star Maker." American Legionnaires were also in line, serenaded the crowds in front of the house . . . Al Reh, Stanley, got free advertising from the American Federation of Teachers for "Mr. Smith."

Joe Nevison, Grange, won the support of the schoolboys at a special Central High School night, at which he gave away an autographed script of "Beau Geste" . . . Fred Leopold, Grand, Wilmington, is working a new lucky number stunt. Kids are given numbered buttons for enrolling in a club, and each Saturday ten numbers are listed on the door for free admissions . . . Harry Fried's suit against S-W and the major distributors is slated to come up in federal court December 11.

Warner Backs Fifth Broadway Play

New York — When the Margaret Hewes production, "The Woman Brown," opens Friday at the Biltmore, it will mark the fifth production Warner has backed this season, making the company the largest financial sponsor of Broadway plays for the current semester. The drama is by Dorothy Cummings and stars Franciska Gaal. Other ventures backed by Warner and still on the boards are "See My Lawyer," "Too Many Girls" and "The World We Make." Only failure is "Ring Two" which closed early.

WASHINGTON

CARLTON DUFFUS, Metro exploiteer, has been assigned to assist with the opening of "Gone With the Wind" at Loew's State in Reading, Pa. . . . Ray Johnston and Eddie Golden, Monogram executives, paid a short visit to Branch Manager Harry Bachman of the local exchange . . . Kay Kyser's "That's Right, You're Wrong" is pointing to a new attendance record at the Byrd, Richmond . . . Harry Gold and Chas. Stern, UA executives, are on the expected list at the local exchange . . . Deepest sympathy is extended to Sam Galanty on the death of his uncle . . . Max Terhune, Republic star, took time out from his p. a. at the Atlas Theatre to visit with Sam and Jake Flax.

Connie Carpou, Metro student booker, has returned from his home office assignment . . . Ed Haley of the Lichtman theatres has returned following a slight illness . . . George Gill, manager of Trio-Preferred, is happy to announce that "Beast of Berlin" has been passed by the Maryland censor board . . . Tom Ayres and Reese Harrington of Delaware visited the Row . . . J. C. Caldwell of Appomattox, Leonard Lea of Schoolfield and Danville, and Henry Lego of Herndon also made the rounds . . . If anyone wants a description of Sidney Lust's new Hyattsville theatre just ask Bob Folliard; he considers it the "last word" in design, comforts, and appointments . . . 20th-Fox exchange is riding in first place in the S. R. Kent drive which ends in three weeks . . . Sam Wheeler, branch manager, keeps on the job constantly and can be found lunching in on crackers and milk.

Bernie Kreisler, Universal branch manager, dispatched a special Thanksgiving greeting to all exhibitors, a greeting that conveyed glad tidings on "First Love" receipts, "Tower of London" in an auspicious debut in Baltimore, "Destry Rides Again" scheduled for a late December release, and "Charlie McCarthy, Detective" as the Xmas week special. He characterized them as four "reel boxoffice birds" . . . Sam Eisenstein of the Star, Annapolis, has returned to the theatre following a recent hospitalization . . . A. A. Schubart and G. E. Youngman of RKO's home office visited with Bob Folliard.

Arthur Kilburg, manager of Warner's Beverly, has returned to duties following a two months' illness . . . Paul La Roche, district manager for Ross Federal Service, advises that their offices are now located in the La Salle, 1028 Connecticut Ave. . . . Mrs. Paul Smith of Warner theatre contract department, and Mr. Smith witnessed the Army-Navy game.

Ginsberg Winding Up S-I Affiliation in Gotham

NEW YORK—Henry Ginsberg arrived by air from the coast Friday on the final phases of his affiliation with Selznick International from which he recently resigned as a vice-president. Business deals bearing on his future will be discussed also.

Ginsberg may attend the premiere of "Gone With the Wind" in Atlanta or stay on for the opening here.



For "Real Glory"—

Col. H. H. Sheen, acting grand president of the national order of the Military Order of the Caraboa, presents a scroll, destined for Samuel Goldwyn, to Angie Ratto, Loew's Palace manager at Washington. The scroll is an award of merit in recognition of the production "The Real Glory" and its depiction of "an important chapter in the history of the liberation of the Philippines." Responsible for the stunt is Loew's publicist, Ray Bell.

Legion to Renew Pledge In Catholic Churches

CINCINNATI—The Legion of Decency pledge will be renewed in all Catholic churches Sunday, December 10, the Sunday within the Octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, on direction of the Bishops' Committee on Motion Pictures.

From October, 1938, to November, 1939, the Legion of Decency reviewed and classified 592 feature motion pictures; 324 of which were rated as Class A-I, unobjectionable for general patronage; 207 were rated as Class A-II, unobjectionable for adults; 50 were rated as Class B, objectionable in part; nine were rated as Class C, condemned.

Middleburg Sunday Shows By Margin of 31 Votes

MIDDLEBURG, N. Y.—By a margin of 31 votes, the Middleburg electorate approved Sunday motion pictures. A total of 221 registered "yes" and 189 "no" at a special election—population of the village is about 850. It is expected the trustees will take final action December 4 on the granting of a license to Mitchell Conery's theatre.

Middleburg is the second Schoharie County village to approve Sunday shows. Cobleskill, which has 2,600 residents and the Park Theatre operated by Frank Wieting, okayed them, but only after three elections had been held.

Schencks South Soon

MIAMI—Nicholas M. Schenck and family are due here from New York shortly after Christmas on their annual vacation visit.

ALBANY

CALVIN KING, operator of Walden, Williamstown, Mass., was on Filmrow. Ditto, Morris Slotnik, with theatres in Waterville and Oriskany Falls; Harry Savett, Greene, Antwerp and Port Leyden; Chris Marks, the Highland and Rialto, Utica; Sid Dwore and Johnny Gardner, each running three houses in Schenectady; Morris Silverman, Mount Pleasant, Schenectady; Sam Milberg, Ritz, Scotia; Mrs. Ferguson, Copake, Copake; Walter Wertime sr., Chestertown; Roger Marmon, Rensselaer and Delmar.

Mrs. H. L. Woldenberg, the Clinton, Clinton, has been suffering from an infected finger . . . Lodges of Odd Fellows in Altamont, Voorheesville and Castleton book pictures one night a week. Committees do the whole job, even to taking film from and returning it to exchanges. No theatres are operated in the three villages . . . Bill Benson, former RKO salesman, in town arranging the transfer of his family to New York, where he now works for Universal . . . Mohawk, E. M. Loew house in North Adams, Mass., serviced from Albany, played "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" for a week instead of four days. Bernie Payne manages the theatre.

Clayton Eastman, Paramount manager, made a brief trip to New York . . . Wife of Raymond "Bud" Morrill, assistant shipper at Paramount, underwent an appendectomy . . . Local exchange expects big things of "Gulliver's Travels," the Max Fleischer first animated Technicolor production, scheduled for New York release December 20 . . . Mitchell Conery, who had not played any radio acts for sometime in his chain, booked Landt Trio and Mahr, now at WGY, for a night at the Worcester Theatre. Johnny Milligan, Broadway, Schuylerville; Allen Sirrine, Empire, Port Henry; Clarence Goodemote, Cozy, Broadalbin, also used the quartet as an added attraction. Ditto, Town Hall Theatre, Middlebury, Vt. . . . Walter La Pata, Star, Poultney, Vt., is a hunting devotee.

Tom Murray, head of Universal exchange operations, was at the local office for two days . . . Lou Bucken installed new Simplex projection heads in Amenia Theatre, Amenia . . . Johnny Gardner used a borderline on copy for his Colony, American and Palace, Schenectady, to hammer fact they are "home owned, independent theatres" . . . Son of N. Pearlman interested in theatres at Greene, Binghamton, and elsewhere, visited local exchanges for first time. He was booking for the Greene . . . Anthony Minozzi, manager of the Colonial, Bernstein house in Albany, is a member of Christmas street decorations committee of Central Avenue Civic and Merchant's Ass'n . . . Rosenthal's State is staging on Monday "Household Nites," advertised as "the biggest stage attraction in Troy."

Agnew Arrives

NEW YORK—Neil F. Agnew, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, returned from the coast Friday where he discussed preliminary production plans for next season. Barney Balaban, Stanton Griffis, John W. Hicks and Russell Holman, now on the coast, are slated to leave for New York, Tuesday.

RICHMOND

THE bowling Monday had the biggest turnout of the season, with Bob Coulter, George Stitzer and Bob Overcash joining the Grand team, Allen Brown leading off for the Brookland-Bellevue team and Charlie Hulbert joining the Park team. The cheering section was led by Gordon Pulliam, when he wasn't being hotfooted by some of the Grand team. The State quint set two new records which will be hard to beat. Keith Caudle had a near catastrophe when he slid on his stomach half way down the alley.

At a meeting held at the State the Neighborhood Theatre Social Club voted to have a dance at Tantilla Garden on December 19. *Attending the meeting were Mrs. Sam Gordon, Mrs. Gertrude Pecae, Pete Southward, Stewart Tucker, Ober Boyd and Melvin Rector . . . The Corporation Commission has issued a charter to the Bassett Amusement Co., Inc., with a maximum capital of* $10,000. *J. Harold Stone of Bassett is listed as president and William M. Mitchell, attorney . . . Bob Holland, engineer of Loew's Theatre, who underwent an operation at the Johnson Willis Hospital, is well on the road to recovery . . . Pete Stainback, chief of service, Loew's, says that that new ring was given to him by one of his former teachers.*

Edna Evans, who won the "Gateway to Hollywood" contest here, is in Hollywood where she will go on one of the broadcasts after training . . . Mrs. William Fox, wife of the operator at the East End, is recovering from the broken leg she sustained when she fell while doing some work at home . . . Buck Johnson's brother, Sam, is now a member of Buck's service staff at the National . . . Charlie Hulbert and his wife drove up on Skyline Drive the other Sunday . . . Billy Patterson, assistant to A. O. Budina, architect for Neighborhood Theatres, has returned to duty after being in the hospital . . . Arthur Deekins, home office, Neighborhood Theatres, has returned from camping with the Grays at Virginia Beach . . . Al Herman, district manager for Universal Pictures, and his Washington manager, Bernard Kreisler, were in town visiting with various accounts.

Lucille Ball is the new relief cashier for the Wilmer and Vincent houses . . . Art Jacobson, National Screen manager in Washington, was in town last week. Also Ben Caplon, Columbia salesman; Carlton Duffus, Metro exploiteer, and Jake Flax, Republic . . . Ruth Stratton is relief cashier at the Ponton and Venus, replacing Olga Bruggeman . . . Al Nowitsky, manager of the National, and his chief of service, Buck Johnson, flew to Norfolk in Al's new plane.

Benjamin T. Pitts, well-known circuit operator, who makes his home in Fredericksburg, has been appointed to the State Port Authority by Gov. James T. Price, for the term ending June 20, 1940. In addition to running 20 some theatres, Ben finds time to operate a broadcasting station, attend all meetings of the Elks, Kiwanis Club, president of the Battlefield Tour Ass'n of Skyline Drive, director of the state Chamber of Commerce and attend meetings of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Announce Nominees for Exchange Union Posts

PHILADELPHIA—James Flynn, president of the film exchange employes local B-7, announces the following list of nominees for offices to be filled at an election December 8:

President, William Porter; vice-president, Henrietta Weinberg; secretary, Molly Cohen, James McWilliams; treasurer, Marie House; business agent, James Flynn, Harry Cohen; sergeant-at-arms, Al Holmstock, Ralph Kerson, J. Reiff. In addition, two will be elected to the executive board from each of the following divisions: Shipping, James Keating, Charles Smith, Meyer Coleman, Frank Powell, Nat Leon; poster, Herman Greenberg, Tony Blase, Nick Lalli, Ed Frieberger, William McLaughlin; inspection, Peg Fogerty, Florence Kornblatt, Victoria VanStory; booking, Ben Harris, Bud Bache.

Silverstone and Korda Head for New York

NEW YORK—Murray Silverstone, visiting Artists president, and Alexander Korda leave Hollywood over the weekend but will arrive at different times since Korda will take the plane and Silverstone the train. Korda is expected to announce his production plans when he arrives here.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

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BALTIMORE

WALTER COHEN, manager of the Leader, will be married at the Southern Hotel on December 10 . . . Al Zalis, Globe Poster Co. roving salesman, is back in town after touring West Virginia . . . Walter MacNeill, Rome theatre maintenance man, is on the sick list . . . Ralph Martin jr., newly appointed relief manager of the United Theatre, has just bought a car . . . Wilbur Brizendine of the Rialto is now back on the job, but he still has not recovered his voice completely . . . Jean Rome, relief manager, handled the house during Wilbur's absence.

A party was held by Will Zell, Harlem. It was his little baby boy's first birthday party . . . Morris Shapiro, Radio, has been doing very nicely at Bowie here lately. He also is sporting a beautiful new coupe . . . Report that Gene Freeland, manager of the Avenue, goes in big for amateur photography . . . Leo Flashman, assistant manager, George Jacob's, Goldfield, went out with his sea scouts on a roving cruise . . . Rome theatres exploitation contest was won this week by Harold Grott of the Met. He took first prize for his outstanding "Death Warrant" herald on "Nurse Edith Cavell." Other winners were Jean Rome, Rialto; Ed Kimpel sr., Capitol, and Walter Cohen, Leader.

Lawrence Shanberger, Keith's, ran a midnight show of "The Tower of London" Thanksgiving eve . . . Neighborhood theatre managers, who are going to give the underprivileged children a Christmas show so far are Nathan Cantor, Astor; Bob Ashcroft, Apollo; Ed Wyatt, Preston; Ed Kimpel sr., Capitol; Gene Freeland, Avenue, and R. Marhenke, Broadway.

At Wednesday luncheon, November 29, *Captain John Logan, head of the Volunteers of American Hospitals, will be the speaker. Inasmuch as the Variety Club has just given a donation to this hospital, the Variety Club is very much interested in its work . . . If you haven't received your Variety insignia license plates, you are requested to get them from Tommy at the club . . . Exhibitors may be interested to know that the picture that got front-page publicity in the Baltimore* News Post *of the bad accident last week, showing the truck crushing the victim by turning over on him, was taken by Ernie Woods.*

Goetz Talks Roadshow Plans for "Lincoln"

NEW YORK—Harry M. Goetz is here from Hollywood to discuss roadshow plans for "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" with George J. Schaefer, RKO president. The film is now in final stages of editing and scoring and is tentatively set for its world premiere in Washington on or about January 18.

Goetz expects to remain here several months.

To Critics' Board

ALBANY—C. R. (Tip) Roseberry, critic of the *Knickerbocker News,* has been appointed a member of the governors' board of the recently organized Newspaper Film Critics of America. He represents the region of New York and New Jersey.

Now, Balm for Southern Pride

NEW YORK—Recently BOXOFFICE reported the result of a tete-a-tete with Donovan Hall, director of advertising and publicity for Ross Federal. It turned out to be a series of thumbnail descriptions of a score of key cities. Almost immediately there was a reaction from Milton Langford, manager of the Roxy, Jacksonville, Fla. In Mr. Langford's southern bosom, it seems, a certain civic pride had been hurt.

Therefore, a letter: "Gentlemen: After reading the article in BOXOFFICE entitled 'Reporter Gets Tour-All Free,' I find that the cities in the 'deep south' have been neglected, or isn't the writer aware that the south is still a part of these here United States?

"Here is a list of southern cities to throw at Donovan Hall to see if he can give us a capsule description of each: Atlanta, Birmingham, Baltimore, Jacksonville, Louisville, Miami, New Orleans. And of course he couldn't overlook the most outstanding city in this country, New York City."

Mr. Hall obliges, the while "I didn't mean to neglect the south!"

Atlanta—As gorgeous blondes as ever I saw
And a diorama of the Civil Waw
Only here it's "War between the states"
—And the Biltmore Ballroom for Saturday dates.

A rivalry for advertising between
Three Newspapers such as you've never seen.
The *Georgian* sniffs at the *Constitution*
And both say the *Journal* wants an ablution.

"Five Points," Druid Hills, and the battlefiel'
Where Sherman became a lifelong heel.

Good coffee for breakfast, and hominy grits,
And effete northerners having fits
At the fashion for dining out of doors
In weather which very likely pours.

A business appointment at half past two
Which ends up in golf before you're through.
You meet a gent one day in his office
And that night you dine in a club of his.

Baltimore—Balt-mer street cars are elegant, but they won't take you to the Bachelor's Cotillon. Likker in one drink bottles. Terrapin and the best soft shell crabs in the world, and the adjacent training ground for progressive gobs, called Annapolis.

Birmingham—Had a roommate riding from Boston to New York after a Harvard-Yale game, who said: "Have just decided to go to Birmingham and marry that girl I met last night." He did. He is still there.

Jacksonville—Liquid lunch at the Washington Grill, followed by the first of the season's pampano. Then, on to the ferry you always miss for points south.

Louisville—South of the Ohio River and that means southern hospitality. Home of the Binghams, the Derby, mint juleps, Kentucky colonels and the Pendennis Club.

Miami—The Flamingo Roof, Harry Ross' house, the Roney-Plaza, the Surf Club, Hialeah, and broke. Where's that sun-tan?

New Orleans—Marseilles of the South—the old French quarter. No lobsters, but boy—what crawfish (crayfish). Place called the Boston Club, cemeteries built above the ground, a week of holiday called the Mardi Gras.

New York City—There aren't enough superlatives, and besides I work here.

Francis Hicks Assistant At Staten Island Ritz

ALBANY—Francis C. Hicks, for two years a doorman at the Palace, has been advanced to assistant manager of Fabian's Ritz, Staten Island. Harry G. Black is Hicks' chief. Hicks is a brother-in-law of Larry Cowen, manager of the Grand here.

Moving Downstairs

NORTH CREEK, N. Y.—Phil Baroudi has started work on the conversion of Happy Hour here from an upstairs to a downstairs theatre. It will be necessary to close the house while the main part of the job is being done.

New Corporation Formed

ALBANY — New York Pictures, Inc., formed to conduct moving picture business in New York. Incorporators: Sam Spiegler, Ruben Schwartz, Rea Wolkoff, 1501 Broadway. Attorney: Martin J. Desmoni, 1501 Broadway.

Randforce Managers Shift With Clinton Opening

NEW YORK—With the opening of the Clinton, Randforce has promoted Irving Berman of the Meserole to the latest unit. Louis Fishkin has been switched from the Alba to the Benson and Murray Alper now is at the Meserole. Charles Steinman has been moved to the Alba.

"Subversive" Repairs?

Fort Edward—Lou Fisher has been forced to close the Bradley Opera House here until construction of an underpass is completed. Theatre is near the railroad tracks, and a pass 14 feet below is being made. Fisher took down the marquee when the work started. The Bradley is an upstairs' theatre.

Double "Gold Pot" Idea Passed Up

NEW YORK—Spokesmen for four circuits operating in Ohio are passing up the suggestion of Pete J. Wood, business manager for Allied of Ohio, that affiliated houses join with "independents in a state-wide campaign offering a double 'Pot of Gold' award to any person selected in telephone contest and who is in any Ohio theatre when the name is broadcast Tuesday nights."

Wood sought the support of RKO, Loew's, Feiber & Shea and Monarch which operate in Ohio. In his wire calling for prompt action, he said "investigation shows that Tuesday evening 'Pot of Gold' broadcasts are hurting theatre attendance." His reference was to the Tum's broadcast, which features Horace Heidt's orchestra and offers $1,000 in cash in a unique give-away idea. Wood's plan "provides that if a prize is paid by broadcasting sponsor the winner cannot collect from a theatre."

Circuit spokesmen here say they cannot afford to brush against the law, which prohibits playing cash games in theatres "for profit." Although Bingo is rampant in Ohio, with as many as 70,000 persons playing it a week in one spot, authorities permit this on the ground the game is being played for charitable purposes.

Double "Pot of Gold," St. Louis Offer

ST. LOUIS—F&M and St. Louis Amusements next week will offer a doube prize to any patron in the theatre whose telephone number is called by "The Pot of Gold," according to H. C. Arthur jr. Regardless of the amount of the jack pot, the circuits will double the figure if the person whose number is called is in any of the circuits' theatres at the time. If so, the persons will be given a limited amount of time to qualify for the prizes.

Voice Assurance That Film Slates Will Be Maintained

LOS ANGELES—Executives at the monthly Producers Association meeting here voiced the general assurance that production schedules and picture quality will be maintained, following a report by Will Hays on the foreign market. The studio labor situation was also up for discussion. Hays left Friday for New York.

"Harvest" Approved

PHILADELPHIA—The French film "Harvest," which was turned down by New York censors but okayed on an appeal to the board of regents, has won the approval of the Pennsylvania state board of censors. It opens at the Studio here first week in January.

"Kit Carson" to Bruce

HOLLYWOOD — Producer Edward Small has assigned George Bruce to the script of "Kit Carson." Film rolls the middle of January.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Probe Into Central Casting Forward

Branding as "utterly without foundation" reports that intimidation of witnesses, bribery or fear of reprisals have risen to block progress, Screen Actors Guild attaches assert the organization's investigation into the conduct and operations of Central Casting and its staff, in relation to work calls for extras, is "progressing smoothly."

"There is no means of telling when the report will be completed," an SAG spokesman said, "and until it is, Mr. Ralph Morgan (president of the Guild) has informed us he must necessarily withhold any and all evidence which may have been gathered to date from publication."

Probe was launched about two months ago in answer to general complaints by extras that "favorites" of Central Casting have been obtaining the best and most frequent work calls, and charging that it has been necessary to make "payoffs" or to give gratuities in order to become a "favored" extra. At that time Morgan declared the Guild would "insist on a housecleaning wherever the guilt lies," and appointed Joan Crawford, James Cagney and John Garfield as a committee to launch an investigation.

SAG executives declared they had been requested by Central Casting to emphasize the falsity of reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is interested in the case, and to point out that Central Casting executives are "cooperating to the fullest extent" in the probe.

Blasting "intimidation" reports, Guild leaders referred to a statement issued at the beginning of the investigation by President Morgan to the effect that "in all cases identities will be kept confidential." The quiz is in the hands of the Edwin L. Atherton detective agency. SAG spokesmen admitted there have been, in addition to the "payoff" charges, a number of morals complaints filed by feminine extras, which are also being investigated by Atherton and his associates.

Mooney Script for Benedict

"Millionaires in Prison," an original story by Martin Mooney, has been selected by Howard Benedict as his second RKO Radio production chore, to follow "Curtain Call." Mooney has been signed to write the screen play.

Feel That Labor's Latest Peace Represents Only Armed Truce

While Hollywood at present has the opportunity to relax from the rigors of the labor controversies which have had it in their grip more or less constantly for the past two years, the general feeling is that the current peace can be interpreted as, at best, only an armed truce.

The existing quiescence on the labor front results from the success of the IATSE-AFL contingent in attaining its demands for a ten per cent wage increase for some 11,000 studio employes, to which producers capitulated in face of a general studio strike threat after once informing William Bioff, representing the craftsmen, that "existing conditions" made it impossible for them to comply. However, the agreement as drafted by producers and approved by Bioff's committee calls for a parley "on or before February 15, 1940," at which time the producers will endeavor to present sufficient proof that the higher scale is impracticable and should be rescinded.

The agreement specifies that if there is a difference of opinion as to the surrender of the increases, arbitration shall be resorted to, and outlines the manner in which the arbiters are to be selected in such an eventuality.

Following the labor contingent's victory, however temporary it may be, union representatives began formulating plans to stabilize the new basic pay. Among them are officials of the IATSE, who succeeded in protecting the ten per cent increase granted that union last October and which producers later endeavored to rescind.

Meantime, the scene of important labor negotiations will shift to Newark, N. J., on December 5, when the annual parleys between company executives and the four major labor unions—musicians, carpenters, electricians and teamsters—relative to wage adjustments, get under way. Also to be considered at that time are the demands of studio painters for a 15 per cent increase in wages, action on which producers successfully staved off some weeks ago until the Newark conferences begin.

Others File Demands

On the local front the IATSE-AFL success has opened the doors for a number of other crafts and guilds to file similar demands. First under the wire was the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors, which has requested a ten per cent boost for some 850 members. This group is expected to be followed by the Society of Artists and Illustrators and other crafts now holding closed shop agreements.

Winning its long battle, the Screen Publicists Guild has submitted its closed-shop contract to individual studios for signatures and has disbanded its negotiating committee. Under terms of the pact producers are to supply salary increases retroactive to October 9, when the agreement was to have gone into effect. Producers are also set to okay a working contract with the Script Clerks Guild.

National Labor Relations Board in Washington has ordered an election of employes in four cartoon plants, to determine their bargaining agent, for January 16. Date was set back at the request of the Screen Cartoonists Guild, which is negotiating for an AFL charter. Voting will take place in the Lantz, Metro, Katz and Schlesinger studios.

The Screen Writers Guild's executive board has scheduled an open meeting for December 4, to which the general membership has been invited. A discussion of the current labor situation, as it affects the SWG, is planned.

Hays Checks In to Survey Hollywood Labor Scene

To gain a first-hand account of the latest turn in the Hollywood producer-labor situation, and in what producers association attaches declared was scheduled to be a very brief visit, Will Hays, president of the MPPDA, checked in from his New York headquarters November 27.

Local officials said they expected Hays to return east before the end of the week. Immediately upon arrival he went into conference with Pat Casey and Joseph M. Schenck to discuss terms of the producer-IATSE-AFL armistice which staved off a threatened general studio strike.

With that major problem removed, at least for the time being, Pat Casey, labor contact, has checked out for New York, where he will henceforth make his headquarters. Replacing him on the coast is Fred Pelton, with Victor Clarke as his aide.

A Plan by Wright to Save Grand National

While President E. W. Hammons, in New York, is reportedly fighting to retain control of the company, which he plunged into bankruptcy to stave off creditors, efforts to carry through a reorganization plan for Grand National locally are being pushed by Loyd Wright, trustee for the organization. Wright goes into court December 4 with a plan for which he has secured creditors' approval, under which 25 per cent of the claims are to be paid off within 45 days of court confirmation of the schedule, the balance over a period of 18 months.

Awaiting eastern developments, Franklyn Warner, president of Fine Arts Pictures—erstwhile GN affiliate—has extended his stay in New York for another week. Warner has an investment of four films in GN and holds a contract for delivery of 22 more which, local FA spokesmen say, he may or may not fulfill, depending upon the outcome of GN's present financial difficulties. GN production is, of course, at a standstill.

Ending a hiatus which came with completion of its initialer, "Green Hell," Harry Edington's Famous Productions has begun preparations on two more for Universal release—"Streets of Paris," based on the French play, "La Cienne," and "Transatlantic Cable," for which Douglas Fairbanks jr. has been signed. Famous headquarters on the Universal lot.

To line up players for "Angela Is 22," first in a series which he will produce for Columbia release, Jack Skirball, partner of John Wildberg in Knickerbocker Productions, has checked in from New York. Film will be based on the play by Sinclair Lewis and will be made at Eastern Service Studios in New York.

Once postponed because of the sudden illness of Richard Carlson, slated for the male lead, Academy Productions has turned the cameras on "And So Goodbye," which it is making for RKO Radio. Lee Garmes and Adele Comandini, who head the new company, have secured permission to issue all of its 200 shares of no-par-value capital stock.

Sol Lesser Leases Space At Goldwyn Studios

Transferring from Selznick International, Sol Lesser has leased office and shooting space at the Samuel Goldwyn studios for the production of "Our Town," his first for United Artists release. Lesser's staff will move in early in December. The producer made the arrangements by telephone from New York, where he is currently scouting talent and story material.

Burns for "Deacon"

Title role in Universal's re-make of "Alias the Deacon" will be filled by Bob Burns, set for the spot on an outside commitment from his Paramount contract. Filming begins early in January.

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10% Increase a Likely Request at Newark

NEW YORK—The three unions that will open negotiations with major companies at Newark, N. J., December 5 over new terms and working conditions as provided each year under the five-year basic agreement, are expected to ask for a ten per cent wage increase, in the opinion of a union spokesman.

"Anything is liable to happen," this source declares, "but the sentiment of the unions is that they are entitled to the same increase granted IATSE workers on the coast." Musicians, electricians and carpenters unions are involved.

The Newark parleys are a holdover from March, when annual negotiations were scheduled to get under way, but were postponed. Whatever terms are agreed upon across the river are therefore expected to be retroactive to March.

Pat Casey, distributors' labor representative, is expected to arrive from the coast over the weekend to participate in the negotiations.

Special Committees Speed HANL Work

First step toward carrying out the tenets of its recently-adopted "Declaration of Democratic Action," calling for a period of intensified activity, has been taken by the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League through the appointment of several specialized committees, each with a specific duty in the HANL's campaign to keep America neutral in the current European war and to preserve the bill of rights.

Sub-committees were established by the League's studio committee. They will concentrate their attention on radio programs, newspaper publicity, dramatic productions, public affairs and mass meetings. Committees include such film names as:

For radio—Irving Reis and Michael Blankfort. Air time for a year of 15-minute broadcasts has been donated the League, Associated Film Audiences, the League of American Writers and other progressive organizations by Kate Crane Gartz, Pasadena liberal.

For newspaper publicity—Milt Gross, Wells Root, Dudley Nichols, Jo Swerling, Gordon Kahn.

Membership—Marion Spitzer, Milton Sperling.

Public functions—Miss Spitzer, Lynn Root, Beatrice Buchman, Mrs. J. Edward Bromberg, Gertrude Purcell, Maxwell Shane.

Investigators—Jerry Sackheim, J. Walter Ruben, Milton Sperling.

These committees have extended offers of cooperation to the Senate committee on civil liberties, headed by Sen. Robert LaFollette, which has opened local hearings in what the HANL indicates will be a lengthy session. The committee will investigate charges of violations of civil liberties in this area.

Meantime, the newly-organized Hollywood Theatre Alliance is completing preparations for the presentation of its first revue, "Meet the People," scheduled for December 6. HTA members include prominent screen figures from writing, acting and directing rosters. Original music and lyrics for the show were written by Jay Gorney and Henry Myers.

The Motion Picture Artists Committee held a refugee aid party to collect paints, brushes, writing materials and other items for use by Spanish refugee intellectuals now in Mexico. Attending were such industry notables as Virginia Bruce, Herbert Biberman, J. Walter Ruben, Gail Sondergaard and Edward G. Robinson.

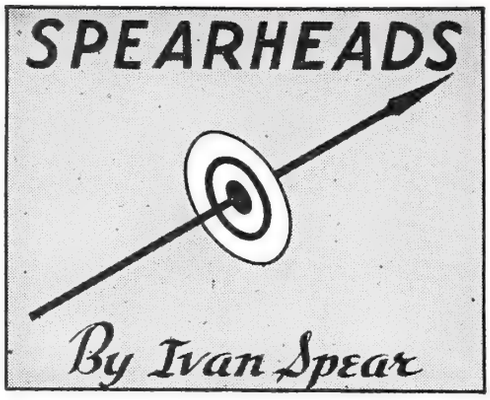
DeMille Plans to Produce "Queen of Queens"

Designed as a companion piece to his earlier "King of Kings," Cecil B. DeMille has announced plans to produce "The Queen of Queens," story of Mary, mother of Christ. Production will follow "Northwest Mounted Police," now being readied for the cameras, and will be released by Paramount.

It is two years this week since I joined the Warner Brothers' organization.

This is an expression of sincere thanks to my co-workers for an association that continues to be most pleasant.

—MARK HELLINGER



THE appointment of Gabe Yorke as head of the Screen Publicists Guild's newly-organized publicity bureau brings into sharp focus the question as to what ultimate effects the organization and recognition of the SPG will have on one of Hollywood's most lucrative, albeit overcrowded, by-product professions—the gentle art of so-called freelance press-agentry.

Yorke, long connected with the Hays office and a top publicist of many years' experience, will supervise the workings of the bureau which, under present plans, will function as public relations counsel for any and all screen folk who seek its services. Formed primarily to solve the unemployment problem for SPG members, it will employ those who are idle and allow them to share in the revenue from the various accounts on a pro-rata basis.

Despite assurances that plans for the SPG's bureau provide that it will in no way compete with the film citadel's bumper crop of catch-as-catch-can blurbers, the general idea gives every indication that, as an unavoidable result, it will cause Hollywood's current and precedental yen for organizing to overtake the freelance praisers, virtually the last group to feel its repercussions.

There is, after all, a definite limit to the total number of film personalities who can or will, even under the most propitious circumstances, retain the services of personal publicists. At present this number is widely spread. It ranges from the impressive client lists of the top-notchers, the Birdwells, the Epsteins, and the Conlons, that gentry which represents only the "bigger names"—and, incidentally, at bigger fees—down through the vacillating clienteles of the lesser lights who eke out a doubtful living by struggling to keep a few comparatively unimportant accounts, usually at ridiculously low retainers which may or may not be forthcoming with satisfactory regularity.

In brief, there are not enough clients or prospective clients—not by 50 per cent—to begin to support the existing aggregation of independent press agents.

It necessarily follows that any such accounts which retain the services of the SPG's bureau—and they will have to add to a sizeable sum if the idea is to manifest any degree of effectiveness in remunerating unemployed Guild members—will further restrict the available clients and prospects of the free-lancers. Thus success for the proposed bureau must automatically decree the elimination of many of the current also-ran tribe of press agents and, possibly, some of the more opulent. Which may or may not be a good idea according to individual reactions toward the modus operandi and ethics—if any—of the glib-tongued and lazy-penned drum-beaters who fatten or starve through confounding columnists, editors, and organized studio publicity departments.

This probability is further magnified because Gabe Yorke is ideally equipped through background, experience, ability, connections and good judgment to make an outstanding success of the SPG venture.

→

Local columnist reports Edward G. Robinson wants to do the title role in "The Life of Benjamin Franklin."

Poor Richard, indeed!

At least it might prove that while the pen is mightier than the sword, the machine gun also is mightier than the printing press.

→

Commenting upon the resumption of motion picture shows for the inmates of Folsom and San Quentin prisons, Warden Clyde I. Plummer terms screen entertainment a "good disciplinary measure."

To which Hollywood critics who view an average of eight features per week will voice an ardent "amen."

→

Queen Louella Parsons, currently doing a p. a. through the country, informs her breathless public that, during a stopover at Albuquerque, N. M., the Pueblo Indians there made her a member of the tribe and dubbed her "Ba-Ku-La"—meaning, the columnist explained, "starmaker." Henceforth the time-honored allusion to the aborigines can be:

"LOP! the poor Indian!"

→

Metro announces that Hugh Harman is preparing to produce a Technicolor cartoon, "Romeo and Juliet," which the studio claims will be the first cartoonization of the Shakespeare classic.

Many exhibitors are of the impression that the studio made a cartoon of that title, with Leslie Howard portraying Romeo, about two years ago.

→

Warner may have done right by Edward Small when, to avoid confusion, it decided to change "My Son," nee "Mama Raviola," to "Bad Boy," but it double-crossed the columnists who were having a field day printing alleged and obvious wise-cracks anent what might happen to "My Son, My Son," which the United Artists producer has before the cameras.

Sagebrush, Song and Sour

Three of the seven features which made their debut to preview audiences during the week fall into the first division for consideration; one, Universal's "Destry Rides Again," doubly rating that category because of budget and entertainment excellence; a second, Paramount's "The Great Victor Herbert," earning its niche principally because of its cost, cast and music, and a third, RKO Radio's "Two Thoroughbreds," scaling the heights through sheer merit and despite its modest production trappings and expense.

The super-sagebrusher from Universal City is a standout as the week's best. A solid-gold outdoor feature through and through, it ranks above a good share of the so-called "super-westerns" which have made their appearance in seasons past. Into the screenplay by Felix Jackson, Gertrude Purcell and Henry Myers—based on a story by Jackson which, in turn, was suggested by Max Brand's novel—have been poured every ingredient that originally created and have consistently maintained western melodrama in the forefront of film entertainment. Joe Pasternak's unstinting production and the rapid-fire direction of George Marshall, substantially bolstered by an outstandingly fine cast, all elevate it to the category of first-rate boxoffice hits. Thespically, Marlene Dietrich—very impressive in her new-type comeback role—and James Stewart share top honors with a large and imposing aggregation of supporting players.

A natural for the oldsters, but not so certain of acclaim among the younger generation, Paramount's "The Great Victor Herbert" nevertheless should have a substantial audience awaiting it, principally because of the widespread popularity Herbert's semi-classical music continues to enjoy. The screenplay by Russel Crouse and Robert Lively, written from Lively's original, is patterned along stereotyped backstage lines, largely unimaginative; while Producer-Director Andrew L. Stone dipped much too heavily into the prolific Herbert music library, loading the motivation down with too many songs, introduced too frequently with too little excuse. Cast standout is 14-year-old Susanna Foster, displaying both a remarkable singing voice and a natural acting talent which mark her for important screen endeavors in the future. Making her film debut, Mary ("My Heart Belongs to Daddy") Martin, turns in a spirited performance and Allan Jones evinces equal talent in the male lead.

RKO Radio adds to its reputation for turning out "sleepers"—as demonstrated in "A Man to Remember" and "The Great Man Votes"—with "Two Thoroughbreds," a touching, down-to-earth story about a boy, a horse and their love for each other. The small budget and little-known cast cannot by any means be used as yardsticks to measure the abundance of entertainment and sincere heart tugs instilled by those who collaborated in its making. Cliff Reid, who produced, Jack Hively, the director, and Scenarists Joseph A. Fields and Jerry

(Continued on page 36)

NOW IN SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR

ANNOUNCED over a year ago, Eastman's three new negative films scored an instant success. Today, Plus-X, Super-XX, and Background-X are firmly established favorites. Throughout the industry their unrivalled photographic quality and trustworthy uniformity receive well-merited acclaim. Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y. (J.E. Brulatour, Inc., Distributors, Fort Lee, Chicago, Hollywood.)

EASTMAN

PLUS-X
for general studio use

SUPER-XX
for all difficult shots

BACKGROUND-X
for backgrounds and general exterior work

Hollywood



His Namesake—

Looking over the newly incorporated Arizona city which bears his name is Samuel Goldwyn (at right, behind the sun glasses). With Goldwyn are Katherine Jones, daughter of Arizona's Governor R. T. Jones, and George Hill, the state leader's aide. Goldwyn City was constructed as a location site for "The Westerner," current Gary Cooper starrer.

Major Plants Currently Have 41 Films Working

Although production prospects for the immediate future, eased by elimination of the studio strike threat, indicate a slight upturn, the total currently in work in major plants stands at only 41, a lower-than-usual mark.

Columbia's aggregate dwindled to two with completion of "Bullets for Rustlers" and "His Girl Friday." No starts were listed. Metro, likewise having no starts scheduled, finished "Congo Maisie" and wound up with six in work. Monogram lists one in production.

Paramount is filming eight, including a new starter, "A Night at Earl Carroll's." RKO Radio gunned "The Bullet Code" and "A Bill of Divorcement," moving its total up to eight. Breaking an idle stretch, Republic started "Dark Command," "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "Heroes of the Saddle."

Twentieth Century-Fox attained a seasonal low of only one film in production when "Young as You Feel" hit the finish line. Postponed from last week, "My Son, My Son" got underway under Edward Small's supervision for United Artists. At the same time Hal Roach completed "Two's Company," also for UA, which company lists a total of five in work.

Universal is filming three, none a new start. Warner gunned "And It All Came True" and "We Shall Meet Again" to lift its total to four.

Mary Martin's Next for Paramount Is "Miami"

Next vehicle for Mary Martin at Paramount will be "Miami," suggested by an old song, "On Miami Shore," which William LeBaron, now studio production head, wrote years ago in collaboration with Victor Jacobi. Andrew Stone will produce and direct.

Barnstormers

—Metro

EDDIE CANTOR has checked out for a series of personal appearances through the middle west, his initial stop to be Cincinnati.

GREER GARSON appeared as guest of the Women's Press Club of Hollywood, discussing her latest film appearance in "Remember?"

ANN RUTHERFORD to appear at annual meeting of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina in Charlotte, South Carolina, December 3-4. Contract player then goes to Atlanta for the premiere of "Gone With the Wind."

—20th Century-Fox

JANE WITHERS expands her personal appearance tour from two to six weeks, leaving in January. She will hit key spots in the east, south and midwest.

—Warner Bros.

ROSEMARY LANE, dispatched to New York, appeared on the George Jessel airshow, plugging "Four Wives," in which she appears.

Cleffers

—Samuel Goldwyn

VICTOR YOUNG to score "Raffles."

—Metro

DALIES FRANZ, concert pianist, wins term contract as an actor, effective upon completion of a national tour which he starts next February.

—Paramount

PHIL BOUTELJE, musical advisor on "The Great Victor Herbert," was featured speaker at the Ebell Club, presenting an outline of Herbert's music.

MAX TERR dubbing voices and musical backgrounds for "Gulliver's Travels," feature-length Technicolor cartoon, using a chorus of 110 voices.

—Producers Corp. of America

EUGENE ORMANDY, Philadelphia symphony orchestra conductor, signed to score "Kingdom Come," starring John Charles Thomas.

FRANK TOURS signed as musical supervisor on the new company's product, first of which is "Kingdom Come."

—Republic

PETER TINTURIN writing four original songs for "Outlaws of Santa Fe," next Roy Rogers' western.

—Selznick International

FRANZ WAXMAN borrowed from Metro to score "Rebecca."

—Warner Bros.

Studying the musical score by MAX STEINER, 175 members of the National Federation of Music Clubs were studio guests at a screening of "We Are Not Alone."

HOWARD JACKSON, composer, wins annual American Legion award for composing the "most outstanding" patriotic music of the year. Numbers were used in various historical featurettes.

Meggers

—Sol Lesser

SAM WOOD, borrowed from Samuel Goldwyn, to pilot "Our Town." He replaces William Wyler, tied up on Goldwyn's "The Westerner."

—Republic

FRANK MACDONALD ticketed to direct "Village Barn Dance."

—Harry Sherman-Paramount

LESLEY SELANDER to "Hold Your Horses," final "Hopalong Cassidy" western on the current season's quota.

—20th Century-Fox

H. BRUCE (LUCKY) HUMBERSTONE scouting Arizona location sites for "Cisco Kid No. 2."

Options

—Metro

LESLIE FENTON given new long-term directorial contract.

GEORGE MURPHY given one-year extension on his acting deal.

—RKO

PHYLLIS BROOKS given term acting contract.

—20th Century-Fox

JUNE GALE, actress, held for another term.

JULES FURTHMAN joins writing staff.

JANE WITHERS held for another term. She is currently appearing in her 20th film, "Shooting High."

—Universal

JOHN SUTTON handed new acting agreement.

PAUL GERARD SMITH joins writing staff to work on an untitled original.

—Walter Wanger

OSA MASSEN, Danish actress, given long-term contract. She made her American debut in Paramount's "Honeymoon in Bali."

Percenteers

LOU IRWIN has checked in from a business jaunt.

JACK VOTION resigns as associate in the M. C. Levee agency and has pulled out for New York on business.

SID SCHLAGER pulls out for New York to arrange for a Broadway opening for the Alice D. G. Miller play, "Merry Michael."

Scripters

—Columbia

SY BARTLETT to "Scotland Yard." Everett Riskin produces.

ROBERT CARSON borrowed from Paramount to write an untitled original.

—Metro

HY KRAFT to "Red Butterfly," story of the fight to conquer pellagra. Edward Chodorov will produce.

LENORE COFFEE to "Tonight at 8:30," based on the Noel Coward play.

BETTY REINHART to the next in the "Maisie" series, which J. Walter Ruben is producing.

MARC CONNOLLY to "The Yearling," from a novel by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Vic-

Personnelities

tor Fleming will direct for Producer Sidney Franklin.

—Paramount

DELMER DAVES to "The Night of January 16th."

KETTI FRINGS to "The Ghost Breakers," co-starring Paulette Goddard and Bob Hope, which Arthur Hornblow jr. will produce.

EDDIE MORAN to "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

—Producers Pictures Corp.

BETTY BEECHER to "The Man From Oklahoma," first in a series of eight "Tales of Billy the Kid" westerns featuring George Huston.

WILLIAM LIVELY to "The Sagebrush Family Rides On."

—RKO

DORIS SCHROEDER to "Lone Star Legion," a George O'Brien sagebrusher.

—Republic

THEODORE REEVES to "Doctors Don't Tell."

GEORGE BECK to "Forgotten Girls" for Producer Robert North.

BARRY SHIPMAN to "Covered Wagon Days." Harry Grey will produce.

LESLIE T. WHITE to "The Crooked Road."

PETE ADRIAN, SOL SHOR and NORMAN HALL to "King of the Royal Mounted."

EARLE SNELL to "Arizona Skies," forthcoming Three Mesquiteers western.

—Hal Roach

MICKEL NOVAK to an untitled original.

—20th Century-Fox

MILTON SPERLING to "Fifth Avenue," Kenneth Macgowan production which will feature Henry Fonda.

—Universal

BRUCE MANNING to an original for Deanna Durbin, as yet untitled.

CHARLES GRAYSON to an untitled original to star Baby Sandy.

—Walter Wanger

CHARLES BENNETT to "Personal History," which Alfred Hitchcock will direct.

—Warner Bros.

MICHAEL FESSIER to "The Good Die Poor."

Story Buys

—Metro

"Hurray—I'm Alive," by Richard Maibaum, as a vehicle for Comedian Frank Morgan.

—Republic

"It's Murder," by Virginia A. Blair. John H. Auer will produce.

—20th Century-Fox

"The Sweetheart of Turret One," by Frank Wead and Frederick Hazlett Brennan, purchased from Samuel Goldwyn.

Technically

—Academy Productions

OTTO LUDWIG to edit "And So Goodbye."

—Larry Darmour

CARL HIECKE set as assistant director on "The Shadow," 15-episode serial which James Horne is directing for Columbia release.

—Metro

DAN CATHCART named unit art director on "Forty Little Mothers," forthcoming Eddie Cantor starrer.

GEORGE FOLSEY takes over photography on "Arouse and Beware," substituting for RAY JUNE, out with illness.

DAVE FRIEDMAN assigned as unit manager on "Forty Little Mothers."

CHARLES LAWTON to photograph "Forty Little Mothers."

ERNST MATRAY to design and stage ballet sequence in "Florian."

JACK SMITH shooting special exteriors on "Arouse and Beware."

COUNT ANDREY TOLSTOY, grand-nephew of the Russian novelist, signed to teach Russian to Dolores Del Rio and to serve as technical advisor on sequences in "Arouse and Beware."

MARVIN STUART set as assistant director on "Forty Little Mothers."

BASIL WRANGELL to direct the next John Nesbitt Passing Parade short subject.

DOLPH ZIMMER to assist W. S. Van Dyke on the "Mardi Gras" sequence in "New Moon."

—Paramount

FRANZ BACHELIN named art director on "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

JAMES DAVIES, studio gym instructor, acts as technical advisor on physical education scenes for "The Way of All Flesh."

EARL HEDRICK set as art director on "Down Went McGinty."

CHARLES HISSERICH mixing sound on "Golden Gloves," now in production.

EVERETT ISRAELSON set as property manager on "Golden Gloves."

ERNST LAEMMLE signed as technical advisor on "Down Went McGinty, forthcoming Brian Donlevy starrer.

WILLIAM MELLOR to photograph "A Night at Earl Carroll's;" STUART THOMPSON to handle cameras on "Golden Gloves."

RALPH NELSON set as business manager on "Down Went McGinty."

ROBERT ODELL set as art director on "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

—RKO

RUDOLPH MATE to photograph "My Favorite Wife," a Leo McCarey production.

—Republic

H. S. BROWN to produce "Drums of Fu Manchu," a 15-chapter serial.

—20th Century-Fox

ERNIE PALMER replaces VIRGIL MILLER as cameraman on "Shooting High." Miller is out with illness.

—Universal

FORD BEEBE to direct "Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe," a serial featuring Larry Crabbe and Carol Hughes.

LARRY CEBALLOS begins directing "Session in Rhythm," a musical short featuring Judy Starr.

FRANK SHAW assigned as assistant director on "It's a Date," Deanna Durbin vehicle which William A. Seiter will pilot.

—Warner Bros.

TONY GAUDIO to photograph "We Shall Meet Again."

OWEN CRUMP writing script for "Cinderella's Feller," two-reel comedy which GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD will supervise. Hollingshead also plans early starts on another pair of two-reelers, "Walking Gold" and "Murder at the Symphony."



Eyes on the Board—

Y. Frank Freeman (right), vice-president in charge of Paramount's studio operations, expresses chagrin as Producer Harry Sherman's "Hopalong Cassidy" baseballers (Sherman is at the left) win over the Freeman front-office contingent, 4-3.

Hedy "Voluntarily" Ends Walkout, Says M-G-M

Ending a walkout which began September 20, Hedy Lamarr has reported—"voluntarily," a studio announcement amplified—back to M-G-M to resume work under the contract which she once declared had been breached because of salary differences. The studio announced, upon her return, that its court petition to secure a permanent injunction preventing her from accepting stage or screen work elsewhere will be dropped. The actress will begin work immediately on added scenes for "I Take This Woman," in which she co-stars with Spencer Tracy, and which was shelved, uncompleted, several months ago.

Shooting on "I Take This Woman" will be under the direction of W. S. Van Dyke, who has withdrawn from his megging chore on "New Moon." Latter will be piloted temporarily by Robert Z. Leonard, who is producing the Jeanette MacDonald-Nelson Eddy musical.

At the time of her walkout Miss Lamarr asserted her salary—$500 weekly—was far below the amount stipulated in her contract. She claimed to be entitled to $5,000 per week.

RKO Radio has handed a term ticket as producer to David Hempstead, who left the 20th Century-Fox production roster some months ago.

Added to the Paramount staff as a writer was Joseph Sistrom.

N. A. McKay has severed active connections as Mary Pickford's business manager after an association of 18 years.

Gabe Yorke, who has been a Hays office executive, has been appointed by the Screen Publicists Guild to take charge of the publicity bureau which is now in process of formation. The bureau, designed to aid jobless members of the Guild, will seek publicity clients, the work to be handled by unemployed Guild members, who will be remunerated on a prorata basis.

Cinémarks

James Stewart plans to leave December 10 for Indiana, Pennsylvania, to spend the Christmas holidays with his parents . . . Director Edward L. Marin is planning a Honolulu vacation when he has completed his current Metro assignment . . . Actor Charles Coburn has accepted Northwestern University's invitation to lecture before the adult educational class next spring, en route to Schenectady for his annual work in directing the Mohawk Drama Festival.

*

Arthur Freed, Metro producer, trained out for New York . . . Dave Fleischer, who co-produced and directed "Gulliver's Travels" for Paramount, hosted a party for the combined scoring and dubbing crews of the Paramount and Fleischer studios. Eighty musicians, technicians and other guests attended.

*

Lou Hyman, distribution head for Principal Pictures, left for New York with a print of the latest Bobby Breen film for delivery to RKO Radio . . . Charles Boyer and his wife Pat Paterson are in from France.

*

Col. Jason Joy, studio executive at 20th Century-Fox, has pulled out for Washington, D. C., on a business jaunt . . . Edwin Knopf of Samuel Goldwyn's production staff will spend another two weeks in New York searching for story material and writing talent . . . Henry Ginsberg, who checks out as vice-president and general manager of Selznick International, January 1, has planed east for a series of parleys with S-I's New York executives.

*

Local guest of Charles Coburn, character actor, is Beauvais Fox, dramatic critic and journalist, now associated with Coburn in the Mohawk Drama Festival at Union College . . . Principal speaker at the dedication of the Weinberger auditorium in Vista Del Mar was Producer Walter Wanger. Gov. Culbert Olson and Frank Rush, president of the Community Chest, appeared on the program.

*

Richard Arlen has planed to New York for a two-week vacation.

*

Metro's Office Employes Guild will hold a benefit dance December 2 at Brentwood Country Club, the proceeds to go into the group's unemployment fund . . . John Carroll is planning a jungle and swamp-hunting trip in Florida when he has completed his current M-G-M assignment . . . Newlyweds are Wolfe Reade, member of Universal's publicity staff, and Mildred Louise Blathemmel.

*

Irene Lee, Warner story editor, checked in from New York after looking over the current crop of Broadway plays.

Academy Board Calls For Election Dec. 12

Setting machinery in motion to map plans for the new year, highlight of which will be the annual Awards banquet, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' board of governors has ordered a general election, to be staged December 12, at which a complete new board of 15 members will be named. The new governors will then meet and select a committee to handle details of the banquet.

Fifty candidates from the technical, executive and creative branches of the industry, were named by the board to be voted upon at the coming election. These candidates include John Aalberg, John Arnold, Lionel Atwill, Lionel Banks, Henry Blanke, S. J. Briskin, Bernard Brown, Sidney Buchman, David Butler, Frank Capra, Charles Coburn, Ronald Colman, George Cukor, Michael Curtiz, Richard Day, C. B. DeMille, Walt Disney, Howard Estabrook, Douglas Fairbanks sr., May Robson, Mark Sandrich, Allan Scott, David Selznick, Clark Gable, Fred Gage, James Hilton, Alfred Hitchcock, Edward Everett Horton, Howard Hughes, George Irving, Talbot Jennings, John LeRoy Johnston, Henry King, Fred Leahy, Mervyn LeRoy, Frank Lloyd, Gene Lockhart, H. J. McCord, John Meehan, Tom Moulton, Jane Murfin, Van Nest Polglase, Elmer Raguse, Robert Riskin, Douglas Shearer, Norma Shearer, Max Steiner, James Stewart, Leopold Stokowski, Hunt Stromberg, Norman Taurog, Joseph Valentine, Walter Wanger, Herbert Wilcox, Ray Wilkinson, Carey Wilson, Sam Wood, William Wyler and Darryl Zanuck.

Current board members comprise Capra, Estabrook, Miss Murfin, Leahy, Arnold, Atwill, Graham Baker, Briskin, Edwin Burke, DeMille, Gable, Lloyd, Polglase, Selznick and Zanuck.

The Academy is also contemplating publication of a monthly magazine, to be called "Montage," designed as a "dignified presentation" of current affairs, production trends and other matters of interest to the industry. A dummy has been prepared by Donald Gledhill, Academy executive secretary, who will edit the book if Academy leaders approve the plans. First issue would be printed immediately after the Awards banquet next March.

Orr Succeeds Hirsch as "U" Studio Ad Head

Troy Orr has been appointed head of the Universal advertising department, supplanting J. Albert Hirsch, who resigned after five years of service to return to New York.

Spearheads

(Continued from page 32)

Cady displayed such unanimous and commendable restraint that the picture never veers toward the sticky side, and, given the substantial exploitation it merits, the film is certain to have wide appeal for every type and age of audience. Two adolescent players, Jimmy Lydon and Joan Brodel, deliver such natural performances that their boxoffice future is well-nigh assured.

* * *

Sagebrush, in the form of 20th Century-Fox's "The Cisco Kid and the Lady," furnished the dominant flavor for the trio that constituted the second-liners. Two important changes characterize the latest episode in the screen career of O. Henry's beloved badman: He veers from benevolent banditry toward romance and comedy; and he is portrayed for the first time by Cesar Romero, succeeding Warner Baxter. The refinement in story structure and its accompanying loss of pace, attributable to the script by Frances Hyland and original by Stanley Rauh, certainly will be unwelcome to the shootin'-ridin'-rip-roarin' school of western addicts. On the other hand, public interest in Romero, who delivers a creditable performance, may offset the disappointment of confirmed sagebrush fans. Herbert I. Leeds directed.

Universal's "The Big Guy" permits Victor McLaglen again to struggle with his conscience and allow right to prevail just in the nick of time. Heavily melodramatic and more or less formula as to story, it nevertheless has been crisply handled throughout and can be marked down as acceptable entertainment. Burt Kelly's production handling is entirely satisfactory and Arthur Lubin's direction maintains the lively clip established in Lester Cole's screenplay, adapted from a story by Wallace Sullivan and Richard K. Polimer.

"Doctor X," that mad scientist, comes back from his grisly grave in Warner's "Return of Doctor X," packing a load of chills that are cold enough and plentiful enough to satiate the shiver-gasp-and-shriek fans. A sterling example of the consistently good program material turned out by Bryan Foy, it boasts well-paced direction by Vincent Sherman, a workmanlike screenplay by Lee Katz and the presence of a trustworthy cast headed by Humphrey Bogart in the title role. Customers, particularly the juveniles, will like it.

* * *

Bringing up the rear from all perspectives was Paramount's "The Night of Nights." Employing the Pagliacci laugh-clown-laugh theme in an original screenplay by Donald Ogden Stewart, it has its occasional moments of genuine emotional appeal, which, however, are too few and far between to raise the vehicle above mediocrity. Even a hardworking cast headed by Pat O'Brien can not transcend the lack of those elements necessary to achieve rating for the film as general audience entertainment, although particularly soft-hearted feminine patrons may relish its tear-jerking propensities. Lewis Milestone struggled unsuccessfully in the director's chair and George Arthur is credited as the producer.

Geronimo Reels Again At Three Premieres

PHOENIX, ARIZ.—"Fifty-three years after he was led out of Arizona at the point of a rifle, Geronimo returned last night surrounded by all the trappings Hollywood could devise," read the Paramount telegrams directed to a waiting world on the occasion of the world premiere of "Geronimo," and we haven't the heart to spoil the elegant expression by rewrite.

And when Geronimo, the southwest's worst Indian badman, returned via the screen to three Arizona cities—Phoenix, Safford and Tucson—there were Hollywood stars, Indian dances, an Indian village in the heart of downtown Phoenix and a national broadcast plus thousands of onlookers.

The premieres had as special guests the son and grandson of Geronimo, and Sam Chino, 74-year-old warrior who rode with the Apache warlord. These notables and the stars were guests of Arizona's Governor Jones and a host of other civic and social leaders. The military, represented by Maj. Gen. A. M. Tuthill of the U. S. Army, also took part, and Mayor Walter Thalheimer was host at luncheon.

The stars who appeared in Phoenix included Dorothy Lamour, Preston Foster, William Frawley, Patricia Morison, Robert Preston, Kitty Kelly and J. Carrol Naish; Adolph Zukor had as his guests in Tucson, Ralph Morgan and William Henry, while Monte Blue, Chief Thundercloud and Joseph Allen jr. were the guests of Safford where a barbecue for 2,000 persons helped celebrate the premiere.

Paul Sloane, producer of "Geronimo," persuaded some recalcitrant members of the tribe, intent upon seeing the film again, to return to their home at Fort Huachuca by promising to send a special print for the entire Apache tribe to see.

Safier Subs at GN Office When Riter Checks Out

LOS ANGELES—In an effort to straighten out the tangled financial situation confronting Grand National's western territory exchanges, Morris Safier, western sales manager, is temporarily headquartering at the local GN office, handling the desk vacated when W. C. Riter turned in his resignation as local exchange manager. Riter checked out because of the company's alleged failure to meet his weekly paycheck.

GN's product in the Salt Lake, Seattle and Portland territories will hereafter be handled by company exchanges there on a percentage basis in an effort to keep them operating.

Wage Hike Demands Bring Termination Notices

SEATTLE—Unable to meet the demands of the operators union for increased salaries, the Rivoli Theatre has handed out terminating notice to all its employes. The theatre is one of the John Danz chain reopened a short time ago with a new policy of vaudeville and double features.

PORTLAND

THE crowds drawn by downtown houses from Thanksgiving through Sunday were the talk of Filmrow. First and second run theatres alike played to capacity or near capacity. House records were talked about, but no official claims have been heard. An apparent preference by the Portland theatregoers to stand in line Saturday or Sunday rather than to attend during the week has been increasingly noticeable during the past year or so. Whether prohibition repeal has helped the theatre, or whether competing night spots can't handle weekend celebrants, is a question. Or maybe films are coming back.

The Esquire Theatre, whose foreign picture schedules recently were terminated due to war conditions, reopened Thanksgiving day (Roosevelt's) with a switch to standard programs. Ray Grombacher, a theatre operator in the Pacific Northwest for the past 30 years, has taken over the management.

Johnny Harvey is back at the booking desk at Universal after a two-week vacation in Los Angeles. He reports a quietly enjoyable time, spent visiting his parents except for calls at the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices and a tour of Universal studios . . . Art Kallen, Universal booker at Seattle, here following the death Monday of his father, a Portland resident . . . Sam and George Whiteside of Corvallis went south for the O.S.C.-U.C.L.A. football game.

Jack Williams is installing new RCA sound equipment in his house at Ilwaco, supplied through the B. F. Shearer Co. here . . . It sounds like a gag, but Filmrow scouts claim that Art Hile carries his change in a big, steel cash box under his arm while booking for the suburban houses. Couldn't verify that it was chained to his body . . . That recalls the sign in the coffee shop nearest Filmrow: "No Checks Cashed! We know you are all right —it's the banks we don't trust."

Ike Geller, Bob White, Hal White and Kenneth Ames holding their daily conference in front of the Paramount discussing business. They do say that the first speaker has no chance . . . Jack Kloepper and Jack O'Bryan leaving United Artists flat for a sales meeting in Seattle . . . Al Adams of Silverton and George Gould of Dalles "helloing" . . . Charlie Skiens, in from Burns.

Lou Amacher due back from Chicago, called there for a mid-season convention of M-G-M sales executives and district and resident managers . . . Southern Oregon crowd was well represented this week with Eino Hemmler and George Hunt of Medford, S. G. Mendenhall of Grants Pass and Don Radabaugh of Roseburg . . . Lou Stang back at Paramount after a long battle with an ailing eye.

Densmore A. Ross, general manager of Ross Federal Service, spent the presidential Thanksgiving day in Portland while on a tour of western offices. Said the country reminded him of New Engand except for the absence of snow, and he was to find that in a scheduled stopover at Sun Valley . . . Margaret North of the Hamrick-Evergreen office to Astoria Saturday for a family reunion . . . Inquiry reveals that the "city slicker" Mary Greely carried to the Portland-Gonzaga football was a shower-proof coat—and appropriate, too!

Through a tieup with a local portrait studio, the Paramount presented each patron with one 8x10 *mug shot as a Christmas gift. The offer lasted a week, and caught the heavy holiday trade . . . Marion Sobottka is in Seattle, visiting her mother, who is ill . . . A series of benefit parties for the Portland Civic Theatre opened Tuesday, with Director Don Marye reading "Firebrand" for the guests.*

Kirk McGowan's hunch was good when he asked Mrs. Agnes McLean to punch for him on a turkey board. She won the Thanksgiving gobbler, in one try . . . Herb Sobottka predicts "Mr. Smith" will break a house record, or nearly, on the basis of early first showings . . . The dance held the Portland stage Saturday with Argentinita at the Auditorium and the Bali and Java troupe at the Mayfair. Ballet Russe is due in January.

Theatre-Carnival Tiff Is Looming in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—Arguing their bookings should be limited to situations not in direct competition with motion picture theatres, W. H. Lollier, in charge of real estate and tax matters for Fox West Coast, has proposed to the county board of supervisors that an ordinance be drafted controlling the licensing of circuses, carnivals and other "tent shows."

Lollier declared it is not his intention to have the shows banned completely, but that he has compiled statistics to prove that wherever such carnivals or circuses have operated in opposition to FWC's theatres, a boxoffice slump has resulted. In his letter to the board of supervisors the FWC executive contends that the circuit, as a heavy tax payer with enormous property investments, is entitled to have those investments protected.

Contesting the action is O. N. Crafts, of "Crafts' 20 Big Shows," owner of a number of ferris wheels, merry-go-rounds and other properties which he books at county fairs and in suburban locations throughout the state. At Crafts' suggestion a letter was submitted to the supervisors by R. B. Spensley, manager of the South Hollywood branch of the Bank of America, in which "careful consideration" of the matter, before any action be taken, was urged. Spensley, while pointing out he and his organization must remain completely impartial, informed the board that Crafts has been a customer at the bank for some 15 years; that the firm considers him an "excellent citizen;" that his carnivals represent an investment of approximately $500,000; and that his shows always have been conducted in a "high class manner" for public enjoyment.

Crafts, whose carnival headquarters during the winter in North Hollywood, employs about 1,000 men and women.

Lollier's proposal has temporarily been tabled by the county board.

SEATTLE

THIS TOWN closed up tight celebrating Thanksgiving Day on the 23rd. Business in general around the show shops was not up to expectations on this bird-eating day, but the traditional football game between Oregon and Washington attracted a monster crowd . . . Jimmy Phelan, coach of the Washington Huskies, was tendered a dinner by members of the Northwest Film Club in the club quarters. Some 60 members attended.

Maurice Safier, coast division manager of Grand National, here for a couple of days conferring with Al Bloom, local branch manager. GN has moved its offices to 2404 First Avenue where Al is on hand to take care of business . . . Cecil Gwinn, theatre owner of Centralia, Chehalis, and Montesano is in the local hospital for an operation for gall stones. Cecil cannot have visitors for at least a week.

Seattle's emissaries to the San Francisco Golden Gate Exposition are back home, having gained the praise of union officials in the Bay City. Lorraine Cunningham, Pearl Elliott, Frances Hart, Margaret Lyons, and Ruth Helm, all members of the Theatre Employes union, Local B-22, were employed at the exposition as cashiers, and stayed until the last day.

Naomi Mackay, former secretary to Guy Navarre of United Artists, is seriously ill in the hospital. Her new-born baby did not survive and Naomi is now under special care.

Members of a local community club are protesting to the operators union the picketing of a meeting at which a motion picture was to have been shown, but wasn't because the club could not afford to pay the money demanded by a union operator . . . Frank Airy, exhibitor at Twisp and Winthrop, bagged six pheasants in 20 minutes on a recent hunting trip.

Art and Mrs. Slater and daughter, Alice Jean, are in Los Angeles where they spent their Thanksgiving with Art's mother . . . J. T. Sheffield and John Danz, for the second time within a month, won top scores in the Film Club duplicate bridge tournament . . . Leroy and Alys Johnson home from the motor trip through Montana, Utah, Nevada, California and Oregon.

Birthdays of Bliss Haviland and Marie Schmidt honored at the first of a series of monthly parties at the Warner exchange . . . Jesse Beckman down from Alaska, and telling of plans to build a new enterprise in Kodiak, which soon will be humming with activities . . . Maury Saffle away for Chicago to attend a conference on the distribution of "Gone With the Wind" . . . Roy Peacock back home after several days in Portland.

When Tom Grady left by car for Milwaukee, Bill Parker accompanied him as far as Spokane where he got busy with exploitation for the new FitzPatrick Travelogue films on the state of Washington . . . Frank and Betty Christie back home from their wedding trip and getting settled in the new apartment . . . Bob and Celia Estill spent their holiday weekend with Bob's parents at Twisp . . . Bill Severyns planed in from Mexico City where he was convening with other sheriffs of the nation . . . John and Mrs. Hamrick attending the Washington-Oregon football game . . . The George Blairs hosted a large family dinner on that eventful day.

Frank and Mrs. Newman to Portland for their Thanksgiving with the Frank Newman jr's . . . Morrie and Hazel Segel celebrating their ninth wedding anniversary . . . Jimmy Ewing in from Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and Newport . . . Hugh Bruen back to his bailiwick in Whittier . . . A. J. Sullivan now set on his new job with United Artists . . . Art Huot back after a trek east of the mountains . . . Likewise Wayne Christie for 12 days . . . Likewise George Mitchley for eight days.

Eva Lukan hosting her card club . . . Junior Mercy and his three sons spending a weekend in Yakima . . . Claude and Mrs. Jensen back home to Portland after getting well acquainted with the von Herberg's new youngster . . . Harriet Lamb on the Row for the first time since her operation some months ago . . . Joe Merrick on the Row for a short visit renewing old friendships.

Visitors this week included Morrie Nimmer from Wenatchee; Gus Bergman from Republic; Mickey De Leo from Port Townsend; Jay Porter, Johnny Smythe, and Louie Perunko from Tacoma; Jay and Mrs. Tew from North Bend . . . Cutting a wide swath on the Row these days is John James Whalen of Vancouver, B. C., father of Mrs. Roy "Frankie" Peacock. Whalen, a retired business man, is stopping over in Seattle en route to Oceanside, Cal., to spend the winter.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is a place and a way within every theatre operating in America, where a fifty dollar bill invested for thirty days, and well secured, will during the life of the business, net

"$50.00 OR MORE MONTHLY IN PROFITS"

for the Exhibitor. Unbelievable you think, perhaps, but thousands are doing many times that good.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

DENVER

THAT radio stars are good boxoffice was proved again with "That's Right, You're Wrong" with Kay Kyser at the Orpheum. The film packed the house repeatedly and ran up a gross more than 50 per cent above average. "The Cat and the Canary," in its second week at the Denham, likewise was stronger than usual for a second week. All first runs were average or better.

A $2,500 remodeling job is being planned by Joe and Harry Graham for their theatre equipment showrooms and workroom. The showrooms will be made about half again as big, and will be modern in every detail. The work, to start soon, will be completed soon after the first of the year.

Nat Wolfe, distributor of "Book Night," announces the sale of the plan to six of the Gibralter Enterprises, Inc., theatres. The houses which will start it during December and January, are the Rialto theatres at Loveland, Colo., Casper, Wyo., Del Norte and Alamosa, Colo.; the Silco, Silver City, N. M.; Egyptian, Scottsbluff, Neb., and the Princess, Del Norte, Colo.

Carl Jung has changed the name of the Empress at Glenrock, Wyo., to the Wyoma . . . A. C. Jesminck is repairing and remodeling the Ovid at Ovid, Colo. The house was damaged by fire recently.

Robert Garland, who has been in the hospital for more than two months, has been removed to his home much improved. Following an auto accident in western Colorado it was necessary to amputate his left arm. Garland is a district manager for Fox Intermountain.

The national broadcast of "Dr. I. Q." is being made from the stage of the Denver Theatre on Monday nights for the next six weeks . . . After being open a short time the America Theatre at Gillette, Wyo., has closed.

Virgil L. Ulrich has reopened the 180-seat Mazda at Strasburg, Colo. . . . The Avalon at Venango, Neb., has been closed by Rodney Davis . . . William Dollison has bought the Real Theatre at Roy, N. M., from W. J. Sturgis.

Harry and Joe McDonald have opened their new Nile Theatre at Mitchell, Neb. Numerous exchange and theatre supply men from Denver were in attendance. The house, which replaces the Crystal, will be managed by Robert Spawn.

Vic Aldrich is the new steward of the Rocky Mountain Screen Club, succeeding A. G. Edwards, resigned to enter the selling game again . . . The new Fox at Longmont, Colo., will open December 5, and it is expected every exchange manager and salesman in town at the time will attend the premiere.

Charles Klein, president of the Black Hills Amusement Co., of Deadwood, S. D., is back from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where, after a thorough check-up, the doctors could find nothing seriously wrong.

Seen on the Row wrangling with bookers and buying supplies were H. E. "Pop" Gallagher of Durango, Colo.; N. S. Sawaya, Trinidad, Colo., and Henry Bolte, Lyons, Colo.

LOS ANGELES

JULIUS JOELSON, Boston showman, and Mrs. Joelson checked in for their first visit to Hollywood. The Bay State exhibitor recently sold a group of his theatres to the M&P Theatres Corp. He is headquartering at the Ambassador Hotel . . . Willie Bronstein, 12-year-old son of Ben Bronstein, local theatre man, is recuperating from a recent appendectomy.

Local showmen are mourning William Jones, old-time exhibitor, who died after a brief illness. He had been managing the Keystone Theatre for the Popkin-Berman interests . . . Al Bowman has severed his connections with the new Town Theatre in Bell Gardens, disposing of his interest to his partner, M. G. Kaplan.

Housewifely duties have beckoned to Frances Blotom, secretary at National Screen Service, who has resigned to be married . . . Don McLaren, of Filbert Supply Co., is vacationing for a week on John Filbert's ranch in the Malibu mountains . . . Universal held a trade screening of "Big Guy" at the Paramount projection room. Its own projection facilities are temporarily out of commission, as the exchange is being redecorated.

With proceeds going into the charity fund, the Pacific Coast Showmen's Ass'n is holding its 22nd annual banquet at the Biltmore Hotel January 16. Everett W. Coe is handling arrangements . . . Fox West Coast is planning a Christmas party for the circuit's employes December 22 . . . Bill Smith has returned from San Francisco after setting the opening of "Stella Del Mare" at the Palace Theatre. Smith is handling the Italian-made musical in this territory.

Ben Peskay, of the Palms Theatre, and Harry Denny, of Majestic exchange, pulled out for San Francisco on business . . . Majestic screened "Hitler's Reign of Terror" November 28 at the RKO Radio exchange . . . Because of ill health, Bob Gumm is negotiating with a midwestern exhibitor for the sale of Gumm's Brea Theatre in Brea.

"Whirlpool of Desire," French picture, has gone into its second week at the Cinema Theatre, with Manager Louis Berkhoff reporting good business . . . Just in from a quail-hunting trip, Judy Poynter—operator of the San Clemente Theatre in San Clemente—pulls out shortly on a duck-garnering jaunt along the Colorado River.

Booking visitors: Mac Sinift, Del Mar Theatre; Frank Ullman of the Azteca, Calexico; Chet Black and Seth Perkins, operators of the Pico and San-Val Drive-Ins, respectively; Joe Sloat, Maynard Theatre; Bud Gore, LaMar, Manhattan Beach.

Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, has checked in from a business trek to Seattle . . . Fox West Coast is planning a gigantic Christmas party for the circuit's employes, to be held December 22.

Preliminary discussion of the fourth annual Gradwell Sears sales drive was held at the local Warner exchange with Jack Brower, local manager, and Ben Kalmenson, western division sales head, presiding.

Elect Joe Cooper Manager Of Northwest Film Club

SEATTLE—J. T. Sheffield, president of the Northwest Film Club, announces that, at a special meeting of the trustees, held in the club quarters, Joe Cooper was unanimously selected to be manager of the club and its activities. Attending the meeting beside the president were B. F. "Ben" Shearer, Jack Rosenberg, Pete Higgins, Herndon Edmond, Eddie Lamb, Keith Beckwith and Harry Blatt. Arrangements are now being made for the winter get-togethers and open houses which will be enlivened with surprises and novelties under Cooper's supervision.

Roy Drachman to Leave Post at Fox Tucson

TUCSON, ARIZ.—Effective January 1, Roy Drachman has resigned as manager of the Fox Tucson, Fox West Coast theatre, to accept appointment as manager of the Tucson Sunshine Climate Club, civic organization. He has been managing the house for nearly seven years, and has been in the exhibition business since 1925, having joined his father, a veteran southwest showman, at that time.

Johnnie Harron Succumbs In Seattle Hospital

SEATTLE—Johnnie Harron, film star of silent and early sound days, died at the Virginia Mason Hospital here. Harron was afflicted with spinal meningitis while visiting here. His wife was flying from Los Angeles to his bedside when he died.

Harron was at the time under contract to Warner Bros.

SALT LAKE

SALES of Intermountain region retail stores showed a good gain during October over the same month a year ago, the bureau of census reports.

Miss Laraine Day of Roosevelt, Utah, has been given a long-term contract by the Metro studios.

The Rialto Theatre, operated by Joseph L. Lawrence, has adopted a new policy of playing first runs only, following acquisition of RKO product.

At a late hour Saturday of this weekend, firemen had succeeded in controlling a fire of undetermined origin that practically destroyed the interior of the Roxy Theatre, Montpelier, Ida. The blaze was discovered early in the afternoon by Lucile Kunz, cashier. Loss was estimated by Manager Stanley H. Rich at $20,000.

Friends and associates of George D. Pyper, manager of the old Salt Lake Theatre for 25 years, honored him with a surprise party at the Lion House, on his 79th birthday.

Manager Andy Floor of the Roxy is renewing the introductory offer of Vol. 1 of the standard American encyclopedia distributed by Harry Kerrer.

Max Freager at Billings, Mont., the last of four independent exhibitors to open Warner Pictures at 25 cents top admission got under way last week. The three others were the Park at Butte, the Roxy at Missoula and the Roxy at Ft. Collins, Colo., Stewart reports.

Bob Garland, district manager for Fox Intermountain, has left St. Luke's Hospital at Denver for his home in the same city. Bob lost an arm following an auto mishap September 28. He will return to his post in the spring.

International Seat Corporation's U16 Floating Comfort Chair

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Jim Riley

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SEE THESE INSTALLATIONS:

Brentwood Theatre, Brentwood, Calif.
Enean Theatre, Concord, Calif.
Clay Theatre, San Francisco
Larkin Theatre, San Francisco
Rex Theatre, Madera, Calif.
Liberty Theatre, Sacramento
Oaks Theatre, Berkeley, Calif.
Roxie Theatre, Oakland
Cerrito Theatre, El Cerrito, Calif.
Orpheus Theatre, San Rafael
Vogue Theatre, San Francisco
Glade Theatre, Lindsay, Calif.
Santa Cruz Bowl, Santa Cruz, Calif.
Monterey Bowl, Monterey, Calif.
Richmond Bowl, Richmond, Calif.
Town Hall Theatre, Portola, Calif.
Town Hall Theatre, Quincy, Calif.
Town Hall Theatre, Yerrington, Nev.
Downtown Theatre, Oakland, Calif.

To Be Installed:

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco
Esquire Theatre, Sacramento
Center Theatre, Centerville, Calif.
Legion Hall, Turlock, Calif.
Legion Hall, Redwood City, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO

THE SWING into Christmas has definitely begun here. Since Thanksgiving Day all the local papers have been filled with page after page of "Christmas Value" ads and the stores all are featuring displays of gift merchandise. A definite increase in buying tempo is being enjoyed by the merchants and matinee receipts at the downtown houses are up as a result. Yes, if the dock strike were not holding up December merchandise that storekeepers sorely need on their shelves immediately, things would be strictly O. K. with Market St. entrepreneurs.

"Ninotchka" threatens to break attendance records at the Paramount and is getting raves that have been equalled by but few previous pictures here . . . Ed Beck, Metro press agent, has announced a "Ninotchka" contest for FWC managers in the northern division. A prize of $100 *is being offered for the best comparative gross against "Babes in Arms," and one of* $50 *for the best exploitation campaign . . . L. C. Wingham, local Metro manager, is in Chicago for a M-G-M conference.*

Rodda Harvey, recently back from a hunting trip, had some of the boys out to an elk dinner at one of the leading local eateries Friday night. Among the Filmrowites in attendance were: George Nasser of the Nasser Bros. circuit; Lloyd (Four Star) Owenby, National Theatre Supply manager; Barney Rose, Universal branch manager; Joe Blumenfeld of the Blumenfeld circuit; and Bill Heineman, Universal division manager, who accompanied Harvey on the shoot.

The Telenews Theatre is about to complete a deal with NBC for the hourly news broadcast from the recreation room of the newsreel house . . . Six-week runs here include "Babes in Arms," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," and "Lucrezia Borgia" . . . Warner bookers are getting set for the imminent "Sears Drive" . . . The local 20th Century-Fox exchange is in fourth place in the nationwide Kent Drive.

All the publicity men we've talked to have agreed that local papers are among the easiest in the country to work with in securing cinema plugs . . . Warner's will release "Four Wives" in this area around Christmas time . . . Warner's screened "Mad Empress," the Mexican version of "Juarez," Monday night.

Bob Ginnif is the new shipper at Grand National, replacing Charlie Owens, who is now with Coast Pictures . . . Pacific Coast Theatre Supply is reseating the Centre Theatre at Centreville for Charley Peterson. The local Orpheum, operated by Fanchon & Marco, is installing new seats. Pacific Coast is also doing that job . . . Reopening of the Tivoli has been postponed indefinitely.

Visiting exhibitors were noticeably absent from the Row this week, but among those we saw were: John Martese, who was around completing arrangements for his new house in Gonzales; the Conley brothers, Reedley; Lew Marks, Rialto, Sacramento, who has recently returned from a New York honeymoon; Loran Kimes, manager of the Harvey Portola at Portola; Doug Hardy, manager of Harvey McCloud at McCloud; Leo Reese, Lakeport; and Ray Summers, manager of Harvey's Angels Theatre at Angels Camp, who was recently wed to Wanda McKoon, a former Harvey employe at McCloud.

The initial issue of the Pacific Coast Conference official publication, "Ind-Ex," the name a contraction of the words "Independent Exhibitor," has made its appearance . . . Local employes of the Harvey Amusement Co. held one of their frequent parties at the Hotel Empire Tuesday noon . . . Floyd St. John, former head of the Republic exchanges here and in Los Angeles, was a visitor on the Row this week . . . Emily Bastaiff is the new receptionist at Harvey's . . . Leo Reese is installing new equipment in his house at Lakeport.

Motion pictures were discontinued at Folsom State Prison in 1927 when a riot followed a showing there. However, reformatory officials now are having complete sound equipment installed in the prison's theatre, which will have regularly scheduled screenings starting Christmas Day. This will be the first opportunity many of the inmates will have had to witness a sound picture.

Billy Rose's telegraphed offer of $1,000,000 *for control of the* 1940 *Golden Gate International Exposition created quite a bit of excitement and comment among local show people. The offer is being considered by Fair officials . . . Several Hollywoodites were up this week for ground breaking ceremonies at Albany, the new East Bay race track which will open early next year. Among those rumored financially interested in the project is Bing Crosby . . . Bay Area exhibitors are busily engaged completing arrangements for their big Christmas week shows.*

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"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
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LOS ANGELES

FWC District Heads in Huddles With Skouras

LOS ANGELES—Northern and southern California district managers of the Fox-West Coast circuit converged on Los Angeles and spent the major part of a week recently discussing plans for the remainder of the season with Spyros Skouras, president of National Theatres, who made the stop as part of his tour of the various operating divisions of National's subsidiary companies.

Skouras was accompanied by Ed Zabel of the eastern buying department, and John Haley, aide to the National Theatres president.

Following the local meeting, Skouras continued on to Seattle.

Alhambra Officials Move On Long "Horror" Shows

ALHAMBRA, CAL.—Citing a recent midnight "horror" show in which five features were shown and which held patrons until 4 a. m., the Alhambra and San Gabriel Parent-Teacher Ass'ns and O. K. Berger of the Alhambra police department are drafting a resolution for submission to the city commission outlawing such exhibition practices.

Complainants declare the late hours are not suitable for school children.

Ernest L. Scanlon Named S-I Studio Treasurer

HOLLYWOOD—Ernest L. Scanlon has been named studio treasurer of Selznick International, moving up from his post as assistant treasurer, which he has held since the company's formation. Appointment was made by John Hay Whitney, chairman of the board, and David O. Selznick. Previous to joining S-I, Scanlon had been with RKO Radio and Pioneer Pictures.

Majestic Gets Territorial Rights to Two Films

LOS ANGELES—Territorial distribution rights to "Spy of Napoleon," featuring Richard Barthelmess and Dolly Haas, and "Forbidden Music," with Jimmy Durante and Richard Tauber, have been acquired by Majestic Pictures.

Release Hitler Film

LOS ANGELES — Majestic Pictures has acquired coast distribution rights to "Hitler's Reign of Terror," which was photographed in Germany by Cornelius Vanderbilt and narrated by Edwin C. Hill.

Renews Cairo Lease

LOS ANGELES—A new 12-year lease has been secured on the Cairo Theatre, suburban house, by Ivan Hansen. Hansen has operated the theatre for several years on a 20-cent admission basis.

Figelbaum Plans

COMPTON, CAL.—A new 800-seat house is to be constructed by Anne Figelbaum, who disposed of her Compton Theatre to Fox West Coast some years ago.

Adapts "Scotland Yard"

HOLLYWOOD—Sy Bartlett is scripting "Scotland Yard" for Producer Everett Riskin at Columbia.

New Paint Job

ROUNDUP, MONT.—Recent improvements to the American Theatre here include a new paint job. Glynn H. Gau is the manager.

Chicago Talk Draws 40 Allied Members

CHICAGO—Harry Brandt, continuing his barnstorming tour throughout the country against the Neely bill and "promiscuous appearances on the radio by film stars," and for an "honest arbitration system," stopped off in Chicago to confer with about 40 Allied theatre members and regional vice-presidents.

Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, and a district vice-president of national Allied, was chairman of the meeting, held at the Congress Hotel.

Besides Kirsch, there were many Chicago Allied members present, in addition to Al Steffes of Minneapolis; Maurice Rubin, representative of Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, and additional representatives from the Wisconsin, Indiana and Minnesota units.

Among Chicago Allied members present were Ben Lasker, Ben Bartlestein, Harry Nepo, Jack Rose, Jim Booth of Essaness, Johnny Jones, Joe Stern, Sinuel Roberts, Ludwig Sussman, Van Nomikos, Abe Gumbiner, Charles Nelson and Dick Salkin.

Brandt was here long enough also to confer with John Balaban, operating head of B&K and Great States Theatres, who promised full support in the last-ditch fight Brandt hopes will be made against the Neely bill, with Eddie Silverman of Essaness Theatres, and with John Jones of Jones, Linick and Schaefer.

Has "90%" Chance

"This dangerous Neely bill at the present time has a 90 per cent chance of becoming law," Brandt told the Allied group, "and now I am no longer concerned with what harm it will do the affiliated circuits, but rather—and much more important—with what harm it will do to mine and other independent exhibitors' business."

Brandt told BOXOFFICE that thus far on his "one-night stand" tour, he has found that even though Allied leaders might be pledged to the national Allied against the Neely bill, he nevertheless found that a great majority of the rank and file Allied members were undecided; that, further, "I am certain that these rank and file members will be shocked at what will happen to their business after this bill is passed compared to what their leaders have told them will happen."

The ITOA of New York leader said that Kirsch had given "me a fair chance to give my views on all subjects," and thanked the Illinois Allied leader for having such a large attendance at the meeting.

Brandt said that on his tour thus far he had found the average independent exhibitor, outside of Chicago, did not know much about the Neely bill, pro or con, "and that is lamentable. I do find, though, that after these meetings they are beginning to realize what they are up against and in many spots sentiment is crystallizing against the bill. And that, at least, now they are going home and thinking about this thing. They are being told to figure out the Neely bill, not from the viewpoint of their being a number of Allied, MPTOA or any other organization, but rather as an independent exhibitor, and what it will do to hurt him and his business."

Brandt said that since Allied already is on record against film star radio appearances the local group and others would voice their opposition again direct to those "offending stars in Hollywood." He said he is not against definite special programs featuring stars that publicize and promote interest for certain pictures over the air.

On arbitration, he repeated he is seeking now a system that will "arbitrate trade practices generally and not contracts."

Brandt earlier conferred with exhibitors in Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Detroit. From here he went to St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver, Salt Lake City and San Francisco, on successive nights this week. He is due in Los Angeles Tuesday, December 5, where he will remain a week, before proceeding on, in this order, to Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta, Memphis, Charlotte, Washington and Philadelphia.

No Comment From Allied Ranks

Chicago—Local Allied leaders had no comment to make as BOXOFFICE went to press, on the meeting held here this week on the Neely bill, arbitration and other industry matters with Harry Brandt, ITOA of New York president. Jack Kirsch, president, promised a statement for next week, after further discussing matters with his members.

Brandt Flays Neely Bill; Says It Would Ruin Many Ind'p'ts

CHICAGO—Harry Brandt, ITOA of New York president, told Allied exhibitors here on Monday that the Neely Bill "will definitely put out of business many independent exhibitors, and will hurt most the independent exhibitor in the outlying sections and small towns."

He gave the following reasons:

"1. Will cut down production, because it will be difficult to finance production. (He added here that there will always be a need for double-feature consumption, since the big circuits want double features).

"2. Inferior product will be the result because less money will be spent on production.

"3. Physically impossible for the small out-of-town exhibitors to come in to the exchanges often enough to buy individually.

"4. It will be economically impossible for the film companies to send enough salesmen into the 'so-called sticks,' to see small exhibitors often enough to sell individually.

"5. We will find the English system of buying imposed in the United States, whereby small groups or blocks of say five pictures will be sold, and where if an exhibitor only needs two or three, will find he must pay as much for those as for the five; with the result that in the end his product will cost him more than at present.

"6. It is a dangerous bill because it is regulatory, and if it doesn't work, it will be a lot harder to get it off the books than it was to get it on.

"7. It will bring supervision by the government, and the independents will find they will be supervised just as much as the big circuits. And that it is tough enough in this industry now without supervision."

Al Steffes, Northwest Allied leader of Minneapolis, told Brandt that National Allied is for the bill whether it is good or not, and that "this bill is far better than nothing at all, because of the difficulties independent exhibitors are facing now."

Brandt Continues Neely Bill Raps in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—Harry Brandt, ITOA of New York president, meeting here with local exhibitors, voiced strong opposition to the Neely bill, reiterating his belief it will create a shortage of films and increase rentals. He also took a decided stand against radio appearances by film stars.

Given to December 2 To Submit Answers

CHICAGO—The defendants have been given until December 2 to file answers in the government's criminal contempt suit pending in federal court here. The extension was granted by Special Master Edgar Eldredge, sitting for Judge Charles Woodward.

Government attorneys made no objection to the extension of time sought by attorneys for Barney Balaban, B&K and the seven major company defendants.

A Television Transmitter Readied in Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE—Leasing the two top floors of the Lincoln Bank Tower and its airplane beacon, the Farnsworth Radio and Television Co. is preparing for the installation of a television studio and transmitter.

The local company has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission for an operating permit.

Depinet and Smith Sit In On Chicago Circuit Deals

CHICAGO—While Ned Depinet and Cresson Smith, RKO executives were here, they sat in on completion of circuit deals for the current season with B&K, Great States and Warner Theatres. Walter Branson, district manager, and Jack Osserman, branch head, are now finishing up details for the Essaness circuit deal.



At the Metro Midseason Meet in Chicago—

CHICAGO—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's midseason meeting in Chicago brought together all of the company's district and branch managers, in addition to the New York sales department heads.

Shown on the dais, usual left to right order: Edwin W. Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers; Fred C. Quimby, in charge of short subjects; Edward M. Saunders, western sales manager; Rodgers, general sales manager; Thomas J. Connors, eastern and Canadian sales manager; Alan F. Cummings, in charge of branch operations; Henry Nathanson, president of Regal Films, Canada.

Top row: George A. Hickey, western district manager; Clayton T. Lynch, Los Angeles; Langdon C. Wingham, San Francisco; Gordon Lightstone, general sales manager, Regal Films; Mike Simons, editor, M-G-M house organ, *The Distributor;* Jay A. Gove, sales development department head; Harry Shumow, Omaha; John X. Quinn, St. Louis; Frank C. Hensler, Kansas City, and Harris Wolfberg, Kansas City district manager.

Second row: Lou Amacher, Portland, Ore.; Sam Gardner, Salt Lake City; Maurice N. Saffle, Seattle; Irving Helfont and Joel Bezahler, assistants to Edward Saunders; Henry Friedel, Denver; Dexter C. Kennedy, Des Moines; Frank C. Drew, Cleveland; Burtus Bishop jr., Pittsburgh; John J. Maloney, Pittsburgh district manager, and J. S. McLeod, exchange maintenance.

Third row: John E. Flynn, Chicago district manager; Walter E. Banford, Chicago; Frank J. Downey, Detroit; A. Jack Shumow, Chicago sales manager; Sam Shurman, Milwaukee; William H. Workman, Minneapolis; Wade W. Willman, Indianapolis; Edwin M. Booth, Cincinnati; Salem E. Applegate, Philadelphia sales manager; Robert Lynch, Philadelphia.

Fourth row: Charles E. Kessnich, Atlanta district manager; Roy M. Avey, Atlanta; J. Frank Willingham, Memphis; Leroy Bickel, Dallas; C. James Bryant, New Orleans; William B. Zoellner, Oklahoma City; Harold Postman and Charles F. Deesen, assistant to Tom Connors; Jack Byrne, Boston; Maurice Wolf, Boston district manager.

Fifth row: E. K. (Ted) O'Shea, New York district manager; John J. Bowen, New York; Ben Abner, New Jersey; Rudolph Berger, Washington; Ralph Pielow, Albany; Benn H. Rosenwald, Charlotte; Ralph Maw, Buffalo; I. Leonard Hirsch, assistant to Tom Connors; William Levine, head of home office contract department; Thomas A. Donaldson, New Haven. In the front row are, William G. Bishop and Norman Pyle, Chicago exploiteers.

From Leo's Lair

CHICAGO—Led by Sales Chief Bill Rodgers, all of the convening Metro district and branch managers met Al Lichtman as he arrived on the Santa Fe Chief at Dearborn Station. He was busy for some minutes shaking hands with many of the men.

Robert Taylor and his wife, Barbara Stanwyck, got plenty of newspaper space while they were here. They arrived from their New York vacation by plane, drove over to the Notre Dame-Southern California game, and continued on to the west coast.

Mike Simons, editor of the M-G-M house organ, was busy getting pictures of the conventioneers . . . W. E. "Doc" Banford, host branch manager, and Jack Flynn, host district manager, were also among the busy men getting everything in order.

Clayton Lynch, Los Angeles branch manager, took back a lot of extra spending money to California when he backed Southern California in its football game with Notre Dame. Some of the Notre Dame losers: Jack Flynn, Maurice Wolf, and Ted O'Shea.

All of the conventioneers enjoyed themselves at a party at Colosimo's on Saturday night after the first day's session. Taylor and Miss Stanwyck stopped in briefly to say hello to the boys before their return to the west coast.

No "Wind" Deal Yet In Windy City

Chicago—While no deal has been set as yet for the opening of "Gone With the Wind" in Chicago, several are "on the fire," William F. Rodgers, M-G-M general sales manager, told BOXOFFICE here.

It is not known whether M-G-M plans to play the picture in three or four "A" suburban houses day and date with the loop run, after a prior two weeks or so in the loop. The company is using this plan in other key cities, but Chicago's clearance system might preclude its use here.

Bill Ferguson, Metro's exploitation director, was tied up with "Gone With the Wind" premiere duties in Atlanta and couldn't be here . . . Ditto for David O. Selznick, on account of business; Si Seadler, on account of not feeling so well.

Charlie Kessnich, Atlanta district manager, got a group of branch managers around him and told them "confidentially and not to be repeated" that the company was considering taking all branch and district managers in a special car from New York to the "G.W.T.W." premiere in Atlanta. A half an hour later it was far from confidential, and needless to add, it was only a gag in the first place.

Exhibitors about town discussing that 70 per cent that Metro is going to get for "G.W.T.W." kiddingly remarked that "maybe M-G-M will want percentage for the running of the trailer, too."

Team Hope and Goddard

HOLLYWOOD—Paulette Goddard has been signed for the feminine lead opposite Bob Hope in Paramount's "The Ghost Breakers."

Seek to Clip Wings of Windy City Censors

CHICAGO—Ousting of the Chicago censor board again is being sought by the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee following the board's failure to pass the Ben Judell film, "Hitler—Beast of Berlin."

The committee, in a three-page report on civil liberties and censorship, flayed the censor board as being "undemocratic and antiquated." The report points out that in the last two years, six pictures have been banned, only to be lifted later on all but one, the Memorial Day strike riot film.

In recommending that the censorship ordinance be abolished, the committee suggests the following changes:

"1. That the ordinance provide for the review of motion pictures for the sole purpose of determining whether the pictures may be seen by children.

"2. That newsreels and educational films be expressly excluded from such review.

"3. That a separate board, independent of the police department, be established to review motion pictures for the limited purposes herein provided.

"4. That the board consist of five persons whose terms of office shall be limited and who shall be selected for their special qualifications based on their training or experience, in psychology, education or such other fields as may enable them to perform fairly and competently their duties.

"5. That the ordinance contain adequate provisions for review and appeal.

"6. That the board shall be required to make public a complete report of all its action on motion pictures submitted at least once each calendar year."

The board members and their years of service are: Anna M. Costello, 22 years; Edith E. Kerr, 25 years; Amy Louise Adams, 21 years; William A. Foust, 20 years, and Cora C. Doolittle, 12 years. They are civil service employes. Lt. Harry Costello, of the police crime prevention bureau, is technically in charge of the censor board.

The committee added that "judging from the length of time served by four members of the board, it appears that the board is almost as old as the censorship ordinance itself."

Louis M. Noyes, Chicago attorney, is chairman of the Civil Liberties Committee, and the members of the group assisting in the report were Joseph Hektoen, Dr. Seymour W. Weisberg, William B. Lloyd jr., Charles Liebman and Miss Leonie Loeb.

In the past the group has complained about the banning of several Russian films, all of which later were permitted to be shown.

Sells to Van Nomikos

BROOKFIELD, ILL.—The Strand, formerly operated by Arnold Lund, has been taken over by the Van Nomikos circuit of Chicago. This makes the circuit's 14th theatre.

B&K Houses Will Feature Official Baseball Films

CHICAGO—The American and National Leagues' baseball pictures, "Touching All Bases" and "Play Ball, America," will be shown at several B&K theatres this month through cooperation of B&K, the *Daily News* and the two baseball leagues. Lloyd Lewis, sports editor of the *Daily News,* who is also amusement editor, is handling details.

The pictures will be shown at a special midnight show, Thursday, December 21, at the United Artists Theatre in the loop. All other showings will be in suburban houses, as follows: Tivoli and Norshore, Monday, December 18; Gateway, Tuesday, December 19; Berwyn, Wednesday, December 20, and Southtown, Uptown, Paradise and Harding, Friday, December 22.

Admission is by coupon from the *Daily News.*

Film Heads Go to Kenosha For Union Anniversary

MILWAUKEE—Warner-Saxe and Standard Theatres executives attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Kenosha stage employes and motion picture operators in that city. More than 500 persons attended the affair, which included a floor show featuring acts from the Kenosha Theatre and several night club artists from Chicago.

Rodgers Circuit Building Second at Carbondale

CARBONDALE, ILL.—The I. W. Rodgers circuit of Cairo, Ill., has a new theatre, under construction here, to seat 1,200. This will give the circuit two first class houses in Carbondale.

Tentative opening date has been set for some time in May.

Business Is Steady In Chicago Loop

CHICAGO—Loop business was above average this week, with "Drums Along the Mohawk" doing outstanding business at the Chicago Theatre. The 20th Century-Fox picture was set for a second week at the house, after which it will no doubt be moved to the Garrick for a third.

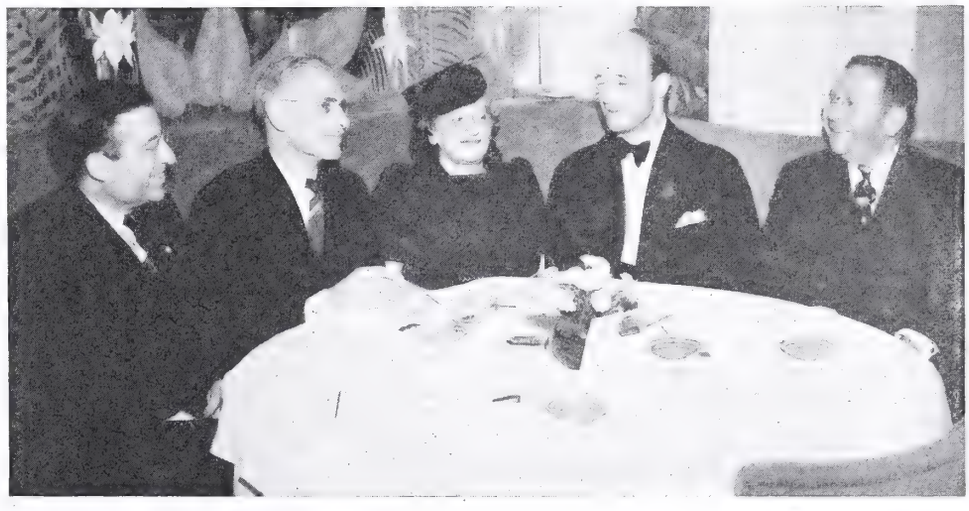
Paramount's "Disputed Passage" was having a better than average week at the Roosevelt, and was due for a second stanza. Columbia's "Mr. Smith" is holding to predictions and was to go into its fourth week, with about eight weeks figured to be the length of its stay at the Apollo.

The State-Lake and Oriental theatres have been doing well, each hitting a healthy average and staying there. The former, a B&K house, had its best week in months, with Toby Wing, Marie Wilson, Faith Bacon and Rita Rio and her orchestra on the stage drawing in the patrons.

The Oriental, a Jones, Linick & Schaefer house, has been using repeat runs of top films and first-runs of "B" product, with good stage acts, to do a satisfactory steady business.

The one weak spot in the loop was "At the Circus," which failed to click and was pulled before the end of the second week. Substituted was "Ninotchka," the Garbo picture, on Thursday at the United Artists.

Kay Kyser's film debut in "That's Right, You're Wrong" at the Palace, did almost top business over the weekend and is set for a second stanza. Opening Thanksgiving Day, the picture came within a few hundred dollars of the Thanksgiving gross of a year ago when Milton Berle was the stage attraction. The house is now dualing with Universal's "Call a Messenger" as the second half of this week's show.



A Host in Windy City—

The vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., James Roosevelt, second from right, is shown as he was host in the Balinese Room of the Blackstone Hotel, in Chicago, to B&K's publicity head, Bill Hollander. This was during Roosevelt's recent visit here for his talk at the Sinai Temple Forum. In the picture, and left to right: Jay Kraus, Sinai Temple; M. B. Benjamin, Los Angeles, who was traveling with Roosevelt; Mrs. Hollander; Roosevelt, and Hollander.

Xmas Parties Planned By Wisconsin Trade

MILWAUKEE—Exhibitors in a number of Wisconsin cities are tying in with merchants to promote Christmas sales as well as staging parties for the collection of toys to help needy youngsters observe a happy holiday season.

Locally, some 50 theatres will participate in a special campaign to get more playthings for WPA toy loan centers. A Saturday program for children will be arranged at each of the theatres with the admission price a toy or game.

The Grand at Wausau staged its annual Broken Toy matinee with free tickets to the theatre issued to each youngster bringing in a broken toy. At Racine, the Capitol and Rialto theatres have held Saturday morning toy matinees with toys so obtained turned over to the WPA toy loan project.

Tentative plans for a Christmas party for more than 10,000 Racine youngsters up to 14 years old call for parties to be held in all local theatres simultaneously with each child receiving a bag of candy. Lawrence Nelson and Stephen Thomas of the Motion Picture Operators' local have been named co-chairmen of the committee in charge of the parties.

Nine Madison stores gave free tickets to children accompanied by their parents for a children's Christmas party December 2 at the Capitol and Orpheum theatres in that city. Youngsters attending the show were presented with a gift by Santa Claus.

In a tieup with the local daily, Standard Theatres at Green Bay is giving away 1,800 theatre tickets, 60 every day from now until Christmas, to persons whose names appear in the classified advertising section of the newspaper. The tickets are good for the circuit's Bay, Strand or Packer theatres on any day for the remainder of the year.

Somewhat similar tieups have been made by the Fox at Marinette with the local daily, the Myers and Jeffris theatres in Janesville and the Kenosha in Kenosha. In the first city, ten guest tickets are awarded daily to persons selecting a gift from the daily gift guide section and explaining in 50 words or less the reason for their choice. In Janesville, a $1 gift certificate and six theatre tickets are awarded daily and in Kenosha, five pairs of guest tickets every day. In every case, the theatre's name is prominently mentioned in connection with the promotion.

The Appleton in Appleton conducted an all-cartoon program for youngsters turning in old toys in a tieup with Sears, Roebuck & Co. in that city. The toys were turned over to the YMCA for renovation and distribution.

Committees Named for Chicago Xmas Baskets

CHICAGO—The following committees have been named to steer the industry's annual Christmas basket party here:

Trailers, W. K. Hollander, B&K; handling newspaper stories, Eddie Solomon, Eddie Seguin, Archie Herzoff, Jim Savage and Eddie Levin, B&K; newspaper ads, Herb Elisburg, Essaness, and Larry Stein, Warner; newspaper editorials, Hollander, Elisburg and Stein; radio contacts, Norman Kassel, Essaness; Stein, and Dan Goldberg, *Variety;* foreign language papers, Kassel; community newspapers, Ted Morris, and Stein; grocery store tieups, C. E. Dennison; transportation, Joe McKeown, Schoenstadt circuit, and Lou Abramson, Allied; mayor's proclamation, Jack Kirsch, Allied; bill posting, Hollander and Stein; union participation, Kirsch; superintendent of schools contact, Soloman; kiddie clubs, Henry Markbreit, Chicago *Times;* stationary printing, Abramson; "night of stars" announcement, Markbreit; photo of stars, Hollander; trade paper publicity, William Crouch, *Motion Picture Herald,* and Gene Rich, BOXOFFICE.



Set to Fly—

Louise Campbell, who is co-star with Bing Crosby in "The Star Maker," receives her "wings" from Hostess J. E. Sutherland as she boards the plane for Hollywood after a Thanksgiving visit with her parents in Chicago.

Ask Concessions in St. Louis Slashes

ST. LOUIS—Owners of neighborhood and suburban theatres here have sent vigorous protests to film distributors against the recent action of local first runs in slashing admission prices.

The subsequent runs contend they rented the films in the belief the then existing first-run admissions would be maintained. Exchange managers hold out no hope for concessions to the smaller houses.

Balked in attempts to get exchange concessions, the independents say their remaining hope is that first-run grosses will drop sufficiently to cause a price hike by the first of the year.

Two-Hour Show Urged By Sheboygan Paper

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—The Sheboygan *Press,* in an editorial, comments upon the desirability of two-hour film programs and suggests that the local Better Films Council inaugurate such a campaign.

The complete text of the editorial follows:

Let Us Get the Voice

How refreshing it would be if we could journey back a decade to the time when motion picture shows were confined to a two-hour period.

Well do we remember when we could go to a theatre at 7 o'clock in the evening and come out shortly before nine, with two complete shows that evening and the theatres dark by 10:30 or a quarter to 11.

Whoever originated the idea of a four-hour show planned something that few patrons of a theatre would endorse. Conceding that theatres today are modernized and have their air-conditioning, some of them, still it is no contribution to health to hold an audience for four hours and we doubt very much whether it brings an addition in earnings to the theatre.

If we could go back to those fine old days when a short subject or two and the main picture comprised a program, it would be conducive to better health, greater appreciation for the feature film, and we believe that it would add to the prestige of a house. Now there is a main attraction and a second feature picture, but how much better it would be if we could be drawn to the theatre with the idea of seeing one good picture and confining the entertainment period to a maximum of two hours. It is difficult now to determine when the main picture goes on, with these continuous shows.

If a vote were taken in the nation today, an honest vote of movie fans, we predict that the management of motion picture houses would receive definite instructions for a feature picture, the newsreel and perhaps a short subject. Audiences would then leave the theatre feeling that a very enjoyable and profitable two hours had been spent. As it is now, the second show usually runs until close to midnight. In fact, audiences at the late showing of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" did not emerge from the theatre until 11:45. In this respect we haven't any consideration for health, let alone entertainment.

It wouldn't be a bad idea for the local Better Films council, having in mind the health of the city, to inaugurate a campaign, hopeful that it will become nation-wide, to encourage a maximum program of two hours in every theatre. When the voice of the American people is heard in a poll of the nation favoring shorter hours of entertainment, we will again return to those days when two shows were possible without burning the midnight oil.

Screen Characters Used In Chicago's Toylands

CHICAGO—Motion picture characters are being used to a great extent in the toyland departments of Chicago loop stores to attract holiday customers for kiddie toys. Santa Claus himself is no longer the only attraction.

The Boston Store here is using "Wizard of Oz" characters, made famous to this generation of youngsters through the M-G-M film, in its window and toyland displays. Mandel Brothers is using Walt Disney's characters from "Pinocchio" in its window and toyland displays. Others of the loop stores similarly are featuring film characters.

Diphtheria Epidemic Hits Shelby, Fayette Counties

VANDALIA, ILL.—Rural schools of Loudon Township, Fayette county, and grade and high schools of Beecher City, Shelby county, have been closed because of a diphtheria epidemic, which already has claimed several lives. Theatre attendance has dwindled.

Says Darrieux Pacted for Another U. S. Vehicle

CHICAGO—Danielle Darrieux, French film star, has definitely been signed to a major company contract for another American picture, which will be announced shortly, according to Max Wachsberger, French producer, who is representing the star in this country. He said the vivacious star, with her husband, Henry Decoin, will arrive shortly, probably by Clipper Ship from Europe, as soon as Decoin can be excused temporarily from the French propaganda department.

He added that Charles Boyer, who has only about a week yet to finish on "Le Corsaire" (The Pirate), for Wachsberger in France, might make an English version for him while he is here in the United States. Wachsberger also is considering shooting around Boyer and trying to finish the French film in Hollywood.

With Wachsberger here was Norman Elson, connected together on the Film Alliance of the U. S. The company is distributing French and other foreign product in this country and is planning to lease about 20 foreign-language houses as outlets.

Wachsberger left here for the coast where he will be for three or four weeks, before returning east.

"Little Santa" Deals Are Numerous, Reports NSS

CHICAGO—Numerous exhibitors in the territory are making deals for the new Christmas novelty of National Screen Service, the Little Santa, according to Manager Percy Barr.

The Little Santa is a Santa Claus doll, equipped with a two-way communication system, whereby youngsters can ask "Santa" questions and receive an answer from him. According to Barr, this is the only such doll of its type that has movable mouth and lips.

Chicago Telenews Theatre Will Open First of Year

CHICAGO—With construction of the building not yet finished, the Telenews Theatre opening has been set back to the first week of the new year. The house is scheduled to open on either January 1 or 7. Sylvan Goldfinger is manager of the theatre for the eastern interests, who will operate the initial newsreel house in the loop.

"Drunk Driving" Approved After Milwaukee Showing

MILWAUKEE—Public officials put their stamp of approval on "Drunk Driving" at a screening of the M-G-M short in the Fox-Wisconsin Amusement Corp. screening room.

Those attending the showing included Dist. Judge Harvey L. Neelen, Dist. Atty. Herbert J. Steffes, Asst. Dist. Atty. Henry Wagner, City Atty. Walter J. Mattison and Asst. City Atty. Leo Hanley.

CHICAGO

HAL TATE, "movie tattler" over station WJJD here, interviewed Edward Everett Horton on the stage of the Palace Theatre in connection with RKO's "That's Right, You're Wrong," which stars Kay Kyser. Horton, who is also in the picture, is appearing currently at the Erlanger in "Springtime for Henry."

Tony Caputo, Pathe News head here, is the father of an 8-pound, 3-ounce girl, Rose Marie, born at Mother Cabrini Hospital. Pop, mom, and the youngster are all doing well.

Jimmy Purcell, 16 years old, usher at the Rhodes Theatre, was buried Monday. He drowned Thanksgiving Day while playing with his brothers at the edge of Lake Michigan in Jackson Park.

Jack Kirsch is starting a cleanup drive on subscriptions from industry members to the Community Fund to have the amusement industry's quota of $26,000 finished by December 1.

John Smith and Pete Shayne of the local operators' union attended the recent 25th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Kenosha, Wis., operators' local.

Mrs. Richard M. McClure, president of the Chicago Better Films Council, was the principal speaker at the meeting of the Women's Film Industry Club Tuesday night.

Ned Depinet and Cresson Smith of RKO were here this week working with Walter Branson and Jack Osserman on circuit film deals.

Norman Selig is new manager of the Globe on Blue Island Ave., operated by Dave Rice.

The Film Bookers' Club will hold its next meeting Tuesday night, December 5, in its quarters at the Crillon Hotel to discuss final details for their Christmas party December 19.

Dave Katz of Hollywood Advertising is the latest "horsey" victim. Dave fell off a horse last Sunday and, believe it or not, lost his memory for almost a full day. This is to let everyone know he's okay now and not to expect valances for nothing anymore.

Jack Kirsch was to feted with a 37th birthday anniversary party by friends in the industry on Friday night. The party was scheduled for the Congress Hotel.

Harry Blumenthal of Ad-Art and his wife celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary last week.

Ann Weiner, attractive secretary of Rube Levine, says the shiner and bruise she was sporting near her left eye this week was really due to a Thanksgiving Day fall from a horse that fainted.

Art Ungerman, 46 years old, was to be buried in his home town, Albany, N. Y., this week. He died suddenly from a paralytic stroke while here visiting Dick Sachsel. He was Detroit representative for Price Premium Co. Ungerman is survived by his wife and two small children.

Senate, Springfield, Ill., Closed for Remodeling

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—The Senate Theatre, operated by Kerasotes Brothers, has been closed for extensive remodeling at a cost exceeding $26,000. The theatre will reopen December 23 boasting numerous innovations.

It will be enlarged and beautified, with the marquee revamped for an imposing Monroe Street entrance. Lobby is to have indirect lighting, luxurious carpeting and walls of imported woods and marble. The foyer will be changed to improve traffic facilities.

During the time the Senate is closed, the Strand will play the outstanding pictures that regularly would be shown at the Senate.

Upon reopening, the Senate will continue its present popular policy of two "A" repeat run pictures interspersed occasionally with first run quality single features.

Fountain Square, Granada Opening Time Change

INDIANAPOLIS—Earl Cunningham, manager of the Fountain Square Theatres, announces a change in their daily opening time, for the Fountain Square and Granada theatres. The theatres have opened at 5 p. m. daily with shows starting at 5:30 p. m. and now doors will open at 5:30 p. m. with shows starting at 6 p. m., bargain prices prevailing until 6 p. m. The only exceptions will be the Saturday, Sunday and holiday matinees.

J. R. Vogel Convalescing Following Heart Attack

SOUTH BEND—Joseph R. Vogel, operator of the River Park Theatre here, who suffered a severe heart attack several weeks ago, is now convalescing at Epworth Hospital.

TRADE DIRECTORY

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The Theatre Tells of America—

The colors are presented on the stage of Jack Alertson's Indiana Theatre, Indiana Harbor, during an Americanization program that is being conducted in theatres throughout the state. The program here was sponsored by various civic and fraternal groups.

Theatres Map Americanization Program Throughout Indiana

By DON R. ROSSITER

INDIANAPOLIS—The Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana now is preparing press sheets for a statewide Americanization program to be conducted in theatres throughout Indiana and which will be based on reports from similar campaigns held in northern Indiana by theatres of the Indiana-Illinois circuit.

The first of these campaign probably will be held here and W. W. Zaring, patriotic chairman for the American Legion in Marion county, is lending his support.

Plans include tieups with schools, churches, civic organizations and American Legion posts, with special programs to be held in the theatres. The ATOI is closely cooperating with Raymond B. Townsley, newly-elected state commander of the Legion.

The Indiana-Illinois circuit held the following programs:

Sid Holland, manager of the Elco, Elkhart, held a program in two sessions in order to accommodate 4,500 school children. Classes were dismissed for the occasion.

Harry Rubin of the Tivoli and Lake theatres in Michigan City talked with the students after his show. He said he felt certain there was no other way of putting the story across as effectively. Operators and film distributors cooperated to the fullest extent.

The program by Roy Hanson, manager of the Jefferson Theatre, Goshen, Ind., was endorsed by the local American Legion, the Rotary Club, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce and schools.

Art Wartha, manager of the Roxy and Fox at LaPorte, Ind., got civic officials to participate and a parade was held with a police escort. Isador Levine, Indiana executive committeeman in the American Legion and also with the LaPorte Theatre in LaPorte, gave an address. Boy Scouts assisted in handling the parade and in ushering at the theatre. Wartha commended highly the cooperation received from the Chicago film exchanges.

Jack Alertson, manager of the Indiana at Indiana Harbor, Ind., had a program which also was sponsored by the American Legion, VFW, Elks Lodge, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce. To enable all public and parochial school children to attend, it was necessary to extend the program over three days. The stage and lobby were decorated in patriotic colors and flags. The mayor issued a proclamation designating "Americanism Day."

Chick Tompkins, manager of the Voge at East Chicago, received many letters of congratulations on his program and a lot of favorable newspaper publicity. Civic organizations sponsored his program, too.

The screen programs, in general, consisted of the following short subjects: Paramount's News No. 42, March of Time No. 5, "The Declaration of Independence," "Servant of the People" (signing of the Constitution), and Community Sing No. 10, ending with the audience singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Watts to Renovate

KNIGHTSTOWN, IND.—Harry Watts, operator of the Alhambra Theatre here, is planning to reseat, recarpet and redecorate the theatre in the near future. A new front will be installed and many changes will be made on the interior.

MILWAUKEE

H J. MIRISCH'S Oriental Theatre here has installed new RCA sound . . . Harry MacDonald, manager of the Warner Theatre here, was host to local Boy Scouts in connection with the showing of "We Are Not Alone." The party was good for a photo in a local daily, showing three of the scouts admiring a picture of Paul Muni in the lobby of the Warner.

Mrs. Harriet Frisby, widow of Allen Frisby, former property superintendent of the Wisconsin Theatre here, died last week after an illness of several years.

Lawrence Tibbett, Grace Moore and Mrs. Martin Johnson were recent local visitors, the first two in connection with singing engagements and the latter on a lecture engagement at the Wauwatosa High School auditorium.

Fox has reopened the Savoy Theatre at Watertown on a four-day-a-week basis with Edward Kuenzi as house manager. The circuit also operates the Classic there.

Phillip Trianno has been named assistant manager of the Capitol at Madison succeeding Louis Worth, resigned.

Russ Leddy, manager of Fox's Orpheum Theatre in Green Bay, was host to children of St. Joseph's Orphanage at a "Mickey Mouse Turkey Party."

Fredric March was the center of attraction at the University of Wisconsin homecoming celebration in Madison. He drove up from Racine, where he observed Thanksgiving at the home of his father, John Bickle. At the university he was the guest of his niece, Barbara Bickle, university senior co-ed. March was accompanied by his brothers, Harold and John.

The Rio Theatre at Appleton is the latest state house to stage Book Night.

W. L. Ainsworth, president of the ITPA of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, acted as toastmaster during a banquet in connection with the Wisconsin Cheesemakers' Ass'n in Fond du Lac.

Lawrence Buchholz has completed modernization of his Rialto Theatre at Nekoosa.

William Exton, manager of the Roosevelt Theatre, Kenosha, was a passenger on the Northwestern railroad which was wrecked near North Chicago. None of the passengers were seriously injured.

Dowdy Managing Criterion

DEXTER, MO.—J. H. Dowdy is the new manager of the Criterion Theatre for the Rodgers circuit. Dowdy is from Essex. Until recently he taught school at Bernie.

The Bugg to Close

CHICAGO—Clarence Wagner was to close the Bugg Theatre, one of the pioneer triple feature houses in Chicago, this week.

Recovering After Operation

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Gus Kerasotes is recovering after an appendicitis operation at St. John's Hospital.

Indiana Payrolls for October at Peak

INDIANAPOLIS—Employment and payrolls during October in Indiana manufacturing plants reached the highest point recorded during 1938 or 1939, with an estimated 289,800 workers receiving approximately $7,997,000 a week in wages.

Normally employment and payrolls undergo a seasonal decrease between September and October, but the increases recorded during the past few months continued despite the pull of the normal trend.

Employment in manufacturing increased 4,670 persons or 1.6 per cent above September, while weekly payrolls increased $756,000 or 10.4 per cent.

In addition, a small sample of seven groups of non-manufacturing employers showed estimated increases of 2.3 per cent in employment and 5.7 per cent in payrolls in these industries over September.

October is the third straight month in which increases were registered in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing lines. In this period, manufacturing employment alone has gained 35,100 factory workers, an increase of 13.8 per cent since July, 1939. At the same time factory payrolls advanced $1,733,000 a week, or a gain of 27.7 per cent.

The number of wage earners employed in Indiana factories in October likewise increased over October, 1938, by 45,162 persons, an 18.5 per cent rise. Weekly payrolls also have advanced $1,935,836, or 31.9 per cent in the 12-month period.

Rio Theatre Corp. Formed; Operate St. Louis House

ST. LOUIS—The Rio Theatre Corp. has been formed by Edward W. Lake, Ferguson, Mo., and Lon Hocker, Elmer Dax, Elmer Schoor, William O'Donnell and H. W. Sellman, all of St. Louis. They will comprise the board of directors of the company.

The company owns the new Rio Theatre here which opened November 22. It seats 1,000.

Garver and Reinking End Terre Haute Partnership

TERRE HAUTE—A partnership of many years standing here has been terminated with the dissolution of the Ross Garver-William Reinking theatre interests.

Under the new agreement, Reinking will take over operation of the Swan and Idaho theatres, while Garver will continue operation of the Virginia, a small house in the residential area.

Build in Popular Bluff

POPLAR BLUFF, MO.—A new theatre is being erected here by Paris, Ark., theatre men. The Rodgers circuit operates the 750-seat Criterion and the 500-seat Jewel theatres here.

INDIANAPOLIS

MRS. SAM KATZ of Chicago, wife of Sam Katz, head of Balaban & Katz Theatre interests, visited here over the Thanksgiving holidays at the home of her cousin, Mrs. Helen Knight.

E. T. Gomersall, district manager for Universal, was in town conferring with Gordon Craddock, local branch manager . . . Rex Carr, manager of the Alamo, Cozy and Ambassador theatres here, celebrated his third wedding anniversary last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Olson will leave for Santa Monica, Cal., December 3, for a five-month vacation. Olson is president of Olsen Theatre Enterprises operating the Ritz, Strand, St. Clair, Oriental, Uptown, Vogue and Lyric theatres in Indianapolis.

Art Baker, manager of the Circle Theatre, reports he has signed Jane Withers for a personal appearance. The date has not been set as yet.

Nate Weinberg has inaugurated Bingo games in theatres at Boonville, Tell City and Plymouth for the Settos circuit.

George Brown, artist for Olsen theatres, who was injured recently, is about again but will be unable to work for three months. His arm is still in a plaster cast.

Jim Kennedy, manager of the Ritz, reports his Kiddie Club has doubled its membership in one week. A big surprise is in store for members December 9.

Cab Calloway played a one-night stand at the Indiana Theatre ballroom . . . Jesse Morgan, manager of the Talbott, has booked in a number of reissues including "Boys Town," "The Eagle and the Hawk" and "All Quiet on the Western Front."

"Shorty" Phillips spent several days in the Chicago office of National Screen Service . . . "Drums Along the Mohawk" played a second week at the Apollo, moving over from the Indiana.

Al Ackerman, Tacoma Theatre operator, reports the final touches have now been completed on the lobby and foyer of his house. Whole layout has been decorated and new poster case lighting installed.

Don Wright, manager of Joe Cantor's new Esquire, reports he's received lots of letters from north side residents telling how much they like the new theatre.

James Dooley, former operator of the Strand at Nashville, Ind., has joined Theatrical Managers, Inc., in Muncie, Ind.

Ed Hollander, ad sales supervisor from the New York office of 20th Century-Fox, was here conferring with the new assistant manager of the ad sales department, Edward Carroll.

Mrs. Frederica Cook of the office staff at United Artists is working again after a four-week layoff on account of illness.

The M-G-M Pep Club, composed of employes at the local exchange, is planning a huge Christmas party at the new Variety Club for Monday, December 18, with a big turkey dinner and all the trimmings. An orchestra will provide music for dancing.

W. W. Willman, manager of M-G-M in Indianapolis, spent the weekend in Chicago attending a special conference for managers, sales executives, etc., under W. F. Rodgers, general sales manager, at the Drake Hotel, discussing forthcoming plans for the release of "Gone With the Wind."

Harold Marshall, exploiteer at M-G-M, arranged many special sneak previews over the state during the last few weeks to get representative audience reaction to the new Garbo picture, "Ninotchka," with clever copy being arranged for newspaper ads.

The theatres in Indianapolis again are cooperating with the Marion County Tuberculosis Ass'n by showing special Christmas Seal trailers on their screens.

Martha Raye, appearing at the Circle Theatre, made a personal appearance at Block's Department Store for their regular Saturday afternoon High School Hour radio broadcast.

Metzger and Recent Bride Return From Honeymoon

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Back from a brief wedding trip to Chicago, is Edmond F. Metzger, manager of the Kerasotes Brothers Strand here, and his bride of two weeks, the former Miss Norma Hodge, North Hazel Dall, Lake Springfield.

Beat Up Doorman

INDIANAPOLIS—O. F. Lyming, 51, doorman at the Ambassador Theatre, lost his faith in good samaritan deeds when he was beaten up while attempting to break up a fight in the balcony of the theatre. Lyming was on his way to the projection room at the close of the last show Sunday night, when he saw two men fighting near the front of the balcony. Trying to stop them, both of the men turned on him, hit him in the jaw, broke his glasses and then fled, escaping in a taxi.

Fire Destroys Opera House

PANA, ILL.—The old Hayward Opera House here, used in recent months as a roller skating rink and dance hall, was destroyed last week by fire.

Cuts Down Trailer Time

INDIANAPOLIS—Don Wright, manager of the Esquire Theatre, announces hereafter not more than two minutes of trailers for coming attractions will be shown.

Selander Gets "Cassidy"

HOLLYWOOD—Lesley Selander is directing "Hold Your Horses," final "Hopalong Cassidy" western on the current season's quota, for Producer Harry Sherman at Paramount.

Harry Newman Silent On Hollywood Report

ST. LOUIS—While Harry Newman, prominent local investment banker, has declined to comment officially on current Hollywood reports that he is to be head of group of midwesterners in the formation of a company to finance independent motion picture production, BOXOFFICE learns that, thus far, little more than conversation has taken place on the matter.

Word from California had it that Newman and associates were forming a Delaware corporation, with a basic capitalization of $2,500,000, for the purpose of financing independent productions up to 100 per cent of their cost.

Standard Oil of Indiana Keeps Film Fans Posted

INDIANAPOLIS—Local film fans will be kept posted on important "coming attractions" by an unusual advertising campaign which Standard Oil of Indiana has started in the *News*.

By special arrangement with major Hollywood studios, the advertising will, in effect, offer previews of pictures soon to be released. Such stars as Claudette Colbert, Robert Taylor, Charles Laughton, Joan Bennett and Spencer Tracy will be featured. Autographed pictures of stars will be given away at local Standard Oil service stations.

Diversion Desired

RACINE, WIS.—The Racine *Journal-Times*, local daily, in an editorial comments upon the need for more humor in film programs. Complete text of the editorial follows:

"A newspaper movie critic raises his voice in an appeal to Hollywood not to make too many war pictures. Right now, of course, they are tops in interest, but they could easily be overdone. Spies and battles and aerial bombardments and submarine sinkings make diverting melodrama for people at peace. People in a war-torn world soon want something different when they turn away from their newspapers to the screen for entertainment.

"The editor of a London movie publication sends a similar plea to this country. 'If Hollywood is wise,' he writes, 'it will concentrate on films that are definitely of a light theme and so do something to cheer people up instead of making their burdens heavier to bear. Solemn, dreary portentous subjects should be taboo.

"'What this country wants today is humor. Make them laugh and they'll crowd in, for they're not going to the cinemas to cry. So America can play its part by giving us pictures we can sit back and enjoy—and forget the war.'

"This is written before the war is two months old. The need for cheer will be greater as times goes on."

ST. LOUIS

RUSSELL MARKERT, dance director for the Roxyettes of Radio City Music Hall, New York, while here last week saw Rosemary Shea, 15-year-old daughter of Detective Sergeant Bob Shea, dance at the annual convention of the Missouri State Teachers Ass'n in the Municipal Auditorium and was so taken with her steps and grace he hunted up her parents in an attempt to get their consent for the child to make a trip to New York. But the answer was "No." So Rosemary has returned to her studies at Loretta Academy.

The Ainad Temple Shrine, East St. Louis, Ill., will hold an indoor circus of 41 acts in Ainad Temple, January 8 to 14. There will be seven night shows and five matinees.

Recently Kid Regan, popular *Star-Times* columnist, bobbed up with this: "Harry Crawford jr., son of the manager of the Ambassador Theatre, has written a beautiful poem entitled 'Silence.' The proud father, known to friends and patrons as one of the breeziest members of the local theatrical colony, admitted he was surprised when informed that Harry Arthur, operator of the Fanchon & Marco theatres, had found time to read the verses. 'Yes, I read it,' confessed Col. Arthur, 'and I think the young man picked a fine subject—but you don't!' "

"Grand Illusion," prize-winning French film, was held over an extra four nights at the S'Renco Art Theatre . . . George Kilgen & Son, Inc., organ manufacturers, went under the auctioneer's hammer last week and netted a total of $21,707. The sale marked the physical demise of a concern that had been making organs for almost 300 years, originally in Durlach, Germany.

Harry Levy, former RKO salesman here, has joined the sales staff of 20th Century-Fox at Omaha. He traveled the eastern Missouri territory about six years.

E. L. Miller Will Build New 800-Seat Theatre

LAFAYETTE, IND.—A new 800-seat theatre will be erected in West Lafayette by E. L. Miller, who owns the Cinema in Indianapolis.

Construction bids are now being taken. Cost estimatedly will be $70,000.

Showmen to Aid Mayor's Fund

St. Louis—Fred Wehrenberg, president of the MPTO of St. Louis, eastern Missouri and southern Illinois, presided over a meeting of representatives from 88 theatres with Mayor Dickmann and told the mayor that all theatres in the city will contribute their net receipts for December 11 to the city executive's fund to clothe needy children. It is hoped the theatres will raise a fund of $10,000.

Break Ground for New Lido At Michigan City, Ind.

MICHIGAN CITY, IND.—Ground was broken last week for the new Lido Theatre here being built by Maurice Rubin, operator of the Tivoli, Lake and Uptown theatres. The theatre was designed by Pereira & Pereira, nationally known theatre architects, who were acclaimed for their work on the Esquire Theatre in Chicago. The new theatre is to cost $150,000 and will be of ultra-modern construction with a seating capacity of 900.

M. E. Berman Books Concert Before It's Competition

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—M. E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum Theatre, pulled another fast one when he learned that a concert by Jeanette MacDonald under auspices of the Springfield Maternal Health Ass'n was being booked for March 20, 1940, at the huge State Armory auditorium.

He managed to take it away from the Armory and booked it at his own theatre at his own rental price, thus eliminating the opposition that the concert would have furnished for the theatre during the slack season of Holy Week.

"Hamlet" Garners $16,500 In St. Louis Engagement

ST. LOUIS—This town still goes for William Shakespeare. His "Hamlet," in eight performances at the American Theatre, nicked the natives for $16,500. Two St. Louisians are members of the Maurice Evans company, Maury Tuckerman and Jackson Perkins. Both got their early stage training with the Little Theatre here.

Filmdom Footballers

CHICAGO—Since everyone in the Windy City is around suggesting teams that might go out and beat the intellectuals of the University of Chicago at football, we've gotten together our idea of filmdom's candidates for All-American honors to lick the U. of C. bunch. It all came about when Warner's Alex Halperin and National Screen's Percy Barr suggested such a team; and we don't hesitate to name them both as coaches.

The 11 stalwarts; well, here they are:

Nate (Slugger) Gumbiner and Lou (Butch) Reinheimer, ends.

Walter (Skinny) Immerman and John (Shorty) Semadalis, tackles.

Lester (Bronko) Retschen and Sinuel (Killer) Roberts, guards.

Simon (Swifty) Simansky, center.

Clyde (Toughy) Eckhardt, quarterback.

Jack (Speedy) Rose and Jack (Shifty) Kirsch, halfbacks.

Tippy (Curly) Harrison, fullback.

Harry Goldman, water boy.

Moe Wells, towel boy.

W. E. (Doc) Banford, trainer.

"Bad Boy" to Bischoff

HOLLYWOOD — Sam Bischoff has been handed the production reins on Warner's "Bad Boy," slated as a vehicle for James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart.

Several Events Set at Variety Club Dinner

KANSAS CITY—Although the free dinner attracted only about 50 members to the meeting of Variety Club Monday night, it was a successful affair, thanks to Earl Jameson of Film Delivery, and several important items of business were taken up afterward.

Sam Abend made the report on the Charity Ball for Earl Jameson, and passed along to the club his thanks for the work of the committeemen who helped make it a success. According to Jameson there was more cooperation this year than for any previous ball.

Arthur Cole of Paramount reported on the directors' meeting a week ago Friday, at which it was agreed that this year, as last, the club would adopt families for Xmas. Cole detailed the growing reputation of Variety for its charitable activities, a reputation that should make every member of the club proud.

The suggestion that members of the club have a dinner at the Interdenominational Home was accepted at the meeting, and the date was set tentatively for Wednesday, December 13.

The club voted to order the special Variety Club insignias for license plates. Other clubs throughout the country already are using them.

Special thanks of the club and those in charge of the Movie Ball went to Jerry Zigmond of the Newman and Barney Joffee of the Tower for their work on the entertainment.

The club voted to hold a New Year's party December 31 in the clubrooms, at $5 per couple, as it did last year. Last year's party was attended by more than 75.

'Gulliver's Travels' Subject Paramount K. C. Meeting

KANSAS CITY—Robert H. Gillham, publicity and advertising head for Paramount, met here during the week with Jack Dailey, Bill Lansburg and Karl Kruger, field exploiteers, on "Gulliver's Travels."

Studio matters were discussed with Cliff Lewis, studio advertising and publicity head, the middle of the week. The two sessions here avoided a coast trip for Gillham, who returned to New York later in the week.

Einfeld Back East in Month For "Fighting 69th" Campaign

CHICAGO—En route to the coast after several weeks in New York, S. Charles Einfeld, publicity and advertising head for Warner, stated he will return east in about a month to work on the international campaign for "The Fighting 69th."

Appoints New Reviewers

SIOUX CITY, IA.—Mayor David E. Loepp has appointed Mrs. Robert B. Pike and Mrs. Keith Strange as members of the theatre review board. Predecessors were Mrs. Walter Crisp and Mrs. Charles Hess.

Metro No Longer "Exception" On Percentage, Says Steffes

MINNEAPOLIS—After this selling season, Twin City independents no longer will make an exception of M-G-M in the matter of percentage deals, according to announcement by President W. A. Steffes of Northwest Allied.

This decision was made by the organization after investigation disclosed that percentages are not an established M-G-M policy in all sections of the country, but that in some situations the product is sold flat to subsequent-run exhibitors, Steffes said.

The Twin City independents are on record against making percentage deals and up to this time M-G-M is the only major company that has succeeded in enforcing its percentage demands for four pictures on every contract with the neighborhood theatre owners, except in the case of a few individual picture deals, such as "Snow White" and "Birth of a Baby," for example.

Feeling in the trade has been that M-G-M was the only company strong enough to overcome the exhibitors' ultimatum—that it could get away with its percentage demands because the neighborhood theatre owners feel they are unable to operate without this product. But Northwest Allied justified the exception on the grounds that the four-percentage-picture contract is an established policy with the company the country over.

"Now we're going to break M-G-M down the same as we've done with every other company," declares Steffes. "There's no reason why an exception should be made in its case. Percentages will be entirely out as far as subsequent-run independent neighborhood houses in the Twin Cities are concerned."

Independents claim a victory in the fight with Warner against percentages. The company had demanded four percentage pictures and the neighborhood exhibitors were refusing to buy except flat. Now the company is selling either flat or on percentage. However, company representatives aver that the flat deals are calculated to give Warner the income to which it claims it is entitled and equivalent, according to estimates, to what the percentage would yield.

The Twin City independent exhibitor averse to percentages has the privilege of buying the particular pictures flat, but must pay a price equivalent to 35 per cent of their normal Sunday grosses on outstanding films, according to the company. On this basis many deals already have been made or are in the process of negotiation and, it is indicated, the company will enjoy its usual normal business in the Twin Cities.

20th-Fox Progressing

Another company, 20th-Fox, that has been put on the pan by some of the territory's exhibitors apparently is doing all right just the same. Its representatives declare they've closed with practically every Twin City independent exhibitor and that, throughout the territory, every possibility, with a few exceptions, has been closed, the same as last year. The local exchange's business is keeping pace with that of the corresponding period a year ago, it's stated.

One of the complaints against 20th-Fox has been overprice, alleged refusal to grant 20 per cent cancellations and the placing of inferior pictures in the upper brackets. Company officials, however, have contended that the complaint is unjustified.

Paramount will demand a 40 per cent adjustable contract from Twin City independents for "Gulliver's Travels," which it is selling separate. At least, that's the report going the rounds, although not confirmed. A 50-per cent split is the supposed general deal.

The Twin City independents are not squawking over the top price which Columbia is demanding for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" when sold separately. They feel that if a company deviates from its regular policy to sell such an outstanding draw singly it is entitled to "concessions." The price set by Columbia is "as high as the particular theatre ever has paid for any picture."

Catholic Archdiocese Fights Lusty Films

MINNEAPOLIS—Salacious films, plays, radio programs and literature are the targets of a new drive by the Twin City Catholic archdiocese. Meetings are being held throughout the archdiocese to map out plans for the fight.

Parish chairmen are meeting with their pastors for final instructions. Legion of Decency pledges were taken in all churches Sunday as the first step in the campaign.

The battle cry was sounded by Archbishop John Gregory Murray in a communication to all pastors calling for greater vigilance and activity.

"While much good has come from repetition of the Holy See pledge (calling for avoidance of indecent plays, immoral motion pictures, offensive radio programs, etc.) for the last five years," said Archbishop Murray, "experience indicates that good intentions and pious resolutions are insufficient to effect lasting results. For that reason, action must be taken to eliminate the source of infection that has penetrated far and wide into the population of the country."

A committee will be organized in each deanery to wage the fight. The committee will consist of pastors and laymen and reports of offensive material will be referred to it. Proper action will be taken by the committee to remedy the matter, but if the goal is not attained the matter will be referred to the Legion of Decency which is conducting the campaign.

Contend Distributor-Producers Can Solve Trade Problems

OMAHA—Solution of problems facing the present-day exhibitor lies in the hands of producers and distributors, in the opinion of theatre owners and operators whose replies to a midwestern survey are pouring into the Omaha headquarters of BOXOFFICE.

Exhibitors in the Omaha trade area apparently are glad of the opportunity to express themselves on the question: What can be done to improve the industry from the standpoint of the exhibitor?

An analysis of the replies shows that midwestern exhibitors want lower film rentals, better pictures and no percentage for small towns. Exhibitors are strongly opposing double features, block booking, free shows and "inferior" product.

C. E. Werden, Capitol Theatre, Hartley, Ia., typifies many of the exhibitors who believe a strong exhibitor organization will do much to remedy present situations. Werden also favors better pictures and "reasonable and fair rentals for all."

"We need a unified exhibitor organization that could make demands and could make itself felt," Werden declared.

The free show problem came into prominence when three Nebraska exhibitors sent in their replies. Elimination of "Jackrabbit" shows and circuits should be made, declared Bruce W. Merrill, Lyric, Edgar, Neb., and Dick Lysinger, Grand, Ravenna, Neb., and Paramount, Ansley, Neb.

"The exhibitor shouldn't buy film from the exchange selling prints to free shows. They should put a complete stop to free shows," said Lawrence E. Burkey, Ritz, Deshler, Neb.

Product came in for plenty of discussion by exhibitors. Fred Largen, Lyric, Creighton, Neb., declared the exhibitor can do nothing—"it's up to the producers to make consistently good pictures." An outspoken Iowa exhibitor, F. E. Pace, Empress, Malvern, Ia., said "the producer must make at least a few pictures that are not clucks."

Rosalie L. Boughn, Sun, Walthill, Neb., believes that the producers should make better program features and fewer features altogether. Exhibitor Boughn is a housewife in addition to operating a theatre and expresses the woman's viewpoint.

Hollis H. Silkenson, Silkys, Dell Rapids, S. D., blames the motion picture industry itself. He wrote: "Stop debunking pictures. In other words, don't give away the methods used in obtaining scenes. It is like having someone tell you the angel food cake you just admired is made of sand."

Carl L. Parsons, Avon, Kepta, Ia., suggests the industry eliminate inferior product as much as possible. He also believes there should be no percentage pictures for small towns. Thomas A. Brown, Strand, Iowa City, Ia., said, "make better pictures and cut out double features."

Marvin D. Fosse, Iowa exhibitor, operates the Grand at Wellman, Ia., and the Pastime at LaPorte City, Ia. Fosse declared the distributors could make as many top pictures as they sell or cut the number of pictures in top allocations.

Typical replies from exhibitors included:

"It takes good pictures to get business," Guy G. Griffin, Cass, Plattsmouth, Neb.

"Reduce film rentals," Paul G. Held, Strand, Griswold, Ia.

"Make more A pictures and less B pictures," Leslie W. Roth, State, Estelline, S. D.

"Get acquainted with as many patrons as possible," Olin A. Fosse, Community, Ridgeway, Ia.

"Co-ops would improve the industry from the standpoint of the exhibitor," Roy W. Small, Cozy, Wymore, Neb.

Hugh Herbert, John Boles Ace Minneapolis Draws

MINNEAPOLIS—Hugh Herbert in person, headlining the stage show, proved a big drawing card at the Minnesota Theatre last week. Theatre had its second largest seven days of business, John Boles having been the only other attraction to pull a better gross. Both of these ace draws are from the films.

Big theatre under independent operation is having difficulty in obtaining screen product and it is doubtful whether it will be able to continue in operation after its second ten-week period which culminates in January. Minnesota Amusement Co. has all the major films sewed up and suitable independents are not being released fast enough.

Hirsch Troupe Gives Show At Stillwater Prison

MINNEAPOLIS — Harry Hirsch, Gayety Theatre owner, took his burlesque company to Stillwater prison Thanksgiving Day for a show for the inmates. Company started on the trip at 8 a. m. and were back in Minneapolis in time for the matinee performance at 2:30 p. m.

Minneapolis Protegee "Steals Picture"

Minneapolis—Merle Potter, Times-Tribune film editor, this week published excerpts from a letter written by Suzanne Larson, 14-year-old Minneapolis protegee who has just finished her first picture role in "The Great Victor Herbert." Said Miss Larson in part:

"Well, they 'sneaked' the picture the other night. The audience went wild over it and the preview cards said I stole the picture. They said Allan Jones was terrific. I think the picture is another 'Show Boat.' Allan thinks the same."

Rachman's Clemency Bid Before Board

LINCOLN—With the biggest jam of showmen and friends on hand seen in the state penitentiary since he came up before the pardon board three years ago, Jules Rachman, lacking just five days of seven years from the time he killed Harry and Sam Goldberg, his business associates in Omaha, made his second clemency try.

He was turned down on Feb. 12, 1936.

Little new material crept into the second hearing—the same family quarrel which preceded the dual slaying still apparent.

Rachman made his plea by reading what he had prepared, a simple declaration in which he said no amount of personal anguish caused by the killings compared to the damage he had done his parents and the Goldberg family, that he was truly repentant, had had enough time to think over what he had done, had a perfect prison record, felt no malice toward anyone, and that he felt he had achieved the necessary rehabilitation to go out of the prison and become a good citizen.

When he left the hearing chambers, the flare-up began. On his side, charges were made that Jules had done his job under the penalty that was designed to make him once more useful, and that any further fight to keep him inside was prompted solely by revenge.

Ralph Goldberg, the surviving brother of the slain men, said the judge had been lenient enough, by giving Jules only 15 years for a dual killing, and that in spite of protestations from the Rachman group, Rachman was not a model boy, but instead, to his personal knowledge, was a swaggering bully, threatening, and constantly in "hot water" with one shady business venture after another. He said the day he was killed his brother was carrying a $2,000 note in his pocket signed by Jules, and instead of trying to shake Jules out of their theatrical ventures as he charged, they were really his benefactors.

In submitting his case, Jules turned over to the pardon board a letter from E. C. Rhoden, Fox Midwest Theatre division manager in Kansas City, promising him employment, if released.

Brought out at the hearing was that Jules still has three years and a few months to serve, which would be almost halved with his good time, which means, whether he wins commutation or not at this second hearing, he will be eligible to freedom in 1941.

Governor Learns of His Own Popularity

LINCOLN — During the Jules Rachman hearing at the penitentiary here, before the board of pardons, of which Governor R. L. Cochran is a member, one speaker, Hyman Zellen, sought to minimize petition names seeking Rachman's continued stay in prison. He said one time there was a petition being circulated to hang the governor, and there were some 300 or 400 signers.

"Well," said the governor, with a ruddy blush, "that's surprising. I should think they could get more names than that."

Tells Why Gangster Films Are Popular

DES MOINES — Why are gangster films popular? Why does Hollywood frequently portray ministers in "rather ridiculous roles?" Why must theatres show double features?

Those were a few of the questions fired at Irvin E. Deer, MPPDA community service director, when he addressed the ministerial association of Drake University here.

Deer attributed gangster film popularity to the public desire for action. He doubted whether ministers are shown in ridiculous roles any more and he contended that attempts to eliminate double features also had eliminated profits. Many persons like them, he said.

The motion picture today, Deer told the ministerial group, may be trashy, stupid, insipid or inane, but it is no longer "morally offensive." He contended the motion picture industry has raised its own standards in the interests of "wholesomeness and good taste," and that there would be continued improvement.

Public demand will foster such improvement, he asserted, so that one of the major tasks of the Hays office is to educate the public to want "good" pictures.

The film colony visitor belittled the work of state censorship boards as "mostly futile" and declared ministers do not help the cause greatly with fiery sermons from the pulpit and at ministerial association meetings.

"The motion picture producer doesn't hear the sermon and he doesn't attend the meeting of the ministerial association," Deer revealed.

Ashcraft Demonstration In St. Joseph Dec. 6

KANSAS CITY—On December 6, a demonstration of the new Ashcraft Cyclex lamp will be held at John Egli's Hickory Theatre, St. Joseph, Mo., according to E. C. Leeves, head of the Central Theatre Equipment Co. here, distributor for the lamp in this territory. This will be the first demonstration in the territory, and Mr. Egli's is the first installation. The demonstration will be held in the evening by C. S. Ashcraft and his chief engineer of New York.

Judge Munger's Illness Delays Ascap Decision

LINCOLN—Ascap case decision is being delayed now because of the illness of Judge Munger, one of the trio who heard the test case when it was argued last September. Munger has been in the hospital.

New Theatre Policy

STORM LAKE, IA.—The New Lake Theatre is being operated on a double feature policy. Admission prices are: Adults 26 cents; high school students, 21 cents, and children, 10 cents, according to Frank Schoonover, manager.

KAYCEE

MERL SWANK, exhibitor at Stockton, Kas., and Mrs. Swank, and Don Phillips, exhibitor at Colby, Kas., and Mrs. Phillips, who used to be Arliss Winship, daughter of R. R. Winship, exhibitor at Phillipsburg, Kas., started out for Kansas City Thanksgiving Day from Stockton. Swank wanted to find out how many miles per gallon he could get from his new Buick. He found out. He got within three miles of Lawrence, Kas., when the car ran out of gas. A car towed the party into Lawrence. The party was en route to Kansas City, and attended the KU-MU football game Saturday on the way home.

J. D. "Jack" Goldhaar, district manager for UA, was in town over the weekend with Barney Robbins, St. Louis exchange manager.

On the Row: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ghosen, Sedalia, Mo.; O. L. Christian, Parker and Blue Mound, Kas.; Roy Culley, Medicine Lodge; Ward Spielman, Baldwin, Kas.; M. A. Otto, Pleasanton, Kas.; Mr. and Mrs. Glen Moskau, Regal, St. Joseph, Mo.; F. L. Lisbona, Maitland, Mo.; Gus Diamond, Salina, Kas.

This guy Jack Shriner of the Gem, Kansas City, is as agile as an acrobat. At the Variety Club the other evening, Chuck Esterley shut him in the cloak room, and he promptly climbed through the window into the lobby.

Victor Anderson of the G-R Sound Service, New York City, visited the Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co. here this week.

New fluorescent lighting has been installed by the Byam and National theatres, Kansas City, and by the Armour, North Kansas City. The jobs were engineered by the Central Theatre Equipment Co.

John Stapel, former KMTA president, will act as emcee at the dedication of the Brownville bridge across the Missouri River, December 11. Besides operating the Paramount at Rock Port, Mo., John edits the Atchison County *Times*.

Tom Edwards is celebrating his ninth anniversary at the Ozark, Eldon, Mo., and is so happy about the whole thing that he turned to poetry:

30 days has September,
April, June and November;
All the rest have thirty-one
Unless we hear from Washington.

Regarding the $1 minimum admission for "Gone With the Wind," which is three hours, ten minutes long, an exhibitor here the other day commented, "not a bad gale at that."

The Kansas City, Mo., Chamber of Commerce has elected E. C. Rhoden of Midwest a member of the board of directors.

Frank Cassil's Rialto Theatre at St. Joseph, Mo., was visited last Sunday afternoon by Jesse Shlyen and Isidore Lechtman of BOXOFFICE staff while Master-Quiz, patterned after Prof. Quiz, was in session. The 1,000-seat house was filled and everybody seemed to be enjoying the questions and answers. Cash prizes were awarded. Vaughan Mann, house manager, busied himself with a portable microphone in the audience. The program was broadcast over KFEQ under the sponsorship of a local firm.

Bill Redden, manager of Ross Federal Service, is recuperating from the effects of an infection suffered on a recent hunting trip and is expected back at his office this next week.

Screeno Does Not Fall Under Nebraska Ban

LINCOLN—The opposition against various forms of cash games and giveaways that the Nebraska attorney general, Walter Johnson, has voiced at times, following the ban of Bank Night as a lottery, has led to an erroneous conception that screen games, among them Screeno, too, have been banned, observers say.

Screeno has not run afoul of the Nebraska anti-lottery laws and is offered unmolested throughout the state, by its distributors, Western States Screeno Co. of Omaha, Mayer Monsky of the company states.

Three Films Clicking as Minneapolis Holdovers

MINNEAPOLIS — Although there is still much complaining about business, picture holdovers continue to be the rule here rather than the exception.

After two big weeks at the Orpheum, "First Love" has moved over to the World for an extension of its loop first-run. "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" just finished a three-week downtown run and "Drums Along the Mohawk" went two weeks.

York, Neb. Opening Is Newest in Territory

LINCOLN—Newest opening in this territory is the York, York, Neb., part of the Central States string. Manager Carl Rose said the house would play action fare and be open only on Saturdays and Sundays. The Sun, the town's other spot, now has three changes weekly.

QUALITY POPCORN

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERB—JUMBO
SOUTH AMERICAN HULLESS
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All Iowa's Finest Corn
A Trial Will Convince You of Our Popcorn's Super Quality

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DES MOINES

WE'VE just found out after all this time that it isn't "Jerry" Spandau at all—it's "Jere!" And speaking of Jere, why was he eating at "Whataman" McKechneay's table in at Michael's the other noon while the gorgeous Esther sipped her coffee at the next table? Better not pass up any bets on such a lovely gal, Spandau! (Nevamind, nevamind, we saw you pick up her check).

Tri-States' wily Dorothy Day or somebody showed a nicety of judgement by running a picture of Bette Davie au natural instead of in her Queen Bess garb to promote "Elizabeth and Essex" in last Sunday's Register *. . . Al Bair didn't get away with that gag that Lou Levy wasn't going for the Christmas ad idea this year . . . We met Al and Pat Snyder suppering at the Blue Willow Wednesday. If we'd been in Omaha the other night instead of while we're writing this, we could have seen Lou Levy putting his chips down and looking worried (about something else). There goes Evert Cummings out the Fontenelle door, puffing his pipe and looking nonchalantly smart in his clothes as usual. Beats all how these theatre people pop up here and there!*

Boxoffice Blast ! ! ! The Chuck Plows' of Iowa Film are doing a rush job of decorating on one very special room in that new love nest of theirs. Gossip is that they're stenciling nursery rhyme characters on the walls.

The Friday eve before Christmas is the fatal date chosen for the annual National Screen whing-ding . . . Ralph Olson, Universal's cutest salesman, met "HER" folks (including grandmamma) on the G.O.P. turkey day . . . HER? Why she's Betty Culp of the business office at the Telephone Co., just down the street from Universal.

We deserve a vote of thanks from Iowa Film. We had an invitation to their Thanksgiving party and turned it down lest our presence keep people from being themselves and getting into BOXOFFICE. We did pick up a few odds and ends, though, such as Dick Kappler showing off in the corner how he could do the latest jitterbug wiggle . . . And how some of the boys stole the flowers off the table. They say the ladies swamped the palm reader who furnished some of the entertainment. There were two Mickey Mouse films, dancing, Bingo, cigars and no drinks.

For once Nate Sandler failed us. We walked a whole block down the street with him and didn't get one bit of information . . . Opal Judd and Walter Lohman have a little dog house with Pups O. J. and W. L. to serve as a barometer of their standing with the high-strung F. E. Judd. Trouble is, O. J. and W. L. have been in Effie's dog house together so much, they're now in the dog house with each other you'll have to be on the inside yourself to figure that one out) . . . Art Anderson and Frank Rubel won't be angels for a while again. It got hotter'n a place where there aren't any angels out at the airport hangar, and burned up the boys' playthings.

Central States' Merry-Go-Round: Thelma Crittenden is being accused of having the loveliest figure in the office (and there's some tough competition on hand, too) . . . Everybody but Velma Oberg thinks Jack had something to do with that cold sore . . . Cannonball Lee, who used to be a dreat bid mans, has done some fancy slimming to become a veritable sheik . . . Ruth Stafford has a grease monkey who tosses her bouquets instead of cocoanuts . . . If Lional Wasson is really worrying about those gray hairs as much as they say he is, we wish he'd stop. We think they make him most distinguished-looking . . . Don West was the weekend guest of Ray O'Brien for the Iowa-Northwestern game in Chicago . . . Florine Weiland may start reading her BOXOFFICE in Rock Island instead of Cedar Rapids (watch Aw Shucks! for further details).

There were two in the "I Married an Angel" cast at the Shrine who looked like Filmrowers . . . Harry Mischka Szigetti was a dead-ringer for Lou Levy and Angel was practically a duplicate of Ruth Stafford . . . The Emil Frankes were there, as usual, and ate at the Fort after the show . . . On the way into the Coffee Shop, we stopped to listen to an accordion player on the loose, as did Senator Clyde Herring and Bert Henderson, who does imitations here'n there. Bert said they were still celebrating the Iowa-Minnesota victory.

Ben Lass's phobia against buying stamps manifests itself on every letter back to National Screen. He's never sent one yet that didn't arrive with postage due . . . Ray Butcher says he attended a Sunday School party the other night, so help him. Did they play spin the bottle, Ray? Which brings up the question of who planted the Old Century empty pint on the Columbia mail box—not that anybody objected to anything except its emptiness.

That fine new red Buick you were asking about, Grace Simons, is the latest passion of Joe Smith who drives it while wearing that overcoat Boss Spandau foisted on him last year . . . Grace says she's been having to carry her Sefren & Glickman Furriers' bill with her to prove it ain't so since last issue of BOXOFFICE *. . . We could be mistaken, but wasn't there an aura of romance around Jean Wylie and Dale Butler when we saw them Saturday? And now that Dale has celebrated reaching his majority November 24, almost anything could happen.*

Stop hunting for that new package of Luckies you left in your desk, Friedman, because BOXOFFICE and one of your employes smoked them all Saturday . . . Bing Miller spent the New Deal Thanksgiving eating turkey with in-laws at St. Louis . . . Ruby Willey brought Jay Warren in at Universal to show him off to jealous co-workers . . . The Jack Frosts didn't miss when they decided to name their new young'un "Jacquelin."

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

"I'VE BEEN WORKIN' for the railroad all the whole day through!" It's the voice of J. D. Peck, Van Cleve circuit owner, coming to you from Faulkner, Ia., where he is catching up on his seniority rights with the railroad. He's a railroader by trade, and has to put in so much time every so often to maintain his service record.

Ed Mason of the Osage Theatre in Osage really made a pal of Joe Smith on his last trip through, according to Joe.

That kibitzer at the road building activities just outside Vinton, Ia., is H. S. Waldorf of the Palace Theatre. He spends half his time watching what goes on, and the weather is never too bad to keep him from his kibitzing.

We've been hearing along the Row about the $1.00 poker chips for 10 cents at Barney Brotman's in Moline, Ill. He's the Paradise Theatre Co. Brotman, you know.

A number of things seem to have blown up at the new Lake in Storm Lake since the opening, including the heating plant. At the moment, Bill Kubitzke is managing the theatre.

We never knew 'till now that Fay West (Mrs. Don) operates the Lyric in West DM (Valley Junction to some of us) . . . and she's reported to be a darn good one, too.

Cora Croft of Corning, Ia., will be interested to know that her handsome young son is causing a few heat throbs here and there when she brings him to the DM Row on her booking trips.

Leo Gilligan of the Tall Corn Theatre in Kanawha doesn't hit town often, but when he does he gets some notice. He's built like an all-American end . . . Signals!

Lou Kahn of the Grand in East DM was one of the few who missed the Iowa-Minnesota thriller, but by staying at home, he didn't miss everything. At least, that telephone call didn't sound like a miss from one end.

Wesley Mansfield of Traer, Toleda, Tama, Belle Plaine and we don't know where else, hit town especially for "I Married an Angel." Show was billed at the Iowa in Cedar Rapids like this: "I Married an Angel and Bank Nite." On top of all that, there was a pointed crack on Bank Night in the production.

F. E. Rafferty of the Lyric in Coon

Rapids and C. H. Harris of the Princess in Guttenberg sound like sunshine and rain.

L. A. Kuhl of the American in Corning and A. Hahn of the Rialto in Bedford have been making the Row in tandem lately.

Nate Rosenthal of the Iowa in Waterloo reminds us of Kipling's remark, "A woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke." He's never without one, which he seems to be enjoying immensely (we're referring to a good cigar).

Why is Howard Pollard of Dows and Reinbeck called "The Heavyweight Champ?"

Barbara Newbold of Keosauqua is getting herself a reputation for absent-mindedness . . . J. E. Michael of the Strand in Leon, Earl Kerr of Marshalltown, and F. Damon of the Park in Ft. Dodge were on the Row this week.

Emil Franke, super manager of the DM Orpheum, wants to show the *R&T's* editorial writer, W. W. Waymack, that March of Time on the U. S. government and farms. W. W. Waymack wants to see it. But, apparently, never the twain will meet, because when Franke can show it, Waymack can't come, and when Waymack can come, Franke can't show it.

Tom Duncan of the State and Fox theatres in Washington gets an awful lot of comment on that fetching little black mustache of his.

Those flower boxes on either side of the entrance of the Garden Theatre in Guthrie Center strike us as being very appropriate. Which reminds us, J. H. Spillers of Guthrie Center had a most interesting ad in the *R&T* last Sunday.

Ducks, geese and turkeys were given away from the Grand Theatre stage in Atlantic last Monday . . . The Neon letters on the west end of the Iowa Theatre marquee in Atlantic was on the blink the eve we were there, but there was nothing wrong with that three-dimensional display of "Drums Along the Mohawk" the house was sporting.

Varsity Theatre Robber Is Slated for Sentencing

DES MOINES—Slated for sentencing in Judge Loy Ladd's court here December 2 is Irwin Bokman, 35, of Chicago, Ill., who last week was found guilty of robbery with aggravation in connection with the October 21 holdup of the Varsity Theatre.

Bokman pleaded not guilty, but was convicted by the jury on two ballots. George O'Halloran, indicted with Bokman in the theatre robbery case, pleaded guilty and received a sentence of not more than 25 years in the state penitentiary.

During his trial, Bokman did not testify and called no witnesses. He was allegedly the lookout during the holdup. Fifty-one dollars was obtained in the robbery.

MINNEAPOLIS

JOE FLOYD and Dick Wagner, Sioux Falls, S. D., showmen, rode into town impressively in their new station wagon for the Minnesota-Wisconsin football game. What if they did miss two or three quarters of the play? . . . As per custom, turkey and trimmings were served gratis to Twin City Variety Club members the day before Thanksgiving which was celebrated in Minneapolis November 30 . . . Harry Rubins, showman-prospector, in Minneapolis on one of his infrequent pilgrimages.

Eddie Ruben's Pantages Theatre hosted 1,500 *kids at a special Thanksgiving matinee in a tieup with the Minneapolis* Star-Journal . . . *Ted Bolnick, LaCrosse, Wis., and John Cliplef, Montevideo, Minn., among the Welworth circuit spectators at the ringing down of the curtain on the University of Minnesota football season . . . Max Torador, local independent exhibitor, and Ben Spewak, the financier, in close conversation at the Twin City Variety Club. Can it be that a new theatre is in the offing?*

Irving Gillman put it on in swell style for his "Ballerina" premiere. He had a Hollywood opening with Kleig lights and a society audience. House was sold out in advance. If this picture doesn't click at the boxoffice it won't be because Gillman didn't give it a bang-up ballyhoo . . . A capacity crowd attended the Fiddlers' Club stag at the Radisson Hotel. The session lasted two days. That much time was needed to take in all the fun.

Earle Perkins, Warner salesman, batching it for a short spell. The missus is visiting out of town . . . Mannie Goodman, the valance man, tarried in the Twin Cities long enough to drape plenty of theatres prettily with holiday banners . . . Harry Chapman, brother of Columbia's "Hy," representing a cookware premium giveaway, already has spotted his merchandise at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, LaCrosse, Wis., and the Metro, Red Wing.

Ten-O-Win is an exciting theatre game, but it's even more exciting to keep up with its representative, Charlie DuRyck. You'd think that nothing else mattered . . . Jerry Weisfeldt, Warner assistant booker, took a Saturday off to catch the Iowa-Minnesota football game at Iowa City . . . Talking about Jerry, he resents the report that the lady friend who accompanies him to the screenings is a redhead . . . Insists she's a charming brunette.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Don Anderson, Pine Island, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Perkins, Mora, Minn.; Jimmy Anderson, West Concord and Tracy, Minn.; Bill Lentz, Jefferson, Minn.; E. L. Danielson, Mabel, Minn.; Tom Hale, Buhl and Cook, Minn.; M. L. Sondegaard, New York Mills, Minn.; L. J. Gill, Farmington and Lakeville, Minn.; Charles Vondra, Mahnomen, Minn.; Ernest Chantelois, Iron River, Wis.; Harvey Thorp, Crosby, Minn.; Leo Molitor, Lake Crystal, Minn.; D. Polzer, Independence, Wis.; H. Anderson, Arcadia, Wis.; Lyle Webster, Rice Lake, Wis.; T. G. Kemper, U. S. Army Motion Picture Service, St. Louis, Mo.; Allen Mueller, Arlington, Minn., and Paul Perizo, Blue Earth and Winnebago, Minn.

Warner Brothers here preparing to get into the annual Sears' drive with full vigor . . . Father of Stella Kronick, Paramount booking department secretary, passed away . . . Gene Meredith of Warner, the lucky pup, attended two turkey raffles and won a bird at each one. No dearth of good food at the Meredith home these days . . . Sylvan Leff, Universal southern Minnesota salesman, wedded to Evelyn Shapiro of Montreal, Can. They've known each other for several years.

"Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, passed up the Notre Dame-Southern California football game to which he had been invited in order to entertain visitors expected for the Minnesota-Wisconsin battle here. And then, when it was too late to accept the South Bend invitation, the expected visitors changed their minds and informed him they weren't coming. Was he burned up, and how! . . . Morrie Abrams, M-G-M exploiteer, in South Dakota plugging "Ninotchka."

Charlie Weiner, the Monogram man, visiting northern Minnesota accounts . . . Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, in town . . . Peck Gomersall, Universal district manager, here for a sales meeting with Harold Johnson, local branch manager . . . A record crowd attended the Twin City Variety Club's turkey raffle and a huge sum was realized for the organization's charity fund.

Monogram's "Mutiny in the Big House" went into the World, St. Paul . . . So great is the exhibitor demand for the latest Deanna Durbin picture, "First Love," which moved into the World for an extension of its loop first run after two big weeks at the Orpheum, that March 10 *is the first Sunday open on prints . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" broke house records at the Granada, Duluth, and Beacon, Superior, Wis. . . . 20th-Fox seeking maximum bookings for the M. A. Levy "Appreciation Week," November* 26 *to December* 3.

Orpheum has the Orrin Tucker orchestra coming in Christmas week . . . Wally Vernon will headline the Minnesota Theatre stage show week after next.

Leota Lane to Give a Concert in Indianola

INDIANOLA, IA.—Leota Lane, who has been visiting Sisters Lola, Rosemary and Priscilla while they have been making "Four Wives" for Warner Bros., will present a concert in Indianola, the Lane girls' home town, Tuesday, December 5.

Leota, the eldest of the Lane girls, was once a stage name with Sister Lola. During the last year she has been studying voice at the Juillard school of music.

After Leota's concert at the Methodist Church, old friends will greet her at a public reception in the Simpson College administration building.

OMAHA

CARL "AUTRY" REESE, Republic film peddler, called on Walt Bradley, Moon Theatre, Neligh, Neb., the other day. By the time Reese had opened all his literature about Gene Autry pictures, he had Bradley's desk pretty well covered. About that time, Walt's daughter walked in and asked, "Who's that man, Daddy, is he a magazine salesman?" Carl's face was red, but he got the contract.

Ed J. Schoenthal, manager of the Sun Theatre, Holdrege, Neb., says he thinks producers should make fewer and better pictures, then exhibitors would no longer need double features . . . Haven't heard anything from Lawrence Burkey, Ritz, Deshler, Neb., on the ping pong controversy!

Guy Griffin, Cass, Plattsmouth, Neb., celebrates both his birthday and wedding anniversary in December, but we haven't been able to get the dates yet . . . Stan McSwain, Auburn, Auburn, Neb., celebrates his third wedding anniversary soon . . . Also F. E. Pace, Empress, Malvern, Ia., a wedding anniversary.

Joe Steeg, Time, Primghar, Ia., sees red everytime he views one of the historical pictures or biographical "epics" because he likes "down-to-earth" picture that do the business at his boxoffice . . . Art Miller, Lyric, Atkinson, Neb., celebrates a birthday this week. He's just about reached the half-century mark.

It's wedding bells at the Fox layout. Dorothy Grabbert, assistant cashier, was recently married to Glen Weaver of Omaha and it was a complete surprise, even to the BOXOFFICE scout in the Fox exchange. Congrats, Dorothy! . . . Leo Wolcott, Grand, Eldora, Ia., has a birthday this week.

The Grand National exchange moved all of a sudden to Des Moines in the company's consolidation move . . . Kay Stewart, pretty Paramount actress, will be home for Christmas with her folks, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stewart, Mayfair, Shenandoah, Ia. . . . Rubel Hutchings, Allen, Neb., will soon have a birthday.

Our scouts tell us that the daughter of J. Morgan Reynolds, Elwood, Neb,. is now home and recovering nicely from an appendectomy in a Lincoln hospital . . . The Variety Club turkey Bingo party was a huge success with over 300 persons present. It was the annual turkey "trot."

Harry Levy is the new salesman at the Fox exchange. Levy was formerly with RKO in St. Louis. He will have the south Platte territory in place of Bob Berke, who resigned to try his fortune in Hollywood . . . Mike Roskopf, Odean, Marshalltown, Ia., has a birthday next week . . . Mary Francis of Monogram said she would like to be a journalist.

Horn and Morgan, Star, Hay Springs, Neb., have an idea about helping business. They suggest that the prices of features and shorts should not exceed 30 per cent of the gross. They also suggest that the production of "spectacles" be discontinued.

LINCOLN

TOP NEWS of the week: Howard Federer's decision to give vaudeville an "honest try," by booking Sollie Childs' "French Follies," a fairly sizeable show, in the Liberty.

By now, Mike Roth, who, after conducting a whirlwind courtship of Sally Silverman, New York, for some nine years, is a married man. It's not true that he bought a trailer from National Screen to ballyhoo the event . . . W. N. Youngclaus, the Grand Islander, has been on a long jaunt east, allowing the business to run itself. Harry Schiller, same town, has been commuting to Omaha, where his sister-in-law's in the hospital . . . Carl Rose believes four more pounds on his youngster and it'll be Carl, not the kid, who yells for his mother . . . In for the Oklahoma game were L. L. Dent and T. B. Noble jr. But T. B. didn't bring back the coat he borrowed in 1937.

M. E. Lofgren, now an expert at chucking his junior under the chin, figures the 47 miles he paced in the hospital corridor were worth it . . . R. E. Falkinburg, Lexington, has everything but Santa Claus to be in his home town's Christmas parade . . . M. E. McClain, Fremont, has a daughter, who, he says, was born under an unlucky star, because she looks like him . . . Keith Wilson, Omaha *World-Herald* and district governor of the NFCA (film critics), this week dunned the boys in his territory to help raise the $50 pot from his area which will be used to conduct the first award poll.

Bill Hebert writes from Atlanta, Ga., that there will be no junket for "Gone With the Wind," and he even doubts if newspapermen who paid fare and expenses could get tickets! . . . Joe Scott says he can think of nothing more pleasant—than Linda Darnell buttering his bread, literally or figuratively . . . Bob Huffman has stowed his golf bag until next summer, trading golf balls and the outdoors for popcorn balls and the home fire. So Mrs. Huffman is not a widow anymore . . . Bob Livingston has spent a full week answering mail and wires from exhibitors all over the country wanting to know his stunt to combat radio giveaways.

Charlie Shire leaned back and rested this week. No more of those last minute calls for 50-yard line tickets from the Filmrow boys—no more until October, 1940 . . . Ed Vaughan has taken to reading best sellers, mostly, so the scouts report, because of the sultry-eyed lass who looks across the counter at him with that "only you and me on a desert island" flicker of her lashes . . . Harvey Traylor, when the Lincoln closes, is going to be left in the house to watch the remodeling. Sort of a "phantom of the opera," or a house-haunter.

Harold Hellerich is figuring on sending Bermuda onions to everybody on December 30, with this note on the skin: "Sniff and for 1939 *shed a tear; Have a bleary-eyed happy new year" . . . Ted Mendenhall is suspicious of all "thumbs up" propositions, until he hears them specified "up" where.*

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

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1214 Brush Creek Road — VAlentine 2770
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221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
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MICHIGAN CONSTRUCTION SURVEY SHOWS 44 NEW HOUSES IN TWO AND A HALF YEAR PERIOD

"Disorganization" Is Deplored by Brandt

DETROIT—Harry Brandt, president of ITOA of New York, told BOXOFFICE that he feels that independent exhibitors are too disorganized in Detroit and that Co-operative Theatres of Michigan members should all belong to Allied Theatres of Michigan. This was his conclusion at the end of his visit in Detroit, one of the stops on his cross-country tour.

He thus, indirectly, asserted that he is not interested in forming a third national exhibitor group, and that he is mainly interested in seeing exhibitor-distributor ills corrected.

Brandt further said that all independent exhibitor groups should be organized together in Detroit or otherwise it would be bad for the industry there and in general.

The ITOA leader told BOXOFFICE that he felt when he left Detroit that the independent exhibitors he had spoken to were generally against the Neely Bill. He told exhibitors in the motor city practically the same he has said elsewhere, such as Chicago and Cleveland.

In Cleveland he conferred with Allied exhibitors headed by Moe Horowitz, and with RKO's zone manager, Nat Wolf.

Theatre Company Sues UA For $25,000 Damages

BEXLEY, OHIO—The United Artists Corp. of Cleveland was sued for $25,000 in common pleas court at nearby Columbus by the Ardmore Amusement Co., operator of a motion picture theatre here.

The Ardmore Co. asserted that on May 9, 1937, and again on Oct. 27, 1938, it was forced to darken its theatre and refund admittance charged because scheduled films failed to arrive. Each time, the company said, the pictures were supplied to a competitor at a lower fee.

Mary Lee in Boswell Is Adding 24 More Seats

BOSWELL, PA.—Charles Szewczyk, owner of the Mary Lee Theatre, is installing 24 additional seats. When he opened the house two years ago he planned to enlarge the size of the stage and the first two rows of seats were never installed.

Now he believes the stage is large enough and has ordered additional seats. The house is operated by the H. J. Thompson circuit.

Say Expansion Plans Abroad in Detroit

DETROIT—Plans for two additions to Detroit theatres by existing operators were reported this week by reliable sources. These follow recent reports of two projected east side theatres by unidentified operators, and expansion plans announced a few weeks ago by Associated Theatres.

Julius London, of the Booth Theatre, is reported dickering for a new house, which will be remodeled from a present commercial structure.

Lewis M. Lash and W. M. Gilpin, who have the Saline Theatre at Saline, also are said to be planning to add a new house in the metropolitan area.

All recent reports of construction indicate that operators are giving careful planning toward location of theatres, to avoid construction in a potentially-overseated area.

The projected house for Oakland Avenue, however, is now believed out of the picture. Since the report originated, the Echo, a block away, has been taken over by Schram and Goldberg, and is being remodeled at considerable cost, and last week the Oakland, half a mile away, was reported transferred to the M. J. Chargot circuit. These two transfers to established circuits probably will discourage any plans for a new theatre on this street.

Sharon Merchant Plans 1,000-Seat Theatre

SHARON, PA.—Plans are completed for a new theatre building on East State St. for Louis Shafran, local grocer. The building will be three stories, with two stores and 14 apartment suites on the second and third floor.

John Summerville of Youngstown, Ohio, is the architect. Theatre, unnamed, will have upwards of 1,000 seats. Construction will begin in the early spring, it is understood.

Acquire Franchise

PITTSBURGH—Product of Film Alliance of the U. S., Inc., has been acquired under franchise for local distribution by A. J. and M. S. England, 425 Van Braam street. Film Alliance output includes a dozen British productions and seven French productions. First three available are "Torpedoed" with Richard Cromwell; "The Challenge" with Luis Trenker, and "Second Bureau.

Adapting "Crooked Road"

HOLLYWOOD—Leslie White is adapting "The Crooked Road" for Republic.

Overseating Plaint Is Voiced Primarily by Detroit Showmen

DETROIT—Survey of Michigan Theatre construction since July, 1937—a period of less than two and one-half years—shows that 44 theatres have been added to Michigan lists since that time. Survey was just completed by Miss Pearl M. Sprott, office manager of Allied Theatres of Michigan, who has kept statistics on theatre changes in Michigan since that time.

The survey shows that 8,675 new seats were added to Detroit's capacity in that time, and 18,242 upstate. The total is 26,917.

Average size of the new houses is around 650 seats.

This new seating capacity—equal to the population of a good-sized town—in a little over two years is the immediate cause of the complaints of overseating that have been voiced by some exhibitors. Focal point of all such complaints, as far as BOXOFFICE has learned, is in Detroit, however, with few upstate exhibitors making vocal any unfavorable reaction to building in their own communities, despite building of as many as three houses at one time in Flint and Lansing.

Detroit has been responsible for less than one-third of the additions, however, and had approximately one-half of the 400,000 seating capacity of the state to begin with, so that the relative overseating complained of locally is largely in the older houses. Conclusion of these figures would indicate that a closing of older Detroit theatres may be in the cards for the future. The stiffer competitive areas are to a large extent in the older sections of the city, here the tendency is for the smaller theatres to fold up, as witnessed by the closing of at least three theatres along Michigan Ave. within the three-mile circle within the last few years. Only one new house, the Crystal, has been built in this area.

Indications from this are that Detroit's perennial over-seating problem is the result of the continual outward growth of the city, with progressive obsolescence of the older theatres. Newer construction appears to be governed generally by more caution in selecting sites, so that non-competitive locations are generally chosen in the growing suburban areas.

New Glouster Theatre

GLOUSTER, OHIO—Louis Martin, manager of the Glouster Amusement Co. and John Crawford, owner of the site where the Crawford Theatre stood before it was destroyed by a $50,000 fire recently, have announced that a new theatre will be constructed on the site as soon as the fire debris is cleared away.

Business in Pittsburgh Area Is Under Par

By ROBT. F. KLINGENSMITH

PITTSBURGH—Although business activity in the local district, as measured by the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Pittsburgh, has reached a higher level than was attained at any previous time in the last ten years and is actually above the 1929 peak, theatre business in the area remains very much under par. Many theories are advanced for "slow" theatre business, with the finger pointing in various directions.

Patrons Xmas Shopping

Theatre patrons are looking to Christmas and sacrificing the pleasure of a few visits to motion pictures in order to make this their best Christmas in a number of years, according to many exhibitors. A number of former patrons have returned to work and are too tired to leave the house in the evenings, this in contrast to many of the same patrons formerly on relief with plenty of time on their hands.

Radio programs, with Hollywood celebrities, cash and merchandise awards in the offing in addition to radio games and puzzles, are responsible for the greater decrease in boxoffice takes, most theatremen agree. Product of the new season, generally considered good, has less attraction value as far as names are concerned than in many years past, they say. Old established names have been killed off by frequent, and oftimes stupid radio performances, and the new crop of starlets have little glitter.

Very much on the increase are non-theatrical showings at schools, churches and other auditoriums, such accounts using 16mm film. Just recently a large auditorium in Pittsburgh resumed 35mm film shows at five cents a visit, an exhibitor leader stated this week. Theatre giveaways have reached their highest peak in this territory in an effort to lure customers to attend motion pictures, this in addition to cash awards and merchandise tieups.

Grosses Under Summer Takes

Conditions under which exhibitors are playing the new season's product necessitate 50 per cent gross increases, a number of theatremen state.

Many exhibitors report that their grosses are under summer month takes and most of them state that present grosses are from 20 to 30 per cent under receipts at this time last year. Checked percentage engagements, distributors admit, are for the most part under expectations. Exhibitors state that many of the so-called A shows are "spottier" than ever before, and pictures that are top grossers under present conditions at some theatres are "dogs" in other situations. Only a few of the big ones are hitting on all six generally throughout the territory. Independent distributors, who struggled through the summer, are just now getting a lot of playdates.

Boxoffice Normalcy Foreseen

After two months of waiting for better returns, however, exhibitors are optimistic. One stated that he was not a student of economics or sociology, but he was of the opinion that people would be returning to theatres soon; that good product is available and the public will take advantage of viewing it. Of the product in production, he stated that the public already has been sold on the idea that it will be "cheap," because of radio commentators and news articles published in newspapers and magazines. These shows will have to be resold, and before long, this businessman stated.

Several distributing companies have established record sales while several others have been pacing much slower. An AMPTO survey, at last report, had but one company selling on a definite national policy. A number of exhibitors have stated that they may, under circumstances, buy the product of an "extra" company this season, feeling that all companies will be short in delivery. Some, too, have a feeling that the pro-offered cancellation, as announced, will have no significance, due to their expectation of non-delivery of a number of pictures from the various distributors.

There is little undue pessimism and the squawks have not turned into roars, but they will if the pickup doesn't come soon. As in many years past, personal distributor-exhibitor relations remain very good here.

Cleveland Grosses Up on Turkey Day

CLEVELAND—A new two-year Thanksgiving day high in theatre attendance is reported by local exhibitors.

Col. Harry E. Long, Loew division manager, states more than 14,000 people turned out that day to see "Another Thin Man" at Loew's State.

Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, says business was "terrific" at Warner's Hippodrome here where "Elizabeth and Essex" opened to record crowds and also at all Warner theatres in the territory.

Nat Holt, RKO Great Lakes division manager, tells the same story anent the Palace and Keith's where "The Dead End Kids on Dresss Parade" and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" were respective attractions.

Subsequent-run exhibitors who played outstanding product were unanimous in stating they did outstanding business. But they were equally unanimous in saying that average attractions did just average business.

20th-Fox Executives Hold A Meeting in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—Herman Wobber, 20th Century-Fox general sales manager, and M. Levy, Kent drive leader, held a meeting here which was attended by the entire local exchange personnel. Following the business meeting, the officials dined the salesmen and bookers at the Tavern.

New Termer to June Gale

HOLLYWOOD — Twentieth-Fox has held June Gale, actress, for another term.

Action Against 16mm Competition Sought

PITTSBURGH—Organized action against the continued servicing of non-theatrical accounts and plans for opposing the rapidly increasing 16mm film exhibitions in the local area were "hot" subjects of discussion at a membership meeting of the AMPTO of W. Pa., Tuesday afternoon in the East Room of the Roosevelt Hotel.

A number of established theatre owners testified as to current problems in connection with these subjects. In one town where 16mm film shows are exhibited there are applications for permits for three additional 16mm operators. Various exhibitors told of new 16mm oppositions and threats of more to come.

AMPTO members voted to refer the subjects to the board of directors and pleaded for immediate action. The directors were scheduled to meet on Friday afternoon to take proper steps to curtail the growth of 16mm exhibitions and to stop all non-theatrical showing of regular 35mm commercial film. All distributors are on record declaring they will not service non-theatrical accounts where there is an established theatre, according to AMPTO officers.

M. A. Rosenberg, president of the local Allied unit, was ill and unable to attend the Tuesday meeting, thus there was no report on the recent regional convention of Allied which was held in Philadelphia. In his absence the luncheon-meeting was presided over E. T. Beedle, vice-president.

Bennett Amdur reported on the recent meeting which was held in this city by Harry Brandt, head of the ITOA of New York. He declared that Brandt got nowhere in his argument against the Neely Bill, which is solidly backed by national Allied.

Fred J. Herrington, secretary, spoke on non-theatrical and 16mm exhibitions. Active in the discussions were Bart Dattola, Bob Higgins, J. H. Rankin, Rudy Navari, William Walker, Carl Poke, Sam Gould and others.

Two Film Division Heads In Cleveland Fund Drive

CLEVELAND—For the first time, the chairmanship of the film and theatre division of the Cleveland Community Fund Drive has been split up into classifications. Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, is chairman of the division covering members in the classification of over $2,500 a year incomes. I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, is chairman of the industrial division, or those in the bracket under $2,500 a year. Mrs. Georgia Moffett, Variety Club secretary, assists both chairmen.

Lights for Corry

PITTSBURGH—Grand Theatre, Corry, Pa., closed for many years, is to be reopened, according to film bookers. The house is one of the Blatt Bros. theatres, the circuit which operates the Rex at Corry.

United Defense First, Wood Recommends

COLUMBUS—In view of current labor disputes in Hollywood, P. J. Wood, Ohio ITO secretary, has advanced the suggestion that the industry present a united front in combating unfair demands on the part of the unions. He points out that the exhibitor must pay for every concession made the unions, consequently each individual theatre owner has a vital interest in the problems facing the producers.

Wood, in a letter to E. J. Mannix of Metro, who is representing the studios, said, "It would seem to me that the time is ripe to initiate some sort of a cooperative defensive campaign between the producing and exhibiting ends of the industry, the main purpose of which will be to indicate to the various organized union groups that any unfair demands upon either division of the industry will be vigorously fought by both divisions. Such a campaign should be so formulated as to enlist not only the sympathetic but the active support of the general public, the great bulk of which do not realize the advantageous conditions under which most of those organized groups are working."

Houses in Cleveland Area Adding New Equipment

CLEVELAND—While there is a dearth of prospective new theatres in this area, many houses now in operation are adding new equipment.

L. H. Walters of National Theatre Supply reports the following replacements: The Old Trail Theatre, Saint Clairsville, has installed new projectors and generator; Park Theatre, North Canton, belonging to the A. G. Constant circuit, has new projectors, sound and carpeting. Also included in this contract was enough link matting to cover both the foyer and lobby.

George Manos has purchased new lamps for the Manos in Lisbon, and Ray Wallace has installed a new generator in his Columbia Theatre, Alliance.

Additional Four Votes in Sunday Show Recount

CAMBRIDGE, OHIO—The result of the recount of ballots in the Sunday show issue was that four votes were gained. The recount was made at the county board of elections after Dan Gilhula, manager of the State Theatre here, had requested the recount and had posted $40 to cover the expense involved. Four precincts were rechecked. Sunday shows were defeated by more than 900 votes at the November 7 election.

Short on "Movies"

CLEVELAND—Big Feature Rights Exchange, Inc., has received prints of the two-reel short, "Birth of the Movies," which has been booked by the Warner circuit in the Philadelphia area and the Comerford-Publix chain.

CLEVELAND

MARRIAGES and engagements take top rank in a list of news events of the week. Sam P. Gorrel, Republic branch manager and tagged as the film industry's most eligible bachelor, sprang a surprise by announcing his marriage to Miss Geraldine Peters of this city. The knot was tied in Newport, Ky. After a Thanksgiving weekend honeymoon in Cincinnati, the couple returned to Cleveland.

The engagement of the week was that of Gilbert Lefton, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Nat L. Lefton, to Miss Sylvia Nadler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Nadler of the Franklin Theatre. Gilbert, like his father, is also in the film business as head of Academy Film Service, a non-theatrical organization servicing schools, churches and clubs. The engagement was announced at a Thanksgiving dinner at the Lefton home. No date for the wedding has been set as yet.

Mrs. Lena Stillwell, who owns and operates the Bedford Theatre, Bedford, is at the Bedford Hospital, a victim of pneumonia . . . S. A. Gerson devoted the first half of his business life in the distribution end of the picture industry, having been with Columbia for many years and more recently manager of the local office of Lee Goldberg's Big Feature Rights exchange. The last half Gerson expects to devote to exhibition. Completing negotiations for the purchase of the Royal Theatre from the Associated circuit, he took possession last Sunday.

Jack Finberg, former Monogram salesman out of the Cleveland office and now on the Cincinnati United Artists payroll, spent Thanksgiving with his folks here . . . Howard Reif and his mother entertained Frank Gross and the Lou Walters at one of those soup-to-nuts Thanksgiving dinners . . . The Buck (M-G-M) Stoners were also on the entertaining end of a Thanksgiving dinner . . . Harry Reinhart has dressed up his McKinley Theatre, Canton, with new carpets.

Saul Bragin, head booker for Warner Theatres in this zone, bought a new Pontiac for his Thanksgiving present . . . George Roberts, 20th-Fox district manager, spent the holiday weekend with his wife and daughter in New York . . . Ted Scheinberg, 20th-Fox salesman, and George Delis, sales manager for the A. G. Constant circuit, are plotting a Florida vacation scheduled to start next week . . . Mark Villani reports his Regent Theatre, Youngstown, is still closed on account of a street widening job.

The 20th Century-Fox Club is in the throes of plans for its annual Christmas party . . . R. C. Patterson of the Mu-Wa-Tu Theatre, Coshocton, was in town visiting the LeMotto Smiths . . . Julius Lamm at the Uptown and Lou Milder at the Variety are staging their annual Christmas benefit performances on December 13 . . . The Lorain Fulton and the Garden theatres have added "Lucky Strike," a Hollywood Amusement Co. business builder, to their programs, in addition to "Wahoo."

Frank Drew, M-G-M branch manager, attended a midseason sales meeting in Chicago . . . Local film folks were conspicuous by their absence last Saturday. Most of 'em went to Ann Arbor for the Michigan-Ohio State football game . . . O. K. Fischer of Hollywood Amusement Co. has a new title. Hereafter, he is to be addressed as "vice-president" instead of sales manager . . . "Drums Along the Mohawk" was held locally for a third week. First two weeks it played at Warner's Hippodrome and then moved over to the Allen.

Al Gregg, Republic publicity manager, warns exhibitors in the territory that his postcard barrage of Gene Autry news flashes, which he has fired daily for the past six weeks, is only the beginning. He says he has enough Autry material on hand to keep up the campaign indefinitely . . . Harry Lande of Independent Film Service spent the week calling on the trade in the southern part of the state . . . Irving Fields is keeping his Opera House in Burton open three days a week these days, namely Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Joe Trunk, Youngstown independent theatre circuit owner, and Mrs. Trunk, celebrated a dual event in Cleveland last week—Thanksgiving and their 24th wedwedding anniversary falling on the same day.

Local exhibitors were grieved to learn of the death of Charles Wowra of Barberton. Until three years ago when he retired, he operated the Pastime Theatre, now leased to Nate Schultz. Wowra died in Florida where he had gone for his health . . . Harold Greenberger, assistant manager at the Liberty by night, is now sales representative for the Jack Fine Printing Co. by day.

Herman Smith, until recently owner of the Ridge Theatre, on Sunday last, completed negotiations for the purchase of the Waldorf Theatre from Meyer Kaplan. Kaplan retains the Crown Theatre.

In true showmanship fashion, Mr. and Mrs. Scanlan of the State Theatre, Bellevue, Ohio, announce the arrival of a daughter, Constance Mae. The announcement received by members of the local exchanges was in the nature of a theatre herald . . . A daughter was born last week to Mr. and Mrs. Al Myers. Mrs. Myers was formerly Edith Lyons, secretary to P. L. Tanner of Film Transit and Mr. Myers is a well known film messenger.

George Delis, general manager of the A. G. Constant circuit, reports that RKO's "That's Right, You're Wrong" hit a new high over the weekend at the Palace, Canton.

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DETROIT

ROBERT HALL has joined Franklyn K. Morgan as a partner in the Fluorescent Light Supply Co. . . . Hal Burriss of Coulter Premiums is exhibiting an injured thumb after hunting—claims the deer stepped on him . . . Stanislawaw Leskiewicz of the Polish Variety Bureau is resuming active distribution of Polish films in this territory . . . Sylvia Schiffman of the Film Building Office, knows where to find BOXOFFICE.

Mato J. Aiello is organizing the Home Movie Club, at 18873 Riopelle St. . . . Wesley Schram and Louis Goldberg got an okay for the marquee on their newly-acquired Echo from the city council . . . Linda Ware, Detroit's contribution to Paramount, is reported as author of music and lyrics for five songs . . . John W. Hurley, attorney for Film Fumbles, and Lloyd Hammond, producer, are off to Philadelphia and New York on business.

Joseph G. Portel of the Virginia and Greenwood is due to leave for Florida . . . Bill Napier of the Virginia managed to beat Lew Arozian in that friendly game —and how! . . . . Max Blumenthal was host to sixty youngsters of the industry—children of exhibitors, employes, etc.—at a special cartoon show Thanksgiving morning, after they saw the Santa Claus Parade from the Film Exchange. Charley Snyder and Jacob Boodman assisted in handling the crowd.

Hal Burriss has a new hunting costume with green coat and cap—and feathers in his hat . . . Jerry Schneider of the Stratford, who died last week, was known to every filmite as one of the real champion bowlers—and a "real live-wire." . . . Al Ruttenberg of the Iris and Irving Pollard of Republic seen lunching together . . . Harry Brandt of the Brandt Theatres, New York City, was a visitor to Excellent offices . . . Bill Flemion, Excellent president, is adding a new salesman, expanding his selling staff . . . Flemion is off on his second hunting trip. He came back empty-handed the first time.

Pete Simon, producer, won a 15-pound turkey . . . Lou Fava, 20th-Fox head shipper, had a tough job wrestling that 25-pound bird, tried to trade it with Salesman Floyd Keillor . . . Art Knapp of 20th-Fox said he got those finger cuts when his turkey bit him . . . Jack Broder is set to open his new Time Theatre on December 20 . . . Julius London of the Booth is dickering to remodel a building for use as a new theatre . . . E. A. McFaul of the Industrial Morris Plan Bank talked to UDT managers at a staff meeting Monday.

Owen Blough supervised presentation of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" for nuns at Marygrove College, with Sam Comella and Bill Fouchey doing likewise at St. Leo's . . . Gil Light and Bill Stolz are among returning nimrods . . . Sam Comella is recovering from a bad fall on the running board of his car . . . Nick Tsoukalas is back from his European trip . . . Edward T. Satory of Amacine Film Service is specializing in consultation work on film production and technical work now . . . The Komers and Goldbergs are remodeling the Whittier, putting in new seating, carpets, frames, and other equipment.

Edward J. Bonnville, booker for the Sam Brown circuit, is also chief of Brown's Art Centre Bowling Alley . . . Fred B. Miller, back as manager of Brown's Dexter Theatre, which he opened about 12 years ago, reports a new heating plant installed . . . Edgar Lobdell is handling theatre sign work for the Krim Brothers and Sam Brown. His father, Leslie Lobdell, associated with him, is an active Kiwanis.

George Wise, who has been engineer with Conditionaire, Inc., has been promoted to general manager, replacing Denton D. Manchester, resigned . . . William O. Grey, theatre broker, is heading the A. D. Wright Mfg. Co., theatre spray and polish manufacturers . . . Bill Carlson, genial entertainment chief of Variety, at last discloses where he got that accent; he was born in Youkoping, Sweden. Variety celebrates Scandinavian Day Wednesday.

Nat Weiss has dropped all plans for Premium Photo Playhouses, organized a few months ago as a new premium company . . . Alban J. Norris, head of Michigan Film Library, who recently installed the new camera department in the Gratiot avenue store of Montgomery Ward, is resuming more active film distribution.

Max Blumenthal of the projection room admits he knows those Junoesque blondes . . . Theatre Service, Inc., catering and concession run by Jacobs Brothers, is changing its name to Detroit Sports Service.

Jean and Carl Buermele were hosts for a big Turkey Day party . . . Harold Sandelman, Warren Slee and the respective Mrs.'s almost made Saturday M-G-M Night at Variety.



On a Studio Set—

On their honeymoon, Mr. and Mrs. William Cassidy, of Midland, Mich., visit the set of "At Good Old Siwash" at Paramount and pause for a chat with William Holden (center) who has a featured role in the picture.

M-G-M's Floyd Chrysler also briefly on the spot, had another party to visit . . . Jack Thompson and friends from Paramount had a big tableful.

Bea Mattingly of Paramount and her uncle were there. She's a good dancer . . . Harry Hicks staged a program of entertainment at the Frolic . . . The ubiquitous Bill Carlson made his first non-appearance in a long time Saturday . . . Tom McGuire of Co-op was on the sick list Monday.

Pearl Sprott, Allied office manager, has a set of new pictures on her office wall . . . E. T. (Peck) Gomersall was a Universal visitor Monday, en route to Chicago, says he's acting as sales pep "injector."

General Motors was host Sunday to members of the Michigan National Guard with a film program presented at their encampment at the State Fair Grounds . . . Actor James Dunn was a Detroit visitor Monday.

AT VARIETY CLUB LUNCH:

Bob Fisher was on deck to represent the independent film distributors . . . Where were all those branch managers? Claire Townsend, Columbia salesman, was up at the speakers' table.

Jack Ferentz, musicians' union chief, was back from a 1,500-mile hunting trek —without a deer . . . Sol Krim pulled that old stunt of having himself paged.

Jack Douglas was able to officiate as m. c., sitting down . . . Leonard Brooks, manager of the Center Theatre, had his new car badly damaged in a collision the night before.

Bernard Brooks, Leonard's brother, and owner of the President, was arranging a deal for a new car . . . Max Blumenthal, who was official promoter of the show, was up at the head table.

Harold Robinson, Film Truck Service, had to pinch hit—he'll get more as chief barker next year . . . There was one small space left at the head table, Art Robinson, Madison Theatre, filled it.

Saul Korman of the Grant got burned by hot coffee, ask us . . . Nat Haase, Metro Premium manager, was jealous of John Homgarden, operator at the President, when that blonde came up.

Inspector Bill Rick and Censor Charlie W. Snyder made up the police gallery . . . Censor Joseph Kollar was around to see that floor show went off okay.

Bill Robinson chaperoned "the family" for the day . . . Mrs. Bill Carlson was an interested spectator as Bill officiated in 100 places at once.

Ladies' Day looks like it's going to be popular . . . Sol Krim, veteran exhibitor,

suggests that barkers bring their daughters as well as wives, and attendance will take a big jump.

Major Leo Kelly, up front, had too many of the ladies—the boys promise to break it up better next time . . . Eve Ross, who used to produce at the Fox, had her 12 girls down to give a big ballet number.

Johnny King, lyric tenor, had plenty of friends . . . Frank Barbaro, manager, and Benny Resh, orchestra leader, of the Bowery, were official hosts of the show.

Little Anne Little, the original "Boop" girl, told a lot of stories . . . Jack Haley of Jam Handy seemed to enjoy the nursery rhymes best.

Russell Weaver, courtesy of Del Delbridge, was pianist in a pinch—and we mean pinch . . . Among those present we met Dave Newman, Pasadena Theatre; Sol Berns, booking agent; Frank Lorenzen—you've heard about his bowling teams; Dave Flayer, Amo Theatres; Hal Burriss, Coulter Premiums, and Mort Winstron and Phil Kaplan, theatrical printers.

A large number of barkers were absent, attending the funeral of "Jerry" Schneider of the Stratford Theatre.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

John Magocs of Theatre Sound Engineering Co. of Lincoln Park is servicing sound equipment for several west side houses.

The Goldberg Twins, who are usually found out around Royal Oak, have established their circuit quarters now at 3500 Barlum Tower.

Spikehorn Meyers of Harrison has completed the scenario of a picture to be devoted to the exploits of Michigan's greatest hero, Paul Bunyan . . . Lewis M. Lash and W. M. Gilpin, who have the Saline at Saline, are planning a new house for the metropolitan Detroit area.

The Oakland of Highland Park has been transferred by Charles Stepanauckas to "Mike" J. Chargot. Stepanauckas will operate his undertaking business while his brother-in-law manages the theatre.

Jeff Williams of the Roseville and East Detroit describes his home town as "The Monte Carlo of Michigan."

W. D. Ward, Republic salesman for western Michigan, is leaving to take over a theatre in Parkersburg, W. Va., near his old home town of Marietta, Ohio . . . Clive R. Waxman, formerly RKO office manager, and lately head of the Junior Hobbies Club of Michigan, will take over the Grand Rapids territory for Republic.

A door at the Royal Oak was broken the night before Thanksgiving when rioters from the local schools broke in. Howard C. Holah, manager of UDT's Birmingham Theatre, had the trouble. The two towns played a football game.



New Chief Barker—

Nat L. Lefton, Republic Ohio franchise owner, newly elected chief barker of the Cleveland Variety Club.

UDT Shuffles Several Managers in Detroit

DETROIT—Managers of several United Detroit Theatres were changed following the death of Claude Deardorff, who was manager of the downtown Broadway-Capitol. Dow Thompson of the Riviera was given Deardorff's post, being replaced himself by Frank Upton of the Cinderella.

Clark Field of the Ramona has been made manager of the Cinderella, with Donald Dunn of the Alger taking his post. James Easson of the Rosedale becomes manager of the Alger. Cassius Smith, assistant at the big United Artists, is upped to manager at the Rosedale.

Assistant managers moving around in the shift are: Grant Hawkins, Fisher to United Artists; Earl Cutter, Broadway-Capitol to Fisher; Nathan Allor, Cinderella to Broadway-Capitol; Howard Wills, Vogue to Cinderella; Clinton Wells, from second assistant at United Artists to first at the Vogue; Clifford Brown, third assistant at Michigan, to second assistant at United Artists.

Schreiber Theatre Control Suit Again Postponed

DETROIT—Suit of Jacob Schreiber against Raymond Schreiber, challenging control of the five Midwest Theatres, is postponed again by the Wayne county circuit court. No progress in the case is reported from available sources of information.

Flemion Ups Price

DETROIT—William Flemion, manager of Excellent Pictures, has booked "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," for a first run, single bill at a new top price of 55 cents at the Cinema, equivalent to the top charges in the city. Most bigger houses, incidentally, are double billing at this price.

CINCINNATI

ED BURKHART and Ann Ollinger of 20th-Fox were married November 25 at St. Monica Cathedral. Burkhart is on the sales force. Miss Ollinger has been with the company for two years. The happy pair was feted by the office Thanksgiving eve, when the personnel presented them with an occasional chair. Queen City Variety club sent their blessing in the shape of an electric coffee percolator.

Thanksgiving brought a surprise wedding to M-G-M when their Ann Warnell announced her marriage to Frank Doyle . . . At Warner's office, Mary Robinson announced her engagement . . . The Lincoln Theatre, downtown, suffered a robbery this week, reports Jack Goldman, manager, when a thief broke into the house, after the show, ransacking a desk. Only a small sum of money was stolen.

John Herrman, Paramount News, was here to take the annual children's Thanksgiving party at God's Bible School. Charley Albert, Warner booker, was also in town. Frank Mandros, the Rubel, Logan, Ohio, and John Brown, the Civic, Wellston, spent several hours on the Row . . . C. J. Latta, chief barker for Pittsburgh Variety Club, was also here, coming in with Harry Finestine.

Charley Mervis, Rialto Theatre, was confined to his bed by illness . . . Bernard Zeeman, in charge of branch operations for Columbia, is here on a tour of 14 branch offices, coming in from Pittsburgh.

UA's "Housekeeper's Daughter" is set for December 15 screening at the Albee, according to announcement of Milton Blackschlaeger, booker.

The Misses Turner and Childers are erecting a new theatre at Jackson, Ky., which will seat 450, and which will open, according to plans, about April 1.

Another new house reported in the offing, is to be erected at Paintsville, Ky., by the town jailer, A. Williams. This is also set for April 1 opening.

The Cinema Club, with Rudy Knoepfle, president, presiding, met November 25, and formulated new by-laws. A handsome turnout of the ever-increasing membership welcomed the president back from his recent illness. Knoepfle is back on the road for Republic.

Columbia celebrated Thanksgiving on the eve of the day with a party at the exchange for the entire office. Orville Wood of Camden, Ohio, and Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Waverly, dropped in for the festivities.

M-G-M's E. M. Booth, branch manager, was in Chicago attending a sales conference.

"Judge Hardy and Son" will be M-G-M's Xmas offering. Their student bookers, Bob Cummings and Bill Madden, were in New York for the holiday week, with Bob Saunders of the local force.

PITTSBURGH

BERNARD BUCHHEIT, assistant to Michael Manos, circuit operator, will depart December 18 for Birmingham, Ala., where he will spend the holidays "back home" . . . Harry LaVine, former Republic district manager, has organized the Hub Mfg. and Supply Co., with headquarters at 39 South St., Boston, Mass., and is still selling the exhibitor — this time janitor supplies.

AMPTO wishes to thank all theatres exhibiting the trailers for the Tuberculosis League of Pittsburgh . . . Smiley Burnette will appear at the Roxian, McKees Rocks, December 14, *Sam Fleishman, manager, announces . . . Jimmy Sabella, long connected with the Smith Theatre, Barnesboro, states that the Twin Rocks Theatre, which he recently opened, is in daily operation . . . Many local film men and exhibitors will attend the annual banquet of the Dapper Dan Club in the William Penn Hotel, Sunday evening, January* 21 *. . . When Harry Brandt, ITOA chief, was here last week he was accompanied by Nat Wachsberger, his associate in Film Alliance, and Norman Elson, general sales manager for this company which is distributing British and French films.*

Large flying embers from the $300,000 east-end store fire last Thursday set fire to the marquee of the WB Sheridan Square Theatre. Actual theatre damage was slight . . . Betty Jane Balsly, daughter of Lee D. Balsly, who will manage the new R. Allison theatre at Altoona, is the wife of Ted Chapin, executive of Goodyear Tire Co. After a honeymoon in Honolulu the couple will reside in Los Angeles.

William M. Gardner, of Gardner Display Co., is president of Toyad Corp., with manufacturing plant at Latrobe, which opened shop this week, turning out sponge rubber toys, mannikins, exhibit and display figures and papier mache characters, many of them replicas of film cartoon "stars." Toyad Corp. has been licensed by Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. to use a special type of foam rubber. Firestone will continue the manufacture of sponge rubber chair seats.

Local Hornet hockey skaters have the early season "jinx" as Johnny Harris, owner, wages a campaign to have the 15-player limit restored . . . Sam Gould seems to be his old self again . . . M-G-M has a teaser trailer on "The Secret of Dr. Kildare" which has an off-screen voice but no picture or title . . . Of interest to many in the local trade was the Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column which noted that "Government agencies have received confidential reports that Jimmy Roosevelt's Hollywood salary actually is not being paid alone by Sam Goldwyn, his widely advertised boss, but by a group of movie moguls who are at odds with the Government." This Pittsburgh *Press* feature and Westbrook Pegler's articles on William Bioff, published in the same paper, startled exhibitors and distributors.

Charles Kosco, former local Columbia sales representative who is now booker for the Alpine circuit, reports that all film deals for 1939-40 *product have been closed by the circuit . . . Report was received Saturday of the death of the wife of Frank Raspa, operator of the State, Rivesville, W. Va. . . . Miss Mathilda Kiel of the AMPTO office lost a brother-in-law during the week and Joe Zangrilli of the Vitagraph exchange grieved the death of a sister-in-law.*

Harry Fendrick, M-G-M sales representative, has a new Plymouth . . . C. C. Kellenberg of 20th-Fox who was scheduled to address the weekly luncheon meeting of Maj. John Baird Atwood Post No. 285, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was unable to do so because of loss of voice. Ira H. Cohn substituted . . . National Poster Association will discontinue the printing of its own paper for Warner pictures under terms of a settlement made last week, according to Dave Rosenfeld, manager of Independent Display Company, distributor. The poster exchanges will purchase and sell Warner manufactured posters after January 1 . . . L. C. McElroy, manager of the Melrose Theatre prior to 1937, has returned to this Brownsville Road house as assistant to William Moss, manager, who recently replaced E. W. Smith, resigned. Young Moss, son of the theatre owner, John P. Moss, and McElroy are rearranging bookings.

Farmington, W. Va. theatre, recently opened by A. C. Morris, was equipped by A. & S. Steinberg . . . James Cranidis, manager of the Cathedral, New Castle, Pa., injured in an auto collision several weeks ago, is reported much better . . . John Koczak, who operates the Robey, St. Marys, W. Va., and who recently reopened the Lido, Philippi, W. Va., was a Filmrow booker this week . . . Mother of Irene Fisher of Republic exchange underwent a serious operation and is improving daily . . . Lew Hepinger celebrated his 28*th anniversary in exhibition at Clarion, Pa., instead of his* 25*th as captioned here last week in a photograph of his party.*

Robert McClure, 30, film pickup messenger for the Harris Amusement Companies, died suddenly early last Friday, the result of a throat infection and complications. Associated with the Harris circuit for three years, he was active in driving the Variety Club's truck which carried equipment and films to various Allegheny county institutions for "shut-in" shows.

Miss A. M. Simmons, assistant to A. P. Way, DuBois exhibitor, and Catherine Daugherty, Way's cashier, were among those present at the AMPTO meeting this week. Another infrequent visitor was Mark Serventi, son of M. Serventi, Rimersburg exhibitor . . . Roy Haines, WB eastern sales manager, and Bob Smeltzer, district manager, were here on business this week with Harry Seed . . . New Universal visitors included Paul Krieger, Cincinnati manager, and Peter Rosian, special representative in Dave Miller's district . . . Marjorie Kintner has joined the 20*th-Fox exchange staff as booking department stenographer, succeeding Margaret Schlareth, who has resigned to accept a government position.*

Dave Kimelman, Paramount manager, much improved, was up and around his home this week and was reported anxious to get back on the job . . . Art Morrone of Superior Supply was recuperating nicely at Mercy Hospital and was longing to get home . . . Dave Silverman, RKO office manager, is all pepped up following his belated vacation . . . Bill Skirball, operator of the Barry, was a visitor this week.

Grandpop Frank H. King, California, Pa. exhibitor, is the most enthusiastic grandfather of the week. His daughter gave birth to a baby girl in Magee Hospital here.

Variety Notes: Jack Judd, local manager for National Screen Service, will be "King" at the December 11 dinner at the Variety Club. December 18 date goes to Brady McSwigan, president of Kennywood Park Ass'n. C. C. Kellenberg and Al Weiblinger were hosts at the December 2 party . . . Regular Christmas party, this year in honor of George Variety Barker III, will be staged at the club at 12 o'clock noon, December 23 . . . Variety Post American Legion has an ambitious schedule of holiday shows, according to Commander Harry M. Kalmine. Regular monthly meeting will be Monday evening, December 4.

Cleveland Cinema Club Sets Meeting Dates

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Cinema Club, oldest organization of its kind and now under the leadership of Mrs. Irma M. Anderson, announces the following meetings for December and January and all of them open to the public:

Wednesday, December 13, at 10:30 a. m. —"My Visit to Hollywood," by members of the Cinema Club.

Wednesday, December 27, at 8:30 p. m. —Theatre party at Lakewood Little Theatre. Mrs. F. J. Marquardt is in charge of reservations.

Wednesday, January 10, 10:30 a. m.— Program sponsored by the Youth Advisor, with luncheon followed by a motion picture conference to which all better film workers of northern Ohio are invited.

Meetings are held at the Chamber of Commerce Club.

Film Mutual Aid Fund Is Receiving Contributions

PITTSBURGH—Initial contributors to the Christmas Relief Fund of the Film Mutual Aid are Jesse Lund, Aliquippa; Sam Neaman, Natrona; Charles DeGolyer, Mt. Jewett; Gene Basle, Washington; William Finkel, Pittsburgh; Jos. Delisi, Nanty Glo; Bennett Amdur, Pittsburgh; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Profili, Vestaburg; Harry M. Kalmine, Pittsburgh. The fund is for distribution to members of the local industry who are in need.

Checks should be made payable to James H. Alexander, treasurer, and delivered to his office at 1701 Blvd. of the Allies, Pittsburgh.

LOUISVILLE

THE roller derby is back again much to the woes of film exhibitors, who united last year in an effort to get the taxes on such exhibitions boosted to a discouraging figure, or at least to call to the attention of the city fathers that the film industry is paying a whale of a lot of taxes compared with what barnstorming marathon attractions are assessed.

The Gomer Freys announce the birth of a daughter, Wilma Catherine, week before last. Frey is assistant manager at Settos' Ohio Theatre, one of the smaller houses along the Row. Mother and babe were doing nicely.

The Switows' latest acquisition, the Temple Court Theatre at Washington, Ind., is being renovated. The Switows bought it several months ago and closed it immediately, waiting for better times for a grand reopening.

Loew's reported business booming with "Ninotchka" . . . The A. E. Campbells got in on two Thanksgiving dinners, taking in their first one with their families in Indianapolis, November 23, and the second one at home November 30.

The Theatre Business Men's Ass'n of Kentucky, which was organized a few months ago to fight the cost of film rentals, will hold a meeting December 8, Jesse L. Lausman, leader of the group, announced.

The neighborhood houses in and about Louisville reported a sudden boxoffice slump, and were unable to put a finger on the trouble. Circuit owners said they were experiencing the same letdown out in the state.

No Admission Increases Are Planned at Canton

CANTON, OHIO—There is no immediate prospect of higher admission prices at Canton's three first-run houses, Loew's, Palace and Warner's Ohio, it was learned from managers of the respective theatres. Top admission of 35 cents for adults evenings and 25 cents till 5:30 has prevailed for more than two years. Children admission always has been ten cents at the first-run houses.

Second-run houses are charging 20 cents nights for adults and 15 cents afternoons, with children a dime. Third-run maintains a 15-cent top admission. Business with the subsequent-run houses has been satisfactory, managers said.

Ray Moon's Suit of Co-op Will Be Heard Dec. 6

DETROIT—Suit of Raymond E. Moon, now head of Mutual Theatres, against Co-operative Theatres, rival booking organization, is set to be heard in court here December 6. Moon indicated that many details of vital interest to the industry, at least locally, may be disclosed in the course of the suit.

Moon was formerly manager of Co-operative until a little over a year ago, and is suing to collect sums said to be due him under an alleged contract which ran for a number of months after his connection with Co-op was severed.

Roscoe Gets First Sunday Show

ROSCOE, PA.—Anthony Latella scheduled his first Sunday show here December 3. The issue was approved at the recent general election.

COLUMBUS

LOCAL boxoffice reports indicate business is really off. The theatregoers are flocking in to see top-notch shows, but are more or less ignoring fluff product. Consequently, the outlook for this pre-holiday season is anything but encouraging.

Fred Rowlands (Main & Parson theatres) admits he is contemplating building a new university district theatre—progressing in that direction to the extent of buying a lot. But he insists he will not build until spring.

Louie Martin and John Crawford are planning to rebuild in Glouster . . . Bill Cunningham, dramatic critic for the *Citizen*, is currently in Hollywood. His daily stories make the conventional syndicated material look slightly ill!

With the RKO Grand closed until Christmas, Manager Buddy Winthrop moves over to the Palace . . . Fox Salesman Jack Needham leaves December 16 for a Miami vacation of two weeks . . . Johnny Jones missed the Michigan game due to the illness of his mother—first time he missed out in 20 years.

ITOO directors met here Tuesday, President Martin Smith of Toledo presiding . . . Coach Francis Schmidt and several members of his O. S. U. football team were guests of the Variety Club, Thursday. Incidentally, the annual V. C. skating party will be held Tuesday night.

Original for Deanna

HOLLYWOOD—Bruce Manning is preparing an untitled original as a vehicle for Deanna Durbin.

Five Sneak Previews of "Ninotchka" in Mich.

DETROIT—M-G-M officials, under direction of District Manager John E. Flynn, co-operated with Butterfield circuit to schedule a series of five sneak previews of "Ninotchka" in important Michigan cities, all playing day and date. The principal Butterfield house in Saginaw, Bay City, Flint, Grand Rapids and Battle Creek were picked.

Event was arranged in detail by Warren A. Slee, M-G-M exploiteer, who attended the event at the Capitol at Flint. In this house, with an audience of 1,750, and no advance notice whatever until the announcement went on the screen, Slee counted only 25 people walking out on the show, despite the late hour on Friday night.

Reactions from all cities indicated that the film will have a good reception in upstate Michigan, where it has yet to break in a first run.

Plan Party for Opening

WEST TARENTUM, PA.—When Bart Dattola opens his new Dattola Theatre here he will invite many of his friends in the trade to celebrate the occasion with himself and Mrs. Dattola at a special supper. Tentative date is December 15.

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"Edison" Premiere Report Gives Site Finders Job

DETROIT — Announcement that M-G-M will award the world premiere of "Edison, the Man," to Dearborn, Detroit's west side suburb, has local Filmrow guessing where it will be held. Possibility that the premiere, slated as an invitational affair, will be in Henry Ford's Edison Institute is high.

Theatre possibilities are limited. "Old Dearborn," as the historic part of the suburb is still known, has only one theatre, the Calvin, operated by Wisper and Wetsman, who plan to erect another nearby. The eastern section, once generally known as "Springwells" or "Fordson," has half a dozen theatres, notably those run by Joseph Stoia and Joseph Miskinis, but sentiment is understood to run for a showing in "Old Dearborn," whether in the theatre or in Ford's own Institute.

Libel Suit Is Filed by Linda Ware's Parent

DETROIT—Suit for $50,000 damages was filed in circuit court here by George W. Stillwagon, father of Linda Ware, against Paramount Pictures; Arthur and Anna Stillwagon, the girl's aunt and uncle; and Jack Sherill, her business manager.

Stillwagon claims slander and libel, in alleged statements that the company said in publicity releases that he had abandoned the starlet. He charges that the uncle and aunt have prevented the girl from communicating with him, and that Paramount furnished legal and financial aid to make them the legal guardians of the girl.

Stillwagon also reserves the right to bring suit in California for alienation of affections.

Equipment Installations Reported in Auto City

DETROIT—National Theatre Supply has recarpeted the Whittier Theatre for the Komer & Goldberg circuit and the Dexter, operated by Sam Brown, will be outfitted with a new heating system.

National also has supplied sound, projection, screen, carpeting, marquee, and incidental equipment for the new Time Theatre being opened by Jack Broder on December 20.

McArthur Theatre Equipment Co. has sold new seats for the new 1,490-seat Cameo Theatre, operated by George Flucksa and William Stoica.

K. L. A. Laboratories installed a new public address system in the Colonial, operated by Midwest Theatres.

On Sympathy Strike

MASSILLON, OHIO—Workmen on the $100,000 Skirball theatre under construction here by the Johnson Lumber & Supply Co., went on a sympathy strike this week to support building unions in Stubenville which struck against the concern. Opening date of the new theatre now is indefinite, officials of the contracting firm reported.

Near Record With "First Love"

Detroit—The Fox Theatre played to $14,000 of business—at a 55-cent top—in the first three days for "First Love," Eddie Heiber, Universal branch manager, disclosed. This is the second high for the Fox since the house dropped stage shows last spring. Record is held by "Drums Along the Mohawk."

Paramount Tops Bowling League in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—Paramount is leading the Filmrow Bowling League here by a comfortable three-game margin, having won 23 matches while dropping only four. Warner's Yarrow Miller rolled the highest average score last week, 172.

The team standings:

Team	*Won*	*Lost*
Paramount	23	4
Warner Bros.	20	7
20th-Fox	16	11
RKO Pictures	10	17
M-G-M	10	17
RKO Theatres	2	25

DETROIT — New standings in the film bowling league:

Team	*Won*	*Lost*
Republic	25	7
United Artists	21	11
Film Truck	18	14
Film Drug	18	14
Cooperative	15	17
Monogram	12	20
20th Century-Fox	11	21
Amusement Supply	7	25

Highlight of last week's bowling was the remarkable score rolled by the late Jerry Schneider, just a few hours before his sudden death—a second high for the season for the league, of 593, including two games of 219 and 201.

Other high scorers were Eddie Regina, 224; Barney Adair, 216, and Irwin Pollard, 200.

Film Truck managed to roll a score of 2,433, to tie the second high of the season.

DETROIT — New standings of bowling teams in the Nightingale Club are:

Team	*Won*	*Lost*
Motiograph	23	13
McArthur Theatre Sup.	22	14
Oliver Theatre Sup.	20	16
National Theatre	19	17
Brenkert Projectors	16	20
National Carbon	16	20
Lorenzen Flowers	15	21
Amusement Supply	13	23

High rollers of the week are: Jack M. Hall, 645; F. W. Wise, 587; Clarence C. Moroney, 574; Wade E. Allen, 543; Jack Lindenthal, 542; Gil Light, 533; William Fouchey, 511; Michael Badarak, 511, and F. H. Akins, 511.

Gets "Personal History"

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Bennett will script "Personal History," which Alfred Hitchcock will direct for Producer Walter Wanger.

Hall Leases Parkersburg House to W. D. Ward

PARKERSBURG, W. VA.—C. B. Hall is retiring from exhibition here, having leased the Virginian Theatre to W. D. Ward.

The theatre, which Hall has operated for 13 years, is owned by the veteran exhibitor and his daughter, Mrs. D. H. Dunsmoor, of Parkersburg. Mr. and Mrs. Hall will depart for Florida on January 1.

Ward, who assumed operation of the local theatre December 1, is a former film sales representative, having been connected with RKO at Cleveland and Detroit for six years and having represented Republic in the latter city for the past six months.

Theatre has been modernized with new booth equipment and will be newly seated. Front will be modernized.

"Lash of the Penitentes" Released by Censor

DETROIT—The ban on "The Lash of the Penitentes" has been lifted by Censor Sergeant Charles W. Snyder, and the film is being given a Detroit first run at the Columbia Theatre, operated by Wesley Schram and Louis Goldberg.

Sergeant Snyder said that a series of cuts had been made in the film, understood to run to a considerable number, and that the objectionable material had thus been eliminated. It is being shown "for adults only," making two films of this class now playing downtown, with "Lucrezia Borgia" setting records at the Cinema.

Dipson Interests in Pool Pact With Jaycee Corp.

KITTANNING, PA.—Dipson Theatre Enterprises, headed by Nikitas Dipson, tri-state circuit exhibitor, with the Lyceum and State theatres here, and the Jaycee Theatre Corp., headed by C. F. Dery, operating the Columbia Theatre here, have been merged in a pooling arrangement, according to an announcement this week.

Andy Gibson, associated with Dipson, will be booking manager. C. F. Dery is resident manager under the new setup which was effective December 1.

Heart Attack Is Fatal To Gerald Schneider

DETROIT—One of the most active figures in local show business, Gerald P. "Jerry" Schneider, 41, died last week, the victim of a sudden heart attack.

The deceased was the son of F. A. Schneider, one of the pioneers of Michigan show business, who stills owns the Stratford Theatre which Jerry managed for the past several years. He was active in Variety Club and film bowling circles.

Surviving are his widow and one son. Interment was at Mount Elliott Cemetery.

Adapting "The Yearling"

HOLLYWOOD—"The Yearling," novel by Marjorie Rawlings, is being adapted by Marc Connolly for Metro. Victor Fleming will direct for Producer Sidney Franklin.

Connecticut Index Continues Upward

NEW HAVEN—Connecticut industries have shown an improvement for October which continues the upturn first recorded in September, according to the State Labor Department's monthly bulletin. Connecticut state employment agencies set an all-time high in October by securing 5,421 jobs in private industries, over the September figure by 1,200. Theatremen report, however, that, for the most part, the box-office has not kept pace with this general industrial improvement, and that only a few outstanding pictures have done business before and since the beginning of the new season.

The Labor Department reports "outlook bright" for New Haven, with skilled workers becoming scarce. Waterbury shows a marked increase in orders and work for all industrial plants in October. Hartford sees the probability that industrial expansion will be larger in this section, with an already notable scarcity of good experienced commercial help. The 1,038 Bridgeport placement figure is 50 per cent over September, with every indication the increase will continue into November.

New Britain reports it is now unable to fill the call for machinists. In New London, the industrial plants are working full time and some are adding to their working forces. The Groton Electric Boat Co. claims it has enough work to keep busy for the next five years. In Mystic and Stonington, employment conditions continue unsatisfactory, while in Willimantic there are still many unemployed in spite of a pickup. Middletown reports there is no marked gain in industry.

Norwich reports an increased volume of industrial activity and a shortage of skilled textile workers, and in Bristol there is a gradual increase in employment in all industries. All manufacturing plants in the Torrington area are working full time. In Thompsonville, orders continue to pour in and the textile plants are working in three shifts.

Maine Women Take Stand Against Billboard Users

PORTLAND—Maine women have united in a fight against the billboard "menace," which, they say, is "fast destroying the thing it wishes to encourage, the increase of visitors to the state and more business for Maine merchants."

Large number of them have pledged to favor only those firms that do not use billboards in their advertisements. Many theatres over the state use billboards in pre-selling coming attractions.

Bantam Reopened

BANTAM, CONN.—Joseph F. Reed has reopened the 286-seat Bantam Theatre, which has been closed for the past six weeks. "Babes in Arms" was the opening attraction.

Zukor's Deposition in M&R Suit Covers Several Issues

Year-Old M&R Hearing Continues

Boston—Hearings in the Morse and Rothenberg anti-trust suit, approaching the one-year mark, were continued Monday after recessing at the close of the Wednesday session because of Thursday being a Federal Building holiday.

Descoteaux Will Add a Third in Manchester

MANCHESTER, N. H.—Lucien Descoteaux, one of the three remaining independent film exhibitors in Manchester, is preparing to convert the Sun building at 23 Amherst St. into a modern 500-seat theatre.

Plans already are drawn and the new house is expected to be ready for opening about next March 1.

Descoteaux, who started in business ten years ago, when he purchased the Empire Theatre in East Manchester, now operates that house, as well as the Globe Theatre on Elm Street.

The new theatre will have all seats on one floor, with the projection room and office over the rear portion of the building.

Hesses Open 658-Seat Theatre in Groton

GROTON, CONN.—After several postponements, the 658-seat Groton Theatre was opened by Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Hess last Wednesday afternoon with "Hollywood Cavalcade." The Lockwood-Gordon Windsor Theatre opened the same evening with the same feature. The Plaza Theatre, Windsor, newly constructed by Max, Maurice and Joseph Shulman of Hartford, was scheduled to open Saturday night. Next opening set for the New Haven exchange territory is reported to be Michael Cascioli's 900-seat Forest Theatre, Allingtown, with Natale DiFrancesco's new Cheshire Theatre following along about Christmas time.

M&P to Build New 850-Seat Theatre at Houlton, Me.

PORTLAND — A new theatre, which will seat 850 persons on one floor, is to be constructed at Houlton, Me., according to Martin J. Mullin of M&P Theatres. The house, which is being designed by Kroger and Brown, will be built on the Snell House property, next door to the Temple Theatre.

Construction is to begin immediately and the new theatre, which will be under the supervision of Armand J. Moreau, M&P district manager for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, is expected to be ready for a spring opening.

BOSTON—The deposition made by Adolph Zukor and filed in the Morse and Rothenberg $2,100,000 anti-trust suit by Attorney George S. Ryan covered such issues as a possibly considered merger of Paramount and Warner Bros.; the war between the two majors in 1930, over product outlet dispute and a raid on the Paramount star roster; alleged division of the country by the major producers into territories recognized by them as spheres of uncompetitive exhibition; and the attitude, inferentially antagonistic, of the Motion Picture Producer and Distributors Ass'n toward the anti-trust laws.

The question as to whether he had ever spoken about merging with Warner was dismissed by Zukor as never having been seriously discussed. The power that it would spell in the industry, as pointed out by Ryan, was termed by Zukor as power only theoretically, opining that in practice "it would break you down."

The feud between Paramount and Warner Bros., dated by Zukor as in 1930, was traced by him as follows:

"It seems that we couldn't get together with Warner on buying their product. Finally they decided the best way to retaliate was to make a raid on our studios and pay salaries maybe over what we ever dreamed of paying those particular people. We were on good terms after that took place."

A Natural Development

On the issue of alleged revision of territory, with an attendant avoidance of competition, Zukor stood firm in his denial of such procedure, citing such cities as Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland as evidence of the veracity of his denial.

In explaining the apparent concentration of some companies in certain territories, Zukor contended that to be a natural development since theatres were often acquired from circuits and accordingly provided the buyer with dominance in the territory.

All queries of Ryan's concerning alleged opposition to the anti-trust laws were defended by Zukor who maintained that he could not recollect any acts by the board of directors in charge of the MPPDA directed at attacking the anti-trust laws.

When the independent's attorney asked "has it been called to your attention that Will Hays has stated in a Boston broadcast that the motion picture industry was being hampered by the anti-trust laws of the United States," Zukor replied negatively, adding, "his job is to watch taxation, legislation and various other things that affect the industry. What you say may be right, that may be part of the program."

Give to Xmas Fund for Blind

PORTLAND—Members of the Strand staff are taking up a collection for the "Christmas Fund for the Blind." Other local theatres are planning to cooperate, also.

Catholic M.P. Guild Formed in Boston

BOSTON—The Catholic Motion Picture Guild has been formed here. Frank Lydon, Allied eastern regional vice-president and one of the founders of the new organization, remains as informal head of the retreat group.

Lydon has appointed Major Patrick F. Healey of the department of public safety and Tom Duane of Paramount to assist in lining up members in the film district. William Doyle of the Broadway in South Boston and Frank McManus of M&P have been given similar charges in the local exhibition field.

The Catholic Motion Picture Guild, according to Lydon, "proposes to encourage functions of the spiritual, social, and benevolent nature."

One particular motive is to arrange retreat groups. These retreats, Lydon emphasizes, are not necessarily religious and may be attended by both Catholics and non-Catholics. The Guild plans its first official retreat on March 8, 9, and 10 at Campion Hall, Jesuit institution in Andover. Subsequent groups, it is expected, will attend retreats at least twice a year.

The film district group in attendance at the most recent Campion Hall retreat of motion picture representatives included, alphabetically, Joseph Ahearn of National Screen, Max Burlone of Monogram, Edward Carroll of the Stuart Theatre, Maurice Corkery of the Central Square Theatre, William Doyle of the Broadway Theatre, Tom Duane of Paramount.

Frank Grady of Standard, Chester Grenier of Grenier Printing, Major Patrick Healey, department of public safety, Herb Higgins of Higgins Booking Service, Bill Kelly of Universal, Frank Lydon of Hamilton Theatre, Ted Lydon of the Hamilton, Jack Martin of Republic, Frank McManus of M&P.

John Moriarty of Fox Films, Matt Moriarty of Vitagraph, Dan Murphy of Loring Hall in Hingham, Bill Murphy of Imperial, Andy Platt of Boston *American*, Frank Rahilly of RKO, Joe Rahilly of Loew's, Inc., Bob Stevens of Paramount, and Frank Wolf of National Screen.

Three Point Job Given Exhibitor Committee

BOSTON—Committees were appointed at a meeting of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., last week to study and report on Ascap, a possible reduction of power returns in the Metropolitan Boston area, and a suggested revision of organizational due as assessments.

Approve Turkey Gifts

HAMDEN, CONN.—Although New Haven exhibs couldn't talk turkey to local authorities, the Hamden suburb ok'd giveaways by theatres, and the Dixwell Playhouse and Strand Theatre promptly took advantage of the fact to distribute 12 on Thanksgiving Eve.

Maine Business Looks Up

Portland—The business outlook in Maine is unusually bright with cotton and woolen mills operating at full capacity. Department store sales are reported well ahead of last year. Theatremen here report a steady increase in grosses.

30,000 See Close of 1939 Season at Narragansett

PROVIDENCE—Nearly 30,000 persons saw the curtain rung down on the racing season for 1939 at Narragansett track. A total of $673,204 passing through the betting windows bringing to $26,468,776 the total handle for 73 days of racing.

Theatre men now are anticipating other forms of competition. Hockey is already started at the R. I. Auditorium, with boxing and wrestling also getting their share of the sporting public's money. And the Metropolitan Theatre is lighting up for concerts by the Boston Symphony, Marian Anderson and other musical stellar attractions, including the Ballet Russe and San Carlo Opera Co.

Goldfine Plans 800-Seat House in Laconia, N. H.

LACONIA, N. H.—Sydney M. Goldfine of Boston, who operates a chain of theatres in Massachusetts, will build a new theatre here, according to a spokesman, J. Baldwin Pearson.

Although the exact location has not been disclosed, Pearson said the theatre will be a one-story, fireproof building, with a capacity of 800. The construction job will be started about January 1 and is expected to be completed within six months. The new theatre will operate under the name of the Laconia Theatre Corp.

At present, Laconia has two film houses under other management—the Colonial and Garden theatres.

After Loan to Liquidate Loew's Boston Mortgage

BOSTON—Further steps to liquidate a Loew's Boston Theatre Co. mortgage have been taken by the operating concern, stockholders were told by Leopold Friedman, vice-president.

A bank loan is to be floated. Plans are to close it out in five years, with equal annual payments of $140,000.

Hollywoodians Appear

HARTFORD—Louella Parsons, Hollywood columnist, and a big stage show, were scheduled to have opened December 1, at the Harris Brothers' State here. Included in the stage show were to have been Jane Wyman, Joy Hodges, Susan Hayward, June Preisser, Anne Shirley, and Ronald Reagan.

Sue Poli Circuit for "Assault" in Bijou

NEW HAVEN—Poli-New England Theatres, Inc., is defendant in superior court in three damage suits totaling $100,000, resulting from alleged so-called "masher" assaults on three children ranging from five to eight years of age. The plaintiffs, suing through their fathers, claim they were indecently assaulted by a patron and that they suffered various temporary and permanent injuries as they were watching an afternoon performance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" at the Bijou. The three girls were unattended by parent or guardian.

The complaint, in its original form, made sweeping allegations of negligence in providing for the safety of minor patrons on the part of the exhibitor and went so far as to claim damages for the admission of children without parent or guardian in violation of Section 6282 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, which imposes a fine on motion picture theatres, dance halls and other specific places of amusement for admission of children under 14 at any time without parent or guardian. On motions to expunge, Loew-Poli Attorney Morris Mendlesohn succeeded in deleting allegations that the theatre was over-crowded and that the management failed in a duty to give the children a proper guardian.

The complaint, as it stands, still contains broad allegations of negligence on the basis of inadequate lighting, insufficiency of ushers and supervision.

Bingo Games Blasted by Providence "Journal"

PROVIDENCE—The *Journal* has launched editorial blasts at the "big business" of Bingo now operating in the state. Despite laws prohibiting any but charity affairs conducted by recognized charitable organizations and prohibiting cash awards, the *Journal* declares greenbacks are the principal awards which draw crowds of 2,000 and more players to regularly conducted Bingo affairs every night in the week in various parts of the state.

Sponsoring organizations whose names are used for these affairs get not more than $25 from operators, the *Journal* charges.

Bandit at Large

BOSTON—Kenneth Forkey, independent circuit operator, told this publication late last week that no trace had been found of a bandit who held up the cashier of the Park Theatre in Montello and snatched the cash box containing $200.

Bellacqua Is Agent

BOSTON—Vincent Bellacqua has been appointed New England agent for the Reliable Seating Co. Bellacqua has established office headquarters here.

BOSTON

CLAUDE LEE, Paramount executive, was at M&P headquarters last week . . . Ray Robertson, Jam Handy representative, was closeted with William Murphy of Imperial a few days ago . . . Frank Flanagan, formerly with the General Film Co. and now in the trucking business, paid film district friends a visit the other Wednesday.

Alice Tanzman, secretary to Lila Izen of Wholesome Film Service, has been ill with a cold . . . Mary Maschio of M&P accounting department was out a few days last week with a cold . . . Sadie Gershman of M-G-M has lost her father.

Demi Clegg, former Columbia booker later with Grand National, has resigned as assistant to Julius Joelson, following the circuit owner's sell out to M&P, and is now with United Artists.

F. J. McCarthy, eastern district manager for Universal, was in Boston last week . . . Charles Stern, UA district manager, has been in town . . . Leonard Kraska, house manager of the Fine Arts, was abed last week with the grippe . . . William Marshall of the Columbia office was out ill last week.

Tom O'Brien, Monogram booker, is in New Hampshire on a long-delayed vacation . . . Leon Gorman, Portland exhibitor, was down from Maine last week . . . Al McAvoy, operator of the Union in Attleboro, was in town . . . Frank LePage, Millinocket theatre owner, divided part of last week between the film district and the Federal Building.

Steve Broidy, Monogram director and New England salesman, was out ill part of last week . . . C. F. Millett, operator of the State in Bridgeton, Me., has had a cold.

Al Poulton, "Honey" distributor, was in Boston last week. Poulton, national sales manager for the distributor, is personally handling this territory. Adolph Johnson has the New Haven franchise.

Charles Brent gave "Horrors of War" its New England premiere with a special showing, with an American Legion tieup, at Framingham this week. Brent has taken over distribution in this territory from Willis Kent and Ed Maple.

Merton F. Carr, theatre owner at Randolph, Vt., was out for venison last week . . . E. O. Proctor has sold the Strand in Ayer to the George Giles circuit.

Herbert Higgins, independent film booker, plans a return retreat to Campion Hall next month . . . Irma Montague, at the Metropolitan for several years, has played Milwaukee in "I Married an Angel," and is heading west . . . Bill Murphy, former Lockwood and Gordon booker now Imperial office manager, returned last week from New York and Connecticut.

Richard B. Rubin, operator of the State in Saugus, was out last week with a stomach disorder . . . Fred Mielinkowski, operator of the Victoria in Chicopee, and his bride were in the film district last week . . . M. N. Wolf and Jack Byrne of M-G-M left Boston last week for the distributors' midseason meeting in Chicago.

Edward Kleine has the New England distribution rights of the horror film, "Murder in the Red Barn" . . . Harold "Pat" Magovsky, son of the first president of the film district union, has entered Massachusetts Art School and already has a drawing on exhibition.

Arthur K. Howard, local Allied business manager, has set for December 12 the next meeting of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc. . . . Gene Keenan, who recently resigned as New England publicity manager for Republic, is now a partner in the operation of the Copley Theatre legitimate presentations.

Henry Neveau, operator of the Mutual Theatre in Saco, has been renovating the Maine house . . . John P. Hassett, manager of the Paramount in Barre, Vt., recently promoted a cooking school with such success that he remarks, "We felt more than amply repaid for the time and effort given to this promotion" . . . Arthur Pinkham, manager of the Allston Theatre in suburban Boston, has added a cash giveaway to the house policy.

Mrs. Lillian Keegan, operator of the Gayety in Van Buren, has renovated the house with new lighting fixtures and a generator . . . John Carroll, manager of the Paramount in Boston, has installed fluorescent lighting in the advance display cases in the theatre's lobby.

Harold Goldstein recently put on a safety show at the Morton in Dorchester which was attended by approximately 1,800 *patrons,* 100 *of which were adults . . . Richard Elliot, operator of the Community in Guilford, has rejuvenated the Maine house with new carpets.*

P. Edward Comi of the Theatre Service and Supply Co., has contracted with Phil Smith circuit for installation of new booth equipment at the Palmer Theatre in the Massachusetts town of the same name.

Richard Sears, local newsreel veteran now with Universal, has kennelized his Chow after the pup took a nip at a youngster . . . Maurice Master is renovating and modernizing the Piedmont Street quarters so as to include the office space formerly occupied by Harry Asher, now in what used to be the Columbia exchange.

Ben Domingo, RKO theatre city manager, may sign Gene Autry for a personal appearance at the RKO Boston on Christmas or thereabouts . . . Meyer Marcus of M&P and Norman Poretsky of Wholesome Film have taken up Sunday horseback riding. Marcus claims that his nag delivers milk during the week.

Joseph Brennan, business manager for the MPTO here, is now serving on special committees for the Community Fund and for the annual Christmas dinner of the Volunteers of America.

Jane Bryan, film star, has been in Boston . . . Russell Mack was in town last week from Maine . . . Harry Zeitz was in from New Bedford . . . Louis Ferri, operator of the Ferri Casino in Thornton, and his sister were in town several days from Rhode Island.

Edward A. Cuddy, M&P divisional manager, called a meeting of all theatre managers at 60 *Scollay Square last week . . . Dora Kraska, formerly with Imperial, now has a civil service position . . . Ralph Wormhood of the Theatrical Post of American Legion was out ill part of last week.*

ED CHARBONEAU

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

is CAPITOLIZING with a SUPER SUCTION CLEANER

The SUPER SUCTION Heavy Duty CLEANER increases efficiency and reduces labor. Its economical performance is backed by an unconditional guarantee. In all around service, it's tops for theatres. Will you try one at our risk?

We are not concerned with selling any particular item . . . but, rather, with selling the specific means of doing a necessary job better.



CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

A NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZATION FOR NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS

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Recognize Films as a Force for Democracy

PORTLAND—The need of recognition of the motion picture as a force in the preservation of democracy was emphasized by speakers at the annual Portland Motion Picture Council seminar.

Since the motion picture can become a constructive instrument in bringing about a better understanding between peoples of all faiths, it is a most effective medium for counteracting subversive propaganda, they declared.

Approximately 200 delegates, composed of representatives from local women's clubs, Parent-Teacher associations, social agencies, churches and schools attended the convention.

The Rev. Harry E. Titus, executive secretary of the Maine Council of Churches, in discussing the relationship between the motion picture and the church, declared that "the church and synagogue can go far, through the medium of films, to awaken its congregations to its responsibility to youth and to promote a better understanding of the moral and spiritual problems which confront youth." He recommended that churches sponsor educational films in underprivileged areas.

Prof. Eric Kelly of Dartmouth College gave the films credit for establishing a better understanding between youths of this nation and those of foreign lands.

Other speakers included Mrs. Israel Bernstein, prominent local clubwoman; Roland Stevens, principal of Lincoln Junior High School; Mrs. Dagmar Potholm Peterson, local social worker; Harrison Lakin of York Harbor, and Mrs. Edward K. Rand of Cambridge, Mass.

Superintendent of Schools William B. Jack was toastmaster and Mrs. O. E. Haney, president of the Portland Council, presided at seminar sessions. Mrs. Carl C. Coffin was general chairman; Mrs. Leroy L. Greely, program chairman; Mrs. Timothy J. O'Sullivan, publicity; Norman I. Godfrey, radio chairman, and Mrs. Harold J. Conners, banquet hostess.

J. R. Mahan New Warner Manager in New Haven

NEW HAVEN—J. R. Mahan, salesman for Warner Bros. in the Philadelphia territory for the past seven years, has been appointed manager of the New Haven exchange. John Pavone, with Warner since 1925 here, takes the salesman's post, with Peter DeFazio transferred to another territory, soon to be announced.

Mahan was engaged in sales promotion work for Western Electric out of New York prior to his Warner connection in Philadelphia. He is not a stranger to the state, having been affiliated with the old Pathe company here and in Boston some 12 years ago, and having maintained a residence in Hamden, New Haven suburb, for many years.

"I'm glad to be back in the Elm City and greet my many old friends," Mahan remarked on assuming his new duties.

NEW HAVEN

CONNECTICUT film people gave thanks that, in spite of the delay in that long-awaited return of prosperity to the box-office, there was no blackout of hope—and a turkey in almost every pot—and offered prayers that Santa might have the not-too-distant gift of peace in his bag—and that there might come a time with no turkeys on the screen—and no Bingo anywhere.

The 658-seat Groton Theatre hit a snag when workmen went on strike. However, the house opened last Wednesday with "Hollywood Cavalcade" . . . The Lockwood-Gordon 450-seat Windsor Theatre, completely and attractively remodeled, opened Thanksgiving Eve November 29 in these parts with "Hollywood Cavalcade" . . . The modern Plaza, Windsor, built by the Shulmans of Hartford, is not far behind the Windsor, and this town of 8,000 will soon boast two theatres.

Thomas Donaldson, Metro manager, joined Maurice N. Wolfe and John P. Byrne traveling Chicagoward for the special meet on "Gone With the Wind" and plans for marketing the almost four-hour super feature here will soon be circulating . . . Allied Theatres of Connecticut has shifted their meets to Martin's Restaurants. Every two weeks the exhibitors' minds now staunchly turn to problems of which seafood is in season . . . Warner has returned to the former Wednesday opening at the Roger Sherman, New Haven and Warner, Bridgeport. The Strand, Hartford, may follow suit after Thanksgiving.

Ben Bernie band and acts at the Arena again a Saturday night draw with the fans, who pay as high as $1.10 . . . The Lincoln will play the much-discussed "Harvest" after Christmas. "Club de Femmes" is back at the house for a repeat engagement with "History Is Made at Night." A special children's week is being planned for the Xmas holidays . . . The Baileys will be opening the Whitneyville house about March, if the present pace continues . . . State, Waterbury, is reported to have broken its Monday record with "Jamaica Inn."

Jack and Abe Fishman and wives held four of those impossible-to-procure tickets for the Arturo Toscannini broadcast at the NBC studios, New York, last Saturday . . . Mrs. Frank Donaldson of Berlin, N. H., visited at the home of the Tom Donaldsons here for three weeks . . . Michael Daly of Hartford, Plainville, and Lowell, recovered his Packard unharmed, but not his money or his chauffeur . . . Jack Findlay of Westerly and Mystic is recuperating at home after a minor operation in the Westerly Hospital.

Leo Ricci of the Capitol, Meriden, took three days away from it all in the Big City . . . Al Davis, Metro accessories sales super, has announced his betrothal to Helen Pollack of this city, and will renounce his single blessedness in the spring . . . How does Nick Del Rosso always get on the right side of a football bet? . . . William Elprin of the Lieberman circuit, Boston, visited on the Row and lunched with Charlie Lazarus.

According to Moe Seider, a member of the corporation, the 700-seat Ridgefield of Fairchester Theatres, Inc., will be ready in a few months . . . Charles Abramowitz, architect, says work at the Hippodrome, Bridgeport, will be completed in another three weeks . . . To make the Thanksgiving spirit more brotherly, Elks and other orgs who are already cutting into business with nightly Bingo, were permitted to give away turkeys, while exhibitors were not . . . The Sam Rosens, Bob Russells, Ted Jacocks and Max Tabackmans among New Haveners at the Yale-Harvard game . . . Tom Donaldsons spent Thanksgiving in Boston.

Don't forget the gala Movie Ball and Floor Show at Baybrook Inn December 5 for a gay time to some of the best swing music in town. Tickets from Jack Mullen, Jerry Massimino, Kathryn Fitzgerald or other members of the committee. All the best people in the district have made reservations . . . Earl Wright, 20th-Fox salesman, will talk to the Foremen's Club at Yale on the movies, as part of the Romance of New Haven Industries series December 6. Wright has carried off other club assignments with great success.

Dish news: Progressive has sold the Rialto, South Norwalk, its jade kitchen deal for two-a-week distribution. Branford Theatre has the same deal once a week . . . The Windsor Theatre has signed for Progressive's regal burnished gold bak-serv, opening with a three-day splurge . . . Park City, Bridgeport, has started glassbake twice a week, using cuts in press advertising . . . National Screen trailers sold to Groton and Moosup by Emil Feldberg.

Strand, Stamford, tries five acts plus a first run feature Fridays and Saturdays . . . The state's only burlesque at the Lyric, Bridgeport, is drawing good houses at 40 cents matinees and 40-75 cents evenings . . . Rialto, South Norwalk, has five changes a week . . . Local wag says if the police don't get the New Haven Lone Bandit soon, the "Thin Man," coming to the Poli, will, because unlike the New Haven police, Powell always gets his man.

Blood and thunder: Three weeks of "Drums Along the Mohawk" at the Palace, Hartford . . . Hearts and flowers: Two weeks of "First Love" at the Regal . . . Chills and goosepimples: Palace to

Sunday Show Question Is Up in Portland

Portland—The question of Sunday shows for Portland will be decided December 4 when municipal elections will be held. Local exhibitors are quite optimistic about their chances for Sunday shows since, thus far, no concerted campaigns by religious groups or others against the measure have been organized.

have "Return of the Frog" and "Demon Barber of Fleet Street," the dual which stood them up at the Bijou, New Haven . . . Republic's Better Business Drive in progress now to June 27.

Stunts, or a day at the theatre manager's office: All downtowns joined in the annual merchants' Christmas parade December 2, sponsored by the Journal-Courier, *entering bands, uniformed ushers, drill teams, etc. . . . A girl walking down Main St., Hartford, Thursday noon might have received that "Lubitsch touch" and guest tickets to "Ninotchka" at the Loew-Poli, if the plainclothesman retained by the theatre thought she looked like snappy screen material . . . Joe Samartaro sold the whole house to the Kiwanis who gave needy children a treat of a special morning show at the Palace, Meriden. The house also used for a service club canned food show Saturday morning, in which children or adults were admitted to a Buck Jones, Crime Does Not Pay and Our Gang program in return for a can of food.*

Ed Fitzpatrick sold the Poli, Waterbury, for a special morning show to local merchants, Miller and Peck . . . George Freeman of Poli, Springfield, expected to make the Dollar Club for packing them in at his jitterbug contest with "Dancing Co-Ed" . . . John Hesse dressed his Roger Sherman ushers in cap and gown for the week before Kay Kyser's "That's Right, You're Wrong" . . . Catchy signs fluttered in the lobby breezes and urged, "C'mon, get yourself hot, baby" and other Kyserisms . . . Trolley car dashers were used again by this theatre . . . Jack O'Connell tied up the music counters and ran a radio contest . . . Bob Russell promoted 3,000 milk bottle collars from Sagal-Lou, in a tieup on the "Another Thin Man" baby. Baby clothes were hung in the lobby—even on the marquee . . . Nat Rubin was the father of the idea of presenting the first baby born in the city on Thanksgiving with a $10 bank account starter and a bassinet, and the *Courier* publicized the offer.

Garbo laughs and Assistant Morris Drucker, Poli, Worcester, promptly plants a "chuckle contest" on "Ninotchka" in the want ads column. Readers have to go through want ads, select a line from each of three to make up the funniest combination, and receive guest tickets for their efforts . . . Lou Cohen worked a special 5-cent morning show with a bread company tieup for "Drums Along the Mohawk" . . . Lone Ranger Club members who presented coupons were admitted at the 5-cent price, the bread company paying the other five . . . Looks like comparatively the best business on "At the Circus" was shown in New Haven . . . See "Another Thin Man" but don't be one, is the idea of Russell's restaurant 30x40's.

Laud Advances in Safety

NEW HAVEN—Letters from the MPPDA, the Society of Motion Picture Engineers and the New England Fire Insurance Rating Ass'n have been received by the Connecticut state police, commending the progress this state has made toward safety and health in planning and design of theatre projection rooms.

Theatre Scene in Lowell Shifts With New Owners

BOSTON—The Lowell theatre situation has changed with new owners taking over the Royal and the Crown. E. M. Loew, independent circuit operator, has finally closed with George Husson for the Royal which has been on the market for a year. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fassano have acquired the Crown, also the subject of prolonged negotiations, from Edward Hosmer and Irving Dunn.

Directs "Earl Carroll's"

HOLLYWOOD — Paramount has assigned Director Kurt Neumann to "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

A. Nelson Frazier to Head New Haven Local No. 273

NEW HAVEN—A. Nelson Frazier of the Roger Sherman Theatre is new president-elect of Local No. 273, operators' union. Other officers named at a meeting at the Trades Council Hall are: Frank Perry, vice-president; Anthony Bascalicato, secretary; Edwin Boppert, treasurer, and Matthew W. Kennedy, business manager for the fifth straight year.

"Waterloo" to LeRoy

HOLLYWOOD—Mervyn LeRoy will direct "Waterloo Bridge" for Producer Sidney Franklin at Metro. Robert Montgomery and Vivien Leigh are co-starred.

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"TORPEDOED"

WITH

H. B. Warner, Robert Douglas, Richard Cromwell,
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Both Directed by HERBERT WILCOX

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BOSTON

HARTFORD

BINGO has started in another place in the Hartford area. This time, Windsor has come forth with news about same . . . Loew-Poli, Springfield, sponsored a Jitterbug contest last week, with Harry F. Shaw, division manager, as master of ceremonies. Contest hit space in that town's press.

More Springfield doings: E. M. Loew's Court Square Theatre is scheduled to have vaudeville four days a week in the future, instead of the present three, according to an announcement made by Manager Don Barhydt . . . Visitors in town some days ago were Lou Brown, Loew-Poli publicity, and William P. Jefferson, National Screen Accessories, art director . . . Julius Meyer has taken over the Majestic Theatre, West Springfield.

Peter Perakos, Palace owner, New Britain, starts stage shows in a few days, so they say thereabouts . . . Joseph Letezio, operator, Rivoli, Bridgeport, is the proud father of a boy . . . Speaking of births: It's a five-and-one-half-pound daughter at the home of the Joe Markovs in Colchester.

A new marquee has been added to Hymie Schwartz's Hillcrest Theatre, Taftville . . . Lou Cohen, popular manager of the local Loew-Poli Palace, reported good opening day business on the "double horror show" last week . . . Former Manager Bob Hynes, Strand, Stamford, is now reported to be manager of the Hastings Theatre, Hastings, New York.

Joe Miklos, assistant manager, Embassy, New Britain, has completed his sixth year with the Warner organization . . . Last Thursday saw, generally, good business at all main stem houses. The 30th in this area was better received by theatremen hereabouts.

Rudy Frank, praise agent, Harris Brothers' State, did a nice stunt in the way of having a hook and ladder truck meet Jimmie "Schnozzle" Durante at Hartford's railroad station in connection with his personal appearance here.

Relief loads in five of the state's largest cities showed October declines average 7.8 per cent as compared with September.

"Kiss the Boys Goodbye" hit town last Thursday evening at the Bushnell . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington' started its sixth week at the E. M. Loew's last Wednesday . . . Maurice Shulman's theatre in Wethersfield is to be ready for patrons by next spring. House will be Wethersfield's first and only motion picture theatre.

Paul Binstock's Lyric, over on Park St., has been sponsoring Jitterbug Nights for some weeks now. Kash Kwiz Contest is still in operation at the Loew-Poli, Waterbury, according to latest reports from that area.

"Dead End" Kids hit town last Friday together with an assorted stage show at Harris Brothers' State Theatre.

Don Adrenotta, service staff head, Loew-Poli, has returned from a two-week vacation that took him to New York and thence to Bermuda . . . More Loew-Poli news: Peter Leonard, service staff, is thinking of getting married . . . Lou Mackly, stage hand, has been confined to his home for some days now, due to a bad cold . . . Russell G. Grant, student assistant, going in a big way for taking pictures . . . Anniversary Note: Jimmy Huges and his Mrs. have been married for 30 years now. Congratulations are in order for the pair! Jimmy is doorman at the Loew house.

State St. Regal, a Warner unit, under the management of popular Frank Morin, reported good business last week . . . Daly Theatre, a main stem house, has had its front doors painted a bright blue.

Football notes: Joe Powers, night watchman at the Loew-Poli and manager of that theatre's football team, has announced that those teams in Greater Hartford who want to play a game with the Loew-Poli boys, may do so by calling Joe at the theatre. Wally Cooper comes forward with the interesting news that the team, thus far, has won eight and lost only two games.

North End Albany Ave. Lenox, a Warner unit, still has SRO on Saturday afternoons when the house plays a kids' matinee show . . . Mrs. Agnes Tucker, matron, Loew-Poli, has returned to service after having been confined to her home with illness . . . Speaking of SRO, State St. Princess Theatre, under the management of Martin Keleher, had such business last Sunday during the evening show.

Loew-Poli and Loew-Poli employes, comprising about 40 people in all, had a spaghetti-get-together at a local inn last Monday evening. Main entertainers at the time were John Fescher and Wally Cooper. There was also singing by Lou Cohen and Jay Sweeney.

Julian B. Tuthill, Hartford Times, *has been going down to New York about once a week in order to review Broadway plays for that newspaper . . . Jack A. Simons, Loew-Poli, was in the metropolis some days ago on a visit. Jack came back, however, with a bad cold.*

Tommy Williams, stage hand, Loew-Poli, officiated at a local temperance meeting last Tuesday . . . Irving Herbert, and Gordon Pearl, former Loew-Poli service staff ushers, now attending Alabama University, have written back to the theatre staff to say that they're enjoying themselves and "are doing very well."

George Landers, popular E. M. Loew's manager, was in Boston some days ago on business . . . Bernard Levy, it is reported, is the new manager of the main stem Proven Picture Theatre.

Eddie Downs, service staff usher, Loew-Poli, is now a member of the Silas Deane Players, a local group of amateur actors . . . Bowling team members of the Loew-Poli staff are: Wally Cooper, Martin Cherlin, Lou Cohen, Joe Powers, Lou Mackly, and Russell G. Grant. The boys, thus far, have come away the victors in eight matches. Average score of the team is reported to be about 125.

Theatre managers in Greater Hartford are being asked to join their chamber of commerce, it is reported. Walter Lloyd, manager of the Allyn Theatre, is chairman of the group which wants such a move accomplished. Among theatres already joined up are the Loew-Poli, Allyn, and Strand.

Stephanie Kalinowski and Lillian Kieser are the two new candy girls at the E. M. Loew's Theatre, incidentally, can lay claim to the holding-over of the current film "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" as the longest in that house's history. George Landers spoke over WTHT, broadcasting division of the Hartford *Times*, last Saturday evening in connection with holdovers . . . E. M. Loew's is scheduled to change in the near future from Friday opening days to Thursdays.

Reports flit about that another theatre is due to be built soon in East Hartford. As yet, however, nothing can be learned as definite. Only other house in that town is the Astor, a Warner unit.

Boston Cinema Club Has Grover's Post 'Reserved'

BOSTON—David Grover, RKO booker, is regarded as a certainty for the office of treasurer when the Boston Cinema Club puts in a new list of officers next month. Grover has handled the funds of the film district bookers and officer managers' organization since its formation several years ago. The Cinema Club will elect an executive board of seven on December 6. The board, in turn, will name the fraternity's officers, mainly from its own group.

No Requests Made for Thanksgiving Baskets

BOSTON—Times must be better, believes William Cuddy, president of the Boston Cinema Club. The organization, up to last week, had received no requests for Thanksgiving baskets. About 15 such offerings were distributed last year to families with present or past connections with the motion picture industry.

Exchange Union Completes Plans for Movie Ball

NEW HAVEN—Headline vaudeville acts have been selected for the gala Movie Ball and Floor Show at Baybrook Inn, Tuesday, December 5, and all plans have been completed for the party, which has a long reservation list of who's who in the New Haven film district.

Dancing to the music of Worthy Hills and his orchestra will lead off the evening's activities for film people and their guests, with novel acts set for late evening. Harry F. Shaw, Loew-Poli division head will m. c. Receipts of the dance and the souvenir program will be used for the B-41 exchange employees' union sick benefit fund.

Patrons list includes Thomas Donaldson, Ben Simon, Morris Joseph, Edward Ruff, Tim O'Toole, John Pavone, Morris Joseph, Lou Wechsler, Samuel Seletsky, and many others.

PORTLAND

THE Maine Civic Theatre, Portland's only legitimate house, has been incorporated with Carl K. Ross as president, who reports the corporation has signed a ten-year lease on the house. Other officers include the managing director, Harry A. Smith, as vice-president; James Arthur Noon, treasurer, and Horace A. Hildreth, clerk. Ross, Smith and Noon are also directors.

John Divney and Mary McNaughton said their "I do's" and immediately left for two weeks of New York. Arthur Allaire, relief manager, is subbing for Divney at the Maine Theatre.

The State and Maine theatres, not wanting to set a precedent by taking up a collection for the Christmas Fund for the Blind, instead, contributed $100 outright to the fund. The Strand and Empire theatres both took up collections.

With their bicycle awards all gone, the State Theatre took advantage of the season to give away two turkeys at their "Recess Time" session. The birds were given as attendance awards.

Local theatres cooperated in the observance of National Book Week by presenting special trailers and featuring special lobby displays . . . Christmas shopping is brisk in Portland with many of the shoppers eventually finding their way into theatres to rest aching feet and weary arms.

The management of the State Theatre placed study guides and charts in Portland's Public Library, the YWCA and in public schools in pre-selling "Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex." An identical promotion was conducted for "Rulers of the Sea" which opened November 30 at the State.

The Empire Theatre is playing "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" and is said to be "cashing in" . . . Filmrow visitors included Ernest Warren, Universal salesman, and Carl Divizia of RKO.

After Theatre Seats

HARTFORD — It has been learned here from usually reliable sources that motion picture theatres in Worcester will play part time Congregational missions, if a plan submitted at a ministers' conference in Worcester some days ago is worked out. Trying to "reach the unreached," the conference would arrange for use of Greater Worcester theatres for half an hour before regular opening and for half an hour after regular closing on certain days of the week. Nothing has been heard as yet from theatre managers in that area.

Republic Date Drive

BOSTON—Republic Pictures of New England is holding a Better Business Date Drive. The competition, which started this month, will run through to January 27.

Gets Next "Cisco Kid"

HOLLYWOOD—Next "Cisco Kid" feature will be directed by H. Bruce Humberstone for Producer John Stone at 20th-Fox.

'Mr. Smith' Stimulates Caution and Desire

BOSTON—Neely Bill eyes are still being cast on "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." There also are those glances at admission receipts, however.

"It is our opinion that this latest Capra Columbia picture is great entertainment and should be excellent boxoffice," the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., stated this week in a bulletin to members. "We heartily recommend that you run it but caution you to protect yourself against the danger of misinforming your patrons about conditions in our government."

The local Allied unit, which last week requested local Columbia Exchange Manager Harry Rogovin to furnish special trailers on the feature, has procured its own trailers advising that Senate scenes are fictitious and not intended to depict real circumstances in Washington.

Davidson Will Distribute Thirteen Fox Reissues

BOSTON—Sam Davidson has signed for New England distribution rights on 13 Fox reissues, including eight George O'Briens, and five Harold Bell Wrights. "The Californian," starring Ricardo Cortez and Marjorie Weaver, arrived in the vaults last week while "Western Gold," with Heather Angel and Smith Ballew, is due next month.

BRIDGEPORT

CHARLIE OBERT has resigned after several years at the Warner Theatre as assistant manager . . . The lobby circus tent idea making the rounds of Loew circuit houses playing "At the Circus" originated with Matt Saunders at the Loew-Poli here. Tent was built here and taken down when the picture was cancelled.

Censors deleted Zorita, the featured dancer, from the "Follies" at the Lyric . . . Margaret O'Connor has been added to the boxoffice staff at the theatre.

John Harvey is looking after both the Empress and Palace theatres at Danbury . . . The Majestic has switched to a Thursday opening.

The Loew-Poli Theatre and the Post-Telegram *sponsored the filming of the local high school football classic.*

Manager Mike Carroll of the American doesn't believe in starting an argument when the gun is in the other fellow's hand. Mike was unlucky enough to be in a bakery near his theatre when an armed holdup man walked in.

Business at the Lyric indicates burlesque will have its first full season here in years . . . H. B. Warner and Gloria Stuart have been among the film people visiting in nearby Ridgefield.

PROVIDENCE

TWO FIRST-RUNS greeted the Turkey Day dawn with late holiday shows Wednesday night. Strand and Loew's State each had previews. State also playing a late show Thursday night. Holiday also found John B. Findley of Westerly's Central and United theatres sponsoring his tenth annual grocery matinee, turning over foodstuff collected to Westerly Peoples' Mission. "Ten or Tin" was the admission slogan, a tin can of vegetables, etc., or ten potatoes, carrots, turnips or onions. Westerly trucking firms saw to it that the stuff—over 50 barrels of it—was transferred from theatres to the Mission . . . Strand will stage a canned goods matinee December 9 under auspices of R. I. Better Films Council, an annual goodwill building stunt. Council turns over foodstuffs to local charity organizations for Christmas baskets.

Hyman Pastman, new lessee of Newport Casino, got the house opened on schedule last Saturday playing dual bills, changing twice weekly. First two days proved "entirely satisfactory," Pastman states, with business expected to build . . . Don Gibbs and Moe Kallis of Buchanan & Co., ad experts for Paramount, in town last Friday in conference with Ed Reed, manager of Strand.

Manager George French, Publicist Bill Morton, Madeline Corey, Sunday *Journal* fashion editor, and Garret D. Byrnes, *Bulletin* film editor, trekked to Boston to chat with Kay Kyser and troupe at RKO-Boston and get highlights on Kyser's film which opened at Albee here next day. Result: Nice publicity. Incidentally, Providence had a hand in the presentation of a silver baton to Kyser by Division Manager Harry MacDonald on opening day of the bandsman's personal appearance at the RKO-Boston.

Park, Woonsocket, got a once-in-a-lifetime break when the Wallenda Troupe, high wire act, played the house. On Thursday, AP wires carried news story of Henrietta Wallenda fainting in most dangerous moment of the act while performing at Boston Garden. Park reprinted AP story in its ad on Friday and on Saturday local daily there carried AP cuts of the performer being lowered down on a rope after her faint. All of which roused Woonsocket theatregoers interest and added up to a nice gross at the Park Sunday for the troupe's appearance there.

Harry Reiners is getting to be a regular commuter between here and New York, dropping in at RKO-Albee almost weekly to help lay campaigns on forthcoming attractions. Manager George French and Publicist Bill Morton are now busy with heavy campaign plans on Kay Kyser's "That's Right, You're Wrong."

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Dollars in Your Pockets
See VINCENT BELLACQUA
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Best Rebuilt Seats You Can Buy
All Spring Seats—Made to Order

"Another Thin Man" Is Snipped by Censor

BOSTON—"Another Thin Man" was the only film in the latest group, numbering 31, to go before the Massachusetts bureau of Sunday censorship that incurred deletions. Eliminations on the 10-reeler comprised 7th-reel "scenes showing girl with bare abdomen" and the 8th-reel dialogue "may be able to work out something."

Among the okay were RKO's "Reno," First National's "We Are Not Alone," Universal's "Tower of London," and 20th-Fox's "Day Time Wife."

Three out of nine vaudeville routines were approved for Sunday showings under provisions of the law. One was disapproved, while five others were ordered to conform with recommended modifications.

Theatrical Post Prepares For Basket Distribution

BOSTON—The Theatrical Post of American Legion will distribute Christmas baskets from the film district this December 25 for the eighth year. William H. McLaughlin, post commander, has called a December 4 meeting to develop final plans for the annual charity.

Proceeds of the Post's film district installation and dinner dance go for the holiday handouts. The theatrical fraternity distributed some 130 Christmas baskets in 1938.

Whalen Brings Campaign Plans for "Manchu"

BOSTON—David B. Whalen, former local advertising manager for Republic and now national director of advertising, publicity, and exploitation for the distributor, arrived in town last week with a publicity campaign for "Drums of Fu Manchu."

He opened his stay with an interview over CBS with Neil Wallace of WEEI. Four Higgins Family releases will be put out in 1939-40 by Republic, Whalen said. These features will be developed by situation rather than by dialogue, he stated.

Theatrical Post Seeks Film District Quarters

BOSTON—The Theatrical Post of the American Legion is looking for quarters in the film district. Major Patrick F. Healey, state film head, has been appointed chairman of the committee in charge by Post Commander William H. McLaughlin. The organization's next meeting is scheduled for Monday.

Over 150 Attend Warner Dinner-Dance Affair

NEW HAVEN—Over 150 persons attended the Warner Club dinner-dance at the Baybrook Inn. Dancing was followed by a midnight dinner, with Francis Flood in charge of arrangements.

Warner executives present were B. E. Hoffman, Maxwell Hoffman, James Bracken, John Pavone and Daniel Finn.

He Wound Up as His Guest

Bridgeport, Conn.—Manager Harry Rose of the Globe thinks invitations can be carried too far. The other day he opened an invitation to be a guest at a newsboys' dinner at a local exclusive club, and was highly pleased. Then he discovered the envelope contained a second invitation—to be his own guest at his theatre following the meal.

Judge Calls for Briefs in Action Involving Marquee

HARTFORD—After hearing testimony, Judge Rufus Booth of superior court in New Britain has called for briefs in the suit against the Embassy Theatre, alleging its marquee infringes on the rights of the next door property by "cutting off light, air and hurting window display."

Testifying for the defense were: B. E. Hoffman, Warner district manager; Cyril O'Toole, maintenance engineer in the Warner New Haven office; Joseph Borenstein, Embassy manager; Frank Dcizek, former owner of the Embassy, and Arthur Rutherford, building inspector of New Britain.

Kraska Premieres Abridged Version of "Ski Chase"

BOSTON—George Kraska opened last week Wednesday at the Fine Arts with the world premiere of the featurette version of "Ski Chase." The Kraska importation, which formerly ran 120 minutes, has been brought down to 23 minutes. John Martin, who did the dialogue on "Wuthering Heights," gives an English background to the film which is being distributed locally by Harry Segal of Imperial.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ANSEL SANBORN, Carroll county film tycoon, and Mrs. Sanborn entertained their daughter, Florence Sanborn of Boston, at their home in Wakefield over the Armistice weekend.

William Sharby, former Hillsboro theatre manager, who has accepted a similar post in Maine, was honored with his wife at a farewell party tendered them at the home of friends in Hillsboro.

A summer theatre, where pageants, vaudeville and musical programs will be presented, is one of the new projects planned at the Belknap Recreation Area in Gilford.

Wolfeboro folk had the thrill November 29 and 30 of seeing two local youngsters, Barbara Harvey and Maurice Wilkinson jr., in a Vitaphone short, "World's Fair Junior," at the Memorial Hall. The children went to New York last summer to appear in the picture.

Two Manchester theatres, the State and Palace, are vending popcorn in their lobbies, while the Strand there has a candy machine.

Middlesex Theatre Gathers Toys With Morning Show

MIDDLETOWN, CONN.—One of the first special morning toy shows ran at the Middlesex Theatre Friday in cooperation with the organized charities of the town. Admission was by toys only. "Overland Express" was featured, through the courtesy of Tim O'Toole, Columbia New Haven manager, and shorts were contributed by Paramount, Columbia, and Metro. Ernest Dorau, manager, the operators, and the staff donated their services.

The Middlesex Theatre is one of the few theatres in the territory to have run a Thanksgiving Eve midnight show, with all seats at the top 40 cents. Loew-Poli circuit ran only one such show, at the Poli, Worcester.

Harry A. Smith Managing Maine's Civic Theatre

PORTLAND—Harry A. Smith, former manager of Keith's and the Strand and more recently business manager of the WPA theatre project here, is now in charge of the Maine Civic Theatre which opened its 43-week legitimate season a fortnight ago in the redecorated auditorium of the old Keith's.

John Steinbeck's play, "Of Mice and Men," opened the week of November 27, following the cancellation of "Hollywood Revue," which was to have featured Henry Armetta and Linda Ware.

Variety Artists Guild Starts Massachusetts Campaign

BOSTON—A state-wide move to organize variety artists was launched by the local chapter of the American Guild of Variety Artists, with Jean Muir, Hollywood star and labor leader, keynoting the program.

Miss Muir, a member of the executive council of the Associated Actors and Artistes of America, parent union of the theatrical world, told of her experiences in Hollywood, pointing out members of her profession could only get the wages they deserve by unionizing.

Among the list of speakers was Allan Carelli, executive theatre authority.

Unanimous Re-election Is Expected for Barrows

BOSTON—Thad C. Barrows, perennial IATSE Local 182 president, is expected to be unopposed when the union holds nominations on Tuesday. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences member and national projectionist figure was one of the founders of the local union.

Burlington State Theatre Is Damaged by Fire

BURLINGTON, VT.—The State Theatre here was damaged considerably by fire which broke out recently in the Black Cat Restaurant next door. The blaze burned through the wall into the theatre. "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" was booked to open the following day.

Fleischer Premiere Scheduled Dec. 18

MIAMI—With production completed on "Gulliver's Travels," the Max Fleischer full length Technicolor feature, and, incidentally, the first full length feature produced in Miami, is scheduled for its world premiere at the Sheridan Theatre on Miami Beach December 18.

Coincident with the completion of this full length feature, Max Fleischer continues to stress the handicap that animation is under as the result of a shortage of animators. Few boys and girls, faced with the problem of deciding upon a life work, realize the financial returns they receive if they prove adept at "acting at the end of a pencil," he declares.

"The present dearth of men and women who can drain acting ability from their systems to their fingertips—and then transfer it successfully to celluloid is handicapping the mass production of long animated cartoons to the point of stymieing it to death," Fleischer adds emphatically.

Because he realizes that talent is futile without technical training, he has induced the Miami art school to schedule classes in animation; and regrets deeply that colleges are not sufficiently cartoon conscious to recognize the service they would be doing their students by making such courses regular features of standard curricula.

Set Broadcast Over CBS For "Gulliver's" Debut

MIAMI—The Columbia Broadcasting System will carry a special nationwide broadcast starring Lanny Ross, with Jessica Dragonette as his guest star, in conjunction with the world premiere of "Gulliver's Travels."

It will originate from Station WQAM, Columbia's outlet here, on December 18 at 11:00 a. m. and 1:45 p. m. for rebroadcasting to coast outlets. Premiere of the feature-length cartoon takes place that evening at the Sheridan in Miami Beach.

Kuykendall Nominee for Forest Fire Board

ATLANTA—Ed Kuykendall of Columbus, Miss., president of the MPTOA, has accepted nomination as a director of the Southern States Forest Fire Commission. Kuykendall has been asked to select a committee of three other theatre owners of the south to meet with the southside committee in Birmingham next February to inaugurate plans for the forest fire campaign.

Enlarging Elba

ELBA, ALA.—Seating capacity of the Elba Theatre here is being enlarged and its interior remodeled. Felix Morrow will be in charge when the program is completed.

Objections to Interrogatories In Miami Suit to Be Heard

MIAMI—Newest developments in the Miami monopoly suit being brought against the eight major distributors and two Miami organizations—Paramount Enterprises, Inc., and Wometco Theatres—include the fixing of December 2 as the next date on which Federal Judge John W. Holland will hold a chamber session on the case. Attorneys for plaintiffs, the Cameo and Surf theatres, and for the 22 defendants, will argue the merits and flaws in current objections to written interrogations and depositions which have been sought by the plaintiffs.

As a preliminary activity, the office of Henry K. Gibson, plaintiffs' counsel, has represented the several interrogatories propounded to the eight distributing companies. These, even more detailed than the previous ones, are directed specifically to the film companies rather than to any particular officer.

Vitagraph draws the heaviest fire of any with 53 questions directed to it. While there is an obvious similarity in the questions asked each company, the probing is somewhat more emphatic in the cases of Paramount, Loew's, RKO, and Vitagraph because of the alleged closer distributor-producer association with Paramount Enterprises, Inc., than with the 13 separate incorporations making up Wometco Theatres.

Six Questions Alike

In all eight of the interrogatories, the first six queries are the same. After requesting the position of the officer answering the propounded questions, these questions are posed: "Does your corporation, or any wholly owned or controlled subsidiary, or allied corporation, own or operate motion picture theatre houses in Florida, and if so, give names and locations of all such theatres, together with designation as to whether such theatres are first-run, second-run, third-run, or subsequent-run theatres."

Names and addresses of agents who have sold motion picture films and licenses within Florida from Jan. 1, 1935, up to the present time are next requested. The fourth interrogatory further requests the answering officer to designate "which of the above named sales agents are still in your employ, and which ones have left your employ, or that of any subsidiaries or affiliated corporations? As to those who have left your employ, please give the date of their severance of employment." Interrogatories 5 and 6 ask similar information about branch managers and district sales managers.

A similarity of questions continues in the cases of Paramount, Vitagraph, RKO and Loew's from whom Paramount Enterprises, Inc., allegedly buys first-run films.

Subsequent questions ask "What, if any, exclusive right of sale or license exists between your corporation and Paramount Enterprises, Inc.? Also, the 'Sparks Chain' of theatres in the state of Florida? If so, please attach a copy of the contracts now existing and a copy of the contract or contracts existing during 1938 . . . Are sales of your product or products released through your corporation of any subsidiary thereof, to Paramount Enterprises, Inc., made in New York, or are they made in Florida? . . . What official of Paramount Enterprises, Inc., attends to the buying of films to be exhibited by said corporation in its theatres in Greater Miami, and what official or officials of your corporation, or any of its subsidiaries, is the medium for the transaction of purchasing and licensing films for you in Greater Miami? . . . Does your corporation, or any of your subsidiaries, have any producer-owned exhibition competition in Florida, and if so, where and what?"

Next, the name of the sales manager and a statement of "protection of clearance clause now granted Paramount Enterprises, Inc.?"

Statements of clearances granted is requested in six forms: First, protection or clearance clause now in effect; second, that in effect for 1939, prior to October 1; third, that for 1938; fourth, that for 1937; fifth, that for 1936, and sixth, that for 1935.

Geographical area covered by existing contracts is next questioned. "Do contracts merely affect Miami, Miami Beach, Coral Gables and Hialeah? or do they cover all of Dade county?" And then, specifically, it is asked whether or not such contracts apply to the various other municipalities such as Miami Shores, Biscayne Park, North Miami, South Miami, Surfside, North Miami Beach and others, and to other unincorporated areas within the county.

Inquire on Ownership

The general pattern of the questions continues with "How much film rental has been paid your corporation by Paramount Enterprises, Inc., for the year 1939, up to October 1? For the entire year of 1938? For 1937, 1936 and 1935?" and then switches to "What feature films, if any, have you sold to the Wometco people and theatres during the same years? Please specify names of films, protection or clearance clauses, and the terms upon which films were sold, including information as to whether or not they were first-run films, subsequent-runs, and whether or not they were sold for exhibition after the clearance clause had run out on the part of Paramount Enterprises, Inc. . . . In selling Wometco Theatres, what protection or clearance do you allow Negro theatres, and how does this compare with the Wometco white theatres?"

Returning to Paramount, the questions continue, "Upon what basis, percentage or cash, do you sell pictures to Paramount Enterprises, Inc., for exhibition? Please state fully and as to all theatres owned by Paramount Enterprises, Inc." and then, "Do you own or control the operation of other motion picture theatres in the United States?"

Delving into the clearance provisions

(Continued on next page)

Objections in Miami Suit to Be Heard

(Continued from preceding page)
further, Paramount is asked, "In the adoption of the existing clearance or protection clause now enjoyed by a contract between your corporation and Paramount Enterprises, Inc., upon what basis and under what factors and circumstances was it adopted? What consideration was given to comparative seating capacity of the various theatres operated by Paramount Enterprises, Inc., and independent theatres; the comparative obsolescence, age, or newness of theatre buildings, the modernness or newess of the theatres and their furnishings and equipment, and the admission prices charged? Please answer in full detail."

Further interrogatories deal with double features, minimum admissions and extension of contract privileges to theatres that might be subsequently acquired by Paramount Enterprises, Inc. "Do you now insist in your contracts with independent theatres in Dade county, upon an agreement to a prohibition against double features? If your answer is in the negative, did you formerly insist upon a prohibition against double features? Please state the facts for the years 1935 up until the present time, and if you do not now insist upon the prohibition clause against double feature exhibition, when did you cease such demands and such requirements? . . . Have you demanded and secured at any time, beginning with 1935, a prohibition against the exhibition of double features on the part of Paramount Enterprises, Inc. Please state the facts fully."

Into Admissions and Duals

There is this about admissions: "Do you now demand minimum admission prices to be charged by independent theatres in Dade county? If your answer is in the negative, please state whether or not you have insisted heretofore in other years upon a minimum admission price, and state what price has been demanded by your corporation . . ."

And as in the case of the double feature question, there is this additional query: "Do you now demand or have you demanded at any time in the past few years, a minimum admission price upon the part of Paramount Enterprises, Inc.? Please state the facts fully for the years 1935 up to the present."

The probe then continues with "If any theatre, now owned by an independent operator in this area, were to be acquired by Paramount Enterprises, Inc., could such theatre immediately, upon such acquisition, exhibit feature films produced by you or your subsidiary? . . . Please answer the same question with reference to any theatre that might be built by Paramount Enterprises, Inc."

The general set of questions directed to the four companies selling to Paramount Enterprises, Inc., conclude with "What cancellation privileges have you granted Paramount Enterprises, Inc., and upon what terms? Please answer for years, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939 . . . Have the same or different cancellation privileges been granted to independent theatres in the Greater Miami area? . . . What advertising expenses, charges or credits have you allowed Paramount Enterprises, Inc., for the same period? Have the same or different expenses, charges or credits been allowed independent theatres in the Greater Miami area for the same period?"

In the particular interrogatory directed to Vitagraph, detailed analysis is made of the advertisement published in BOXOFFICE, September 2, over the signature of Gradwell L. Sears.



Premiere Primates—

Kay Kyser and his mother as they attended the premiere of "That's Right, You're Wrong," at the Center Theatre, Rocky Mount, N. C., the orchestra leader's home town.

Helen Hardy Atlanta BOXOFFICE Editor

ATLANTA—Effective with this issue, Mrs. Helen Hardy, secretary to S. R. Reams and Riley P. Davis of Theatrical Printing Co., becomes Atlanta editor and representative for BOXOFFICE, succeeding Lee Fuhrman, whose increased responsibilities at the Atlanta *Constitution* made it necessary for him to resign the assignment.

Well and favorably known in the film trade, Mrs. Hardy has long been prominent in its business and social life, has close contact with the trade and otherwise is qualified to represent BOXOFFICE adequately in her territory.

With the shift in personnel, the address of BOXOFFICE is changed to Mrs. Hardy's office at 183 Walton St., Atlanta, where she may be contacted easily.

Exhibitors and other trade members are invited to get in touch with Mrs. Hardy when they have news items of interest or business to transact with BOXOFFICE.

Deer Meat for Hamm

VERNON, TEX.—C. C. Hamm of the Majestic Theatre here bagged two deer on a recent hunting trip to south Texas. Hamm said the deer hunting season in south Texas is the best in several years.

NEW ORLEANS

PHIL SLIMAN of Atlantic Films spent the past few days in New Iberia disposing of product . . . In Greenville, Miss., business was not so big, so the manager of the Greenville Theatre devised a new idea. Greenville has a surplus of colored population. He advertised a midnight show for colored only, and engaged a deacon of the church to open the proceedings with prayer. The house was jammed and, as a result, midnight shows with prayer are now a regular weekly feature.

Paul Tessier, a former manager of Universal Film Exchange, is now located in Bay St. Louis, Miss., where he will engage in the motion picture business . . . A group of film executives the other afternoon was discussing the old-timers of 20 or 25 years ago. The first name on the slate was Benny Marrs, who two decades ago owned and operated the Marrs Theatre. Benny sold out and is now running a music school in his home in Gentilly. Another was Frank Davis who about the same time operated the Magic Theatre in the upper section of the city. Davis at that time owned a beautiful home on Robert street and a steam yacht. He recently died.

Since the opening of the racing season business at the downtown theatres has increased practically ten per cent owing to the out-of-town visitors . . . Freddie Goodrow of Atlantic Films reports an increasing demand from the independents upstate. Just now the firm is heavily advertising "Scarface" . . . Willis Cobb of the Rex Poster Service, back after a selling trip in the upstate section, says that practically every theatre owner he met and called on says that business is far ahead of the same period of last season . . . Universal has opened a poster service in connection with the exchange, occupying a portion of the ground floor on Cleveland avenue.

Miss Bernadine Howard is Manager Toups' right hand man in the boxoffice of the State. She knows a goodly portion of the patrons by name and remembers them when they appear at the cage . . . Practically all the exchanges will hold open house Saturday afternoon, December 23, as Xmas falls on a Monday—besides Saturday is a better day, they say . . . Mrs. Alex Gounark, theatre owner of Mobile, dropped into the city last week on a shopping tour —and incidentally to look over some Xmas films.

Sign on the marquee of the Ashton Theatre: "George Brent in Confessions of an Actress" . . . For the benefit of the girls in the various exchanges on the Row this column reproduces a section of the Walter Winchell broadcast of a few Sundays ago: "Mary Healy, former stenographer for 20th Century-Fox in New Orleans, New Orleans city's beauty queen in 1935 and a rising Hollywood starlet, is now wearing Franchot Tone's jewelry and Randolph Scott's posies."

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" was held over a second week at the Liberty Theatre. With two weeks at the Orpheum this makes four weeks in all with a record attendance.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

CALLED on Mrs. Gerald Brownfield, managing the Desoto at Mansfield, La., and found her still pained by the elbow she broke in May of last year. She has been in the business at Mansfield the past 26 years.

Buford Strange is now managing the Winn at Winnfield, La., for Southern Amusement Co.

Gaston Faralda, who owns the Pink Elephant Theatre at Colfax, La., is also mayor of that thriving metropolis. Sorry I missed "hizzoner" during my recent visit there.

Rumor has reached our ears that Greenville and Greenwood, Miss., both Saenger towns, will have new independent opposition before many more weeks pass.

Guy B. Amis, operator of the Princess at Lexington, Tenn., is also city superintendent of schools. He is redecorating the front and marquee of his theatre and installing new lights.

Wilton Smith, who recently opened the New at Mansfield, La., is painting and repairing his theatre at Hemphill, Tex.

We have a friend in Jarrett who manages the Cane at Nachitoches, La., who tells us he depends entirely upon BOXOFFICE for happenings in his territory.

H. W. Sudduth of the Amusu at Nachitoches has installed Neon trim on the marquee and is remodeling the entire front of the house.

E. L. Drake, city manager for Malco at Jackson, Tenn., is confined to his home with a bad cold, so we are advised by J. R. McEachron, his assistant. We hope he is up and around again real soon.

The Royal at Rolling Fork, Miss., has been redecorated inside, with new booth and hard-of-hearing equipment added.

A nattily dressed gentleman was standing in front of the Princess at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., when I drove up. He had a carefree look on his face and a big cigar in his mouth (southern style). When I got close enough to see him, lo and behold, it was my good friend Lou Ruhlander, who stated that business was good, believe it or not.

This vagabond intends to visit a while in south Georgia and look into things in South Carolina in the hopes of getting a few warm, sunshiny days to fish and, perhaps, do a little golfing with some one who is as big a "dub" as he is.

Haul Away Safe

LUMBERTON, N. C.—The Riverside Theatre here was robbed Sunday. A safe containing $350 in cash, 8,000 theatre tickets and other small items, was taken, according to Manager Lockwood Tupper.

TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE has just had a concrete demonstration of what a theatre manager with courage can do in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles. Ryman Auditorium scheduled a showing of "Tobacco Road" for November 23. A purported board of censors interfered and banned the show. Mrs. L. C. Naff, an old-timer in the show business, instead of cancelling the engagement hired a lawyer and questioned the existence of a city ordinance to back the action of the censors. Less than 36 hours before show time a chancery judge granted an injunction against interference by city officials and the show was staged as advertised. Had Mrs. Naff lost she would have had to pay the guarantee which she might have avoided by earlier cancellation. That's courage for you! The worst of the "cussing" and some of the illuminating pantomiming were eliminated out of respect to local censorship.

Eugene Street, manager of the Park Theatre, Knoxville, discovering a plate window broken in the front of the theatre and his own office entered by means of sawing a hole in the door, wonders what the intruders were after as no money or anything of value was taken. He has decided that the break-in was by amateurs who were frightened away before securing valuables.

Local newspapers were kind to the management of the new Princess Theatre, Harriman, on the occasion of the opening on November 23. One good picture of the front and two of the beautiful interior were shown with several columns of descriptive matter. The theatre seats 900, but there was an SRO sign out for the first show and the house was nearly filled for the second. L. W. Bevel is the manager.

Fred Ford, manager of the Malco Theatre, Memphis, has some very original matter and exclusive information to use in exploiting "Drums Along the Mohawk." Mr. Ford, himself, was born in the Mohawk Valley and had heard many stories of the battles between colonists and the Indians. From a sister in Chicago he secured documentary evidence of the participation of his own ancestors in some of these battles.

"Christmas Benefit Parties" in local theatres is a popular means of securing toys for underprivileged children. Among the houses that have scheduled such parties are the Paramount, Nashville, and the Capitol, Springfield.

A popular radio orchestra, "Hawaiian Hillbillies," was the added feature at the recent opening of the new Crescent Amusement Company's theatre in McMinnville. The new house, which seats 1,000, was filled to overflowing for the premiere show.

Carolina in Florence to Be Rebuilt After Fire

FLORENCE, S. C.—The Carolina Theatre here, ruined by fire November 17, will be rebuilt, it is learned from Herbert F. Kincey of the Wilby-Kincey organization. The building was owned by M. F. Schnibben, a partner with the Kincey group in the operation of the theatre.

The roof fell in shortly after an usher, Woodrow Cook, discovered the fire, stopped the show and told the audience a state law required unscheduled fire drills and asked the crowd to file out. The loss is estimated at $35,000. Part of the walls were left standing, but the furniture and equipment were ruined.

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OKLA. CITY

MARGARET MUELLER'S report on the Thanksgiving turkey-candy punchboard deal discloses that the charming Standard Theatres receptionist "did all right" when questioned what she won. Fact is she got most of the five boxes of candy won by Spence Pierce, Bruce Palmer, Robert Bush, Paul Brown and Frank McCabe. E. A. Patchen and Frank McCabe snuck off with the turkeys.

Turkeys of a different sort were garnered by the boys on the bowling alleys in last week's play in the Variety Club League as 20th Century-Fox lost three to Standard Theatres aggregation; National Theatre Supply won two and lost one in meeting RKO Pictures; Warner won two while losing one with Clark's Poster and Griffith five took three from the Paramount crew. Top scorer was Berlin Parks with 198-216-206 *for a total of* 620 *which is mighty nice bowling. Other two hundreds scored were* 209 *for Moran of National; a* 209 *for Peel of Warner, a* 210 *for Love and* 201 *for Motley of Griffith;* 207 *for McKenna of Clarks and* 203 *for Plumlee of Paramount.*

Jimmy Birge is still down with the flu so Jack Tunsell continues doing the worrying as manager of the Criterion.

Walter Shuttee, Standard general manager, had a minor operation last week. Ask him about it, we're not talking.

Martin Coopersmith, manager of the Victoria, is back after a trip to Lincoln for the Nebraska-Oklahoma football game; where Martin rooted for both sides, being a former Nebraska lad . . . Pauline Johnson, Shuttee's secretary, took in the Missouri game at Columbia.

Johnny Morris, of the cigarette fame, distributed sample cigs from the stages of the Plaza and Criterion while here. While at the Plaza he went duck hunting with F. M. Swigart, house manager, who still has samples of P. M.'s to smoke and doubtless will continue to do same for some time.

John Trotter, Standard accountant, is now busy taking the annual inventory of equipment at all of the local Standard houses.

Basil Lowry is getting some nice pats on the back for his newspaper ad layouts and art work; pats are in the form of telegrams from other theatres in nabe cities asking for mats on the ads for use in their own spots.



At the Opening—

Southwestern Theatre Equipment Co. was well represented at the recent opening of the Navaway Theatre in Houston. Here from Southwestern with Ben McKinney (second from right), the theatre manager, are Jimmie Hill, George Heck and Al Mortenson.

March Opening Slated for R&R Little Rock Theatre

LITTLE ROCK—Robb & Rowley's New Theatre, being constructed here at 112-114 Main St., will open about March 15, it is announced. Building will contain three stories and will be 40x150 feet. Seating capacity will be 950.

Work of razing the buildings on the site began last week. William Peterson is contractor and Corgan & Moore, Dallas, Tex., are the architects.

Special instructions from E. A. Patchen, Standard advertising manager, on what to do with Still No. 6 of Marlene Dietrich's Destry picture: Purchase one small bit of lace from the ten cent store and place it upon the still of La Dietrich—you won't have any trouble finding out just where to put it.

More than 1,200 *toys were collected at a broken toy matinee held by the Warner Theatre last week. The Hospitality Club sponsored the event.*

Johnny Wisdom, manager of Griffith's three theatres at Holdenville, has been transferred to the same circuit's houses at Cleburne, Tex., and Frank Adelotte, manager of the Cleburne houses, has been transferred to Holdenville as city manager.

ARKANSAS

IT HAS been announced that the Kiwanis Club, in cooperation with the Paramount Theatre, Helena, will have a Christmas picture show party for children of the county under 14 years of age. Films will be shown Christmas morning at 10 o'clock at the Pastime and Paramount and bags of candy will be given away.

D. E. Fitton, manager of the Lyric and Plaza at Harrison, has announced that the Plaza will be operated hereafter only on Fridays and Saturdays of each week.

The Rialto, Morrilton, has begun a "Lucky Seat Night." There's no drawing, no tickets issued, and nothing to sign. If the lucky person happens to be in the right seat, the management gives him $10 as an attendance gift.

Residents of Springdale will have a chance to see how they screen. A camera crew is scheduled to be in Springdale this week to film action scenes of people and places in the city. The completed sequence will be filmed at the Concord Theatre.

The Ozark Amusement Co. announces that soon after December 1, two shows a week will be given in the new theatre at Black Rock.

Fire of unknown origin was discovered burning in the Ouachita Theatre at Mt. Ida last Wednesday morning. The fire was soon brought under control, however, without much damage to the building or equipment. Part of the floor and stage was burned and the curtain damaged.

Joe Williams has been appointed manager of the Crystal Theatre at Lewisville, succeeding W. W. Johnson. Desmond Collins, former manager of the house, has been named manager of the State Theatre at Stamps. Williams has been at Lewisville since the theatre was built a few months ago. He has worked for film houses at DeKalb, Tex., and Enid, Okla.

L. E. Gwaltney, well-known theatre owner of Mena, was one of the first in his territory to kill a deer since the season opened this year.

C. C. Mundo, manager of the Rex Theatre, 206 Main, Little Rock, is moving to another building at 213 Main St. Mundo stated attendance necessitated the move into larger quarters. Additional seats will be installed and the sound equipment improved. A permit for remodeling and redecorating the new site at a cost of $3,000 has been issued at the city engineer's office.

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ATLANTA

OUT-OF-TOWN exhibitors Rowing this week: T. K. Jones, Ritz, Dadeville, Ala.; O. L. Gaston, Rose, Forsyth, Ga.; Wallace Smith, Gem, Barnesville, Ga.; H. J. Woodward, Strand, Winder; Roth E. Hook, Hook Theatres, Aliceville, Ala.; L. J. Duncan, Al-Dun Amusement Co., West Point; Louis Ramm, Aiken, S. C.; L. J. Brown, Dixie, Jackson; R. E. Martin, Hugh Martin, A. E. Adams from the Martin Theatres, Columbus, Ga.; J. H. Thompson, Martin-Thompson Theatres, Hawkinsville, Ga.

Congratulations are in order from all golfers and friends of Harold T. Spears, manager of Bailey Theatres, on his recent appointment as president of the Bobby Jones Golf Ass'n.

Wedding bells will ring December 9 for Sara Dumas and Ernest Pelegrin of the Poster Exchange. The wedding will take place at the Calvary Baptist Church.

N. E. Savini of Astor Pictures has closed contracts on "Torpedoed" with Wilby-Kincey circuits in Atlanta and Charlotte; E. J. Sparks circuit in Florida. "Torpedoed" is meeting with tremendous success everywhere.

G. N. Goldwire, manager of the President and YMCA theatres, Manchester, Ga., has been replaced by Robert Lam.

Norman Moray, district manager, Vitaphone short subjects, New York City, was in town on Monday, at which time Warner Bros. screened several short subjects for him.

Mrs. W. B. Smith, Erin Theatre, Tennille, Ga., also a visitor this week, advises she is leaving for New York with her husband within a few days.

Friends of R. L. Joiner, sales representative of the Poster Exchange, will be glad to know that his youngest baby is recovering from a recent case of pneumonia.

A. C. Bromberg of Republic Pictures, better known as "The Chief" to his intimate friends, was seen on the Row in a very sour mood. The rumor is—that his opponent in his regular Tuesday golf game took "three bucks" from him . . . after he had made an assertion, most emphatically before the game, that he would have a public announcement to make to the Walton Knights as to his success. We wonder?

Happy Felton has replaced Buddy Rogers at the Ansley Rainbow Roof for a short engagement. Felton features a complete floor show. During the Atlanta engagement, the Callahan Sisters will be featured. One is an Atlanta girl, Jane Burke, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Norvell.

Along the Row: Bill Griffin, Strand, Cullman, Ala.; Curtis Ware, Royce, Roysston, Ga.; Bob Dunn, Camilla, Camilla, Ga., and H. G. Williams, owner of the New Rainbow, Waycross, Ga.

The Riverside Theatre was destroyed by fire which, it is thought, started in the projection room. Five other shops in the building also were destroyed.

R. F. Griffith of Oklahoma City, Doak Roberts of Dallas and Fred Jack and Gradwell L. Sears, New York Warner executives, stopped here while enroute for a three-week geese hunting trip at Mattamuskeet Lake. They'll be gone three weeks and wind up in Mexico.

Friends of Johnnie Harrell, booker for Martin-Thompson Theatres, Hawkinsville, Ga., are sorry to hear Mrs. Harrell is seriously ill at St. Joseph's Infirmary here.

Martha Adams, daughter of A. E. Adams, general manager for Martin Theatres, Columbus, Ga., is reported recovering at St. Joseph's Infirmary here from a serious case of pneumonia.

John Barton, who played Jeeter a second time when "Tobacco Road" came back to the Erlanger November 27 for a week's farewell presentation, believes roadshows of established stage hits are coming back.

The Capitol Theatre, Atlanta, presented "Wake Up and Cheer," a special stage revue, for four days.

W. J. Collins Buys Wilby Interest in N. Georgia

ATLANTA—W. J. "Bill" Collins, who with Fred McLendon and Mrs. R. S. Kerlin, has bought the Wilby Associates interest in north Georgia, consisting of Toccoa, Cornelia, Clarkesville and Lavonia.

Collins, better known as "Slick," started his career with Pathe in the bookkeeping department and advanced to office manager. Pathe was taken over later by RKO, for whom Collins traveled the southeastern territory for a period of ten years.

When he severed his connections he took a position with Monogram Southern Exchanges for a brief period and from there he became associated with National Screen Service.

Help Buy "Lung"

CHARLOTTE—The Dilworth and Imperial theatres here gave benefit shows for the "iron lung" fund campaign being sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Extension to George Murphy

HOLLYWOOD—George Murphy has been handed a new one-year acting pact at Metro.



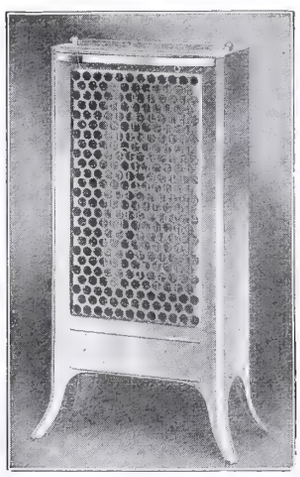
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MEMPHIS

OXFORD, Miss., was very much in the spotlight this past week because of the Mississippi-Mississippi State football game. Mayor R. X. Williams and Mrs. Williams of the Lyric Theatre and Bob Smallwood jr. and S. T. Lyles jr. of the Ritz, entertained a large number of friends with turkey and trimmings at a buffet luncheon at their homes prior to the game. After Mississippi State trampled Ole Miss a sadly disappointed crowd returned to these exhibitors' homes for cocktails. More than 100 guests were received. Among them were: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kuykendall, president of MPTOA, Columbus, Miss.; M. A. Lightman and his son, M. A. jr., and Ed Sapinsley of Malco Theatres, Memphis; Raymond J. Goodman, Rex Theatre, Starkville, Miss., and daughter, Mrs. Eleanor Goodman; Bailey Prichard, Peerless Poster, Memphis; Jimmy Rogers and wife and Herb Kohn of the local Columbia office; Jimmy Prichard and wife of Universal, and Mr. and Mrs. Al Avery of the local RKO office.

Exhibitors along the Row: John Staples, Franklin Theatre, Piggott, Ark.; W. E. Ringer, Gem, Leachville, Ark.; J. J. Rhodes, Crittendon, West Memphis; John Mohrstadt, Missouri, Hayti; Gordon Lee Hutchins, State, Corning, Ark.; Ralph Bachus and W. C. Riley, Colored, Brownsville, Tenn.; Ralph Abramson, Grove, Holly Grove, Ark.; Clyde Browning and son, O. K. Theatre, Ecru, Miss.; R. B. Gooch, Ritz, Selmer, Tenn.; H. R. Mitchell, Linden, Linden, Tenn.; Mrs. Lela Flippin and daughter, Juanita Williams, of the Grand, Cardwell, Mo.; Earl Elkin, Elkin, Aberdeen, and Burris Smith, Imperial, Pocahontas, Ark.

Bob Conway, branch manager for National Screen Service, and his staff made a night of it November 27 at the Hotel Peabody where they ate turkey and danced to the lilting tunes of Ted Fio Rito. This celebration marked the second anniversary of the opening of the exchange in Memphis. Some 25 were in the party . . . Mrs. Lawrence Landers, wife of the exhibitor at Batesville, Ark., underwent an operation for appendicitis and latest report is that she is doing nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Mitchell, who operate the Gem at Dumas and Star City, Ark., were on the Row for the first time in several months. They will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on December 20 and Mrs. Mitchell has her heart set on "something made of wood" . . . Dave Flexer has moved to Kimbrough Towers for the winter . . . B. F. Jackson of the Delta at Ruleville, Miss., was in rearranging bookings. Effective Sunday, December 3, he goes to regular Sunday operation as he has just succeeded in getting the city council's okay.

Two unusual exchange visitors were Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Thornton of the Pastime at Carbonhill and Winfield, Ala. It was their first trip to Memphis in two years . . . Mrs. Charles Morel of Morel Theatre Co. has purchased the Star at Hot Springs, Ark., from H. C. Robinson, who opened the house about 90 days ago. Mrs. Morel owns the Star at El Dorado, Ark., as well as a couple of theatres in Louisiana . . . Miss Anne Lobdell, who owns the Talisman and Rosedale at Rosedale, Miss., has been confined to her home for several weeks due to illness. Polly Coppedge is filling in.

A. A Schubart, manager of branch operations for RKO, spent several days here. He completed plans for the construction of a new exchange building within the next six months, when their present lease expires . . . W. C. Jepson was on the Row booking for his newly-acquired Ritz at Crenshaw, Miss . . . B. Haberfeld of the Varsity, Amory, Miss., is driving a new blue Buick "selected by my daughter."

The Lyle Richmonds of the Missouri Theatre, Senath, Mo., were in Memphis en route home after a three-week vacation down Mexico way. Lyle advised they stopped at Baton Rouge, Galveston and Port Isabel, where they got in a lot of deep sea fishing, and from there visited points in Mexico . . . C. O. Niblack jr., booker at RKO, is back at his desk after a tonsillotomy.

On December 9, Jackson, Tenn., will vote on Sunday shows. Supporters of the petition are organizing their forces . . . The Commercial Appeal's *annual Christmas Fund Revue, a midnight frolic for the benefit of the city's unfortunates, will be held Sunday night, December 17, at Loew's State. Three outstanding orchestras will be presented on the stage, with the feature, "Too Hot to Handle." Show will be under the supervision of Col. Cecil E. Vogel, manager of Loew's.*

He's Well Along the Journalistic Road

Charlotte—Filmrow knows and so does his mother that Jackie Griffith, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Griffith, is a budding journalist.

Recently he and one of his pals, Dick Stitt, started a miniature weekly, calling it the "Sugar Creek News" after the creek that flows through their neighborhood. Their first issue contained only one editorial, to-wit: "This publication is for the purpose of giving us kids a little dough for Xmas. And we don't need so much. We intend to be sincere with our subscribers."

However, the paper contains several departments, given over mainly to news of the boys in the neighborhood, with advertising space blocked out "for sale."

Mrs. Griffith, for many years secretary of the Theatre Owners of the Carolinas, multigraphs the paper for the boys, but they write all the copy and collect for the ads they sell. And she's paid for her work, Mrs. Griffith adds, because, "it must be run on a business basis."—M. B. P.



NTS Equipment Sales

DALLAS—Recent equipment sales announced by the local National Theatre Supply branch include: Screens for the Isis, Fort Worth; Majestic, Florence, Tex.; and Ritz, Hillsboro, Tex.; screen, carpet and padding for the Inez, Naples; lamps, generator and screen, for the Majestic, Stephenville, Tex., and magazines, pedestals, changeovers, turntable and Simplex sound and mechanisms to J. V. Carter.

"Die Poor" to Fessier

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has assigned Michael Fessier to script "The Good Die Poor."

DALLAS

Variety Luncheon for NSS To Near Record Crowd

DALLAS—One of the largest gatherings to ever attend a Variety Club luncheon was present when Tent No. 17 honored the entire personnel of National Screen Service.

The overflow crowd had to be accommodated in the Palm Room. After a turkey dinner, the usual Bank Night was held. Winner was Frank "Pancho" Orlando Starz, genial and brusk publicity director for Interstate.

The highlight of the affair was the address by William McCraw, former attorney general of Texas. In fact it was not an address but an undressing, for McCraw, in his own inimitable manner, flayed Wallace Walthall, branch manager, and Joe Estes, special service manager, in no uncertain terms. He also picked out several prominent guests and made them the butt of his "stinging" remarks.

Cornwell Replaces West at Griffith Enid Houses

OKLAHOMA CITY—Paul Cornwell of Guthrie has been named to replace Paul West as assistant manager of the Griffith theatres at Enid. West has been transferred temporarily for three weeks to Sapulpa as assistant manager and then will go to Bartlesville in the same capacity.

Cornwell has been with the company for eight and one-half years, being in Okmulgee prior to Guthrie. West has been with the company for five and one-half years, coming to Enid one year ago from Chickasha.

George Limerick is the manager in the Enid district.

V. E. Hamm Opens Third House in Electra, Tex.

ELECTRA, TEX.—V. E. Hamm of Wichita Falls has opened this town's third theatre, the Roxy. The other two are the Grand and Liberty, operated for years by Mrs. Marthe McSpadden. Hamm operates three theatres in Wichita Falls and one in Vernon, in addition to his new Electra house.

Two Allied Members Now Competitors in Electra

DALLAS—Mrs. McSpadden is a vice-president of Allied Theatre Owners of Texas. Hamm, likewise, is an Allied member in good standing

Ready in 1941

HOT SPRINGS, ARK.—The Malco Music Hall, being constructed on the site of the old Princess Theatre which was destroyed by fire several years ago, will probably be completed in the spring of 1941. The building will be equipped for radio broadcasting studios and theatre offices.

James Tune Opens Second

SHELBYVILLE, TENN.—The new Bedford Theatre here has been opened by James Tune, owner of the Princess Theatre.

PAUL SCOTT opened his River Oaks Theatre in Houston, Tuesday night . . . Paul Short, National Screen's district manager, has been on the sick list with a cold and throat ailment and it was give or take as to whether his doctor would allow him to go to Wichita Falls for the Interstate opening . . . Interstate's roadshowing of Columbia's "U-Boat 29" is going well over the circuit.

Fred Cannata paid one of his periodical visits to Filmrow and was seen shaking hands with his many friends. He is general manager of the Horwitz theatres in Houston . . . Harold Werner of Trinity, Tex., was another visitor.

Morris Wall, youngest member of the NSS special service department, is a benedict. He was married to Vondell Reed last week, and it was a genuine surprise to all of the National Screen gang.

Horace Falls, Griffith executive from Oklahoma City, was in with Mrs. Falls and their attractive young daughter. All were guests of the Wallace Walthalls . . . The Oklahoma City Variety Club is now chartered and the formal celebration of the event was scheduled for Saturday night, December 2, in the new and elaborate quarters atop the Black Hotel.

Lynn Stocker of Griffith and Burt King of RCA went deer hunting in southwest Texas, near Fredericksburg, and both got the limit of two bucks . . . R. E. Griffith, Doak Roberts and party were on a goose and duck hunt in the Carolinas. Fred Jack was understood to be in the crowd joined by Gradwell Sears, the Warner general sales manager, who was making a tour of the southern territory.

Jack Gruben, Monogram representative, bought a new car the other day and on about the first trip had a collision near Houston. Somebody backed into it and badly damaged the rear end. Jack, they say, had to foot the bill. More Gruben news is that Jack took the Shrine in Dallas a few days ago which somehow hit a tender spot with him. Immediately after, he bought Mrs. Gruben a new mink coat.

Hollis Boren of Memphis has purchased the old Opera House in Jacksboro from C. A. Worthington. His new buy is an upstairs' show. Boren now has Memphis, Jacksboro, Tulia, Dimmitt and one other situation . . . The Mauldins and the Blockers were on the Row this week. Mrs. W. A. Mauldin has taken over operation of the Texas at Abilene and Mrs. Blocker will be manager there, friends learned. Mrs. Mauldin headquarters and lives in Lubbock. Andy Mauldin, just out of the hospital after medical treatment, is looking for new theatre locations.

Jack Sanders has opened a new theatre at Cushing, Tex. . . . Yeggs knocked over the safe at H. S. Usry's Majestic Theatre at Decatur over the weekend. Reports said the amount was around $900 *. . . L. C. Baxley is all set with a location for his new theatre in Houston, Filmrow friends say. Baxley recently purchased a complete outlay of equipment with the announcement that he would soon open a new neighborhood theatre in the Bayou City.*

William "Bill" Hurst indicates he is already on the profit side within a short time after taking over the Ritz at Denton from E. L. Black. Hurst, Columbia salesman for several years, was on the Row with his usual vigor this week . . . G. Farris Squibb of Nocona, who is about to open a new theatre there, was on the Row, Tuesday, with his attorney, Pat Russell, calling on exchanges in his quest for product for the new house.

Arthur Harris and I. Brode are back from New York and friends say they have several feature pictures to offer Texas and southwestern exhibitors. These men gave showmen at least two "naturals" in ringside fight pictures.

Bingo family parties at Variety clubrooms on Friday nights have reached the colossal stage. Last week the hosts were Mike Rice and Mrs. Rice. The coming Friday night Herman Biersdorf of 20th Century-Fox, Mrs. Biersdorf and daughter were to be host and hostess . . . Alfred Sack, president of Sack Amusement Enterprises, is back in town after a vacation trip to California.

Hundreds Turned Away at Bryan Theatre Opening

BRYAN, TEX.—Mrs. Morris Schulman, owner of the new Queen Theatre which opened here last Tuesday, had to turn away hundreds the first night. In the management of this new house, Mrs. Schulman is assisted by Mrs. Henry Lazarus of New Orleans.

Important in the opening ceremonies was a band concert by members of the A&M College band. The mayor and a district judge made short dedicatory addresses. Following the show, Mrs. Schulman entertained many local and visiting friends at her home.

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SANTONE

CLARENCE MOSS is the new advertising and publicity director for Interstate theatres here with the promotion of Jack Chalman to the Dallas press department for the circuit. New assistant to Moss is Richard "Dick" Betts, former ad sales manager for the Paramount branch exchange, which was located here recently.

While "Scotty" Robson is now on the ailing list, A. Urban is taking care of the screen trailer service for the local houses . . . The PBX operator at the Interstate switchboard reports the reason Hazel Heard missed that 20-cent lunch the other day was because of her poor poker hand . . . Beulah Greene spent a few days in Dallas last week . . . Emily Williams still taking weekend flying lessons between Santone and Corpus . . . Texas Theatre has two new picture change days—Mondays and Thursdays.

Spending the mid-week visiting his mother over in Troup, Tex., was Johnny Floore of the Majestic . . . When one walks into the office of Henry Bergman at the Texas, he feels he is in a theatrical booking agency, judging from all of the swell celebrities' photos on the wall.

C. W. Rzeppa has closed his Poth Theatre at Poth after being open only 12 weeks.

Tommy Lee, debonair doorman at the Majestic, limping a little these days. Reason: Cutting his foot on a recent duck-hunting expedition.

The Weaver Brothers with Sister Elviry played a week's engagement at the Majestic the past week. Paramount's "Cat and the Canary" was on the silver screen.

Pre-"Franksgiving Eve" midnight show at the Aztec was in the form of a Hollywood "Sneak" Preview offering the public two feature films for the price of one.

Four outstanding roadshows have been booked by Interstate for the new season. They include Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in "The Taming of the Shrew" at the Texas, December 28; "I Married an Angel" starring Dennis King and Vivienne Siegel, December 11 and 12; then on January 24 comes Sophie Tucker with Victor Moore in "Leave It to Me," and Edward Everett Horton in "Springtime for Henry" scheduled for February 17, all at the Texas.

After being dark for several months, the Ritz, colored house, reopened its doors again Sunday. This Negro theatre is now known as the "Harlem." "I Was a Convict" was on the opening program.

"Clouds in the Sky," a film to combat tuberculosis, is being made here at the Sidney Lanier Senior School under the direction of the National Tuberculosis Ass'n with Edgar Ulmer, director; J. Burgi Contner, cameraman; Sidney Zucker, assistant photographer, and R. C. Ortega of Austin director of the Latin-American health education in Texas. Miss Rosario de la Vega of New York, ex-San Antonio actress, plays the leading feminine role in the picture. The production, of feature length, is in sound with talking sequences and is aimed at the Spanish-speaking people.

Recent local callers were L. W. McClintock, Paramount branch manager from Dallas and his salesman, Tommy Bridge of the same office.

The new Interstate Theatre Basketball League swung into action recently out at the Woodlawn Lake Gym. Wednesday, the Majestic Theatre trimmed the Aztec cagers by a score of 19 to 14. League's standing so far and this week's schedule is as follows:

	Won	Lost
Empire	1	0
Texas	1	0
Majestic	1	1
Aztec	0	1
State	0	1

Monday: Aztec vs. State at 8 a. m.; Empire vs. Texas, 9 a. m., with the Majestic goalers having a bye.

Add: New picture change days at the Empire Theatre—Monday, Wednesday and Friday . . . Celeste Allen in conjunction to managing the Harlem Theatre is also emceeing and producing the new stage-show presentations for the only Negro flesh house in town.

The Majestic Theatre held its annual pep rally Monday and Tuesday nights at which time students from Brackenridge and Jefferson high schools were honored along with football players from both schools. Continuing its custom of presenting a trophy to the winning team, the Majestic had on display in the lobby, the trophy to be presented the victorious team after the skirmish here Thanksgiving Eve. The students witnessed the current showing of a Paramount chiller on the two nights.

Special Thanksgiving midnight show at the Majestic was "The Roaring Twenties" . . . The Texas put on a special exploitation stunt for the opening Monday of "Blondie Brings Up Baby" . . . Irvin S. Cobb stopped at the Hotel Plaza here recently en route to a hunting trip around Kerrville.

"Transcontinental"

MIAMI—The country's first "transcontinental" motion picture is the newest title being given to Max Fleischer's "Gulliver's Travels," now being rushed to completion at the new Miami studios. This full-length Technicolor feature is being so tabbed as the result of some recent higher mathematics on the part of several studio employes who figure that the film already has traveled some 176,800 miles, mostly by air. Why? The individual celluloids are being drawn and photographed in Miami while the film development is being executed in the laboratories of the Technicolor corporation in Hollywood.

On his recent arrival in Hollywood to view progress being made at Technicolor laboratories, Dave Fleischer was asked repeatedly why the new studios had not been built in California. Dave told all his questioners in these words:

"We used to make our pictures in New York. But we got too crowded and started looking around for larger quarters. Florida offered us land tax free for the next 20 years if we'd build our plant there. We didn't notice any such offers from California, so we chose Miami. And we're all glad we did. Living conditions are ideal, prices are not too high, and our whole staff is enjoying life in Miami."

"Gulliver's Travels," which will have its world premiere at the Sheridan Theatre on the beach, will be shown all over the country before Christmas.

Opening at Wichita Falls Draws Dallas Trade Folk

WICHITA FALLS, TEX.—Opening of the new Wichita Theatre here Wednesday night by Interstate circuit was attended by many trade folk from Dallas who received invitations from Karl Hoblitzelle and R. J. O'Donnell, executives.

Included among those at the event were Raymond Willie, William O'Donnell, "Speed" Hoover, Elmer Zrenner, Arthur Harris, I. Brode, Paul Short, Wallace Walthall and Joe Estes.

AUSTIN

CONVENTION of 12,000 Texas Baptists in Austin November 30 to December 2 made up the business lost by local theatres during the University of Texas's three-day Thanksgiving holiday . . . Louis Novy, Interstate city manager, attended the football classic between Texas A & M and Texas at College Station, Tex.

Second French picture, outside of the private Alliance Francaise series, to be brought to Austin this season was "Bizarre Bizarre" at the Texas Theatre. This same house, which is across the street from the University of Texas, exhibited "Grand Illusion" earlier this fall.

The Varsity entered its fourth year of operation quietly this week. Manager Charlie Root, who has been at the helm of this de luxe house since its opening day, said the Varsity's birthday week conflicted with too many campus activities, hence all observances were given the go-by.

Sigma Delta Chi, honorary journalism fraternity, sponsored a midnight show at the Varsity . . . The Austin is offering a special children's matinee every Saturday afternoon from 2 to 3 for 5 cents a head.

The Capitol is sponsoring a series of six "Ambrosia Kiddie Shows" at which six bicycles will be given away in a tieup with the Texas Star Ambrosia Flour Mills.

"Building the P. B. Y. Record Breaker," an industrial film showing the construction of the Navy's newest bombers, was shown to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineering, and the University Aeronautical Society.

Sharp Trend Toward Chain Operations

MONTREAL—The trend in Canada during the past few years has been definitely away from the independent to the multiple operation of theatres. While 71.8 per cent of the theatres operated in 1930 were owned singly, this group has decreased to 54.3 per cent in 1937 and to 50 per cent in 1938. Two and three-unit groups operated 92 theatres in 1930, 119 in 1937 and 156 in 1938, indicating a tendency of independent owners to take over other neighboring theatres. The "chain" group, consisting of all those firms operating four or more theatres, increased in number of theatres operated from 18 per cent of the total number in 1930 to 34 per cent in 1937 and 36 per cent in 1938. Chains of four or more theatres secured 58.9 per cent of the total admissions and 64 per cent of the total receipts for 1938.

The average number of seats occupied per performance in any given theatre in relation to its total seating capacity depends on several factors including the size of locality, the size of the theatre, the number of days per week in operation and number of evening and matinee performances.

The ratio by provinces, in 1938, is as follows:

	Per Cent		Per Cent
British Columbia	32	Quebec, N. B.	25
Ontario	30	Nova Scotia	24
Alberta	29	Saskatchewan	22
Manitoba	27	Pr. Ed. Island	21

The average ratio for all theatres in Canada, based on the total admissions and potential admissions was unchanged from 1937 at 28 per cent.

In selected cities, the ratio was as follows:

	Per Cent		Per Cent
Toronto	34	Winnipeg, Calgary, Windsor	26
Vancouver	31	Montreal	25
Hamilton, Edmon.	29	Halifax	24
Quebec City	28	London, Ont.	22
Ottawa	27		

Disregarding differences in price tickets for adults and children, and for evening and matinee performances, regarding which no information is available, the average price of admission for each theatre was calculated by dividing the total receipts by the total number of admissions.

Although this price ranges from less than 10 cents to well over 50 cents per person, 41 per cent of the theatres average between 20 and 25 cents per ticket and 61 per cent average between 20 and 30 cents per admission. There were 202 theatres each of which charged less than 20 cents admission while 238 average 30 cents and over for each ticket sold.

Only 658 or 58 per cent of the theatres in Canada were operated on a full-time basis in 1938 and 151 others operated an average of from 1 to 5 days per week for the full 52 weeks. Theatres operating for less than 52 weeks include new theatres opened during the year, theatres closed either temporarily or permanently and theatres in summer resorts and small towns where only seasonal operation is possible. In Quebec where 7 days per week operation is permissible, 83 per cent of the theatres were in operation for a full period.

In Ontario, 93 per cent operated on a full time basis, in the Maritimes, 72 per cent; in British Columbia, 69 per cent; while in the Prairie Provinces only 38 per cent of the theatres operated throughout the year.

Two Ottawa Houses Think of Troops

Ottawa—To provide Canadian troops with reading material and other comforts, two of the theatres in Ottawa have conducted special Saturday morning shows for juveniles, the admission charge for which are three recent magazines, a fiction book or a package of cigarettes. The screen program comprised cartoons and other appropriate pictures. The two theatres cooperating in the movement were the Capitol, a Famous Players' house, and the Elgin, an independent. The lobbies were piled high with a wide assortment of publications.

Gains From New Booth Law Are Short-Lived

VANCOUVER—The rejoicing of suburban exhibitors over the order in council whereby theatres open to the public not more than 40 hours per week were not required to have more than one projectionist in the booth, was short-lived.

An amendment has been passed putting the regulation back where it was with the exception that those houses with 450 seats, or less, can operate with one man.

As a result, several exhibitors now are planning to reduce their seating to within the limit set.

Abandon Plan for Sunday Red Cross Benefit Show

TORONTO—There was such opposition to the holding of a Sunday moving picture performance at the theatre in Fort Erie, Ont., in aid of the Canadian Red Cross Society that the project was dropped.

Special permission for the show, to be held Sunday afternoon, November 26, had been given by the theatres inspection branch of the Ontario Government through Chairman O. J. Silverthorne, Toronto, with the stipulation that all proceeds be turned over to the Red Cross and that a financial statement be submitted to the Provincial Government.

The Fort Erie Ministerial Ass'n headed a movement to oppose the show, however, Capt. the Rev. Henry Cotton of Central Avenue United Church voicing the opinion that it was the thin edge of the wedge with respect to Sunday shows in the Province of Ontario. The organizers of the show, accordingly, abandoned their plans at the last minute.

Fort Erie is on the Canadian side directly opposite to the City of Buffalo, N. Y., where Sunday shows are regularly held at which many Canadians are patrons but this had no bearing in the arguments of the ministers. The theatre at Fort Erie is the Bellard.

Expect No Industrial Spurt Until Spring

TORONTO—According to economic students, no great stimulus for trade in Canada as a result of the war is expected until the spring of 1940 when operations in the field as well as industrial activity at home in Canada are expected to open up. This opinion is based on the observance of business trends during the first three months of the war in which there has apparently been much sparring but not a great deal of heavy fighting between the Allies and Germany. Canadians have generally accepted the belief that this is "a strange war" and that there is no precedent to form a guide as to what may happen, either at home or abroad, but the manner in which the situation has been shaping itself in recent weeks indicates that industrial action will be felt in the spring. In the meantime, industrial and commercial interests are marking time.

Watch Barometers Closely

Heads of the moving picture business in Canada have been alert in watching the general trends to organize to meet developments and plans have been changed in a number of instances. The various barometers have been closely watched. Employment has increased to a degree and carloadings have been greater since the war began, stocks of wheat and other commodities are high when compared with one year ago and prices are steady. Persons on direct unemployment relief throughout Canada totaled 541,500, a decrease of 2.2 per cent compared with the same period of 1938. The general opinion is that enlistments in the armed forces have brought about this unemployment decrease.

With the theatre situation, Famous Players Canadian Corp. dropped its general plan for the sale of thrift tickets in booklet form which would provide a special rate for quantity purchases but the coupons have been put on sale in a number of test theatres to see what will happen. Christmas Gift Tickets are on sale at all theatres, however. A number of the chain theatres are offering cash stunts or giveaways to meet this form of competition by many independents. Famous Players is continuing its annual managers' bonus quota feature but dropped its extra bonus contest and there has been no move to restore it. New theatre projects have been shelved by both the chains and the independents, with a comparatively few odd exceptions, but if the prices of building materials continue steady there may be a limited resumption of theatre construction next spring. There is a marked lack of war excitement throughout the Dominion as compared with the First Great War.

Museum Shows Scenics

OTTAWA—Moving picture programs have been resumed on Saturday mornings at the National Museum, Ottawa, for juvenile audiences but films of foreign origin were conspicuous by their absence, the various pictures being Canadian scenics. The program was repeated the following Tuesday evening for an adult audience.

TORONTO

RAYMOND MASSEY, Toronto actor, appearing in "Abraham Lincoln in Illinois" at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto, during the past week, was accorded a reception by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and Mrs. A. C. Matthews in the Parliament Buildings here. Massey, accompanied by his wife, was also a guest at the home of his cousin, Denton Massey, a member of the Canadian House of Commons.

Following a tour of inspection of western Canadian branch offices by W. A. Perry, general manager of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., Frank Vaughan, former branch manager at Calgary, has moved to Winnipeg where he has been established in the new position of western division manager of the exchange. Perry reported excellent business progress in the west where big crops have brought a return of confidence.

Gordon Calhoun who has leased his Capitol Theatre at Aylmer, Ont., to the Allen circuit after operating the house since 1933, is the first man to arrange to spend the winter in Florida. He is leaving almost immediately for the south and will not return until the spring when he will take up residence in London, Ont.

John Grierson, Dominion film commissioner, was heard over the network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Thursday evening in a 15-minute broadcast on the subject of "Films and the War" in which he declared that the public is wise to propaganda on the screen.

Manager Fred Trebilcock of the Toronto Uptown had a crowded house Saturday morning for an extra performance of "The Lion Has Wings" for juveniles. Next to play this theatre is "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex."

Tom Naylor of Toronto, formerly with Cosmopolitan Films, Ltd., has been appointed manager of the Century Theatre at Trenton, Ont., an attractive structure which was converted from a garage. The Century is being operated by 20th Century Theatres of which N. A. Taylor is general manager.

H. M. Masters, general manager of United Artists Corp., Ltd., is back at Toronto headquarters following a busy trip through Quebec and the Maritime Provinces as far as St. John.

Charles Cashman of Photo-Engravers and Electrotypers, Ltd., Toronto, is a candidate for the office of Reeve in the Township of York where he has been a member of the council for years. He is well known along Filmrow and among theatre men because of the extensive work done by his firm in the making of engravings and matrices.

Harry Allen, general manager of Grand National Films, Ltd., announced the Canadian premiere of the Australian-made feature, "Rangle River," at the Avenue Theatre, North Toronto. Canadian Grand National, a separate company from that in the United States, is carrying on with state-right features.

Ross Trimble, formerly with the RKO Distributing Co. of Canada, Toronto, and now coach of the Ottawa Rough Riders, was congratulated by his film trade friends when his team won the professional football championship from the Toronto Argonauts. The Rough Riders are now playing off with regional winners for the Canadian gridiron title after which Trimble expects to return to the film business.

Simon Meretsky, owner of three theatres in Windsor, Ontario, declared, during a busy round of the Toronto exchanges, that business is down about ten per cent because of labor troubles at various automobile plants in the Detroit-Windsor area.

Because of difficulty in getting suitable grounds, the Ottawa Baseball Club in the Canadian-American League is to be transferred to either Schenectady or Oneonta, N. Y., according to the president of the club, Don Stapleton, who is also proprietor of the Centre Theatre in Ottawa. Lansdowne Park, where games were played last season, is now being used as a military barracks, the buildings having been taken over for the duration of the war.

Manager Tom Daley of the Imperial Theatre, big downtown house for the Famous Players' chain, has held over "First Love" for a second week. Every Deanna Durbin feature has played an extended engagement at the Imperial.

"You're in the Army Now," a British feature, played the Patricia Theatre, London, Ont., a couple of years ago and was a flop. It was brought back to the same theatre for a three-day run last week and proved to be a rousing hit.

Manager Al Sedgewick of the Belsize Theatre had a nifty tieup with the Purity Bread Co. in a model airplane contest on the stage at a Saturday matinee. The theatre received several nice radio boosts and the whole stunt did not cost the theatre one cent.

Employes of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., including both headoffice and local branch staffs, are having a great time with a bowling league in which eight mixed teams are competing. Thus far it is a wide-open race with honors well divided.

No trace has been found of the robbers who secured $1,400 from the safe of the Eglinton Theatre, ace suburban house of the Famous Players' chain in Toronto.

The first of the special Christmas shows has been announced. The Toronto Daily Star *has arranged a special morning performance on December 27 at the Tivoli Theatre for its several thousand carrier boys.*

The Oakwood Theatre was filled to capacity for a special midnight frolic in cooperation with neighborhood merchants known as the St. Clair "60" Club when 145 prizes were distributed. Of the proceeds, $100 was turned over to the Canadian Red Cross and the remainder is to be spent in community charity.

Douglas Evans is in charge of the advertising department of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., during the absence on the road of George Oullahan.

The film policy of the Capitol Theatre, Ottawa, was broken Friday night, December 1, for the one concert performance of the New York Philharmonic Society. Jan Kiepura has been booked for one appearance at this theatre on February 22 . . . Betty Low of Ottawa known on the stage as Ludmilla Lvova, is sailing for Australia for a 30-weeks' tour as a ballet dancer. She has just concluded a three-weeks' engagement in New York City after returning from England where a tour was disrupted by the war.

Ted Gould, formerly manager of the Winnipeg branch of Regal Films, Ltd., until his promotion as Ontario branch manager, arrived in Toronto November 29 to assume his new post in succession to Gordon Lightstone, who has become general sales manager.

G. D. Fairley, manager of the Capitol Theatre at Belleville for several months, has been transferred to the Toronto office of Associated Theatres, Ltd., and has been succeeded at Belleville by T. Mascaro, manager of the Granada at Hamilton for the past nine months.

Claire Hague, Canadian general manager for Universal Pictures, has become a real farmer, having purchased a tractor with which to engage in wartime production on his farm at Weston.

Robert Eves, who made a name for himself as manager of the Eglinton Theatre, a Famous Players' house in the Toronto north end, has been returned to the desk of that theatre from the Oakwood to which Jack Purves has been appointed as manager. Purves was at the Village Theatre in Forest Hill for some time.

F. J. McCarthy, executive of Universal Pictures in New York City, recently spent two busy days at the Toronto headquarters of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd.

Manager R. L. Downey had a record crowd at the Beach Theatre, a chain unit

Trailer Tells Time To Soldiers

Ottawa—A new announcement slide has made its appearance on the screens of theatres because of the war.

A break is made in the evening performances at cinemas in proximity to military camps to flash the message on the screen: "Soldiers, it is now 9:30 p. m."

This is more than a gentle hint to the boys in khaki that they must "get going" in order to return to barracks before "Lights Out" is sounded—unless they have been fortunate enough to secure a midnight pass when they can see the show a second time if they desire without danger of kitchen duty the next day.

in suburban Toronto, for the annual midnight show of the Beach Businessmen's Ass'n when hundreds of patrons could not wedge into the theatre. Merchants of the district gave 200 prizes for the performance.

Simon Meretsky, theatre veteran of Windsor, Ont., in town for a day or two, declared that business was temporarily off, but he is going ahead with plans for the erection of a fifth theatre in that city to seat 750 persons. In association with Famous Players, he operates the Capitol, Empire, Tivoli and Regent theatres.

G. W. Calhoun has leased his Capitol Theatre at Aylmer, Ont., to Premier Theatres, which is the Allen chain. The Capitol seats 300.

George Oullahan and Walter Kennedy of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., and James Foy of Sovereign Film Distributors are on the road in Ontario for the purpose of organizing and directing the weekly Foto-Nite stunts in Famous Players and Associated houses. One of the latest to introduce the feature is the Geneva Theatre at Orillia, which was opened a few weeks ago. The Capitol, Avalon and Rideau theatres in Ottawa are putting on the stunt as well as many theatres in other smaller towns.

Monroe Greenthal of United Artists Corp., New York, spent several days in Toronto for the North American premiere of the Korda special, "The Lion Has Wings," which opened November 29 at the big Uptown Theatre. The newspapers gave it excellent space. Previously, Manager Fred Trebilcock of the Uptown had held over "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" for a second week.

The Santa Claus Parade of the T. Eaton Co., through the streets of Toronto, had a distinctly "movie" atmosphere with elaborate floats depicting "The Wizard of Oz," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and other appropriate attractions. It was estimated that the colorful parade was seen by 300,000 persons. Manager Tom Daley of the Imperial in downtown Toronto capitalized on the congestion by putting on a special Saturday morning show starting at 11 o'clock with "First Love."

Manager Ingram had a big turnout at the Bayview Theatre in Leaside for the annual theatre night of the Leaside Lions Club. Manager Bob Eves organized a frolic for the Eglinton Businessmen's Ass'n at the Eglinton Theatre on Friday night, December 1.

Nat Sandler has taken over the local Centre Theatre, Dundas St., which was closed for a short time. This house, formerly the Duchess and previously operated by Harry Cash, has been given a new front and otherwise improved. The Queen Theatre, 1574 Queen Street East, Toronto, is now under the management of Roy Mitchell, formerly with a local exchange. This 470-seat house is owned by Mrs. P. Clarfield.

The Griffin Theatre Co. has acquired control of the Capitol in Woodstock, Ont., which had been leased to Famous Players, and it will be under the management of Peter Griffin, a descendant of the pioneer exhibitor in the Toronto district. The Griffins also will rebuild the Griffin Theatre at Chatham, Ont., which has been dark for a number of years while under lease to the chain company.

No trace has been found of the burglars who robbed the Eglinton Theatre of $1,400 which was taken from the theatre safe without damaging it.

Since his recent appointment as Dominion film commissioner, John Grierson of London, England, has appeared twice on the Canadian radio network. A week ago Sunday he gave a talk on the government's picture of the Royal Tour which is having its first runs at Ottawa and London, Ont., and on Thursday night, November 30, he gave a 15-minute speech on film propaganda, when he was introduced as "Commissioner of the Dominion Motion Picture Bureau."

WINNIPEG

THERE is a persistent rumor in the city to the effect that a new house is to be erected at Kenora, Ont.

The Film Exchange Bowling League is new in full session with UA leading with nine wins and one loss.

A new film men's social organization has been formed here. Known as the Legionnaires, it is composed of salesmen from the various companies.

The Playhouse Theatre which opened recently under the management of Joe and Max Freed is doing successful business under a policy of first run films and vaudeville.

A visitor to the city this week was Jim Cameron of the F-P Toronto publicity office who arrived here in connection with plans for a bang up opening of the new Korda film, "The Lion Has Wings," which will play the Capitol next week. Cameron will visit Vancouver, Calgary and be back in Winnipeg before his return to Toronto.

Arrangements have been completed whereby Douglas V. Rosen will act as representative for Canadian Chair Co. of Toronto. Rosen also will act as representative for the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Jack Cohen, Columbia Pictures, has returned from Calgary.

Frank Goldhar, formerly of Columbia Pictures, has joined the staff of Grand National . . . J. Miles, president of Western Theatres, Ltd., is in Toronto.

Among visitors: Mrs. G. Peebles of Dauphin, Claire Fallis of Rainy River, Charles Boechner of Toronto and Leon Asper of Minnedosa.

Mrs. Harry Phillett, Regal Films, has gone to California for the winter . . . N. Rothstein, operating the Rothstein circuit, is making a tour of the circuit.

The Theatrical Men's Bowling League is going great guns with Westhos in the lead and the Uptown Blue Bloomers putting up a close battle despite the presence of Eddie Newman on the team.

"Crime in the Maginot Line," a GN release, is breaking house records at Helmer Jernberg's Rio . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is in its fifth week at the Garrick.

ALONG BALLYHOO ROW:

A badly battered motor car on a float attracted attention for Don Gauld's showing of the Crime Does Not Pay short, "Drunk Driving." For "Information, Please," Gauld tied in with Canada Dry, sponsors of the program from which the film was made, which netted him signs on the backs of the company's trucks.

Three windows in the T. Eaton Co. and two in the Hudson's Bay Co. store were highlights in Harold Bishop's campaign in connection with his current showing of Deanna Durbin's "First Love." Other angles included contacting the president of the Deanna Durbin Devotees Club, letters to the members of the Women's Musical Club and electrical transcriptions of the film broadcast over radio station CJRC.

At the Lyceum, Eddie Newman seems to have solved the problem of bad Monday attendance with the introduction of his new stage feature, "Skull Practice". This is in the form of a quiz program before the house and also broadcast over station CJRC. Attendance on Monday nights is steadily on the increase and the house has been getting lots of publicity through the station and the press in the radio columns.

Leonard Bishop Succeeds Krendal in Toronto

TORONTO—Leonard Bishop has been appointed to the management of Famous-Players' Tivoli Theatre in downtown Toronto which plays immediate second-runs to the Uptown and Imperial theatres in a double-bill policy. He succeeds Dan Krendal who has been transferred to Hamilton, Ontario, where Bishop was formerly manager of the Tivoli Theatre.

Leonard Bishop, who is a brother of Harold T. Bishop, manager of the Capitol at Winnipeg, Man., has been located in many cities of both eastern and western Canada over a period of years, including London, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax in the east and several cities out west.

Transition at Sudbury

TORONTO—The new theatre at Sudbury, Ont., has become a hotel instead. When the house was under construction, announcement was made by the theatres inspection branch of the Ontario government that the building would not be approved for structural reasons, which meant that a theatre license would not be granted. The building was offered for sale and now the information is forthcoming that the place has been converted into a hostelry.

MARITIMES

JACK KIELY recently returned to his home in Montreal after a visit to Newfoundland. The boat trip was made in darkness due to war restrictions. While in Saint John, Kiely spent quite some time on Filmrow arranging bookings for his theatres in St. John's, Cornerbrook, Grand Falls and Belle Island, all of which are in Newfoundland.

L. A. Sprague of the Maritime Theatre Equipment Co. and connected with several theatres in this territory, who was married a short time ago, was honor guest at a very informal gathering held at the offices of the Maritime Film Co. when he was presented with a lovely toastmaster set, the tray of which has a silver plaque appropriately engraved, a gift from the Saint John Film Exchanges.

Morris A. Milligan, Paramount's Canadian general manager, spent a few days at the Saint John branch office . . . Recent visitors to Filmrow included C. E. Staples of the Queen Theatre, St. Stephen, N. B., and Colin Danson of the Strand Theatre, Sussex, N. B.

Survey Lists Proprietors' Salaries and Numbers

MONTREAL—A Dominion government survey of proprietors and firm members actively engaged in Canadian theatres in addition to the regular paid employes, shows that 251 male and 36 female proprietors draw regular salaries amounting to over $392,000, while 556 male and 213 female proprietors and members of proprietors' families are employed without stated pay, their compensation consisting of the profits of the enterprise only.

Active proprietors and working members of their families were reported in 1938 almost exclusively from independent or two and three-unit firms. Ontario reported 275; Saskatchewan, 193; Quebec, 152; Alberta, 135; Manitoba, 110; British Columbia, 101; Nova Scotia, 52; New Brunswick, 32; Prince Edward Island, 6.

Eighteen Toronto Schools Have Film Equipment

TORONTO—The extent to which moving pictures are being utilized in the high schools of Toronto has been brought out in the announcement that 18 collegiates, high schools and technical colleges under the jurisdiction of the Toronto board of education have been fitted with projection equipment which is used for both class work and entertainment. Camera clubs or photography classes are to be found at a number of these schools for the production of films.

As yet only 14 public schools have been equipped with projection machines and 12 of these installations have been purchased by the board. None of those used in the public schools has sound equipment.

"U" Remaking "Deacon"

HOLLYWOOD—Universal has added a remake of "Alias the Deacon" to its winter production schedule, with Richard Wallace set to direct from a script by Nat Perrin.

"Lion Has Wings" Aired During Toronto Run

TORONTO—One of the finest bits of publicity ever afforded a film production in the Dominion was the 15-minute broadcast over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. on the opening night of "The Lion Has Wings" at the Uptown Theatre, Toronto, in which the radio chain gave an actuality review of the picture through a pick up from the sound track of the film while it was being projected on the screen of the theatre.

Radio listeners were able to hear the picture and, in addition, a special commentator of the CBC gave sufficient of a play-by-play description of which was appearing on the screen so that the radio audience gained a good impression of the pictorial story. The highlight of the picture was "projected" over the air to all parts of the Dominion. The announcer declared that the production was in progress at the Uptown with a big crowd in attendance but that it would be seen in theatres everywhere across Canada in the near future, giving a perfect plug over the whole network.

Simultaneously with the opening of "The Lion Has Wings," a private screening was held in the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau where it was witnessed by Their Excellencies the Governor-General of Canada and Lady Tweedsmuir, their personal entourage, and high officers of the department of national defense. A print was also flown to Camp Borden, the principal training camp of the Royal Canadian Air Force, where it was screened in the military theatre for the officers and men. The Toronto Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force paraded to the Uptown Theatre for a regular performance.

Ottawa Newspaper Has Praise for Korda Film

OTTAWA—In an editorial, *The Citizen* of Ottawa, Ont., offered the following comment regarding the Korda picture, "The Lion Has Wings," after it had been privately screened for Canadian military officers:

"As a war film, nothing quite so effective as 'The Lion Has Wings' has ever been shown in Ottawa. Nor has this remarkable British film reached Ottawa yet for public showing but an audience of defense officers and invited guests had the privilege of seeing it yesterday. Wellington Bombers in action, the actual bombers used in the first British raid when bombs were dropped on one of the German pocket battleships, Spitfire fighters speeding into action against German bombers, the most thrilling parts of the picture were naturally in this visible evidence of British air strength; but the whole sequence of steps in British preparedness makes a deep impression.

"Reports in British newspapers awakened Canadian interest several weeks ago in 'The Lion Has Wings.' British authorities delayed the releasing of the picture for some time until they were completely satisfied that it gave away no information of value to the enemy. It does give much valuable information to the loyal populace in distant lands under the British flag, incuding the motion picture audiences in this Dominion."

CALGARY

A. W. PERRY literally made a flying transcontinental trip of the Canadian key cities. He planed into Calgary from Vancouver, stayed two days and left by plane for Toronto. Like all other visitors from eastern head offices recently, Perry, general manager of Empire-Universal, reports increased boxoffice receipts with the western prairies leading the upward trend.

Les Appleby, oldtime Canadian press agent for roadshows, visited the city for three days this week, planting press and pictures of the Shaw play "Geneva." Les was one time advance man for the Dumbells show, favorite soldier entertainment. He states that there is a prospect of this company being revived and going on tour.

What J. B. Barron, of the Grand here, thinks of combined vaudeville and film shows was expressed in a letter he sent a circuit owner this month. The letter writer inquired if he would want any acts this season as used last year.

Reply contained the line, . . . "I'll book them if you also send dishes."

Nominate Finley McRae For Ottawa Mayoralty

OTTAWA—Finley McRae, son-in-law of the late Harry Brouse, wealthy theatre pioneer of the Canadian capital, has been nominated for the mayoralty of Ottawa in the current civic elections for 1940. McRae, who is the administrator of the Brouse estate which includes two local theatres, was a member of the municipal board of control this year, having headed the polls in the vote one year ago.

P. J. Nolan, owner of the Avalon, Rexy and Nola theatres, was named as a mayoralty candidate but withdrew because of his health. Paddy Nolan was mayor of Ottawa in 1934 and 1935 and has also served as an alderman.

Mayor Stanley Lewis, who is once more contesting the office, is president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and, in his official capacity, has actively opposed any move on the part of the Provincial authorities to revive the amusement tax or to pass legislation which would enable the municipalities to secure revenue through such a levy.

Extend Educational Film Program in Montreal

MONTREAL—Educational films are now a part of the Montreal Catholic School Commission curriculum. Before the decision was made, an extensive survey was conducted on the matter in United States and Canadian cities where films have become part of the courses given during the year.

The new system became effective December 1. It is limited to grades 8 and 9. The program consists in the showing of about 40 films during the school year and will be conducted by six professors who will make two appearances weekly at each of the commission's schools.

Educational films have been successful in grades 10, 11 and 12.

MONTREAL

BACK from Buffalo where 20th-Fox executives discussed the Kent Drive, is Ed English, province of Quebec manager . . . Brownsburg, Que., is to have a second theatre. G. Hebert is the promoter . . . News has reached here that, impressed by his son joining the French army, Oscar Strauss, Viennese "Waltz King," will compose a series of songs for Allied soldiers.

A Montreal fan is urging a radical change in local theatre arrangements. He asks that managers consider starting their new weekly series on the first day of the week instead of on Fridays as at present. Arguments in favor are that Montreal would get more of the big releases in line with American cities, and that the average customer would have a chance to see the new show when he had more money in his pocket, having been paid Saturday. It is also contended that the newsreels would be more up-to-date.

A familiar figure is missing in local theatre circles, owing to the death of Ex-Alderman Joseph A. Vaillancourt, for the past seven years theatre inspector for the city of Montreal.

Serious competition for theatres is promised February 8, 9 and 10, when Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne will play "The Taming of the Shrew" at His Majesty's. Chez Maurice made a new departure by starring Cy Landry, comedian, in place of the usual singing and dancing acts.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," now at Loew's, is found by S. Morgan-Powell, film critic, to be "one of the most absorbing dramas I have seen on the screen." But, he also describes it as "undeniably an indictment of Washington politics which reflects in a very cynical and unpleasant manner upon the general political honesty of the members of that august body of legislators."

France Film not only furnishes Parisian films and theatres in which to play them, but also publishes through a subsidiary a monthly motion picture magazine, Le Courrier du Cinema, *whose November issue reached 28,000 copies, of which many thousands were sold in the theatres. At the St. Denis Theatre alone, no fewer than 3,500 copies were sold.*

Al Plunkett, known in military circles as Captain Morley Plunkett, who amused the troops in France during the Great War with his "Dumbells" company and more recently conducted "Amateur Hours" in Montreal theatres, will be in charge of developing new soldier talent for concert work in the Canadian Active Service Force.

The Cambrai Theatre, Quebec, has adopted modernized spelling to describe its stage show which it announces as "Vod-Vil" . . . Quebec's Little Theatre has elected E. C. Joseph president. The group is rehearsing a three-act comedy, "French Without Tears," to be presented for the benefit of the Canadian Red Cross.

Angus McStay, a writer in *MacLean's* magazine, credits Jack Arthur, Scottish expert of Famous Players Canadian Corp., with inaugurating the military system of trained ushers now in vogue in theatres everywhere. The Capitol theatres in Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver, he says, were the first to be given the system which was later adopted by Major Bowes, then managing the Capitol in New York, and soon spread all over the continent.

Paramount Windsor Theatres of Windsor, Ont., is having plans drawn for a new theatre to seat 750 persons . . . Hamilton United Theatres will pay a dividend of $1.50 on the preferred stock December 20, to holders of record November 30 . . . Marcus Loew's Theatres, Ltd., will pay a dividend of $1.75 on the seven per cent preferred and also $1.75 on account of arrears. Shareholders of record December 2 will receive their checks December 15.

I. Sourkes of Warner-Vitagraph, returned from the Maritime Provinces, reports business particularly brisk in Halifax and Saint John where soldiers and sailors are prominent in audiences. There is a marked wartime aspect in Halifax where the public has learned to expect blackouts. Sourkes rose early one morning and, looking seaward from his hotel window in a Maritime Province city, was rewarded by the impressive spectacle of a convoy of merchant ships escorted by warships just leaving on their dangerous transatlantic crossing.

Harry Paynter gave a special screening of Empire-Universal's new Deanna Durbin film, "First Love," which will be shown at Loew's Christmas and New Year weeks.

Constant students of what Filmrow has to offer, Carl Brock and W. Laurie of the Princess, Cowansville; G. Martineau of the Royal, Valleyfield, and Alex Adilson, Roxy, Ste. Agathe, were noted on Monkland Ave.

Morris Davis, manager of the Belmont, is presenting the ninth consecutive amateur hour in that theatre under the direction of Len Howard. Cash prizes are awarded, and on this occasion winners of previous contests are the competitors. Twelve separate turns include ventriloquism, dancing, singing and novelty acts. Len Wheatley is master of ceremonies and Howard's orchestra provides music.

Scores of devoted fans awaited the arrival of Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck at St. Hubert Airport the other night, only to be disappointed. The stars canceled their visit to Montreal at the last moment. Amongst those who turned up to greet them was Montreal-born Jim Telfer, camera expert for Warner's, who is a personal friend of Taylor. A bouquet brought along by a hotel manager for Barbara Stanwyck, was divided amongst the fans.

Oscar F. Neu of Neumade Products Co., New York City, spent a few days in Montreal conferring with Dominion Sound Equipment executives regarding miscellaneous booth equipment for which Dominion Sound is Canadian agent . . . George Blair of Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N. Y., was a visitor at Associated Screen News.

Harry Dann, for years manager of the Capitol in Montreal, but recently located in Toronto, paid a visit to his old home town as advance manager for United Artist's British picture, "The Lion Has Wings," which was screened for an audience of exhibitors on Filmrow.

"The Wizard of Oz" was shown at the Cartier in Quebec to the delight of thousands of youngsters who were permitted to view the film if accompanied by their elders.

His Majesty's Theatre appears to be out of the cinema business for the bulk of the winter, one stage play succeeding another and all doing well. Latest production there is J. B. Priestley's farce comedy, "When We Are Married."

Mobilization on Screen

MONTREAL—Hon W. D. Euler, minister of trade and commerce and chairman of the National Film Board, announces a motion picture, covering the principal aspects of Canada's mobilization for war, is to be presented immediately.

VANCOUVER

FRANK VAUGHAN, western manager for Empire-Universal, leaves this week to establish headquarters in Winnipeg. For the past few days, he has been busy introducing Ben Plottel, the new Vancouver manager, to exhibitors and filmdom in general.

Larry Bearg is still busy on the Red Cross drive and says that Filmrow came through handsomely with their contribution.

The preview of "The Lion Has Wings" at the Kerrisdale, and a subsequent showing in the Filmrow projection room to which officers of the air force were invited, was enthusiastically received and roundly applauded. This film, sponsored by the British government, features the Royal Air Force.

In pursuance of his reseating plan, C. A. Towriss, Capitol Theatre, Princeton, B. C., is in receipt of part of the new chairs from La Salle Recreations and expects to have his house ready for the Christmas holidays.

Ed Zetterman, Broadway Theatre, is experimenting with an ozone producer and distributor in an endeavor to get rid of some of those dead-air pockets in the house.

"Tour" in French

MONTREAL—Hon. W. D. Euler, chairman of the National Film Board, announces a French edition of the "Royal Visit" film will be completed as rapidly as possible, the government motion picture bureau having been instructed to rush the work.

Compete Under Handicap Along Border Points

TORONTO—The increasing giveaway situation in Ontario is being further complicated at border points by the advertising on the Canadian side of U. S. exhibitors in the offer of special cash inducements.

This situation is found, for instance, at Prescott, Ont., which has been invaded in an advertising sense by Schine's Strand Theatre at Ogdensburg, N. Y., both posters and window cards being used. These announce Bank Nights every Wednesday; Bingo on Fridays and a U-Win contest every Saturday night. The Riviera Theatre in Prescott has none of these attractions.

Further competition is afforded in the Sunday shows at the Ogdensburg house which are advertised in Prescott where the Riviera must be closed on Sunday. The Strand Theatre has also been playing an orchestra unit two nights of the week, Thursday and Friday, along with the cash prizes. The Strand Theatre advertises a double bill on Saturdays.

This situation also affects the Famous Players' theatres in nearby Brockville, Ont.

Billie Burke for "Irene"

HOLLYWOOD—RKO has borrowed Billie Burke from Metro for one of three top lines in "Irene," the Anna Neagle starrer, which Herbert Wilcox is producing and directing.

"Good News" for Berkeley

HOLLYWOOD—Next assignment for Director Busby Berkeley at Metro will be "Good News," co-starring Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland.

No M-G-M Concessions For Dominion Trade

CHICAGO—Regal Films does not plan to give Canadian exhibitors the same concessions that M-G-M will give to American exhibitors this season, Harry L. Nathanson, president of Regal Films of Canada, said while he was here for the mid-season M-G-M convention. Regal distributes M-G-M product in Canada.

Nathanson enumerated three reasons why the same concessions can't be granted in Canada:

1. The 11 per cent exchange drop on Canadian currency going into the United States.

2. The higher cost of distribution in Canada.

3. Legal conditions governing contract changes and differences are more stringent in Canada.

Nathanson said that despite war conditions, Canadian boxoffice returns have increased since the British Dominion entered the war.

With Nathanson was Gordon Lightstone, general sales manager for Regal.

"Little Star" to Lang

HOLLYWOOD—Walter Lang has been assigned to direct 20th-Fox's "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," starring Linda Darnell, with Roland Young in a featured role.

A Plum to Coffee

HOLLYWOOD—Lenore Coffee has been set to script "Tonight at 8:30" by Metro. Film is based on the Noel Coward play.

Mechanics Institute Shows Films at Lecture Series

MONTREAL—Covering a variety of interests, four sound films were shown at the Mechanics' Institute, in the second of a series of free weekly lectures which the institute is sponsoring this season. Perhaps the most unusual and interesting of the films was one entitled "Cover to Cover" which told the story of how a book is printed and published.

The other films were "The Changing World" produced by the International Nickel Co. of Canada and showing how the ore is mined, smelted and refined as well as the uses to which it is put; "Power Unit," a semi-technical description of the internal combustion engine, and "Wings Across the Atlantic," the story of the survey flights of the Caledonia and Clipper III in July, 1937.

Will Depict Mobilization As First Film Project

OTTAWA—According to information from a reliable source, the first project of the national film board, under the direction of John Grierson as government film commissioner, will be the making of a picture dealing with the mobilization of the Canadian Active Service Force for the present war.

The picture is to be made by a Canadian film unit, it is stated, with expert technicians to be engaged but the identity of the experts has not been disclosed.

Recently the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau advertised for an assistant cameraman at a salary of $1,200 per year.

How to operate motion picture theatres *profitably*



Here is a new book full of HOW TO DO IT information, written by a man who believes that the first objective of theatre management is to make money. In this book he covers motion picture theatre management from A to Z, giving the best results of years of experience as a guide in establishing successful policies, building profitable business, and efficiently operating any size theatre.

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October 19, 1939

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I have given you on December 3, 1938, a two-year subscription to BOXOFFICE and as I really cannot do without the Picture Guide, etc., I herewith enclose my cheque for $2.00 for which you will add my subscription for an extended year.

Please send the Guide, etc., by return mail as I am really, and I repeat it, in a jam without it, and the one I already have is over in December.

Many thanks for a quick expedition.

—U. S. ALLAIRE,
Theatre Victoria

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ROLLA, N. D.
February 15, 1939

BOXOFFICE:

I certainly do not want to be without this publication, as it is used every day in our theatre. Your pages of information have greatly aided us in design and information as in regards to our new addition that is nearly complete, and will be opened soon. This, to say nothing of its daily use in booking, and selling merits of productions. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

—R. T. FOLEY,
Munro Theatre

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ELDORADO, ILL.
September 22, 1939



BOXOFFICE:

A few days ago I received your subscription notice, which I returned to you, and intended to enclose check for $3.50 for two years renewal. In checking over my records, I do not find where I made out a check to you for this amount. Wish you would advise whether there was a check enclosed. If not, will send you this amount as I think BOXOFFICE serves my purpose more fully than some other publications, at more than twice the amount.

—D. O. LANHAM,
Shawnee Theatre

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry
BOXOFFICE

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

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MT486 Letters, attraction board
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MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
MT498 Transformers, Neon
MT499 Ladders, safety
MT500 Moving words projector

AIR CONDITIONING

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MT506 Heating systems
MT507 Refrigeration
MT508 Air washers
MT509 Blowers
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MT515 Motors, multi-speed fan
MT516 Motors, constant speed
MT517 Air filters
MT518 Air diffusers, high velocity
MT519 Cooling coils

DECORATIONS and FURNISHING

MT520 Architectural service
MT521 Decorating service
MT522 Seating service
MT523 Theatre chairs
MT524 Chair covers
MT525 Theatre carpets
MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

MT569 Expansion Bolts
MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
MT584 Fireproofing compounds
MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

PROJECTION

MT591 Projectors, complete with sound
MT592 Projectors, standard
MT593 Projectors, semi-portable
MT594 Projector pedestals
MT595 Projector parts
MT596 Lamps, suprex type
MT597 Lamps, reflector arc
MT598 Lamps, high intensity
MT599 Lamps, incandescent projection
MT600 Arc regulators
MT601 Arc controls
MT602 Control panels
MT603 Rectifiers, copper-oxide
MT604 Rectifiers, tube type
MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

MT641 Cleaning compounds
MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber l'nk matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

SOUND

MT661 Sound systems, complete
MT662 Sound heads
MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT685 Screens, moving picture
MT686 Lighting, stage
MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, vitreous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

MISCELLANEOUS

MT715 Accounting systems
MT716 Change makers
MT717 Safes, boxoffice
MT718 Tickets
MT719 Ticket choppers
MT720 Ticket issuing machines
MT721 Ticket registers
MT722 Ticket holders
MT723 Pop corn machines
MT724 Uniforms, staff

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Warner Bros. (——) 110 Minutes Rel. Dec. 25, '39

The wide popularity of its predecessor, "Four Daughters," and the fact that this utilizes substantially the same cast, should be assets sufficient to assure fair reception for the latest episode in the lives of the Lemp sisters. Unfortunately, however, as wives they prove considerably less entertaining than they did in their debuting vehicle, due largely to the weaknesses of the screenplay, which fails to register clear-cut purpose and motivation, and the film's lack of pace throughout. The cast is competent and star-studded enough and does everything possible with the material at hand, dealing principally with the matter of babies all around and the emotional stress which surrounds their respective births or adoption. Michael Curtiz' direction is short of his usual high standards.

Claude Rains, Jeffrey Lynn, Eddie Albert, Priscilla Lane, Rosemary Lane, Lola Lane, Gale Page.

Four Wives F Drama

20th Century-Fox (026) 72 Minutes Rel. Dec. 8, '39

"Barricade" is a little bit about a newspaperman who is liquifying his sorrows and a girl who is running away from a murder, another little bit about the invasion of China that sweeps them together, a little more of action when their lives and those of members of a U. S. consulate are threatened by bandits, long stretches of trite dialogue and not a few unconvincing scenes. Largely because, perhaps, the film treads familiar ground and the situations surrounding Alice Faye as the confessed murderess lack the necessary dramatic intensity, there is a sheerness about it that impels a lack of impression. Warner Baxter's screen generalship as the "broken" reporter who comes through with the big news beat, and the excitement attending the raid on the consulate supply the better part of the popular elements. Gregory Ratoff directed.

Warner Baxter, Alice Faye, Charles Winninger, Arthur Treacher, Keye Luke.

Barricade F Melodrama

First National (——) 62 Minutes Rel. Dec. 2, '39

The mad scientist returns from the grave with a load of chills sufficiently hefty and frigid to assure their money's worth to one and all who shop for thrills, shivers, gasps and shrieks in their entertainment. To which proven story structure is added the weight of a trustworthy cast, headed by Humphrey Bogart in the title role, well-paced direction and sufficient production values, summing up to a feature equipped to grace the nether side of any balanced program. The customers—particularly the juvenile contingent—will like it and the film has many natural merchandising possibilities. Dr. X, executed for murder, is brought back to life by another medico who thinks he has perfected a formula for synthetic blood, but finds he has created a monster who must kill to remain alive himself. The inevitable newshawk solves the mystery. Directed by Vincent Sherman.

Humphrey Bogart, Rosemary Lane, Wayne Morris, Dennis Morgan, John Litel, Lya Lys, Huntz Hall.

The Return of Dr. X F Mystery Drama

20th Century-Fox (012) 74 Minutes Rel. Dec. 29, '39

O. Henry's beloved badman veers toward romance and comedy and away from benevolent banditry in this, the latest adventure of the mythical caballero. Another important change to be noted is the fact that Cesar Romero has been cast in the title role to succeed Warner Baxter. Just what effect these two switches will have on the customers is problematical. Certainly that school of thought which demands plenty of shootin', ridin' and rip-roarin' in their sagebrush melodrama will not welcome the refinement in story structure with its accompanying loss of pace. Reactions to the new casting will probably depend upon individual tastes as concerns Romero and Baxter. The former delivers a creditable performance which might have been more convincing had the tone of his material been maintained on the basis heretofore established. Herbert I. Leeds directed.

Cesar Romero, Marjorie Weaver, Chris-Pin Martin, George Montgomery, Robert Barrat, Virginia Field.

The Cisco Kid and the Lady F Outdoor Drama

RKO Radio (013) Rel. Dec. 8, '39

A touching, down-to-earth story about a boy, a horse and their love for each other, this transcends by great heights the entertainment category which its cast and budget might indicate. It cannot help but have a wide appeal for every type and age of theatre patron and, given the strong buildup it merits, the picture is equipped to carry its share of the load on any program. Two adolescent Thespics, Jimmy Lydon and Joan Brodel, register performances which augur well for their boxoffice future and the supporting cast, although devoid of marquee dynamite, contributes in kind. In production and direction, commendable restraint adds substantially to the excellence of the film and safeguards the picture from ever approaching the sticky side, despite its abundance of sincere heart tugs. Directed by Jack Hively.

Jimmy Lydon, Joan Brodel, Arthur Hohl, J. M. Kerrigan, Marjorie Main, Selmer Jackson, Spencer Charters.

Two Thoroughbreds F Drama

Republic (952) 58 Minutes Rel. Nov. 22, '39

Especially entertaining is this Roy Rogers' western. It rates as one of Joe Kane's better directorial efforts. From every production standpoint, the film has a distinctive stamp about it. Particularly outstanding is the fine photography by Jack Marta which furnishes an eloquent background to the brisk action and robust riding. The story has Rogers exercising his inalienable right of overthrowing the villain, Frank M. Thomas, who has Death Valley in his grasp by controlling the water supply. He uses terror to keep the ranchers in line until Rogers appears on the scene and evens a few old scores. Donald Barry scores as Rogers' brother who has been raised as the villain's nephew. Rogers, incidentally, adds to his stature as a western star. Musical interludes in the film are well-spotted.

Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Donald Barry, Doris Day, Frank M. Thomas, Jack Ingram.

Saga of Death Valley F Western

Universal (——) 78 Minutes Rel. Nov. 24, '39

Victor McLaglen again struggles with conscience and right prevails—just in time to save the innocent man from the gallows. The new twist, however, is that this time McLaglen is a prison warden instead of a criminal. Despite the formula aspects of the story, the picture may be considered among the better prison films. The cast is good, the direction keeps action moving at a lively clip and, boiled down, it is acceptable entertainment. Jackie Cooper shares top billing and garners more than his half of the Thespic honors. Innocent aide in a prison break in which a policeman is murdered, he is sentenced to hang. Only the warden, McLaglen, has the evidence to prove the young man's innocence, but presenting it will incriminate himself. He sees the light at the eleventh hour. Directed by Arthur Lubin.

Victor McLaglen, Jackie Cooper, Edward Brophy, Pe- Moran, Ona Munson, Russell Hicks, Jonathan Hale.

The Big Guy F Melodrama

Paramount (3912) 90 Minutes Rel. Dec. 1, '39

A Pagliacci theme with occasional moments of emotional appeal for the women, but lacking the necessary elements to win rating as general audience entertainment. The picture moves slowly and what small possibilities the story presents are on the highly dramatic side, for which the cast was not selected with the greatest care. Leading role is portrayed by Pat O'Brien, as a circus clown and playwright whose career is ruined by a predilection for alcohol. He loses both job and wife and, 20 years later, runs across his daughter, Olympe Bradna. She gives him new hope and, with him, appears in a revival of the very play which had marked the end of his career so many years before. He scores a triumph, wins back the respect of his friends, and dies of a heart ailment. Lewis Milestone directed.

Pat O'Brien, Olympe Bradna, Roland Young, Reginald Gardiner, George E. Stone, Murray Alper.

The Night of Nights F Drama

Columbia (1201) 63 Minutes Rel. Sept. 14, '39

The Northwest Canadian mounted police have been subjected to all sorts of screen treatment. Here they are shown as a glee club that sings merrily as they go about their duties. Charles Starrett heads the troop and his problem is to track down a band of criminals in a small outpost. The innocent brother who is thought guilty and his sister also are thrown in, along with a goodly supply of crooks. The dialogue is familiar, and the action fits into a like category. The only freshness about it is the outdoor setting where most of the footage was shot. It will fill in, however, as a last resort. The singing is good. The mounties follow their slogan to the letter. Directed by C. C. Coleman jr.

Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Stanley Brown, Kenneth MacDonald, Edmund Cobb.

Outpost of the Mounties F Outdoor Action

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Return of Dr. X"**

Carry out the "horror" motif in lobby decorations and advertising. Mount a huge compo-board "X" above the marquee, illuminating it with floodlights. Prepare posters bearing a portrait of Humphrey Bogart and labeling it "Who Is This Man? Reward offered for information leading to the identity of 'Dr. X'." Broadcast Bogart's description on a spot radio broadcast simulating a police warning. Employ the old stunt of warning patrons not to attend if they have "weak hearts."

CATCHLINES:

The Chill Sensation of the Century As the Sinister Dr. X Embarks on a New Career of Fantastic Crime.

Dr. X Strikes Again . . . In the Thrill Picture You'll Never Forget.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Saga of Death Valley"**

One way to keep building with Rogers' popularity is the organization of a fan club. Cards and buttons should be issued to members. Autographed photos also can be used as an inducement. There is a Roy Rogers' gun which many stores are selling. Dealers should be contacted for displays. A popular giveaway, which should draw the youngsters, is a Roy Rogers' cowboy suit. Adult patrons can be interested by publicity yarns pointing to Rogers as the "cowboy hero of the year."

CATCHLINES:

They Ride to Vengeance . . . Full Gallop to Thrills.

It's a Racket Roundup—With Rogers in Action for Excitement.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Outpost of the Mounties"**

Stress the singing of The Sons of the Pioneers. Dress the doorman in the reliable Royal Canadian Mounted Police uniform. Decorate the lobby with branches from a pine tree or a few potted plants to suggest the atmosphere of the picture. At the conclusion of performances for the day, play recordings of the numbers sung in the picture and stress the information in the advance programs.

CATCHLINES:

Singing Merrily and Riding Hard Once Again the Mounties Carry Out Their Famous Slogan.

Fists Fly and Bullets Buzz as the King's Police Bring the Law to the Northwest.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Barricade"**

Showmen will probably want to take advantage of Warner Baxter's name here, especially as it is coupled with Miss Faye's. Stress the adventure theme; that of the newspaperman who risks life and limb to bring outside aid to American victims of Japan's invasion of China. In this respect newspaper headlines could conceivably accompany exploitation. Then, too, there is the very salable element found in the film's scene stills or newspaper photographs that could stand enlarged reproduction for lobby purposes. A timely item that may have appeal at this time would be a mailing piece outlining the services performed by U. S. consulates in foreign countries.

CATCHLINES:

Not Even a Barricade Can Stop Their Love for Life.

Caught in a Barricade . . . Doomed to Die . . . Love Finds a Way.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Two Thoroughbreds"**

Special emphasis should be directed toward creating audience interest in young Jimmy Lydon, boy actor who will be comparatively unknown to most theatregoers. Make him the center of lobby easel layouts and, in advertising, stress the fact he is one of the screen's coming stars. Hire a small boy to ride about town on a horse, liberally placarded with theatre and picture billing. Prepare throwaways in the style of a racing form.

CATCHLINES:

Thoroughbreds Both . . . A Boy and a Horse . . . Who Overcame Odds to Come Out on Top.

You'll Thrill to This Simple Story of the Love of a Boy for a Horse.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Night of Nights"**

Give the marquee and advertising credits to Pat O'Brien, Olympe Bradna and Roland Young. Impart a circus-carnival atmosphere to the lobby, dress attendants as clowns and, if possible, obtain a steam calliope for street ballyhoo. Tie up with a department store or cosmetics shop on a special blend of face powder or perfume titled "Night of Nights." Try to obtain the old musical recording, "Laugh, Clown, Laugh" and play it over the p. a. system in the lobby.

CATCHLINES:

The Biggest Emotional Wallop of the Year . . . As a Man Redeems His Past Follies Before It Is Too Late.

A Heart-Broken Clown Gets Renewed Hope and Courage From a Daughter Whom He Had Not Seen for 20 Years.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Four Wives"**

Use the title in a stunt where four wives, attending as a group, are admitted at a special rate. Tieup with women's dress shops on combination sales of clothing, hats, etc., to families with two, three or more daughters. Point out that this is a sequel to the successful "Four Daughters," based on a Cosmopolitan Magazine story by Fannie Hurst. Give marquee and advertising credits to the Lane Sisters, Gale Page and Jeffrey Lynn.

CATCHLINES:

Four Daughters Become Four Wives . . . Still Lovely, Lively and Gay.

It's a Family Affair Now . . . As Those Four Lovely Daughters Learn the Difference Between Love and Sacrifice.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Cisco Kid and the Lady"**

Cesar Romero should have the title credits. Plant stills and blowups of Romero in as many shops as possible around town. Costume cashier and attendants as senoritas and caballeros. Stage a "Cisco Kid Treasure Hunt" in cooperation with a newspaper and merchants, in which clues are planted in the paper's classified advertising section, the storekeepers to furnish a gift of some nature. Tie up with libraries on the O. Henry stories, one of which was the basis of the "Cisco Kid" series.

CATCHLINES:

The Most Romantic Rogue in the West Rides Again . . . Into the Arms of a Lovely Girl.

The Rogue of the Rio Grande . . . Whose Specialty Is Stealing Hearts.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Big Guy"**

Victor McLaglen and Jackie Cooper as a team should be a potent marquee magnet. Carry out the prison motif by revamping theatre front and boxoffice with grey compo-board painted to resemble rock. Dress ushers in convict garb. Spot announcements concerning a fictitious prison break over radio stations. Tie up with drugstores, YMCA's, etc., on tonics, exercisers and athletic courses guaranteed to "Make You a 'Big Guy'." Hold a contest to determine who is the biggest of the "Big Guys" in town.

CATCHLINES:

Behind the Stone Walls of a Great Prison . . . A Boy Nursed Hate and a Grudge Against Society.

The Smashing Story of Thousands of Forgotten Men—And a Boy—Living Behind Walls of Steel and Stone.

Short Subject Reviews

Zorro's Fighting Legion

(12-Chapter Serial)

Republic *Episode one*—30 *Mins.*

Zorro comes to life again and the directorial team of William Whitney and John English have turned out another sparkling outdoor serial. Watching the initial chapter unreel, it is obvious Republic has another colorful matinee attraction. The picture has action and suspense. As Zorro, tall Reed Hadley makes an impressive debut among saddle heroes. He assumes the role with ease and nonchalance. The story has to do with attacks on the newly formed Republic of Mexico by a shrewd villain who, by posing as one of the gods of the Yacquis, has the tribe under his control. Zorro comes from California and acts as a fop in his uncle's household to divert suspicion. He enrolls a number of patriots as followers to thwart the plans of Dondel-oro. Sheila Darcy is the heart interest. William Corson is good as Zorro's friend.

The Green Hornet

(13-Chapter Serial)

Universal *Approximately* 20 *Mins. Each*

Radio's popular dramatic serial comes to the screen in a sizzling manner. It should provide popular entertainment for the youngsters. Green Hornet masks will probably be the thing in the neighborhoods if exhibitors take advantage of the exploitation possibilities. The story concerns the adventures of a newspaper publisher, Gordon Jones, who inherits his father's paper and appears to be an unassuming chap. But he dons the role of the Green Hornet and sets out as a modern Robin Hood to smash a ruthless crime syndicate. A glance at the opening three chapters indicates that Directors Ford Beebe and Ray Taylor have utilized well the serial formula to build for maximum suspense. Supporting parts are capably played by Wade Boteler, Key Luke and Anne Nagel.

Sleeping Princess

(Walter Lantz Cartune)

Universal 10 *Mins.*

An amusing bit of cartoon fantasy in which the little princess suffers because the invitation to Destiny goes astray. Offended, the little princess is put to sleep until awakened by the kiss of a prince. Destiny finds the ancient invitation in time and makes everything right by changing the unworthy one into a prince charming.

Pied Piper Porky

Vitaphone (Merrie Melody) 7 *Mins.*

Antics of Pied Piper Porky are fairly amusing in this cartoon. Only one rat remains (who sounds like Rochester) to plague Porky. The rat emerges victorious even after Porky sends a cat after him.

The Royal Rodeo

(Technicolor Production)

Vitaphone 15 *Mins.*

One of those lavish Technicolor two-reelers which the studio has been turning out with much success. This rates equally high as program material. But there is a flag waving finish, to an otherwise entertaining subject, that would do credit to any super-patriotic organization. A rodeo visits a mythical kingdom which is ruled by a young king. He is saved from abduction by Cowboy John Payne and entourage. Payne and Cliff Edwards are spotted in a few vocal offerings. Lucille Fairbanks, an appealing miss, gets the camera's attention for a few moments but it is enough to stamp her as a likely newcomer. George Amy directed.

Quaint St. Augustine

M-G-M (Traveltalk) 9 *Mins.*

The usual Technicolor-FitzPatrick treatment is given to this interesting Florida city. Both the old and new cities are shown. Local attractions, such as alligator and ostrich farms, lend color. Packs plenty of interest.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Movietone News, No. 21: Nazi air raid pictures; President dedicates library; gold discovered in Georgia; DiMaggio marries; women diving champs perform; football thrills; Lew Lehr.

News of the Day, No. 219: Official films of Nazi air raids; Georgia gold strike; Roosevelt dedicates library; DiMaggio marries; aquatic stars perform; football highlights.

Paramount News, No. 24: Notre Dame vs. Northwestern; Princeton vs. Yale; Iowa vs. Minnesota; funeral services for Judge Butler; DiMaggio marries; Roosevelt kids reporters; "Flint" heads home; aquatic stars perform.

RKO Pathe News, No. 36: Roosevelt dedicates library; railroad industry on upswing; fire in Venezuela; Kay Kyser premiere; new Park in Washington; football highlights.

Universal Newsreel, No. 825: French tighten blockade; Roosevelt dedicates library; Georgia gold strike; blast wrecks oil tanker; stretches way into aviation; DiMaggio marries; diving champs perform; football highlights.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Movietone News, No. 22: Movietone selects all-American football team for 1939; the European war at sea; Gracie Fields entertains British troops again in second war; six-day bike race; bumper cotton crop; world's biggest chicken hatchery; Lew Lehr.

News of the Day, No. 220: Nazi naval blockade; Japan mobilizes kindergarten conscripts; first snowfall on Mt. Baker; home exercises for women; Bill Stern's all-American football selections.

Paramount News, 25: Ski enthusiasts on Mt. Baker; southern California giant aqueduct opened; new women's hat styles; British censors at work on mail; all-American football lineup.

RKO Pathe News, No. 37: Nazis enforce North Sea blockade; Colorado River aqueduct; war causes New York scrap iron boom; best football back of season; 22 midgets return to Europe; Ile de France shifts berth; six-day bike race.

Universal Newsreel, No. 826: Artificial snow puts out fires; Pennsylvania blast loosens tons of rock; Kansas City merchant hands out overcoats; new shoe styles; skiers at Mt. Baker; bonfire signals grid victory by Oregon State; six-day bike grind; N. Y. U. star wins L. C. 4-A race; Fordham vs. St. Mary's football.

Drunk Driving

M-G-M (Crime Does Not Pay) 21 *Mins.*

What it means to drive while drunk is pounded home with almost brutal force. M-G-M uses no kid gloves to depict the consequences with the mass effect of the concluding sequences stirring up an emotion akin to hysteria. The central character is a salesman who takes his mother-in-law and wife out to celebrate after receiving a promotion. One drinks too much; an accident occurs. The family in the other car is killed, his mother-in-law is fatally injured and his wife suffers the loss of both her legs. It is doubtful whether any sane driver will drink while driving after viewing this subject. Whether audiences will stomach it as entertainment is another question. As a preachment against crime, it should be shown to every traffic offender. Dick Purcell is good as the salesman. Jo Ann Sayers is the wife. Credit for emotional pitch of the piece should go to David Miller's vivid direction.

Newsfronts of War—1940

(March of Time, Vol. VI, No. 4)

RKO 19 *Mins.*

Somewhat less exciting and distinguished than recent predecessors is this issue of March of Time. In a not too well developed tiein with the international news services, with emphasis on Associated Press, the reel frankly declares its purpose is a recounting of 1939's highlight news events. While this covers a maze of incidents, each of vast domestic and international significance, the edge has been robbed through newsreels and subjects that have treated widely these topics, the bulk of which is Central European war developments. The reel builds chronologically, laying particular stress on the Hitler-Stalin mutual assistance pact, which leads the producers to conclude Moscow will be a vital news source in 1940.

Rhumba Land

Universal (Musicals) 18½ *Mins.*

Emphasis here is on the Latin American sway, all of which results in a diverting two-reeler. Wini Shaw, songstress, heads the bill and offers "Lady in Red" and "Doing the Bongo." Vivien Fay, ballerina; The Theodores, a dance team; Tana, who is known as the "Spanish Oomph Girl;" Alfredo Seville, baritone; Jimmy Clemens, comedy dancer, and the Singing Charnos, a music trio. Darryl Harpa and orchestra supply the musical background.

Saddle Horses

Vitaphone (The Color Parade) 10 *Mins.*

A handsome subject about handsome animals which is interesting all the way. It deals with horses from the faithful mustang to the highly trained saddle horse. The various gaits are illustrated in slow motion.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

Looks like Capra has made another of those things. The best picture ever shown in this small city. Everyone was satisfied. Enough said. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 300.—Melville Danner, Kozy Theatre, Granite, Okla.

Western Caravans

These are some of the best westerns I have ever run. All of Charles Starrett's pictures are good and have a good drawing, action, comedy and music. Fri., Sat. Weather: Rain. Admission: 25-10. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

First National

Espionage Agent

This was a good show for a war story, but the public did not like it. For some reason it did not go over so hot. It will pass on a mid-week date or bargain night. Tuesday. Weather: Rain. Admission: 25-10. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

No Place to Go

This is without a doubt the worst picture I have ever run. The public came out, wanted to know where we got such film to run. Running time one hour—and that was too long. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Grand National

Children of the Wild

Here's one that will surely bring you business—a lot better than some of these supposed super-supers that most of the majors force down our throats. I had this picture for a two-day run and had one of my best grosses. Play it with the necessary exploitation and you can't miss. Population: 4,200.—Norman J. Cohn, Wood Theatre, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Babes in Arms

This outgrossed "The Women" for us, even though it was a percentage picture. It's a down-to-earth, swell film that everybody will enjoy. All comments were excellent. Sorry I didn't book it four days. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Poor. Admission: 35-25-10. Family patronage. Population: 8,000. Capacity: 600.—W. R. Walford, Ritz Theatre, Balboa, Cal.

Lady of the Tropics

Taylor is no draw here at all. He is getting worse and worse every day. Expected to do business, but I did not, and how! Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 4,100. Capacity: 550.—H. B. Ram, Patricia Theatre, Aiken, S. C.

Lady of the Tropics

Not as bad a picture as we had feared and did average business. Hedy was gorgeous, not to mention glamorous, and while she didn't cut any histrionic capers worthy of mention, she was always an eyeful. Some of her ensembles were exceedingly nifty. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 375.—Elise Morgan, Melodian Theatre, Cheney, Wash.

Maisie

A good picture that did satisfactory business for me. Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Maisie

Neither I nor my patrons could see anything so explosive. About all I can say is it's another program picture. Sun., Mon. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Naughty Marietta (Reissue)

A picture of this type will still pull them in 20 years from now. MacDonald and Eddy are great and a shot in the arm to the boxoffice. Sun., Mon. Weather: Cool. Admission: 15-10. General patronage. Population: 7,500. Capacity: 600.—L. J. Boudreau, Grant Theatre, Eveleth, Minn.

On Borrowed Time

Very unusual, to say the least, and gave varying satisfaction, but believe that as a whole it was well liked. Certainly one could not ask for a story more removed from the beaten path. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 850. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

San Francisco (Reissue)

I would rather play a good old picture, well seasoned and of proven drawing power, than a new one without any "oomph." Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: OK. Admission 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

San Francisco (Reissue)

This is absolutely the last reissue I will ever play. Booked it on Bank Night with a big money giveaway. I didn't even half fill the house. Wednesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 35-25-10. Family patronage. Population: 8,000. Capacity: 600.—W. R. Walford, Ritz Theatre, Balboa, Cal.

6,000 Enemies

Not so hot. Was not up to the standard of the Walter Pidgeon program pictures. Mon., Tues. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 850. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Within the Law

Crawford did this some years ago. Very well done with new cast. Good story. Friday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Neighborhood patronage. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Wizard of Oz, The

Audience reaction something like on "Snow White." Novelty was more attractive than merit of play. Color is swell. Above average business. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Wizard of Oz, The

Far more entertaining than I had anticipated. The adults will like it as well as children. Played same to a fair-sized audience. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Women, The

This picture did more than ordinary business. Played it on Tues., Wed., Thurs. Most people liked it. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 300.—Melville Danner, Kozy Theatre, Granite, Okla.

Paramount

Disputed Passage

Give this picture all you got—the best Paramount has made this year. Tamiroff is tops. Lamour is good and so is Howard. Played to good mid-week crowd. Had lots of good comments by patrons. Tues., Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission 20-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 300.—Melville Danner, Kozy Theatre, Granite, Okla.

Honeymoon in Bali

Ballyhoo this one—it will please everyone. Smart dialogue gets lots of laughs, if you can get 'em in to listen. Our patrons went to the football game. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 320.—Woody Newbury, Studio Theatre, Ingleside, Tex.

Jamaica Inn

Didn't go so good in this town. However, acting was good, but was not appreciated by many. Sat., Sun., Mon. Weather: Cool. Admission: 20-10. General patronage. Population: 1,300. Capacity: 300.—Melville Danner, Kozy Theatre, Granite, Okla.

Jamaica Inn

Pretty thick stuff for a small town but was surprised at the B. O. Did above average. Sound is bad. Typical of English prints. If they go for Laughton, it will please most. Tues., Wed. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 320.—Woody Newbury, Studio Theatre, Ingleside, Tex.

What a Life

Jackie Cooper's best. Good entertainment. Will please most. Did average business. Saturday. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 320.—Woody Newbury, Studio Theatre, Ingleside, Tex.

RKO Radio

Pacific Liner

A different type than the usual run-of-the-mill pictures. Men liked this one, a little sordid for the women. Sat., Sun. Weather: Fine. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State Theatre, Lewellen, Neb.

Republic

In Old Monterey

Gene comes out with a bang and gives the public 1½ hours of songs and fun. He had a good cast with him in this show. The public sure goes for Autry. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

20th Century-Fox

Jones Family in Hollywood

Had this picture doubled with "Mr. Moto in Danger Island," both Fox pictures, and although neither being big pictures, I did quite a nice business. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Clear. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,400. Capacity: 300.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

Mr. Moto on Danger Island

This is the first Mr. Moto picture I showed, and was agreeably surprised. If you haven't played this programmer, would advise you book same. It's good. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

News Is Made at Night

Rotten. These newspaper stories never have done anything for me. Fri., Sat. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Pack Up Your Troubles

A funny little show that pleased the ones that dared take a chance. The anti-kid complex we have culminates against Jane Withers and not even the Ritz Brothers could outweigh her. Business was just average. Ho, hum. Friday. Weather: Cloudy, warm. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Rains Came, The

An excellent picture, but not quite up to my expectations. Attendance only fair. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 876. Capacity: 175.—Walter J. Buchholtz, New Haven Theatre, New Haven, Mo.

Second Fiddle

Very fine and filled with good entertainment, but just a little too much of Sonja's skating. It was grand but she doesn't need it to put her over. Fri., Sat. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 850. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Stanley and Livingstone

Swell picture, good business, allocation OK. Again I'm satisfied and your customers will be also. A really good picture that I was glad to see come through flat. Spencer Tracy is wonderful; you don't notice Nancy Kelly and Richard Greene being left out in the cold from being engrossed with another outstanding performance from Tracy. With a little more action would have been a smash hit. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 250.—Everett Clapp, American Theatre, Sidell, Ill.

Stanley and Livingstone

This is one of Spencer Tracy's best shows. Fox sure did a piece of work on this picture. Tracy is one of the best stars on the screen. People sure did love this picture. Crowd good. Sun., Mon. Weather: Rain. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 200.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Susannah of the Mounties

Shirley may be slipping some places, but not here. Business better than "Little Princess" and the picture allocation was less. Anyone in a small town can make money on this picture. Enough action, comedy and romance to make a swell little picture. The paying customers liked it. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 250.—Everett Clapp, American Theatre, Sidell, Ill.

Universal

Hawaiian Nights

With a school tieup and a full house resulting, everyone left feeling very happy. Whether it was the picture or the mood of the audience, I don't know, but the house rocked with laughter. Wednesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,900. Capacity: 415.—Tom Wilhoit, Lyric Theatre, Plattsburg, Mo.

Rio

For some reason or other "Rio" was given a severe spanking by our leading critics. I wonder why. It was a very entertaining film, but lacks the action that most small town people like. Played to good houses all three nights. Most comments favorable, several walkouts though. On dual program. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 35-25-10. Family patronage. Population: 8,000. Capacity: 600.—W. R. Walford, Ritz Theatre, Balboa, Cal.

Under-Pup, The

This is one swell picture for any theatre. Don't pass it up. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 152.—Rodney and Anderson, San Andreas Theatre, San Andreas, Cal.

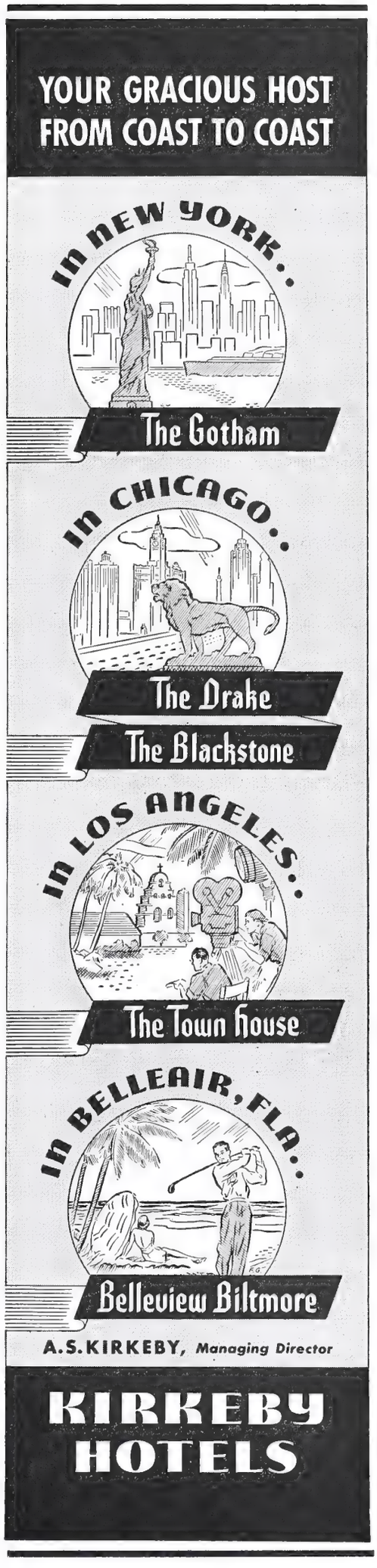
When Tomorrow Comes

Good picture for high-class audience. Not made for the average theatre-goer. Will go good where Irene Dunne is a favorite. Flopped on Cash Night. Tues., Wed. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 152.—Rodney and Anderson, San Andreas Theatre, San Andreas, Cal.

Warner Bros.

Torchy Runs for Mayor

A swell picture. It is too bad they aren't keeping these two players in all future Torchy Blane pictures. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cool. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—M. H. Robertson, Joyo Theatre, Coleridge, Neb.



Selling Seats

PRACTICAL IDEAS BY PRACTICAL SHOWMEN

Picture Stunt Plugs "Babes in Arms"

TOLEDO—A picture stunt in which girls were photographed with a life-sized cutout of Mickey Rooney proved the highlight of the campaign for "Babes in Arms," by Wally Caldwell, manager of the Loew's Valentine.

Two staff service men snapped over 300 pictures in the three-day advance stunt. Each girl received a card plugging the picture and notifying her 30 photos would be selected and posted in the theatre lobby. Those who could identify themselves received a free ticket and the photo.

Manager Caldwell inaugurated a Mickey Rooney-Judy Garland Fan Club with committees appointed in all high and junior high schools. Cards and buttons were given to members.

Exploitation consisted of a large float 22x8 posted with three and six-sheets, mounted on a new 1940 Chrevolet truck; a tieup with the Greyhound bus company in which a streamlined bus was bannered on each side with production 24 sheets; special exclusive picture cards on both sides of entire fleet of cleaning trucks; and a tieup with a music store which furnished a 1940 combination radio for the playing of records from the picture.

A lobby stunt which attracted attention was the placing of three jumbo Postal telegrams in the foyer during the run of the picture. Patrons were asked to sign the telegrams, which were then sent to Mickey and Judy in Hollywood.

Incentive to Read Theatre Ads

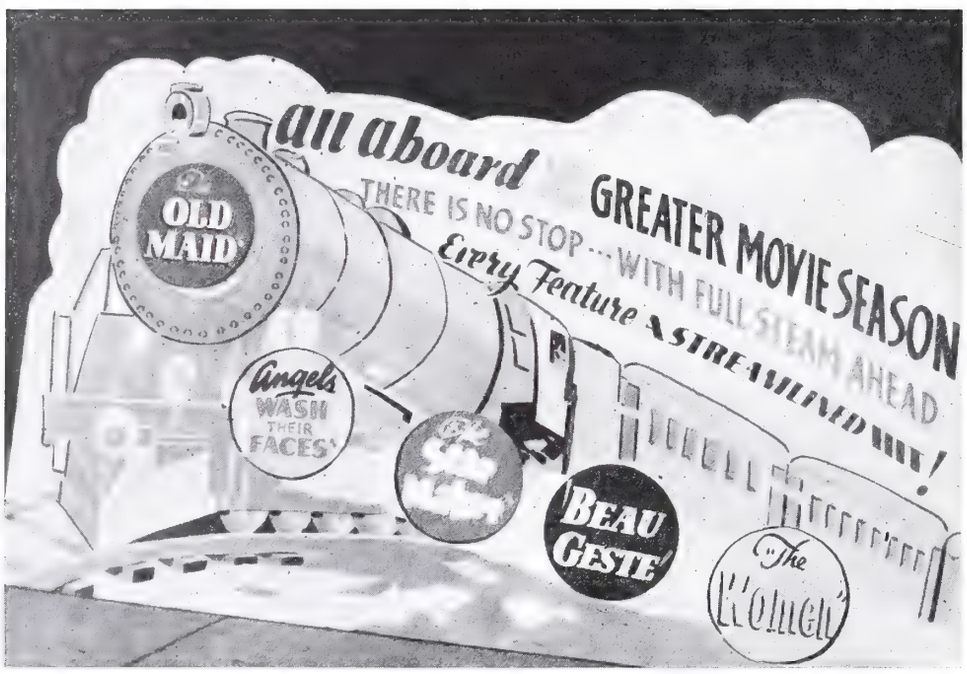
Austin, Tex.—Francis Vickers, manager of the neighborhood Austin Theatre, has devised a neat plan to make the South Austin district read his newspaper ads. Every other day or so he calls a score of neighborhood housewives and asks them, "Can you tell me the name of the picture now at the Austin Theatre?" If they can, a couple of passes to the show is the reward.

School and College Tieup For "What a Life"

BUFFALO—Heavy concentration among local colleges, high and public schools highlighted the campaign put on by Charles Taylor, Shea's publicity director, for "What a Life" at the Buffalo.

A special screening was arranged for school principals, members of the board and Parent Teachers' officials. Special college nights were arranged for the University of Buffalo and Canisius at which each student body literally took over the theatre. Ads were placed in college papers.

Fifty thousand copies of Movie Guides were distributed at all Shea theatres. All taxi cabs used tire covers and inside frame cards heralding the opening. Postal Telegraph distributed 3,000 miniature blanks and 4,000 heralds were distributed at the New York Central station plugging the film and special excursion rates. A. S. Beck stores handed out 3,000 stocking bags.



Aboard the Golden Jubilee Special—

Cleveland's Warner Uptown Theatre climbed aboard the industry's Golden Jubilee special with a smash display for the lobby, as pictured above. The coming attraction spots are changeable.

NUGGETS

PLAYDATE copy for "Little Accident" was imprinted on Baby Sandy's "panties" (thin tissue paper) by H. S. "Doc" Twedt, manager-operator of the Lido in Manly, Ia. The "panties" were folded diaper-style and were fastened with small safety pins.

●

On the roof projecting out over the boxoffice of the Centre Theatre, Salt Lake City, Manager Claire Woods built up a log cabin scene, including an Indian tent and campfire. He was selling, of course, "Drums Along the Mohawk."

●

Schine has a tieup with Bank Night for its three theatres at Lexington, Ky. In the lobby of the Ben Ali, is a big easel on which pictures of winners are mounted. The whole affair is called the "Hall of Luck."

●

Manager Gus Lampe of Keith's, Syracuse, had a girl in a coonskin cap and leather clothing deliver special invitations in script for the premiere of "Allegheny Uprising" to the mayor and newspaper critics. He also arranged a tieup with a local historical society which loaned material used for a lobby display.

●

The House of Westmore is distributing thousands of display cards in chain and drug stores plugging "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex." The cards carry photographs of Bette Davis being made up by Perc Westmore, makeup artist.

Boys Club Steers Theatre For "Mr. Smith" Run

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLO.—The local troop of Boy Rangers of America took over the management of the Chief Theatre for the opening of the three-day run of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." The boys elected a manager, doormen and ushers. On the opening day they paraded to the theatre in uniforms. On their arrival the manager, Dave Goodenough, handed over the keys to the theatre. The local newspaper carried an advance story on the stunt.

A window display was arranged with a local luggage firm, F. M. Light & Sons. The centerpiece was five feet high and five feet wide with indirect lights and flasher.

For the opening matinee 1,000 heralds were distributed with 100 free tickets offered to those presenting heralds bearing one of the lucky numbers, a list of numbers appearing in the boxoffice at opening. Free tickets were good only at the first matinee.

Other stunts included a new fountain drink called "Mr. Smith" featured at the neighborhood drug store. To a special list of too-infrequent patrons 200 picture postcards were mailed from Washington, D. C.

DEFINITION OF
PROPAGANDA

"PROPAGANDA -. -. -.- AS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD IS EXPRESSION OF OPINION OR ACTION BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WITH REFERENCE TO PREDETERMINED ENDS."

We are fooled by propaganda because it appeals to our emotions rather than to our reason!

"THINK THINGS THROUGH!"
F. D. R.

FOLLOW THE NEWS REELS!

Confirm what you read and hear!

Valentine

Plugging the News—

An excellent example of the opportunities that present themselves to alert showmen who want to go beyond the superficial requirements of theatre advertising. This copy was quickly effective.

Build Model Forts for "Allegheny Uprising"

NEW YORK—Series of model fort-building contests, with cash prizes for winners, are being arranged in several California and Oregon towns in advance of playdates for "Allegheny Uprising." In most instances, theatre managers are tying up with local papers.

Douglas Graham of the California, Salinas; Barney Gurnette of the Delmar, Santa Cruz; Jack Ryan of the Hanlon, Vallejo; Harry Brown of the State, Marysville, and M. Kassis of the Cascade, Redding, have lined up contests in California. In Oregon, contests have been arranged by George Hunt of the Criterion, and Mrs. Rose M. Pool of the Pelican, Klamath Falls.

Covered Wagon Theme Helps Sell "Allegheny Uprising"

PUEBLO, COLO.—Dan Cottrall, manager of the Colorado here, made over his boxoffice to resemble a covered wagon as part of his campaign for "Allegheny Uprising." A real covered wagon with men and women dressed as pioneers was used as street ballyhoo.

He tied in with public and parochial schools for a model stockade-building contest, a six-month theatre pass going to the winner with lesser prizes for runners-up.

Organlogues Again

CLEVELAND—Harry Henderson, manager of the Lorain Fulton Theatre, is demonstrating that the day of the organlogue has returned. After more than 12 years since organ presentations in local theatres, he features them as a special attraction three days a week—on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

With Paul Herman at the organ, he arranges original presentations with complete sound and lighting effects. The program ranges from oldtime melodies to the latest in jitterbug music. The specialty includes community singing, and Henderson plans programs for both the oldsters and youngsters.

The stunt is going over in a big way, Henderson reports, and business on organlogue days shoots right up regardless of the picture attraction.

Extensive Farm Group Tieups for Time Reel

NEW YORK—March of Time's "Uncle Sam —The Farmer" is receiving an extensive direct-to-the-public campaign. Stories and stills have been planted in the leading farm publications and rural newspapers all over the country. Thirteen thousand National Grange organizations have been contacted. The Federal Farm Bureau, which is comprised of representatives of local farm organizations, has sent telegrams to their 35 regional offices stressing the fact that every farmer should see the short. All county agents were notified by the county agents extension department. A special screening was held for several thousand members of the department of agriculture in Washington.



Colorful Display—

The above window display was used in a Sherwin Williams paint store in Rochester, N. Y., to advertise "Golden Boy" at the Loew's Theatre. Lester Pollock, theatre manager, arranged the tieup.



FAVORS SELL SEATS ARE INEXPENSIVE

Paper Hats—Assorted	$1.00 per 100	Chip Roping—Red, Green or Blue, per piece (60 yards)	$0.24
Horns	$1.00 per 100	Icicles, per pound	$0.38
Balloons	$1.00 per 100	Christmas Wreaths, cellophane, new, per doz.	$1.08
Squawker Balloons	$1.50 per 100	Silver Foil Wreaths—17½ in., ea.	$0.45
Fancy Paper Hats—Asstd.	$2.00 per 100	Electric Wreaths, 10-in., each	$0.23
Miniature Paper Hats	$2.90 per 100	Electric Tree Light Set, each	$0.38
Noisemakers—Assorted	$2.00 per 100	Merry Christmas Banner—15 foot, each	$0.38
Serpentine	$2.10 per 100 pkgs.	New Year's Eve Banners—15 foot, each	$0.38

FREE FOR YOUR ORCHESTRA or USHERS — 12 Unusually Brilliant, Elaborate, Fancy Paper Hats—with Every Order of $10. or more

NET. F. O. B. KANSAS CITY — CATALOG ON REQUEST

OPTICAN BROTHERS

301 W. NINTH ST. IMPORTERS KANSAS CITY, MO.

"MR. SMITH" DOUBLES AVERAGE IN SALT LAKE

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—Salt Lake City 200

BEAST OF BERLIN—New York City..180

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—Chicago (2nd wk.).....180

DRUMS ALONG THE MOHAWK—Pittsburgh 170

FIRST LOVE—Pittsburgh 160

AMAZING MR. WILLIAMS—New Orleans 150

DANCING CO-ED—New Orleans.....150

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—Boston, Indianapolis, Portland 150

ROARING TWENTIES—New York (2nd wk.) 150

SECRET OF DR. KILDARE (dual)—Portland 150

EXTENDED RUNS

Harvest, 9th wk., World, New York City.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 5th wk., Cincinnati; 4th wk., Los Angeles; 3rd wk., Denver.

That They May Live, 4th wk., Filmarte, New York City.

First Love, 3rd wk., New York City.

Jamaica Inn., 3rd wk., Chicago.

Ninotchka, 3rd wk., New York City.

The Roaring Twenties, 3rd wk., New York City.

BOSTON

Fenway—**Cat and the Canary** (Para); **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (20th-Fox).....110
Memorial—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk.; **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO) 75
Metropolitan—**Disputed Passage** (Para); **Hero for a Day** (Univ).....105
Orpheum—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 1st wk.; **Five Little Peppers** (Col)....150
Paramount—Same as Fenway 115
State—Same as Orpheum 140

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono).. 85
Carolina—**First Love** (Univ) 100
Imperial—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox)....100
State—**The Fighting Gringo** (RKO).....100

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), held 3rd wk. 180
Chicago—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para), plus stage show 85
Garrick—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), 2nd and final loop wk. 90
Oriental—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 100
Palace—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **Little Accident** (Univ) 75
Roosevelt—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 2nd wk.; moved to Garrick for 3rd wk.....100
State-Lake—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO), continued loop run; Cab Calloway on stage.....115
United Artists—**At the Circus** (M-G-M), held 2nd wk. 100

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox) held 120
Capitol—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk. 100
Keith's—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB) 120
Lyric—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 5th wk. 130
Palace—**First Love** (Univ), held 130
Shubert—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 120

CLEVELAND

Allen—**Doctor Christian** (RKO), 5 days.....100
Hippodrome—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
Lake—**Kid Nightingale** (WB); **Three Sons** (RKO) 80
Palace—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox). Stage: **Folies Bergere** 150
State—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 120
Stillman—**Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M) 75

DALLAS

Capitol—**Kid Nightingale** (WB), 1st half..... 90
Capitol—**Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono), 2nd half 120
Majestic—**Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M), plus Silver Jubilee stage show 135
Palace—**First Love** (Univ) 110
Rialto—**U-Boat 29** (Col), 1st half 110
Rialto—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox), 2nd half.100
Tower—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....115

DENVER

Aladdin—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), after a wk. at the Denver.....130
Broadway—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), day and date with the Rialto after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin.....140
Denham—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 4 days on 2nd wk.; **Cat and the Canary** (Para), 3 days starting a run 150
Denver—**First Love** (Univ) 125
Orpheum—**Remember** (M-G-M); **Three Sons** (RKO) 105
Paramount—**Espionage Agent** (FN); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB) 110
Rialto—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), day and date with the Broadway after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Shipyard Sally** (20th-Fox) 140

DETROIT

Adams—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. after 2 wks. at the Fox; **Behind Prison Gates** (Col) 100
Cinema—**Lucrezia Borgia** (SR), 2nd wk.....150
Fox—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.; **Little Accident** (Univ).....120
Michigan—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para); **$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para) 125
Palms-State—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), after 1 wk. at the Michigan; **Remember?** (M-G-M), after 1 wk. at the United Artists..115
United Artists—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M)...120

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Range War** (Para); **Girl From Rio** (Mono) 80
Apollo—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk. 50
Circle—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **Little Accident** (Univ) 70
Indiana—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox).....105
Loew's—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Man They Could Not Hang** (Col).....150
Lyric—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox), plus Harmonica Rascals stage show 100

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), holdover 125
Midland—**Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M); **Beware, Spooks!** (Col) 80
Newman—**Cat and the Canary** (Para); **$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para) 130
Orpheum—**On Your Toes** (FN); **Espionage Agent** (FN) 100
Tower—**Little Accident** (Univ), plus stage show 140
Uptown—Same as Esquire 120

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **Charlie Chan in City of Darkness** (20th-Fox).....100
Downtown—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 125
Four Star—**Intermezzo** (UA), 2nd wk.....100
Hillstreet—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 4th wk.; **Everything's on Ice** (RKO)..100
Hollywood—Same as Downtown 125
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet 100
Paramount—**Cat and the Canary** (Para); **Frances Langford, Kenny Baker and Ken Murray** on stage 150
State—Same as Chinese 100

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk.; **Those High Grey Walls** (Col).....120
Riverside—**One Hour to Live** (Univ), plus stage show 100
Strand—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M); **Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..... 90
Warner—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); **Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB)..... 80
Wisconsin—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.; **Too Busy to Work** (20th Fox) 100

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Two Bright Boys** (Univ); **Kid Nightingale** (WB) 90
Century—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk. 100
Esquire—**Love Affair** (RKO), 2nd run..... 80
Gopher—**Full Confession** (RKO) 70
Minnesota—**Panama Patrol** (GN), plus stage show 80
Orpheum—**First Love** (Univ) 125
State—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox)..100
World—**The Under-Pup** (Univ), 2nd wk..... 60

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Mutiny on the Blackhawk** (Univ).... 75
Globe—**Frontier Marshal** (20th-Fox)..... 90
Liberty—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); 3rd wk.; 2 at Orpheum 100
Orpheum—**Amazing Mr. Williams** (Col).....150
Saenger—**First Love** (Univ) 100
State—**Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M) 150
Tudor—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd run 100

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Mill on the Floss** (Standard).....100
Capitol—**At the Circus** (M-G-M).....110
Criterion—**Sabotage** (Rep) 40
Globe—**Beast of Berlin** (PDC) 180
Paramount—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para), 2nd wk., plus stage show 95
Radio City Music Hall—**Ninotchka (M-G-M),** 2nd wk., plus stage show 140
Rivoli—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk., held.....120
Roxy—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk., plus stage show 100
Strand—The Roaring Twenties (WB), 2nd wk., plus stage show, held 150

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**First Love** (Univ), 6 days..... 70
Liberty—**Little Accident** (Univ); **The Fighting Gringo** (RKO), 6 days 100
Midwest—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para).....140
Plaza—**Fifth Avenue Girl** (RKO), moveover from Criterion 120
State—**Jeepers Creepers** (Rep) 95
Tower—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), moveover from Midwest 90

OMAHA

Brandeis—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **Beware, Spooks!** (Col) 110
Omaha—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB); **Night Work** (Para) 115
Orpheum—**Disputed Passage** (Para); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox) 105
Paramount—**Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox), plus Phil Spitalny and all-girl orchestra on stage 100

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA), 2nd wk. 100
Boyd—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 3rd wk. 110
Earle—**Return of Dr. X** (WB), plus Hoot Gibson and Parkyakarkus on stage.....115
Fox—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 100
Karlton—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox) 125
Keith's—**First Love** (Univ) 115
Stanley—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col)..145
Stanton—**The Real Glory** (UA).....110

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox)..170
Barry—**Sabotage** (Rep); **Waterfront** (WB)....100
Fulton—**Road Back** (Univ), reissue; **Hero for a Day** (Univ), 2 days 50
Fulton—**First Love** (Univ) 160
Penn—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 90
Senator—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd d. t. wk. 125
Stanley—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para)..... 80
Warner—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO), 2nd d. t. wk. 100

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Secret of Dr. Kildare** (M-G-M); **Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M) 150
Liberty—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Three Sons** (RKO), plus Jay Clark on stage.110
Orpheum—**Main Street Lawyer** (Rep); Sally Rand on stage, 2nd wk. 120
Paramount—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Television Spy** (Para) 150
United Artists—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Little Accident** (Univ), 2nd wk. 140

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**Indianapolis Speedway** (WB); **Television Spy** (Para) 105
Centre—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col)..200
Paramount—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 125
Studio—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 115
Utah—**Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB); **Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox).....110

SEATTLE

Blue Mouse—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
Fifth Avenue—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox)..... 90
Liberty—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 4th wk. 120
Music Box—**Cat and the Canary** (Para); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M); 2nd wk..... 90
Orpheum—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para); **Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox)..... 90
Palomar—**Chicken Wagon Family** (20th-Fox); Blackstone on stage 100
Paramount—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 100
Roosevelt—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk. 90

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

A

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M) Feb. 18 923
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26 005
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue Sept 30.
All Women Have Secrets (Para) 3914
Allegheny Uprising (RKO) Oct. 28 006
Amazing Mr. Williams (Col) Nov. 25 7
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5 367
Another Thin Man (M-G-M) Nov. 18 13
Arizona Kid (Rep) Oct. 7..... 951
Asking for Trouble (GB).....8012
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col), reissue.....1072

B

Babes in Arms (M-G-M) Sept. 23 9
Bachelor Mother (RKO) July 1 932
Bad Lands (RKO) July 29..... 933
Bad Little Angel (M-G-M) Oct. 28 10
Balalaika (M-G-M) 17
Barricade (20th-Fox) Dec. 2..... 026
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9
Beau Geste (Para) July 29....3902
Beware, Spooks! (Col) Oct. 28..1011
Big Guy (Univ) Dec. 2.....
Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16... 3
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col) Nov. 11 1013

C

Cafe Hostess (Col) .....
Call a Messenger (Univ) Sept. 9. 20
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16 912
Cat and the Canary (Para) Oct. 7 3909
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 12 006
Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (20th-Fox) Nov. 25 021
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3 948
Charlie McCarthy, Detective (Univ) .....
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox) Aug. 19 002
Chip of the Flying U (Univ)...
Cisco Kid and the Lady (20th-Fox) Dec. 2 012
Coast Guard (Col) Aug. 19....9008
Colorado Sunset (Rep) Aug. 5.. 846
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2..... 935
Covered Trailer (Rep) Nov. 18.. 915
Cowboys From Texas (Rep).... 962
Crashing Through (Mono) Nov. 4 3936

D

Dancing Co-ed (M-G-M) Sept. 30 3
Danger Flight (Mono) Nov. 4...3816
Days of Jesse James (Rep)..... 953
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO) Sept. 9 002
Day Time Wife (20th-Fox) Nov. 18 020
Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (WB) Nov. 4 413
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2 3901
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21.4058
Destry Rides Again (Univ).....
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21 3908
Distant Fields (RKO) .....
Dr. Cyclops (Para) .....
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) Nov. 4..... 015
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

Each Dawn I Die (FN) July 22. 356
Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (20th-Fox) July 29.... 001
Emergency Squad (Para).....
Escape, The (20th-Fox) Nov. 11. 010
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30.. 462
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7...
Everything Is Rhythm (Astor).
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 946

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14 6
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38 3831
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2. 986
Fighting Mad (Mono) 3937
First Kiss (20th-Fox) 020
First Love (Univ) Nov. 11.....3002
First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34..... 062
Five Little Peppers (Col).....9017
Flight at Midnight (Rep) Sept. 2 911
Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14.... 010
Four Feathers (UA) June 24...
Four Just Men (Mono).....3924
Four Wives (WB) Dec. 2.....
Fugitive at Large (Col).....1026
Full Confession (RKO) Aug. 26. 003

G

Gentleman From Arizona (Mono)
Geronimo! (Para) Nov. 25.....
Girl and the Gambler (RKO)...
Girl From Rio (Mono).....3825
Golden Boy (Col) Aug. 19.....9002
Great Victor Herbert, The (Para) .....
Green Hell (Univ) June 10.... 926
Gulliver's Travels (Para).....

H

Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26 24
He Married His Wife (20th-Fox) 023
Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence (20th-Fox) Oct. 7..... 019
Henry Goes Arizona (M-G-M).. 2
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30..... 009
Hero for a Day (Univ).....4035
Heroes in Blue (Mono) Nov. 18..3919
Hidden Power (Col) May 27....1025
His Girl Friday (Col).....
Hitler—Beast of Berlin (P-D-C) Nov. 11 .....
Hobby Family (FN) Aug. 26... 376
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox) Oct. 7 007
Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16 .....
Honeymoon's Over (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 024
Housekeeper's Daughter (UA) Sept. 16 .....
Hunchback of Notre Dame (RKO) 015

I

Indianapolis Speedway (WB).... July 15 315
In Name Only (RKO) Aug. 12.. 936
In Old Monterey (Rep) July 29. 847
Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday (20th-Fox) 022
Intermezzo, A Love Story (UA) Oct. 7 .....
Invisible Killer (P-D-C) .....
Invisible Man Returns (Univ)...
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20 3841
Irish Luck (Mono) Aug. 26....3826
Isle of Destiny (RKO).....

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8.....3906
Jeepers Creepers (Rep) Nov. 4..
Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President (M-G-M) 14
Judge Hardy & Son (M-G-M).. 16

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21... 961
Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16. 411
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col) Nov. 11 9034

L

Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12 947
Laugh It Off (Univ) Nov. 11...4026
Law of the Pampas (Para) Oct. 21 3955
Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ)... 53
Legion of the Lawless (RKO) Nov. 25 082
Light That Failed (Para).....
Little Accident (Univ) Nov. 4..4019
Llano Kid (Para) Nov. 11.....
Lucky Texan (Mono) .....

M

Mad Empress (FN) 481
Main Street Lawyer (Rep) Nov. 11 905
Man From Montreal (Univ) Nov. 11 4054
Man in the Iron Mask (UA) July 8
Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19 9018
Married and in Love (RKO)... 014
Marshal of Mesa City (RKO) Oct. 7 081
Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mexican Spitfire (RKO) .....
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7....4044
Miracle of Main Street (Col)...1032
Miracles for Sale (M-G-M) Aug. 5 946
Missing Evidence (Univ) Oct. 7.4028
Money to Burn (Rep)..... ....
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14 1101
Mr. Wong in Chinatown (Mono) July 22 3807
Mutiny in the Big House (Mono) Oct. 21 3803
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24 4051
My Love for Yours (Para).....

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26..... 419
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB) July 15 324
New Frontier (Rep) Aug. 19.... 868
Nick Carter, Master Detective (M-G-M) 15
Night of Nights (Para) Dec. 2..3912
Night Work (Para) Aug. 12...3849
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14..... 7
No Place to Go (FN) Sept. 23... 469
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26 001

O

Oklahoma Frontier (Univ) 4059
Oklahoma Terror (Mono) Oct. 7.3856
Old Maid, The (FN) Aug. 5..... 452
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14.... 463
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para) Sept. 30 3903
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16 30
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug.5
Our Neighbors—the Carters (Para) Nov. 11 3911
Outpost of the Mounties (Col) Dec. 2.....1201
Overland Mail (Mono) Nov. 18.3857

P

Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14..... 014
Phantom Strikes (Mono) Nov. 18 3923
Pioneer Days (Mono) 3858
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23 418
Private Detective (FN) Nov. 25. 471
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7..... 402

Q

Queen of Destiny (RKO) Nov. 26, '38 061
Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 004

R

Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16 011
Range War (Para) Aug. 12.....3954
Real Glory, The (UA) Sept. 23..
Rebecca (UA) .....
Remember? (M-G-M) Nov. 11... 11
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29.3859
Reno (RKO) Nov. 18..... 008
Return of Dr. X (FN) Dec. 2...
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30 9209
Riders of Destiny (Mono) reissue
Riders of the Frontier (Mono) Sept. 9 3866
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30 .....
Road Back (Univ) reissue.....
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36..... 061
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21. 403
Roll, Wagons, Roll (Mono).....3951
Rovin' Tumbleweeds (Rep) Nov. 25 848
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23 3910

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14..... 913
Saga of Death Valley (Rep) Dec. 2 952
Sagebrush Trail (Mono) reissue
Santa Fe Marshal (Para).....
Scandal Sheet (Col) Oct. 28....1031
Secret of Dr. Kildare (M-G-M) Nov. 25 12
Send Another Coffin (UA).....
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox)..... 018
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 23.....3815
Smashing the Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21 470
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26. 825
South of the Border (Rep)..... 941
St. Martin's Lane (Para).....
Stanley and Livingstone (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 003
Star Maker (Para) Aug. 19....3851
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2 008
Stranger From Texas (Col).....1202
Submarine Patrol (20th-Fox) Nov. 5 909
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21.. 012

T

Taming of the West (Col).....1211
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3 939
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14....3907
That's Right, You're Wrong (RKO) Nov. 18 011
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M) Aug. 26 948
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29 3865
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30 1015
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30.... 004
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M) Sept. 23 4
To the Rescue (GN)..... 328
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 016
Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5 326
Torture Ship (P-D-C) .....
Tower of London (Univ) Nov. 25
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16.....4052
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23 4017
Two Thoroughbreds (RKO) Dec. 2 013
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28 013

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2..... 10

V

Vigil in the Night (RKO).....

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
We Are Not Alone (FN) Nov. 11
West of Carson City (Univ)....4061
West of the Divide (Mono).....
Westbound Stage (Mono) 3952
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ) Aug. 19 3003
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19. 949
Woman Who Dared (Rep).....
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2.. 1

Y

Yukon Flight (Mono) 3938

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939-40, Unless Otherwise Specified.

Indicates short of the week.

Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

Andy Clyde Gets Spring Chicken (..) .....Dec. 15
Glove Slingers (..) .....Nov. 24
Now It Can Be Sold (17)..June 2
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17) .....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Teacher's Pest (16½).....Nov. 3
The Awful Goof (..) .....Dec. 22
The Chump Takes a Bump (18) .....May 5
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18) .....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..) .....Aug. 11

CINESCOPES

World of 1960 (Futurama) (..) .....Nov. 24

COLOR RHAPSODIES

A Boy, a Gun and Birds (..) .....Jan. 12, '40
Crop Chasers (8) .....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (6½) .....
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7) .....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7) .....May 26
Mother Goose in Swingtime (..) .....Dec. 8
Mountain Ears (7½) .....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7) .....June 30
The House That Jack Built (7) .....Apr. 14

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (..)..Nov. 17
Historic Cities of India (10).....
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions) ..(9½) .....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10) .....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)...Oct. 27
Morocco (10) .....Aug. 11
New Hampshire (..).....Dec. 22
Sojourn in India (..) .....July 7

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 3 (College Songs) (10) .....
No. 4 (Stephen Foster Songs) (..) .....Nov. 17
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11)...Apr. 21
No. 9 Songs of the West (10) .....May 19
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16

FABLES CARTOON

Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6
Park Your Baby (..).....Dec. 22

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

Elias Howe (11) .....
No. 1 Charles Goodyear (10½) .Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10).....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (11) .....Oct. 12
No. 2 (10½) .....Mar. 23
No. 3 (11) .....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6).....May 12

MUSIC HALL VANITIES
(New series)

A Night at the Troc (10).....Mar. 2
Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10)...May 19

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..).....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1
The Mouse Exterminator (..) .....Jan. 26, '40

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7).....Apr. 28
Scrappy's Rodeo (6) .....June 2
Scrappy's Sideshow (7).....Mar. 3

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 18)

No. 1 (..) .....Sept. 15
No. 2 (10) .....Oct. 20
No. 7 (10) .....Mar. 17
No. 8 (9½) .....Apr. 8
No. 9 (10) .....May 12
No. 10 (10) .....May 26
No. 11 (10) .....June 29
No. 12 (10) .....July 28

(Series 19)

No. 1 Art of Make-Up (9½)....
No. 2 Training Animal Stars (..) .....Nov. 10
No. 3 .....Dec. 1
No. 4 .....Jan. 5, '40

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10) .....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (9½).....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5
Jai Alai (..) .....Nov. 17
Jockeys Up (10½) .....June 2
Navy Champions (9½).....Mar. 17
Technique of Tennis (8½)...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½) .....Apr. 7
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½) .....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17).....June 30
Three Sappy People (18½).....
We Want Our Mummy (17) .....Feb. 24
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16) .....May 19

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (10½) Smithsonian Institute .....Oct. 20
No. 2 Inside the White House (11) .....Feb. 21
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10) .....May 26
No. 4 Library of Congress (10) .....Aug. 4
Smithsonian Institute .....Nov. 10

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (..) .....
Help Wanted (21).....June 10
Money to Loan (21).....Mar. 11
While America Sleeps (21) .....Apr. 15

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11) .....Sept. 2
Colorful Curacao (9) .....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Imperial Delhi (8) .....Feb. 18
Java Journey (10) .....Mar. 18
Picturesque Udaipur (8).....May 13
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10).....May 13
Ice Antics (9) .....Feb. 11
Love on a Tap (11).....Mar. 18
Prophets Without Honor (11) .....May 20
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11).....May 27

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15
Somewhat Secret (21).....Mar. 25

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)

Art Gallery (9) .....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11) .....July 15
Little Gold Fish (8).....Apr. 15
The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9) .....June 10
Wanted No Master (8).....Mar. 18

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY

Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Auto Antics (10) .....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11) .....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29
Dog Daze (11) .....July 1
Duel Personalities (10).....Mar. 11
Joy Scouts (10) .....June 24

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia...June 24
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11) .....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10).Mar. 18
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia .....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9) .....July 1
Football Thrills of 1938 (..).Sept. 16
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cure (Sepia) (9)....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).....Apr. 8

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9).....Mar. 18
Dark Magic (10) .....May 13
Home Early (9) .....May 27
How to Eat (10) .....June 10
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7)....May 12
Rhythm on the Reservation (7) .....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7).Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7).....June 9
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8) .....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES
(New Series in Cinecolor)

Chile (10) .....Nov. 10
Ecuador (10) .....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10) .....May 26
Peru (9) .....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10) .....Sept. 8
Here's Hal (10) .....Nov. 24
Hal Kemp and orchestra.
Moments of Charm of 1940 (Cinecolor) (11) .....Oct. 27
Phil Spitalny and Girl Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10) .....May 5
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10) .....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10).....June 2
Richard Himber and his orchestra.
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10) .....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Three Kings and a Queen (11) .....Apr. 7
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Bits of Life (11).....Nov. 17
Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10).....Oct. 20
Circus Co-Ed (10) .....Mar. 10
Farewell Vienna (10) .....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10).....Apr. 14
Public Hobby Number One (11) .....Sept. 22
Swans (10) .....May 19
That's Africa (10) .....Feb. 10

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 8 (10) .....Mar. 3
No. 9 (10) .....Apr. 7
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11) .....May 5
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and sons of the year.
No. 11 (10) .....June 2
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10) .....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22) .....Apr. 7
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7).....June 16
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7) .....July 28
Leave Well Enough Alone (7) .....Apr. 28
Never Sock a Baby (6).....Nov. 3
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

No. 4 (10) .....Mar. 10
No. 5 (11) .....May 12
No. 6 (11) .....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-1 (11) .....Sept. 15
No. J9-2 (10) .....Nov. 3

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

Aqua-Rhythm (10) .....Nov. 24
A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
A Dog Is Born (10).....Nov. 3
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10)....June 9
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12
Good Skates (10) .....Apr. 14
Ice skating with champions.
Hydro-Maniacs (10) .....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10).....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.

The Blue Danube Waltz (10).Sept. 29
Merry Wives of Windsor (9)..Oct. 27
William Tell (11) .....Nov. 24

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

No. 1 (11) .....Oct. 13
No. 2 (11) .....Nov. 17
No. 5 (10) .....Apr. 14

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

Autograph Hound, The (8)..Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9
Donald's Cousin Gus (7).....May 19
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8).....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
The Pointer (8) .....July 21
The Hockey Champ (7)....Apr. 7
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15) .....May 19
Clock Wise (16) .....Mar. 24
Father-in-law's grandfather clock drives Edgar nuts as he unsuccessfully tries to get rid of it.
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28
Kennedy the Great (19).....Dec. 1

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Sales Slips (17) .....July 21

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Home Boner (20) .....Mar. 10
Moving Vanities (17).....May 5
Ring Madness (19).....June 30
Truth Aches (19) .....Nov. 3

MARCH OF TIME

No. 8 (18) .....Mar. 17
No. 9 (19) .....Apr. 14
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20) .....May 12
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19) .....June 9
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22) .....July 7
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18) .....Aug. 4
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19) .....Sept. 1
Soldiers with wings.
No. 2 (19) .....Sept. 29
The Battle Fleets of England.
No. 3 (18) .....Oct. 27
Uncle Sam—The Farmer.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11).....May 12
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11).....Apr. 14
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.
Samovar Serenade (10).....Mar. 17
Codolbon & His Gypsy Orchestra, Moscow Choir, Karavaeff, Luba Malina.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11) .....Sept. 8
No. 2 (11) .....Oct. 6
No. 3 (10) .....Nov. 3

PATHE NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16)....Oct. 20
Chicken Feed (18).....Dec. 29
Coat Tales (18) .....Nov. 17
Dog-Gone (16) .....Apr. 21
Marriage-Go-Round (18).....July 28

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Devil Drivers (9).....June 16
Hunting Hounds (9) .....Sept. 29
Ice Cutters (9) .....Oct. 27
Kennel Kings (9) .....Aug. 11
Riding the Crest (9).....July 14
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9).....May 19
The golfers show how it's done.

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Bandits and Ballads (17)....Dec. 15
Ranch House Romeo (17).....Apr. 7
Sagebrush Serenade (19).....June 16

REELISMS (New Series)

Acres of Plenty (9).....Oct. 13
Air Waves (10) .....Mar. 10
American Royal (9).....Nov. 10
Nevada Unlimited (8).....Sept. 15
Pack Trip (9) .....Aug. 18
Pilot Boat (9) .....Feb. 3
Soldiers of the Sea (9).....Apr. 7
Swinguet (8) .....May 26
Television (9) .....May 5
World of Tomorrow (9).....June 23
Zoo (9) .....July 21

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19).....July 21
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) Aug. 18
Filming the Fleet (11).....Oct. 27
Sand Hogs (10) .....May 12

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10).....Sept. 1
Clocking the Jockeys (11)....Nov. 24
Hunting Dogs (11) .....Mar. 3
Inside Baseball (11) .....Apr. 14
Sports Immortals (11).....June 23

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11)..Aug. 4
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11)..Nov. 10

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts, No. 3 (11) .....Mar. 31
Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..)..July 7
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10).Sept. 15
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..)..Dec. 22

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS

Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10) .....Sept. 29
Muscle Maulers (11) .....Apr. 14
The Silly Season (..).....Dec. 8

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..) .....May 26
Isle of Pleasure (11).....Feb. 3
Mystic Siam (10) .....Mar. 17
Tempest Over Tunis (11)....June 9
The Evergreen Empire (..)..Oct. 13
Viking Trail (10) .....Feb. 17

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..).....June 16
A Mouse and a Million (..)...Nov. 3
Africa Squawks (7) .....June 30
Barnyard Baseball (7) .....July 14
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) May 5
Frozen Feet (7) .....Feb. 24
Gandy Goose and G-Man Jitters (7) .....Mar. 10
Hook, Line and Sinker (7)..Sept. 8
Nick's Coffee Pot (7).....May 19
Nutty Network (7) .....Mar. 24
Sheep in the Meadow (7)....Sept. 22
The Cuckoo Bird (7) .....April 7
The First Robin (..).....Dec. 29
The Golden West (7).....Aug. 25
The Hitch-Hiker (..).....Dec. 1
The Old Fire Horse (..)....July 28
The Orphan Duck (7).....Oct. 6
The Prize Guest (7).....June 2
The Three Bears (6).....Feb. 10
The Watchdog (..).....Oct. 20
Their Last Bean (7).....April 21
Two Headed Giant (7)....Aug. 11
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) Nov. 17

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7)..Sept. 4
Bird on Nellie's Hat.....June 19
Bola Mola Land (7).....May 29
Charlie Cuckoo (7).....Apr. 30
Crack Pot Cruise (7).....Apr. 10
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8) .....Oct. 9
Little Tough Mice (7).....Mar. 13
Magic Beans (7) .....Feb. 13
Nellie of the Circus (7).....May 8
One Armed Bandit (7).....Mar. 27
Scrambled Eggs (9) .....Nov. 20
Silly Superstition (7).....Aug. 28
Slap Happy Valley (7).....Aug. 21
Sleeping Princess (..).....Dec. 4
Snuffy's Party (7) .....Aug. 7
Stubborn Mule (7) .....July 31
The Birth of a Toothpick (7) .....Feb. 27
The Sleeping Princess (9)..Nov. 20

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 61 (9) .....Mar. 13
No. 62 (9) .....Apr. 10
No. 63 (9) .....May 15
No. 64 (9) .....June 26
No. 65 (9) .....July 17
No. 66 (9) .....Sept. 25
No. 67 (9) .....Oct. 16
No. 68 (9) .....Nov. 13
No. 69 (9) .....Dec. 11
No. 70 (9) .....Dec. 25

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19) .....Mar. 15
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17) .....Apr. 12
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18).....July 12
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Pharmacy Follies (18).....May 17
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18).....June 14
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17).....Aug. 9
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7) .....Aug. 15

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 59 (9) .....Feb. 6
No. 60 (9) .....Mar. 6
No. 61 (9) .....Apr. 3
No. 62 (9) .....May 1
No. 63 (9) .....June 5
No. 64 (..) .....July 3
No. 65 (9) .....Aug. 7
No. 66 (8½) .....Sept. 18
No. 67 (9) .....Oct. 9
No. 68 (9) .....Nov. 6

TWO REEL MUSICALS

Rhumba Land (18½).....Nov. 15
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17).....Sept. 6
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Snow Follies (..) .....Dec. 13
Lillian Roth, King Sisters, Bruce Holden, Consolo and Melba, Morell Sisters and Billy, Ann Triolo, Lola Jensen and Fonchonettes.
Swing Hotel (18) .....Oct. 18
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21).....Sept. 6

UNIVERSAL NEWS

Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (20).....Mar. 25
A Swing Opera (20).....July 22
Broadway Buckaroo (20).....June 3
Home Cheap Home (20).....Mar. 18
Projection Room (20).....Mar. 4
Rollin' in Rhythm (20).....Apr. 15
Seeing Red (20).....Aug. 26
Seeing Spots (20).....Apr. 29
Slapsie Maxie (17).....Sept. 10
Sophomore Swing (20).....Jan. 21
Small Town Idol (20).....Feb. 11
Sundae Serenade (20).....Feb. 25
You're Next to Closing (20) .....May 13
Wardrobe Girl (20).....June 17

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

American Saddle Horses (..).Nov. 11
For Your Convenience (10) .....May 20
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10) .....Sept. 30
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10) .....Feb. 25
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4..Apr. 22
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (9) .....June 10
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10) .....Aug. 5
Modern Methods (9).....July 15
The Roving Camera (10)...Mar. 25

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7) .....Apr. 1
Jeepers Creepers (7).....Sept. 23
Naughty Neighbors (7).....Oct. 7
Pied Piper Porky (..).....Nov. 4
Polar Pals (7) .....June 3
Porky and Teabiscuit (7).....Apr. 22
Porky, the Giant Killer (..)..Nov. 18
Porky's Hotel (7) .....Sept. 2
Porky's Movie Mystery (7)..Mar. 11
Porky's Picnic (7).....July 15
Porky's Tire Trouble (7).....Feb. 18
Christopher Columbus jr. (7) .....May 13
Scalp Trouble (7).....June 24
Wise Quack (7).....Aug. 5

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10) .....Apr. 29
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10) .....Mar. 18
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (10) .....Apr. 8
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10) .....Aug. 12
Jerry Livingston & Orchestra (10) .....Feb. 4
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10) .....May 20
Leith Stevens & Orch. (10) .....June 10
Rita Rio & Orch. (10).....July 1
Rubinoff and His Orchestra (10) .....Nov. 11
Russ Morgan & Orchestra (11) .....Feb. 25
Swing Styles (10).....Sept. 2
Vincent Lopez and Orch. (10) .....Sept. 30
Will Osborne & Orch. (..) .....July 22

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

A Day at the Zoo (7).....Mar. 11
Bars and Stripes Forever (7).Apr. 8
Believe It or Else (7).....June 3
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7) .....Apr. 22
Dangerous Dan McFoo (7) .....July 15
Detouring America (7).....Aug. 26
Fagin's Freshmen (..).....Nov. 18
Fresh Fish (7) .....Nov. 4
Goldrush Daze (7) .....Feb. 25
Good Egg, The (7).....Oct. 21
Hare-um Scare-um (7).....Aug. 12
Land of the Midnight Sun (7) .....Oct. 7
Little Brother Rat (7).....Sept. 2
Little Lion Hunter (7).....Oct. 7
Naughty But Mice (7).....May 20
Old Glory (10).....July 1
Prest-O Change-O (7).....Mar. 25
Robinhood Makes Good (7)..Feb. 11
Sioux Me (7) .....Sept. 9
Snow Man's Land (7).....July 29
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7)...May 6

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (20).....Aug. 12
Lincoln in the White House (21) .....Feb. 11
Quiet Please (18) .....July 1
Royal Rodeo (..) .....Nov. 25
Sons of the Plains (19).....July 30
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20).....May 20
The Monroe Doctrine (16)..Oct. 14

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10)....Feb. 18

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (10).....Apr. 15
Dean of the Pasteboards (10) .....May 27
Gadgeteers (10) .....Feb. 18
One Day Stand (10).....Aug. 19
Sword Fishing (10).....Oct. 21
Tax Trouble (10) .....Mar. 18
Vote Trouble (10).....Sept. 9
Witness Trouble (10).....July 29

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11)..Mar. 4
Chained (11).....Apr. 1
Haunted House (11).....June 3
High Peril (12) .....Feb. 18
Lives in Peril (11).....July 7
Three-Minute Fuse (11).....July 29
Verge of Disaster (10).....Aug. 26
Voodoo Fires (11) .....May 6

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician .....May 6
12 chapters.

Secret of Treasure Island...Mar. 17
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.

The Shadow .....Jan. 5, '40
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters .....June 10
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.

Dick Tracy's G-Men .....Sept. 2
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.

Lone Ranger Rides Again....Feb. 25
15 Chapters. Robert Livingston, Jinx Falken, Chief Thunder Cloud.

Zorro's Fighting Legion.....Dec. 16
12 Chapters. Reed Hadley.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers (..).....Apr. 11
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.

Oregon Trail (15 chapters)...July 4
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol ◐ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ✪ indicates color photography.

	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 12	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 9
COLUMBIA	[4] Action Drama 9008 **Coast Guard (72)** Randolph Scott Frances Dee R—Aug. 19		[17] Melodrama 9018 **Man They Could Not Hang (64)** Boris Karloff R—Aug. 19	[22] Comedy Drama 9017 **Five Little Peppers** (60) Edith Fellows [23] Western 9209 **Riders of Black River** (59) C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	[30] Wild Horse 9034 **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (65) R—Nov. 11	[5] Drama **Golden Boy (100)** Stanwyck-Holden R—Aug. 19 [7] Mystery Drama **Hidden Power (60)** Jack Holt-Gert. Mic R—May 29
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	[4] Drama 946 **Miracles for Sale (70)** Robert Young Florence Rice Henry Hull R—Aug. 5	[11] Drama 947 **Lady of the Tropics (91)** Hedy Lamarr Robt. Taylor R—Aug. 12	[18] Comedy Drama 948 **These Glamour Girls** (79) Lew Ayres-Lana Turner Anita Louise R—Aug. 26	[25] Comedy Fantasy 949 ◐✪**Wizard of Oz** (102) Judy Garland Frank Morgan R—Aug. 19	[1] Comedy Drama 1 **The Women (134)** Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 2	[8] Melodrama **Blackmail** (7[illegible] Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16
MONOGRAM	[1] Mystery 3807 **Mr. Wong in Chinatown (70)** Boris Karloff Grant Withers Mary Reynolds R—July 22		[15] Drama with Mus. 3825 **Girl From Rio (62)** Movita-Warren Hull R—Aug. 12 [16] Western 3866 **Riders of Frontier (58)** Tex Ritter R—Sept. 9	[25] Western 3856 **Oklahoma Terror** (52) Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 [22] Melodrama 3826 **Irish Luck (61)** F. Darro-D. Purcell R—Aug. 26		
PARAMOUNT	[4] Comedy 3819 **Night Work (62)** Mary Boland Charles Ruggles R—Aug. 12	[11] Comedy Drama 3850 **Our Leading Citizen (90)** Bob Burns Susan Hayward R—Aug. 5	[18] Melodrama 3865 **This Man Is News (75)** Barry K. Barnes V. Hobson R—July 29 [18] Western 3859 **Renegade Trail (58)** William Boyd R. Hayden R—July 29	[25] Musical Comedy 3851 **Star Maker (94)** Bing Crosby Louise Campbell R—Aug. 19	[1] Melodrama 3901 **Death of a Champion (66)** Lynne Overman Virginia Dale R—Sept. 2	[8] Western **Range War (66)** Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden R—Aug. 12
REPUBLIC	[31] Western 846 **Colorado Sunset (64)** Gene Autry-S. Burnette R—Aug. 5	[10] Western 868 **New Frontier (56)** Three Mesquiteers R—Aug. 19	[14] Western 847 **In Old Monterey (70)** Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—July 29	[21] Action Drama 825 **Smuggled Cargo (61)** Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay R—Aug. 26	[28] Drama 911 **Flight at Midnight (66)** Brian Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner R—Sept. 2	[6] Western **Wall Street Cowboy** Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9
RKO RADIO	[4] Comedy 932 **Bachelor Mother (81)** Ginger Rogers David Niven R—July 1	[11] Western 933 **Bad Lands (65)** R. Barrat-N. Berry jr. R—July 29	[18] Drama 936 **In Name Only (92)** Carole Lombard Cary Grant Kay Francis R—Aug. 12		[1] Melodrama 935 **Conspiracy (59)** Allan Lane-Linda Hayes R—Sept. 2	[8] Western **Fighting Gringo (60** Geo. O'Brien; R-Sep [8] Drama **Full Confession (72)** V. McLaglen-S. Eile R—Aug. 26
20TH-FOX	[4] Comedy Drama 001 **Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (82)** Ann Sothern James Ellison R—July 29	[11] Comedy Drama 002 **Chicken Wagon Family (65)** Jane Withers Leo Carrillo Marjorie Weaver R—Aug. 19	[18] Adventure Drama 003 **Stanley and Livingstone** (100) Spencer Tracy Nancy Kelly Richard Greene R—Aug. 5	[25] Comedy 004 **Quick Millions (61)** (The Jones Family) Jed Prouty Spring Byington R—Aug. 5	[1] Detective Drama 005 **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (85)** Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26	[8] Melodrama **Charlie Chan at Tr** **sure Island (73)** Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore R—Aug. 12
UNITED ARTS.	[4] Drama ✪**Four Feathers** (109) Ralph Richardson June Duprez R—June 24	[11] Melodrama **Man in the Iron Mask (110)** Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—July 8	[18] Drama with Music **They Shall Have Music (120)** Andrea Leeds Joel McCrea Jascha Heifetz R—July 15			
UNIVERSAL		[11] Drama 3003 **When Tomorrow Comes (90)** Charles Boyer Irene Dunne R—Aug. 19			[1] Comedy Drama 10 **Under-Pup** (88) Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey R—Sept. 2 [1] Outdoor Drama 4051 **Mutiny on the Black Hawk (66)** R—June 24 R. Arlen-A. Devine	[8] Musical Comed **Hawaiian Nights (6** Downs-Carlisle; R-Au [8] Western **Desperate Trails (5** John Mack Brown Bob Baker-Fuzzy Ki R—Oct. 21
WARNER-F.N.	[5] Melodrama WB315 **Indianapolis Speedway (82)** Ann Sheridan Pat O'Brien R—July 15	[12] Comedy WB326 **Torchy Plays With Dynamite (59)** Jane Wyman Allen Jenkins R—Aug. 5	[19] Drama FN356 **Each Dawn I Die (92)** James Cagney Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan R—July 22	[26] Comedy FN376 **Hobby Family, The (54)** Irene Rich-H. O'Neill R—Aug. 26 [26] Drama FN367 **Angels Wash Their Faces (96)** Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5	[2] Drama FN452 **The Old Maid (95)** Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins R—Aug. 5	[9] Com. Melo. W **Nancy Drew and th** **Hidden Staircase** Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas R—Aug. 26
MISCELLANEOUS						

FEBRUARY, 1940						
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MARCH, 1940						
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31						

APRIL, 1940						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

EPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14	OCTOBER 21	
Outdoor Action **1201** **post of the Mounties** **s. Starrett-I. Meredith** (3) Dec. 2	21 Drama **1015** **Those High Grey Walls** (82) **Walter Connolly** **Iris Meredith** R—Sept. 30		7 Action Drama **1010** **U-Boat 29** (77) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23		19 Comedy Drama **1101** **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (125) **Jean Arthur** James Stewart; R-Oct. 14 16 Drama **1031** **Scandal Sheet** (67) **Otto Kruger R—Oct. 28**	COLUMBIA
Drama 4 **nder Afloat** (94) **llace Beery** **ster Morris** **ginia Grey** Sept. 23		29 Comedy Drama 3 **Dancing Co-ed** (81) **Lana Turner** **Richard Carlson** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 6 **Fast and Furious** (73) Ann Sothern Franchot Tone R—Oct. 14	13 Musical Comedy 9 **Babes in Arms** (97) Mickey Rooney Judy Garland R—Sept. 23	20 Comedy 8 **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14	GRAND NAT'L MGM
Action Drama 3815 **Patrol** (61) **n Trent** **rjorie Reynolds** Sept. 23		30 Documentary 3831 **Fight for Peace** (68) R—Apr. 23, '38	1 Outdoor Drama 3936 **Crashing Thru** (56) **James Newell** **Jean Carmen** R—Nov. 4		20 Western **Riders of Destiny** (54) (Reissue) John Wayne 20 Western **Sagebrush Trail** (55) (Reissue) John Wayne	MONOGRAM
Drama 3902 **au Geste (114)** **ry Cooper** **y Milland** **-July 29**	22 Comedy 3903 **$1,000 a Touchdown** (71) **Joe E. Brown** **Martha Raye** R—Sept. 30	29 Comedy Drama 3904 **Honeymoon in Bali** (96) **(For. My Love for Yours)** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16	6 Comedy 3905 **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23	13 Drama 3906 **Jamaica Inn (106)** Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**	20 Drama 3907 **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14	PARAMOUNT
	21 Melodrama 912 **Calling All Marines** (65) Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16	29 Western 951 **Arizona Kid** (61) **Roy Rogers** **Sally March** R—Oct. 7	6 Western 961 **Kansas Terrors** (57) **Three Mesquiteers** R—Oct. 21	13 Action Drama 913 **Sabotage** (69) **Arleen Whelan** **Gordon Oliver** R—Oct. 14		REPUBLIC
Comedy 002 **y the Bookies Wept** (65) e Penner tty Grable -Sept. 9	22 Comedy Drama 934 **Fifth Avenue Girl** (80) Ginger Rogers **James Ellison** R—Aug. 26	29 Drama 001 **Nurse Edith Cavell** (95) Anna Neagle George Sanders **R—Aug. 26**	6 Musical 946 **Everything's on Ice** (65) Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9	13 Drama 004 **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis Virginia Vale R—Sept. 30		RKO RADIO
Drama 011 **e Rains Came** (103) **rna Loy-Tyrone Power** **orge Brent** -Sept. 16	22 Comedy 008 **Stop, Look and Love (57)** Jean Rogers William Frawley **R—Sept. 2**	29 Drama 009 **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30	6 Melodrama 010 **The Escape** (62) Kane Richmond Allan Duff R—Nov. 11	13 Musical 007 **Hollywood Cavalcade** (96) Alice Faye-Don Ameche R—Oct. 7 13 Drama 061 **Road to Glory** (101) (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter	20 Comedy 018 **Shipyard Sally (80)** Gracie Fields S. Howard 20 Comedy 014 **Pack Up Your Troubles** (75) Jane Withers R—Oct. 14	20TH-FOX
	22 Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story** (70) **Leslie Howard** **Ingrid Bergman** **John Halliday** R—Oct. 7	29 Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) **Gary Cooper** **Andrea Leeds** R—Sept. 23		12 Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) **Loretta Young** **David Niven** R—Oct. 7		UNITED ARTS.
Drama 4017 **vo Bright Boys** (70) **ckie Cooper** **eddie Bartholomew** -Sept. 23 Musical 4044 **kado (92)** enny Baker; R-Jan. 7	22 Melodrama 4027 **The Witness Vanishes** (66) E. Lowe-W. Barrie	29 Drama **Rio** (77) **Sigrid Gurie** **Basil Rathbone** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy 4035 **Hero for a Day** (66) Anita Louise-Dick Foran 29 Drama Reissue **All Quiet on the Western Front** (93) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 30	13 Drama 4052 **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16	20 Western 4059 **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) **Johnny Mack Brown**	UNIVERSAL
Drama FN461 **ist Be My Destiny (88)** **hn Garfield** **iscilla Lane** **-Aug. 19**	23 Comedy FN469 **No Place to Go (57)** **Fred Stone** **Gloria Dickson** **Denis Morgan** R—Sept. 23		30 Melodrama FN462 **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30 7 Melodrama WB418 **Pride of the Blue Grass** (65) R-Sept. 23 E. Fellows-J. McCallion	14 Musical FN463 **On Your Toes** (94) Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14	21 Melodrama FN470 **Smashing the Money Ring** (56) **Ronald Reagan** **Margot Stevenson** **R—Oct. 21**	WARNER-F.N.
						MISCELLANEOUS

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

MAY, 1940						
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	OCTOBER 28	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 2
COLUMBIA	24 Comedy 1011 **Beware Spooks!** (65) **Joe E. Brown** Mary Carlisle R—Oct. 28 29 Drama 1032 **Miracle of Main Street** (78) Walter Abel-Margo	2 Western 1202 **Stranger From Texas** (55) Charles Starrett	9 Comedy 1013 **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (69) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 11		23 Mystery Comedy 7 **The Amazing Mr. Williams** (86) Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas R—Nov. 25	30 Drama **Cafe Hostess** (..) Preston Foster Ann Dvorak
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	27 Comedy Drama 10 **Bad Little Angel** (77) Virginia Weidler Henry Hull R—Oct. 28	3 Comedy Drama 7 **Ninotchka** (110) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas R—Oct. 14	10 Drama 11 **Remember?** (81) Robert Taylor Greer Garson R—Nov. 11	17 Comedy Drama 13 **Another Thin Man** (102) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Nov. 18	24 Drama 12 **Secret of Dr. Kildare** (85) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Nov. 25	1 Drama **Joe and Ethel Turp C on the President** (.. Ann Sothern Walter Brennan
MONOGRAM	1 Action Drama 3816 **Danger Flight (61)** John Trent R—Nov. 4 25 Drama 3803 **Mutiny in the Big House** (84) C. Bickford-B. MacLane R—Oct. 21	31 Western 3857 **Overland Mail** (53) **Jack Randall** R—Nov. 18	5 Action Drama 3937 **Fighting Mad** (60) James Newell 7 Melodrama 3919 **Heroes in Blue** (61) D. Purcell-B. Hayes R—Nov. 18	15 Mystery Drama 3923 **Phantom Strikes** (58) Sonnie Hale Wilfred Lawson R—Nov. 18	25 Western 3951 **Roll, Wagons, Roll** (..) Tex Ritter	1 Action Drama 3 **Yukon Flight** (..) **James Newill** 4 Drama **Gentleman From Arizo** (..) C. Reynolds-J. King
PARAMOUNT	27 Drama 3908 **Disputed Passage** (87) Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff John Howard R—Oct. 21	3 Western 3955 **Law of the Pampas** (72) **Wm. Boyd** R—Oct. 21	10 Melodrama 3909 **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7	17 Drama 3910 **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	24 Comedy 3911 **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (85) Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter R—Nov. 11	1 Drama 3 **Night of Nights** (90) Pat O'Brien Olympe Bradna R—Dec. 2
REPUBLIC	27 Drama with Music **Jeepers Creepers** (69) Weaver Bros. & Elviry Roy Rogers R—Nov. 4	3 Drama 905 **Main Street Lawyer** (71) Edw. Ellis Anita Louise R—Nov. 11	10 Comedy 915 **Covered Trailer** (66) Gleason Family R-Nov. 18	16 Western 848 **Rovin' Tumbleweeds** (64) R—Nov. 25 Gene Autry-S. Burnette	22 Western 952 **Saga of Death Valley** (58) Roy Rogers-Geo. Hayes R—Dec. 2	29 Western **Cowboys From Texas** (57) **Three Mesquiteers**
RKO RADIO	27 Drama 012 **Sued for Libel** (65) K. Taylor-L. Hayes R—Oct. 21	3 Comedy 010 **Flying Deuces** (65) **Laurel & Hardy** R—Oct. 14 3 Western 081 **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7	10 Outdoor Drama 006 **Allegheny Uprising** (81) **John Wayne** **Claire Trevor** R—Oct. 28	17 Drama 005 **Meet Dr. Christian** (63) J. Hersholt-D. Lovett R—Oct. 21	24 Musical 011 **That's Right, You're Wrong** (90) Kay Kyser and Orch. Adolphe Menjou Lucille Ball R—Nov. 18	1 Drama **Reno** (73) Richard Dix **Gail Patrick** R—Nov. 18
20TH-FOX	27 Action Drama 013 **20,000 Men a Year** (84) R. Scott-M. Healy R—Oct. 28 27 Documentary 062 **First World War** (78) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34	3 Drama 019 **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford R—Oct. 7	10 Drama 015 **Drums Along the Mohawk (103)** Claudette Colbert Henry Fonda R—Nov. 4	17 Comedy 016 **Too Busy to Work (64)** Jones Family R—Nov. 4	24 Comedy Drama 020 **Day Time Wife** (71) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 18	1 Melodrama **Chan in City of Darkn** (72) R—Nov. Sidney Toler-L. Bari 1 Melodrama **Inspector Hornleigh o Holiday** (..) G. Harker-A. Sims
UNITED ARTS	26 Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughter** (80) **Joan Bennett-Wm. Gargan** **Adolphe Menjou** R—Sept. 16				23 Melodrama **Send Another Coffin** (..) Pat O'Brien-Ruth Terry	
UNIVERSAL	27 Comedy 4019 **Little Accident** (65) Sandy Henville Florence Rice R—Nov. 4	3 Melodrama 20 **Call a Messenger** (66) R. Armstrong-R. Kelly Little Tough Guys R—Sept. 9 3 Drama Reissue **Road Back** (79) Richard Cromwell	10 Action Drama 30 **One Hour to Live** (60) Charles Bickford R—Sept. 16 3 Melodrama 53 **Legion of Lost Flyers** (64) R. Arlen-A. Devine	10 Romantic Com. 3002 **First Love** (84) Deanna Durbin R-Nov. 11 17 Melodrama **Tower of London** (92) B. Rathbone-B. Karloff R—Nov. 25	24 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns** (..) Nan Grey-Vincent Price 24 Western 4060 **Chip of the Flying U** (55) Johnny Mack Brown	1 Musical 4 **Laugh It Off** (63) C. Moore-J. Downs R—Nov. 11 24 Melodrama **Big Guy** (78) R—Dec. V. McLaglen-J. Coope
WARNER-F.N.	28 Drama WB403 **Roaring Twenties** (104) James Cagney Priscilla Lane R—Oct. 21	4 Com. Drama WB411 **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman R—Sept. 16	11 Drama WB402 **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7	18 Com. Drama WB413 **Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (62)** Billy Halop **Bobby Jordan** R—Nov. 4	25 Drama FN **We Are Not Alone** (111) Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson R—Nov. 11	2 Mystery Drama **Return of Dr. X** (62) Wayne Morris Priscilla Lane Humphrey Bogart R—Dec. 2
MISCELLANEOUS	22 Melodrama P-D-C **Torture Ship** (57) **Lyle Talbot** **Irving Pichel** **Jacqueline Wells**	29 Drama P-D-C **Hitler—Beast of Berlin** (90) Roland Drew Steffi Duna Greta Grandstedt R—Nov. 11	6 Melodrama P-D-C **Buried Alive** (..) Beverly Roberts Robert Wilcox	14 Drama P-D-C **Invisible Killer** (..) Grace Bradley Roland Drew		

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 6	JANUARY 13
Drama 1026 **tive at Large** (66) olt-P. Ellis Western 1211 **ing of the West** (54) Elliott-I. Meredith Oct. 21			25 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday** (..) Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy		
Comedy 2 **y Goes Arizona** (..) k Morgan nia Weidler	15 Drama 15 **Nick Carter, Master Detective** (..) Walter Pidgeon Rita Johnson	22 Comedy 16 **Judge Hardy & Son** (..) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone	29 Drama with Music 17 **Balalaika** (..) Nelson Eddy Ilona Massey		
Western **Reissue** **t of the Divide** (55) Wayne Western **Reissue** **ky Texan** (56) Wayne	15 Western 3858 **Pioneer Days** (..) Jack Randall 15 Melodrama 3924 **Four Just Men** (..) Hugh Sinclair-Anna Lee	22 Western 3952 **Westbound Stage** (..) Tex Ritter			
Western 3913 **o Kid** (69) Guizar **e Sondergaard** Nov. 11	15 Drama 3914 **All Women Have Secrets** (74) Joseph Allen jr. Jean Cagney	22 Technicolor Cartoon **Gulliver's Travels** (..)	29 Drama **The Great Victor Herbert** (..) Allan Jones Mary Martin	5 Action Drama **Emergency Squad** (..) William Henry Louise Campbell	12 Outdoor Drama **Geronimo!** (89) P. Foster-E. Drew R—Nov. 25 12 Western **Santa Fe Marshal** (..) William Boyd
	15 Western 941 **South of the Border** (..) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	22 Comedy **Money to Burn** (..) Gleason Family	27 Drama **Woman Who Dared** (..) C. Bickford-D. Day 29 Western 953 **Days of Jesse James** (..) Roy Rogers-Geo. Hayes		
Melodrama 013 **Thoroughbreds** (..) ny Lydon n Brodel Dec. 2		22 Drama 014 **Married and in Love** (..) Barbara Read Alan Marshal	29 Drama 015 **Hunchback of Notre Dame** (..) C. Laughton-M. O'Hara	5 Drama **Isle of Destiny** (..) W. Ford-W. Gargan 5 Western 082 **Legion of the Lawless** (59) Geo. O'Brien R—Nov. 25	12 Comedy **Mexican Spitfire** (..) Lupe Velez
Melodrama 026 **ricade** (72) e Faye ner Baxter Dec. 2	15 Comedy Drama 024 **Honeymoon's Over** (70) Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver R—Nov. 4		29 Outdoor Drama 012 **Cisco Kid and the Lady** (74) Cesar Romero Marjorie Weaver R—Dec. 2		19 Drama 023 **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly
			29 Drama **Rebecca** (..) Laurence Olivier Judith Anderson		
Action Drama 4054 **From Montreal** 0) ard Arlen y Devine Nov. 11	15 Western 4061 **West of Carson City** (55) Johnny Mack Brown Bob Baker 15 Melodrama 4028 **Missing Evidence** (64) P. Foster R—Oct. 7	22 Comedy **Charlie McCarthy, Detective** (..) Edgar Bergen-C. Moore "Charlie" & "Mortimer"	29 Drama **Green Hell** (..) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett 29 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again** (..) M. Dietrich-J. Stewart		
Com. M'drama FN471 **ate Detective** (55) e Wyman k Foran Nov. 25	16 Drama FN481 **Mad Empress** (..) Medea Novara Lionel Atwill		25 Drama WB **Four Wives** (110) Lane Sisters Claude Rains R—Dec. 2		
					BOOKING CHART Concluded on Following Page

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

In The Making

JANUARY 20	JANUARY 27	FEBRUARY 3	STARTING	COMPLETED
				His Girl Friday—Rosalind Ru Ralph Bellamy, Cary Grant. Direc Howard Hawks. Producer: Hov Hawks. Original: Hecht & MacArt **Bullets for Rustlers**—Charles Star Lorna Gray, Sons of the Pioneers. rector: Howard Hawks. Produ Jack Fier.
			Edison, the Man—Spencer Tracy. Director: Clarence Brown. Producer: John W. Considine jr.	**Congo Maisie**—Ann Sothern, Ian Hu Rita Johnson, John Carroll. Direc H. C. Potter. Producer: J. W. Ruben.
		2 Drama **Light That Failed** (..) Ronald Colman Ida Lupino	**Down Went McGinty**—Brian Donlevy. Director: Preston Sturges. Producer: Paul Jones. Original Screenplay: Preston Sturges.	
			Wolf of New York—Edmund Lowe, Rose Hobart, James Stephenson. Director: William McGann. Producer: Robert North. Original: Nat Ferber. **Village Barn Dance**—June Storey, Lulu Belle and Scotty. Director: Frank MacDonald. Producer: Armand Schaefer.	
19 Drama **Swiss Family Robinson** (..) Thomas Mitchell Freddie Bartholomew Edna Best	26 Melodrama **Marines Fly High** (..) Richard Dix Chester Morris Lucille Ball	2 Drama **Vigil in the Night** (..) Carole Lombard Brian Aherne	**Little Orvie**—Johnny Sheffield, Edward Ellis. Director: Ray McCarey. **A Bill of Divorcement**—Maureen O'Hara, Herbert Marshall. Director: John Farrow. **My Favorite Wife**—Irene Dunne, Cary Grant. Director: Garson Kanin. Producer: Leo McCarey.	**The Marines Fly High**—Richard Chester Morris, Lucille Ball, Archer. Director: Ben Stoloff. ducer: Robert Sisk. Screenplay: J Cady.
			Dance With the Devil—Tyrone Power, Edward Arnold, Dorothy Lamour. Director: Irving Cummings. **Cisco Kid No. 2**—Cesar Romero. Director: H. Bruce Humberstone. **Hotel for Women No. 2**—Lynn Bari, Joan Davis, Dorothy Dearing, Helen Ericson. Director: David Burton.	
				Two's Company—Laurel and Ha Jimmy Finlayson, Ben Turpin, C James. Director: Gordon Douglas. ducer: Hal Roach. Screenplay: Go Douglas, Harry Langdon, Felix A Charles Rogers.
			It's a Date—Deanna Durbin. Director: William Seiter. Producer: Joe Pasternak. Screenplay: Ralph Block, Frederick Kohner.	**Honeymoon Deferred**—Edmund L Tom Brown, Margaret Lindsay, Gwynne. Director: Lew Landers. ducer: Ken Goldsmith.
			And It All Came True—Ann Sheridan, Jeffrey Lynn, Humphrey Bogart, ZaSu Pitts. Director: Lew Seiler. Producer: David Lewis. Original: Louis Bromfield. Screenplay: Casey Robinson.	

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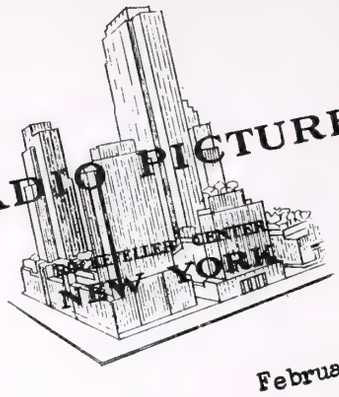
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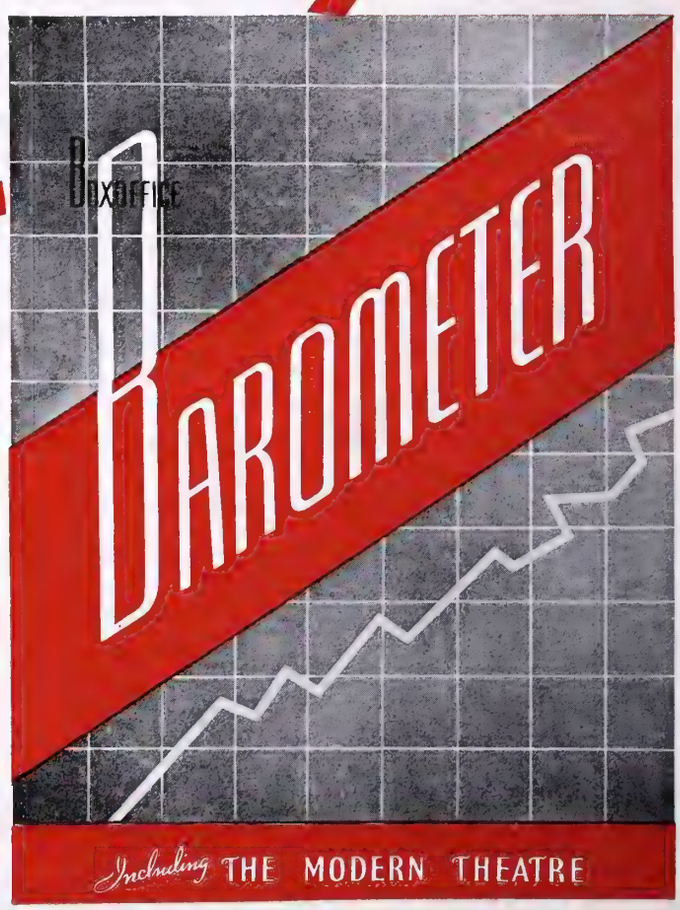
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H.M. Richey



1940

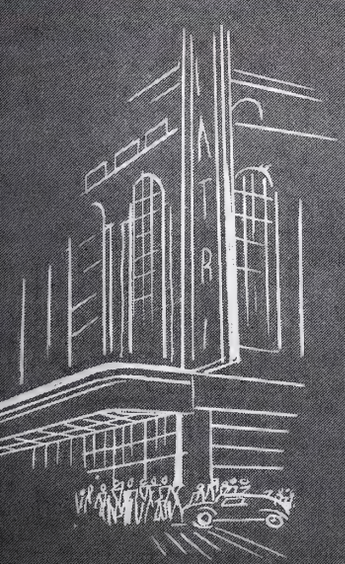
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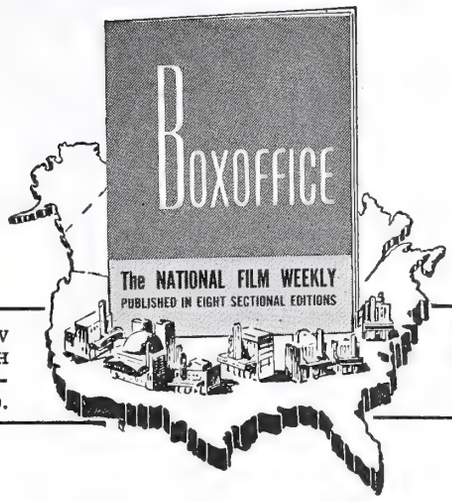
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ALL IS NOT quiet in Hollywood.

There is worry over the war and what it may mean.

There exists concern over the lack of big league story material.

The cursings thrown at the head of the double feature situation bounce from studio to studio.

The competitive race for names continues a timeless thing.

Labor is doing better and will continue to do so.

Rather than go down, as a consequence, costs will go up.

Those limited few who bother about grosses after the product leaves the stages know the theatre situation is not precisely hotsy totsy.

Someone has to have his ears pinned back for part, or all, of these goings on and, in the eyes of several of the Hollywood mighty, it is the exhibitor. No distinction as to affiliated or independent theatre operator plays a part in this. It's merely the exhibitor, large and small alike, who stifles Hollywood's best efforts because (1) he fails to recognize values, (2) sits on his haunches and expects the public to chew up his doors and (3) never pays what the product is worth. So goes the argument. And it's pretty heated, too.

The upshot of this wholesale criticism is a twofold affair, neither part of which has resolved itself into action. The first part deals with apparently serious ponderings about cutting production in numbers, not in costs, on the theory it is the big attraction only that counts now in this market. It is considered that the approach to the super attraction is to forget the weaklings for a concentration on the strong. This, of course, means fewer pictures. Out of this springs the belief exhibition at large will adjust itself to a reduced output by immediately going to extended runs.

The other part poses a belief that the producer must have greater protection for his superior attraction, or what he views as his superior attraction. The argument here, in the words of one major studio head, quickly is this:

"I am reaching the point where I am totally disinclined to have my $1,500,000 pictures kicked around in the theatres without the safeguards I think their importance rates. I believe I am entitled to set up restrictions as to double featuring, advertising, length of run and admission prices not only in the cause of my investment, but in the cause of the exhibitor as well.

"I think you may find the day arriving soon now when conditions controlling the theatre run, such as these outlined, will be insisted upon not only by me but by other producers of top-ranking attractions as well. If we are going to make this type of film, we have to be rewarded for the work and the gamble."

Hollywood's representatives speaking in this vein make out a clear and simple case—for themselves. The question is if they do not make it out too simple.

There are lazy and incompetent exhibitors. And there are theatremen who have a soft time of it. But there are incompetent producers making pictures who have no greater understanding of their market requirements than the distance from Hollywood Boulevard to The Brown Derby which is no distance at all. The extremely competent producer quoted above does not touch upon Hollywood's errors, but confines his analysis to the successes which are few. He overlooks the discouraging number of klucks which the exhibitor must play as he waits, often with his tongue hanging out, for a real one to hit the deck and temporarily take him out of his boxoffice misery.

It seems to us that Hollywood and its average leading spokesmen are too impetuously sweeping in their demands for the globe and all the heavenly bodies on the basis of erratic deliveries of smash attractions.

The exhibitor gets his windfall when those nice babies come along, of course, and the distributor usually does all right by himself, too. But, as this page remarked only recently, it's a long time between drinks in this business and the men who operate the theatres are no camels even if they smoke them.

The producer cannot expect to bounce along on the tops of high grossing mountain peaks without ever coming down into the valleys. Neither can the exhibitor. There must be a levelling off process through which all industries and those in them pass.

It's the natural thing to expect.

Kann

HOLLYWOOD, DELIBERATING PRODUCTION SLASH, SEES A NEW THEATRE SETUP ON THE HORIZON

War Backgrounds Move; Sees Theatres Swinging To Extended Runs

By RED KANN

HOLLYWOOD—Responsible studio opinion envisions sweeping changes in exhibition trailing the substantial reduction in output which is being discussed in many directions here.

Those topline executives who feel the time is at hand to cut production totals express themselves as confident that the theatre end of the industry will make the required changeover in the form of extended runs because, they point out, output governs the situation and because, further, there is nothing exhibitors can do about it once a swing toward fewer pictures converts itself into general Hollywood practice.

Whether or not such a new order in production will eventualize is not clear at this time. What is very clear, however, is the attitude of leading studio figures toward the existing situation and their apparent conviction that, for many reasons, the time is at hand to make fewer pictures on the industry-old theory they will have a chance at being better.

Lurking in the background, of course, is the war and the expressed need to make adjustments in accordance with shriveled revenue, actual and, also, largely anticipated. Lack of sufficient important material, always a studio concern, is more sharply limned in the average executive mind, as well. Cross sectionally, production heads feel this way on that score:

Cite "Material" Shortage

"There isn't enough genuinely significant material to meet all needs. That's not new, of course, but what is new is that all of us are becoming increasingly aware of how constricted the outlook in that direction really is."

Another conviction, widely voiced, is that the double feature situation which production tycoons readily admit has battered down quality averages, has brought about a buying resistance on the part of the public which, they maintain, now is so thoroughly saturated with films it turns to other forms of entertainment for relief.

Likewise does there prevail the opinion, predicated on grosses, that marketing values of the small "A's" and the "B's" are constantly shrinking. While the realization also is around that many of the bigger attractions are disappointing in their gross the answer offered for this condition is the competition, chiefly radio and football, and the lack of purchasing power among those groups to whom the industry has been accustomed to turn for its chief support.

Business indices are being watched. It has been noted that activity in many other lines is up, but the hope, and the anticipation, is that this uppage in buying power will reflect itself at the boxoffice if that buying power is sustained by war orders beyond the point where debts incurred during unemployment are cleared up.

The general impression, however, is that the answer lies in more important attractions. Accepting this to be true, its advocates believe such a commitment cannot be realized unless fewer pictures are made. There is no serious talk about cutting negative costs. To the contrary, it is contended costs are quite apt to jump.

The usual bidding for names which are either top, or regarded as top, continues. Currently, labor appears well on its way to salary hikes all along the line. While the ten per cent increase granted the unions represented by William Bioff means an increase somewhere between $200,000 and $250,000 annually and, as such, can be absorbed without strain, the next step developed out of the negotiations in the east for the renewal of the basic studio agreement, when three of the four internationals were granted wage increases of ten per cent.

There are those here, and they are largely identified with the guilds, who place little credence in the rumblings about production slashes. They assert this is propaganda unleashed by the studios seeking to bring about a cut in the salaries of the creative workers by throwing into them the scare of less employment.

It Will Cost Exactly $60,000

Hollywood—Metro has been confronted with a problem about "Gone With the Wind" and the personal appearance of Clark Gable at the Atlanta premiere.

The problem is what to do about production of "Strange Cargo" while Gable is in the south. But the south seems to be insisting Metro will have a different kind of problem if Gable does not show up.

He is going, but the trip will cost Metro $60,000 for delaying production on Gable's currently-in-work film.

"Pinocchio" Hits on Lincoln's Birthday

NEW YORK—"Pinocchio" will probably hit key city first runs to coincide with Lincoln's birthday, February 12. The feature length cartoon is expected to average about five weeks at downtown de luxers with just enough span to reach the neighborhoods around Easter, when juvenile trade is particularly heavy.

Loew Dividend

NEW YORK—Loew's board met Friday instead of Wednesday, the scheduled day, to declare the quarterly 50 cent dividend on the common.

20th-Fox Confabs Start Tuesday

HOLLYWOOD—Groundwork for 20th Century-Fox's 1940-41 program will be laid Tuesday at studio conferences among S. R. Kent, Herman Wobber, Joe Schenck, Darryl F. Zanuck and William Goetz.

The main point which will come up for consideration is whether the studio should cut production by eliminating "B" pictures and devote its efforts to turning out a complete program of "A's."

Wobber, it is understood, is opposed to any policy which would reduce the number of pictures. Schenck and Zanuck are for fewer films at no sacrifice in quality or cost.

The pivotal figure will probably be Kent who, it is learned, is inclined to view the situation in the same light as Wobber.

Also on the agenda will be the adoption of a policy for "The Blue Bird" and "The Grapes of Wrath." The former already has been withdrawn from general release. Company executives rate both very highly and it is likely the pictures will be roadshowed.

Kent and Wobber left New York over the weekend by train. Kent, who was unable to attend the funeral of his father because his physician forbade him to fly, will visit with his family during his stay here.

Paramount Staying at 50

Hollywood—Paramount will hover around 50 features for the 1940-41 season, the tentatively determined total representing little change over the current numerical lineup.

The studio itself will turn out an approximate 36. Harry Sherman will furnish the usual number of Hopalong Cassidys, and probably two beyond. The anticipation is the company will have three from England, while the rest will be furnished via a limited number of outside deals.

Aside from three vehicles which are sought for the dreadnaught class, the studio is declared to be in very good shape on its story lineup for the next season. Efforts are under way to have Cecil B. DeMille depart from his one-picture-a-year schedule and make two.

EXHIBITORS GENERALLY NOT ALARMED OVER RADIO CASH GIVEAWAY, CONSENSUS INDICATES

Chains Are Watching "Pot O' Gold" Idea Over the Country

NEW YORK—"No damage, or anything to be alarmed about, although we are watching it," is the consensus of national circuit executives over competition allegedly being felt in some areas by the Tuesday evening "Pot O' Gold" airshow with a $1,000 cash giveaway as bait to keep potential consumers of Tums at home.

Apparently, the only genuine concern over the broadcast revolves about it setting a precedent for others to follow, which, if it should grow substantially, would constitute a sizeable menace, it is felt.

As matters stand, the only appreciable criticism seems to come from midwestern theatre operators, although affiliated zone managers are inclined to feel the stunt is not doing business much good. The show's sponsor offers $1,000 in cash to the telephone subscriber whose name is picked at random providing some one is at home when the phone rings. A spokesman for the advertising agency handling the program says the subscriber does not have to be at home to be eligible to win the money; "he can be out of town, in a theatre or anywhere, just as long as the phone is answered."

However, if no one responds, the subscriber receives $100 instead of $1,000, the balance of $900 going over to the following week when the award becomes $1,900 to the person answering the ring. If, on the second occasion, there is a similar experience as the first, the third week's tally becomes $2,800, and so on. This is said to be the inducement to keep persons at home.

Going over the air from 8:30 to 9:00 p. m., Eastern Standard Time, the program might conceivably hurt central theatre areas where the first evening show at theatres begins between 7:30 to 8:00 p. m., which coincides with the "Pot O' Gold" broadcast in those territories. Yet, offsetting this possible competition is the observation of a circuit executive who declares: "The program does not cut off both shows. There is nothing to stop those who listen to the broadcast at home from going to the second show, which is usually about 9 to 9:30 p. m."

Theatre executives aver there is no apparent competition from the broadcast in the east, "and certainly not on the coast, where the show goes out between 5:30 and 6:00." Additionally, as pointed out at Feiber & Shea, it is estimated that in towns where the circuit operates, from 25 to 30 per cent of the people do not have telephones, which precludes them from participating in the stunt.

At Paramount and National Theatres spokesmen declare none of their theatre partners is squawking about the situation. Neither Loew's nor Warner are concerned, although a zone manager for the latter circuit felt business was dropping Tuesday nights as a direct result of the air show. When a home office checkup was completed, figures in this zone were said not to have wavered to the extent that it could be traced to the "Pot O' Gold."

Almost identical is the view of large circuit operators that to attempt to buck the program would only call attention to it. It is largely this attitude that is responsible for turning down Pete J. Wood, business manager of Allied of Ohio, for a cooperative affiliated-independent plan that would offer $2,000 to a winner of the "Pot O' Gold" show if he or she was in any Ohio theatre participating in the Wood plan; thus providing an incentive for patrons to attend theatres rather than listen to the radio at home.

Harry C. Arthur this week instituted a counter stunt in 30 St. Louis F&M and St. Louis Amusement houses whereby a double award is being offered to the person called on the "Pot O' Gold" program if the winner is in one of the circuit's theatres at the time. The award could run as high as $8,000, Arthur states. He figures the chances of a winner being found in one of his houses are 12,000,000 to one, on the basis of that many telephones in the country.

Before E. L. Alperson rejoined National Theatres as assistant to Harold J. Fitzgerald, operating head of Fox Milwaukee Theatres Agency, he proposed to Spyros Skouras and some independent circuit heads a plan whereby a localized "Pot O' Gold" could be held in various towns, the award contingent on the number of houses participating. In his plan, Alperson made it all-inclusive for the circuit adopting it.

Hits Radio Contests

LINCOLN—Bob Livingston, Capitol exhibitor, after watching the squawks of his brethren against radio competition go by the boards, took a step in his own behalf this week, when he bought six column inches of space in the local papers to crack at "Tums Pot O' Gold" radio show.

It's the program which places long distance calls to people, and if they're home they win a big check.

Livingston, feeling his boxoffice was reacting to this radio bait, slapped this ad in the newspapers:

ATTENTION, RADIO FANS!
Do you listen to Tums Pot O' Gold contest each Tuesday evening at 7:30?
NOW
You no longer need to stay at home beside your radio to win!
WHY NOT?
Because, if you are in attendance at the Capitol Theatre during the program, and no one is at home to receive the contest winning phone call
WE WILL GIVE YOU
$1,000

Before writing the ad, Livingston checked with the attorney general, who said there could be no objection to it as a lottery.

Livingston doesn't know whether it'll do any good, but it's a good gamble, anyway.

This Is One Way to Stop "Lifting"

New York—NBC is understood having a tough time warding off advertisers from using the same stunt as Tums, which awards $1,000 a week to the telephone subscriber, chosen at random, who answers the telephone when called. It is stated that in order to discourage others from employing the idea, NBC tells its accounts Tums has an exclusive and no one else can use it.

Attack Plan Originator Says Many Showmen Join for Combat

More Join Attack Via Theatre Award Offer

LINCOLN—From Bob Livingston's one-man attack on radio's stay-at-home influence—the Tums Pot O' Gold show, which places long distance calls and pays off $1,000 if the person called is home to answer the phone—the reaction has been national.

So far, more than 1,000 theatres in the United States are using the plan conceived here by Bob Livingston for his Capitol. Livingston guarantees his audience against loss, that is, he'll pay the $1,000 if the person is called and is NOT at home, but in his theatre.

There are many new joiners for the plan. Up in New England, dozens of theatres banded together in a mutual aid scheme, each underwriting their portion of the pot, with the payoff to be split if anybody is caught.

P. J. Wood, secretary of the ITO of Ohio, longdistanced Livingston with news that the ITO there is going for the idea with both barrels, and is making up a pot and advertising not only to pay an equal amount to the program's giveaway, but to double it if the person called was in a member theatre. The Ohio group also has sent a committee to the Warner and RKO circuit heads to get them in on the plan and widen the base.

Fox-Intermountain Theatres, covering the whole Rocky Mountain area under Rick Ricketson, also joined, with Ricketson of the opinion it is the best anti-radio giveaway stunt conceived thus far.

J. M. Savage for the Crescent Amusement Co., Nashville, Tenn., with theatres throughout the south, wrote for full details of the stunt, and asked for tear-sheets

(Continued on page 22)

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

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OKLAHOMA CITY—P. O. Box 4547, E. W. Fair. Telephone 7-1038.
OMAHA—4677 Marcy St., Monte Davis.
PHILADELPHIA — 903 Manning St., Joseph Shaltz.
PITTSBURGH—1701 Blvd. of the Allies, R. F. Klingensmith. Telephone Atlantic 4858.
PORTLAND, ORE.—404 Pacific Bldg., Robert L. Thomas.
ST. LOUIS—5149 Rosa Ave., David F. Barrett. Telephone Flanders 3727.
SALT LAKE CITY—167 South State St., Viola B. Hutton. Telephone WAsatch 165.
SAN FRANCISCO—606 Grant Bldg., 1095 Market St., Tommy Gray. Telephone Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2321 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Telephone MAin 7716.
WASHINGTON—1426 G. St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY, ALTA.—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Telephone Walnut 5519.
REGINA, SASK.—The Star, Andy McDermott.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—161 Princess St., D. Fetherston.
TORONTO, ONTARIO—242 Millwood Road, Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER, B. C.—615 Hastings, C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

AN ASSORTMENT of tales, some true and some for laughs only, dug out of the Hollywood hills:

In Los Angeles, that hamlet adjacent to Hollywood where film colonists occasionally venture, is the office of the state unemployment service. This is the bureau which hands out sums up to $15 a week for a limited period of time to those unemployed two weeks or more but who are entitled to the money by virtue of having paid their assessments while working.

There's a waiting line every day, frequently and substantially composed of well-known studio figures currently idle. It's a common sight now to see $1,000 a week—when they work—scenario writers rolling up in expensive cars. The one-grand boys are never embarrassed if they find another one-grand writer on hand for the same collection purpose. But when $1,000 a week runs into $300 a week, he shrinks and endeavors to hide behind his sun glasses.

This must be one reason why Sidney Skolsky loves Hollywood.

•

Handed down as a true story, so help the one who told it.

In preparing Tex Ritter's horse for a forthcoming western, the shaving and combing process resulted in error. The animal's forelock was shaved off.

But ingenuity triumphed. The horse now is wearing a toupee.

•

Serial producer is reported to have received an urgent communication from a small town exhibitor. The text:

"Wish you'd add another chapter to your current serial. Patrons need only one more dish to complete their sets."

•

The preview routine:

One evening, "Four Wives."

The following evening, "The Night of Nights."

Virile country out here.

•

Big laugh line—in Hollywood—from "The Great Victor Herbert":

"Actors are people working for agents."

Signed by a major studio on a fat deal, his company went sour on him. Came option time and word the ticket would not be picked up. Purely for window dressing purposes was the decision to give the man in the case production credit on a film with which he had nothing to do. The studio expected the picture to do a nosedive anyway.

But it turned out to be an instance in reverse gear; the film did far better than anyone had expected. Proceeding strictly on the accepted production credit system, the central character found himself signed by another studio. There he remained for about 14 months with little or nothing to do. Then his deal ran out. Then his old studio re-engaged him.

There is no known explanation for all of this, but it happens constantly in Happy Hollywood.

•

Your traveling representative was strolling along the platform at Albuquerque. In pulled the westbound Super Chief and in its lounge car Dave Selznick, frowning and obviously worried about something.

The incident was later related to the producer. To which he remarked:

"Worried? You've made a mistake. That was my normal look."

•

At the Pasadena station, someone asked Mrs. Nate Blumberg how long she expected to remain west. In the true tradition of the film wife, she remarked:

"How do I know? I only came along for the ride."

•

Alice Eyland, a John Powers model also known as the Camel girl in those ads, is trying her luck at the studios. Her first role was in "Ninotchka," but already Alice is convinced Hollywood is a city of magic.

That's merely an opening reaction. Just wait a while.

•

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce is reputedly launching a movement to recall Mayor La Guardia.

SAILING INTO THE BIG MONEY...

Paramount's "RULERS of the SEA"



Frank Lloyd's great outdoor action adventure-romance is running neck and neck with "Beau Geste" in Los Angeles, Oklahoma City and New Orleans, and you know what that means, for "Beau Geste" rates as one of the top grossers of the year. So get aboard, boys...sail to box-office glory with Paramount's "RULERS OF THE SEA!"



Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. *in* **Frank Lloyd's**

"RULERS OF THE SEA"

starring **Margaret Lockwood • Will Fyffe**

with **George Bancroft • Montagu Love** • **Produced and Directed by FRANK LLOYD**

Story and Screen Play by Talbot Jennings, Frank Cavett and Richard Collins • A Paramount Picture

Paramount

Our Neighbors the Exhibitors Praise I

"OUR NEIGHBOR

UNITED DETROIT THEATRES CORPORATION
Executive Offices
SEVENTH FLOOR ✓ STROH BUILDING
DETROIT, MICH.
TELEPHONE CHERRY 4331

Operating the following Theatres:
MICHIGAN
UNITED ARTISTS
PALMER PARK
FISHER
BROADWAY CAPITOL
RIVIERA
CINDERELLA
VARSITY
VOGUE
RAMONA
NORWEST
REGENT
ARMEN
ALGER
ROSEDALE
BIRMINGHAM

November 17, 1939

Paramount Pictures, Inc.
1501 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sirs --
Paramount's production of "OUR NEIGHBORS--THE CARTERS" is a welcome and impressive achievement to theatre audiences. Reactions at the Michigan Theatre here were splendid. The naturalness of the characters, the humanness of the story, and the excellent blending of humor, romance, and drama, make "OUR NEIGHBORS—THE CARTERS" an excellent triumph in entertainment for any audience in any theatre and a picture that will be discussed and remembered for months to come.

Sincerely,
E. J. Hudson



Fanchon & Marco
PARAMOUNT THEATRE BUILDING
Sixth and Hill Sts. Los Angeles, Calif.

November 17

Paramount Pictures, Inc.
Hollywood, Calif.

Dear Friends--
"OUR NEIGHBORS--THE CARTERS" played to a good weeks' business as a single feature with stageshow at the Paramount Theatre, Los Angeles, but more unusual than this, it is one of the few pictures that nearly everyone leaving the theatre seemed to delight in commenting favorably upon as they left.

Sincerely,
Marco

Paramount Pictures

"Our Neigh

with Fay Bainter
Genevieve Tobi

Directed by Ralph Murphy

Our Neighbors the Critics

ımount's

–THE CARTERS"



"Makes tears run down laugh creases in your face. Has a homey, lovable charm. The kind of story that could happen to the family next door, that's how close it is to you!" —*Jimmy Starr, Los Angeles Herald and Express*

"Vigorous entertainment, compelling drama, humor and pathos . . . superior acting. Touches upon problems which vitally affect millions of American Homes. Happy to tell my readers that they can't afford to miss it!"
—*Richard Sheridan Ames, Rob Wagner's Script*

"A triumph of heart tugs and human appeal, offering one of the strongest and biggest ideas of that sort in recent years. Forceful and dramatic. Remarkably played by Frank Craven and Fay Bainter!"
—*Edwin Schallert, Los Angeles Times*

"As fine a piece of entertainment of this sort as you would ever hope to get. Frank Craven is magnificent and Fay Bainter, as usual, is terrific." —*Hollywood Reporter*

"One of the strongest pictures the screen has given us in years. Audiences everywhere will be under obligations to Charles R. Rogers for giving them such a treat. A picture exhibitors should get behind with everything they have. It will steal the show!" —*Hollywood Spectator*

"Warm, human, appealing picture that should please!"
—*Film Daily*

"Human interest and dramatic punch. Frank Craven—and characterization stacks up with the best of the year!"
—*Dorothy Manners, Los Angeles Examiner*

–The Carters"

raven • Edmund Lowe

ed by Charles R. Rogers

S. K. Lauren • A Paramount Picture

Paramount Pictures

GOVERNMENT TO BE READY BY MARCH BUT NOT DISTRIBUTORS IN ALL-INDUSTRY SUIT

Interrogatories the Main Cause for Delay; Other Suits Also Worry

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—Although the government indicates it will be ready to go to trial in the all-industry suit by February or March at the latest, attorneys for distributors state it is impossible to complete all the data necessary for the defense by that time. At least six months or more, it is estimated, are required in order to collect the information and papers from the field.

Delaying preparation of the case for the majors is the lengthy interrogatories filed in September by Paul Williams, special assistant to the attorney general and in charge of the proceedings.

Then again, it is pointed out, general counsel for the various companies have been overwhelmed by numerous private suits which have burdened legal staffs where additional men have been engaged. Even at that, it is stated by one company, another corps of lawyers is needed, but the exchequer will not approve taking on more men. The decision virtually has the company's counsel on the verge of collapse.

All defendant companies have, or will have served interrogatories in the next few days, on the government. In brief, the queries seek to have the government cite each instance where an alleged wrong has been committed

Clarification Confabs

Since September, extended conferences have been held with Williams and his assistants in an effort to clarify the issues involved.

One attorney who has attended the meetings with the department of justice asserted the "interrogatories generally have been put on a more practical basis for everybody. The questions as originally propounded by the government could not possibly have been answered. They are now revised so they can be answered. They have been reduced substantially and not as much time will be taken up with them."

Counsel for the majors are slated to meet next week with Williams on a time schedule for answering the A to Z quiz. Under the new rules, objections to the interrogatories must be filed within 10 days after being served and answers are supposed to be filed 15 days after service. The time limit will be extended at a meeting set for Friday before federal judge John C. Knox.

Interrogatories submitted by the majors are virtually similar in that they seek specific instances where and when alleged violations occurred.

Before a final agreement was reached on the completed draft of the government's questions, M-G-M asked that two pictures be changed in the lineup of five listed. The distributor contended that for the purposes designed by the department of justice "They Gave Him a Gun" and "Song of the City" would make better substitutions for "Old Hutch" and "April Romance." In addition, the city of Cincinnati was eliminated and the remaining four cities for which distributors must report all grosses on five pictures are New York, Atlanta, Kansas City, and Philadelphia.

Films Outlined

The 40 pictures outlined in the final draft are Paramount: "The Plainsman," "The Big Broadcast," "Swing High, Swing Low," "Valiant Is the Word for Carrie" and "Clarence;" Loew's: "Captain's Courageous," "After the Thin Man," "Last of Mrs. Cheney," 'They Gave Him a Gun" and "Song of the City;" RKO: "Shall We Dance," "Winterset," "Bringing Up Baby," "There Goes My Girl" and "Racing Lady;" Warner: "Anthony Adverse," "Charge of the Light Brigade," "Singing Marine," "Black Legion" and "Isle of Fury;" 20th-Fox: "Lloyds of London," "Girls Dormitory," "To Mary—With Love," "Chan at the Race Track" and "As You Like It;" Columbia: "Theodora Goes Wild," "Pennies From Heaven," "Craig's Wife," "More Than a Secretary" and "Legion of Terror;" Universal: "My Man Godfrey," "Three Smart Girls," "Top of the Town," "Luckiest Girl in the World" and "Love Letters of a Star;" United Artists: "A Star Is Born," "History Is Made at Night," "Come and Get It," "The Garden of Allah" and "Dreaming Lips."

The releases are for the 1936-37 season and in the order listed. In addition to the grosses, the government seeks the name of each producer, star and feature player, national release date and total number of exhibitions.

Stymied Before He Starts

New York—James Roosevelt is variously reported seeking releasing arrangements with Paramount, RKO and UA, assuming he establishes his own producing unit. The president's son has good naturedly waved aside all requests for official statements, saying the rumors crop up every time he is seen talking with an executive of a distributing company.

So, when he was caught by a BOXOFFICE reporter leaving the seventh floor of the Loew Building, where the executive offices are located, all he did was fix a steady, albeit amused stare at the news man. Before a word left the latter's lips Roosevelt said:

"You're wrong. I haven't a deal with M-G-M; I was just paying a visit. And here's something else. Nobody else but you knows about it. I was in to see someone at Columbia, too. Their office is in the building my office is in, and I walked down the stairs to get in."

Near a "Basis for Settlement" Of Chicago Clearance Suit

By GENE RICH

CHICAGO—It may be denied on both sides, but BOXOFFICE learns a "basis for settlement" has about been reached in the independent exhibitors' clearance suit against B&K and major companies now in federal court. This "basis for settlement," as this writer's reliable source puts it, will depend upon how far the government gets in its criminal contempt case now pending. However, a two-to-four week shortening of loop first-run clearance for general release week houses is almost certain.

It is understood both sides have decided to compromise their differences for their mutual interest and to eliminate what is viewed as needless strife within the industry.

The independents' suit, commonly referred to as the Adelphi case, has been in federal court since Sept. 17, 1938. After a few preliminary hearings, it has been shunted about the court docket while reports have persisted of a "compromise." Both sides have labeled such reports as "just talk."

Fitting into the picture of a probable out-of-court settlement, is the most recent postponement of the case "till sometime after the first of the year."

Universal Will Market "Chicadee" Separately

HOLLYWOOD—Universal is pulling "My Little Chicadee," starring Mae West and W. C. Fields, from the regular schedule and selling it on a 50-50 basis from the first dollar, according to Nate J. Blumberg, U president.

HOLLYWOOD—A one-picture deal has been set for Jules Levy, former RKO general sales manager, to produce "Boys From Syracuse" for Universal release.

UNIVERSAL'S

"Destry Rides Again"

MATCHES GREATEST BUSINESS RIVOLI THEATRE HAS HAD IN FIVE YEARS!



and—

and-"DESTRY" STANDS NEW YOR



"Perfectly grand!..." says Frank Nugent in N.Y. Times

By FRANK S. NUGENT

It's difficult to reconcile Miss Dietrich's Frenchy, the cabaret girl of the Bloody Gulch Saloon, with the posed and posturing Dietrich we last saw in Mr. Lubitsch's "Angel." Her "Blue Angel" comes closer to it. Once again she's hard and tough and painted to the margins of the pallette. She delivers such ballads as "Little Joe the Wrangler" and "The Boys in the Back Room" with quite the proper whisky contralto effect. She cold-decks a poker sucker with complete nonchalance, tucks her earnings down her dress front and doesn't bat an eye when a cowhand murmurs "Thar's gold in them hills." (And where the Hays office was when that line sneaked through we'll never know, not that we mind it.)

The scene that really counts, though, is the cat-fight between Miss Dietrich's Frenchy and Una Merkel's outraged Mrs. Callahan. We thought the battle between Paulette Goddard and Rosalind Russell in "The Women" was an eye-opener; now we realize it was just shadow-clawing. For the real thing, with no holds barred and full access to chairs, tables, glasses, bottles, waterbuckets and as much hair as may be conveniently snatched from the opponent's scalp, we give you not "The Women," but the two women who fight it out in the Bloody Gulch over a pair of Mischa Auer's pants.

So there it is, a bit of the old West with a good bit of the old Dietrich in it; a tightly written, capitally directed show, with perfectly grand supporting performances by Samuel S. Hinds as Bottleneck's mayor, Mr. Donlevy as the chief villain, Mr. Winninger as the shirt-tucking sheriff and Mischa Auer as a Russian cowboy. Good fun every minute of it, and another trophy for Mr. Pasternak.

"Picture has everything!..." says News' Kate Cameron



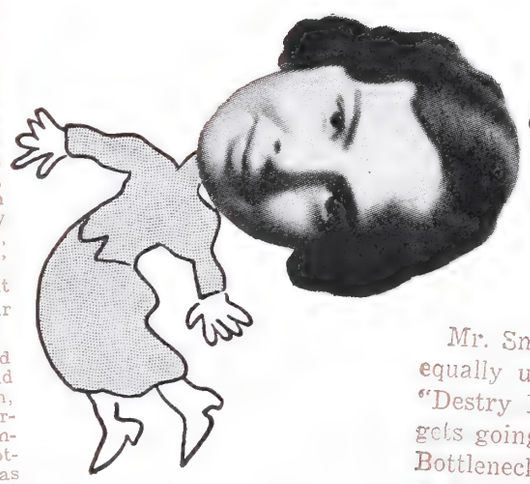
By KATE CAMERON.

Nineteen-thirty-nine will go down in cinema history as the year that turned Greta Garbo from the screen's greatest dramatic actress into one of its first comediennes and that brought that great sleeping beauty of the screen, Marlene Dietrich, back to life.

In Universal's production of "Destry Rides Again," which had its first showing at the Rivoli Theatre yesterday, Miss Dietrich comes to life with a bang. The bang in this case happens to be the popping of guns in a barroom battle, when the bad men of an old western frontier town carry on a death struggle with the forces of law and order.

The picture has everything that a fast-moving, fancy riding, trigger-tickling picture of the Old West should have to make it an exciting and entertaining exhibition. The story is based on Max Brand's novel of the same name and it has been whipped into fine cinema shape by a trio of clever writers whose names appear at the head of this column.

the most entertaining western thriller since "The Virginian."



"Happy holiday picture!" says Creelman in N.Y. Su

By EILEEN CREELMAN.

Mr. Smith, who went unarmed to Washington, now goes equally unarmed to Bottleneck. He is much less naif in "Destry Rides Again," and quite as dangerous when he gets going. In the person of James Stewart, he cleans up Bottleneck as he tried to clean up Washington. Tom Destry is the Wild West equivalent of Jeff Smith.

The Rivoli film, in which Mr. Stewart plays No Gun Destry, may come under the heading of horse opera; but it's a good film, lusty, funny, well acted, and a happy holiday picture.

Marlene Dietrich · James Stewart *in* "DESTR

CRITICS RIGHT ON THEIR EARS!

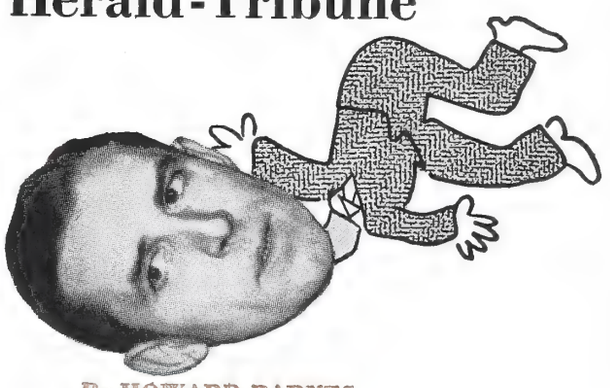


'Bang-up entertainment!" —Pelswick, Journal-American

By ROSE PELSWICK.

A good Westerner is a lot of fun, and "Destry Rides Again," at the Rivoli Theatre, is bang-up entertainment. It's not only turned out with all the traditional speed and action of the old-fashioned Wild West yarns, but it also has the further benefits of a top-flight cast, an amusingly written script and slick direction.

"A knockout punch!" says Barnes in Herald-Tribune



By HOWARD BARNES

"DESTRY RIDES AGAIN" continues the cycle of super-Westerns with great skill and gusto. The new Rivoli offering is as conventional as a handshake in story outline, but in its production, from the casting to the cutting, it has all the excitement of a knockout punch.

What is chiefly responsible for the robust and captivating entertainment, I think, is the splendid supervision which it has had. Joe Pasternak, whose principal concern in Hollywood has been the guiding of Deanna Durbin's unprecedented career, produced "Destry Rides Again," and he has demonstrated that he is as shrewd a showman with a six-shooter spectacle as he is with comedy of adolescence

Altogether, "Destry Rides Again" is a singularly satisfying show, and for my part I'll thank Mr. Pasternak as much as anyone for the fact that this is so.

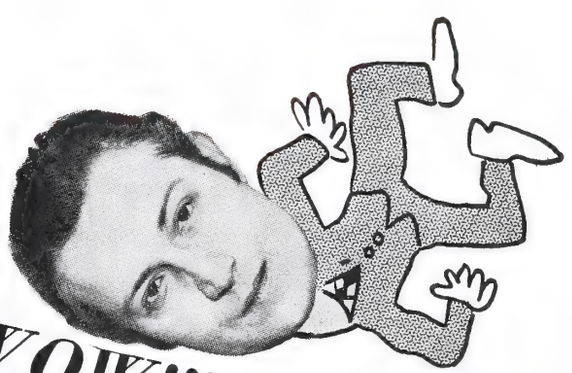
You can't miss it!" —Boehnel, World-Tele.



By WILLIAM BOEHNEL.

s glamorous and alluring as ever. lene Dietrich stages a rousing neback as a painted lady in an rly Western nce hall in estry Rides gain, at the ivoli. She slinks round with that come-on look, shows her fa-mous gams, stages a riotous free-for-all with Una Merkel, sings a couple of blues numbers in her husky voice and clearly demonstrates that all she needed to show how good she is was the chance.

As for the film itself, it is a racy, exciting, forthright 90 minutes of thrills and humor which you simply cannot afford to miss.



"WOW!" cries Coleman, in New York Mirror

By ROBERT COLEMAN

"Destry Rides Again" is a rip-roaring, hard-riding, two-gun hit. Yippee! It should have New York's excitement seekers flocking to the Rivoli Theatre in droves. Yeow! It offers a new Marlene Dietrich and a better-than-ever James Stewart, supported by a glittering cast. Wow!

"Destry Rides Again," in sum, is a tornado of thrills and laughs. In it, the great Dietrich and the terrific Stewart will sweep into your affections with telling effect.

IDES AGAIN" · A Joe Pasternak Production

"WIND" MAY BE SHOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY AT 5 NEW YORK AND 2 NEW JERSEY LOEW THEATRES

Seen as Move to Provide Film for Territory as Quickly as Possible

NEW YORK—"Gone With the Wind" may be shown simultaneously in five local Loew houses after the dual opening at the Astor and Capitol. Present plans are to open the $4,000,000 attraction at the Metropolitan, Brooklyn; Paradise, Bronx; Valencia, Jamaica, L. I., shortly after the Broadway premieres, the price scale for the three de luxe neighborhood houses to be the same as the Capitol, which will be $1.10 top except for a number of reserved seats at $1.65.

It is pointed out first-run Loew theatres in Newark and Jersey City also may run the picture while it is being shown at the five New York units. It is the intention of Loew's and M-G-M to get the picture out into the territories as quickly as possible and the only way this can be done is to shorten the downtown runs by multiple showings in as many theatres as possible. The Jersey showings are slated for the middle of January.

Clearance Not Discussed

Clearance is not even being discussed. In selling the picture, M-G-M is insisting on advanced admissions until the end of 1940. While William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, is guaranteeing exhibitors now booking a 10 per cent profit with a 70 per cent demand, these conditions will not prevail as soon as the smaller situations come into the picture.

With $400 as the previous high for an advance sale on a two-a-day picture in Atlanta, "Gone With the Wind" already has $30,000 in the coffers, representing a two-week sellout. The picture is slated for four weeks during which time it is expected to play to 112,000 people at the Grand. In Boston, the advance is $8,000, which is said to be unheard of in the annals of exhibition in that territory. The cashiers at the Astor reported $16,000 in the till after selling advance tickets four days. Word has reached the M-G-M home office of speculators asking $9.90 for top-priced seats. This despite the fact the circuit is cooperating with ticket agencies.

Speaking before the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina in convention at Charlotte, Rodgers detailed the company's policy on the picture. He said the versions for small towns will be no different than that for large cities.

By the time the picture opens at the Astor and Capitol, it is believed the advance sale for the two-a-day showings will be in the neighborhood of $55,000 to $60,000.

Still Likes Neely

MINNEAPOLIS—"We're still convinced the Neely bill is the ticket," Al Steffes, Northwest Allied head, said on his return from Chicago where Harry Brandt, N. Y. ITOA head, attacked the measure.

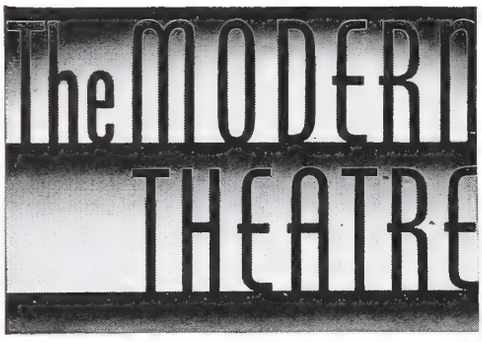
Metro British Activity Awaits London Word

HOLLYWOOD—Resumption of British production by M-G-M awaits word from London on various permits which would allow the company to become active again, Al Lichtman, assistant to Nicholas M. Schenck, president, stated on his return from New York and Chicago.

Plans are being made to have Victor Saville, producer, return to England shortly. He has been working on several scripts at the studios here in preparation for the word to go. Lichtman says he hopes to have Ben Goetz, who recently re-

(Continued on page 22)

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AIR CONDITIONING: *"A Year's End Reflection on an Humble Effort to Serve"*

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Many Openers Are Set on "Gulliver"

NEW YORK—Robert H. Gillham, publicity and advertising director for Paramount, returns Monday from Miami where he has spent the last few days on the advance campaign for the opening of "Gulliver's Travels" at the Sheridan, Miami Beach, December 18.

Among the other openings set for the Technicolor animated feature are the Paramount, New York, and Newman, Kansas City, Mo., December 20; Paramount in Los Angeles and San Francisco, a day later; Denham, Denver; Michigan, Detroit; Paramount, Seattle; Palace, Milwaukee; Majestic, Houston, and Alabama, Birmingham, all on December 22. On December 23, the following openings will take place: Uptown, Toronto; Stanley, Philadelphia; Palace, Rochester; Keith's, Syracuse; Penn, Pittsburgh; State, Cleveland; Great Lakes, Buffalo; Fox, Atlanta; Saenger, New Orleans; Malco, Memphis, and Majestic, San Antonio.

The Strand, Providence, premieres December 24, and the Paramount, Miami, and Colony, Miami Beach, Christmas Day. On December 28, the Metropolitan, Boston; Allyn, Hartford; Fox, Spokane; the Des Moines and Roosevelt, Des Moines, and State, Portland, Me. On December 29, the Paramount, Springfield; Paramount, New Haven; Capitol, Worcester; Rialto, Tacoma; Lyceum, Duluth; Criterion, Oklahoma City; Strand, Scranton; Comerford, Wilkes Barre. On the day before New Year's, the Capitol, Little Rock.

All Roach and Some Other UA Films to Play Acer

NEW YORK—All of the Hal Roach pictures will play the Roxy, in addition to some of the other product by UA producers.

Negotiations are understood to have been completed whereby "Raffles," Samuel Goldwyn's latest, will play the house shortly. "The Housekeeper's Daughter" has been current at the Roxy and will be followed later by "Of Mice and Men," from the same producer with "2,000,000 B. C.", the third from Roach. All of the David O. Selznick pictures through UA release will show at the Music Hall as well as the Edward Small attractions. "My Son, My Son," the latest Small picture, and "Rebecca," latest Selznick film, have been booked for the Hall.

"Gone With the Wind" is not being handled by UA and instead will play M-G-M showwindows, the Capitol and Astor simultaneously, starting December 19, at different policies and prices.

I'M GOING TO LET THIS BOY DIE!



"I can beat life—with his life! It's my chance to play heel and win a fortune. Why should I play sap—and lose it—just to save some kid!

VICTOR McLAGLEN · JACKIE COOPER

"THE BIG GUY!"



with
Ona MUNSON
Peggy MORAN • Edward BROPHY
Screenplay by LESTER COLE
Based on a story by Wallace Sullivan and Richard K. Polimer
Directed by ARTHUR LUBIN
Associate Producer: BURT KELLY

UNIVERSAL'S HEART-DRUMMING DRAMA BRINGS YOU A McLAGLEN EXTRAORDINARY, A COOPER WHO WILL STARTLE THE COUNTRY WITH HIS NEW-FOUND PERFORMANCE POWER!

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

PRINTS IN YOUR EXCHANGE NOW!

"You'll Have to M

Laurel and Hardy Give Under Banner of RKO



Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy resume their partnership in Rialto's "The Flying Deuces."

By WANDA HALE.

"The Flying Deuces," RKO Radio picture, screen play and original story by Ralph Spencer, Alfred Schiller, Charles Rogers and Harry Langdon, directed by A. Edward Sutherland and presented at the Rialto Theatre.

THE CAST:

Stan	Stan Laurel
Ollie	Oliver Hardy
Georgette	Jean Parker
Francois	Reginald Gardiner
Commandant	C. Middleton
Sergeant	Jean De Val
Corporal	Clem Wilenchick
Jailor	James Finlayson

"The Flying Deuces" gives a lot of folk something extra to be thankful for at this Thanksgiving time. Laurel and Hardy can give thanks to Boris Morros for taking so much pains with their new picture; Arthur Mayer can be thankful for the privilege of exhibiting it. And we fans of this comic team can rejoice that they're together again and be thankful for being able to roll in the Rialto's aisles. And don't say my taste in comedy is low. If you feel that way after seeing "The Flying Deuces," you ought to have your family doctor examine your funny bone.

They Join the Legion.

In their first picture under RKO's banner, Stan and Ollie join the Foreign Legion, Ollie because he wants to forget a girl and Stan because he can't let his pal down. One offense piles on another till they mournfully await their execution at sunrise for attempted desertion.

Up to this point I have to admit that "The Flying Deuces" is very much like any other Laurel and Hardy comedy. Then it shakes off the familiarity, and from the time they hopefully plan their escape till they are far away from Morocco, you'll have to hold to your seat if you want to stay in it. And the finale will almost be the end of you.

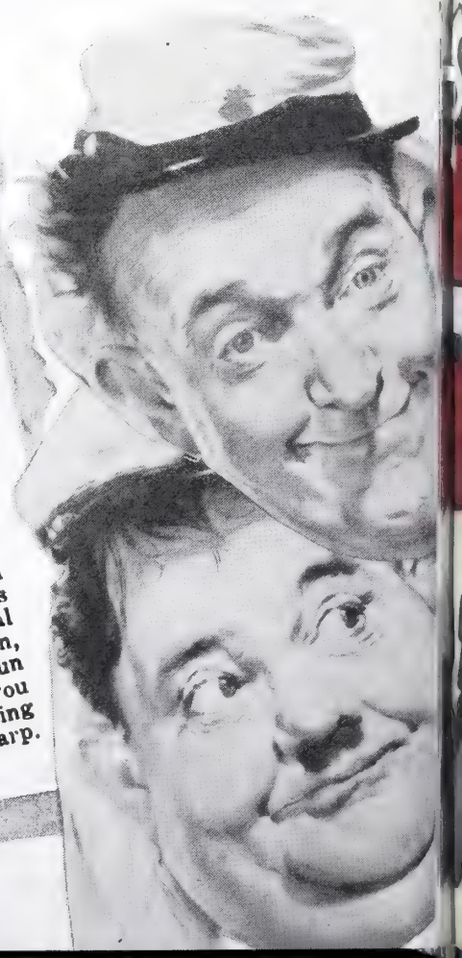
Besides treating the boys handsomely with the production, Morros has provided unusually good support in Reginald Gardiner, Jean Parker and C. Middleton. Among the nonsense and hokum offered there are flashes of real genius that, as far as I'm concerned, equal anything the old maestro, Chaplin, has done. It would spoil your fun to tell you about them. But you must listen for Hardy's singing and Laurel's selection on the harp.

* * *

RKO RADIO PICTURES

"Re-united again, Laurel and Har offer some absurdly funny sla stick in their newest item. As matter of fact, it's their best co edy in years . . . A wild-eyed cha and airplane escape, all in the tr dition of the good old silent sla stick days, wind up the piece, whi is dotted with one goofy gag aft another."

—Rose Pelswick,
N. Y. Journal & Americ



old to Your Seat

N. Y. Daily News

"Their new picture is reason enough for a glad hand. Anything which contributes to the generation of laughter in the body politic is okay by this department. And since laughter is what our honored friends are able to provoke plenty of, their latest effort is recommended." —B. C., N. Y. Times

"Laughs are what fly mostly in this Rialto offering — hefty, hearty, belly-laughs, most of them fresh ones, and funny enough to roll the customers in the aisles. A honey of a comedy."
—Irene Thirer, N. Y. Post

"If it's slapstick you're in search of, then the place to visit is the Rialto, where 'The Flying Deuces' is on view. Indeed, low comedy—almost extinct on the current screen —has seldom been more consistently hilarious and the stars themselves have rarely been in better form. Provided with a first-rate story and some fresh and imaginative gags, the co-stars will keep you in stitches from beginning to end."
—William Boehnel, N. Y. World-Telegram

"Should meet with the hearty approval of customers." —E. G., N. Y. Herald-Tribune

Stan LAUREL Oliver HARDY

THE FLYING DEUCES

WITH

JEAN PARKER

REGINALD GARDINER

A BORIS MORROS PRODUCTION

DIRECTED BY A. EDWARD SUTHERLAND

ORIGINAL STORY AND SCREEN PLAY BY RALPH SPENCE, ALFRED SCHILLER, CHARLES ROGERS, HARRY LANGDON

Sees Big Films as Fan Interest Hypo

By DAVE GOLDING

NEW YORK—From such pictures as "Gone With the Wind," "Gulliver's Travels," "Pinocchio," "Hunchback of Notre Dame," and two of his company's completed films, "The Blue Bird" and "The Grapes of Wrath," Herman Wobber, general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, presages a renewed and more profitable interest in motion pictures throughout the country.

He believes the exceptional merit of these productions, as gathered from advance reports, will rekindle a new and healthy outlook among audiences toward the screen as a medium of entertainment.

"Special selling campaigns on these pictures and, in some cases, higher admission prices, should provide a stimulant the industry has needed for some time," Wobber maintains.

To the select category of forthcoming production, Wobber cautions not to forget "Brigham Young." He adds, "It will be the greatest budgeted picture in the history of our company."

Lauds "Blue Bird"

Concerning the withdrawal of "The Blue Bird" from general release, Wobber states "The picture proves to be such a moving experience it almost extends beyond the realm of the commercial. In fact, we intend to get the reaction of exhibitors and advertising heads of circuits before we set our policy on the picture."

In discussing the relationship of the loss of foreign markets to the domestic scene, Wobber contends it is difficult to gauge the effect it will have on the industry.

"The war to the industry is a brand new experience," he says. "There has been no precedence, after all, upon which to chart a course of action."

The 20th-Fox executive does not think distributors will move in on the question of admission prices. "That," he explains, "is an exhibitor problem."

"But," Wobber declares, "the distributor is entitled to assert that pictures which cost a great deal of money are entitled to extended runs for maximum grosses."

On this score, it is his opinion exhibitors must do their share in selling the picture to the public.

In planning the program for 1940-41, Wobber states the company will be guided by current results and changing conditions as it has been in the past.

Rites for Kent's Father Held in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—Funeral services were held for Sidney John Kent, 84, father of S. R. Kent, president of 20th-Fox. The deceased had been a retired finance company executive and is survived, in addition to the film executive, by his widow, Mrs. Alice M. Kent, two sons, Arthur of San Francisco and Ernest of Inglewood; a daughter, Mrs. Olive Barber of Laramie, Wyo., and a sister, Mrs. Amy Harper of London.

Wobber Just Visited The Wrong Stores

New York—Although 20th-Fox rates "The Blue Bird" as its most outstanding production on the current schedule, Herman Wobber, general sales manager, apparently had some difficulty obtaining a copy of Maurice Maeterlink's book. Browsing around Macy's bookstalls, a reporter found him at his wit's end.

"Believe it or not," Wobber said greeting the leg man. "This store hasn't a copy of the book. I also tried Scribner's and they haven't, either."

Which brought about a bit of sleuthing on part of the reporter who learned later Brentano's carries the book published by Dodd, Mead.

Thomas Heads Monogram Eastern Branch Trio

NEW YORK — Effective immediately, Harry Thomas, veteran independent distributor, becomes manager of Monogram's company-owned branches in New York, Philadelphia and Washington, Ray Johnston, president, announces.



HARRY THOMAS

Jules Chapman also joins Monogram as assistant to Thomas.

Thomas has been active in the trade for many years, at one time heading a nation-wide distribution system under the First Division Exchanges setup.

Comerford Circuit Intends Keeping Single Bills

SCRANTON—The recent switch to dual bills by the Warner circuit in Pennsylvania will not cause any change in the single feature policy of the Comerford circuit, declares John Nolan, latter chain's general manager. The Comerford chain covers a 400-mile area, in which single bills are maintained throughout.

Nolan says there is no need to go to duals "as long as the present good crop of product continues." The circuit, he adds, is often in a position to extend playdates on films when business justifies, "which we couldn't do under a double bill policy."

Five Theatre Chains Sign New Contracts With UA

NEW YORK—UA product deals have been closed with Balaban & Katz and Great States circuits of Chicago, Publix-Intermountain of Salt Lake City, Golden States of San Francisco and Blumenfeld theatres in California.

20th-Fox Dividend

NEW YORK—A dividend of 37½ cents per share on the outstanding preferred stock for the fourth quarter is reported by the 20th Century-Fox board of directors, payable December 20 to stockholders of record December 11.

Alperson's New Post Created by Skouras

MILWAUKEE—Appointment of Edward L. Alperson, former Grand National president, as general assistant to Harold J. Fitzgerald, operating head of Fox Milwaukee Theatres Agency, is a new post. Fitzgerald has never had an executive assistant although he has expressed a desire for one to Spyros Skouras for some time. Alperson before forming Grand National was executive film buyer for National Theatres, parent company for Fox Milwaukee. William T. Powers now holds the post in New York.

Alperson is understood trying to dispose of the rights to "Tillie's Punctured Romance," which has been recut, re-edited and with sound now is reduced to four reels.

Edward Zabel, assistant to Skouras in New York, spent last week here with E. M. Saunders and Joseph Bazahler of the M-G-M home office working out local subsequent run clearances on the distributor franchise. Fitzgerald and Alperson sat in on the talks. In addition to other duties, Alperson will assist on operations and bookings.

Consider Three Cities for Winter Divisional Meet

NEW YORK—Spyros Skouras is planning to hold the next National Theatres divisional managers meeting either late in January or early in February. Los Angeles, Kansas City and New York are being discussed as the possible sites.

Charles Skouras' Division Leads National's Drive

NEW YORK — Charlie Skouras' southern California division leads the field as the fourth national drive of National Theatres enters its 13th week. In second place is E. C. Rhoden's midwest division and third is Harold Fitzgerald's Wisconsin section. The contest ends December 23.

New Skouras Drive Starts For Metropolitan Houses

NEW YORK—George Skouras has started another 11-week drive in the circuit of 60 houses in Greater New York. The business campaign, as it is called, will end February 17, and awards will be distributed on expectancies set by Skouras and William White.

Nick-Weston Appeals Are Turned Down by Court

ST. LOUIS — Two appeals by the Nick-Weston faction of Local No. 143, operators' union, were turned down Wednesday by the circuit court. The first ruling held that the deposed union heads were in default in connection with their appeal from Judge E. F. Oakley's decision in naming temporary receivers for the union. The second denied a change of venue in connection with hearings for a permanent receivership.

RING OUT THE OLD!...

SING IN THE NEW!...

with

SWANEE RIVER

in TECHNICOLOR

THE GREATEST
NEW YEAR'S
ATTRACTION IN
THE HISTORY OF
SHOW BUSINESS!

20th CENTURY FOX

THE KEYSTONE OF YOUR FUTURE

Boost Other Unions; Two More Admitted

ATLANTIC CITY—Future wage increase demands are "in the lap of the gods," producers told representatives of three unions upon granting ten per cent wage increases to electrical, teamster and carpenter workers at the one-day parley at the Ritz Carlton here. The hike becomes effective immediately on the fourth year of the five-year basic pact which expires in the spring of 1941.

The International Brotherhood of Plasterers and International Brotherhood of Laborers were accepted into the pact, thereby gaining a closed shop for this type of worker.

The American Federation of Musicians declined to join in the pay increase demands, indicating a desire for adjudication of the unemployment problem among members.

Labor representatives present: William Hutcheson, William Caste and J. B. Cambiano for the carpenters; Dan Tracy and Al Speede, electricians; Joseph Tuohy and J. Gillespie, teamsters; Joseph Weber, musicians, and Frank Carothers and Joseph Marshall.

For the producers: Nicholas M. Schenck, Harry D. Buckley, George J. Schaefer, Leo Spitz, Joseph Hazen, Austin Keough, W. C. Michel, Adolph Schimel, Leonard Picker, Fred Pelton and Pat Casey.

Expect Trailer in 6,000 Houses

Hollywood—Warner is servicing exhibitors with a special two-minute trailer called "The Spirit of Christmas" without charge. Already it has been booked by about 3,500 houses with an expectancy figure of 6,000.

Rosemary and Priscilla Lane, Lola Lane, Gale Page and May Robson do a very brief scene in it from "Four Wives." Miss Robson, by effective and largely indirect selling, plugs the film which, by no accident, is Warner's Christmas release.

It's a good trailer job—and it's for nothing.—K.

Study Ways of Combatting Mexican Labor Troubles

NEW YORK—Labor troubles are recurring in Mexico, causing distributors added difficulty. The situation is deemed important enough for consideration by foreign managers who met at the Hays office during the week.

Ways and means of combatting the current problem were discussed. Certain union leaders, it is understood, are demanding more control over film workers. Distributor representatives feel the demands are an arbitrary encroachment upon the powers of management.

"There may be more important things than havin' a whole town for a friend, but . . . I don't know what they are."



"MAIN STREET LAWYER"

with

EDWARD ELLIS • ANITA LOUISE

HAROLD HUBER • ROBERT BALDWIN • BEVERLY ROBERTS

A Republic Picture

"Lynton" Case Goes To Highest Court

WASHINGTON—Final chapter in the plagiarism litigation over "Letty Lynton" will be written by the United States supreme court.

Consenting to hear the issues, on the plea of Edward Sheldon and Margaret Ayer Barnes, authors of the play, "Dishonored Lady," which they contend was infringed, the court at the same time rejected a similar appeal filed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, other party to the suit.

Both contestants claimed the second circuit court of appeals had erred, the authors challenging its decision awarding the film company 80 per cent of the profits and an additional $922,141 as part of the overhead, and the company contending that the court should have reversed the findings as well as the decision of the district court and should have recognized limitations of the copyright laws as, it was claimed, is provided for in the statute.

Basis of the case, the court was told, is the play, for the film rights to which M-G-M was negotiating when a novel based on the same theme was published in England. The authors asked $30,000 for the right to film the play, but M-G-M secured the picture rights to the novel for $3,500.

The authors contend that the film plagiarized the play and in that contention were supported by the lower court. The fight now is over the allocation of the profits from the picture.

Mayo in East

NEW YORK—Archie L. Mayo, the director, is here from Hollywood. He traveled east by car and, in accordance with a practice of his, discussed product trends with exhibitors across the country. Arthur Gottlieb of Du Art Laboratories made the trip with the director.

Mayo goes to Havana for the holidays and reports for work in Hollywood on February 7.

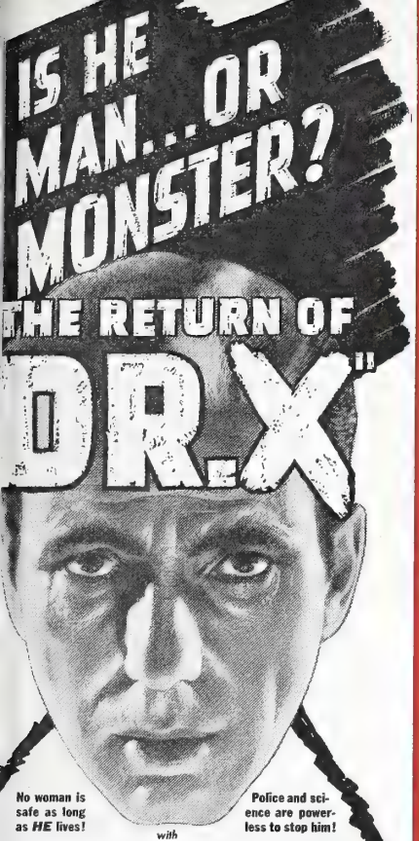
"Gone With the Wind" If and When

New York—It's becoming a problem over at M-G-M headquarters and according to some executives the various pending suits are actually beginning to interfere with the company's business.

Now that all attention is being focused on "Gone With the Wind," William F. Rodgers, general sales manager; Tom Connors, eastern sales manager, and E. K. (Ted) O'Shea were asked to be on hand in two different cities where anti-trust suits are before the courts.

The two spots are Baltimore, where the Westway case got under way Thursday, and Boston, where the defense began putting on its witnesses as the plaintiffs finished their presentation. Attorneys for the distributor promised to have the men available, if and when.

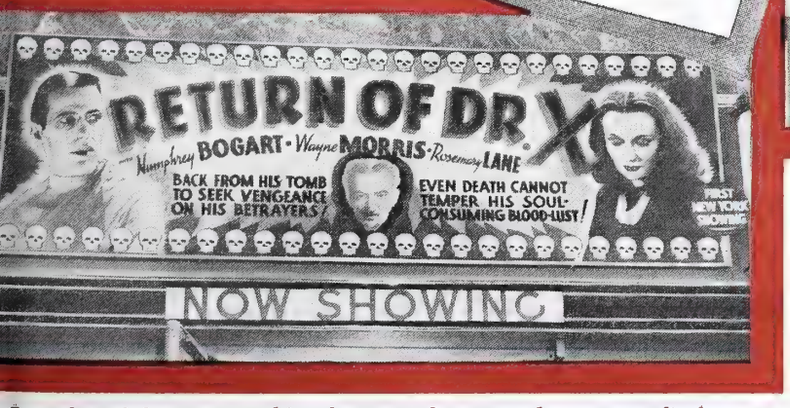
HERE'S THE FIRST RETURN —*and big!* FOR "THE RETURN OF D.R.X"



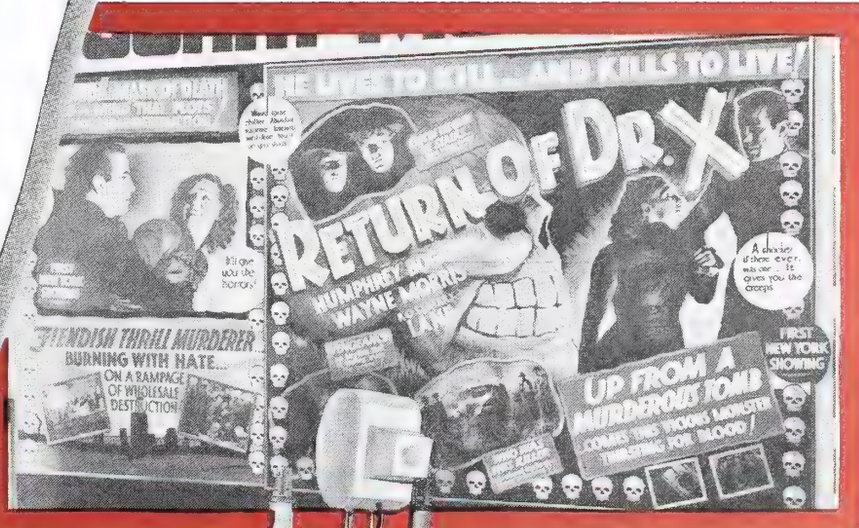
It's *the show* for live showmen ... and the first date shows it! Give it the gun ... it'll give you a gross to yell about!

BUSINESS BULLETIN

Practically a 2-week gross in 1 week in first engagement—Loew's Criterion, New York!



Over-the-exit banner—used in advance and converted to current display.





Giant lobby piece tells the 'Shocker' story two weeks in advance.

A couple of coils, a couple of test tubes, a few worn bulbs, a cabinet, and you have a genuine horror gimmick.

TELL 'EM IT'S A THRILLER!
TELL 'EM IT'S A SHOCKER!
Tell 'em it's from
WARNERS

...pical ad. This did a ...g opening-day job. ...*ctual size: 2 cols.— ...0 lines).* More like ...in the Pressbook.

Keeping Close Watch On Radio Giveaway

(Continued from page 5)

of the Lincoln newspapers in which the Livingston ads were used.

Ralph Goldberg, who has a circuit in Omaha, also has taken the stunt on. He was the first to ask for particulars, and is considering a hop to double the giveaway's advertised pot if the winner is being entertained in a Goldberg house.

Meantime, Livingston's test has produced these results:

Prior to the Pot O' Gold show, he averaged the Tuesday night business to find his normal, which he called 100 per cent. Since inception of the radio giveaway, and prior to his underwriting move, he found the Tuesday nights had slipped to 55 per cent. Now, after the giveaway guarantee plan has been advertised, he says the last Tuesday night count had surged back strongly to 87 per cent, with the movement still gaining.

Started as a semi-gag and the result of a curbstone conversation with Mrs. Barney Oldfield, wife of the *Sunday Journal* and *Star's* motion picture editor, Livingston's bet of $1,000 a week at odds of better than 15,000,000 to one has landed him in *Time*, interviews by the Associated Press, and a spread in *Tide*, the advertising publication.

Metro's British Activity Awaiting London Word

(Continued from page 14)

signed, back with the company and in charge of production in England. He said he believed it was a mistake for Goetz to leave the company.

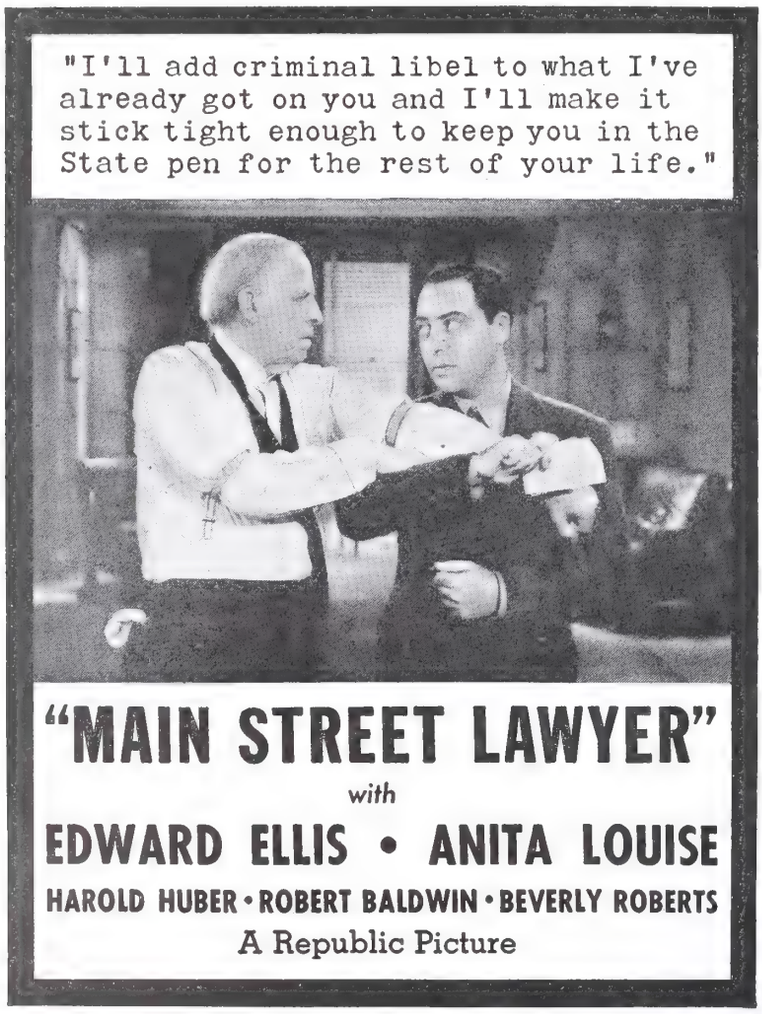
The exact number of pictures to be produced in England is not known. One or two which were planned at the time the war broke out are being made here, but a sufficient supply of stories are on hand to fill the immediate and future needs.

NEW YORK—As soon as he arrives in England, Joseph Friedman will look into the matter of Columbia resuming production, the company's managing director in England stated before leaving for abroad. He was accompanied by Jack Segal, aide to Joseph H. McConville, foreign head.

Friedman could not say whether Columbia would begin production immediately or wait several months for a clarification of the issues involved.

Majors Have Until March on Quotas

NEW YORK — Unless major companies produce enough pictures to meet quota requirements (one to every four pictures sent to England) by March, distributors will find themselves in a position whereby they will be required to buy the necessary amount of missing pictures for distribution in British exchanges. Failure to do so will be a violation of the quota act.



Para. British Quota Start in January

NEW YORK—Paramount expects to resume its British quota production in January, according to David Rose, managing director for the United Kingdom, who arrived on the *Statendam*.

More details will be forthcoming, Rose says, after he confers with Stanton Griffis, Barney Balaban and John W. Hicks jr. Following the home office talks, Rose will leave for Hollywood where he intends to spend the holidays.

Concerning the state of production in England, Rose commented carefully: "The British are desperately trying to preserve their industry."

He did say one of the purposes of his trip is to induce British talent now in Hollywood to return to England for production assignments. Rose would not elaborate.

Problem of obtaining sufficient personnel to continue production still remains unanswered, is the way Rose views the present situation. He says there were about four or five pictures shooting when he left.

The company has fulfilled its quota obligations until April 1, Rose states. Extent of the new program will depend on the decision of home office executives.

Would Be 'Mistake' to Seek Revision of Revenue Laws

WASHINGTON—The industry committee which annually tackles the job of seeking a revision in revenue legislation "has been advised it would be a mistake to press the issue in the next congress."

For the past two years representations have been made in an effort to lift the ceiling on admission taxes so that exhibitors might be free to raise scales without having to pay most of the advance to the government, but nothing has come of it. As matters stand, and have for some time, all admissions up to 41 cents are tax exempt. There is a tax of one cent on each 10 cents, or fraction thereof, over 41 cents.

The feeling at present is that to press the issue at the next congressional session would be "wrong" in that it "might conceivably draw attention to the fact that the exemption could be lowered if the government is seeking new means of taxation."

More Sign Games

CHICAGO—More than 350 theatres have been added to the list of houses in the U. S. now playing Wahoo, the screen game, according to Phil Fischer, president of Hollywood Amusement Co. Fischer said that more than 3,800 theatres in the country now are using the company's theatre games.

Form New Firm

NEW YORK—Marcel Hellman, English producer, and Mack Littman have formed the Tower Pictures, Inc., for the distribution of domestic and foreign films.

Balaban Cheered by Studio Operations

NEW YORK—Returning from a short visit to the coast with Stanton Griffis, chairman of the Paramount executive board, Barney Balaban, president, expressed optimism over the studio's operations under Y. Frank Freeman and William LeBaron, adding the quality product which has characterized the company's policy will be continued in the future.

He pointed to the company's extensive theatre interests which run into millions as a definite reason for maintaining quality. The best assurance to operate the houses profitably was to supply a sufficient number of good pictures which will hold up at the boxoffice.

"No exhibitor faces a problem which we ourselves do not already have," he insisted, adding Paramount has a leading first run in every key situation and in many neighborhoods. In order to protect these houses, the company's customers are likewise taken into consideration.

New Paramount Plays

NEW YORK—Paramount has purchased an original play, "Sunrise in My Pocket," by Edwin Justus Mayer. The company also has acquired "Family Portrait," which was produced on Broadway last year.

Second Grand Jury Brings Forth No Indictments

HOLLYWOOD—What the future may hold is cloaked in secrecy, but the industry, for the time being, is breathing easier in the knowledge that the second phase of its tangle with Uncle Sam over income and corporation tax matters, alleged labor racketeering and other items has come to a close. The Federal grand jury impanelled for the second time to hear testimony on those topics ended its session with "no report," indicating that this time, at least, there will be no indictments.

Hearing was called by Charles H. Carr, special assistant to Atty.-Gen. Frank Murphy, shortly after he had returned from a conference with his chief in Washington. Most important witness was Joseph M. Schenck of 20th Century-Fox who —although what transpired in the jury room remains a secret—was believed to have been questioned as to the circumstances surrounding his asserted $100,000 loan to William Bioff, labor union leader. Others called upon for testimony were William Dover, former 20th Century-Fox executive and Lou Anger, head of United Artists Theatres.

Gov't to Supply Names Of Witnesses to UA

NEW YORK—Counsel representing the government has made known its intention of furnishing the names of its witnesses to UA by February 1, in a stipulation filed in federal court Thursday. Objections to the stipulation have been waived and the government promises to answer all 38 questions propounded by the distributor.



—Metropolitan Photos

For Eastern Visit—

Howard Hawks, Columbia director, who most recently steered Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell through "His Girl Friday," arrives from Hollywood for a brief stay in New York.

Supports Production Cut Need Viewpoint

CHICAGO—Support for the view that before long it will be necessary for the major companies to cut production output while retaining budgets on individual pictures comes from Howard Hawks, producer-director.

Expanding on his idea, Hawks offered this as the manner in which exhibition can aid the situation:

"We will get into the legit theatre idea," he said. "By that, I mean that if a picture is good, it will run indefinitely on through from the top first-runs to the subsequent-runs. Pictures can definitely play longer than they have in the past, if they are good. And by playing pictures longer, exhibitors will gradually find that they have less need for so many pictures. This in turn will gradually lead us back to the sane situation of single features, less production but much better pictures. There is no reason why a company that nets eight million dollars on 50 pictures, many of which are not good and that cut into what would have been a larger net, cannot net the same amount with only 30 or 40 pictures, all of which are good."

Hawks added that, in his estimation, the elimination of block booking would aid in the production of better pictures, though it would place a hardship on production plans and distribution setups.

Hawks was en route to Florida where he will confer with Ernest Hemingway on an original story that the author will write for Hawks' next production.

Exchange Unions to Seek Wage Boosts

NEW YORK—Wage increases of from 10 to 20 per cent will be sought by the various exchange unions when meetings with distributor representatives resume Monday. With A. Montague in charge in the absence of Gradwell Sears, preliminary sessions were marked by discussions of good fellowship. A few minor complaints also were cleared up.

Lou Johnson represents the Local B-51 as president, having been unanimously re-elected. Leo Braun again won the vice-president's berth. Other successful candidates follow: Dave Newman, financial secretary and treasurer; Gerard Lee, recording and corresponding secretary, and August Kubart, sergeant-at-arms.

The executive and grievance board members are Carmen George, M-G-M; Leonard Brooks, Warner; Rubin Beloff, 20th-Fox; Selig Epstein, RKO; Victor Petitto, Columbia; Harry Newman, UA; Conrad Forschner, Paramount, and Frank Gollotto, Universal. Members of the board of trustees are Irving Damrauer, Rose Gunty and Ben Block.

Local 306 has nominated candidates for president, with Milton Berkowitz, chief projectionist at the Capitol, opposing Joseph Basson, incumbent. Indications are Basson will be re-elected.



Herbert's Favorite Theirs—

At Paramount's Victor Herbert party held in the composer's favorite eating place, Luchow's, are Allan Jones, Mrs. Jones, Walter Connolly and Mrs. Connolly. Allan and Walter appear in "The Great Victor Herbert," the occasion for the party.

Eastern Production Is Out for Metro

NEW YORK—Production in New York is out of the question for M-G-M, President Nicholas M. Schenck has informed Mayor LaGuardia. Schenck, at a meeting with the mayor late in the week, stated the company has a $20,000,000 studio in Culver City and has additional millions invested in players, stars and equipment. He added, however, M-G-M might make a picture in the east if the occasion warrants, that is if a certain Broadway star were needed for a role and could not entrain to the coast for the performance. This, he insisted, did not bear on the mayor's idea, and the company has no subjects of that nature pending.

Altec to Throw Party for Frank Gilbert on Coast

NEW YORK—Altec associates will tender Frank C. Gilbert, who has resigned as chief engineer, to assume a similar post at Paramount's coast studios, a farewell party December 18. His entrance into the Paramount situation is a move to coordinate engineering activities and will not affect present personnel.

Fabian in Staten Island Fight Against Slump

NEW YORK—Staten Island Fabian theatres are combating the pre-Christmas slump with cash and merchandise giveaways amounting to almost $4,000. District Manager Harry Black and Edgar Goth, director of publicity, arranged the tieups with the local merchants.

Services for Max Lee, 76, Are Held at Flatbush

NEW YORK—Funeral services for Max Lee, father of Joe Lee, 20th Century-Fox exchange manager, have been held at Flatbush Memorial Chapel. He was 76. Interment was at Beth David cemetery, Elmont, L. I.

Surviving, in addition to the film executive, are two other brothers, Dan and Peter, and a sister, Sara Kammer.

Services for Landau

NEW YORK—Funeral services were held Friday at Riverside Memorial for William A. Landau, who was familiarly known as "pop." The retired exhibitor was one of the real old-timers in the local field. He was in his 80's when death came. His son, Irving, will continue to run the Heights, in Washington Heights. Arthur Landau, the Hollywood agent, also is a son. Many film people attended the services.

Rites for Isadore Levy

NEW YORK—Funeral services for Isadore A. Levy, brother of Dave Levy, Universal branch manager, were held at Park West Memorial Chapel. He was 68. The deceased had been in the printing business.

His Own Wife Is His Best

New York—In response to a question put to him at the City Club as to what he was doing concerning eastern production, Mayor La Guardia replied: "We have the most ambitious plans that will make Hollywood look sick if we can tempt producers to come here.

"We have been in conference with every branch of the industry, and I want to make it clear that even if the industry does come to New York, I shall continue to live with my own wife,"

New RKO Pact Is Due Within Week

NEW YORK — An RKO underwriting agreement which will offer something between $3 and $4 a share on the new common stock of the company will probably be forthcoming this week at an adjourned hearing before Federal Judge William O. Bondy.

At the last hearing Atlas requested a two-week delay in order that the RKO board might further consider its offer. Judge Bondy turned down this application and ordered a one week adjournment declaring it was up to him to determine whether the agreement is fair or not, and that there already has been too much delay. The judge was not in a pleasant mood, and turned his wrath on Hamilton C. Rickaby, representing Atlas, and ordered an agreement in as soon as possible.

It has been ascertained that the reason behind the delay is that Atlas is expecting a decision of the supreme court within the next fortnight which will decide whether that body will hear appeals taken from the confirmation order on the plan of reorganization. Should the supreme court refuse to listen to argument, Atlas will at once submit its offer. However, the investment company is not anxious to finance a new stock issue with appeals still pending. In view of Bondy's decision to grant them but a single week, it is deemed likely it will have to bring in the offer before the supreme court makes up its mind.

RKO held a special board meeting Friday to listen to Atlas spokesmen on the underwriting agreement, and it is understood that the investment house raised its bid slightly.

New Malmuth Post

NEW YORK—Joe Malmuth now is sales engineer of the Amusement Supply Co., Inc. Malmuth was formerly connected with the Hurley Screen Co., and Dictograph Products Corp.

Engineers' Meet Set

NEW YORK—The 46th semi-annual convention of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers will be held in Atlantic City at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hotel, April 22-25.

RKO Managers' Party Winds Up Bonus Plan

NEW YORK—RKO theatres managers will celebrate Monday night, marking the successful conclusion of the fourth year of the RKO Managers' Bonus Plan.

Wives and guests of the managers have been invited as guests of RKO at any legitimate show they desire, while the men gather in the East ballroom of the Astor for cocktails and beefsteak.

Later, the women will join the managers for an after theatre party at the Diamond Horseshoe.

According to John J. O'Connor, vice-president in charge of theatre operation, the affair is limited exclusively to managers, their wives and guests, and a small number of home office executives.

Those attending include: Al Arnstein, Jerry Baker, George Baldwin, Warren Bartlett, Joe Becker, John Berger, Arthur Brown, John Cassidy, Ray Connor, Bill Cook, Harold Daly, Joe Di Lorenzo, George Dunn, Mike Edelstein, Russ Emde, Bill England, Max Fellerman, Lou Friedman, Arthur Gilgar, Irving Gold, Joe Goldberg, Leon Goldberg, Louis Goldberg, Larry Grieb, Pat Grosso, Emil Groth, Maurice Harris, John Hearns, Herb Heintz, Harold Heller, Fred Herkowitz, Raymond Hodgdon, Bill Howard, Frank Howard.

Also, Leon Kelmer, Malcolm Kingsberg, Lee Koken, Rudy Kramer, Morton Kresner, Max Levine, Dave Lustig, Harry Lyons, Charles McDonald, Harry Mandel, Fred Meyers, Max Mink, Harry Mosley, Millard Ochs, Charles Oelreich, John J. O'Connor, Jim O'Donnell, Richard Patterson jr., Matty Polon, Ken Rockwell, Marty Rosen, Sam Rydell, George J. Schaefer, Sol Schwartz, Baker Shelton, Max Sloven, Ed Sniderman, Sam Taub, Major Leslie E. Thompson, Bob Ungerfeld, Ansel Weinstein, Harry Weiss, Sigurd Wexo and Dave Whyte.

KAO Dividend

NEW YORK—KAO has declared a $3.50 dividend, out of surplus profits, on the seven per cent cumulative preferred stock for the quarters ended March 31 and June 1937, payable December 22 to stockholders of record, December 18, 1939.

Changed Show Type Only Triboro License Chance

NEW YORK—"Just so long as the theatre continues to operate the type of follies shows that caused the complaint the house will remain closed," License Commissioner Paul Moss informed BOXOFFICE on refusing to renew the license of the Triboro at 167 East 125th St., Manhattan. The license refusal is the outgrowth of a complaint by the Parents Association of the Church of St. Paul at 117th St. The theatre is said to have been operated by Mort Minsky and partners.

Meyer Back East

NEW YORK—Fred Meyer, assistant to John J. O'Connor, vice-president of RKO Theatres, is back from an inspection tour of the circuit's properties on the coast.

SEC Summarizes Film Stock Transactions

WASHINGTON—Transactions by officers and directors of motion picture companies in the securities of their corporations in October are reported by the Securities and Exchange Commission, in its semi-monthly summary of such transactions, as follows:

Loew's Boston Theatres: Acquisition by Loew's, Inc., of 258 shares of common, bringing its total to 100,203 shares.

Pathe Film: Disposition by Thomas P. Loach, New York, officer, of seven shares of common, leaving him with 11 shares.

Trans Lux Corp.: Disposition of 1,700 shares of common stock by H. P. Farrington, New York, director, leaving him with 100 shares.

Twentieth Century-Fox: Disposition of 3,000 shares of $1.50 cumulative preferred stock by Joseph M. Schenck, Beverly Hills, Cal., director, leaving him with 15,284 shares, plus 110,043 shares of common stock.

Universal Corp.: Liquidation by William Freiday, New York, director, of his holding company and transfer to personal ownership of 1,500 common voting trust certificates, plus the acquisition of another 100 certificates, giving him a total of 2,900; acquisition of 800 common voting trust certificates by Nathan J. Blumberg, New York, officer, giving him a total of 4,000 certificates.

Warner Bros.: Acquisition of 500 shares of common stock by Robert W. Perkins, New York, director, representing his total interest.

Consolidated Amusements Offering Thrift Books

NEW YORK—For the first time in its history, Consolidated Amusements is offering thrift books at a 10 per cent discount. The books sell for $2.25 and permit admissions totaling $2.50.

All theatres in the circuit are now open. Laurence Bolognino, general operating head, has not been entirely well of late and is understood reporting at his office part time.

The Ascot, Bronx, continues under a foreign policy and it is not planned to convert any other in the circuit's string to a similar booking arrangement.

Ginsberg's Future Plans Are Not Yet Formulated

NEW YORK—Henry Ginsberg's plans have not yet been formulated, the former Selznick International executive states. He plans to remain in town a few weeks before returning to Hollywood and will be on hand for the opening of "Gone With the Wind" at the Astor.

Seek Tax Assessment Cuts

ALBANY—Stanley-Mark-Strand Corp. is seeking a reduction in tax assessment on the Ritz here from $430,000 to $175,000, and a reduction on the Strand building (also operated by Warner) from $328,000 to $210,000.

Vaudeville Acts Hit by War

New York—Dozens of vaudeville acts are out of work because their European bookings have been cancelled as a result of the war and have made it possible for an eastern Pennsylvania circuit to play to "outstanding" business due to the "low prices we can get these acts for," according to the circuit's booker, who declines to be quoted.

This source points out six houses in the chain, four of which never played vaudeville before, are running five acts, coupled with a single feature on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at regular admission scale "with exceptional results because the acts are good entertainment, although they are not name acts, they are plentiful, and they are not asking exorbitant prices."

Two Additional Brandt Units Eye Vaudeville

NEW YORK—Two more Brandt theatres are expected to adopt a vaudeville policy on a split week policy. The houses are the Halsey, Brooklyn, and the Park Lane, Manhattan. Closed for two weeks, the Carlton, Jamaica, reopens December 24 with vaudeville scheduled for the latter four days of the week. The Windsor, Bronx, and Flatbush, Brooklyn, will continue full week vaudeville and name band policies, according to William Brandt.

Hatrick Due in Hollywood For Zanuck Conferences

HOLLYWOOD—Ed Hatrick, general manager of Hearst's film enterprises, is due here in January for conferences with Darryl F. Zanuck, 20th-Fox production head, on plans for next season. Hatrick supervises Cosmopolitan production activities. For the current season, 20th-Fox produced four for Cosmopolitan on a year-to-year deal. Hatrick will see what is lined up and then get together with Zanuck on definite pictures for the Hearst label.

See No Adverse Laws At Albany Session

NEW YORK—Exhibitors in this state will have little, if any, adverse legislation to be concerned about when the annual lawmakers' session gets under way in Albany next month.

According to those who make a habit of watching out for film interests, 1940 is not considered a "propitious year" for "offending any one." The interpretation is of a political nature.

"The men who meet in Albany in January are not going to bite off too many small pieces, especially the kind that might back up in their faces when they return to home districts to boom themselves and others in the 1940 elections. Everything considered, it will be a short session and one confined to comparatively important issues."

Recently there has been active agitation on the part of upstate, small community officials for a state-wide tax for local relief. If sufficient pressure is brought to bear on legislators a bill may be introduced carrying with it an admission tax, but the project is considered extremely unlikely. "Perennial" bills such as the Crews bill that would provide for two-men in a booth and others of similar stature, may again be tossed into the hopper, but these are said to stand little chance for serious consideration.

Trial Period Ends With New Service Offer by Altec

NEW YORK—The result of nine months' trial period in a number of theatres, a new form of contract relating to motion picture equipment has been made available by Altec. The new contract covers the furnishing of repairs and replacement parts for projector mechanisms, arc lamps, generators, rectifiers and allied apparatus.

Allied Unit Meets Dec. 11

ALBANY—The monthly meeting of Eastern New York Allied was postponed from December 4 to December 11 at the Ten Eyck Hotel.



Coastal Welcome to Universal Chief—

Nate J. Blumberg, left, president of Universal, is welcomed on his arrival in the film capital by Cliff Work, right, studio head, and Maurice Kann, editor-in-chief of BOXOFFICE.

BROADWAY

CHARLIE PETTIJOHN received his first Christmas card three weeks early. It's from an old pal, Noah Beery . . . Harold Postman, assistant to Tom Connors at M-G-M, had Harold jr. into the office for a Cook's tour . . . Jacob Wilk, head of Warner's story department, dwelt on "The Theatre Goes American," as guest of honor and principal speaker at Emma Mills' Book and Play Luncheon at the Biltmore Hotel, Friday . . . Howard Benedict, former studio publicity chief for RKO and now a producer, will spend several weeks around town, taking in shows and visiting his family in Baltimore. That one time bad arm of his is now totally cured, he declares . . . Mrs. Archie Mayo accompanied her director husband east . . . Arthur Caesar is expected from Hollywood shortly . . . Sol Lesser, who has been around for the past few weeks, has returned to the coast . . . May Robson is another east-west shuttler . . . Norman H. Moray, Vitaphone sales manager, is back at his desk after a month's tour of western and southern branches.

George Raft is due from Cleveland, where he was guest of honor at the annual Christmas benefit show of the Cleveland Free Press, *in a few days, en route to Havana and a vacation . . . L. J. Schlaifer, in charge of western sales for UA, is back from the field . . . Monroe Greenthal had quite a tussle with his dentist. The dentist won, with one of Monroe's wisdom teeth as a prize . . . Ilona Massey is here from the coast . . . Ditto Joan Bennett . . . Walton C. Ament, Pathe news editor, is in Florida looking for short subject and newsreel material . . . Bill Sussman is keeping the avoirdupois down with regular noon-day visits to the Gotham Health Gym . . . Barney Balaban and Stanton Griffis cut their coast visit shorter than expected and are again on the local scene . . .*



Back for Airer—

Jean and Mrs. Hersholt, back in New York for his series of "Dr. Christian" broadcasts just as "Meet Dr. Christian," an RKO release, opens at the Palace.



—Metropolitan Photos

On the Job—

Buddy Moss, managing director of Loew's Criterion, and his wife as they attended the opening of "That's Right, You're Wrong" at the theatre.

Neil F. Agnew was in Boston to testify in the Morse & Rothenberg anti-trust suit.

Abe Stone of the Eagle, Albany, drove all the way to town to attend to some matters pertaining to four refugees he brought over from Vienna. He says business is fair . . . Vincent McFaul of Shea theatres, Buffalo, was another visitor at the M-G-M, Loew and Paramount home offices . . . Ed Hatrick is planning to leave for Miami after Christmas. Right now he is battling a stubborn cold . . . December 16 starts vacation time for local salesmen. Over at 20th-Fox, Abe Blumstein plans to leave Friday for Miami Beach and probably Maurice Fleischman's Essex House. He and Moe Kurtz spent last year at the winter resort and according to advance indications many salesmen will be seen on the beach around Christmas.

Johnny Murphy says he doesn't find time to read Boxoffice *in his office, so takes it home and peruses it in bed . . . S. M. Sladon, manager of the Hotel Astor cigar concession, has sent out expensive brochures on various types of weeds to many prominent film executives; Bill White included . . . Charlie Einfeld is due from the coast shortly . . . Abe Blumstein got one of his greatest thrills Sunday when his son, Edgar, married Bernice Heineman at the bride's Mt. Vernon home. The couple are honeymooning in Canada. The bride, incidentally, is no relation to Bill Heineman of Universal . . . Sam Wood departed for the coast over the weekend after conferences in the east with Sol Lesser, who will produce "Our Town" as his first UA release.*

Nat Cohn, Irving Wormser and Charles Moses visited the mausoleum of Harry Shiffman at the Mt. Hope cemetery last Wednesday in observance of Shiffman's birthday . . . Universal's short subject manager, Leo Abrams, is in the south on a sales trip . . . A. J. Herman, eastern district manager for Universal, returns Monday from Boston . . . Charles Stern made an infrequent appearance at Lindy's the other day in the company of Harry Gold . . . After driving for 25 years, Joe Vergesslich of Warner, had to take another road test for a driver's license and is now wondering whether he passed. His other license expired because he spent over a year in Georgia . . . Joe Hummel, Warner's foreign manager, is now in Buenos Aires . . . Sig Kusiel, Columbia's manager for Mexico, is in town.

Gangplank notes: Ship news assignments are few and far between but the arrival of David Rose, Paramount's managing director for the United Kingdom, on the Statendam, *resulted in an early arising and a trip to Hoboken. There waiting on the pier were Mrs. David Rose, John W. Hicks jr., George Weltner and Roger Clement . . . The boat was late in docking, so off in search for a cup of good coffee along the waterfront. There we encountered Morris Helprin whiling his time away, admiring an old home for sale at only* $3,500 *. . . Helprin was on hand to greet Mrs. Larry Butler, wife of Alexander Korda's sound man . . . The British touch was noticed in the apparel of Hicks and Rose who wore blue homburgs and snug fitting double-breasted blue overcoats . . . John Mock of Paramount's British production department also docked and left for the coast shortly thereafter. Returning by ferry boat with New York harbor an invigorating spectacle on a brisk morning.*

Louis Goidel of the Para-Court, Brooklyn, is having his booking troubles these



For Eastern P. A.—

Allan and Mrs. Jones as they arrived for his personal appearance in connection with "The Great Victor Herbert" at the Paramount. Jones co-stars with Mary Martin and Walter Connolly.



—Ralph Morgan

Checks Into Newark—

Editing of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" is well under way, said Harry Goetz, co-producer with Max Gordon of the RKO feature, as he arrived at the Newark airport.

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days and says the only company to lend a helping hand is Warner. Recently Randforce opened the Clinton, which is having a telling effect on Goidel's house . . . Fred Faulkner, Netcong, N. J., exhibitor, travels 100 miles every Monday to do his bookings in town. He seemed pretty annoyed the other day, complaining to Ted O'Shea that exchange screenings should be held on another day in the week, not when he comes to town. C. A. Tomasino of the Raymond, City Island, supported Faulkner in his argument . . . W. Ray Johnston flew to Phoenix, Ariz., the middle of the week to be on hand for the premiere of "The Gentleman From Arizona."

Harry M. Goetz was in Washington for a brief visit. His "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" opens for a world premiere in that city, January 22 . . . Osa Johnson and Joseph C. Gilpin are making eastern scenes for "I Married Adventure" for Columbia . . . Howard Hawks, the director, is in town for a gander at the local play mart . . . Lou Smith, new Columbia studio ad and publicity head, has been visiting Maurice Bergman and other home office executives prior to taking over the coast post . . . Karl Hoblitzelle has sold his newspaper, the Dallas Dispatch-Journal *. . . Earl Hudson, pro-tem head man for United Detroit Theatres, attended the Paramount party Tuesday night at Luchow's . . . David E. Rose takes off for the coast next week. His missus and baby came on from Hollywood to meet the Paramount managing director on his arrival from England . . . Bill Scully and Frank McCarthy, Universal sales executives, have been hitting the rails again and covering considerable territory . . . Bill Heineman is due from a western sales tour, which followed a vacation . . . Cheever Cowdin got back from a quick jaunt to the Universal studios about the middle of the week.*

Sidney R. Kent and Charles E. McCarthy arrive in Hollywood, Monday. They will be joined there by Herman Wobber who has first gone to San Francisco . . . Abe Bernstein, former member of *Variety's* editorial staff, succeeds Hy Daab as advertising manager . . . Ruthie Morrow, secretary to Lou Pollock, leaves Friday for a Florida vacation . . . Bernie Zimmetbaum and Joe Katch were in Washington on business . . . Mort Spring makes sure trade paper reporters do not get too comfortable and linger on in his office. Ash trays and comfortable chairs are conspicuous by their absence . . . Local theatre changes have Herman Rosenberg operating the Stadium, Manhattan, and Jake Leff the Acme, Brooklyn.

Harry Bernstein on New Year's celebrates a score of years with Loew's . . . Bill Rodgers returned Wednesday from Charlotte after a couple of days there on business and exhibitor organization matters . . . Bob Lynch was in town the day before the Army-Navy game was staged in Philadelphia and business was conducted in pigskin terms . . . Max Weisfeldt is interested in buying a summer home at Shrub Oak, but he has to put down $500 *before that circuit operator will believe he is serious. Louis Astor is doing his bit in trying to swing the deal, but so far no check has been produced . . . Rube Jackter is counting the weeks before he'll be on his way to Miami with his family for his annual sun baths.*

With appropriate misgivings the UA foreign publicity staff cut its annual Xmas Club melon. Which means Sammy Cohen, Len Daly, Celeste Levy, Evelyn Daly and Myron Rosenthal wound up a solid year between them of contributing weekly sums to the bank, to emerge with $100—exactly $900 short of their goal . . . Evelyn Gerstein is handling publicity for "Entente Cordiale" . . . Pete Witt is no longer with Standard Pictures where he handled publicity . . . Joe Roberts promises something very "exotic" in the way of night clubs

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Meets a Bally—

Jessica Dragonette, who shares the co-starring role with Lanny Ross in "Gulliver's Travels," meets Dave Ballard, eight-foot giant who is ballyhooing the feature-length cartoon.



And in the French—

Fred Kohler jr., who appears in RKO's "Swiss Family Robinson," here utilizes the RKO exhibitor lounge to study the French version of the Towne-Baker production.

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with the opening December 23 of Monte Proser's Beachcomber, where NTG's nitery formerly held forth . . . Earl Hudson of Detroit was in for a visit with Leon Netter, Paramount circuit executive . . . Harry Goetz is very much occupied with Barret McCormick these days. Subject matter: "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" . . . Harry Ross is in Florida the better to get over a bad case of grippe.

Mrs. Murray Silverstone has joined her husband on the coast, which means the UA chieftain won't be back until Christmas . . . Charles Midelburg, operator of the Capitol, Charleston, W. Va., paid a visit to E. W. Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers. Aaron found E. K. Stern, Loew's assistant treasurer, and thus threw together two men who hadn't seen each other in about 35 years. It seems the Midelburgs and the Sterns were reared in Charleston . . . Lee Newbury says Allied of New Jersey probably will not have another meeting until after the first of the new year . . . Harry Allen, Canadian manager for GN, is in town in quest of independent product . . . Joseph J. Unger, eastern and Canadian division manager for Paramount, was a defense witness in the Westway Theatres anti-trust suit trial in Baltimore.

Bow and arrow stuff: Arthur Schwartz, film buyer for the Harry Brandt circuit, will be married to Gladys Messing of Brooklyn at the Plaza Hotel, December 17. The couple will drive to Miami for their honeymoon . . . Grace Radile, in the office of John Kirwan, RKO circuit purchasing agent, is now Mrs. Michael Karas. The bride-to-be was given a surprise luncheon at the Hickory House by some of her company friends before the ceremony. Present: Norma Davis, Helen McGinnis, Zella Smith, Elsa Atkinson, Sylvia Arnowitz, Frances Tannenbaum, Josephine Tobin, Catherine Hart and an ele-

(Continued on page 30-A)

"Day of Reckoning" Is Near for GN

NEW YORK—The day of reckoning for Grand National drew nearer as developments last week indicated the patience of creditors and the referee in bankruptcy was growing short. Earle W. Hammons again requested a week's adjournment to work on his RFC and Erpi financing, but the referee overruled a decision of the creditors' committee which granted a stay to the GN president by a 4-2 vote, and allowed him until Monday.

The hearing again was a bitter one with developments indicating that any loan will be a long time coming. Both the RFC and Erpi are waiting for each other, according to reports made to the court, and in an effort to cut the Gordian knot, the referee ordered a meeting between a member of the creditors' committee, Hammons, Erpi and RFC before the next hearing to determine once and for all if financing was to be forthcoming.

Despite pleas from Hammons' counsel and officers of the company for faith in the executive, the referee indicated he is no longer willing to see the assets of the estate dwindle by $4,000 weekly without an indemnity bond, which Hammons claims is impossible for him to provide.

Should the GN president report nothing further than "considerable progress" at the next hearing, it is deemed likely liquidation may take place.

Hammons told creditors that two men, Alexander Berglas and Joe Sussowitz, were prepared to invest $250,000 each in production, should the financing of RFC be arranged. Nothing further on the identity of these men was revealed.

Other Litigation

Nate Blumberg, Universal president, will be examined before trial this week in connection with a $25,000 suit by Stage and Screen Productions. The suing company claims Universal is releasing a picture called "Inside Information," the title of which plagiarizes the title of a film it made in 1934. Universal claims as a defense that "Inside Information" is in public domain.

Federal Judge Alfred C. Coxe has issued an order dissolving Nuovo Mondo Pictures. Company had an involuntary petition of bankruptcy filed against it in 1937. It had liabilities of over $50,000 and assets of $1,587. No dividend to unsecured or preferred creditors. Some 24 features, 21 trailers and 35 shorts turned over to the Italian government.

Suit of Walter H. Pollak, attorney, against Loew's and its subsidiaries for $74,046 was set for trial in supreme court for February 13, 1940. Action is for legal services. Loew's claims to have paid Pollak $11,757 in full settlement of his claim.

Joseph Krimsky has filed suit for $100,000 in supreme court against Gabriel Pascal charging breach of a 1933 agreement whereby he was to receive one half interest in any production Pascal might make. The plaintiff was also to receive full distribution rights to the picture in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Cuba. "Pygmalion" is the center of dispute with Krimsky claiming he received nothing on the film.

Joseph Nemerov, New York attorney, who has been suing various major companies in stockholder actions, is attempting to add another, Columbia, to the list. He will seek to intervene in an action against that company in supreme court. Nemerov has already sued Loew's, Paramount and 20th Century-Fox.

Reisman Vice-President RKO Foreign Activity

NEW YORK—Phil Reisman, who has been in charge of foreign distribution of RKO for the past six years, now is vice-president in charge of foreign distribution. His election was made at a meeting of the board of directors Thursday.



PHIL REISMAN

Reisman has had a varied and successful career as a sales executive since he entered the business in 1917 with Triangle. A former assistant to S. R. Kent at Paramount, he became Pathe's general sales manager in 1927. From 1930 to 1932, he was identified with Universal in a similar capacity. He then joined RKO in charge of film buying and booking in 1933 took over as general foreign sales manager.

As head of the foreign department, Reisman has been instrumental in having RKO set up its own distribution system in 22 countries.

New Anti-Trust Suit By Baltimore Linden

BALTIMORE—Operators of the Linden have filed suit in U. S. district court against the Durkee and Rome circuits and major distributors, charging violation of the Clayton and Sherman anti-trust acts and the Robinson-Patman anti-price discrimination act.

The plaintiff charges the two circuits have worked out a "virtual division of neighborhoods between them," and that the distributors have cooperated with them by granting better conditions than in contracts with any independent exhibitors. Of the 78 Baltimore neighborhood houses, 22 are in the Durkee circuit and ten in the Rome chain.

The Linden's immediate competition comes from Rome's Met, Rialto and Schanze, and Durkee's Fulton. The complaint charges that the Met and Rialto split first run on all features, give each other the right of second run, then send the picture to the Fulton and Schanze. It is only then that the Linden gets a chance at product, the complaint states, never earlier than 90 days after the national release date. It adds that offers by the Linden to pay higher rentals than its competitors have been turned down. The circuits are also accused of "overbuying" and "dissipating" product.

The Linden's operators, represented by Pennsylvania Senator Harry Shapiro, ask an injunction and damages exceeding $3,000. Distributor defendants are Vitagraph, Paramount, RKO, Loew's, 20th-Fox, Columbia, Universal and United Artists.

Pennsylvania Begins Drive on Lotteries

PHILADELPHIA—State police have started a drive to end all "lotteries" in Pennsylvania, no matter what form they take and however charitable the purpose.

Notices have been sent to operators of all "lotteries" of which the police have knowledge, according to Police Commissioner Lynn G. Adams.

Up to now, "cracking down on lotteries" has meant that games were stopped in theatres, while churches, veteran posts and clubs played Bingo and other games as much as they desired, constituting a serious source of competition for theatres. Now police promise a clean sweep.

Adams said the drive has started in Schylkill, Northumberland and Carbon counties, and will soon be extended to Delaware, Luzerne and Lackawanna counties.

Coast Area Hears Brandt Repeat Neely Bill Raps

LOS ANGELES—Reiterating the sentiments he has expressed throughout his barnstorming tour across the continent, Harry Brandt, president of the ITOA of New York, urged independent theatremen in this territory to oppose passage of the Neely Bill banning block-booking. Brandt discussed the proposed measure thoroughly at a luncheon meeting given in his honor December 8, attended by members of the ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz., Allied States and other unaffiliated showmen.

The affair was arranged by Jack Y. Berman, Al Galston and Hugh Bruen, of the ITO, although the gathering was not sponsored by that organization.

Brandt repeated his previous warnings against passage of the measure, which he believes will cut down production, result in inferior product and make it economically impossible either to buy or sell with the necessary individual handling.

The ITOA leader met with R. H. Poole, executive director of the ITO, the following day, and then pulled out for Dallas, next stop on his itinerary. From there he will make stops in New Orleans, Atlanta, Memphis, Charlotte, Washington and Philadelphia before returning to New York.

Max Hymes Arrested On a Theft Charge

NEW YORK—Max L. Hymes, for nine years comptroller of Movietonews, has been arrested on a short affidavit charging him with theft of $33,300. When brought before Magistrate Northrop in felony court, Hymes stated a larger amount was involved and he has been released on $25,000 bail.

B&K Counsel Claims Conspiracy Absent

CHICAGO—"The trouble with this case is that it didn't turn out the way it was supposed to," goes the opening gun in a 43-page memorandum submitted to Edgar Eldredge, special master in the criminal proceedings growing out of the government's charge of violation of the 1932 consent decree. "Instead of conspiracy, activated by a dishonest man with a personal profit in view," it adds, "we find a complete absence of anything resembling such a state of affairs."

The memorandum was prepared in behalf of Barney Balaban, Balaban & Katz, B&K Management Corp., and Paramount. In addition, a 91-page brief in behalf of Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, UA and Vitagraph has been filed. Two other distributor defendants, RKO and Universal, are no longer involved in the proceedings.

At the outset, the memorandum denies "one of the principal assumptions of the prosecution," in effect "that the defendants, by the consent decree, admitted the illegality of the various overt acts enumerated in the petition."

Answers Own Questions

Supplying the answer to its own question: "What happened to that conspiracy?" the document avers: "Why, the prosecution obtained hundreds of contracts and thousands of letters, described by the prosecutors as 'the heart of the prosecution,' examined all these papers, together with several tons of office records of the defendants, and found—no conspiracy.

"We stress this because, although the prosecution has abandoned the charge of conspiracy, it seeks to retain the flavor by prodigious use of the word 'uniformly.' The attempt at hypnotism is obvious."

The charge of "personal dishonesty" against Balaban because he "cheated his own corporation" is answered in this manner: "This untrue story undoubtedly emanated from Costello, the building manager with ambitions to become a movie impresario."

Commenting on the prosecution's "theory that Balaban is guilty because, as an officer and stockholder of B&K and Paramount, he had a personal interest in the success of these companies," the memorandum states: "It never has been and is not now the law that a corporation officer can be found guilty merely because his corporation has been."

"No Clearance Schedules"

In connection with the charge defendants "have prepared, published, adopted, enforced or attempted to enforce a uniform plan, system or schedule of zoning and clearance" written down "on a piece of paper, in the light of which they then proceeded to make their contracts," the memorandum observes: "Well, the defendants produced all of the documents which were described as 'the heart of the prosecution,' except of course the clearance schedules which did not exist—the prosecution examined these documents and found—no clearance schedules."

The B&K attorneys contend that after three "experts" had finished testifying there was still no dependable classification of "first class" or "slough" films.

The importance of selling pictures to the public is stressed, such as salesmanship, showmanship, treatment of audience, equipment, etc. "There is not a glimmer of proof in this record," says the memorandum, "that Jones, Silverman, et al., are even equal to B&K in sales ability or showmanship."

In answer to the government's contention that "B&K succeeds in obtaining all contracts because of economic pressure," the document observes: " 'Economic pressure,' a concept of particularly fuzzy outline, amounts, when applied to this case, to no more than this: B&K needs pictures and the producers need money. B&K offers more than anyone else in the way of money, plus sales ability, plus showmanship. B&K gets the pictures. Why not?"

"Conclusions"

Summing up, the memorandum offers the following conclusion:

"The whole case, it seems to us, amounts to this: B&K occupies the first-run field in the loop. Jones, Silverman, et al., would like to break in. There are not enough 'quality' pictures to go around, so if Jones, Silverman, et al., move in, B&K must move out to make room for them. What law compels this?

"Or shall pictures be distributed pro rata? And if so, how and by whom? And what law compels this?

"And after Jones and Silverman are let in, shall there be another redistribution of first-runs to make room for Slott? And who will determine this and by what rule of law?

"And if the owner of a moving picture wants the picture exhibited in the Roosevelt by B&K, shall he be compelled to have it exhibited in the Oriental by Jones? And what rule of low compels any such thing?

"And after all the required grading of pictures and theatres has been done somehow or other, and after pictures have been pro-rated or assigned somehow or other, what happens if B&K still offers more rental than Jones or Silverman? Who will untangle this situation? And what rules of law will guide him?"

"Experts" Talk on A, B and Sloughs

CHICAGO—During the hearings of the government-B&K contempt proceedings, Aaron and John Jones and Edwin Silverman, sympathetic with the plaintiff, were asked to give "expert" opinion on their classification of pictures. With "Once in a Lifetime" as the subject matter, the following responses were collated:

"1. It is super-boxoffice—Aaron Jones.

"2. Very much 'A'—Aaron Jones.

"3. Very good and very high class.—Aaron Jones.

"4. Class 'A.'—Aaron Jones.

"5. Quality, but not successful.—Silverman.

"6. Fairly good.—Silverman.

"7. Somewhere between class 'A' and class 'B'.—Aaron Jones.

"8. Good class 'B.'—John Jones.

"9. Class 'B.'—Aaron Jones.

"10. Mediocre second class.—Aaron Jones.

"11. Small pictures, unimportant and usually nobody wants them.—Silverman."

In a memorandum submitted by the defense, the attorneys involved add, "The 'excerpts' were in substantial agreement on their blue print definition of a first class or quality picture, being a picture which:

"1. Is based on a story of known value, such as a play or book.

"2. Is written by a script writer of known merit.

"3. Is directed by a director with a reputation.

"4. Has a cast of nationally known and famous stars.

"5. Has had an adequate sum spent on production—$50,000 to $2,000,000.

"6. Is well publicized.

"7. And draws well at the boxoffice."

Circuit Demonstrates by Chart Clearance Is Not Drastic

CHICAGO—Holding that the "prosecution evidently believes there is some sort of plot afoot" by which B&K deliberately holds up product from its competitors, a chart to demonstrate this is not the case has been produced in a reply brief in the government-B&K contempt proceedings. The following tabulation has been submitted:

WEEK IN WHICH PICTURES WERE PLAYED WITH RELATION TO NATIONAL RELEASE WEEK
1935 to 1938

Theatre	*Before N. R. Week*	*Within 1 Wk. After*	*Within 2 Wks. After*	*Within 3 Wks. After*	*Within 4 Wks. After*	*More than 4 Wks. After*
Chicago	25	23	28	15	9	20
Roosevelt	17	21	13	10	7	16
United Artists	5	19	14	3	8	14
Apollo **	1	1	9	11	12	18
Garrick **	8	7	9	8	5	19
Totals	56	71	73	47	41	87
Cumulative No. played	56	127	200	247	288	375
Cumulative Pct.	14.9%	33.8%	53.3%	65.8%	76.8%	100%

"We submit that the remarkable thing about this is not that some pictures are delayed, but that so few are. One can reach no other conclusion than that B&K is doing a very good job. What evidence is there that Silverman, Jones, et al., could do as well, let alone better," the defense asks.

Spanish Worries May Be Tossed to Hays

NEW YORK—Complexities of the film situation in Franco Spain will probably be parked on the doorstep of the Hays office for ironing out, it is learned. Recommendation for such a move comes from Ben Miggins, European manager of 20th-Fox, who recently completed an unofficial survey there for his company.

Once negotiations in England over remittances are concluded, it is very likely Fayette W. Allport, Hays office representative in London, may go to Spain in an effort to learn the government's stand on the matter.

Interest of the Franco regime in American films is evinced by the appointment of a commission of three which will assemble around December 1 to consider the question and carry on negotiations.

Nut of the problem appears to be the decree which states American companies must produce one film in Spain for every ten they are allowed to import in the future. However, the companies would be able to receive only half the net rentals on Spanish produced films in foreign exchange. In fact, half of the estimated receipts must be deposited with the government before the Spanish-made film can be exported.

No Official Publication

Adding further confusion is the fact that the decree has never been published in an official gazette. As one foreign manager points out, "The decree, as we understand it, is a law and yet not a law."

At one time, it was recommended that all companies withdraw from Spain as they did in Italy in order to have the government comply with a more reasonable form of procedure.

In the meantime, however, M-G-M has obtained a permit to import 32 films with three first-run houses in Madrid all playing Metro product following the dearth of new films. Other companies receiving permits are 20th-Fox for five pictures and Universal for an undetermined amount.

None of these companies has made any plans to produce Spanish pictures.

Observers here see little chance of Franco Spain releasing the pesetas which have accumulated on back rentals and those which will be chalked up on future contracts. Financially, the government is in a weakened condition and doing everything possible to bolster her foreign exchange.

Reopening Polish Theatres "Unfreezes" No Revenue

NEW YORK—News that the German industry is cooperating with military and civil authorities in having the theatres in occupied Poland reopened met with lukewarm interest here.

The reason for the indifference is that it really does not matter, a foreign manager explains, because the companies will not be able to withdraw accumulated revenue. He adds it will be some time before any part of it is "de-frozen."

Fun Is Where You Find It

St. Louis—Every Monday night at the Fox, Harry C. Arthur, his theatre managers and departmental heads get together and look at four to six features, among them being one or more mystery. Sometimes guests are invited, but it is a practice that after the first two reels of a mystery are run, the feature is stopped and bets are made on the possible culprit.

On all major pictures no bets are made for less than $1. For smaller companies the minimum bet is 50 cents, all on a pari-mutuel basis. Then the last reel is run off and the pay-off takes place.

Columbia Latin American Meeting December 14-17

NEW YORK—Columbia will hold its Latin American sales meeting in Buenos Aires, December 14-17, after several postponements caused by the outbreak of war. Charles Robert, Latin American supervisor, will attend.

Schless and Lawrence Tour European Film Offices

NEW YORK—Robert Schless, European general manager for Warner, is making a swing of foreign offices despite the difficulty of getting around due to the war.

Laudy Lawrence, who holds a similar post for M-G-M, is also touring Europe, an achievement which even amazes home office associates.

Korda Due Here From West Coast; Flying to London

NEW YORK—Alexander Korda arrives here by plane Sunday and leaves a few days later for London via Lisbon on the *Clipper*. Upon his return, Korda will start "Hunting the U-Boat" in cooperation with the Royal Navy.

Hearing for Majors in FWC Contempt Suit on Dec. 14

LOS ANGELES—Unable to catch up with the court calendar because of his lengthy stay in Fresno, Federal Judge Beaumont has postponed until December 14 the hearing on a demand for particulars by major companies in the government's contempt proceedings against FWC.

Jam Handy Moves Johnson

DETROIT—W. Halsey Johnson, who has been a production supervisor here for the Jam Handy organization, has been appointed creative contact executive in the company's New York unit.

Pidgeon Borrowed

HOLLYWOOD — Republic has borrowed Walter Pidgeon from Metro for one of the leads in "Dark Command," co-starring John Wayne and Claire Trevor.

Pollock Tells About The Film Business

ROCHESTER—Theatre business and what it means to the community was discussed by Lester Pollock, manager of Loew's Rochester, here in a 15-minute broadcast over Station WHEC. He appeared on the question-and-answer program with Allan Doyle, secretary of Rochester's convention and publicity bureau.

Asked by Doyle whom he thought were Rochester theatregoers' favorite stars, Pollock listed Clark Gable, Myrna Loy, especially for her work with William Powell in "Another Thin Man;" Greta Garbo, "who seemed to have started off with renewed popularity as a result of 'Ninotchka';" Mickey Rooney, and Spencer Tracy, "one of the biggest all-around favorites of both men and women."

Pollock said he believed Rochester fans liked musicals "for they do exceptionally well" and pointed out that Jeanette MacDonald pictures are "extremely popular."

The Loew's manager listed Rooney, Lana Turner, Ilona Massey and David Niven as the new stars whom he believes have made the greatest progress in 1939.

Pollock said he believed picture entertainment had been affected by the war in Europe, and then went on to point out that lighter comedies like "Ninotchka" and "Housekeeper's Daughter" and musicals seem to be the most popular type of pictures now.

Pollock said he was very pleased with the success of pictures like "Pygmalion," "The Citadel" and "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," "proving that an artistic production can be a boxoffice success and that the public enjoys good entertainment and is no longer frightened off by the fact it may be a Shaw play."

During the interview, Doyle asked Pollock just which pictures he would say were the most significant of 1939.

"That is difficult because of the different type of pictures," he replied, "but the 'Hardy' pictures were very popular, as was 'Goodbye, Mr. Chips' and 'Ninotchka' because it introduced a new Garbo role and a new screen comedy."

Pollock predicted that "Gone With the Wind" will be one of the outstanding pictures of all time, and added "I am looking forward to seeing two other well-known pictures, 'Rebecca' and 'Northwest Passage'."

Given the opportunity to comment on any other significant developments in the picture business, Pollock said one thing proving a boon to theatres and patrons as well are women's hats, for "though they may not be so much to look at, they're certainly much easier to look around."

No New Zealand Hint

NEW YORK—Foreign managers have received no indication on the attitude of the New Zealand government over the renewal of the agreement over remittances which expired Friday. The companies under the pact were allowed to withdraw 75 per cent of their revenue during the year ended December 1. It is assumed here the new terms will be more stringent.

Upstate Indices Up, But Theatres Lag

By M. BERRIGAN

ALBANY—Indices show that with few exceptions business and employment continue to improve upstate. However, responsible persons say theatre patronage has failed to make corresponding gains.

An executive in close touch with the situation upstate told BOXOFFICE that figures show that a marked general increase has not been achieved by film houses. He declared that grosses on top product, notably "Drums Along the Mohawk" (a natural for this territory because of its locale), give a misleading impression. "Drums" would have been boxoffice even "if people were almost starving," he said, adding there are not many such releases on the market.

Encouraging reports come from some paper mill towns, railroad centers, ore mining communities and industrial centers. Watervliet's rearmament program has benefited the boxoffice. With 1,500 workers, mainly skilled, added to the arsenal payroll, business has been healthy enough to lead to the reopening of the Empire, giving Watervliet four theatres. In Schenectady, however, where General Electric Co. has received a steady flow of U. S. contracts, theatre business is said to be only fair.

Plans by the New York Central Railroad to spend $3,600,000 within one year in repairing rolling stock, are reflected in better conditions at West Albany where a six-day week has been in force and night shifts are frequently employed. Ravena and other railroad towns have been on the upgrade, too.

The State Labor Department reported an October increase in retail store employment of 2.1 per cent and a payroll gain of 3.1 per cent. A one per cent gain in payrolls for wholesale houses during the month was also noted.

Edward Purcell Wedding Draws Trade Members

STAUNTON, VA.—The marriage of Edward S. Purcell, manager of the Strand here, was attended by a number of showmen from the surrounding territory.

Among those present were Nat Glasser of Warner Theatres, Washington; Charles and Sam Roth of Valley Enterprises, Inc., Harrisonburg, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Don Nichols, Virginia Theatre, Harrisonburg, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Shaffer and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Seaton jr. of the Dixie at Staunton.

Honor Louis Rinn

TROY—Motion Picture Operators' Local No. 285 gave a testimonial dinner for Louis E. Rinn, a member recently re-elected alderman of the third ward. Harry M. Brooks, president of the local, was toastmaster. Assisting in the arrangements were Vincent Ianacito, James Cooney and Earl Cooney. About 50 attended the affair.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 27)

gant unmentionable as a wedding gift.

The day was raw. And Lindy's coffee begged for second helpings. Over the steaming cups Abe Montague was inquiring of Harry Gold whether his boat carried a companionway as standard equipment, did he have to buy one, and if so how much did it cost . . . Joe McConville, jealous of the break that came to Joe Friedman and Jack Segal, en route by Clipper to Europe, who were enjoying two days of Havana at Pan-American's expense because weather held the plane up . . . Al Christie telling Sol Edwards Mayor La Guardia's plan for eastern production is lots more than a flash in the publicity pan . . . Archie Mayers bringing out the fine points of "Mill on the Floss" for the benefit of guest Myron Seigal of Century Circuit . . . Manny and Arthur Silverstone, Tom Walker, Charlie Stern, Harry Kosiner, Morris Helprin and Kinzler eschewing topics of the day.

E. C. Grainger and Jack Shea of Feiber & Shea have been doing a lot of traveling to New England, Ohio and Pennsylvania towns the past two weeks . . . Harry Arthur and Morris Kinzler are hoping to take off 10 pounds from their belt lines . . . Ed Zabel, assistant to Spyros Skouras, has returned from an extended trip to Milwaukee and Chicago . . . Bert Stearn has been in from Cleveland where he headquarters as UA district manager. Purpose, the Schine deal. Charles Stern, local district manager, ditto . . . Natalie Hammerstein, Lep Friedman's secretary, got some of that Atlantic City ozone over the weekend . . . It's Professor John Murphy from now on! Joe Vogel's assistant says he likes lecturing, but he's not keen for the idea of saying his stuff extemporaneously for the radio, which was done in the case of the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse.

Outwinchelling Winchell: Walter Gould, UA's Latin American supervisor, will be a father for the second time on Christmas Day. Mrs. Gould will be at the Lying-In Hospital . . . J. J. Sullivan, FWC film buyer, is recuperating from a second operation at St. Vincent's Hospital, Los Angeles . . . Most rabid fight fans at 20th-Fox: Herman Wobber and Les Whelan. They can usually be found in a ringside box at the Garden . . . Eddie Schnitzer, who went to the Dartmouth-Stanford game with his son, Gerald, is still surprised over the result . . . Louis Grifer has taken over the operation of the Eagle, Brooklyn . . . Max Weisfeldt, Columbia's short subject manager, is also handling the company's foreign features, which explains why he is so busy these days . . . Harry C. Arthur, who left for St. Louis Wednesday, plans to spend the holidays at his Beverly Hills home, returning to the Mound City January 5 . . . Irving Lesser is back at the Roxy after a Florida vacation.

Spyros Skouras has been home several days with la grippe . . . Hal Horne scrammed for the coast Friday . . . Bill Goetz is a visitor in these parts . . . Maurice Bergman heads for Miami for the holidays . . . Henry Fonda has gone to Mexico City for a vacation . . . Thomas Hart Benton has been commissioned by 20th-Fox to do six original lithographs for "Grapes of Wrath" . . . Jane Withers opens her p. a. tour in Indianapolis, January 5. From there she goes to Akron, a week later, then to Youngstown and Louisville . . . Bernie Mills, formerly with Republic in Albany, is a frequent visitor on the local scene . . . Aubrey Schenck is all excited these days and for a very good reason.

The Palace, Schenectady, Sold to Sam Rosenblatt

ALBANY—Sam Rosenblatt has taken over the Palace, Schenectady, from Sid Dwore. Rosenblatt is not new to exhibition, having at various times operated the Bright Spot, Rensselaer; the Arbor Hill, Albany; and the Family, Watervliet. The Palace is a 400-seat subsequent run.

Kane Arrives for Talk On British Revival

NEW YORK—Robert T. Kane, in charge of British production for 20th Century-Fox, arrived Friday on the American Clipper to discuss plans for the resumption of production in England. He conferred with Sidney R. Kent before the 20th-Fox president left for the coast.

Close for Holidays

ALBANY—Rossi Brothers have closed the Strand, Schroon Lake, until after Christmas. The Lyric, Utica, operated by John Augello, is another reported on Filmrow to have been darkened temporarily.

CAUTION TO EXHIBITORS

It has come to our attention that electrically operated slides, in imitation of our electrically operated projector slides, are being offered to theatres. These slides, in our opinion, are infringements of the Patent rights held by us and we will enforce the same to the full extent of the law. Exhibitors are warned against such infringing acts.

Hollywood electrical projector slides are protected by U. S. Letters Patents No. 2042604 and No. 2069304. Before using any electrically operated projector slides, we urge your careful investigation.

HOLLYWOOD AMUSEMENT CO., Inc., 831 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill

PHILADELPHIA

SALESMEN covering the Harrisburg territory were feted at a reunion dinner at Jimmy's Restaurant. All exchanges were represented . . . Iz Barowsky, Rex, appears almost as proud about the new alterations to his theatre as he is about his new heir . . . Charlie Dutkin, Girard, is reported not much improved since the attack of illness that took him to Naval Hospital . . . Charlie Perry, UA exploit man, is off to Pittsburgh for a two week job handling "Gulliver's Travels" for Paramount . . . There's a new house planned in Pennsgrove, N. J.

Bill Clark, Jim Clark and Oscar Neufeld downed cocktails together with Paul V. McNutt at the Ben Franklin. Looks as if the Democratic candidate is trying to line up the film vote . . . Harry Fried's suit aginst Warner has been postponed from December 11 *to February* 15. *And George Graves, Carman, tells us his suit is being held up until settlement of the Vineland case. The appeal on the latter is scheduled before the circuit court here January* 2. *Looks like a hard winter for litigation . . . Premium Promotion Syndicate, handling a book giveaway, has opened a local office at Clark Films.*

Mert Nason, Paramount booker, is back on the job after a rich man's vacation touring New England. Didn't pick up a Boston accent, though . . . Mitch Leichter, who's handling "She Goes to War," came to town to arrange distribution for this territory . . . Rumor-mongers say Ben Blumberg, Lane, is soon to marry one of the glamour girls at Delmonico's . . . And the same mongers—aren't they nosey?—say Joe Leon, Universal, makes those weekend trips to New York to say "How are you?" to Frances Eastman, Miss Mississippi, who goes into the International Casino show December 21.

Salem E. Applegate, Metro, blew out birthday candles on the 5*th . . . Bill McLaughlin, Metro advertising dept., has got out his gun and is off on a two-week hunting trip. He has promised a deer for everybody in the office . . . Rose La Rose, whose stripper act in the "Wages of Sin" landed on the cutting room floor at the local censor board, will come to town to repeat her performance at the Troc.*

Official list of S-W houses running the new double feature policy has the Keystone, Strand, Germantown, Lindy, Imperial-2nd, Imperial-60th and Ogontz. Out of town are the Princess, Camden; Strand, Reading, and Clementon, Clementon. S-W spokesmen say whether the policy will be extended depends on the outcome here . . . Dave Seadman, Warner, is becoming a genuine columnist with his weekly notes in the Unity-Frankford *Store News*. He plugs a dozen uptown theatres, gets the story across to 250,000 readers weekly.

Rumors that the Vineland case may be settled out of court are denied by the office of Harry Shapiro, counsel for the theatre in the suit against S-W and the majors. The theatre's owners insist that the thing be thrashed out once for all, the informants say . . . The austere dignity exhibited these days by Lee Kline, Orpheum, arises from his election as director of the Germantown Business Men's Ass'n . . . Herb Schwinger, assistant at the Plaza, was lauded by the South Philadelphia Civic League for "furthering interest in aviation among youth" by his lobby display for "Coast Guard." Aviation clubs sent in a big collection of models.

Bill Huffman, Warner, West Chester, rigged up a display as goofy as the picture when they showed Marx Bros.' "At the Circus." He had crazy mirrors, wax figures, stuffed animals, trapezes, bunting and a potpourri of other things that gave an idea of the mood of the show . . . Joe Nevinson, Grange, has dug up that old exploit stunt, the man on stilts—and proves the old gags, dusted off, still carry a punch . . . Charles Moyer, State, Hanover, tied up with the Kiwanis in a special band performance for underprivileged kids . . . Herman Comer, Capitol, invited an ignored group to a recent screening—department store heads. And his originality was repaid by notices on store employes' bulletin boards commending the show.

Iz Wiernik, Strand, made passersby think they were being blackmailed with his clever giveaways for "Blackmail." They were black envelopes with the single word on the cover. Inside was what appeared to be a convict's letter charging all sorts of crimes to prison guards. And, to make it more interesting, it was all printed in reverse—"mirror writing."

Plans Are Completed for "Abe Lincoln" Premiere

WASHINGTON—Plans are ready for the world premiere of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" January 22 at RKO Keith's here. James M. Brennan, RKO division manager; S. Barret McCormick, director of RKO's advertising and publicity; Max Gordon and Harry Goetz, co-producers of the feature for RKO; L. J. Allemann, RKO field publicity man, and Manny Strauss, convened with Resident Manager Hardie Meakin at the Carlton Hotel on arrangements.

House in Schenectady Is Darkened by Silverman

ALBANY—The Mount Pleasant, Schenectady, which Morris Silverman had operated for a long time on lease, is temporarily closed "to be cleaned and renovated." It is said that since early summer Silverman held the house on a month-to-month basis pending settlement of a demand for a $100 monthly rent increase; and also that other parties are said to be interested in assuming operation of the house.

Lenwal Productions Plans Eight Negro Features

NEW YORK—Lenwal Productions, specializing in all-Negro films, plans eight for the current season. George C. Walbridge II is president. Arthur Leonard, for seven years casting director at Warner's Vitaphone studios, is in charge of production, and Shepard Henkin, formerly with UA, is director of advertising and publicity.

RICHMOND

WE HEAR that Ben Pitts is giving a nice Christmas bonus to all of his employes on December 16 . . . Billy Patterson, aide to A. O. Budina, architect, Neighborhood Theatres, has bought a new car . . . Robert McCombs, from Kansas City, is now organist at the Byrd . . . Fleet Robinson, manager of the Virginia in Danville, was acquitted by a five-man jury of operating a Sunday benefit show last October. Last Sunday all of the theatres in Danville decided they would open, with the result that all of the managers were served with warrants and summoned to appear in police court for violating the state Sunday observance laws. The managers who were summoned were Ben F. Smart, Charlie Abercrombie, Clyde Wooton and Robinson. The case comes up next week.

Word comes from Charlottesville that Andy McLaglen, son of Victor McLaglen, veteran screen actor, is one of the most promising candidates on the freshman boxing team at the University of Virginia . . . F. L. Fowler, auditor for Wilmer & Vincent, was in town for a couple of days . . . Floyd Stawls, manager of the Carillon, visited Norfolk . . . Dick Harrity, United Artists salesman, and Barney Frank, Universal salesman, were in town last week . . . Harry Bachman, Monogram manager, and Art Jacobson, Washington manager for National Screen, were also in town . . . "Mack" Scarborough, projectionist at the Park, visited Washington.

Tom Pitts and his wife spent Thanksgiving day in Fredericksburg and the following Sunday in Suffolk, visiting with his and her people. Tom is manager of the East End and Patrick Henry . . . Jim Owen, RCA salesman, was in our midst . . . Loew's went back to usual Friday opening day, after starting on Thursdays for several weeks . . . Bill Robinson, native, will be here at the Mosque next week for three days in "The Hot Mikado" . . . Charles Farrell was also here last week at the Lyric in "Seventh Heaven."

A. O. Budina visited New York . . . A. Frank O'Brien, Allen Sparrow, Morton G. Thalhimer and Sam Bendheim jr. were among local folks who attended the Variety Club dinner in Washington . . . The state of Virginia has reported to the census bureau that it collected amusement taxes totaling $437,000 *for the fiscal year ending June* 30, 1939 *. . . Mercer Stillman, Berlo representative, recently visited North Carolina and Philadelphia. He has also installed new machines in Wilder's houses in Portsmouth and the RKO Theatre in Williamsburg . . . Jack Stubs has been substituting for his brother Bill at the Carillon.*

In the Duckpin League last Monday, the State team increased its lead to six games by taking two out of three from the second place Brookland-Bellevue. The Park boys went into third place as the Colonial team lost three games to Grand. Bob Overcash, rolling for the Grand, set a new individual set record of 372. Floyd Stawls' Carillon team went back into the cellar by dropping two games to the Park.

Musicians Picket Seven S-W Houses in Philly

PHILADELPHIA—Local 77, American Federation of Musicians, has placed pickets at the Earle, Fox and five neighborhood houses where musicians were formerly employed, as negotiations with Stanley-Warner on a renewal of contract remain deadlocked. The Earle is closed for an indefinite period.

Ted Schlanger, Warner zone head, said the situation is in "status quo," and that no further negotiations are going on. The chain stands by its demand that it has the right to hire musicians only for the Earle; the musicians insist that it hire bands for all seven houses where they were employed under the old contract.

The dispute between the union and the independent Carman, operated by George Graves, appears ready to wind up in a situation similar to the circuits. Graves, who operates one of the two Philadelphia houses that still show vaudeville (the other is the Fays) is asking the union to sign a renewed contract stipulating 40 weeks' employment, with a summer layoff. The union demands 52 weeks, as under the old contract. The contract expired November 30, but a week's renewal carried it to December 7.

Blumbergs in Shortly

HOLLYWOOD—By present plans, Nate J. Blumberg, president of Universal, will leave for New York on Tuesday. Mrs. Blumberg accompanies him.

WASHINGTON

HOLLYWOOD's efforts in "Rhetting" the appetites of the nation's film fans have borne fruit, what with the national capital's smart set registering the world premiere of "Gone With You Should Know" at Atlanta on its social calendar. Numerous groups have formulated plans for the southward journey . . . Jerry Price, Warner salesman, is the proud daddy of a seven-pound girl . . . Joe Kaliski, GN branch manager, is recuperating from injuries received in a recent auto accident . . . Frances Levin, secretary to Universal's general sales manager, W. A. Scully, visited with 20th-Fox's Ann Griffin over the weekend . . . With both claiming Minneapolis as the home town it's a safe bet that the "old folks" got top billing . . . George Lawson and Ernest Maddix of the Arcade, Crisfield, are loading their guns for the hunting season . . . Helen Ulman of Salisbury is convalescing nicely following her recent hospitalization.

Seen at the Army-Navy game: Mr. and Mrs. Lou Rome and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Back of the Rome circuit, Baltimore; Bernie Kreisler (with an attractive femme from either New York or Philly), J. Lawrence Schanberger and clan from Baltimore, Universal's Joe Young accompanied by Mrs. Young, Attorney R. J. Jacobs and Mrs. Jacobs from Norfolk . . . Joe Young's loyalty to Army as a former Army man wagered the weekly envelope, in deference to Mrs. Young whose family ties are affiliated with Navy . . . Jake Flax returned from Clinch Valley and then set sail for Charlotte . . . Mr. M. Lucas of Narrows, Va., has been confined to his home with grippe . . . F. F. VanCourt of Princeton, W. Va., has departed on a cattle buying trip . . . "Chick" Wingfield of Columbia was forced to break his outstanding attendance record for the past seven years when he was confined to his home with a week's illness.

Seen along the Row: Danny Weinberg from Bedford, Mrs. Carper, Martinsville; D. F. Aleshire, Luray; Bobby Levine, Portsmouth; Harry Silver, Overlea; Joe Fields, Mike Leventhal, M. Shoubin and Julius Goodman, Baltimore . . . J. R. Greet has joined the Clark Film staff as assistant shipper . . . Paramount's Harley Davidson is sporting a new car . . . "Vince" Daugherty and Bob Grace of Paramount took in the Giants-Redskins game . . . What? Dick Doyle and Jack Fruchtman missing? . . . The Publix-Wilby Kincey circuit will open a new house in Danville December 19, same to be known as the "Dan" . . . Guy Flannery of Richlands, Va., is very active these days collecting taxes for the county . . . Curt Smith of Grundy has recovered from his recent illness . . . Bob Steele of Coeburn, J. C. Darst of Dante, and Bill Snidow of Christianburg have shouldered the muskets, now that the hunting season is on . . . Mrs. George Lawson of Crisfield is greatly improved following a recent hospitalization.

Vernon Gray of Paramount's home office is visiting the key situations in the Washington territory as a special representative on "Gulliver's Travels" . . . The Paramount Pep Club held its annual dinner-dance at the Maryland Club Gardens . . . Spotted along the eastern shore: Universal's Bernie Kreisler and Salesman Walter Davis . . . The auspicious debut of Universal's "Destry Rides Again" at New York's Rivoli, which recorded the best opening gross in the past five years, remained to be welcome news to local exhibitors . . . Elmore Heins and Heine Scholtz of National Theatre Corp. have a yen for a special brand of Baltimore bread, and Sam Tabor is not the baker . . . Warner theatres honor roll for exploitation feats named Lamar Keen of the Capitol, Winchester, for his work on the local safety campaign.

Rodney Collier of the Stanley, Baltimore, on his Zorina and "Elizabeth and Essex" tieups in the local press; Don Nichols of Harrisonburg on "Nurse Edith Cavell;" Charles McKinney of the Masonic, Clifton Forge, on "Elizabeth and Essex" and "Mr. Smith;" Frank Shaffer of the Dixie, Staunton, on the March of Time "Battle Fleet of England" . . . Birthday greetings to Metro's Eddie Kushner . . . Phil Lampkin and his orchestra are enjoying a week's engagement at the Buckingham in Arlington, Va. . . . The birthday of Harrold Weinberger, former Metro office manager, was not forgotten by the ladies ensemble of the local exchange, who surprised him with a gift.

Moscow a Colonel

ATLANTA — Sam Moscow, Columbia's southern division manager, has been appointed a colonel by Governor Rivers.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

BAD BOY (SR)—Shopworn production of a small timer who becomes a big shot racketeer and meets the fate of the kind. Dialogue is trite and acting hammy. Johnny Downs, Rosalind Keith. Herbert Meyer directed.

FOUR JUST MEN (Mono-ABFD)—This story of how "Four Just Men" make England safe for Democracy by beating down a conspiracy to destroy the government, becomes confusing at times. Picture is better adapted to sensational-type houses rather than to those catering to first-run patronage. Michael Balcon produced; Walter Ford directed.

HENRY GOES ARIZONA (M-G-M)—There's a lot of fun for the kiddies in this entertaining offering which has Virginia Weidler urging Frank Morgan on to bigger and better things. Edwin L. Marin directed.

MEXICAN SPITFIRE (RKO)—Starting as a riotous farce and winding up in a blaze of slapstick, this packs more laughs than there are beans in a bowl of chili, with fiery Lupe Velez furnishing the pepper and droll Leon Errol the salt. Few, indeed, will be the customers who do not declare it a bang-up hour of light entertainment. Cliff Reid produced; Leslie Goodwins directed.

RIDERS OF THE SAGE (Metropolitan)—Old school western with absolutely none of the present-day polish that has been creeping slowly into the sagebrushers. Film is pathetically semi-comic, even drawing laughs from the kids. Bob Steele, Claire Rochelle.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER (Rep)—Taking the film from the currently popular song, the producer of this Gene Autry western has built a varied and colorful story, which probably will make it the number one Autry film of the year. All in all, it is decidedly not the usual western but a melange of thrills, fair drama and comic opera plot. Supporting cast includes Lupita Tovar, Smiley Burnette, Rex Lease, Duncan Renaldo and William Farnum. George Sherman directed.

THOU SHALL NOT KILL (Rep)—Formulized story of clergyman faced with the choice of violating the sanctity of the confessional or permitting an innocent man to be punished, this programmer is saved from absolute mediocrity through the sincere performances of a competent cast headed by Charles Bickford. Robert North produced; John H. Auer directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

ALBANY

A J. RADEMECHER, district supervisor of Altec, came from New York to Albany territory for monthly visit. J. A. Darrow is Altec's local Johnny-on-the-spot . . . Chick Mlinarik, Columbia shipper, birthdayed with a weekend in New York. Bert Simmons operates the Sherburne, Sherburne, one of the finest upstairs houses in the area. He spent $8,000 improving it last year . . . George Thornton and brother Bill, interested with him in operation of the Orpheum, Saugerties, and Orpheum, Tannersville, have installed four new bowling alleys in structure housing a grill. Incidentally, Orpheum in Saugerties was remodeled, with a new front, marquee and lobby built, at same time sister theatre was refurbished . . . Sam Davis is showing pictures at theatre in Phoenicia, Catskill Mountain town, every night except Thursday. Formerly was a summer situation, but planned for all winter operation this year.

Si Fabian and Sidney Deneau, former booker in the circuit's Albany division office, up from New York for confabs with Lou Golding and house managers . . . Bill Gaddoni, Metro chief booker, reported back from a vacation in Washington. Sidney Stockton, office manager, then left for a stay in the nation's capital and in Roanoke, Va. Filmrow boys usually visit Bill Kraemer, former Schine date setter in Albany territory and now stationed at Washington, on trips to the latter . . . For first time, tickets to Plaza, Fabian circuit's large, modern second run in Schenectady, are being offered in a contest run as part of a coal company's daily program over WOKO, Albany. Warner's Strand, Albany, is also in the tieup. Passes are awarded each day to five persons unscrambling a word in a song title. Schenectady winners receive Plaza oakleys; Albany winners, Strand tickets. Pictures at two theatres are plugged in broadcasts . . . Helen Wisper, pleasant spoken secretary in 20th Century-Fox exchange, was ill. Paul Krumenacher, Warner exchange manager, proud of 1939 undefeated football record of his alma mater, Duquesne University, of Pittsburgh.

Lew Weinberg, Columbia district sales executive, scheduled for a visit to local office and Manager Joe Miller . . . Moses Baroudi, brother of Phil Baroudi, North Creek and Indian Lake exhibitor, won an amateur boxing bout in Schenectady. Twenty-year-old lad is a middleweight . . . Ted Berkley has refinished the front of the Diana in Harrisville . . . Jim Leonard, Community, Newton Falls, as town supervisor has been spending the past six weeks at annual cleanup meeting of the county board in Canton. Incidentally, paper mills in Newton Falls, its chief industry, are working double shifts . . . Roger Marmon of Bright Spot, Rensselaer, and Delmar, Delmar, is showing pictures two nights a week in his latest spot, Clinton Heights Hall. Norman Pratt operated the Hall last year, according to exchangemen.

Abe Stone, operator of the Eagle, Albany, is back from a visit to the midwest . . . Harry Hellman, Hellman circuit, and Mrs. Hellman will leave soon, it is said, for a long vacation in Miami, Fla. An annual trek for them. Son Neil will go to the sunshine shore later. Incidentally, Mrs. Hellman is credited on Filmrow with being a shrewd business woman. She is an officer of several Hellman corporations. . . . Bill Murray, popular Grand National booker, transferred to Buffalo in the closing of local exchange, was tendered a farewell party. Margaret Hawkins, Republic booker, and Camille Alli, Columbia secretary, were among those on arrangements committee . . . Harvey English of English circuit, with headquarters at Hancox, visited local exchanges.

William J. Shine and S. W. Sheetz of the Ross Federal home office were visitors at the Albany branch. Ralph G. Unks, local manager, made a weekend business trip to Worcester, Mass. . . . Fay Steinback, secretary to Moe Silver, upstate manager of Warner Theatres, is recovering from an appendectomy.

Corporation News

ALBANY—New corporations: *Zenith Pictures, Inc.*, New York. To produce sound, synchronized and talking pictures. Incorporators: Jacob Leff, Harry Gold, Lawrence Levin, all of New York. *International Attractions, Inc.*, New York. To carry on orchestra and band business. Incorporators: Walter Reade jr., Leonard Obler and John N. Greenhut, all of New York. *John E. Allen, Inc.*, Rochester. To engage in motion picture machinery and equipment. Capital: $5,000, with stock at $25 par value. Incorporators: John E. Allen, Doris R. Allen and Howard C. Spencer.

Biograph Studios, Inc., has changed its corporate name to Motion Picture Studios, Inc., and Actinograph Corp. has changed its name to Biograph Studios Corp. Both are located in New York.

Decree Secures Londons' Theatre in Detroit

DETROIT—A decree enjoining interference with the possession by I. J. and Burton W. London of the Lincoln Theatre here was issued Thursday by Federal District Judge Frank A. Picard.

The decree, issued against Cooperative Theatres, Ray Moon, H. M. Richey, Frank Wetsman and Lew Wisper, W&W Theatre Co., et al., ends a two and a half year suit that was the outgrowth of a reported move by the realty owner to turn the property over to the W&W circuit.

The plaintiffs have been ordered to deposit $22,000 bond to pay for improvements ordered made to the house. The present lease runs to February 28, 1943.

Rochester Tin Can Party To Be Held December 16

ROCHESTER—The annual Tin Can party for Salvation Army Christmas baskets will be held here December 16. It is sponsored by the RKO Palace and Century, the Red Wing Knot Hole Gang and the Democrat and Chronicle Athletic Ass'n.

Admission price is one ticket and a can of food. Free tickets are distributed by the Democrat and Chronicle, YMCA, JYMA, CYA, Sibley's, McCurdy's, Edwards, McFarlins and National stores.

BALTIMORE

SAM WHEELER and Edgar Moss of 20th Century-Fox were in conferring with their attorneys on the Westway case . . . Richard Shamis and wife have returned from a visit to Philadelphia . . . Reports of David Becher, real estate operator, building a theatre on Reisterstown Road near Arlington Ave. . . . Among those who attended the big Variety meet in Philadelphia were J. L. Rome, Leon Back, Eddie Kimpel jr. and Morris Rome.

Louella Parsons is now gracing I. M. Rappaport's stage at the Hippodrome with Ronald Reagan, Jane Wyman, Arleen Whelan, Susan Hayward, June Preisser and Joy Hodges . . . J. L. Rome and Joe Grant attended the Army and Navy game . . . H. S. Cooling, Maryland censor board inspector, is going to spend Xmas in the Allegheny Mountains . . . Leon Zeller is having the entrances to the rest rooms at the Roxy remodeled . . . The remodeled Main, formerly the old Clover, has reopened with a straight picture policy.

Sad story: Michel Repert, manager of Bill Hick's Hampden house, started to drive home in his car when he found that someone had stolen a brand new tire off one of the wheels and that he had a ticket for overtime parking . . . At the fights at Carlin's last Monday night were Walter "Pop" Silverberg and family, Park; Joe Fields, Rivoli; Moe Cohen, Lexway, and Al Cohen, Pennington.

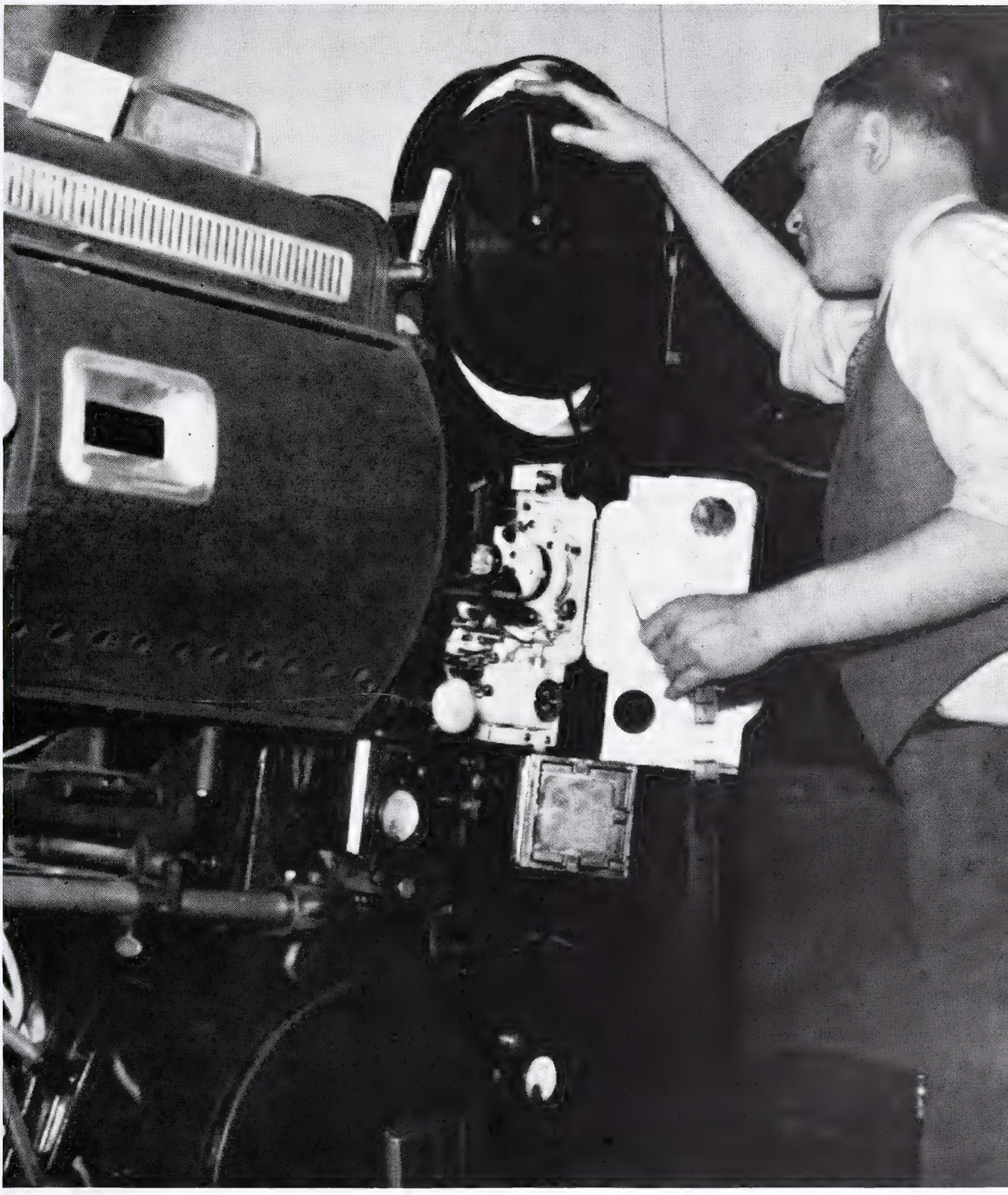
Lou "Fixer" Dugan, Essex, can't take it any more. He says it's too cold to drive from Baltimore to Washington, a distance of 35 miles . . . Mac Weinberg, Little manager, reviewed George Abbott's "Ring Two" at the Maryland here for Variety . . . Norris Nelson, assistant manager of Warner's Stanley, is celebrating his little girl Barbara June's first tooth. She is heading toward her second birthday.

After Joe Grant attended his night at Variety last Wednesday, he invited some of his friends to his home, but when he went to get his car, it was missing . . . Eddie Kimpel jr. says tickets for the annual dinner-dance of Variety may be obtained from him and that only 300 tickets will be sold . . . H. Ted Routson has engaged Miss Betty Jane McHugh, former Ziegfeld Follies star and captain of Radio City's Rockettes, to train the dancers for the Baltimore Follies revue at the Hippodrome starting December 15 . . . Francis Susie, chief of service at the Hippodrome, and his bride honeymooned in New York. They were the guests of I. M. Rappaport, who saw that they had a swell time.

Rochester's Xmas Trees Must Be Flame-Proof

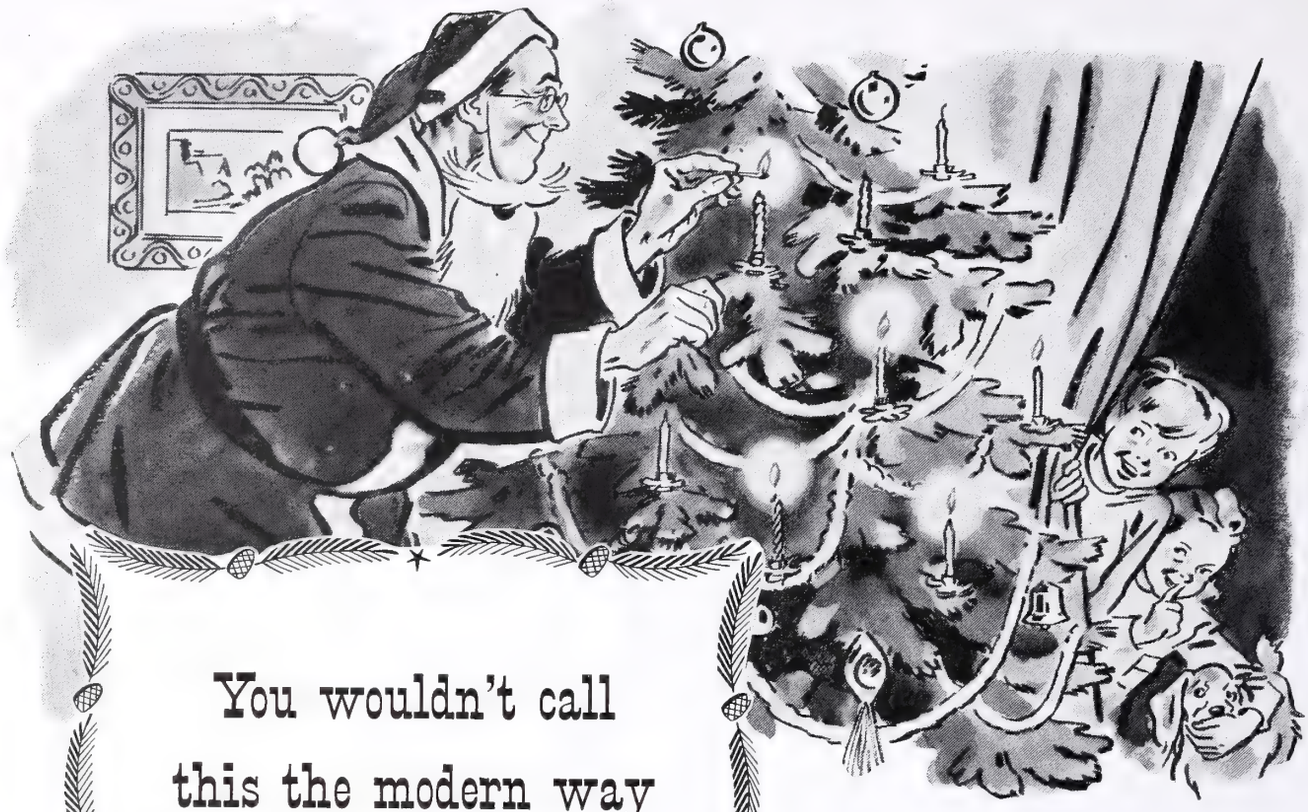
ROCHESTER—No Christmas trees, unless they are flame-proof, will be permitted in any part of any theatre here during the holiday season, managers have been notified by Walker S. Lee, superintendent of buildings.

The MODERN THEATRE



EC. 9, 1939

. . . . BETTER PROJECTION



You wouldn't call this the modern way to light that tree . . . . .

. . . yet it's just as old-fashioned to use an outmoded sound system for modern movies!

GET RCA PHOTOPHONE MAGIC VOICE OF THE SCREEN WITH ROTARY STABILIZER PLUS SHOCK-PROOF DRIVE

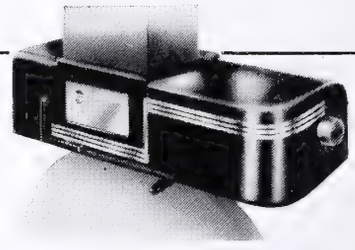
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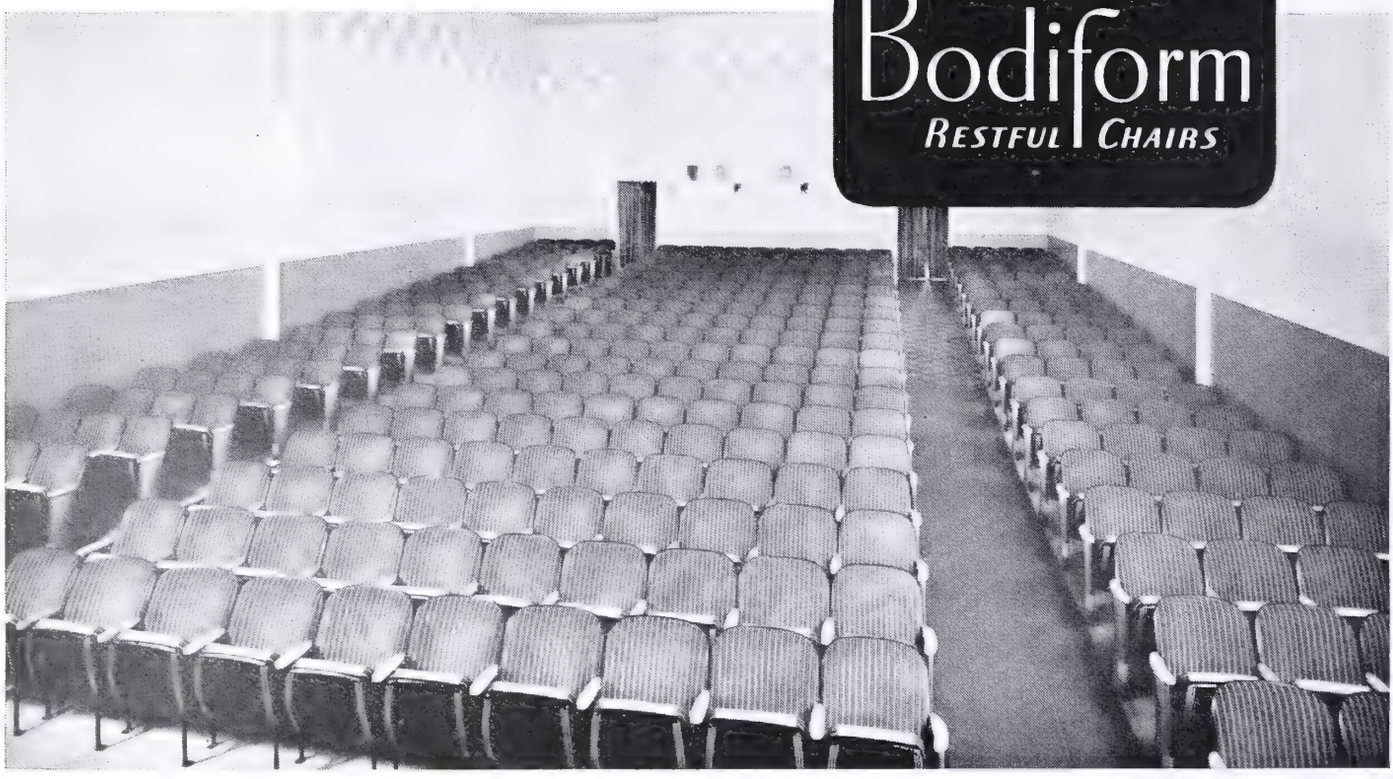
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The MODERN THEATRE

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION OF BOXOFFICE

(Title registered U. S. Patent Office)

Edited by J. HARRY TOLER

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Why the Average Patron Is Acutely Projection Conscious

Few of us in theatre business realize perhaps that the average patron is far more particular about and aware of the quality of our projection than we are.

Seldom do we pause to consider the cause of the condition and the effect therefore often becomes of serious consequence before efforts are made to correct and conform to modern projection standards.

It is not illogical to say that the average patron is a better judge of projection than the average theatre owner; because for the very simple reason that the patron gets around to other theatres and therefore is able to judge more accurately by comparison.

Unless the owner or manager more frequently takes a "busman's holiday" and reconnoiters behind the lines of his competition, he is likely to be a pretty poor judge of his own product. He, not his customers, should be his own severest critic on the point of projector performance.

But the busy theatre man often evades his prerogative and allows his patrons to assume and assert it. After all, there is something to the idea that one may be too close to his own picture to see its defects. In this respect the new patron particularly holds a distinct advantage.

Most theatre patrons nowadays are extremely projection conscious and more outspokenly critical of faulty projection than ever before, which perhaps is one principal reason among many why some theatres take business away from others.

Better Projection has lost none of its importance in the eyes of the public. On that point at least, it must be a vital consideration of modern theatre management.

Toler

December 9, 1939

Poor Projection PUTS WRINKLES *in* MANY A PATRON'S BROW

By **Ansel M. Moore**

DID you ever stand at attention in your own theatre lobby and direct your observations strictly and specifically to a study of facial expressions as the crowd emerges from your place of business?

Of course, you have given the gang a general once-over many a time, irradiating them with your choicest come-again-soon smile, engaging some of them in friendly conversation and cleverly warding off complaints and calumny regarding current pictures. That's merely a routine of good business custom called for in the curriculum of picture theatre management.

But the specific facial look-see to which we allude is something different—a sort of surreptitious spying on the unsuspecting customers as they come out from under the entrancing spell of your theatre's performance. To be successful the survey must be conducted under cover, so to speak, in order to catch the effects of nature at ease, or disturbed, as the cases may be.

Painful Distortions

The countenance of an out-coming theatre patron mirrors his mood. Catch 'em unaware as they wend their way out of your theatre and you can pretty accurately gauge the degree of satisfaction you've given them by simply balancing the smiles against the scowls. But the plot we suggest, while similarly conducted, has a different purpose than that of simply checking the public reaction to your current feature picture, or for that matter any part of the particular program you happen to be putting on at that period.

Look sharply for wrinkles on the brows of your patrons. Among the smiles, grins, smirks, scowls and frowns, under certain conditions we're going to point out a bit later, you will observe a considerable number of squints—the strabismi that results from overstrained and seriously disturbed eyesight.

Not enough has been printed or said in the past, here or elsewhere, anent the ravages of poor projection on people's eyesight. But when the subject occasionally is broached to theatre owners they generally toss it aside with a shrug and seldom, if indeed ever, do anything about it except possibly to parry with the problem a bit briefly when they buy some new equipment. And then often they miss the mark completely.

In the process of turning with lightning-like speed and perfect continuity a series of tiny thumb-nail negative prints into moving pictures of life-like appearance and performance on the screen, many crimes are committed in the guise of good projection. The principal misdemeanor is the creation of headaches for too many of the customers—a condition which when allowed to persist will eventually sabotage the prestige and seriously affect the patronage of any theatre.

Poor projection can be the result of one or a number of things. Usually it is caused by a combination of several things, any of which alone can put wrinkles on the brow of a patron who may try to get a bit of relaxation from the enjoyment of moving pictures.

Movies Take the Rap

The dangerous effect of eyestrain upon an audience, adults as well as adolescents, is probably the best argument that can be advanced in favor of projection improvements in every class of theatre today. Certainly it is a basic consideration because it so directly affects the physical comfort of the patron. Persons with perfectly normal vision and who seem to suffer no ill effects from the over-use of their eyes under other conditions are frequently known to complain bitterly about the mistreatment of their eyes at the movies.

Headaches and nervous disorders are too commonly attributed, and perhaps correctly so in a great many instances, to having seen a picture or perhaps two or more at one sitting in one of our theatres. Sooner or later, if such complaints persist, the owner of such a theatre contracts a headache of his own caused by a gradual falling off of receipts at the boxoffice.

What are some of the contributing reasons why projection quality is far below par in too many theatres? Perhaps the real reason (or at least it's a prevalent excuse) is that the owners of these theatres feel they can't afford necessary projection improvements. Since this is a moot question and quite personal, we'll pass the economic phase and present some of the more patent and perhaps less excusable general reasons. In our humble opinion as a layman, a majority of these negative causes can be bracketed in some such manner as this:

(1) Theatre auditorium improperly planned for good projection; projection room poorly positioned in relation to the screen; errors in the calculation of sight lines; house conditions that create "keystone" screen images and general out-of-focus effects; fade-outs from the angle of side seats; house lighting or other extraneous illumination that affects the result on the screen.

Mechanical Maladies

(2) Projectors that have long passed their periods of usefulness and efficiency demanded by present standards; unsteady projection resulting from wear and tear, disrepair and resultant mechanical maladjustment; unsteadiness of support for projector mechanisms; flicker resulting from foregoing factors; elements out of synchronization; optical systems out of order; lenses of poor quality or condition for the projection of clear, sharply defined and undistorted pictures; out-of-focus effects; inefficient changeovers; ghost trailers and other factors incident to the over-use of antedated equipment and inefficient maintenance.

(3) Projection lamps too small in capacity; not enough light available when needed; current regulating or transforming devices incapable of producing the proper intensity or quality of light for picture projection; insufficient light penetration of the denser portions of the picture; arc lamps that are impossible of adjustment for varying density of prints; carbon feeding mechanisms out of adjustment; pitted or discolored reflectors; optical systems out of alignment; light unevenly distributed.

(4) Picture screens of poor quality or of improper reflective surfaces for the conditions under which they are being used; discoloration and streakiness from over-use or vain attempts at refinishing; dust accumulations and cloudiness that reduce good stereoscopic reproduction to a mini-

Cover Illustration

In this candid camera shot of a projectionist at work, performing one of the many incidental duties of his craft, there is food for some serious thinking. Up to this point the feature film is but an inert negative recording of a finished production ready for market and awaiting its presentation in the animate positive. It has yet to be served to the public and the manner in which it is served will have much to do with its reception. All that has been put into this piece of film—creative genius, histrionic talent, scientific research, stagecraft, scenic excellence, photographic ingenuity and commercial investment—can reach the ultimate consumer only through the intricate mechanism of a moving picture projector. The inanimate production comes to life as entertainment only when it is properly passed to public ownership through a tiny little slot in the mechanism, called the aperture. The projector with its accessories, therefore, assumes highest rank among the basic instrumentalities for success in show business.

mum and render screens unsatisfactory for good projection regardless of efficiency in other elements of the projection system.

It would be difficult, if not entirely impossible, to find any theatre today wherein all of the foregoing citation of faults might apply in toto. On the other hand, we believe there are but few theatres in which one might not find, if he elected to examine conditions closely, at least a few of the weak spots which we have enumerated above.

One weak link in the projection system seriously affects the stronger links, each of which must compensate for the shortcomings of its co-working elements. For example, an inefficient picture screen or a pair of old style lenses that do not perform their duties satisfactorily simply means that all other parts of the system must be called upon to make up the difference. That they fail sometimes to carry the load is not necessarily a reflection on their individual efficiency.

A Knock-Out in Fact

An acquaintance of ours recently modernized one of his theatres and we were called upon to attend its gala reopening and size up the job so that we might say some nice things about it in these columns. Complying, we went out and looked over the renewed plant critically and after sampling its performance came away impressed with the conclusion that this theatre now had everything in the way of House Appeal—*except good projection.* In that it was sorely lacking.

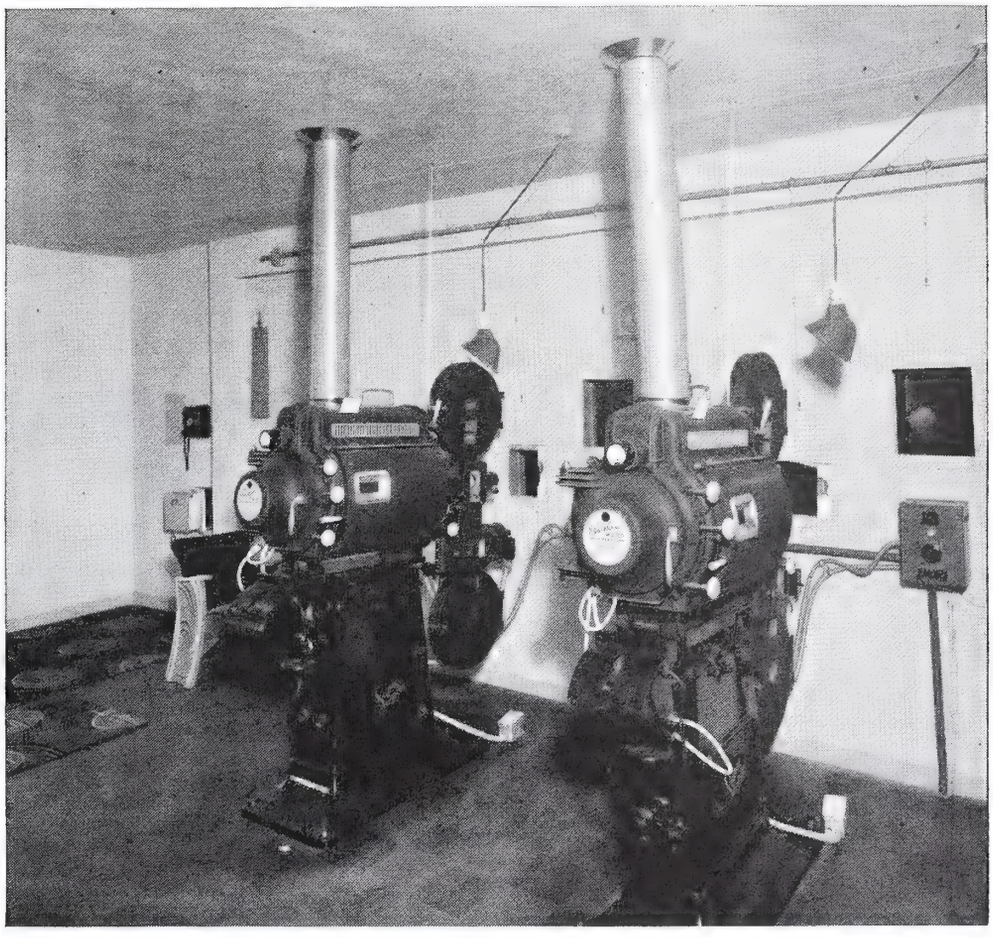
In exploring the details of this particular project for the purpose of preparing a write-up, we found that while money had been invested freely and wisely in various other forms of needed improvement, the projection room and its equipment had been left out of consideration entirely. The owner previously had informed us that his new theatre "would knock your eyes out." It did. And not just figuratively, as our exhibitor friend no doubt had meant to infer. The kind of projection we heroically managed to endure at this premiere performance was indeed a knockout for the eyes of the patrons—no mistake about that. We accumulated enough eyestrain and nervous disorder at that one double-feature sitting to wrinkle our brow for days to come. Merely to recall the incident even now causes a subconscious recoil. Our optic nerves still flinch perceptibly and we frown deeply in retrospect as we pen these lines.

Hence our soul-inspired suggestion that you clock the countenances of your patrons as they come out of the show. Too many abnormally furrowed brows and eyes that blink and squint are sure symptoms of something or other *and it might be poor projection.*

If the auditorium is not acoustically correct, sound reproduction and its reception by the audience suffers. Remodeling or redecoration time offers a fine opportunity to treat the room with modern sound-correction materials.

Color photography demands more and better quality of projection light. Only brilliant white light can give color photography its true values.

ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED FOR BETTER PROJECTION



In this sectional view of the projection room of the new Lake Theatre, at Painesville, Ohio, are to be seen just about every modern mechanical requisite to Better Projection.

A spacious, cheerful work-room properly laid out for utmost operating efficiency and equipped with latest type projector units and accessories forestalls any possible complaints on the type of screen presentation featured by this fine new theatre.

Of particular note is the practical concealment of wiring; flexible tubing stacks to carry away gases and fumes from the arc lamps; tiled flooring and many other provisions that contribute to the competency of performance. (Photo courtesy National Theatre Supply Co., Cleveland, Ohio).

"Better Projection Pays" is a slogan which should be on view as a reminder at all times in the manager's office and also in the projection room. If the manager and projectionist heed its message, the theatre will profit.

JUICE

You buy current or "juice" by the Kilowatt hour. A Kilowatt hour is 1,000 watts, about 1 1/3 horse power, used for one hour. The power company delivers the current, but whether it is used efficiently or wasted is not the power company's business.

It's the theatre owner or manager's business to find modern equipment that converts electric current into usable light most efficiently. Simplified high intensity projection is one way of obtaining more light for each unit of current.

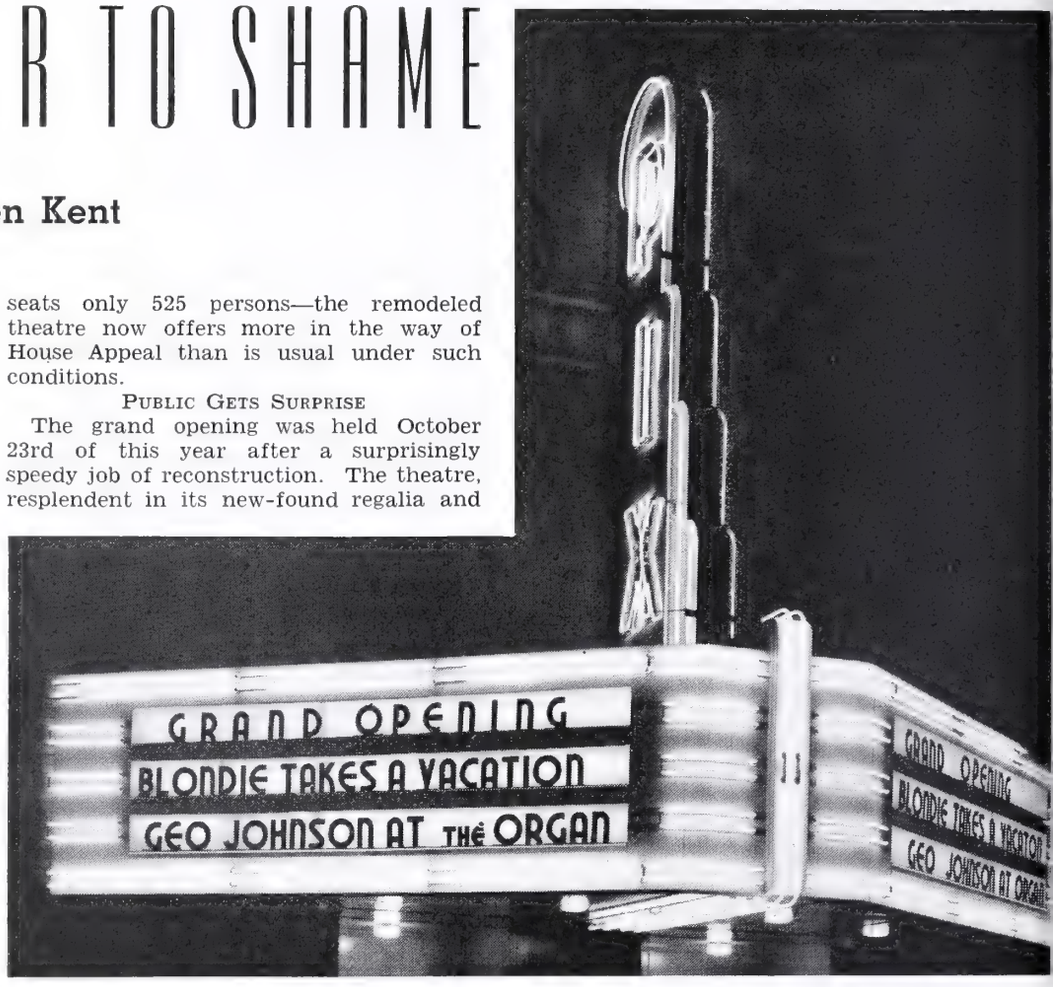
This improvement in light producing efficiency has been accomplished by the development of new types of carbons capable of carrying higher current and maintaining a steady arc at lower voltage than the carbons used in low intensity lamps. Thus more light is produced for the same consumption of electric power.

Drinking Facilities a Point for Precaution

The American Standard Association stresses that an adequate supply of cool, safe drinking water should be readily accessible in every place of public occupancy. The common drinking cup is outlawed generally. Individual cups should be dispensed from sanitary containers with proper receptacles provided for used ones. Where drinking fountains are installed, management of course should conform to the types approved by local health authorities.

The Little PIX THEATRE *puts its* PREDECESSOR TO SHAME

By **Helen Kent**



RECENTLY, Frank and Marie Hollingsworth acquired the old Fox Theatre in Beatrice, Nebraska, and almost their first official act as the new owners was a decision to completely modernize the property. They wanted to make of their new acquisition something entirely different from what its patrons had become too accustomed. Modernization, a certain amount of novelty and a change of name and policy were their ideas as to what the old theatre needed most to return to its rightful place as a profitable, enterprising business in Beatrice.

The property was considerably out of date architecturally; run-down, and patronage was indeed not up to even minimum expectations. But location and a well-constructed building were basically in their favor. So the Hollingsworths consulted with Scott-Ballantyne Company, theatre outfitters of Omaha, and a complete remodeling project was undertaken.

Reconstruction work was quite economically held to a minimum of around $6,000.00, but re-equipment of the house was more comprehensive and ran to approximately $11,000.00. Everything that could possibly be provided for greater patronage appeal was included in the modernization project. And although small—the house seats only 525 persons—the remodeled theatre now offers more in the way of House Appeal than is usual under such conditions.

PUBLIC GETS SURPRISE

The grand opening was held October 23rd of this year after a surprisingly speedy job of reconstruction. The theatre, resplendent in its new-found regalia and boasting a new name—the "Pix"—made its bow to a public which had been anticipating something but hardly expecting so many innovations for its physical comfort and pleasure.





The lobby and (below) the foyer of the new Pix Theatre are directly connected by a cleverly draped entrance. Both sections are luxuriously carpeted, furnished and equipped with all modern conveniences and functional effects that serve to create a feeling of genuine hospitality.

An entirely new facade and front whetted their appetite for what was to be found inside. The front is brilliant at night as a result of effectively applied lighting and the use of a gleaming facade material. Enameled metal in maroon with chrome trim forms the front entrance and entrance lobby. Modern design and a centrally located boxoffice complete the effect.

The marquee, a modified V-shaped luminous display unit with ample space for three lines of changeable silhouette letters, and a neonized name-sign of modern cascade design project the theatre's appeal to patronage for quite some distance in several directions. The neon lighting of the entire front is of a high intensity type in colors of rose pink, powder green, red and white.

Inside the new Pix Theatre, patrons find an elegantly inviting lobby which leads directly to an open foyer and standee area to form a commodious lounge provision. No doors are used within this part of the house and this, together with a wide expanse of luxurious carpeting throughout, lends an air of added roominess and restful hospitality.

Decoration in this portion of the theatre is dictated by the beautiful carpet of

modern design in several shades of maroon and black. To contrast effectively with the basic color, the walls and ceiling are finished in light blue, and velour draperies between the lobby and foyer are in a darker and richer shade of blue.

Novel Lighting Effects

Lighting in the lobby is accomplished entirely by rose pink neon in a recessed cove in the ceiling. The warmth given by this type and color of lighting is most complimentary to the decorative scheme and pleasing to the eyes of those who enter the room. An indirectly-lighted 40 by 60 inch display frame at one side of the lobby serves to promote coming attractions in a refined manner and is most decorative in every detail.

The foyer section, which is separated from the lobby merely by partially withdrawn draperies, carries the same general decorative scheme. This portion of the house doubles also as lounge and as such is most attractively and comfortably furnished with modern, fully-upholstered lounge furniture. The leatherette upholstery of this modernly conceived furniture is in colors of desert sand and antique ivory which harmonizes nicely with the maroons and blues of carpeting and walls.

A cooled water drinking fountain of the latest design and sanitary efficiency holds the center of interest in the foyer. It is centrally located for ease of access and because of its attractive finish is a decorative accent to this part of the theatre as well. Venetian blinds in the foyer also add further beauty as well as serving admirably to close off the standee area when not needed.

Lighting in the foyer dims perceptibly below that in the lobby and here too the indirect method is used. A lengthwise panel in the ceiling conceals blue neon which is augmented only by white-coated lumiline lamps at either side of two 30-inch round mirrors placed on the walls at the sides of the entranceway.

The redecorated and reseated auditorium of the new Pix as it now appears fore and aft. Acoustically corrected, indirectly lighted, air conditioned for comfortable occupancy during all seasons of the year and equipped for better projection and sound reception, there is now nothing in common except location between the new Pix and its predecessor. (Photos courtesy Scott-Ballantyne Co.)

Auditorium Attractivated

The auditorium was entirely redecorated but a minimum of structural change was made from the original. Refurbishing in this part of the house consisted mainly of sound corrective material placed on the walls, which in itself forms a most attractive decoration in soft tones of tan and buff. The ceiling was decorated in three tones of blue and is illuminated by two shades of blue neon from concealed sources. All ceiling light is controlled by dimmers and any desired amount of illumination may thus be provided. Other lighting elements in the auditorium are of the indirect louvre type in which several colors of lamps are used for novel effect.

The proscenium is treated most attractively with luxurious draperies at openings on either side of the stage. A most effective setting for the picture is thus provided. The openings so treated as well as the screen portion are curtained in a lustrous silver with cross-over draperies in bright red and blue. In consequence of this clever decorative handling, the patrons eyes are directed naturally to the main point of interest in the auditorium.

Seating in the Pix Theatre provides all that may be desired in the way of comfort. The chairs are of the spring-edge type with fully upholstered backs. For an added point of distinction and beauty, they are upholstered in coral mohair with seats covered in antique ivory rubberized leather-effect material.

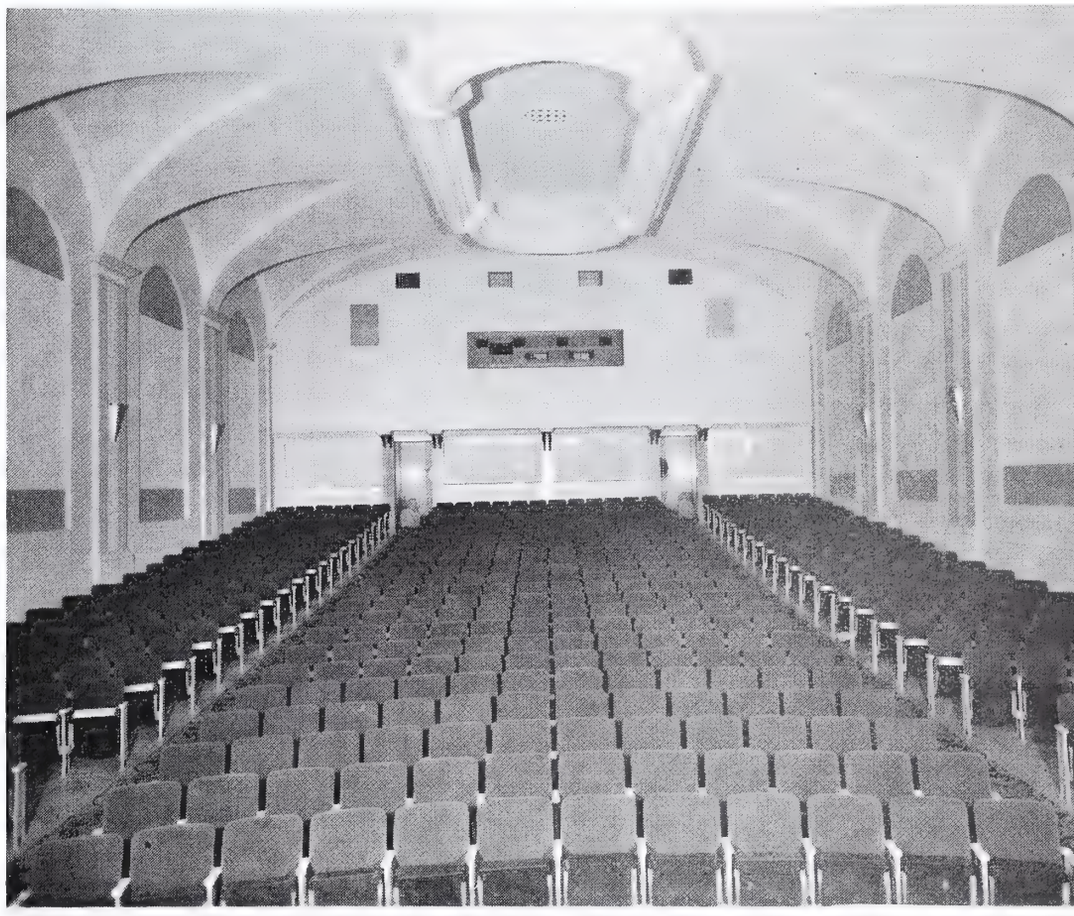
Rest-rooms in the remodeled theatre are located on the mezzanine level at the rear of the auditorium and adjacent to the projection room. Because of their excellent location and also because such provision for personal comfort is always appreciated by patrons, large plate glass windows were installed in these rooms giving access to the auditorium. Sound also is transmitted to the rest rooms so that the pictures may be viewed from there by waiting patrons or by parents with fretful children.

The rest rooms are completely carpeted and equipped with modern chrome furniture. Plumbing fixtures and other sanitary devices and furnishings are also of the latest and most attractive type, highly cleanable and efficient.

Better Projection Provided

Projection room equipment is completely new, including a sound reproducing system of latest development. Nothing was

(Continued on page 47)





Relation of THE MODERN THEATRE *to* LOW-COST HOUSING PROJECTS

By **Edward Paul Lewin***



HOUSING in the United States originally was classed as charity and dates back to about the time of the Declaration of Independence (1776) when the first poorhouse in this country appeared on the outskirts of Philadelphia. Immediately after that and throughout most of the nineteenth century, which witnessed tremendous industrial expansion and immigration, we experienced bad housing on a large scale. Living quarters to take care of this rapid expansion were so inadequate that in New York during the year 1849, a cholera epidemic killed nearly five thousand people and their homes were not even fumigated for the new tenants who had to reoccupy them.

In the years that followed and immediately after Chicago experienced its famous fire in 1871, this country started its first wave of real housing reform and throughout the remaining years of the nineteenth century housing developed a significant change from charity to reform. Definite attempts of agitation by Jane Addams in Chicago and Lillian Wald and Jacob Riis in New York were made to reform housing. This ultimately led to a few of New York's private citizens constructing limited dividend housing projects for the purpose of showing business men that this type of development could be carried on at a profit.

The idea appealed to the rich philanthropists throughout the first quarter of this century and resulted in limited dividend projects financed by such men as Rosenwald, Phipps, Field and Buhl. Since housing at this time was limited to just a few projects, it was evident that private capital could not begin to solve the slum problem, which had definitely become a serious one. Moreover, private capital that required a profit from its investment could provide no homes for people who were extremely poor.

This is the second of a series of three articles by Mr. Lewin, in which he traces the history of low-cost housing in America and draws an interesting parallel between the gradual improvement in living conditions and the progress of theatre property improvement. Since the average moving picture theatre must derive its income largely from the laboring and low wage classes in which discrimination has increased with improvement in living conditions, the points raised by the author are significant. In the forthcoming January 6th issue of The Modern Theatre section, Mr. Lewin will conclude the series with a discussion of the new modern cinema as a recreational requirement of low-cost housing projects.—EDITOR'S NOTE.

*Architect; member of the Advisory Board of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute.

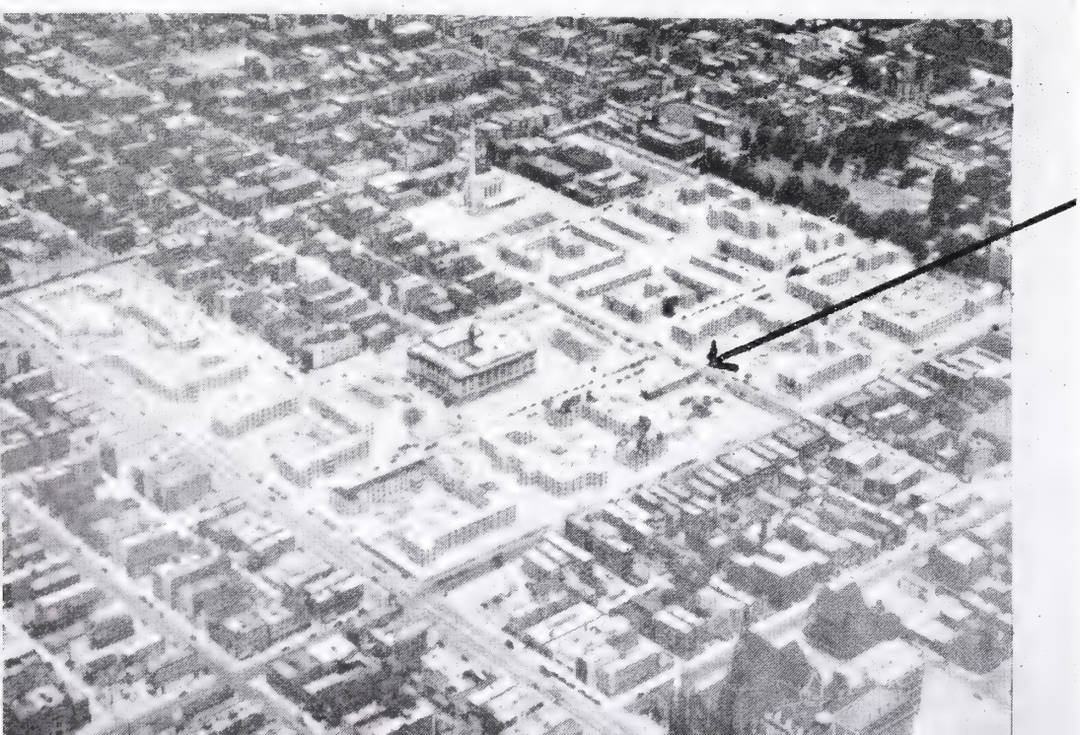
EARLY DAYS OF MOVIES

These were the years in which the motion picture was born and gradually improved from its infancy. The crude form of theatre mentioned in my previous article represented the form of theatrical recreation which people in the lower income brackets had to accept. They were quite content with that arrangement since certainly it was no worse to view a motion picture in a remodeled or transformed vacant store than to spend their time in the slums that existed in those days. Living quarters in which these people had to exist in many instances had rooms without light, minus air, running water and in most cases without adequate heating. Toilet facilities were even worse and in many cases were represented by outdoor compartments.

This crude method of living had its most serious effect on the rearing of children

(Continued on page 42)





An aerial perspective of the Jane Addams Housing Project in Chicago, embracing a clearance of 23 acres, 17 acres of which were previously occupied by dilapidated buildings. Over a thousand new and comfortable living units were provided at an average per room rental (including all service charges) of $7.30 per month. Significantly, the only building left untouched in the demolition was the Garden Theatre (shown above and indicated by arrow on the plat), which was allowed to remain for its recreational service to the new community.

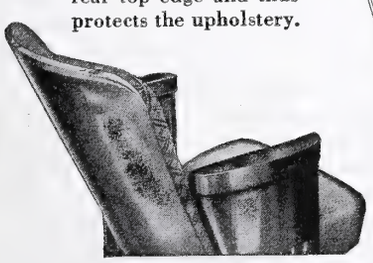


• *To the left,* O.C. 675, one of the deluxe designs in Heywood Theatre Chairs. Note that luxurious, double thick Marshall type cushion and the well tailored spring back. It's the kind of chair that spells class and comfort in any theatre.

Real Class AND *Real Comfort!*

COMFORT, in Heywood Theatre Chairs, is real, luxurious, actual, enjoyable. It's the kind of comfort that your patrons will enjoy, enthuse over . . . the kind of comfort that *does* make patrons come back for more . . . *does* pay dividends *at your box office.* The chair shown above is typical. You don't need a lot of conversation to prove this swanky chair has class and comfort. As an experienced theatre man you can tell by just *looking* at it. Your patrons will tell you (by coming back) after just *sitting* in it for *one* show! May we tell you in detail about this and other popular Heywood styles?

• *The chair shown above* has the famous Heywood Extra-Wear Back. *On this type back,* the all steel panel fits over the rear top edge and thus protects the upholstery.



HEYWOOD – WAKEFIELD

Established 1826

GARDNER
MASSACHUSETTS

Relation of the Modern Theatre to Low-Cost Housing Projects

(Continued from page 40)

who were subjected to discomfort and disease at all times. Jacob Riis, pioneer in the housing movement in this country, stressed this point in his housing reform campaign, emphasizing the fact that crime, disease and revolt against society were bred in the slums.

The nickelodeon, born early in the 20th century, was an aid to the children's cause. They were able to attend a place of recreation at nominal cost. Although the subjects shown on the screen in those days did not compare with present-day products for educational value, children at least had the advantage of a few hours spent in a warm, reasonably clean environment that was much better than their homes offered.

An Inactive Period

The progress of low-cost housing construction was rather stagnant prior to the World War, although there was a little activity in municipal housing. As soon as diplomatic relations with Germany were suspended in February of 1917, Charles H. Whitaker, editor of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, dispatched Frederick L. Ackerman, chief technical officer of the New York City Housing Authority, to England to obtain material and illustrations indicating the method of procedure the British Government was using to house its war workers.

The Ackerman articles which resulted were important in that they emphasized the need for comfortable dwellings even for temporary purposes and they probably had a good deal to do toward preventing our war housing from assuming the form of temporary wooden barracks.

Immediately after the war there was a transition from the old movie house to the more elaborate and larger structures in which to show the forthcoming elaborate productions and large orchestras made necessary by the era of prosperous business during the 1920s. Unfortunately however, this did not improve the form of recreation for the poorer classes since they still had to be content with patronizing the older houses due to higher admission prices the new de luxe theatres naturally had to establish.

Another important change in the late 20s which necessitated some theatre remodeling was the introduction of sound in motion pictures. This remodeling was confined to the larger theatres at the beginning, because the cost of installation made it prohibitive to install sound equipment in the smaller ones.

As far as housing was concerned, the years from 1920 to 1925 were rather discouraging since nothing was done of any consequence to improve living conditions for those in the lower income group.

Activity Aroused

In 1926, however, things began to happen. Governor Alfred E. Smith, who had been reared in the slums of New York himself, passed the first law in which the state assumed an active role in housing. The act created a five-man housing board to encourage the erection of limited dividend housing. This particular experiment was neither charity nor reform, but an application of the state. Between 1927 and 1935, fourteen projects for six thousand families were built under this act at a cost of nearly $30,000,000.

Nevertheless, this still did not solve our slum clearance and low-cost housing problems since the rents remained too high for the lowest income groups. The projects which developed from this act were really the experiments in housing which ultimately established a standard of costs and rental values for housing projects that were to be developed in the future. Although the rents were not reduced to the point where the poorer people could take advantage of these apartments, the experiments did prove that a superior form of city living was obtainable at about half of that which private enterprise would expect.

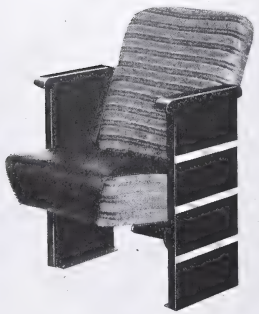
The next attempt to accomplish housing for the low wage earner was by the first federal legislation in 1932, the Emergency Relief and Construction Act, under which the R. F. C. was permitted to lend money to limited dividend corporations, was set up under state boards. Under this arrangement, the only limited dividend project to avail itself of R. F. C. money was Knickerbocker Village in New York City, which with $12.50 per room rents still did not satisfy the needs of the very poor.

Days of Decline

During the years 1932-33-34, the motion picture industry experienced a very

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Ideal Chairs must be good when the keen buyers for America's leading theatres order them time and again after having EXPERIENCE with all makes.

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rapid decline in business which in many instances necessitated the closing of larger theatres. Those which were able to carry on reduced their maintenance overhead and discontinued their stage shows and pretentious productions. Older, out-of-date theatres naturally also felt the decline acutely and experienced an even worse struggle for existence.

I have previously mentioned our editor's recommendation in 1933 of experimenting with the rehabilitation of out-of-date theatres as a stimulant to improvement in the motion picture theatre business, an experiment which has been tried and proved to be most successful.

Step Toward Lower Incomes

Many of the smaller theatres while in the process of this remodeling were also equipped for sound presentation. This afforded the poorer people an opportunity of viewing the same pictures that appeared at the larger, more pretentious theatres and was definitely a step in favor of the lower income groups. They were given almost the same shows that the larger theatres presented, with the possible exception of seeing second-, third- and fourth-run pictures instead of first. This step probably did more toward improving recreation for the poorer people than any previous advancement in the construction of moving picture theatres.

During this same time, speculative building of apartment structures had been at a standstill. Real estate mortgage bond institutions that were able to stay in business were unable to underwrite any further bond issues and we experienced the commencement of an apartment building depression which has extended to the present time.

This inactivity also had a tendency to further dilapidate the homes of the lower income groups, since the older buildings were beginning to be occupied by the middle class as well as some of those in the higher income brackets. Moreover, congestion was increasing due to families' doubling up in apartments in order to live within incomes resulting from the depression. Government housing projects recently built have assisted considerably toward relieving the shortage of living quarters due to inactivity in the building of privately owned apartment buildings since the beginning of the building depression.

On June 16, 1933, reform for recovery had another try, this time under the National Industrial Recovery Act, which permitted the Public Works Administration therewith created not only to make loans to limited dividend housing companies as before but to make loans and grants to public authorities, state or local.

This P.W.A. housing program came to an end officially in September, 1937, after four years and three months of existence, during which time twenty thousand families were housed. However, it did not succeed in housing large numbers of people or in producing adequate housing at low cost.

A New Approach

This ultimately led to the passing of the Wagner-Steagall Housing Act which was signed in September of 1937 and which developed a new approach to housing. This act established a permanent national housing policy and program with decentralization of responsibility and authority; and had the obvious advantages of placing

(Continued on page 55)



MOHAWKS-BUILT TO TAKE IT!

Mohawks are "brutes for punishment." Mohawks take the wear and tear . . . the use and abuse which wear down weaker carpets. Mohawk Theater Carpets are long-lived under tramping, shuffling, pounding, weather-soaked feet—come through daily cleaning and seasonal shampooings and lose nothing but—DIRT! Mohawk Carpets are theater-styled. Among Mohawk's Theater Carpets, you're sure to find just the color, pattern, price your house demands.

Write for your free copy of Mohawk's new illustrated book—"Those Who Know"

MOHAWK Theater CARPETS

MOHAWK CARPET MILLS, INC., AMSTERDAM, N.Y

Word Picture of a REMODEL JOB and A REMARKABLE REACTION

The moral to be drawn from this unillustrated recital is both clear and persuasive. Specifically, it brings to point the oft-repeated principle that individuality and innovation are the two chief business agents of the boxoffice. "But Will It Sell Tickets?" is a pretty safe gauge rule by which the adoption of all new ideas may be governed. Unfortunately, however, it is to be observed that relat vely few theatre owners carry that precept beyond the mere purchase of pictures. This exhibitor made individuality his objective and the outcome serves aptly to demonstrate the strong influence a moving picture theatre can have on even the personal habits of its community. And particularly the movie-going habit.—Editor.

EVERY theatre, just as every person, has a personality—of some sort. The sort of personality it may possess determines its success.

The objective of John Wolfberg* in remodeling the Mokan Theatre in Kansas City, recently was not simply to modernize it, since many suburban theatres in large cities today are modern because they must be to survive. He had that much to do, certainly. In addition, there was need for individualizing it, however slightly.

Modernization of the theatre, which was renamed the Giles, cost some $40,000. Individualization cost very little and consisted principally in doing two things: Providing three rows of extra-width seats and extra spacing back-to-back for the unusually tall patrons, and constructing the ladies' restroom in a clever simulation of that sort of outbuilding that was common in the days before indoor plumbing made the comforts of living what they are today.

As the work on the Giles was being rushed to completion for an advertised opening date, there appeared in the local newspaper a story concerning the formation of the Skyliners' Club, a group of men and women over the average in height who organized largely for social purposes but partly to get consideration for themselves, as a class, in the matter of hotel beds, doorways, theatre seats and so forth.

Changed His Plans

Mr. Wolfberg was attempting at the time to squeeze in an extra row of seats on the first floor of the Giles. When he read the story, he immediately discarded the idea of an extra row and arranged three rows with approximately six inches more space back-to-back than the others, and installed seats about three inches wider than ordinary. The result was invaluable publicity and since then a great number of persons have asked for the special seats.

This is a small matter and it came about quite accidentally; yet it did as much perhaps as the modernization itself to give the theatre a personality in the mind of the public and because of its personal nature it will continue to have that value for the life of the theatre.

Inside the women's rest room (on the first floor), the toilets are housed in compartments suggestive of the old style outhouse. They are constructed of modern knotty pine under the ceiling of the rest room proper and are furnished with "catalogues." The structure is complete even to natural wood shingles and board seats.

In another corner of the rest room is "The Hen House," done also in knotty pine with shingle roof, which contains the two lavatory basins. Walls of the rest room proper are colorfully decorated with a rooster chasing a hen and the floor linoleum design suggests a barnyard—pleasantly, of course. On weekends the theatre has an attendant in charge to light cigarettes and keep the rest rooms in spic and span order.

The contrast achieved in this simple way produces an amazing amount of attention. Women who enter the rest room for the first time invariably exclaim: "Oh-h-h-h-h!" None forget it. As something which identifies the theatre in the minds of patrons, it is an important attribute to the theatre's personality.

Transformation Complete

In addition, the entire theatre has been transformed from an unattractive suburban house on which little had been done for years into a bright, modern movie house. And although fundamentally the layout is unchanged, the theatre was completely remodeled, redecorated and re-equipped. New sound, arc lamps, lenses, screen, seats, carpet, draperies, marquee, front, duct system, air conditioning equipment and furnace were installed and the projection equipment was completely overhauled.

The building is of brick and concrete and it was in sound condition. An additional story was added to carry the new marquee and give the front of the building more attraction. It now makes an impressive appearance with its white stucco facade treated monolithically. The three horizontal panellings are cove lighted in different colors and edges of the panels are trimmed in brown. The marquee ceiling is of silver.

The inner facing of the arch over the entrance is finished in agate-red marble imported from Belgium and there is a band of the marble at the juncture of first and second stories on the front. The boxoffice was streamlined by curving the outer end and by offsetting the roof, which gives it a circular pier effect.

A cove which permits indirect lighting in the entrance is created by the wide, curved moulding edged in black. The ceiling is white and curved. Wainscoting in the lobby is red with chrome striping. Above it on a horizontal space of tan plaster are display boards alternating with large circular designs in vari-colored linoleum. Above this is cream plaster striped with chrome and then a wide curved moulding of orchid. The ceiling, lighted from the coves created by the moulding, is a pale grey-green and it is accented by a wide panel of wood which is centered from foyer to entrance wall and decorated in orchid. The foyer doors are outlined in chrome.

Acoustically Decorated

Every inch of ceiling, back and side walls in the auditorium were covered with sound absorbent material over which burlap was applied and painted. It gives the theatre, which formerly had very poor acoustics, as fine sound reproduction as any in the city.

The columns along the sidewalls (three on each side) were retained but they have been made a part of the decorative scheme. They are now rounded at the edges and rising vertically to the ceiling, they appear to continue across the ceiling almost to the center. This ceiling effect was created in different, darker colored acoustical material with an edging. Between the upright columns on the sidewalls the horizontal striping gives contrast. Curves and slots relieve the severity of plain walls under the balcony and the ceiling here is enhanced by panelling. The color scheme of the theatre in general is tan and russet. Joseph B. Shaughnessy was the architect.

The theatre used to draw many patrons clad in overalls and house dresses. Now a majority of the customers come to the show well dressed. Owner Wolfberg regrets that those in overalls don't come now (which may be due to the fact that people are "dressing up" to attend), but it does prove that the Giles is attracting many persons in the neighborhood who used to go elsewhere for their movie entertainment.

The only wall decoration in the office of Mr. Wolfberg is a simple display card on which is printed: "But Will It Sell Any Tickets?" He keeps it there as a reminder and self-check when he has a new idea (as happens quite frequently) or someone tries to sell him something. Modernization has sold tickets for him. Business in the remodeled house has been consistently better than it ever was before.

*Mr. Wolfberg also operates the Strand, suburban house in Kansas City. He is the son of H. P. Wolfberg, district manager for M-G-M, at Kansas City.



A Brilliant New Conception of THEATRE CHAIRS by IRWIN

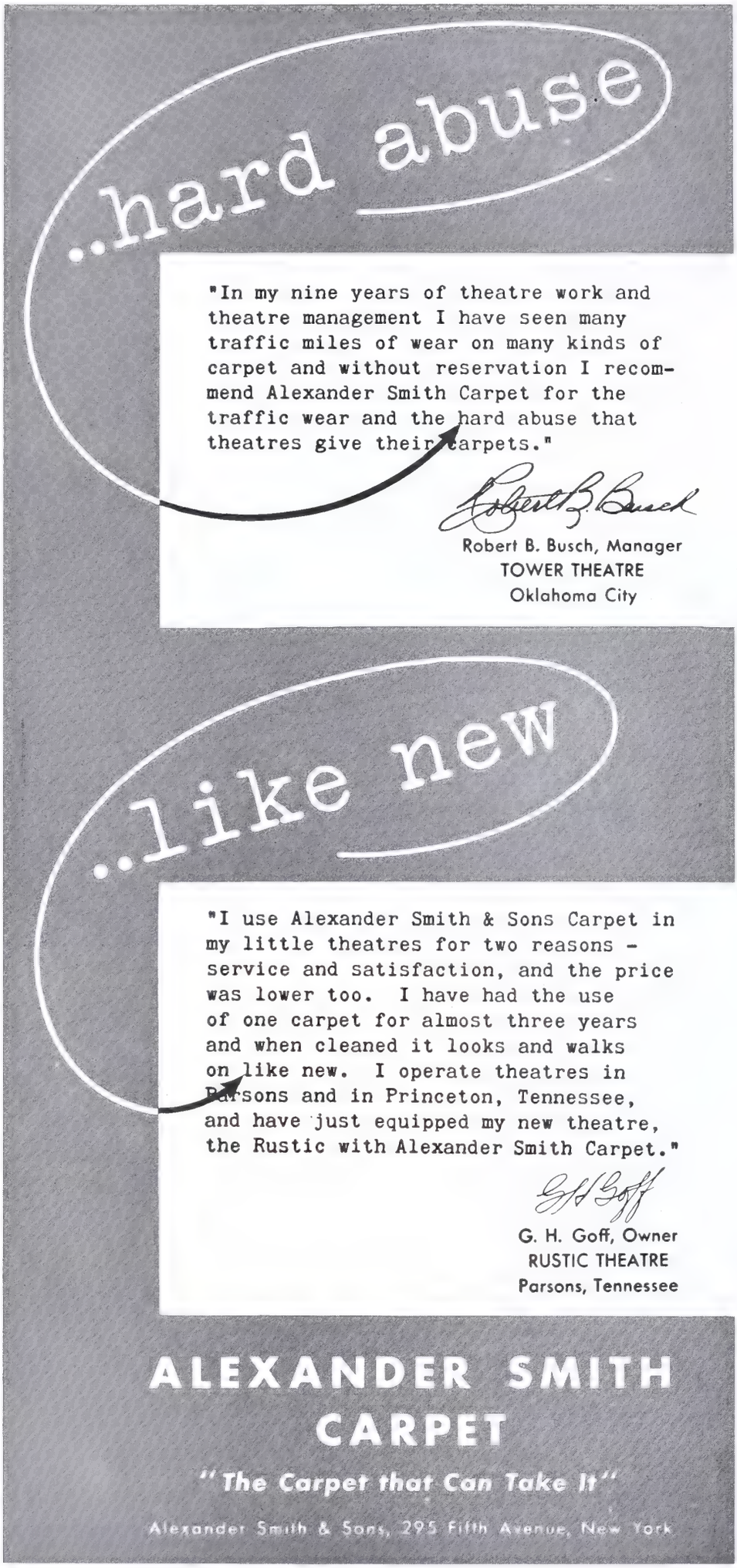
. . . which will aggressively promote the cause of better theatre seating.

Decidedly superior in mechanical features — with breath-catching beauty and unprecedented comfort.

Don't buy any chair until you have seen the Irwin CRUSADER. Presentation will be made at an early date in display rooms of the *National Theatre Supply Company*; and on the Pacific Coast, *Theatre Utilities Service Co., Portland; Smith Theatre Supply Co., Spokane; Walter G. Preddey, San Francisco; John P. Filbert Co., Los Angeles.*

Watch for Announcement

IRWIN SEATING COMPANY • Grand Rapids, Michigan



LITERATURE

The following concerns have recently filed copies of interesting descriptive literature with *The Modern Theatre Information Bureau*. Readers who may wish copies of such literature may obtain them promptly by addressing The Modern Theatre, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Armstrong Cork Company, of Lancaster, Pa., submits a 24-page, elaborately illustrated brochure entitled "Better Floors for Better Business." The booklet covers various types of hard-surfaced flooring materials manufactured by the company, offers design suggestions, describes installation and maintenance and serves as a general handbook on linoleum and composition floorings.

Automatic Electrical Devices Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, files several pieces of literature on Homozone, the electrical deodorizer. Various models are described and illustrated and their advantages and application outlined. Specifications and prices are also included in the folders.

Binks Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, Ill., offers a new 1940 Catalogue and Data Book on spray painting and finishing equipment. Consisting of 104 highly illustrated pages, it contains many valuable facts, gives prices and provides engineering data on all types of spray painting outfits.

Buffalo Fire Appliance Corp., of Buffalo, N. Y., presents a folder covering the company's diverse and comprehensive line of fire extinguishers for all types and intensities of application. The various fire extinguishers are pictured and prices are given along with descriptions of use values.

Golde Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, Ill., files literature on a new automatic enclosed rewinder, a new reel end signal and their latest fluid-drive take-up. Advantages of the company's latest developments are outlined and prices are given.

Heywood-Wakefield Co., of Gardner, Mass., presents its latest theatre seating catalogue. The 28-page booklet is profusely and colorfully illustrated, showing by word and picture outstanding features of modern streamlined seating. The presentation covers the complete line, from high priced chairs to the lowest in price range.

Marsh Wall Products, Inc., of Dover, Ohio, offers an interesting booklet covering the advantages of Marlite for smart interior decoration. The new product's application to theatre use is also discussed effectively and illustrated in color.

Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co., of Springfield, Mass., submits a portfolio containing photographs and data on V-16 Hermetically-Sealed Air Conditioning Condensing Units. The material covers this new type of air conditioning in all its phases.

NOTICE: *Manufacturers of all products adapted to theatre modernization or maintenance are invited to file latest copies of their catalogues or descriptive literature with The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.*—THE EDITOR.

The Little PIX Theatre Puts Its Predecessor to Shame

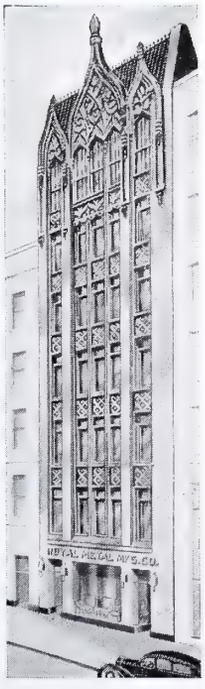
(Continued from page 39)

spared to provide the finest possible moving picture presentation in the new Pix Theatre, which had so much to gain in the way of renewed prestige and reputation. The projection room itself is quite large and arranged for the entire convenience and efficiency of those who work there.

Air conditioning for the Pix Theatre is of the all-season variety and consists of a 30-ton refrigeration system for cooling and ample heating facilities also. The air conditioning equipment is installed at the rear of the auditorium in a compartment adjoining the projection room and all outlets are in the upper rear wall of the auditorium. Return air is also picked up along the rear wall. The installation provides a most thorough coverage of the entire house and all drafts, cold spots and warm spots are eliminated entirely. Year-round comfort was carefully planned for in this part of the remodeling project.

Although it has been open to the public for just a bit over a month, Frank and Marie Hollingsworth's little Pix Theatre has worked itself well into the hearts of Beatrice theatre patrons. It offers what they want and in a manner that pleases them. Besides, the public was quite obviously bored with the Pix's predecessor and this boredom was reflected unmistakably at the boxoffice—just as now a revived interest and a renewal of the movie-going habit is shown in the daily records of the remodeled and smartly modernized theatre.

ROYAL MOVES



During Christmas week, Royal Metal Manufacturing Company will move its main offices and show-rooms to more commodious quarters at 175 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago. The new location is an artistic 7-story Gothic type building recently purchased by the company.

The main and one other floor are being remodeled for display rooms while the two top stories will be used for the general offices. The remaining three floors will be leased, preferably to firms engaged in allied lines for the institutional field.

The Royal Company, founded in Chicago in 1897, manufactures a diversified line of chromesteel and other metal furniture of modern design. Its products are used quite extensively in theatre lounges, lobbies and rest rooms. The company has factories in Michigan City, Indiana; New York, Los Angeles and Toronto, with show-rooms in numerous other centers.

Weather-Proof Sound In New Development

The Ballantyne Company recently announced two all-new units of sound equipment, the Duo Soundmaster 80 and 90 amplifiers. Both amplifiers are said to be unique in a number of respects. The two are identical except that the "80" is equipped with the new "humless" AC exciter lamp supply and is available in single channel only, whereas the "90" has the newly perfected copper sulphide rectified DC exciter lamp supply and can be furnished for either single or double channel operation as desired. The amplifier unit used in both models is the same and is interchangeable.

Realizing that it is not enough merely to provide the theatre with the best of sound, but that this sound must be available at all times, at all temperatures and in all climates, the Ballantyne Company's research department did a great deal of pre-engineering in the matter of parts while the new 80-90 amplifier channel was still in its layout stage. A year and a half ago they set about studies to test out every component which was to enter into its construction. Several innovations for protection of the equipment against humidity and temperature deterioration are incorporated in the new equipment.

Color Reproduction Needs White Light

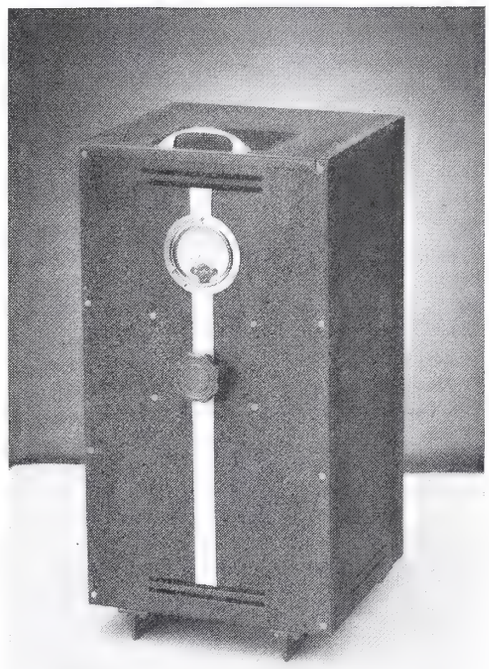
Colors are even more sensitive to quality of light than they are to intensity. Only a snow white light, composed of an even balance of all colors, can make colored objects visible in accurate hue. For example, flesh tones are a blend of many colors. If viewed in a light that is weak in some of these colors the natural appearance is lost. An illustration of this, which everyone has observed, is the appearance of hands and face under mercury arc lighting.

Because color balance is essential, color productions are photographed under carbon arc lighting of daylight quality. Great care is then used through every step of production to preserve the accurate shades of color which the camera has recorded and to deliver them on the film to the theatre. But this color accuracy will reach the screen and the eyes of the audience only when projected by light of the same snow white quality as that in which the scene was photographed.

Simplified high intensity projection gives color accuracy because it has this snow white quality. The superior color balance of the light from the high intensity arc over the yellowish light from the low intensity arc or incandescent lamps is pronounced.

This is the time of year to begin fighting annual epidemics of flu and common colds. Keep the house properly air conditioned and let your patrons know that your place of business is the healthiest place in town.

NEW MODEL



A new 15 to 30 ampere capacity rectifier for low intensity arc operation, which supersedes the standard Garver Kurrent Changer, is being introduced by the Garver Electric Company, Union City, Ind.

Features pointed out include an improved winding and a higher grade steel which assure greater efficiency, longer bulb life and a smoother performance. Unique natural draft cooling is effected through the new case design which is said to further increase the overall efficiency of the rectifier.

Study Shows Trend to Quality Carpet Cushion

Now that theatre owners are replacing so much of the carpeting installed during the lean depression years, the performance of cheap carpet paddings has been found so woefully disappointing that the current buying trend is toward the highest grade all-hair cushion.

This is brought out by a recent study which cites the typical experience of theatre owners who, upon tearing up worn-out carpeting, find that the cheap vegetable fibre padding is packed so hard that it gives no wear protection and is useless for further service.

In contrast with this is the experience of the Palace Theatre in Chicago, where the original all-hair carpet cushion is still in perfect condition after 14 years of service in the main lobby. The result of this is clearly shown in the greatly increased number of all-hair carpet cushion installations during the past few months, including a majority of outstanding theatre modernizing projects at all points of the country.

Proper sight lines in the auditorium may be acquired most easily and economically at the time of reseating. Check this condition with those who are to install new chairs.

In 1930



Sprucing Up a Theatre Property to Sustain Its Prestige

Case history of a Canadian theatre modernizing project applied before, not after, the need for it became too conspicuous. Pictures and particulars supplied by Kaplan & Sprachman, the architects.

ORDINARILY, theatre owners procrastinate in the matter of major property improvements or alterations aimed to keep pace with progress until the need for such treatment becomes all too apparent in the falling off of receipts at the boxoffice.

This definitely was not the case with the project here to be considered. In the instance at hand, we find an excellent applied example of the old adage, "a stitch in time saves nine," or to deal further in proverbs, a case of "caulking the seams while the ship's still seaworthy."

Example Extraordinary

The recent renovation of the Capitol Theatre, at Edmonton, Alberta (Canada), is a splendid example of smart practice in theatre property management. But in the *modus operandi* of the project one may also observe other unusual characteristics. Such, for example, as how modern invention and architectural ingenuity have shortened the distance across a continent and contributed to economy and efficiency in theatre planning and construction.

The renovation of the Capitol Theatre was designed by a firm of Toronto theatre architects and the work was executed most efficiently at a point 2,000 miles away. The result is apparent in the "before and after" views of the project pictured here and a most interesting comparison of values may be made.

The owners and operators of the Capitol Theatre are Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Ltd. The Toronto architects, Kaplan and Sprachman, who are members of the Advisory Board of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, made but one preliminary trip to the job at Edmonton. This for the purpose of securing dimensional data and taking photographs of the theatre to analyze and determine its requirements.

Sketches, work drawings and details of design and procedure were then prepared by the architects in Toronto and the work was carried on by remote control through the able assistance of MacDonald & Magoon, of Edmonton, acting as resident supervising architects. Mr. V. Armand represented the client, Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Ltd. Contracts were confined wherever possible to local tradespeople and craftsmen, provided services and materials were of standards demanded in the plans for the project.

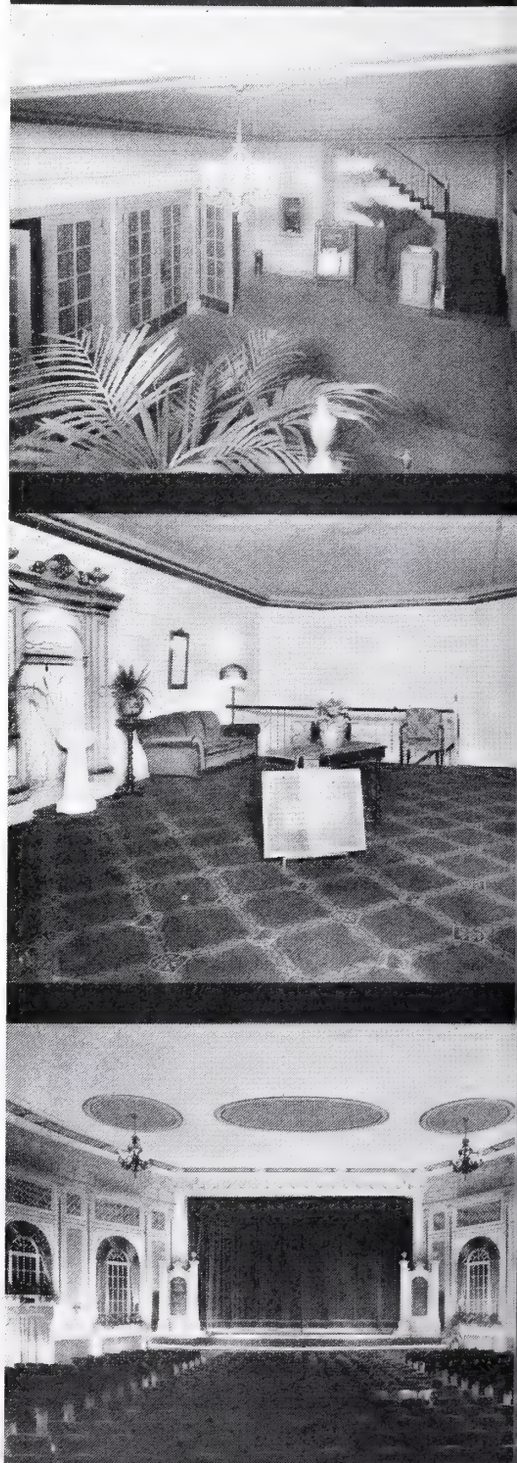
Normal Rejuvenation

The Capitol Theatre had always done and was still doing a prosperous business as the leading theatre of Edmonton. Therefore, it was not a matter of forced extensive alterations to rejuvenate a run-down financial liability but merely a sprucing up of a normally outdated house to enable it to maintain its position as the community's leading theatre. The sprucing up procedure included a new front, new sign and marquee, decorating of the interior, new toilet accommodations, air conditioning, reseating, reflooring, display frames, carpets, furniture, lighting fixtures and other incidentals.

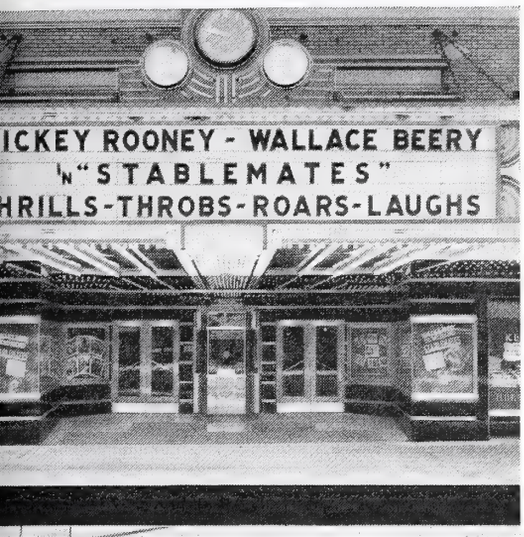
The new marquee, 75 feet long and projecting 11 feet over the sidewalk, has three rows of streamlined interchangeable letters 12 inches high, and is decorated with lamps and neon and a 42-inch diameter illuminated clock. The sign, which is 38 feet high by 6 feet wide, has channel letters 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inches high containing five red neon tubes in each letter together with blue hi-tensity vertical ornamental neon design. The running border contains 544 bulbs. The entire face of the building below the marquee was recovered with black structural glass and this same material was also used in the outer lobby with horizontal stainless steel bands. The advertising display is now taken care of with shadow boxes running the full width of the lobby and around each corner. While there are hinged doors at inner angle corners, the remainder of the display consists of sliding plate glass panes without mullions, permitting unobstructed vision. All exposed woodwork, including the existing front doors, was covered with stainless steel.

An Unique Boxoffice

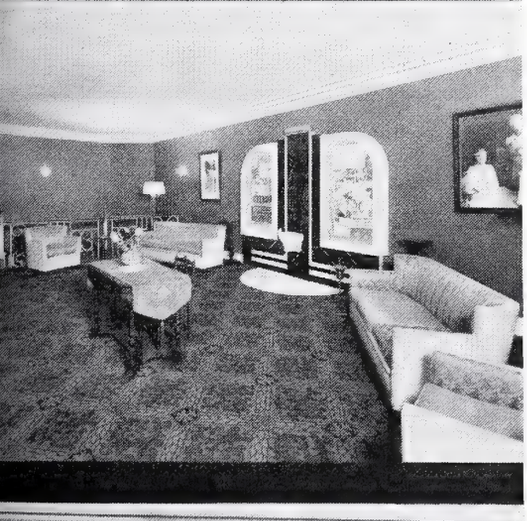
The new boxoffice is a special feature of the design and consists of large stainless steel flutes eight inches wide with an



. . . and Now









CONTRAST

The panel of illustrations at left shows various sections of the Capitol Theatre, at Edmonton, Alberta (Canada), as it appeared in September, 1930, and up to the time of its recent modernization. The group at right shows the same sections of the theatre as they now appear following the well-planned rejuvenation. The resultant appreciation of values for both eye appeal and functional efficiency may be noted by simply contrasting these "before and after" views alternately from left to right as they are pictured from top to bottom. The accompanying text further translates the procedure. (Photos courtesy Kaplan & Sprachman, Architects.)

illuminated red structural glass base and top. Its ticket selling windows are particularly arranged for the convenience of incoming patrons. The front of the boxoffice is of blue plexiternal mirror with sanded design. This unique boxoffice was constructed in three units in Toronto from the architects' details and after complete assembly was knocked down and shipped to the job for reassembling and installation.

Flooring in the lobby is in yellow, red and blue terrazzo with rubber mats in the same colors. The inner lobby, approximately 24 by 18 feet in size, also has a new terrazzo floor with a blue field patterned in white and yellow. Walls and ceiling of the inner lobby were painted in blue, white and gold over burlapped surfaces.

A neon illuminated glass block standee rail was erected at the rear of the auditorium. The mezzanine lounge was also redone with burlap and paint, using the same color scheme as the lobby. A feature of this new room is a shadow box and drinking fountain motif of blue agate structural glass with white bands. The shadow boxes were painted white.

A complete system of all-season air conditioning was installed to condition the temperature for both summer and winter use. Two large new penthouses were required to accommodate the new equipment.

Comfort Features Pronounced

Rest room and lavatory facilities were enlarged and new colored fixtures and tinted tile walls were installed. Make-up tables were provided for both main and balcony-floor ladies' rooms. The men's rest room is located on the main floor level.

Especially designed electric fixtures were installed throughout the auditorium, lobby and foyer, and costly new stage curtains and draperies in harmony with the decorations were also provided.

The existing aisles were widened and additional inches back-to-back were provided for more convenient traffic in the auditorium. Both orchestra and balcony areas were reseated with plush-covered

(Continued on page 51)

THEATRE MODERNIZING GUIDE

Through the co-operation of our affiliated architects, leading manufacturers, their engineers, designers, dealers, contractors and others, a majority of whom are active members of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, we are prepared to assist the theatre-owner in selection and application of all commodities and services needed in remodeling and modernizing by placing him in touch with dependable sources of supply. As sponsor of the Institute, we strive to impartially relay each inquiry only to sources of reliable information. However, we do not guarantee all statements or claims made in connection with products offered.

MAIL THIS FORM FOR FREE INFORMATION

The MODERN THEATRE Planning Institute, 12-9-39
Room 334—332 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: Without cost or obligation please arrange to have data supplied to us covering the following subjects:

☐ Acoustics	☐ Decorating	☐ Screens
☐ Air Conditioning	☐ Heating Equipment	☐ Seating
☐ Amplifiers	☐ Lighting Fixtures	☐ Signs and Marquees
☐ Architectural Service	☐ Lounge Furniture	☐ Sound Equipment
☐ Carpets	☐ Plumbing Fixtures	☐ Theatre Fronts
☐ Coin Changers	☐ Projectors	☐ Ticket Machines
☐ Complete Remodeling	☐ Projection Lamps	☐ Other Subjects

.....

Theatre ..... Seating Capacity.....

Address .....

City ..... State.....

Signed.....
(Owner-Manager)

How to Use Light and Color for the Holiday Season

By **Robert W. Morris***

THE moving picture theatre plays such a conspicuous role in the life of the typical American community that it is no more than fitting that it should reflect the gaiety of its patrons during the Xmas season by dressing up in holiday attire.

Invariably this means dressing up with light, for nowadays when Yuletide comes around again most towns and cities sparkle all over with thousands of varicolored lights and luminous displays to give expression to the feelings of good will and joy that abound in this season. But there is more than this sentimental justification for decorating the theatre. Many a theatre manager has found that it is good business.

A Competitive Season

The theatre must compete with many other attractions on the street for its share of the public's attention and this competition is keener than ever at times when the interest and appeal of nearby commercial establishments is heightened by Xmas decorations. Festive Xmas lighting is as much for the theatre as any place else.

There are, of course, many ways to decorate a theatre for Xmas. Originality is always a virtue in any sort of display work and in lighting up for the Xmas season the theatre manager or his display man has plenty of opportunity to exercise ingenuity.

The basic materials used in lighted displays are pretty much the same year after year, although, to be sure, a number of new materials that have found ready application have been introduced in recent years. Since most of the equipment can be used again and again, a theatre can accumulate a really impressive display in a few years' time by adding a few new pieces every year. Much of this same material can be used at other times during the year when there is occasion for the theatre to put on gala dress.

The old stand-by among Xmas lighting materials is the festoon of colored lamps, usually bound to laurel or evergreen roping. It has been popular for years and there is no indication that its popularity is on the wane. It may be used on almost any part of the theatre, inside or out, and so symbolic of the holiday season has it become that it can scarcely fail to create the desired atmosphere of festivity.

The marquee and the facade of the theatre afford vantage points for suspending festoons so that they are visible from both directions down the street. There is no end to the variety of patterns and effects that can be achieved with this medium.

Some Scenic Suggestions

The multiplane scene is readily adaptable to use on the theatre marquee or in prominent locations in the lobby and foyer. This type of display is not new, but its possibilities have never been fully exploited, and for effectiveness it is hard to beat. Moreover, it may be as large or small, as simple or elaborate as desired.

In their simplest form these displays consist of a flat cutout scene of religious or holiday significance (such as the Three Wise Men or Santa and his reindeer) which is silhouetted against a lighted background. By using several planes of graduated sizes, each flooded with light of a different color and each containing appropriate parts of the scene, it is possible to produce an effect of perspective that is quite striking.

Such displays may be constructed of heavy cardboard, composition board, or sheet metal, depending on their size and the location in which they are to be displayed. Details of the surfaces of each plane may be painted in if an elaborate display is planned. The light sources, which may range from Xmas tree lamps to projector lamps containing colored hoods, are concealed behind each plane, the last one arranged so that the light is thrown on the front surface of the adjacent plane.

The new fluorescent lamps open up new possibilities for this type of display because as sources of colored light they are many times as efficient as colored incandescent lamps. Their tubular construction, too, adapts them well to this service, since linear sources give a most even distribution of light on the planes. Where fluorescent lamps are used out of doors in cold weather they will require glass or plastic shields to insure proper temperature conditions.



Multiplane displays of this general type may be made in any size and may be as simple or elaborate as desired. They are effective Yuletide decorations for the top of the marquee or for various locations inside the theatre.

No Xmas decoration is more appealing than a good old-fashioned Xmas tree when it is well lighted and artistically trimmed. This is a "natural" for the theatre that has an ample enough lobby or foyer to permit the effective display of this time-honored symbol of Yuletide. It is a display with which some pains must be taken, however, for nearly every patron who sees it fancies himself as something of an expert at Xmas-tree trimming; so the tree must win the admiration of critical spectators.

Adaptable to Designs

The multiplane principle is often applied to designs as well as to scenes. Multiplane bells, stars, Xmas trees, holly

*Nela Park Engineering Dept. of General Electric Company.

leaves, or Santas, perhaps having some surfaces covered with crinkled aluminum foil to impart sparkle, are suitable decorations for the facade, marquee, ticket booth, or for various locations inside the theatre. These same design motifs can be outlined in lighted festooning and laurel or evergreen roping by bending heavy iron wire into the desired shapes and binding the festooning to these frameworks.

Among the newer materials that designers and builders of Xmas displays are finding useful are cellophane and celloglass. A crumpled sheet of cellophane placed around a 10-watt lamp and socket and held in position by being wrapped in another sheet of the material makes a luminous ornament that might be used as one of a bunch of artificial lighted flowers or holly berries. The appearance of a bouquet of these flowers can be improved by wrapping the wires (which become the flower stems) in aluminum foil. Artificial leaves can be cut from heavy aluminum foil or light sheet aluminum. Such ornaments might serve to decorate the lobby or foyer.

Celloglass is useful as a translucent covering material for wire frameworks of luminous figures that are lighted from the inside. Luminous figures of dolls, elves, toy soldiers, reindeers, camels and the like never fail to make a hit with the youngsters. A suggestion for displaying such figures is to arrange a number of them in a parade around the top of the marquee or perhaps down one side of the lobby.



A suburban theatre puts on a holiday dress of light and color. The diamond-shaped luminous elements are tin boxes containing colored lamps and surfaced with impregnated cloth.

Make the screen the focal point in the auditorium. Over-decoration or ornamentation of sidewalls, too many lighting fixtures or too lavish draperies may detract from the main object of interest—the picture setting.

Advice on Lighting

Various contributors to this department, comprising outstanding authority on the subject of Theatre Lighting, will be glad to answer questions or otherwise assist in the correct solution of any lighting problems presented by our readers. Such inquiries, addressed to the editor of THE MODERN THEATRE *section, will be referred promptly to sources of information most pertinent to the problem presented.*

Sprucing Up a Property to Sustain Its Prestige

(Continued from page 49)

rubber cushioned chairs. The type of seating used has an upward tilt when unoccupied, allowing more leg movement for patrons entering or leaving. A new sound system was installed and acoustical correction applied to all areas where needed.

The complete renovation cost approximately $80,000.00, and with careful planning and preparation the entire work was completed without closing the theatre except for a three-week period.

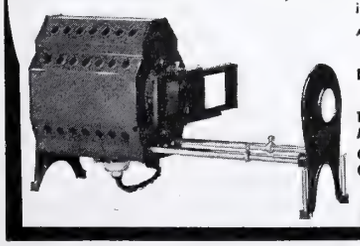
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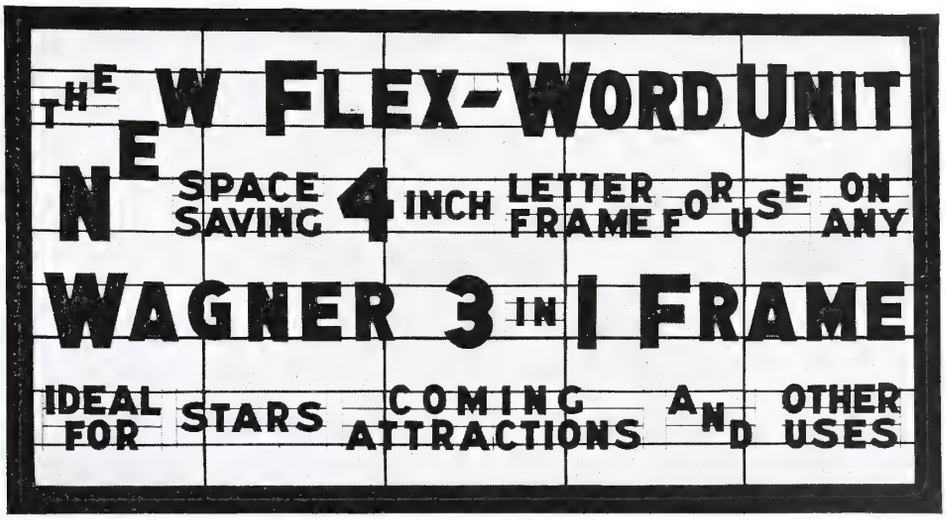
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SANITATION

EMPHASIZING THE ESSENTIAL PHASES OF HOUSE HYGIENE IN THEATRE MAINTENANCE

Spotless Lobbies and Foyers Have Strong Patron Appeal

By **Milton A. Lesser, B.Sc.**

PERHAPS no single element counts for so much in building theatre patronage as appearance, and in the theatre this revolves primarily about an attractive lobby. The lobby is the focus of attention for every patron, and the impression gained here will rate the theatre in their minds. Spaciousness, which might be considered a waste of valuable room elsewhere, is a prime requisite in the theatre. But even a spacious lobby is valueless as an attraction if it is not clean and bright. Nothing so readily lowers the rating of a theatre to its patrons as does dust, dirt and dinginess.

The maintenance of bright attractiveness in the lobby is no trade secret; it means chiefly the free and frequent use of soap and water. No part of the lobby dare be overlooked when applying these elementary cleansing materials. Nothing must be neglected; floors, walls, doors, mirrors, displays, light fixtures—everything must be made and kept clean and neat.

Dual Purpose Cleaning

As a rule, the theatre lobby is divided into two sections; a smaller one, where the boxoffice is located, and a larger, inside section, leading to the auditorium proper. Both of these require equal attention in the cleaning-up procedures. The floors of the outer lobby are perhaps more prone to be dirtied than are those of the inner portion, inasmuch as off-the-street traffic is heaviest there. In the outer lobby, the floor is usually, and preferably, of any easily washed material such as stone, tile, rubber, linoleum or similar composition. This area should be washed daily with soap and hot water, and mopped up, if possible, several times during the day. Such cleansing serves a double purpose; it maintains the desired neatness, and further, prevents the tracking of dirt into the inner section of the lobby.

At the first sign of inclement weather, floor mats, of rubber or similar material, should be laid to prevent the spread of mud and snow. These, however, require special cleansing attention while they are down and they must be thoroughly washed with soap and water before being stored away. The floor underneath must also receive an extra special scrubbing. This should be done at once to remove wet dirt that has sifted through and to prevent its being scattered through the theatre.



The old practice of covering lobby wall space with advertising material is passe. Well placed panels such as these in the RKO Palace (47th St.) Theatre supersede old-fashioned garish decorative methods. Walls, ceilings, wainscotes and poster display panels are now essentially clean-cut and cleanable and far more attractive. (Photo courtesy Joseph Garry, Architect.)

Since smoking is more or less restricted in many theatres, a receptacle for discarded cigars and cigarettes should be conspicuous, preferably near the ticket-taker's stand. A wide-mouthed receiver is best, and should be emptied regularly for the sake of neatness. Since as many discarded stubs fall outside as inside the receptable, it is usually advisable to stand the receiver on a fire-proof mat of some kind. Such a mat not only serves as an added safety measure, but also reduces the possibility of hard-to-eradicate burn marks on the flooring. This section, needless to say, requires constant cleansing attention.



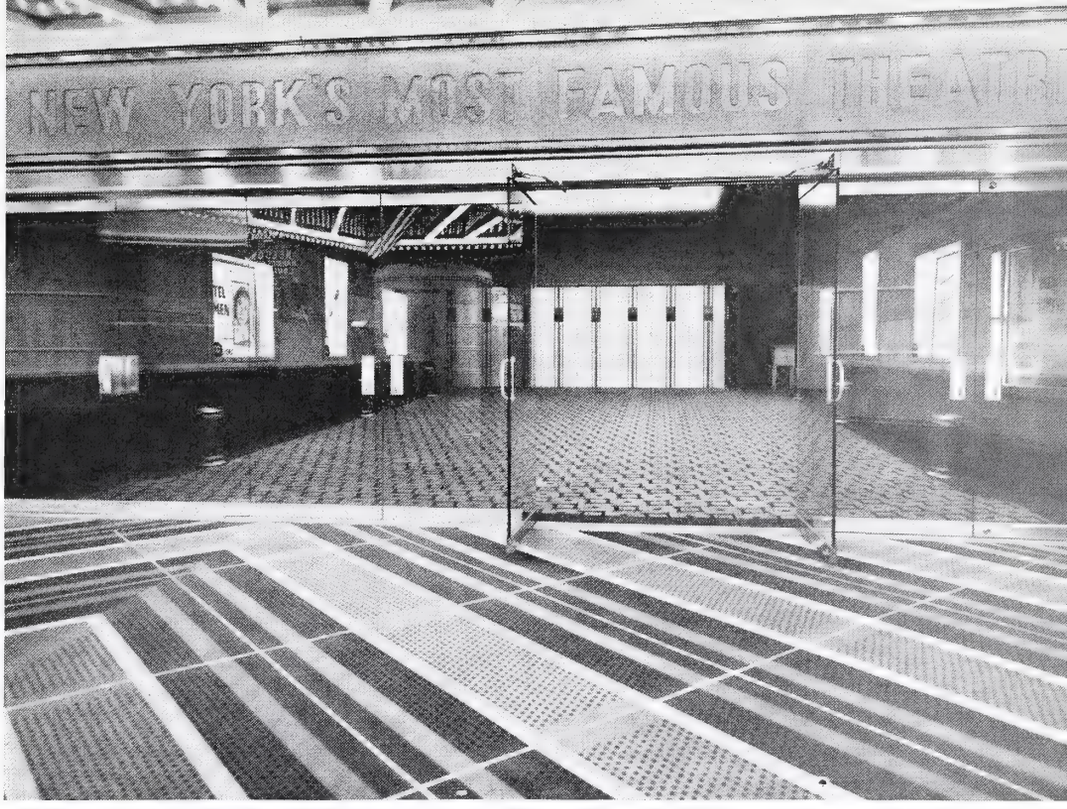
Unobstructed roominess, cleanability of all surfaces, waste receptacles, correct lighting—brightness with no encouragement to dust, dirt and dinginess are characteristic in this inner lobby view of the recently modernized RKO Palace Theatre, at 47th Street and Broadway, New York City. (Photo courtesy Joseph Garry, Architect.)

The Daily Dosage

The inner lobby is usually carpeted, and must be swept or vacuumed daily. Periodically, however, these carpets must be thoroughly shampooed to restore their original brightness and lengthen their wearing qualities. Stair carpeting, particularly, requires frequent cleansing attention since it is far more liable to collect dirt than other portions. While on the subject of stairs, it might be well to mention the importance of regularly dusting the grille work of the balastrades. If the railings are of brass or other metal,

they should be polished to a bright finish. But if of wood, a thorough washing with soap and water is needed to prevent accumulations of dirt and grime and to eliminate the greasy feeling that is associated with frequently handled wood.

Aside from the floors, the two lobby sections can be considered as a single unit in other cleanliness maintenance procedures. The next point for consideration naturally concerns the lobby walls. Wall space is important in a theatre lobby, for not only must it bear out the feeling of attractive elegance, but it also serves as a means of advertising coming attractions or special events. The old practice of covering all available wall space with advertising material appears definitely passe. Well selected, well placed display panels, consisting essentially of shallow, framed,



Dirt is barred from the RKO Palace Theatre's inner lobby by colorful, cleanable rubber floor matting which covers the entire outer lobby. Plate glass doors between the two sections kept spotlessly clean permit no question concerning cleanliness. There's no concealment here. (Photo courtesy Joseph Garry, Architect.)

glass-fronted cases are considered better sales promotion media than the old-fashioned garish display methods. These are well lighted to increase their effectiveness and interest, and therefore must be immaculately clean and free of dust, grime or fingerprints, which would show up under these conditions. The cases should be dusted regularly and washed down occasionally with soap and water. The glass fronts must similarly be carefully cleaned, but at more frequent intervals.

Interspaced areas are treated in various ways. Sometimes the walls are left as they are, or they may be panelled. In either case they must be cleaned frequently. Where mirrors are employed as the panelling material, these must be cleaned daily with soap and water, and then polished to a clear lustre. All painted surfaces require regular care and the covering agent therefore should be washable. Where unpainted plaster is the facing material, a clean, dry cloth or brush should be used for dusting such walls.

Free From Fingerprints

Since they are handled so frequently, lobby doors require particular attention. Even though a push panel is provided, the entire area around it warrants the most careful cleaning to eliminate handprints, inasmuch as this entire section gets the brunt of patrons' "pushes." Door jambs, for like reasons, similarly require careful soap and water attention. The newer tendency to employ large plate glass panels in the front lobby doors means even more meticulous cleansing attention for these parts. On glass surfaces nothing is more effective than soap and water, freely used, well rinsed off and followed by a final drying polish. All metallic surfaces on doors should likewise sparkle with cleanliness. Brass and copper require a good polish, stainless steel and similar resistant alloy metals can be washed with a sudsy solution.

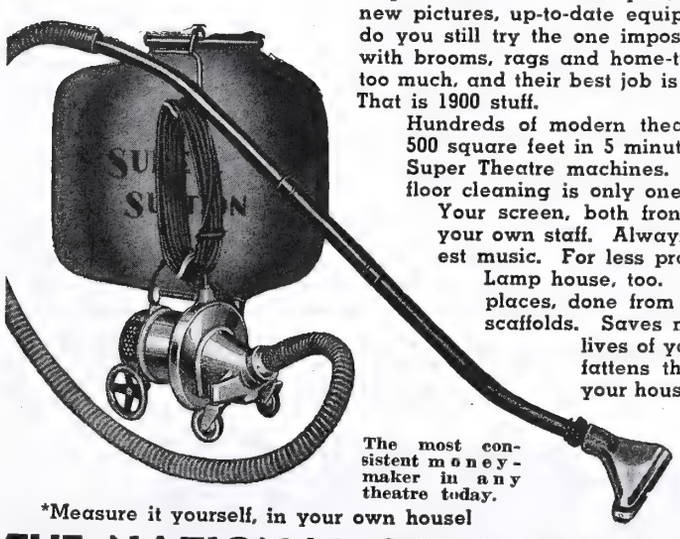
The importance of suitable, bright lighting as an asset to an attractive lobby can hardly be over-emphasized. If, however, the light fixtures are dimmed by dust, their brightness and effectiveness is greatly impaired. Admitting the difficulty of cleaning ornate sidelights or chandeliers, there can be no doubt that these should be dismantled and cleaned in soap and water at regular intervals. The extra effort will be well rewarded in the added sparkle, brightness and attractiveness of these fixtures, to say nothing of the increased lighting efficiency. The growing use of simpler, yet more effective lighting fixtures is a step toward more effective illumination. Particularly noteworthy is the growing use, for theatre lobby panel and ceiling lighting, of the newer fluorescent tubes, which while easy to dismantle and clean, shed a pleasing light of almost any color or intensity. Their ornamental value, alone or in combination, also must not be overlooked.

Where Cleanliness Counts

Drinking fountains are usually located in some portion of the lobby and must reflect the atmosphere of pleasant attractiveness that cleanliness so definitely tends to create. The floor around or under the fountain must receive special attention; above all, it must be clean. Indeed, every part of the drinking equipment must meet only the very highest standards of sanitation—and this means the employment of lots of soap and water. With the bubble type of fountain, the paper cup problem is not encountered, but with other types these cups must be dis-

(Continued on page 55)

BE MODERN ALL OVER PAY NO 1900 COSTS . . .



Is your theatre, in ANY part, a 1900 model? You show new pictures, up-to-date equipment and furnishings. But do you still try the one impossible thing to really clean with brooms, rags and home-type machines? They cost too much, and their best job is not good enough for YOU. That is 1900 stuff.

Hundreds of modern theatres, little and big, clean 500 square feet in 5 minutes*, with these specialized Super Theatre machines. In the dark, at that. Yet floor cleaning is only one of MANY things they do.

Your screen, both front and back, any time by your own staff. Always brightest pictures, sweetest music. For less projector juice.

Lamp house, too. Walls, drapes, all high-up places, done from the floor. No ladders, no scaffolds. Saves more big money by longer lives of your carpets and equipment, fattens the bank roll. Plus making your house still more popular. Which you may PROVE—free 5-day trial—all at our risk, not yours. Ask your wholesaler or write us.

The most consistent money-maker in any theatre today.

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THE NATIONAL SUPER SERVICE COMPANY

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Golde Manufacturing Co. Has Reel Driving Dog

The Golde Manufacturing Company of Chicago announces the Golde Reel Driving Dog for all enclosed automatic rewinds. Those who remember or know what the lathe dog is to the lathe will immediately get the idea back of a reel driving dog.

It is a small cast bronze unit which replaces the present collar on the enclosed rewinder shafts. The dog drives the reel at the proper point; that is, away from the center where the full power can be transmitted, and is said to reduce and entirely remove the cause of broken keys and their replacement.

For years reels have been driven right close to the center by flimsy small pieces of steel. At best, when the key became an integral part of the shaft, the life of the key was short. With the use of the reel driving dog it is claimed that there need never be any replacement of any kind.

The new reel driving dog will drive any size "house" reel of cast aluminum or wire, and many of the "can" reels. The use of this novel unit was only made possible and necessary since the change to 2,000-foot reels and the larger hub diameters.

The Golde Perfect Reel End Signal, also recently developed and announced by the company, is said to be meeting with favor by projectionists throughout the country. Its inherent features of positivity of alarm, no rollers riding on the film, no springs to break, nothing to wear out, and an adjustable setting for the personal likes of the projectionist would seem to make this reel end signal a valuable accessory on projectors.



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Porcelain Enamel for An Effective Front

The advantages of porcelain enamel as a theatre front facing material are becoming increasingly well known. In the first place, a front constructed of any colorful cleanable material is the theatre's best and most permanent advertisement. It lifts the theatre above all neighboring competition. With such a front the building becomes distinctive, attractive, colorful and exclusive. It invariably increases customer traffic, steps up boxoffice receipts—pays for itself in a relatively short time, then continues to pay dividends.

Porcelain enamel will not rust, discolor, fade or scratch. It is as easy to clean as plate glass, yet has the strength of steel. It reduces building maintenance costs and the veneer backing affords insulating value. Flexibility of design possibilities and colors also recommend such material for theatre front construction or remodeling.

Some Helpful Hints re Installing a Screen

There are two methods that can be used in assembling a frame and screen.

Rolling Method: If there is a stage that is large enough the frame can be assembled or laid on the stage floor, the screen laced in place and the completed assembly placed into position. Or the frame can be laid out on the auditorium chair backs and assembled in the same manner if large space is not available elsewhere.

Hanging Method: The screen, while still in the roll, is placed in an upright position at the left side as the audience faces it. The top edge of the screen is then temporarily tied to the top bar of the frame, gradually unrolling the screen and making temporary tie-ups at every fourth grommet. When the screen is completely unrolled, begin lacing the top from left to right, making sure to keep the top edge of the screen at the proper level across the frame. Then lace the bottom, following with the sides. The wrinkles can then be trimmed out by adjusting the lacing on the sides first and then on the bottom.

Do not stretch a screen tight. Allow for atmospheric conditions which cause shrinkage.

Theatre patrons are expert projection and sound critics. That's the one point on which they can make their own conclusions and they do so by patronizing the theatre where they know they'll find the best movie presentation.

A new screen may be the answer to what's wrong with projection. If the screen is old, dirty and yellowed, it can't reflect clear-cut picture quality. Check this point also, when going over the projection layout.

Relation of The Modern Theatre to Low-Cost Housing Projects

(Continued from page 43)

responsibility for land acquisition and tax exemption on the local housing authorities.

Since the passage of the Wagner-Steagall United States Housing Act, over 190,000 dwelling units representing public subsidized low rent housing have been built throughout the country. This is remarkable progress when we consider that approximately six years ago when the Housing Division was set up not a single public housing authority existed in the United States and in not a single state could such an authority be created without enabling legislation. All of which goes to show that after untiring efforts and after waiting a very long time, the American people are very thoroughly aroused as to the absolute necessity of low-cost housing.

Fortunately, President Roosevelt and incidentally, the First Lady of the Land, had always displayed unusual enthusiasm in advocating slum clearance and low-cost housing. This dates back to the time when Mr. Roosevelt was president of the American Construction Council previous to becoming Governor of New York State. The President's assiduous support of these principles undoubtedly afforded impetus to increased activity in low-cost housing construction which has gained tremendous momentum during the years of his administration.

Purpose of Presentation

My object in presenting this history, showing the successive periods of the development of housing, was to disclose the many struggles, hardships and obstacles that had to be overcome to accomplish the objective of low-cost housing advocates, which finally resulted in slum clearance and low-cost housing construction that affords the poorer people clean, spacious, well-lighted and sanitary dwellings in which to live.

In overcoming these hardships, we have really accomplished only part of the objective, which only provides for housing the people of lower incomes and disregards the environment that should accompany their recreation, one of the most important of which is the motion picture theatre. Since these people have been given homes with the aforementioned facilities, in order to be consistent their recreation should be obtainable in modern, clean, well-ventilated theatres.

This accomplishment should encourage the construction of second-run houses in which admission prices would be commensurate with the class of tenants that reside in low-cost housing apartments. Fortunately, it has already been proved that the motion picture exhibitor can successfully present second-run pictures at a twenty-five cents admission price in a brand new modern, up-to-date theatre.

A modern theatre-type vacuum cleaner finds many extra chores in the projection room. No other piece of equipment is quite so handy for cleaning lamphouses and the other projection accessories which gather dust and grime. The screen too responds readily to vacuum cleaning with special tools now obtainable.

HEAVE HO! AND A NEW GIANT IS DELIVERED



Scene of action at the Roxy Theatre in New York recently when a new two-ton oval Chenille rug was delivered from the mills to replace the famous original giant floor piece installed in the rotunda of the Roxy twelve years ago and which had taken the heel-and-toe pounding of 125 million patrons during its span of life. The new rug is said to be a most worthy successor. (Photo courtesy Mohawk Carpet Mills, Inc.)

Spotless Lobbies and Foyers Spell Patronage Appeal

(Continued from page 53)

posed of. Usually such fountains are either wall hung or set up in a separate recessed nook, and are provided with a means of cup disposal as part of the unit. These must, however, be emptied frequently to prevent overflow. Where no such cup-disposal means are provided, a receptacle must be placed near the fountain. It should be of the swing top variety, and one that is readily emptied and cleaned. Wire baskets and other types of mesh receptacles are definitely taboo. The cup dispenser, too, must always be well filled and must be absolutely clean.

Human nature being what it is, people like to eat sweets while being entertained —somehow it increases one's enjoyment. For this reason, most theatres provide some means for the sale of candy. In the larger theatres, a showcase or a special candy section, with an attendant to serve patrons, is provided. The showcase and every part of the selling equipment must be clean to be attractive. No matter how wide the variety available, the stock must be displayed neatly and pleasing on clean shelves or in a clean case to attract attention and promote sales. The display should be taken apart regularly, and the shelves thoroughly washed and dried before the stock is replaced. The case itself similarly will benefit if kindly treated with soap and water. The attendant, too, like all the theatre employees, must be clean and neat of person, with clean hands and face, neat, pressed uniforms and of courteous demeanor.

Just Good Business

In smaller theatres, an automatic candy dispenser is often available in the lobby. Too frequently, because it is not owned by the theatre itself, this automatic salesman wears a hang-dog look due to neglect. These, too, can be made to lend their share of bright attractiveness if they are considered chiefly as an added means of increasing patrons' pleasure and are treated accordingly. They should be kept clean, have their mirrors polished, their racks well filled and their mechanisms in good working order. It is quite exasperating to put a nickel or dime in the slot and get nothing but a metallic gurgle instead of the desired candy—and furthermore, it doesn't help to increase patronage.

There is no reason why these candy stands—both types—cannot be made to be good paying propositions rather than mere customer conveniences. True cleanliness will go a long way in that direction.

As has been frequently reiterated, cleanliness, the definite result of the frequent use of soap and water, is good business everywhere. When applied to the theatre lobby it goes very far toward creating that feeling of elegant luxury and anticipation of pleasure which is the mark of success of every first class theatre, where patrons come back regularly and often.

House lighting in the auditorium should be scientifically applied to enhance, not detract from, the proper projection of pictures. Today's lighting engineers are well able to plan such systems.

Another type of projection often overlooked by theatre management is the projection of good will and courtesy by all members of the theatre staff. Try projecting a bit of personality—it pays, too.

If projection and sound are good—boast of that fact. Advertise and promote fine presentation of moving pictures. Patrons appreciate such provision and its appeal for their interest.

DECORATING

DISCUSSION OF ACOUSTI-DECORATIVE EFFECTS FOR MODERN THEATRE INTERIORS

Thoughts on Theatre Interiors and a Case Description

By **Hanns R. Teichert***



A WORTHWHILE interior, whether it be domestic, industrial or commercial in function, must withstand a thorough acid test of public opinion. For if the greatest majority who view it are not agreeably impressed, the interior might as well never have been created.

How best to avoid pitfalls in respect to interior decorative effect is charted in a positive manner; but withal it is a manner that is understood by far too few of those who are entrusted with the important task of combining form, mass and color from the raw materials.

To put this all in as few words as possible, *acceptable imaginative beauty* should be the object of all theatre interiors. Let us go a few steps farther, however, and attempt to give you a few simple "rules of order" as a guide.

Decorating *is* an art—a most complicated one, consisting as it does of the ability to create design motif and color harmonies. Further, it challenges the ability to combine these requisites with existing architectural mass; for most of all successful decorating must ignite interiors with a spiritual "lift"—the quality your public recognizes, accepts and expects.

Your modern theatre interiors need not look like anything people have seen before. So much the better if they don't recognize them as a replica of something they've seen before. Don't forget—you are selling "make-believe" on the screen to people who want to be relieved of reminders of their ordinary routines of life. So the more fantastic, the more unusual, the better—provided only that it is within the province of artistic execution.

Give them surroundings that go hand in hand with dreams. Give them a sense of elevation and blissful oblivion to earthly realities. Believe me when I tell you that, given a little time, appreciation of unusual effects will come to every one of your patrons; even to those who at first may be a bit slow to respond.

* * * *

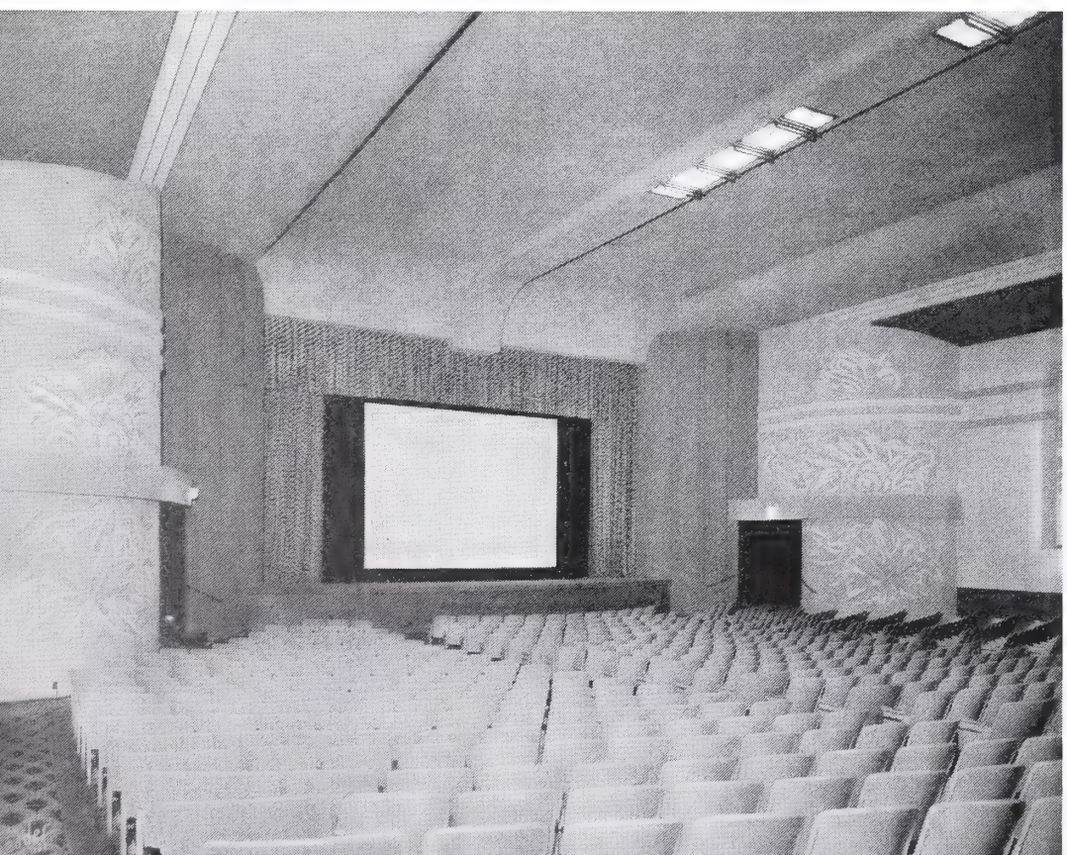
But to return abruptly to the realities of theatre decorating as it may apply to the requirements of old theatre rejuvenation, I give you the following as an example of what was done effectively in creating an interesting new atmosphere in an old setting.



The promenade section of the new Esquire Theatre at Davenport, Iowa, as it appears in its new decorative form.

REPLACES AN OLD-TIMER

The theatre for citation in this instance is the new Esquire Theatre in Davenport, Iowa, which has just recently been renovated. It is now the newest unit in the A. H. Blank—Tri-States group of some 100 theatres in Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska.

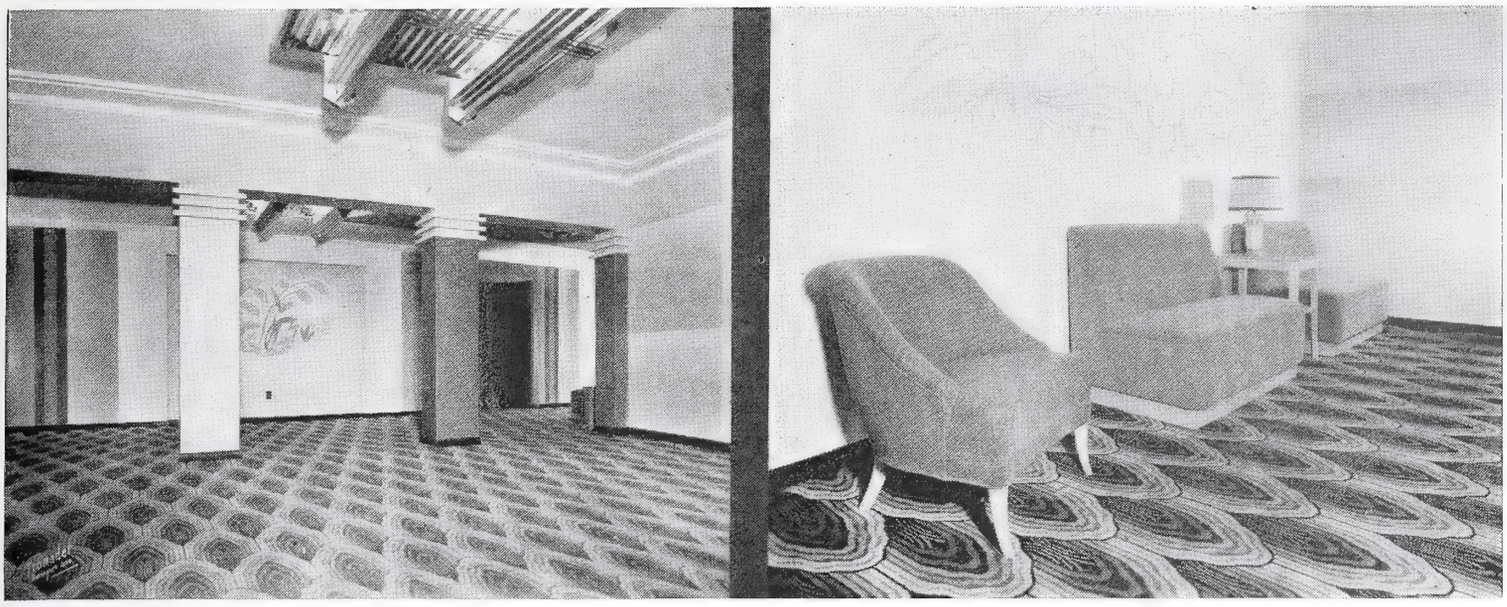


The Esquire's auditorium is warm and friendly in its design and coloring. Colorful, comfortable seats arranged in staggered formation with "love seats" on the outer aisles serve to enhance the hospitality of the place.

Seating approximately 835 patrons, the Esquire was constructed within the building which formerly housed the old Columbia Theatre, which following its opening on Christmas Day, 1913, had become one of the best known vaudeville theatres in the midwest and later was one of the first theatres in Iowa to install sound.

The Esquire Theatre, now modern to the "nth" degree, is a far cry from the old Columbia. Only the four outer walls of the old structure remain. The entire interior is new. The seating capacity was cut from 1,000 to 800, the old balcony was entirely removed, and the more than 800 seats have been placed on the main floor which formerly seated only about 600. Ex-

*Theatre Decorating Specialist, Chicago, Illinois.



The foyer of Tri-State's new Esquire Theatre was described to dramatize the more riotous color effects of the promenade. The ladies' lounge (at right) has decorative appeal that is purely feminine and quite functional in all particulars.

tra space for seats was obtained by cutting down the size of the stage.

As a result of the elimination of the balcony, the projection booth equipped with new latest type projectors and sound has been moved down until it is on an approximate level with the screen.

The Esquire was designed by Wetherell and Harrison, theatre architects of Des Moines, Iowa, who are members of the Advisory Board of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute.

Upon entering the new theatre, one finds himself in a spacious, square lobby, well lighted and smartly tailored in appearance. All unnecessary frills have obviously been avoided and the room is purely utilitarian from the cleverly built-in niche used as a candy department to the easily legible display panels for coming attractions. The color scheme of pigskin colored walls shaded with oyster white and accented with vermillion and sapphire blue trim is enhanced by a large semi-indirect lighting fixture which virtually bathes the lobby in a simulation of sunshine.

The foyer is somewhat similar in color scheme, not quite as strong in lighting in order to dramatize the promenade which is really a riot of well balanced colors. The columns covered with copper fabricoid, which is very luminous and iridescent, frame a pastoral decoration on an electric blue background painted in whites, oranges and copper browns. The rich burgundy color flanking the entrances to the auditorium fades gradually into a blushing French grey wall color which in turn has been sprayed with horizontal bands of coral.

These shadings are extremely decorative besides being most practical because the change of color takes away the attention from the inevitable smudges and dirt marks, and the dividing line is always an easy stopping point for cleaning or even repainting. Anyone who has ever tried to wash a plainly painted surface knows how difficult it is to leave these surfaces free of streaks and discoloration even after thorough rinsing.

Many owners like to flat-varnish the lower surfaces for added protection, which procedure of course is always to be recommended even if the half-glossy surface is not the best thing for a soft decorative effect, which in all cases should be dead flat. Having these shaded dividing lines means that the varnish is to be applied only to a certain point where the walls get most abuse and stop on the color demarcation. In that way the flat finish so desirable on the upper part of the walls is retained.

The Feminine Touch

A light and airy—sunshiny—effect prevails in the ladies' lounge of the Esquire Theatre, with its white ceiling and alternating straw yellow and electric blue walls with decorative accents in complimentary colors and loungey furniture that is luxuriously covered with coral and turquoise blue fabrics.

The Esquire's auditorium is invitingly warm and conservative, with a light steel grey ceiling and dark blue ceiling soffits accentuated with eggshell colored bands. Sidewalls covered with white natural wood and inlaid with stripes of brown wood afford a good contrast against British tan proscenium walls and pilasters. The stylized flower wall decorations take their color from the dark blue row of pilasters flanking the picture screen, combined with coral and eggshell. The burgundy velvet draperies and light tan seats complete the scheme and form a beautifully coordinated composition of color and design.

Typical of the Esquire's many innovations for public interest and practical comfort and convenience are the new seats which are arranged in staggered formation made possible by the use of a double or "love seat" on the aisle in every second row. The floors of the entire area are carpeted in a pattern and coloring that is complimentary to the decorative scheme and the resultant harmony is highly impressive.

Advisory Service

Since modern theatre decorating is a specialized art requiring counsel, creative talent and planning ability which are not usually available at all points of the country, Mr. Teichert has agreed to serve our readers in an advisory capacity. He will be glad to correspond with any of our readers who may wish information and advice on decorating procedure. All such inquiries will be given prompt attention. Address your inquiry to The Modern Theatre, *332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. It will be immediately referred to Mr. Teichert for analysis and advice, without obligation.*



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CINE CLINIC

PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE MECHANICS OF PROJECTION AND SOUND

Two Parallel Sound Complaints and Suggestions for Relief

THIS department receives many inquiries from theatre owners, managers and projectionists outlining their troubles and symptoms of inefficiency in the operation of projection and sound reproducing equipment. These inquiries and requests for information and advice are referred directly to members of the Clinic whose familiarity with the equipment concerned enables them to answer authoritatively.

It is not our custom to publish all such inquiries and the answers thereto unless the problem is of general interest to readers and then only when express permission is given us to do so. Identification of the inquirer is withheld in all instances to avoid embarrassment of those who may wish to confide their troubles freely to the Clinic.

The two problems presented here should be of general interest, we believe, because they present a similarity of conditions that call for practically the same methods of inspection and correction. They are quite typical of the troubles encountered in the reproduction of *variable area* sound recordings with equipment and adjustments that are satisfactory only for the reproduction of *variable density* recordings. The scanning system seems to be the common source of ailment.

Both problems were submitted to Mr. F. C. Gilbert, Chief Engineer for the Altec Service Corporation. The letters and his responses thereto are self-explanatory.

Case No. 1

The manager of a theatre in Minnesota presents his problem in this manner:

"As a subscriber to BOXOFFICE, I wish to make use of your *Cine Clinic*. Here is my trouble: Films using RCA sound recording generally produce muffled sound—film using Western Electric is clear as a bell. What can I do to clear up the RCA recording?

"The machines are Simplex of the old type and the sound is Mellaphone, also quite old. We are using 7½ v 10 v exciter lamps and RCA photoelectric cells. The amplifier is a Webster which has been overhauled and latest type parts used and sound through phonograph pickup is perfect.

"The only thing that I could possibly figure out is that the aperture between the light source and the photoelectric cell is not wide enough to accommodate high fidelity recording. It isn't quite ⅛ of an inch in width. I hope I have given you enough information.

"At times our loudspeaker gives us machine hum. These vibrations seem identical with the projector. What could be the cause?—H. L. S."

To which Mr. Gilbert replied:

"Your letter of August 11th addressed to The Modern Theatre has been referred to me for reply.

"I believe you are to be complimented on the analysis you have made of the difficulty you are experiencing in reproducing variable area (RCA) recordings. Since variable density (WE) recordings reproduce over your system with a satisfactory degree of fidelity, we are fairly safe in addressing our attention to the requirements for a satisfactory reproduction of variable density prints. Those differences are confined wholly to the scanning system as you suspect.

"To reproduce variable area recording satisfactorily, the slot in the aperture plate must be sufficiently wide so that the entire track width on heavily recorded passages is unobstructed. Should the width of the slot in the aperture be too great, difficulty will be encountered from the scanning of imperfect areas of the film in the vicinity of the sound track resulting in sprocket hole noise or frame line noises being picked up. The illumination across the desired track width must have a high degree of uniformity and the film must be so guided before the slot in the aperture that the center line of the sound track coincides within a tolerance of a few thousands of an inch with the longitudinal center line of the slot in the aperture plate.

"The above factors may be checked readily by a properly equipped and qualified service inspector. However, should you prefer to attempt to do the checking yourself, it would be extremely helpful to have available an A17P-1 standard scanning illumination test track and ABZT-1 standard buzz track. Both of the above films are available through the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood.

"In addition to the above test material, a power level indicator should be available to measure the output of the system using the standard illumination test track. Further instructions on the use of these two films accompany the films.

"With regard to your inquiry as to the probable source of machine hum at the loudspeakers, the trouble probably results from one or more of the following factors. The photoelectric cell, the elements of which are being set vibrating by the vibration of the machine, an exciter lamp similarly excited by the machine vibration or the vibration of a microphonic vacuum tube in the head amplifier, should one be employed in the system you have installed. The solution in all cases is to prevent the impulses from reaching these equipment components either by removing the source of the vibration or by insulating the elements against vibration.

"I trust the above information will prove helpful to you in solving your problems.—F. C. G."

Case No. 2

The owner of a theatre in Mississippi outlines his troubles as follows:

"I am writing to you in the hopes that you may be able to help me with a problem that I have had for some time and am just about at my row's end as to what to try next in an effort to eliminate the trouble.

"First: Let me tell you my trouble. On all RCA recording the sound has a 'nasal' quality like the actors are holding their noses while talking, or you might say it seems that the sound system just won't take all that is on the sound-track. Now let me remind you that on Western Electric recording my sound is very good and I am well pleased with it.

"My sound system consists of: Two model ABH 'Micro' sound heads (Syncrofilm) Weber Machine Corp.; one Jensen auditorium speaker, series V; one '70 Series' Duo-Sound Master amplifier, Ballantyne Company.

"Now, let me tell you the things I have done trying to eliminate my trouble: Bought two new photoelectric cells, new exciter lamps, had optical lens focused at factory, had sound heads changed from old style to 'Micro' sound heads at factory, that is, they changed the sound aperture from the oblong slit to a 'round hole' so that it will carry the new type recordings, did have a Clough-Brengle amplifier but bought a new amplifier of the make listed above.

"I wrote to the Ballantyne Company, suggesting that it might be my speaker giving me the trouble but they thought otherwise. They suggested that it was my sound heads; however, I see the type sound head that I have in operation in other theatres and they are well pleased with them, although they have not had them improved as I have mine.

"Will appreciate it if you will give me your opinion on this matter personally.—D. F. B."

The same remedy applies in this case, as will be noted from Mr. Gilbert's reply. It is unfortunate that Mr. D. F. B. encountered so much trouble and expense in locating the source of his trouble. It is hoped that the following analysis and recommendations may save trouble for others. The reply:

"Although I am not familiar with the particular model of sound head your letter indicates you are using, it appears from your statement that such heads are used satisfactorily elsewhere, that some mal-ad-

justment of the relationship of parts in the scanning mechanism exists.

"Since variable density (WE) recordings reproduce over your system with a satisfactory degree of quality, although variable area (RCA) recordings do not, we are fairly safe in addressing attention to the requirements for the reproduction of variable area which differ from the requirements for satisfactory reproduction of variable density prints. Such differences are confined wholly to the scanning system. To produce variable area recording satisfactorily, the slot in the aperture plate must be sufficiently wide so that the entire track width on heavily recorded passages is unobstructed.

"Should the width of the slot in the aperture plate be too great, difficulty will be encountered due to scanning imperfect areas of the film in the vicinity of the sound track resulting in sprocket hole noise or frame line noise being picked up. The illumination across the desired track width must have a high degree of uniformity and the film must be guided before the slot in the aperture so that the center line of the sound track coincides within a tolerance of a few thousandths of an inch with the longitudinal center line of the slot in the aperture plate.

"The above factors may be checked readily by a properly equipped and qualified service inspector. However, should you prefer to attempt to do the checking yourself it would be extremely helpful to have available an A17P-1 standard scanning illumination test track and an ABZT-1 standard buzz track, together with a copper oxide voltmeter of the type employed in the measurement of audio frequencies.

"The above films are available through the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood and the meters through any one of a number of established electrical instrument supply houses.

"The use of the above films in accordance with the instructions accompanying them should permit you first, to determine whether your sound heads are capable of scanning the full width of a variable area track, and secondly, to make proper operating adjustments to insure that the sound track is being guided before the scanning slot in proper relationship.

"I trust the above will be of assistance to you in running down the difficulty your letter describes.—F. C. G."

Have You a Problem?

Conductors of the CINE' CLINIC will be glad to answer questions relating to problems of projection and sound operation and practices through these columns. State your problem clearly, detailing symptoms of trouble. Answers to questions of general interest will be published in a later issue, identified by inquirer's initials only. Should you desire private information or advice, enclose stamp for reply. Address The MODERN THEATRE, Room 334, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Good Projection Depends Upon Screen Selection

Architectural designs of theatre auditoriums vary greatly in size and shape. Theatres may have one or more balconies or none at all. The projection and viewing angles may be extreme or within the permissible limits; the throw may be 80 feet or 200 feet or more. The projection light source may be of any one of several types now in use. The screen may be from 10 to 40 feet from the front row. All these factors should be carefully considered when choosing a screen, as each one has a definite effect on the screen illumination and its effective brightness.

A proper screen is proper only in its relation to a particular theatre. The type of screen to use is basically determined by the type of theatre with particular reference to the viewing and projection angles and the light source. Only a screen that meets those conditions should be selected.

Picture Quality Is a Positive Requirement

Remember—good pictures on the screen are what you have to sell and deliver. The principal thing that keeps patrons coming to your theatre is what they see on the screen. Picture quality is what people pay for, not merely titles, or stories or stars.

You buy only the raw materials with your selection of and payment for film rentals. The finished product depends on your projection. The cost of first-class projection and picture quality is only a few cents per show. As a producer of quality entertainment in competition with other theatres and other forms of entertainment, can you afford to offer anything but the best?



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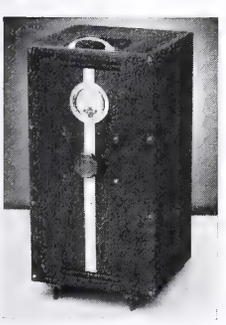
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AIR CONDITIONING

DEVOTED TO A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN THEATRES

A Year's End Reflection on an Humble Effort to Serve

By **Gordon H. Simmons***



AT THE fag-end of another funny year in the history of besieged business and mixed emotions, I think this would be a good time to check up on our past accomplishments, if any. Approaching the Season of Good Will, I'd like to find out whether my supply of it is on the right or wrong side of the ledger of human relations.

I've been wondering for some time if I haven't sometimes while writing these articles opened my mouth and put my foot smack into it. Because a few of you have become too darn dignified with me. It has happened that a theatre owner had written me an initial letter with check enclosed and both evidenced considerable confidence. But a few weeks later when I was in his neighborhood and 'phoned him advising I'd be glad to call, he stiffly advised, "Not necessary. I've made other arrangements."

Spotting a Peeve

I cudgeled my mind to solve the reason for this change of attitude and I think I found it. I remember that I used his particular problem for discussion in one of these articles and accidentally slipped in a couple of wisecracks. For this I wish to apologize humbly. However, anybody can say just about anything to me provided he says it with a twinkle in the eye. I think this department has been conducted with wholesome good humor on both sides, even though I admit that some of you have talked to me pretty rough. But I can take it.

I've tried to dispense with pomposity and express myself with an easy naturalness while dealing with unnatural problems injected into the situation oftentimes by you theatre owners yourselves. If I am to be of service, I must call this fact to your attention. Perhaps at times I have been too brutal about it. While performing an operation, a surgeon always uses a knife. True, he often gives a patient gas, and I can do the same. But gas alone is not enough. The offending thing about his job must be cut away even though it may hurt.

Many times a theatre owner asks me what to buy and where to buy it. I am asked to "specify" and give an estimate of the cost. I find that while much confidence is placed in my ability to select suitable things to use, an almost total lack of confidence prevails about my ability to obtain lowest possible cost.

To be brutally frank with you, I almost never buy the cheapest thing offered—because it would surely knock what little prestige and reputation I have gained through the years into a cocked hat.

Full well I know that some of you who have received plans and "specs" from me have made some "good buys" on your own account, little realizing that it was *you* who got sold down the river. But what can I do? I hope I won't get dignified treatment from a theatre owner because I mention my instructions for him to wreck his brand new 8 by 8 inch chimney and replace it with another one of the proper size called for in my plans.

Among My Mistakes

I make mistakes, too. One of them is not charging for my services in proportion to their worth. Too many times they are free. The other day I asked a man, "Am I being too much of a Pollyanna?" He replied: "My boy not only doesn't believe in Santa Claus but he resents anyone trying to make him believe." I got the point quickly. So I told him, "I'm glad to do you a service *if it doesn't cost me money.*" And he seemed to get that, too.

Then I said, "If I do you a service, I think I can depend upon your conscience to dictate your treatment of me." Now, I must admit that some people haven't much conscience. I am not so much concerned with money, which is filthy stuff, but I do expect to be paid in the coin of appreciation. When I send out several sets of plans because I was asked for them and then their receipt is not even acknowledged, it might mean that some other fellow who needs them worse than you do won't get them.

Should I write you a private letter and keep the facts a deep dark secret between us? Or in the interest of helping another, may I not mention your skeleton in the closet to scare the other guy away from acquiring one too?

This department is run by no theoretician. Nor am I writing with any restraint of subserviency to you, the editor or the advertisers. Engineering facts are just as much facts as any other facts in life. So my position is unassailable as long as I stick to facts—but not otherwise.

Facts are hard things—like flint rocks. But I do try to soften my factual attack with a good-natured ribaldry that should not give offense to anyone. Comes a time, however, when a man must serve his fellowmen with facts in order to retain his self respect. Sustain an "excuse for living" as it were.

In the moving picture world we deal in illusions. We sell tickets to the public which wants to see our pictures. But if you think that the basic engineering back of every picture you show on your screen is an illusion too, then you are indeed dwelling in the Land of Dreams, from which you may awaken too abruptly some day.

To My Embarrassment

The nature of my "fan mail" gives me ample proof of your trust, but I never asked for orchids and sometimes it's embarrassing. At times I think too much is expected of me. A theatre owner down in Texas asked me to arrange the return of $75.00 worth of equipment I recommended which he claims is unsuitable, since he found a more satisfactory substitute.

Yet, I can show more than $75.00 in personal expense in the interest of inspecting his job personally and laying the foundation for a better job than he had before. I freely admit that he put the final touch to his job. This has happened before and I do give credit where credit is due. While the final twist he put on his job salvages my pride, I am doubtful of my ability to throw that manufacturer for a loss on something he shipped as specified. Yes, I specified it. But I cannot be an undertaker and bury all of the doctor's mistakes.

If I am honest enough to admit my shortcomings and even report in these pages difficulties such as this, I think no

Are You Confused?

The subject of Air Conditioning explained in common, non-technical every-day terms becomes less baffling to the man who wants to buy equipment. If you are confused regarding the application of air conditioning to your theatre, write a letter to Gordon H. Simmons, 926 N. Cass Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, outlining your conditions, seating capacity, room dimension, present equipment, etc. Give him the facts, ENCLOSE POSTAGE for reply and he'll be glad to analyze your layout and give you unbiased recommendations on your requirements.

**Air Conditioning Engineer, Milwaukee, Wis.*

one should raise an objection or think less of me when I mention occurrences out in the field but never their location closer than the state in which they occurred.

If one theatre owner is unwilling to permit his problem to be used for the benefit of all theatre owners, quite a lot of the value of these articles will be lost. It is only by encountering and elucidating such problems that I have anything to discuss with you. And if I did not wish to be helpful and friendly, I wouldn't write at all.

Lots of you who never respond are reading these articles. How do I know? Because I cannot go into a theatre any more without being recognized as the subject of that caricature at the start of this palaver. Well, if I looked like that picture my wife would never have married me—so maybe I'd be better off if I did. Oh well, I have some privileges such as Saturday night poker games, Sunday fishing trips and breakfast in bed on Mondays—mostly because I'm usually "bushed."

Maybe I do fib to the little lady sometimes about my Saturday night losses. I can't be expected to tell the truth all the time. But I won't lie to you about air conditioning and many of you are beginning to believe it.

Try Something Simple

I hope all of you realize that this department is all yours and that I am just some kind of handy man. I practically never hear from anyone who hasn't a problem to solve; but I sure do hear from them. Now if it isn't asking too much, I'd like to hear from some of you who have no problems. Even if you only send me a funny story—but it should be fit for publication. Lately the editor has been running a blue pencil through the best part of some of my anecdotes.

My correspondence has become international in scope, so if any of you are collecting stamps, I can send you some rare ones. I hear from places where it costs 50 cents to mail a postcard—but inside the envelope I look in vain for the dollar bill I must have to reply with my usual verbosity. If I can't get verbose, I just don't have any fun.

Anyhow, I'm still waiting to be called to air condition the Sultan's harem. Surely his wives must make him sweat at times. I've only got one, but with little provocation she can get me all hot and bothered. So can you when you ask for advice and then don't take it.

I've had more than one chimney torn down; more than one gadget thrown out when it wasn't good for you, or me either. I assume responsibility for results when I've been paid a conscience fee and my recommendations are followed strictly. Is that worth anything to you? Just let a legitimate complaint hit my desk, of a nature and size that cannot be handled by mail, and you'll see me sooner than you think.

The Neck Is Bared

If you want to know the heavy, heavy sword that hangs over my head, it is this: A letter to this man, the Editor, lodging a legitimate kick involving overall results from a job I do for you and Simmons as a writer for this magazine would be all washed up. He planned it that way, and me—I must perform. In other words, I am the "fair haired boy" as long as I am as wise as Solomon, as affable as a Collie pup and as diplomatic as Chamberlain with his umbrella.

Sure I've had some narrow squeaks; the job down Texas way previously mentioned was one. But when it reduces down to the return of a $75.00 item, it becomes a monetary matter and no longer an engineering feat. But for heaven's sake, can't I spend 75 bucks of your money foolishly if this is all I've caused you to so spend in three years? Just think for a minute about all the dough you've spent on others' recommendations that was frittered away like the falling leaves.

I have had two sets of pistons and rings replaced in the engine of my coast-to-coast Oil Burner already this year and I'll either have to have a new engine now, or a new car. So please remember that it costs me money, too, to serve you. And that while I may be hard on a car, I am not too easy on myself, either. Just take a trip with me and you'll find out.

The heating system should be working full tilt by this time—but don't forget that plenty of fresh air is just as necessary, if not more so, at this season of the year as it was on those hot days back in August.

SIMMONS' Q-AND-A CORNER

Problems presented herein are bona fide and are not imaginary concoctions for the purpose of misrepresenting reader interest. Original signed letters are on file for examination, subject to the approval of correspondents.

Last month I reproduced the initial letter from, and my response to, a theatre owner down in South Carolina who had come to me with a heating problem. *I promised you the finale in this issue.*

If you missed reading the Corner last month or did read it and don't recall the circumstances, I suggest that you refer back to last (November 11th) issue and we'll start from scratch.

Skipping the interim, in which our exchange of correspondence carried a number of more or less sensible recommendations, we come now to the final outcome—a result that was entirely satisfactory to all concerned, including me.

The final letter: "This is to inform you that I have contracted for a G..... E..... warm air heating plant, complete with humidifier, thermostat, automatic control, etc., which seemed to be the most satisfactory outfit for my place.

"There was quite a number of attractive features to your proposal but I couldn't get anything like a fair deal on the installation. It would have run into considerable money—the cellar, stack, etc., and the plant I have bought is installed and ready to turn on and guaranteed to heat the place.

"I want to thank you very much for your kind consideration and, of course, will be glad to take care of any reasonable charge for what you have done. —I. S."

My response: "Well, anyhow, I am glad to be informed that you bought a real heating plant. The G..... E..... Company makes nice stuff. You should get very satisfactory results because these people are reliable and do know their business.

"I think your reasons for doing what you have done are very sound. It happens many times that a theatre owner cannot get anything like a fair deal on the installation work, usually because the installation men want to sell the equipment too. There's nothing wrong about this that I can see, provided the installation men really know what is required and actually furnish it. However, too many times they don't.

"In regard to my charges, I don't make any. It is so much nicer to receive an unexpected honorarium. Just received a bottle of Scotch from a theatre owner at ....., Minnesota, and I'll enjoy it too, because aside from being charged with alcohol, it is also charged with lots of the spirit of good will.

"I really don't feel that I did very much for you, but I'm glad you appreciate my effort anyhow. I'd like to publish your letter over your signature but will not do so unless I have permission.

"I arrived here in ....., Indiana, on the hottest day of the year. The projectionist of this theatre had been reading my articles and invited me to inspect his 'air conditioned projection booth.' I took one look and then proceeded to take off all of my clothes. I knew how to get my temperature down. And while the projectionist rushed off to tell the manager I was running around in his booth stark naked, I proceeded to take a shower bath in the nicest shower stall I ever saw in a projection room.

"The only objection I had to his layout was that I couldn't see the picture while taking my bath.—G. H. S."

Cheap Theatre Carpet Is Doubtful Economy

Economy in buying rugs and carpets does not necessarily mean purchase of the lowest priced fabrics. It implies, instead, purchase of the right fabric for each particular use. Placing a cheap fabric in a theatre lobby would be poor economy first because it would not speak "quality," and second because it would not give satisfactory wear under such rigorous conditions.

First determine what different fabrics are suited for each particular use. Then buy the one that best suits the need in every way, yet comes within the budget limitations of the purchaser. As an almost universal rule, carpet producers advise purchase of the better grades of less expensive weaves rather than the poorer grades of those which are more costly.

An intelligently furnished and comfortable Modern Theatre is at least one Christmas present which all your patrons will appreciate and enjoy. Increased business will tell you so.

THE MODERN THEATRE ★ PLANNING INSTITUTE
MEMBER

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The PLANNING INSTITUTE is conducted in collaboration with the following theatre architects, structural designers and engineers, who have agreed to act as technical advisers to the Institute and editorial text contributors to THE MODERN THEATRE from their respective localities.

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New York, N. Y.

Donn Hougen,
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Houston & Smith,
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Hendersonville, N. C.

David Supowitz,
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NOTE: The Institute does not undertake the practical functions of an architect or designer. Its service is intended merely to place our readers in touch with reliable local sources of preliminary information and advice on theatre planning and structural problems. Inquiries pertaining to Architectural Service will be relayed to the nearest member of the advisory board.

BULLISH ON BUILDING

WHETHER there is an early peace or long continuation of the European war, there should be in either case an upward trend in building, according to Bror Dahlberg, president of the Celotex Corporation and chairman of Certain-teed Products Corporation. The following statement was authorized by Mr. Dahlberg in response to many inquiries he has received in regard to the building outlook in view of recent European developments.

"There apparently exists considerable confusion within the building industry as well as with the public at large as to the current status and the outlook for building. From my analysis of prospective conditions, as a manufacturer of building materials who must plan ahead, building activity should continue its upward swing, war or peace. This is particularly true of residential building and, as a matter of fact, a shortage of homes is already rapidly developing in various sections of the country.

"The recovery in building, which has been progressing steadily for the past six years, should inevitably reach the highest level in a decade during 1940, regardless of what happens to the European war. My own estimates indicate that residential building contracts for 1940 will range between $1,450,000,000 and $1,600,000,000, which would represent a gain of 10 to 20 per cent over the estimated 1939 total of somewhat better than $1,300,000,000.

"If peace comes to Europe out of current attempts, the upward swing in building would proceed at an accelerated pace. The elimination of the war uncertainty would promote confidence in those who are planning to build in 1940.

"If the war continues, and the United States maintains its neutrality, there should similarly be greater building activity in 1940. Conditions today are vastly different than during the World War. The building slump of 1917-18 resulted chiefly from a shortage of materials and labor and coincided with a declining building trend that had been in progress for a decade.

"Today," said Mr. Dahlberg, "there are plenty of men and materials to take care of the increased demand for homes and industrial properties that would result from continued general business expansion, anticipated with the continuation of the war. In fact, there is enough available labor and productive capacity for building materials to take care of a building boom in this country, plus the anticipated needs of the belligerent nations and expanded markets in South America —all at the same time."

Try changing the colors of lamps used in the lobby and foyer. Warm colors—reds, ambers and oranges—are most attractive at this time of year and they seem to change the entire atmosphere of the room where they are used.



FIRST EXHIBITOR: Dave, I'm a nervous wreck and I've got dyspepsia from worrying. Details, details, and always more details! Now comes my projectionist, saying we need replacements, and talking about gears, sprockets, condensers, vacuum tubes. It's all Greek to me, Dave! How should I know about such things?

SECOND EXHIBITOR: Well, Joe, why shouldn't you get rid of all those headaches, just the way I did? I signed up with Altec. My projectionists like it, because they don't have to come to me all the time to okay buying new parts. Altec provides them automatically when they're needed. You see, Joe, it's to their advantage, just like it's to mine, to keep the equipment in apple-pie order all of the time. So I know they're on *my* side, whatever they do. Why don't you let one of these Altec boys tell you their story?

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OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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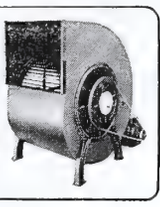
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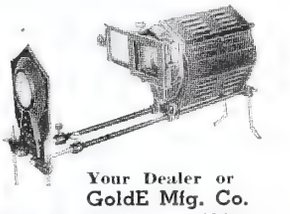
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INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

ADVERTISING

MT481 Main signs and marquees
MT482 Signs, Neon
MT483 Signs, structural glass
MT484 Signs, travel word
MT485 Attraction boards
MT486 Letters, attraction board
MT487 Letters, changeable silhouette
MT488 Price signs, boxoffice
MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
MT498 Transformers, Neon
MT499 Ladders, safety
MT500 Moving words projector

AIR CONDITIONING

MT505 Air conditioning plants—complete
MT506 Heating systems
MT507 Refrigeration
MT508 Air washers
MT509 Blowers
MT510 Air circulators
MT511 Fans, exhaust
MT512 Grilles and registers
MT513 Temperature control devices
MT514 Air conditioning accessories
MT515 Motors, multi-speed fan
MT516 Motors, constant speed
MT517 Air filters
MT518 Air diffusers, high velocity
MT519 Cooling coils

DECORATIONS and FURNISHING

MT520 Architectural service
MT521 Decorating service
MT522 Seating service
MT523 Theatre chairs
MT524 Chair covers
MT525 Theatre carpets
MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

MT569 Expansion Bolts
MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
MT584 Fireproofing compounds
MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

PROJECTION

MT591 Projectors, complete with sound
MT592 Projectors, standard
MT593 Projectors, semi-portable
MT594 Projector pedestals
MT595 Projector parts
MT596 Lamps, suprex type
MT597 Lamps, reflector arc
MT598 Lamps, high intensity
MT599 Lamps, incandescent projection
MT600 Arc regulators
MT601 Arc controls
MT602 Control panels
MT603 Rectifiers, copper-oxide
MT604 Rectifiers, tube type
MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

MT641 Cleaning compounds
MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber link matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

SOUND

MT661 Sound systems, complete
MT662 Sound heads
MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT685 Screens, moving picture
MT686 Lighting, stage
MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, vitreous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

MISCELLANEOUS

MT715 Accounting systems
MT716 Change makers
MT717 Safes, boxoffice
MT718 Tickets
MT719 Ticket choppers
MT720 Ticket issuing machines
MT721 Ticket registers
MT722 Ticket holders
MT723 Pop corn machines
MT724 Uniforms, staff

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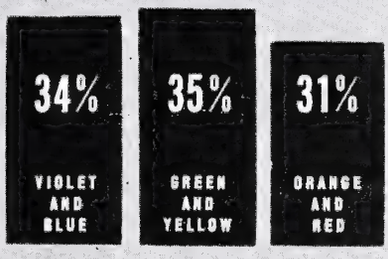
City ..... State.....

HIGH INTENSITY PROJECTION VS. LOW INTENSITY PROJECTION



A GLANCE AT THE FIGURES BELOW WILL SHOW WHY MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF THE THEATERS IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE ADOPTED HIGH INTENSITY PROJECTION

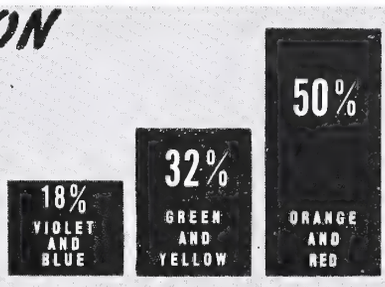
COLOR COMPOSITION



HIGH INTENSITY LIGHT

The even color balance of high intensity projection light gives natural and pleasing screen reproduction of color features.

Lack of blue and excess of red in low intensity projection light distort the natural hues and beauty of color features.



LOW INTENSITY LIGHT

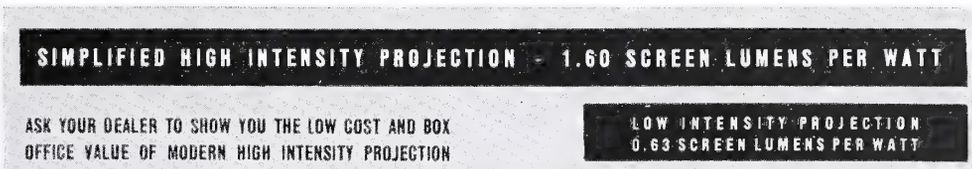
VOLUME OF SCREEN LIGHT 2.7:1



Simplified High Intensity projection provides 2.7 times the volume of screen illumination obtained from low intensity lamps. This gives a clear screen image at a comfortable level of general illumination.

EFFICIENCY OF LIGHT PRODUCTION 2.5:1

Simplified High Intensity lamps provide 2.5 times as much screen light per watt as low intensity. You cannot afford to retain low intensity projection when a few cents more per day will give you *snow white* projection light in more than twice the volume.



ASK YOUR DEALER TO SHOW YOU THE LOW COST AND BOX OFFICE VALUE OF MODERN HIGH INTENSITY PROJECTION

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WITH "NATIONAL" "SUPREX" CARBONS

ECONOMICAL AND MODERN

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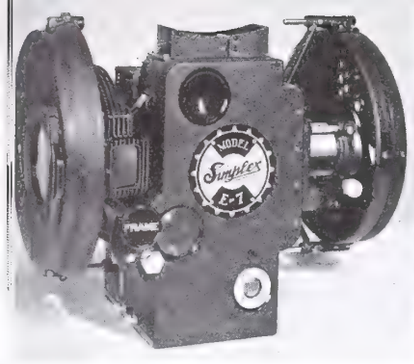
Unit of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation

CARBON SALES DIVISION, CLEVELAND, OHIO

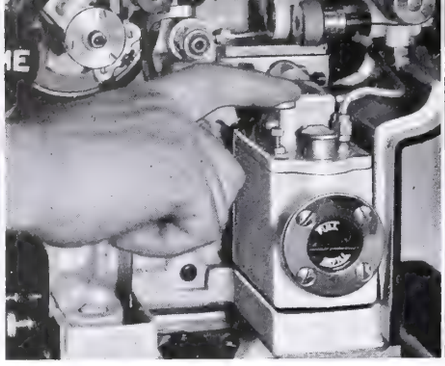
General Offices: 30 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y.

BRANCH SALES OFFICES: NEW YORK PITTSBURGH CHICAGO SAN FRANCISCO

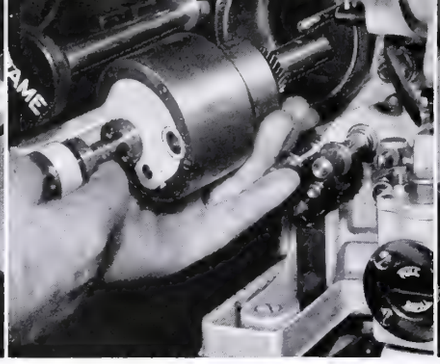
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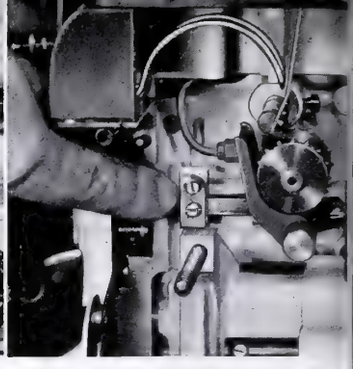
Synchronized Front and Rear Shutters — Each shutter acts upon one half the beam. A dissolving effect is created and **A MUCH SHARPER PICTURE SECURED.**



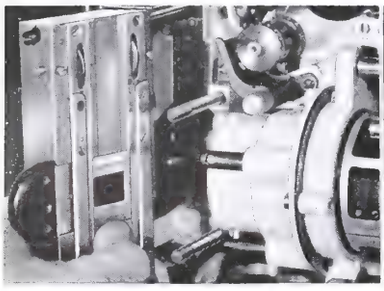
One-Shot Oiling System — Insures adequate supply of clean filtered oil, **CLEANER PICTURE, LONGER LIFE, LESS MAINTENANCE.**



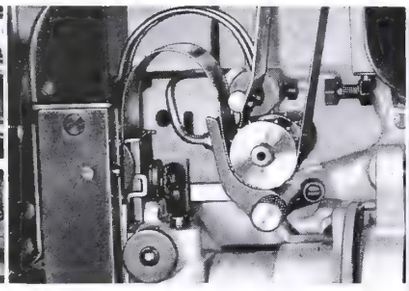
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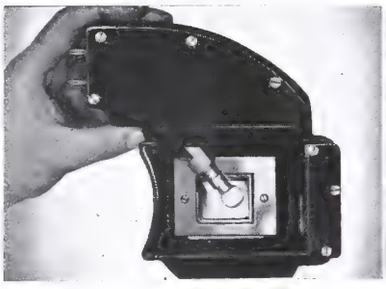
Demountable Film Trap — **PARTICLES OF EMULSION CAN BE EASILY CLEANED AWAY BETWEEN REELS.**



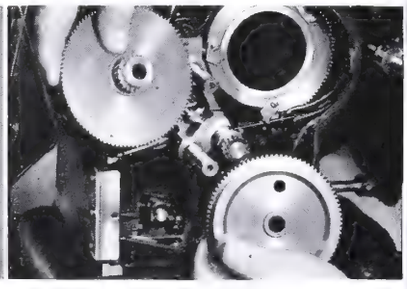
Automatic Fire Shutter Safety Trip — **ABSOLUTE FIRE SAFETY.**



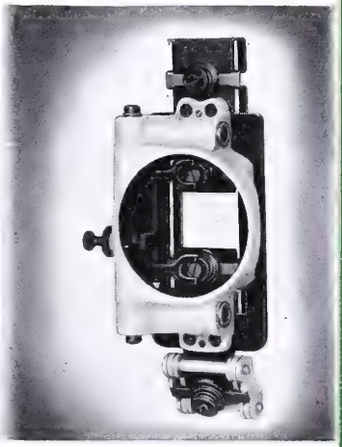
Studio Type Guides—Side motion of film is controlled by replaceable guides which act in conjunction with guide rollers. **PREVENTS SIDE SWAY OF FILM.**



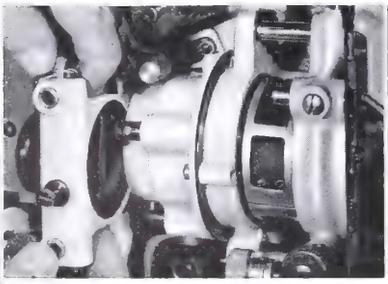
Framing Lamp — **REDUCES MIS-FRAMING.**



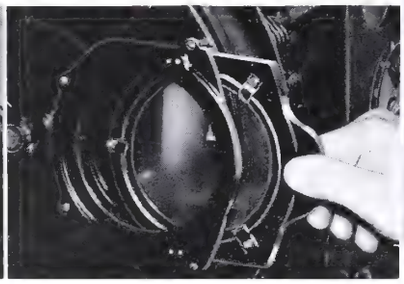
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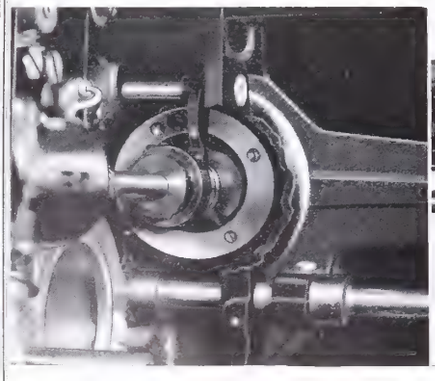


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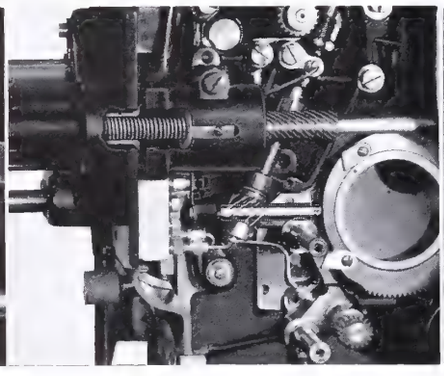
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E-7

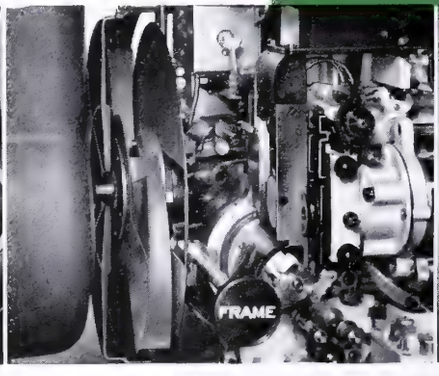
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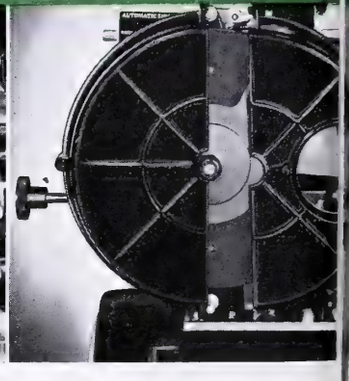
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NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
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Title "Goose Step" Brings Hays Okay

Further organized opposition to showings of Producers Pictures Corp.'s "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" throughout the nation has been done away with, Ben Judell, president of the company, having agreed to a Hays office ruling by changing the film's title to "Goose Step," name of the Shepard Traube story from which it was made. Judell explained that, lacking the Hays office's approval, the story of German "underground" opposition to Hitler was barred from some of the larger producer-controlled theatre circuits.

With activity at his Prescott, Ariz., studio hitting a high mark during its first week of operation, Judell made it clear he has no intention of transferring production headquarters there from Hollywood. Twenty-four westerns will be filmed there, but Judell's program of melodramas and "Four Star Specials" will be completed in the film capital.

The producer has launched a nightly airplane service from Prescott to Hollywood for daily negative transportation. Two sound units at the Arizona plant will alternate between location and interior shooting.

First pictures getting underway there are "The Sagebrush Family Trails West" and the initialer in the "Tales of Billy the Kid" series.

Swinnerton Does Cartoon Backgrounds With Oils

Three "firsts" have been chalked up by Leon Schlesinger with the launching of "The Mighty Hunters," initialer in a series of one-reel "Canyon Kiddies" Technicolor cartoons which he is producing for Warner release.

It is the first time a noted artist has contributed to the manufacture of an animated cartoon. Schlesinger has James Swinnerton, painter and cartoonist, under contract and Swinnerton created the screen characters, collaborated on the story and painted all the backgrounds.

For the first time, authentic natural backgrounds have been incorporated. Swinnerton, Director Charles M. Jones and several writers visited the Grand Canyon several months ago to sketch scenery and absorb local color—incidentally, the first location trip ever undertaken by a cartoon unit.

It is the first time oil paintings have ever been used exclusively for background material. Schlesinger believes the solidity, depth and color effects achieved with oil will give the reel the same advantage an oil painting has over a water color.

Second "No Report" by Jury Is Relaxing to Industry's Fearful

Push Labor Trouble Into Background

(Basic Pact Details on Page 20)

The Yuletide spirit, coupled with the importance of the basic pact parleys in Atlantic City, pushed Hollywood's labor questions back to the least insignificant spot they have occupied for several months.

Demands for a closed shop, improved working conditions and wage increases for the Society of Motion Picture Art Directors have been submitted to the producers. Discussion of the proposed contract has been carried over until production executives have returned from the Atlantic City conferences. The Society is being represented in the negotiations by President Stanley Rogers and Sam Wolf, attorney.

The Screen Publicists Guild finally reached a definite agreement with producers on terms of their long-pending pact, which is being readied for signatures following a parley with Joseph M. Schenck, president of the Producers Association.

Also submitted to producers and pigeonholed until after the Atlantic City huddles were demands of the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors for a ten per cent wage increase for some 800 members.

LeRoy Linick has been elected president of the Screen Readers Guild for the coming year, replacing William S. Roberts. Bill Koenig is new vice-president and Ruby Phurnherr has been named secretary.

The Screen Actors and Screen Directors Guilds held their regular weekly board meetings, the SAG approving plans to request a 15 per cent wage increase and reclassification for its Class B—extra—players. William S. Holman has been named to succeed Lou Anger as a member of the SAG-producer standing committee.

What the future may hold is cloaked in secrecy, but the industry, for the time being, is breathing easier in the knowledge that the second phase of its tangle with Uncle Sam over income and corporation tax matters, alleged labor racketeering and other items has come to a close. The Federal grand jury impanelled for the second time to hear testimony on those topics ended its session with "no report," indicating that this time, at least, there will be no indictments.

Hearing was called by Charles H. Carr, special assistant to Atty.-Gen. Frank Murphy, shortly after he had returned from a conference with his chief in Washington. Most important witness was Joseph M. Schenck of 20th Century-Fox who—although what transpired in the jury room remains a secret—was believed to have been questioned as to the circumstances surrounding his asserted $100,000 loan to William Bioff, labor union leader. Others called upon for testimony were William Dover, former 20th Century-Fox executive; Lou Anger, head of United Artists Theatres and a member of the producer-Screen Actors Guild standing committee; Ruth Nolander, Schenck's secretary, and J. B. Codd, Fox comptroller.

Pursues Secret Tactics

Carr pursued his closed-mouthed tactics by indicating no more than that the entire matter will be discussed by him and Murphy before any other action may be taken. Carr had previously spent several weeks here garnering data and eliciting testimony from industry leaders subpoenaed to appear before an earlier grand jury session. His findings at that time Carr took back to headquarters after examining such filmites as Louis B. Mayer, Darryl Zanuck, William Goetz, Kenneth Thomson, Robert Montgomery, Harland Holmden and others.

Meantime action in the government's criminal contempt suit against Fox West Coast and nine major distributors has again been postponed until December 14 because of the crowded court calendar. Defendants are charged with violating the 1930 consent decree. Heading a battery of legal lights for the defense will be Charles A. Buckley, chief of FWC's legal department, while the government forces are led by Albert Law and Harold Collins, special department of justice deputies.

Major Production Ahead With No Signs of Holiday Letup

Even Santa Claus as an ally of Mars seems this year to be powerless in slowing down production in the major plants, although at the outbreak of the European War in September dopesters in general were predicting that the brakes would have to be applied to the normal picture-making pace by this time if not before. Despite their dire predictions of a slump, the studios week by week have managed to maintain a steady clip which, a survey of coming schedules reveals, will continue through the Christmas holidays—a two-week period which usually is associated with a production slump.

Warner, for example, has scheduled starts on four films before January 1 in addition to the quartet it now has in work. Included among the newcomers will be "Three Cheers for the Irish" and "Brother Orchid." Twentieth Century-Fox, which in the past two weeks hit a seasonal low with only one in production, will step up to normal before Christmas by starting "Dance With the Devil," "Marriage in Transit," "I Was an Adventuress," "Earthbound," an untitled "Cisco Kid" episode and "Hotel for Women No. 2."

Similar production spurts are planned on other lots. Universal, currently filming four, will increase that number during the Yule season by starting "Devil in Uniform" and "The House of Seven Gables." Republic will supplement the two now in work with Gene Autry's "South of the Border," "Village Barn Dance" and a Roy Rogers' western. Paramount will slide three down the starting chute—"Hold Your Horses," "A Night at Earl Carroll's" and "Down Went McGinty." Metro, now filming six, will carry five of them over for shooting during the next three weeks, although it has postponed "Edison, the Man" until after January 1.

One of the most active lots will be RKO Radio. Currently shooting seven, it will have four held over during the Christmas period and before that time will have started two others—an untitled comedy starring Joe Penner and "My Favorite Wife."

On the negative side and heading for lull periods are Monogram and Columbia. The former studio will have completed the two now in work before Christmas and "Rip Van Winkle," next to be gunned, is not scheduled for a start before January. Columbia has but one film on its December starting schedule, a Jean Arthur starrer, "Too Many Husbands."

In darkness will be Walter Wanger, soon to finish "House Across the Bay." His next, "Personal History," does not roll until after January 1. Selznick International is on a skeletonized basis and will be until February or March. Samuel Goldwyn will complete "The Westerner" before Christmas and has nothing set for the new year.

'Extra' Problem Grows Increasingly Sore

Among Hollywood's many sore spots the extra problem—into which the Screen Actors Guild is sinking its teeth by probing the conduct and operations of Central Casting and, further, by announcing it will seek a 15 per cent wage increase for those players—is constantly assuming more serious proportions. Latest development in the situation came as the result of reports circulated in the film capital that producers plan to shut down Central Casting and cut down or totally eliminate the use of extras in motion picture work.

The Producers Association immediately informed Kenneth Thomson, SAG secretary, that such reports are completely untrue and were not authorized by the association. This blanket denial was supplemented by a statement issued by the SAG executive committee, declaring:

"The reports that extras' pay checks are going to be slaughtered have no more basis in fact than the Scotch father's story to his children on Christmas Eve that Santa Claus had been murdered.

"These reports have taken two forms:

"1. That the producers were 'seriously considering' closing down Central Casting Bureau, because the extra problem is a 'sore spot.'

"2. That producers were planning to cut down or eliminate use of extras—who needed no 'skill or experience' and whose usefulness was 'the same as any migrant field workers.'

"The association of motion picture producers has informed the Screen Actors Guild that neither statement is true.

"And the Screen Actors Guild now serves notice that its Class B members, the extras, are not 'the same as migrant field workers.' To so classify them is to store up Grapes of Wrath."

The SAG statement pointed out there are more than 1,000 classifications of extras because "producers themselves recognized the need for skilled and experienced extras." Films will always need "extras with skill and experience," the Guild asserted.

Charging the reports may have been circulated as an "argument against improving the working conditions of the extras," the SAG statement reiterated:

"The Screen Actors Guild is embarked on a long-range program to increase the economic security of the extra and to assure the producer competent extra players. False statements do not contribute to the solution of the recognized problem."

This was in reference to a meeting of the Guild's board of directors at which plans were mapped to submit to producers demands for a 15 per cent wage increase for extra players. A meeting between a producer committee and the SAG's board is scheduled for December 19 to draft a new code reclassifying working conditions and wage scales.

The Guild furthermore contends its probe into Central Casting is progressing satisfactorily and that a report will be presented to the directorate "in the near future." The investigation was launched in answer to general complaints by extras that "favorites" of the casting bureau were obtaining the best and most frequent work calls and charging it has been necessary to "pay off" to become a "favored" extra.

Production Rosters Undergo Changes

After three years on the lot as an associate producer, during which he supervised the making of the "Judge Hardy" and "Dr. Kildare" features but—contrary to the usual custom—did not receive screen credit, Lou Ostrow has checked off the M-G-M payroll for an extended vacation. It is his first holiday since he was moved up from a film editorship at the plant.

At the same studio the production roster was expanded, however, by the signing of Seymour Nebenzahl, French filmmaker who produced "Mayerling." No assignment is scheduled for him as yet.

Turning in his resignation as casting director for United Artists after eight years, Bobbie Webb will leave the studio December 16. After a business and pleasure trip to New York, he will return here to announce a new affiliation.

Completing their respective assignments in the shorts department, Scenarists Tom Reed, Ernest Booth and Raymond Schrock have left the Warner writing staff.

Jack Kirsten has resigned as assistant production manager for Walter Wanger. A new affiliation will be announced after he returns from a vacation.

Replacing David Matthews, who resigned to join the Metro story department, John Hanagan has been named story and writer assistant to Edward Small. Hanagan was formerly assistant to Edwin Knopf, story editor for Samuel Goldwyn.

June Gale has washed up her featured-player contract at 20th Century-Fox.

Lou Smith has taken over his new duties as publicity-advertising director for Columbia. He displaced George Browne, who remains at the studio for several weeks familiarizing Smith with the details of his post. Smith was previously production aide to Frank Lloyd and Edward Small.

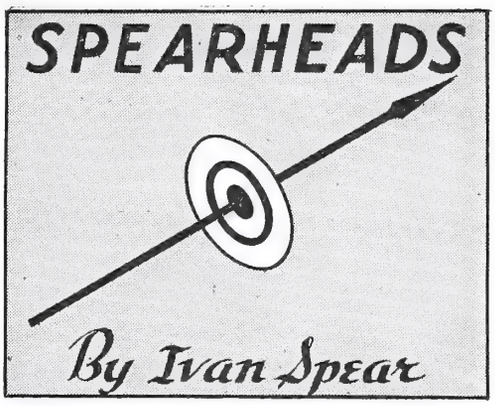
Republic Leases Space To Film New One

Its own stages crowded to overflowing by "Dark Command," western special starring John Wayne, Republic has leased space at Grand National to film "Village Barn Dance," which Frank MacDonald is directing.

"Dark Command" is utilizing six of the seven stages at the North Hollywood plant and "The Wolf of New York" occupies the other.

Columbia Assigns Perlberg

Columbia has assigned William Perlberg to produce "Bedtime Story," recently purchased as a co-starring vehicle for Irene Dunne and Cary Grant.



FOR MORE than three years Hollywood has been passing through one labor crisis after another. Most have been less serious than was indicated by the news concerning them which found its way into the public prints and in volumes entirely out of proportion to its relative importance. Even the most recent threatened-strike situation, ostensibly more critical than any of its predecessors, was met, at least temporarily, without staggering casualties, unless are reckoned the split infinitives of the "we wuz robbed" statements with which the producers explained their capitulation to the increased wage demands of the IATSE unions. The apparently perennial producer-labor wage war gets into a new phase with the granting of wage increases in the basic-pact negotiations in Atlantic City to electricians, teamsters and carpenters and the recognition of the plasterers and laborers unions.

Regardless of the outcome of the labor contentions and the merits, or lack thereof, of either faction's claims and counter-claims, one thing is certain. The industry as a whole will be infinitely better off if less publicity, particularly the mud-slinging variety, is disseminated in connection with further employer-employe negotiations, the individual negotiators, and their respective pasts, presents and futures.

The general public's opinion of Hollywood and its people—built, or, rather, misbuilt by many years of stupid public relations—can hardly be considered a box-office asset. Certainly the type of material that has found its way into print regarding the recent labor troubles and some of the individuals prominently identified therewith has done nothing to better that sentiment.

It is time the motion picture generalissimos learn the painful and expensive lesson taught to other industries decades ago, that nothing can be gained through washing their dirty linen in public.

→

Warner retitles the forthcoming Bette Davis starrer. From "Villa on the Hill" it becomes "House on the Hill." Maybe the Burbank wizards feared the public would mistake it for a reissue of Wallace Berry's "Viva Villa." Which might inspire Metro to reissue that hit as "Villa on the Spot."

→

The reputation of the Battling Bennetts must be maintained at all costs, apparently. No sooner does Constance relax from her propensity toward litigation when sister Joan takes up the torch by having her attorney register vehement complaints with threats of legal action against the manner in which Hal Roach is exploiting her in the advertising campaign on "The Housekeeper's Daughter."

→

Wesley Ruggles crashes the columns with a blurb about his plan to deliver Christmas cheer in Idaho by airplane, from which, the story avers, he will drop packages of food to depression-hit mining camps in the northern part of the state. If the news of the Ruggles philanthropic gesture is factual—which it very probably isn't—the inhabitants of the "depression-hit mining camps" will be grateful that he didn't specialize in flat-irons and ice-skates while Christmas shopping. Even food might prove dangerous, if fruit cake is included in the packages.

→

Paramount broadcasts the information that the son of Geronimo was in the audience when the Paramount picture dealing with the life of his father and bearing his name was world-premiered at Phoenix. As yet there has been no news of an Apache uprising.

→

If they have not already done so, the major studios should register strenuous complaints against the current practice of Louella Parsons, Edwin Schallert and one or two other motion picture columnists, who are covering "sneak" previews in their daily writings through the medium of "official informants" who happened to be on hand for the showing.

On most occasions the "sneaks" present the films in little better than rough-cut stages, frequently unscored, never edited to release length. Obviously it is unfair to judge them on that basis. Furthermore the "official informants" involved seldom are qualified to venture intelligent opinions for the consumption of the vast reading public which daily follows the writings of the columnists involved.

A Frail Foursome

Hollywood's supply of superlatives gathered dust on the critical shelves as the preview lineup did a drastic nosedive in quantity and quality when compared to the film feasts tendered the reviewers during the past several weeks. Only four features were shown, none of which transcended the "satisfactory programmer" category.

Probably most noteworthy of the quartette was Metro's "Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President." Herein presented is a palatable helping of Americanism which most audiences will find easy to digest because the skillful screenplay by Melville Baker avoids preachment and documentary treatment and, wisely, adheres closely to the spirit of Damon Runyon's original. Runyon's inimitable plain-people characters, noteworthily portrayed by Ann Sothern and William Gargan, and the straightforward character of the plot development, should win general satisfaction in most situations. Other sterling Thespic contributions come from Lewis Stone, as The President, and Walter Brennan, a key figure in the story. Robert Sinclair's direction is effective and Edgar Selwyn, as the producer, carried out his assignment in forthright fashion.

* * *

The remaining three films included Warner's "Private Detective," RKO Radio's release of a Sol Lesser production, "Escape to Paradise," and Paramount's "All Women Have Secrets."

A convincing, compact thriller in the sleuth pattern, "Private Detective" carries plenty of punch, Earle Snell and Raymond Schrock having developed the story with deft strokes and capped it with a rip-snorting chase-climax. Its abundancy of excitement should succeed in keeping most patrons on the edge of their seats—which, obviously, was the accomplishment intended for the feature by Bryan Foy, who produced, and Director Noel Smith.

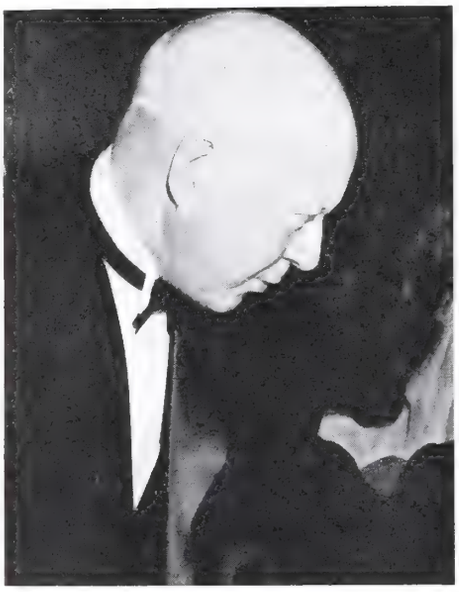
Bobby Breen is afforded another opportunity to display his singing talents—of which he still possesses a substantial portion—but does not have a great deal to do with advancing the story in "Escape to Paradise," which is destined to be his last screen effort for some time. Lesser shaped his production accoutrements for allocation in the program division and turned out a mildly diverting effort in the comedy pattern. With its South American locale, it emerges as one of the first films designed to build up trade on that continent since production moguls leveled their sights thereon in an effort to compensate for European losses. Master Breen puts over a pair of songs to good effect but relinquishes the acting honors to Kent Taylor, around whom the script by Weldon Melick centers to a considerable extent. Erle C. Kenton's direction is of the standard variety.

Audiences may not realize it until they have laid down the admission price, but "All Women Have Secrets" is a college picture. However, there is a complete lack of last-minute touchdowns, racoon coats, sport roadsters and the other rah-rah elements usually associated with films of academic life; the story, on the contrary, approaches a more serious phase by treating of marriage between students and the problems which arise out of such unions. Agnes Christine Johnston, who scripted from an original by Dale Eunson, did not have much to work with, and her weak screenplay, coupled with the absolute absence of draw names in the cast, drags the effort down to the "supporting feature" category. Even there it will probably find its best following among adolescents of the more serious-minded type. Considering the cost bracket, Edward T. Lowe turned in a capable production chore, and Director Kurt Neumann and the troupe of unknown players with whom he worked did everything possible to capitalize on their limited opportunities.









At a Press Premiere Supper—

For "The Great Victor Herbert" in Hollywood, the coterie of eastern Paramount executives on the coast for production and budget huddles are royally entertained. Top left: Y. Frank Freeman, left, vice-president in charge of studio operations, escorts president Barney Balaban to a table. Top right: Business matters occupy John T. Hicks jr., head of the foreign department, left, and A. M. Botsford, production executive and assistant to William LeBaron. Lower left: Y. Frank Freeman, Mrs. Freeman and Harold Hurley, studio executive. Lower right: William LeBaron, managing director of production, confers with Freeman, who this time makes the cutting room floor.

"Hunchback" and "Wind" Hollywood's Favorites

Granted a short breathing spell in the current heavy schedule of previews, premieres and first-nights of the extravaganza variety, Hollywood socialites have red-ringed two more dates this month—December 14, when RKO Radio's "Hunchback of Notre Dame" bows to the press at the Pantages Theatre, and December 19, when "Gone With the Wind" begins its two-a-day western premiere run at the Carthay Circle.

Infected with the out-of-town-premiere spirit, Monogram made a gala affair of the opening of "The Gentleman From Arizona" in Phoenix December 7. The film was produced entirely in that city by Golden West Pictures, with whom Monogram has a four-picture releasing deal, and was the subject of an official proclamation by Gov. R. T. Jones of Arizona. In addition to members of the critics' circle who were invited as guests by the studio, the showing was garnished by the appearance of J. Farrell MacDonald, Craig Reynolds and John King, of the cast, and Boris Karloff and Tex Ritter.

Two days earlier Warner, which claims to have originated the stunt of staging openings in cities having some connection —however remote—with the cast, debuted "A Child Is Born" at the Newman Theatre in Kansas City, the home town of Mary McDougal Axelson, author of the original. The same company is using similar measures to introduce "Old Hickory," one of its historical featurettes, which is scheduled to be world-premiered in New Orleans December 16. Plans are being worked out by Norman H. Moray, Vitaphone sales manager.

GN's Fate Is Being Settled in the East

While Trustee Loyd Wright has been working steadily in the local field to smooth away the rough spots in Grand National's reorganization plan, the fate of GN as a production-distribution company remained in the hands of President Earle W. Hammons and the creditors' committee in New York, where Hammons had been given a final extension—to December 11—to negotiate his long-pending $450,000 RFC loan.

Consequently the eyes of what few employes remain on the local GN payroll have been turned eastward keeping a close watch on developments in that sector. Meantime Wright has succeeded in gaining U. S. district court approval of a "time payment" plan for GN creditors, to expedite settlement of their claims if and when Hammons comes through with the needed finances. Under terms of the plan, GN's creditors will be paid $25,000 in cash immediately, the balance to be carried over a period of 18 months.

Survey Completed

Although he admits he has completed a survey of the GN studio and its physical assets, Samuel Hawkins, general manager of the General Service lot, denies knowledge of any plan to take over the GN plant in the event Hammons fails to float his loan. General Service is a subsidiary of Erpi, which holds a $250,000 mortgage on the GN studio. Hawkins declared, however, that his survey was made because the General Service lot is booked full through next July and must have additional space to accommodate the overflow. He has arranged with Dick Pearl, GN studio manager, to handle additional units of "And So Goodbye," an Academy production. Currently leasing shooting and office space at General Service, in addition to Academy, are Edward Small, Boris Morros, Richard Rowland, Stephens-Lang, Harry Sherman and Harold Lloyd.

Returning from Kansas City, Rev. James K. Friedrich, head of Cathedral Pictures, has gone into conference with Jack Coyle, his executive producer, concerning details of the deal whereby Cathedral's "The Great Commandment" was purchased by 20th Century-Fox. Friedrich and Coyle will report to the Westwood studio to work on the remake of the picture.

Golden West Pictures, headed by Charles Goetz, has announced plans to produce three more films in Phoenix, Ariz., within the next five months, for Monogram release. Its initial effort, "The Gentleman From Arizona," was given its world premiere in Phoenix December 7 with President W. Ray Johnston of Monogram and a number of Hollywood players on hand.

Gets Lead in "Irene"

RKO has borrowed Ray Milland from Paramount to play opposite Anna Neagle in "Irene."

Balaban to Increase Advertising Outlay

Reiterating there will be no sacrifice in production quality, President Barney Balaban of Paramount disclosed on the eve of his departure for New York that his company will cope with shrinking world markets and increased production costs because of labor demands by ordering a record expenditure for newspaper and magazine advertising during the coming season. The domestic market will be developed through increases over the outlay for advertising in such media during recent months, Balaban said, and which has already exceeded by $500,000 the amount for any similar period in the company's history.

The executive pointed out that Paramount's policy of pre-release showings in key spots enables the company to judge its product accurately and to put intensified advertising campaigns behind each individual picture.

Balaban admitted a "tightening of the belt in production" is necessary, but declared Paramount "has not been stampeded into any so-called economy drive that might jeopardize the high quality of our product." Paramount's president pointed out that the necessity of supplying the company's extensive theatre holdings with the number and quality of pictures required to operate at a profit was the best assurance he could offer to exhibitors as to the "quality and boxoffice value" of the future program.

William LeBaron, Y. Frank Freeman and other studio executives are doing a "splendid job," Balaban said, citing the fact that Paramount's 1939-40 releases have been completed through June, with plans for the remainder of the season well in hand.

There is "no limit" to what "Gulliver's Travels," feature-length Technicolor cartoon produced by Max Fleischer, may gross, Balaban declared. He has assigned Fleischer to produce another, its title to be announced at the world premiere of "Gulliver" in Miami, Florida, December 18.

Balaban was accompanied east by Stanton Griffis, Russell Holman and John Hicks jr. Neil Agnew left earlier in the week.

Goldwyn Borrows Faye to Co-Star in "Natchez"

Samuel Goldwyn has borrowed Alice Faye from 20th Century-Fox to co-star with Zorina in "Natchez," a story by Joseph Hergesheimer, which will be made as a musical early in 1940. Zorina is now on loan to 20th Century-Fox for the lead in "I Was an Adventuress."

Sam Wood will direct "Natchez" from a screenplay by Jo Swerling.

Goldwyn having borrowed Alice Faye, 20th Century-Fox has obtained the loan of Walter Brennan and Dana Andrews in return. Brennan will be featured in "Maryland" and Andrews, a Goldwyn discovery, will draw a role in "Sweetheart of Turret One," which Fox recently purchased from the United Artists producer.

Executives Return to Eastern Offices as Conferences End

Recent heavy influx of eastern executives, traceable largely to the substantial headway being made on 1939-40 production schedules, which occasioned pre-season conferences on 1940-41 slates, has subsided to a considerable extent with the departure of several homeoffice contingents from their respective west coast studios.

Having spent nearly two weeks considering budgets and story lineups for the new season, as well as the balance of the present year's program, Paramount's President Barney Balaban, John W. Hicks jr., Stanton Griffis and Russell Holman have returned to New York. They were preceded east by Neil Agnew, sales chief. While here the easterners studied detailed plans for Paramount's new West Los Angeles studio, which Griffis declared had not, so far, been disrupted by the international situation. Construction will proceed as rapidly as "economic conditions permit," Griffis said. Paramount is farther ahead with this year's film-making program than at any time in its history.

Also east-bound after huddles on the 1940-41 program, budgets and contract roster was Universal's J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board. Studio huddles are continuing under the leadership of President Nate Blumberg, who came west with Cowdin, Cliff Work, studio manager, and his aide, Matty Fox, are sitting in.

Murray Silverstone, operations chieftain for United Artists, and Alexander Korda, UA producer in England, checked out of the film capital after an extended stay. Silverstone looked over current UA product, huddled with various producers on their future schedules and discussed with Korda his production plans since the war halted his operations in London. Silverstone was accompanied here by Jack Schlaifer, western district sales chief.

Other departures:

Howard Hawks has taken a print of "My Girl Friday," which he produced and directed for Columbia, to the New York office. He was accompanied east by Lou Smith, new studio advertising-publicity head.

Howard Benedict, promoted to a producership from his post as RKO Radio's studio advertising-publicity chief, has checked out for New York on a business-pleasure jaunt.

William Goetz, Darryl Zanuck's assistant at 20th Century-Fox, accompanied by Mrs. Goetz, is in New York looking over the current plays and conferring with homeoffice executives.

Planning to spend three weeks in the east, Henry Ginsberg, retiring vice-president and general manager of Selznick International, is in Gotham cleaning up his company affairs before he checks off the payroll January 1.

Bryan Foy has returned to the Warner plant after a short trip to New York. He will resume production after the first of the year, members of his department having received layoffs some weeks ago due to the fact Foy's quota for 1939-40 is nearly completed.

Gulf-Screen Guild Airshow Extended 16 Weeks

Contracts have been signed extending the Screen Guild airshow under Gulf Oil Co. sponsorship for another 16 weeks, effective January 1. Revenue from the broadcast is turned over to the Motion Picture Relief Fund.

Jean Hersholt, representing the Fund; Ralph Morgan, president of the Screen Actors Guild; Walter Wanger, of the producers association, and Conrad Nagel and local executives of the Young & Rubicam agency signed the new deal.

Team Menjou and O'Hara

RKO has determined on Maureen O'Hara and Adolphe Menjou for the toplines in the remake of "A Bill of Divorcement."



UA Chieftain in Studio Visit—

Murray Silverstone, right, head of worldwide activities for United Artists, visits with Edward Small, producer, second from right, on the set of "My Son, My Son." Others are Charles Vidor, director, left, and Henry Hull.

Hollywood

Barnstormers

—Freelance

GUS EDWARDS assembling a stage unit comprising stage, film and radio talent for a nation-wide tour.

EDGAR KENNEDY and his wife will leave shortly after the first of the year for p. a.'s in the east and midwest. They will appear in a sketch titled "Romeo and Juliet."

—Metro

ANN RUTHERFORD heads for Charlotte, North Carolina, to start a series of p. a.'s, ending in Atlanta, December 15, to attend the world premiere of "Gone With the Wind."

—Paramount

TITO GUIZAR checks out for concert tour with stopovers in Chicago, Washington, Baltimore, New York, and other eastern cities. He will also visit Mexico and Argentina, where he will make personal appearances with "The Llano Kid," in which he starred for Producer Harry Sherman.

RUSSELL HAYDEN heads for San Francisco and Sacramento to make personal appearances with "Law of the Pampas," in which he is co-featured with William Boyd.

Cleffers

—Metro

SAM MESSENHEIMER completes a series of seven untitled songs for use in future productions.

—Paramount

JIMMY MCHUGH completes writing of four tunes for "Buck Benny Rides Again" and checks off the lot.

SIGMUND KRUMGOLD begins scoring "Typhoon" with IRVIN TALBOT conducting the 53-piece recording orchestra.

SIGMUND KRUMGOLD completes scoring of "Opened by Mistake."

IRVIN TALBOT directs recording orchestra and PHILLIP BOUTELJE functions as musical advisor on trailer for "The Great Victor Herbert," containing excerpts from 24 Herbert tunes used in the picture.

—Republic

SUNNY CLAPP sells "Girl of My Dreams," an original tune, to be warbled by Gene Autry in "South of the Border."

—Hal Roach

GEORGE BASSMAN borrowed from Metro to team with AARON COPLAND on score for "Of Mice and Men."

—Warner Bros.

LEO FORBSTEIN scoring "The Fighting 69th."

ADOLPH DEUTSCH scoring "The Fighting 69th."

MAX STEINER to score "The Life of Dr. Ehrlich" and "Virginia City."

Meggers

—Columbia

JOSEPH H. LEWIS to an untitled Charles Starrett western, rolling December 5.

—Paramount

HUGH BENNETT handling added scenes for "French Without Tears," produced in England with Ray Milland and Ellen Drew featured.

—RKO Radio

BORIS INGSTER, screen writer, given contract as director, with "Before the Face" slated as his first assignment.

GARSON KANIN, set to direct "My Favorite Wife," handed production responsibilities also, until Leo McCarey recovers from injuries received in a recent automobile accident.

—Edward Small

ROWLAND V. LEE to "The Son of Monte Cristo," starring Louis Hayward. Picture rolls when Hayward has completed his assignment in "My Son, My Son." Lee directed "The Count of Monte Cristo" for Small in 1933.

—20th Century-Fox

EUGENE FORDE to "Charlie Chan's Oriental Cruise." John Larkin is scripting.

IRVING PICHEL to "Earthbound." John Howard Lawson is writing the screenplay.

—Universal

PHIL ROSEN to "Devil in Uniform." Ben Pivar produces from a script by Harold Buchman and Roy Chanslor.

—Warner Bros.

RAY ENRIGHT to direct "Teddy, the Rough Rider," historical featurette to be filmed in Technicolor. Sidney Blackmer has the title role.

ANATOLE LITVAK to "City for Conquest," forthcoming James Cagney starrer. Abem Kandel wrote the original.

Options

—Metro

IAN HUNTER given new long-term acting contract.

—Paramount

THERESA HARRIS handed two-picture acting contract to team with EDDIE (ROCHESTER) ANDERSON.

JOHN LAIRD given term acting contract.

—RKO Radio

JACK HIVELY handed new directorial contract. His next assignment is "Anne of Windy Poplars."

JOHNNY SHEFFIELD, EDWARD ELLIS, ERNEST TRUEX and other cast members of "Little Orvie," given extended commitments with a view to making a series of the Booth Tarkington stories. Initialer is now in production with Ray McCarey directing.

KENT TAYLOR signs exclusive term acting contract.

LUPE VELEZ and LEON ERROL held for three more co-starring films following the recently-completed "Mexican Spitfire."

—Republic

JAMES, LUCILLE and RUSSELL GLEASON and HARRY DAVENPORT given new contracts to appear in a number of forthcoming "Higgins Family" pictures.

—Edward Small

GEORGE BRUCE, writer, given new term contract.

—20th Century-Fox

ROBERT HOPKINS joins writing staff on term agreement.

TYRONE POWER given new three-year straight contract, without options.

Cinémarks

Director George Seitz has returned to Metro after a two-week vacation in New York City . . . Queen of San Bernardino's 30th National Orange Show, which got under way December 3, was selected by Victor Schertzinger and Wanda McKay, Paramount stock player, who were chosen as judges.

*

David Butler has checked in from a trip east, accompanied by his wife. His next directorial assignment is at Universal.

*

Cal Howard and Eddie Seward, of the scenario and gag staff at the Fleischer cartoon plant in Miami, have reported to Paramount to confer with Dave Fleischer on plans for a new feature-length animated cartoon . . . Ending a Caribbean cruise, Abem Finkel, Warner writer, has returned to the studio and is awaiting assignment . . . Rosalind Russell and the Groucho Marx family are in from brief holidays at the desert resorts.

*

Funeral services were held at the Fremont Baptist Church in Pasadena for Sidney J. Kent, 84, father of Sidney R. Kent, president of 20th Century-Fox. Mr. Kent died in Altadena. Burial followed at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. He was a retired finance company executive . . . Gandering screen possibilities, Bill Grady, Metro talent scout, is in Tucson. He continues on to Louisville and New York.

*

Robert Stirling, Hunt Stromberg's assistant at Metro, will return from New York, where he has been staying on business, in about a week . . . W. S. Van Dyke II is celebrating the birth of a third child, Winston Stewart Van Dyke jr., born at the Santa Monica Hospital. The Metro director has two other children.

*

Ernst Lubitsch was host at luncheon and a tour of M-G-M to Bruno Walter, philharmonic orchestra conductor.

*

Edith Head, fashion designer at Paramount, planed to New York to catch the opening of "The Great Victor Herbert." She designed the costumes worn in the picture by Mary Martin . . . Reeves Espy, Samuel Goldwyn executive, is spending a few days in Goldwyn City, Ariz., where "The Westerner" is being filmed on location . . . Nursing a broken arm, Victor Sutker of Edward Small's casting staff is at the Good Samaritan Hospital.

—Universal

JAMES CRAIG signed to term acting deal.

BRUCE MANNING handed new writing ticket. He is working on a story for Deanna Durbin to follow her next, "It's a Date."

—Warner Bros.

HUMPHREY BOGART held for another term.

JOHN DEERING, actor and radio commentator, given new term contract.

ORRY-KELLY given new term contract as dress designer.

VINCENT SHERMAN given new term contract as a director.

RAOUL WALSH given extension of directorial contract, effective when he completes "Dark Command" for Republic.

Percenteers

HAL COOLEY of the Cooley-Ullman agency, returns next week from New York, where he has been looking over current plays and possible film talent.

WILLIAM DOVER severs connections with the Orsatti agency. He has checked out for New York to open his own agency there, handling film personalities, story material and radio.

IRA GRAY joins the Rockwell-O'Keefe agency.

GEORGE ROSENBERG joins Columbia Management Corp. January 1. He will handle radio and screen talent.

Scripters

—Metro

COREY FORD and ALASTAIR MACBAIN teamed on "Kodiak." Milton Bren will produce.

LARRY HAZARD to "Boom Town." Sam Zimbalist produces.

JACK JEVNE to "Angel City" for Producer Milton Bren. Robert Taylor will be starred.

LYNN ROOT and FRANK FENTON to "Golden Fleecing," from their own original.

—Paramount

EDDIE MORAN polishing "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

WILLIAM JOYCE COWEN to "Queen of Queens," forthcoming Cecil B. DeMille production. Cowen was co-author with Lenore Coffee of "Family Portrait," on which the story is based.

—Producers Pictures Corp.

TOM GIBSON to "The Texas Drive," second in the "Tales of Billy the Kid" series.

—RKO Radio

ALLAN SCOTT to "Bonne Chance," a story by Sascha Guitry, which will star Ginger Rogers. George Haight is slated to produce.

TESS SLESINGER and FRANK DAVIS to "One of Six Girls," a story by Vicki Baum, which Eric Pommer will produce as his first. Maureen O'Hara will be starred.

—Republic

GARRETT FORT to "The Lady From New Orleans."

DORRELL and STUART MACGOWAN to "In Old Missouri," scheduled as a starring vehicle for the Weaver Brothers and Elviry.

F. HUGH HERBERT to polish "Dark Command," now in production.

BARRY SHIPMAN to "Covered Wagon Days."

EARLE SNELL to "Arizona Skies."

—Rowland Brown Productions

MAXWELL ANDERSON polishing Brown's "Quirt and Flagg," which will reunite the Edmund Lowe-Victor McLaglen team for Columbia release.

—Edward Small

GEORGE BRUCE to "Two Years Before the Mast."

—20th Century-Fox

LEE LOEB joins writing staff.

VAL BURTON to an untitled "Jones Family" feature.

DON ETTLINGER and EDWIN BLUM to "Young People," a vehicle for Shirley Temple.

—Universal

MAURICE WRIGHT and MAURICE TOMBRAGEL teamed on "River of Missing Men."

—Walter Wanger

SHERIDAN GIBNEY to "Dynasty of Death," from an original by Taylor Caldwell.

Story Buys

—Columbia

"Bedtime Story," by Horace Jackson and Grant Garrett. Plans are to co-star Irene Dunne and Cary Grant.

—Paramount

"Country Lawyer," biography by Bellamy Partridge, as a tentative vehicle for Fred MacMurray.

—20th Century-Fox

"Yesterday's Heroes," by William Brent, studio sound man. Brent has been given a writing contract and will adapt his story to the screen.

—Universal

"The Son of Mama Posito," radio play by Maxwell Aley.

Technically

—Four Bell Productions

EARL TURNER to edit "East Side New York."

—Metro

URIE MCCLEARY set as unit art director on "Waterloo Bridge." Sidney Franklin is producing.

VAL RASET to assist RALPH DONALDSON in staging native African dances for "Congo Maisie."

HUGH BOSWELL named assistant director and JAY MARCHANT unit manager on added scenes for "I Take This Woman," with W. S. Van Dyke directing.

LEWIS MILLER set as biographical technical advisor on "Young Tom Edison." He is a nephew of the late inventor.

OLIVER MARSH, LEN SMITH and JACK SMITH handling six cameras photographing sequences for "New Moon."

SID SIDMAN set as assistant director on the latest in John Nesbitt's "Passing Parade" short subjects. Basil Wrangell is directing.

WALTER STROHM assigned as assistant to Director Busby Berkeley on "Forty Little Mothers," forthcoming Eddie Cantor starrer.

JEANNE FULLER of cartoon department boosted from painting and inking staff to story department.

—Paramount

DERWIN ABRAHAMS directing second unit of "Hold Your Horses," final "Hopalong Cassidy" western of the season.

MEL EPSTEIN assigned as assistant director on "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

DOANE HARRISON to edit "Golden Gloves."

LUIGI LURASCHI, censorship editor, supervising Spanish version of "Gulliver's Travels," the Max Fleischer feature-length Technicolor cartoon.

CHARLES WOOLSTENHUME set as business manager on "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

RUSSELL HARLAN to photograph "Hold Your Horses," final "Hopalong Cassidy" western on the 1939 schedule, which Harry Sherman is producing.

EARL HAYMAN to mix sound on "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

JOSEPH ROBBINS, head of mechanical department, begins consolidation of five studio construction divisions—the planning bureau, prop shop, carpenter shop, and office of grips and laborers.

—RKO Radio

DEWEY STARKEY set as assistant director on "Little Orvie."

ROBERT WISE to edit "My Favorite Wife."

—Republic

NED DAVENPORT set as dialogue director on "Wolf of New York."

—Stephens-Lang Productions

BERNARD HERZBRUN set as art director on "The Courageous Dr. Christian," second in the series starring Jean Hersholt, for RKO Radio release.

—20th Century-Fox

TRAVIS BANTON, designer, given term contract. First assignment will be costumes for Alice Faye in "Lillian Russell."

H. BRUCE HUMBERSTONE, who will direct, and CHESTER GORE, art director, head for Tucson, Ariz., to supervise set construction for the next "Cisco Kid" picture.

—Universal

SAUL GOODKIND to supervise editing of "The Green Hornet" and "Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe," both serials.

FRANK GROSS editing "The Invisible Man Returns;" EDDIE CURTIS cutting "My Little Chickadee."

VERNON KEAYS and STANLEY CORTEZ head camera crew going to Honolulu to pick up background for "It's a Date," next Deanna Durbin starrer.

—Warner Bros.

JOE BARRY scouting locations around Merced, Feather River and Sacramento for "Virginia City."

ROBERT FOULK to direct dialogue on "And It All Came True."

TOMMY RICHARDS to edit "And It All Came True."

VINCENT SHERMAN to direct "Teddy Roosevelt and His Rough Riders," historical featurette with Sidney Blackmer in the title role.

Previews, Moveovers Assailed by Poole

LOS ANGELES—Having launched a renewed campaign for the removal of two sore spots on his organization's escutcheon—commercialized "previews" and first-run moveover abuses—R. H. Poole, executive director of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., has taken time off to make a goodwill junket through the northwest.

In Seattle and Portland

Poole attended meetings of the Seattle and Portland independent showmen's organizations December 5 and 6 respectively, at which preliminary plans were drawn up for the first annual convention of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, of which the ITO director is executive secretary.

Prior to his departure, Poole addressed letters to the general sales managers of all the major distributing companies in New York requesting again that previews and moveovers be the subject of an immediate discussion, with the object of their elimination. The ITO executive, declaring he is still firmly of the conviction that "definite steps must be taken," pointed out in his missives that all distributors were in accord at the time the industry-wide trade practice code was being drafted in the opinion something must be done immediately to "eliminate the abuses now existing in the Southern California territory relative to these two problems."

"Outspoken" on Problems

Bitterly antagonistic toward the policies involved, the ITO through Poole adds that the distributors were "outspoken in their determination to take care of these problems, at the time the code was due to go into effect." The ITO leader believes that even though the code cannot be made effective collectively, each distributor individually, as far as this territory is concerned, can and should take immediate action on the preview and moveover situation.

Although no names are mentioned, Poole has in the past admitted the ITO is concerned chiefly with first-run moveovers as practiced by Fox West Coast and by commercialized "previews" as screened by the RKO Theatres and FWC houses.





When "Geronimo" Returned to Arizona—

He was aided and abetted by the above. In the top scene is the Hollywood contingent bound for the premiere of the Paramount picture in Phoenix. They are: J. Carrol Naish, William Frawley, William Henry, Kitty Kelly, Chief Thunder Cloud, Monte Blue, Joseph Allen, Director Paul H. Sloane and Ralph Morgan. In the lower photo, arrived at Phoenix: Chief Thunder Cloud, J. Carrol Naish, William Frawley, Patricia Morison, Kitty Kelly, Monte Blue and Paul H. Sloane.

S. F. Fair Will Not Reopen Next Year

SAN FRANCISCO—After months of indecision, during which it was announced periodically that the Golden Gate International Exposition would or would not be opened in 1940, depending on who did the announcing, the bell was finally rung on the Fair and it was counted out for '40.

Following a meeting of the executive committee of the Bay Exposition Corp.'s board of directors, it was decided to instruct counsel for the corporation to liquidate the affairs of the company. Randell Larson, the attorney, will go before the federal court, Monday, December 11, and present a liquidation program.

Abandonment of the $55,000,000 Treasure Island came just after Federal Commissioner George Creel came out of a conference with President Roosevelt. The President was enthusiastic for the second year's run and had indicated previously that federal funds might be forthcoming. Billy Rose's million dollar offer was also to no avail.

There is a tiny loophole left for a 1940 fair but it is deemed a lost cause. The exposition must go into court and ask permission to abandon a second year and liquidate all assets. If some group of creditors should oppose such a plan and submit an acceptable proposition for the operation of the fair in 1940, the court may see it their way. But no one is betting on it.

The exhibitors in the Bay area still have varied opinions on the question with the consensus being that the 1939 fair was not beneficial to film houses.

Harry Brandt Repeats His Sentiments on Neely Bill

LOS ANGELES—Reiterating the sentiments he has expressed throughout his barnstorming tour across the continent, Harry Brandt, president of the ITOA of New York, urged independent theatremen in this territory to oppose passage of the Neely Bill banning block-booking. Brandt discussed the proposed measure throughly at a luncheon meeting given in his honor December 8, attended by members of the ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz., Allied States and other unaffiliated showmen.

The affair was arranged by Jack Y. Berman, Al Galston and Hugh Bruen, of the ITO, although the gathering was not sponsored by that organization.

Brandt repeated his previous warnings against passage of the measure, which he believes will cut down production, result in inferior product and make it economically impossible either to buy or sell with the necessary individual handling.

The ITOA leader met with R. H. Poole, executive director of the ITO, the following day, and then pulled out for Dallas, next stop on his itinerary. From there he will make stops in New Orleans, Atlanta, Memphis, Charlotte, Washington and Philadelphia before returning to New York.

Wind Up Serials

HOLLYWOOD—Universal will wind up its 1939-40 serial program with "Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe," starring Larry Crabbe.

SEATTLE

WITH the independent exhibitors of Oregon holding their first meeting in Portland to consider organizing and joining the Pacific Coast Conference, they have invited Jim Hone, executive-secretary of the Washington group to explain the success of the MPTO during the past few years. The independent exhibitors, who are part of the MPTO of Washington, have voted to join the conference as an independent exhibitor group. Will Graeper, chairman; Jesse Jones, and Kent Hartung exhibitors of Portland have been selected as the committee on arrangements for the Oregon group.

John Danz, head man of the Sterling Chain, has been elected president of the Mutual Business Club of Seattle. Installation of officers will take place January 8 . . . Cecil Gwinn of the theatres in Centralia and Chehalis is in a local hospital and recovering from an operation for gallstones. At the present writing Cecil is not allowed visitors, but by the time you read this he should be sitting up and feeling better . . . Big news of the week was the announcement by the Rev. Warren Hastings that he might consider being a candidate for mayor. Doctor Hastings is very popular here, having addressed many local clubs and being the padre for the show business. During the past year he has had much publicity due to his campaign for a new city government.

With Bill Stober leaving the Tusco Theatre Equipment Co. to enter exhibition, Jeff Fretland will take over the local Tusco office. H. S. "Mac" McLeod, head of the company, announced the placement of Jeff. Stober is taking over the management of the Den Theatre at Lake Burien for Mel Sohns of Kirkland . . . Sheldin Retchin, who for the past few weeks has been with the Warner sales force, has been transferred as salesman to the San Francisco force. Sheldin was getting popular here, especially among the basketball fans, for he proved a brilliant player . . . Frank Jenkins has closed his Montlake Theatre with no definite plan to reopen or change policy. The house has been running foreign pictures, but since the war started the fans have become home minded.

J. T. Sheffield entertaining his cousin, Mr. Kelly, from Idaho. This is the first time they have seen each other for 23 years. Sheff toured the gentleman all over the northwest and up to Vancouver, B. C. . . . Guy and Maude Maxey soon to celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary . . . Roy Peacock making a tour of Utah and getting an eyeful of the theatres in that part of the country. Roy flew back from Salt Lake . . . A visitor on the Row this week was Johnny Northern, former publicity man for various theatres in town. Johnny is now promoting the wrestling shows here.

Kay Shinn for Cinema Screen Service was the main speaker at the professional and business men's meeting. Kay talked on "Advertising Appreciation" . . . Word from California tells that Emil Umann passed away in the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles. Emil was well known here as an exploiteer and during the past few years he covered the south . . . Harry Taylor, division manager of National Screen Service, spending some time here and in Portland. Herb Cass of the Portland office came in with Taylor. A business session was held in Jack Flannery's office . . . The result of the Friday bridge tournament held in the Film Club found Bill Shartin and Mendie Segel in first spot, John Danz and J. T. Sheffield second, and Mrs. Bill Forman and Mrs. Whitney Young third. The games were so close only half a point differed between each . . . Mrs. Wayne Christy celebrated her birthday and really enjoyed herself, even if she did have to join the bridge party.

Jack McCaul gave this news hound a bum steer about a marriage . . . Mrs. Guy Navarre served on the committee for the Seattle Day Nursery . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Christie were entertained at a party given by Florence Engstrom . . . Arthur Kallen was called to Portland by the death of his father, who had been ill for some time . . . Harriet Lamb on the Row looking fine after her long illness . . . Heaton Randall enjoyed a mess of fish sent to him by Jay Porter of Tacoma . . . Art Huot also enjoyed fish that he caught at the same time Jay did . . . Art Slater and his family have returned from the motor trip to Los Angeles . . . Jimmy O'Neal to San Francisco on business.

Popcorn Smith off to Kansas City for the Xmas holidays. He will return in January . . . Jack Kloepper and Jack O'Bryan up from Portland to attend a sales conference in the office of Guy Navarre at United Artists . . . Bill Evans over from his Post Street theatre in Spokane . . . Harry Mills writing to Tommy Olsen and telling of writing short shorts for radio in Hollywood . . . A. J. Sullivan now on the job for United Artists and making his headquarters in Spokane . . . Bud Summers now headquartering in Cincinnati where he is managing the RKO-Shubert . . . A big crowd on hand for the football broadcast in the Northwest Film Club. Happiest in the gang was Guy Maxey who was $75 winner. The guy with the toughest luck was Harry Blatt, who lost in the last 60 seconds of play . . . The club is holding open house this week to welcome Joe Cooper as new club manager. The crowd will be mixed and a late dinner will be served.

Al Baker in from Bellingham . . . Lloyd Lamb down with the flu . . . Eddie Lamb to Spokane and back . . . Senior Mercy on the Row from Yakima . . . Eddie Walton to Idaho and eastern Washington . . . John Hamrick, Vic Gauntlett, Frank Newman, Eddie Rivers, Al Rosenberg, Jack Rosenberg, grabbing a cup of coffee between pictures at a preview . . . Visitors this week included Ernie Shields, Kent; Mel Sohns, Kirkland; W. B. McDonald, Olympia; Ed Zabel and son, Arthur, Olympia; W. A. and Mrs. Cochrane, Snoqualmie; Glenn Haviland, Spokane; Johnny Smythe, Tacoma; Ned Edris, Tacoma; the Jay Tews, North Bend; Eddie Miller off for Portland . . . Bill Forman by plane to San Francisco to formulate plans for big star names for appearance at the Palomar.

Dock Strike Costing S. F. About $200,000 a Day

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco dock strike, now in its fourth week, is costing the city an estimated $200,000 a day. All shipping has been shifted southward with cargo and passengers being put ashore at San Pedro or Los Angeles. Coming at the height of the Christmas season, the effect of the deserted embarcadero is being felt throughout the entire Bay area, the most noticeable effect being decreased sales and drop in business in all stores in comparison with last year.

Pacific Premium felt the pressure of the strike when they had to wait the shipper's and railroad's pleasure regarding a shipment of premium glassware. At this writing the glassware is still somewhere in the south, five days overdue. Doc Henning, who is in Los Angeles in connection with the opening of Pacific's branch in that city, has been rushing around trying to get the shipment started northward but so far his efforts have been to no avail.

Boost New Team

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount is touting Patricia Morison and Robert Preston as a new starring team, and has assigned them the leads in "Moon Over Bermuda."

Megs Zorina Starrer

HOLLYWOOD — Twentieth Century-Fox has assigned Gregory Ratoff to direct "I Was an Adventuress," starring Zorina.

Stern Handles GB; Solomon Now Heads PDC Branch

LOS ANGELES—Harry Stern has resigned as manager of the local branch of Ben Judell's Producers Distributing Corp. and is now handling a line of Gaumont-British pictures. He has taken space at the offices of Astor Pictures, leaving Marty Solomon in sole charge of the PDC exchange. Stern's first release will be "Pagliacci," featuring Richard Tauber and Steffi Duna.

Rushing "Good News"

HOLLYWOOD — Metro is rushing "Good News" as a sequel to "Babes in Arms," and will again co-star Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland.

"Do You Realize Now"

that the average yearly net profit from a Burch Super Showman popcorn machine in most theatres, is more than the annual 5% interest dividends

"On a $35,000 Cash Investment"

Many Exhibitors boast of doing much better than that, which again proves what confections mean to Exhibitors.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

LOS ANGELES

BOOKING visitors: Isidore Berman of the Eastland circuit; Ned Calvi, Lomita, Lomita; Max Sinker, Carlin-Sinker enterprises; Gene O'Keefe, Maywood, Maywood.

Jerome Safron, western division manager for Columbia, checked in from a trip to Denver and Salt Lake City . . . Ditto George Smith, western sales head for Paramount, who has been in the northwest . . . Greg Carter, owner-operator of the Hollywood Televue Newsreel, won't forget December 2 for a long, long time. To begin with, it was his birthday. That was overshadowed, however, when Mrs. Carter gave birth to a six-and-one-half-pound daughter, named Joan, at Hollywood Hospital on the same day.

Geraldine Johnson, chief shipping clerk at Paramount, will be married December 9 to Lieut. William Sims of the Los Angeles police department. Ceremony will be staged at Las Vegas . . . Oscar Oldknow of National Theatre Supply has returned from a business trip to Seattle.

En route to Denver, Ben Fish, United Artists' Western division manager, was slightly injured when the train on which he was traveling made a sudden stop to avoid hitting a car that was stalled on the tracks . . . Joe England has been appointed manager of the Garden in Belvedere Gardens. Fred Hershon, operator of the Trojan, owns the house.

Don McLaren of Filbert's Photo Supply Co. is back on the job, reporting he spent a pleasant week's holiday on Filbert's ranch in the Malibu Mountains . . . A sudden and heavy fog that rolled in caused a delay in starting schedules at Chet Black's Pico Drive-In one night . . . Sam Milner, Universal salesman, is in from a San Diego selling trip.

Because of illness, Lillian Coats has resigned as contract clerk at Universal, her place being filled temporarily by Mrs. Merle Shapiro . . . C. W. Van Horn and Wally Feenan have been placed in charge of Majestic's new San Francisco exchange. Ben Peskay and Harry Denny have returned from the opening, which Denny supervised, while Peskay took care of other business.

Warner will screen "Four Wives" for local exhibitors at the Fox Boulevard Theatre, December 12 . . . Majestic has acquired "Torpedoed," a Herbert Wilcox production, and "Bombs Over London" for distribution in this territory.

Charles Feldman of Universal has returned from a business trek to Phoenix . . . "Ecstasy," starring Hedy Lamarr, has opened an extended engagement at the Regent Theatre . . . Fred Hershon has returned from South Bend, Ind., where he took in the U. S. C.-Notre Dame grid classic. He operates the Trojan near the U. S. C. campus.

RKO Radio's district manager, Harry Cohen, is in town for a while . . . His namesaker, Harry Cohen of Exhibitors' Film Delivery, spending a busman's holiday by using his day off to visit along the Row. The two Cohens consistently receive each other's mail and telephone calls.

Parents of Reuben Calderon, head man at Azteca Pictures, have invited Clark Gable and Robert Taylor to be their guests when the two screen stars go to Mexico this winter for a hunting trip they have been planning. Gable and Taylor accepted the invitation . . . August Finn has closed his Capitol Theatre for repairs and is urging patrons to attend the Times Theatre, two blocks away, which he is also operating.

A new type of individual speaker, which is set into the ground rather than being mounted on poles, is being tried out at the Pico Drive-In Theatre by Manager Chet Black . . . Plenty of goings-on at the Universal exchange, with Al O'Keefe and W. C. Heineman training for San Francisco; Charles Feldman, office manager, in Arizona, off for San Diego.

Many Filmrowites—possibly the Republican contingent—celebrated a second Thanksgiving November 30 . . . Seekers of horror bills found an abundance of chillers when the Maynard booked "The Mystery of the Black Room" on a triple bill, while, simultaneously, the Filmarte was screening "The Werewolf of London," "The Black Cat" and a Floyd Gibbons short subject, "Haunted House."

Nathan L. Nathanson, manager and operator of the Paramount theatre chain in Canada, visited Sam Katz at the M-G-M studios and watched scenes being filmed for a pair of current productions . . . Ray Olmstead, Monogram's Pacific Coast franchise holder, attended the Phoenix, Ariz., premiere of "The Gentleman From Arizona," which Monogram is releasing.

Harry Nace jr., of the Nace-Publix circuit, came in from Arizona to do some booking . . . R. H. "Bob" Poole, executive director of the ITO, is in from Seattle and Portland, where he attended meetings of independent exhibitor groups . . . A record turnout is expected for Guy Gunderson's annual pre-Christmas stag, to be held December 11. Gunderson sells film for United Artists.

Ben Kalmenson and W. E. Callaway, Warner sales executives, checked in from a trip through the northwest . . . Booking visitors included Paul Swickard, operator of the Strand on Ventura Blvd., and Charles Gore of the Lido.

To take charge of the company's newly-opened branch there, Harry Denny of Majestic Pictures trained for San Francisco . . . George Hickey, Metro's western district manager, checked in after a business jaunt to Salt Lake City and Seattle.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
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LOS ANGELES

L. A. Showmen to Meet On Infantile Campaign

LOS ANGELES—Plans for participation of local theatre operators in the forthcoming infantile paralysis campaign will be drawn up at a luncheon meeting scheduled for December 12 at the Ambassador Hotel, with Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast, and Joseph M. Schenck of 20th Century-Fox in charge.

Schenck is vice-president of the national committee and chairman of the drive for the state of California. He and Skouras, who has already pledged 100 per cent cooperation in FWC houses, will urge all independent showmen to campaign for funds in their theatres.

To Fight Ban

CHICAGO—Lloyd Lamb, distributor in Portland, Ore., of "When Germany Surrendered," will fight the Portland ban on the picture, according to advice reaching A. L. Rule, producer of the film, here.

Has New Stimulant

LOS ANGELES—Hi Peskay, formerly with Fox West Coast, now manager of the Majestic Distributing Corp., has acquired a new boxoffice stimulant plan known as "Bond-Day."

Plaza at Oakland Reopened

OAKLAND—The Plaza was reopened after several months of darkness. The house is controlled by H. Bluechell and Paul Aglietti.

New Seats for Horrigan's Star

DRUMMOND, MONT.—Frank W. Horrigan of the New Star Theatre here has installed new seats purchased from the Western Theatre Equipment Co. of Butte.

SALT LAKE

INTERMOUNTAIN Theatres has signed a new season product deal with United Artists. Harry David represented the circuit, with L. J. Schlaifer, UA executive of New York, and Benjamin Fish and A. W. Hartford of the local branch, representing the distributor.

The Marlo at Sugarhouse, an Intermountain house, has shaved prices to 15 cents until 5 o'clock and 20 cents thereafter . . . The new Main in Vernal has opened. T. L. Karren and Francis Feltch own the 400-seat house.

Newsboys saw a free show at the Utah on Thanksgiving Day . . . The Rialto and Gem here, both second-runners, have changed to a first run policy, at least temporarily . . . Paul McElhinney, Sheffield-Republic salesman, is checking on Idaho accounts.

A local visitor was Joe Koehler, operator of the Roxy and also mayor of Twin Falls, Ida. He called on Mayor Wallace and also along Filmrow . . . Fire leveled the Roxy, Montpelier, Ida. House was recently acquired by the Harris Voeller circuit.

DENVER

WITH THE benefit of a second Thanksgiving, all first runs were well above average. "Geronimo" was good enough at the Denham a second week, as was "Ninotchka" at the Orpheum. "Eternally Yours" turned in the most money at the Denver.

By dint of putting the matter to the councilmen, the theatre tax, proposed as one means of taking the city out of the red, was not even presented to the city council. Theatremen pointed out the business now pays tax in numerous ways and was carrying all the tax burden they could. A wheel tax of $2 a car was among the taxes passed on the first reading.

Originating a national radio broadcast from the Denver Theatre stage has been the means of packing that house on Monday nights the past two weeks, and will continue for four more. "Dr. I. Q" asks his questions and pays his rewards for correct answers. The house has been packed both Monday nights by 5 o'clock, when the price is boosted from 35 to 40 cents. Bernie Hynes, manager, hit on a natural when he made the contract.

The Tabor, a Curtis street grind, is the only theatre in Denver with two boxoffices, one on Sixteenth and one around the corner on Curtis.

Lester Tobias, representing "Keeno Quiz" of New York, was in town looking for a distributor. A. W. Hogarth of Chicago, representing Book Night, also was here and will contact the six houses that have been signed up. Hogarth will assist in putting the campaign over, the first spot being the Princess at Del Norte, Colo.

L. F. Flower of Bayard, Neb., has bought the Jewel at Lafayette, Colo., from J. F. Carper. Flower also operates in Bayard.

The new Fox, with 710 seats, at Longmont, Colo., was opened December 5. The mayor sent out the invitations and civic personalities were present. Several from the Fox Intermountain headquarters in Denver attended as well as numerous exchange managers and salesmen. Rick Ricketson, division manager, as well as Ray Davis, district manager, were present.

Robert Selig, promotion manager of the Fox Intermountain division, is back from a two-week swing around the southern district. He was pinch hitting for Robert Garland, district manager, who has just left the hospital after a long stay there following an auto accident.

Book reviews and dramatizations are packing theatres in the Fox Intermountain division. They are used for one day and at intervals of two to three months. At the last one at the Aladdin, Denver, on "Grapes of Wrath," given by Louise Mullins, the house was sold out three days in advance, at 50 cents, and more than a thousand insisted their names be put on a list and be sold seats in case there should be any cancellations. Miss Mullins will give the same review at La Junta, December 11 and Trinidad, December 12.

Gibralter has opened their new Glen Theatre at Glenwood Springs, Colo., after spending about $22,500 on the building and equipment. It is the old Orpheum made over. Harold Johnson is manager . . . Fred

Lon T. Fidler, Monogram franchise holder for Denver and Salt Lake City, reports he has sold every circuit in both territories for every town in which they operate. The circuits are the Black Hills Amusement Co., Fox Intermountain, Interstate, Westland, Publix Intermountain, Harris Voeller, Simons Amusement Co., and Demour, Dant & Drennan.

J. J. Morgan, National Theatre Supply manager, says he has been busy making shipments of chairs to the Salida, Salida, Colo.; Granada, Monte Vista, Colo., and the Pioneer, Lamar, Colo., all in the C. U. Yaeger circuit; the Mission at Messilla Park, N. M.; to John Greve for the Chief, Steamboat Springs, Colo., and the Clyne at Pueblo, Colo. New carpet has been sold to the Paramount, Denver, to be installed by Christmas. Following his going to Longmont, Colo., to attend the opening of the Fox Theatre, Morgan will make a sales trip through New Mexico.

Seen on the Row booking and buying supplies were Robert Spawn, Mitchell, Neb.; Marie Goodhand, Kimball, Neb.; George McCormick, Canon City, Colo.; L. F. Flower, Bayard, Neb.; Sandy Biella, Louisville, Colo., and R. M. Hough, Imperial, Neb.

Infringement Action by Screeno Amusement Co.

SAN FRANCISCO — The Screeno Amusement Co. of Chicago, through their local representative, has started infringement proceedings against the President Theatre and its owners, Irving Ackerman and Lawrence Borg. The President recently switched from "Screeno" to "Keano" and is using a new payoff wheel which the Screeno people claim is an infringement on their patents.

Four years ago Screeno Amusement Co. won a judgment from the President Theatre in its first case testing the legality of their patents in this section of the country.

The New Circle in S. F. Fast Nearing Completion

SAN FRANCISCO—Renovation of the New Circle on Market St. is rapidly nearing completion and the process of transforming the second run house into a newsreel theatre will be finished in time for the scheduled opening on Friday, December 15.

New seats, projection equipment, and furnishings throughout and a new screen will make the New Circle a competitor to the recently constructed Telenews. Newsreel and short subjects will be shown exclusively with the full show running one hour.

The house will seat less than 400. It is one of the Aaron Goldberg chain.

PORTLAND

HAMRICK - EVERGREEN's Hollywood and Oriental are tying up with national apple week. They'll give away boxes of the fruit to patrons the night of December 14 . . . Vete Stewart, Warner manager, announced closing of a 100 per cent film deal with Al Finkelstein and Roy Brown for Hamrick-Evergreen suburban houses, including features, shorts and trailers . . . B. Marcus Priteca, theatre architect of Seattle, was hosted here by Herb Sobottka . . . Bill McCurdy is due back in Portland after a swing through Washington, Montana and Idaho advancing for "The Golden Boy" roadshow.

C. J. Shantz, Oakridge exhibitor, brought a case of jitters to Filmrow by wearing a star on his vest during his last visit. He had just been appointed city marshal of Oakridge . . . Calling in during the week were Bob Mattecheck, McMinnville; R. O. Schmidt, Fort Stevens; O. Phelps, Hillsboro; G. B. Dickinson, Multnomah, and N. A. Goodin, Carlton . . . George Hunt of Medford, president of Tri-States theatres, and S. G. Mendenhall of Grants Pass were here awaiting a scheduled meeting of Oregon independent exhibitors.

Trailer shots: Jack Kloepper returning from McMinnville . . . Millicent Smith taking a car downtown in the rain and doing the banking for her co-workers . . . Mrs. A. West Johnson of Eugene accompanying her husband on Filmrow calls . . . Mose Mesher chewing advertising copy out of a cold cigar . . . Earl Hunt wondering whether the green beans or the mushrooms were the "something he ate, no doubt" . . . Loring Schmidt, Carl Porter and Ray Stumbo, all in from Salem . . . And Ray Henderson of Albany.

Exact number of Portlanders who had seen "Mr. Smith" as it entered its third and final week was advertised as 62,423, smashing Paramount house records for attendance. A three-weeks' run there, also, is an almost never . . . Ed Miller, down from Seattle, saw what amounted to a season of football action at the pro game here last Sunday . . . Frank Buckmiller, from Baker, was also over for the game.

A display of ship models fills the lobby of the Paramount, publicizing a coming run of "Rulers of the Sea." It's a contest, tying in with a newspaper children's club, the *Journal* Juniors . . . The University of Oregon chapter of Kappa Sigma at Eugene wired Sally Rand an offer to become official frat sweetheart. Sally and all the girls of the troupe were invited to a University banquet December 9 . . . George Hickey of M-G-M was a visitor from Los Angeles.

Marion Sobottka returned from Seattle, reporting her mother recovered . . . From Filmrow's guest book, late entries: Mrs. E. A. Hartman, Bandon; K. A. Spears, Winlock, Wash.; Don Watrous, Forest Grove; W. H. Heibbert, Sheridan; A. L. Adams, Silverton; W. D. Thrall, Junction City; N. A. Rhoades, Woodland; George Ray, Eugene; Cleo Brenner, Glendale, and Tracy Poorman, Woodburn.

S' FRANCISCO

WARNER will hold an invitational screening of "Four Wives" on Tuesday, the 12th. This is the first big preview Warner has held in many a month . . . "Borgia" is now in its seventh week and indications are that it will run for the rest of the year . . . Leo Carrillo is playing to packed houses with the premiere showing of his play "Red Bumblebee." Carrillo, always a favorite in this city, has livened up the lobby of the Curran with an exhibit of his saddles and other "open spaces" equipment.

The Casino, which recently went from 15 to 20 cents, has made another change, with the matinee price being 20 cents until five and 25 cents in the evening . . . The Columbia exchange has installed a Postal teletype machine to augment their Western Union unit. Increased business is the reason according to Tilman, exchange head . . . Mike Newman, exploiteer for Columbia on the west coast, was in town directing the ballyhoo for the Oakland opening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" which went across the Bay after a six-week run on Market St. . . . The Palace Hotel is specializing in bringing "first appearance" bands to town. Following Glen Gray's initial and record-breaking stay in the Rose Bowl Room, Vincent Lopez will occupy the bandstand and it is the maestro's first engagement here.

Julian Harvey of the Harvey circuit is in Mexico for a vacation . . . Emily Bataiff is a newcomer to the Row, handling the switchboard for the Harvey Amusement Co. She took a short vacation not on the schedule when she succumbed to the ill effects of the turpentine odor which hung around the office after an inside paint job . . . Al O'Keefe and Bill Heineman were visitors at Universal on their way back to Hollywood . . . Ken Hodkinson, formerly with 20th Century-Fox here, is opening a house in Portland.

George Thomas and Ed Churchill, Paramount studio publicity men, are in town in connection with the exploitation of "Gulliver's Travels." Churchill is accompanying the life-size figures of Popeye and Gulliver on their nation-wide tour via the air lanes . . . The Geary, dark since summer, is opening on the 11th with the Balinese dance troupe. The dancers are under the management of the S. F. Opera Ass'n . . . The Symphony season had a glittering opening with concerts on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening. Pierre Monteux is again on the conductor's podium . . . Joe Smith, business agent of the local Film Exchange Employes union, is in New York attending wage conferences.

Cecil Pace was on the Row obtaining equipment for his new house at Rodeo . . . Jimmy Riley, seat-selling expert for the Pacific Theatre Supply, is waving a batch of contracts which will install new seats in a score of theatres . . . Republic is looking forward to the coming visit of J. R. Grainger, general sales manager. It is one of his regular jaunts out from New York . . . Sam Keller, Warner auditor, has become definitely acclimated (whatever that might mean) during his visit and is claiming reluctance to leave . . . W. E. Callaway, west coast district manager for Warner, was a visitor this week.

Ten Ballyhoo Men in Field For "Gulliver's Travels"

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has sent ten men into the field in an exploitation campaign for "Gulliver's Travels," to be released December 22, and "The Great Victor Herbert," which hits the theatres December 29.

Covering the nation are: Ben Hill, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Dallas; Clinton Bolton, Boston, Worcester, Providence, Hartford, New Haven, Portland, Me., and Springfield; Harlan Hobbs, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Birmingham and Nashville; Vernon Gray, Scranton, Wilkes Barre, Philadephia, Washington, Baltimore and Richmond; Jack Dailey, the Pacific coast; Carl Krueger, midwest cities; Bill Lansberg, Rocky Mountain territory; Thomas Jefferson, New York state, and Ralph Ravenscroft, Detroit, Indianapolis, Louisville, St. Louis and Cincinnati.

In addition, Rufus Blair, who handles out-of-town contacts for the Paramount publicity department, is swinging around the country and Ed Churchill is touring with a life-sized rubber model of Lemuel Gulliver.

Liberals Out En Masse For First HTA Revue

HOLLYWOOD—Liberals and others in search of entertainment are planning to turn out en masse when the newly-formed Hollywood Theatre Alliance presents its first revue, "Meet the People," at its community clubhouse December 14. The HTA, organized as a non-profit professional stage group, lists prominent members of the film colony among its personnel, including members of the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League, the Motion Picture Artists Committee and similar progressive organizations.

"Meet the People" incorporates original music composed by Jay Gorney, E. Y. Harburg, George Bassman and Henry Myers, and was directed by Danny Dare. Cast includes Leon Belasco, Jane Clayton and other film players.

The Hollywood League of Women Shoppers, under the direction of Gale Sondergaard, has opened its Christmas gift shop, featuring a collection of American-made toys and tree ornaments, as well as art objects made by refugees. No German or Japanese merchandise is carried.

Irving Pichel was featured speaker at an HANL district meeting. The writer-director chose as his topic "Protect Your Civil Liberties." Sam Ornitz, novelist and screen writer, spoke on "The International Situation Brought Up to Date" at a meeting of the People's Forum.

Roach's "Of Mice and Men" At Four Star Dec. 22

LOS ANGELES—Next attraction for the Four Star Theatre will be "Of Mice and Men," a United Artists film produced by Hal Roach. It is booked for a December 22 opening, following "Intermezzo," which is now in its fourth week.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

BAD BOY (SR)—Shopworn production of a small timer who becomes a big shot racketeer and meets the fate of the kind. Dialogue is trite and acting hammy. Johnny Downs, Rosalind Keith, Herbert Meyer directed.

FOUR JUST MEN (Mono-ABFD)—This story of how "Four Just Men" make England safe for Democracy by beating down a conspiracy to destroy the government, becomes confusing at times. Picture is better adapted to sensational-type houses rather than to those catering to first-run patronage. Michael Balcon produced; Walter Ford directed.

HENRY GOES ARIZONA (M-G-M)—There's a lot of fun for the kiddies in this entertaining offering which has Virginia Weidler urging Frank Morgan on to bigger and better things. Edwin L. Marin directed.

MEXICAN SPITFIRE (RKO)—Starting as a riotous farce and winding up in a blaze of slapstick, this packs more laughs than there are beans in a bowl of chili, with fiery Lupe Velez furnishing the pepper and droll Leon Errol the salt. Few, indeed, will be the customers who do not declare it a bang-up hour of light entertainment. Cliff Reid produced; Leslie Goodwins directed.

RIDERS OF THE SAGE (Metropolitan)—Old school western with absolutely none of the present-day polish that has been creeping slowly into the sagebrushers. Film is pathetically semi-comic, even drawing laughs from the kids. Bob Steele, Claire Rochelle.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER (Rep)—Taking the film from the currently popular song, the producer of this Gene Autry western has built a varied and colorful story, which probably will make it the number one Autry film of the year. All in all, it is decidedly not the usual western but a melange of thrills, fair drama and comic opera plot. Supporting cast includes Lupita Tovar, Smiley Burnette, Rex Lease, Duncan Renaldo and William Farnum. George Sherman directed.

THOU SHALL NOT KILL (Rep)—Formulized story of clergyman faced with the choice of violating the sanctity of the confessional or permitting an innocent man to be punished, this programmer is saved from absolute mediocrity through the sincere performances of a competent cast headed by Charles Bickford. Robert North produced; John H. Auer directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Team Needs Vehicles

HOLLYWOOD—The Warner story department has launched a search for suitable vehicles to team John Garfield and Ann Sheridan.

F&M-Union Resume Pact Negotiations

ST. LOUIS—While picketing continues at the Ambassador, Fox and Missouri theatres, first runs in the Fanchon & Marco lineup of motion picture houses, and also at several of the St. Louis Amusement Co. neighborhood and suburban theatres, also under the management of the Fanchon & Marco interests, negotiations in regards to a new contract between the operators union, No. 143, and F&M have been resumed.

About the time that the union threw its pickets in front of the Fox and seven of the St. Louis Amusement houses the efforts toward a new agreement were dropped. Later the situation entered the St. Louis county circuit court at Clayton when the theatre owners and the Fanchon & Marco company sought injunctions to restrain the pickets. This matter is still before the court. The picketing, meanwhile spread to the Ambassador and Missouri when eight projectionists, employed at those houses, were discharged because they had participated in the picketing at the other theatres.

Several new conferences have been held and others are in prospect. It is understood there is a strong possibility that the differences between the new administration in Local No. 143 and the Fanchon & Marco interests may be completely composed and peace restored.

The chief point of contention is whether the theatre management should be permitted to transfer operators from house to house without the consent of the union. The union's seniority rules are said to oppose such an arrangement.

It is probable that separate agreements may finally be reached to cover the Ambassador, Fox and Missouri in the first-run field and the St. Louis Amusement's second-run and subsequent-run houses.

Chicago Amusement Club Dinner Dance Dec. 12

CHICAGO—The new Amusement Club of Chicago, successor to CAPA, has announced plans for an introduction dinner-dance next Tuesday night, December 12, at the Hi-Hat Club.

The dinner dance will serve to introduce the newly organized group to the film industry here. There are now 40 members with Herb Elisburg serving as supervisor (president), and Sam Schoenstadt as business manager. Other officers are Irving Mack, cashier (treasurer); Hank Markbreidt, director; and Sidney Stern, assistant business manager.

The committee in charge of the affair at the Hi-Hat Club, which will feature Comedian Willie Shore in the show, includes Elisburg, Schoenstadt and Markbreidt.

The club is now conducting a membership drive and those joining before the first of the year will not have to pay the initiation fee.

Polishes "Carroll's" Script

HOLLYWOOD—Eddie Moran is polishing the script of "A Night at Earl Carroll's" for Paramount.

Subsequents in St. Louis Plan to Follow First Runs on Slashes

ST. LOUIS—The owners of the neighborhood and suburban theatres of St. Louis and St. Louis county are up in arms about the recent slash in admissions made by four local first-run houses the day after the new Esquire Theatre in Richmond Heights opened its doors.

Finding their protests to the managers of various local film exchanges had failed to get any results in the way of a restoration of the old price scales at the first runs, some of the operators of the subsequent runs seriously are talking of cutting their own prices so as to restore the price differential they formerly enjoyed in comparison with the first-run houses such as the Ambassador, Fox, Loew's and Missouri.

The exchange managers have taken the position there is nothing they can do about the price situation, much as they regret the lower rates at the first runs after the subsequent runs had signed up for the season's product on rentals based on the belief that all existing price scales would be maintained. However, it is expected some of the small house owners will take a definite stand in their demand for rental concessions to offset the business they claim was lost through the action of the first runs.

$500 Pot Assures A Party

Vincennes, Ind.—Theo Charles, operator of the Moon Theatre here, and who has his new theatre almost completed, has been setting aside a definite amount each week which he intends to use for a big opening party of the new theatre. Friends say the fund now has nearly five hundred dollars in it and that means a huge party in any town.

ITPA After Members Via District Meets

MILWAUKEE—District meetings will be held in key spots around the state in December for the purpose of augmenting the association's membership. Harry Perlewitz, business manager of the ITPA of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, has announced.

A membership committee, headed by Bert Nathan, Hollywood Theatre, Milwaukee, consisting of a representation from all sections of the state is working on this campaign. Field captains have been named in the various zones, who will arrange for the meetings, to be attended by as many of the officers and directors of the association as possible.

Men on the membership committee include Charles W. Trampe, Climax and Rainbow theatres, Milwaukee; William L. Ainsworth, La Belle Theatre, Oconomowoc; Henry Ringling, Ringling, Baraboo; Arthur P. Desormeaux, Majestic, Madison; Ben Marcus, Sprinoff Amusement Co., Ripon; August C. Berkholtz, West Bend and Mermac theatres, West Bend; William S. Smith, Orpheum, Menomonie; Max Krofta, Capitol, Racine; J. P. Adler, Adler Theatre Co., Marshfield; Ernst H. Brechler, Fenway Theatre, Fennimore, and Frank Borchert, Door Theatre, Sturgeon Bay.

Locally the association is meeting with circuit operators to eliminate various evils in the business, including free shows in tieups with merchants, two-for-one's, early bird admissions, double features and the playing of two class "A" features on the same program. Progress is being made to eradicate various of these policies, it is understood.

Call for Pledge

ST. LOUIS—On Sunday, December 10, several hundred thousand members in the St. Louis Archdiocese, which embraces St. Louis and the greater part of Missouri, will renew their pledges to the Catholic Legion of Decency. The signer of the pledge promises to stay away from pictures deemed indecent and immoral by Legion reviewers.

Bingo Restrainer Appeal Will Be Heard Dec. 8

MADISON, WIS.—The state supreme court will hold a hearing December 8 here on an appeal from a recent decision of Circuit Judge Charles L. Aarons enjoining the playing of Bingo at the Bahn Frei hall in Milwaukee.

The case, in which Charles W. Trampe, president of Film Service, Inc., was granted an injunction, is construed as a test to determine legality of the public's playing Bingo. Other public halls in Milwaukee have joined the Bahn Frei in opposing the injunction. Pending the court's decision, the injunction has been stayed.

Construction in Fowler Confined to Vlastos

INDIANAPOLIS—Dick Vlastos was in town last week and advised that the new theatre in Fowler, Ind., is being constructed by himself and not by the business men of the city as previously reported. It is the new theatre in Williamsport which is to be constructed by the business men there and which Vlastos will operate.

From present indications work will be started on the new theatre shortly after the opening of the Fowler Theatre which is scheduled for December 15.

New Queen City House

QUEEN CITY, MO.—A new theatre is being opened here by Wayne Henderson, formerly with the Kennedy in Kirksville, Mo. House is slated to open not later than the first of the year.

Chicago Filmites Fete Kirsch on Birthday

CHICAGO — A small, intimate group of some 50 Chicago filmites feted Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, on his 37th birthday anniversary at the Congress, at what was to have been a surprise party for Jack but which almost turned into a surprise for those giving the party.

Had not Johnny Jones of Jones, Linick and Schaefer accidentally called Kirsch to explain his inability to come to the affair, the Allied president would not have known about the party and would probably not have been there. For, Kirsch had planned to spend his birthday with his family on Friday night, and thus, hearing about it from Jones in the afternoon had time to change his plans.

Johnny Mednikow and Harry Goldman comprised the two-man committee that did a bang-up job in keeping the affair a secret by not starting things rolling until just a few days before the party; and they almost succeeded. The party itself was a success for all concerned.

Among those attending were Harry Kirsch, brother of Jack; Henri Elman, Walter Immerman, E. T. (Peck) Gomersall, Abe Kaufman, Eddie Silverman, Clarence Miller, Maury Salkin, Dick Salkin, Ed (Red) Mager, Ben Katzman, Charlie Cooper, Al Bartlestein, Johnny Smith, Ben Bartlestein, Willie Shore, Tom Burke, Eddie Brunnell, Ralph O'Hara, Johnny Mednikow, Gene Rich, Jack Shumow, Dick Sachsel, Tom Gilliam, Bill Brumberg, George Weinberg, Harry Goodman, Sinuel Roberts, Carl Goodman, Joe Kaufman, Percy Barr, Joe Weiss, Mort Goldberg, Clyde Eckhardt, Jack Rose, Jack Osserman, Van Nomikos, Irving Mandel and his two brothers, Harry Lorch, Harry Rekas, John Semedalas, Joe Stern, Sam Meyers.

Lou Abramson, Henry Herbel, Mannie Gottlieb, Irving Schlank, Morris Zimmerman, Charlie Nelson, "Doc" Banford, Tom Flannery, Joseph Rosenberg, Aaron Stein, Henry, Arthur and Sam Schoenstadt, Nick Dean, Marvin Lowenthall and Morris Leonard.

Jack Osserman of RKO did another fine job as toastmaster, and as Eddie Silverman of Essaness put it: "He's almost making us forget what a great toastmaster we had in Felix Mendelssohn (M-G-M's retired branch manager)."

Clyde (Old Man) Eckhardt of 20th Century-Fox spoke for the distributors and mentioned "casually" that he had given Kirsch a birthday present when he made a film deal with him a few days before. To which Ben Katzman remarked: "And Clyde said there would be no wisecracks."

Kirsch was presented with a bar for his office by those attending the party.

Charlie Cooper, Harry Goldman and John Semedalas got their own separate "small pox" table, and were later joined by Carl Goodman and Jack Shumow.

Tom Gilliam entertained the boys with some right fancy impromptu piano playing . . . Marvin Lowenthall was late, but he had a good excuse. He was visiting the missus at Henrotin Hospital where she presented him the day before with a baby boy. The Lowenthalls have twin girls, three years old.

Johnny Mednikow and Harry Goldman batted 100 per cent when they decided on that fancy fruit salad en glase served in cut-out whole pineapples. The boys enjoyed it so much you could hear a pin drop as they ate away.

And need we add that the evening ended up with the "friendly" card games, topped off with no small dose of African golf.

Sheboygan Film Council Head Favors Singles

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—Mrs. William Festerling, president of the Better Films Council of Sheboygan county, has given her endorsement to a recent editorial in the Sheboygan *Press* urging the return to single features.

In her statement to the daily, Mrs. Festerling said: "One of the primary purposes of the Better Films councils throughout the United States is the encouragement of attendance at the better pictures. There has been an increased appreciation of such pictures during the past few years. The motion picture producers and distributors association assure us that it is their desire to meet the popular demand. By building up a demand for the better pictures, it is the hope of the councils to eliminate the poor ones.

"Each community has its own problems. The Sheboygan council would appreciate hearing directly from your readers as to their reaction. If there is sufficient demand for single features (which include a newsreel, cartoon and a short) the council is assured the cooperation of the local theatre managers."

Four Ascap Infringement Suits Pend in Madison

MADISON, WIS.—Four infringement suits brought by Ascap against Wisconsin taverns and dance hall proprietors are pending before Judge Patrick T. Stone here. The action in each case was brought by Robert A. Hess, Milwaukee, counsel in Wisconsin for Ascap.

Aroused by what they term unjust tributes, tavern owners of Wisconsin have organized the Tavern Music Protective Ass'n to fight what they regard as a "racket." Meetings were held recently in Milwaukee and Sheboygan to raise funds to combat payments to Ascap.

MacGowans on "Old Missouri"

HOLLYWOOD—"In Old Missouri," scheduled as a starring vehicle for the Weaver Brothers and Elviry, is being adapted for Republic by Dorrell and Stuart MacGowan.

Watson Opens One

BLANCHARDVILLE, WIS.—The new Blanchard, remodeled from an old store building, has been opened here by Thomas Watson.

Marc J. Wolf Named Tent No. 10 Chief

INDIANAPOLIS—Marc J. Wolf, general manager of Theatrical Managers, Inc., operating approximately 22 theatres in Indiana, was elected chief barker of Tent No. 10 of Variety at the first meeting held in the club's new quarters in the Lyric Theatre Bldg., Monday night.

Carl Niesse, general manager of Olsen Theatres, Inc., was elected assistant chief barker; Curt Butler, salesman at Columbia, dough guy, and Joe Neger, office manager at 20th Century-Fox, property master.

Board members elected include Harrold Marshall, M-G-M exploiteer; Irving Fendrick, Fendrick's, Inc.; J. H. Stevens, Paramount manager; Joe Smith, booker of Affiliated Theatres, Inc.; Arthur Landes, Landes Costume Co., and Larry Shubnell, booker at Columbia.

Club rooms are brightly decorated and furnished with sketches savoring of circus life painted on the walls. The club held its first party in its new quarters December 9 for members, friends and their families.

Membership voted at last Monday's meeting to devote a fixed percentage of its revenue to charity.

Variety Auxiliary Show Draws Capacity Crowd

MILWAUKEE—A capacity house turned out for "The Variety Follies," an amateur revue presented at Fox's Palace here at midnight, December 2. Cast in the production was composed of members of the Variety Club and its auxiliary, with the assistance of several charitably-minded performers. Proceeds will be used to send underprivileged children to camp next summer.

The production was under the direction of Mrs. Jack Keegan, wife of the general manager for Warner here. Mrs. Frank Fischer, chairman of the Heart of Variety, was sponsor of the revue and the cast included Mmes. Glen C. Kalkhoff, Charles W. Trampe, A. J. Sickles, Jack Fenny, Jack Frackman, Jack Silliman and Eddie Spears; Misses Mary Ralph, Barbara Keegan, Penny Parker, Mary Ann Larkin, Catherin Ann McGrain; Messrs. Joe Hickey, Jack Fenny, Eddie Spears and Ray Smith.

Specialties were offered by Dolores and Bernard, Bert Fischer, Evelyn and Eddie Lurie, Dan and Beverly, Ida and Esther Orfield and Brownee Brown of Racine.

Pick New Year Show

CHICAGO—Warner Theatres will run the Kay Kyser picture, "That's Right, You're Wrong," day-and-date New Year's Eve at both the Avalon and Capitol, at $1.00 admission. The second feature on both theatre programs will also be the same.

Dunas Slates Meeting

CHICAGO—A meeting of branch managers and salesmen in District Manager Phil Dunas' midwest area of Columbia Pictures was scheduled for this weekend at the Drake Hotel here.

SPR'GFIELD

THE huge upright sign and marquee of the Orpheum are getting a new paint job. With all the lights and other ornaments removed, the theatre front looks bare, with only the large lettering "Garbo Laughs" standing out.

The Springfield Lions Club for the benefit of its eyeglass fund for underprivileged children is sponsoring and selling tickets for "The Mikado" which will show at the Roxy Theatre.

The "Dead End" kids, now appearing in "The Dead End Kids on Dress Parade" at the Roxy, are scheduled for a personal appearance on the Orpheum Theatre stage, December 10.

Workmen, while tearing down the interior of the Senate Theatre, now under process of remodeling, removed the old proscenium arch and ceiling of the present theatre to discover another proscenium arch, all plastered and decorated, about three feet above the present one. Manager Dave Jones, from newspaper files, found that it dated back previous to 1914.

Four stars of stage and screen, Marie Wilson, Rita Rio, Toby Wing and Faith Bacon, appeared in person for a three-day stage show at the Orpheum.

The Strand is enjoying unusual prosperity, Edmond Metzger announces. The reason: It is doing double duty, taking care of its own trade and also that of the Senate Theatre while the latter is being remodeled.

The stage play, "Tobacco Road," proved a big hit with three sell-out performances at the Roxy, Max Tschauder, manager said.

A "laughing contest" is being sponsored jointly by the Orpheum and the Illinois State Journal *in connection with "Ninotchka." M. E. Berman, manager of the theatre, in explaining it, said the paper takes and publishes pictures of groups. Faces of those who are laughing violently are encircled and upon calling at the office to identify themselves are awarded two tickets to see Garbo laugh.*

The talking Santa Claus in the lobby of the Roxy, controlled by an inter-office communicating system located in the basement, is attracting considerable interest among patrons who delight in having Santa tell them what he'll bring them for Christmas.

A majority of the home office staff of the Frisina Amusement Co., including Dominic Frisina, Dominic Giachetto, Ciro Pedrucci, Randolph Pedrucci, Joe Pedrucci, Max Tschauder and Leo Burnstein, got together for a duck-shooting excursion. Upon returning, they reported that most of the ducks are still flying.

Team March and Garson

HOLLYWOOD—"Susan and God," which George Cukor will direct for Producer Hunt Stromberg at Metro, will have Fredric March and Greer Garson in the leads.

Pre-Christmas Drop Hits Chicago Loop

CHICAGO—The pre-Christmas slump, already has started in the Chicago area, with even the loop houses showing a noticeable drop.

The State-Lake, B&K popular-priced house, continues to be the surprise loop unit. The surge upward for this house has been due in part to the use of well-known film names in the stage attractions. The current bill is the Dead End Kids, aided by Sam (Schlepperman) Hearn. The take is aided by M-G-M's "Fast and Furious" on the screen.

"Ninotchka" was doing unusually good business at the United Artists. It was up to par with the business done by the Hardy pictures, and will go two or three weeks. Columbia's "Mr. Smith" continues going to town at the Apollo, though it is beginning to taper off now.

Other product in the loop didn't come through well, with the second week of "That's Right, You're Wrong" at the Palace, and "Drums Along the Mohawk" at the Chicago, falling off.

MILWAUKEE

FOX'S PARADISE in West Allis observed its tenth anniversary last week, while the circuit's Varsity observed its second the week before.

L. F. Thurwachter, operator of the Park and Avon in Waukesha, is erecting a new 500-*seat house.*

Local downtown merchants are using the marquee of the darkened Alhambra to extend Christmas greetings.

Fox's Palace and Wisconsin, first runs, which operated on a single feature policy last week, are back showing duals this week.

Dick Powell was in town for a personal appearance at E. J. Weisfeldt's Riverside. Following his local appearance, he played a one-day stand December 8 at the Orpheum in Madison.

Russell Leddy, manager of Fox's Orpheum in Green Bay, addressed a recent meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in that city.

Spencer Tracy, slated to receive an honorary doctor's degree from Ripon College in January, will be unable to be present at the Wisconsin's college graduation exercises because he will be busy in the Thomas Edison picture, it is said.

T. J. Watson, veteran exhibitor, is opening a theatre in Blanchardville . . . Work is under way on a new house for Pulaski. M. Prokopovitz is owner of the building.

Members of the Brown county and Green Bay school patrols were guests of the Bay, Green Bay, at their monthly theatre party.

CHICAGO

THE FILM industry and amusement division of the Community Fund has almost $20,000 of its $26,000 quota so far and hopes to finish the job shortly, according to Chairman Jack Kirsch . . . One of those doing a real good samaritan job on the drive this year is Johnny Smith of the operators' union.

Neal Bishop of the operators' union and district representative of the exchange employes' union was in New York this week attending the conference on wage scales.

All of the M-G-M employes took time out the other night to put in an evening of bowling at the Congress Alleys . . . Van Nomikos plans to close his Halstead Theatre shortly for remodeling . . . Sol Cohen is now a salesman working for Abe Teitel.

Johnny Mednikow has been given added territory for selling A. L. Rule's "When Germany Surrendered." His additional territory is the state of Ohio . . . Abe Teitel is showing some unusual new color prints on the French picture he is distributing, "Conflict." The process is called "Photocolor," and faithfully reproduces color.

Ann Rutherford, Metro starlet who plays Polly Benedict in the Hardy series, passed through Chicago en route to Charlotte, N. C., where she was to be guest of the MPTOA unit convention there. With her was her mother. She goes from Charlotte to the premiere of "Gone With the Wind," in Atlanta . . . Glenda Farrell stopped off here for a while this week. She was at the Blackstone. Ditto, Carrol Levis, English actor, en route back to New York.

Lou Smith, Columbia studio's new advertising and publicity head, was here this week, en route to New York.

Warner Bros. will be host to over 300 Chicago exhibitors next Tuesday, December 12, at the Esquire Theatre. Starting at 10:30 a. m., the third of the series based

(Continued on page 84)

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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INDIANAPOLIS

W R. McCORMACK, former manager of the Gregory theatres in Frankfort, has been appointed manager of the Grand in Linton, recently reopened by the Settos circuit.

V. E. Burkle, operator of the Rialto, Fortville, was very proud last Saturday evening when his patrons complimented him on his new sound.

Walters & Scheidler, operators of the Jefferson and Orpheum in Hartford City and the Rex in Dunkirk, expect to open their new house in Dunkirk in the very near future.

Sam Routes, operator of the Strand in Hobart, Ind., for many years, sold the theatre recently to Ignatius Prusiecki of East Chicago, Ind. Prusiecki also operates a dairy in E. Chicago. New sound was installed and used for the first time on Thanksgiving Day.

"Jitterbug Jamboree" was held in the Manufacturers' Building at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, starting last Thursday and is expected to run at least a week. An Indianapolis team to be selected to represent the city will compete in the American championship at the Madison Square Gardens as announced by R. M. (Dick) Edwards, well-known showman and formerly of Indianapolis.

William E. Wood, maintenance man at the Regent in Indianapolis, noticed smoke in the theatre basement and upon investigating found a fire raging in the basement of the cafe next door last Sunday afternoon. About two hundred patrons left the theatre in orderly fashion when smoke seeped between the walls.

A youthful bandit, wearing horn-rimmed glasses, early Friday night escaped with $35 from the boxoffice of the Esquire Theatre, operated by Joe Cantor. Miss June Flynn, the cashier, told police the youth had loitered in the theatre lobby several minutes before stepping to the window. He opened his overcoat to reveal a pistol, ordering her to hand over the money.

Leo Ciacio plans to open his new 600-seat Downs in Louisville, Ky., the latter part of December. Ger-Bar, Inc., of Indianapolis sold the complete equipment for the theatre.

Announcement was made this week that Harry L. Sommerer has been appointed manager of manufacturing for the plants of the RCA Manufacturing Co. and will have supervision of the company's plants located at Camden, Harrison, New Jersey and Indianapolis, Ind.

Trueman Rembusch, president of the Syndicate Theatres, Inc., has announced the installation of new sound equipment in the Elwood, Elwood, Ind. . . . Theatrical Managers, Inc., who expect to open their newly acquired Strand Theatre in Knightstown, Ind., in the near future have also installed new sound equipment there.

A music fan was suspected in a $600 safe robbery that climaxed a busy weekend of crime. The safe was found battered open in the office of the Walker, a col-

(Continued on page 84)

90 St. Louis Theatres Unite for Charity

ST. LOUIS—The Motion Picture Theatre Owners of St. Louis has completed plans for the participation of approximately 90 local theatres in the campaign of Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann to raise $50,000 to clothe 12,000 needy children for Christmas.

Preliminary plans were discussed at a conference in the office of George W. Chadsey, director of public safety, the afternoon of November 28 with representatives of 88 theatres in attendance. It was agreed the theatres would donate the receipts of their shows on Monday, December 11. It is hoped the theatres will raise at least $10,000 toward the fund.

As part of the campaign approximately 200 city employes will stage a benefit show at the Municipal Auditorium next month. Acts will be from theatres, night clubs and hotel floor shows.

New Equipment Orders Are Reported by NTS Branch

CHICAGO—Complete booth equipment, including Simplex sound and projection, has been installed by the local office of National Theatre Supply at the new Ewing, owned by Roma Ewing, Bloomington, Ill.; the Rees, Stuart Rees, Plymouth, Ind.; Gala, Alex and George Kalafat, Garrett, Ind.; LaRose, George Spicer, Roseville, Ill., and the Walton, Joe Skora and J. P. Kistler, Chicago.

Simplex sound also has gone into the B&K screening room, the Essaness American Theatre, the Sam Chernoff Pix, Chicago; the Steve Bennis Freeport, Freeport, Ill.; the John Woytinek, Gayble, North Judson, Ind., and the Carl Hall Strand, Angola, Ind. Equipment has also been sold to Eddie Zorn for his new house at Pontiac, Ill.; for the new Telenews, Chicago; the Dundee, operated by R. H. Schoellhorn, Dundee, Ill.; and the new Dixon, L. G. Rorer, Dixon, Ill.

Paramount Has Trio on Newspaper Ten Best

CHICAGO—Mae Tinee, Chicago *Tribune* critic, selected ten pictures as November's best from those shown in the Chicago loop.

Her list included: "The Real Glory," United Artists; "Rulers of the Sea," "Honeymoon in Bali," and "Disputed Passage," Paramount; "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," Columbia; "That's Right, You're Wrong," RKO; "Those High Grey Walls," Columbia; "On Your Toes," First National, and two foreign films, "Forty Girls and a Baby," and "The Challenge."

Gets "Son of Monte Cristo"

HOLLYWOOD—Rowland V. Lee is directing "The Son of Monte Cristo" for Producer Edward Small. Louis Hayward i the title role.

ST. LOUIS

BARNEY ROSENTHAL, co-manager of Republic Pictures, was in Springfield, Ill., on business early last week.

Lester Levi, booker-salesman for Monogram Pictures, was called to Kansas City, Mo., by the death in that city on Sunday, November 26, of his father. The elder Levi retired from active business some years ago.

C. D. Hill, manager for Columbia Pictures, was out of town on business . . . Leo Sullivan, former Columbia booker, is now working for National Theatre Supply.

Fred Hooker opened his 350-seat Modern Theatre in New Baden, Ill., last week. It is equipped throughout with furnishings, etc., obtained from the Exhibitors Supply Co.

Mrs. Bernice Montgomery has installed new sound and projection equipment in her Paramount Theatre, Chaffee, Mo., secured through National Theatre Supply . . . Levi Chissolm also has installed Simplex sound projectors and Simplex lamps in his theatre in Fulton, Ky. . . . Earl Stout has installed Simplex sound in the Uptown, Cairo, Ill.

The work of installing Simplex 4-star sound, projectors, lamphouse and pedestals in the Jersey, Jerseyville, Ill., has been completed by National Theatre Supply. This new 350-seat house is to be operated by Joe Ballard.

The Exhibitors Supply Co. has completed the installation of 600 Ideal opera chairs in the Princess, Beardstown, Ill., operated by S. E. Pirtle of Jerseyville, Ill.

D. E. "Doc" Williams has been enjoying nice business since he took over the management of the Hermo, a 250-seater in Hermann, Mo.

G. E. (Dad) McKean, Bank Night representative in eastern Missouri and southern Illinois, has been ill the past few weeks, but is now able to spend a short time at his desk each day.

The building department of the St. Louis board of education was to receive bids December 6 on a sound on film projection system.

Grover La Rose, the booking agent who is bedded down at St. Mary's Hospital suffering from two ugly breaks in his right leg, a couple of black eyes and other injuries sustained in an automobile accident last week, is endeavoring to carry on business as usual from that point. Shirley Franklin, his secretary, relays calls from his downtown office.

Richard Arvidson, manager of the Mattoon, Mattoon, Ill., is still receiving congratulations on his marriage which took place in September. One would imagine we were back in the sailboat days.

Mrs. Wanda Hogue, wife of the manager of the Effingham, Effingham, Ill., plans to spend much of the winter at Miami Beach, Fla.

Vincent Helling, who manages the Ritz and Strand in St. Charles, Mo., for the

(Continued on page 84)

Photoplay Indorsers to Sponsor Xmas Parties

INDIANAPOLIS — The annual Christmas parties at neighborhood theatres here will be sponsored by the Indianapolis chapter of the Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays, when any non-perishable food contribution will be acceptable as an admission ticket between December 16-23.

Parent-Teacher groups in all schools will cooperate and the food will be delivered to the less fortunate families of the neighborhood. The results in past years have been very satisfactory and have netted several hundred baskets which were distributed among the needy.

Exhibitors are eager to cooperate and are ever ready to do their part. Practically every neighborhood theatre in the city will take part and furnish a free show for the children and assist in delivering the baskets. Members of the Indianapolis Indorsers group will furnish cars for delivery where necessary and also use their own cars. Mrs. Lee Waddell, chairman of the neighborhood houses, is in charge of the event and is being assisted by other members of the Indorsers group.

Historical Background Films Please Council

CHICAGO—All historical background films of recent date are included in the family listing of the Chicago Better Films Council in its November report. These are RKO's "Allegheny Uprising," 20th Century-Fox's "Drums Along the Mohawk," and Paramount's "Rulers of the Sea." Others in this group are: "At the Circus," (M-G-M); "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" (Col); "The Challenge" (Denham Films); "First Love" (Univ); "That's Right, You're Wrong" (RKO); and "Little Accident" (Univ).

For mature audiences are listed: "Call a Messenger," and "Full Confession" (Univ.); "Here I Am a Stranger" (20th-Fox); "Honeymoon in Bali" (Para); "Jamaica Inn" (Para); "Legion of Lost Flyers" (Univ); "Mlle. Ma Mere" (Hoffman); "Champs Elysees" (Pathe-Cinema).

Short subjects given special mention are: "Rubinoff and His Violin," "The Bill of Rights," and "The Monroe Doctrine" (WB); "Holland and the Zuyder Zee" (Col), and "Natural Wonders of Washington State" (M-G-M).

Sales Tax Receipts Gain

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—Sales tax collections for the first 11 months of 1939 reached $20,344,633, an increase of $1,805,539 compared with the same period last year, G. H. Bates, state sales tax supervisor for State Auditor Forrest Smith has reported. The November collections totaled $1,974,356, a gain of $253,112 over that month in 1938.

Adapt Original for Metro

HOLLYWOOD—Lynn Root and Frank Fenton are collaborating on the script of "Golden Fleecing," from their own original for Metro.

Appeals by Nick-Weston Group Turned Down by Circuit Court

ST. LOUIS—The court of appeals here Wednesday handed down two decisions adverse to the Nick-Weston faction of Local No. 143, operators' union.

One denied an application for a writ of mandamus to compel Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley to set aside his ruling declaring John P. Nick, vice-president of the IATSE, and Clyde A. Weston, former business agent of No. 143, in default in connection with their appeal from his decision naming temporary receivers for the union last April.

The second ruling denied a mandamus writ sought by defense intervenors to force Judge Oakley to grant a change of venue in hearings for a permanent receivership.

In the meantime, peace negotiations between the union and Fanchon & Marco officials toward settling the strike here are apparently making little progress.

High Court Refuses Nick Faction Writ

JEFFERSON CITY—The John Nick faction in Local No. 143 lost another court round to the new administration of that organization when the state supreme court refused to grant a writ to prohibit Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley of St. Louis from approving bills for expenses of the union in connection with the picketing of the Ambassador, Fox, and Missouri, first run theatres of the Fanchon & Marco Service Corp., and six houses in the St. Louis Amusement Co. fleet, also under F&M management.

The writ had been sought by William F. Canavan and several other members of Local No. 143 friendly to Nick and Clyde A. Weston, former business manager of the union.

In their petition, they complained that Judge Oakley had authorized the use of union funds for umbrellas, handbills and other picketing expenses. They asked that he be restrained from entering orders approving such expenditures. The tribunal rejected the plea without comment.

The union has been operating under receivers appointed by Judge Oakley last April. Canavan and his associates intervened in the receivership proceedings on behalf of Nick and Weston. The Nick appeal from the decision of Judge Oakley ousting him from control of Local No. 143 was recently transferred from the supreme court to the St. Louis court of appeals, because the higher court held it lacked jurisdiction.

Adapts Republic Yarn

HOLLYWOOD — Republic's "The Lady From New Orleans" is being adapted by Garrett Fort.

Trade Terms

CHICAGO—This story is a belated one, but still worth repeating, we believe.

Henri Elman was selling one of the fight pictures and was particularly busy when he got a long distance telephone call from a small-town theatre owner. It seems this owner had traded his farm for the theatre in the town of 700 population, and had had some requests from his patrons to play the fight pictures.

Elman, in haste, said to the prospective customer that he would sell the picture at "80-20," for a two-day run. On the playdate, Elman sent a checker, who was surprised to find a huge sign on the side of the theatre reading: "Adults, 80 cents; children 20 cents."

But the payoff is that the house did actually "terrific," holding the picture an extra two days, doing over $400 gross, and finally settling at 50-50.

BOWLING

CHICAGO—The hotly contested Film Bowling League now finds the Republic bowlers out in front by the slim margin of one game, after they whitewashed the Warner team last week. There are three tied for second place, Photoplay being among them by virtue of an upset three-game victory over Paramount, which dropped to fifth place. National Screen won three from 20th Century-Fox, while Film Carriers lost two to Universal.

Clarence Keim of National Screen set a new league high for this season with a high series of 636, rolling games of 189, 213 and 234.

Standings:

	Won	Lost
Republic	18	12
National Screen	17	13
Photoplay	17	13
Film Carriers	17	13
Paramount	16	14
Universal	13	17
Warner Bros.	13	17
20th Century-Fox	9	21

In the Warner League, Ted Turrell still is high individual bowler, having crossed over to a 180 average. Next in line are Jones, 175; Graf, 170; Corbett, 168, and Busch, 167.

The standings to date:

	Won	Lost
Avalon	27	12
Yannigans	24	15
Beverly	22	17
Capitol	21	18
Avalon Cubs	21	18
Cosmo	19	20
Ogden	19	20
Stratford	18	21
Highland	17	22
Dead Enders	16	23
Hammond	15	24
Jeffery	15	24

New Brazil, Ind., House

BRAZIL, IND.—Another suburban house, the Cine, has been opened here. It seats 375 persons and is managed by S. M. Grimes.

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ST. LOUIS

(Continued from page 82)

Frisina circuit, and Mrs. Helling celebrated the 15th anniversary of their wedding the night of November 25. About 22 couples including a number of theatre managers and their wives attended. The Hellings have two children.

The Frisina interests plan to open their new Ritz in St. Charles at an early date. It will have 350 seats. The present Ritz is to be closed. Helling will manage the new house.

Ruth Carrigan, a pretty fixture at the National Theatre Supply's local office, has perfected plans for the installation at her home of a dressing table that has been duly described as "kidney shaped and wearing a lace skirt." She plans to arrange a real housewarming when the dressing outfit is officially on the job . . . Bill Guinan is very proud of that beautiful daughter who checked in a short time ago.

Every motion picture theatre and dramatic and burlesque house in St. Louis has agreed to donate the receipts of the evening of Monday, December 11, to the St. Louis Christmas benefit for children sponsored by Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann. Approximately 90 theatres will participate.

The engagement of Lillian R. Koplar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Koplar, to Morris A. Shenker has been announced. No date has been set for the marriage.

Frank Guyton, 67, president of West Lake Park Amusement Co., died November 30. He had been under treatment for heart disease and high blood pressure.

Gladys Swarthout, soprano of the screen, stage and radio, appeared as guest artist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, December 8 and 9, at the Municipal Auditorium.

Colvin McPherson, film critic of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, asked his readers to help him select the "10 best" pictures for the year.

CHICAGO

(Continued from page 81)

on the adventures of the Lemp family, "Four Wives," will be shown.

Mort Singer is back from the west coast raving over RKO's "Abe Lincoln in Illinois." He says: "It's their finest picture since 'Cimarron,' and despite all the other 'Lincolns' losing money, I'll place a bet on this one that it clicks."

Word comes here that Jim Christy, former RKO Theatres district manager here, is well again and is now in the Universal publicity department on the west coast, under John Joseph. We know that'll be good news to his many friends here.

Oscar Serlin, formerly in B&K's publicity department, and now the author of the hit-show, "Life With Father," on Broadway, was a visitor here over the weekend.

Ludwig Sussman—A Man of Extremes

Chicago — Ludwig Sussman goes from one extreme to the other at his Adelphi Theatre. First he was running duals, then he changed to a single attraction for one or two shows. Recently, he turned to triples.

Gladys Swarthout Figures In a Hard Bit of News

CHICAGO—Gladys Swarthout made news when she sang here in the Chicago City Opera's production of "Mignon." But, it wasn't so much her singing that made the news.

Rather, it was the fact that, as Mignon, Miss Swarthout was dropped to the stage floor during the second act. It came when Tito Schipa, singing the role of Meister, forgot to carry her out of the supposed burning building as part of the libretto. Instead, Desire Defrere carried her from the building, but could not quite make the grade and dropped the star with a thud.

Butler Football Party at The Ritz, Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—In celebration of a successful football season, a film party was held recently at the Ritz Theatre for Butler University students, the athletic staff and members of the football team. Classes were dismissed early for the event.

As an appropriate gesture, Charles Olson, president of the company operating the Ritz, will be given an honorary membership in the university's Loyalty Legion.

Jim Kennedy, manager of the Ritz who was in charge of the party, also announced he has formed this town's newest Kiddie Club.

More Xmas Party Dates Are Set in Chicago

CHICAGO—Two more Christmas party dates have been set. The employes of 20th Century-Fox will hold their party on Thursday night, December 21, at the Congress Hotel, with Leo Schauer and Howard DeTamble on the arrangements committee.

The B&K Employes' Club will hold its annual affair December 20, at the Stevens Hotel.

The exact date of the eighth annual Warner Club party for children of Warner employes has been set. It will be Wednesday, December 20, in the afternoon from 1:30 to 5 o'clock, in the Warner club rooms. Free toys and favors will be distributed, and a cartoon and stage show will be presented.

Party for Milt Herth

KENOSHA, WIS.—The Kenosha staged a "welcome home" party for Milt Herth in connection with his appearance at the house with Herth personally presenting 36 free prizes in the form of footballs and autographed handkerchiefs to lucky youngsters. Herth is a local man.

INDIANAPOLIS

(Continued from page 82)

ored house operated by Dudley Williston. Contents were missing. On the floor in front of the smashed vault lay the stub of a ticket to a music concert believed lost by the thief.

The Filmarte Guild sponsored the presentation of "Harvest," a French film at the Athenaeum. Dancing followed the showing. Other foreign pictures have been booked by the Guild . . . Sophie Tucker will be here for three days starting December 11 for the showing of the Broadway hit, "Leave It to Me," at the English. Victor Moore and William Gaston are also in the cast.

Edward Sonz of Theatre Poster Supply Co., Cincinnati, was along Filmrow. He is making a business trip through Indiana . . . Sam W. Neall, operator of the Indiana, Sipe, Isis and Fox theatres in Kokomo, Ind., has had his hands full during the past few weeks remodeling two of his theatres. The Fox reopened December 6 after a shutdown for a new porcelain front and a complete interior redecoration job. The Indiana will reopen around Christmas after a shutdown of several weeks.

Seen along the Row: Al Borkenstein and John Micu, Fort Wayne; Harmon Allison, Mooresville; Joe Schilling, Connersville; Billy Connors, Marion; Douglas Haney, Albion; Harry Van Noy, Anderson; Harold V. Neese, Brazil; Karl Gast, Akron; Mrs. William Luckett, Scottsburg; T. N. Luckett, French Lick; Roy Harrold, Rushville; Maurice Rubin, Michigan City; Abe Kaufman, Terre Haute; Dick Vlastos, Fowler; Red Massey, Worthington; A. McCarty, Pendleton; H. Lisle Kreighbaum, Rochester; Mrs. Annette Kuebler, Jasper; L. T. Moore, Mitchell; Bill Studebaker, Logansport.

Grey Kilbourne, manager of the St. Clair, was host to the Indianapolis Bookers' Club . . . Columbia exchange was visited by B. Zeeman, assistant manager of exchange operations . . . Mrs. Ted Cook, inspector at the local United Artists office, is now convalescing at her home after being released from the St. Francis Hospital.

Joe Brokaw, operator of the Brokaw in Angola, Ind., ill for some time, has gone to Florida to recuperate . . . Hobart Hart, operator of the Cort and Smart theatres in Auburn, Ind., is on a Florida vacation.

Williams to Elkhart

GOSHEN, IND.—Eldon Williams, doorman at the Jefferson Theatre here, has been named manager of the Orpheum, Elkhart. Don Schnoebelen takes Williams' place here at the Jefferson, as assistant to Manager Roy Hanson.

Plans in Lawrenceville

LAWRENCEVILLE, ILL.—Another theatre for this city is contemplated by N. Carter, a local man. It will provide opposition to Frisina's 500-seat Avalon Theatre.

"

FROM A LETTER FROM
WESLEY J. LUDWIG
Princeton Theatre, Princeton, Wis.

"I had been wanting to write you about THE BOOKING CHART and express my heartfelt thanks for this fine feature and booking aid but owing to pressing business I was unable to find time to do so. However, I am taking time out now to write you."

"The reason THE BOOKING CHART is of importance to me and I believe to all small theatres is the fact that the exchanges will not supply the smaller theatres with release charts in time to book many of the pictures as early as we want to or would like to. With this chart I step up to the bookers and ask for such and such a picture released at such and such a time and they usually give me a date."

"With this chart we are able to do our booking better and after all that is an important service to any theatre."

"I also wish to take the liberty at this time to thank you for the many fine suggestions I have received in perusing the contents of your journal."

THE Booking Chart
A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES
Published regularly in
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry
BOXOFFICE

Hawks Favors Longer Runs, Fewer Films

By GENE RICH

CHICAGO—Howard Hawks, one of filmdom's top producer-directors, whose latest is "His Girl Friday" for Columbia, is another one who feels that ere long it will be necessary for the major companies to cut production output to less pictures per year, but retain budgets on individual pictures.

His thoughts coincide with those professed by Joseph M. Schenck and Darryl F. Zanuck of 20th Century-Fox, as enumerated by Red Kann in BOXOFFICE last week.

However, he goes farther and offers how he believes exhibition can aid in the situation.

"We will get into the legit theatre idea," he told BOXOFFICE. "By that, I mean that if a picture is good, it will run indefinitely on through from the top first-runs to the subsequent-runs. Pictures can definitely play longer than they have in the past, if they are good. And by playing pictures longer, exhibitors will gradually find that they have less need for so many pictures. This in turn will gradually lead us back to the sane situation of single features, less production but much better pictures. There is no reason why a company that nets eight million dollars on 50 pictures, many of which are not good and that cut into what would have been a larger net, cannot net the same amount with only 30 or 40 pictures, all of which are good."

Hawks added that, in his estimation, the elimination of block booking would aid in the production of better pictures, though it would place a hardship on production plans and distribution setups.

Hawks was en route to Florida where he will confer with Ernest Hemingway on an original story that the author will write for Hawks' next production. The producer would not say whether it will be for Columbia or another major.

Sol Lesser Turns Cameras On "Our Town" Jan. 10

HOLLYWOOD—"Our Town," Sol Lesser's first for United Artists, hits the cameras January 10, its start postponed from December 15. Setback was necessitated by the inavailability of Director William Wyler, who has just begun an assignment for Samuel Goldwyn.

Metro Assigns Leonard to Two Additional Remakes

HOLLYWOOD—M-G-M has plans to remake "The Guardsman," filmed in early talking picture days with Alfred Lunt and Lynne Fontanne co-starring, and "Smilin' Through," last made in 1932. Robert Z. Leonard, currently producing a remake of "New Moon," is slated to handle both.

Warner Renews Sherman

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has renewed Vincent Sherman's directorial pact.

Wants "Hunchback" Single Billed

Chicago—It is understood that Ned Depinet of RKO has sounded out top exhibition leaders throughout the country, via letter, in an attempt to set "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" in as a single feature attraction from coast to coast.

Defendants' Briefs Request Dismissal

CHICAGO—Blanket denials were entered in the defendants' briefs in the government's contempt suit here this week. Defendants are Barney Balaban, B&K and seven of the eight majors, with Columbia excepted.

Attorneys for all defendants requested in the conclusions of their briefs that Special Master Edgar Eldredge recommended to Federal Judge Charles Woodward that the government's information be dismissed in its entirety. They contended that the government failed to prove any single point in its case.

Both parts of the defendants' briefs were more or less rehashes of the testimony given before Master Eldredge thus far. It is expected that he will give the government attorneys an opportunity to file their answer, after which he will study the papers for his recommendations. This is expected to take until the middle of January or February 1.

Part of the defendants' brief, submitted by the legal firm of Kirkland, Fleming, Green, Martin and Ellis, for Balaban, B&K and Paramount, was humorously presented. It was obviously written by Robert Golding, a member of the firm, and one who drove home many points for the defense during oral arguments last summer and this fall before Master Eldredge. However, in substance, it merely denied all allegations made by the government. Much is made in all sections of the defendants' brief that the "prosecution concedes that no conspiracy exists in this case."

"Techniques of Publicity" New Chicago U Course

CHICAGO—Here's a chance for some embryo press agents to find out what it's all about—if the winter quarter catalogue of the graduate school of the University of Chicago is to be taken at its face value.

For the university is offering a course, "Techniques of Publicity," during the winter quarter beginning January 2, and ending March 15. It will meet every Thursday night at 7 p. m., and will be presided over by Henry Morgenstern, the director of publicity for U. of C. The first course meeting will be January 4.

George Beck Assigned

HOLLYWOOD — Republic has assigned George Beck to the script of "Forgotten Girls." Robert North will produce.

Chicago Telenews Has Innovation in Store

CHICAGO—An innovation will be tried out when the Telenews Theatre opens on December 23 in the new Capitol Building at Randolph and State.

The well-known boxoffice will be absent from the front of the theatre. Instead there will be a turnstile at the entrance, and all customers will have to do is to have the 25-cent admission price ready, put it in the slot in the turnstile and walk through.

The theatre at present is having a little difficulty on setting in short subjects that will be played with the newsreels of the various companies. As in other spots where the group that owns the theatre has houses, this newsreel house will have a 25-cent admission. However, here, due to the clearance situation whereby short subjects also are subject to a regular release schedule, the theatre has to be placed in the 25-cent house category and therefore must wait for the regular release dates of shorts instead of being able to run short subjects a week or two after they are shown in the loop. This will work a hardship because it is known that the newsreel houses depend upon the freshness of their short subjects as well as newsreel matter in attracting their patronage.

Sylvan Goldfinger, formerly with B&K and well known in the industry here, has been working for over a month as manager of the house getting plans and details set for the opening, the Saturday before Christmas. Aiding him is Frank C. Singleton.

Fred Bartow, one of Chicago's prominent publicists, and formerly exploiteer here for M-G-M, has been named publicity director.

Herbert Scheftel is president of the Telenews company, Edward Reeves, vice-president, and Alfred Burger, secretary. Scheftel and Burger will be here for the opening. Directors are Paul Warburg, W. French Githens and Angier Biddle Duke.

Change PDC Production Schedule at Prescott

HOLLYWOOD—Originally designed to handle production of three western series, the Prescott, Ariz., studios of Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp., also will house the filming of melodramas and at least one "Four-Star Special," according to revised plans on Judell's winter schedule. Preliminary designs for a metropolitan "street" and additional office buildings and dressing rooms are being designed by Fred Preble, company art director, and construction will begin about mid-January.

December 10 has been set as "Bobby Clark Day," signalizing the inauguration of the plant, with Governor R. T. Jones of Arizona as official host. A street parade, rodeo and western barbecue will mark completion of "The Sagebrush Family Trails West," in which 13-year-old Clark will be featured.

Bobby will then embark on a personal appearance tour, from which he returns in January to begin work in the second of the "Sagebrush Family" series.

Pennsylvania Police Attack Lotteries

PITTSBURGH—Pennsylvania motor police are pushing a statewide, county-by-county drive to wipe out all lotteries. Most activities to date have been in eastern counties, according to Commissioner Lynn G. Adams, at Harrisburg.

If the all-inclusive drive succeeds there will be no more automobiles "given away," no more "drawing prizes," no more theatre "bank nights," no more "numbers" racket, no more raffles, Bingo or chance-taking projects of any kind, motor troopers stated this week. Notice to lotteries to close up shop have been sent out in a number of counties.

First used in Pennsylvania by early settlers who found them effective in pooling resources to build churches and other institutions, lotteries have long been routine events in most communities, despite their ban under state and federal law.

Bingo and Similar Games Fold Up in Muskegon

DETROIT—Bingo and similar games are completely out in Muskegon, Mich., following action of Police Chief Peter Hansen. Hansen moved a few weeks ago against slot machines and reported poker games in cigar stores, but found churches sponsoring the Beano and Keno parties.

"Playing bridge for prizes is gambling, and I cannot enforce the law against slot machines and poker games and allow you to operate," Hansen told local pastors.

The Greater Muskegon Pastors' Conference accordingly adopted a resolution banning such games, and a similar agreement was reached, "after spirited argument," by representatives of local Roman Catholic parishes.

Ohio Employment Is Up 14% Over Last Year's

COLUMBUS—Ohio employment is currently 14 per cent greater than this time last year, according to the federal reserve banking board. Department store sales rose for the fifth consecutive month in October, averaging 13 per cent over last year. Bank deposits during November were likewise 13 per cent ahead of a year ago.

October, '39, as compared to October, '38, showed increases: Akron, 22 per cent; Canton, 29 per cent; Cincinnati, 6 per cent; Cleveland, 12 per cent; Columbus, 12 per cent; Dayton, 12 per cent; Toledo, 15 per cent; Youngstown, 21 per cent.

Princess Sees "Oz"

MASONTOWN, PA.—The Princess of Thurn and Paxis was a special guest of David Trimble, manager of the Liberty here, to view M-G-M's "Wizard of Oz." The 62-year-old Princess had witnessed the stage production in New York many years ago and had expressed a desire to see the film version. Trimble placed newspaper clippings of the event in the cornerstone dedication of a new postoffice building here.

ITO of Ohio Meet Due in January

Cleveland—The annual convention of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, usually held the end of November or the beginning of December, will be held some time in January. Date of the convention is contingent upon the time of the convening of the special state legislature, it being the plan to hold the convention when the legislature is in session.

Reach Settlement on Moon Salary Claim

DETROIT—The suit of Raymond E. Moon, former general manager, against Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan for salary allegedly due him has been officially settled.

Moon said that he had received his check, and that he was "completely satisfied with the settlement." Details were not disclosed. He left Co-Op more than a year ago and since has organized Mutual Theatres, another combine, which he serves as general manager.

Detroit's Variety Spends Over $4,000 on Children

DETROIT—In the past two months the local Variety Club has served 22,032 meals to school children, has distributed over 8,000 items of clothing, and has provided 357 children with eye tests. Three hundred and eighty-three were given glasses or had theirs repaired. Total expenditure for this work was $4,025.41, according to Edgar E. Kirchner.

Variety Luncheons May Be Made Monthly Affairs

DETROIT—The matter of Variety Club luncheons, discontinued during December, will be reconsidered at the end of the year, according to Harold C. Robinson, chief barker-elect. A possible shift from weekly to monthly luncheons is under discussion.

Detroit Variety Slates Annual Party Dec. 15

DETROIT—A big annual Feather Party is slated for Variety Club, to be held Friday, December 15, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Book-Cadillac Hotel. Event is being directed by Harold C. Robinson, who assumes office as Chief Barker on January 1, and William Carlson, entertainment chairman.

Variety luncheons, recently moved from Monday to Wednesday, are being called off until after the first of the year, due to the holidays.

"Hurrah" for Morgan

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has purchased "Hurrah—I'm Alive," a story by Richard Maibaum, as a vehicle for Frank Morgan.

Ohio Trade Girds to Fight Tums Program

CLEVELAND—In order to further a "Back to the Movies" move in general and to offset the Tuesday evening Tums radio broadcast, the board of directors of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, at a meeting in Columbus this week, proposed to submit to theatre owners of the state a plan whereby the owner of the lucky telephone number will receive double the $1,000 Tums award if he is in one of the theatres participating in the plan.

Every theatre operator in the state, independent and affiliate, is being asked to join the movement. If 500 participate, the assessment per theatre to raise $2,000 is negligible, according to the board members, while its value as a "Back to the Movies" campaign is considered invaluable.

A survey throughout the state, it is said, showed that thousands of people stay at home on Tuesday night so as to be on hand if their telephone numbers are called during this program. While the plan is only in its formative state, exhibitors seem to favor it.

Allied Group to Combat Non-Theatrical Units

PITTSBURGH—AMPTO of W. Pa. formulated plans to combat non-theatricals, including the rapidly spreading use of 16mm films, at a meeting of the board of directors, December 1.

Directors are withholding their plan of action but announced a committee to handle the situation, including M. A. Rosenberg, Fred J. Herrington, Archie Fineman, William Walker and Sam Fleishman.

Allen Usher in Detroit to Award Exchange Prizes

DETROIT—Allen Usher, Paramount division manager, came here to head "the Detroit Gang," which won awards in the recent Four Star Drive. The awards were formally presented in the Paramount offices, following close of business for the day.

Besides the general prizes awarded to the office as a whole, Salesmen Jack Ryder, Eddie Stuckey and Jack Thompson, all received individual prizes for their records.

New Smithton House

SMITHTON, PA.—John Sheppard's new theatre here is to open on December 15. The new 420-seat theatre is across from the old Opera House, owned by the Odd Fellows and operated for many years by Sheppard and two sons.

Writer Now a Director

HOLLYWOOD—Boris Ingster, RKO writer, has been given a new contract as a director, with his first assignment "Before the Face."

Opening of Harper a Detroit Highlight

DETROIT—The theatrical highlight of the week was the opening of the new Harper, 13th house in Wisper & Wetsman chain, at Harper and Chalmers avenues. The event was attended by about 1,000 invited guests, including leading members of the industry from Detroit and throughout Michigan, local business men, and friends of the management.

The new house, which has 2,000 seats, is up-to-date in every respect. Outstanding is the restraint of style shown throughout, marking a distinct trend away from the ornate.

Two films, neither of which had had a Detroit first run, were shown, 20th-Fox's "Daytime Wife" and RKO's "That's Right, You're Wrong," through the courtesy of David M. Idzal, Fox Theatre manager; Lester Sturm, 20th-Fox manager, and James Sharkey, RKO manager.

Frank Wetsman and Lou Wisper were on hand to receive their guests.

Among those noted were:

Doc. A. Eiseman, Flint exhibitor; Harold C. Robinson, Film Truck Service; L. H. Gardner and Asher Shaw of United Detroit Theatres; Sergt. Joseph Kollar, police censor; Carl Buermele, manager, Co-Operative Theatres; Charles C. Perry, Chief Barker, Variety Club; Jacob Sumeracki, Wayne county treasurer; Charles N. Agree, architect; Henry Koppin, manager, Uptown; Earl H. Wright, circuit supervisor, Wisper & Wetsman Theatres.

Joseph LaRose, manager, Roosevelt; Jack Hurford, Fox manager, and Mrs. Hurford; Daniel J. Lewis, booker, Co-operative Theatres; Clifford Giesemann and Fred C. Dickely, Altec Service Corp.; W. J. Turnbull, manager, National Theatre Supply Co.; William London and Alex Schreiber, partners in Associated Theatres; A. F. Martin, auditor, United Detroit Theatres; Thomas D. Moule, circuit owner; Arthur Robinson, owner, Madison Theatre; Fred DeLodder, circuit owner; J. Ollie Brooks, head booker, Butterfield circuit; Thomas McGuire, Co-operative Theatres; John Howard, manager, Paramount Theatres; Cem Merritt, manager, Capitol, Windsor; Lester Sturm, 20th-Fox manager, and Frank J. Downey, M-G-M manager, and their wives; Dow Thompson, manager, Broadway-Capitol; Jack Saxe, treasurer, Monogram; Jim Sharkey, manager, RKO; Eddie Heiber, manager, Universal.

Wade Allen, Fine Arts; Julius London, Booth; Ralph Ruben, manager, Amusement Supply Co.; Jake Sullivan, manager, Van Dyke; Walter Horstman, Walker Sign Co.; Dave Flayer, Amo; William Flemion, manager, Excellent Pictures; Mort Winston, Typocraft Co.; Sam Ackerman, East Side, and Mrs. Ackerman; Harry Remington, Fox publicity director; George McArthur, McArthur Theatre Supply Co.; Milo Ehles, manager, Calvin, Dearborn; Bert Thomas, Detroit Sound Engineering; Saul Korman, Grant; Joseph Mellon, Chandler; Frank Kinsora, president, Local 199; Joe and Leonard Wisper, brothers of the owner, and Carl Krueger of Jam Handy.



They Still Come—

For the winter at least, the New York World's Fair is over, but they still come to RKO's exhibitors' lounge. Here, William A. London (center) of Associated Theatres, Detroit, shakes hands with Wallace Ford, while H. M. Richey, public relations director for RKO, looks on.

Only State Police May Act as Fire Marshals

DETROIT—State police alone may act as fire marshals in inspecting motion picture theatres, Attorney General Thomas Read of Michigan has ruled. The ruling was made following a request from State Police Commissioner Oscar G. Olander, on a ruling whether local fire chiefs could be deputized.

One result of the ruling, exhibitors comment, is that the honorary deputy fire marshal's card, said to be an institution in some circles in the state, will be invalidated hereafter. Such cards, although purely honorary, in effect allowed their holder a standing pass to theatres in his "jurisdiction."

"Beast of Berlin" Starts At Record-Setting Pace

DETROIT—All house records for an opening were shattered at the Cinema Theatre by "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," booked in by Excellent Pictures Corp. here. Despite a one-third boost in admission—from 40 cents to 55 cents for downstairs seats, reaching the highest price level charged at any Detroit house, the Cinema broke even the records set a few weeks ago by "Lucrezia Borgia."

Balcony seats are still being kept at the 40-cent level. Indications are that the film may stay about six weeks, setting a season run record.

"Hitler" Passes Ohio; Is Now "Goose Step"

CLEVELAND — Big Feature Rights Exchanges, Inc., has been notified that "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" has been passed by the Ohio Censor Board with no eliminations other than a title change. The board stipulated that the picture shall be released in Ohio under the title of "Goose Step," which is the title of the book on which the movie is based.

Prosper in Detroit When Strike Lifts

DETROIT—Settlement of the Chrysler strike has meant an immediate upturn in local show business. Trend was upward starting with Thanksgiving—celebrated on November 23 in Michigan—but the following weekend saw an unexplained drop in business, with customers again showing uncanny ability to pick the better pictures. Present tendency of Detroit booking, which has identical double bills playing a large number of houses in the same run classification day and date, accentuates this "choosiness" of the cash customers.

Announcement of the strike settlement on Tuesday night resulted in a distinctly better patronage, particularly at neighborhood houses where the patrons are more directly dependent upon industrial workers and their spendings.

Dramatic announcement of the settlement was made by Circuit Owner William A. London of Associated who was near his Highland Park Theatre at the time. He went to the house, stopped the film, and made an announcement from the front of the house, in person. Result was a pandemonium of cheering on the part of patrons, who are right in the Chrysler employment area. London described the reaction as equal to a New Year's Eve celebration.

Strike Halts Rise

AKRON—The Chrysler strike halted the rise in theatre attendance here, local exhibitors state. Although the strike is now ended and operation has resumed at local rubber factories, it will take at least 90 days for the theatres to feel any improvement in business, exhibitors believe.

Ann Arbor IATSE Marks Silver Anniversary

DETROIT—The silver anniversary of the organization in Ann Arbor, Mich., was celebrated Tuesday by Local 395 of the IATSE with a banquet at the American Legion Home at Ann Arbor. Event was well attended by local industry and other leaders, as well as by all local members.

Among those present were: Roger Kennedy, Detroit, international vice-president of the IA; Ollie Brooks and Art Koskie of the Butterfield circuit offices; the local theatre managers from Ann Arbor, Messrs. Hoag, Mull and Hamer; the managers from the neighboring town of Ypsilanti, Messrs. Everett and Yarnell, and Robert Seeley, of Altec Sound Service.

Change at Sandusky

SANDUSKY, OHIO—The Plaza, now operated by Warner, will be taken over by the Alden Seitz Amusement Co., when the Warner lease expires January 1. The theatre was one of two houses operated here by Warner.

Re-Signed and Assigned

HOLLYWOOD—RKO has repacted Director Jack Hively. His next assignment is "Anne of Windy Poplars."

PITTSBURGH

VARIETY is sponsoring the December 25 opening night of "Ice Follies of 1940" at Duquesne Garden. C. J. Latta, incoming chief barker, states the new Barker family is desirous of turning over at as early a date as possible, the finest clubrooms in America. The plan is to take over an entire wing of the hotel in which the club is now housed . . . Lou Padolf, former local film salesman and exhibitor, has resigned as RKO representative at Grand Rapids, Mich., and has returned to this area . . . Among deer hunters at the opening of the season were John Oglietti and Frank Panoplos . . . Guido Ricci, nephew of Tony Civitaresi, owner of the Strand, Pitcairn, is one of the regular Filmrow bookers . . . W. D. Ward, former Cleveland and Detroit film man, who has acquired under lease the Virginian Theatre, Parkersburg, W. Va., from C. B. "Dad" Hall, who is retiring, was around the celluloid colony to assume film contracts . . . Help those in our local industry, or former members of the trade, who are in need. Contribute to the Filmrow Christmas Relief Fund.

John Freinstein of the M-G-M office has been named second assistant booker, and Anthony Semplice of the accessory department has been promoted to the general office as a clerk . . . E. M. "Ed" Hartley, in charge of sound system sales for NTS, was a visitor . . . Edwin Vandergrift, father of Joe, accessory sales manager at 20th-Fox, is ill at Mercy Hospital . . . James McGuinness, M-G-M shipper, is the father of a son, born November 22. Mother and baby, named Edward Paul, are doing nicely . . . Mother of Irene Fisher of Republic is home after undergoing a major operation . . . Bill Heaton reports progress on construction and equipping of his new theatre at Cairo, W. Va.

Mrs. Milton Lefton, wife of the Monarch office manager, who left her appendix at the Montefiore Hospital, has recovered nicely from the operation . . . Harry Spang, for 13 years at Loew's Penn, has joined National Theatre Supply Co. as mechanic and trouble shooter . . . We visited our friend, Julius Levin, at the *Sun-Telegraph* office the other day and learned his brother, Patsy, is now working at the Casino . . . Our biggest film thrill in a long time was a special screening of the 20-year-old fight pictures of Jack Dempsey taking the heavyweight crown from big Jess Willard. The film, seized by the government and forbidden to be shown since 1919, has now passed the censors and was on view this week at the Fulton.

John H. Harris served as a judge in the recent manikin beauty parade which was known as the "Miss Composite Model" contest . . . Linda Ware of "The Star Maker," a former resident of Tarentum, was a guest at the high school there . . . We inquired of Charlie Blatt regarding the reopening of the Grand, Corry, which has been dark for six or seven years. He admitted preparing for the opening and remarked that only one thing prompted this move—the playing of pictures which have accumulated and which cannot be played off at the Rex . . . Don't delay that check for the Filmrow Christmas Relief Fund. Write it now and send to James H. Alexander, treasurer.

Jake Richman, veteran uptown Fifth avenue exhibitor, who with Mrs. Richman recently celebrated their silver anniversary, was down with asthma last week . . . Anna M. Galomb of 20th-Fox was married last week to Nicholas A. DeRenzo . . . Bill Liebler of Monogram has been ailing but has remained on the job . . . Bill (Bojangles) Robinson, in "The Hot Mikado," will be the Christmas week attraction at the Nixon . . . Charging that the state cigarette tax discriminates against the lower-priced cigarettes, a constitutional challenge suit has been filed in Dauphin county court by a tobacco firm. The tax is one cent for each ten cigarettes . . . Exhibitors Phil Brozier and Werner "Fuzzy" Lund were off late last week on a hunting expedition . . . Jimmy Stewart's parents came in from Indiana, Pa., last Thursday to attend the opening of their sons' "Destry Rides Again" at the Alvin.

Ben Browarsky, veteran city exhibitor, is very ill at St. Francis Hospital . . . Joe Shapiro, Mt. Union exhibitor, was absent from Filmrow this week due to a death in the family . . . Art Morrone of Superior Supply was expected to leave Mercy Hospital late this week . . . The Columbia salesmen will vacation from December 18 to January 2 . . . Variety Club's annual Milk Fund campaign has been deferred from this season of the year to around the Eastern season.

Ed Stuve, dean of local film men, will take his first vacation in a number of years when he departs for Florida next week with Mrs. Stuve. Ed says he hopes to "take" a lot of sunshine and that he expects to do a little fishing.

Jack Kohler, Columbia booker, was taken to Shadyside Hospital, Monday evening, suffering from pneumonia . . . Milton Broudy, Columbia accessory manager, underwent an operation in Mercy Hospital the other day, having part of a leg bone removed and rebuilt in his right wrist, replacing the original bone which has been causing him much trouble of late . . . Mary Laird, also of Columbia, was ill and absent from work this week.

Harry Reiff jr., son of the veteran showman, is now working at the Columbia exchange . . . Carl Miller, New Universal accessory manager, is suffering a stomach disorder and is at Montefiore Hospital . . . Harry Roney, former Columbia booker who will serve as manager at the new Gerard Theatre, West View, for the Alpine Theatre circuit, has been managing this company's theatre at Point Pleasant, W. Va., for the past month.

Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO secretary, was the guest speaker before the Rotary Club of Jeannette at its weekly dinner Monday evening, having been introduced by Bob Klingensmith of BOXOFFICE, *both being guests of Oliver "Buster" Kihchel jr. . . . June Preisser, who scored a knockout hit in "Babes in Arms," made her initial visit to a film exchange Monday afternoon when she stopped at the local M-G-M office to say hello to all the folks and to sign autographs . . . Harry Schmitt, Imperial exhibitor, wanted to sign June for a personal appearance.*

Dave Kimelman, Paramount manager, was back on the job this week, after being hospitalized for several weeks. He will continue under observations of his physician for some time, and is submitting to treatments for a stomach disorder . . . Ray "Tucson" Corrigan, western star, has departed for his California ranch but he will return to this area in January for more personal appearances.

Harris Newsreel Reseated

PITTSBURGH — Harris Newsreel Palace Theatre, Diamond St., has undergone extensive refurnishing and last week a complete reseating program was completed. The seating job is the most expensive installation of chairs in the Harris chain. Formerly the old Palace, the Newsreel Theatre has been in operation but a few weeks, with change of program on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Anderson Polishes "Flagg"

HOLLYWOOD—Maxwell Anderson is polishing "Quirt and Flagg" for Producer Rowland Brown. Film will reunite Edmund Lowe and Victor McLaglen, with Columbia releasing.

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DETROIT

WALTER W. WHITTINGHILL, president of Greater Detroit Motion Picture Council, is recovered from a two-month illness. Mrs. Eunice Cauley conducted a public panel for the council at the YMCA.

Douglas Smith, representing Auction Nite, is establishing new headquarters at Berns booking office on the third floor of the Fox Theatre Bldg. . . . Nicholas Bruck and Bill Marley of National Theatre Engineering Co. are keeping plenty busy.

Genaro Florez, general manager of Associated Sales Co., slidefilm producers, was away on a business trip . . . John Magocs of Theatre Sound Engineering Co. is planning to retire from this business.

Hugh Lenane of American Refrigeration Co. reports several air conditioning jobs planned in the spring by local exhibitors . . . Bill Carlson Day Friday at the Boulevard Shrine Club honored the active ex-Chief Barker of Variety.

Warren Slee, M-G-M's pepper-upper, and C. E. O'Brien of UDT's Michigan, seen confabbing in the lobby . . . Bill Bleakley (he used to be assistant at the RKO Downtown) is building a new home on Cheyenne Ave.

Ralph Ruben of Amusement Supply double features his bowling as well. He's sponsoring a team in both the Nightingale and Film Bowling leagues . . . Pittsburgh Bowlers: Detroit alleyites want to know where you get those low scores.

Estelle Friedenberg, lately with Monogram, has a new job as secretary at the Nichols Floor and Tile Co., theatrical acoustics specialists. And the new office looks like $1,000,000 with special paneled walls and fixtures.

Merle Jacobs, lately of Cleveland, is opening a Music Corp. office on the fifth floor of the Michigan Theatre Bldg. . . . Chuck Burns of the Curtiss booking office is a victim of stomach trouble, like so many others.

W. C. Bienman, manager of Sonotone-Detroit Co., has moved his offices to 1710 Book Bldg. . . . Thomas McGuire, public relations man for Co-op, is planning to move.

Walter Liebmann is busy selling DeVry's to the public utilities . . . Jack Moss, film and lens distributor, is expecting a new war film.

Leo Sanshie, 20th-Fox booker, became a pop for the second time—this one's a girl . . . Sam Jack Kaufman is guest conductor for two weeks at Loew's Capitol, Washington, with Herschel Lieb running the office in his absence.

J. Harry Blecher has registered the Blecher Studios to specialize in theatrical advertising and figure material . . . Jack Broder is installing air conditioning in his new Time.

Donivan S. Clendenning has been made divisional superintendent of Jam Handy's retail training department.

Dave Newman of the Pasadena is distributing new printed directories of Variety Tent No. 5 to all members . . . Dan Edmonds, who is the Alexander Film man here, has established new headquarters at 921 Fox Theatre Bldg.

Jesse L. Lasky was in town on his talent search . . . Louis S. Uhler has returned here from Chicago where he sold projection machines.

Pete Simon is still a victim of colds, especially evenings. Pete jr. screened football films for his school the other day. A chip off the old block.

Sol Krim is installing new sound in his Lasky . . . Bill Flemion, Excellent president, has a bad cold.

"Miss America" herself (Patricia Donnelly) cut the cake for Wisper & Wetsman's third anniversary celebration at the Westown . . . Floyd Keillor of 20th-Fox has a good observation post in the shipping department window.

Jess Veldman, 20th-Fox cashier, predicts a hard winter from his rural observations. The muskrats are laying in corn, he says . . . Milton Herman is opening offices on Gratiot Ave. to handle publicity and talent for the Negro Progress Exhibition.

Helen Denton of the Film Bldg. likes to see what she eats before she eats it . . . Sam Merson, as secretary of the Film Bowling League, is having mathematical trouble.

VARIETY TABLECLOTH NOTES:

Wednesday was Judges' Day and we saw Justice George Bushnell of the supreme court and Judges Harry Keidan, Frank Day Smith, Eugene Sharp and Frank Ferguson.

Inspector Bill Rick represented the Majesty of the Law . . . Al Galston, who used to have the Gratiot, is building a new house out on the coast.

Alex Schreiber's youngster is doing all right in school—except in printing . . . Mort Winston, the theatrical printer, says he doesn't recognize a California case.

Frank Lorenzen was on hand to lend a festive atmosphere . . . Occasion was the last Variety luncheon of this year. Too many holidays coming.

Syd Bowman, UA salesman, reveals he doesn't have a mathematical mind . . . Art Robinson of the Madison—they're calling him "Judge"—goes in for sandwiches.

Alex Schreiber of Associated Theatres is back from some hunting. He was the man in the middle . . . Bill Flemion of Excellent Pictures missed three good shots at a buck.

Moe Dudelson, UA manager, needs a rear view mirror when he goes hunting. The deer sneak up on him . . . Harold Robinson, Film Truck Service, proved a hard man for Chief Barker Charlie Perry to find.

Perry says those rumors you hear are maybe so and maybe no . . . Peter Olof (William) Carlson was m. c. . . . Mme. Goesta Ljungberg, Swedish soprano, sang some swell songs.

Carl Berglund, Swedish consul, and George H. Heideman, Finnish vice-consul, were at the head table . . . Do you like smorgasbord?

Phil Kaplan of Theatrical Advertising quietly headed the cigar gallery . . . Gil Lubin, representing the projectionists, was among those too rarely seen.

Charlaine Elizabeth is the sweet sounding name of that four-week youngster of the Al Ackermans. Sam Ackerman is the grandpa.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Warren Slee, M-G-M exploiteer, has been in Flint and Saginaw for "Ninotchka" . . . R. J. Marin of the Del-Ray booking office was upstate on business.

Louis Schlussel of the Farnum, Hamtramck, is the builder of that new 1,500-seat house in Melvindale . . . Those rumors about Max Allen of Lincoln Park building there appear unfounded.

Emil H. Beck, booker, has added the Schulte circuit to his string and has moved to 921 Fox Theatre Bldg. . . . E. C. Beatty, Butterfield president, announced plans for a new $85,000 house at Traverse City where the circuit now has the Lyric, Opera House and Tra-Bay.

Harold Schuckert's Cass at Cass City (only house in town) was razed by fire starting in an adjoining store. Loss was estimated at $30,000.

Charley Collins will bring his Hollywood Kiddies to William Cassidy's houses at Saginaw, Midland and Alma, for Xmas week.

Runs Doubles on Titles at Two Circuit Houses

DETROIT—A. Milo DeHaven, manager of the Brown circuit's Woodward Grand and Belmont, is running doubles on titles as well as straight dual bills. First change this week, he turned up with "The Magnificent Fraud" at the Woodward Grand, while around the corner at the Belmont, operating on a revival policy, he had "The Magnificent Obsession."

New Theatre Is Disclosed For Detroit Territory

DETROIT—Plans for another new theatre for the Detroit area are disclosed by Lavern R. Bennett of Bennett & Straight, theatrical architects. Details will be disclosed in about two weeks when the project is opened for bids. The house will seat about 1,000.

CLEVELAND

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS: Saul Bragin, head booker over at Warner's theatre department, collects fine pipes. He has some 50 of them but right now is mourning a pet pipe that went bad last week . . . Jack Shea of the Shea circuit and Jack Hynes, manager of the Shea house in Youngstown, were around the exchanges.

Charlie School, for several years in charge of the cash at the local M-G-M exchange and now a roving M-G-M auditor, is spending three weeks in town after an absence of over two years and learning that the chap who wrote the adage "Gone but not forgotten" was very much all right.

Robert Smeltzer, Vitagraph district manager, paid local Branch Manager Herbert Ochs a visit and Roy Haines, eastern and Canadian sales manager, stopped off on his way east for his semi-annual meeting with the local boys.

Walter Brandt, Vitagraph salesman who went out of circulation a month ago on account of a heart attack, paid his first visit to the office the other day looking fit as a fiddle and feeling so well he expects to report back for duty any day now.

Morris Levin, owner of the People's Theatre, Akron, accompanied by the missus and daughter, have left for a trip to Florida where the family will remain for the winter while Morris returns to the business of managing his picture house.

John Pekras, who owns all of the theatres in Elyria and another one in Lorain, was the first of the exhibitors to move into warmer climes. He left for Florida over a week ago, and he won't be back until spring has definitely established itself.

The very newlywed Harold Beins have returned from a honeymoon in Virginia and are now living on Ashbury Road. Harold, as you know, is a Vitagraph booker . . . "Duke" Clark, Paramount branch manager, is running a department store up in his exchange, and all of the articles on display are tieups to exploit "Gulliver's Travels" which is scheduled for Christmas release.

Out-of-town exhibitor visitors of the week included Robert Menches, "Weary" Smith, Jack Flemm of Akron, Peter Ruffo of Warren, the Steinbergs, Jack and Harry of Youngstown . . . Jim Scoville of the Scoville, Essick & Reif circuit and Mrs. Scoville went to Chicago to meet their first grandson who was born about a month ago to their daughter.

The Myer Fines and the Max Lefkowiches are getting ready to leave for Florida the middle of this month . . . Art Goldsmith, RKO city salesman, will spend Christmas with his mother in New York, as usual . . . Bill Shurk, custodian at the Warner Bldg., is at St. Vincent's Charity Hospital where he was recently operated on.

Milt Harris and Everett Steinbuck exploited "the Lubitsch touch" with the opening of "Ninotchka" at Loew's State . . . A Lubitsch double "touched" those girls on the Main Movie Stem who, in his opinion, would look well in the movies. Those "touched" were guests of Manager Steinbuck at Loew's State to see "Ninotchka."

Sam Gorrel, Republic office manager in Cleveland, and Mrs. Gorrel, who surprised the industry with their marriage on Thanksgiving Day, have set up housekeeping at the Commodore Apartment Hotel.

If you have any DO YOU KNOW suggestions about Gene Autry that Al Gregg, Republic publicity man has not used, he'll be happy to receive them for Christmas presents. To date, Al has sent out some 60 daily postcards, each containing an item of information anent the popular Republic singing star.

Variety in Cleveland To Dine and Dance

CLEVELAND—The Variety Club has scheduled Saturday, December 16, as the date of a formal dinner-dance for members, their immediate families and out-of-town guests to be held at the Mid-Day Club.

The party is to honor both out-going and in-coming officers when Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, turns over the club reins to Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner.

Other newly elected officers to be installed are: First vice-president, "Duke" Clark, Paramount branch manager; second vice-president, Jerome Friedlander, attorney; treasurer, I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox branch manager; secretary, Frank Boyd, American Seating Co.

Clark is general chairman in charge of arrangements. He is being assisted by Charles Albert, Howard Roth, Eddie Miller and Manny Landers. Manny Pearlstein is handling publicity.

Sympathy Strikers Resume Massillon Construction

MASSILLON, OHIO—Workers on the $100,000 Skirball Theatre here, who were out on a sympathy strike for a week, have returned to work, E. A. Weekly, business agent for the truckers union, has announced.

Workers here were out, pending an agreement between the Common Laborers Union of Steubenville with the Johnson Lumber & Suppy Co. there. An agreement was reached by the company and union on private work jobs.

Blast Damage Slight

CLEVELAND—An explosion in the laboratories of a chemical plant located in the Film Bldg. last Thursday noon caused only slight damage. However, the building was emptied for about an hour while all traces of mustard gas were removed.

"Earthbound" to Pichel

HOLLYWOOD—Irving Pichel has been assigned to direct "Earthbound" for 20th-Fox from a script by John Howard Lawson.

CINCINNATI

MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL BEIN, parents of William, Gilbert, Ben and Fred Bein of the Theatre Poster Supply Co., will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, December 10, with a family dinner and reception for their immediate friends at their home in Cincinnati. Mr. and Mrs. Bein also have two daughters, Mrs. Rose Rosen and Mrs. Bessie Lennet, and eight grandchildren. Their many friends are extending felicitations for the happy event. No cards are being sent out.

Queen City Variety Club ushered in the first of their "sponsored" evenings, Saturday, December 2, in their popular club room. E. M. Booth was host for the M-G-M exchange and John Allen was master of ceremonies. Eddie Cantor, making a personal appearance at RKO Albee, was present, with practically all outstanding personalities of film circles. J. J. Grady of 20th-Fox will sponsor the second affair.

Cantor also was a guest at the Variety Club's installation of officers Monday, December 4 when Col. Arthur Frudenfeld, general manager of RKO Theatres was inducted as chief barker; James J. Grady, 20th-Fox, first assistant chief barker; Andrew John Niedenthal, second assistant chief; Ralph Kinsler, Warner branch manager, treasurer, and Saul Greenberg, secretary. The new board of directors include, besides the officers, William Bein, Bill Onie of Monogram; Mike Greenberg, John Allen, Joseph Kolling, Harry Hartman, Bill Koegel, Allan Moritz, Columbia; J. J. Oulahan, Paramount, and Harry "Pop" Wessel. Bill Onie and Noah Schecter were in charge of arrangements for the installation banquet and festivities.

Fire in the projection booth of the Eden Theatre burned a roll of film, but caused no further damage. J. Hilton, operator, sounded the alarm without knowledge of the audience . . . Warner's Lenore Schmidt spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Phil Chakeres, Chakeres Circuit, Springfield.

George Pekras visited the Row . . . Ralph Salyers is back on the road after illness . . . Fred May of Carrolton, Ky., was here setting advance picture for his Royal theatres . . . Warner's Mary Robinson received a handsome engagement ring on the Roosevelt Thanksgiving day.

Wess Huss jr., president of Associated Theatres, is recuperating following a severe cold, which affected most of the Huss family. All are coming along nicely . . . L. M. Martin has announced his intention of rebuilding his theatre at Glouster, recently razed by fire.

Chic Weinberg, popular booker, is now with Monogram, succeeding Bill Burns, who has taken over the Freeman Theatre. Burns anticipates remodeling and reconditioning the house.

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Testimonial Dinner Being Arranged for Kellenberg

PITTSBURGH—Exhibitor and distributor friends of C. C. Kellenberg this week announced that a testimonial dinner in his honor is being arranged for the film man.

The occasion will celebrate Kellenberg's 20th anniversary in the motion picture industry in this territory and will mark his 20th year with the Fox Film Corp. and 20th Century-Fox, where he is local sales manager under Ira H. Cohn, branch manager.

Date for the affair will be Monday evening, January 29, and the place will be the Urban Room of the William Penn Hotel.

Harry M. Kalmine, zone manager for the Warner Bros. Theatres, is general chairman, and committees are being named.

"Kel" is well known to the industry at large and it is expected that many of the 20th-Fox executives from the home office and from the mideast branch exchanges will be among those present at the testimonial. Complete details will be made known at an early date, Kalmine announced this week.

Canton Showman Gives Aid to Shrine Circus

CANTON, OHIO—Although it is direct opposition to theatre business, the Palace here, is running a trailer heralding the coming of the annual Shrine indoor circus, December 16-21 in the city auditorium. The circus committee obtained the concession through George A. Delis, district manager of the A. G. Constant circuit, operators of the house. In return the circus committee presented Delis with a season's pass, with box seats for himself and party good for any performance during the five days of the circus.

Palace was the only house here cooperating in this manner with the Shrine circus, which is for the benefit of the Shriners' hospitals for cripped children.

Columbus Civic Post Is Bestowed Upon Neth

COLUMBUS—J. Real Neth, head of a theatre circuit bearing his name, has been appointed a member of Mayor-elect Floyd Green's cabinet. After the first of the year he will become welfare director, an honorary position, but he automatically moves to acting safety director when the head is away.

At the present time Neth is a member of the city traffic commission. He takes over in his new office on January 1.

Mrs. Mary O'Donnell

DETROIT—Mrs. Mary O'Donnell, 82, mother of Anne V. O'Donnell, manager of Excellent Pictures, died here December 3 following a lingering illness. Three other children also survive. Interment was at Escanaba, Mich.

Megs "Devil in Uniform"

HOLLYWOOD—Phil Rosen is directing Universal's "Devil in Uniform" for Producer Ben Pivar from a script by Harold Buchman and Roy Chanslor.

LOUISVILLE

AN ORDER for complete new sound equipment at the Savoy went to the Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. . . . Fourth Avenue Amusement has booked "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" for the Strand, opening December 16. R. D. McRaven of Big Feature Rights Indianapolis office handled the booking.

Sam Switow is in Florida on a vacation . . . Boyd Martin, film critic for the Louisville Courier-Journal, *has been named Fifth District chairman for the national organization of critics. His territory covers Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.*

Tom Davis, formerly of the Mary Anderson, is managing the Paramount at Ashland, Ky. Tom is quite a farmer, and spends vacation time on his place near Pleasureville . . . Price Coomer, who operates the New Harlan at Harlan, Ky., returned from Middletown, Ohio, where he visited his mother.

Mandel and Joe Yossowitz, brothers, are building a new theatre at Raceland, Ky. Mandel happens to be music instructor in the school there . . . Joe Goldberg of Big Feature Rights returned from a trip through the blue grass.

L. T. Mills, who operates the Dixie at Olive Hill, Ky., was reported taking over the Cozy at Morehead, Ky. . . . Saturday business is good at Elkhorn City, Ky., one of few towns of its size running Saturday matinees. J. E. Belcher is manager of the theatre there.

The Brown at Brownsville, Ky., recently taken over by George Lindsay and Stanford Webb, has closed temporarily . . . The new Benton Theatre at Benton, Ky., owned by the Chickasaw Amusement Co., is expected to be ready for opening by this week.

H. D. Shelton is adding a marquee to his Star at Salyersville, Ky. It will replace an old-type electric sign . . . W. J. Ward, who operates the Weddington at Pikesville, Ky., is cooperating with merchants in a box-office project for Christmas charity . . . Edgar Denton of the Majestic at Owingsville, Ky., and his son took a business trip to Cincinnati.

Schine theatres throughout the state are exploiting sales of tickets as Christmas gifts, with cashiers, doormen and ushers dropping the suggestions.

W. C. Durham has taken over the Hollywood at Morgantown, Ky. . . . Houston Wollfolk is operating the theatre at Brandenburg, Ky., now . . . W. T. Cain jr., who runs the Garden at Louisa, Ky., and two others at Paintsville, Ky., is one of the few small theatre men who doesn't go in for sale of confections. He sells films or nothing.

Louisa, a town of less than 2,000, *saw "Ninotchka" two days before Louisville did . . . There's a theatre building boom in progress down at the little town of Prestonsburg, Ky. Henry Allen, owner of the Abigail there, is building another one two doors away to compete with another new one being erected by M. C. Elliott.*

There's an ordinance on the books at Bardstown, Ky., permitting only one theatre to operate there . . . The Downs, Louisville neighborhood house, is being enlarged and improved. Owner is Leo Ciacio . . . Bill Grady, talent scout for M-G-M, was in town.

Pitt Universal Exchange Remodeling Underway

PITTSBURGH—New Universal exchange is being completely remodeled and modernized, with work now under way on the general office. Manager's office of Jules Lapidus in the front of the building will be removed and the two inner walls torn down and in its place will be the new enlarged booking quarters. The booking desks will be partitioned with glass, and the general office staff will be moved to the front of the building. A new manager's office will be constructed in the rear of the office. A feature of the exchange will be the installation of an air conditioning system. General contract has been awarded to the Jacobson Construction Co., of which one of the officers is Sam Jacobson, former film sales representative of this city.

Bentleyville House, Dark For a Decade, to Reopen

BENTLEYVILLE, PA.—The Liberty, closed for a decade, is being remodeled for a gala reopening December 24. Only the walls and ceiling are being utilized from the old structure.

Major product will be exhibited at the Liberty and the Roosevelt here, the latter house remaining the "A" theatre. Both are owned by Matteo Faenza and managed by Joseph Fechek, who also manages Faenza's Roosevelt, Republic.

Arthur Ungerman of Price Dies on Business Trip

DETROIT—Arthur Ungerman, 46, died last week in Chicago, where he had just driven from this city. Death was caused by high blood pressure. He had represented Price Theatre Premiums here in recent months.

Burial was in Albany, N. Y., his home town. His wife and two small children survive.

Early Fight a Hit

PITTSBURGH—Local critics named "The Birth of a Champion" the show of the week when this special subject went on view at the Fulton. The film shows the ring battle between Jack Dempsey and Jess Willard in 1919. After this picture was photographed the negative was impounded by the government and until this time had never been publicly exhibited. The picture is introduced by historical events of 1919 and is synchronized with sound and commentation. Distributors are Irving Dietz and George "B" Josack, at 1701 Blvd. of the Allies.

Does Original for "U"

HOLLYWOOD — Paul Gerard Smith has joined Universal's writing staff to work on an untitled original.

BOWLING

PITTSBURGH—Tenth week of the Filmrow Bowling League passed last Friday with Republic leading by one game over New Universal and with Columbia and Loew's in hot pursuit. Milt Broudy of Columbia collected the $1 award for high score for one game, rolling a 182. Standings to December 8, when Columbia was to match with New Universal, and Republic was to vie with Loew's:

	Won	Lost
Republic	23	7
Universal	22	8
Columbia	21	9
Loew's	20	10
All Stars	11	19
20th-Fox	11	19
Monarch	10	20
RKO	2	28

DETROIT—Latest scores in the Film Bowling League show Republic far in the lead:

Team	*Won*	*Lost*
Republic	29	7
United Artists	22	14
Film Drug	21	15
Fim Truck	19	17
Co-operative Theatres	16	20
20th Century-Fox	14	22
Monogram	12	20
Amusement Supply	10	26

Film Drug rolled the highest night's score of the season, 2,510, including the second highest single game, 899.

High individual rollers were: Max Blumenthal, 216; Eddie Loye, 203, and Al Rupert, 202.

DETROIT—New bowling standings for the Nightingales Club:

Team	*W.*	*L.*
Motiograph	25	15
McArthur Thea. Equip.	24	16
National Theatre Sup.	22	18
Oliver Theatre Sup.	21	19
Lorenzen Flower Shop.	19	21
National Carbon Co.	17	23
Amusement Supply Co.	16	24
Brenkert Projectors.	16	24

High scorers: William Fouchey, 223; S. J. Lambly, 214; Jack M. Hall, 212; Jack Lindenthal, 211; Romulus Albu, 207; William Swistak, 201; Clarence C. Moroney, 201, and Emil Rausch, 200.

Long-Termer to Hussey

HOLLYWOOD—Ruth Hussey has been signed to a new long-term contract by Metro. She has just finished work in "Northwest Passage," starring Spencer Tracy, in which she has the feminine lead.

Teamed on "U" Story

HOLLYWOOD—Maurice Wright and Maurice Tombragel have been teamed to script Universal's "River of Missing Men."

Termer to Phyllis Brooks

HOLLYWOOD—RKO has handed Phyllis Brooks a term acting pact.

Detroit Filmites Busy on Two Parties This Week

DETROIT—Local filmdom is concentrating on two major parties this week—Past Commanders Night, which will honor Jack Ferentz, business agent of the Musicians' Federation, by Theatrical Post No. 371 of the American Legion on Monday, and Variety Club's big Feather Party on Friday. First event will be at the Legion Club, second will be at the Crystal Ballroom of the Book-Cadillac Hotel.

A third event Tuesday midnight will be the Warner trade preview of "Four Wives" at the United Artists Theatre.

George "B" Josack Heads Quality Premium Branch

PITTSBURGH—George "B" Josack, well-known film man, has been appointed branch manager for Quality Premium Distributors, with office at 1701 Blvd. of the Allies. The Quality merchandise was formerly handled by the late Louis J. Engel.

Manager Leases Legit

COLUMBUS, OHIO—Robert F. Boda, manager of the Hartman Theatre here for several years, has leased the house which plays legitimate attractions, for five and a half years from Mrs. Maribel Hartman of New York City.

Metro Termer to Hunter

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has signed Ian Hunter to a new long-term acting pact.

"Wrong Again!"

PITTSBURGH—Captioned "The Movies Are Wrong Again," the Pittsburgh *Catholic*, official organ of the Catholic diocese of Pittsburgh, published this editorial November 30:

"Just at the moment when this nation needs to guard against any emotional or hysterical feeling in the direction of war, the motion picture industry comes blundering along with films containing precisely the type of propaganda that should be avoided. Two of them are now in Pittsburgh—'Nurse Edith Cavell' and 'Hitler, Beast of Berlin.' The one is characteristic Hollywood glamorizing and sentimentalizing of an incident of the World War; the other is a plain hate-arouser. Both are decidedly offensive to the standard of conduct which the American people obviously want to observe with respect to the European war—that of remaining calm, of demanding facts and reasoned opinions.

"The newspapers and the radio, after a wild outburst of sensation and theatricals at the beginning of the war, have got themselves under praiseworthy control, and are giving proper consideration to truth, accuracy and fairness—as the welfare of the country demands. It is too bad that the movies do not exercise similarly good judgment and good taste. Or would that be expecting too much from the industry that had to be clubbed away from dirt, and that still thinks the making of profits justifies the exploitation of any theme, no matter what its effect on the society which provides the profits?"

COLUMBUS

IF IT ISN'T one thing it's another: Last month local theatres watched a roller skating contest nick the boxoffice. And now it is a jitterbug jamboree at the Auditorium that is doing sensational business!

Our sincerest sympathy to Johnny Jones, manager of the Southern Theatre, whose mother died last week. "Mother" Jones was well known to all the boys.

Curt Littman starts his vacation on the 23rd. He's the Republic salesman . . . Dave Bines was in from Cleveland to catch the Martha Raye opening at the Palace . . . How about that theatre at 18th and Main?

Due to an edict by the police department there will be no booze or dancing New Year's eve in the city proper (unless the p. d. cedes a point or two). So on that night it looks as if "motion pictures are your best entertainment!" The Variety Club party will be held on Sunday night, regardless.

Hear reports of new theatres for Cleves and Columbus Grove . . . Rumors continue on J. Real Neth selling out to the Schine circuit. Those in the know will give you 10-1 he has made a deal with Schine.

Leo Yassenoff, genial boss of F&Y, is hitting the road again. Has been in Pittsburgh and Indianapolis territories, is now in Cincy. We will expect announcements of new houses in the near future.

Bud Rose, with his Bantam Loew's goodwill car, was in Columbus and Dayton last week. The car, covered completely with autographs of the stars, attracted plenty of attention.

Burglars paid the Grand Theatre, Newark, a visit one night last week, collecting nearly $500 for their troubles. Floyd Price owns the house . . . The V. C. skating party Tuesday night turned out to be a howling (just that) success.

Ted Gardner (American Theatre Equipment), tells us that he put in a complete projection outfit at the London Prison Farm. The inmates paid for the equipment; first time they've had picture shows there.

John Scully jr. Shorts Booker in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—John W. Scully jr. has been named as short subjects booker of the Universal exchange here to succeed Joe Swee, who resigned to become RKO office manager. Scully was transferred from the Philadelphia office.

Remodels in Claysville

CLAYSVILLE, PA.—W. L. Zedaker, who recently purchased the Clay Theatre property here, is remodeling the building and will operate the enterprise himself. Opening date has been scheduled for December 15.

"Some Like It Hot" on Screen; Theatre Burns

WARSAW, KY.—While "Some Like It Hot" was unreeling at the theatre here, fire broke out in the projection room, swept through the theatre building and an adjoining building, doing damage estimated at $30,000 to $40,000.

Roy Wilson, operator at the theatre, said he believed a reel of film exploded. He said he fled the booth at the first flash of flame, went to his apartment on the second floor of the building and led his wife, twin daughters and son to safety.

Patrons of the theatre got out without difficulty before the fire spread.

The community's telephone exchange, located in the same building, was destroyed and communication outside cut off for several hours. Firemen from three surrounding towns aided in the battle.

Guests at an adjacent hotel were driven out in their night clothes, but the building was saved.

State Plans Film

DETROIT—The state administrative board has approved production of a film on highway development to be made jointly by the Michigan highway department and the federal bureau of public roads, at a cost of about $100,000.

The film is to be shown in Michigan theatres in a campaign of accident prevention.

Scripts "Fifth Avenue"

HOLLYWOOD—Milton Sperling is scripting 20th-Fox's "Fifth Avenue," Kenneth Macgowan production which will feature Henry Fonda.

"Hit in the Crib"

BELLEVUE, OHIO—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Scanlan jr. (he operates the State Theatre here) had a world premiere of their own not long ago and publicized it via a cleverly contrived four-page announcement.

On the front page, surrounded by a bevy of Metro stars (the State is "The Home of M-G-M Hits"), was this announcement: A NEW ARRIVAL to the Silver (safety pin) Screen. Presenting the Feature Attraction, in Technicolor, "The Kid in the Four Cornered Trousers" or (This Changing World), starring Constance Mae Scanlan, supported by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Scanlan jr. World Premiere at Bellevue, Hospital.

Inside, the announcement assured its readers "This feature is by far the best production ever submitted to the public and bids fair to take the Academy Award."

"Technical details" were: "This film has been in production for some time and has required a great amount of special management. The finished product weighs 7 lbs. and 7½ ozs. and is 20¼ reel inches in length."

And the windup: "This is Not a National Screen Service ad nor a . . . 'Babes in Arms' . . . but a sure-fire hit in the crib."

Alpine Is Reopened

CHESTER, W. VA.—The Alpine Theatre has reopened after completion of a modernization program. The floor was leveled and new seats were installed. A marquee will be erected at an early date. A. L. MacLane is manager for the Alpine circuit.

To Reseat WB Ohio

CANTON, OHIO—Bill Harwell, manager of Warner Ohio here, has announced the house will be reseated with new seats. It will be the first major improvement at the house since it was modernized several years ago. Operations of the theatre will not be interrupted during the installation, Harwell said.

Plan Hudson Theatre

HUDSON, OHIO—An old landmark, the Buss building on Main street vacant since 1920, is being modernized for C. H. Giles, Chagrin Falls exhibitor, who shortly will open a new theatre at the location. Opening is expected by May. Theatre will seat 450, with parking space adjacent to the building for 200 cars.

Woodrow Meyer Shifted

CANTON, OHIO—Woodrow Meyer, until recently associated with the Plaza Theatre, Sandusky, Ohio, has been named assistant to Bill Harwell, at Warner's Ohio Theatre, here.

Koczak Reopens Lido

PHILIPPI, W. VA.—John Koczak, St. Marys exhibitor, has relighted the Lido Theatre here after considerable remodeling and installation of new equipments and fixtures.

Directs "Golden Gloves"

HOLLYWOOD—George Dmytryk has been assigned to direct Paramount's "Golden Gloves," rolling late this month with Robert Ryan, a newcomer, in the lead.

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Shorter Clearance to Reward Trade Code

KANSAS CITY—Definite word was received from Wichita, Kas., this week that beginning with pictures available for release December 15, a new and shorter clearance schedule will become operative.

Traveling along with the clearance pact is a fair trade practice code, signed Tuesday by all Wichita exhibitors, which calls for the elimination of all two-for-one admissions, one cent sales, script books of more than ten per cent discount, premiums, and other inducements that could be construed as evasion of the actual adult admission price.

The new clearance schedule itself embodies a penalty against admission price reduction schemes. Employment of such schemes by any exhibitor automatically invokes a penalty, under which the offending exhibitor's availability is set back one year. This holds true also if the exhibitor uses triple bills. Double bills are not affected.

The clearance schedule changes clearance as follows: between first run and the 25 cent spot, a reduction from 113 to 60 days; between first run and 20 cent spot, from 134 to 88 days; between first run and 15 cent spot, from 148 to 119; between first run and 10 cent spot, from 180 to 168.

The agreement would run for a year.

Wichita theatres and their admission are given here: Orpheum and Miller, first runs, 35 and 40 cents; Palace, 15 and 20 cents; Uptown, 10 and 25 cents; Wichita, 15 cents—all Fox Midwest houses; Civic, 10 and 25 cents; Sandra, 10 and 25 cents; Nomar, Crawford, West, New and Southern, 15 cents; Novelty, Kansas and State, 10 cents.

Independent exhibitors in Wichita recently organized an independent association in an effort to eliminate admission price reduction schemes, and to get more favorable clearance. O. F. Sullivan of the Civic is president of the association.

Minnesota Amusement Co. Managers Win Prizes

MINNEAPOLIS—M-G-M distributed cash prizes to Minnesota Amusement Co. managers for best exploitation and boxoffice results for "Goodbye, Mr Chips" and "On Borrowed Time."

Winners were H. E. Billings, Maco, Virginia, Minn., $75; Louis B. Peldo, Ly Watertown, S. D.; Ed Kraus, Fargo, Fargo N. D., $25; Harry Salisbury, Time, Rochester, Minn., $50, and Burr Cline, Opera House, Jamestown, N. D., $25.

Larry Kline Sells for RKO In North Dakota Area

MINNEAPOLIS—Larry Kline has been transferred from RKO office manager to North Dakota salesman, succeeding Bill Crystal who resigned and joined the Majestic-Bank Night sales staff. A. J. Stern again becomes office manager, Joe Loeffler replacing him as southern Minnesota salesman. Loeffler has been city salesman and his post has not been filled yet.

Tri-States, Goldberg Dispute Reaches Court Arena Dec. 11

OMAHA—The legal battle between Tri-States Theatres of Des Moines and Ralph D. Goldberg, local circuit owner, over the recently opened State Theatre will go into its first round December 11 in federal district court.

Tri-States is seeking an injunction against Goldberg and five corporations he is said to control. The plaintiffs maintain the World Realty Co. (a Goldberg corporation) agreed to keep the State dark from 1934 to 1944 while leasing the Omaha to Tri-States during that ten-year period.

The original petition asked that the injunction be granted before Goldberg opened the house, now open and running for the past month. Should the court grant an injunction it would probably mean Goldberg would be ordered to close his house, but if Goldberg is the victor in this particular case, it would probably mean the State will remain open.

The court hearing on the Tri-States petition is the first hand-to-hand fighting between the rival circuits. Up to now the competition has been on a more distant basis. Tri-States opened their long-dark Paramount, a 3,000-seater, the day before Goldberg opened his State Theatre, while on the other hand Goldberg has filed an anti-trust suit in federal court, aimed largely at Tri-States.

Exhibitors and filmites in Omaha and the Omaha trade area are at the ringside gleefully watching the maneuvers of both sides. General belief is that the injunction suit may be settled soon but that the anti-trust suit will drag out indefinitely.

Tri-States has maintained that downtown Omaha is overseated and that with the State open the Omaha Theatre will lose $15,000 a month in revenue. The State is midway between Tri-States' Omaha and Orpheum, about two blocks from each.

Goldberg's answer accuses Tri-States of "coercing" the transfer of the Omaha to Tri-States in 1934 and accuses the Des Moines circuit of "interference with interstate commerce and maintenance of a monopoly of first-run theatres in Omaha." He also declared, through his attorneys, that Tri-States threatened to build theatres to compete with several suburban independent theatres "unless they go out of business or sell to Tri-States."

Meanwhile, Goldberg is having trouble getting product for his newly-opened State. First-run product of fairish quality and reissues is the best he has been able to do so far. Tri-States officials are scratching their heads trying to find a way to keep the Paramount open. They believe stage shows or very strong product are the only things that will draw patrons four blocks from the main business center. Three out of the last four weeks at the Paramount have been stage shows with an n. g. for a Marcus show, a so-so for Phil Spitalny and an o. k. for Cab Calloway.

Answer date for the anti-trust suit has been set for December 23, at which time the film company and theatre firms named as defendants are expected to file their answer to Goldberg's contention of "monopolistic practices."

Heard Brandt, But Still Favor Neely

MINNEAPOLIS — After hearing Harry Brandt, ITOA of New York president, argue at a meeting arranged by him in Chicago that the Neely bill would adversely affect independent exhibitors, Northwest Allied leaders returned here "stronger than ever" in favor of its enactment, according to President W. A. Steffes of Northwest Allied.

Those who attended the Brandt meeting were Steffes, Abe Kaplan, George Granstrom and Sidney Volk. All four declared they had been unmoved by the Brandt contentions.

"When I say that northwest independents are for the Neely bill stronger than ever before, I believe that I express the sentiments of the theatre owners generally," said Steffes. "I regard Brandt's interpretation of the measure as entirely erroneous. It seems to me he doesn't know what the bill actually is."

Steffes added that it seems apparent to him that Brandt's counsel has "mislead" him.

Northwest Allied already is on record in favor of the Neely bill and no further action in this regard is contemplated at this time, Steffes said.

Modernizing Southtown

KANSAS CITY—Bill Fulton is thoroughly modernizing his Southtown here with 800 de luxe seats, a new heating plant, new decorations, etc. Seats were purchased from Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co.

New Sound and Projection

ALTA, IA.—New sound and projection equipment was installed recently at the New Roxy here.

Spins Himself the Jack Pot

Minneapolis — Strange coincidence occurred at Bennie Berger's Paradise, local nabe house, during a Ten-o-Win drawing. A child was called from the audience and spun the wheel. It stopped on the jackpot and the number was called out. No one answered as having the lucky numerals. Then the child who did the spinning pulled out his own card and looked and, sure enough, he had the number.

LINCOLN

SLAMMING of two theatre front doors for the month of December, the Lincoln and the Kiva, occupied the news limelight along Theatrerow. Most of the Kiva staff has been moved to the Varsity and Liberty, and all but Harvey Traylor, the Lincoln manager, get time in at the Nebraska and Stuart. Traylor, sort of a 1939 "Phantom of the Opera," will stick around the empty Lincoln while it is being remodeled.

The happiness kid, Otto Siegel, was patroling the Row, setting some more Universalollapoloozers . . . Harold Hellerich, after more than two years, is finally back in a theatre again using flesh shows, and wishes it could happen more often . . .



Kroger Babb, booker for Sollie Childs', the unit producer, is making this territory setting stage dates for "French Follies" . . . J. H. Cooper sent his city manager, Bob Huffman, an 18-pound turkey for Thanksgiving. After the meal, Huffman couldn't tell whether the turkey was stuffed, or whether it stuffed him.

Topic under discussion generally: The Jules Rachman case. Although the pardon board deferred action, which may mean either division of thought on the part of the board, or any one of several things, it probably means Rachman has a good chance for clemency, though not immediately.

Side bet: That Monroe Rubinger had his most enjoyable time so far in Kansas City when he picked that bevy of beaut nurses, pictures of whom were circulated to motion picture editors this week ballying "A Child Is Born." No wonder he's been talking of being sick lately.

Paramount sent a newsreel crew here to cover the annual Christmas parade, mostly because one of the top figures is one of Gulliver, about whom it's rumored there's soon to be released a Paramount feature length cartoon. If you haven't heard, Ted Mendenhall will confirm the rumor.

Ralph Goldberg said the prospective customers are having trouble locating his State in Omaha. Some of them turn in a couple of doors too soon, and wind up with an ice cream soda instead of a film . . . Note to Ted Kempkes, Fairbury: That band from your town almost swiped the show in the parade here . . . Bob Livingston, suffering from arthritis in his shoulder, carries an electric pad with him everywhere. Wherever he sits down, he plugs it in a socket nearby and takes a treatment.

R. E. Falkinburg, Lexington, is a kingpin in the home town's Christmas parade which takes place early in December. So far, he says, unlike the Santa Claus in Hollywood, who got himself an agent and joined the union, Falkinburg says their St. Nick is still reasonable.

Ed Vaughan says the only gal who'll ever take him to the cleaners is the one, if he ever dates her, who works for such an establishment.



—Pictorial Press Service

Celebrating "A Child Is Born"—

Part of the smash showmanship that featured Jerry Zigmond's campaign for the premiere of "A Child Is Born" at the Newman in Kansas City. Above is captured the winner of the diapering contest in the act of winning. Time: One and a half seconds. He is Ed Moeller, 30-year-old engineer (and unmarried), and the diaper is a zipper affair of his own invention. Below, the six most beautiful nurses as selected in a city-wide campaign. Left to right, they are: Betty Bryan, Mary Jane Rickard, Eileen Londo, Marjorie Hoeltzel, Jeanne Lane and Mary Smith.

Action Deferred by Board On Jules Rachman Plea

LINCOLN—Indicating it may take three months before final decision is made, and that the pardon board is somewhat divided in the matter of clemency for Jules Rachman, action was deferred on his plea to the board.

Bitterly protesting freeing Rachman at this time, was Ralph Goldberg, surviving brother of Harry and Sam Goldberg, former Omaha exhibitors who were murdered by Jules on December 2, 1932.

Rachman's supporters told the board he had been completely rehabilitated, was entitled to his freedom, and any further lengthening of his term (he has served six years, eight months) would be only for revenge.

Variety-Star Tourney Slated for Dec. 16-17

KANSAS CITY—George Baker, chief barker of Variety Club, and Ernie Mehl of the Kansas City *Star* began preparing for the annual Variety Club-Kansas City *Star* bowling tournament, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17. Aiding George Baker for Variety Club are Earl Jameson, Frank Lambader, Frank Hensler, Jim Lewis, Arthur Cole and the Cinema Club.

In Kansas City, Kas., Fred Meyn will handle the job as general chairman.

In Kansas City, Mo., tournament entries will bowl at Pla-Mor; in Kansas City, Kas., at the Grindel-Lembke alleys.

Objective of those in charge of this year's tournament is to exceed last year's "take." The entire fund goes to provide milk for underprivileged school children in the two Kansas Cities. As last year, it requires $1 for a tournament ticket, plus 60 cents for bowling. Last year over 1,200 bowled at Pla-Mor, over 400 at Grindel-Lembke.

Gregory Heads Party Planners

KANSAS CITY—Charles Gregory of National Screen has been named chairman of the Variety Club New Year's party at the clubrooms.

New Termer to Beery

HOLLYWOOD—Wallace Beery has signed a new long-term contract with Metro.

Tri-States Launches Another Theatre

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.—The town was lavish in its praise. Tri-States officials were optimistic. And the Rocket Theatre was officially opened here when an American Legion colorguard raised the American flag on the stage.

"The Tri-States outfit pays rent regularly," commented Chamber of Commerce President Walter R. Rosenfield.

"The dedication shows confidence of private initiative in the city's future," said Mayor Robert P. Galbraith.

Thirteen-year-old Peter Schmitz, who waited from 4:00 to 6:30 p. m. for Cashier Evelyn Gillette so that he could be the first paying customer to try the new rubber cushion seats, could not be reached for comment.

"Rock Island and tri-city business is as good as the best within the Tri-States territory," remarked Tri-States Manager G. Ralph Branton. "We need no legislation to guarantee first class pictures in Rock Island. Suggestions will be followed."

"Railroading and theatres seem to be getting along famously," Ray Blank observed. "There's the Zephyr Theatre nearing completion in Burlington, too."

The new 750-seat theatre opened with a double-feature program of "First Love" and "20,000 Men a Year." Henry J. Plude is managing the house with a staff composed of John Paulsen as assistant, six ushers, three cashiers, two candy-bar girls, four projectionists, two custodians and an engineer.

On the dedication program, which was broadcast over WHBF, in addition to the men quoted above, were: Chamber of Commerce Secretary W. Lloyd Keepers; Joe Kinsky, tri-city district manager for Tri-States; Herbert D. Grove, Rock Island and Fort theatres manager; L. B. Wilson, president of the State band; Leo Kucharo, general contractor; George Schneider jr., realtor; and Hans Teider, Chicago artist who decorated the theatre auditorium and foyer.

Not on the program, but one of the most interested of the observers was Evert R. Cummings, Tri-States district manager from Omaha. Cummings managed the Fort here until 1928.

"Rock Islanders apparently have been mighty busy in building up the place since I left 11 years ago," he commented.

Lincoln "Best Ten" Poll Spreads Out in Scope

LINCOLN — Sunday *Journal* and *Star's* reader poll to find the 10 best motion pictures, besides the local theatres—Nebraska, Capitol, Varsity, Stuart, Liberty and Lincoln—has been joined by six outstate houses.

They are C. Howard Kennedy's Bow-Lyric, Broken Bow; R. E. Falkinburg's Majestic, Lexington; Harold Schoonover's Mazda, Aurora; Fay Honey's Tecumseh, Tecumseh; the Fox Rivoli, Beatrice, managed by B. M. Montee; and Ted Kempkes' Bonham, Fairbury.

OMAHA

DEAR SANTA CLAUS: . . . Here's a letter from various exhibitors and filmites in the Omaha trade territory. Do your best by them.—M.D.

Charlie Williams, prexy of MPTO of Nebraska and Western Iowa, wants one of those arbitration boards . . . Joe Scott, 20th-Fox boss, wants a set of golf clubs that will cut down his score . . . Henry O. Peterson, Grand, Genoa, Neb., says he could use some new fishing tackle . . . And a box of fat cigars for Frank Good, Iowana, Red Oak, Ia.

Ralph Goldberg, Omaha circuit owner, could use some product, he says . . . Don McLucas, United Artists manager, wants a slot machine for the new recreation room in his home . . . Ed Kugel, State, Holstein, Ia., says to leave him some woodworking equipment . . . Will Singer, Brandeis manager, wants a good thing in the fifth race at Bowie.

Evert Cummings, Tri-States district chief, wants hayfever relief for himself, and another "Boys Town" or "Union Pacific" for Tri-States . . . Bob Oliver, Iowa, Onawa, Ia., wants a shotgun that will bring down the ducks every time . . . Oscar Johnson, Rivoli, Falls City, Neb., wants an oil well for his property near Nebraska's first oil well.

J. Erle Kirk, North Star, Omaha, wants a better golf score . . . Murrel Simpson, Palace, Clearwater, Neb., needs a new baton. He's a bandmaster in addition to being an exhibitor . . . Ted Mendenhall, Paramount boss, wants some modern plumbing for his shack on the river west of Omaha.

Paul G. Held, Strand, Griswold, Ia., wants a timetable . . . Chet Werden, Capitol, Hartley, Ia., wants a united exhibitor organization . . . Russ Egner, RKO manager, says to leave another "Snow White" in his stocking . . . Meyer Stern of Capitol Pictures wants Bank Nite in Nebraska . . . Roy Small, Cozy, Wymore, Neb., would like to have a camping outfit.

Bill Miskell, Orpheum manager, wants a bike to cover the Orpheum-Paramount circuit of ten blocks . . . Ray Brown, Harlan, Ia., wants lower film rentals, either all flat or all percentage, he says . . . Roy Syfert, Ainsworth, Neb., wants a longer pheasant season . . . Joe Jacobs, Columbia boss, could use another "Mr. Smith."

Harry Shumow, Metro chief, wants a bright colored necktie, for a change . . . John Anderson, South Dakota circuit owner, says he could use a few winning poker hands . . . Aubrey Fitzgerald, Princess, Miller, S. D., wants a speedboat . . . Hazel Anderson, Metro booker, says she'll take anything but a bicycle.

Frank Van Husan of Western Theatre Supply wants another Variety Club auto raffle . . . Leo Wolcott, Grand, Eldora,

(Continued on page 98)





When the Rock Island Rocket Opened—

The opening of Tri-States' newest theatre, the Rocket, at Rock Island, Ill., was an outstanding affair. Above, G. Ralph Branton, Tri-States general manager (left), receives the congratulations of Rock Island's mayor Robert P. Galbraith, while chamber of commerce president Walter A. Rosenfield looks on. Below, left to right, representing Tri-States are Ray Blank of the home office, Des Moines; Evert Cummings, Nebraska division; Henry J. Plude, Rocket manager; Branton; Joe Kinsky, tri-city district manager, and Herbert D. Grove, manager of the Fort Theatre.

Council's Action on Building Permits Holds Trade Eye

MINNEAPOLIS—Local exhibitors this week were eagerly awaiting city council action on a half-a-dozen applications to build new neighborhood theatres.

The applications have been vigorously opposed by independent exhibitors and the Paramount Northwest circuit who contend the city already is considerably overseated and that further theatre construction would jeopardize present investment. It's claimed that most of the neighborhood houses are having a struggle to make both ends meet.

Prior to the vote by the aldermen, the outcome of the battle was still in doubt.

A Long Reach

MINNEAPOLIS—In "Tidal Wave," Republic picture seen at the Minnesota here last week, there happened to be a character named Mike Halloran and he happened to be a newspaper political writer.

Well, it also happens that the political writer on the Minneapolis *Star-Journal* is named Mike Halloran.

During the "Tidal Wave" action the picture's Mike Halloran is referred to as "writing the usual tripe."

The local Mike Halloran came in for a lot of kidding.

Stage Acts Intensify Minny Competition

MINNEAPOLIS—The Rialto here was enlivened by a red-hot stage show fight between the Minnesota Amusement Co.-Mort H. Singer Orpheum and the independent Minnesota Theatre. The Orpheum had Clyde McCoy's Sugar Blues orchestra and a big stage show. The huge A. B. Marcus "LaVie Paree" revue held forth at the Minnesota. Both attractions attracted extra heavy crowds. Despite the strong opposition, however, two straight films, "The Cat and the Canary" and "Jamaica," at the Gopher and Century, respectively, also drew big business, the Bob Hope picture breaking Gopher house records. Neighborhood houses were the chief sufferers.

The scrap between the Orpheum and Minnesota broke out in the newspaper ads. The Minnesota devoted several inches at the top of its exceptionally large ads to advance its claims.

"We lead—others follow," declared the Minnesota ads. "Nowhere in the Twin Cities are you able to buy such diversified stage and screen entertainment at such low bargain prices. Truly Minneapolis' greatest entertainment bargain. No other theatre is able to make such a statement."

As far as grosses were concerned, the two theatres ran nearly neck and neck. It was one of the best weeks for the Minnesota since its reopening. Orpheum prices were down to 25-35-40c, nearly the same as the 20-30-40c Minnesota scale. At these prices the shows represented rare entertainment bargains. The Orpheum feature photoplay was "At the Circus." The Minnesota had "Heroes in Blue."

KAYCEE

GRIFFITH-DICKINSON Theatres, Inc., is holding open house for Filmrow, executives and employes, Saturday afternoon, December 9, in its new offices on the third floor of the Congress Bldg. at 3525 Broadway.

Bowl for Charity Dec. 16-17

On the Row: J. W. Davis, Higginsville, Mo.; Yic Williams, Carthage, Mo.; F. L. Lisbona, Maitland, Mo.; M. A. Otto, Pleasanton, Kas.; Paul Taylor, Richmond, Mo.; Gus Diamond, Salina, Eldorado, and Arkansas City, Kas.; Joe Ghosen and wife, Sedalia, Mo.

A Worthy Cause

Jim Lewis of RKO took third prize ($12.50) in the Grindel-Lembke open singles tournament when, December 3, he bowled 665. Nize goin.

Get Your Tickets Now

Walt Talbutt, who operates the Victory at Rogers, Ark., took his six-year-old son, John, to his first prizefight the other night. John was more interested in the crowd than in the fight and kept commenting in his shrill, clear voice. Finally Walt told him he'd better turn around or he'd miss the fight. "Oh, that's all right, Daddy, they'll run it over again, won't they."

Price One Dollar Each

Congratulations to Stanley Goldberg at Monogram. Mrs. Goldberg December 5 presented him with an 8½ pound heir. Doug Desch is going to name him Tex Goldberg and put him in a Tex Ritter picture.

Variety Club-Kansas City Star Sponsors

Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc., has shifted Stanley Gartside from Manhattan, Kas., where he has been assistant, to Osage City, Kas., where he will manage the Osage. Gartside is succeeded by Barnes Perdue of Independence, Kas. Sam Carr, formerly at Osage City, has resigned.

Funds Go to Junior Red Cross

Ben Cohn of Mort Blumenstock's eastern publicity department for Warner, celebrated his 30th birthday anniversary while here last week working on the world premiere of "A Child Is Born."

Help Supply Milk for Undernourished Children

Stan Durwood, son of Ed Durwood, head of Dubinsky Brothers, won his letter on the Harvard freshman football squad this season.

Do a Good Deed and Have Some Fun

Arthur Cole has announced the postponement of the Variety Club dinner at the Interdenominational Home, which was scheduled for December 13. In order to clear the decks for the bowling tournament December 16 and 17, the dinner at the Home will be held at a later date.

Also Prizes for High Scorers

Believe it or not—and we do—the Columbia exchange here last week set a new all-time revenue record. The exchange is one of the few to show steady gains in film poundage.

Help This Charitable Activity

The Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co. is installing 272 new seats in Mrs. Iola Travis's Plaza at Crane, Mo.

Your Support Is Needed

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan G. McDonald of the Community, Sumner, Mo., were Row visitors early this week.

Don't Forget the Dates

Elinor Jacobson has succeeded Lucille Gibian as secretary at the Majestic exchange. Miss Gibian will be married in January.

Funds Aid Both Kansas Cities

Ed Dubinsky Durwood, head of the Dubinsky circuit, has returned from a visit with his daughter, Marjorie Beth, who is attending Skidmore College at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., and with his son Stanley, student at Harvard.

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Superb South American

Excels in Volume, Taste and Tenderness

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A Pure, Sweet, Neutral Cocoanut Oil, Well Colored—The Best Money Can Buy.

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Bank Night Guarantee Plan Discontinued

DES MOINES — Operation of a theatre admission and bank night guarantee plan here by the Capital City Guarantors has been discontinued, the state insurance department was notified Tuesday.

Insurance Commissioner Charles Fischer had asked operators of the plan to confer with him as to whether the plan constituted insurance under the Iowa law, and should be under the department's jurisdiction. The insurance department had refused to authorize a similar proposal about two years ago.

In response tor his conference suggestion, Fischer said he received word from Leslie Cooper of Rock Island, Ill., that the plan had been discontinued.

Under the plan, one could purchase a guarantee card for 15 cents at drug stores in connection with the bank night drawing at the State and affiliated theatres. The purchaser was entitled to receive the amount of the prize from the guarantors if his name was called at the theatre, even though he had not qualified for the prize by attendance.

If he did attend and his name was called, he was entitled to both the theatre prize and the guarantee.

The purchase card entitled one to admission to the theatre and Cooper said the plan was a ticket sale accompanied by a guarantee. The insurance department, however, regarded it as an insurance plan which would have to have insurance department approval if it continued to be operated.

Quiz for Juveniles Is Introduced in Minny

MINNEAPOLIS—Harold Kaplan and Harold Field have inaugurated a children's quiz as an added feature at their de luxe St Louis Park Theatre on Saturday afternoons It's believed to be the first quiz of its kind anywhere Quiz is broadcast over radio station WCCO with which the St. Louis Park has a tieup It's picked up directly from theatre

The quiz is open for juvenile patrons of from six to 16 years of age. Questions used are those submitted by children. Cash prizes are given for correct answers. Eddie Gallaher, one of the ace WCCO announcers, officiates in the role of "Captain Kid."

Merle Potter Entertains Twin City's Barkers

MINNEAPOLIS—Merle Potter, *Journal* film editor, entertained Twin City Variety club members and friends Monday at a steamed clam party. "You have all heard the old gag about a dog biting a man not being news, but if a man bit a dog, that would be news," the invitations pointed out. "Well, you seldom hear of a newspaperman buying anything, but this is one time the tables are going to be turned."

Saying It in Rhyme

KANSAS CITY—On Monday, November 20, Judith Del Hylton arrived at St. Joseph's Hospital. Both parents and Judith Del are doing very well. Betty McGuire, secretary to Edd Haas at Fox Midwest, was so pleased, she took flight in poetry and wrote the following to the heir of the Fox Midwest booker:

'Twas only Sunday, but the night before Monday,
And following a game of Bingo—
No sooner had left the Four Hylton guests,
Till "Happy" began doing the bye-low.

Then all through the house ran Chet, the louse,
Gathering up baby's bunting.
"C'mon Dottie, dear, let's get out of here,
That wise-guy of a doc's going hunting."

Many hours did pass—nothing happened, alas!
Dod, oh Dod, what do we do now?
Could it be triplets, maybe its twins
(Judas, nurse, give Chet two jiggers of gin)
By Jeepers, he needs it and how.

What's this, "six hits with a Miss"?
No, no, it's Nurse Edith Cavell
Who's carrying a bundle we proudly insist
Is none other than Miss Judith Del.

Chet calling the office to make his report—
What is it? A boy or a girl?
It's a girl, by God, and let's cut this short,
Old Man Hylton's really in a whirl.

Congratulations we extend to the Hyltons and their kin—
May happiness she bring you and added joy.
What more could you ask for
Than this baby girl and your own Gary boy?

Annual Good Deed

KANSAS CITY—The Variety Club again is adopting needy families this Christmas. Anyone who has discarded clothing, shoes, toys, etc., is asked to send them to the clubrooms. For further information call Arthur H. Cole, secretary.

Two Theatres in Lincoln Close During December

LINCOLN—Two theatres put the lights out here and will stay dark throughout December.

One is the J. H. Cooper Lincoln, 1,600-seater, which will take on $20,000 worth of new rugs, seats, and other equipment in a thorough going-over. It has been operating as a "B" spot, dual splits, and consuming an average of four films per week.

Nebraska Theatres, Inc., is giving up its 440-seater, the Kiva, a second runner, for lack of subsequent run product and for the pre-Christmas normal slack season.

When the Kiva reappears on the scene, it will revert to the usual policy, but the Lincoln's speed upon relighting is yet to be framed. It is very likely to have vaudeville, according to Bob Huffman, the J. H. Cooper city manager.

Both spots expect to get away again by December 29.

Zoning Adjustment Board Refuses Theatre Permit

KANSAS CITY—An application by owners of the City Ice Co. asking that its property at 4826 Oak St. be rezoned for use as a theatre was turned down Wednesday by the board of zoning adjustment.

Bertram Rosenberg had planned to build a $100,000 theatre on the site in conformance with the other properties in the residential section.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

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Blowers, washers, spray nozzels, office and home units.
Special Offer—Priced to Sell.
Why Pay More?
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A. A. Electric Machinery Co.
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Projectors and Sound for the Largest and Smallest Theatre—Also Portable 16 mm and 35 mm equipment.
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Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co.
Distributors for
RCA, Brenkert, U. S. Air, Heywood-Wakefield
126 West 18th St. GR. 2864 Kansas City, Mo.
708 West Grand Ave. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.
1804 Wyandotte St.
C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't Wichita, Kas.
C. D. Peck, Mgr. Phone 2-2153

EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

Independent Theatre Owners Association
1214 Brush Creek Road — VAlentine 2770
E. E. Webber jr., Pres. John Wolfberg, Sec.

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
Frank Cassil, Pres. Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

AIR CONDITIONING

National Air Conditioning and Engineering Corp.
VI. 3535
213 West 19th St.—Kansas City, Mo.
Manufacturing—Engineering—Installation

SOUND SERVICE

K. C. SOUND SERVICE
Syncrofilm Sound Equipment and Service
1818 Wyandotte St.
W. P. Humston HA 4783

SCREEN PUBLICITY

Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: HIland 2694

DES MOINES

WE SWEAR that hat Sheilah Graham wears in her bit appearance as herself in "That's Right, You're Wrong" is the same one she was sporting when we saw her at the Omaha premiere . . . and Clayton says she was wearing the same dress (we didn't see her with her coat off, but Clayton did—in fact he even saw her with her sox rolled down around her ankles), but the picture packed them in here at Nevermiss Frank's Orpheum, Sheilah's old hat or no.

We thought those 22 minutes of our frantic lunch hour very well spent in Burton Jerrel's Flashes screening room. He showed all the high spots in the season's performance for Iowa's Iron Men—only way in the world you can see five games in 22 minutes and most comfortable way, we might add . . . Oh, and we almost forgot, the cheapest way!

We don't want to frighten you, Barney Oldfield, but a former Omaha Filmrower told us that some of the Nebraska boys were gonna lose their tempers one of these days and take YOU for a ride. Better watch your step (Gosh, hope Iowa Filmrowers are better natured!) . . . The *R&T's* Ken Clayton is laughing up his sleeve on hearing that the NFCA (at whom Ken thumbed a good-sized beak) is hitting members for contributions to foot the bill for their first award poll . . . Film boys out Hollywood-way who've been footing those bills for press junkets and drinks so big-heartedly oughta get a kick out of the fact that it's gonna cost the boys a bit to "Command more attention (and more junkets?) from Hollywood."

Cleo Currant, Monogram's own little steno, was the big duke on the Federated Churches' radio program last Sunday. She spoke, was interviewed, tooted her horn, and generally was allowed to show off. What surprised us was the absence of a commercial such as "Miss Currant comes to you through the courtesy of Monogram Film Exchange."

Milt Goodman of Columbia has been going to a fortune teller . . . Jean Wylie is making some of the most artistic Christmas cards, and we hope she sends us one . . . We found Grace Simons looking lovely in a smart green outfit, talking about a current romance and reading a three-year-old Christmas love letter which she'd found wrapped around an old shoe brush in her purse (did Chick bawl you out about those cigarettes we took, Grace?)

Jere Spandau is complaining because from coast to coast, BOXOFFICE *readers are inquiring about his new nose. Take it from us, dear readers, the new Spandau profile doesn't take a back seat to Barrymore's itself. Notation on Jere's calendar pad for Saturday, "Give Joe Smith Hell," but we don't think he had time. He was in such a hurry to get to Kaycee to see that screening of Universal's current pride, "Destry Rides Again."*

Here's an exclusive: Ralfe Olson of Universal and Betty Culp will do a Lohengrin February 1 (tentative). That Thanksgiving dinner with the folks in Leon gets the blame or credit, as nearly as we can figure it out . . . Marvin Godwin of Columbia just returned after working the territory out of Omaha for a few weeks. Note to Marvin: That angry orphan, who you think hasn't touched a drop since our storm story, was that way not more than three weeks ago. How'd we know? 'Cause we were there.

Morris Smith has been seen taking a chance at home, now that other places of chance are closing . . . That film peddler with the fur coat is Howard Gould . . . Did you see Effie Judd and Louise doing the Lambeth with the Junior Leaguers in the Tribune *the other eve? Effie was resplendent in white tie and tails (top hat yet to come, we hear) and Louise looked like an angel . . . Since so much interest has been evinced in the Monogram doghouse (H. G. Moore and Cannonball Lee were among those who stopped in to see it) Walt and Opie are going into the business and herewith offer to make them on order for unhappy employes and unhappier employers.*

G. Ralph's secretary has the prettiest hazel eyes and the nicest curly hair we've seen for a long time . . . Hazel Dunn thanked us for mentioning Howard's—shall we say, obesity—because she says he wouldn't believe her when she said he was getting a little past pleasingly plump . . . Don West definitely cinched his claim to the title of the Row's best-dressed when we glimpsed him in that green hat and rust overcoat standing out in front of that Locust St. flower shop . . . he was just as well turned out when we saw him at the Comet football game Sunday, and you should have seen the shine on his shoes when he was playing ping-

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

Burt Smith, who runs the Kellogg at Kellogg, has purchased the Garden at Garden Grove from Hayden Peterson of the State in DM . . . and who got who a quart of Scotch as a result?

"Sky Devils" and "Hell's Angels" are responsible for that case of Scotch reported to be winging its way from Omaha to DM . . . the Angel-Devil duo is still coining dough for every exhibitor who touches it.

C. C. Parker of the Community Theatres in Fontenelle and Bridgewater has gone Hollywood to the tune of a Kelly green shirt with sky-blue tie tastefully striped with red.

We thought we'd heard everything when we were told about Carroll Lane's green bustle, but then somebody floored us with news of Walt Peterson's corset . . . Walt wears his because of that roll around his waist, but what excuse has the energetic F. E. Judd got for affecting the hourglass figure? Lane bustles the Lane circuit out of Carroll, Walt models for the Lido and Windsor customers in Hampton, while F. E. is Monogram's mannequin.

Leonard Kaplan of the Pastime at Iowa City, Walter Carroll of the Star at Colfax, J. D. Peck of Van Cleve, Mrs. Adolph Hatton of Truro, and Wes Mansfield of Tama went bookin' up the Row Tuesday.

Pinky Tomlin's "Swing It Professor" is riding the crest of the wave of wide promotion given Kay Kyser's boxoffice hit, "That's Right, You're Wrong" . . . but why shouldn't it? After all, Pinky had the original college of musical knowledge.

We finally found out: W. L. Hart and son, sold the Olin Theatre to L. L. Leibrock.

The jovial, square-shootin' John W. McLees of Ft. Dodge, coaches football in his spare time . . . or does he operate the theatre in his spare time?

Sylvia, the very bright and lovely daughter of Roy (winemaster) Lepowitz in Madrid, put the family's pet poodle dog in the oven when she (Sylvia) was two years old (pst, Sylvia! Brother Lou of the Iowa in DM told us this, when we kidded him about those parenthetical legs).

The champion pinochle player in Oelwein is none other than Hyman Levy, manager of the Grand Theatre!

One of the handsomest of Central States' managers is Hubie Schrodt of Estherville . . . Hubie has a beautiful wife and three youngsters, too . . . Larry Day must be a chip off the old block, because he's managing a theatre down at Clarion and showing off the good training he got from Pappy Jess Day who runs the Rialto at Ft. Dodge.

We must add Mike Galer of the King at Albia to the list of handsome theatre managers who fly . . . N. C. Rice of Algona is still Thompson's best turkish bath customer . . . Scott & Faris, the new operators at Mediapolis, were on the Row Monday . . . Joe Fauver of the Strand in Victor and M. A. Fauver of the Brooklyn in Brooklyn are another father-and-son combination.

Bob Fulton went back to work December 5 at the Paramount in Waterloo . . . now Ottumwa folks will see Kermit Carr, who was subbing in Waterloo, back at the Ottumwa.

Sy Fangman of the Rialto in Boone and Jerry Gerbrach of the Ritz in Chariton must be having a contest to see who can raise the largest family in the shortest length of time . . . Fangman, with a set of twins and two others, is one up on Gerbrach at the present writing.

pong after five in at Vitagraph Monday!

Harry Holdsberg left the lap of luxury he was living in at the hospital and came back to work November 30 . . . Dell McDermott outdid anything we've seen previously in the business and even startled the blase Tri-States stenos with that brown and tan checked suit he was wearing Monday noon . . . Bill Toney's wife has been seriously ill, but is reported to be better now . . . G. Ralph Branton and A. H. Blank were in Omaha on business December 4.

Art Anderson is planning a trade showing December 12 with "Four Wives" (Warner's) . . . Columbia's Blondie hasn't a thing on Metro's Jerry Banta . . . Jerry's bringing up baby, too, we hear . . . Jerry thinks from 2 p. m. till six is too long for Mama Frances to leave Baby Gloria with him (reading this section back, we'd say it sounds like a commercial).

A few more twirls on the Central States' merry-go-round: Minnie Hudgell, Dora Middlesworth and Wilma Lundgren are reported to have gone out Monday night and drowned their troubles because they were the only females in the organization who weren't mentioned in the December 2 BOXOFFICE *. . . A Mr. Taylor of the bookkeeping department is causing considerable furor among green-eyed fellow workman with his capitalistic tendencies. He has built a new house, and is now taking afternoons off by some very slick maneuvering.*

Dimples Lohman had better look to his laurels. One Bernice Bateman at Vitagraph has a couple of beauties . . . Lou Levy will have a better fight on his hands next time we see him than he saw when Strickland met Savold Monday . . . Chick Friedman was at the fight, too . . . Don West was supposed to go with Art Anderson, but we're not sure Art ever showed up. We waited around for him, too

The pheasant Don Beal shot down and dragged home in triumph turned out to be an owl, but Chet Howser said Don didn't know any better, because he'd never seen a pheasant before . . . Stan Mayer's gang will do their Christmas partying in the Fort Des Moines Log Cabin . . . Central States will throw theirs at Younker's Tearoom December 20 . . . Paul Walsh is willing to bet anybody almost anything that Joe Archer won't middle-aisle it by January 1 as reported.

Omahans ought to get somebody to tell them about Joe Jacob's purchase of a 98-cent cigarette case. When the Columbia branch manager couldn't get the dealer to give him three, or two, or even one package of cigarettes with the purchase, he said he ought to get a 10-cent package for giving him that pitch!

Holds Jane Withers

HOLLYWOOD—Jane Withers, currently appearing in "Shooting High" for 20th-Fox, has been held for another year by the studio.

"Our Town" to Wood

HOLLYWOOD—Sam Wood will direct "Our Town" for Producer Sol Lesser, replacing William Wyler, who is tied up on Samuel Goldwyn's "The Westerner."

MINNEAPOLIS

MARION LOYSON, Warner cashier, married a month ago and has kept the event a secret up to this time . . . Arnie Crane, Lake City, Minn., exhibitor, in a Minneapolis hospital for observation. A minor ailment . . . Tommy Charack, Warner's hustling salesman, has gone in for horseback riding. Friends are wondering whether he's doing it for his health and to reduce or because of the opportunity which it affords him to wear that turtleneck sweater. He has been mistaken for Clark Gable. Giving Bill Volk competition, eh, what? Incidentally, Tommy has postponed that California trip again because he wished to stick around and help clean up the Twin City situations.

Bill Volk, prominent Twin City independent circuit operator, planning a trip to California to renew acquaintance with John Boles, screen star, with whom he became friendly during the latter's Minnesota Theatre personal appearance . . . Ben Spewak, the man with the purse strings, will be introduced to the theatre industry at a party in his honor which Billy Elson, Seventh Street theatre maestro, is giving. Spewak has forsaken most of his former business connections to devote himself to things theatrical.

No, that isn't the motor car of the future that you see parked along Filmrow. It's the new buggy of "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager. That Tommy Charack car is an eye-arrester, too . . . Harry Green, who recently took over the State, Windom, Minn., in town on his first booking trip. What no Sunday dates? . . . A stag is being arranged for Arnold Rubenstein, circuit booker for Spewak's Bloomington-Savage houses, in honor of his forthcoming marriage . . . Harold Johnson, Universal branch manager, Arny's close friend, will be toastmaster.

"Nickey" Goldhammer, RKO district manager, back from a New York sales conference . . . Mike Manas, Twin City Variety club steward, just received his citizenship papers and will not have to return to Greece.

Appetite as Ever

MINNEAPOLIS—Theodore Hays is 72 years old and has spent 50 of these in the show business. But the Minnesota Amusement executive still is able to qualify as a champion trencherman, according to Merle Potter, *Times-Tribune* film editor.

"His menu at a loop seafood cafe the other night," says Potter, consisted of six oysters on the half-shell with wafers and a special cocktail sauce, a large bowl of Rhode Island clam chowder with dinner biscuits, six New York Count fried oysters with tartar sauce, Julienne potatoes, chopped salad and boiled French dressing, one Seattle Dungeness crab cold with crab sauce, a generous portion of Liederkranz cheese, toasted crackers, coffee and a soft drink.

"Theodore has never used liquor in all his life. His best friends call him 'Beau,' a throwback to the days when Theodore Hays was the handsomest young man in these parts."

Much speculation regarding the identity of the two extremely charming and beautiful young women that the handsome Lowell Kaplan entertained at pheasant dinner at the Twin City Variety club. Two pretty girls and only one man. Is that fair, Lowell? . . . Warner Bros. holding an exhibitors' invitation screening of "Four Wives" at the St. Louis Park Theatre at 2 p. m. December 12 . . . Engagement of Orrin Tucker orchestra, which had been scheduled for the Orpheum here Christmas week, was canceled . . . C. K. Olson, Warner branch manager, spent Thanksgiving with his parents at Kenosha, Wis.

Bill Crystal, who resigned from the RKO sales staff, going on the road for J. L. Stern, distributor of Majestic films and Bank Night . . . Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Bill Keinholz, Buffalo, Minn.; Don Anderson, Pine Island, Minn.; Art Johnson, Blair and Galesville, Wis.; H. N. Thompson, Rush City, Minn.; Bernie Larkin, Madelia, Minn.; Abe Gill, Farmington, Minn.; Fred Schnee, Litchfield, Minn.; Ed Johnson, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Lyle Farrow, Parkers Prairie, Minn.; L. E. Jorgenson, Salem, S. D.; Joe Mlinar, Spring Valley, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; A. J. Gumm, Rib Lake, Wis.; R. J. Welch, Hayfield, Minn.

Also observed visiting local film exchanges were Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Qualey, Lanesboro, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Palmer, Sleepy Eye, Minn.; Lot Campion, Chatfield, Minn.; Leo Molitor, Norwood, Minn.; Joe Schindel, Granite Falls, Minn.; George Crane, Cambridge, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Rasmussen, Perham, Minn.; Joe Redmon, Waconia, Minn.; E. E. Thune, Kenyon, Minn.; William Amocher, Castlewood, S. D.; Charlie Connaught, Olivia, Minn.; Bill Benfield, Graceville, Minn.; Bonnie Benfield, Hinckley, Minn.; Al Ashenbrenner, Staples, Minn.; E. P. Parsons, Renville, Minn., and B. R. Parsons, Springfield, Minn.

Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, back to Chicago after a two-day visit here . . . Ben Blotcky reports considerable exhibitor interest being manifested in the forthcoming Paramount special "Gulliver's Travels. Trade in the territory is anxious for its release . . . Al Hestak in from Seattle to visit relatives . . . Mel Evidon, Columbia's Des Moines district manager, formerly here, a visitor.

Evidence that the numerous friends of Ray Wylie, one of the most popular film salesmen the town ever has known, haven't forgotten him, was furnished at the Twin City Variety club Saturday night. Ray, now on United Artists' St. Louis exchange sales staff, and the missus were in Minneapolis for a brief visit and open house was held for them at the club. The result was one of the season's largest Saturday night turnouts with everybody anxious to greet, welcome and renew acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Wylie. Incidentally, both are looking mighty well and happy.

Minnesota celebrated Thanksgiving No-

(Continued on next page)

MINNEAPOLIS

(Continued from preceding page)

vember 30 and Paramount exchange had an especial reason for being thankful. No less than three of its pictures—"The Cat and the Canary," "Jamaica Inn" and "Rulers of the Sea"—held forth in loop first-run houses. The Bob Hope picture broke all boxoffice records at the Gopher . . . Paramount and Columbia exchanges working hard on plans for their Christmas parties.

George Granstrom, prominent St. Paul independent exhibitor, and the wife to spend Christmas in St. Louis with relatives . . . Charlie Stoflet, M-G-M North Dakota salesman, in this week for the first time in more than a month . . . "Buck" Tidwell, Warner traveling auditor, in town . . . Morrie Abrams, M-G-M exploiteer, in Spokane, Wash., to attend the wedding of his popular and attractive daughter, Lois, to Harold Goldberg, recreation parlor owner, of that city. The wedding is scheduled for December 10. Before departing Morrie presented the office staff with a large box of candy because he'll be celebrating his birthday while he's away.

Tommy Charack still has some of those cards left from the time he was on a "search for talent" quest for Universal . . . Fred Reiger, Universal homeoffice auditor, in town . . . It was an engagement party, instead of wedding, held by Sylvan Leff, Universal southern Minnesota salesman, and Evelyn Shapiro of Montreal. The wedding will take place in Montreal during the Christmas holidays . . . Jack DeWaal, RKO homeoffice traveling auditor, a visitor . . . Fred Finnegan of the RKO booking staff won one of the office's jackpots on the Minnesota-Wisconsin football game.

Charlie Weiner of Monogram has learned that Salesman Morrie Steinman knows his football. If Charlie had followed Morrie's advice he'd have won the various wagers that he lost. Speaking of football bets, it has been a disastrous season, too, for Bennie Berger, but the latter can take it, having had a succession of previous winners.

Giving Vaudeville a Try At Liberty in Lincoln

LINCOLN—Howard Federer, general manof Nebraska Theatres, Inc., is giving vaude a test here at the Liberty. House is a 1,000-seater and is priced on a 35-55 cent scale.

First show in was Sollie Childs' "French Follies," a 35-people unit, and if the boxoffice clamor is found justifying, the Liberty is probably to use vaude as often as shows can be found. Play was December 4-6 inclusive.

Jack Wright Scales Down Admissions at Red Wing

RED WING, MINN.—Jack Wright, manager of the Auditorium, instituted admission price reductions, lowering his top from 35 to 25 cents. He also scaled down prices at his "B" house, the Chief.

RKO to Remake "Laddie"

HOLLYWOOD—RKO announces it will remake "Laddie," the novel by the late Gene Stratton Porter. Bert Granet is scripting for Producer Cliff Reid.

OMAHA

(Continued from page 93)

Ia., wants a "fair" trade practice code . . . Ralph Falkinburg, Majestic, Lexington, Neb., could use quality product that can be shown three or four days in place of double features, he says . . . Stan McSwain, Auburn, Neb., wants a new tennis racket.

Harold Hall, Elkader, Ia., wants you to "Wake up the west coast about the exhibitor situation" . . . Bruce Merrill, Lyric, Edgar, Neb., would like an electric motor, just to take apart and put together again . . . Norm Nielsen, RKO booker, wants a golf instruction book. Send one to Sid McArdle, UA shipper, too.

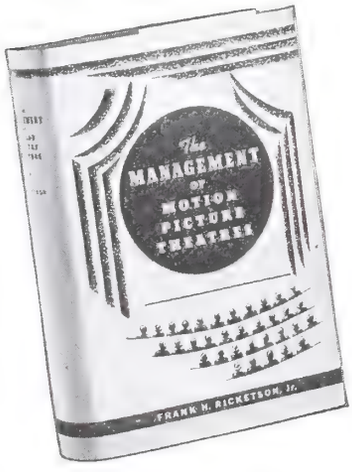
A dandy Christmas present for Bob Ballantyne of Scott-Ballantyne would be another job like the New Pix at Beatrice, Neb. . . . Ted Emerson, Tri-States hornblower, and Louise Cotter, Brandeis tubthumper, will be satisfied with a good publicity break anytime . . . Dick Lysinger, Paramount, Ansley, Neb., says he needs a cure for jackrabbit circuits.

Carsten Gehlsen, Burek, S. D., wants a new camera . . . J. V. Frank, Harvard, Neb., also wants an oil well. He's in the oil business in addition to being an exhibitor . . . George Bloxham, Palace, Exira, Ia., wants you to abolish giveaways and bring him single bills . . . And you can bring BOXOFFICE *a box of that candy made by Mrs. E. H. Robertson, wife of the exhibitor at Scribner, Neb.*

Wanger Assigns Gibney

HOLLYWOOD—Walter Wanger has assigned Sheridan Gibney to the script of "Dynasty of Death."

How to operate motion picture theatres *profitably*



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Consider Local Moves Upon Ascap Futile

BOSTON—New England theatremen are advised by the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., that local efforts against Ascap probably would prove futile.

"If you are solicited for funds by any society or organization for the purpose of obtaining local legislation against Ascap," the Allied segment said this week in a bulletin to members, "please be advised that it is the opinion of this organization that such legislation would be held unconstitutional."

Arthur K. Howard, local Allied business manager, cited an A. F. Myers opinion, to wit:

"'I doubt whether state legislation to prevent a common agent of a number of copyright owners from collecting royalties within the state, or even to regulate the operations of such agent, would be upheld. Congress has power over copyrights. The ultimate determination of the question might depend upon findings of monopoly and detriment to the citizens of the state resulting from the combination; but, certainly the matter is primarily for the consideration of Congress'."

Stating that "the dues you pay to this organization are devoted to protecting your interests relating to Ascap as well as to other matters," Howard added, "Further than that, national Allied has made and is making every effort through Congressional legislation and otherwise to curb and regulate the powers of Ascap."

"The proposed Allied amendments to the copyright law, if enacted, would require the distributors, in licensing films, to convey all the rights necessary to permit the exhibitor to run films in his theatre.

"The theory is, that if the bargaining power of the organized producer-distributors is pitted against Ascap with respect to performing as well as recording rights, the Big Eight will be able to protect the motion picture industry as a whole against extortion. In other words, we would pit one giant against another, instead of leaving the scattered and (in some territories) unorganized exhibitors at the mercy of one of the giants."

"Sluff" Pictures Are Defined at Hearing

BOSTON—Philip Hendrick, Master sitting on the Morse and Rothenberg anti-trust case, was slightly perplexed when "sluff pictures" entered the testimony.

"A sluff picture," Charles Morse explained, "is a picture which the majority of the first-run houses would not consider using on account of its being inferior and exceptionally poor. For instance, if they had an A house, a B house, and a C house in the same town, they would probably put that picture into the C house.

"If they had an A and a B house, it would probably be put into the B house. Or they might cancel it altogether, and some exhibitor might be able to get it. In any event, it is a terrible picture; one of the poor major pictures. Comparing it with major product, it is one of the poorer major pictures."

Fills In for McCarey

HOLLYWOOD—Production and direction of RKO's "My Favorite Wife" has been turned over to Garson Kanin, who fills in for Leo McCarey until he recovers from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Struggle for Product Outlined In Current Morse Testimony

BOSTON—A story of product sought for over the competitive opposition of the Shea circuit; won when Paramount, the distributor, and Shea were stalemated in their negotiations; and then lost when the stalemate was dissolved and no approved contract could be shown, was unfolded by the plaintiff, Charles Morse, under the questioning of his attorney, George S. Ryan, during the 133rd day of active testimony in the Morse and Rothenberg anti-trust case against major distributors and the Shea circuit.

Morse, according to his testimony, in August, 1931, went to Tom Bailey, then Paramount manager locally, to obtain 1931-32 product for his Park Theatre in Nashua, N. H., which had the Paramount product second run the previous season, only to be informed that Shea, operating the State Theatre in Nashua, had requested first and second run and accordingly the product was not available to Morse.

Offered a Part

Morse, according to his testimony, continued his endeavors to obtain Paramount product for his Park Theatre throughout the balance of the month, during September, and finally, in October, asked for the pictures third run, only to be informed by Bailey that "Shea is insisting he have the only runs in Nashua."

A first glimmer of hope in the matter of obtaining product for the Park came near the end of October, brought on by unreconciled differences between Shea and Paramount, as admitted by Bailey, testified Morse.

This hope approached realization when, early in November, Bailey offered to provide the Park Theatre with half of Paramount's product for first run, providing the theatre would up its admission to 25 cents at night. This was concurred in with the proviso that the competitive State Theatre, then operating at a 15-cent top, would first up its admission to 25 cents.

The reason that only half the product was being made available to Morse was that the distributor was saving the product on the chance a deal would be consummated with Shea, Morse relayed to the court.

No Contract Existed

This newly won supply, however, flowed but for a period of about two months, from mid-November to the first of the year, at which time Bailey informed Morse that Shea was about to raise his State Theatre admission to 25 cents and that, in Morse's words, "I wouldn't be able to get any more bookings after the end of the month."

Morse's protestations questioning the distributor's right to this action were countered by Bailey with the reminder that no approved contract existed. Further questioning by Attorney Ryan revealed that Morse could not recall ever receiving his exhibitor's copy of the application for a contract when he signed with Paramount and that a search in his files for such a contract was fruitless.

Independent Exhibitors Survey A Key to Selling Demands

BOSTON—In compiling a November product survey which is based on the reports of 68 theatres, the local Allied unit advised members that those of them "who have followed our product survey reports have learned which companies were selling the greatest number of accounts at reasonable prices, if they were smart exhibitors, they took advantage of this knowledge, bought these productions, and stayed away from those companies whose sales policies were unreasonable and extortionate in the face of last season's boxoffice experience."

The Independent Exhibitors, Inc., survey report for November follows:

	Contracts	*Flat*	*On Pct.*	*Same*	*Paid More*	*Less*
20th-Fox	56	44	12	20	12	24
M-G-M	44	....	44	36	....	8
Paramount	40	20	20	24	8	8
Columbia	36	28	8	20	16	....
United Artists	36	28	8	12	12	8
Universal	20	16	4	12	8	....
Vitagraph	20	....	20	8	8	....
Totals	252	136	116	132	64	48

Substantial Advance Sales for "Wind"

BOSTON—Advance sales for Loew's State and Orpheum showings of "Gone With the Wind," which opens Thursday, December 21, have been substantial up to press time. Although the film has been booked for three weeks, a third stanza will depend on how business on the film holds up. Tickets are not being sold at present beyond the fourteenth day.

Loew's State, managed by Fred Greenway, will have two screenings a day, both on a reserved seat policy. Loew's Orpheum will have three shows daily. Seats for the evening performances for the downtown house will be reserved. Although reserved seats are not being sold for the two other daily showings, Manager Howard Burkhardt will clear the house between shows.

Film Division Leads in Boston Charity Drive

BOSTON—The motion picture division of the Boston Community Fund led the 16 divisions of the annual city charity in organization last week. Theatres, at that time were 95 per cent organized, while exchanges were not far behind.

Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner, is vice-chairman this year of the entire division which also includes hotels and restaurants.

Joseph Brennan of the MPTOA is chairman of the theatre group. Edward A. Cuddy, M&P divisional manager, is vice-chairman. M. N. Wolf, Friar's Club president, heads the distributors' committee, assisted by John Dervin, United Artists branch manager.

Vincent Lamb is secretary for the entire Community Fund set up. John Clark, formerly assistant manager of the Metropolitan Theatre and now a permanent member of the Fund, has replaced Lamb as head of the Metropolitan Boston division.

Thornton Kelly Solicits For Conn. Allied Unit

NEW HAVEN—At a regular meeting of Allied Theatres of Connecticut, Thornton Kelly was appointed to solicit membership for the organization, together with A. M. Schuman, president. Kelly and Schuman will make a tour of Connecticut and visit independent exhibitors in all corners of the state.

Declares Dr. J. B. Fishman, chairman of the board of directors: "It is our intention to build up a strong Allied unit in this territory."

Allied Eastern Regional Precedes National Meet

BOSTON—The Allied eastern regional meeting will be held a day before national board confab in Washington, sometime in January, according to sectional vice-president, Frank Lydon.

Yamins Calls Allied Meeting Dec. 12

Boston—Nathan Yamins, president of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., has called the next meeting of the New England Allied organization for December 12 at Boston film district headquarters. The confab is scheduled to get under way at 1:45 p. m. Although the product situation will occupy a prominent place on the program, the main business will center around the appointing of a nominating committee to work on the forthcoming annual election.

New Haven Area Union Re-elects Its Officers

NEW HAVEN—Local No. 74 of IATSE, covering New Haven, Ansonia and Derby, re-elected its entire slate of 1938-39 officers for the coming year, headed by John S. O'Connell as president and Daniel B. Cummings as business agent. Charles McBride is vice-president; Robert Watson, secretary; Charles Langley, treasurer, and all officers in addition to Edward O'Connell, Si Rudnick, and James Carter constitute the executive board.

Plans for an annual ball to be held some time in February are now in progress, and will be announced soon.

Hub Cinema Club Names Executive Committee

BOSTON—A committee of seven, that will elect officers for the Boston Cinema Club, was named from a group of 16 nominees at an organization meeting held here Wednesday evening.

The 16 nominees are: Charles Wilson of Republic, William Cuddy of RKO, Jerry Govan of M&P, Sam Berg of 20th-Fox, Harry Smith of RKO, Tom Fermoyle of M&P, Charles Repec of M-G-M, Herbert Higgins of the Higgins Booking Office, Abe Barry of Columbia, Dan Seletsky of M&P, Dave Grover of RKO, Tom Farrell of M-G-M, Harry Schlar of Paramount, John Glazier of Western Massachusetts Theatres, Walter Silverman of Columbia, and Al Wheeler of M-G-M.

Sunday Shows Emerging Victorious in Maine

PORTLAND, ME.—Sunday motion pictures scored triumphs in five Maine cities when the matter was submitted to voters at municipal elections. Voters in Portland, South Portland, Bangor, Rockland and Paris favored the new freedom by large majorities. Other towns and cities will consider the matter later. Theatres made no organized attempt to influence the voters.

Windsor House Opens

HARTFORD—The new Plaza, Windsor, opened on Saturday night. Owner, according to latest reports, is Hartfordite Maurice Shulman, who also operates the Webster and Rivoli.

BOSTON

FRANK WHITBECK, M-G-M West Coast executive well known here, is the man to whom those bouquets should be tossed for the particular excellence of the "Gone With the Wind" trailers, says Loew's northeastern manager, H. M. Addison.

Julian Rifkin, general manager of the Rifkin circuit, is engaged . . . Mark Jeffrey, former inde distributor, and John Feinstein, premium man, are combining on a new juvenile giveaway with a magazine angle.

Maurice N. Wolf of M-G-M and Joseph Brennan of the MPTOA, respectively, head the distributor and theatre committees for the extant Boston Community Fund.

Lowell Frank, formerly with the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. and now in Detroit, was recently here in a new Mercury on a picture-taking entourage that will take him to Florida and elsewhere before Christmas.

Johnny Downs, the screen star, opened this week for a special five-day stage engagement at the RKO Boston . . . Harry Reiners, publicist, was here last week in behalf of Kay Kyser . . . Also in town in connection with the band leader's stage appearance at the RKO Boston was Phil Bloom of the MCA.

Harry P. Smith, RKO booker who is secretary of the Boston Cinema Club, called a meeting of the fraternity at the Columbia Pictures club room, Wednesday.

Robert Manley, assistant manager at Loew's State when Joseph Brennan headed the house, and Mrs. Manley have a baby.

Joseph A. DiPesa, Loew's publicist, has been running a Boston Traveler *Contest for the name of the baby in "Another Thin Man."*

Roy E. Heffner—exhibitor, distributor and premium man—has left for a Texas hunt . . . Martha, Heffner's daughter, leaves soon to visit her grandparents in St. Louis. She will probably not return until sometime in January.

Vincent Dunfey, assistant chief of staff at Loew's State, was in Nova Scotia, Sunday, for the funeral of his grandmother.

Claire Singer of M&P accounting department was in New York for Thanksgiving . . . Maurice Schwartz of the M&P advertising department attended the wedding of his brother, Louis, last week . . . Guy Bolton was conferring with Paul Levi of the Metropolitan and Jack Saef of the Paramount and Fenway last week in advance of "Gulliver's Travels."

William Marshall of the Columbia Exchange has been seriously ill with pneumonia at the Goddard Hospital in Brockton . . . William McLaughlin jr., son of the Stoneham exhibitor, is slated to play freshman hockey at Boston College this winter. He wants to be a doctor . . . Leonard Kraska, Fine Arts house manager, continued ill last week at his Park Drive home.

Ralph Tully, manager of the Central in Biddeford, has effected a merchant tieup

whereby participating local stores hand out cards which are punched upon purchases of merchandise. When the customer has bought ten dollars' worth of goods, the card may be turned in at the Central for an admission. The card is then redeemed at full admission price by the merchant.

Arthur K. Howard, Independent Exhibitors business manager, tells this one about a certain exhibitor who wasn't satisfied with his clearance setup. The theatreman had several other complaints and wrote a certain theatre organization, not Allied, asking advice upon how to deal with the major concern. "We suggest," came the reply, "that you learn to love them."

George Sargent, manager of the Paramount in Rutland, has been building Wednesdays at the Vermont house with his spelling bee . . . Michael Daly, Hartford and Lowell exhibitor, has been rejuvenating the Lilly Theatre which he recenty took over in Plainville, Conn.

Barney Dobrans, manager of the Crown in New London, recently promoted a no-cost, large cooperative ad on "Alexander Graham Bell." He also reduced his own exploitation outlay, cutting down to a small ad which carried the line, "See our other advertisements." Said Dobrans, "This is the first time I know of that the Southern New England Telephone Company has gone for a newspaper tieup."

William Kelly, Universal branch manager who will be given a special sales week between Christmas and New Year's, was in New York part of last week . . . Joe Miller, Columbia manager in Albany, was in and out of town last week . . . Hy Levine, formerly with Grand National, was in Boston last week . . . Phil Fox, former local Columbia city salesman, is expected in for Christmas from New York state.

Charles Repec, M-G-M head booker, is making arrangements for the annual exchange Christmas party . . . Etta Grady, on a raffle that Repec sponsored to increase funds for the fete, won the Thanksgiving turkey.

Ken Forkey, chain operator, was the host to a number of members of the Theatrical Post of American Legion at his home Sunday. The topic was the annual distribution of Christmas baskets.

Harry Browning, M&P publicist, has been suggesting exploitation campaigns to the numerous houses in the circuit which now are putting on turkey nights . . . Walter E. Young reports an upturn in business as the result of extensive renovations at the Strand in Farmington, N. H.

Frank Borrelli, who has operated houses in a number of parts of New England, is out with a 1940 Packard . . . Al Borrelli, with Specialty Pictures, recently lost an Oxford grey coat near the film district. It was a Hyman article, Borrelli said.

Lucien Descoteau has been rejuvenating the Globe in Manchester, N. H. . . . Frederick E. Lieberman has had new sound installed in the Tremont in Boston.

Arthur Keenan, manager of the Merrimack Square in Lowell, recently combined with the Lowell police department and civic groups in sponsoring a soap box derby. Radio recognition, heavy newspaper space, a parade, and awarding of prizes in the names of the "Dead End Kids" put the theatre in the money.

H. C. Elwes, Photophone sales representative here, has contracted with E. M. Loew for installation of new sound equipment at the Capitol in Sanford, Me.

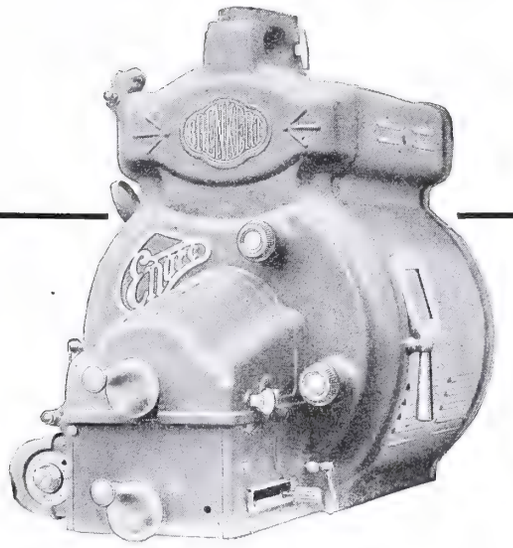
Walter Mills, operator of the Milo in the Maine town of the same name, has had new seat cushions installed in his house . . . Edward Desjardins, operator of the Gen in Winthrop, recently told film men that a change of banks, from Winthrop to Augusta, changed his luck and took the Maine house out of the red and into the black . . . W. D. Scanlon has rejuvenated the Lincoln in Lincoln, Me.

Professor Walter F. Dearborn, who introduced the new motion picture technique of teaching fast reading at Harvard last year, is behind the introduction of a correspondence course in the subject this year.

Martin Keleher has had new projection and sound installed at the Princess in Hartford . . . Charlotte L. Frank, formerly with the Advertising Bureau, has opened an office in Suite 1140 at the Little Building for the handling of due bills.

Maynard Sickels of the Capitol Theatre Supply Co., secretary of the Boston Sales-

(Contitnued on page 103)



CAPITOLIZE

NOW

PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS ARE RISING

BRENKERT LAMPS and RUBIN IMPERIAL GENERATORS give three times more light than low intensity

YET ONE ADDITIONAL TICKET SALE PER SHOW PAYS FOR OPERATION

SIMPLIFIED High Intensity PROJECTION



CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

A NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZATION FOR NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS

28-30 PIEDMONT STREET • BOSTON, MASS.

NEW HAVEN

FIRST Movie Ball and Floor Show of the exchange employes' union at Baybrook gave proof that the boys know how to handle films and femmes . . . Dancing, five acts, and Harry Shaw m.c.-ing clicked. Receipts go toward the members' sick benefit fund . . . Loew-Poli service staff club is next to celebrate the holiday season, with its annual semi-formal dinner-dance at Baybrook Inn, Wednesday night. Manager Bob Russell will m.c. Committee in charge includes Frank Manente, president and chief usher, M. King, J. Murphy, J. Delise, H. Bobinski, P. Collins, P. Spinnato and a hilarious time will be had by all . . . Metro Pep Club will be set as soon as prexy George Weber has time to plan date and arrangements.

Downtowns united for the first time to join the merchants' annual Christmas parade, with 60 ushers in full regalia marching in the form of a cross, some Tony Sarg figures, and banners extending Yuletide "greetings from the downtowns." The boys drilled for the event in the Poli lobby . . . As an additional revenue builder this season, Harry Shaw pushed sale of theatres on the circuit to merchants or organizations for special morning kiddie shows . . . Peck & Miller sponsor a show at the Poli, Waterbury . . . Kiwanis in Meriden, and Hartford and Bridgeport are negotiating for similar tieups. The circuit also will run goodwill shows on its own hook.

The Shulman Plaza in Windsor opened with "Blondie Takes a Vacation" and "Clouds Over Europe" . . . Pauline Shulman has obtained remarkable interior decoration and lighting effects.

One hundred thousand dollar "masher" suits against the Poli-New England Theatres were not reached last week in the superior court. Morris Mendlesohn expected an early December hearing, however . . . The persistent "Mr. Smith" stayed six weeks at the E. M. Loew's, Hartford, thus breaking a house record of five attained by "It Happened One Night." George Landers said the picture might have stayed on, but he was afraid the regular customers would lose the habit of dropping in . . . Operators union continues to picket this house from four to eight daily . . . Republic Pictures negotiating for rental of the former Grand National offices next door.

The State, Hartford, tries a weekly quiz and jackpot idea every Monday night now, calling all patrons to the clink of Silver Dollar Jack Pot Quiz. Hollywood Party, another money giveaway, which was tried and found too difficult for the average I.Q. at the Poli, Waterbury, now has a new slant and is being tried again. Trick is to identify Hollywood stars . . . Looks like Poli houses will have "Hardy & Son" for Christmas. It will be "Gulliver's Travels" or "Geronimo" at the Paramount . . . All Poli houses will have reserved seat midnight New Year's Eve shows.

Congratulations to Leo Ricci on the ninth anniversary of his operation of the Capitol, Meriden. Leo threw a party for the staff to celebrate . . . Katherine Sullivan, United Artists secretary for the past eight years, and former secretary of the film board of trade, has resigned because of ill health . . . Lou Wechsler's new secretary is Mary Pendergast, who was with the exchange several years ago . . . Earl Wright went back to 1894 *and the first film with music, shown in a penny arcade, in his talk before the Foremen's Club—and to* 1896, *when the first picture was shown on Broadway. He also compared selling of motion pictures with selling of other types of product. He concluded it's a great business—if you don't weaken.*

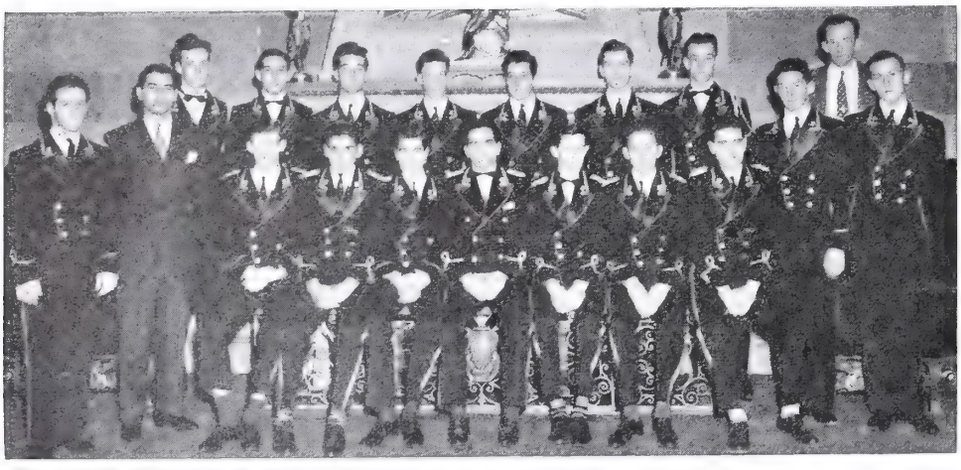
George Comden, who began operation of the Fine Arts Theatre, Westport, some ten years ago, reports he is proceeding at once with complete renovation of the house. Rear wall will be broken, house enlarged, and seating increased from 500 to 700 . . . Repairs and redecoration are being considered for the 300-seat Lampert Colchester Theatre . . . Reseating completed, the Palace, Hartford, will now have some new drapes, fineries and makeup.

Congratulations to Walter Stuart, former assistant at the Paramount, New Haven, now manager of the Community, North Attleboro, who is the daddy of 7-lb. 14-oz. Walter Allen . . . Nathan Lampert, who came up to Colchester to greet his new granddaughter, Fern Lee Markov, has returned to Miami for the winter . . . Edward Schnitzer, Warner district manager, was in town . . . Irving Beck, Metro student booker, celebrated both Thanksgivings with all the fixings, joining his family in New York for the first . . . Ernest Dorau, manager of the Middletown houses, has leased a new home in Middletown . . . Hy Fine, Connecticut M&P district manager, never runs out of good stories, the story goes . . . Chris Joyce, who started up the ladder as usher at the Paramount here and was later assistant at the Allyn, was in to visit for a few days with his folks in Spring Glen . . . Joyce now is manager of the Durfee Theatre, Fall River, an Interstate house.

Manager brainstorms: Morris Rosenthal, Majestic, Bridgeport manager, arranged a contest with the *Post*, to select Bridgeport's most popular high school football team from the five highs in the city. Windup will be a rally at the theatre and presentation of the all-popular team on the stage . . . Matt Saunders made motion pictures of the Thanksgiving Day high school football game in Bridgeport, to be shown at the Poli . . . As we went to press, Nat Rubin was crossing his fingers it wouldn't be twins in answer to the Poli offer of money and bassinet to the first baby born in New Haven on opening day of "Another Thin Man."

The Theatre Lies In Wait

Boston—Hard-working Ben Domingo, city manager for RKO Keith Memorial and Boston theatres, has finally begun to take one day off each week after 12 years of seven-day-a-week work. On his first Tuesday, Ben stayed at home, puttered around a bit. He read a couple of magazines and went out for a walk. Came dinner time and he ate with hearty appetite. Long about 7:30, Ben called to Mrs. Domingo, "Come on, dear, let's go downtown and see a picture." So the couple drove into town and sat through a film, carrying out a regular busman's holiday.



Set Annual Holiday Dinner-Dance—

Happy after completion of plans for the annual holiday dinner dance at Baybrook on December 13 is the above Loew-Poli New Haven staff. Robert Russell, the manager, was too busy with party plans to do any posing. Left to right are: Front row—M. Blevins, B. Greco, A. DeFrank, Frank Manente (chief usher, president of the service staff club, and chairman of the dance), A. Finn, E. Planze, J. Murphy. Second row—P. Collins (assistant chief usher), Nat Rubin (assistant manager), A. Bobinski (doorman), J. Delise, M. King, P. Spinnato, S. Jaffe, Carl Norman (doorman), C. Fisher, W. J. Scanlon (student assistant), and J. Santillo.

Sound Man Adapts Own Story

HOLLYWOOD — Twentieth-Fox has purchased screen rights to "Yesterday's Heroes," an original by William Brent, studio sound man. Brent will adapt his own story.

Capitol Theatre Supply Has Cyclex Franchise

BOSTON—The Capitol Theatre Supply Co. has taken over the exclusive New England franchise for Cyclex. E. M. Loew, independent circuit operator, is the first theatreman in the territory to adopt the new projection system. The first Cyclex installation in this territory has been effected by Capitol at the Regent in Arlington.

"The new method of Cyclex projection," according to Kenneth Douglass of Capitol, "consists of three distinct developments, closely related and combined in such a manner that the result provides those theatres of small or medium size with a light and power source which will produce a brilliant white uniform light at the minimum operating expense.

"Heretofore," stated the Capitol head, "the great majority of these theatres have had to rely upon the old low intensity type of projection lamp, which is low in light value. Between this type of lamp and the type which would provide good screen illumination there is a wide difference in initial subsequent operating gross.

"Cyclex is intended for those theatres which find low intensity totally inadequate and Suprex too costly. Cyclex provides the medium and small theatre with the same quality and quantity of light as has heretofore been enjoyed only by the larger theatres. It is a new method of motion picture projection, employing alternating current which produces white, uniform, and flawless screen results heretofore obtainable only with direct current."

Four Independent Films Cut for Sunday Shows

BOSTON—Four films were ordered cut for Sunday showings by the Massachusetts bureau of Sunday censorship. All were independent productions.

"Scenes showing dancing chorus with bare abdomens" was ruled out of the sixth reel of "God's Step-Children." Monogram's "The Phantom Strikes" was relieved of "—from Hell—" in the dialogue track.

Harry Asher's "Buried Alive" was passed after "Stop that crap, will you?" was taken from the seventh reel. Eliminations from "Escape From Yesterday," exhibited by George Kraska at the Fine Arts, comprised: "Scenes showing soldier cutting girl's arm and sucking blood from arm and girl doing same to soldier. Scene showing bride in scant attire on balcony. Scene showing girl spitting in soldier's face."

Jeffrey, Feinstein Offer Magazine Giveaway

BOSTON—Mark Jeffrey, former owner of the New England Film Exchange, has signed a new comic magazine and Tarzan booklet giveaway with a number of New England houses. Jeffrey and John Feinstein are combining on the deal. Among the exhibitors early going for the pulp handout are Max and Joe Levenson of the Metropolitan in Leominster, Ed McEvoy of the Union in Attleboro, Charles Hodgdon of the Princess in Wakefield, Irving Green of the Fellsway in Medford, and Lloyd Bridgham of the Broadway in Dover, N. H.

Fire Destroys at Lisbon

LISBON, N. H.—The Lisbon Theatre, 400-seater owned by Lisbon Theatre, Inc., was swept by fire early December 1, at a loss estimated at $15,000. The management will rebuild.

Boston Bank Affirms Business Is Better

BOSTON—New England industry is now better than it has been any time in the past two years, the First National Bank of Boston stated last week.

"New England manufacturing activity has moved vigorously upward," the bank estimated. "Our index of representative industries in this section in October, based upon preliminary estimates, was the highest since the summer of 1937 and almost 30 per cent above the low point of the year in April. The metal group, which contributes nearly one-third of the total value added by manufacture in this territory, has accounted for most of the recent gain, although practically all lines have participated in the upturn."

BOSTON

(Continued from page 101)

men's Club, called a special meeting of the film district body for Saturday.

Martin Weinstein, operator of the Savoy in Northfield, Vt., has been handing out cigars following the arrival of a male addition.

George Balley, accompanied by his wife and their daughter, recently quit the Strand in Winooski, Vt., for a brief New York vacation . . . Charles Ross, operator of the Windsor in the Vermont community of the same name, was recently in Boston . . . Mr. and Mrs. Brad Bradley of Swanton, Vt., are still going over souvenirs of the New York World's Fair.

Dave Ambuter, owner of New England's largest film laboratory, has film district sympathy on the death of his mother.

Arthur K. Howard, local Allied business manager, attended a special Allied meeting in New Haven, Tuesday . . . E. Thornton Kelley, recently appointed field representative of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., continued in the Nutmeg state territory following the confab.

There have been three emergency appendicitis operations within a period of two weeks at the local RKO theatre.

Paul Kessler, manager of the Suffolk in Holyoke, and Julian Rifkin, circuit manager, recently installed a pseudo iron mask in the theatre lobby as a "Man in the Iron Mask" promotion. The mask, wired two ways to the Suffolk boxoffice, answered questions from one and all. Rifkin took the first shift and Kessler the second.

John Cooney has rejuvenated the Union Square Theatre in Pittsfield . . . Walter Berganti, formerly in the film district with Eddie Comi, is now running Woodstock Inn, hotel and dining spot at Woodstock, Vt.

Cyrus McDowell has bought out the interest of Paul Lord in the Town Hall in Princeton, Me. . . . The Rev. Emile Roubitaille is now operating films at St. Agatha, Me. . . . Ed Gill recently had new ventilating equipment installed at the Strand in Montpelier, Vt.

Rudy Wetter, National Theatre Supply Co. salesman, sold 16mm projectors and lamps for the new $1,000,000 Rochester, N. H., high school. Wetter also placed stage draperies at the Jonesport, Me., high school.

Robert Whitten is no longer operating the Star in St. Francis, Me. Rev. A. J. Bouchaid runs films in the town at St. Charles' Parish Theatre.

Four walls do not a prison make. Arthur Foley, chief projectionist at the RKO Boston, is back from Algiers where he gathered material for a third travel book. His first volume, "Breezy Adventure," drew favorable reviews.

Reading Training Films Supplied by Harvard

BOSTON—The Harvard Film Service has announced that it will distribute special 16mm "How to Read" films to educational institutions. It's a result of a new technique for training in reading.

Sixteen Harvard freshmen had their eyes steered with motion pictures last fall. In eight weeks, they learned to read 50 per cent faster and considerably more accurately, improving academic standing and fundamentally altering their eye habits in reading.

The films, under development for more than a year, are designed to force the eyes of spectators along the reading path that would be followed by a skilled reader. In reading, the psychologists know the eyes do not move steadily across a line, but proceed in a series of jumps taking in a word or a phrase at each split second halt. The fast reader takes in several words at each stop; the slower, only one or two.

Tony Bellacqua Marriage Ceremony in Somerville

BOSTON — Tony Bellacqua, orchestra player formerly with Cameo Screen Attractions, and Miss Carolyn McGee were married Thanksgiving at St. Polycarp Church in Somerville. The groom is the son of Vincent Bellacqua, recently appointed Boston representative of the Reliable Seating Co.

John Eames Wed

LITTLETON, N. H.—John B. Eames, prominent exhibitor of this section, operating under the name of Interstate Amusement Co., was married recently to Miss Blanche M. Foss, R. N. of Pittsfield in the Congregational Church in Pembroke.

$ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $
Dollars in Your Pockets
See VINCENT BELLACQUA
RELIABLE Seating Co.
43-A Church St. Boston
Best Rebuilt Seats You Can Buy
All Spring Seats—Made to Order
$ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $

HARTFORD

SRO WAS accomplished by the State when the house featured the "Dead End" Kids and Al Donahue and his band . . . Eddie Aprea, usher at the North End Lenox, has left that house for fields unknown . . . Hartford houses are planning Christmas and New Year shows.

Dwight C. Lyman, former Courant *advertising writer, appears briefly in the new March of Time film, "The Ramparts We Watch," a portion of which is being made in New London . . . The "Hi Jinks Revue" opened last Thursday at E. M. Loew's Court Square in Springfield . . .* Times' *columnist, H. I. Phillips, called Katharine Hepburn, native-born Hartfordite, in a recent column: "A yawn in Neon lights."*

Bingo is a heavy advertiser in the state press . . . Dinnerware is being given free to ladies every Tuesday at the Rivoli, Bridgeport . . . Harold H. Maloney, manager of the Loew-Poli, Worcester, is back on the job after a week of illness . . . Bill Whyte, former manager of the Rialto here, was in New Haven seeing old friends. Bill is reportedly managing a Philadelphia theatre . . . Peter Perakos, Palace owner, New Britain, is scheduled to start vaude soon . . . Bee Sullivan, Majestic, Bridgeport, is back on the job after an attack of neuralgia . . . Joe Letézio, operator, Rivoli, is the proud father of a boy. Congratulations!

Main Stem Daly's newly painted front doors look nice . . . Seen on Main St. chatting with a passerby, was Tommy Vaughan, house policeman at the Loew-Poli . . . Reports persist a local theatre will install vaude to compete with the State which has been enjoying SRO for many a day now . . . Elm Street Theatre, Worcester, under the popular managership of Joe Amstead, has been outfitted with a new oil burner heating system . . . Condolences are in order for Joe Kennedy, Embassy usher, New Britain, on the death of his aunt . . . Maurice Shulman's new Windsor, Windsor, is a new advertiser in the Greater Hartford area . . . Rudy Frank, praise agent at the State, is doing a nice job, judging by the countless plugs he is getting in the local press and over the air.

Maurice Shulman's new Wethersfield is rapidly taking shape. House is expected to be ready by the spring of 1940 . . . Julian B. Tuthill, Hartford *Times,* said in a recent column that he thought the industry had much to be thankful for on Thanksgiving. He went on to say that, "Despite commercial setbacks for American films distributed abroad, with a resultant decline in Hollywood's annual income, the recent pictures have been mostly of a high order."

Thanksgiving Day doings: Times *didn't publish on Turkey Day, as has been its custom in years past . . .* Courant *came out as it has been doing on that date for many years now . . . Theatres' ads in the local press had a Thanksgiving appeal to them.*

Dave Sugarman's Colonial, located over on Farmington Ave., now is playing films some weeks later than the downtown Strand, also a Warner unit. The policy of having both houses play day and date the same films was dropped some time ago . . . Assisting Bernard Levy, new manager of the main stem Proven Picture Theatre, is Keith Southard, former manager of the house.

Several nabes brought into effect new policies on Turkey Day in order to run smoothly on the holiday. Houses included Lenox, Lyric, Rialto and Central, all Warner units . . . Hartford Courant, *has instituted a new feature on its theatre page for its readers called "On Local Screens." Column lists what's playing at all Greater Hartford theatres.*

Loew-Poli news: Tommy Vaughan, house policeman, motored to Rhode Island last Thursday . . . Peter Leonard, porter, is now living in a new cabin on Avon Mountain . . . Russell G. Grant, student assistant, has been going in for tricks in order to qualify for the role of magician among his Hartford theatre friends . . . Louis Mackley, stage hand for over 14 years, died suddenly last Friday morning at his home . . . Two new ushers seen around the house these days are Myron Neiman and Jimmy Papas . . . House employes are planning to hold a banquet some time between Christmas and New Year's, according to reports.

New seats have been installed in the Loew-Poli Palace . . . A new carpet and fixtures is expected in the near future, according to Jack Feschler, assistant manager. Speaking of the Palace, regards are in order for Louis Blackoll, head usher, who was married last fortnight.

Sophie Brodowski, former candy girl at the M&P Allyn Theatre, which is managed by Walter Lloyd, is reported to be thinking of working as a professional model . . . Loew-Poli Palace is soon to have an orchestra, composed of house employes, in the near future, according to reports.

Members of the newly formed basketball team at the Loew-Poli are: Martin Cherlin, Joe Powers, Don Adrenotta, Wally Cooper, and Eddie Downs. Present manager is Wally Cooper . . . More Loew-Poli doings: Jack Simons, manager, sporting a new suit purchased recently in New York.

Joe Powers, night watchman, Loew-Poli, is scheduled to speak at a future meeting of the Women's Federation League of Hartford . . . Wally Cooper, popular assistant manager, went hunting with Peter Leonard, porter, last Tuesday . . . Mary Yacavoni is the new relief cashier, replacing Peggy Warner.

PORTLAND

ON THE eve of the municipal election, when the question of Sunday shows in Portland will be decided, public opinion has been aroused to the extent that several parties have written letters to the "Voice of the People" in the Portland *Press Herald.* The WCTU condemns Sunday films in a warning to Maine citizens that unless they are defeated, the state is taking another step toward destruction, another step in "aping the lowered standards of Europe." They point to repeal in 1932, Sunday shows in 1939 and ask the question: "Will the next move be a state lottery and gambling law in 1945?"

With less eloquence, but with great sincerity, a handful of citizens have presented the "other side of the question," pointing out its benefits—"a lifesaver to the lonely," a business stimulant, harmless entertainment for the young folks, a boon for the "stranger within our gates."

A new dramatic column, "Screen Views and Stage News," by Dick Woodbury, has made its appearance in the Portland Sunday *Telegram* and *Press Herald.* The column satisfies a long-standing need for informal discussion of stars appearing in current attractions at leading theatres. Exhibitors have often asked for just this sort of column, believing it would stimulate interest in their bills.

After a week's run of the John Steinbeck play, "Of Mice and Men," with Guy Robertson in the lead, the Maine Civic Theatre, Portland's newly-opened legit, announced that the house will be closed next week, since booking arrangements have not been completed whereby "The Women," the theatre's advertised attraction, was to have been brought to Portland. The management hopes to present the play sometime during the month.

Edward Everett Horton, film and stage comedian, who began his dramatic career from the stage of the Old Keith's Theatre here, which has been remodeled into the Maine Civic Theatre, has communicated with Harry Smith, the theatre's managing director, expressing a desire to again play on that stage. Smith said that Horton would "probably" appear in Portland either before or after a scheduled Boston engagement, with the popular "Springtime for Henry" as his vehicle.

"Quiz Court" a new question-and-answer radio program aired over WGAN direct from the stage of the Strand, was launched December 3 just prior to the afternoon show. Cash awards and tickets to future attractions at the theatre were given contestants, who were selected at random from the audience. A five-minute resume of latest news, through a special arrangement with WGAN and the Columbia Broadcasting System, followed "Quiz Court." The program is sponsored by a local furniture store. Both theatre and store are given numerous plugs during the program.

With three automobiles and six radios as attendance awards, the Elks Circus opened a week's engagement at the Exposition Building, December 4 . . . Chemicals quickly extinguished a fire in the projection room of the Deering Theatre here last Sunday night. The upholstery of the operator's chair was ignited when a burned-out wire fell on it. Little damage was done. The theatre is operated by Charles Ganellas, formerly of Lowell, Mass.

PROVIDENCE

RHODE ISLAND celebrated Thanksgiving on the "old calendar," November 30, and the holiday brought good business to all theatres in the state. In Providence first runs did big grosses, several houses having to stop sale of tickets a couple of times during the rush hours. The night before late preview shows were presented at Loew's State and Strand. Associated Theatre chain's neighborhood theatres and Strand downtown didn't open until 1:30 p. m. on Thursday so that employes might enjoy more fully their holiday dinners with their families.

William Lovett, who was assistant manager under George French at RKO-Albee here during French's former term as manager of that house, dropped in to say "hello" to his former boss last Friday. Lovett also caught a glimpse of his sister, Dorothy Lovett, who is in the cast of Kay Kyser's film current at the house.

H. Pastman, who opened the Newport Casino only a few weeks ago as a subsequent run, closed it Sunday. Explanation is house will undergo alterations, with reopening announced for "about January 1."

Avon Theatre is doing another foreign film first run this week, playing Jean Gabin in "Port of Shadows" for three days starting Wednesday. Resident Manager Goldstein is plugging attraction heavily with select mailing list and extra ad space in dailies.

Employes of Associated Theatres houses —Empire, Playhouse, Palace and Park— will be guests of house managers and circuit officers at a Christmas party at Narragansett Hotel after the last evening performances December 21. Party is scheduled to start about 10:45, opening with a dinner, and will include music, dancing and entertainment. Theatre staffs will bring their wives to share in the fun. Committee arranging affair includes Managers George Cronin, Charles Nelson, Matthew Reilley, and Al Colagiovanni.

When Publicity Man Jack Carroll of Fays learned Senor Gonzalo of the team of Gonzalo and Christine, dance specialty artists playing Fays last week, was an ex-bullfighter he lost no time in imparting the information to local papers. Result, a quarter-page illustrated article about the Senor in Sunday Journal *during the engagement.*

James Edward Graham

BOSTON—James Edward Graham, known to many in the industry because of his activities as research chemist in the flooring department of Bird & Son for the past 15 years, died last week at the age of 46. A Harvard graduate, Graham was formerly assistant to Professor Elihu Thompson at General Electric.

Lupe and Errol for Three

HOLLYWOOD—Lupe Velez and Leon Errol have been held by RKO for three more co-starring films. The pair recently completed "Mexican Spitfire" for the studio.

Industry Outing Proceeds To Legion Xmas Fund

BOSTON—Proceeds of this year's annual industry outing, totaling close to $200, have been turned over to the Theatrical Post of American Legion for use in the film fraternity's yearly distribution of Christmas baskets to the needy.

William H. McLaughlin, Allied Director who heads the post, called a meeting Monday at the Copley-Plaza to further plans for the giveaways. Kenneth Forkey, former commander, was host to a committee meeting Sunday at his home in Brookline.

RKO Boston Will Present Vaudeville Xmas Week

BOSTON—Ben Domingo, RKO city manager, will spot vaudeville for the entire Christmas week at the RKO Boston. The house has been playing on a split-week policy, working double features at both ends. Domingo was negotiating last week to open a "Folies Bergere" unit on Christmas.

Was Another Show

HARTFORD—It was Larry Clinton and his band together with a stage show that hit town last Thursday at Harris Brothers' State, instead of Louella Parsons, Hollywood columnist, and a stage show comprised of Ronald Reagan, Anne Shirley and others. Management could not be reached for a statement. Parsons and her show were originally scheduled at the State, and a rumor was about town last fortnight to that effect.

Jevne Gets "Angel City"

HOLLYWOOD — Jack Jevne is scripting "Angel City," to star Robert Taylor, for Milton Bren, Metro producer.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

THANKSGIVING dinners were given from the stages of the Broadway Theatre in Dover and the Scenic in Rochester. Chickens, turkeys and groceries were given lucky patrons at the Broadway. The Scenic presented six big holiday birds and six baskets of "fixin's."

The Milford Woman's Club recently heard a talk of "Hollywood From the Inside," by Priscilla Fortesque of Boston who has been a Hollywood publicity agent and has played small parts in flickers.

Elissa Landi, stage and film star, has been a speaker in the Walker lecture course in Concord.

Motion pictures were a feature when about 250 residents gathered in the Town Hall in Stark to celebrate inauguration of the first electrical service in the 125-year-old town.

Local executives and workers of the State Operating Co., which controls Manchester's leading theatres, were represented by a beautiful floral spray at the funeral of Mrs. Arthemise Dupuis at Ste. Marie's Church in Manchester.

BRIDGEPORT

DAVE MURRAY has joined the Bridgeport colony in Hollywood . . . Ben Katz of New London has been named assistant manager at the Warner succeeding Charles Obert, and Michael Zaimont of the Harris, New York, is Al Smith's new assistant at the Lyric.

The Parkway is giving comic books to the children and the Park City has started a new Glass Bake deal . . . Athan Prakas of the Rivoli is showing the sights of these parts to his brother, Dmitri, who has just arrived from Greece.

Morris Rosenthal guests the city's oldest married couple and the members of the Bridgeport Magicians Ass'n at "Eternally Yours" . . . Loew-Poli window display frames are now so equipped that showing times can be inserted.

Matt Saunders is offering a prize to the member of his staff who comes through with the best exploitation stunt each week . . . Albert Montefalco, former assistant of the Commodore Hull, Derby, has succeeded William Hatkoff as manager of the Rialto, Norwalk.

A meeting every two weeks has been inaugurated by the managers and department heads of the Loew-Poli, Majestic and Globe theatres for the exchange of ideas . . . Mr. and Mrs. Manny Kugell were among the local delegation to the Warner party at West Haven.

Leo Kiamos has joined the usher corps at the Rivoli and Agnes Litchenberg is the newest addition at the Loew-Poli . . . Molly Rosenthal celebrated her birthday on Thanksgiving day—the New England one . . . Ony theatres here giving away Thanksgiving turkeys were the Barnum, Colonial and Parkway.

The Strand, Stamford, has added vaudeville on Fridays and Saturdays . . . The State, Torrington, operated a special Thanksgiving stage show and the Palace, New Britain, used flesh with a morning show for the youngsters . . . "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" played both the Strand and State, Waterbury, on Sunday. A print was rushed into the Strand when the other theatre proved too small to accommodate.

Sound Sales Gratifying, Reports RCA Agent

BOSTON—"In spite of general boxoffice conditions being poor this summer, our business has been especially good," H. C. Elwes, RCA sales representative, states. "Not only have our equipment sales far exceeded those of last year, but our service business is improving very rapidly. We have recently added to our list of service customers not only a good many independent operators, but also chain theatres.

"Nathan Goldstein of the Western Massachusetts Theatres," Elwes said, "has just re-signed a long-term contract for the complete RCA servicing and maintaining of his entire theatre chain."

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Feb. 24, 1939

BOXOFFICE:

Since yours of February 15, I have received a copy of "BOXOFFICE BAROMETER." It is a valuable publication, and extremely fascinating. I sincerely appreciate it.

—R. I. Poucher,
CONSOLIDATED FILM
LABORATORIES, INC.

DETROIT, MICH.
March 5, 1939

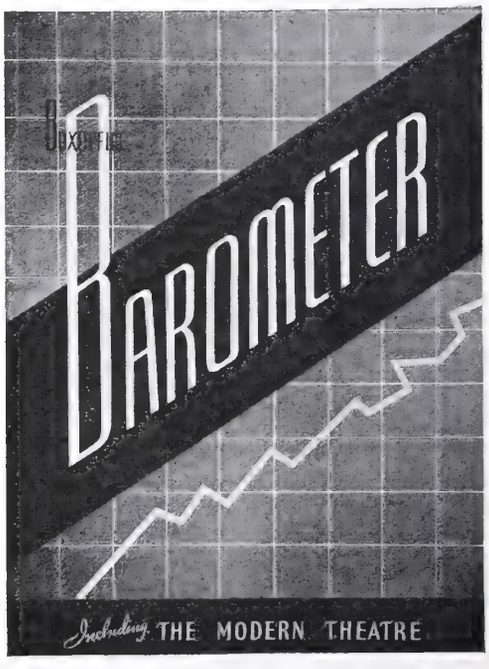
BOXOFFICE:

Permit me to offer belated congratulations on the 1939 edition of BAROMETER. Everyone I show it to exclaims about its beauty.

I wish also to thank you for the Weekly BOXOFFICE. As preview chairman for the Greater Detroit Motion Picture Council, I find it most helpful. Thanks again.

—Mrs. S. S. Sutherland,
GREATER DETROIT
MOTION PICTURE COUNCIL

"A VALUABLE PUBLICATION"



1940 EDITION IN PREPARATION

Walker Would Revive Protective Ass'n

DALLAS—Letters were received in Dallas, written by Judge R. B. Walker, of Lampasas, announcing an exhibitors' meeting at the Baker Hotel in Dallas on December 12. The meeting is a furtherance in the plan of reviving the former Theatre Owners Protective Ass'n which was quite active a few years ago.

The letter by Walker said a director would be elected for District No. 4, presumably a legislative district. Exhibitors were also invited to meet Judge Walker during the morning, followed by a luncheon and business meeting during the afternoon.

Confer Against Neely Bill in Brady, Tex.

BRADY, TEX.—A similar meeting was held here by Judge Walker a few days ago. According to one of the exhibitors present, there were about three independents with the others being circuit partners and managers. Purpose of this meeting was to organize a fight against the Neely bill, according to the exhibitor.

B. R. McLendon to Open Theatre at Honey Grove

DALLAS—News that B. R. McLendon will open a new theatre in Honey Grove was received with much interest on Filmrow. He operates eight or ten houses in east Texas and southern Oklahoma with one or two in Arkansas. McLendon was on a deal to purchase a building in Honey Grove for the new house.

G. Preston Tate of Comanche and C. V. Caver of Dallas own the Strand in Honey Grove. Their tentative plans were to buy a lot, or building and install a new theatre there as quickly as possible.

Later news in the McLendon setup is that Harold Pickett, former Paramount branch manager in Dallas and later in Charlotte, who returned to Dallas recently, will become general manager of the McLendon houses and handle bookings from a Dallas office, it is understood by close friends. This arrangement, however, was not definitely confirmed.

Insurance Board Reduces Fire Rates in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY—The state insurance board has announced reductions in fire insurance premiums which means savings of some $500,000 yearly to Oklahoma policyholders. Among rate reductions announced was one of 16⅔ per cent for theatres over the state. The board, however, has virtually doubled hail insurance rates.

Council Meet Draws

HELENA, ARK.—Representatives from 25 county organizations were present at the last meeting of the local better films council.

Trade Concession Demand Is Made at Carolina Parley

CHARLOTTE—A call upon producers and distributors who have not announced individual trade practice concessions to do so at once "to indicate to the exhibitors of the entire country the immediate pressing need of cooperation in opposition against attempts at governmental interference" issued here this week from the annual convention of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, Inc.

The efforts so far undertaken by certain distributors "to benefit the industry by subscribing to the 20 per cent cancellation clause sponsored by the MPTOA during the ten-point code program," the organization formally declared, "is a step in the direct solution of troubles now besetting the industry." The resolution declared that "full consideration and action by all distributors, without individual effort to gain advantage to themselves, would establish a working basis that would eliminate the agitation for the Neely bill."

Addresses by William F. Rodgers, M-G-M general sales manager, and Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, and the appearance of Metro Starlet Ann Rutherford were other highlights.

Rodgers and Kuykendall spoke at the opening session of the convention proper Monday morning and were given close attention. Kuykendall came in Sunday, as did Ann Rutherford, who was given an ovation when she arrived at the railroad station from Hollywood, accompanied by her mother.

Both Rodgers and Kuykendall strongly opposed the Neely bill as potentially destructive of the motion picture industry, hurtful to producers, distributors and exhibitors.

Foresees Trade Code

Kuykendall urged that distributors place more authority in the hands of their film exchange managers, so that the latter would not be "rubber stamps" but would be able to handle misunderstandings with exhibitors first-hand instead of referring so many matters to the "home office."

Rodgers in his opening remarks asserted that years ago the M-G-M sales organization adopted the policy Kuykendall advocated and that nine out of ten matters of dispute or misunderstanding with exhibitors were being handled by the exchange managers without reference to headquarters.

Rodgers defended the present system of distribution and declared the Neely bill certainly would result in reduced production. Producers now take risks in production of pictures that they could not take under the Neely bill, he declared, contending it would mean no pictures would be sold until produced. He cited picture series that have made good, although the first two or three were failures from the boxoffice standpoint. Such series would never have been attempted under the Neely bill, he said.

He said he believed a trade practice code will be adopted for general use and predicted that the Neely bill will be defeated. He urged all exhibitors to make their wishes known to their congressman. He said he believed all producers are doing their best, even in the face of the present emergency, and asserted that there is not any cut in the quality of pictures because of war conditions.

Emphasizing the effects of the war, Rodgers said M-G-M had been getting $13,000,000 out of Great Britain, an amount higher than the gross profits of the company, and yet when the war started every cent of income from England was cut off.

Saying the producers are speculating highly and tremendously, he urged exhibitors to give worthy picture extended time. Despite conditions existing, M-G-M has the most ambitious program in its history, he asserted.

Rodgers discussed "Gone With the Wind" at length, declaring it the greatest picture that ever has been produced, that it runs three hours and 40 minutes, cannot be cut, and that it will not be shown anywhere before 1941 except at advanced prices, and that the same version will be shown in small towns and villages as will be seen in New York.

Predicts Shortage

These assertions and others he made in defense of M-G-M's new plan requiring 70 per cent of "Wind" gross boxoffice receipts as rental. He explained that the company is prepared to guarantee exhibitors 10 per cent of their gross as profit if they will run the picture long enough and follow other prescribed plans of exploitation.

Kuykendall advocated a board of conciliation or arbitration for dealing with controversies.

He predicted a shortage of product in a few months, and said there is already a shortage of the better pictures. He said "the war is going to embarrass us" and that "the producers are confused."

He defended his recently adopted resolution against showing propaganda in the theatres and took Red Kann, editor-in-chief of BOXOFFICE, to task for his editorial criticizing the resolution. He indicated that the resolution was not intended to bar war pictures but merely those designed for propaganda purposes, but

(Continued on page 112)

"Propaganda" Gets Slap by Unit

Charlotte—Slapping at "foreign propaganda" in motion pictures, the MPTO of North and South Carolina in convention here contended that the "ultimate purpose and desire of the motion picture industry is to provide entertainment" and resolved that "the motion picture screen of America should be barred to propaganda of any sort that might clearly affect the best interests of the United States."

Miami Interrogations Under Advisement

MIAMI—Following the hearing on the pending motions for striking and for better bills of particulars in reference to interrogations filed by plaintiffs in Miami's pending anti-monopoly suit, held before Federal Judge John W. Holland, the latter made two specific rulings and announced that he would take numerous disputed questions in the Paramount Pictures interrogation under advisement for future ruling. He added that he would set a date for the additional hearing on the unfinished business—the objections filed against the taking of a certain salesman's deposition in Texas—and would appoint a master to hold a special hearing on the existence of liability before deciding on the need for a better bill of particulars relative to the damages claimed by the two plaintiff theatres, the Surf and Cameo.

Should Specify Contract Terms

Attorneys for the plaintiffs and defendants—the two local theatre organizations and the eight major film distributing companies—are to formulate an order, in accordance with the general ruling handed down by the judge relative to required relevations to be made about contracts and the period of time involved.

As to contracts, Judge Holland voiced the opinion that the defendants should be required to specify terms, but not amounts; and, in most instances, added that answers should cover the years 1938 and part of 1939.

In answer to the defendants' claim that an element in the alleged damages to plaintiffs involved loss suffered by necessity of converting theatres into buildings suitable for other businesses, the plaintiffs' attorney declared that one of the theatres, the Surf, had been closed since last April and would not be opened again unless existing monopolistic conditions were altered.

Among the protested questions on which the judge ruled that the defendants should give requested information were those relating to clearance differences between white and Negro houses, advertising expenses paid by film companies and existence of producer-exhibitor competition.

Relevancy of the ownership of the Sparks theatres was a very moot question throughout the hearing. Strenuous objections were also made by the defendant's lawyers against the answering of any of the numerous questions contained in the interrogations as they concerned theatrical conditions elsewhere in the state, i. e., outside of the Greater Miami area.

Although an entire day was given over to this hearing, only a small portion of the disputed interrogations was conclusively settled. The subsequent hearing on the objections of defendants to the taking of a former Florida film salesman's deposition in Texas, where he is now employed, will be held at the earliest possible date.

Florida's Governor Honors Showman

Leesburg, Fla.—Earle M. Fain, head of a central Florida circuit of 12 theatres and mayor of this city, now is a Colonel on the staff of Gov. Fred P. Cone. The two are friends of long standing, having become acquainted in Lake City where Fain operated a theatre and Governor Cone was the leading banker.

Makes First Metro Film

HOLLYWOOD—Eddie Cantor's first starring picture for Metro will be "Forty Little Mothers." Busby Berkeley will direct. Harry Rapf is the producer.



An Anniversary Complement—

A highspot in the celebration of the anniversary week for the Regent in Miami, engineered by Manager George Baldwin, was the selection of a beauty queen. Bootsie Kite, the winner, here is shown at the extreme left of the group. Enviables in the judges' row were Webster Wallace, attorney; Arthur Gomez, judge of the circuit court, and Fred Hosea, Miami city commissioner.

Florida Will Cast Bait at Producers

MIAMI—Florida is prepared to "match anything Mayor LaGuardia (New York) has to offer and more," declares John Hall, president of the Miami chamber of commerce, in announcing that Florida and more specifically, Miami, is entering the fight to lure away film production from Hollywood.

The campaign will get under way in earnest following the world premiere on December 18 of "Gulliver's Travels" at the Sheridan in Miami Beach. The feature-length cartoon was made here at the new Max Fleischer studios, and all Florida is getting behind the opening in an effort to making it the biggest thing of its kind in film history.

In presenting his case, Hall points out that "We offer tax exemption for 15 years and a year-round climate that makes even Californians want to change the subject when you speak about the weather."

Miami's Plans Expand for "Gulliver" Premiere

MIAMI—Every succeeding day brings news of bigger and more exciting preparations for what will unquestionably be Miami's most significant world premiere the gala presentation of the first all-Miami made full-length Technicolor feature animated cartoon, Max Fleischer's "Gulliver's Travels" at Miami Beach's Sheridan Theatre, December 18.

Flying south for the premiere will be, among other major lights of the theatrical world, Jessica Dragonette and Lanny Ross, whose singing voices are heard as the princess and the prince in this fantasy of the world of Lilliput.

Ted Husing is to be master of ceremonies at the premiere itself and at the big charity ball at the Roney Plaza Hotel which will follow the performance. The ball, being sponsored by the Miami *Herald,* to swell the funds of its annual "Mile of Dimes" for the local Milk Fund, is the personal brain child of the paper's Miami Beach society editor, Mrs. Helen Rich.

The palm gardens of the big ocean front hotel are being transformed into Lilliputian Land for the premiere ball during which an original sketch by Louis Jambor, the artist who created the whimsical, gay background designs for "Gulliver's Travels" will be auctioned off. Jambor, who is to have a one-man show at the Collins Memorial Library gallery in January, will autograph the sketch and present it personally to the successful bidder.

The particular significance of this premiere hinges on the big question marks in the mind of the entire moving picture world over the boxoffice future of the animated cartoon, not to mention the feasibility of Miami-made motion pictures.

It is expected that the premiere will serve as a springing board for a Florida campaign to lure more animated cartoon studios down here.

Constructing at Acworth

ACWORTH, GA.—A new 500-seat theatre is under construction here by V. S. Golden. Completion is expected by Jan. 1.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

MET FRED McLENDON at Toccoa, Ga., where he was visiting W. J. (Slick) Collins who is associated with Fred in the newly acquired theatres at Toccoa, Lavonia, Clarksville and Cornelia, formerly operated by George Wilby as the Dixie Amusement Co., which name will be continued by Fred and "Slick." They plan to redecorate all houses and hope to open their new theatre at Toccoa before long. This house will be known as the Ritz, will seat 550 down and 200 in the balcony, and will be smartly modern. They will continue to use the present theatre at Toccoa, the Star, as a "B" house to operate on Saturday and Sunday only. Our best wishes to these boys in the new venture.

J. S. "Doc" Darnell, who operates the Jasper at Jasper, Ga., tells your correspondent that he has remodeled the house completely, with new sound, screen, drapes, etc. "Doc" also operates the drug store in his town.

Malco Theatres has begun construction on their new Malco Music Hall in Hot Springs, Ark., and will have three floors, one of which will be equipped as a broadcasting studio. It will seat about 1,400 patrons but is not expected to be completed until late in 1940 or early 1941.

Ralph Noble, city manager for Robb and Rowley at Little Rock, advises that plans have been drawn for a theatre in Little Rock to be called the New, which will have a seating capacity of about 950. The theatre is expected to be ready for opening in March, 1940.

I understand that C. S. Strickland has opened a theatre at Willacoochee, Ga., to be known as the Coochee. We hope we have this correct.

'Tis said that Marshall Maddox, long a tent show operator in south Georgia, has located permanently at Woodbury, Ga., with a theatre called the Woodbury.

H. E. Williams is operating a jig house at Waycross, Ga., known as the Rainbow Theatre. He is a newcomer in the business.

Miss A. E. Covington, formerly of Atlanta, has been appointed manager of the Franklin at Lavonia, Ga. This is one of the four theatres acquired recently by Fred McLendon and Bill Collins. This is her first connection in the business.

J. U. McCormick, who operates the Amity Exchange in Atlanta, is a very proud "grandpop" these days, due to the birth of a son to his daughter, Mrs. C. A. Mathews, at Gastonia, N. C., recently. He is supposed to go to Charlotte for the convention but we believe that is an excuse to go see the grandson.

"Bill" Dowler, who operates the Dixie at Chattanooga, Tenn., recently married a Miss Julia Rawlings. His parents-in-law operate a large dairy.

Jimmie Tankersly, who operates the Ellijay Theatre at Ellijay, Ga., recently opened his second theatre located at Chatsworth, Ga., and known as the Fort, which is strictly modern and seats 550.

Caught H. V. Manning inspecting his new house under construction at Marietta, Ga. The new theatre will seat 500 and will be under the management of C. A. Smith. No date has been set for the opening.

Oscar Lam has reopened the Gem at Newman, Ga., and his son, O. C. Lam jr., will be in the managerial spot.

C. E. Bell, who manages the Trion at Trion, Ga., also is superintendent of schools, having 33 teachers and 1,100 pupils under his direction and also directs the YMCA. Sure is a busy man.

Joe Mayer, who has been managing the Star at Toccoa, Ga., for George Wilby until its sale to McLendon and Collins, expects to be transferred to a Wilby house in Georgia, probably a drive-in.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Richardson of Seneca, S. C., who operate the Richardson, are bringing up their son Billie to be a theatreman, having him help out in the office, learning all the details of the business. Seems to be a splendid young fellow.

Our good friend, Abe Borisky of Independent theatres at Chattanooga, Tenn., is a big hearted fellow. Each week he has a private show for the Dominican Sisters of St. Peter's and St. Paul's churches, showa picture that they themselves have chosen and no one else is admitted during this showing. He recently showed "The Great Waltz" on a return billing and thereby garnered himself some free publicity in the way of an editorial in the Chattanooga *News*.

Mr. and Mrs. Mowbray, who operate the New Royal at Blue Ridge, Ga., held a beauty pageant and I was there but the judges had already been chosen, so much as I wanted to, they wouldn't let me help. It really helped the old boxoffice.

Seen here and there around the territory: Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Jarrell of the Roxy at Commerce, Ga.; Arthur Westbrook of the Habersham at Clarksville, Ga.; R. H. Brannon of the Holly at Dahlonega, Ga.; Irene Addington of the Dixie at Cornelia, Ga.; W. B. Smith of the Haven at Canton, Ga.; Walton Fortson, Colonial, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Nat Hancock, Roosevelt, Jefferson, Ga.; H. J. Woodward, Strand, Winder, Ga.; S. C. Ware at his new theatre, the Royce, Royston, Ga., and some more.

Your correspondent expects to spend the next couple of weeks in the Atlanta territory and hopes to see many more of the exhibitors.

Host to Store Staff

RUSSELLVILLE, ARK.—The personnel of Sterling's store were guests of Henry A. Brownlee, manager of the local Malco units.

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NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

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CHARLOTTE — OKLAHOMA CITY

See Sparring Move In Suits' Delay

OKLAHOMA CITY—Continued delays in the two local major industry suit filings have film men in this area wondering if someone isn't stalling for time waiting for a break. Some observers believe this to be true as far as all parties are concerned.

There has been no action in the department of justice anti-trust suit against the Griffith companies for several weeks now. Time extensions for filing of memorandum briefs for Judge Edgar Vaught to study were the last actions in the case. This was made necessary through the introduction into the case of Henry Griffing, who resigned from the Johnson staff to conduct part of the defense work here. However, this time extension has expired and it is understood that a pre-trial conference may be called by Judge Vaught any day now to give his decision firstly on the motion demanding a more definite bill of particulars from the government, and secondly, according to the new federal rules of procedure, a conference for narrowing down the issues in order to secure a close date for the actual trial itself.

No action has been begun in the local federal courts on A. B. Momand's $4,500,000 anti-trust damage action against Griffith, major producers and distributors, although all that remains in this action is joining of the issues before trial.

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DALLAS, TEXAS

DALLAS

M J. "DUTCH" KONNEMAN, service man at National Theatre Supply Co., is back from a reunion at Georgia Tech tendered to teammates who played four years on the team ending in 1937. Dutch was the southeastern triple threater during his last year, and testimonials from coaches bear that out.

Lew Groves and Mrs. Groves, now of Oklahoma City, were Dallas visitors following their successful opening of the new Villa, a neighborhood spot there. They own the Ritz at Sulphur, but the more important Villa moved them to the Sooner Capitol. Lew is a brother of Jack Groves, now operating the Queen in Houston.

Sam Parish, pioneer exhibitor at Huntsville, was a popular figure on the Row this week and renewed his claim that his private light plant pulling the Dorothy and Avon theatres is still a "dilly." Exhibitor friends marvelled that his former bill was so much, that his plant cost so much and that its operation was so much—all of which was printed in BOXOFFICE six months ago.

Mart Cole, south Texas circuit operator, spent only a day on the Row this trip. Part of his holdings are booked by Jefferson Amusement Co., and the smaller towns are handled by the Cole home office in Richmond.

D. B. English of Tahoka and Audrey Cox of Lamesa were among the far west Texans in to give the week on Filmrow a good start. Cox said his territory had a good shower helping a several years' drouth and presumably Tahoka got the same precipitation.

T. L. Ritchey, the showman from St. Jo, was a pleasant visitor on the Row this week. His is a fine little theatre and its operation is understood to rank among the best. The St. Jo house is booked by the Ind-Ex Booking Service in Dallas, managed by Forrest White.

Mrs. Earl Jones, owner and operator of the Three R's at Brownfield, the Rialto, Rio and Rex, and incidentally three of the finest small-town houses to be found anywhere, was in Dallas on a booking trip. Since the death a few months ago of her beloved husband, Earl B. Jones, she has taken over the reins and is administering those houses in a masterly fashion.

Bob Clemmons, manager of the Arcadia, has been out of town on a visit to St. Louis and Chicago.

Fire at Malakoff the other night took the Dodd Theatre down to the ground and with it an adjoining merchant building. The theatre was so complete it burned up part of the ground, according to Malcolm Dodd, owner of the property. The house had been under lease to Joe Clemmons jr. and Tom H. Clemmons.

Ted Lewis, who has been up a few pounds during recent weeks because of successful medical treatment, was threatened to lose a pound or two on his visit to the Row this week because of midship dis-

(Continued on page 113)

Pre-Trial System Speeds Up Cases

OKLAHOMA CITY—The pre-trial system now operating in federal courts and which has been used in the department of justice cases with the Griffith Amusement Co. and major distributors, strips cases of superfluities by conferences and whittles the suits to their main issues, Judge Edgar S. Vaught stated here last week.

The result is, Judge Vaught states, that attorneys are learning to be much simpler; federal judges find themselves able to docket cases within a short time after they are filed; litigants have their legal quarrels settled promptly, and the time, trouble and money saved to all concerned, including the government, is incalculable.

At present, the department of justice case is still in the pre-trial stage with preliminary issues undisposed of as yet. The $4,500,000 A. B. Momand anti-trust action against Griffith and major producer-distributors has been taken through all the pre-trial stages and waits only a joining of the issues before start of the actual trial.

The next filing and court hearing on the department case should be in December, it is believed here. Action on the Momand case may not arise until next spring.

AUSTIN

FRANK STARZ, publicity director of Interstate Circuit, Dallas, was here on business accompanied by Campbell B. Casad, advance man for the road show, "I Married an Angel," which will play the Paramount the night of December 9.

The Texas, just across the street from the University of Texas, in the past ten days has played "The Affairs of Cellini," "Prisoner of Zenda," and "Clive of India." Every one did near capacity business, too.

Jesse Melinger, manager of the Texas, is a recent graduate of the University, and his house staff is 100 per cent student., Diaz Callahan jr., John Shepherd jr., Lamar Meadows, Eloise Engle and Mollie Ficken.

Thanksgiving Day "trippers" included Louis Novy, Interstate city manager, and his family who caught the Texas-A&M contest in College Station. The following also saw the game: Bill Hellums, manager of the Capitol, and his wife; Mrs. Elisha Meredith, Interstate office secretary, and her husband; Ewell Love and Will Roddy, doormen of the Capitol and the Paramount, respectively, and Charles Rot, manager of the Varsity.

Francis Vickers, skipper of the Austin, spent Thanksgiving with his parents in Seguin, Tex. . . . Tommy Wood, State usher, ate his turkey with the folks in Temple, Tex. . . . Gerald Raines, top man at the State, spent the holiday in Austin. He says he's thankful for the fine product he's been exhibiting of late.

ATLANTA

MARSHALL MADDOX, formerly a tent operator, is now at the Woodbury Theatre, Woodbury, Ga.

Amos Walker, Circle, Social Circle, Ga., will resume his job as projectionist upon the return of Jimmie Stroud, manager, on December 15.

R. M. Goldsmith, National Theatre Supply Co., is on a tour through Florida for two weeks.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Tom Brandon, Titusville, Fla., in the loss of his mother.

Mrs. Cowan Oldham, McMinnville, Tenn., was a visitor for the first time in many weeks. She advises Mr. Oldham is suffering from a very bad cold.

A. C. Bromberg, Republic Pictures, has just returned from Charlotte, where he attended the North and South Carolina exhibitors' convention for two days.

Douglas Avey has joined the staff of the DeKalb in the capacity of assistant manager.

E. E. "Whit" Whitaker, Lucas & Jenkins circuit manager, has been elected to membership in the Gridiron Club of the University of Georgia.

Fred Mullen, owner and president of Mulco Theatres, Inc., Haines City, Fla., paid his annual visit to Atlanta this week.

Fred Gross has been added to the staff of the newly-formed art department of the Poster Exchange.

Few people know that Al Henderson, BOXOFFICE, is first lieutenant in reserve in the air service. We hope he doesn't have to prove it in Europe.

Damage of around $100 was done when a small fire broke out in the lounge of the Variety Club rooms at the Henry Grady Hotel.

S. R. (Sid) Reams, president of Theatrical Printing Co., has just left for the east to purchase new equipment for the Atlanta branch, taking with him Preston Dewberry, who will spend five or six weeks at the factory studying the operation of this new equipment. Sid will return via St. Louis and Dallas, making the usual checkup on these two plants.

Charles A. Adams, manager, Grant & Fairview Amusement Co., announces a change in his admission prices from 10 and 15 cents to 10 and 20 cents day and night in all of his houses. He also advises he has stock stage shows booked ahead for six weeks, which are meeting with unusual success in the Fairview.

Walton Street enjoyed the jovial spirit of Lee Castleberry, Fifth Ave., Nashville, for several days when he was a visitor here.

Filmrow visitors: Paul Engler, Famous, Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weis, Savannah, Ga.; Nat Hancock, Roosevelt, Jefferson, Ga.; J. S. Tankersly jr., Ellijay, Ellijay, Ga.; Fred McLendon, Union Springs, Ala.

"The Dark Command," budgeted to cost three-quarters of a million dollars, was placed before the cameras by Republic last week with Raoul Walsh directing. The film exploits the life of William Cantrell and his infamous guerrilla tactics.

Ann Caroline Ison, secretary, Film Forwarding Depot, has announced her engagement to Ray Ervin of Charlotte and Washington, D. C. The marriage will be solemnized at an early date.

H. A. Price, Price Theatre, Thomson, Ga., was seen on the Row looking much improved from his recent illness.

C. S. Strickland has opened a new theatre called the "Coochee" at Willacoochee, Ga.

Warner Bros. and Theatrical Printing Co. are tied for first place in the Industrial Bowling League for the fifth consecutive week.

New Carolina Opened

WILSON, N. C.—The new Carolina Theatre here has opened with Mirrophonic sound equipment.

Higher Court Affirms Carter "Contempt"

ATLANTA—The Georgia court of appeals has affirmed a contempt of court conviction of J. H. Carter, proprietor of the Brookhaven Theatre, carrying with it a fine of $200 and a ten-day jail sentence. Carter was convicted in the DeKalb superior court after a hearing before Judge James C. Davis.

Last May 13, Judge Davis granted an order restraining the showing of the picture, "Ecstasy," at the Brookhaven. Following the issuance of the order it was charged that Carter placed the following sign in front of his theatre:

"Due to selfish, contemptible interests, we are temporarily restrained from showing 'Ecstasy.' We will bring this picture to you pending court decision."

Solicitor General Roy Leathers saw the sign and brought the contempt proceedings before Judge Davis. Carter claimed that he had no reference to the court or any court official in the sign, but to parties he thought had made the complaint to the solicitor general.

Judge Nash R. Broyles dissented from the decision of his two colleagues on the court of appeals division, stating that he felt Carter had purged himself by his sworn testimony he intended no reflection on the court and by his public apology to the court.

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THEATRE SUPPLY, INC.

"Everything for the Theatre Except Film"

Carolina MPTO Asks Trade Concessions

(Continued from page 107)

said that personally he was opposed to so many war pictures. People want more fun and entertainment and less tragedy and propaganda on the screen, he said.

"Business is looking up," said the national MPTOA chief, urging that exhibitors take pride in their vocation, that they work hard, stick to their jobs, follow a policy of fairness and cooperation. "Take care of the business that is taking care of you and your family," he exhorted.

He said usually those operating theatres could not be induced to quit and turn to other vocations and yet "I don't know any other business that has taken care of so many dumbells."

Kuykendall said "the time has come for the public to realize something of the structure of the motion picture industry to prevent the passage of any such bill as the Neely bill in Congress, which would cripple the industry rather than help it or the independent theatre owner.

"If the various organizations which support the Neely bill, which would kill block booking and substitute for it the buying of pictures individually, understood how the industry is operated and why, they would withdraw their support of the measure," he said.

Kuykendall advocated a national speakers bureau of persons in the industry, saying "a system of speaking to groups and clubs will help better inform the people regarding this business."

The convention was welcomed to Charlotte by Mayor Ben Douglas. Roy Rowe of Burgaw responded.

Retiring president Lyle M. Wilson of Roanoke Rapids presided at the business sessions. H. E. Buchanan of Hendersonville served as toastmaster at the banquet which ended the convention Monday night.

H. R. Berry of Hartsville, S. C., was elected president to succeed Wilson; Buchanan, and George W. Parr of Lancaster, S. C., were elected vice-presidents, and Pauline Griffith of Charlotte was re-elected secretary and treasurer.

Directors elected are F. H. Beddingfield, Charlotte; Charles Arrington, Rocky Mount; H. F. Kincey, Charlotte; A. F. Sams jr., Statesville; Roy Rowe, Burgaw; J. F. Miller, Hickory; J. E. Massie, Waynesville; E. L. Hearne, Albemarle; George Carpenter, Valdese; C. A. Turnage, Washington, all in North Carolina; and Ben Strozier, Rock Hill; O. I. Sheely, Clinton, and Boyd Brown, Winsboro, in South Carolina.



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Results!—

The trio above exhibiting 53 Jack Salmon, weighing 47 pounds, caught at the Guntersville Dam, Guntersville, Ala., is as follows: H. R. Davidson, RCA engineer, left; Bill Harris, manager of the Ritz and Center, Guntersville, and H. D. Johnson, manager of the Palace, Guntersville.

CHARLOTTE

THE Better Films Council of Charlotte gave a dinner last week, celebrating its 17th birthday. Film exchange managers and local theatre managers were special guests of the council. Emil Bernstecker, manager of the Carolina, gave a talk on the evolution of the motion picture.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Kincey left December 1 to spend a week in New York City.

Mrs. E. F. Dardine died December 1 at her home on Wilmore Drive. Mrs. Dardine was the widow of the late E. F. Dardine, who was well known in film circles in the Carolinas.

A. W. Stanford has opened a new theatre at Hamlet. The name of the new house was selected by contest . . . W. D. Vanderburg has reopened the Salley at Salley, S. C.

About 50 baskets of food were given for needy families of Charlotte at the Thanksgiving matinee at the Broadway last week. The event was sponsored by the theatre and the Exchange Club.

Wometco Plans Second Canned Goods Benefit

MIAMI—Unprecedented success of Wometco's Thanksgiving "giving" matinee has inspired Mitchell Wolfson and Sidney Meyer to plan a second such event for the benefit of the annual Milk Fund.

Canned goods are accepted as the equivalent of paid admissions at these charity matinees, held at 11 Wometco theatres. The first of these matinees this year brought in, for distribution by the local Salvation Army, 10,000 cans of goods, weighing six tons.

Oklahoma Calm Over 16MM Competition

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma exhibitors have felt only slightly the sting of 16mm competition though there have been some kicks from several sections of the state on the encroachment at the boxoffice of the "amateur" presentations.

Flooding of the state with outside literature ballyhooing major company product now on 16mm by eastern firms has found some new customers and extensive sales tactics used by 16mm projector salesmen among the schools of the state has borne fruit during the last few months.

Some kicks have been registered at showings of product in private homes, in schools, at CCC camps and other places. Most of the "charity" shows done with producers' 16mm topnotch product has dragged dimes away from the boxoffices in smaller towns on several occasions.

No formal kicks have been lodged as yet, though several exhibitors have informed BOXOFFICE's editorial representative here that they have felt the 16mm touch at their boxoffices and if sale to public institutions, of product only two or three yeors old continues, they feel something will have to be done about it.

NTS Completely Equipping Aberdeen, Miss., House

MEMPHIS—Bob Bostick, branch manager of the National Theatre Supply Co., reports the following sales: Complete equipment, including projectors, heating equipment, draperies, chairs, marquee and sound equipment for the Ritz at Aberdeen, Miss., which is the new theatre that is being built by Bob Smallwood jr. and S. T. Lyles jr., who operate the Ritz at Oxford. This house in Aberdeen is scheduled to be opened the early part of February.

C. C. Bach, salesman comes through with projection equipment, sound, drapes, light fixtures as well as carpets for the Munford Theatre at Munford, Tenn., which is being built by H. M. Hadad, a Munford merchant. This opening is scheduled for December 20. Peter Dawson, reports that he just closed a deal with B. F. Diggs for the chairs, drapes, light fixtures, all booth equipment and projection machines for his new Princess at Paris, Tenn., which will also have its formal opening before Christmas.

"Open House" Is Held by Oklahoma City Variety

OKLAHOMA CITY—Tent No. 22 of Variety opened its doors here in the penthouse of the Black Hotel when an "open house" for members and wives was held under the direction of Chief Barker L. C. Griffith.

Special guests were Dennis King and Vivienne Segal, musical comedy stars who attended following their appearance in "I Married an Angel" at the Shrine Auditorium.

TENNESSEE

FILM TRANSIT, Inc., Memphis, has applied for a permit to distribute motion picture films by motor carrier through various communities in West Tennessee and the application was given a hearing by the state railroad and public utilities commission, at Nashville, on November 28. The application is being protested by the Railway Express Agency which was given 20 days in which to file their protest in the form of a brief. The commission will not render a decision until after this brief is presented. Middle Tennessee theatres are being serviced by a distributing agency operating out of Atlanta, Ga.

A theatre, to be known as the Princess, is scheduled to open in Paris on January 1. *Ben F. Diggs has been constructing a building for the theatre for several weeks without divulging the purpose. The building is modern and completely fireproof with steel-lined projection room and a concrete sub floor under the auditorium. The latest in sound and projection equipment is being installed. Seating capacity is* 700

December 9 is the date set for a referendum on Sunday shows in Jackson. The city council refused to vote on the question and proponents carried the matter to the county election commission who set the date for the referendum.

The Roxy, Crescent Amusement's new theatre in Murfreesboro, opened November 30 *(Thanksgiving in Tennessee). Crescent officials attended en masse and the opening was a gala occasion. Joe Wiley, of Hickman, Ky., is manager.*

Woodbine Theatre, Nashville, has the following bulletin posted conspicuously in its lobby:

"ATTENTION

"If you are attending the Woodbine Theatre Tuesday evening, during the 'Tums Pot O' Gold' program and your telephone is called the Woodbine Theatre will underwrite your telephone number for $1,000, making your total $1,100. You can't afford to be at home. It is worth $100 more to be at the theatre."

The government's anti-trust suit against Crescent Amusement Co., and its affiliates, was set for November 25, *but the judge of the federal court allowed the date to pass without calling for a hearing. Attorneys have no idea just when the hearing will be held.*

Bass Conley Barnard, 22, former assistant manager of the Bijou Theatre, Knoxville, died recently after a long illness.

Oklahoma City Trade Is Unhurt by Cab Strike

OKLAHOMA CITY—No noticeable decline in boxoffice receipts was noticed last weekend as Oklahoma City was plunged into a taxicab strike with all but eight of the cities more than 180 cabs out of service. Theatre managers estimate the strike cost no more than one per cent of the usual Saturday-Sunday grosses at downtown theatres.



Plot the Parley—

Variety Club's national convention plans are shaping up as executive chairman R. J. O'Donnell, who is also chief barker of the Dallas tent, conceives them and John Q. Adams puts them on paper. The convention will be held in Dallas April 18, 19, 20.

Sees "Misconception" in "Mr. Smith" Portrayals

DALLAS—Senator Tom Connally, junior senator from Marlin, Tex., in Dallas for the past few days, told the Rotary Club his version of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." It represents "much ignorance and misconception," he said.

The setting was all right, he said, in that it was a reproduction of the Senate chamber, but the character portrayals were unfaithful and that the plot was "more deep-dyed than truthful." Senator Connally said that among all the public figures in Washington he has known he could count them on the fingers of one hand whose integrity could be questioned.

Erecting in Florida

PASS-A-GRILLE, FLA.—A new 528-seat theatre is being erected here, the first to be built here since 1926. The house, costing $35,000, will follow Grecian lines and will be finished in white stucco with trim.

Bids for Construction

BATON ROUGE, LA.—The Columbia Theatres, Inc., is asking bids by December 20 for the construction of an 1,800-seat theatre building here. R. W. Neaf of this city is the architect.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DALLAS

(Continued from page 110)

turbances. Ted, however, is about 15 *pounds ahead and an off day shouldn't matter.*

S. G. Fry of Tyler who operates several theatres in that part of east Texas, said that he has bought out his competition in Grand Saline, which happened to be W. H. Spencer, operating the Palace there. The Fry theatre is the Grand, finely equipped and with a large seating capacity. The Fry circuit consists of two in Tyler, one in Brownsboro, one in Van, and presumably two in Grand Saline.

Walter Stoeppleman, the Boxoffice Insurance man, said he has sold the Palace at Wiergate to Ira Wallace. Stoeppleman owned and supervised the house until his insurance plan grew in accounts to where he could no longer look after the theatre. Wallace has been managing the Palace since last June. The sale is now in effect, Stoeppleman said.

"Uncle Joe" Joseph E. Luckett, was on the Row, Wednesday, conversing with many friends. He manages the White, Dal-Sec and Forrest for Interstate, and every few weeks pays a friendly visit to the Row. Uncle Joe is remembered as the first United Artists manager in Dallas and has always taken an active part in the attempted solution of trade problems.

J. O. "Buddy" Harris, now much in show business with a "circuit" of two, continues to headquarter on the Row looking for another situation or two.

Paul P. Scott, formerly of Dallas, but now of Houston where he opened the elegant River Oaks Theatre a few days ago, was on the Row this week booking.

L. M. Threet said the new Campus Theatre at College Station will open on about January 3. *V. A. "Buddy" Walker, an associate in this enterprise was in town during the week conferring on its progress. He will manage the houses. Another Threet theatre now well under way at Port Arthur, will open about February* 1.

J. C. Chatmas of Marlin and George Chatmas of Hearne, brothers under the skin, were in town Monday.

Improvements for Pix

EVERGREEN, ALA.—The Pix has been redecorated throughout. A new heating plant is among the improvements.

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BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
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MEMPHIS

THIS WEEK has brought many exhibitors to the Row, among whom were J. W. Crabtree jr. of the Paramount at Clarendon, Ark.; W. T. Elis of the Regent at Cleveland, Miss.; "Slim" Brewer, Savoy at Clarksdale, Miss.; Ned Greene, Legion, Mayfield, Ky.; Paul Staples, Franklin, Piggott, Ark.; John Shannon, Shannon of Portageville, Mo.; Louise Mask, Luez at Bolivar, Tenn.; Jack Marshall, city manager for Crescent Amusement Co. in Dyersburg, Tenn.; Lawrence Landers, Landers at Batesville, Ark.; C. W. Tipton of Manila, Monette and Carraway; J. J. Sharum of the Sharum Theatre at Walnut Ridge, Ark.; Addys Brown and Jimmy Nichols, Gem at Prescott, Ark.; J. R. Adams and his son, Roland of the Bruce Theatre at Bruce, Miss.; Tom Ford of the Ford at Rector, Ark.

The Variety Club held its Thanksgiving Dance this past Saturday night. About 100 *couples danced until the early morning to Jimmie Clopton's orchestra. One of the highlights of the party was the winning of the* 15*-pound turkey by Bob Bostick of NTS, who immediately invited everybody out to his house for turkey dinner. Another, was the orchestra playing "Happy Birthday" to Bill Bugie, Paramount's branch manager, and every one wishing him many happy returns. The final climax was Tony Carruth, Warner's salesman, pinch-hitting for the drummer—he said it took him back to his college days.*

Tom Kirk, Metro's office manager, is back at his desk after a belated vacation . . . The latest report from Earl Vandiver of the Vandiver Theatre at Kennett, Mo., is that he is recuperating from his recent illness. Earl has had a pretty tough time of it for the past four weeks, having spent something like two weeks in the Baptist Hospital in Memphis.

Whyte Bedford of the New Theatre at Hamilton, Alabama, was seen along the Row this week and advised that his small son had the misfortune of breaking his ankle recently when one of his little schoolmates "tackled" him playing football . . . Stanley Hand, of the Altec Service out of Chicago, was a recent visitor in Memphis.

The Malco office was rather deserted over Thanksgiving, as M. A. Lightman drove up to Nashville, Tenn., where he spent the holidays with his mother, Mrs. Joseph Lightman. The Ed Sapinsleys, Malco city manager, have also just returned from a family reunion with Mrs. Sapinsley's parents in Nashville.

Nate Evans of the Orpheum, Memphis, is working rather short-handed these days with the greater part of his staff wrestling with the flu. Rudy Willing, his right hand man, has been confined to the Baptist Hospital for several days, while his secretary is recuperating at home.

Two very unusual visitors along the Row this week was Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Pitman of the Paradise, Cotter, Ark. This was Mrs. Pitman's first experience booking.

John T. James of the James Theatre at Cotton Plant, Ark., was busy calling the various exchanges early Sunday morning, December 3*, advising that due to a fire in his booth on Saturday night, all shipments were to be held up until further advised. The damage was expected to be repaired by this weekend.*

Leo Abrams, short subject sales manager for Universal, spent several days in Memphis with his local branch manager, Jimmy Prichard. This was Abrams first swing of the southern branches since taking over the reins in this capacity . . . Another exhibitor that made his appearance on the Row was Ray Morrow of the Liberty at Malvern, Ark. This was his first visit in several months.

The latest report is that W. F. Ruffin of the Ruffin Amusement Co. will open his new theatre in Halls, Tenn., sometime about the middle of December—anyway, he says it will be open before the holidays . . . V. E. Crick of the Metro office is off on a two full weeks' vacation in Washington and New York City.

M. S. McCord, vice-president of Malco Theatres, who makes his headquarters in North Little Rock, was a recent visitor at the Malco office here . . . R. H. Fisher of the Crescent at Belzoni, Miss., was seen on the Row this week, and upon checking up was advised that Mrs. Fisher was still downtown Christmas shopping, while he had completed his in less than 30 minutes . . . Dave Groskind, Malco's ace booker, is off on a vacation in New York City.

Equipment Sales Reported By Dallas Branch of NTS

DALLAS—Latest equipment sales reported by the local branch of National Theatre Supply include: Lamps to Jefferson Amusement Co. for the Pine, Lufkin, Tex.; projector to Hall Industries Theatres, Beeville; screen to C. F. Moeller, Palace, Muleshoe; screen to Robb & Rowley, Royal, San Angelo; lamps, generator and mechanisms to S. G. Fry, Joy, Tyler, and automatic rewinds to Interstate circuit for the State and Majestic, Wichita Falls.

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Holland Smith Manager of Texarkana Paramount

TEXARKANA—Holland M. Smith is the new manager of the Paramount here. He succeeds R. M. Swanson who was transferred to the New Orleans headquarters of the Paramount-Richards Theatres, Inc., for special assignment. Smith is formerly of Beaumont, Tex., and has been in the theatre business for 12 years. He was manager of the Paramount at Marshall, Tex., for three years.

Drive-In for Orlando

ORLANDO, FLA.—A $35,000 drive-in theatre is under construction here, the first of ten such houses planned by George Wilby in the south. The local project will accommodate 250 automobiles.

OKLA. CITY

IT'S BEEN good for holdovers in Oklahoma City lately with a number of the pullers bringing in extra first-run shekels at the boxoffices. Grosses continue near the normal point though there is certainly no sign of any prosperity as yet.

All action last week was centered on the opening of the Variety Club headquarters in the Black Hotel. We're personally very sorry we had to be out of town on that particular night, but we know without looking it over that Morris Loewenstein, L. C. Griffith and the rest of the boys saw to it that everything was taken care of all right.

Joe Williams, who used to work for theatres in Enid, has, we understand, found himself a nice managerial job at the Crystal in Lewisville, Ark.

Bruce Palmer is getting all set to go to Atlanta right soon to view a little "Wind" picture we've been hearing of hereabouts. He won't go alone though—so a good time to the lads who embark to put themselves into the capable hands of Pop Coleman.

Horace Falls of Griffith with Mrs. Falls and their daughter, back in town from a visit to Wallace Walthall at Dallas . . . Report on T. B. Noble jr.: last time we checked, at his desk. Report subject to change without notice.

Darrell Houts is the proud father of a seven-pound baby girl . . . If you know how to do it, persuade K. Lee Williams you should have one of those new calendars of his. Best we've seen on the Row to date.

Berlin Parks, National Theatre Supply salesman, has been bowling some beauty scores in the 200 class . . . This week's report on Jimmy Birge's flu . . . he's given it a sound beating and stored it away for future use; now back on the job at the Criterion.

We pass it along for the gossip item of the week, though denied suspiciously, Dee Fuller, Circle manager, is flirting with the idea of immediate matrimony.

"Musical Quizo" Is Proving Big Draw

EDMONTON, ALTA.—Claiming a precedent for theatre quiz programs in the United States and Canada, the Capitol every Wednesday stages a "Musical Quizo" program which has taken film fans by storm and has resulted in substantially increased patronage.

"Musical Quizo" is operated the same as Bingo. Patrons are given sheets on which, in squares, are printed the names of popular and oldtime songs. As the theatre orchestra plays the numbers, patrons cross off the squares containing the various songs as they recognize them. One square is marked "free" so that each participant is assured of getting at least one square marked in.

When one line is correctly completed, the patron signals to the master of ceremonies and the form is checked. Cash prizes are paid to winners.

In addition to the musical Bingo contest, the theatre also offers a substantial prize to the persons who can select the names and composers of two special selections played by the orchestra during the program. These answers are written on a coupon which is deposited in the "Quizo" box in the lobby. Winners must attend the following week's quizo program to claim their cash prizes.

Red Cross Over Goal in Wartime Money Drive

TORONTO—The Canadian Red Cross Society, of which a prominent official is Col. John A. Cooper, president of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada, went over the top in its wartime financial campaign to raise $3,000,000 to look after the comfort of the troops.

Further returns are to be derived from bookings of the Canadian government feature, "The Royal Tour," a pictorial review of Their Majesty's visit to this continent, the distribution of which in eastern Canada is being handled by Empire-Universal Films and in the west by Columbia Pictures of Canada, both of which are turning over their 35 per cent rentals to the Red Cross fund. In addition, Famous Players and affiliated chains are donating 10 per cent of gross receipts for this picture to local Red Cross branches across the Dominion while the Canadian government is handing over its 65 per cent of proceeds to the same organization—which seems to add up to something like 110 per cent of the revenue.

W. Cohen Calgary Visitor While on Business Trip

EDMONTON, ALTA.—On a business trip throughout western Canada, W. Cohen, general manager of Warner Bros., Toronto, was a recent visitor to Calgary.

S. Pearlman of Vitagraph, Calgary, was a recent visitor to Edmonton.

Lee Loeb 20th-Fox Writer

HOLLYWOOD—Lee Leob has joined 20th-Fox's writing staff.

Negotiations Going Ahead for Dominion Clearance Reform

Added Tax Laws Are Likely

Toronto—Legislative action of a comprehensive nature is expected in January when Parliamentarians gather at Ottawa and Toronto for important wartime sessions at which the need for increased revenue for war purposes may bring about additional tax measures.

The Dominion Parliament will open its second war session at Ottawa on January 11 after having been convened last September to promulgate emergency bills. The Ontario legislature has been called to meet January 10 to resume its deliberations after a brief session two months ago. The Ontario premier, Hon. M. F. Hepburn, has already reported a 40 per cent drop in the revenue from liquor because of federal taxation and has hinted that money will have to be derived from other sources, meaning more and higher taxes otherwise.

TORONTO—Negotiations are proceeding for clearance reforms in Canada, according to a statement from the Independent Theatres Ass'n of Ontario which is, simultaneously, pressing for the formation of a Dominion-wide organization of independent exhibitors.

The claim is made by the ITA that the need for the shortening of booking protection is all the more obvious because of the urgency created by the international situation with a number of foreign markets cut off for Hollywood producers. The suggestion is held out that the quicker release of pictures to subsequent runs will mean faster financial returns to the producers from the Canadian field and this quick money will serve to feed the production end of the industry.

It is also argued that reduced clearance will enable the smaller theatres to make more money and this will also provide better revenue for the producers whose receipts from Europe have diminished because of the war. The statement is made that "long delays between runs result in freezing the cash all along the line and starve the picture industry at its source."

An "Informal" Committee

Negotiations for a new system of clearance are being dealt with by an "informal" committee comprising M. A. Milligan of Toronto, general manager of Paramount Film Service, Ltd.; N. A. Taylor, vice-president of the Independent Theatres Ass'n, and Col. J. A. Cooper, president of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada. Independents have demanded a national clearance board under which regional boards would function, but N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has declared that a national board is undesirable.

In the meantime, the ITA is conducting a drive for associate members in all Provinces with the object of forming a National Independent Theatres Ass'n, an appeal for support having been issued by Harry Alexander of Toronto, ITA president, who referred to the recent statistics of the Dominion government as proof of the decline in the power of the independents, pointing to a decrease of 21.8 per cent in independent holdings in Canada from 1930 to 1938 and to the fact that the chains, with 50 per cent of the locations, are securing 70 per cent of the admissions and 73 per cent of the gross receipts.

Grierson Reportedly To Leave Dominion

TORONTO—The *Journal* of Ottawa reports that John Grierson of London, England, recently appointed Dominion film commissioner of the National Film Board of Canada "will not remain in the Dominion much longer." The newspaper adds that "after whipping Canada's film future into shape, he plans to go to Australia for similar work there."

When Grierson made a trip to Canada last summer from England, it was reported he was on his way to Australia to make a survey of the film situation there. Shortly after his arrival, however, the personnel of the National Film Board was announced by Hon. W. D. Euler, Canadian minister of trade and commerce, who became chairman of the board. Subsequently, announcement was made that Grierson had been appointed film commissioner, the only salaried official provided for under the National Film Act which was passed by Parliament last spring.

"The Warning" Prepared For Showing in Dominion

MONTREAL—A Canadian edition of the British film, "The Warning," which reviews Great Britain's preparedness for war, has been completed by the National Film Board, Hon. W. D. Euler, chairman of the public information committee, announces. The last section of the film is devoted to a statement by Hon. N. Rogers, defense minister, on what is being done to mobilize resources of Canada.

Evan-Jones and Goldhamer Form Technical Service

TORONTO—Saul Goldhamer, formerly manager of the Toronto branch of Dominion Sound Equipments, Ltd., and W. Evan-Jones, formerly district engineer at Toronto, have established a new company, Technical Service, to handle RCA special products in the territory and to provide service facilities for theatres. Goldhamer has been identified with the theatre equipment business for the past 11 years. Evan-Jones was originally with RCA-Victor.

TORONTO

RAYMOND MASSEY, Toronto actor, appearing on the stage of the Royal Alexandra in "Abraham Lincoln in Illinois," was honored with an official reception by the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario, was guest of honor of the Heliconian Club, speaker at the luncheon of the Canadian Club of Toronto, held a brilliant reception at the theatre and was the personal guest of his cousin, Denton Massey, member of the Canadian House of Commons, all in one week.

Other film stars are making stage appearances in Toronto. Gertrude Niessen was the headline attraction at Shea's for a week and was guest of honor at a reception in the King Edward Hotel, which was also attended by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Niessen. Charles Farrell will be at the Royal Alexandra Christmas week in "Seventh Heaven" while Edward Everett Horton has been booked for the following week in "Springtime for Henry."

The presence of Raymond Massey was capitalized by Raymond Allen, general manager of the Allen circuit, by the playing of "Black Limelight," starring Massey, for three days at the Hollywood, this being a British film . . . One of Mary Pickford's Toronto relatives, Mrs. Mary Bruce, 75-year-old aunt, died of injuries suffered when she was struck by an automobile.

Roy Young, screen critic of the Toronto Globe and Mail, *has turned stage producer and is presenting a musical revue, "Chin Up," at the Royal Alexandra during the week commencing December* 11 *for its premiere. It has a wartime flavor.*

George F. Law, veteran film man, has become head booker for Colonial Pictures, Ltd. Law was with the first film exchange in Canada, the Toronto branch of the General Film Co., and was with Canadian Universal in western Canada for 16 years when his duties included the management of the three Universal theatres in Winnipeg before the company withdrew from exhibition.

Harry J. Allen of Grand National Films enjoyed a real break when he was releasing the French feature, "Double Crime on the Maginot Line." Simultaneously, the Toronto Star Weekly *came out with the same story as the full-length novel of the issue of December* 2.

Ray Lewis, who recently opened the new Pylon, Toronto, after acquiring the Avenue in the north end, has introduced vaudeville at the Pylon, offering three acts in addition to two film features. The Pylon, managed by Chris Holmes, formerly with Famous Players, does not have matinees except on Saturday.

Jake Miles, president of Western Theatres, Ltd., Winnipeg, paid a business visit to Toronto when he conferred with head-office officials of Famous Players Canadian Corp. . . . General Manager Alf Perry of Empire-Universal has appointed Ben Plottel of Winnipeg to manage the Vancouver branch of the company following the recent promotion of Frank Vaughan to be western division manager with offices at Winnipeg.

Wolfe Cohen, general manager of Vitagraph, has been out to Vancouver and back and found business conditions greatly improved in the wheat belt which had suffered much from drought in recent years.

One whom many Canadians knew because of his residence in the Dominion has been spotted in the Korda war picture, "The Lion Has Wings," which had its North American premiere at the Toronto Uptown. This was Milton Rosmer, who appeared in the role of an officer in this picture. Three years ago he was the director of the GB feature, "The Silent Barriers," which was produced in Canada.

No trace has been found of the burglars who smashed the door of the safe in the Cartier, Hull, a Famous Players' house, but could not get to the $1,450 inside. The robbers destroyed a candy vending machine from which they secured $30. Manager Robert Maynard estimated the damage at $200. The robbers who secured $1,400 from the Eglinton, Toronto, another chain unit, a few nights previously, have not been caught.

According to official figures, the population of Kingston, Ont., has increased by 900 *during the past year to almost* 26,000. *Famous Players recently reopened its third theatre in this city, the Tivoli, under the management of H. W. Smith.*

Ground has been broken at Oshawa, the Canadian home of General Motors, for a new 750-seat theatre which will compete with two local chain houses, the largest of which is the Regent, managed by L. Osier.

"Babes in Arms" at Loew's and "The Lion Has Wings" at the Uptown were the holdovers among the Toronto first-run houses during the past week. "Ninotchka" is next at Loew's while "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" is waiting at the Uptown where Fred Trebilcock has been doing nicely since taking over the management four months ago.

J. I. English, veteran Toronto theatre architect, is making a survey of Famous Players' theatres for a program of modernizing various houses . . . Manager R. McClelland has installed a new RCA system in the Capitol in North Toronto and much improvement is noted over the installation which had seen service for many years.

Community midnight frolics continue to be very popular in local suburban theatres. The Eglinton Business Men's Ass'n put on a cooperative night at the Eglinton, where Bob Eves is once more manager, the program comprising a film feature, five vaudeville acts, an orchestra and the distribution of many prizes donated by merchants. A similar carnival was presented at the Bedford in North Toronto, W. C. Hunt, manager, in cooperation with the Bedford Park-City Limits Business Men's Ass'n, the proceeds from which were turned over to the Santa Claus Fund. President Howard Talbot of the Leaside Lions Club has reported that $251 *was realized from the clubs midnight frolic at the Bayview in cooperation with Manager Ingram.*

Impressive Trade Turnout At Frank Robson Rites

TORONTO—The esteem in which he was held and the wide and sincere sympathy extended to his brother were exemplified in the impressive turnout of industry men of the Dominion for the funeral here of Frank G. Robson, theatre manager of Famous Players Canadian Corp. for 16 years and brother of Clarence M. Robson, eastern division manager of the company, whose death occurred at Fort William, Ont., after a long illness, burial taking place in Prospect Cemetery in the presence of a large gathering of mourners.

Born in Port Perry, a small village near Toronto, Frank Robson had devoted his lifetime to the theatre business, ten years of which was spent in Australia to which he had gone on a theatrical tour and where he had been married. He had practically toured the world as manager of attractions and the only break in his long connection with Famous Players before his retirement because of ill health occurred a few years ago when he enjoyed a six-month visit in Australia. He had long been manager of the Orpheum at Fort William but had recently been succeeded there by Frank Willis of Winnipeg when he could no longer carry on.

Bingo Question Flares at New Toronto Election

TORONTO—The Bingo question flared up as a campaign issue in the municipal elections at New Toronto, Ont., where Mayor W. G. Jackson declared that local organizations could indulge in Bingo games if he were reelected to office for 1940.

This declaration brought a reprimand from the Ontario attorney-general's department in which it was declared no special dispensation could be permitted except on rare occasions with all proceeds being devoted to charity purposes. The Dominion statutes, as amended a year ago, make the playing of games of chance a criminal offense and the place where such are played can be put out of bounds by designating them as a common gaming house.

Buy Educational Films for Que. Protestant Schools

MONTREAL—Educational films valued at $5,000 shortly will be purchased by the Protestant committee of the council of education and circulated in the nearly 100 Protestant schools of the province equipped with projectors.

The development of visual education in Quebec is illustrated by this move and by the decision of the Protestant committee to aid in providing film projectors and screens for high schools at Asbestos, Danville, Granby, Howick, Lachute, La Tuque, North Hatley, Ormstown, Scotstown, Sherbrooke, Thetford Mines and Windsor Mills, and for intermediate schools at Arvida and Greenfield Park as well as for the St. George's and Victoria elementary schools.

"Mast" to George Bruce

HOLLYWOOD—George Bruce is adapting "Two Years Before the Mast" for Producer Edward Small.

Preferred Arrears Cleaned Up by Loew's Theatres

TORONTO—Marcus Loew's Theatres, Ltd.. Toronto, announced, in connection with the release of its financial statement for the fiscal year ending last August, that arrears of dividends on its seven per cent preferred shares had been cleaned up during the fiscal period to the extent of $194,-535 in cash payments to Dec. 31, 1936, the disbursements representing 29¾ per cent in dividends. During the previous 12 months, arrears totaling $57,216 or 8¾ per cent had been paid.

Net operating profit for the year ending August 30 was shown at $203,160, as compared with $201,158 for the previous year. Earned surplus was reduced to $748,-733, as compared with $822,261 at the end of the 1937-38 period but this reduction was low in relation to the total of arrears which had been liquidated during the year. The company operates Loew's in Toronto.

Loew's London Theatres, Ltd., Toronto, had a net profit of $22,464 for 53 weeks ending August 31, it is reported, as compared with net profit of $22,387 for the 52 weeks ending the same date in 1938. Gross revenue for Loew's Theatre, London, Ont., which is operated by the company, was $148,266. Surplus was $13,224, as compared with $6,632 for the previous year, after paying one dividend of arrears on the preferred stock of 1¾ per cent last June.

Lord's Day Alliance and Exhibitors in Agreement

TORONTO—Because of a threat against exhibitors by the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada that the advertising of Sunday performances in connection with midnight shows after Sunday midnight constitutes a violation of the Lord's Day Act, an agreement has been reached voluntarily whereby theatre operators in Ontario have undertaken to avoid the designation "Sunday Midnight Show" for such performances. It is understood, however, no objection will be taken by the Sunday observance guardians to announcements using the words "After Sunday Midnight."

Warnings were also presented to Toronto newspapers regarding the objection of the Alliance and the publishers are expected to govern themselves accordingly. The words "Sunday Midnight Show" were merely a convenient way of announcing such performances and everybody knew that the theatres did not open until Monday had arrived but the Alliance objected to the style of advertising.

The temperance people have also objected to the soldiers having their beer.

F-P Dividend

TORONTO—Famous Players has announced a quarterly dividend of 25 cents on the outstanding common shares for the last three months of the calendar year, payable December 29. This is the fourth disbursement for 1939 and the second declared since the outbreak of hostilities.

New Termer to Bogart

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has handed Humphrey Bogart a new term acting pact.

MONTREAL

TELEVISION, of which Montreal has just had a demonstration, is for the time being a dead issue in Great Britain, the war having forced a closure of the broadcasting, although it is not thought it will remain dormant the entire period of the war. Londoners who bought expensive sets must perforce accept the situation, but their disappointment is nothing to that of Gerald Cock, head of the television service, who had built it up to a peak of production in a very short time, and who reflects that now the Americans will, in all probability, "get as far ahead of us in television while we are at war as they did in the films during the Great War."

Rivoli Theatre was playing to 400 patrons the other night when an explosion in the furnace room caused some excitement. The audience started to leave, but returned when Leo Leonard, assistant manager, assured them there was no danger and that no damage had been done.

A large sum was netted for the Canadian Red Cross by a gala night held at the Capitol Theatre, Windsor, Ont. Prominent radio artists from Detroit and Windsor stations donated their services to entertain an audience of about 2,000.

Opposition expressed by Fort Erie Ministerial Ass'n resulted in cancellation of a theatre matinee there, although permission had been obtained from the Ontario Film Board for the performance to be held in aid of the Red Cross. "This is the thin edge of the wedge. It will lead to the Canadian Sabbath being violated," declared the Rev. Henry Cotton, denouncing the Sunday matinee from the pulpit. The reverend gentleman was evidently unaware that in Quebec province theatres are open every Sunday.

Romeo Jobin, first French-Canadian member of the Paris Opera Co., was heard in a concert at the Montcalm Palace, Quebec, with his wife, Therese Drouin-Jobin. Jobin is a tenor and his wife is a lyric soprano. Miss Rachel Drouin was accompanist.

Arcade Theatre of which Emile Perreault is manager, will switch from films to a stage show December 9 when Les Comediens Associes will present "Denise," comedy of Alexandre Dumas.

Prince Edward Island, although rather isolated, is not far behind in film releases. At Charlottetown, the Prince Edward has been playing "The Women," followed by "Babes in Arms," and the Capitol, "Black Gold" and "Two Bright Boys."

"The Lion Has Wings" has opened at the Palace . . . "Elizabeth and Essex" is in its second week at Loew's . . . Orpheum is showing "The Housekeeper's Daughter" . . . "Drums Along the Mohawk" is at the Capitol, and "Full Confession" at the Princess . . . Harry Paynter of Empire-Universal and John Ganetakos jr. of United Amusement Corp. and their wives have been spending a week in New York City.

His Majesty's, which has been devoted entirely to stage plays, opened December 5 with a patriotic film, "Our Fighting Navy," under the sponsorship of the Royal Canadian Volunteer Naval Reserve, Montreal division. In the film, appear a large number of sailors from the Atlantic fleet loaned to Herbert Wilcox for the production. The Admiralty also supplied the ships.

Famous Players declared the regular dividend of 25 cents on the common stock, payable December 28 to shareholders of record December 18.

Construction of new theatres is going apace in Quebec province. Gill Hebert of Brownsburg is opening a new theatre there to be called the Arcade; A. Pepin of Lasarre will operate a new theatre at Normetal, and Leo Choquette of Waterloo and Farnham will construct a theatre at Kenogami, to be known as the Princess.

Visitors on Filmrow included Raymond Gouge of the Rialto, Quebec; W. Roberts of the Chandler, Chandler, Que.; A. Pepin of Lasarre, Albert Bey of the Cinema, Thetford Mines, and Ambrose Nolan of the Pix, Aylmer . . . The Park, Verdun, has closed down temporarily owing to difficulty in obtaining suitable pictures.

Morris Davis, manager of the Belmont, is a busy man these days, superintending reconstruction which involves a new stage, new marquee and a new balcony, including new floor, new seats and new lighting. In spite of this work, the regular show is being given.

"Professor Mamlock," passed by the Quebec board of censors, has been banned by censors at Hove, Engand, because it "might breed hatred of the German people." An alderman said: "We do not consider that the film is suitable to be shown in wartime." A contrary view was expressed by a local doctor who saw the film. "It does not stir up feeling against the German people," he said. "Rather, it makes you feel sorry for them for having to stand powerlessly by and watch Nazi persecution."

"The Cricket on the Hearth" in French ("Le Grillon du Foyer") will be produced at the Mount Royal Theatre of the M.R.T. Francais . . . J. Levitt of Regent Films is back from a trip to Toronto where he interviewed a number of film heads.

"We receive BOXOFFICE regularly from you and look forward to it each week. The issue of May 29, 1939 did not reach us for some reason and, as we do not want to miss the reviews in it, would be very much obliged if you would send us another copy. Thanking you, I am."

—R. W. MANN,
Cabin Theatre,
Red Lake, Ont., Canada.

BOXOFFICE The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

EDMONTON

IN LINE with other theatres in the Dominion the Capitol here will show the federal government's picture on the visit to Canada this year of Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Manager Walter Wilson announces. Ten per cent of the gross receipts of the picture, which is already creating wide interest in eastern cities, will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

With the end of 1939 just a month away, Edmonton theatre managers already are making plans for New Year's eve frolics. The Capitol, Rialto, Strand, Empress, Dreamland, Gem, Princess, Roxy and Avenue theatres each have arranged for special feature pictures and gift nights. Managers are anticipating an unusually good attendance this year when patrons turn their thoughts from the anxieties of war to an evening's relaxation.

Eliminating the extra time and trouble caused by the issuance of separate admission and tax tickets, theatre managers in the province have completed arrangements with the government of Alberta for the distribution of combination tickets. Managers feel that this new system will facilitate the checkup of attendance as well as reducing the expense of a double issue of tickets. The tickets will be distributed by the provincial government.

An acute shortage of small silver and coppers is reported by theatre managers in Edmonton, some of whom have found it necessary to get nearby stores to save change for them. Children, saving pence and nickels for Christmas, are largely responsible for this condition, which though annual, has been more acute this year than formerly.

Calgary visitors to Edmonton this week included J. Taylor of RKO, and George Lynch of Paramount service.

MARITIMES

THE Movie Men of Saint John seem to be having a little difficulty getting their bowling team together for the winter season. Lew McKenzie of Vitagraph is out of town quite often on Thursday, the bowling night, and Les Kerr of 20th Century-Fox can't make up his mind about leaving the Civics team, of which he has been a member for about 15 years. They'll have to do something very soon before registration in the city league closes.

A. J. Jeffries, Montreal manager and eastern supervisor of United Artists, spent a short time in Saint John conferring with the local manager, Charles S. Chaplin . . . A. J. Mason of the Capitol, Springhill, N. S., believes in doing his Christmas shopping early. He spent the last weekend in November in Saint John for that purpose and didn't even take time to call on the exchanges.

Recent visitors to Filmrow included Mr. and Mrs. J. V. McLaughlin of the Opera House, Newcastle, N. B., Joseph Reardon of the Strand, Black's Harbour, N. B., and Harold E. Gaudet of the Capitol, P. E. I.

Kibbey Is Arraigned In Montreal Court

MONTREAL—Missing for seven days, Charles E. Kibbey, 45-year-old accountant of Consolidated Theatres, Ltd., was arrested at his home, 411 Dunlop Ave., by the Outremont police Friday afternoon, December 1, and immediately brought to court where he was arraigned on theft, forgery and uttering counts totaling $2,224. He was remanded on a $3,000 bail bond, or three of $950, by Judge C. E. Guerin, pending preliminary hearing on December 7.

A motion for heavy bail of $10,000 for the accused to regain his temporary freedom pending trial was made by L. A. Sperber, prosecution counsel, who told Judge Guerin that "to date we have found an amount of between $17,000 and $18,000 missing and it may go higher." He claimed that Kibbey was an American and that unless substantial bail were posted there was a possibility that he might be reported missing again.

Kibbey attempted to speak once during the arraignment but was silenced by the court and told he had a lawyer present to speak for him. After a whispered conversation with his counsel, the statement was made by the defense lawyer, that Kibbey had surrendered voluntarily.

Due to the late hour of the arraignment and the impossibility of posting a registered bail on property, Judge Guerin finally agreed to allow three bonds of $950 to be posted until the $3,000 property bond can be properly signed.

Sought by the Outremont, Montreal and provincial police departments since Saturday, November 25, when he left home in his own automobile, Kibbey was not heard of until the Outremont police department, by a routine check, learned that he had returned to his home. Deputy-Chief Joseph Griffiths and Detective J. Dolan went to his home on Dunlop Ave. where they took him into custody.

Later, in court, the accusation sworn by Alexander Adelman, secretary-treasurer of Consolidated Theatres, Ltd., was read to the accused. He was charged with the theft of $1,200 and with forging and uttering a cheque for $1,224 to the prejudice of the company which employed him.

According to police information, Kibbey is reported to have stated after he was taken into custody that he "did not remember anything" since he left home Saturday, November 25. He appeared to be in good physical condition, but fatigued when brought to court.

In pressing for low bail for the accused, the defense counsel claimed that Kibbey had shown no intention of leaving the jurisdiction of the court, as at any time since his disappearance it would have been easy for him to cross the border into the United States.

Television With Luncheon

MONTREAL—Progress in the field of television was brought home to members of the Montreal Rotary Club as they sat following their weekly luncheon meeting and watched their fellow members being interviewed on television screens.

VANCOUVER

IF "The Lion Has Wings" is not seen by everyone in Vancouver, it will not be because they are unaware of it being on the screen here, as Ivan Ackery called every phase of publicity into play to tell of its presentation at the Orpheum. Jimmy Cameron, publicity man for Famous Players Canadian Corp., flew here in connection with "The Lion Has Wings" and from here started on a zigzag return flight on which he will take in western key cities.

"Old Bill," that creation of Bairnsfether, turned up again in person, this time in exploitation of "Pack Up Your Troubles" which was appearing at the Strand. Just another of Norman Duncan's ideas.

Haskell Masters, Canadian general manager of UA, dropped from the clouds on one of his periodical visits.

The Theatre Equipment Supply Co. was busy unpacking and tuning up the Holmes projectors for Ralph Calladine's Plaza in Victoria. It is reported that a contract has been let for some structural improvements to the Columbia, his other Victoria Theatre.

Bill Hanscher, Vancouver manager for Paramount, is back in town, and at his desk.

Mrs. Fields, the Nova, North Vancouver, has been a frequent visitor to Filmrow of late, arranging bookings for the holiday season.

Stan Kennedy, the Cadet, Esquimalt, was over for a day or two.

Another Canadian general manager, Wolfe Cohen, of Warner, spent a few days in Vancouver.

WINNIPEG

AFTER five weeks, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" bows out of the Garrick to make way for "Intermezzo" . . . Don Gauld has introduced an innovation at the Metropolitan in the form of a sing-song for soldiers. This feature is slated for Thursday nights immediately preceding the last show.

At the Capitol, Harold Bishop is carrying out an extensive campaign in connection with the showing of "The Lion Has Wings." Special screenings for a large number of organizations have taken place.

The Rialto is blossoming out with a new marquee. The house also has been completely redecorated . . . A new theatre is to be built at Fort William.

At the Lyceum, Eddie Newman's new stage feature, "Skull Practice," is going great guns. Designed to pep up the weak Monday night attendance, the new feature is succeeding. As the weeks go by, its popularity is increasing.

The Warner Club staged a private screening and a dance later at the St. Charles Hotel.

Ruth Rose of Empire-Universal is back after holidaying in the east.

Universal (——) **94 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 29, '39**

During recent seasons a score or more of films have been called super-westerns. Here is one that so thoroughly deserves such designation that it makes many of the others appear anemic by comparison. As such, it should be a 24-karat cinch for precedental returns and audience acclaim. First, it is a western in the truest sense of that much-abused word, incorporating in its high-speed screen play every one of the proven elements that originally established and have always maintained sagebrush melodrama as the first line of motion picture entertainment. It is elevated to the super class through unstinting production, masterful direction and, above all, a superlatively fine cast, in which Marlene Dietrich, very impressive in her new-type comeback role, and James Stewart, share honors with an imposing cast. George Marshall directed.

Marlene Dietrich, James Stewart, Mischa Auer, Charles Winninger, Brian Donlevy, Una Merkel, Samuel S. Hinds.

Destry Rides Again F — Action Drama

RKO Radio (——) **60 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Mildly diverting in the comedy pattern, this affords Bobby Breen another opportunity to display his singing voice in several musical interludes, although plot construction is such that he does not have a great deal to do with advancing the story. Produced for allocation in the program category by Sol Lesser, it contains a competent supporting cast and, with its South American locale, emerges as one of the first films designed to build up trade on that continent. Bobby assumes a Spanish accent with fairly good results, and is characterized as a highly imaginative youngster who serves as a guide to Kent Taylor, wealthy young American, who hits a South American city on a world tour. Plot deals largely with Taylor's efforts to woo and win Marla Shelton, daughter of a ranchero. Erle Kenton directed.

Bobby Breen, Kent Taylor, Marla Shelton, Joyce Compton, Pedro de Cordoba, Robert O. Davis, Rosina Galli.

Escape to Paradise F — Comedy With Music

Universal (4059) **58 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 20, '39**

Stocked plentifully with the type of drama, dialogue and situations that are the usual order for western films; this one will probably find its entertainment niche. As a basis for familiar action sequences, the story concerns the land rush to the Cherokee Strip in Oklahoma. Johnny Mack Brown has the leading role of a reluctant gunfighter. Fuzzy Knight is his sidekick, who is much better at the piano, and Anne Gwynne is the feminine interest. Miss Gwynne's brother is killed and Brown is accused of the crime. He is sentenced to be hung but manages to thwart that fate and get the real criminals. While most of the action is quite obvious there are moments when the screen fills with stirring spectacle and rather gripping bits of action.

Johnny Mack Brown, Fuzzy Knight, Anne Gwynne, Bob Baker, James Blaine, Charles King, Harry Tenbrook.

Oklahoma Frontier F — Western

Paramount (3916) **84 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 29, '39**

The oldsters, of course, may be expected to remember the semi-classic Herbert melodies. With the youngsters, the case history may turn out to be different. But at that, nostalgic numbers like "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life," and "A Kiss in the Dark" certainly appear sufficiently well implanted on the American scene to find an audience waiting. In story content, this proceeds along accepted lines. The musical wealth represented by the Herbert library is dipped into far too heavily with the result the film is loaded with too many songs introduced too frequently with too little excuse. Therefore, in point of drama, this is less important than it is a stepping stone designed to revive many of the composer's well known numbers. By a straight musical approach of the nosegay variety, the film will probably please. Andrew L. Stone produced and directed.

Allan Jones, Mary Martin, Walter Connolly, Lee Bowman, Susanna Foster, Judith Barrett, Jerome Cowan.

The Great Victor Herbert F — Musical

M-G-M (14) **69 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 1, '39**

A palatable slice of Americanism which avoids preachment and documentary treatment by adhering rather strictly to the spirit of the Damon Runyon original yarn and plain-people characters on which the picture is based. Thereby it qualifies as highly pleasing program material which should win the satisfaction of audiences generally. Ann Sothern and William Gargan portray the Turps, noteworthy delineations, both of them, which are matched by the contributions by Lewis Stone as The President and Walter Brennan in the role of Jim, the postman, around whose life the story-within-a-story is built. Learning that Jim has been dismissed from the mail service for destroying a letter, Ethel prevails upon Joe to travel to the capitol to explain first hand Jim's action. Robert Sinclair directed.

Ann Sothern, Lewis Stone, Walter Brennan, William Gargan, Marsha Hunt, Tom Neal, James Bush.

Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President F — Comedy Drama

GB-20th Century-Fox (018) **78 Minutes** **Rel. Oct. 20, '39**

About 10 minutes of first-rate comedy and four songs rendered by Gracie Fields are standout items. Directed by Monty Banks, he shows his compact hand in the proceedings. Otherwise it is strictly formula. Miss Fields inadvertently gets the ownership of a bar and good will of the barflies in the shipbuilding town of Clydebank. When the "Queen Mary" is launched the workers are laid off. She goes to London as their representative to set affairs right. To attain this end she uses imposture, passes herself off as an American singer invited to the "right" party. Of course she has difficulty, but the mess comes out all right. Shipbuilding activity resumes in Clydebank and for a finale Miss Fields gets in as chauvinistic a piece of Union Jack waving as has been seen since the second World War began.

Gracie Fields, Sydney Howard, Hay Petrie, Oliver Wakefield, Morton Selden.

Shipyard Sally F — Propaganda

Paramount (3914) **70 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 15, '39**

Despite the title, this is a college picture, albeit it glosses over the usual rah-rah atmosphere and approaches a more serious phase of academic life, marriage between students and the problems which stem from such unions. Story and plot weaknesses and the absolute absence of draw names in the cast handicap the effort to a degree where it can hope to qualify for little more than supporting spots, in which it will probably find its best following among adolescents of the more serious-minded type. Considering its cost bracket, the feature is substantially produced, while Director Kurt Neumann and the troupe of young players with which he worked make the best of their respective opportunities.

Virginia Dale, Joseph Allen jr., Jean Cagney, Peter Hayes, Betty Moran, John Arledge, Janet Waldo.

All Women Have Secrets F — Drama

M-G-M (15) **60 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 15, '39**

Good old Nick Carter comes to life again in a breezy little mystery which will make a good second picture on any program. As a matter of fact, in some situations it may make a better first picture, for it has all the elements of a serial; what with foreign agents stealing airplane plans from a factory and smooth Walted Pidgeon as the master sleuth. There are several persons who could be suspected, but Detective Number One has to call upon the services of pretty Rita Johnson to complete the job. Even Donald Meek as the bee keeper, detective bent, has to lend assistance before all the bad boys are apprehended. Airplanes, speed boats, machine guns and a light romance are all on deck. In toto, it makes for an action picture not necessarily new in story content, but pleasing enough to give the fiction and true detective fans a run for their money. Jacques Tourner directed.

Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Henry Hull, Stanley C. Ridges, Donald Meek.

Nick Carter, Master Detective F — Mystery Melodrama

Republic (962) **57 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 28, '39**

For its appropriate audience there could be nothing more to be desired than what is offered in this western. Every few minutes the action takes on a spectacular air that makes up for the naivete of story and the performances. This one utilizes the talents of the Three Mesquiteers, portrayed by Bob Livingston, Raymond Hatton and Duncan Renaldo. They are given the usual assignment—clearing up trouble—and do exactly what is expected of them. In this story they aid homesteaders and cattlemen to outwit and cleanup a collection of land-office racketeers who pose as government agents. Of course they achieve their purpose and it is fairly probable audiences will view the proceedings with interest and satisfaction. George Sherman directed.

Bob Livingston, Raymond Hatton, Duncan Renaldo, Betty Compson, Carole Landis, Ivan Miller, Charles Middleton.

Cowboys From Texas F — Western

SELLING ANGLES: **"Oklahoma Frontier"**

The exhibitor might concentrate on selling the spectacle in this western. In addition the musical content rates attention and radio tieups are indicated. The plot is laid in the covered wagon days, which should make a good street stunt. A brief historical essay contest on the Cherokee Strip for school children is possible. Anne Gwynne, a newcomer, gives a good performance and her picture should be given a prominent place in the displays. Fuzzy Knight's musical bent is more familiar than his acting and where possible, he should be given a good comic buildup.

CATCHLINES:

A Race for a Home . . . Against Unscrupulous Crooks.

Bullets and Fists Fly When Johnny Mack Brown Enters a Land Race.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Shipyard Sally"**

Though this is an English film it nevertheless offers Miss Fields in a proper role that should ride well considering the reputation she made in other appearances. The songs are good, particularly one about jitterbugs. A tieup with a local radio station is suggested. The exhibitor might also display models of the "Queen Mary," "Mauretania" and other ships of the Cunard fleet in the lobby. This angle might also be followed through with travel agencies where models are on display.

CATCHLINES:

Gracie Fields Goes to London . . . She Sings, Dances and Brings Back Prosperity to Clydebank.

Gracie Fields Will Sing and Dance for Your Acclaim . . . A Snappy Musical Drama.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Cowboys From Texas"**

There is little need to go overboard in the exploitation of this western. The showman might give it the regular buildup and let the matter rest. It is just a run-of-the-mill item which should draw its regular patronage. There is a masked rider sequence in the film that has possibilities for catching the audience's fancy if the reliable guessing game is put before them. In addition there is the return of a number of old timers in the persons of Hatton and Miss Compson. Try radio tieups and window displays and if possible give out photographs of the trio to children.

CATCHLINES:

To the Outlaws Dismay and Homesteaders Cheers, Into the Valley Rode the Three Mesquiteers.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Escape to Paradise"**

This film has the usual Bobby Breen musical interludes to be seized upon for exploitation purposes. Tie up with music stores on special displays of Breen's photograph records and sheet music. Sponsor a contest for juvenile singers on the stage as an added attraction. Throughout, Breen's name should dominate exploitation, advertising and marquee mention. Tie up with drugstore or cosmetics shop on an "Escape to Paradise" perfume.

CATCHLINES:

Again! The Glorious Singing Voice of Bobby Breen to Thrill and Delight You.

Your Favorite Child Singing Star in His Newest and Best Screen Appearance!

SELLING ANGLES: **"A Call on the President"**

Damon Runyon's name should go on the marquee along with Ann Sothern and Lewis Stone as a potent selling angle. Have house artist prepare a large compo-board facsimile of a Saturday Evening Post cover, as the story first appeared in that magazine. Use it as the lobby centerpiece or mount it above the marquee. Hold a contest in which entrants are asked to give the correct meaning for a number of "Runyonisms"—for example, a "soaper" is a watch; a "bucket" is an automobile, etc.

CATCHLINES:

Meet Mr. and Mrs. Joe Turp . . . Damon Runyon's Most Famous Characters . . . Who Wowed the President With a Social Call.

The Mailman Lost His Job . . . So Joe and Ethel Turp Paid a Call on the President . . . With Riotous Results.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Nick Carter, Master Detective"**

Have your house artist prepare a large compo-board facsimile of one of the early "Nick Carter" pulp thrillers to be mounted over the marquee or as the lobby centerpiece. In cooperation with a local newspaper or the public library, conduct a search for old "Nick Carter" novels and offer free admission to patrons who, finding one or more, lend them to you for display in the lobby. Give the marquee credits to Walter Pidgeon, in the title role, and prepare a lobby layout listing him with other great fictional and screen sleuths.

CATCHLINES:

The Greatest Man-Hunter of 'Em All . . . Nick Carter . . . Idol of Millions of Old-Timers . . . And Sure to Be a Favorite Today.

Super-Sleuthing . . . Action, Thrills and Romance Galore . . . As Nick Carter Steps Out of the Pages of Fiction Onto the Screen.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Destry Rides Again"**

Sell this as a rip-snorting western but don't overlook the exploitation possibilities inherent in the presence of Marlene Dietrich, ex-glamour girl, as a completely different type. James Stewart should share the marquee and advertising credits. Obtain copies of the recent issue of Life Magazine carrying a photographic layout of the sequence in which Miss Dietrich brawls with Una Merkel, and blow the stills up for a lobby centerpiece. Make over lobby to resemble a corral, the boxoffice a ranch house, and dress attendants as cowhands.

CATCHLINES:

It's the Wildest, Wooliest Western in Screen History . . . With Marlene Dietrich Foresaking Glamour for Clamour.

The Wild West Lives Again . . . As Destry Gets the Bad Men . . . And Marlene Dietrich Gets Destry.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Great Victor Herbert"**

Victor Herbert's fame as a semi-classical composer is known around the world. Plug his music heavily via special radio programs and with music stores and supply houses. Play excerpts from his most popular selections over the lobby p. a. system. Invite music students in local schools to attend en masse at special rates, and as a part of their class work write a critique of the picture. The best of these could be used in a special advertising campaign. Plug Allan Jones and Mary Martin (the "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" girl) on the marquee.

CATCHLINES:

Hear Again Those Immortal Melodies . . . Penned by the Great Victor Herbert in the Season's Musical Entertainment Treat.

Romance . . . As Only the Music of Victor Herbert Could Describe It . . . Brought to Vivid Life.

SELLING ANGLES: **"All Women Have Secrets"**

Conduct an "All Women Have Secrets" contest with newspaper cooperation, basing it on "secret" recipes, beauty hints, etc., as practiced by local housewives. Give Joseph Allen jr. and Jean Cagney a buildup as promising screen newcomers. Impart a collegiate atmosphere to the lobby via pennants, trophies, etc., and emphasize in advertising and exploitation that here is one college picture which does not rely upon a last-minute football or crew victory for its punch.

CATCHLINES:

There's More to College Than Racoon Coats, Sports Roadsters, and Football . . . Especially When Love Is in the Air.

They Try to Blend Marriage With Study . . . And Run the Scale From the Riotous to the Tragic.

Short Subject Reviews

Couriers of the Nation

Emerson Yorke 17 *Mins.*

This film, with a great deal of apparent attention to historical detail, tells of the development of the U. S. postal system. It is informative, freshly presented and the nature of its content should interest every audience. Photography is well done. Alois Havrilla delivers a concise, intelligent narrative. The U. S. Marine Band supplies the background music. In its running time the scenario includes the first postmaster general, Benjamin Franklin, to the incumbent, Farley. Every phase of the system is shown and a few hitherto never-shown-before-scenes, such as those of pneumatic chutes, are covered.

With These Weapons

American Social Hygiene Ass'n 11 *Mins.*

This short is a concise and straightforward survey of the ravages of syphilis, medical treatment of the infected, statistics, historical research on the disease and a plea for wiping it out by the dissemination of preventative and curative knowledge. It is particularly well done and its message gets across. For particulars concerning availability for showing the exhibitor should get in touch with the organization listed above. It was produced by Willard Pictures. David Ross narrates.

Sky Fighters

(Adventures of the Newsreel Cameraman)

20th Century-Fox 11 *Mins.*

A pictorial tribute to the air arm of our fighting forces. The subject depicts the steps necessary to train the aviators and visits the various flying fields. Aerial photography by Jack Kuhne and Jess Kizis is tops. Their shot of the shadows of the planes darting over the sand dunes of Imperial Valley looks like the most outstanding of the year.

One Mouse in a Million

20th Century-Fox (Terry-Toons) 7 *Mins.*

The fable of the mouse hanging a bell around a cat's neck forms the basis for this cartoon. With the aid of vanishing cream, the mouse succeeds in his venture and is welcomed as a hero. It is only moderately entertaining.

Broken Earth

Sack Amusement 8 *Mins.*

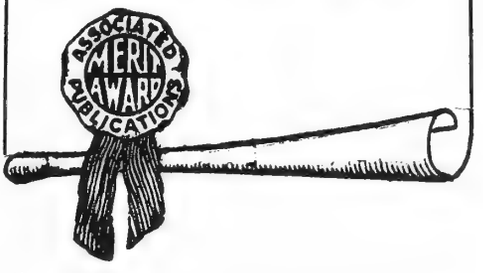
Clarence Muse sings a number of Negro spirituals. Muse, a farmer, finds his child ill and prays for his recovery. There is a choral background. Mainly for Negro audiences.

SHORT OF THE WEEK

Peace on Earth

M-G-M **8 Mins.**

Cartoons are meant to be gay and diverting. Hugh Harman scores on both points in addition to turning out an entirely relevant and pertinent animated subject in Technicolor. With Christmas marked with warfare in Europe and elsewhere, the cartoon pokes, with sensitivity, a gentle jibe at the stupidity of the human race. The time is Christmas Eve and grandpa rabbit greets his grandchildren with the words: "Peace on earth and good-will to men." The youngsters are curious to know about this creature, man, now extinct. Grandpa proceeds to tell how wars destroyed them. The tale is summed up when the owl points to the commandment, "Thou shall not kill," and remarks that man was too doggone stupid to follow the rules. Animation is well handled. Here is a short ideally tuned as material for the holiday program.



Young America

Atlas Film 9 *Mins.*

How the Loyal Order of Moose provides for the dependent children of its members at Mooseheart forms the basis for an interesting one-reeler. It is done in Cinecolor and is available gratis to exhibitors by writing to the distributor in Oak Park, Ill. Mooseheart is a large community which provides educational and vocational facilities for its members. The program and routine of the students is covered comprehensively. It is a noteworthy effort.

The Silly Season

(Lew Lehr's Dribble-Puss Parade)

20th Century-Fox 10 *Mins.*

Loads of fun here in which are shown to what extremes the publicity brains of Florida and California go to make the newsreels and newspapers. There are all sorts of beauty contests and stunts which make a perfect foil for Lehr's comic delivery.

The Kangaroo Country

(Lowell Thomas' Magic Carpet of Movietone)

20th Century-Fox 10 *Mins.*

Australia makes a photographic treat for the cameramen, and also as program material. The far flung member of the British Empire is a place of unusual interest. To contrast with the modern civilization, there are the aborigines who perform a primitive dance. Other characteristic types of animal life such as the kangaroo, the duck-billed platypus and the cute koala bears are shown.

A Wicky Wacky Romance

20th Century-Fox (Terry-Toons) 7 *Mins.*

A diverting bit of cartoon nonsense in Technicolor. Scene is in South Seas where a pirate crew kidnaps the sweetheart of a mouse. A brave lad is the mouse and he single handedly vanquishes the crew and rescues his girl.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Movietone News, No. 23: Hitler escapes bomb, Churchill states war aims, British convoys, Roosevelt at Warm Springs, second Byrd ship sails, holiday season reaches Philadelphia, Lew Lehr, Trojans beat Irish, Michigan upsets Buckeyes, Cornell trims Penn, Missouri beats Kansas.

News of the Day, No. 221: Hitler escapes bomb, Churchill flays foes, British convoys, war flashes from western front, Roosevelt at War Springs, Trojans take Notre Dame.

Paramount News, No. 26: Gay parades usher holiday season, U. S. takes plane lead, Finn delegates return, the Russ-Finn frontier, the British convoys, Churchill states aims, Cornell takes Penn, Trojans beat Irish.

RKO Pathe News, No. 38: Hitler misses death, Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Queen visits city kids in country, plane orders boom, British convoy, Notre Dame, Yale-Harvard, Cornell-Penn, California-Stanford highlights.

Universal Newsreel, No. 827: French aviators in U. S. planes, Churchill states aims, Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Byrd ship off for South Pole, Boyer lands, holiday parade, walking derby, gridiron thrills of the week.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Movietone News, No. 24: Army displays mechanized might, Japs attack China from sky, sky fighting on western front, crater in Japan erupts, Italian warships, airplane production speeded up, the opera season opens, royalty in the news, dog show, Missouri wins title, Cornell trims Penn.

News of the Day, No. 222: Army displays strength, England's Queen speaks to women, Italy launches warship, Japanese Emperor, society shines at "Met" opening, Falcaro demonstrates bowling skill, training derby winners.

Paramount News, No. 27: U. S. rushes peace army, 20,000 dinner guests, opera opening gay, Britain's Queen thanks women, women at hockey, 150-pounders play football at Rutgers.

RKO Pathe News, No. 39: Army displays might, Britain's Queen thanks women, Nazis hold air raid drill, opera opening gay, Rangers nip Red Wings.

Universal Newsreel, No. 828: Nazi plane shot down, Queen Elizabeth broadcasts message to women, U. S. army in maneuvers, society girls in jewel show, new Xmas toys on display, men vie for crochet title, gold diggers in Hollywood, dog show.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

Columbia

Blondie Brings Up Baby

There is no better picture for children. Blondie is also funny to all. These pictures go good on any date. The weather was bad for the picture though. Sun., Mon. Weather: Rain. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 200.—Ted Wilson, Rex Theatre, Carlisle, Ark.

Blondie Takes a Vacation

Equally as good as any of this series and that means a little better than average at boxoffice. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Golden Boy

Swell picture which failed at the boxoffice. Was victim of big grosser just preceding it caused by local interest. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission. 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

One of the really great pictures that comes along once every so often. Inspiring and suspenseful at the same time. Satisfied everyone and I mean satisfied! However, not as much humor as the usual Capra picture and business nothing very extraordinary. Mon., Tues., Wed. Weather: Rain, cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

First National

Angels Wash Their Faces

Very good program picture. Dead End Kids are good for a little increase at our boxoffice and Ann Sheridan had the type of role in which she is always good. Let's just forget she is an oomph girl. Wed., Thurs. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Daughters Courageous

As bright and shiny a piece of entertainment as you'll find anywhere. And you can believe every bit of it too. Study your pressbook and give this the works. Audience reaction: Everyone liked it. Boxoffice: Above average. Sun., Mon. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Each Dawn I Die

Too heavy, especially for Sunday. Well played by fine cast. Let's forget these heavy depressing stories for a while. Our people want lighter stuff. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

At the Circus

With this the Marxes hash their same old stuff that always has and always will delight their particular fans. To other people it will mean little. It will hardly win them any new friends. Kenny Baker, thrown in as a defunct circus owner, does neither the picture nor himself any good. Business ambled along the lightweight territory. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Clear. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Broadway Serenade

Our patrons don't go for Jeanette MacDonald. Picture is draggy and too long. Sunday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Fast and Furious

This one did better than average, although it fell slightly short of the series on which it thrived. This mixture of mystery and comedy seems to please all classes, but it has to move fast and furious to keep funny. Thursday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Ice Follies of 1939

Joan Crawford has no draw. Fair picture. No business. Sunday. Weather: Warm. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

It's a Wonderful World

Disappointing to many. Farfetched. Did not draw the regular business. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Warm. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way Theatre, Sheridan, Ore.

Lady of the Tropics

Don't miss this picture. A beautiful love story and very well produced. Hedy Lamarr plays much better in this one than in some of her others and Robert Taylor is also tops. Very sad ending. Fri., Sat. Weather: Clear. Admission. 25-10. Town patronage. Population: 1,400. Capacity: 300.—J. M. Plasterer, Strand Theatre, Steelton, Pa.

On Borrowed Time

To those who have no way of telling how much the film cut out the story this one is OK if they like 'em sad. But the percentage of folk who enjoy contemplating death is too small to do much business. Sun., Mon. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224. —F. M. Baker, Best Theatre, Handley, Tex.

Remember?

In spite of poor reviews we played this two days and the audience loved it. Very many stopped holding their sides and said it was the funniest ending they had ever seen in a picture. Word-of-mouth helped greatly on this. Did above average business. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Fair. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

These Glamour Girls

Good picture with swell cast which just held its own at the boxoffice. Was disappointed in its draw. Wed., Thurs. Admission 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Paramount

Honeymoon in Bali

Good average picture that is 100 per cent talker. The women called it cute and the men said nothing. Did less than average business, I feel, because the paper depicted a love story. About the same type picture as "Cafe Society" and about the same quality. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 350.—S. L. George, Mountain Home Theatre, Mountain Home, Ida

Lady's From Kentucky, The

Good programmer. Wednesday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Population: 85,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood Theatre, Grand Rapids, Mich.

What a Life

Good picture for the young folks and pleased them. The older people didn't seem to care too much for it, but it is good program material. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 350.—S. L. George, Mountain Home Theatre, Mountain Home, Ida.

BOXOFFICE Magazine,

Dear Sirs:

Yes, the radio season is on again right where it hits socko—the boxoffice. Exhibitors blamed the war news and food buying for boxoffice shrinkage, but what about now? It is still there and will continue with these movie radio productions on the air. I have never heard any of them; but of them from potential patrons.

The summer business has been satisfactory throughout, but now the Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays have dwindled pathetically. At no time have I had giveaways to change the status, and being the only theatre in town (not a lake or resort town), I know what is killing my winter business.

Film companies are picturing a bright outlook ahead, but they themselves are making it black. Economic conditions should improve, that's true, but why shouldn't its own industry try to help. Everyone knows there is a crying need for it.

Last spring there were favorable indications that this problem would be taken care of. Has the industry decided this is no problem? Aren't there plenty of capable dramatic students who need the money and opportunity without paying out thousands of dollars a performance to movie stars, directors and movie companies? Much of this is for the prestige and star names and not dramatic value.

The public is awakening to this injustice.

(Signed) A Minnesota Exhibitor.

RKO Radio

Everything's on Ice

No draw. So obviously made for double bill that playing it by itself left us biting our nails. Even with advertising "Monroe Doctrine," Technicolor featurette, with it, no one came. Friday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Sorority House

Fair picture. Seems as if it was cut short. Should have been a little more to it, as it ended abruptly. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State Theatre, Lewellen, Neb.

Republic

Wyoming Outlaws

Very good western. Fans liked it. Did nice weekend business. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

State Rights

Last Mile, The

Played it with western on weekend to nice business. For prison fans OK. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.

20th-Fox

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Indifferent picture that our folks did not care for and did not come to see. Fox seems very weak this year. They are making good A features but no B and are shoving the poor ones up in the higher allocations. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 350.—S. L. George, Mountain Home Theatre, Mountain Home, Ida.

Rains Came, The

I criticized this picture once before after having paid to see it at a pre-release showing, which gave me that right. I still, after having played it in our house, think like a good part of our audience—the actors failed to make the story believable. I'm afraid Miss Loy was the worst offender in this regard, and I hate to admit it because she is a fine actress. Balance of cast pretty good, but the story was a little jumpy. Probably too anxious to follow the book. Audience lukewarm. Boxoffice very hot. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.

20,000 Men a Year

An exciting little action film that will please most anybody that can be lured past the wicket. With the public shopping so closely for entertainment it might be difficult to get them in with the cast and production value this offers. It did an average programmer business for us. Thursday. Weather: Clear. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562. —Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

United Artists

Eternally Yours

Every comment on this was favorable. They seemed to like David Niven and the dialogue. Didn't see it myself. Did good in spite of football games and dance. Saturday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562. —Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Intermezzo

Beautifully photographed with wonderful musical interludes, this gets nowhere with the average audience. Too slow. Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

Warner Bros.

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase

Was agreeably surprised with this one. Had a better draw than any of its predecessors. It is inclined to be slapstick story. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Inc., Star Theatre, Hay Springs, Neb.

Roaring Twenties

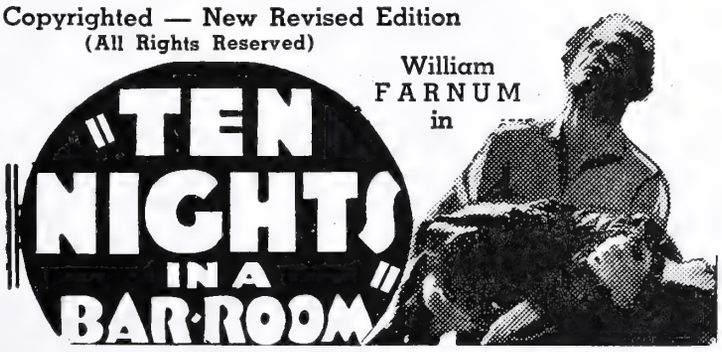
Good action picture with plenty of good lines and laughs. Cagney swell and Priscilla Lane lovely to look at in the fashions of the 20's. Entire cast gives excellent support. Saturday. Weather: Fair. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg Theatre, Williamsburg, Va.

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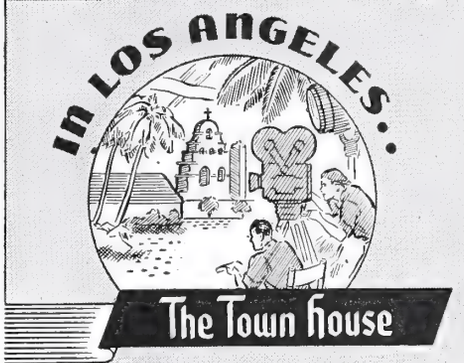
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YOUR GRACIOUS HOST FROM COAST TO COAST









A.S. KIRKEBY, *Managing Director*

KIRKEBY HOTELS

Selling Seats

PRACTICAL IDEAS BY PRACTICAL SHOWMEN

Good Grosses for Good Films, School Goal in New Haven

By GERTRUDE PEARSON

NEW HAVEN—In connection with the Theatre News service, "The Movies and the People Who Make Them," Donald A. Eldridge, director of Audio-Visual Education in the New Haven Schools, has written a guide to a motion picture appreciation program, which many schools have already adopted and many more are inaugurating this year.

The objectives set up by the director are (1) To develop a fuller appreciation of the motion picture as a form of art (based on the idea that fuller understanding leads to fuller enjoyment); (2) To encourage the application of worthwhile moral, social and ethical lessons, found in good motion pictures, to everyday living; (3) To encourage moviegoers to discriminate in their selection of motion picture entertainment. The third objective, it is hoped will support the better films, "and when the best movies are made the best-paying movies, the standards of entertainment generally are bound to rise even higher."

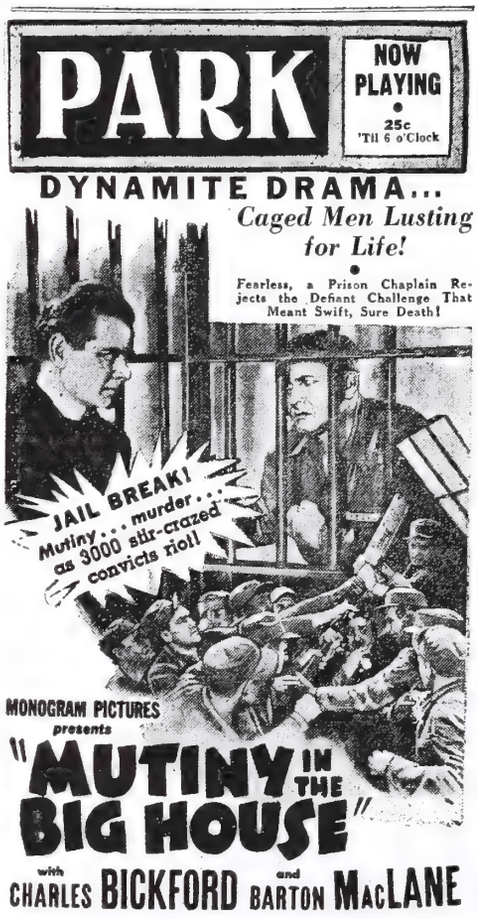
A Model of Organization

The New Haven Junior Motion Picture Council, organized about eight years ago, is offered as a model of organization and program to other school systems. The Council idea was conceived by Theatre Patrons, Inc., an adult group, which worked with the board of education to establish a motion picture club in each junior and senior high school and eighth grade, campfire and scout groups, etc., with a faculty adviser for each club. The responsibilities of the student governors have been increased to such an extent that the junior council now is practically self-functioning. Faculty advisers now hold only one general meeting at the beginning of the school term to outline general plans for the year. The clubs appoint their own committees on radio, publicity, reviews, public presentations, publications, and other branches of the activity, selecting editors and managers for their own newspaper. Practical radio experience is correlated in the form of programs on films, appreciation and reviews over local stations. At the end of each year a symposium on motion pictures is presented to the public.

In the various schools, independent projects are undertaken. Reviews of current films are written, students report on the better films to their classes and clubs, and bulletin boards displaying stills are maintained. In some clubs, original photoplays and school documentary films have been produced. The Board of Education makes an appropriation of $50 a year for the public programs, and students themselves pay dues.

Mr. Eldridge gives considerable credit to the theatre managers and distributors for their cooperation in the club work, the previews for teachers, contribution of study guides, stills, and in some instances, special prices for groups of students accompanied by a teacher.

The audio-visual director expressly points out that negative procedures such as boycotts are condemned. "The best films, it is felt, should be publicized and emphasized; the poor ignored" . . . "The endorsement of good taste and intelligence seems likely to produce more lasting benefits than any mandatory censorship . . . In other words, the approach should be constructive, if the students are to gain the maximum value from the appreciation program." It is fully realized that theatre operators want to cooperate in order to call attention to their product. However, the director states, the theatre man and the school "can coordinate their efforts with great mutual benefit simply by understanding each other's problems, resources, and objectives."



Plenty of Punch—

A typical newspaper ad on Monogram's "Mutiny in the Big House" illustrates the effective use of press-book material available on this film.

NUGGETS

AN AVERAGE of 622 calls a day was received by the Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore after Bernard Seaman, manager, placed an ad in the Baltimore *News-Post* in advance of "That's Right, You're Wrong." The ad copy read: "Students, the old professor himself has a message for you. Call PLaza 2920 for further interesting details." Boy answering the phone, imitating Kay Kyser's southern accent, told the patrons who called that Kay Kyser's picture would start there Thanksgiving Day.

●

Cashing in on the photographic craze, Manager Mac Zipperman of the Cinema Theatre in Detroit is turning over his lounge in the theatre for a series of exhibits. Work of the better local picture-snappers will be shown.

●

Arnold Stolz, manager of Warner's Avon Theatre in Utica, N. Y., arranged appearance of Captain D. R. Donaldson, British officer befriended by Edith Cavell, as local color exploitation for "Nurse Edith Cavell." Captain Donaldson related his escape from German captivity with the aid of the nurse. He also told other stories of her daring on behalf of British soldiers. Captain Donaldson now lives in Utica.

●

The type of graduation cap which Kay Kyser has made a trademark for his Kolledge of Musical Knowledge is going over in a big way in campaigns for "That's Right, You're Wrong." The "stoodent" hats are considered naturals for ushers and other members of the theatre staff and for giveaways.

●

Time is most opportune for a Christmas party in which baskets of non-perishable foodstuffs are given to the needy. Warner Chicago theatres hold their fifth annual party Thursday, December 21, at 10:30 a. m. Any quantity of a published list of foodstuffs will admit children. An effective tieup is arranged with the public schools, publicizing the Christmas basket party.

●

Leon J. Bamberger, sales promotion manager of RKO, is mailing to exhibitors throughout the United States and Canada a cleverly designed book on the "Hunchback of Notre Dame." It is of regulation size with an authentic cover and contains 16 full-page photos of scenes from the picture. A 16-page pamphlet is included as a guide on this film version of the Victor Hugo classic.

●

Double-sized window cards all over Austin, Tex., announced the Thanksgiving weekend showing of "U-Boat 29" at the Queen. Card was a punchy two-color silk-screen job, tying in current submarine warfare in European waters.

A Bang-up Campaign for M-G-M Short Subject

WEST ALLIS, WIS.—Ben Van Korn, manager of Fox's Paradise Theatre here, arranged a bang-up exploitation for M-G-M's short, "Set 'Em Up," featuring Ned Day of West Allis.

On the opening night, when Day made a personal appearance at the theatre, the house played to some 1,300 customers. The flicker did some first class business for the house.

Mayor Del Miller issued a proclamation commending the Paradise for securing "this world premiere for our city," and proclaimed a "Ned Day Day" in observance of the event.

The West Allis High School band participated by giving a concert in front of the theatre and floodlights and street banners were erected by the department of public works.

An invitation was sent to Gov. Julius Heil, an ardent bowler and close friend of Day, to attend an informal dinner at Kegel's Inn. Among those attending this dinner were Sam Shurman, local M-G-M exchange manager; Louis W. Orlove, exploiteer for M-G-M; Lowell Parmentier, Fox district theatre supervisor, and May Del Miller.

Varied Exploitation for "Cavell" in Denver

DENVER—Everything from a firing squad marching about the streets to giant blow-ups of 1915 newspaper accounts of Edith Cavell's execution featured the campaign of John D. Daman and William E. Parker, manager and assistant of the Broadway.

Ushers garbed in 1914 German army uniforms and carrying rifles escorted a pretty girl dressed as a nurse about the downtown streets. She carried a placard with copy reading "This Woman Must Die" and announcing the picture, date and theatre.

A different night was designated each evening as such and such hospital night and nurses from these particular hospitals were invited to attend.

The theatre also purchased approximately 1,000 copies of the Denver *Post* hot off the press, rushed them to a printer who over-printed the front page with huge red, wood block letters, "Germany Executes Nurse," and in smaller type, "in the motion picture 'Nurse Edith Cavell' now showing at the Broadway." Newspaper boys passed the papers out free.

Ties In 14 National Firms To Sell New Roach Film

NEW YORK—Grace Rosenfield of the Hal Roach publicity staff has arranged tieups with 14 national concerns for "The Housekeeper's Daughter." They are: Post Toasties, Rogers Silver, Louchez Hats, Singer Sewing Machine, Remington-Rand Typewriters, Folmer-Graflex camera products, Calox Tooth Powder, Silver Fox Producer's Ass'n, Servel Electrolux, Glass Coffee Brewer Corp., American Stove Co., and Wear-Ever Aluminum Fruit Juicer. Exhibitors can capitalize on the tieups for window displays with local dealers.

He Writes of Class of "Roaring Twenties"

Gloversville, N. Y.—A story prepared by Lou S. Hart, manager of the Glove, was reproduced with a picture of the 1920 graduating class of Gloversville High School as part of the campaign on "The Roaring Twenties." The original picture in the paper covered six columns. In his feature story, Hart traced the careers of most of the class of '20. The yarn made good reading since it contained news of local interest and color.

Reh Angles for Numerous Tieups on "Mr. Smith"

PHILADELPHIA—The campaign on "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" put on by Al Reh, Stanley, involved tieups on every conceivable angle. He arranged cooperative ballyhooing with Baltimore and Ohio R. R., Pennsylvania R. R., Camden Airport, Belber trunks, Dewees, pet shops, doughnut shops and tobacco and music stores.

Boy scout and women's club officials came to a special screening. H. V. Kaltenborn plugged it on his program.

And the climax was to have a telephone girl call every Smith in the directory to announce the picture about his namesake.

Farrar Tests "Ninotchka" Appeal in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—L. Ward Farrar, manager of Loew's here, employed the preview method to determine the reaction of patrons to Garbo's new comedy, "Ninotchka."

A cross-section of film fans including a doctor, business man, merchant, policeman, salesman, radio announcer, musician, student, secretary, fashion expert, professional woman, clubwoman and beauty operator was invited to the preview. After the show, they wrote out their reactions.

Lucky Hartford Ladies Get "Lubitsch Touch"

HARTFORD—Attractive young ladies of Hartford lucky enough to get the "Lubitsch touch" from a plainclothesman, were invited to see "Ninotchka" at the Loew-Poli here by Jack A. Simons, manager. Newspapers took to the idea and came across with plenty of free space. The idea, too, resulted in good word-of-mouth publicity.

Hour of Shorts

AUSTIN, TEX.—"One Solid Hour of the Season's Best Short Subjects" was emblazoned across the Capitol front and also in newspaper ads in connection with the showing of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." Shorts were a "March of Time," a Ted Husing Sportlight, a Popeye cartoon, a Merrie Melodie, and an Our Gang comedy.



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ANOTHER THIN MAN (dual)—Indianapolis 200

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ANOTHER THIN MAN (dual)—Omaha 175

FIRST LOVE (dual)—Los Angeles....175

ANOTHER THIN MAN—Cleveland, New Orleans, Portland.....160

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG (dual)—Denver, Kansas City....160

CAT AND THE CANARY—New York City 155

ANOTHER THIN MAN—Los Angeles, New Orleans 150

FIRST LOVE—Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Detroit 150

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—Salt Lake City.....150

RULERS OF THE SEA—New Orleans..150

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG—New Orleans, Omaha.....150

EXTENDED RUNS

Harvest, 10th wk., World, New York City.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 4th wk., Pittsburgh, Chicago.

Beast of Berlin, 3rd wk., Globe, New York City.

Drums Along the Mohawk, 3rd wk., Cleveland.

First Love, 3rd wk., New York City.

Housekeeper's Daughter, 3rd wk., Philadelphia.

Intermezzo, 3rd wk., Los Angeles.

Jamaica Inn, 3rd loop wk., Chicago.

Mill on the Floss, 3rd wk., Astor, New York City.

Ninotchka, 3rd wk., New York City, Portland.

Roaring Twenties, 3rd wk., New York City.

BOSTON

Fenway—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox).....110
Memorial—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **Little Accident** (Univ) 95
Metropolitan—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **Honeymoon's Over** (20th-Fox) 70
Orpheum—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Five Little Peppers** (Col), 2nd wk..... 90
Paramount—Same as Fenway 110
State—Same as Orpheum 85

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox), 1st half 90
Broadway—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para), 2nd half 100
Carolina—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox) 110
Imperial—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB), 1st half 110
Imperial—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO), 2nd half. 90
State—**Rovin' Tumbleweeds** (Rep) 100

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), held 4th wk.....110
Chicago—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), Dick Powell on stage; picture held 2nd wk. 130
Garrick—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 3rd loop wk.... 85
Oriental—**Legion of Lost Flyers** (Univ), plus stage show 90
Palace—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Call a Messenger** (Univ), held over 2nd wk...125
Roosevelt—**Disputed Passage** (Para), held 2nd wk. 110
State-Lake—**Those High Grey Walls** (Col), plus stage show, including film stars.....150
United Artists—**At the Circus** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 80

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), held over.....130
Capitol—**First Love** (Univ) 130
Keith's—**Secret of Dr. Kildare** (M-G-M).....120
Lyric—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox)..110
Palace—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO), held 130
Shubert—**Little Accident** (Univ), plus stage show 120

CLEVELAND

Allen—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 8 days, 3rd wk. 125
Hippodrome—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 8 days 115
Lake—**The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO); **Smashing the Money Ring** (WB) 85
Palace—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB). Stage: Andrew Sisters and Vaudeville, 7 days 115
State—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 8 days....160
Stillman—**Disputed Passage** (Para), 2nd wk., 8 days 85

DENVER

Aladdin—**First Love** (Univ), after a wk. at the Denver 120
Broadway—**Remember?** (M-G-M); **Three Sons** (RKO), after a wk. at the Orpheum.....100
Denham—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para), 2nd wk. 125
Denver—**Daytime Wife** (20th-Fox) 120
Orpheum—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 160
Paramount—**Rio** (Univ); **Two Bright Boys** (Univ) 120
Rialto—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox) 120

DETROIT

Adams—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), after two weeks at the Fox; **Stop, Look and Love** (20th-Fox) 140
Cinema—**Lucrezia Borgia** (SR), 3rd wk.....120
Fox—**First Love** (Univ); **20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox). 150
Michigan—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M)....125
Palms-State—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para), after 1 wk. at the Michigan; **Remember?** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., after 1 wk. at the United Artists..100
United Artists—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 120

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Coast Guard** (Col); **Phantom Strikes** (Mono) 75
Apollo—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk., move-over from Circle 50
Circle—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB). Dead End Kids and Martha Raye in person..120
Indiana—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO), 8 days.....110
Loew's—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 200
Lyric—**Main Street Lawyer** (Rep), plus stage show 85

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox).....115
Midland—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M).....180
Newman—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 125
Orpheum—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Smashing the Money Ring** (WB).....160
Tower—**Laugh It Off** (Univ), plus stage show.100
Uptown—Same as Esquire 120

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (20th-Fox).....150
Downtown—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk. 90
Four Star—**Intermezzo** (UA), 3rd wk..... 80
Hillstreet—**First Love** (Univ); **Three Sons** (RKO) 175
Hollywood—Same as Downtown 90
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet 175
Paramount—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para), plus stage show 90
State—Same as Chinese 175

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 100
Riverside—**Behind Prison Gates** (Col), plus stage show 100
Strand—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox) 110
Warner—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO) 125
Wisconsin—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 135

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Beware, Spooks!** (Col); **Three Sons** (RKO) 90
Century—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 90
Esquire—**Secret of Stamboul** (SR)..... 70
Gopher—**On Your Toes** (FN) 80
Minnesota—**S.O.S. Tidal Wave** (Rep), plus stage show, **Hugh Herbert** 150
Orpheum—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk..... 95
State—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 85
World—**Two Hearts in Waltz Time** (Foreign), reissue 90

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Blondie Brings Up Baby** (Col).....100
Globe—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M) 90
Liberty—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 4th wk., Liberty 2, Orpheum 2.....100
Orpheum—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO).150
Saenger—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para).....150
State—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M).....160
Tudor—**What a Life** (Para).....100

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Mill on the Floss** (Standard), 2nd wk...100
Capitol—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M).....150
Criterion—**Mystery of Dr. X** (WB).....110
Globe—**Beast of Berlin** (PDC), 2nd wk.....120
Paramount—**Cat and the Canary** (Para), plus stage show 155
Radio City Music Hall—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 3rd wk., plus stage show.....145
Rivoli—**First Love** (Univ), 3rd wk..... 90
Roxy—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox), plus stage show. 110
Strand—**Roaring Twenties** (WB), 3rd wk. plus stage show. 100

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**Disputed Passage** (Para)..... 90
Liberty—**What a Life** (Para); **Television Spy** (Para) 125
Midwest—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para).....125
Plaza—**First Love** (Univ), moveover from Criterion 80
State—**They Shall Have Music** (UA)..... 80
Tower—**Honeymoon in Bali** (Para), moveover from Midwest 95

OMAHA

Brandeis—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Espionage Agent** (FN) 150
Omaha—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (20th-Fox)..175
Orpheum—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **Rio** (Univ). 100
Paramount—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M); Stage: Cab Calloway and Cotton Club Revue.....110
State—**Hell's Angels** (SR); **Sky Devils** (SR), both reissues. 110

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**The Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA), 3rd wk. 105
Boyd—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 145
Earle—**The Secret of Dr. Kildare** (M-G-M), plus stage show headed by **Louella Parsons**..155
Fox—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox) 80
Karlton—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 135
Keith's—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk.....125
Stanley—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk. 125
Stanton—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO) 130

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 85
Barry—**Mutiny on the Blackhawk** (Univ); **Triumph of Sherlock Holmes** (SR)..... 80
Fulton—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk.....150
Penn—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 90
Senator—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 4th wk. 125
Stanley—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB); Hal Kemp and Rufe Davis stage show.125
Warner—**On Your Toes** (FN); **Full Confession** (RKO) 60

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Remember?** (M-G-M); **Fast and Furious** (M-G-M) 120
United Artists—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 160
Paramount—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 2nd wk.; **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (Col) 110
Mayfair—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Little Accident** (Univ), both 3rd wk.; transfers.....110
Liberty—**Cat and the Canary** (Para); **What a Life** (Para)..... 90
Orpheum—**Outside These Walls** (Col); **Covered Trailer** (Rep). Blackstone on stage.....105

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M); **Law of the Pampas** (Para) 105
Centre—**The Real Glory** (UA) 105
Gem—**She Married a Cop** (Rep); **They Made Her a Spy** (RKO) 105
Paramount—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M).....110
Rialto—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO)....105
Studio—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col)..150
Utah—**Jamaica Inn** (Para); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox) 110

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

A

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M) Feb. 18 923
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26 005
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue Sept. 30.
All Women Have Secrets (Para) Dec. 9 3914
Allegheny Uprising (RKO) Oct. 28 006
Amazing Mr. Williams (Col) Nov. 25 7
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5 367
Another Thin Man (M-G-M) Nov. 18 13
Arizona Kid (Rep) Oct. 7..... 951
Asking for Trouble (GB).....8012
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col), reissue.....1072

B

Babes in Arms (M-G-M) Sept. 23 9
Bad Lands (RKO) July 29..... 933
Bad Little Angel (M-G-M) Oct. 28 10
Balalaika (M-G-M) 17
Barricade (20th-Fox) Dec. 2..... 026
Beau Geste (Para) July 29....3902
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Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16... 3
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col) Nov. 11 1013
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C

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Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16 912
Cat and the Canary (Para) Oct. 7 3909
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 12 006
Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (20th-Fox) Nov. 25 021
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3 948
Charlie McCarthy, Detective (Univ) .....
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox) Aug. 19 002
Chip of the Flying U (Univ)...
Cisco Kid and the Lady (20th-Fox) Dec. 2 012
City of Chance (20th-Fox).....
Congo Maisie (M-G-M) .....
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2..... 935
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Cowboys From Texas (Rep) Dec. 9 962
Crashing Through (Mono) Nov. 4 3936

D

Dancing Co-ed (M-G-M) Sept. 30 3
Danger Ahead (Mono) .....
Danger Flight (Mono) Nov. 4...3816
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Days of Jesse James (Rep)..... 953
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E

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Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 946

F

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Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38 3831
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G

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Geronimo! (Para) Nov. 25.....
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H

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Hunchback of Notre Dame (RKO) 015

I

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J

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L

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M

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Miracle of Main Street (Col)...1032
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P

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Q

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R

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S

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Saga of Death Valley (Rep) Dec. 2 952
Sagebrush Trail (Mono) reissue
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This Man Is News (Para) July 29 3865
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Two-Fisted Rangers (Col).....
Two Thoroughbreds (RKO) Dec. 2 013
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28 013

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2..... 10

V

Vigil in the Night (RKO).....

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
We Are Not Alone (FN) Nov. 11.. 458
West of Carson City (Univ)....4061
West of the Divide (Mono).....
Westbound Stage (Mono) 3952
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ) Aug. 19 3003
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19. 949
Woman Who Dared (Rep).....
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2.. 1

Y

Yukon Flight (Mono) 3938

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939-40, Unless Otherwise Specified.

◎Indicates short of the week.

◎Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

Andy Clyde Gets Spring Chicken (..) .....Dec. 15
Glove Slingers (..) .....Nov. 24
Now It Can Be Sold (17)...June 2
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17) .....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Teacher's Pest (16½).....Nov. 3
The Awful Goof (..) .....Dec. 22
The Chump Takes a Bump (18) .....May 5
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18) .....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..) .....Aug. 11

CINESCOPES

World of 1960 (Futurama) (..) .....Nov. 24

COLOR RHAPSODIES

A Boy, a Gun and Birds (..) .....Jan. 12, '40
Crop Chasers (8) .....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (6½) .....
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7) .....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7) .....May 26
Mother Goose in Swingtime (..) .....Dec. 8
Mountain Ears (7½) .....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7) .....June 30
The House That Jack Built (7) .....Apr. 14

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (..).Nov. 17
Historic Cities of India (10).....
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions) ..(9½) .....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10) .....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)...Oct. 27
Morocco (10) .....Aug. 11
New Hampshire (..).....Dec. 22
Sojourn in India (..) .....July 7

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 3 (College Songs) (10) .....
No. 4 (Stephen Foster Songs) (..) .....Nov. 17
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11)...Apr. 21
No. 9 Songs of the West (10) .....May 19
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16

FABLES CARTOON

Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6
Park Your Baby (..).....Dec. 22

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

Elias Howe (11) .....
No. 1 Charles Goodyear (10½).Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10).....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (11) .....Oct. 12
No. 3 (11) .....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6).....May 12

MUSIC HALL VANITIES
(New series)

Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10)...May 19

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..).....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1
The Mouse Exterminator (..) .....Jan. 26, '40

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7).....Apr. 28
Scrappy's Rodeo (6) .....June 2

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 18)

No. 1 (..) .....Sept. 15
No. 2 (10) .....Oct. 20
No. 7 (10) .....Mar. 17
No. 8 (9½) .....Apr. 8
No. 9 (10) .....May 12
No. 10 (10) .....May 26
No. 11 (10) .....June 29
No. 12 (10) .....July 28

(Series 19)

No. 1 Art of Make-Up (9½)....
No. 2 Training Animal Stars (..) .....Nov. 10
No. 3 .....Dec. 1
No. 4 .....Jan. 5, '40

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10) .....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (9½).....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5
Jai Alai (..) .....Nov. 17
Jockeys Up (10½) .....June 2
Technique of Tennis (8½)...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½) .....Apr. 7
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½) .....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17).....June 30
Three Sappy People (18½).....
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16) .....May 19

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (10½) Smithsonian Institute .....Oct. 20
No. 2 Inside the White House (11) .....Feb. 21
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10) .....May 26
No. 4 Library of Congress (10) .....Aug. 4
Smithsonian Institute .....Nov. 10

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (..) .....
Help Wanted (21).....June 10
While America Sleeps (21) .....Apr. 15

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11) .....Sept. 2
Colorful Curacao (9) .....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Picturesque Udaipur (8).....May 13
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10).....May 13
Ice Antics (9) .....Feb. 11
Prophets Without Honor (11) .....May 20
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11).....May 27

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15
Somewhat Secret (21).....Mar. 25

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)

◎Art Gallery (9) .....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11) .....July 15
◎Little Gold Fish (8).....Apr. 15
◎The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9) .....June 10

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY

Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Auto Antics (10) .....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11) .....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29
Dog Daze (11) .....July 1
Duel Personalities (10).....Mar. 11
Joy Scouts (10) .....June 24

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia...June 24
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11) .....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10).Mar. 18
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia .....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9) .....July 1
Football Thrills of 1938 (..).Sept. 16
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cure (Sepia) (9)....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).....Apr. 8

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9).....Mar. 18
Dark Magic (10) .....May 13
Home Early (9) .....May 27
How to Eat (10) .....June 10
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7)....May 12
Rhythm on the Reservation (7) .....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7).Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7).....June 9
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8) .....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES
(New Series in Cinecolor)

Chile (10) .....Nov. 10
Ecuador (10) .....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10) .....May 26
Peru (9) .....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10) .....Sept. 8
Here's Hal (10) .....Nov. 24
Hal Kemp and orchestra.
Moments of Charm of 1940 (Cinecolor) (11) .....Oct. 27
Phil Spitalny and Girl Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10) .....May 5
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10) .....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10).....June 2
Richard Himber and his orchestra.
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10) .....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Three Kings and a Queen (11) .....Apr. 7
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Bits of Life (11).....Nov. 17
Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10).....Oct. 20
Farewell Vienna (10) .....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10).....Apr. 14
Public Hobby Number One (11) .....Sept. 22
Swans (10) .....May 19

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 9 (10) .....Apr. 7
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11) .....May 5
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and sons of the year.
No. 11 (10) .....June 2
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10) .....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

◎Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22) .....Apr. 7
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7).....June 16
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7) .....July 28
Leave Well Enough Alone (7) .....Apr. 28
Never Sock a Baby (6).....Nov. 3
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

No. 5 (11) .....May 12
No. 6 (11) .....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-I (11) .....Sept. 15
No. J9-2 (10) .....Nov. 3

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

Aqua-Rhythm (10) .....Nov. 24
A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
A Dog Is Born (10).....Nov. 3
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10)....June 9
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12
Good Skates (10) .....Apr. 14
Ice skating with champions.
Hydro-Maniacs (10) .....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10).....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.

The Blue Danube Waltz (10).Sept. 29
Merry Wives of Windsor (9)..Oct. 27
William Tell (11) .....Nov. 24

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

No. 1 (11) .....Oct. 13
No. 2 (11) .....Nov. 17
No. 5 (10) .....Apr. 14

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

◎Autograph Hound, The (8)..Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9
Donald's Cousin Gus (7).....May 19
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8).....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
The Pointer (8) .....July 21
◎The Hockey Champ (7)....Apr. 7
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15) .....May 19
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28
Kennedy the Great (19).....Dec. 1
Slightly at Sea (16).....Feb. 9

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Sales Slips (17) .....July 21

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Moving Vanities (17).....May 5
Ring Madness (19).....June 30
Scrappily Married (20).....Jan. 12
Truth Aches (19) .....Nov. 3

MARCH OF TIME

No. 9 (19) ..... **Apr. 14**
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20) ..... **May 12**
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19) ..... **June 9**
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22) ..... **July 7**
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18) ..... **Aug. 4**
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19) ..... **Sept. 1**
Soldiers with wings.
No. 2 (19) ..... **Sept. 29**
The Battle Fleets of England.
No. 3 (18) ..... **Oct. 27**
Uncle Sam—The Farmer.
No. 4 (19) ..... **Nov. 24**
Newsfronts of War—1940.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11) ..... **May 12**
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11) ..... **Apr. 14**
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11) ..... **Sept. 8**
No. 2 (11) ..... **Oct. 6**
No. 3 (10) ..... **Nov. 3**

PATHE NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16) .... **Oct. 20**
Chicken Feed (18) ..... **Dec. 29**
Coat Tales (18) ..... **Nov. 17**
Dog-Gone (16) ..... **Apr. 21**
Marriage-Go-Round (18) ..... **July 28**

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Devil Drivers (9) ..... **June 16**
Hunting Hounds (9) ..... **Sept. 29**
Ice Cutters (9) ..... **Oct. 27**
Kennel Kings (9) ..... **Aug. 11**
Riding the Crest (9) ..... **July 14**
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9) ..... **May 19**
The golfers show how it's done.
Winter Playground (9) ..... **Nov. 24**

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Bandits and Ballads (17) .... **Dec. 15**
Ranch House Romeo (17) ..... **Apr. 7**
Sagebrush Serenade (19) ..... **June 16**

REELISMS (New Series)

Acres of Plenty (9) ..... **Oct. 13**
Air Waves (10) ..... **Mar. 10**
American Royal (9) ..... **Nov. 10**
Nevada Unlimited (8) ..... **Sept. 15**
Pack Trip (9) ..... **Aug. 18**
Soldiers of the Sea (9) ..... **Apr. 7**
Swinguet (8) ..... **May 26**
Television (9) ..... **May 5**
World of Tomorrow (9) ..... **June 23**
Zoo (9) ..... **July 21**

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19) ..... **July 21**
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) **Aug. 18**
Filming the Fleet (11) ..... **Oct. 27**
Sand Hogs (10) ..... **May 12**

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10) ..... **Sept. 1**
Clocking the Jockeys (11) .... **Nov. 24**
Inside Baseball (11) ..... **Apr. 14**
Sports Immortals (11) ..... **June 23**

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11) **Aug. 4**
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11) .. **Nov. 10**

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..) .. **July 7**
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10) **Sept. 15**
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..) .. **Dec. 22**

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS

Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10) ..... **Sept. 29**
Muscle Maulers (11) ..... **Apr. 14**
The Silly Season (..) ..... **Dec. 8**

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..) ..... **May 26**
Mystic Siam (10) ..... **Mar. 17**
Tempest Over Tunis (11) .... **June 9**
The Evergreen Empire (..) .. **Oct. 13**

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..) ..... **June 16**
A Mouse and a Million (..) ... **Nov. 3**
Africa Squawks (7) ..... **June 30**
Barnyard Baseball (7) ..... **July 14**
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) **May 5**
Hook, Line and Sinker (7) .. **Sept. 8**
Nick's Coffee Pot (7) ..... **May 19**
Sheep in the Meadow (7) .... **Sept. 22**
The Cuckoo Bird (7) ..... **April 7**
The First Robin (..) ..... **Dec. 29**
The Golden West (7) ..... **Aug. 25**
The Hitch-Hiker (..) ..... **Dec. 1**
The Old Fire Horse (..) .... **July 28**
The Orphan Duck (7) ..... **Oct. 6**
The Prize Guest (7) ..... **June 2**
The Watchdog (..) ..... **Oct. 20**
Their Last Bean (7) ..... **April 21**
Two Headed Giant (7) .... **Aug. 11**
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) **Nov. 17**

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7) .. **Sept. 4**
Bird on Nellie's Hat ..... **June 19**
Bola Mola Land (7) ..... **May 29**
Charlie Cuckoo (7) ..... **Apr. 30**
Crack Pot Cruise (7) ..... **Apr. 10**
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8) ..... **Oct. 9**
Nellie of the Circus (7) ..... **May 8**
Scrambled Eggs (9) ..... **Nov. 20**
Silly Superstition (7) ..... **Aug. 28**
Slap Happy Valley (7) ..... **Aug. 21**
Sleeping Princess (9) .....
Snuffy's Party (7) ..... **Aug. 7**
Stubborn Mule (7) ..... **July 31**
The Sleeping Princess (9) .. **Nov. 20**

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 62 (9) ..... **Apr. 10**
No. 63 (9) ..... **May 15**
No. 64 (9) ..... **June 26**
No. 65 (9) ..... **July 17**
No. 66 (9) ..... **Sept. 25**
No. 67 (9) ..... **Oct. 16**
No. 68 (9) ..... **Nov. 13**
No. 69 (8) ..... **Dec. 11**
No. 70 (8) ..... **Dec. 25**

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19) ..... **Mar. 15**
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17) ..... **Apr. 12**
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18) ..... **July 12**
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Pharmacy Follies (18) ..... **May 17**
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18) ..... **June 14**
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17) ..... **Aug. 9**
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7) ..... **Aug. 15**

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 61 (9) ..... **Apr. 3**
No. 62 (9) ..... **May 1**
No. 63 (9) ..... **June 5**
No. 64 (..) ..... **July 3**
No. 65 (9) ..... **Aug. 7**
No. 66 (8½) ..... **Sept. 18**
No. 67 (9) ..... **Oct. 9**
No. 68 (9) ..... **Nov. 6**
No. 69 (9) ..... **Dec. 4**
No. 70 (9) ..... **Dec. 18**
No. 71 (..) ..... **Jan. 8**

TWO REEL MUSICALS

Rhumba Land (18½) ..... **Nov. 15**
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17) ..... **Sept. 6**
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Snow Follies (..) ..... **Dec. 13**
Lillian Roth, King Sisters, Bruce Holden, Consolo and Melba, Morell Sisters and Billy, Ann Triolo, Lola Jensen and Fonchonettes.
Swing Hotel (18) ..... **Oct. 18**
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21) ..... **Sept. 6**

UNIVERSAL NEWS

Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (20) ..... **Mar. 25**
A Swing Opera (20) ..... **July 22**
Broadway Buckaroo (20) ..... **June 3**
Home Cheap Home (20) ..... **Mar. 18**
Projection Room (20) ..... **Mar. 4**
Rollin' in Rhythm (20) ..... **Apr. 15**
Seeing Red (20) ..... **Aug. 26**
Seeing Spots (20) ..... **Apr. 29**
Slapsie Maxie (17) ..... **Sept. 10**
You're Next to Closing (20) ..... **May 13**
Wardrobe Girl (20) ..... **June 17**

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

American Saddle Horses (..) **Nov. 11**
For Your Convenience (10) ..... **May 20**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10) ..... **Sept. 30**
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10) ..... **Feb. 25**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4 .. **Apr. 22**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (9) ..... **June 10**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10) ..... **Aug. 5**
Modern Methods (9) ..... **July 15**
The Roving Camera (10) ... **Mar. 25**

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7) ..... **Apr. 1**
Jeepers Creepers (7) ..... **Sept. 23**
Naughty Neighbors (7) ..... **Oct. 7**
Pied Piper Porky (..) ..... **Nov. 4**
Polar Pals (7) ..... **June 3**
Porky and Teabiscuit (7) ..... **Apr. 22**
Porky, the Giant Killer (..) .. **Nov. 18**
Porky's Hotel (7) ..... **Sept. 2**
Porky's Movie Mystery (7) .. **Mar. 11**
Porky's Picnic (7) ..... **July 15**
Christopher Columbus jr. (7) ..... **May 13**
Scalp Trouble (7) ..... **June 24**
Wise Quack (7) ..... **Aug. 5**

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10) ..... **Apr. 29**
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10) ..... **Mar. 18**
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (10) ..... **Apr. 8**
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10) ..... **Aug. 12**
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10) ..... **May 20**
Leith Stevens & Orch. (10) ..... **June 10**
Rita Rio & Orch. (10) ..... **July 1**
Rubinoff and His Orchestra (10) ..... **Nov. 11**
Swing Styles (10) ..... **Sept. 2**
Vincent Lopez and Orch. (10) ..... **Sept. 30**
Will Osborne & Orch. (..) ..... **July 22**

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

Bars and Stripes Forever (7) **Apr. 8**
Believe It or Else (7) ..... **June 3**
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7) ..... **Apr. 22**
Dangerous Dan McFoo (7) ..... **July 15**
Detouring America (7) ..... **Aug. 26**
Fagin's Freshmen (..) ..... **Nov. 18**
Fresh Fish (7) ..... **Nov. 4**
Goldrush Daze (7) ..... **Feb. 25**
Good Egg, The (7) ..... **Oct. 21**
Hare-um Scare-um (7) ..... **Aug. 12**
Land of the Midnight Sun (7) ..... **Oct. 7**
Little Brother Rat (7) ..... **Sept. 2**
Little Lion Hunter (7) ..... **Oct. 7**
Naughty But Mice (7) ..... **May 20**
Old Glory (10) ..... **July 1**
Prest-O Change-O (7) ..... **Mar. 25**
Robinhood Makes Good (7) .. **Feb. 11**
Sioux Me (7) ..... **Sept. 9**
Snow Man's Land (7) ..... **July 29**
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7) ... **May 6**

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (20) ..... **Aug. 12**
Quiet Please (18) ..... **July 1**
Royal Rodeo (..) ..... **Nov. 25**
Sons of the Plains (19) ..... **July 30**
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20) ..... **May 20**
The Monroe Doctrine (16) .. **Oct. 14**

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10) .... **Feb. 18**

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (10) ..... **Apr. 15**
Dean of the Pasteboards (10) ..... **May 27**
One Day Stand (10) ..... **Aug. 19**
Sword Fishing (10) ..... **Oct. 21**
Tax Trouble (10) ..... **Mar. 18**
Vote Trouble (10) ..... **Sept. 9**
Witness Trouble (10) ..... **July 29**

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11) .. **Mar. 4**
Chained (11) ..... **Apr. 1**
Haunted House (11) ..... **June 3**
Lives in Peril (11) ..... **July 7**
Three-Minute Fuse (11) ..... **July 29**
Verge of Disaster (10) ..... **Aug. 26**
Voodoo Fires (11) ..... **May 6**

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician ..... **May 6**
12 chapters.
Secret of Treasure Island ... **Mar. 17**
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.
The Shadow ..... **Jan. 5, '40**
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters ..... **June 10**
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.
Dick Tracy's G-Men ..... **Sept. 2**
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.
Zorro's Fighting Legion ..... **Dec. 16**
12 Chapters. Reed Hadley.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers (..) ..... **Apr. 11**
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.
Green Hornet ..... **Jan. 9**
13 Chapters. Gordon Jones, Wade Boteler, Anne Nagel.
Oregon Trail (15 chapters) ... **July 4**
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.
The Phantom Creeps ..... **Oct. 17**
12 Chapters. Bela Lugosi, Robert Kent, Dorothy Arnold.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol ✪ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ✪ indicates color photography.

	AUGUST 12	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 16
COLUMBIA		17 Melodrama 9018 **Man They Could Not Hang** (64) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 19	22 Comedy Drama 9017 **Five Little Peppers** (60) Edith Fellows 23 Western 9209 **Riders of Black River** (59) C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	30 Wild Horse 9034 **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (65) R—Nov. 11	5 Drama 9002 **Golden Boy** (100) Stanwyck-Holden R—Aug. 19 7 Mystery Drama 1025 **Hidden Power** (60) Jack Holt-Gert. Michael R—May 29	14 Outdoor Action 120 **Outpost of the Mountie** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredi (63) R—Dec. 2
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	11 Drama 947 **Lady of the Tropics** (91) Hedy Lamarr Robt. Taylor R—Aug. 12	18 Comedy Drama 948 **These Glamour Girls** (79) Lew Ayres-Lana Turner Anita Louise R—Aug. 26	25 Comedy Fantasy 949 ✪ **Wizard of Oz** (102) Judy Garland Frank Morgan R—Aug. 19	1 Comedy Drama 1 **The Women** (134) Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 2	8 Melodrama 5 **Blackmail** (79) Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16	15 Drama **Thunder Afloat** (94) Wallace Beery Chester Morris Virginia Grey R—Sept. 23
MONOGRAM		15 Drama with Mus. 3825 **Girl From Rio** (62) Movita-Warren Hull R—Aug. 12 16 Western 3866 **Riders of Frontier** (58) Tex Ritter R—Sept. 9	25 Western 3856 **Oklahoma Terror** (52) Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 22 Melodrama 3826 **Irish Luck** (61) F. Darro-D. Purcell R—Aug. 26			12 Action Drama 381 **Sky Patrol** (61) John Trent Marjorie Reynolds R—Sept. 23
PARAMOUNT	11 Comedy Drama 3850 **Our Leading Citizen** (90) Bob Burns Susan Hayward Gene Lockhart R—Aug. 5	18 Melodrama 3865 **This Man Is News** (75) Barry K. Barnes V. Hobson R—July 29 18 Western 3859 **Renegade Trail** (58) William Boyd R. Hayden R—July 29	25 Musical Comedy 3851 **Star Maker** (94) Bing Crosby Louise Campbell R—Aug. 19	1 Melodrama 3901 **Death of a Champion** (66) Lynne Overman Virginia Dale R—Sept. 2	8 Western 3954 **Range War** (66) Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden R—Aug. 12	15 Drama 390 **Beau Geste** (114) Gary Cooper Ray Milland R—July 29
REPUBLIC	10 Western 868 **New Frontier** (56) Three Mesquiteers R—Aug. 19	14 Western 847 **In Old Monterey** (70) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—July 29	21 Action Drama 825 **Smuggled Cargo** (61) Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay R—Aug. 26	28 Drama 911 **Flight at Midnight** (66) Phil Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner R—Sept. 2	6 Western 857 **Wall Street Cowboy** (66) Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9	
RKO RADIO	11 Western 933 **Bad Lands** (65) R. Barrat-N. Berry jr. R—July 29	18 Drama 936 **In Name Only** (92) Carole Lombard Cary Grant Kay Francis R—Aug. 12		1 Melodrama 935 **Conspiracy** (59) Allan Lane-Linda Hayes R—Sept. 2	8 Western 986 **Fighting Gringo** (60) Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2 8 Drama 003 **Full Confession** (72) V. McLaglen-S. Ellers R—Aug. 26	15 Comedy 00 **Day the Bookies Wept** (65) Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9
20TH-FOX	11 Comedy Drama 002 **Chicken Wagon Family** (65) Jane Withers Leo Carrillo Marjorie Weaver R—Aug. 19	18 Adventure Drama 003 **Stanley and Livingstone** (100) Spencer Tracy Nancy Kelly Richard Greene R—Aug. 5	25 Comedy 004 **Quick Millions** (61) (The Jones Family) Jed Prouty Spring Byington R—Aug. 5	1 Detective Drama 005 **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (85) Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26	8 Melodrama 006 **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (73) Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore R—Aug. 12	15 Drama 01 **The Rains Came** (103) Myrna Loy-Tyrone Powe George Brent R—Sept. 16
UNITED ARTS.	11 Melodrama **Man in the Iron Mask** (110) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—July 8	18 Drama with Music **They Shall Have Music** (120) Andrea Leeds Joel McCrea Jascha Heifetz R—July 15				
UNIVERSAL	11 Drama 3003 **When Tomorrow Comes** (90) Charles Boyer Irene Dunne R—Aug. 19			1 Comedy Drama 10 **Under-Pup** (88) Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey R—Sept. 2 1 Outdoor Drama 4051 **Mutiny on the Black Hawk** (66) R—June 24 R. Arlen-A. Devine	8 Musical Comedy 24 **Hawaiian Nights** (65) Downs-Carlisle; R-Aug. 26 8 Western 4058 **Desperate Trails** (58) John Mack Brown Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight R—Oct. 21	15 Drama 40 **Two Bright Boys** (70) Jackie Cooper Freddie Bartholomew R—Sept. 23 8 Musical 40 **Mikado** (91) Kenny Baker; R-Jan.
WARNER-F.N.	12 Comedy WB326 **Torchy Plays With Dynamite** (59) Jane Wyman Allen Jenkins R—Aug. 5	19 Drama FN356 **Each Dawn I Die** (92) James Cagney Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan R—July 22	26 Comedy FN376 **Hobby Family, The** (54) Irene Rich-H. O'Neill R—Aug. 26 26 Drama FN367 **Angels Wash Their Faces** (96) Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5	2 Drama FN452 **The Old Maid** (95) Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins R—Aug. 5	9 Com. Melo. WB419 **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (60) Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas R—Aug. 26	16 Drama FN4 **Dust Be My Destiny** (8 John Garfield Priscilla Lane R—Aug. 19
MISCELLANEOUS						

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14	OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28
21 Drama **1015** **Those High Grey Walls** (82) Walter Connolly **ris Meredith** R—Sept. 30		7 Action Drama **1010** **U-Boat 29** (77) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23		19 Comedy Drama **1101** **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (125) **Jean Arthur** James Stewart; R-Oct. 14 16 Drama **1031** **Scandal Sheet** (67) Otto Kruger R—Oct. 28	24 Comedy **1011** **Beware Spooks!** (65) **Joe E. Brown** Mary Carlisle R—Oct. 28 29 Drama **1032** **Miracle of Main Street (78)** Walter Abel-Margo
	29 Comedy Drama **3** **Dancing Co-ed** (81) **Lana Turner** **Richard Carlson** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy **6** **Fast and Furious** (73) Ann Sothern Franchot Tone R—Oct. 14	13 Musical Comedy **9** **Babes in Arms** (97) Mickey Rooney Judy Garland R—Sept. 23	20 Comedy **8** **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14	27 Comedy Drama **10** **Bad Little Angel** (77) Virginia Weidler Henry Hull R—Oct. 28
	30 Documentary **3831** **Fight for Peace** (68) R—Apr. 23, '38	1 Outdoor Drama **3936** **Crashing Thru** (56) **James Newell** **Jean Carmen** R—Nov. 4		20 Western **Riders of Destiny** (54) (Reissue) John Wayne 20 Western **Sagebrush Trail** (55) (Reissue) John Wayne	1 Action Drama **3816** **Danger Flight (61)** John Trent R—Nov. 4 25 Drama **3803** **Mutiny in the Big House** (84) C. Bickford-B. MacLane R—Oct. 21
2 Comedy **3903** **,000 a Touchdown** (71) **oe E. Brown** **artha Raye** —Sept. 30	29 Comedy Drama **3904** **Honeymoon in Bali** (96) **(For. My Love for Yours)** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16	6 Comedy **3905** **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23	13 Drama **3906** **Jamaica Inn (106)** Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**	20 Drama **3907** **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14	27 Drama **3908** **Disputed Passage** (87) Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff John Howard R—Oct. 21
] Melodrama **912** **alling All Marines** (65) onald Barry elen Mack —Sept. 16	29 Western **951** **Arizona Kid** (61) **Roy Rogers** **Sally March** R—Oct. 7	6 Western **961** **Kansas Terrors** (57) **Three Mesquiteers** R—Oct. 21	13 Action Drama **913** **Sabotage** (69) **Arleen Whelan** **Gordon Oliver** R—Oct. 14		27 Drama with Music **Jeepers Creepers** (69) Weaver Bros. & Elviry Roy Rogers R—Nov. 4
Comedy Drama **934** **ifth Avenue Girl** (80) **nger Rogers** **.mes Ellison** —Aug. 26	29 Drama **001** **Nurse Edith Cavell** (95) Anna Neagle George Sanders **R—Aug. 26**	6 Musical **946** **Everything's on Ice** (65) Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9	13 Drama **004** **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis Virginia Vale R—Sept. 30		27 Drama **012** **Sued for Libel** (65) K. Taylor-L. Hayes R—Oct. 21
Comedy **008** **op, Look and Love** (57) **an Rogers** **illiam Frawley** —Sept. 2	29 Drama **009** **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30	6 Melodrama **010** **The Escape** (62) Kane Richmond Allan Duff R—Nov. 11	13 Musical **007** **Hollywood Cavalcade**(96) Alice Faye-Don Ameche R—Oct. 7 13 Drama **061** **Road to Glory** (101) (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter	20 Comedy **018** **Shipyard Sally (80)** Gracie Fields S. Howard R—Dec. 9 20 Comedy **014** **Pack Up Your Troubles** (75) Jane Withers R—Oct. 14	27 Action Drama **013** **20,000 Men a Year** (84) R. Scott-M. Healy R—Oct. 28 27 Documentary **062** **First World War** (78) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34
Drama **termezzo, A Love Story** (70) **slie Howard** **grid Bergman** **hn Halliday** —Oct. 7	29 Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) **Gary Cooper** **Andrea Leeds** R—Sept. 23		12 Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) **Loretta Young** **David Niven** R—Oct. 7		26 Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughter** (80) **Joan Bennett-Wm. Gargan** **Adolphe Menjou** R—Sept. 16
Melodrama **4027** **e Witness Vanishes** (66) Lowe-W. Barrie	29 Drama **Rio** (77) **Sigrid Gurie** **Basil Rathbone** R—Sept. 30	6 Comedy **4035** **Hero for a Day** (66) Anita Louise-Dick Foran 29 Drama Reissue **All Quiet on the Western Front** (93) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 30	13 Drama **4052** **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16	20 Western **4059** **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) **Johnny Mack Brown** R—Dec. 9	27 Comedy **4019** **Little Accident** (65) Sandy Henville Florence Rice R—Nov. 4
Comedy **FN469** **Place to Go** (57) **d Stone** **ria Dickson** **nis Morgan** —Sept. 23		30 Melodrama **FN462** **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30 7 Melodrama **WB418** **Pride of the Blue Grass** (65) R—Sept. 23 E. Fellows-J. McCallion	14 Musical **FN463** **On Your Toes** (94) Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14	21 Melodrama **FN470** **Smashing the Money Ring** (56) **Ronald Reagan** **Margot Stevenson** **R—Oct. 21**	28 Drama **WB403** **Roaring Twenties** (104) James Cagney Priscilla Lane R—Oct. 21
					22 Melodrama **P-D-C** **Torture Ship** (57) **Lyle Talbot** **Irving Pichel** **Jacqueline Wells**

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

MAY, 1940						
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JULY, 1940						
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	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9
COLUMBIA	[2] Western **1202** **Stranger From Texas** (55) Charles Starrett	[9] Comedy **1013** **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (69) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 11		[23] Mystery Comedy **7** **The Amazing Mr. Williams** (86) Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas R—Nov. 25	[30] Drama **1030** **Cafe Hostess** (63) Preston Foster Ann Dvorak	[17] Drama **10..** **Fugitive at Large** (66) J. Holt-P. Ellis R-Aug. [7] Western **121** **Taming of the West** (54 B. Elliott-I. Meredith R—Oct. 21
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	[3] Comedy Drama **7** **Ninotchka** (110) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas R—Oct. 14	[10] Drama **11** **Remember?** (81) Robert Taylor Greer Garson R—Nov. 11	[17] Comedy Drama **13** **Another Thin Man** (102) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Nov. 18	[24] Drama **12** **Secret of Dr. Kildare** (85) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Nov. 25	[1] Comedy Drama **14** **Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President** (69) Ann Sothern Walter Brennan R—Dec. 9	[8] Comedy **Henry Goes Arizona** (.. Frank Morgan Virginia Weidler
MONOGRAM	[31] Western **3857** **Overland Mail** (53) **Jack Randall** R—Nov. 18	[5] Action Drama **3937** **Fighting Mad** (60) James Newell [7] Melodrama **3919** **Heroes in Blue** (61) D. Purcell-B. Hayes R—Nov. 18	[15] Mystery Drama **3923** **Phantom Strikes** (58) Sonnie Hale Wilfred Lawson R—Nov. 18	[25] Western **3951** **Roll, Wagons, Roll** (53) Tex Ritter	[5] Action Drama **3938** **Yukon Flight** (..) **James Newill**	[10] Western **Reissu** **West of the Divide** (55 John Wayne [10] Western **Reissu** **Lucky Texan** (56) John Wayne
PARAMOUNT	[3] Western **3955** **Law of the Pampas** (72) **Wm. Boyd** R—Oct. 21	[10] Melodrama **3909** **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7	[17] Drama **3910** **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	[24] Comedy **3911** **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (85) Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter R—Nov. 11	[1] Drama **3912** **Night of Nights** (87) Pat O'Brien Olympe Bradna R—Dec. 2	[8] Western **39** **Llano Kid** (69) **Tito Guizar** **Gale Sondergaard** R—Nov. 11
REPUBLIC	[3] Drama **905** **Main Street Lawyer** (71) Edw. Ellis Anita Louise R—Nov. 11	[10] Comedy **915** **Covered Trailer** (66) Gleason Family R-Nov. 18	[16] Western **848** **Rovin' Tumbleweeds** (64) R—Nov. 25 Gene Autry-S. Burnette	[22] Western **952** **Saga of Death Valley** (58) Roy Rogers-Geo. Hayes R—Dec. 2	[29] Western **962** **Cowboys From Texas** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 9	
RKO RADIO	[3] Comedy **010** **Flying Deuces** (65) **Laurel & Hardy** R—Oct. 14 [3] Western **081** **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7	[10] Outdoor Drama **006** **Allegheny Uprising** (81) **John Wayne** **Claire Trevor** R—Oct. 28	[17] Drama **005** **Meet Dr. Christian** (63) J. Hersholt-D. Lovett R—Oct. 21	[24] Musical **011** **That's Right, You're Wrong** (90) Kay Kyser and Orch. Adolphe Menjou Lucille Ball R—Nov. 18	[1] Drama **008** **Reno** (73) Richard Dix Gail Patrick R—Nov. 18	[8] Melodrama **(** **Two Thoroughbreds** (.. Jimmy Lydon Joan Brodel R—Dec. 2
20TH-FOX	[3] Drama **019** **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford R—Oct. 7	[10] Drama **015** **Drums Along the Mohawk (103)** **Claudette Colbert** **Henry Fonda** R—Nov. 4	[17] Comedy **016** **Too Busy to Work** (65) Jones Family R—Nov. 4	[24] Comedy Drama **020** **Day Time Wife** (72) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 18	[1] Melodrama **021** **Chan in City of Darkness** (74) R—Nov. 25 Sidney Toler-L. Bari [1] Melodrama **022** **Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday** (..) G. Harker-A. Sims	[8] Melodrama **Barricade** (71) Alice Faye Warner Baxter R—Dec. 2
UNITED ARTS.						
UNIVERSAL	[3] Melodrama **20** **Call a Messenger** (65) R. Armstrong-R. Kelly Little Tough Guys R—Sept. 9 [3] Drama Reissue **Road Back** (79) Richard Cromwell	[10] Action Drama **30** **One Hour to Live** (59) Charles Bickford R—Sept. 16 [3] Melodrama **53** **Legion of Lost Flyers** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine	[10] Romantic Com. **3002** **First Love** (84) Deanna Durbin R-Nov. 11 [17] Melodrama **Tower of London** (94) B. Rathbone-B. Karloff R—Nov. 25	[24] Western **4060** **Chip of the Flying U** (55) Johnny Mack Brown	[1] Musical **4026** **Laugh It Off** (63) C. Moore-J. Downs R—Nov. 11 [24] Melodrama **Big Guy** (78) R—Dec. 2 V. McLaglen-J. Cooper	[8] Action Drama **4** **Man From Montreal** (60) Richard Arlen Andy Devine R—Nov. 11
WARNER-F.N.	[4] Com. Drama **WB411** **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman R—Sept. 16	[11] Drama **WB402** **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7	[18] Com. Drama **WB413** **Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (62)** Billy Halop **Bobby Jordan** R—Nov. 4	[25] Drama **FN458** **We Are Not Alone** (111) Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson R—Nov. 11	[2] Mystery Drama **FN** **Return of Dr. X** (62) Wayne Morris Priscilla Lane Humphrey Bogart R—Dec. 2	[9] Com. M'drama **FI** **Private Detective** (5 Jane Wyman Dick Foran R—Nov. 25
MISCELLANEOUS	[29] Drama **P-D-C** **Goose Step** (90) **Roland Drew** **Steffi Duna** **Greta Grandstedt** R—Nov. 11	[6] Melodrama **P-D-C** **Buried Alive** (..) Beverly Roberts Robert Wilcox	[14] Drama **P-D-C** **Invisible Killer** (..) Grace Bradley Roland Drew			

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 6	JANUARY 13	JANUARY 20
	21 Drama **My Son Is Guilty** (..) Jacqueline Wells Bruce Cabot 26 Mystery Drama **Lone Wolf Strikes** (..) W. William-J. Perry	25 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday** (..) Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy Gene Lockhart	4 Western **Two Fisted Rangers** (..) Chas. Starrett Iris Meredith		17 Musical **Music in My Heart** (..) Tony Martin Rita Hayworth Andre Kostelanetz
15 Drama 15 **ick Carter, Master Detective** (60) Valter Pidgeon ita Johnson —Dec. 9	22 Comedy 16 **Judge Hardy & Son** (..) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone	29 Drama with Music 17 **Balalaika** (..) Nelson Eddy Ilona Massey	5 Comedy Melodrama **Earl of Chicago** (..) Robert Montgomery Edward Arnold	12 Comedy Drama **Congo Maisie** (..) Ann Sothern John Carroll	19 Drama **Shop Around the Corner** (..) James Stewart Margaret Sullavan
15 Outdoor Musical 3952 **Westbound Stage** (..) ex Ritter 15 Drama **entleman From Arizona** (..) . Reynolds-J. King		25 Melodrama 3924 **Four Just Men** (..) Hugh Sinclair-Anna Lee		10 Action Drama **Danger Ahead** (..) James Newell	
15 Drama 3914 **ll Women Have Secrets** (70) oseph Allen jr. ean Cagney —Dec. 9	22 Technicolor Cart. 3915 **Gulliver's Travels** (..)	29 Drama 3916 **The Great Victor Herbert** (84) Allan Jones Mary Martin Walter Connolly R—Dec. 9	5 Action Drama **Emergency Squad** (..) William Henry Louise Campbell	12 Outdoor Drama **Geronimo!** (89) P. Foster-E. Drew R—Nov. 25	19 Drama **Remember the Night** (..) Barbara Stanwyck Fred MacMurray
5 Western 941 **outh of the Border** (..) ene Autry miley Burnette	22 Comedy **Money to Burn** (..) Gleason Family	27 Drama **Woman Who Dared** (..) C. Bickford-D. Day 29 Western 953 **Days of Jesse James** (..) Roy Rogers-Geo. Hayes			
	22 Drama 014 **Married and in Love** (..) Barbara Read Alan Marshal	29 Drama 015 **Hunchback of Notre Dame** (..) C. Laughton-M. O'Hara	5 Drama **Isle of Destiny** (..) W. Ford-W. Gargan 5 Western 082 **Legion of the Lawless** (59) Geo. O'Brien R—Nov. 25	12 Comedy **Mexican Spitfire** (..) Lupe Velez	19 Drama **Swiss Family Robinson** (..) Thomas Mitchell Freddie Bartholomew Edna Best
5 Comedy Drama 024 **oneymoon's Over** (70) tuart Erwin arjorie Weaver —Nov. 4	22 Comedy Drama 029 **Everything Happens at Night** (..) Sonja Henie Ray Milland	29 Outdoor Drama 012 **Cisco Kid and the Lady** (74) Cesar Romero Marjorie Weaver R—Dec. 2	5 Drama 017 **Swanee River** (..) Don Ameche Andrea Leeds Al Jolson	12 Drama 027 **City of Chance** (..) Lynn Bari-Don Woods C. Aubrey Smith	19 Drama 023 **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly
	22 Melodrama **Send Another Coffin** (..) Pat O'Brien-Ruth Terry	29 Comedy Melodrama **Raffles** (..) David Niven Olivia DeHavilland			19 Drama **Rebecca** (..) Laurence Olivier Judith Anderson
5 Melodrama 4028 **issing Evidence** (64) . Foster R—Oct. 7	22 Comedy **Charlie McCarthy, Detective** (..) Edgar Bergen-C. Moore "Charlie" & "Mortimer"	29 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again** (94) M. Dietrich-J. Stewart R—Dec. 9	5 Drama **Framed** (..) Jerome Cowan Constance Moore	12 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns** (..) Nan Grey-Vincent Price	19 Western 4061 **West of Carson City** (55) Johnny Mack Brown Bob Baker
6 Drama FN481 **ad Empress** (72) edea Novara ionel Atwill		25 Drama FN453 **Four Wives** (110) Lane Sisters Claude Rains R—Dec. 2			
					BOOKING CHART Concluded on Following Page

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

In The Making

JANUARY 27	FEBRUARY 3	FEBRUARY 10	STARTING	COMPLETED
COLUMBIA				
22 Adventure **I Married Adventure** (..) Mrs. Osa Johnson	31 Drama **Daughters of Today** (..) Rochelle Hudson Frieda Inescort			**The Lone Wolf Strikes**—Warren William, Joan Perry, Alan Baxter, [illegible] Wilcox, Eric Blore. Director: Sidney Salkow. Producer: Fred Kohlmar. Original: Louis Joseph Vance.
GRAND NAT'L				
M-G-M				
26 Musical **Broadway Melody of 1940** (..) Eleanor Powell Fred Astaire				**Shop Around the Corner**—Margaret Sullavan, James Stewart, Joseph Schildkraut. Producer-Director: Ernst Lubitsch. Original: Nickolaus Laszlo. Screenplay: Samson Raphaelson.
MONOGRAM				
25 Western **Pioneer Days** (..) Jack Randall				
PARAMOUNT				
26 Western 3956 **Santa Fe Marshal** (..) William Boyd	2 Drama **Light That Failed** (..) Ronald Colman Ida Lupino		**Hold Your Horses**—William Boyd, Russell Hayden. Director: Lesley Selander. Producer: Harry Sherman. Original: Clarence E. Mulford. Screenplay: Norman Houston. **A Night at Earl Carroll's**—Director: James Hogan. Producer: William LeBaron. Screenplay: Lynn Starling, Eddie Moran.	**The Man From Bar 20**—William Boyd, Russell Hayden. Director: Lesley Selander. Producer: Harry Sherman. Original: Clarence E. Mulford. Screenplay: Maurice Geraghty. **At Good Old Siwash**—William Holden, Judith Barrett, Ezra Stone, Joe Arledge, Vaughan Glaser. Producer-Director: Theodore Reed.
REPUBLIC				**Heroes of the Saddle**—Robert Livingston, Duncan Renaldo, Raymond Hatton. Director: William Witney. Producer: Harry Grey.
RKO RADIO				
26 Melodrama **Marines Fly High** (..) Richard Dix Chester Morris Lucille Ball	2 Drama **Vigil in the Night** (..) Carole Lombard Brian Aherne		**Bullet Code**—George O'Brien, Virginia Vale, Howard Hickman, Robert Stanton, William Haade. Director: David Howard. Producer: Bert Gilroy. Original: Bennett Cohen. Screenplay: Doris Schroeder.	**Vigil in the Night**—Carole Lombard, Brian Aherne, Anne Shirley, Brenda Forbes. Producer-Director: George Stevens. Original: A. J. Cronin. **The Saint's Double Trouble**—George Sanders, Helene Whitney. Director: Jack Hively. Producer: Cliff Reid. Original: Leslie Charteris. Screenplay: Michael Kanin.
20TH-FOX				
26 Comedy 028 **High School** (..) Jane Withers Joe Brown jr.			**I Was an Adventuress**—Zorina, Richard Greene. Director: Gregory Ratoff. Producer: Nunnally Johnson. **Marriage in Transit**—Jean Rogers. Director: David Burton. Producer: John Stone. Screenplay: Jack Jungmeyer jr., Edith Skouras.	**Young as You Feel**—Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, June Carlson, June Gale. Director: Mal St. Clair. Producer: John Stone. Screenplay: Joseph Hoffman, Stanley Rauh.
UNITED ARTS.				**The House Across the Bay**—Joan Bennett, Gladys George, Etta McDaniel. Director: Archie Mayo. Producer: Walter Wanger. Original: Myles Connolly. Screenplay: Kathryn Scola.
UNIVERSAL				
26 Drama **Green Hell** (..) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett			**Oh, How You Can Love**—Tom Brown, Peggy Moran, Bonnie Baker, Isabel Jewell, Allen Jenkins. Director: Charles Lamont. Producer: Ken Goldsmith. **Devil in Uniform**—Director: Phil Rosen. Producer: Ben Pivar. Original: Frederick C. Davis. Screenplay: Harold Buchman, Roy Chanslor.	
WARNER-F.N.				
			Three Cheers for the Irish—Priscilla Lane, Dennis Morgan, Thomas Mitchell, Rosemary Lane. Director: Lloyd Bacon. Producer: Sam Bischoff. Screenplay: Richard Macaulay, Jerry Wald.	
MISCELLANEOUS				

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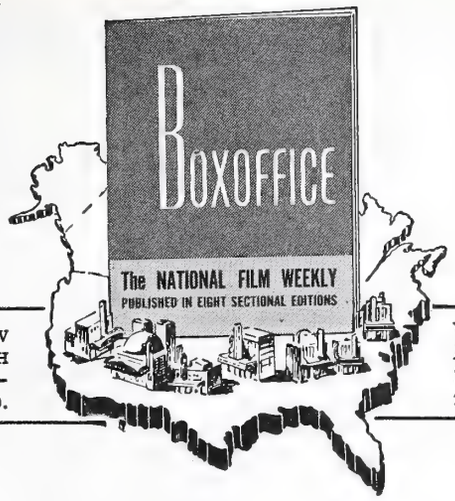




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WORDS THAT SOLVE NOTHING

TAKING it by and large:

New York fails to savvy Hollywood.

Hollywood doesn't "get" New York.

Distributors look upon exhibitors as one of the lowest forms of animal life.

Exhibitors don't cheer about distributors, either.

All of this has been heard before and talked and written about before. But it takes Hollywood to conclude distributors and exhibitors are poison alike.

At the studios, the age-crusted argument that anyone can build a theatre but not anyone can produce an attraction to fill it hangs on with all of its original tenacity. Long accustomed to being the tail that wags the dog and long experienced in how well it pays, Hollywood has no intention of giving up any part of it. Very understandable, too.

However, there comes a time, from time to time, when a slight defense does nobody harm. Currently in Hollywood, this exactly is the circumstance. Big pictures, which in the traditional studio definition are those attractions which cost large sums of money, are not grossing what their producers think they should. Out where they make 'em, nothing under a million counts anyway and even a million rests on undistinguished ground.

Thus, when the anticipated fortunes are not forthcoming, the hunt begins for the reason why. And, of course, it is an old method, frequently successful, to divert the search into related, but removed, fields on the theory it shifts the storm center and sometimes finds a scapegoat.

This is how it comes about that, aside from the broadsides directed squarely at the head of the exhibitor, a second overall tendency in Hollywood is to throw the skid to the selling end which presumably permits the theatreman to get away with no work and all profit.

Hollywood, in general, believes distribution is not getting enough money for its pictures. Hollywood cottons to its conclusion distribution is antiquated and seeks to eliminate counter argument by posing a loaded question such as, "Where would we in production be if we stuck to the same formula year in and year out without change?"

It becomes a form of heresy, if not mild dementia, to endeavor to point out that, while distribution has retained its essential formula within its essential framework, it has not done so badly in keeping pace with studio advances and studio mistakes. The method has been the old-fashioned one of adding on, and stepping up, percentage films. It is probably true this is not the sort of sudden and dramatic changeover which appeals to mercurial Hollywood, but certainly it is dramatic enough, and frequently bordering on the tragic enough, for the man who runs the theatre. Hollywood ought to try finding out about the rest of America.

Your on-tour department touched on the theatre angle last week. In an effort to be objective, not heated, this page agreed Hollywood is quite right in accusing part of the exhibitor family of laziness and incompetence. But, in fairness, it becomes proper and very obvious to repeat laggards loll on both sides of the wall and to observe plenty in the land of the studios are doing a bad job, but getting a great deal of money for failing to deliver.

Without being pushed into it, we would say much can be done by many exhibitors to return themselves to the fundamentals of showmanship which have been forgotten or neglected. We would also say Hollywood should be indulgent sufficiently long to recognize that those major studios which manufacture for the major theatre interests might reasonably start the re-birth movement in their own households. This would tend to replace some of the theory with practice along lines which much responsible studio opinion insists ought to prevail.

Today's piece was launched in the never too sanguine ambition it might demonstrate something. Confidentially, the hope was abandoned some paragraphs ago. Yet, it is a strange state of affairs, and it is likewise an extremely disturbing condition, that the major elements in the one business must perpetually cross their swords.

The occasion seemed timely recently to draw attention to the grave weaknesses of such a situation, how it must tear down, weaken the stamina and make the whole industry a resistless prey to outside influences and dominations. The time is at hand again to ponder how, from a long range industry point of view, no good possibly can come from it.

Not a bad phrase, that one about a long range industry point of view. Too bad it remains just a phrase.

Kann

EXPERTS SEE NO WANE IN FILM POPULARITY; ADMIT PUBLIC WHIM PREDICTION DIFFICULT

Say Trade Has Paid for "Overzealous" Boom; War Blows Cited

NEW YORK—"Motion picture popularity, as measured by theatre attendance, has given no signs of waning in recent years, despite inroads made into the amusement field by radio, sports, radio-phonograph recordings, etc.," says Poor's Publishing Co., in its semi-annual financial report for 1939.

Through drastic reorganizations, the survey states, the industry "has paid for its overzealous boom-time expansion. In many cases finances are on a sound footing for the first time, and the industry is reaching comparative maturity. But prediction of public whim remains difficult; foreign business is uncertain because of the European war; television or a new competing sport is an ever present threat."

The fact that theatre attendance in 1938 held steadily at 1937 levels "leads one to conclude that theatre attendance continues to hold at satisfactory levels in years following peaks in national income. Although falling more sharply than consumer incomes during periods of sustained depression, attendance closely parallels the subsequent rise," is the view "indicating the public's unwillingness to give up its theatre entertainment, despite reduced income."

Point to Higher Costs

Holding that prospective 1939-40 film costs will be higher, the survey states producers are emphasizing quality to a much greater degree than in former years. Offering a basis for the observation that "present prospects are expenses for the 1939-40 season will exceed those of a year earlier," are these points:

"The principal item of cost—salaries—constitutes one of the industry's major problems, particularly in the case of second-grade films, where the percentage obviously is higher than in the $1,000,000 film class. So long as the main object remains to amuse the American public, producers, performers, directors and authors who are capable can write their own salary checks.

Watch Columbia Progress

"Amusement executives likewise command high salaries, and when stockholders do not meet these demands they find these men becoming independent producers and making yet more money. The classic example is that of Joseph Schenck and Darryl Zanuck. Frank Capra, who has formed his own concern, may duplicate the progress made by Schenck and Zanuck. Obviously, the effect upon Columbia's future releases bears close watching."

Average film costs in 1937-38, at $306,000, were 24 per cent higher than in 1935-36, says the report. For the 1938-39 season, it continues, roughly $146,000,000 was spent on nearly 500 features, or an average of $296,000 a picture.

"With general domestic business activity in this country improving," goes the view, "the 512 features announced for 1939-40 at a cost of $176,000,000, should average $344,000 each. Although the industry is revising production schedules, with the intention of pruning expenditures as much as possible without lowering quality, drastic cuts in production costs are not indicated."

Foreign Situation

An appraisal of the foreign situation brings the following: Should the markets of all nations now at war in Europe remain closed to American films, the domestic industry would stand to lose roughly 60 per cent of its foreign revenues and 35 per cent of its total gross. In the past, films have produced substantial income from foreign showings long after their effectiveness in domestic theatres ended. This has permitted amortization of production costs over a longer period than otherwise justified; and the prolonged earnings often meant the difference between profit or loss on a particular production.

Then this conclusion: "Quite naturally, the American movie industry is worried. As a partial correction of the adverse European situation, domestic producers presumably will revise amortization schedules, charging off a greater percentage of costs during a film's early life."

Getting into exhibition, the survey holds the slight tilt in admissions from 22 to 23 cents average in 1938 indicates this "moderately increased total boxoffice receipts to the best level since 1930." No prediction is given for 1940 admission trends.

Theatre construction is held to be "off." For the 14 months ended July 1, 1939, the survey points out, more than a 66 per cent rise in average monthly construction expenditures over 1938 levels was experienced. However, theatre construction contracts awarded in September-October, 1939, were moderately below year-earlier volume, it is said.

Lotteries, such as Bank Night and other chance game attractions, are viewed as decreasing. At present, the survey states, "with picture quality improving, inducements of this nature are diminishing of their own accord. A recent substitute has been the local independently produced newsreel."

Although the public's sentiment toward double features is pictured as "open to conjecture," the report has this to say: "From the operator's viewpoint, either the practice of double billing must diminish—the alternative is better quality single feature programs—or admission prices must advance, if theatres are to operate more profitably."

Tax Situation Seen Burdensome

New York—Viewing the tax situation as "unfavorable," Poor's Publishing Co. points to the $350,000,000 tax bill paid to the federal and state governments in 1938 as "a considerable burden," and offers the following prospects:

"Social Security taxes, which are scheduled to reach six per cent of pay rolls by 1949, will prove burdensome. However, the fact that many salaries are high tends to offset this, since the tax affects only the first $3,000 of annual pay per person. The estimated $3,000,000 increase in wages granted motion picture technicians means a rise of about three per cent in total annual pay rolls.

"As a luxury, the industry may well find itself a target for the tax gatherers who, necessarily, must raise more revenues. No relief from the tax on theatre admissions over 40 cents is indicated," and, as exclusively predicted in the December 9 issue of BOXOFFICE, "in fact, the base may even be changed to include lower boxoffice tariffs."

Schenck to Air on Trade Outlook

Hollywood—Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board of 20th Century-Fox, will speak on the industry's prospects again for 1940 over a nation-wide radio hookup in a few weeks. In company with a group of widely-known business leaders, Schenck made such a talk last year.

Loew's Profit for Year Totals $5.50 Per Share

NEW YORK—Net earnings of Loew's for the year ended August 31 amounted to $5.50 a share. Outstanding are 1,665,713 common stock which would bring the profits in the neighborhood of $9,161,421.50. For the year ended August 31, 1938, the net income of the company and its subsidiaries totaled $9,924,934.46.

Reduction in the losses by Columbia is noted for the quarter ended September 30. These amounted to $104,751, as compared to a loss of $233,612 for the corresponding period ended September 24, 1938. The consolidated balance sheet shows a ratio of current liabilities of more than 6.2 to 1.

UA SEEN UNTOUCHED BY FAIRBANKS DEATH; O'BRIEN, HIS LAWYER, TO VOTE ELTON STOCK

Report Block Will Vote Along With Pickford, Chaplin and Korda

NEW YORK—The sudden passing of Douglas Fairbanks sr., first and only of the original owner-members of the company to die, is expected to leave no mark on the future management, and probably operations, of UA.

It is authoritatively learned Dennis F. O'Brien, long Fairbanks' attorney as well as a close personal associate, will vote the stock representing the late star's one-fifth interest in the distributing company. The block is held in the name of the Elton Corp.

O'Brien is the senior partner of the law firm of O'Brien, Driscoll and Raftery, and a UA director. Raftery is secretary of the United Artists Distributing Corp.

HOLLYWOOD — The death of Douglas Fairbanks, it is anticipated, will have no bearing on the internal management of UA and the current difficulties between Samuel Goldwyn and other owner-members. These, of course, are Mary Pickford, Charles Chaplin and Alexander Korda.

Goldwyn is fighting a one-man battle against his associates. His argument is that UA has departed from its original purpose by including producers regarded by Goldwyn as not up to the standards which the company, at its inception, voted to pursue. The remaining owner-members of course have approved various deals, providing for new producers, despite Goldwyn's objections.

In connection with the voting of the one-fifth stock interest held by Fairbanks through the Elton Corporation, the anticipation here is that it will be thrown with the Pickford-Chaplin-Korda interests which do not see eye to eye with Goldwyn on company policies.

Many were the tributes paid the departed producer-actor:

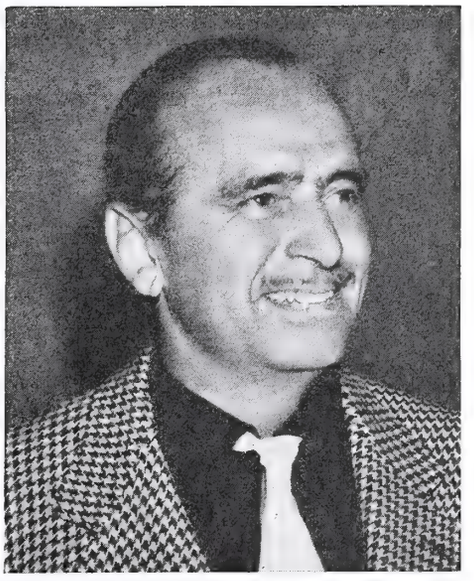
Alexander Korda, chief of UA worldwide operations, said in New York:

"To the thousands within the industry and the millions outside it, the passing of Douglas Fairbanks is a deep loss. To us who grew up within the artistic and business framework that is United Artists, Doug's going is irreparable. At the moment, we can only try to keep and carry onward the high standards he set for us. He wouldn't have wanted any more."

Samuel Goldwyn, member-owner of UA, said:

"I feel a personal loss in the passing of Mr. Fairbanks with whom I had been associated for so many years. His contributions have been so great, not only to the industry but to all of us who were his friends, that the whole community will miss him greatly."

James Roosevelt, president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., said:



"Long before I came into this industry, Mr. Fairbanks was a symbol to me of the greatness of motion pictures. Having been privileged to know him for a few brief months, I know how much his passing will mean to all his friends."

David O. Selznick, president of Selznick International, said:

"The entire world has suffered a great loss, for Douglas Fairbanks was a producer who, in a troubled age, gave a philosophy of happiness to millions. We in the motion picture business knew him as a great leader, through whose producing courage and integrity we are all indebted; and, as a splendid friend whose untimely passing is a terrible shock."

Edward Small, president of Edward Small Productions, said:

"Douglas Fairbanks sr. has contributed in many ways not only to the development of a great industry, but to the entertainment of hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. As one who understands the true worth of his accomplishments, I feel that his passing leaves a place in the industry and in the hearts of the people that will not quickly be filled."

Charles Chaplin, member-owner of UA, was so overcome at the news that he was unable to make a statement of any kind. Fairbanks, Chaplin's associates explained, was probably his closest friend.

Joseph M. Schenck, president of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, said:

"Douglas Fairbanks' sudden passing was a shock that will be felt throughout the world. As his business associate for many years, and his friend for even longer, I feel his loss beyond the mere expression of words. Many of the figures of the pioneer days of motion pictures have answered to the call of Time, but none have gone beyond trailing greater glory nor wider esteem than Douglas Fairbanks. He made the world laugh, he made it cry, he gave to mankind the example of heroic figures striving for noble ideals. On the screen he gave the world princely characters, who taught his fellow-men to love each other, and the world learned to love him in return. Such men are greater than those of today, who use princely powers to spread the example of hate. On departing life, he leaves a memory that all who knew him, whether on the screen or in reality, will cherish with loving tenderness."

Industry Mourns Death Of One of Its Most Illustrious Sons

William LeBaron, vice-president and managing director of Paramount production, said:

"In the death of Douglas Fairbanks, the motion picture industry has lost one of its most important ambassadors. During the time he was active in the making of pictures, he was a symbol of Hollywood and he made for Hollywood millions of friends throughout the world. The industry needs men like Fairbanks because of his influence for good, and can ill afford to lose him."

Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of Paramount's studio operations, said:

"I have long admired Mr. Fairbanks. He was a pioneer, not only in the production of big pictures, but also, in his conduct, indicating the path that future stars were to follow. He was the idol of millions of boys, and he was a worthy one. I doubt if any single man has ever had more friends in every land in the world."

Walter Wanger, independent UA producer, said:

"Douglas Fairbanks stood for everything fair in the film industry. He can never be replaced. He was not only one of its most popular figures, but he represented to the entire world an ideal in American courage, gaiety and enterprise. Fairbanks was made of the stuff real heroes are made of. He was a practical idealist and sponsored at all times any enterprise that required courage and foresight. He had a unique quality—that of representing the best in artistic as well as the best in popular tastes. His sportsmanship was internationally appreciated. With Fairbanks' passing, the motion picture industry suffers the loss of its most constructive hero whose heroics were not confined to the screen. He had as many admirers behind the screen for his noble performances as he had in front."

Ted Reed, who was associated with Fairbanks for 13 years as a director, scenario editor and production manager, said:

"The industry has suffered a great loss, of course; but I think it is ten times worse for me, for he was my friend. I think that probably the greatest thing about him was his attraction for kids. They idolized him

(Continued on page 20)

LICHTMAN PLAN CALLING FOR SIXTY A YEAR UP AGAIN AT MGM; MAY START THIS SEASON

Would Release 52 Yearly With Eight as Backlog For New Season Start

HOLLYWOOD — Al Lichtman's proposed plan for M-G-M to produce 60 features a year has cropped up again following his return from New York. His idea is to release 52 annually and at the end of each season have eight in the vaults when the new season gets under way.

With Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, here on his periodic visit before entraining to Miami Beach for a winter vacation with his family, it is understood the Lichtman program was discussed again. Schenck's presence here eliminates the scheduled trip to New York by Louis B. Mayer.

On the Friday Schenck left the east, the Loew board met and declared the regular quarterly dividend of 50 cents on the common, payable December 30 to stockholders of record December 19. The Loew head expected to depart for his headquarters over the weekend.

Sidney Kent Defines Trade "Utopia" Idea

NEW YORK—Utopia, from the distributor and exhibitor viewpoint, would be to give an exhibitor 25 "good" pictures to take care of 52 weeks' playing time.

So states Sidney R. Kent, president of 20th-Fox, who admits that while such a situation would be ideal it is, of course, "impossible."

The theory behind Kent's hypothetical setup is that if an exhibitor could get 25 good pictures a year, each of which could stand up two weeks at the boxoffice, the exhibitor's playing time would be fulfilled without much concern.

This does not necessarily mean, however, that 20th-Fox intends to pare its production program. Any theory which subscribes to the notion a studio can make better pictures by reducing its output "is the bunk," as Kent puts it.

As a matter of fact, Kent is in favor of retaining a large program where there is every possibility of a greater number of good pictures. If programs are cut, the intention may be to make fewer and better pictures but it does not always work out that way, is Kent's observation.

To bring home his point, the 20th-Fox head recalls the days when he was general sales manager for another major company. During his office the company produced 80 features annually and then decided to reduce the number to 60 in the belief "the fewer and better" formula would materialize.

To sum up the first year's experience on the reduced program, Kent states, "I don't think any of them were very good."

That the foreign market is of grave con-

(Continued on page 23)



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Kent and Family—

Flanked by his daughter, Peggy, on the left, and his wife on the right, Sidney R. Kent poses for BOXOFFICE'S *cameraman just before departing for the coast. Miss Kent did not accompany her parents west.*



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Westbound With Kent—

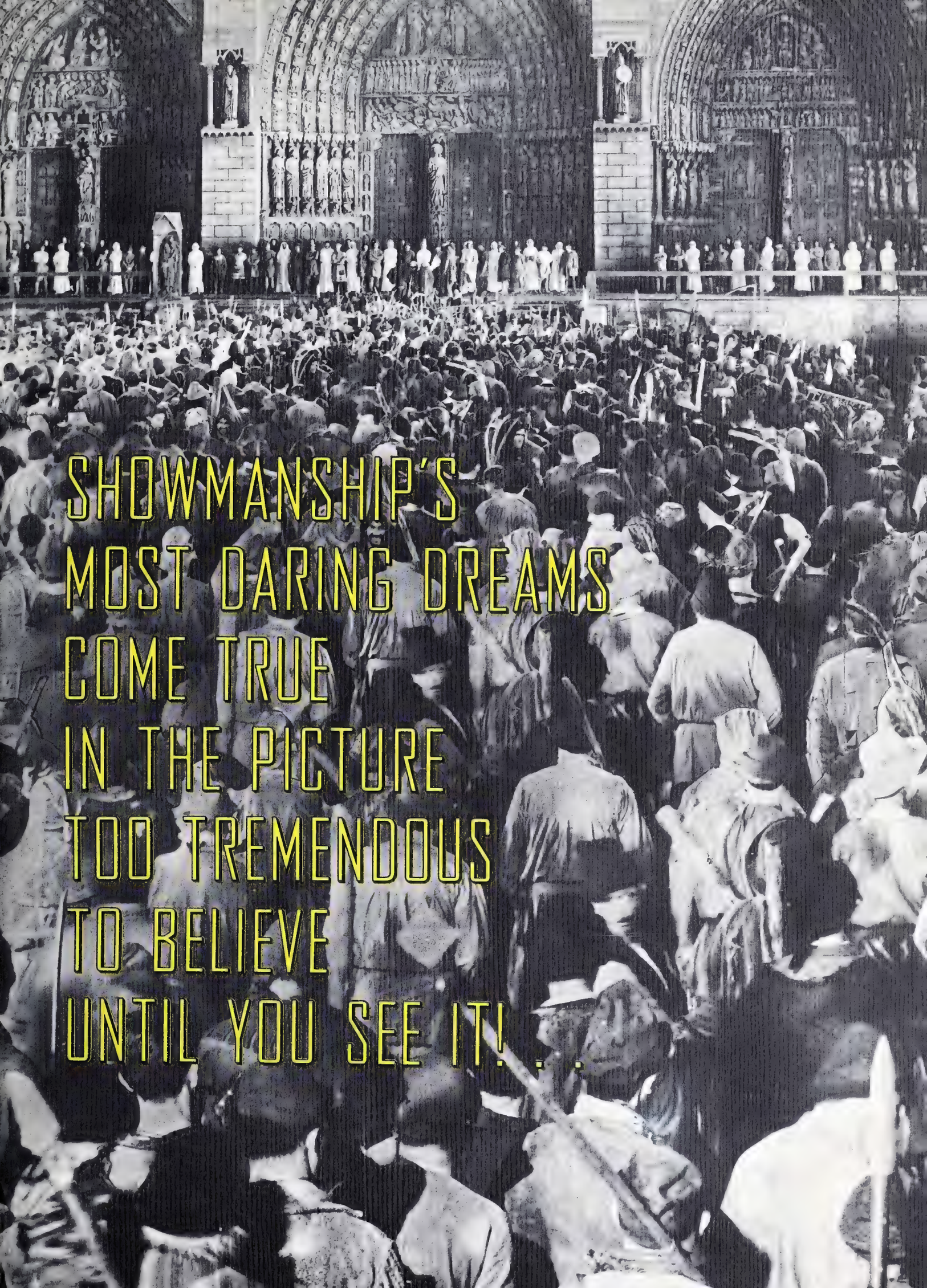
Also accompanying Kent to Hollywood were Charles E. McCarthy, publicity and advertising director for 20th-Fox, on the left, and Sydney Towell, treasurer on the right. In the center is Jack McKeon, home office representative at the Roxy Theatre, who saw the group off.



—Norman Kaplan

Three Out of Five—

Ben and Charles were not at the Grand Central when William Goetz, vice-president of 20th-Fox and studio executive, arrived from Hollywood. Meeting William, who appears in the center, were Harry M., who recently completed RKO's "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," on the left, and Jack, of DuArt Labs.


SHOWMANSHIP'S
MOST DARING DREAMS
COME TRUE
IN THE PICTURE
TOO TREMENDOUS
TO BELIEVE
UNTIL YOU SEE IT! . . .

15 STAGGERING CLIMACTIC SEQUENCES . . . AND EVERY ONE A BIG SHOW IN ITSELF! 15

including

THE FESTIVAL OF FOOLS!

THE BEGGARS' COURT OF MIRACLES!

THE FLIGHT TO THE BELL TOWER!

THE MOB ATTACK ON THE CATHEDRAL!

THE FLOOD OF MOLTEN LEAD!

THE HUNCHBACK'S CAPTURE OF THE DANCING GIRL!

THE TORTURE OF BEAUTEOUS ESMERALDA!

THE WHIPPING WHEEL!

THE RESCUE FROM THE GALLOWS!

—and—that thrill of all thrills . . .

THE DEATH STRUGGLE ON THE TOPMOST PINNACLE OF TOWERING NOTRE DAME!

●

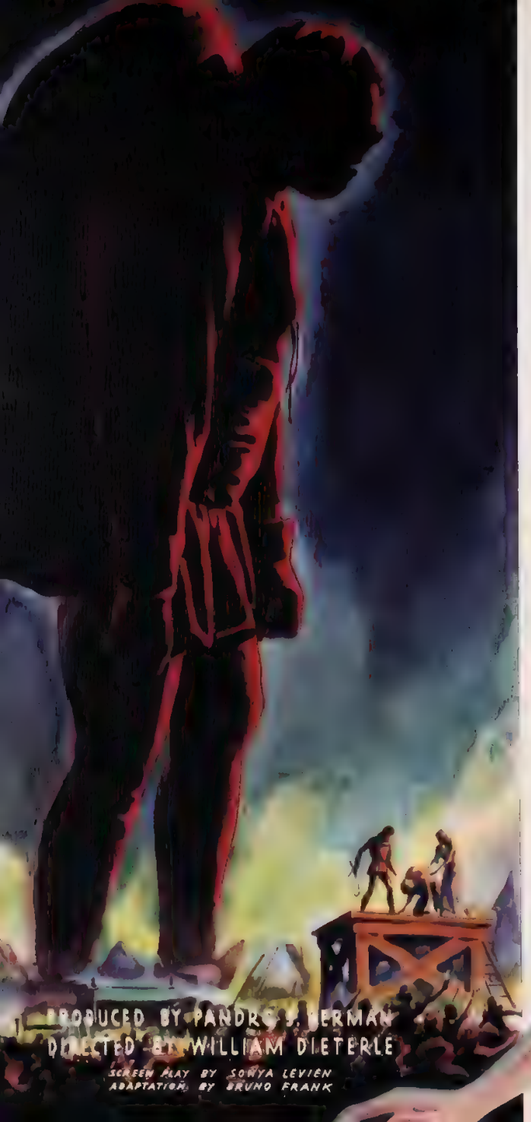
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2 HOURS OF UNBROKEN EXCITEMENT!

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100 name roles by featured players heading a cast numbering 3,621 . . . Unbelievably magnificent and expansive sets for the mightiest action your screen ever presented!

BIG! BIG! BIG!—AND LOOK AT THIS *ONE* OF A SERIES OF 24-SHEETS!

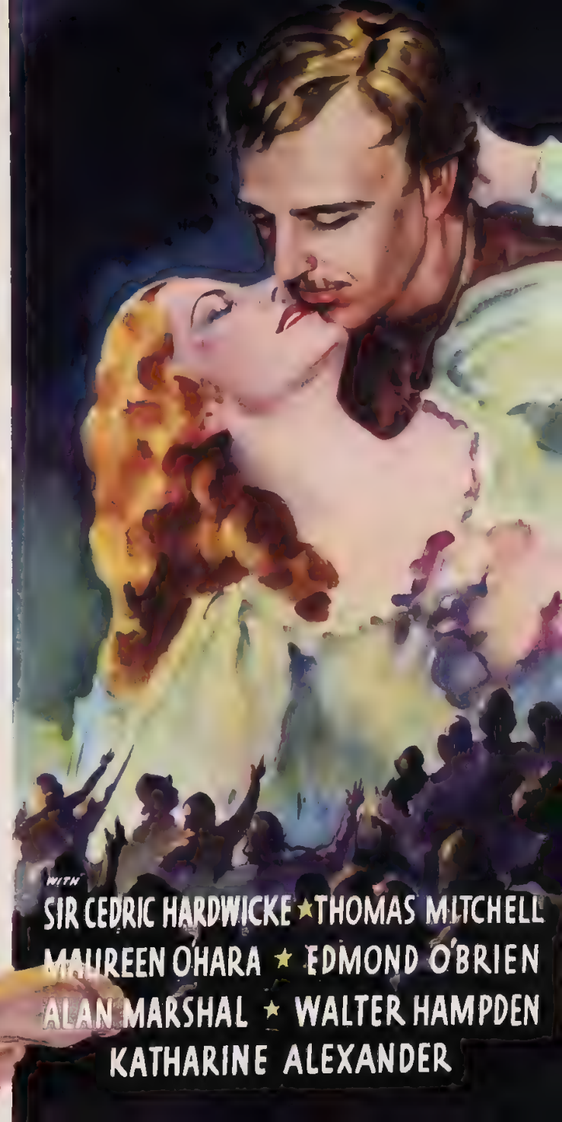


Charles LAUGHTON

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME







WITH
SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE ★ THOMAS MITCHELL
MAUREEN O'HARA ★ EDMOND O'BRIEN
ALAN MARSHAL ★ WALTER HAMPDEN
KATHARINE ALEXANDER



THOMAS MITCHELL



EDMOND O'BRIEN

COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL 24-SHEET CAMPAIGN!

Highway and byway coast to coast plastered with sensational and novel show paper! . . Not merely one style of 24-sheet; not merely two styles . . but a series of what showmen have declared to be the most punch-packing 24's they've seen in years and years!



CHARLES LAUGHTON



MAUREEN O'HARA

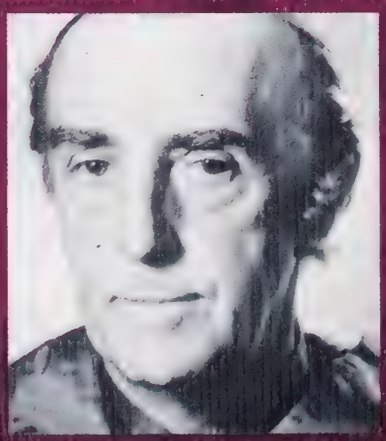


ALAN MARSHAL

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME



SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE



WALTER HAMPDEN

RKO RADIO PICTURES

PUBLIC INTEREST IN SHORT SUBJECTS HIGH; DEMAND GROWS FOR COMEDIES, SURVEY SHOWS

Exhibitors Deplore Twin Bills; Many Criticize Current Shorts Fare

There is a sustained public interest in short subjects, and the majority of exhibitors deplore the double-feature situation that prevents using more of them, according to the result of the latest BOXOFFICE survey of trade opinion.

BOXOFFICE asked the nation's exhibitors: "Is there any sustained demand for shorts by your patrons?" and was answered "Yes" by 59 per cent of the respondents and "No" by 41 per cent.

Most emphatically in favor of short subjects is the Central area, comprised of the states of Illinois, Eastern Missouri, Indiana and Wisconsin, whose showmen voted 74 per cent affirmatively. Most willing to do without shorts is the New England territory, the area, incidentally, which first introduced dual bills to the exhibition world. The vote from the trade here registered 50-50.

An interesting phase revealed by the returns is that the demand or lack of demand for short subjects is apparently not conditioned geographically nor by the economic interests of a community. Attesting that fact is the report from eastern Missouri in which shorts gained an 80 per cent "yes" vote and western Missouri where the "no" vote was the greater, notching 55 per cent; and again in Pennsylvania, where the western half of the state voted but 35 per cent in favor of shorts and the eastern half 78 per cent. And in North Carolina 63 per cent of those answering the questionnaire favored the short subjects whereas in South Carolina the yea votes mustered but 25 per cent.

Typical of comment accompanying the returns were the following exhibitor expressions:

Patrons Like Shorts Despite the Duals

While double bills confine us largely to newsreels and cartoons, our patrons appreciate good short subjects and sometimes register their disapproval when extra-long bills crowd them out.

CALIFORNIA EXHIBITOR

Would Welcome Chance To Halt Twin Bills

While short subjects have been kicked around of late and have in reality become the orphans of most studios, I would welcome the chance to quit doubles and book more of the little fellows if the quality improved. A band short is not enough, and a bad one leaves a taste for days—and there are plenty of bad ones.

KANSAS EXHIBITOR

The Vote On Shorts

Area	*Pct. "Yes"*	*Pct. "No"*
EASTERN	**61**	**39**
Delaware	0	0
Maryland	0	0
New Jersey	50	50
New York	60	40
Eastern Pennsylvania	78	22
Virginia	57	43
NEW ENGLAND	**50**	**50**
Connecticut	67	33
Maine	83	17
Massachusetts	50	50
New Hampshire	100	0
Rhode Island	0	100
Vermont	0	100
SOUTHERN	**59**	**41**
Alabama	100	0
Arkansas	50	50
Florida	67	33
Georgia	50	50
Louisiana	75	25
Mississippi	63	37
North Carolina	63	37
Oklahoma	40	60
South Carolina	25	75
Tennessee	50	50
Texas	64	36
MIDEAST	**51**	**49**
Ohio	42	58
Kentucky	67	33
Michigan	35	65
Western Pennsylvania	35	65
West Virginia	75	25
CENTRAL	**74**	**26**
Illinois	74	26
Eastern Missouri	80	20
Indiana	69	31
Wisconsin	74	26
MIDWEST	**56**	**44**
Iowa	54	46
Kansas	75	25
Minnesota	50	50
Western Missouri	45	55
Nebraska	65	35
North Dakota	50	50
South Dakota	55	45
WESTERN	**65**	**35**
Arizona	50	50
California	62	38
Colorado	60	40
Idaho	100	0
Montana	89	11
Nevada	100	0
New Mexico	0	0
Oregon	56	44
Utah	67	33
Washington	71	29
Wyoming	0	100

Has an Idea One Thing That Ails the Shorts

Whenever we can get good short subjects and plug them right we do good business. The trouble is the distributors seldom carry any paper on them. What we need more than anything else is good two and three-reelers with plenty of advertising accessories. This business was founded upon good short comedies; it is a perpetual surprise to me why the producers ever forsook them.

COLORADO EXHIBITOR

Central Territory Most Interested; Care Less In New England Area

Says Cartoon Idea Being Overdone

There are too many cartoon short subjects, and our screen some weeks looks like a funny paper. A surprising angle here is that industrial workers feel people are being cheated out of employment by them.

NEW YORK EXHIBITOR

No Halfway Reaction In This Situation

I think the average short subject is terrible. Despite that, we have a small but loyal group that wants them. I sometimes wonder what they'd do if several good ones came along in a week.

PENNSYLVANIA EXHIBITOR

Pays for, But Never Runs, 60% of the Shorts

Our patrons, almost to a man, say they want single bills and short subjects. Yet we have gone to double features and pay for 60 per cent of the shorts and never run them. Maybe it's the quality of the shorts; maybe the fans just don't know what they want.

ILLINOIS EXHIBITOR

And herewith valuable tips and pungent observations at random:

Travelogues are tops at this time. They all get a hand after the showing . . . I tried one of those sponsored shorts once. The auditorium sounded like the radiators were leaking . . . Some demand for shorts, but limited . . . Only the children and young folks care for them . . . The only funny shorts I've seen in years are the ones I wear. What's happened to the two-reelers? . . . Only the Disney cartoons draw . . . Name bands, especially top jive units, click . . . They appreciate them when you've got them, but don't seem to miss them when you haven't . . . Good shorts help, but they can't do the job alone . . . Not the kind of junk we're getting now . . . We want two-reel slapstick . . . Shorts now are a crime . . . Interested only in newsreels.

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

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VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

A LEAP into both fact and fancy, or an approach on what they want in their stockings for Christmas:

Neil F. Agnew—Palimino pony and gargantuan grosses for "Gulliver."
Don Ameche—Toothbrush.
Thurman Arnold—Seat next to Frankfurter, Douglas, etc.
Harry Arthur—Customer for Shrub Oak.
Graham Baker—For the first one to hit.
Barney Balaban—Clearance on the government.
John Balaban—Tackle, but for fish only.
Freddie Bartholomew—Fewer relatives.
Carter Barron—Title for the Redskins.
Irving Barry—That beautiful girl.
Larry Beatus—A still Moment.
Wally Beery—Suspenders.
Connie Bennett—Blackstone.
Joan Bennett—Jingles.
Edgar Bergen—Termite exterminator.
Maurice Bergman—Miami vacation.
Busby Berkeley—More babes in arms.
Pandro Berman—Set of Kipling.
Joe Bernhard—Canter in the park.
David Bernstein—Rousing bonus split.
Harry Bernstein—Wooden horse.

●

Russell Birdwell—Toy telephone.
Sam Bischoff—Toupee.
William Bioff—No more headlines.
Dave Blum—More chickens.
Nate Blumberg—Another Dietrich.
Mort Blumenstock—West Indies cruise.
Humphrey Bogart—A pistol.
William Boyd—Gene Autry's guitar.
Harry Brand—Broader backs to slap.
Harry Brandt—Sears without Roebuck. Presidency of third national theatre unit.
Billy Brandt—Max Cohen's New Amsterdam.
Sam Briskin—Sam Bischoff's goat.
John Byram—Good plays cheap.
Lowell Calvert—No lull in the "Wind."
Frank Capra—A new outlet.
Charlie Chaplin—To finish that picture.
Max A. Cohen—Coles to Newcastle.
Harry Cohn—Henry Morgenthau Goes to Columbia.
Jack Cohn—Give Harry what he wants.
Nat Cohn—Electric razor.

●

Pat Casey—Just a little attention.
H. A. Cole—"Neely" everything Arnold wants.
Thomas J. Connors—Lawyers who move faster.
J. Cheever Cowdin—Executives to ride the Pennsy.
Ted Curtis—More tournaments. Or a kodak.
Al Deane—Time to write books.
George Dembow—More major distributors.
Sam Dembow—A quicker decision.
Ned E. Depinet—Seventy-five—twenty-five on "Hunchback."
Andy Devine—Cough drops.
Marlene Dietrich—More like Blumberg, Pasternak, Universal.
Howard Dietz—Part of George Kaufman's crown.
Oscar A. Doob—Office on the seventh floor.
Scott R. Dunlap—Bigger and better budgets.
S. Charles Einfeld—To hold that outline.
Gus Eyssell—More holdovers.
Lynn Farnol—A renewal.
Max Fellerman—Substitute for those screenings.
Jimmy Fidler—An accurate story.
James A. FitzPatrick—Subscription to the National Geographic.

●

Gene Fowler—Hydraulic brakes.
Frank Freeman—Fewer pictures, less worry.
"Lep" Friedman—Fewer process servers.
Matty Fox—New Leeds.
Bryan Foy—High "A."
W. C. Gehring—A bundle of 50's.
Bill German—That they keep right on making 'em.
Bob Gillham—More gym workouts.
Henry Ginsberg—New affiliation.
Ben Goetz—A new deal.
Harry M. Goetz—Public awareness for "Abe Lincoln."
Harry L. Gold—General sales managership.
Harry Goldberg—Glider service to Washington's Crossing.
Gil Golden—Low license plates.
Edward A. Golden—Fewer testimonial dinners.
Samuel Goldwyn—To be "understood" by Mary, Charlie, Alex and Murray.
Abe Goodman—Return to civilization.
Morris Goodman—The other half from England.
Max Gordon—Same as Harry Goetz.
Walter Gould—Baby girl.

●

Joe Gershenson—Heavies that can ride horses.
Bob Goldstein—Hungrier film men.
E. C. Grainger—To stay at home more often.
Edmund Grainger—That UA or RKO deal.
James R. Grainger—Another "Stagecoach" in "Dark Command."
Monroe Greenthal—Can't think of a thing.
Stanton Griffis—General upturn.
Ben Grimm—Someone to lift the mortgage.
E. B. Hatrick—To break 100 for 18 holes.
Roy Haines—Hair tonic that works.
E. W. Hammons—Bankroll.
Will H. Hays—Continued ear of the big boys.
John Harris—Variety in his life.
William Heineman—Baby No. 7.
Frederick L. Herron—Harmony by the Foreign Swingsters.
Gabriel L. Hess—Federal court recess for about five years.
John W. Hicks—A bunch of roses.

(Continued on page 22)

Great GREAT

"For the millions of men, women and children who've been living in a world thoroughly and fondly exposed to Victor Herbert's music since the twentieth century started, the picture is as rare a treat as Christmas dinner with the family!"
—M. P. Daily

Victory VICTOR

"A feast for both the eye and ear. Rich in entertainment for all audiences. Should score decisively at the box office!"
—Film Daily

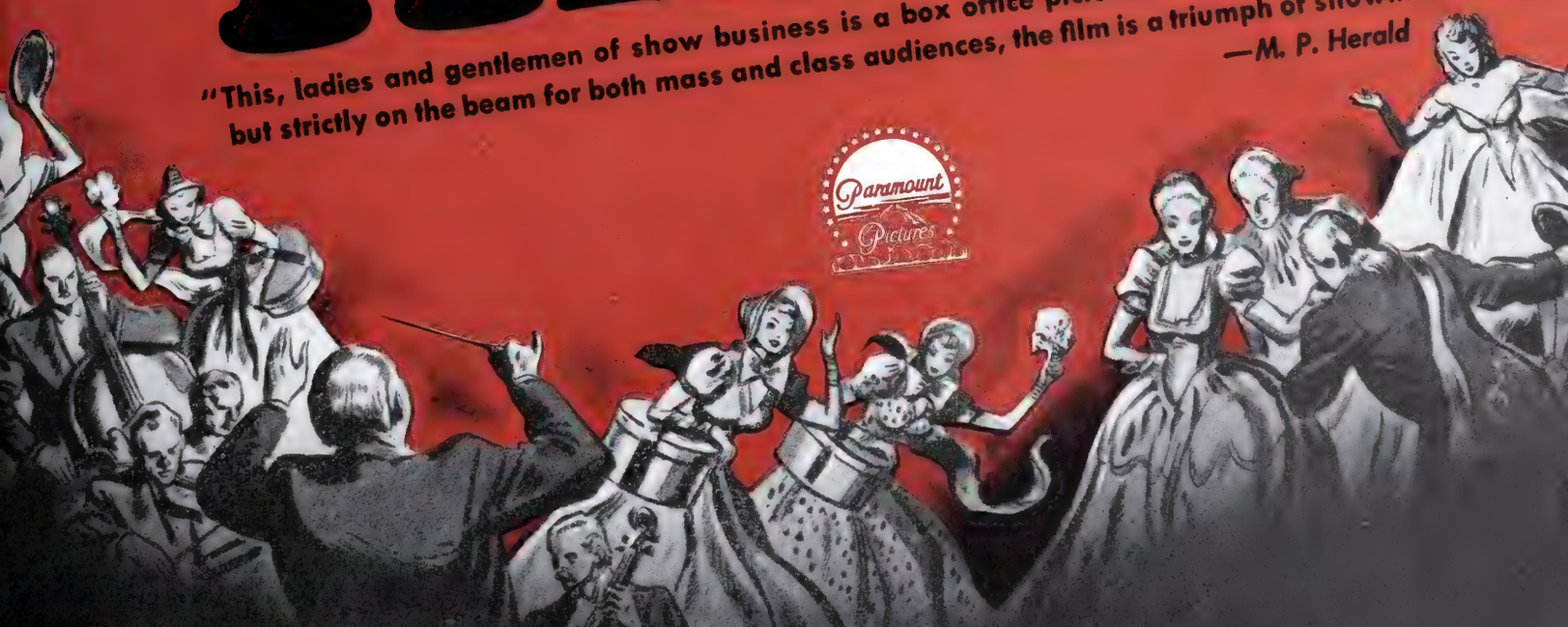
for Her and Him HERBERT



"New Yorchids for Mary Martin's thrilling trilling!"—Walter Winchell

"A tremendous personal triumph for Allan Jones!"—Ed. Sullivan

"This, ladies and gentlemen of show business is a box office picture. Not highbrow, not lowbrow, but strictly on the beam for both mass and class audiences, the film is a triumph of showmanliness!"
—M. P. Herald



Paramount Pictures

"THE GREAT VICTOR HERBERT" with **Allan Jones** · **Mary Martin** · **Walter Connolly**

Lee Bowman · **Judith Barrett** · **Susanna Foster** · A Paramount Picture · Produced and Directed by ANDREW L. STONE

Screen Play by Russel Crouse and Robert Lively · Based on a Story by Robert Lively and Andrew L. Stone

"Gone With the Wind" One of Industry's Sensations

HOLLYWOOD—Finally!

"Gone With the Wind," the film about which so much has been talked and reported, is ready for the market. Three hours and 45 minutes of it. Plus an intermission.

The nation will find a new toast in Vivien Leigh, the Scarlett O'Hara of the novel. And in the film, faithful to the last to Margaret Mitchell's overwritten novel, the industry will find one of its outstanding attractions. That goes for this year. In fact, it goes for a lot of years.

David O. Selznick, the producer, had a genuine problem on his hands. He was aware of that when this reporter spoke to him about his plans for "Gone With the Wind" here about two years ago. That problem was one of what to retain and what to eliminate. Now that the job—at approximately $3,800,000—is completed, the answer is that he has done exceedingly well with a gargantuan production jawbreaker.

In two parts, the film substantially outdistances its second half by the first. It is very likely that the dramatic nature of the material encompassed up to the time Scarlett, having passed through the crucible out of which her selfish womanhood finally emerged, returns to Tara is responsible. In that first half are war, pestilence and death—formidable backgrounds for any drama. In the second, removed as it is from the shattering blows of armed forces, the dramatic texture is not so compact. It becomes overextended and, because of excessive detail, does not hold so tightly as the stirring depiction ahead of it.

In terms of production, "Gone With the Wind" is superb at every turn. It is rich in the panoply of the pre-war South. It is magnificent in its panoramic and spectacular sweeps. Its breath-taking Technicolor photography by Ernest Haller is probably without rival in the history of color on the screen. So unusual were some of the effects that several of those engaged in production who managed to sneak into what was supposed to be strictly a press preview here are still endeavoring valiantly to figure out how they were achieved. The man behind the camera, quite definitely, becomes one of the heroes of the occasion. Another, and easily, is Victor Fleming for his intelligent direction. And a third, the late Sidney Howard, for the screenplay.

While on the heroic content, it is Miss Leigh who dominates the screen. More blessed in histrionics than in physical appeal, and this is by no means designed to be lacking in gallantry toward a very attractive actress, she succeeds in capturing and projecting the torrent of conflicting emotions which the author wrote into her pivotal character. Whatever the public might have imagined Scarlett ought to look and talk like, Miss Leigh, hands down, is it.

Clark Gable, of course, is Rhett Butler. He is tailor-made for the role. Olivia de Havilland, as Melanie, plays well what is strictly a story book character. Leslie Howard pleases, as usual, in his quiet way, but, by any and all counts, acting honors in a magnificent enterprise swing to Miss Leigh without serious competition.

—KANN.



"Gone With the Wind"

(Selznick-International Production. Released by M-G-M.)

CAST

Clark Gable as Rhett Butler, Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara, Leslie Howard as Ashley Wilkes, Olivia de Havilland as Melanie Hamilton and, in order of their appearance: George Reeves as Brent Tarleton, Fred Crane as Stuart Tarleton, Hattie McDaniel as Mammy, Everett Brown as Big Sam, Thomas Mitchell as Gerald O'Hara, Oscar Polk as Pork, Barbara O'Neil as Ellen O'Hara, Victor Jory as Jonas Wilkerson, Evelyn Keyes as Suellen O'Hara, Ann Rutherford as Carreen O'Hara, Butterfly McQueen as Prissy, Howard Hickman as John Wilkes, Alicia Rhett as India Wilkes, Rand Brooks as Charles Hamilton, Carroll Nye as Frank Kennedy, Marcella Martin as Cathleen Calvert, Laura Hope Crews as Aunt "Pittypat" Hamilton, Harry Davenport as Doctor Meade, Leona Roberts as Mrs. Meade, Jane Darwell as Mrs. Merriwether, Albert Morin as Rene Picard, Mary Anderson as Maybelle Merriwether, Terry Shero as Fanny Elsing, William McClain as Old Levi, Eddie Anderson as Uncle Peter, Ona Munson as Belle Watling, Isabell Jewell as Emmy Slattery, J. M. Kerrigan as Johnny Gallegher, Cammie King as Bonnie Blue Butler, Mickey Kuhn as Beau Wilkes.

CREDITS

David O. Selznick, producer; Victor Fleming, director; Sidney Howard, screenplay; William Cameron Menzies, production designer; Lyle Wheeler, art direction; Ernest Haller, photographer; Max Steiner, musical score; Hal C. Kern, supervising film editor; Frank Floyd and Eddie Prinz, dance directors; Eric G. Stacey, assistant director.

SHE'S DOING A WHALE OF A BUSINESS!



MONTREAL • *Orpheum*...THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER gave the Frenchmen the OO-LA-LA and she is now in her third record week.

ROCHESTER • Lester Pollock is an expert in handling exploitation type pictures...That is why he did a full week's business in the first three days.

PHILADELPHIA • *ALDINE* and *KARLTON* . . . After three sensational weeks at the Aldine, the gold-grabbing gal moved over to the Karlton for additional extended first run.

EDMONTON • *RIALTO*...Biggest gross of any United Artists picture this year.

COLUMBUS • *Ohio Theatre* . . . Six thousand dollars in three days. Thanks to Russell Bovim's campaign.

KANSAS CITY • *MIDLAND* . . . McManus' campaign piles up $7,500. in three days. Looks like a $15,000. week.

LOUISVILLE • *Loew's State* . . . Hunt hustled THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER through her paces and rolled up a gross equal to 158 per cent of average.

NEW HAVEN • *POLI*...Lou Brown's Bombers got the Yale boys all excited and seven grand gross in three days tops house average by 40%.

DAYTON • *LOEW'S* . . . More than $5,000 in three days, as Burnett brandishes his exploitation bludgeon.

LUFKIN • *Texas* . . . Manager Threet sets new all-time attendance record in his Texan Theatre. Small towns love this gal as much as the big ones.

BRIDGEPORT • *Poli* . . . First day . . . a smash! Second day . . . $700.00 better! Third day . . . $1120.00 better than the opening day . . .

I guess they like Hal Roach's

The HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER

Whose business is playing the way it oughter!



starring **JOAN BENNETT · ADOLPHE MENJOU**

PEGGY WOOD · JOHN HUBBARD · WILLIAM GARGAN · DONALD MEEK

RELEASED THRU **UNITED ARTISTS**

Three Mentioned as Berman Successor

HOLLYWOOD—Three men are mentioned here as likely successors to Pandro Berman, retiring RKO production head. George J. Schaefer, president, is due from New York shortly after the first of the year to make the selection.

Reported in the running are Ben Goetz, until recently British production head for M-G-M in England. He is a brother of Harry M. Goetz, who with Max Gordon, has just completed "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" which will have its premiere in Washington, January 22. Ben Goetz recently recovered from an operation and has been taking it easy before making a new connection. It is known both Nicholas M. Schenck and Al Lichtman would like to have him rejoin M-G-M as soon as production resumes in England.

Next in line, it is said, is Henry Ginsberg, now in the east winding up his duties at Selznick International. He is scheduled to return here within two weeks.

There is still a possibility Joe Nolan, now in charge of activities at the studio for Schaefer, may continue with the vestiture of the official title.

Four-Point Policy Guides "Pinocchio" Playdates

NEW YORK—A four-point selling policy has been adopted by RKO for "Pinocchio," according to Ned E. Depinet, vice-president in charge of distribution.

They are (1) 50 per cent of gross receipts, (2) the film will play on percentage only, (3) a single feature policy must be adhered to, and (4) longer playing time is asked.

In the latter respect, Depinet claims an analysis of sales records of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" indicates that in more than 75 per cent of bookings the film was not held long enough to get the maximum benefits of its popularity.

"Pinocchio" will be released in February on what is described as the crest of the industry's "most amazing exploitation campaign."

"Irene" Will Be Next RKO Anna Neagle Release

HOLLYWOOD—RKO will release "Sixty Glorious Years" after "Irene," in which Anna Neagle is working now under direction of Herbert Wilcox. The story behind the plan ties in with a desire on the part of RKO to establish the fact Miss Neagle is not a character actress. Her latest shows her in a modern, youthful role.

Wilcox plans to return to London to make one film when his current picture is completed. This will be late in the winter.

Disney Expects to Preview "Pinocchio" Xmas Week

HOLLYWOOD—The Disney studio expects to preview "Pinocchio" Christmas week and have its second full-length feature cartoon ready for release the end of January or early the following month, according to Roy Disney.

Warner Talks 48, All "A's"

Hollywood—As final as plans for 1940-41 might be viewed as early as this, Warner will stick to 48 for next season. This bears out a forecast published in BOXOFFICE on November 4 and tends to kick in the head persistent Hollywood reports that some of the majors, at least, will trim output for the forthcoming season.

On the other hand and while it appears now that Warner will stick to its more or less traditional number of releases, the earlier reported intention of abandoning the "B's" of which the current program lists a round dozen is understood to be agreed upon. This would give the company a solid "A" program with a minimum negative cost of about $300,000 a film. In some instances, this would be double, and more, the amount of money spent on some of its past and current "B's."

Bryan Foy, who has been in charge of the cheaper product, is slated to move up the line into the "A" producing division.

No Definite Plans Set Yet on "Wind" Bookings---Rodgers

Policies, Bookings Chain Meet Topics

NEW YORK—Policies and bookings for the next three months were discussed by district and zone heads of two major circuits during the week.

Meeting with John J. O'Connor, RKO vice-president and general manager, were Charles Koerner, west coast head; John Gorman, Chicago; Mort Singer, midwest partner with headquarters in Chicago; Nat Holt, Cleveland; Harry McDonald, Boston; James Brennan, Trenton. Fred Meyers, chief film buyer, and Max Fellerman, his assistant, sat in on the sessions, following which Koerner made a brief visit to his old stamping grounds in Boston. He left for the coast Friday.

At the Warner gathering were James Coston, Chicago; Nat Wolf, Cleveland; I. J. Hoffman, New Haven; Don Jacocks, Newark; Moe Silver, Albany; Ted Schlanger, Philadelphia; Harry Kalmine, Pittsburgh; John J. Payette, Washington; Herb Copelan, Atlantic City, and Howard Waugh, Memphis. From the home office were Joseph Bernhard, Clayton Bond, Ed Hinchey, Leonard Schlesinger, Harry Goldberg, Frank Phelps, Nat Fellman, Abel Vigard, W. Stewart McDonald, Harry Rosenquest, Louis Kaufman, Herman Maier and Frank Cahill.

It's Not for UA, Goldwyn Says

Hollywood—While he remains silent on its distribution, Samuel Goldwyn, nevertheless, asserts "The Westerner," his current film in which Gary Cooper is starred, will not be released via UA.

The producer expects to go to New York when the film is completed, but whether the proposed trip bears on distribution is a point Goldwyn will not discuss. He says, however, "The Westerner" is designed for February dates.

NEW YORK—No definite plans are set on "Gone With the Wind" beyond current bookings in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Harrisburg, Reading and Cincinnati, states William F. Rodgers, general sales manager for M-G-M, in answer to numerous reports on selling plans and future datings.

"We want to see how the public reacts toward the different types of policies," he adds. The current bookings are regarded as test engagements from which M-G-M executives are attempting to get a basic idea on what to do on subsequent showings.

Atlanta, which held the world premiere Friday at Loew's Grand, is not regarded as any criterion, it is said, because the picture is a natural in the home town of its author, Margaret Mitchell. Playing on a two-a-day schedule, the film is expected to continue at the Loew house for at least a month. Other two-a-day towns are New York, Los Angeles, Boston and Reading. With the exception of Reading, "Gone With the Wind" is dated for simultaneous showing in the towns mentioned three times daily. Harrisburg and Cincinnati are down for three-a-day exhibitions.

Wood Letter Annoys

On deals being made, Rodgers is asking 70 per cent from the first dollar. On extended engagements he is guaranteeing exhibitors a profit of 10 per cent.

Considerable annoyance over a letter sent by P. J. Wood, business manager of the ITO of Ohio, to Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, is expressed by Rodgers, to whom the letter, criticizing the percentage policy on the picture, has been directed. The letter was mailed from Columbus, December 6. Schenck left for the coast December 8.

Rodgers feels Schenck should have been given a chance to answer before Wood sent out a bulletin to his membership attacking "The Friendly Company's" friendliness. The M-G-M sales head does not intend to make a public issue of the matter and has replied privately. Among the questions asked by Rodgers are what experience Wood has had in distribution and on what basis can the business manager of the Ohio independent exhibitor unit consider himself an authority on sales policies.

Wood, in his bulletin, contends " "The

(Continued on page 20)

Hot From The Air Waves...
And Sensational Magazine Stories...

THE FAMOUS CRIME-SMASHING HERO IN
A RECORD-SMASHING CHAPTER PLAY

Crashing your screen with a ready-made audience of millions...and a cast and production to bring all ages of both sexes storming your doors!

"THE SHADOW"

featuring

VICTOR JORY

Veda Ann Borg · Roger Moore · Robert Fiske

Based upon the stories published in "THE SHADOW" Magazine
Screen play by Joseph Poland, Ned Dandy, Joseph O'Donnell
Directed by James W. Horne

A COLUMBIA CHAPTER PLAY

RELEASED JANUARY 5, 1940



VICTOR JORY
in his first role in a Chapter Play

No "Wind" Booking Plans Definite

(Continued from page 18)

Friendly Company' will obtain far more revenue (on 'Gone With the Wind') if it will follow a policy of roadshowing the picture in those centers where it should be roadshowed and then release it generally to those thousands of accounts that will pay more money on a percentage basis at fair admission prices, than at roadshow prices."

However, Wood agrees M-G-M is entitled to preferred and extended playing time at admissions slightly higher than those charged regularly.

Previewed on the coast Tuesday night, a review on "Gone With the Wind" appears in this issue. A press preview is slated for the Astor, New York, Monday night and on the following day two-a-day showings will begin at that house while the Capitol will have three screenings a day. The Capitol opening will be televised by NBC.

"Gulliver" a Sell-Out at Two Miami Houses

MIAMI—An hour after the Sheridan box-office opened for the sale of seats for the Monday night premiere of "Gulliver's Travels," W. R. Lynch, general manager of Parmount Enterprises, here reported a sellout and decided to hold a similar event at the Colony. An initial order of 1,000 tickets greeted the decision on the Colony.

The smart set of Miami Beach will be well represented at the two openings following which a ball is to be held at the Roney Plaza. The hotel entrance has been transformed into a Lilliputian castle and the Palm Gardens now are a Lilliputian village.

$142,000 Advance Sale for Six-Theatre "Wind" Date

NEW YORK—The six theatres that will tenant "Gone With the Wind" on a reserved seat basis have chalked up an estimated advance sale of $142,000, a weekend tabulation shows. The figure does not take into account continuous-show engagements at three other houses. A breakdown on the advance ticket sale at the reserved seat houses follows: Atlanta, $57,000; two houses in Boston, $19,000; Reading, $8,000; New York, $50,000, and Los Angeles, $8,000. The Orpheum in Boston is selling reserved seats for all evening performances, while the afternoon shows are at general admission. The State in the same city is reserved for all shows.

Think Dies Will Not Hear Execs on Red Activity

HOLLYWOOD—Sources reputedly close to the situation do not credit reports from Orange, Tex., that film leaders may be asked to testify before the Dies committee when its hearings resume in Texas.

For some time, the expectancy has been Representative Dies will conduct an investigation here into the alleged Communistic activities on the part of unnamed players at the studios.

Coast Scramble On For GWTW Tickets

Hollywood—Oldtimers in the film colony insist there has never been anything quite like the rush for opening night tickets—at $11 a throw—for "Gone With the Wind" at the Carthay Circle, December 28.

Selznick International, in the first instance, sent the invitations to a highly selective list and is limiting each invitee to one pair of tickets. One prominent producer put in a purchase order for six seats and was turned down flat.

When David O. Selznick returns from the Atlanta opening, he proposes combing over the purchase orders himself. In the meantime, the publicity staff at M-G-M is rapidly approaching the lunatic fringe in its efforts to keep the Hollywood mighty—and the producer—happy. Admittedly, it is turning out to be an enormous task.

Sidewalk know-it-alls predict opening performance seats, if any are submitted to speculation, will bring $100 each on the night of the premiere.

First of Four Columbia Sales Fabs in Capital

NEW YORK—The first of four divisional sales meetings Columbia will conduct during January to discuss forthcoming product takes place January 6-7 in Washington. Abe Montague, general sales manager, will preside at each session. Other home office executives who will attend the Washington meeting are Rube Jackter, Louis Astor, Lou Weinberg and Max Weisfeldt.

From the field will be Sam Galanty, division manager heading delegates from the mideast territory, which includes the Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Washington branches.

The second conference will be held in Chicago, January 13-14, and will take in the midwestern and central divisions of which Phil Dunas and Carl Shalit are division managers, respectively. Branches represented will be Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Des Moines, Minneapolis, Kansas City and St. Louis.

A meeting on January 17-18 is scheduled for Dallas, taking in the southern division, which includes offices in Atlanta, Charlotte, Memphis, Oklahoma City and New Orleans. Sam Moscow is in charge of this territory.

The final session is set for San Francisco, January 27-28. Branches in this section which will be represented by their managers and sales personnel, headed by Jerome Safron, division manager, include Denver, Los Angeles, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Francisco and Seattle.

Jackter will accompany Montague to all the meetings.

East for Premiere

HOLLYWOOD—Darryl F. Zanuck plans a New York visit in February to attend the premiere of "The Grapes of Wrath" for which a theatre is yet to be determined.

Harry Brand, director of studio publicity for 20th Century-Fox, probably will accompany him.

No UA Change Seen In Fairbanks' Death

(Continued from page 5)

and they couldn't have picked a better model. Fairbanks was generous to a fault —modest, courageous, he had all the attributes you'd like to have yourself."

Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production, 20th Century-Fox:

"One of the grandest figures of screen history has been lost in the untimely passing of Douglas Fairbanks. But through his great contributions to the world of entertainment he has gained immortality. He leaves a record of achievement that is second to none, for his pictures will be remembered whenever the fine attainments of screen entertainment are in discussion. I knew and loved him as a friend, and knew how strongly and warmly he clung to life and loved it. It was this love of life as well as his adventurous and romantic screen portraits that he bequeathed to the world. Doug helped to make the world a better place to live in. Watching him on the screen, all care and the sordid pettiness of worldly scheming fell away. To the public mind he was Robin Hood, tossing his mantle to the ground to champion the cause of humanity, and the world will always remember him as a character of heroic Robin Hood proportions."

Fairbanks, who died at 12:45 a. m. on December 12, was 56 years of age. Death came of a heart attack following an earlier one on the evening of December 11, at which time a complete rest was ordered by attending physicians, although they expressed the belief at that time that the illness was not serious. Body was removed to Forest Lawn Memorial Park Mortuary in Glendale.

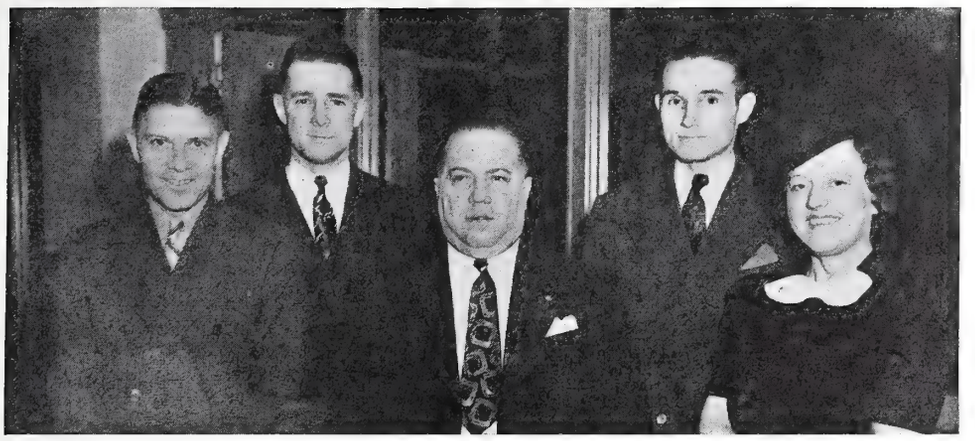
At the bedside when death came to the veteran producer-star were his widow, the former Lady Ashley; her sister, Mrs. Basil Bleck; Robert Fairbanks, his younger brother, and a nurse. His son, Douglas jr., did not reach the scene until after his father's death.

Born in Denver, Colo., May 23, 1883, Fairbanks spent many years on the stage. He came to Hollywood in 1914 as one of the stars of the old Triangle Co. and became noted for his appearances in athletic adventure and romantic comedy films. After a term with Famous Players Lasky, he aided in forming the United Artists Corp., for which he produced and starred in such smash hits as "Robin Hood," "The Thief of Bagdad" and "The Black Pirate," in addition to such earlier successes as "The Three Musketeers" and "The Mark of Zorro." Fairbanks and Mary Pickford were married in 1920 and divorced in 1936.

In recent years Fairbanks had been inactive in picture work. His last film, made in association with Alexander Korda, was "The Private Life of Don Juan."

He had been contemplating production of "The Californian" in association with Walter Wanger, but the project never materialized.

Harry D. Buckley, UA executive, and Norris Wilcox, personnel director and half-brother of Fairbanks, attended the services and flew back to the home office immediately after.



—Cosmo-Sileo Photo

Representing the Exchange Unions—

When it came time to photograph the seven delegates to the Film Exchange Employes Union participating with distributors in fixing new wage scales and working conditions in New York two regional representatives were absent. Here, then, are—in the usual left to right—L. I. Cronk, Denver; F. Jodry Smith, San Francisco; Lou Johnson, New York, spokesman for the group; V. E. Crick, Memphis, and Marie Holdsworth, Des Moines. The absentees were Neal Bishop, Chicago, and Lawrence J. Katz, Pittsburgh.

Hikes Sought on Dollar Basis For "Back Room" Employes

NEW YORK—A flat, dollar basis raise rather than a percentage arrangement is the unusual union proposal that found its way to the negotiating table when delegates of the Film Exchange Employes Union opened discussions with distributor representatives to fix new wage terms and working conditions for 3,500 members.

"We don't like the percentage idea because it would not give the $20 a week clerk the same benefits a $65 man would receive," a spokesman declares. "Assuming, for argument's sake," went the explanation, "a ten per cent increase was agreed upon. This would give the clerk a $2 raise each week, while the upper bracket man would get a $6.50 increase. It isn't our idea of fair treatment for all concerned."

The alternate plan embracing a flat, dollar basis increase is designed to fix a boost more commensurate with the position, or grade of work performed by the union members. It is further contended that local conditions also bear on how much more a particular worker should get in the way of a raise, the view being that certain exchanges in various territories are not necessarily identical in respect to their ability to grant increases.

"We feel that so long as the bulk increase is the same, distributors should not care how we distribute the raises among members," is the union spokesman's view.

Acting for the majors in the negotiations are Abe Montague, chairman, and Hank Kaufman, Columbia; Carl Leserman and Frank Phelps, Warner; Ned Depinet and A. A. Schubart, RKO; J. J. Unger, Paramount; C. C. Moskowitz and J. S. MacLeod, Loew's; Clarence Hill, 20th Century-Fox; Earl Dennison, UA, and Tom Murray and Oscar Binder, Universal.

In addition to the seven exchange union delegates, John Gatelee, Lou Krouse and Dick Walsh from the IATSE are sitting in.

Stoll Succeeds Bloom as Western Electric Head

NEW YORK—Clarence G. Stoll has been elected president of Western Electric, succeeding Edgar S. Bloom, who retires December 31 after 43 years of service with the Bell System. The new president had been in charge of operations since 1928. He has spent his entire business career of 36 years with Western Electric. Bloom has been appointed director of purchases of the British Purchasing Commission.

Basic Union Boosts Hinge on Confab

HOLLYWOOD—The outcome of the parley here on or before February 15 to determine if majors are in an economic position to make permanent the 10 per cent wage increase to some 11,000 studio employes will decide whether the 10 per cent hike given to three basic agreement unions in Atlantic City will obtain.

If the IATSE and producers reach an impasse and the issue reverts to arbitration, the 10 per cent increase granted teamsters, electricians and carpenters unions in the east will automatically cease and the funds put in escrow until a decision is reached on the studio situation. If an arbitration board here finds for the IATSE the three basic unions will regain the increase, besides the funds resting in escrow.

Another condition of the "gentlemen's agreement" reached in the east is that should an arbitration decision here go against the IATSE on retention of its wage gain, the majors will hold a parley with the basic unions, probably in New York, to settle the issue over compliance with the increase. If there is a difference of opinion as to the surrender of the boost, both sides agree to present the case for arbitration within 15 days.

Stein Eastern Publicity Head for Goldwyn

NEW YORK—Edwin C. Stein, former managing editor of the Newark *Star-Eagle*, is eastern publicity representative now for Samuel Goldwyn. Stein has been active in newspaper work for the past 12 years.



Notes to You from Red Kann

(Continued from page 14)

Hal Horne—Old-fashioned, snow white Xmas.—in February.

Milt Hossfeld—Pickup by Casey.

Joe Hummel—The other half from England.

Walter J. Hutchinson—Me, too.

The Industry—Complete recovery for Sidney Kent.

●

Rube Jackter—More color.

W. Ray Johnston—Bankroll. Also "Rip Van Winkle."

Ben Kalmenson—Leserman said it.

Arthur W. Kelly—New (?) contract.

Sidney R. Kent—That the industry gets its wish.

Henry F. Krecke—Continued single blessedness.

Alexander Korda—Sterling support.

Harry Kosiner—No dogs in the Wanger.

William J. Kupper—All-American berth for Junior.

Mayor La Guardia—Hollywood and Vine on Broadway.

Mervyn Le Roy—A Wizard that's a wizard.

Carl Leserman—Plenty of fight from the 69th.

Sol Lesser—UA goes to town on "Our Town."

Howard Levinson—Blackstone for Arnold.

Jules Levy—The boys from Syracuse make good.

Al Lichtman—Eighty-two cents on the dollar, right down the line.

Lou Lifton—Pass for New Year's Eve.

Arthur Loew—End of the war.

Irving Maas—Fewer currency restrictions.

Lee Marcus—Less buzzing of the bees.

●

Marx Brothers—A new gag.

Harry Mandel—Rainy weekends.

Arthur Mayer—"A" product.

Louis B. Mayer—Win, place and show.

Charles E. McCarthy—Place to spend vacation.

Frank J. A. McCarthy—Dictionary exhibitors can understand.

Joseph A. McConville—The other half from England.

S. Barret McCormick—That editor's scalp.

Stewart McDonald—New pair of kilts.

Bill Melniker—Painless openings.

Fred Meyers—Tenants for those flats.

Harry Michalson—Anything on the short side.

Dan Michalove—Early return to the states.

J. J. Milstein—Everything in "Small" packages.

Abe Montague—Another Capra. Or the same one.

Norman H. Moray—Cheaper cigar holders.

Oscar A. Morgan—Peaches from Georgia.

C. C. Moskowitz—Unions that don't want increases.

Joseph H. Moskowitz—Percolator.

Martin Moskowitz—Rise in amusement issues.

●

Alec Moss—Game with Culbertson.

Thomas P. Mulrooney—Steady supply of "bagels."

Abram F. Myers—A friendly neighbor.

Rutgers Neilson—Warehouse for his collection.

David Niven—Peace.

Joseph Nolan—All of them to come in under schedule and under budget.

Roy Norr—An uncensored speech.

George O'Brien—New yarn.

John J. O'Connor—That slip of paper.

David Palfreyman—More White Sulphur conventions.

Richard C. Patterson—Quick court nod.

Robert W. Perkins—Just a little relief.

Charles C. Pettijohn—A Rip Van Winkle for Senator Neely. Ravioli with Mussolini.

Arnold Picker—Havana cigars.

Gene Picker—A Crawford for $20.

Mary Pickford—To be "understood" by Goldwyn.

Leonard Picker—Cigarettes without a tax.

Joe Pincus—Medico on cheap annual retainer.

Lou Pollock—More offspring.

Dick Powell—A part—any part.

●

William T. Powers—G. O. P. victory in '40. Or to be left alone.

Charles Prutzman—Danielle Darrieux to stay in Paris.

Ed Raftery—Suits, but the kind he can wear, not swear at.

Harry Rapf—Alphabet shift making "B" an "A."

Charles Reagan—Good, old Hoosier celebration.

Phil Reisman—A party for all those wrong guessers.

Arch Reeve—"More apples."

Sam Rinzler—"A's," but they shouldn't smell from herring.

Ritz Brothers—Jules Levy and more like him.

Bob Riskin—For Capra to get set.

Norton V. Ritchey—Same as McConville.

Hal Roach—Music Hall instead of the Roxy.

Herman Robbins—Just to trail along.

William F. Rodgers—Course in higher mathematics. Permanent cure for colds and code. To prove it's not an ill "Wind" that blows from Metro.

J. Robert Rubin—Dramatists' pact that hasn't been Wilk-ed.

Jerry Safron—Triplets.

E. M. Saunders—Same as Tom Connors.

George J. Schaefer—Bye bye Bondy.

Aubrey Schenck—Twins.

Joseph M. Schenck—Success at Arrowhead.

●

Marvin Schenck—Quick hike to Florida.

Nicholas M. Schenck—Early figures on GWTW.

L. Jack Schlaifer—Gold.

Abe Schneider—A lot of things.

Eddie Schnitzer—Same as Ben Kalmenson.

William A. Scully—More rides like Destry's.

Si Seadler—Fewer cracks about his gout.

Gradwell L. Sears—Four of everything. Also soda and without Brand(t)y.

Joseph H. Seidelman—The other half from England.

Joe Seider—Another marlin.

Moe J. Siegel—Same as Jimmy Grainger.

David O. Selznick—His bait back.

(Continued on page 24)



Seek Review of Stirn Suit Against Atlas

WASHINGTON—Litigation before the supreme court over the RKO reorganization has been increased by the filing of a petition for review of a lower court decision in a suit brought by Ernest W. Stirn of Milwaukee against the Atlas Corp.

Stirn protests the reorganization on the ground that approval of 100 per cent of the Class A stockholders had not been secured, his petition explaining that he purchased certificates for 1,234 shares of the stock between April, 1930, and September, 1931, at a cost of $33,580 and, incidentally, was never successful in having his certificates converted into actual stock.

The case also attacks the part played in the reorganization by the Atlas Corp., and the supreme court is asked to review a number of issues which are raised.

New Underwriting Pact On RKO Common Filed

NEW YORK — The new underwriting agreement for the RKO common has been submitted to federal judge William O. Bondy by Atlas. It calls for RKO to issue 500,000 shares of common at $3 a share to holders of unsecured allowed claims and to Rockefeller Center. The agreement was approved by the RKO board by a majority vote.

RKO must submit the agreement by December 31 and any stock not taken 20 days thereafter Atlas will purchase at $3 a share. For the underwriting, Atlas wants one cent a share on every three shares issued for every day those shares are not taken up. On those not purchased at the end of 20 days, Atlas will receive 25 cents, making their actual payment $2.75 a share. A joker in the agreement provides for cancellation, should the supreme court grant a writ of certiorari now before it on two appeals from the order of confirmation of the plan.

Agreement in Letter Form

The agreement is in the form of a letter from Floyd B. Odlum to RKO, and states that in view of the European situation the market for film stocks has dropped considerably.

Judge Bondy has been informed by counsel for Atlas that the agreement represented an extreme sacrifice for Atlas and no better offer could be obtained. The SEC promised to make a quick opinion. An early hearing has been set to hear arguments. Bondy will decide the fairness himself, he said, and will not refer the case to a special master. Atlas's offer is $1 less than the offer they made August 3, which expired before it was acted upon. The investment company will receive $1,750 for each day the stock remains unpurchased. It is unlikely too much opposition will be given this offer, as all creditors seem anxious to get the entire proceeding over with. John Stover, Nathan Rosenberg and possibly George L. Schein will provide most, if not all, objections that may be forthcoming.

"U" Plots Durbin In "Phantom"

Hollywood—One of the big ones projected for Universal's 1940-41 program will be a remake of "The Phantom of the Opera" with Deanna Durbin starred. Her second film for the new season will be "American Girl."

Enthusiastic over "My Little Chickadee," co-starring Mae West and W. C. Fields, the company is said to be considering other films with the same combination. As reported, "U" is withdrawing the first one from its regular schedule and proposes selling it on straight 50-50 deals from the first dollar.

Odom Files Trust Suit Against Martin, Majors

ATLANTA—A $15,000 anti-trust action has been instituted here by W. H. Odom, former operator of Milledgeville, Ga., against eight majors and Roy E. Martin, trading as Martin Theatres.

Plaintiff asserts that shortly after purchasing a theatre property for $12,500 he was unable to secure product, alleging a conspiracy was entered into between distributor defendants and Martin. Odom claims he was therefore forced to dispose of his house to Martin for $7,500.

Columbia Representatives Testify in Boston Suit

BOSTON—Consuming the better part of two days, New York representatives of Columbia offered testimony before Master Hendricks in the Morse & Rothenberg anti-trust case. On the stand were Abe Montague, general sales manager; Joseph McConville, in charge of foreign sales; Nat Cohn, branch manager, and Seymour Schussel, salesman. Leonard Picker, Columbia attorney, represented the company during the testimony.

Defines "Utopia" in Trade Parlance

(Continued from page 6)

cern and bearing importantly on budgets and returns, Kent indicates latest advices from England show business in that country is off 30 to 40 per cent as a result of the war.

"And that is without bombing. What will happen when they do start bombing?" he asks.

There was no answer but it is obvious Kent is taking the European situation as an index between profit and loss for his company.

"That is our problem," he says, "and we will have to adjust our production schedules accordingly."

Kent is due back Monday from a quick trip to Hollywood during which he conferred with studio executives on budgets and visited his mother and brothers. Accompanying him was Sydney Towell, treasurer, and Charles E. McCarthy, advertising and publicity head.

Major Executives on Hand For Baltimore Case

BALTIMORE—Several M-G-M sales executives and personnel of other major distributors were on hand during the week and took the stand in the Westway case which involves clearances. Ed Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, UA counsel, is acting as associate for the defense.



Seeks to Determine Metro Pact Apex

NEW YORK—M-G-M is seeking to determine whether its production can reach even a larger circulation than the average of 10,500 contracts per picture hit in 1938-39.

The task falls to Edwin A. Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers, general sales manager. Aaron goes into the field around February 1, to be gone about two months. He will stop at each of the company's 32 branch offices.

Apparently satisfied with exhibitor response to the company's 1939-40 sales formula, which embraces an increase in upper percentage brackets, the executive sales management now would concentrate on shrinking the number of possibilities that have, for one reason or another, neglected to sign M-G-M contracts.

Aaron will conduct meetings at each branch he visits and delve into all possible problems confronting sales personnel, this to be coordinated with the home office staff on his return.

Nicholas M. Schenck Is on Routine Hollywood Visit

HOLLYWOOD—Nicholas M. Schenck is here from New York on his usual studio visit. "Just routine and for my usual handful of days," he informs BOXOFFICE.

Eastern visitors include Sidney R. Kent, Sidney Towell and Charles E. McCarthy of 20th Century-Fox on production plans for 1940-41; Hal Horne, eastern representative for Walt Disney, and Bennett Cerf, book publisher.

Returning Hollywood-ites include Sol Lesser and Dick Powell.

Notes to You

(Continued from page 22)

Victor Shapiro—Travel on Beautyrest mattresses.

Harry Shaw—A good kidney.

Mort A. Shea—Better health.

Harry Sherman—Oscars on horseback.

Louis K. Sidney—Good news.

Milton Silver—The farm.

Murray Silverstone—To be "understood" by Goldwyn.

Al Sindlinger—More time on his hands.

●

Charles Skouras—A settlement.

George Skouras—New set of Greek mythology.

Spyros Skouras—Same as Charlie.

Edward Small—To get one son away from Warner.

A. W. Smith—Circuit-closing gadget like Talon.

Cresson E. Smith—Deal to close in Florida. Miami will do.

Nate Spingold—Same as Abe Montague.

William Sussman—Way to lift the mortgage.

Truman H. Talley—A safe.

Leslie Thompson—Lux.

Gene Towne—That Baker said all.

Joseph J. Unger—Travel far and wide for Gulliver.

Fred Ullman—One-way ticket to California.

W. G. Van Schmus—Weeks and weeks with "Pinocchio."

Joseph R. Vogel—Things that hold up.

Walter Wanger—Artists united.

Albert Warner—Miami.

Harry M. Warner—More and more of California.

Jack L. Warner—Another masseur.

George W. Weeks—Golden Rays.



George Weltner—Latin-American trip.

Lou Weinberg—More room at Lindy's.

Max J. Weisfeldt—Someone to buy French pictures.

Milton Weiss—Weekend at Howard Strickling's farm.

Orson Welles—More deep wells like RKO.

John Hay Whitney—Wings and a harp.

Herbert Wilcox—Exhibitors to fall in love with Irene.

Jake Wilk—A collar like Belasco's.

Al Wilkie—A fireplace with Moore.

Herman Wobber—Another "Alexander."

Cliff Work—Less of it.

Herbert J. Yates—Same as Moe Siegel.

Gabe Yorke—Time to explore the Mojave.

Darryl F. Zanuck—A Shirley Temple, circa 1936.

Adolph Zukor—An anchor.

A New Swipe Taken At "Pot O' Gold"

LINCOLN—Taking the point of view that the Tums radio "Pot O' Gold" is more conducive to implanting the gambling urge than a national lottery would be—because every person automatically buys himself a "chance" or a "ticket" by merely paying his telephone bill—Bob Livingston, of the Capitol here, has advanced his combat of the radio giveaway to the second stage.

Earl Campbell, director in the U. S. chamber of commerce and prominent Lincoln retailer, became interested in the Livingston plan of underwriting the broadcast to get people to come to the theatre on Tuesday nights, when it occurred to him the giveaways might be spaced out throughout the day, keeping housewives at home listening to the radio and shrinking retail trade.

So, this week, to W. G. Carey jr., national head of the U. S. chamber, Campbell sent a letter pointing out his fears, and the fears of other retailers, whose letters he included, that, if successful, the Tums idea could swell over the whole dial and accomplish dire results.

He suggested in the latter that Carey give the matter plenty of thought and that the approach to stop the giveaway was through the FCC.

"I'm going all the way through with this thing," said Livingston. "I am satisfied that the show business has gained a lot by fighting back on this radio giveaway, debunking the idea that there is the remotest chance to win, but I don't think insurance is the answer. I think the program should be nipped off the networks."

Fox Houses in Denver More Than Match Pot by Tums

DENVER—Determined to smash the effectiveness of the Tums "Pot O' Gold" in keeping people from theatres on Tuesday nights, 11 local Fox houses are offering double the amount of any Tums award to any person called, provided he responds when called in the theatre. This offer falls on the same night as the weekly Ford giveaway and cash drawings, and is expected to pack the houses to capacity.

"Gulliver's Travels" a Hit

New York—Cleverly produced, smartly handled and beautifully photographed in Technicolor, "Gulliver's Travels" stacks up as a big-time attraction for audiences generally and juveniles particularly.

Screened for more than 1,000 exhibitors, circuit executives and independent exhibitors, their wives and children, the animated feature clicked at the Astor, Thursday afternoon.

Very little has to be said for the story which is familiar the world 'round. The outstanding character by far is Gabby. Jessica Dragonette sings for the character, Princess Glory, and Lanny Ross for Prince David. There are one or two numbers which stand out. It should not be a surprise to find them among the hits of the day.

Considerable credit is due Max Fleischer, the producer, and Director Dave Fleischer for the way they handled the Lilliputian mob scenes and general maneuverings. At times Gulliver, Prince David and Princess Glory do not move with the ease usually given to cartoon characters, but in toto the operations of the mites produce enough fun for everyone to leave the theatre happy. The running time is 77 minutes.—ORNSTEIN.

Schenck to Be Renamed Along With Other Loew Executives

NEW YORK—Nicholas M. Schenck, president, and the current lineup of Metro officers are scheduled to be re-elected either January 16 or 17, following the annual stockholders meeting to be held on the first named date at the company's headquarters. At the annual get together of the stockholders, Joe Vogel will be continued as a director along with the present board personnel. The re-elected directors usually meet the same day, but in the event the majority of the men are not available, the session is usually put over until the following day.

With the return Monday of Schenck from a visit to the studios and Atlanta, where he attended the world premiere of "Gone With the Wind," the board is slated to meet in a few days to approve the annual financial report and probably take action on a bonus distribution to employes. Net earnings of Loew's approximate $5.50 a share on the common.

National Theatres Annual Dividend Is $1,800,000

NEW YORK—National Theatres has declared an annual dividend of $1,800,000. Chase National Bank, which owns 58 per cent of the stock, has received $1,044,000 as its share of the disbursement, and 20th-Fox, which owns 42 per cent of the stock, received $756,000. The dividend amounted to $1 a share.

Net earnings for the current fiscal year are not available. The circuit has a calendar year closing. Last year the net profits amounted to $2,600,000, at which time dividends totaling $2,100,000 were declared.

The number of theatres now operating in the circuit is 465.

Censor Passage Sought

RICHMOND, VA.—Col. Robert T. Barton jr., counsel for Trio Productions, distributors of "Goose Step" (formerly titled "Hitler, Beast of Berlin"), indicated the censors may be asked to pass upon the film again after certain changes have been made.

Has Best Fall in Cleveland

New York—Despite all the headlines in the newspapers, RKO has enjoyed its best fall in point of business in the last seven years, Nat Holt, district manager with headquarters in Cleveland, states.

"Cleveland has never had a breadline this year and it's a dirty shame the political situation has resulted in the washing of dirty linen publicly," he added before returning home Thursday.

Reports Business Up In Four Territories

NEW YORK—Returning from a three-week cross country tour on behalf of the RKO circuit, Fred Meyers, film buyer, states business in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver and Chicago is "very good."

Having spent some time at the studios, Meyers is looking forward to good grosses from "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" and "Swiss Family Robinson." He declares these are the three most important films the RKO circuit has lined up in years. He also is expecting "big things" on "Vigil in the Night."

Over 1,000 Expected At a Loew Party

NEW YORK—More than 1,000 employes of Loew's, embracing all home office and exchange departments, are expected to be on hand for the annual Christmas party at the Hotel Astor, December 22.

A comprehensive system of committees has been set up. For the executive, sales, foreign, construction, purchasing, advertising, legal and accounting departments, the following have been selected to handle details: Len Cohen, Marvin Schenck, Eugene Picker, Leonard Pollak, the Misses Pat Stewart and Matie Hammerstein, Rose Klein, Irving Helfont, William Melniker, Felicia Lamport, Florence Litt and Dorothy Quimby.

Also Perry Charles, Buddy Markus, Ernest Emerling, Anna D. Ellmer, Arthur Schmidt, Eddie Dowden, Dan Harris, Ernest Morrell, M. D. O'Brien, Sidney Piermont, Miss Marshall and Harry Bernstein.

Edward R. Suesse and Virginia Aaron represent the exchange and warehouse, while Frances Bloom and Leo Cohen are looking after the personnel of radio station WHN.

Year's Operation on S. I. Occasions Fabian Party

NEW YORK—The management of Fabian Theatres will play host at a dinner-dance to be held January 6 in the Elks Club, Staten Island, to mark the first anniversary since the circuit assumed operation of seven houses on the island.

The following committees have been chosen by Harry Black, general manager: Reception—John Firnkoess, George Evans and Roy Sherkey. Tickets—George Trilling and Francis Hicks. Advertising—Edgar Goth and John Solimando. Entertainment—Art Lane and Al DeFazio. Transportation—Michael Garzetta and Bill Keeley. House—Elihu Glass, Sig Kasse and James Teehan. The list embraces managers and assistants at the St. George, Paramount, Ritz, Liberty, Capitol, Strand and Stadium.

Settle Mexican Row

NEW YORK—The recent siege of labor trouble in Mexico which threatened normal operations of distributors there, it is learned, has been settled amicably. The request of certain union leaders for a retainer has been granted, insuring, it is believed, a long spell of labor peace.

"Hunchback" a Holiday Gift

Hollywood—RKO has a holiday gift in "Hunchback of Notre Dame" for its accounts which can rely on it to be among the top grossers of the new year. Screened for the press Thursday night, it, unlike its predecessor, manifests abundant sympathy for the deformed bell ringer and gives Charles Laughton another opportunity to display fine histrionic wares. His protege, Maureen O'Hara, a newcomer in these parts, has plenty on the ball, ditto Edmund O'Brien, from the stage. To Cedric Hardwicke goes a sizeable share of the honors for a masterful performance as the bewitched chief justice. Alan Marshal and Walter Hampden acquit themselves admirably. William Dieterle's direction is outstanding and the handling of the mob scenes an achievement in itself. In brief, RKO has something which rightfully deserves extended playing time.—SPEAR.

Korda Sees UA Effort to Buy Stock Held by Fairbanks

NEW YORK—United Artists will probably make an effort to purchase the one-fifth interest in the company held by the late Douglas Fairbanks sr., Alexander Korda declared before sailing on the *Rex*.

In reply to a direct question whether he would make an individual bid for the holdings, Korda said it was more than likely the company would and that he personally would not make one at the present time.

Korda said he is still undecided about his Hollywood production plans since it is difficult to make decision as long as the war continues. He does, however, expect to return here in March.

When he gets to England, Korda will put the finishing touches on "The Thief of Bagdad," and begin "Hunting of U-Boats" in conjunction with the British Navy.

Also sailing was Roberto Dandi, managing director of ICI of Italy. Dandi, here for sometime, spent a week in Hollywood and was unsuccessful in interesting American talent in coming to Italy.

He said performers were hesitant about going at this time but was optimistic about enlisting actors and technicians for Italian productions in the near future. Dandi added he did not purchase any American pictures.

Dandi was accompanied by Americo Aboaf, who recently was appointed to handle Universal's foreign affairs in neutral countries, including Spain and Italy.

Making his routine European checkup was Truman H. Talley, head of Movietone News, and Bonny Powell, Movietone News cameraman. Talley said he expects to be gone about six weeks and intends to visit most European capitals.

An attractive addition to the passenger list was Isa Miranda who told reporters she was just returning to spend Christmas with her mother. Miss Miranda said she had no other plans.

Hollywood Rites for Douglas Fairbanks

(*More details on pages* 5 *and* 20)

HOLLYWOOD—Funeral services were held here Friday for Douglas Fairbanks at Wee Kirk of the Heather. Interment was in Forest Lawn. Pallbearers were Charles Chaplin, Tom Geraghty, Joseph M. Schenck, Sid Grauman, Chuck Lewis and C. E. Ericksen.

More Join in Tribute To Fairbanks

NEW YORK—Executives in the UA home office joined west coast figures in tributes to Douglas Fairbanks.

Harry D. Buckley said:

"After an intimate association of more than 20 years, the passing of Douglas Fairbanks is a profound personal loss.

"As friend, and as business associate, Doug's wisdom, his integrity and his warmth were always a source of inspiration to me. His passing leaves a void that can never be filled."

Arthur W. Kelly said:

(Continued on page 28-E)

It All Depends on How One Spells Bologna

New York—Latest gag in selling film is the line pulled by a major company sales executive. No mention of price is made, but the Broadway operator almost collapsed with fright when he was asked: "Invite this producer to play his product at your theatre."

Charity Campaign Lunch Promises to Draw Trade

NEW YORK—A record attendance of independent exhibitors is expected at the luncheon at the Hotel Astor, December 19, in connection with the campaign for funds of the amusement division of the New York and Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities.

At a meeting of about 50 committee heads, presided over by David Bernstein and Major Albert Warner, confidence was expressed that the amusement division would exceed the $175,000 contributions of last year.

Among those attending the session were Julian Abeles, Max Blackman, Leo Brecher, Leopold Friedman, Herman Gluckman, Leon Goldberg, Monroe Greenthal, Arthur H. Israel, Joe Lee, Milton Maier, Charles H. Moses, B. S. Moss, Eugene Picker, Harold Rodner, Samuel Rinzler, Herman Robbins, Budd Rogers, Edward Schnitzer, Charles Sonin, David Weinstock and Bob Wolf.

New York Theatres May Now Permit Smoking

NEW YORK—Smoking in all theatres now is permitted under an amendment to the administrative code signed by Mayor LaGuardia. In theatres without balconies, smoking is permitted only in certain sections.

Capra May Not Accept Third Academy Term

HOLLYWOOD—Reports are being circulated Frank Capra will not accept a third term as president of the Academy of the M. P. Arts and Sciences. The polls having closed December 12, the Academy is expected momentarily to announce the new board membership.

With the annual awards slated for February, the organization is gearing its machinery for the big event. Capra has named the following committees to consider possible changes in the rules governing the awards:

Directors: King Vidor, George Marshall and Lewis Milestone.

Short subjects: Jules White and Fred Quimby. It has been suggested two additional awards be made in this division, one for short comedies and the other for travelogues.

Art directors: Bernard Herzbrun, chairman; Lionel Banks, Hans Dreier, Cedric Gibbons, John Victor Mackay, Jack Otterson, Hans Peters, Van Nest Polglase and Bernard Teitelbaum.

Film editors: Harold J. McCord, chairman; Anne Bauchens, Martin Cohn, Gene Milford, Murray Seldeen, Blanche Sewell and I. James Wilkinson.

Special effects technicians: Farciot Edouart, chairman; Lionel Banks, Arnold Gillespie, Kenneth Lambert, Louis Mesenkop, Roy Seawright, Vernon Walker, Byron Haskin, Hal Shaw, Bernard Herzbrun.

Sound recording: John Aalberg. He is a committee of one to consult all studio departments and correlate suggestions for changes in last year's rules.

Metroite "Wind" Premiere Visitors Due in Gotham

NEW YORK—Nicholas M. Schenck, William F. Rodgers, Tom Connors, William Ferguson, Joseph R. Vogel, Oscar Doob and Howard Dietz of Loew's, and Lowell Calvert of Selznick-International are due Monday after attending the world premiere of "Gone With the Wind" at Atlanta Friday evening.

Wherein Culture Gets a Setback

Dear Editor:

It ceases to be a coincidence every time Ali Gaga is stuck for an answer he tries to change the subject. Like this "Plato" and "Aristotle" he boasts he read. Even I never heard of the guys. So I asked my night school teacher, Miss Augusta Windh, who knows everything. She says it's very simple, I shouldn't get confused. She says they give those books away as premiums for every $2 meal ticket in Greek lunch wagons.

Even a Gallup poll wouldn't convince me he's so highly educated. I got proof. A friend of mine in Central Casting told me about the time Mrs. Gaga (that's his mother, poor soul) brought him to the studio for a part in an Our Gang comedy. The kid was, as is customary with morons, too big for his age and for the part. Mrs. G. apologized and explained: "Of course, he is a little large, we couldn't stop him from growing. But," she added proudly, "we have been able to keep his mind back."

Now, for your information, I would like to ask a question. Why all this propaganda about moving Hollywood to New York? I know of only one logical reason. Gaga wants to play the burp in "Greps of Wrath" and they won't let him out of the state because he's mentally incompetent. Why don't he just ask for a larger weekly allowance from his mother and stick to his job as lobby display for "Return of the Frog?"

Friendlier than ever,

ERIF SHOBBUS.

Legislators Get "Tip" At Variety Function

PHILADELPHIA—Two U. S. senators were advised here by an exhibitor leader to seek information from persons who really know the film business before acting on "pending legislation."

The advice, albeit indirect, was given by Frank C. Walker, general manager of the Comerford circuit, who spoke at the fifth annual dinner of Tent 13 of the Variety Club, in the Bellevue Stratford Hotel. Seated on the dais were Joseph F. Guffey of Pennsylvania and Burton K. Wheeler of Montana.

The senators were urged to attend "more functions like this" in order to get the film industry's point of view.

More than 850 persons attended the affair, which was held, as usual, to benefit the organization's charity fund. An announcement revealed $20,000 was being donated to the Infantile Paralysis Foundation. Part of the fund will be used to build a pool in Philadelphia for treating patients.

The ballroom floor was covered with sawdust, the ceiling canopied like a circus tent, and the waiters dressed as clowns.

The event was marked by the return to the film world of ex-Mayor Jimmy Walker, once national counsel for MPTOA, who acted as toastmaster. Milton Berle was ringmaster.

Others on the dais were Ned E. Depinet, RKO; George J. Schaefer, RKO; Jules Levy, producer; Earle Sweigert, Paramount; Jack Beresin, Berlo Vending; Ted Schlanger, Warner; Jay Emanuel, incoming chief barker; William J. Clark, outgoing barker; Fred Waring, Rabbi Louis Wolsey, Father Sylvester McCarty, Jay Cooke, Republican city chairman; Jack Kelly, Democratic city chairman; Gilbert Seldes, Albert M. Greenfield, George Munger, Penn football coach; Joe Bernhard, Warner, and Abe Montague, Columbia.

Executives Due in N. Y. After Parleys on Coast

HOLLYWOOD—A group of home office executives checked out during the week after conferences at their respective studios. Due Monday in New York are S. R. Kent, Sydney Towell and Charles E. McCarthy who left here Friday night.

Nate Blumberg, who arrived in New York Friday, is planning to return in January to resume parleys concerning plans for the 1940-41 season.

Other east-bound executives are James Roosevelt, who intends to spend Christmas at the White House, and Jack Cohn who has been conferring with brother Harry over future production plans.

Hal Horne, Walt Disney's eastern representative, is here discussing plans for Disney's next cartoon feature, "Fantasia."

Reade Staff Bonus

NEW YORK—The entire theatre personnel of 20 Walter Reade houses in New York and New Jersey have been given a one week's salary as a Xmas bonus.

Ampa Enters the Lists Waging Battle Against Neely Bill

NEW YORK—Ampa is throwing the weight of its members' publicity and exploitation talent behind the fight against the Neely bill.

A committee of five, consisting of Leon Bamberger, Lou Pollock, Herb Berg, Martin Starr and Eli Sugarman; (Arthur James and Paul Lazarus jr. are ex-officio members) was appointed by Paul Lazarus jr., president, at a luncheon devoted to a discussion of how passage of the proposal "will affect every individual in the motion picture industry." Group meets Monday to select chairman and to present campaign to Hays office. Principal speakers were C. C. Pettijohn, general counsel to the Hays office; Dave Palfreyman, exhibitor contact for the MPPDA, and Leo Brecher, independent operator.

Unscheduled, however, were the remarks of former circuit court judge, Arthur N. Sager, former U. S. assistant attorney general and district attorney in St. Louis, and an Indiana football coach in 1892.

In fact, the enthusiasm that impelled the motion for Ampa to fight the Neely bill had all the earmarks of gridiron strategy. Judge Sager called the signal when, asked for an informal opinion of the merits of the speakers' interpretations of the bill, he remarked: "You've got to get out and do some tall hustling if you don't want to get sunk. I think passage of the bill would be a severe blow to the industry and every one engaged in it."

Without a fumble, Martin Starr picked it up and penetrated deeply with the idea that Ampa do all in its power to familiarize exhibitors who, in turn, would inform patrons of the "viciousness" of the bill, thereby circumventing the fallacy that its provisions are in the public interest.

A short pass to another member and the idea was in the form of a motion, carried without a single dissenting vote.

Pettijohn set the stage in "educating" Ampa members with "what's the matter with the Neely bill" when he labeled the proposal "misbranded—so artfully misbranded that it has deceived a lot of people who should know better and some of them are in this industry." As in the past, he defended those aspects of the industry machinery which the bill's proponents seek to revamp.

"The industry has left no avenue unexplored to solve any valid complaints with regard to its trade practices," he declared. "We will lick this problem as we have licked others."

If passed, the bill would "compound confusion, multiply litigation, raise costs, decrease production and hike admission prices," Pettijohn said, adding, with emphasis, that it calls "for a club on the head of the theatreman, not on the product itself . . . and it's the weaker, not the stronger, that would fall first."

Palfreyman traced the bill, in its present form, from its inception. He observed its indorsers "have little knowledge of its enforceable provisions." Taking each of the bill's sections with "teeth," he elaborated on "what you will have to live under if it passes." He dwelt particularly on the penalty provisions of the proposal, offering the opinion it would be impossible for a salesman to close a deal without staying out of jail. Under Palfreyman's interpretation, "everyone risks the criminal penalties of the act."

In conveying the viewpoint of a small exhibitor, Brecher observed that from a business standpoint the bill would not be helpful. "And it is futile from a standpoint of morals or taste," he added.

While conceding that exhibitors, generally, would like to do away with block booking and blind selling, Brecher declared this could not be accomplished by edict of law. In facetious vein he observed that most exhibitors engage in a bit of block booking themselves. His reference is to the practice of double bills. If a patron states he does not want to see two pictures for 25 cents, but would like to see one for 15 cents, went Brecher's example, "our only answer is that we cannot split the price. That's block booking. It's the exhibitor's idea of the best way to sell his merchandise."

Brandt Back With Neely Blasts

New York—Concluding a month's tour of the country designed to correlate exhibitor problems, Harry Brandt, ITOA president, emphasized the need for mustering every possible aid to defeat the Neely bill on his return over the weekend.

Specifically, he urged that a million telegrams be sent to members of congress demanding that the proposal be killed. Action is presently under way in Texas, Brandt said, where the state has been divided into 21 congressional districts, each with an exhibitor director charged with the responsibility of getting the telegrams sent to congressmen.

Raybern-Warner Buy Seen First Combine Breach

NEW YORK—Initial break in the ranks of the Brandt booking combine is seen in the move of Raybern theatres in closing a deal with Warner for 1939-40 product.

Involved are nine theatres operated by Ben Knoble and Joe Katsch. They are the Eagle, Park Lane, Schuyler, Decatur, Monroe, Bedford and Greenwich, all in Manhattan, in addition to the Liberty, Poughkeepsie and Embassy, Mt. Vernon.

Harry Brandt has been bitterly criticizing Gradwell L. Sears over the Warner sales policy in the editorial columns of ITOA's *Independent*. One of the provisions of the deal, it is reliably reported, is Raybern would have to sever its connections with Brandt.

Warner has been assured of such action, it is learned, and official notification is expected shortly.

BROADWAY

O HENRY BRIGGS, president of Pathe Film Laboratories, is due back from the coast next week in time to spend Christmas with his family . . . Bob Benjamin will head for Hollywood again sometime next month . . . Jules Levy has delayed his departure for the coast until he cleans up a few pending matters here. With Nate J. Blumberg arriving Friday from a visit to the Universal studios, both men went into a huddle on Levy's first film production, "The Boys From Syracuse" . . . Barbara Livingston of the Monogram home office publicity department is in the Polyclinic Hospital, having been hit by a painter's scaffold as she was walking on Sixth Ave. and 51st St. . . . Ted O'Shea and Tom Connors were in Baltimore a few days on the Westway case . . . Cedric Hardwicke is back in New York after appearing in a few pictures on the coast. He had planned to return to the Broadway stage, but film commitments at RKO prevent this . . . Lemuel Gulliver and Popeye the Sailor Man, in the form of life-size rubber replicas, came on from Miami for the premiere of "Gulliver's Travels" Monday night at the Paramount.

Aubrey Schenck and the missus left for the coast Thursday for a two-week vacation; his first in two years, during which he will take in the Rose Bowl game . . . Harry Gold likes vaudeville, particularly magicians who can produce bowls of fish from nowhere . . . L. J. Schlaifer astounded his cohorts at Lindy's when he demolished an a la carte order of potato "lotkes" on top of a regular luncheon . . . Louis Hyman, sales representative for Sol Lesser, has gone back to Hollywood after a brief visit here . . . Barret McCormick spent a day in Washington on the advance for "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" . . . Henderson M. Richey lost his wallet the other day in the RKO screening room and was surprised to have it returned shortly after with only a few papers (not money) missing . . . Regina Crewe has returned from the coast and is handling talent in the east, having opened her own office . . . Following his article in the Sunday Times, *Arthur W. Kelly is seriously considering applying for a Newspaper Guild card, just in case.*



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

When Mr. Van Threw a Party—

Ilona Massey, Hungarian beauty who makes her domestic debut in "Balalaika," talks with W. G. Van Schmus, managing director of the Music Hall, at a cocktail party for her in the theatre penthouse. Gesturing into his coat pocket is Howard Dietz, Metro's director of advertising and publicity.

It had to be seen to be believed, but grouped around a table for four at the RKO Gateway restaurant the other day for lunch were Fred Meyers, Max Fellerman, Harry Mandel, Malcolm Kingsbury, Tom Gorman and Mort Singer of Chicago, Herman Wintisch of Lord & Thomas and a BOXOFFICE scribe. It took some delicate maneuvering but lunch was finally consumed. But the boys took it easy in anticipation of the steak dinners at Peter Luger's the same evening. Cress Smith, Barret McCormick and Arthur Willi had to take an adjoining table . . . Dave Rose and his wife are now on the coast where they plan to spend the holidays . . . Bill Gehring of 20th-Fox is making a swing through the middle west . . . Al J. Herman, Universal eastern district manager, has returned to Boston on business . . . It was quite a speech that Ben Abner delivered to the office staff at the M-G-M exchange the other day . . . But who ever knew who his Congressman was? . . . Dave Levy has made two trips to Boston on the Morse and Rothenberg suit and left again Sunday night for a third visit to the courtroom.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanleigh P. Friedman—he is a Warner vice-president—announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary, to Sylvan Schwartzreich, assistant corporation counsel for the town of Mamaroneck . . . Bob Gillham chucked Miami after a few days and then sent Al Wilkie down to handle publicity for the world premiere of "Gulliver's Travels" at the Sheridan, December 18 . . . *Charlie Cohen of M-G-M publicity began his 12th consecutive year with the company on December* 13. *Which makes him practically an infant in point of service . . . Harry Pimstein, RKO circuit attorney, is in the midst of a campaign to get away from that* 211-*pound mark on the scales. After a couple of weeks of bowling and abstinence from food he's down to* 192 . . . *Dave Fleischer is in town from his Miami cartoon plant . . . Alexander Korda is en route to London aboard the* Rex. *When he gets home the business of completing "Thief of Bagdad" and the production of "The Hunting of the U-Boat" will occupy his immediate attention. Basil Bleck, his attorney, who accompanied the producer here, has delayed his departure in order to attend the funeral of Douglas Fairbanks, to whom he was related . . . George Raft is around town from the coast, waiting for a boat to take him to Havana for the Christmas holidays.*

Bernie Brooks, general manager of the



Shake and Call It a Deal—

Edward A. Golden, Monogram vice-president, greets Harry Thomas, veteran distributor, as Thomas joins the company to assume the position of general manager of the Monogram-owned branches in New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

Rosenblatt-Welt circuit, thought he had a manager's strike on his hands when seven of his men stalked into the home office in the Paramount Building. After surveying the scene Brooks suggested maybe the men ought to be at their theatres. The men said maybe Brooks ought to be quiet. Whereupon Gus Nestle of the Lyceum spoke up with some complimentary wordage, poked a handsome leather traveling bag into Brooks' limp arms and departed. It was the managers' way of saying they thought Brooks was a swell guy to work with . . . The management will play host to the circuit personnel with a party at the Orpheum, Jersey City, midnight on December 23. Dave Kane, Joe Polenti, Joe Moses. H. De Gastino, Charles Zulo and Ed Rowe were the managers mixed up in the raid on Brooks.

"No Speeches and Refreshments on the House" will be the order of the evening when the annual Rialto frolic is given for Arthur Mayer by his staff of henchmen December 22. The occasion will mark the theatre's fourth anniversary and boosting Mayer for a fifth term. The "party" platform will be disclosed with the unveiling of "A Nightmare at the Rialto," a series of murals designed by Nat Karson to illustrate the theatre's pursuit of horror.

William A. Scully, William J. Heineman and Frank J. A. McCarthy, which is the top and both sides of Universal executive sales, are back from extended trips into the field . . . George W. Weeks, Monogram's general sales manager, is taking two weeks to visit branches in Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Toronto, Milwaukee, Chicago and Cincinnati . . . Walter Reade is in Florida, a bit earlier than usual . . . Major Albert Warner left Miami suddenly for a drop in at the home office . . . W. Ray Johnston has seen to it that his annual Xmas party will be bigger and better than ever. He'll be back from the coast in time for the fun, of course.



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Homeward Bound—

After a short business trip to New York, Henri Elman, Chicago Monogram franchise holder, leaves for the Windy City with John Mednikow, who has the Trailer Made franchise for Chicago.



Solved—

How high is up. Bill Ornstein, eastern editor of BOXOFFICE, *tries to explain to Dave Ballard, walking advertisement for "Gulliver's Travels."*

Arthur Willi, RKO talent scout, visited New England over the weekend and the following colleges: Wellesley, Harvard and Boston U for a gander at their annual shows. He plans to go to the coast after the first of the year . . . Have Freddie Meyers tell you about Sir Ezra Levy and how the latter entertains in style on the coast . . . John O'Connor threw a party for RKO divisional managers and associates Wednesday night, following which they all took in one of the top current shows. Among those participating were Arthur Frudenfeld, Mort Singer, Charles Koerner, Nat Holt, Tom Gorman, Jim Brennan, Russell Emde, Bill England, Max Fellerman, Louis Goldberg, Harry Mandel, William Howard, Malcolm Kingsberg, Charles McDonald, Harry McDonald, Fred Meyers, Sol Schwartz and Major Leslie E. Thompson.

N. L. Nathanson, head of Famous Players Canadian and financially interested in Universal, returned early in the week from a quick visit to the Universal studios . . . Harry Edington, Universal producer, has been in town the past week . . . Alice Faye was almost mobbed when she alighted from the 20th Century. Her husband, Tony Martin, came to the rescue and braved the Grand Central crowds without assistance of the station police . . . Oscar Doob took a flying trip to Louisville, Memphis, Nashville, New Orleans and wound up in Atlanta in time for the "Gone With the Wind" premiere . . . Bill Rodgers has been having a tough time trying to shake off that cold, but he's finally whipped it . . . Bill Grady, M-G-M studio talent scout, has returned west . . . Harry Buxbaum and Bob Wolff were among the local exchange managers called to Boston for the Morse & Rothenberg anti-trust suit. Wolff was on the stand two days while Buxbaum was on for five minutes when the judge adjourned the hearing. Buxbaum's trip was not in vain, however. On the way back, he netted $14 in poker on the train.

Leon Rosenblatt of Rosenblatt-Welt circuit is critically ill at his home . . . Harold Franklin, in town for a brief spell from the coast, says he dropped five pounds since his last visit . . . Austin Keough, Paramount general counsel, rushing out of the home office building the other day with a copy of "The Pressure Boys" under his arm . . . Maurice Barr, New Orleans exhibitor, has been visiting the Broadway sector . . . Capt. Harry Miller, local M-G-M salesman, is proud of his son, Warren G., who is quite an athlete at Mercersburg Academy at Mercersburg, Pa. The lad is preparing for Princeton . . . Claudette Colbert and Ilona Massey arrived from the coast the same day, but when it came time for pictures the lensemen preferred "shooting" Claudette first. On Monday, Miss Massey was cocktailed by W. G. Van Schmus at the Music Hall, with all the press present, in advance of the opening of "Balalaika," Thursday . . . Jack Hoffberg has plans set for opening an office in Chicago with Bob Snyder in charge of the sales staff . . . Joe Linz, erstwhile RKO home office publicity man, has been named amusement editor of the Dallas Journal, *which Karl Hoblitzelle recently sold . . . William C. deMille is talent hunting for his brother, Cecil B., in the east.*

James R. Grainger, now making a cross country tour for Republic, will wind up on the coast for the holidays . . . Arthur Lee has returned from a flying trip to Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Albuquerque, all in a week and on behalf of GB. He visited 20th-Fox exchanges in all centers but Albuquerque where he was met by a coast representative . . . Mike Conrow has a new Buick sedan at his Middletown, N. J. garage. It isn't an advance Christmas present, but he happened to be the lucky fellow at the Variety Club affair in Philadelphia with number 1010 as the lucky ticket . . . Walter Hampden is among the Broadway actor legion.



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

French Without Tears—

Paul Graetz, accompanied by his wife, are pictured above as they left for the coast after completing arrangements with Columbia for distribution of "Cavalcade of France," now in production in Paris by Julien Duvivier.

Porter Heads Philly Exchange Union

PHILADELPHIA—William Z. Porter, Monogram booker, was unanimously elected president of local B-7, Film Exchange Employes Union. James A. Flynn, Columbia booker, outgoing president, became business agent. Other officers:

Vice-president, Ben Harris, Masterpiece; secretary, Molly Cohen, Metro; treasurer, Marie Hause, National Klein Poster; sergeant-at-arms, Al Holmstock, United Artists. Executive board members are Bud Bache, Metro; Henrietta Weinberg, Peerless; Charles Smith, Clark Film; James Keating, UA; Tony Blase, Warner; William McLaughlin, Metro; Victoria Van Story, RKO, and Peg Fogarty, Metro.

Berkowitz Will Oppose Basson for 306 Helm

NEW YORK — Mike Berkowitz, veteran film operator, will oppose Joseph D. Basson, incumbent for the last four and a half years, for president in the Local 306 elections to be held December 27. Voting machines will be used for the first time.

Most of the interest, however, is centered in the elections for 10 posts to be filled on the executive board. There are 73 candidates, but the spotlight will be on Sam Kaplan, formerly widely known as the "Czar" of Local 306.

Kaplan was removed from office in 1932, then served six months in prison on conviction of coercing union members who disputed his rule, and was barred from holding union office for five years.

Morris Kravitz and Nathaniel Doragoff are running against Frank Ruddock, incumbent, for vice-president. Candidates for recording secretary are Herman Gelber, incumbent, Tom Finnerty and Ben Norton. James Ambrosio is opposing Pincus D. Herbst, incumbent, for treasurer.

Charles Beckman, financial secretary, will be re-elected unanimously since he stands unopposed.

Three trustees and a "sick committee" of ten also are to be elected.

J. J. Sullivan Recuperating After Operation in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—J. J. Sullivan, FWC film buyer, has been discharged from St. Vincent's Hospital and now is recuperating after a second operation at his home. Aubrey Schenck of National Theatres' headquarters arrived Sunday from the east for a combined business and pleasure trip. Mrs. Schenck accompanied him. He expects to be here a fortnight.

Mort Singer Heads West

NEW YORK—Here for a week, Mort Singer, RKO partner in the midwest, returns to Chicago in a few days. He plans to spend several days in the Windy City and then entrain for Beverly Hills to spend the holidays with his family.



Has Quota Idea—

David E. Rose, managing director for Paramount in the United Kingdom, who advocates British film quota regulations be based on a monetary basis instead of current footage basis.

Not Forced to Make Specific Quotas

NEW YORK—American companies are no longer forced to make specific quota pictures although the law itself has not been altered, is the latest advice brought from London by Robert T. Kane, head of British production for 20th-Fox.

He says distributors in England are discussing with the board of trade how best to spread the amount of money for production. The American companies, according to Kane, are making every effort to cooperate with the British government and help them maintain the industry.

It is Kane's view there is sufficient studio personnel available for production. Although there are a number of good performers, there is a lack of star values necessary in making films for worldwide distribution, he states.

Twentieth-Fox has maintained its production efforts at the Gainsborough studios in association with Gaumont-British, Kane reveals. The company has now extended its efforts to Shepherd's Bush.

For the quota year 1940-41, Kane declares 20th-Fox plans to produce a minimum of four pictures. Shooting now in England is "A Report on the Fugitive," directed by Carrol Reed, featuring Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave. "Gestapo" is next with a submarine yarn scheduled to follow.

Kane, who arrived by *Clipper* plane, will remain over the holidays for talks with S. R. Kent. He leaves for Hollywood shortly after the first of the year to discuss plans with Darryl F. Zanuck. Kane hopes to return to England about February 15.

Film Shipments Now Bear British Navicerts

NEW YORK—Film shipments to England now are carrying navicerts which will prevent the orders from being taken to British controlled ports for inspection. The permits, according to William J. Massce of the exporting company, were first issued Friday. He states all requests to the British Embassy for navicerts are fulfilled in 48 hours.

Would Put Quota on A Monetary Basis

NEW YORK—A revision of the quota whereby it is placed on a monetary basis is advocated by David Rose, managing director of Paramount in the United Kingdom. Rose, now in Hollywood, stated his views at a general press conference here.

Under the present agreement with the British government the quota is extended until April 1. The number of pictures made under the quota are figured on the amount of footage imported by each firm.

Rose says the idea is to have the British board of trade fix a percentage on the total business done in England by a company. By doing so, according to Rose, each company can judge how many pictures it can best make to fulfill its quota.

If the quota were operated on a monetary basis, Rose believes the companies could concentrate on making bigger pictures for the world market instead of producing a number of "quickies" for the British market aimed solely to meet the quota.

Most distributors' representatives in England are in accord with the proposal which has been advanced during the conferences with British officials. It is slated to come up again when meetings are held to ascertain whether the quota can be continued after April 1.

"Gulliver's Travels," Rose reveals, will have a New Year's Day opening in London at Paramount's Carleton. Two Technicolor prints and one lavendar are being sent air mail in time for the opening.

The Paramount executive intends to return on the *Statendam* which leaves about January 15. He will commence production immediately after his arrival. Early plans call for "Admirable Crichton" as the initial vehicle but it is entirely possible, Rose suggests, that a picture will be made about the British air force.

Rose reiterated an opinion expressed upon his arrival that he does not anticipate any difficulty in getting studio personnel assembled for production. He affirmed the necessity of cooperating with the British government in preserving their industry.

Stanley Co. of America Net Nearly 2 Millions

NEW YORK—Net profit for Stanley Co. of America for the year ended August 29, after providing for federal taxes, amounted to $1,734,562.76. Before deducting for taxes, earnings totaled $2,060,562.76.

All directors and officers were re-elected at the annual stockholder and director meetings during the week. Sam E. Morris, who recently resigned as foreign head, continues as a vice-president.

RKO Managers Make Merry at Bonus Plan Night



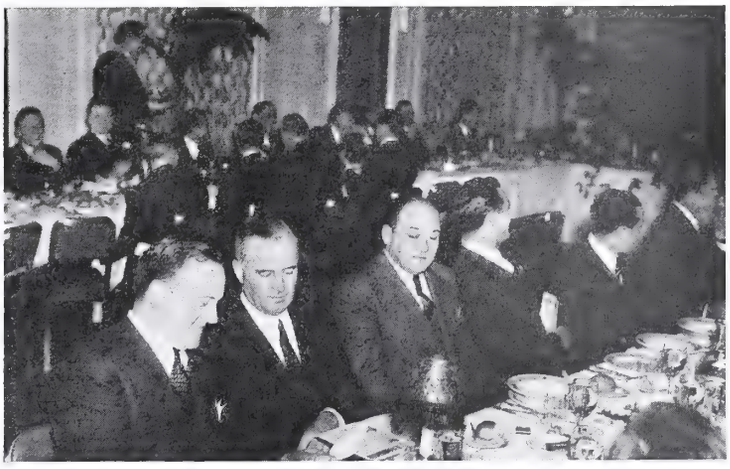
Without a sound track to guide us we can't identify the tune these warblers from the New York division are hacking to pieces, but there's no mistaking the names. Left to right, they are Sol Schwartz, Lou Goldberg, Russ Emde and Charles McDonald. It was happy yodeling—and why not!



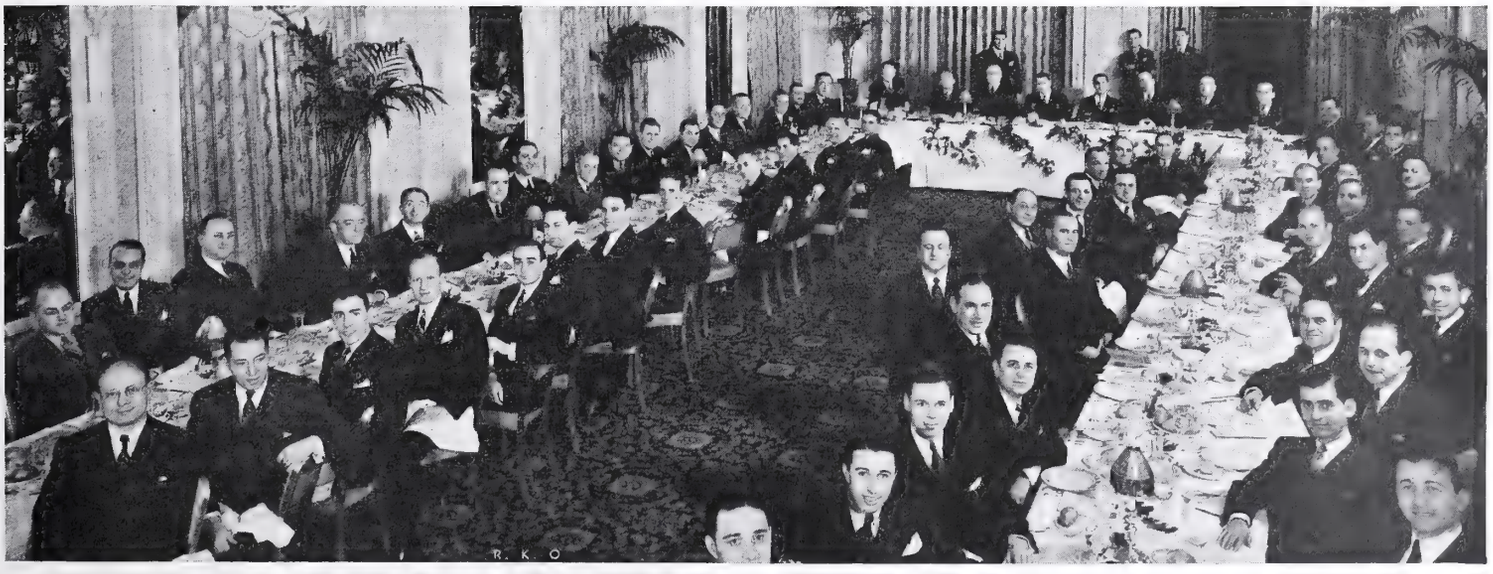
"Everybody Sing" is a Metro picture, but RKO managers were given the right to copy the idea. Trying their best, from larynx to larynx, are: John Berger, Parkway; Frank Howard, Greenpoint; Max Sloven, Roosevelt; Harold Daly, Orpheum; Herbert Heintz, Alhambra; Maurice Harris, home office publicity, and Sam Taub, Royal.



Slicing the Melon—or Come and Get It, Boys. In other words, the bonus checks are going out. Receiving them from John J. O'Connor, are, left to right: John Hearns, Yonkers; Arthur Brown, Tilyou; John Berger, Parkway; Herbert Heintz, Alhambra; Jerome Baker, Union City; Irving Gold, Fordham; Al Arnstein, Coliseum, and Bill Cook, Chester.



A general idea of what the east ballroom at the Astor looked like when RKO circuit managers assembled to partake of the RKO Managers' Bonus Plan. John J. O'Connor, circuit operations manager, was host. He isn't in the above photo, but the three faces looking this way are Al Arnstein, Coliseum; Richard Patterson jr., board chairman, and Ray Connors, Palace.



—Metropolitan Photos

Here is a general view of all the managers, district managers and home office executives as they gathered 'round the horseshoe table for their big party of the year. The affair was exclusively an RKO jamboree with no outsiders permitted.

Financing Efforts Proceed for GN

NEW YORK—Grand National creditor hearings headed the list of court festivities of the week with further postponements being granted Earle W. Hammons to allow negotiations for financing to progress. Joseph Dannenberg, attorney for creditors, asked the court to liquidate, but the referee refused. Leo Bergere, formerly with M-G-M in Europe, made a court appearance and offered to put up $1,000,000 for production, if he can work out a deal with Hammons. Funds now are exhausted, and the loss is still $4,000 weekly. Four pictures were offered the company by a representative of Producers Laboratories who declared the films will turn red ink to black. Assets, none of which is cash, have now dwindled to $20,000.

Supreme Court Justice William T. Collins denied an application by Rae Nasoff to examine seven officers of Paramount before trial. She is suing for $20,000,000 claiming waste and mismanagement. The questions which she sought answered, some 90-odd, were termed "too embracing" by the judge. The stockholder also applied for permission to examine Joseph P. Kennedy before trial. This application is hanging fire.

Kennedy's reports on Paramount in 1936 are deemed worthy of consideration, it is claimed. The ambassador to England will be in New York within the next week.

GN Stockholder Action

A $10,000,000 stockholder action against Educational, Grand National, and officers and directors of both, has been started in the supreme court. The suit has 12 causes of action. Hammons declares the action is a nuisance suit started by a stockholder holding $10 worth of stock, purchased in August, 1939. That characterization was said to be a lie, by the attorney representing the suing stockholder.

A supreme court action against Walter Reade, Reade Hudson Amusements and several other Hudson corporations, has been started in supreme court by three officers of Hudson Amusements. They charge illegal removal from control of five theatres by the defendant company and charge Reade with mismanagement and filing of improper income taxes. Removal of Reade and appointment of a receiver is sought.

Schedules in bankruptcy have been filed in federal court by Ukrafilm Corp. showing assets of $150, and liabilities of $29,008.

Federal Judge Alfred C. Coxe has allowed John E. Joyce, special master in the Paramount Publix bankruptcy, $5,000 as final compensation for his services from 1936 to date. He had received $15,000 previously for the same period. Award covers any future services.

Two actions against 20th-Fox by nine persons injured in the fire at Fox's plant in Little Ferry, N. J., in July, 1937, have been settled out of federal court. Thirty-five thousand, seven hundred dollars was sought.

Republic has filed a general denial in the federal court to the $750,000 triple damage anti-trust action of Folley Amusement Holding Corp. Republic asks a dismissal of the action which charges the Brooklyn Folly was put out of business by being deprived of product. All majors, Monogram and Randforce Amusement Holding Corp. are other defendants.

Federal Attorney Back From Talks on Coast

NEW YORK—David L. Podell, special assistant to the attorney general and working with Paul Williams in the all-industry suit, is back from Hollywood after spending approximately five weeks interviewing a number of important film executives in connection with the case.

In the past week, Warner, M-G-M, Paramount and 20th-Fox filed interrogatories on the government, these supplementing similar questions asked by RKO, Columbia and UA.

The new questions differed slightly from those preceding them, the main purpose being an attempt to solicit names of government witnesses. Every branch of the industry is covered. After each question, the major company seeks to know how the government is going to attempt to prove its point, whether by fact, in which case the name of the protesting independent is sought, or by inference, through a series or chain of events.

National Theatres Counsel Back From Coast Parley

NEW YORK—Richard Everett Dwight, senior partner in Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, counsel for National Theatres and 20th-Fox, has returned from the coast after attending conferences with distributor counsel on the contempt proceedings against FWC. Fred Pride of the same office did not return with Dwight.

Randforce Opening in Brooklyn Brings Suit by Gloria Operators

NEW YORK—Holding that the opening of the new Clinton by Randforce has deprived the Gloria, Brooklyn, of product, the operators of the latter house have filed an anti-trust suit in the Brooklyn federal court. All major companies with the exception of M-G-M are named defendants in addition to Sam Rinzler and Louis Frisch, president and treasurer of Randforce.

Louis Goidel, who for some time has been identified with the Gloria, stepped out, but continues at the Paras-Court with Max Cohen, not the Allied of New York president.

Conciliation Setup Is Posed by Cohen

BUFFALO—Panels of four—two exhibitor members and two distributor representatives—neither of whom would be allowed to participate if a grievance involves their own interests, is the tentative plan of conciliation agreed upon by six majors and two independents for New York, Max Cohen, president of Allied of New York, told members at an election meeting here.

The plan would set up machinery in New York, Albany and Buffalo. Since each of these cities embraces an Allied unit, the organization's local grievance committee would furnish two conciliators in the event of a dispute. Differences arising in various upstate towns would be conciliated in the exchange center from which the towns are serviced. Both Allied and the distributors agree to rotate conciliators as new cases are presented.

Cohen emphasized the plan, which awaits only the consent of 20th Century-Fox and RKO, does not embrace a system of arbitration. He said Paramount, Warner, M-G-M, UA, Universal, Columbia, Monogram and Republic have agreed to the idea.

In stressing the need for a "uniform, hard and fast policy" of cancellation, Cohen referred to a practice of certain distributors which allegedly vitiates the benefits of the 20-15-10 per cent arrangement prevalent among most majors. This is said to be the practice of informing exhibitors they are no longer entitled to cancel if, for example, a company is compelled, for whatever reason, to deliver 47 pictures instead of the announced 52. In other words, as explained by Cohen, some distributors regard the five pictures they are unable to deliver as automatic cancellation, thereby wiping out the privilege of an exhibitor cancelling at will.

By unanimous vote, Cohen was re-elected president. Other officers are Ray Pashley, Interlaken, vice-president; Joseph Rosenzweig, New York, treasurer; Thomas DiLorenzo, New Paltz, assistant treasurer, and Abe Levy, Brooklyn, secretary. Following are the regional vice-presidents: Irving Sherman, Pearl River; Mitchell Conery, Albany; Rapp Merriman, Syracuse; William Tischoff, Rochester, and Herman Lorence, Buffalo.

Directors are Minna Rosen, Buffalo; Max Fogel, Rochester; B. N. Perlman, Binghamton; Sidney L. Grossman and Frank Allen, Syracuse; Abe Stone and John Gardner, Albany; Walter Neitholdt, Goshen, and Joseph G. Abramson, Brooklyn.

May 1 Industry Trial Date

New York—Federal Judge John C. Knox has set May 1, 1940 as the date for the trial of the all-industry suit, the action following agreement between Paul Williams, William Farnsworth and David Podell and major counsel. It is likely either Judge John M. Woolsey or Judge Francis G. Caffey may get the case. Pre-trial determination of issues is expected to cut the time considerably. It is understood between counsel that all witnesses can be examined before trial in order to hasten the case. The "underbrush," as Government Attorney Paul Williams refers to the interrogatories, should be cleared by February.

$200 in Prizes Awarded to S-W Managers in Contest

PHILADELPHIA—The M-G-M exchange recently awarded prizes totaling $200 to Stanley-Warner managers in a circuit-wide contest for "On Borrowed Time" campaigns as follows: Bill Yearsley, Circle, first prize of $50; Jack Lexey, Kent, $25; Haddon Matthews, 69th St., $25; Ray Meyer, Uptown, $25; Dick Raesly, Imperial, 2nd St., $25; Roland Haynes, Colonial, $25; Gerson Shalita, Bromley, $25. The awards were based on gross, gross plus campaign, advertising, publicity and exploitation.

A similar contest for the Philadelphia Warner circuit has been instituted on "Ninotchka." Prizes will total $150.

Check for $1,410 to Fund At V. C. Luncheon

WASHINGTON—The Variety Club will close activities for 1939 with a luncheon January 18 at the Willard Hotel. A check for $1,410 will be presented by Jesse Jones, RFC head and treasurer of the Will Rogers Commission, to District Commissioners David McCoach and George Allen, who represent the Washington Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Carter Barron, Loew chief, has been appointed "King for a Day."

UA Eastern Executives In Fairbanks Tribute

(Continued from page 26)

"As a star of motion pictures, Douglas Fairbanks is mourned by the vast masses who loved him. As a pioneer in an industry, he is mourned by his associates who respected him. As a friend, his passing is a source of profound grief to those who knew him. Doug's going is a loss we can never stop feeling."

Harry L. Gold said:

"We of United Artists feel that the story of Douglas Fairbanks, his rise, his success, his standards, is the story of United Artists. One went along with the other inseparable.

"The personal loss each of us feels is great. We have lost a friend—my friend for twenty years—and a standard-bearer. In this industry, he was a great marching companion, extending his marvelous vitality and enthusiasm all the way down the line.

"We still have his ideas, his way of doing things. That is the Fairbanks heritage for us of United Artists."

L. J. Schlaifer said:

"The shocking news of Douglas Fairbanks' passing comes as a profound blow to me and to all members of United Artists.

In losing Douglas Fairbanks, we have lost not alone one of the most colorful personalities in the industry but a founder of United Artists, a friend and a leader.

"His untimely death will be keenly felt."

Strand Resumes Bingo

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Bingo has returned to the Strand here on Fridays with no interference from city authorities. The games were banned October 27.

Restraint of Players From Air Seen Pledged by Producers

PHILADELPHIA—All Hollywood producers have promised to restrain their players from appearing on radio broadcasts, Harry Brandt, president of the ITOA, reports.

He told the inside story of negotiations between himself and producers on the radio question at a luncheon attended by 100 exhibitors and local exchange heads in the Warwick Hotel.

"Every producing head of every company has pledged the following," Brandt said:

"No new players will be signed by any studio unless he accepts a contract restricting him from the air. All players already under contract will be instructed to abide by the same limitations. This does not include stars that got their start in radio.

"The only people with whom we'll have trouble are the free lance players. Charles Boyer, for example, in answer to questions, said the reason he appears on the air is that he gets $125,000 for an entire picture, but $4,000 for one night on the air. We asked him what he would get in radio, if he weren't in pictures. He admitted he wouldn't get anything.

"That may be the position we will have to take with some stars. We don't want to hurt anybody, and we hope we won't have to. But the exhibitors of America have a big investment to protect."

Brandt said he has built a committee of 60 exhibitor representatives over the country to enforce the demand that stars stay off the air in competition with the theatre. Two Philadelphians were added to the committee at the meeting—Abe Sablosky of the Arcadia and Lewen Pizor, president of UMPTO.

Brandt described negotiations he said lasted over several months with Nicholas M. Schenck, Sidney R. Kent and Leo Spitz, in Hollywood. The negotiations ended in temporary failure, he said, when two producers failed to go along with the ban on radio appearances. But they all came around, following a "letter-writing campaign" that started in New York, November 15.

As soon as a star appeared on the air, Brandt said, a letter was sent to him or her pointing out that the films built the star's reputation, and there was no justification for "selling" that reputation to a rival medium of entertainment.

"We've written to seven stars so far," Brandt reported. "Two replied they would make no further radio commitments. One said he would consult his agent with a view to eliminate further commitments. In the case of the other four, we received letters from their agents saying they would like to discuss the matter with us—which we would not do."

Brandt declared that radio competition has reduced Sunday grosses from 30 per cent of the week's take to 15 per cent.

Discussing his opposition to the Neely bill, Brandt charged it would result in government regulation of the industry, for which the exhibitor would have to pay. "And once regulation starts," he said, "it is never eliminated."

Brandt said he was not interested in the industry code as a whole, but only in its arbitration features.

Cases Against Film Firms Before House Committee

WASHINGTON—A number of cases brought under the Wagner labor relations act against motion picture companies are scheduled for analysis before a special House committee which has opened hearings in its investigation of the national labor relations board.

All of the records of the Los Angeles office of the board were subpoenaed by the committee some weeks ago and have since been under study by its counsel in preparation for the hearings, at which William L. Leiserson, board member, was first witness.

As Leiserson prepared to testify, counsel for the committee submitted copies of minutes of board meetings and memoranda exchange by board members showing that he was highly critical of the "messy" handling of the Universal Studio case and other cases into which the committee later is expected to delve.

Initial testimony before the committee was believed to indicate constant friction in the board, with Leiserson allegedly attempting to secure the removal of Nathan Witt, board secretary.

James Roosevelt Forms Own Production Unit

HOLLYWOOD — James Roosevelt has formed his own producing unit and will make a number of pictures at the Samuel Goldwyn studios. He will continue to fulfill his duties as president of the Goldwyn studio organization. No release has been set yet.

Technicolor Dividend on Common

NEW YORK—The Technicolor board has declared a regular dividend of 40 cents per share on common stock, payable December 28 to holders of record on December 20.

RKO's Annual Billing Drive To Start January 27

NEW YORK—RKO's annual billing drive gets under way January 27 and winds up May 10. Herb MacIntyre, northeastern district manager, is captain. Walter Branson, Chicago district manager, handled the two previous drives. After the first of the year, MacIntyre and Harry Gittelson, editor of *Flash*, company house organ, will start on a swing of exchanges to lay the groundwork for the drive.

Sues for Commissions

ROCHESTER, N. Y. — Edward J. Shea, agent in the sale of four neighborhood theatres here to the Schine circuit, has started suit in supreme court to collect $30,000 in commissions.

PHILADELPHIA

RUMORS on Vine Street are that the S-W Earle, closed in a dispute with the musicians' union, may reopen Christmas, using only films . . . Jules Hurtig, well-known showman and manager of the Shubert, died after a stroke. H. J. Minsky of the famous family of burlesque purveyors will take his place . . . Industry figures are beginning to talk about the next President's Birthday Ball. Jim Clark is local chairman . . . Signs of the season: Variety Club's women's auxiliary is going about collecting dough for the annual Christmas basket distribution. Sam Gross, Fox, and Oscar Neufeld, Horlacher, are arranging the event. They expect to have 500 baskets.

Harry Bodkin, UA, and Dave Barrist, Quality Premiums, are talking about leaving business far behind this Christmas by taking a boat trip . . . Mort Magill, UA salesman, is just getting over a gory wrestling match between a molar in his jaw and the dentist . . . Len Hetelson, Colonial, has already got his Christmas present: His nine-year-old daughter, Anita, is home safely from the hospital, after depositing her appendix . . . Ben Biben, RCA, already has furrows in his brow arranging the Showmens Club's New Year's party. How will he look December 31?

The Paramount picture: Henry J. Goldberg, traveling auditor, is visiting the local office on his annual checking-up duties . . . The office of Joe Flood, ad sales department, looks like a bargain counter in a toy department, with all the games, books, dolls and other exploitation material for "Gulliver's Travels" . . . Susan Hayward, dazzler of "Beau Geste," thrilled the boys with a visit . . . Ann Kraftsow, accounting department, is planning a January jaunt to Florida . . . Herman Rubin is arranging the annual employe dinner-dance at the Penn A. C., December 20. Music will be provided by Meyer Davis, the society orchestra man—which indicates the high quality of the Paramount staff, Rubin says.

Out Metro Way: There's a local exhibitor who isn't seeing clearly, and probably can't figure out why. Here's the secret: He lost his glasses at the Metro exchange. He can get 'em back by proper identification . . . Florence Weitzman, skiing enthusiast, got her picture in the Sunday Inquirer *roto section . . . Ada Norvick finally drew a lucky lottery ticket.*

Warner: R. J. Mahan, local salesman for the past five years, has been promoted to branch manager at New Haven . . . A big delegation of exhibitors were guests of William Mansell at the screening of "Four Wives" at the Uptown . . . O. B. Guilfoil, booker, has built himself a new home in Woodbury . . . Kay Katz, Gem, put on a program for the Fathers and Sons night at Temple Judea . . . The Auditorium at Newmanstown, near Reading, opens December 15 under C. W. Wallace's direction . . . S. M. Eisenstein's classic "Thunder Over Mexico," was shown at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

William Friedman, operators' union officer, marks a birthday on the 20th. And Christmas-day birthday parties are in order for Mrs. Frances Barowsky, wife of the Rex impresario; Mrs. Jay Emanuel, wife of the publisher; Mildred Goodman, operators' union secretary, and Al J. Davis, 20th-Fox . . . Mr. and Mrs. Dave Rosen, Clark Films, mark a wedding anniversary on the 24th, and the same is performed on Christmas by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Harris, Masterpiece; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Beckett, noted cigar distributor, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Resnick, Greenway. Looks like a lot of business for Mr. S. Claus.

Opening date for "Gone With the Wind" is still as uncertain as a Georgia breeze. Latest report places it at the Boyd after the first of the year . . . Prolonged runs in the downtown first-run houses is causing a product shortage in S-W's key neighborhoods, according to reports . . . Al Reh, Stanley, worked up a novel stunt for "Another Thin Man." He offered two passes to parents of children born at Philadelphia General Hospital during the run of the picture. He got a display at the hospital.

SEC Says RKO Stock Price Is Fair

New York—The price of $3 per share provided in the RKO underwriting agreement is fair, in the opinion of the securities exchange commission. The SEC presented witnesses to back up the statement, and proponents of the plan introduced Wilfred J. Merrill, assistant to George J. Schaefer, RKO president. Robert B. Horton of Goldman-Sachs is to pick up their offer, to which there is little opposition.

Universal District Heads Hold Mid-Season Meeting

NEW YORK—Universal district managers gathered here over the weekend for mid-season conferences with General Sales Manager William A. Scully. The group included A. J. O'Keefe, Los Angeles; E. T. Gomersall, Chicago; P. T. Dana, Kansas City; H. D. Graham, Atlanta; Dave Miller, Cleveland, and A. J. Herman, New York.

Nate Blumberg arrived in time from the coast to attend. Also present were Eastern Sales Manager Frank J. A. McCarthy and Western Sales Manager W. J. Heineman, Foreign Sales Manager J. H. Seidelman, Leo J. Abrams, shorts subject sales manager; F. T. Murray, branch operations manager, and other home office department heads.

Film "Gang Busters" Is Banned in New York

NEW YORK—The state board of censors has banned "Gang Busters," which was slated to open at the Globe, Friday. The film depicts the lives of nine notorious American criminals. Moe Kerman is the local distributor.



Talking Shop—

Jean Hersholt, left, star of RKO's "Meet Dr. Christian" and the radio Dr. Christian series, has a chat with C. Francis Davis of Smalley's Theatre, St. Johnsville, N. Y., at the RKO exhibitors' lounge in the home office.

WILM'GTON

STAGE SHOWS returned to the stage of the Queen, Warner second run downtown house, and will be presented every Wednesday night, featuring amateur talent. Manager Sidney Munter is in charge of the theatre.

David L. Topkis, pioneer builder in the residential section of Wilmington and constructor of the Arcadia and Strand of the city, died here last week. With James N. Ginns as the firm of Topkis & Ginns, he operated several Wilmington houses until the Warner chain came to the city. Warner is leasing the Arcadia, second-run downtown house, while the Strand is operated by Benjamin Seligman as an independent neighborhood house. The Topkis & Ginns interests at one time also operated the Queen, now under Warner management.

Elissa Landi, screen star, addressed the Wilmington Teachers' Ass'n in the P. S. duPont High School here last week urging the organization of the American theatre into "three theatres," one devoted solely to entertainment, another to presentation of standard worthwhile dramas and revivals, and the third to be frankly experimental.

Hollywood Amusement Co. Warns of Infringement

CHICAGO—Phil Fischer, president of Hollywood Amusement Co., has announced that numerous complaints of infringement of the patent rights of his electrically operated slides for theatre games have been received. Exhibitors are warned to investigate carefully before using any electrically operated projector slides.

Four Danville Theatres to Operate Again Sunday

DANVILLE, VA.—Four local theatre managers, who are to be tried in the police court on December 20, for opening their houses last Sunday, were scheduled to operate again this Sunday. Commonwealth's Attorney George Bendall threatened arrest again on the theory that every time the theatres open on Sunday is a separate offense and the "pending issue" cannot be argued.

Much depends on the ruling of Magistrate C. K. Carter when he passes on the four cases already on record. Should he dismiss the warrants on the basis that a corporation court jury last week acquitted one of the defendants on the same issue, it is expected the police will make no further arrests.

BALTIMORE

THEATRE business is going on as usual in Baltimore, but without the exhibitors. They are all at Judge Chestnut's court, hearing the Durkee Westway case . . . Walter Cohen, manager of the Leader, was married at the Southern Hotel last Sunday night. Quite a few from the film colony were there. Walter won't tell where he plans to honeymoon . . . Morris Shapiro of the Radio is vacationing at Havana, Cuba . . . Leon Back, Rome theatre executive, is recovering from a bad cold . . . Louella Parsons and stars of 1940 attended a luncheon at the Baltimore Press Club, given in her honor. H. Ted Routson, publicity chief of the Hippodrome, introduced her.

Simone Simon, Mary Brian, Mitzie Green and Stepin Fetchit, were all in Baltimore the past week at the Ford's, where they are starring in a musical comedy . . . The interior of the Edgewood is being renovated . . . Manager Charles Anderson has a new marquee at the Arcade . . . Dave Kaiser, Maryland Display Co., who is a Jewish war veteran, hit the front pages in Baltimore dailies by breaking up a Communist meeting . . . Cliff Jarrett, assistant manager of the Hippodrome, and R. Marhenke, manager of the Broadway, were in a smashup, most of the damage being done to Cliff's car.

Gangsters followed the car of Edward Kimple jr. last week after attending the Variety meet in Philadelphia and fired several shots at the car. Fortunately, all escaped injury . . . Last Sunday most exhibitors were wishing they could run the cooling system as the temperature hit 76, this being the warmest Sunday on record for that date . . . New Year's midnight shows are being held at a number of neighborhood houses, namely: Apollo, Met and Broadway . . . Rome theatres weekly managers exploitation contest was won last week by Leo McGrevey, Cameo; Bob Ashcroft, Apollo, and Harold Grott, Met . . . Morton Baker, manager of the Time, has revived "Show Boat" plus showing a complete newsreel show . . . August Buckhart, assistant manager at the McHenry, replaces Frank Stang who resigned as manager of the Casino . . . Buddy Silverberg of the Park is recovering from a bad cold.

ALBANY

THE annual banquet and ball of the Warner Club attracted 325 persons to the Hendrick Hudson Hotel. A big Warner theatres contingent was headed by Upstate Zone Manager M. A. Silver, while Paul Krumenacher led the delegation from the Warner exchange. Seven other Albany branch offices had tables. Managers Moe Grassgreen, 20th Century-Fox; Bernard Kranze, RKO; Joe Engel, Universal; Joe Miller, Columbia; Ralph Pielow, Metro; Clayton Eastman, Paramount; and Arthur Newman, Republic, attended with their salesmen, bookers and wives. Bill Murray, Grand National booker, came on from Buffalo. Lou Golding, Fabian division manager, and a delegation of his house men from Albany, Troy and Schenectady, were on hand. So were O. E. Williams, Albany manager of National Theatre Supply Co.; Charles Ost, National Screen's Albany representative; Mitchell Conery, Conery circuit, Ravena; Frank Williams, Benton circuit booker; Neil Hellman, Hellman circuit, Albany-Troy; Harry Lamont, Lamont circuit; Adolph Kohn, Rivoli, Troy; Ben Smith, Pam-o's Albany representative, and others. Bob Rosenthal, Ritz, Albany, and Jack Swartout, American, Troy, acted as masters of ceremonies for the variety program.

Joe Miller, Columbia manager, who had every man in his exchange on deck for the Warner Club banquet at Troy, won a coat rack. Lou Olshan, Columbia cashier, won a table lamp. Which will come in handy, since Olshan was recently married. Columbia party, including wives and friends, was one of the largest at the ball . . . National Theatre Supply's Albany branch installed a pair of projectors at Frank Asher's Star, Rhinebeck . . . Photo in Troy Record *showed Moe Silver with a white-fronted expanse at Warner ball. Mrs. Silver was on one side, and Mrs. Fred Archibald, publisher of Albany* Times-Union, *on the other . . . Knickerbocker* News *ran a story on the theatre page about* BOXOFFICE'S *award-of-the-month to 20th Century-Fox for "Drums Along the Mohawk." Item referred to picture's premiere at Palace, Albany, November 2.*

A number of salesmen are taking their vacations in the usually quiet period around Christmas. Columbia's Jack Armm, Ed Hochstim and Morris Cohn started December 16. Armm, who comes from Newark, will spend part of a fortnight in New York. So will Hochstim, a resident of Hudson, and Cohn, a transplanted New Yorker . . . Reported that George Tucker, RKO film peddler, headed for a Virginia resort to take the baths, play golf and ride horseback . . . Christmas parties are being held by various exchanges. Columbia had one in the Rainbow Room of New Kenmore Hotel December 15, and Metro will stage another at Kapp's Hotel, Rensselaer, December 18.

Charles Gordon, operator of the Olympic, Utica, was on Filmrow. Ditto, Morris Shulman of Clark Mills. It is said Shulman plans to take over Players Club Theatre in New Hartford, outside Utica, if a Sunday show referendum passes . . . Mike Boumansour down to Albany from the Plaza, Malone, near the Canadian border, on coldest day of the winter . . . Harry Savett of Greene and other spots, also in town. Ditto Clarence Dopp, Johnstown, and Charley Wilson, Bijou, North Troy. Wilson has not reopened his number 2 house, the Lansing, which closed last June . . . Reported that Harry Lamont has discontinued showing pictures one night a week at Odd Fellows Hall in Berlin (in the mountains back of Troy). Lamont also operates Vanderbilt, Greenville; Strand, Philmont; and Grange Hall in Athens.

David B. Whalen, director of advertising and publicity for Republic, breezed into town on a swing around the exchanges and made such a hit with local picture reviewers they gave him and the company a big publicity play. "Youngest Film Executive Has Birthday in Albany" was the two-column headline on a story in the Knickerbocker *News*. It told how Dave was celebrating his 31st anniversary and how he remembered appearing in Albany as a juvenile in burlesque 12 years ago at the old Majestic. From there, the story outlined Republic's status—"acknowledged leader in the field of 'action' movies, westerns and serials"—and plans for production in 1940 of "A" features as well "without abandoning its low-budget market." Directors and titles of the "A" pictures were given, along with other information about Gene Autry, Republic serials, etc. Manager Arthur Newman accompanied Whalen on his visits to and luncheons with film editors. Whalen, in his present job only four months, was here once before in another capacity during Bernard Mills' regime.

Through the courtesy of Universal exchange and cooperation of Charles A. Smakwitz, Warner district manager, "The Under-Pup" was screened for Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, his wife, and friends at the Park Ave., New York, home of Mrs. Lehman's sister. Usually private shows for the chief executive and his family are held in the Executive Mansion, Albany . . . The central school in Gilbertsville is now booking pictures for Friday night, through Principal Raymond Seaman. Central school in nearby Morris screens pictures Saturday night. The towns, about 20 miles from Oneonta, have no theatres.

Woodstock, artists' colony center below Kingston, may be a two-situation spot next summer. Rossi Brothers, operators of the Strand, Schroon Lake (in the Adirondacks), have taken an option to lease the town hall at Woodstock, in the Catskills. Woodstock already has a theatre used for motion picture shows the first half of the week and for stage productions by a summer stock company the second half. Woodstock's resident population is 1,650.

Rogers to Columbia On Outside Deal

Hollywood — Charles Rogers has joined Columbia as an outside producer for a series of films under an arrangement similar to his currently expiring deal with Paramount.

WASHINGTON

FILMROW smacks of a "bank holiday" these days, with the branch managers of the major exchanges in daily attendance at the Westway case which is being heard by Judge Chestnut in Baltimore . . . Martha Raye is due for a p. a. at Warner's Earle December 29, with "Four Wives" gracing the screen to round out a tip-top holiday bill . . . Dick Harrity, UA salesman, is recuperating in Lakeview Hospital, Suffolk, Va., from injuries received in an auto accident . . . Bill Fisher has resigned from the Lichtman Theatre Corp. . . . Phil Bobys, Metro salesman, is off for a swing through the Clinch Valley.

The annual dinner and dance of the Paramount Pep Club at the Maryland Club Gardens was a huge success. Bob Grace, president, served as toastmaster and presented Bertha Boyd, treasurer, and Frances Popp, recording secretary, with gifts for their outstanding efforts and interest on behalf of the club. "Vince" Daugherty and Jack Fruchtman led the community sing. Among the invited guests were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bell and Bill Kraemer . . . Ted Spraker of the Victory, Saltville, Va., has been confined to his home because of illness . . . Paramount's Bob Denton attended the Gridiron Club dinner.

Charlie Butterworth, screen comedian headlined a broadcast over Station WMAL in the interests of *The Star*-Warner Bros.-NBC Christmas Toy Campaign, assisted by Judy Starr, Eddie Kane, Olive White, and Don Rice. Music was provided by Joe Lombardi and the Earle Theatre orchestra. Harry Willard, Jam Handy representative, is making a periodic visit to the Monogram exchange . . . Bill Kraemer, booker for the Schine circuit on the eastern shore, has been recalled to the home office in Gloversville, with Frank Boucher replacing him . . . Birthday greetings to Paramount's Ida Greene and Helen Schultz.

Seen along the Row: Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg; Grace Fisher, Cumberland; Mrs. Wachter of Henry's, Hagerstown; Danny Weinberg, Bedford; Spud Query, Marion; Sam Mellitts, Denton; A. C. Rudd, Palace, Winchester . . . Frank LaFalce, Warner publicity chief, is nursing a sprained ankle . . . The annual Christmas party of the Universal Pep Club was held last Saturday evening at the Hay-Adams House . . . The results of the turkey raffle at the Metro exchange found Elizabeth Wyatt, Mark Turner, and "Tommie" Kaler to be the winners . . . Tom Rayfield of the Clark Film exchange was surprised with a visit from his wife and baby daughter . . . Reports have it that she is the spitten-image of her daddy, even to the sorrel top.

Warner theatres will hold a meeting for all managers December 19.

REVIEW FLASHES

BALALAIKA (M-G-M)—Nelson Eddy and some stirring musical interludes give this impressively produced and cast picture its moments of greatness, despite which it remains one of those enigmatic offerings which probably will fail in attaining comparable greatness at the turnstiles; one which the rank and file of customers will be able to take or leave alone according to their individual tastes. Ilona Massey in the femme topline has plenty of voice and even more pulchritude. She contributes substantially to the film's worth. Lawrence Weingarten produced; Reinhold Schunzel directed.

DAYS OF JESSE JAMES (Rep)—A thoroughly entertaining western has been made from the further adventures of Jesse James in this offering. The outlaw's activities have been rehashed in good style to extract a story that captures the period, injects song and humor and concludes in keeping with the history of the famous bandit. Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Donald Barry, Pauline Moore. Joseph Kane directed.

EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT NIGHT (20th-Fox)—Sonja Henie, as the daughter of a political refugee, does more acting than in previous pictures and her skating is still something to thrill the fans. Ray Milland and Robert Cummings are reporters who enable all to escape the clutches of foreign agents. Irving Cummings directed.

ROLL, WAGONS, ROLL (Mono)—All the standard accoutrements of a rip-roaring western, even to the Indians and cavalry, were thrown into this formulized sage-brusher. Headman Tex Ritter tosses notes, fists and lead with impartial abandon. Will serve satisfactorily in the market for which it was produced by Edward Finney. Directed by Al Herman.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

CAUTION TO EXHIBITORS

It has come to our attention that electrically operated slides, in imitation of our electrically operated projector slides, are being offered to theatres. These slides, in our opinion, are infringements of the Patent rights held by us and we will enforce the same to the full extent of the law. Exhibitors are warned against such infringing acts.

Hollywood electrical projector slides are protected by U. S. Letters Patents No. 2042604 and No. 2069304. Before using any electrically operated projector slides, we urge your careful investigation.

HOLLYWOOD AMUSEMENT CO., Inc., 831 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill

RICHMOND

FRANK LLOYD, film director, passed through town the other day on his way to Williamsburg to look over the Restoration and nearby country to see how much of his next picture, "Tree of Liberty" could be filmed there. He will be back in March with a crew and several actors to make exteriors for the picture, which is laid before and during the Revolutionary War . . . Dr. W. D. Kendig, owner of the Free State Theatre in Kenbridge, has been re-elected chairman of the Lunenberg county Democratic committee . . . Charlie Yerby, assistant manager, Loew's, had his mother and father up from Portsmouth to spend a few days with him.

"That's Right, You're Wrong" broke records at the Byrd, so it was held over for a second week at the State . . . George Washington Smith, better known as "Wash," died suddenly in a local hospital after a short illness. He was the oldest bill poster and distributor here, having worked for the various theatres and the State Fair for a number of years . . . When remodeling of the Venus is finished, Sam Gordon will think he has a new house. A new marquee, colored glass front and several changes on the inside are now in the course of construction . . . Elmer Wilschke, Altec official from Philadelphia, was in town, between planes.

Rappahannock Street on the block with the Bellevue has been widened by the city, which also installed ornamental lights . . . Elbert Grover was a recent visitor to the office of Frank O'Brien, city manager, Wilmer and Vincent . . . George Gore, old-time Los Angeles exhibitor, was in town calling on advertising managers in the interest of the Metropolitan Mat Service, which is owned by his son . . . Garret Leahey, manager of the Westhampton, got out that old trusty gun and helped to open the hunting season . . . Mrs. Gertrude Peace, secretary of the Neighborhood Theatres Social Club, is busy handing out the tickets for the dance at Tantolla Garden this Tuesday night. An attendance of 150 is expected.

Kenneth Wilkinson and Dick Warren have been added to the service staff of the Lee by Charlie Hulbert, manager . . . Elissa Landi, screen player, gave a lecture here at the Women's Club the other afternoon . . . The State Corp issued a charter to National Enterprises, Inc., Harrisonburg, with a maximum capital of $25,000. Sam F. Roth is listed as president. L. G. Payne of Fredericksburg secured the charter . . . Edith Lindeman, film editor of the Times Dispatch, *is now on the air through station WRTD twice weekly with a sponsored film gossip column . . . George A. Giroux, representative of Technicolor Motion Picture Corp., was in town for a couple of days conferring with the managers on proper lighting of their theatres for color pictures and contacting film editors.*

UA Office Closed Friday

NEW YORK—UA's home office closed Friday at noon in respect to the late Douglas Fairbanks.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Roosevelt Forms His Own Unit

James Roosevelt has formed an independent production unit with headquarters on the Goldwyn lot. With Samuel Goldwyn promising "close cooperation," Roosevelt will retain the presidency of Goldwyn Studio Corp. A releasing channel has not been announced.

Roosevelt President of Goldwyn Company

James Roosevelt, vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn Productions, has been named president of the Samuel Goldwyn Studio Corp., as the result of an election held by the board of directors. He thus assumes charge of the holding company which owns the physical properties of the studio, renting production space to Walter Wanger, Sol Lesser and Goldwyn. Roosevelt will continue in his duties as Goldwyn's production assistant and will shortly select a story to be produced under his supervision.

Roosevelt has just returned from a month's stay in New York.

Levy Active After First

Having closed a deal whereby he will produce "The Boys From Syracuse" for Universal, Jules Levy, former RKO Radio sales manager, will move onto the lot after the first of the year. He will headquarter there and use the studio's stages and equipment. Levy is currently in New York.

Future Jack Randall westerns for Monogram are to be produced by Harry S. Webb, former head of Metropolitan Pictures and a veteran of the independent field. First in the new series, rolling December 15, is titled "Pioneer Days."

Shearing the roster to a record low, four Republic writers completed their respective assignments and left the lot. Those departing included Gerald Geraghty, George Beck, Morgan Cox and Hugh Cummings. Added to the staff, however, was Edmund Kelso.

WB Adds "Klondike"

Warner has added "Klondike," a story of the Alaskan gold rush, to its winter production schedule and has assigned Vincent Sherman to direct. Wayne Morris and Humphrey Bogart will co-feature.

Seven Unaffiliated Guilds Make Move to Preserve Autonomy

Latest phase in the development of Hollywood's labor strength came when seven unaffiliated guilds, comprising a total of more than 5,000 members, met in joint session and mapped tentative plans for an inter-union organization to be known as the Council of Independent Guilds.

Spearhead of the movement is the Screen Writers Guild, which holds a producer contract but is not affiliated with any national labor organization. Primary object of the proposed amalgamation, according to one spokesman, is to preserve the individual autonomy of the unions involved against possible encroachment by any national labor body.

Represented at the gathering were members of the SWG, the Screen Publicists and Screen Readers Guilds, Screen Set Designers, Interior Decorators, Film Editors and Screen Office Employes. Under the chairmanship of Dore Schary, of the SWG, a sub-committee was appointed to draft articles of confederation which will be submitted to craft representatives at another meeting scheduled for December 19. This program in turn will be submitted to the memberships of the various guilds for their approval.

Means of Promoting Harmony

Schary stressed the need for such an inter-guild council as a means to promoting harmony among the smaller independent labor groups and as a defensive measure giving them greater collective strength.

That such strength might be exerted in dealings with producers was hinted by George Bodle, counsel for the Screen Publicists, Screen Readers, Film Editors and Interior Decorators. The attorney told Boxoffice that, despite the tentative agreement reached between the publicists and Joseph M. Schenck, representing the producers, last week, the praisers' contract is still without signatures. Bodle declared he had been informed that M. H. Silberberg, producer attorney, is "re-drafting" certain clauses in the contract again although Bodle said such revisions have been going on "interminably."

Furthermore, the publicists are engaged in a tangle with Warner over that studio's recent hiring of George Brown, former Columbia publicity director, as a unit man. The SPG holds that, as Brown is not a Guild member, the studio should first have called upon the SPG to supply a man from among its unemployed list—which Bodle admitted stands at 25 out of a total membership of 250. In view of the fact no contract has been signed, however, Bodle said no action could be taken save to insist that Brown join the SPG within 30 days.

Producers have agreed to a conference with the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors concerning the craft's demand for a 10 per cent wage increase. Also scheduled for discussion, upon the return of Pat Casey, producer-labor contact, from Atlantic City, were the 15-per cent-wage-increase demands of the motion picture painters, which had agreed to postpone action on its request until after the basic-pact parleys in the east had been concluded. A new affiliate of the painters is the Studio Advertising Artists, that craft having voted to merge with the larger organization. Also installed as an affiliate was the Screen Cartoonists Guild, which will retain its name and partial local autonomy, with its own set of officers.

Board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild has authorized the negotiating committee to request a 15 per cent wage increase for extras, as well as for a reclassification of work for those players. This action was sought in a resolution drafted by the Guild's Class B council, representing 6,700 extras. Negotiations are scheduled to open December 19 with President Ralph Morgan, Larry Steers, Major Philip Kieffer and Kenneth Thomson representing the actors. Meantime SAG attaches reported all agents had applied for charters under the recently-signed SAG-agent franchise agreement. No SAG member can retain an agent not franchised.

The Screen Writers Guild executive board has voted to appoint a committee to probe the Neely anti-block booking bill.

Painters Win Increase

Studio painters have won their requested 15 per cent wage increase, affecting some 900 workers. The retroactive date has not been decided.

The Screen Actors Guild has withdrawn from the Los Angeles Central Labor Council.

High-Powered Premieres Hold Spotlight in the Film Colony

A continued barrage of high-powered previews and premieres, with more to come, has enabled first-night-conscious Hollywood to keep in form. Although only "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," screened December 14, was of the formal premiere variety, four other previews were sufficiently important to intrigue as much of the film colony as could borrow, beg or steal passes—especially as regards the press showing of Selznick International's long awaited "Gone With the Wind," unreeled for the press, M-G-M and other executives at the Four Star Theatre. Others drawing their share of important industry names were Metro's "Judge Hardy and Son" and "Balalaika," and Paramount's first feature-length Technicolor cartoon, "Gulliver's Travels."

"The Hunchback" was subjected to a dignified ballyhoo by RKO Radio publicists on the grounds that the construction of protruding grand stands, flood lights and other appurtenances would interfere with the nightly visit of St. Nicholas down "Santa Claus Lane"—or Hollywood Blvd.—on his float. Attending the affair were Joseph Nolan, Robert Sisk, John Ford, Darryl F. Zanuck, William LeBaron, Harry Cohn, Sol Lesser, William Perlberg, Dorothy Lamour, Orson Welles, Mickey Rooney, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Freddie Bartholomew, Maureen O'Hara, Harold Lloyd, Fay Bainter, Jack Benny, Irene Dunne, Richard Dix, Chester Morris, Ginger Rogers, Lucille Ball and hundreds of other film folk. Film opens its regular run Christmas day.

For the opening of "Gone With the Wind" in Atlanta, December 15, two airplanes were dispatched to the Georgia city. The first carried Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Selznick, Vivien Leigh, Laurence Olivier, Olivia de Havilland and Clyde Fullerton, airline executive. Second plane transported Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, Director Victor Fleming and Nelson Millikan, plane company executive. They participated in a three-day celebration, which opened with the Atlanta Junior League Charity Ball and was climaxed with the screening of the Civil War picture. Other picture-folk attending included Ann Rutherford, Laura Hope Crews, Ona Munson and Evelyn Keyes, while Mr. and Mrs. Jock Whitney flew out from New York.

In what it claims is the most ambitious coverage of Southern California in recent years, Fox West Coast has launched its advance sale of seats for the "Gone" booking at the Carthay Circle, beginning December 28 with a gala premiere. Sales are being pushed from San Diego to Santa Barbara and as far inland as San Bernardino. In preparation for the premiere the Carthay Circle is being completely rejuvenated by a crew of painters, carpenters and decorators. Plans have not been completed for the motif of the lobby, parkway and forecourt, but the interior will be lighted. Selznick is cooperating with theatre authorities in checking the design and motif.

Out-of-town premieres scheduled include:

Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels," making its formal bow December 18 in Miami, Florida, at two theatres. Picture was produced in Miami by the Fleischer studios, located there.

"Abe Lincoln in Illinois," the Gordon-Goetz production which RKO Radio is releasing, will be formally debuted in Washington, D. C., January 22. The Newspaper Women's Club is sponsoring the affair and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will be one of the honored guests.



Eye an Honor—

Raymond Griffith, associate producer of 20th Century-Fox's "Drums Along the Mohawk" apparently is well pleased with his BOXOFFICE *Blue Ribbon Award, which honor became his when the National Screen Council voted the Claudette Colbert-Henry Fonda starrer the best picture released during November. Red Kann, editor-in-chief of* BOXOFFICE, *who presented the plaque looks on.*

Judell Starts Production At New Arizona Studios

Ben Judell's Producers Pictures Corp. has thrown open the doors of its newly-completed studios in Prescott, Ariz., and has cameras focused on "The Sagebrush Family Trails West," starring Bobby Clark, which vehicle is christening the plant as a picture-making unit.

Upon completion of the picture—first in a series of eight—the Prescott chamber of commerce will sponsor a "Bobby Clark Day," with a street parade, barbecue and other festivities. Gov. R. T. Jones will play host.

The initial "Sagebrush Family" vehicle, being directed by Peter Stewart, will be followed by the first in a group of eight "Tales of Billy the Kid" westerns. In all, Judell will produce 24 westerns for his 1939-40 slate in Prescott.

Start to Make Plans For Awards Banquet

Pointing toward the big event on its schedule for the winter season—the Awards banquet—the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is gradually setting in motion the machinery whereby the affair will be staged next February. Frank Capra, Academy president, has made the following committee appointments to consider possible changes in the rules governing the awards:

Film editors—Harold J. McCord, of Warner, chairman; Anne Bauchens, Martin Cohn, Gene Milford, Murray Seldeen, Blanche Sewell and I. James Wilkinson.

Special effects technicians—Farciot Edouart, of Paramount, chairman; Lionel Banks, Arnold Gillespie, Kenneth Lambert, Louis Mesenkop, Roy Seawright, James Stewart, Vernon Walker, Fred Albin, Don Musgrave, Harry Leonard, Fred Sersen, Jack Otterson, Byron Haskin, Hal Shaw, Bernard Herzbrun. Edouart won the special effects award this year.

Sound recording—John Aalberg, RKO Radio, was appointed a committee of one to consult with representatives of all studio sound departments and correlate any suggestions for changes in last year's rules.

Art directors—Bernard Herzbrun, chairman; Lionel Banks, Hans Dreier, Cedric Gibbons, John Victor Mackay, Jack Otterson, Hans Peters, Van Nest Polglase and Bernard Teitelbaum.

Short subjects—Jules White and Fred Quimby were appointed, at a meeting of the briefie film-makers, to request that the Academy make two additional awards—one for short comedies, the other for travelogues. Attending the session were E. H. Allen, White, John Rose, Richard Goldstone, Jack Chertok, James FitzPatrick, Lou Brock, James Bronis, Jerry Fairbanks, Robert Carlisle, Pete Smith, Rudolph Ising, Gordon Hollingshead, Walter Lantz and George Hall.

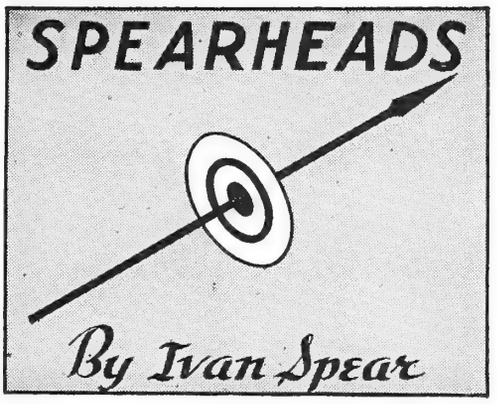
Directors—King Vidor, George Marshall and Lewis Milestone.

Capra will shortly request the Screen Actors and Screen Writers Guilds to cooperate in making a study of the rules governing the awards for outstanding performances and for script writing.

Within a few days the Academy will announce the membership of its board of directors for the new year, the polls having closed December 12. It was widely reported Capra would not accept reelection as Academy president on the grounds he has already served two terms.

Tay Garnett to Produce And Direct One for U

Tay Garnett has set a deal with Universal whereby he will produce and direct "World Cruise" for that company. Nate Blumberg, Universal president, has signed Loretta Young for the lead, production to start in January. Garnett filmed background material during a globe-girdling jaunt in 1935 and 1936.



WARNER'S Wiltern duals "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" with "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," which, in addition to shorts, makes for a four-and-one-half hour program. Training the customers for "GWTW," perhaps.

It may be recalled that when Gradwell Sears, Warner sales chief, issued his momentous manifesto of several months ago in which he stated his company would sell away from Fox West Coast houses, one of the counts in his indictment of the Skouras management concerned the double billing of top-bracket Warner product with pictures of comparable importance from other studios.

➞

The good ships "Sea Hawk" and "Madre de Dios" which Warner is building for use in the Errol Flynn starrer, "The Sea Hawk," will be formally christened in January. Water—of all things—from the seven seas will be used for the ceremony.

P. S. The press will not be present.

➞

To the other numerous records which are being claimed by David O. Selznick's "Gone With the Wind" can be added the precedental length of its credits roster, which filled four closely-typewritten pages, listing everyone and anyone who had anything whatsoever to do with the making of the epic. The only possible exception is Russell Birdwell, which may be considered flagrant discrimination, inasmuch as he filled the title role—"the Wind."

➞

Oldtimers should find much encouragement in the current grand comeback of Leon Errol. Long a musical comedy and vaudeville favorite, his film career has been a series of discouraging ups and downs, highlighted by his appearance in shorts—and at a weekly honorarium of like dimensions—at RKO Radio. Recently he has been cast in features with Lupe Velez. By being guilty of grand larceny as regards the Thespic honors in these noteworthy nuggets of entertainment, he has established himself as one of the screen's most versatile comedians and his future should be charted for him accordingly.

➞

Columns Jimmy Fidler: "Constance Bennett, who frequently talks about finances, never speaks of money; it's always 'dough'."

Maybe that's why her quarter-million-dollar lawsuit against him got such a rise out of the ether gossiper.

➞

According to Leo's praisers, the Metro short subjects department is rushing into release a "Crime Does Not Pay" reel titled "Know Your Money," which the blurbers claim was made primarily to educate the public to detect counterfeit money. They assert the rush job is being done in an effort to lessen the passage of phoney bills during the Christmas shopping days.

A greater service could be rendered the public by educating it to detect counterfeit films.

Wind and Some Zephyrs

The long-awaited showing of Selznick International's picturization of Margaret Mitchell's best-seller so completely dominated the preview week that to mention it on the same page as some of the lesser lights unfurled for critical perusal is probably some sort of cinematic sacrilege. The natural and immediate tendency in commenting on "Gone With the Wind" is unqualifiedly to declare it the greatest (and all of the other superlatives so overworked as an integral part of reviewing) motion picture ever filmed; witness a preponderant majority of those critiques that have already seen print. There is no basis of comparison, for never before has anything been attempted so lavish, so costly, so gargantuan as to undertaking; never before have the production and technical facilities been available to permit of such an attempt.

Faithful to the last to the Mitchell novel, the picture presents to screen audiences a new toast in Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara, and at the same time presents to the industry one of the outstanding box-office attractions of this or any other year. Constructed in two parts, the film attains a more dramatic compactness in the first—wherein are war, pestilence and death. The second section, excessively detailed, does not hold so tightly as the stirring depiction preceding it. Nevertheless the screenplay by the late Sidney Howard is a sterling and impressive piece of literate writing.

"Gone With the Wind" is, of course, superbly produced, magnificent in spectacle and sweep; the Technicolor photography by Ernest Haller is probably without rival in the history of screen color. Another hero must, of necessity, be recognized in Victor Fleming, who drew the Herculean task of direction.

Acting honors, by any and all counts, must go to Miss Leigh, who, attractive as she is, still is more blessed with histrionic ability than with beauty. She captures and projects flawlessly the torrent of conflicting emotions attributed to Scarlett by the author. Clark Gable, of course, is a perfect, tailor-made Rhett Butler—cynical, swashbuckling, cruel and tender-hearted by turns. Olivia de Havilland warrants no criticism as Melanie, and Leslie Howard, in his quiet way, is tellingly effective as Ashley Wilkes. The balance of a literally enormous speaking cast is above reproach.

* * *

In the van of the trailing pack—and, of necessity, all other current product is relegated to that category—is another Metro release, "Judge Hardy and Son." It does not deviate one whit from the excellent standards set by its predecessors and, like them, is assuredly a nugget of unadulterated entertainment. In the theme, scripted by Carey Wilson, a serious strain is introduced which, however, will prove an extra asset to most Hardy fans, particularly since Wilson retains sufficient of the original tone of comedy and homely philosophy. George B. Seitz' direction was deft and restrained, while Mickey Rooney and Lewis Stone again dominate the cast.

* * *

Three may be pegged as better-than-average program offerings. In "Married and in Love" RKO Radio demonstrates the recent noticeable improvement in its routine product is no flash in the pan. Based on an intelligently developed story and screenplay by S. K. Lauren, it emerges as sophisticated adult entertainment, well enacted, distinctively produced by Robert Sisk and directed capably by John Farrow. The expository technique is particularly well handled.

Again, in "Mexican Spitfire," RKO Radio comes through with a surprise winner. The script by Joseph Fields and Charles Roberts, based on Fields' original, runs the entire comedy gamut, save the subtle, and packs a banner load of hearty laughs. The cast, topped by Lupe Velez and Leon Errol, knew just exactly what to do with their respective parts, Veteran Errol in particular stealing every possible scene. Leslie Goodwins' direction is capital, and Cliff Reid provided workmanlike production.

Metro's "Nick Carter, Master Detective," proved a breezy little mystery, familiar at turns but packed with action and a certain winner with the sleuth fans. Lucien Hubbard produced, Jacques Tourner directed and Bertram Milhauser concocted the script from a story which, in turn, he and Harold Buckley developed after pouring through the old "Nick Carter" pulps.

* * *

Bringing up the rear were Republic's "Thou Shalt Not Kill" and 20th Century-Fox's "Barricade." The former is a formulized story of the clergyman who must decide whether to violate the sancity of the confessional to save an innocent man. An unpretentious programmer, it is saved from absolute mediocrity by the sincere performances of a competent cast. Robert North produced, John H. Auer directed and Robert Presnell scripted from George Carleton Brown's original.

Burdened with long stretches of trite dialogue, not a few unconvincing scenes and a strictly formula action yarn, "Barricade" can be dismissed as completely inconsequential. Gregory Ratoff directed for Producer Edward Kaufman.

20th-Fox Executives Mull New Program

Preliminary parleys concerning sales policies, budgets and the number of features to be made on the 1940-41 program highlighted the business confronting President Sidney R. Kent, Sales Manager Herman Wobber, Treasurer Sidney Towell and Charles E. McCarthy, advertising-publicity director, during their visit to 20th Century-Fox's Westwood studios from New York. Conferences were held with Darryl Zanuck, studio production head, his aide, William Goetz, and Col. Jason Joy, studio executive, who returned from New York for the sessions.

Visitors discussed advertising plans for "The Grapes of Wrath," "The Blue Bird" and "Little Old New York" in addition to looking over other completed product and vehicles in preparation. Another parley is scheduled for early January. Kent, Towell and McCarthy return east next week, with Wobber planning to remain over, checking with western exchanges and spending the Christmas holidays here.

Concluding local conferences on current and forthcoming product, President Nate Blumberg of Universal has left for the east, planning to return in January to resume parleys concerning plans for the 1940-41 season.

Also heading east was Murray Silverstone, chief of United Artists' operations, who spent some two weeks in Hollywood in huddles with the various UA producers.

Other east-bound executives:

Jack Cohn, vice-president of Columbia, returned after several weeks here conferring with President Harry Cohn regarding future production plans. His wife accompanied him.

Planning to spend the Christmas holidays at the White House, James Roosevelt, president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., left for New York on business.

Alexander Korda planed to New York en route back to London to resume production of propaganda pictures for England. He spent several weeks in Hollywood discussing future plans with Murray Silverstone.

Dave Fleischer, director and co-producer of Paramount's full-length Technicolor cartoon, "Gulliver's Travels," trained east to discuss the choice of subject for a second feature-length animated cartoon. This next effort will start shortly after January 1 at the Fleischer plant in Miami, intended for release during the 1940 Christmas season.

Harry Edington, head of Famous Productions, checked out for New York to see the current plays and scout for new story material. He has completed one picture, "Green Hell," for Universal release.

Jesse Lasky returned east after a one-day stay here. He was scheduled to sit in on New York parleys with Mayor La Guardia concerning the latter's plan to establish his city as a production center.

Arrivals included:

Sol Lesser, accompanied by Director Sam Wood, who will direct Lesser's "Our Town" for United Artists. Script is completed, with Lesser now casting the major roles for a January 15 start.

David Rose, Paramount's executive producer in England, checked in to confer with studio officials and to sit in on the final editing of "French Without Tears," produced by him in England. It is scheduled for release in America early in January.

To attend the preview of "Gone With the Wind" and huddle with Louis B. Mayer and other M-G-M executives on future production plans, Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, Inc., came in from New York.

Expected in from Gotham was Erich Pommer, recently signed as an RKO Radio producer, who has been lining up story properties and talent in the east preparatory to launching his first production for the studio.

On the second of his two-a-year visits, Hal Horne, eastern representative for Walt Disney, has arrived for a stay of several weeks.

Sherwood and Stahl Organize Companies

Independent production appears again to be perking up.

Incorporation papers for two new film-making units were filed in Sacramento—one for Robert Sherwood Productions, the other for John M. Stahl Productions. Former lists Robert and Angela Sherwood and Harry E. Sokolov as directors, while directors for the latter include Irving Cohen, Louis Kingston and Laurence Ryan.

Meantime Harry Edington's Famous Productions is preparing "La Chienne," or "Streets of Paris," as its next for Universal. Edington, now in New York, announced before his departure he had signed Cary Grant for the starring role. Famous headquarters on the Universal lot.

Richard A. Rowland's plans received a temporary setback when Barbara Stanwyck bowed out of the contract under which she was to portray the title role in "Three Cheers for Miss Bishop," Rowland's first for United Artists. Miss Stanwyck checked out because of other conflicting commitments. The film is now scheduled to get under way about February 1, postponed from January 4.

Jack Skirball, president of Arcadia Pictures and partner with John Wildberg in Knickerbocker Productions, came in from New York to seek players for "Angela is 22" and "For All Our Lives," which he and Wildberg will make for Columbia. Also in from the east, reportedly to set up an independent production unit, is Edmund Grainger, former associate producer at Universal.

Grand National's position locally is status quo, it having been reported from New York that President E. W. Hammons has secured another period of grace in his efforts to retain control of the company via a Reconstruction Finance Corp. loan. Creditors have been pressing for liquidation.

Gets "Queen of Queens"

"Queen of Queens," Cecil B. DeMille production for Paramount, is being scripted by Jeanie Macpherson.

HANL Balloting for A Change of Name

Designed as a follow-up to the "Declaration of Democratic Action" which it issued November 17, the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League has begun balloting to determine whether or not its name should be changed to one which more accurately indicates, according to the executive board, "that our greatest efforts must now be centered on the American scene and that such a name should affirm our program positively." The ballot which members a being urged to mark lists "The Hollywood League for Democratic Action" as the title which, to date, has received the greatest support, but also provides space for another name to be written in.

The board has recommended "The Hollywood League for Democratic Action" because, according to an official statement, it considers that it "most adequately represents the policy of the organization and symbolizes the pressing tasks which confront not only our membership but all the American people."

In its recently-adopted Declaration of Democratic Action, the HANL declared the organization's two primary aims are to keep the United States out of the current European conflict and to protect our Bill of Rights from attack by Nazi and Fascist underminings in this country.

Louis Bromfield, author of "The Rains Came" and other novels, was guest of honor at a cocktail party and informal reception given by the Associated Film Audiences December 10 at the home of David Commons. Guest speaker at a meeting of the women's committee of the American League for Peace and Democracy w Irving Pichel, actor-director, who chose "Protect Your Civil Liberties" as his topic. The same group will stage a bazaar and auction, of gifts suitable for Christmas, on December 17 at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel, with Mrs. James F. Geller as chairman.

Next liberal activity to appear on the calendar thereafter will be a New Year's Eve supper dance to be held by the M tion Picture Democratic Committee in the grand ballroom of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Reservations will be limited to 300 persons.

The MPDC tossed a cocktail party recently for Bette Davis at the home of Scenarist Mary C. McCall jr.

40-Cent Dividend Voted By Technicolor Board

A dividend of 40 cents per share, payable December 28, 1939, was voted by the board of Technicolor, Inc., according to an announcement by Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, president and general manager. Payment goes to stockholders of record at the close of business on December 20.

Dividends for the year, including the December 12 payment, total one dollar per share. A dividend of 35 cents was declared on July 17 and a second of 25 cents on October 18.

Research Council Talks Plans for Next Year

Details of the coming year's program, in which plans are being formulated for a more thorough consideration and study of the fields of photography, laboratory processing, sound recording, motion picture optics and sound and picture projection, were discussed by the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Keith Glennan, Paramount studio operations manager, met with the council to discuss topics in which he is particularly interested.

Membership in the council comprises John Aalberg, RKO Radio; Bernard Brown, Universal; Farciot Edouart, Paramount; E. H. Hansen, 20th Century-Fox; Nathan Levinson, Warner; John Livadary, Columbia; T. T. Moulton, Samuel Goldwyn, and Douglas Shearer, representing M-G-M.

"Northwest Passage" May Be Released as Special

Metro is tentatively planning to release "Northwest Passage" as a special during the latter part of February, touted through a national advertising and exploitation campaign. Decision was reached following a preview in New Rochelle, N. Y., attended by Nicholas M. Schenck, members of the sales organization, and Robert Stirling, aide to Producer Hunt Stromberg, who took a print of the adventure story east.

The Technicolor production will be released without any changes or added scenes.

Warner Signs Elsa for Short Subject Series

Warner has signed Elsa Maxwell, famed thrower of unique parties, to star in a series of short subjects under the title "How to Get Fun Out of Life." She will write her own stories, including "How Not to Give a Party," "Fun Without Money," "Fun Without Society," "Funny Side of Society" and "Fun at Your Own Party."

Universal Signs Dietrich For Two Pictures Yearly

Universal has signed Marlene Dietrich to an exclusive term acting contract, calling for two pictures yearly to be produced by Joe Pasternak. No assignment has been named as yet.

Rathbone for Trio

Paramount has signed Basil Rathbone to a three-picture acting deal, his first assignment to be the starring role in "Destiny," in which he will portray a homicidal maniac. George Arthur will produce, shooting to start about January 15.

Second Talent Swap

Still another 20th Century-Fox-Samuel Goldwyn talent swap has been effected, the Westwood studio having borrowed Andrea Leeds from Goldwyn for the feminine lead in "Kentucky."

Tributes Pile Up to Fairbanks' Memory

(*Additional tributes on pages* 5 *and* 20)

The sudden death of Douglas Fairbanks, which came as a distinct shock to Hollywood, temporarily affected production in at least two instances.

Paramount called a halt to "Safari" to enable Douglas Fairbanks jr. to aid in handling arrangements for his father's funeral. The younger Fairbanks co-stars with Madeleine Carroll in the film.

Production slowed perceptibly, furthermore, on Charles Chaplin's "Production No. 6," the veteran producer-actor having been so overcome by the passing of his closest friend that he was unable even to comment. Tributes to Fairbanks from industry leaders continued to pile up:

Harold Lloyd, president of Harold Lloyd Productions, said:

"I've lost my closest friend and the amusement world has lost its greatest entertainer."

Jesse L. Lasky, veteran film producer, said:

"It is with much sorrow that I learned of the passing of Doug, who was my close friend. I was the one who advised him to go into pictures originally."

Sol Lesser, United Artists producer, said:

"A fine, forthright citizen, a leader in the film industry, is gone. Kindly, generous-hearted Douglas Fairbanks. He helped lighten the load of many of the underprivileged. We deeply mourn his passing."

Louis B. Mayer, vice-president in charge of production at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, said:

"The passing of Douglas Fairbanks closes one of the finest careers in the history of the screen. His contribution to the entertainment of the world cannot be estimated, and the great friendship he inspired will stand as an everlasting monument to his sterling qualities.

Harry M. Warner, president of Warner Bros., said:

"The passing of Douglas Fairbanks removes one of the industry's most colorful and influential figures. It is an irreparable loss, sustained not only by Hollywood, but by the entire world."

Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of Warner production, said:

"Our industry loses one of its most important and distinguished personalities in the passing of Douglas Fairbanks. I deeply share in its grief."

Hal Wallis, Warner executive producer, said:

"The death of Douglas Fairbanks is a severe blow which the industry can ill afford. I join scores of thousands of his friends in mourning his passing."

Nate Blumberg, president of Universal, said:

"The memory of Douglas Fairbanks will never die. He was one of the few immortals who graced the silver screen. His sudden passing was a great personal shock, and will be mourned by millions of moviegoers throughout the world."

Cliff Work, vice-president and general manager of Universal, said:

"The industry has lost one of its real pioneers and one of the most dynamic personalities that ever flashed across the film firmament. We all mourn his passing as do his legion of followers in all parts of the globe."

Funeral services were held Friday from Wee Kirk of the Heather, with interment in Forest Lawn cemetery. Pall bearers were Charles Chaplin, Tom Geraghty, Joseph M. Schenck, Sid Grauman, Chuck Lewis and C. E. Ericksen.

Series of Fashion Shorts By a New York Stylist

Planning to film a series of fashion shorts in Cosmo-color, Claire M. Lang, New York stylist, has checked in at the Grand National studio from the east. First in the series will be directed by Will Jason from stories written by Arthur Hoerl. John Mescal will handle the cameras.

Miss Lang intends to utilize Palm Springs, Arrowhead and other southern California vacation resorts for exteriors. No release for the group of films has been disclosed.

20th-Fox Will Roadshow Shirley's "Blue Bird"

Following conferences between President Sidney R. Kent, Herman Wobber and Sidney Towell, of the home office, and Joseph M. Schenck and Darryl Zanuck of the studio, it was officially announced that "The Blue Bird," Shirley Temple's latest starring vehicle for 20th Century-Fox, is to be accorded roadshow treatment. Plans were drafted to open the Technicolor film January 15 in four key cities—New York, Boston, Detroit and San Francisco.

L. E. Clark Speaker on Color Film Processing

L. E. Clark was speaker at the regular meeting of the Pacific Coast section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, choosing as his subject current methods of processing color films.

Sherman Leases Space at GN for a "Hopalong"

Producer Harry Sherman has leased space at Grand National to shoot "Hold Your Horses," a "Hopalong Cassidy" western, because of the crowded status of General Service, his home lot. Lesley Selander is directing.

Paramount Will Co-Star Jack Benny, Fred Allen

Jack Benny and Fred Allen, radio's noted feuders, have been signed by Paramount to co-star in a forthcoming comedy, to be produced and directed by Mark Sandrich. Filming begins in July.

Pete Smith Goes Scouting For Fishing Reel Site

As a forthcoming "Specialty," Pete Smith is laying plans to film a one-reeler for Metro on the science of fishing. He's scouting locations himself, replete with net, hook and line.

Hollywood Personnelities

Barnstormers

—Metro

ANN RUTHERFORD made personal appearances in Winston-Salem, Ashville, Cincinnati and Lexington before attending the Atlanta premiere of "Gone With the Wind."

—Paramount

MARY MARTIN to be sent to Weatherford, Texas, her home town, for the opening of "The Great Victor Herbert." She will do p. a.'s thereafter in Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth.

CHIEF THUNDERCLOUD, playing the title role in "Geronimo," set to make appearances in conjunction with showings of the picture in Seattle, Portland and Spokane, opening December 23 in Seattle.

—Universal

BORIS KARLOFF, BELA LUGOSI, JOHN SUTTON, NAN GREY and MISCHA AUER trekked to San Francisco to attend the opening of "Tower of London" at the Warfield Theatre, December 15. Auer was master of ceremonies.

—Warner Bros.

GLORIA DICKSON and RICHARD ARLEN pull out December 27 for a two-and-a-half-month p. a. tour opening in Chicago.

Meggers

—Metro

JOHNNY HINES, comedy star in the days of silent pictures, signed to direct "Woman Proposes," a Leap Year story which he wrote and sold to Pete Smith as a Specialty.

—Paramount

BEN HOLMES to the second unit of "Buck Benny Rides Again" to handle comedy chase sequences.

GEORGE MARSHALL to "The Ghost Breakers," forthcoming Bob Hope-Paulette Goddard comedy.

—Universal

HAROLD SCHUSTER to "River of Missing Men." Ben Pivar is producing.

—Warner Bros.

WILLIAM KEIGHLEY to "Married, Pretty and Poor," featuring James Stewart, Jane Bryan and Claude Rains. Shooting starts December 15.

Options

—Metro

FRANK BORZAGE given new directorial contract. He is currently piloting "Strange Cargo," with Clark Gable and Joan Crawford.

—RKO Radio

VIRGINIA VALE held for another year as featured player. She was one of the original "Gateway to Hollywood" contest winners.

—Universal

PAUL YAWITZ joins writing staff on one-picture deal.

—Warner Bros.

GEORGE REEVES given new term acting contract.

JAMES STEPHENSON given new term acting deal.

Percenteers

DAVID BARON switches from Joe Rivkin agency to Paul Wilkins'.

HARRY HIGHSMITH joins Everett Crosby, Ltd., taking charge of a new studio musical service. He was formerly business manager of Metro's music department.

LEO MORRISON checks in from business trip to New York.

GEORGE ROSENBERG to join Columbia Management Corp. January 1 as executive assistant to Murry Brophy, vice-president.

STEWART STEWART leaves the Frank Vincent agency to become an associate of his sister, Rosalie Stewart, also an agent.

LOU WERTHEIMER and WALTER KANE form new agency, to be known as the Kane-Wertheimer Agency Corp.

Scripters

—Columbia

ROWLAND LEIGH and ROBERT PIROSCH to "Bedtime Story," under the production supervision of William Perlberg and starring Irene Dunne and Cary Grant.

—Metro

JACQUES DEVAL to "Strange Honeymoon." Milton Bren will produce.

EVERETT FREEMAN to "Go West," next Marx Bros. feature.

RENEE ORSELL translating "A Woman's Face" from the original Swedish.

HARRY CLORK joins writing staff, working in the Frederick Stephani production unit.

WILLIS GOLDBECK and HARRY RUSKIN to the next in the "Dr. Kildare" series.

RICHARD SHERMAN teamed with JAMES KEVIN MCGUINNESS on "Waterloo Bridge," forthcoming Sidney Franklin production which will star Vivien Leigh.

It'll Be Easier on The "Mike Men"

Devised by the Warner sound department under the direction of Major Nathan Levinson, a new microphone boom which cuts down on the excessive weight of previous types is now in use at the studio. Equipment comprises a specially-constructed 14-foot boom and microphone which fits into a shoulder harness made of aluminum alloy, permitting the "mike man" to keep the microphone poised over the action without the tremendous fatigue usually associated with the task. Soundmen on the lot call it "The Man From Mars."

WILLIAM LUDWIG and DAVID HERTZ JR. to "Wings on His Back." John W. Considine jr. will produce.

—Paramount

KETTI FRINGS, who wrote the original, and BILLY WILDER to the screenplay of "The Golden Door," set as the working title of feature formerly known as "Memo to a Movie Producer," which Arthur Hornblow jr., is to produce.

CLIFFORD GOLDSMITH, author of the stage play, "What a Life," set at Paramount to prepare a screen sequel.

JEANIE MACPHERSON to "Queen of Queens" for Cecil B. DeMille.

—Republic

BETTY BURBRIDGE to "Rancho Grande," based on the Mexican folk song, rights to which have been purchased by the studio.

THEODORE REEVES to "Doctor's Don't Tell." John H. Auer will produce.

JACK TOWNLEY to "Grandpa Goes to Town," forthcoming "Higgins Family" film.

ROBERT YOST to "Carson City," a Roy Rogers western.

—20th Century-Fox

JACK ANDREWS to "Red Cross Nurse" for Producer Raymond Griffith.

FREDERICK HAZLITT BRENNAN to "Sweetheart of Turret One."

LESTER ZIFFREN teamed with JOHN LARKIN on "Charlie Chan's Oriental Cruise."

MILTON SPERLING to "Fifth Avenue," a novel by Polan Banks.

TOM GERAGHTY and WILLIAM BRENT to "Yesterday's Heroes," from Brent's original.

—Warner Bros.

ABEM FINKEL to "Stuff of Heroes."

ABEM FINKEL to "Far Horizon." Miriam Hopkins will star.

WARREN DUFF to "January Heights." Miriam Hopkins will star.

FRED NIBLO JR. completes "The Patent Leather Kid," a George Raft vehicle.

Story Buys

—Columbia

"Blondie Gets a Job," by Arthur Lake. Lake, who plays "Dagwood" in the Blondie series, will collaborate on developing the script.

—20th Century-Fox

"The Hunted Woman," by James Oliver Curwood.

—Warner Bros.

"Out of Gas," South Seas yarn by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman. Tentatively set as a starrer for Errol Flynn to follow "The Sea Hawk."

ADOLPH DEUTSCH scoring "The Fighting 69th."

Technically

—Metro

EDWARD CAHN directing "Making Movies," new "Our Gang" comedy. PAUL VOGEL is

handling the cameras.

DAN CATHCART, art director, completes four-acre penal colony for scenes in "Strange Cargo."

CLYDE DE VINNA heads a camera crew which sailed to Catalina for atmosphere backgrounds for "New Moon," ROBERT Z. LEONARD production.

DAVE FRIEDMAN named unit manager and WALTER STROHM assistant director of "Forty Little Mothers," forthcoming Eddie Cantor starrer.

ROBERT Z. LEONARD scouting Catalina Island locations for "New Moon," which he is producing and directing.

VAL RASET doing special dance numbers for "New Moon."

RICHARD ROSSON set as technical expert with JACK JOYCE in charge of the trained horses being used in "Florian."

ROY ROWLAND piloting "Jack Pot," a "Crime Does Not Pay" short.

JOE RUTTENBERG set as cameraman on advance tests of Greer Garson, scheduled to topline "Susan and God."

JOE RUTTENBERG and CLYDE DEVINNA photographing ballet sequences for "Florian."

LEONARD SMITH joins photographic staff on "Florian."

SID WAGNER resumes post as cameraman on "Young Tom Edison" after a short illness. GEORGE FOLSEY was pinch-hitter.

FRED ZINNEMAN directing "The Old South," a one-reeler, from a script by HERMAN HOFFMAN for the "Miniature" series.

—Paramount

HUGH BENNETT to edit "Down Went McGinty." Preston Sturges is directing with Brian Donlevy in the title role.

HARVEY DWIGHT, business manager of "The Biscuit Eater," returns from Albany, Georgia, where the picture has been on location for nearly three months. Director Stuart Heisler also checked in.

EARL HAYMAN mixing sound on "Down Went McGinty."

PAUL LANG promoted from film clerk to librarian in the transparency department under FARCIOT EDOUART.

FRED LEHNY promoted from construction department to time office; JACK LONDON moves from construction to labor contact office; ANDREWS MONTGOMERY and EDWIN HILL transferred from prop shop to construction department, all as a result of centralization of technical offices in studio mill.

WILLIAM MELLOR photographing "Down Went McGinty."

HERB MOULTON completes special trailer for "Remember the Night," from a script by Lou Harris.

OREN ROBERTS, formerly with special effects department and now head of technical department of Pampa Films, Buenos Aires, here to purchase materials for his company and visit his brother, IRMIN ROBERTS, still in the department.

WALDO TWITCHELL set as research expert on "Triumph Over Pain," an Arthur Hornblow jr. production which Henry Hathaway will direct. Les Rivers and Charles Brackett are scripting.

HOWARD WILSON, veteran RCA sound mixer, added to studio sound department as a result of his work in scoring "Gulliver's Travels." Appointment made by LOREN RYDER, department chief.

—Stephens-Lang Productions

BERNARD HERZBRUN signed as art director on "The Courage of Dr. Christian."

—20th Century-Fox

GEORGE BARNES handling cameras on "Hotel for Women No. 2."

—Universal

JACK OTTERSON, art director, assigns RICHARD RIEDEL as unit director on "The House of Seven Gables" and RALPH DE LACEY to the same chore on "The Devil Is Yellow."

—Warner Bros.

DAVE GOULD directing dance numbers for "It All Came True."

DEL FRAZIER producing and directing "Famous Movie Dogs," a one-reeler in which noted canine actors, as well as the pets of various Warner stars, will appear.

CHARLES TEDFORD scripting "Discovery of America," forthcoming Technicolor short.

Cinémarks

Plans for their annual Christmas party, to be held December 17, were discussed by the board of governors of the Paramount studio club in their regular monthly business meeting.

*

I. H. Prinzmetal, of Metro's legal department, has been vacationing in New York . . . Guest of Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy at M-G-M, was Arturo Toscanini, noted orchestra conductor and composer . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Pagano are the parents of a baby daughter born at Good Samaritan Hospital and christened Joan Maria. Pagano is an M-G-M scenarist.

*

Melvyn Douglas and his wife, Helen Gahagan, have returned to the film capital after a visit to Washington, D. C., where they were overnight guests at the White House, and a brief stay in New York. Their stay at the White House Douglas described as "just a social visit."

*

Lou Smith is on the job at his desk as Columbia's studio publicity-advertising director after a week of conferences at the home office.

*

Sigmund Krumgold is on a two-week vacation from his music assignments at Paramount . . . Steven Fisher, scripter, is vacationing from same lot . . . Harry Sherman's general sales manager, Myke Lewis, flying to San Francisco, Portland and Seattle on business.

*

Roger Pryor has checked in from New York to spend the Christmas holidays with his wife, Ann Sothern . . . Services for John Hammell, former Paramount studio censor, were held at the Hollywood Cemetery chapel.

*

A. E. Freudemann, head set-dresser at Paramount, and Mrs. Lucille Leimert were married in Reno and are honeymooning for two weeks . . . Anthony Coldeway is back at his desk as a Warner writer after a week's vacation in Mexico.

*

Fred Quimby, Metro shorts executive, has checked in after attending the company's sales convention in Chicago and conferring in New York with homeoffice executives . . . Charles Leonard headed for New York to begin a swing around the country exploiting RKO Radio's "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" . . . Ben Thau is back at his M-G-M desk after a week at Palm Springs.

*

The Warner publicity department is planning to hold its annual Christmas party for its players and the press December 23 in the afternoon . . . Influenza sent Frank Loesser, Paramount musician, to the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

*

The Warner studio will play host to the University of Tennessee's football team when the gridsters come to the coast December 24 to play the University of Southern California in the Rose Bowl, New Year's Day. The southerners will be guests at a studio luncheon and tour of the lot. Also in on the festivities will be Gov. C. R. Cooper, Coach Robert Neyland and more than a score of southern sports writers.

*

As a farewell gesture before he leaves for New York next week, Herbert J. Yates entertained the entire Republic executive and production staff at a formal dinner at the Cocoanut Grove.

Increased Production May Assure Happy Holiday

Beginning a pre-holiday rush that may presage a happy Christmas season for Hollywood's film-making personnel, production has crept up to a total of 46 in the major plants, several notches above the marks attained in recent weeks.

Columbia has five in work, including "Too Many Husbands" and "Texas Express," new starts. Metro gunned "Forty Little Mothers" and completed "The Shop Around the Corner" to maintain a seven-picture average. Monogram has one in production.

Paramount's total jumped to seven. RKO radio hit a new seasonal high by registering an eight-picture total, Republic is filming three, including one new start, "Village Barn Dance."

Four are in work at 20th Century-Fox. Hal Roach completed "1,000,000 B. C." for United Artists, bringing that unit's total down to three. Universal has four in production. A like number is being filmed on the Warner lot where "Married, Pretty and Poor" got under way and "The Story of Dr. Ehrlich" was completed.

Predicts Success for New Pacific Group

LOS ANGELES—Predicting that the northwestern groups will go far toward creating better and more favorable exhibition conditions for their members, Robert H. Poole, executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, checked in from a trip to Portland and Seattle where he aided in organizing two new membership units within the PCCITO.

Poole attended a general meeting of Oregon showmen December 6, at which the Independent Theatre Owners of Oregon was formed and promptly voted to affiliate with the Conference. Named to the directorial board were Bob White, Jesse Jones, Ted Gamble, Bill McKevitt, West Johnson, Avery Combs, Milton Odem, George Hunt, W. A. Graeper jr., Ray Grombacher, Dude Smith, Oscar Phelps, Ray Stumbo, Art Kolstadt and Don Myers. Speakers included James Hone, executive secretary of the Washington unit of the PCCITO, who outlined the benefits of organization and spoke at length upon the problems and grievances of the small exhibitor; and Poole, who stressed that the PCCITO is based upon the principles of conciliation and arbitration.

The PCCITO executive director also attended the first meeting of the Washington State unit of the conference, conducted under Hone's chairmanship. At this session Hone announced the by-laws of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of the Pacific Northwest had been amended to change the association's name to Independent Theatre Owners of Washington, Northern Idaho and Alaska. The Washington group also eliminated the offices of president and vice-president and appointed a board of directors and executive secretary. Named to the board were Leroy V. Johnson, Paul Westlund, S. Dean, Fred Mercy jr., W. G. Ripley, L. O. Lukan, Howard McBride, E. W. Groesbeck, M. Kenworthy, B. F. Shearer, Charles Grieme, John Danz, C. L. Gwinn, Ed Halberg and Mike Barovic.

Hone Elected Head by New Pacific Group

SEATTLE—The official meeting of the newly-formed Independent Theatre Owners of Washington, northern Idaho and Alaska was held at the Northwest Film Club, with Robert Poole, executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference, presiding. Jim Hone, executive secretary of the Northwest MPTO, was named head of the group to work with the board of trustees.

Treasurer post went to Leroy Johnson of Jensen-von Herberg theatres, while trustees elected were L. O. Lukan, former president of the MPTO; Milburn Kenworthy, Paul Westlund, Charles Grieme, Cecil Gwinn, John Danz, Ed Halberg, Gene Groesbeck, Johnson, Ben Shearer, Bill Ripley, Fred Mercy jr., Howard McBride, and Sid Dean.

Poole told of the work done by the group in California. He said that in the Pacific Coast Conference there was "unlimited strength."

A special meeting of the trustees will be called in the near future to discuss clearance in Seattle. This problem has caused much grief to independent theatre owners.

Following the meeting here, Poole and Hone drove to Portland where, for the first time, a meeting of exhibitors from all over the state was held. A new chapter was formed there to function in conjunction with the conference.

Producer-owned theatres are not represented in the new organization.

Coast Independents Map Organization

PORTLAND—Meeting in Portland, independent theatre owners of Oregon, southern Washington and northern California took initial steps toward formation of a permanent organization.

With George Hunt, of Medford, as temporary chairman, the more than 75 theatre owners present voted unanimously to organize, after listening to talks by R. H. Poole, of the ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz., and J. M. Hone, representing the Washington organization.

A board of directors, to serve one year terms, was selected, including Ray Grombacher, Portland; George Hunt, Medford; Milt Odem, Redmond; Dude Smith, Tillamook; West Johnson, Eugene; Oscar Phelps, Hillsboro; Bill McKevitt, Newport; Bob White, Portland; William Graeper, Portland; Ted Gamble, Portland; Ray Stumbo, Salem; Avery Combs, Camas, and Art Kolstadt, Hood River. Others will be selected by members of areas not fully represented at the initial meeting.

The board will meet December 19 to hear reports from committees on by-laws, budgets, dues and other organizational details, including selection of an executive secretary.

Objectives of the organization, as set forth, are to work in closer harmony with distributors and producers and provide closer cooperation between members in matters pertaining to common problems.

Ascap's Seattle Suit Is Settled Out of Court

SEATTLE—Ted Harris, manager of the Trianon ballroom, announces the Ascap copyright appeal has been settled out of court.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers sued the Tarry Inn, Lockhart Inn, and the Trianon, all of Seattle, charging them with playing, without permission, numerous melodies that are copyrighted. The judge ruled the defendants had licenses to play the songs in question.

Galston and Sutton Hold Fifth Annual Xmas Show

HOLLYWOOD—With proceeds going to the Children's Hospital, Albert Galston and Jay Sutton staged their fifth annual Christmas show at their Marcal December 16. Admission price was packaged or canned foodstuffs. Santa Claus was portrayed by Norris J. Nelson, councilman for the district.

Looks Like a Merry Xmas in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD—For the first time in weeks Hollywood can sit back and begin to believe that it might be a Merry Christmas after all—for the shadow of Uncle Sam's long legal arm has vanished from the local scene, at least for the time being.

Action in the government's criminal contempt suit against Fox West Coast and nine major distributors has been postponed in U. S. district court until December 22 because of a crowded calendar. At that time the federal forces, headed by Harold Collins and Albert Law, are slated to submit a bill of particulars in answer to a motion filed by the defense. Latter is charged with conspiring to violate the 1930 consent decree.

No further developments in the government's probe of income tax and corporate matters, alleged labor racketeering and other charges have been recorded since a federal grand jury wound up its session recently with "no report." Quiz was being handled by Charles Carr, assistant to Atty.-Gen. Frank Murphy. Carr is still here, preparing a report from the testimony secured from Joseph M. Schenck, William Dover and other witnesses subpoenaed.

Harry Lampman President Of Seattle Operators

SEATTLE—Members of Operators' Local 154 announce the results of their 32nd annual election of officers as follows:

Harry Lampman, president; William Sisson, vice-president; J. G. Brown, recording secretary; James McNab, business agent; Robert Cameron, financial secretary; Frank Meyers, treasurer; Harry Kreuger, sergeant-at-arms.

Don Devort and Cameron were placed on the executive committee while Warren Smith, Ash Bridgeman and Robert Eddy were elected trustees. Lampman and McNab were selected as delegates to the national convention.

Charles Crickmore Elected By Seattle's Stagehands

SEATTLE—Charles Crickmore, stage manager at the Metropolitan, was re-elected president of the Stage Employes Local 15. Other officers re-elected at the 47th annual election were: Edward Leach, vice-president; Ernest Clarke, financial secretary; Colin Durie, treasurer; Edward Booth, recording secretary; Basil Gray, business agent, and Albert McKay, sergeant-at-arms.

Ted R. Gamble President Portland Rose Festival

PORTLAND, ORE.—Ted R. Gamble, manager of the J. J. Parker circuit, has been named president of the Portland Rose Festival Ass'n for the coming year. Gamble has already begun working on plans for the affair, which opens June 5, 1940.

Hansen Would End Marcal Sub-Lease

LOS ANGELES—Asserting the agreement has been violated, Mark M. Hansen has filed suit in superior court seeking to terminate a sub-lease held on his Marcal, Hollywood, by Albert Galston and Jay Sutton. Hansen declares he served notice on the defendants to vacate November 13 and that they refused to do so. He also charges Galston and Sutton failed to live up to terms of the contract, under which Hansen claims he was to install his own cashier, while the defendants were to keep the property and equipment in good repair and maintain a $10,000 public liability insurance policy. They have failed to comply with these requirements, Hansen alleges.

Fourth FWC Fresno House Is Opened as First-Run

FRESNO, CAL.—Fox West Coast opened the fourth in its string of theatres here when the Tower, 900-seat house, made its debut. Constructed at a cost of approximately $135,000, it screens first-run bookings, shoving back the Wilson, Kinema and State, all FWC properties, to subsequent runs. National Theatre Supply Co. furnished and installed the equipment.

Pre-Holiday Remodeling For Paramount in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—The Paramount, downtown house, has shuttered for a week for remodeling and repairs. House opens December 21 with "Gulliver's Travels," feature-length Technicolor cartoon, and a Fanchon-Marco Christmas festival on the stage.

Remodeled North Hollywood Theatre Opens December 22

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CAL.—Boasting a complete remodeling and renovating job, the FWC Valley will be reopened December 22. The house has been dark for the past two months.

Sponsored Showing in L. A. of "I Accuse"

LOS ANGELES—To be followed by a commercial showing early in January, the advisory board of the Los Angeles Council to Keep America at Peace is sponsoring an invitational preview screening of "I Accuse—That They May Live," French-made anti-war film, December 18 at the Academy Revue in Hollywood. Representatives of churches, unions, peace, veteran, fraternal and business groups have been invited to attend with no charge.

Borrow Henry Hathaway

HOLLYWOOD — Twentieth Century-Fox has borrowed Henry Hathaway from Paramount to direct "Johnny Apollo," starring Tyrone Power. Harry Joe Brown is the associate producer.

SEATTLE

A FEW months ago, as reported in these columns, Prosecutor Gray Warner threatened to enforce the Sunday closing law in this town which would have included theatres, athletic contests and other amusements. This week, Warner has released his recommendations to the governor and in his report he states that "the Blue Law is unenforceable and, therefore, a virtual nullity as the act now stands." Warner recommends that this law be repealed in toto and in its stead an adequate and proper law be enacted with proper consideration for the protection of the public health and safety.

Devi Dja and her troupe of Bali dancers made their appearance at the Meany Hall on the University campus despite the stagehands' union refusing help. Since early in 1938 *the Meany Hall was placed on the blacklist of the Seattle Stagehands Union and all shows are subject to labor trouble. Stagehands and electricians traveling with shows have to lay off and the show is taken over by students of the University . . . Word from Yuma, Ariz., tells of Charlotte von Herberg marrying Howard Durham, a newspaper man of Los Angeles. Charlotte did the well-known eloping act and the marriage was a big surprise in this town. Her father is John von Herberg of the Jensen-von Herberg theatres . . . John Danz has closed his Rivoli owing to trouble with the operators' union.*

A stranger in town was Ted Howland, former musical producer and stock director. Ted is now making plans for new musical comedies based on popular plays and will endeavor to present them in the northwest . . . The Northwest Film Club had a large turnout for its weekly bridge tourney and the winners were Roy Peacock and his wife, Frankie, of the east and west side, and Eddie Walton and Doc Franco of the north and south side . . . Mrs. Frank Christie, president of a riding academy, announces her team won first honors in mass riding and many ribbons and trophies for various events. Her hubby is Frank Christie, head booker for the Fox-Evergreen circuit in Washington.

Word from St. Louis tells of Elmer Sedin, traveling auditor for RKO, taking unto himself a wife. We know Elmer reads this column weekly so we send our hearty congratulations from every one on the Seattle Row, and don't forget to bring the bride with you on the next visit. Sorry we don't know the lady's name . . . Bill Forman taking a plane for San Francisco to make new contracts. On his arrival home, all Bill did was grin and say he did okay . . . George Hickey, western division manager for M-G-M, in from Salt Lake and spending a few days here with Morrie Saffle . . . Latest news from California informs us that Ben Fish, western division sales manager for United Artists, sustained minor head injuries when thrown from his berth as the train on which he was traveling to Salt Lake came to a sudden stop.

J. T. Sheffield, president of Republic Pictures in the Northwest, off for Denver to meet Jimmie Grainger, president of national distribution. The pair will come back to Seattle just before Christmas for a special meeting of the Oregon and Washington staffs . . . Wayne Christy previewing the Dempsey-Willard fight pictures for the boys of the press. This was the first showing of the long-barred pictures in Seattle . . . Cecil Gwinn showing improvement at the Virginia Mason Hospital and being allowed visitors . . . Jack Dailey, assistant to Cliff Lewis in the Paramount publicity department in Hollywood, is here to further the opening of "Gulliver's Travels" . . . John Hamrick's brother, Walter, who has been visiting from Los Angeles has left for his home . . . Jimmy O'Neal writing from San Francisco and sending regards to all the gang from Butch Wingham, Al Oxtoby, Roy Cooper, Neal East, Rex Stevenson and many others.

Virginia Gauntlett entertaining with a shower for Dorothy Bowman who is to marry Gil Nordquist of the Music Box next month . . . Junior Mercy and Mike Barovic back from the hunting trip in Idaho and reporting doing fine . . . Guy Maxey with three large deer steaks given him by Ned Edris of Tacoma . . . L. J. McGinley still away in the territory for Universal . . . With the re-election of officers of the stage employes union, 84 *years of office holding is represented. Here is the way it stacks up: Charles Crickmore, ten years president; Ed Leach, three years vice-president; Ernie Clark,* 22 *years financial secretary; Basil Gray,* 16 *years business agent; Colin Durie, nine years treasurer; Ed Booth, ten years recording secretary; Al McKay,* 14 *years sergeant-at-arms.*

Visitors were Milburn Kenworthy from Moscow, Ida.; Mildred Bishop from Lewiston, Ida.; Ollie Hartman from Grand Coulee, who enjoyed a swell game of bridge; Bob White from Portland celebrating a birthday; O. T. Taylor from Aberdeen; Bill Ripley from Longview . . . Jerry Ross spending a night in Bremerton to get a glimpse at a new baby born to one of his relatives . . . Murray Peck now looking after the Colonial. Murray also did some fine piano playing for the open house at the Northwest Film Club . . . Al Bloom reported to be going to start a new business that involves posters and trailers . . . Jack Flannery getting along without his car. While waiting for a stop light, a street-car kissed his rear bumper and also some of the car . . . Gene von Herberg celebrating a birthday . . . Senior and Beryl Mercy back from the trip to California.

"Business Is Business"

and whether it's Entertainment, or Mercantile, regardless of country or conditions, it isn't there

"UNLESS SOME ONE PRODUCES IT"

Thousands of parasites exist as a direct result of the theatre created, and theatre produced confection business, totaling millions of dollars annually belonging to the Exhibitor.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

LOS ANGELES

MILT ARTHUR'S Fifth Avenue, located at Manchester and Fifth, is being seated with American Seating Co. chairs and will be wired with Simplex sound. A 900-seat house, it will open as close as is possible to Christmas Day . . . Arthur DeStefano of National Theatre Supply Co. checked out to San Bernardino on a business trip.

Harry Stern, in association with Astor Pictures, has local distribution rights to three foreign films, "Farewell to Love," "Her Song of Love" and "Bella Donna" . . . Swinging around from Chino, his last stop, Sam Milner, Universal salesman, headed for Victorville . . . Mike Newman, Columbia exploiteer, is in from Oakland, where he handled the opening of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" at the Roxy.

A guest at the Warner studio was Frank Biordi, operator of the Majestic in Elwood City, Pa. . . . Nat Smythe, theatrical decorator, pulled out for San Francisco on business . . . Sam Milner, Universal salesman, in from one of his periodic selling jaunts.

Al O'Keefe, district manager for Universal, has returned from a trip through the Pacific northwest . . . Looking hale and hearty, Al Olander is back on the job at his Vogue Theatre in Montebello after an extended vacation through the east . . . Bill Woodworth, former owner of the Belmont in Belmont Shores, near Long Beach, visited his friends along the Row. Bill sold out to Fox West Coast and has been inactive for some time.

Now in its fourth week and pulling down satisfactory grosses at the Cinema is "Whirlpool of Desire," French-language film . . . National Theatre Supply Co. is refurnishing Chic Sturdivant's theatre in Somerset . . . George Diamos of the Lyric Amusement Co., Tucson, checked in on a booking trip.

Warner held a trade showing of "Four Wives" at the Fox Boulevard December 12 . . . Art Brick, operator of the Palace in Las Vegas, came in to do some booking . . . Eddie Cruea is now handling bookings and other office duties at Grand National under the supervision of Morris Safier, taking over the work previously handled by Bill Riter, who resigned . . . Guy Gunderson's seventh annual Christmas stag was reported as big a success as any of its predecessors by the exhibitors, distributors and other Filmrowites who attended.

Recuperating after an appendectomy, Al Lazarus, assistant manager of Fox West Coast's Egyptian in Hollywood, is at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital . . . Gladys Hastings, secretary to Oscar Oldknow at National Theatre Supply, is back on the job after time out for an operation at the Good Samaritan . . . Harry Rackin, of Exhibitors Service, has closed deals to book for three more suburban theatres—the Campus, operated by George Bromley and Alex Mounce, and Charles Perrizo's Mission and Dreamland.

Illness has confined Frank Valuskis, operator of the Valuskis in Buena Park, to his home . . . Astor Pictures is remodeling portions of the interior of its office . . . Al O'Keefe has checked in at Universal after a trip north.

Universal's Sam Milner off to Chino on a selling trip . . . Foster Blake, ditto, to Bakersfield . . . Willie Bronstein, son of Showman Ben Bronstein, is recuperating at home after a recent appendectomy.

Al Bowman, formerly of the Towne Theatre, is now managing the Oriental for Irving Carlin and Max Sinker . . . Bill Smith, handling "Stella Del Mare," Italian-made musical, has booked it into the Liberty Theatre, San Jose, December 30; the Palace, San Francisco, January 8, and the Cine-Roma Theatre in New York City for some time in February.

Henry Sonnenshine, of Premiere Pictures, made a quick trip to San Francisco on business . . . W. J. Heineman, Universal's western district sales manager, checked out for New York . . . Jeanne Turley, cashier for the Fred Danz houses in Seattle, and Ben W. Roscoe jr., Republic Pictures executive here, have announced their engagement.

President Charles Skouras of Fox West Coast, accompanied by a party of 40, attended the opening of the circuit's new theatre, the Tower, in Fresno, December 14 . . . Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, planed to New York.

Guest of Bob Poole, ITO director, for a day, was William G. Ripley, trustee of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, who planed in from Longview, Wash. . . . Majestic Pictures is releasing "Reaching for the Moon," one of the late Douglas Fairbanks' last starring pictures . . . Seymour Rinzler of the Randforce theatre circuit in Brooklyn, was a visitor on the Warner lot in Burbank.

"School for Husbands," French-made film, opens at Louis Berkhoff's Cinema, December 25, and will be followed New Year's Day by "The Living Dead." Both are Coast exchange releases . . . Murray Fisher of the Coast exchange staff is recuperating at home from an appendectomy.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
1964 So. Vermont RO. 1145
LOS ANGELES

Lydon for "Tom Brown"

HOLLYWOOD—Jimmy Lydon has been signed to play the title role in "Tom Brown's Schooldays," Gene Towne-Graham Baker production for RKO release.

In Screen Comeback

HOLLYWOOD—Dolores Del Rio will make a screen comeback as feminine lead in Metro's "Arouse and Beware," starring Wallace Beery. Leslie Fenton is directing the Civil War story.

Prolonged Illness Fatal To James C. Heilig

PORTLAND—The best reserved seat man who ever faced a boxoffice queue. That's what they said about James C. Heilig, whose death, following a six-month illness ended a colorful theatre career of nearly three decades.

Jim Heilig was a railroad man in the east when, in 1911, his brother, Calvin, called him out west to assist in a theatre enterprise. He became secretary and treasurer of the Heilig Theatre Co., and the firm became the best known in the United States for booking important stage shows west of the Mississippi. Maude Adams, David Warfield, Otis Skinner, the Ziegfeld Follies. These and many others played from the Heilig stage in Portland, and the enthusiasm of their local admirers was mixed with gratitude for Jim Heilig. He had an uncanny memory for names and faces, and he could remember customers unfailingly: their preference for seats and how much they were willing to pay. Bill McCurdy, Ted Gamble, Al Finkelstein and his other old associates recalled all this when they attended Jim Heilig's funeral Wednesday. His widow, two sons, three brothers and two sisters survive.

In All Ads for "Wind"

HOLLYWOOD — All advertisements on "Gone With the Wind" will carry the phrase: " 'Gone With the Wind' will not be shown anywhere except at advanced prices at least until 1941."

DENVER

FRANK, son of Rick Ricketson, has been named captain of the 1940 football team at the Taft school, Watertown, Conn. Rick is division manager of Fox Intermountain . . . J. J. Goodstein will start construction of his new theatre on East Colfax Ave. early next spring. The house, to cost in excess of $100,000, will seat 1,000. Goodstein is at present spending about $10,000 modernizing the old Bideawee on West Colfax, which he will reopen about Christmas.

C. W. Hermes has reopened the Bayfield in Bayfield, Colo. . . . Gene Gerbase, Sheffield-Republic exchange manager, has just returned from a Dallas and New Mexico sales trip.

The Dempsey-Willard fight pictures are being handled in the Denver and Salt Lake City territories by Premier Film Exchanges . . . "Gone With the Wind" will open at the Orpheum here on January 17 and Mickey Gross, manager, and Ted Halmi, publicity director, are already laying plans.

Fox Intermountain is getting opposition in several towns around Denver. N. S. Sawaya has rebuilt and refurnished an old Fox house at Trinidad, calling it the Strand, and plans to open about Christmas. Ed Mapel, operating two houses in Denver, has gone into North Platte, Neb., and plans to open at Walsenberg, Colo., about Christmas.

Ted Kemper, booker for U. S. army posts in this territory, spent a few days here booking films for the soldier boys.

PORTLAND

RAE PEACOCK of Onalaska, Wash., here on one of his rare visits to Filmrow, his first in two months. Art Adamson of Corvallis, "Captain" Kuhn and son, Rollin, of Lebanon, Kenneth Piercy of Prineville, Dick Fish of Gold Beach and Al Adams of Silverton also in . . . Portland Civic Theatre played Quintero Brothers' "The Women Have Their Way" Friday and Saturday under direction of Madge Wynne, Federal theatre actress.

Lieutenant Governor Vic Meyers of Washington was voted "out of office" as a dance hall operator by the Portland city council while Vic was in Olympia pinch-hitting for his chief, the governor. The council passed unanimously a motion by Commissioner Earl Riley that Meyers' one-month permit to operate his new Hollywood ballroom not be extended . . . Jack Dailey, Paramount exploiteer, called here on his Pacific coast swing in the interests of "Gulliver's Travels."

Special Christmas shows are the order here. Hamrick-Evergreen has donated the Paramount for a series of three for the benefit of crippled children and various child welfare institutions. A Zane Grey western has been announced for the first, on the morning of December 22 . . . J. J. Parker will stage a show at the Broadway December 20 for the Sunshine Division with admission by presentation of foodstuffs . . . Isaac Geller will sponsor similar foodstuff shows at his Walnut Park and Aladdin December 20, and the Mount Tabor falls in line on the 19th.

Tower Theatre Corp. hopes to open its new $75,000 house in Bend around mid-February. Ground was broken last week and Fred N. Van Matre, contractor, plans a double shift to rush construction. Plans for the 900-seat theatre, to be the third and largest in Bend, were announced by Ken Hodkinson of San Francisco a few hours before ground breaking. The designing is by B. Marcus Priteca of Seattle . . . Western Theatre Equipment Co. is remodeling in preparation for the installation of new stock. The plans include a new display room which will feature items not now on the market, the management hints.

Jesse E. Jones, operator of the St. Johns Theatre, has added two more houses, purchasing the Roseway and leasing the Granada, both suburban houses, in a deal completed with Walter E. Tebbetts. Both houses will be managed by Archie Holt, formerly associated with Jones in the operation of the Pix here. Tebbetts plans to resume his long activity as a theatre operator here in the spring.

FWC and Western Union in Tieup to Tout Bookings

LOS ANGELES—Selecting the recipients at random, Fox West Coast has arranged with Western Union to deliver some 6,000 envelopes containing ballyhoo for forthcoming releases to residents of suburban cities throughout southern California. The advertising matter touts bookings through the next two months.



Ann for Host—

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Frankie inject some "oomph" into their visit to the Warner plant by meeting Ann Sheridan on the set of "It All Came True." Frankie operates the Roxy in Everett, Wash.

Cooperative Theatrical Unit Planned in S. F.

SAN FRANCISCO—Plans for the creation of a cooperative theatre employing theatrical performers and allied workers from relief lists are announced by Max Dill, chairman of the organization committee.

Professional performers, stagehands, writers and designers now on relief will be banded together to put on their own theatrical and operatic productions. There is approximately 300 people formerly associated with the theatre on the Bay Area relief lists.

The SRA will be asked to forestall the threatened demolition of the Alcazar to make way for an auto parking lot through the securing of a lease on the building as the center of the cooperative venture. The proposal will be laid before Walter Chambers, state SRA director.

SALT LAKE

AL SHEPHERD has joined the local RKO sales staff on a temporary assignment. He'll cover Montana . . . Two of the most popular productions of the Martin and Olga Stevens Marionette Theatre will be presented at Kingsbury Hall. They are "The Nativity" and "Joan of Arc."

Harry Kerrer has placed his encyclopedia premium in the Fox Egyptian, Ogden, Utah, managed by Bill Fowler; the Main at Smithfield, Utah, and the Royal at Lehi.

Mohumir Kryl and his symphony orchestra of 50 artists appeared at the tabernacle on December 8. With the orchestra were Irene Walther, soprano, and Richard Kloko, tenor.

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is in its third week at the Studio here.

S' FRANCISCO

THE Warfield Theatre was overrun with celebrities when Bela Lugosi, Boris Karloff, Mischa Auer, Nan Grey and John Sutton made a one-day appearance in connection with the opening of the "horror" story, "The Tower of London." The quartet came to San Francisco through arrangements by Cliff Work, former resident of this city, now general manager of the Universal Studios.

"Send Another Coffin" will have its world premiere at the United Artists in compliment to Charles Schlaifer, UA publicity director, who has been in Hollywood mapping out national campaigns for this and other Warner pictures . . . Vladmir Raset, who was in charge of M-G-M's "Ice Follies" skating scenes, is in town producing the Ice Show in the Sir Francis Drake's Persian Room . . . Louella McGovern, chief inspectress at 20th-Fox, is back at her desk after an absence of several months and everyone on the Row is glad to see her back . . . Charlie Owens is back on the Row handling the booking for the newly-established office of Coast Pictures . . . Bucky Williams is managing the new newsreel house, the Circle.

Myke Lewis, sales representative for Harry Sherman, producer of the "Hop-Along Cassidy" series, has been in town checking up on his boss' product . . . December 21 is the opening date for "Gulliver's Travels" at the Paramount . . . The Harvey circuit will have a manager's meeting on December 19-20. The managers will bring their wives and best gals for the festive Xmas party on the night of the 20th. This is an annual affair and always one to look forward to . . . Dan McLean, master showman, celebrates the first anniversary of his Embassy, the family theatre, this month. The Row unanimously salutes Dan's ingenuity in keeping his house continually packed.

Magicians have been taking over the town in rapid succession. First it was the International Magicians at the Curran. This week it was Blackstone at the Golden Gate and next week Russell Swann opens an engagement at the Mark Hopkins Hotel . . . Leo Reese in town this week buying new sound equipment for his Orpheum in Lakeport. Reese will break ground for a new house in Merced in the very near future.

Sheldon Rethin is a recent addition to the Warner sales staff . . . "Doc" Lippert is trying to corner the premium market. The newest addition to his already staggering list of premiums, is a complete assortment of electrical appliances. Incidentally, the new offices of the Pacific Premium has the Row talking . . . Warner's will hold their annual Xmas party on the 22nd . . . Milton Samis has just reseated his Hester in San Jose. National did the job . . . Jerome Safron, district manager for Columbia, here on a routine call.

Row Visitors: Richard Schmidt, booker for the Army, in from Seattle . . . Mrs. Fazekas, Lyric, San Jose; Ray Kelsal, Victory, San Jose; Walter Cree, El Rey, Tulare; John DiStasio, Liberty, Sacramento; Stanley Cort, Cort, Livingston; Bruno Vecchiarelli, Gilroy, Gilroy.

Brandt Beats Neely; Picture of Gloom

LOS ANGELES—Predicting all independent exhibitors would be forced out of business if it became a law, Harry Brandt, New York showman and president of the ITO of that state, urged unaffiliated theatre owners of Southern California to marshal their every resource against the Neely bill. Brandt's pessimistic prognostigation and plea for united action against the proposed legislation were made at a luncheon given in his honor by Los Angeles independents. Approximately 30 were in attendance. He spent a week here in his cross-country crusade against the measure.

As the most effective weapon showmen might use against the bill, Brandt suggested that every theatreman have member of his family, his friends, neighbors, tradepeople, and other contacts write to their congressman urging its defeat. He said that he had visited 17 cities prior to coming here and that hundreds of unaffiliated theatre owners had been contacted which proved to him that a deplorably small percentage of the exhibitors who would be most affected by its passage had read the bill or had any conception of what it meant. He termed it, "a pernicious bill fostered by self-appointed guardians of an industry that cannot stand further regulation." He admitted there were plenty of situations in the industry that were badly in need of "cleaning up" but declared the Neely bill was not a step in that direction.

Other subjects upon which Brandt touched during his three-hour talk on industry matters, included the evils of the continued appearance on radio programs of stars who had attained their high place in public popularity through their screen work; the pros and cons of the trade practice codes and arbitration.

The luncheon for the visiting exhibitor was arranged by Albert Galston, Hugh Bruen and Jack Berman, officers of the local ITO, but was not officially under the auspices of that organization.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

BALALAIKA (M-G-M)—Nelson Eddy and some stirring musical interludes give this impressively produced and cast picture its moments of greatness, despite which it remains one of those enigmatic offerings which probably will fail in attaining comparable greatness at the turnstiles; one which the rank and file of customers will be able to take or leave alone according to their individual tastes. Ilona Massey in the femme topline has plenty of voice and even more pulchritude. She contributes substantially to the film's worth. Lawrence Weingarten produced; Reinhold Schunzel directed.

EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT NIGHT (20th-Fox)—Sonja Henie, as the daughter of a political refugee, does more acting than in previous pictures and her skating is still something to thrill the fans. Ray Milland and Robert Cummings are reporters who enable all to escape the clutches of foreign agents. Irving Cummings directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Los Angeles Local 150 Elects New Officers

LOS ANGELES—New officers and directors for the coming year have been elected by IATSE Local 150. Taking office are:

E. H. Hamilton, re-elected president; J. B. Kenton, vice-president; R. L. Haywood, business manager; T. W. Armentrout, assistant business manager; M. J. Sands, secretary-treasurer, and George Katz, sergeant-at-arms.

The new board of directors comprises T. H. Eckerson, H. E. Greiner, B. J. Pointner, W. G. Crowley, W. H. Fife, R. L. Haskell, L. D. Mitchell and E. L. Robbins.



Warner Studio "Tourists"—

Max Sinift (second from left), Los Angeles exhibitor, takes a group of friends on an inspection tour of the Warner lot and poses for a picture with Jeffrey Lynn on the "It All Came True" set. Sinift at one time managed the Warner Kansas City exchange.

Monogram's 'Arizona' Debuts in Phoenix

PHOENIX, ARIZ.—Phoenix went fiesta in honor of the world premiere at the Orpheum of Monogram's "The Gentleman From Arizona," the first full length, all-color film ever to be produced in this city. Thousands of fans packed every available inch of space in the de luxe Publix Theatre, considered the finest in town.

With the arrival of W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, and Gov. R. T. Jones, the celebration planned with the cooperation of the local Chamber of Commerce began to assume premiere proportions. For ten days the advance campaign had been under way with daily radio breaks on two stations broadcasting the latest developments in Phoenix's home town opening. A Mexican band and a company of 50 dancers provided a crowd-getting attraction.

Governor Jones and Johnston met many Monogram stars at the airport, the players delegation included Boris Karloff, Jean Parker, Tex Ritter, Marcia Mae Jones, Frankie Darro, Jackie Moran, John King, Joan Barclay and J. Farrell MacDonald. The entire cast of "The Gentleman From Arizona" participated in the reception and made personal appearances on the Orpheum stage after the feature presentation.

Following a cocktail party for the stars tendered by Governor Jones' staff at the Camel Back Inn, the players were guests at a dinner given by the local Chamber of Commerce. In the evening the entire delegation headed by local bands marched to the Orpheum.

Because of the success of "The Gentleman From Arizona" and the technical facilities available, Johnston stated he was considering producing two series of eight westerns in Arizona. He remarked a recent Tex Ritter outdoor drama was filmed against novel Utah backgrounds and he was in favor of experimenting with locales other than the familiar ones provided by southern California.

Charles E. Goetz, producer of "The Gentleman From Arizona," has planned a series of three more pictures, the first of which is "El Rancho Grande." His intention is to use Hollywood players as well as local talent, filming the story entirely in Arizona.

Monogram's exploitation staff, headed by William Peirce jr., was successful in getting cooperation from the United Press and the Associated Press as well as obtaining complete radio coverage on an Arizona network on the opening. Accessories used included 5,000 window cards, 50 24-sheets, 20,000 heralds delivered to merchants for package insertion, an 'inquiring reporter" bally and 500 colored stills distributed around town.

Governor Jones has announced his intention of making W. Ray Johnston an "honorary" governor.

Borrow Wayne Morris

HOLLYWOOD — Universal has borrowed Wayne Morris from Warner for the lead opposite Margaret Lindsay in "The Devil Is Yellow." Phil Rosen is directing.

CLEARANCE SUIT SETTLEMENT BASIS LEADING CONVERSATION TOPIC ON CHICAGO'S FILMROW

Nick Trial Jury Is Dismissed a Third Time; New Date Jan. 8

ST. LOUIS—A third dismissal of the jury —unique in St. Louis circuit court history —was made by Judge Robert L. Aronson, December 11, in the trial of John P. Nick, vice-president of the IATSE, charged with conspiracy to extort $10,000 from theatre owners of St. Louis in connection with negotiations for a new wage agreement for projectionist members of Local 143. The new trial date is now set for January 8.

Several hours after Judge Aronson had discharged the jury panel it was learned that George Weber, a potential juror, had conferred with the judge. Weber declined to reveal his conversation to newspapermen.

It is understood that it was Weber's plea to be excused from jury service because of the attempts of a visitor to his home to discuss the case with him that caused Judge Aronson to discharge the panel and reset the case for January 8.

After he had dismissed the jury and adjourned court, the judge admitted that it was information he had received at the noon recess that led to his decision to discharge the jurors, adding that the information had bearing on something that had happened prior to the opening of the third trial that day. He told reporters that he would consider revealing the nature of the information he had received after the cases against Nick were disposed of.

Local 143 Injunction Action Up Dec. 18

ST. LOUIS—After hearing testimony of only one witness, Osborne R. Myers, projectionist at the Wellston Theatre, in Wellston, Mo., the trial before Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley on the injunction suit filed by certain members of Local No. 143 of the operators union, to restrain John P. Nick, vice-president of the IATSE and Clyde A. Weston, former business manager of the local, from interfering with its affairs, was continued Wednesday, December 6, to Monday, December 18.

Earlier on Wednesday, December 6, the St. Louis court of appeals had denied an application for a writ of mandamus ordering Judge Oakley to set his default judgment entered against Nick and Weston in November. As a result of this action by the appellate court, counsel for Nick and Weston will be unable to present any defense to the suit for the permanent injunction against them.

The proceedings against the anti-Nick-Weston faction in the union is being carried on by several of Nick's followers in the union who had intervened in behalf of the defense. These intervenors also lost a round in the St. Louis court of appeals the morning of December 6 when that tribunal denied their application for a writ of mandamus to compel Judge Oakley to grant their request for a change of venue. They had accused Judge Oakley of being prejudiced against them.

Myers repeated much of previously heard testimony that Nick was the undisputed czar of Local No. 143 and refused to tolerate any interference with his plans and methods.

He testified that prior to Nick taking charge of the union in 1935 he received $75 a week and that he is now receiving $80 a month.

Counsel for the defense intervenors on cross-examination sought to stress the fact that under Nick's management of the union Myers had received an increase in pay, but were refuted by Myers, who declared: "Instead of getting an increase in wages I had my hourly pay cut from $2.27 to $2 an hour."

The new testimony that is to be presented by the anti-Nick faction in Local No. 143 is intended to plug up some of the holes in the case that was made against him prior to the granting of the temporary injunction and appointment of receivers of the union by Judge Oakley last April.

It was stated at the Civil Courts building that Nick and Weston are in Florida. They were due to appear here December 11 to answer charges of extortion in the circuit court for criminal causes.

Assign William Keighley

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has assigned Director William Keighley to "Married, Pretty and Poor," featuring James Stewart, Jane Bryan and Claude Rains.

Path to Truce in Frank Ford Suit

Chicago—A "covenant not to sue" is the latest development on another anti-trust case, that of Frank Ford, operator of the Stadium, Evanston, against B&K, Sam Meyers and the majors. Although details will not be available until next week, informed sources are certain the truce will include relaxation of some B&K clearance over the Stadium.

Retention of Double Bills Understood to Be a Bargaining Point

By GENE RICH

CHICAGO—The rumored "basis for settlement" in the Adelphi clearance suit against B&K and the majors, reported in these columns last week, is one of the favorite Filmrow topics.

No further details are available, though it is understood authoritatively that one of the premises upon which the cut of two to four weeks' clearance would be made would be upon the understanding that double features remain on the Chicago scene.

Meanwhile, the department of justice is expected to have its answers to the defense briefs in the government-B&K contempt proceedings ready within the next three or four weeks, according to Seymour Simon, department attorney. This means that Edgar Eldredge, special master, sitting in the case in federal court for Judge Charles Woodward, might have his recommendations ready in the case by February 1. Should Master Eldredge rule in favor of the defendants, the case would be dropped. Already, RKO and Universal have been eliminated by the government attorneys themselves, as not having violated any section of the 1932 decree, upon which the current suit has been prepared.

Wednesday of this week Master Eldredge received from the defense booklets containing conclusion of facts and objections to the government's finding of facts. These were laborious 70-and-90-page booklets detailing legal angles on the briefs already filed.

Should Master Eldredge, however, find that the government still has a case, it will then be argued before Judge Woodward.

Upon this case, depends what the final "settlement basis" in the independents' suit will be. Naturally, it is not expected to become workable until at least the 1940-41 season. And should the government go on to win its case, then it is pretty certain that clearance of the loop theatres over the first-week 25-cent houses will be cut from the current ten weeks to six weeks. Should B&K and the majors win out, this cut will be only two weeks to eight weeks after the loop.

I-I Managers Discuss Xmas Benefit Shows

EAST CHICAGO, IND.—Managers of the Indiana-Illinois Theatres circuit met here with Alex Manta and Jack Rose, heads of the chain. Holiday season and New Year's Eve shows were discussed. Plans also were made for the annual Christmas basket shows which the circuit conducts in all its theatres throughout the state.



Out West—

Dick Schmidt, operator of the Alamo, Mozart and Pearl theatres in Milwaukee, absorbs some western atmosphere by visiting Alan Hale on the "Virginia City" set at the Warner studio.

Ascap Immunity Rule Assailed in Wisconsin

MADISON, WIS.—Exception is taken to a ruling by the state attorney general's office holding that Secretary of State Fred R. Zimmerman has no power to investigate the activities of the American Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers by the Sheboygan *Press*, which blasts the opinion editorially as follows:

"From the attorney general's office has come a ruling on the Ascap that we are sure Attorney General Martin cannot endorse.

"It is neither law nor common sense. It says in one breath that we have a statute to protect and in another than the office of the secretary of state shall allow our people to be browbeaten and not lift a hand to protect them. What do we elect our officers for but to guard the welfare of our citizens?

"The legislature enacted Chapter 177 to give protection to our citizens. Senator Cashman's measure amended that law to give it teeth and yet the weakness of our position is demonstrated when from the attorney general's office comes a ruling that the individual must make his own defense.

"We have a fire department to protect us against the loss of property, a police department to see that communities are protected against crime and yet the same kind of a law with the same object in view is denied under this opinion when the ruling is made that the executive, the secretary of state shall allow a foreign corporation to come in here and ravish the people without utilizing the only medium for protection, the state enforcement office.

"We believe that when this opinion of one of the assistants in the attorney general's office is fully digested by the head of that department there will be a new ruling. There should be. Verbally, the assistant in the attorney general's office made the statement that it was a matter up to district attorneys. If it is a matter up to district attorneys, it is a matter for the attorney general's office. You cannot shirk responsibility by going to the smaller units and not proceeding from the top down. If a citizen has the right to make complaint to a district attorney, then why cannot an individual rely upon the attorney general for protection? Why should individuals be forced to assume all this responsibility against a gigantic trust and monopoly? Why doesn't the attorney general's office direct district attorneys to file complaints and act jointly with the district attorneys in seeing that a test of the law is made?

"Ascap is cracking down on people all over the state at this time because of efforts being made to have them appear in the state courts. They are evading the state courts and using federal machinery and our attorney general cannot afford to allow this to go on. Within the last ten days complaints have been served upon tavern keepers demanding judgments in the minimum of $250 and for no other reason than that of frightening off those who are putting up a fight. We know that the secretary of state would be willing to lend his offices to a test of this law upon his own volition, if the attorney general would back that department. We know the fighting spirit of Attorney General Martin and we believe that his opinion coming out of his department will be renounced and efforts made to proceed against Ascap people to make them conform to Chapter 177 or refuse them a license to do business in this state. This is not an unreasonable request. All of our damage in the sale of worthless securities was the result of failure to have protective legislation. When that legislation was enacted it was enforced. We have the legislation now to protect Wisconsin residents against the Ascap tactics. Are we going to shirk the responsibility of putting that chapter to a test?"

Brisk Activity Recorded By Chicago Business

CHICAGO—Business throughout the city bounded upward most of last week and over the weekend, due to better general business conditions and also because there were good picture offerings.

Throughout the loop, all of the houses reported brisk activity around the box-office. Most of the circuits' houses and a good portion of the independents reported likewise in the suburban areas.

GB Loses Contract Action Against Beloit Showman

JANESVILLE, WIS.—A circuit court jury here returned a verdict holding T. M. Ellis jr., Beloit exhibitor, not liable to damages in a contract action brought against Ellis by Gaumont British Pictures Corp. The firm sued on a contract for pictures booked for Indiana houses operated by Ellis recently.



Guiding the Star—

Jack Flynn, Metro district manager, shows the sights of the Chicago lake front to Ilona Massey, star of M-G-M's "Balalaika," as she stopped in the Windy City en route to the New York opening of the picture.

Balaban Voices Faith In Domestic Market

CHICAGO—Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, feels that there is room in the domestic market alone, without considering the European situation, for Paramount to make just as many pictures in 1940-41 as it has always been producing. He doesn't subscribe to the idea of cutting output.

Likewise, he doesn't subscribe to the idea of cutting budgets on individual pictures any more than they are now.

He chatted along these lines as he arrived on the Super-Chief and waited between trains en route to New York after a couple weeks spent on the coast discussing production. With him was Stanton Griffis.

"We are basing our plans for 1940-41 on our usual 30 top-budget pictures, and will fill out our program with the number of other program pictures that conditions need at that time," the Paramount head said. "The smaller picture details can, of course, wait until later. But at present it doesn't appear that we will cut our output. If anything we might even strengthen the appropriations on the top pictures, if conditions so warrant."

Balaban said that already edited or in shooting stages are all the pictures in the company's lineup till at least July of 1940.

He said that reports reaching him continue to show that business in theatres is still under that of last year this time.

Expect Dunkirk Bow Jan. 1

DUNKIRK, IND.—The new Dunkirk is expected to be completed and ready for opening by January 1.

CHICAGO

THE Women's Film Industry Club of Chicago, in a generous holiday gesture, gave a party December 16 for the 33 crippled children of the Martha Washington Home. On the program: A gift for each, ice cream, candy, nuts, and "The Wizard of Oz," donated by Metro for the occasion.

John and Dave Balaban, Morris Leonard and Elmer Upton of B&K motored out to Streeter, Ill., about 100 *miles from here, the other day when Barney Balaban arrived from the coast and rode the rest of the way into the Dearborn Street Station with him on the Super-Chief. That way, they got more work done, since the Paramount head was here only between trains.*

Elmer Balaban is back from a trip to Detroit where he looked around at the Adams there . . . Mannie Stutz says about those youngsters in the French film, "Generals Without Buttons," at the Sonotone: "The Dead End Kids of France."

Dave Balaban is a papa again. This time it's a 6-pound girl, Barbara, born to Mrs. Balaban at Michael Reese Hospital . . . Sid Stern of General Film Lab was in several mideastern cities the last few days on special trailer work.

Duke Hickey was in Indianapolis working on the opening engagement there of A. L. Rule's "When Germany Surrendered" . . . Hank Porter of Photoplay Advertising, who doubles in brass as the "movie editor" of the Cicero *Review*, has just finished a contest whereby readers entered stories made up of picture titles.

Howard Harris, formerly with National Theatre Supply in Detroit, and well-known among the supply dealers in the midwest, has been named Chicago city manager for International Seat Co. . . . Harry C. Miller jr. has been named assistant to Herman Jensen, manager of the Essaness American Theatre, recently redecorated.

Will Hays passed through Chicago this weekend headed east after a periodical coast visit.

Hal Tate, the film tattler on WJJD, has a new sponsor, a pair of Chicago laundries. His previous sponsor was a washing machine company. With him is Rosemary Wayne, fashion reporter, and the program now is heard daily at 11:15 *a. m.*

Ben Cohn, Warner New York exploiteer, was here for a few days, after finishing work in Kansas City on the premiere of "A Child Is Born" . . . Harry Lansky's Avenue Theatre, on 31st, is expected to be reopened on Christmas Day after repair work . . . Tom Grady, M-G-M traveling auditor, was here this week.

Bill Weinberg of Hollywood Amusement made a flying trip to Minneapolis this week to confer with Benny Berger for the use of Wahoo in several of his houses.

A. L. Selig, RKO exploiteer from New York, is spending a week in the Illinois and Indiana territory, contacting newspapers on advance copy and art layouts for RKO's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

Wisconsin High Court Will Rule on Bingo

MADISON—Another step in the fate of an important competitor for the Wisconsin amusement dollar will be decided here in January when the state supreme court rules on the appeal of the Bahn Frei Hall, Milwaukee, from a circuit court verdict holding Bingo a public nuisance.

Briefs and final arguments on the appeal have been concluded.

Attorney William Quick, Milwaukee, representing Edward F. and Marie Zrimsek, operators of the Bahn Frei, contended Bingo is not gambling in the sense intended by legislation. He argued:

"For their entry fee, Bingo players win the reward of amusement. The game is a fund-raising proposition in which the curse of gambling is eliminated because it is not the operator who profits."

Ben J. Miller, counsel for Charles W. Trampe, head of Film Service, Inc., who obtained the ban after Bank Nights at theatres were ruled out by the high court, pointed out that courts have held parimutuel betting and other gambling could not be justified even on the ground they gave revenues to the government.

"Proof that Bingo is a commercial proposition can be found in Mr. Zrimsek's own statement that the greater part of his income came from Bingo games. At 35 cents admission and 10 cents a card, a patron could spend $1.50 a night and, unlike the case with Bank Nights, where a patron gets his money's worth from the pictures, when you take the prizes away from Bingo there is nothing left," Miller contended.

Bingo was given a rap by Civil Judge Henry C. Cummings here last week in connection with a hearing to suppress evidence in the case of an individual charged with possession of gambling devices in the operation of pinball machines.

Judge Cummings observed: "It appears that there is a general epidemic of gambling in town. This pinball is nothing compared to what is going on all over the town. For example, the churches conduct Bingo regularly."

Sound Installations Are Reported by RCA Agent

ST. LOUIS—Jack O'Brien, local representative for RCA, has announced the following installations made in recent months in this trade territory. Columbia, Franklin and Woodlawn theatres in Evansville, Ind., operated by Fine Brothers; Weeks Theatre, Dexter, Mo.; New Tanner, Pana, Ill.; Ashland, St. Louis, Tom Curley, owner; Clarence Kaimann's Lowell, St. Louis; Esquire, Richmond Heights, Komm, Levin & Shuchart, owners; Ross Passalacqua's Rockne, Palmyra, Ill.; Theodore Charles' New Moon, Vincennes, Ind.; Theodore Coleman's American, Mount Carmel, Ind.; Red Bud, Red Bud, Ill., C. Dusinberre, owner; Varsity, Carbondale, Ill., and Jewel, Poplar Bluff, Mo., I. W. Rodgers' circuit.

MILWAUKEE

LATEST local houses to sport Book Nights are the Avalon and the Franklin . . . Fox's Strand, for the first time in many moons, is playing an original all-first-run program featuring "Barricade" and "20,000 Men a Year." House has been playing continued first runs from the circuit's Palace and Wisconsin as well as the Warner.

H. J. Mirisch advertises the single-billing of "The Woman," at his Oriental and Tower theatres, as being "in tribute to the season's finest photoplay."

Mayor Daniel W. Hoan's appointment of George Hampel sr., Frank R. Metcalfe and John Klabouch to the motion picture commission, has been approved by the common council.

Lee Harris, Hollywood makeup artist, was in town giving demonstrations . . . "Four Feathers" was regarded by many as a suitable accompaniment to a poultry quiz nite staged at the Mirth here.

Plans are underway for the construction of an open air automobile theatre west of Milwaukee this spring.

Variety Club's auxiliary raised more than $1,000 *for its fund to send indigent children to camp as a result of its midnight benefit show at Fox's Palace.*

Max Krofta, manager of the Capitol, Racine, and secretary of the ITPA of Wisconsin, topped the Theatre League bowlers in that city last week with a 602 series. Len Brown's Mainstreet is topping the league.

Russ Leddy, manager of Fox's Orpheum, Green Bay, addressed a banquet of the Broun County Teachers' Ass'n.

Mayor Ostby of Superior dispatched a gift package of Wisconsin cheese to Joe E. Brown, who is the husband of Kathryn McGraw, former Superior girl.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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Plan for Patrons' Comfort In New Elkhart House

CHICAGO—Nate Bernstein is going after patron comfort in the new State Theatre he is building in Elkhart, Ind. For those waiting between features, Bernstein will have a recreation hall and dance floor available in the basement. With a large nickel-phonograph to provide music, young couples can thus spend their time waiting for the next feature to start by dancing—and at no additional cost.

The theatre will be started January 1 and is to be ready for opening about May 1. It will be erected at a cost of about $100,000, and will be modernistic in design throughout.

Milwaukee Film Council Holds December Meet

MADISON, WIS.—Dr. L. B. Mosley, Madison, spoke on "Parental Responsibility in Shaping the Destiny of Youth" before the December meeting of the Milwaukee County Better Films Council at the Milwaukee Athletic Club.

Other speakers included Mrs. Stewart Scrimshaw, president of the Milwaukee County Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. J. W. Carow, state federation president; Mayor D. W. Hoan, and B. J. Miller, Variety Club secretary and secretary of the former film board of trade.

Indianapolis Playhouse Managed by Dick Neall

EDINBURG, IND. — Dick Neall has been named manager of the Playhouse, owned and operated by J. B. Sconce, who also has houses in Greenwood, Brownsburg and Greenfield.

Neall has been associated with Billy Connors in Marion and with Oscar Kuschner at the Hollywood in Indianapolis.

Fire Damage at LaPorte Theatre Is Repaired

LAPORTE, IND. — Damage of about $500 which was caused at the Cozy here by fire, has been repaired and the house again is open. Wayne Sweeney, manager, said that damage was confined to destruction of the screen, sound speakers and a few front row seats.

BOWLING

CHICAGO—Republic, by winning two games from Photoplay, remains at the top of the heap in the Film Bowling League this week. National Screen continues in second through winning a pair from Universal. Paramount shoved itself into a third-place tie with Photoplay by taking Warner into camp for two, while 20th Century-Fox bounced back to win two out of three from Film Carriers. The standings:

	Won	Lost
Republic Pictures	20	13
National Screen	19	14
Paramount	18	15
Photoplay Advertising	18	15
Film Carriers	18	15
Universal	14	19
Warner Bros.	14	19
20th Century-Fox	11	22

Friday Openings Are An Issue in Chicago

CHICAGO—A perennial thought of local independent exhibitors—to move up openings from Sunday to Friday—again is being bruited about Filmrow.

Many of the exhibitors feel that since their business has become, in the last few years, a weekend affair, that they should concentrate on having the same picture for Saturday and Sunday play dates. They argue the exchanges would net more and that the exhibitors would be able to show more of a favorable standing on the black side of the ledger.

By moving up to Friday, exhibitors could play the same picture over a span of two to four days over the weekend, either Saturdays and Sundays, or Fridays through Mondays.

This would eliminate a couple days' clearance between "C" week and general release first week, and so on, on down the line. However, the exhibitors argue that it would strengthen the condition of the business here to such an extent that it would be worthwhile for all concerned.

INDIANAPOLIS

A SPECIAL food show for the benefit of Indianapolis' Boy's Town will be held December 23 at the Granada. Foodstuffs taken in as admission will be turned over for the organization's Christmas dinner. Members of the Indianapolis Indorsers of Photoplays have offered their services for the party.

Marvel Maxwell, pretty singer with Ted Weems' orchestra now appearing at the Lyric, is a former student of Shortridge High School here. She is spending her spare time with friends and relatives.

Claude Flater, operator of the Tivoli in Spencer, Ind., and John O. Servaas of Exhibitors Exchange here, were among the 73 initiated into the Murat Temple, Mystic Shrine, last Friday.

Joseph Smith Named G. M. Of Affiliated Theatres

INDIANAPOLIS—T. C. Baker, who resigned as vice-president and general manager of Affiliated Theatres, Inc., will be succeeded by Joseph F. Smith, his assistant.

Baker had been directing head of Affiliated Theatres, a circuit of 43 independent theatres, since its inception four years ago. He resigned because of ill health and to enable him to devote more time to his personal affairs.

Smith, identified with the motion picture business for 25 years, has had experience in both distribution and exhibition.

Baker will still be associated with Affiliated as a member of the board of directors.

John Tribby With Father In Major Operation

INDIANAPOLIS—John E. Tribby, former Indianapolis resident and now sound engineer for RKO in Hollywood, was in town to be with his father, George Tribby, who underwent a major operation at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Tribby was one of the organizers of WLK, and in 1924 he helped erect WFBM with which company he was associated when he went to Hollywood in 1929.

The remake of "Hunchback of Notre Dame" is among the pictures for which he was sound engineer.

Wage Increase Granted by RCA Manufacturing Corp.

INDIANAPOLIS—RCA Manufacturing Corp. has agreed to a four-cent-an-hour increase for employes here, following five months of negotiations with union representatives.

The increase is retroactive to July 15 and employes will receive $35,000 in back pay. Employes with the company over six months become eligible for vacations with pay.

Teamed on Next Chan

HOLLYWOOD—Lester Ziffren is teamed with John Larkin on the script of "Charlie Chan's Oriental Cruise" for 20th-Fox.

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Iowa Theatres Show 7% Gain Over '38

DES MOINES—Whether you're entertaining the live ones or burying the dead ones, business is up in Iowa.

Amusements show a seven per cent gain over 1938 in the latest Iowa sales tax returns. And undertakers report an eight per cent increase in business.

Iowans are buying more cars so they can get to the theatre faster and see both features. The auto industry sales are 31 per cent over the 1938 figure.

More shoes are being worn out getting to theatres. The brogan business in the state is 16 per cent up. And the public is capitalizing on the darkness during theatre programs. Clothes, other than shoes, show only a three per cent increase in sales.

With the folks spending more time at the cinema, Junior can practice at home in peace. Musical instruments sales show a 14 per cent hike. After Junior starts practicing, the neighbors decide to go to a show.

Des Moines building permits are at a 15-year peak and all the credit isn't due to that new $1,500,000 Bankers Life building. Seventy-four new homes here are valued at $283,750. Big Omaha has only 52 new homes on its books at $180,300.

Perhaps it's the cash award night money doing the trick here.

Bankers Life Insurance Co. and Equitable of Iowa sold more than four million dollars worth of Iowa farm land during the first ten months of 1939.

Household appliances are showing a 79 per cent increase; electrical equipment 36 per cent; building materials 20 per cent; paint and glass sales 25 per cent, and plumbing and heating (despite Hedy Lamarr) 17 per cent.—R. M.

Moore in Milton

MILTON, IA.—Richard A. Moore is now managing the State here. He previously managed the State, Clarence, Ia., which has been acquired by T. H. Rosene of Hartington, Neb.

Construction Progressing

ROCK RAPIDS, IA.—Work is in progress here for the new Pioneer Theatre Co. unit. The house will seat 240.

Opposition to New Theatres Voiced at Allied Meeting

MINNEAPOLIS—Local independent exhibitors at a meeting arranged by Northwest Allied again made known their opposition to any licenses for new theatres here "until such a time as business warrants them." At the same time, however, President W. A. Steffes of Northwest Allied and other members of the organization declared unless unaffiliated exhibitors did their share in combating the licenses they, too, would cease their active fight.

"It's not up to Northwest Allied members to shoulder the entire burden," asserted President Steffes. "Every exhibitor has his interests to protect."

"The trouble has been that there are too many slackers," declared Bennie Berger, a former Northwest Allied president. "They take the benefits, but contribute nothing. Unless they show a different spirit, I say let theatres be built next to them and let every individual exhibitor negotiate his own labor contract."

President Steffes announced that unless the unaffiliated exhibitors demonstrated "a different spirit" he'd recommend to his board of directors that the fight against six pending licenses be discontinued.

Says "Flood" Would Follow

Steffes asserted that if the six are granted there'd be a flood of other applications to build new theatres in the city's various residence sections.

The city council at its last meeting failed to decide whether or not it would let down the bars for new neighborhood theatres. It had before it a majority and minority license committee report. The majority report recommended that the six applications be denied; the minority report, that they be granted. Instead of taking action, the council referred the matter back to the committee because some of the applicants had failed to post the necessary license deposit fee or meet other legal requirements.

The committee, which has held a number of public hearings at which proponents and opponents appeared, voted four to three to recommend denial of the permits. Hearings were exceedingly heated. Those desiring the licenses argued they were entitled to a legal use of their properties and that those now engaged in the theatre business should not enjoy a monopoly any more than people engaged in other lines of endeavor.

Minnesota Amusement Co. representatives and independent exhibitors contended that the city is already considerably over-seated and that additional theatres would jeopardize present showhouse investments and lower entertainment standards.

Several committee members expressed the belief that there should be more theatres and they should be closer together.

W. R. Frank, large independent circuit operator, asked to have his two applications denied along with the others. He explained he simply had filed them for "self-protection."

Trend to Individual Selling Evinced

Minneapolis—Noteworthy selling-season development here is a trend away from block booking. Some of the companies are evincing a willingness to sell such pictures as Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels" singly.

Many of the independent exhibitors do not seem to be averse to paying the highest possible prices for such outstanding boxoffice hits as "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" if they can buy them individually.

Vaudeville Try a Success At Liberty in Lincoln

LINCOLN—Success of the first trial of vaudeville here at the Liberty, the initial show after more than 26 fleshless months led Howard Federer, general manager of the Nebraska Theatres, Inc., to announce he is ready to book any and all shows of size which may get out this way.

The "French Follies," Sollie Childs' unit, grossed a little better than $2,300 for three days at the Liberty, commanding an admission scale of 35-55 cents, the highest price asked at any window here in seven years.

"I believe the stature of show business in any town," said Federer, "is increased in the eyes of the public, if that public is given contrasting entertainment. A theatrerow lined with nothing but pictures week after week with no changes in routine, is bound to strike with a dull thud after a while."

Federer admitted he was afraid of stage shows and what they could do, so refused an offer to book the "Follies" for $300 a day flat, taking a 50-50 deal instead, which cost him a little over $250.

Improves Sound and Front

AVA, MO.—A new Melophone sound amplifier has been installed in the Thrasher Theatre. Also a new neon marquee has been put up, according to Charley Thrasher, owner.

New Slap at Cash Gifts

Kansas City—Money giveaways in theatres, which faded almost completely from the picture with the banning of Bank Night some time ago, received what will probably be a death blow so far as Kansas City is concerned, when Sam C. Blair, city counselor, ruled that the only one being used here to any extent, violated the state laws on gambling.

The Blair opinion held that awarding prizes to patrons of theatres using a moving picture of a device similar to a roulette wheel on the screen is against the law, and passed the opinion along to the police department with the recommendation that future violations be punished by arrest and trial.

An exhibitor who planned to use the giveaway asked the opinion to determine its legality. Several theatres have been using it here.

Discover 'Democratic Way' Can Help Solve Trade Problems

KANSAS CITY—The settlement of exhibitor difficulties in Wichita, Kas., presents several points that become extraordinary when the Wichita incident is contrasted with the history of relations within the motion picture industry for the past five years.

Solution of a difficult problem was reached by the exhibitors themselves! In these days, when so many businesses are running to the government for aid to straighten out the competitive practices of the other fellow, this is notable enough in any business. It is particularly notable in the motion picture business, which seems to have recovered from the strain, suspicion and antagonism of the depression years somewhat less than other industries.

In a period of three weeks, the independent exhibitors of Wichita and Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., worked out a solution to a situation that had gradually developed through three or four years, and that had grown critical in the past several months. With the opening of two new theatres in Wichita several months ago, competitive conditions rapidly grew serious. Admission evasion schemes in all varieties—scrip books, coupons, two-for ones, one cent sales, etc.—blossomed out like a desertful of cacti. Those that had existed before grew and spread. Tempers became strained. Finally a group of the independents began cooperatively advertising two-for-one admissions in most of their houses. The lid was off.

No one exhibitor, circuit or independent, or group of exhibitors was responsible for the situation. As in most such cases, the conditions "just grew."

It took several years for the problem to develop, but it required only three or four weeks of concerted, cooperative and intelligent effort to solve it.



Points Sensible Procedure

The ability of the parties involved to work out their own solution without calling in any outside help is the most heartening factor in the entire incident. It may help reaffirm, in a business that needs such reaffirmation badly, the practice of solving industry problems within the industry.

Wichita exhibitors not only have eliminated unfair trade practices with their own "fair trade practice code," they have a new schedule of clearance which gives independents with low admission prices a chance at pictures in a much shorter time than previously.

What a striking contrast to the absence of benefits from "the government suit," and from "suits" in general! Wichita exhibitors have what they went after. They displayed an ability to cooperate, independent and circuit. They determined on a logical course, what seemed to them the best way to meet a serious problem, and had the courage to ask for it. But they didn't ask the government. They sat down together and worked it out themselves.

In addition to the rapidity, manner, and results of the solution, the wholesale use of one of the bad practices, two-for-ones, by independents also is interesting. It had the effect of making the scheme look very bad, although its use occasionally by several theatres, or all the time by one or two, while it looked silly enough, didn't impress so conclusively. When over half the theatres began using the idea, it helped precipitate a solution.

Sums Up Story

O. F. Sullivan, president of the Wichita Independent Theatre Owners' Association, sums up the Wichita story in the following letter:

"The exhibitors of Wichita, Kansas, recently proved that the spirit of cooperation between operators of theatres is not entirely dead. The Independent Exhibitors were called together, an organization perfected, two letters sent to all film companies and to their competitive circuit operators, Fox Theatres Corporation, requesting their cooperation in the establishment, in Wichita, of a Fair Trade Code and a more liberal clearance and zoning schedule.

"A joint meeting was called for November 28 between the independents and representatives of Fox Theatres Corp., and after a three-hour conference a much more liberal clearance schedule was agreed to, as well as a fair trade practice code. These agreements were officially signed by all exhibitors in Wichita on December 5, just three weeks from the date letters were mailed by the independents, requesting a conference.

"In the new fair trade practice code all exhibitors agree to eliminate all two-for-one admissions, one cent sales, scrip books of more than 10 per cent discount, premiums, and all plans or schemes whatsoever that would in any way be an evasion of the actual adult admission price charged at the boxoffice.

Clearance More Liberal

"The new clearance and zoning schedule is much more liberal as 25 cent subsequent run theatres are now permitted to run product 60 days after the close of a first run 40 cent theatre, and a proportionately greater protection over theatres charging lesser admissions.

"There was no ultimatum or threats resorted to, for as soon as Mr. Rhoden (E. C. Rhoden) of Fox Theatres Corp., realized that the independent exhibitors had for the first time in 15 years agreed unanimously to work together and abandon cut-throat practices he manifested a very agreeable attitude and approved a new clearance that was satisfactory to all parties.

"The new clearance is to become effective on pictures completing first run on and after December 15, and the fair trade practice code is to become effective December 24."

The story of the Wichita incident should be required reading for all exhibitors, particularly those with grievances.



—Pictorial Press Service

Wind Riders for "Wind" Premiere—

Vivien Leigh and Olivia de Havilland, Scarlett O'Hara and Melanie Hamilton of Margaret Mitchell's story of the old South, pause in Kansas City en route to the world premiere of the Selznick-Metro film in Atlanta. They are shown here (Vivien at the right) with Frank C. Hensler, Metro Kansas City manager, and John McManus, manager of Loew's Midland. At the top is Laurence Olivier, who accompanied the party. David O. and Mrs. Selznick did not emerge from the plane.

Twin City Exhibitors Assail GWTW Policy

MINNEAPOLIS—Twin City independent exhibitors, members of Northwest Allied, are on record as "unalterably opposed to the terms and conditions laid down by M-G-M for 'Gone With the Wind'" and, acting individually, they have committed themselves not to play that picture.

Meeting this week on President W. A. Steffes' call, the Minneapolis and St. Paul independents unanimously adopted a resolution condemning M-G-M for "trying to dictate" to them "how we should run our theatres, the admission prices that we should ask and the rate of return which they are to receive."

The resolution also declared that the Twin City independents would boycott—in effect—any other picture sold on terms and conditions similar to those which have been advertised for "Gone With the Wind."

Those in attendance at the meeting sarcastically referred to M-G-M as "the friendly company."

Assailing the distributor, exhibitors voiced their indignation. They're permitting us to make ten per cent now, but the next thing they'll try to limit our return on our investment to 6 per cent, speakers asserted.

The resolution characterized the 70-30 percentage split for "Gone With the Wind" as "obnoxious." If M-G-M succeeded in "getting away" with these terms, it was asserted, unreasonable percentages are likely to be the rule, rather than the exception, henceforth.

President Steffes announced that he'd call a special meeting of all the territory's independents shortly after the first of the new year to join the war against M-G-M's "Gone With the Wind" sales terms and conditions.

The Twin City independents also reiterated their determination to refuse to buy M-G-M after this selling season except flat, the same as all other product is purchased. Hitherto, they have been making an exception of M-G-M, taking four pictures each season on a 40 per cent percentage split.

"We're fed up on giving preference to the 'friendly company,'" asserted President Steffes while members burst into applause. "All other product is bought flat and M-G-M will be bought that way after this year, too, or not at all."

University of Nebraska Buys Film Projector

LINCOLN—Another small source of revenue for downtown theatres was shorn recently when the University of Nebraska romance languages department bought a projector and was given space in the new student union building for its shows.

The language department had been renting the Varsity and Kiva for morning showings of German, French, and Swedish language films, but now they're being shown at the Union. "Mayerling" was given a double showing Thursday.

LINCOLN

NEWS OF THE WEEK: Howard Federer, after playing "French Follies" to business that surprised him, is now ready to take on any and all stage shows of size and quality to invade the territory. He's currently flirting with Arthur Hockwald's Georgia Minstrels for the week before Christmas in the Varsity.

Boiled shirts came out in profusion when the formal season opened with the Military Ball, Red Nichols playing. Vincent DiFiore, after monkeying with figures in books all season, dittoed about the floor with one in a formal, and not bad . . . Barbara Roberts, Stuart cashier, and Gay Jenkins, the doorman, were on Barney Oldfield's radio shot on KFOR doing a commercial the other night . . . Luke Smith says BOXOFFICE *is so anxious to get him married, according to the "rumors" printed, if they'll buy him the license, he'll do it.*

After running it a week, Bill Knight is convinced Sid Rose changed titles on the print sent him for the Varsity. "Couldn't have been 'On Your Toes' we played," said Bill. "Must have been one called 'Flat on Its Face'" . . . When film men talk about things going on in Fremont, the doings of Stan Blackburn are the conversational bright spots—a lad said to be bound somewhere in the film business, and picking no daisies along the way . . . Izzy Kuhl and his frau will probably light out December 16, or thereabouts, for California, leaving the Seward theatres to run themselves. Izzy wants its strictly understood he's not taking the trip because he's prosperous, but because business is so poor he wants to forget it for a while.

Russ Egner, RKO boss, looked at the gross on "Saint Strikes Back" and thought his series was coming along. Of course, there was a little matter of a stage show helping it here . . . Bob Huffman is being paged by the social welfare agencies for another canned food matinee. Meantime, the guy has lost 19 *pounds and is turning into quite a Gable . . . Mancel Lofgren, the latest father on the Row, can't get home at the baby's mealtime, so insisted on a second feeding the other night. Ma slapped foot down and told him to keep his double feature in the theatre . . . Harold Hellerich, in a poker game with the strip dancer of the "Follies" show, played for pennies.*

Sol Francis eats only cheese sandwiches these days—that's the way business is . . . Frank Hollingsworth came up from Beatrice to say he couldn't get the neighbors in the theatre if he filed a claim for everyone of them on a sure-fire goldmine under their seats . . . Ed Vaughan says the gal who keeps her boyfriend on the fence too long often gets the gate . . . J. H. Cooper and Joe Philipson were here for five days, setting details of the Lincoln remodeling, the first time the house has been touched for 15 years . . . Harvey Traylor defines a gold-digger as one who lives on a 24-carat diet—but how would he know that?

Des Moines Shut-Ins Are Guests of Variety Club

DES MOINES—The Variety Club staged its annual Christmas party for Des Moines shut-ins at the Paramount here.

A film program and stage talent from three local radio stations provided entertainment for the group.

Free street car transportation to the party was provided for shut-ins and heated automobiles carried those unfit for tram travel.

Art Stolte directed the event as general chairman, assisted by Lou Levy and L. McKechneay as the transportation committee. Nat Sandler as finance chairman and Chick Friedman heading the committee on gifts.

Collaborate on "Door"

HOLLYWOOD — Ketti Frings, who wrote the original, and Billy Wilder are collaborating on the screenplay of "The Golden Door," which Arthur Hornblow jr. will produce for Paramount. Feature was originally titled "Memo to a Movie Producer."

AFTER 20 YEARS! NOW—For the First Time . . . .
Your Opportunity To Play the Great

JACK DEMPSEY JESS WILLARD

FIGHT PICTURES

"THE BIRTH OF A CHAMPION"

(Packing More Action Than You've Ever Had on Your Screen)

A short subject you can proudly feature!

Opened December 14 in RKO-Brandeis, Omaha, and set in following other RKO houses in Iowa: Iowa, Cedar Rapids; Orpheum Theatres in Des Moines, Davenport, Sioux City and Dubuque; and Capitol, Marshalltown.

For Dates in Iowa and Nebraska write, wire or phone your dates NOW to

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Set also for RKO Orpheum, Kansas City, Mo.

For Kansas City territory, write, wire, phone

SPORTS ENTERPRISES (Monogram Exchange)

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Reports Unofficial on Minnesota Closing

MINNEAPOLIS — Reports in circulation here that the 4,000-seat independently operated Minnesota, reopened late last summer with a policy of pictures plus big stage shows at low admission prices, will close again immediately after the first of the year are not confirmed by Gordon Greene, managing director.

Greene says he "knows nothing about it" and points out any such decision to shutter the house once more would rest with the board of directors representing the theatre's owners.

Reason for the rumored closing is that inability to obtain major screen product precludes profitable operation. Reports also are to the effect that the theatre will carry a fight to secure major films to Washington.

The Minnesota Amusement Co. now has all the major screen product tied up. It is known that photographs have been taken of the Aster Theatre marquee, showing advertisements of dual first-run major pictures at 15 cents to 5 p. m. and 25 cents thereafter in a 900-seat house. Idea is said to be to submit these to the federal department of justice and ask for an investigation into an alleged conspiracy in restraint of trade to deprive the Minnesota Theatre of pictures.

Although no theatre building or ground rent or Greene's salary is charged against operation, impression in show circles is that, since the reopening, the Minnesota has had only a comparatively few profitable weeks. Greene apparently hasn't overlooked any bets in trying to put the house over, utilizing gift nights, etc., as added inducements for patronage. "Nut," however, is terrific even without rent and managing director's salary included. There apparently aren't enough big name draw stage attractions to offset the lack of major pictures.

The Minnesota Amusement Co. gave up the Minnesota because of inability to operate it without loss. If the present venture fails there may be nothing left but to tear the $2,000,000 theatre building down for a parking lot in order to save taxes.

Work on Brent Story

HOLLYWOOD—Tom Geraghty and William Brent are adapting "Yesterday's Heroes" for 20th-Fox from an original by Brent.

Projectionist Treats Kiddies to Show

St. Paul—Emmett Gardner, projectionist here, took it on himself to provide a free Christmas picture show for the state hospital for crippled children. W. H. Workman of the M-G-M exchange, Minneapolis, provided the film and Gardner took his own full-sized projection machine to the institution. He ran two showings of "The Wizard of Oz" and a complete program of shorts, including three comedies.

Tribune-Allied Tieup for Free Children Shows

MINNEAPOLIS—The Minneapolis *Tribune* has tied up with Northwest Allied here to bring films to an estimated 36,000 children unable to attend because of financial reasons. It has organized a "movie club" and is distributing free theatre tickets in return for subscriptions.

The newspaper pays the theatres five cents for each ticket redeemed and also runs page ads advertising the names of the showhouses participating. In return, the theatres use the newspaper's trailers advertising the club. The tieup is to continue for 90 days.

Dempsey-Willard Fight in Neb., Iowa RKO Houses

CHICAGO—Johnny Mednikow Productions of Chicago have the distribution rights for the current hit short subject, "The Dempsey-Willard Fight Pictures."

The picture opened at the RKO-Brandeis in Omaha on December 14 and will play all of the RKO houses in Iowa.

Mednikow has the rights on the picture for the states of Iowa and Nebraska.

Blank Circuit Renews RCA Service Contract

CAMDEN, N. J.—W. L. (Bill) Jones, RCA's national service manager, announced that the Blank circuit has renewed its service contract with RCA Photophone to cover all of the chain's more than 80 theatres located in Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois.

The deal was negotiated between Myron M. Blank and Bill Toney of the circuit, and Edward Auger and Carl Johnson representing RCA.



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KAYCEE

EARL JAMESON was sitting in Variety Club the other evening when the phone, then the side door, and finally the front door bells rang, in sequence. "Everything rings around here but the cash register," he quipped.

In town: George March of March Brothers, LeMars, Ia., with Al Hauetter of Modern Theatre Decorators, buying equipment . . . Jim Weakley of Republic-Midwest celebrated his birthday December 12.

On the Row: Art Pugh, Columbus and Erie, Kas.; John Courter, Gallatin, Mo.; Cle Bratton, Council Grove, Kas. . . . Morrie Cohen, Strand Theatre, Council Bluffs, Ia., was here Tuesday visiting with Nat Hechtman. Morrie is the new chief barker of the Omaha tent of Variety.

Warner Brothers conducted a trade showing of "Four Wives" at Edison Hall on Tuesday afternoon.

The report from C. E. Gregory's New Year's eve committee of Variety Club is that plenty of people are asking for reservations at $5 a couple, and that the "ceiling" is definitely going to be 50 couples. Les Durland and Jim Lewis are aiding Gregory on the party at the club.

J. B. Horosko is opening the theatre at Deepwater, Mo., having taken over from John Travis. The theatre formerly was called the Tile, but Horosko is holding a contest for a new name. Horosko has installed new sound and booth equipment for the 150-seat house. From Kansas City, Kas., Horosko has been in the theatre and movie business five or six years.

George Harttmann, who operates theatres in Lees Summit, North Kansas City, and Mound City, Mo., was at Arrowhead Lodge on the Lake of the Ozarks, December 7, when the town of Lake of the Ozarks derned near burned down. At least $30,000 worth of it went up in smoke. George got some 16mm shots of the conflagration.

George Summers, Unionville, Mo., is installing 500 new seats in the Royal there. L. J. Kimbriel of the Oklahoma Theatre Supply Company made the sale.

Dick Biechele was on crutches last week. He turned his ankle at a funeral. Watch your step, Dick!

John Kelly, star salesman for J. W. Shreve's National Theatre Supply Company, is in the hospital.

Exhibitor comment: I've been in this business just long enough to learn that I should have gone into some other. It's the only business I know where someone else determines your profits.

Two Buy Holmes

KANSAS CITY—L. S. Brown, manager of the Holmes Projector Theatre Supply, announces the purchase of Holmes all-ball-bearing 35 mm sound projectors by L. O. Ringler for his Sunflower at Peabody, Kas., and by M. Stevens, Alton, Ill.

Bowling Tournament Gets Plenty of Push

KANSAS CITY—At last observation the annual Variety Club-Kansas City *Star* bowling tournament at Pla-Mor looked like the best one yet. Held Saturday and Sunday, and again for the benefit of underprivileged school children in Greater Kansas City, the affair had plenty of push behind it going into the stretch.

Variety Club members met Wednesday noon at luncheon to discuss the final phases, and A. F. "Peck" Baker was so excited he broke the gavel. Frank Lambader of Pla-Mor, Frank Hensler of Metro, Fred Meyn, chairman of the tourney in Kansas City, Kas., Arthur Cole of Paramount, and others talked. Lambader and Hensler both pointed out that the tournament has carried the name of Variety throughout the territory; that bowlers come from Falls City, Neb., Clinton, Mo., and dozens of other spots outside Greater Kansas City. Hensler also explained that Pla-Mor is one of the chief contributors to the tournament, in the way of extra money to pin boys, cash for prizes, etc. He also explained that Leo Finkelstein was doing the printing for the tournament free.

Arthur Cole made the point that in Kansas City, Kas., the Allvine Dairy matches the amount raised in the tournament; that in Kansas City, Mo., the milk is purchased wholesale. Cole also reported that the club has adopted 15 of the *Star's* Neediest Families for Christmas.

Among those giving prizes are the following: Charley Siebenthaler, Walt Lambader, Jay Means, Reube Finkelstein, Pete Dana, Ben Marcus, Roy Miller, Charley Gregory, F. C. Hensler, Don Davis, Ben Shlyen, Screenland Cafe, Cresswell Studios, Jim Rigney, Homer Blackwell, Stanley Schwartz, Associated Theatres of Independence, Mo.; R. O. Garrett, American Seating Co., Eddie Green, Jack Gregory, Harry Taylor, Max Barewin, Bev Miller, Variety Club, Earl Jameson, Sam Abend, George Harttmann, Chuck Esterley, Jim Winn, Joe Manfre, Arthur Cole, Cinema Club, Ward Scott, Jack Barnett, Cle Bratton, Newman, Uptown, Esquire, Plaza, Tower and Orpheum theatres. In Kansas City, Kas.: Grindel-Lembke, Jayhawk, Midway, Kansas, Park, etc.

Bill Taylor President of Stagehands, Operators

LINCOLN—Stagehands and operators have elected Bill Taylor president and Ed Matschullat business agent for the local. Taylor is on the stage at the Nebraska, and Matschullat is night projectionist at the Colonial.

Other officers named are Vincent Thomas, vice-president; Homer Hotchkiss, recording secretary; Robert Forrest, financial secretary; Roy Warner, delegate to the IATSE national convention and representative in the state federation; and Lem Mulliner, sergeant-at-arms.

Adapts "Stuff for Heroes"

HOLLYWOOD—Abem Finkel is whipping "Stuff of Heroes" into screen form for Warner Bros.

OMAHA

DEAR SANTA . . . Continuing our letter of last week on gifts for exhibitors and filmites in the Omaha territory.—M. D.

You can skip Johnny Harms, because that popular young booker on Filmrow has already had his Christmas present in the form of a job with an investment firm in Grand Island. John has resigned his Filmrow job and already moved outstate. Don Gilinsky succeeded him as booker at the local exchange.

Mary Francis of American Distributing says she wants a special date for New Years with a "certain fellow" . . . Ralph Olson, former film peddler out of Omaha and now working in Des Moines, wants a wedding ring because he's getting married soon after the first of the year . . . Hazel Anderson, Metro booker, wants relief from a sore tooth.

Joe Marino, Maryland Theatre, Omaha, wants a present for his bride, since he's just married . . . Fred Horn, Columbia salesman, is taking care of his own Christmas gift in the form of a three-weeks vacation on the west coast . . . Sol Francis, Monogram boss, says his son George would like a sister for Christmas.

Send Walt Green of Fepco a vote of thanks from local branch managers for the signs he had made for all exchanges . . . Don McLucas, United Artists boss, already has a slot machine, he says, but he could use some customers for it . . . Rosalie Boughn, Sun, Walthill, Neb., wants a new system to win at bridge.

J. Morgan Reynolds, Elwood and Bertrand, Neb., would like a good fishing stream in his back yard . . . Mort Troxell, Moon, Wilber, Neb., could use some cigarettes and matches so he won't have to mooch from his dad, W. W. Troxell, of the circuit bearing his name . . . DuWayne Hartzell, Rivoli, Charter Oak, Ia., says he could use some good product "if it isn't asking too much!"

Carl Reese of Republic wants more exhibitors who will play Autry pictures on Sunday. He says some of the Iowa theatres are "cleaning up" that way . . . How about a box of cigars for Lou Ireland, Logan, Ia.? . . . Sophie Volkert of Monogram already received her gift, a new watch from hubby . . . Ed Schoenthal of Holdrege, Neb., wants a lower golf score.

Walt Gunther, Palace, Syracuse, Neb., wants "fewer and better pictures" . . . Mike Roth of National Screen wants you to tell exhibitors about those special Christmas and New Year's trailers . . . Local bookers ask you to figure out a way to get F. E. Johnson, Home, Danbury, Neb., in town more than once a year . . . Al Hill, film peddler, says he's already written his letter to you.

Harold Conroy, exhibitor-barber at

(Continued on page 55)

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

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Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.
Blowers, washers, spray nozzels, office and home units.
Special Offer—Priced to Sell.
Why Pay More?
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Holmes Projector Theatre Supply
Projectors and Sound for the Largest and Smallest Theatre—Also Portable 16 mm and 35 mm equipment.
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Distributors for
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126 West 18th St. GR. 2864 Kansas City, Mo.
708 West Grand Ave. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.
1804 Wyandotte St.
C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't Wichita, Kas.
C. D. Peck, Mgr. Phone 2-2153

EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

Independent Theatre Owners Association
1214 Brush Creek Road — VAlentine 2770
E. E. Webber jr., Pres. John Wolfberg, Sec.

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
Frank Cassil, Pres. Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

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National Air Conditioning and Engineering Corp.
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W. P. Humston HA 4783

SCREEN PUBLICITY

Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: HIland 2694

MINNEAPOLIS

THIS is the gospel truth—although all concerned have kept it hushed up until now out of compassion for the story's unhappy hero. When Marie Wilson, pretty blonde film star, played a personal appearance engagement on the Orpheum stage here recently, Alexis (Kelly) Evidon, Warner's ad sales manager, made it his business to meet her backstage, inasmuch as she has appeared in so many of his company's films. He had the pleasure of escorting her over to the Warner exchange, there to meet the other excited local Warnerites. But then something happened. Kelly's debonair nonchalance suddenly completely vanished when it came time for him to introduce the lovely lady to his fellow workers. He was seized by an attack of shyness and self-consciousness, forgot most of the boys' names, stumbled over other names and, not figuratively, actually stumbled over a wastepaper basket. However, the charming Miss Wilson came to the rescue with a very gracious self-introduction to the gang.

Maybe the above is why the jittery Hugh Herbert, who appeared on the Minnesota Theatre stage a few weeks ago, is now Kelly's favorite film star. Kelly called upon Herbert during the personal appearance engagement . . . Ted Bolnick, LaCrosse, Wis.; Eddie Swanson, Red Wing, Minn., and Carl Engstrom, New Ulm, Minn., comprised a trio of Welworth circuit managers who visited the homeoffice here this week . . . Ben Spewack, the Orson Welles of Minneapolis, is ploughing ground for his new bowling alleys at Eden Prairie, Minn., and also has consideration alleys for the Camden district of Minneapolis.

Dick Wagner, the Sioux Falls, S. D., theatre and fireworks man, is said to be campaigning to have the President move up the Fourth of July one week. He reasons that if a double Thanksgiving meant twice as much turkey, two Independence days will do just as much for the firecracker business . . . Gordie Grant, manager of the State, Lakeville, Minn., will spend his Christmas vacation in Oklahoma. He says he's going to look at oil wells, but rumor has it that the trip is occasioned by the pretty young thing whose daddy owns them . . . Charlie Jackson, Warner salesman, gave Tommy Charack, also of the Warner staff, a wine bucket which Charles brought back from a Mexico trip. Such is the fraternal Warner spirit. Incidentally, since returning from Mexico Charlie made a successful South Dakota business trip for his company. And, while on the subject of Tommy, 'tis said he has been escorting a glamorous lady of the stage at some of the more swanky night spots. Efforts to learn her identity have been unavailing.

Among the local film gentry to take advantage of the lingering golf weather are Eddie Ruben, the independent circuit owner, and Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager . . . Jim Fidler, the premium man and not related to the film commentator, was in town over the weekend and displayed his wares to various theatre men at the Hotel Radisson . . . Bill Evidon, Columbia head booker, hard hit by the flu and still in bed as this column goes to press.

"Nickey" Goldhammer, RKO district manager, took up quarters in Des Moines, Ia., temporarily to pinchhit for the local branch manager, hospitalized by an operation . . . George and Arnie Crane, Cambridge and Lake City, Minn., exhibitors, planning to take off for the Sugar Bowl classic in New Orleans . . . The Warner Club will hold the annual Christmas party, December 22 . . . Several of the film exchanges are organizing bowling teams.

Abe Kaplan, Minneapolis theatre magnate, and Harvey Buchanan, Superior, Wis., partner of the Minnesota Amusement Co., among the Northwest film bunch that attended the Green Bay Packers-New York Giants' championship football game at Milwaukee last Sunday. In Milwaukee, Abe ran into Jimmy Grainger, Republic president, who stopped over en route to the west coast, and they renewed old acquaintance, spending an enjoyable afternoon and evening together. After a night session at the Milwaukee Variety Club, Jimmy even insisted on escorting Abe to the Minneapolis train at midnight, seeing him aboard and into his stateroom. Incidentally, Jimmy's stories and wit kept everybody around him, including Bernie Swanson, Minneapolis sports writer, in good humor and laughing. Bernie related Abe's football prowess as a professional in early league days in Minneapolis, something the exhibitor modestly had kept to himself . . . In those football days, Abe, now rather corpulent, to put it mildly, weighed only 135 pounds, but was a bearcat among the much bigger, huskier 200-pounders, according to Bernie. On the way back to Minneapolis, Abe's modesty suddenly deserted him and, although he says he doesn't remember it, he began telling everybody that in his heyday he was a greater back than Red Grange. Maybe it was the influence of good fellowship.

Charlie Perry, former local theatre manager, now preparing to open a showhouse at Detroit, Mich., here briefly . . . Merle Potter, *Times-Tribune* film editor, enjoyed a flying trip to and from New York, spending 44 hours on the Great White Way and writing about it interestingly in his column . . . Harry Dickerman's Northtown, independent neighborhood house, is playing occasional Swedish dialogue pictures . . . Al Kells, long a theatre treasurer here, gravely ill in California where he has been doing studio work the past few years. He was manager for the late "Buzz" Bainbridge at the Shubert for many years . . . Film bunch curious as to the identity of the nifty blonde on whom Bill Volk is dancing attendance. 'Tis rumored that he's courting her.

Charlie Du Ryck, the "Ten-O-Win" man, off to San Francisco for the holidays . . . John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Co. general manager, in New York on product deals . . . Ben Spewack, theatre capitalist, renewed acquaintance with A. B. Marcus, the impresario, during latter's visit to Minneapolis with his "La Vie Paree" revue at the Minnesota and figures, possibly, to take over the other Marcus Show, "Moulin Rouge," which just finished a run at the Grand, Chicago . . . The boys are asking, "Who was the very charming and pretty young woman Billy Evidon escorted about last week?"

Drouth Worries Trade In Minneapolis Area

Minneapolis—The trade is worried over drouth conditions. Lack of rain or snow has left soil too dry before freezing and may affect next year's crops.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included M. A. Miller, New York Mills, Minn.; Porter Ashley, Lakefield, Minn.; Mrs. Irene Fox, Warroad, Minn.; Gay Hoover, Worthington, Minn.; Clarence Kaake, Duluth, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Roy McMinn, Superior, Wis.; C. Charboneau, Baldwin, Wis.; Charley Lyons, Aitkin, Minn.; W. C. Leng, Jeffers, Minn.; H. R. Krueger, Glenwood City, Minn.; Ed Gleason, Osseo, Wis.; Ed Malone, Hammond, Wis.; Andrew Sivertson, Osakis, Minn.; Hy Potvin, Cass Lake, Minn.; George Ehlers and son, Sherburn, Minn.; Lyle Webster and George Miner, Rice Lake and Chippewa Falls, Wis.; J. M. Rostvold, Harmony, Minn.; A. T. Sonvig, Starbuck, Minn.; Charlie Connought, Olivia, Minn.; Tony Paulson, Amery and Clear Lake, Wis.; Harvey Thorpe, Crosby, Minn., and Harry Simon, Walker, Minn.

Remember when: Harold Kaplan, part owner and manager of the St. Louis Park and brother of Lowell, was a star on the North High football team? . . . Further investigation discloses that it really was a red-head (and what a pretty one, too) who accompanied Jerry Weisfeldt, Warner assistant booker, to those screenings . . . Irving Gillman has booked the "Beast of Berlin" for his Esquire where it will play shortly after the first of the year. He just returned from New York where, he said, he completed some important picture deals which he'll announce later. He caught "Destry Rides Again" and insists that this Universal smash hit is even better than "Dodge City"—which would be plenty good.

Eddie Ruben back from a trip into North Dakota to look over his theatre interests . . . Bill Lansburg from the Paramount Hollywood studios publicity department here to plug "Gulliver's Travels" and "The Great Victor Herbert" . . . L. E. Goldhammer, RKO district manager, attended a sales conference in New York . . . Fay Dressel, RKO branch manager, visited northern Minnesota accounts . . . Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, back after a five-day visit at his Omaha exchange . . . Fred Riegert, Universal homeoffice auditor, a visitor.

Jack Cohn, 20th-Fox salesman, proudly driving a new Buick. And what a stunning car Tommy Charack of Warner has bought for himself. It's custom-made and eye-arresting and is said to possess the most marvelous of pickups . . . Alta Benson, RKO cashier, has recovered from her auto accident injuries and is back on the job again . . . United Artists long deferred

"Real Glory" current at the State here . . . Arthur Lee, GB sales manager, stopped over . . . Billy Elson, Moe Levy and Charlie Weiner among the boys who took in Katharine Cornell in "No Time for Comedy" at the Lyceum this weekend . . . Weiner reports that he found much optimism among northern Minnesota exhibitors on his recent swing through that section . . . Sim Heller, Grand Rapids, Minn., exhibitor, ill in bed.

Charlie Weiner had a telegram from W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, relative to the pre-release engagement of Monogram's Technicolor feature, "Gentleman From Arizona" in Phoenix. Johnston declared it made "a tremendous impression" . . . "Buck" Tidwell, Warner home-office traveling auditor, ill in St. Mary's Hospital here . . . Paramount screened "The Great Victor Herbert" and they're raving . . . Henry M. Herbel, Warner district manager, a visitor.

Ralph LiBeau, Paramount district manager, in town . . . Harry Anderson, Warner assistant cashier, laid up with a general infection . . . Bernie Zieman, Columbia homeoffice branch operations department representative, in town . . . Cyril Lebedoff, independent neighborhood exhibitor, driving new car . . . Warner held an invitational screening of "Four Wives" at the St. Louis Park and the comment was highly enthusiastic. Looks like a sure-fire boxoffice winner . . . Maurie Abrams, genial and efficient M-G-M exploiteer, in Seattle attending the wedding of his popular daughter, Lois.

August Herman of Omaha Dies After Long Illness

OMAHA—August "Augie" Herman, 52, veteran Omaha exhibitor and a partner in the Muse, died at his home here following a long illness.

A native of Omaha, Herman had been in the theatre business 33 years. He began as an operator, later was connected in an executive capacity with the Strand, Rialto and Orpheum theatres here. For the past eight years he was principal owner of the Muse, in partnership with Irving Gossick.

"Augie" was an active member of Omaha Variety Club and belonged to several civic and social organizations. Omaha exhibitors, operators and branch managers were honorary pallbearers at funeral services held December 15.

Kansas City "Star" Lauds "American Royal" Short

NEW YORK—RKO Pathe's short subject, "American Royal," comes in for editorial praise by the sedate Kansas City *Star*.

It says in part: "The motion pictures of the American Royal Live Stock show and the distinguished animal performers give Kansas City and its surrounding agricultural area a representation to be proud of on the screens of the nation."

"In making the picture," the editorial goes on, "the company acquired an interesting and beautiful short subject, since nothing is more vividly pictorial than the sight of fine animals in motion."

Fred Ullman, general manager and vice-president of Pathe News, points out it is the first time a short subject has been accorded such recognition by the *Star*.

"Big" Pictures Policy for Paramount Theatre

OMAHA—Tri-States Theatres will keep the Paramount Theatre open on a policy of "big" pictures, Evert R. Cummings, district manager, told BOXOFFICE.

The 3,000-seater, on the edge of Omaha's main business sector, has been open a month on a trial stage-screen basis at 55-cent top. The house now will play important features at a 40-cent top with 25-cent matinees. Stage shows will be booked to the Orpheum, another 3,000-seater operated by Tri-States.

Don Allen, Omaha Theatre manager, goes to the Paramount as manager, in a general local shakeup of Tri-States men made necessary by the new policy. Bill Miskell, Orpheum manager, had been doubling as manager of both houses.

Jack Kolbo, assistant manager at the Omaha, goes to the Paramount in a similar capacity. Don Shane, Miskell's assistant at the Orpheum, will move to the Omaha as manager, assisted by Art Olsen who will continue as treasurer with added managerial duties.

Bill Trites, treasurer at the Orpheum, will continue in that post and will function as assistant manager under Miskell, according to Cummings' announcement.

Screen Writer Defendant In Suit for Divorce

MINNEAPOLIS—Jerome Odlum, author of "Each Dawn I Die" and "Dust Be My Destiny," now under contract to Paramount, and doing his writing here, his home town, is defendant in a divorce suit filed by his wife who charges cruelty. She asks $100 a week temporary alimony.

O M A H A

(Continued from page 53)

Shelton, Neb., says he wants his shaving soap wired for sound or else his patrons to get lathered up about pictures he exhibits . . . L. A. Bramson, State, Elk Point, S. D., wants a golf club that will hit the ball the right direction.

Joe Steeg, Time, Primghar, Ia., wants a woodworking outfit . . . "Prof" Carroll Lane, Lane circuit, Carroll, Ia., says he could use "fewer poor pictures that give the industry a bad name" . . . F. E. Pace, Empress, Malvern, Ia., wants a year-around baseball season . . . Postmaster A. G. Miller, Lyric, Atkinson, Neb., wants lower film rentals.

Henry Rehfield, Iowa, Bloomfield, Ia., wants some fishing tackle . . . Sid Rose, Warner boss, wants you to leave "Four Wives" in every exhibitor's stocking. Sid played Santa with a trade screening at the Dundee of said picture . . . Carl Parsons, Avon, Keota, Ia., could use a lower golf score, he says . . . The same for Larry Day, Clarion, Ia.

Don't forget a new shotgun for Floyd Wolfe, veteran exhibitor at Lynch, Neb. . . . Earl E. Arehart, Strand, Milford, Ia., wants elimination of double features . . . Hubert Schrodt, Grand, Estherville, Ia., asks you to figure out a way to sell films so that the prices will vary in accordance with the business secured in individual situations.

Megs "River" for Pivar

HOLLYWOOD—Harold Schuster is directing "River of Missing Men" for Producer Ben Pivar at Universal.



DES MOINES

METRO'S JERRY BANTA (who has the colossal nerve to argue with his wife about Baby Gloria's age) had better get all set to enter that diaper contest coming up here to promote Warner's "A Child Is Born." We think Gloria might steal the Warner show for Metro by entering their beautiful baby contest, too, Jerry. P. A. Monroe Rubinger must be thinking of little except babies since he started giving this picture the hypo in key spots.

We hear that gal in the east whom Joe Ancher claims he's to marry January 1, *has had exactly one date with Vitagraph's bashful booker . . . The cold A. H. Blank's secretary said the Tri-States chief had last week was really a tummy ache, we heard from another source . . . Tri-States' booful gals are having their Christmas party December* 21 *. . . That tu-time ducat stunt caused some bridge-party conversation anyway. It seems the Tri-States' customers don't like to have the tu-times actually have to be tu times and tu theatres. They'd prefer buying tu at the reduced rates and going to one theatre in tu's (where'm I gettin' tu?).*

While Ray Copeland was hunting up Lolly Parsons' newspaper customers in these parts, he mentioned that five generations of Copeland's were at that Thanksgiving gathering in Missouri . . . We never expected to see a Filmrower in the reference library, but we did. He was that nice, accommodating, black-haired feller who books for Stan Mayer's outfit. What he was hunting for we don't know, but we do know that Ken Clayton was reading an article in *National Geographic* on Siamese Cats, of all things!

Harry Holdsberg tottered across the street in front of the car we were riding in the other day looking a wee bit pale after his session in the hospital, but he looked some improved when we saw him in at Michaels a few days later . . . If you ever see Hollywood's Rufus Blair (he's the Paramount personality boy who pats journalistic backs all over the country) ask him to tell you about his "chip off the celestial block" remark. It's too good to keep and too bad to print.

Connie Krebs, RKO's Hollywood idea man who was an artist before that, proved the latter to us with a fine 24x36 sketch of a medieval France scene from the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" set. We were superbly pleased, Connie, and were delighted with the legend of eternal happiness in the corner. We'll frame it and treasure it forever, which is a helluva long time, in case you don't know it . . . We're assuming that BOXOFFICE was the "one other party" referred to in Art Anderson's letter to Clayton inviting him to the luncheon following the trade showing of "Four Wives" Tuesday. Good pic, good food, good fella, Art.

That gold key chain whose links spell "Bill Lansburg" was given to Bill by his brother for his birthday November 28. *Bill's another Paramount p. a. and used to be with United Artists . . . Walter Marcus was here from the RKO N. Y. offices . . . Emil Franke's passing out love potions for spinsters and embryo spinsters to hoopla "The Old Maid" . . . Columbia's Bing Miller is on a diet of milk and eggs, but he offered to buy us a drink before Christmas . . . Columbia's having its party at Bonnie Mac's place December* 15. *It ought to be a big one this year, because they're bragging that they've been having the biggest biz in the history of their office. They say it was tripled last week!*

We heard the high-yellar gal (Etta Moten) who sang "Carioca" in "Flying Down to Rio," and "Remember My Forgotten Man" in "Gold Diggers of 1933" do those numbers with some others here Sunday . . . The audience at "Ninotchka" proved quicker than Lincoln's Barney Oldfield, because everybody laughed when they read "In the days when a siren was a brunette and not an alarm." They laughed again when a childish voice in the audience yelled "High Yo Silver" as the hero started advancing on the tantalizing Greta Garbo.

Marian Stoll at Columbia has been feeling punk, she says . . . Ralph Olson of Universal says he wants $100,000 *for Christmas and will give* BOXOFFICE $50,000 *of it if he gets it. Too bad there ain't no Santa Claus . . . Is Bill Scholl responsible for all those two-buck feathered pinocchio chapeaux which are making the streets of DM look like an Indian reservation? Nice work, Bill.*

Ballantyne, Sessinghaus Start a New Service

OMAHA—A new firm known as the Theatre Design, Building and Equipment Service has been formed here by Robert S. Ballantyne of Scott-Ballantyne Co., and Edward J. Sessinghaus, local architect. Headquarters will be maintained at 222 North 16th St.

The firm will combine the architectural services of Sessinghaus with the equipment and engineering services of the Ballantyne firm, according to the announcement. The new concern will contract complete theatre jobs, including the building itself, interiors and equipment.

Ballantyne said the firm will offer a complete service for remodeling projects or new theatres where contemplated by exhibitors.

Successful "Open House" By Griffith-Dickinson

KANSAS CITY—You can put it down as the finest party of the year, the "open house" held by Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc., in their new offices at 3525 Broadway last Saturday afternoon. Just about everybody in the film and theatre business—and their employes—attended the function, and weren't disappointed.

Approximately 300 attended. Hosts and hostesses were H. J. Griffith, G. W. Dickinson, Lew Chatham, Ralph Kieffer, W. G. McKinney, Harold Harris, Al Lohman, Hazel Kirkbride, Virginia Buermann, Hazel Dodge, Katherine McKenna, Virginia Brooks and Shirley Hohl.

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

Roy T. Hill was just tending to his own business when he did that bang-up job of promoting "Pride of the Blue Grass" at State Center. But judging from that one-horse town layout in *Life* he was tending the Chamber of Commerce tasks in fine style, too.

That was a tragic ending a Colwell, Ia., couple wrote to the Sunday night showing of "Drums Along the Mohawk" in Charles City. Warner Blewett, 17, allegedly killed Dorothy Carter, 14, and then tried to poison himself on the way home after seeing the film.

Don't tell anyone where you found out about it, but here's a way to sneak in some deep sea fishing if you're gonna be in Miami during January or February. Joe Gerbracht will be there with a fishing spot all picked out. That boat he hires costs just as much for one as it would for six, so just look up Joe and hitchhike yourself a ride to where the finny tribe awaits. If you can't find him, inquire at the airport. (That'll keep Joe from getting lonesome, we betcha).

We-told-you-so department:

Florine Wieland of Central States will be junketing to Rock Island to read her BOXOFFICE now instead of to Cedar Rapids . . . The flash in the manager's office at the new Rocket is Henry Plude, the former shining light of Linn county.

The guys from the private offices got a chance to hear themselves as their stenographers hear them after the opening of the Esquire in Davenport. Joe Kinsky, Tri-States district manager in the Tri-Cities, recorded the event for posterity. Now Manager Richard Stoddard can get his pep talks on wax.

Zip!

That was RKO's Bill Stoll trying to get to Marshalltown on time last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Cohen, Tri-States partners, hiked out from their Ottumwa domicile, California-bound, without even waiting to find out what teams they would see playing in the Rose Bowl . . . Borge Iverson has switched from the Tri-Cities sector to the Paramount in Cedar Rapids.

Betcha Tom Duncan of the Fox in Washington wouldn't have shaved off his mustache this week if he'd read last week's BOXOFFICE before he came to town. The ohs and ahs are on the record anyway, Tom.

Londons Win Decision On Lincoln Control

KANSAS CITY—I. J. London, Detroit circuit operator, and his son, Burton W. London, were given control of the Lincoln Theatre here until February 28, 1943, as a result of a decision last week by Judge Frank A. Picard in U. S. district court, in a suit filed in 1937 by the elder London.

The three-year-old suit originally involved "London Amusement Co., a Delaware Corp., against Cooperative Theatres of Mich., a Michigan Corp.; Ray Moon, Henderson M. Richey, Frank A. Wetsman, Lew Wisper, individually and as officers, managers and directors of Cooperative Theatres of Michigan; Lillian M. Shuell and Frank W. Shuell, jointly and severally, and W. & W. Theatre Co., a Michigan Corp.," in which the plaintiffs (the Londons) sued to retain control of the Lincoln Theatre, which they have operated since before starting the suit.

However, it should be noted that on March 18, 1938, the Londons' bill of complaint was dismissed against Cooperative and its four officers as such, so that the action, therefore, was essentially against the Shuells and Wisper & Wetsman.

In his decision, Judge Picard decreed:

(1) "That plaintiff has a valid agreement for a lease of the Lincoln Theatre for a term of five years, commencing March 1, 1938, and terminating February 28, 1943.

(2) "That the plaintiff shall from the date hereof to and including February 28, 1943, have peaceful possession, occupation and operation of all rights, etc., heretofore enjoyed by plaintiff in connection (with the theatre).

(3) "That each and every one of said defendants, their counselors, attorneys, solicitors, and agents, is hereby permanently restrained and enjoined during the term of said lease, from in any manner interfering with the peaceful possession and occupation of said Lincoln Theatre, and/or from interfering in any manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, with the operation by the plaintiff in the premises, and for the term set forth, of the business of operating a moving picture theatre, procuring or operating the rights, apparatus, pictures, or other merchandise, rights or equipment necessary or advantageous for the conduct of said business, and the use of said premises for such purpose, otherwise than in fair competition; and that the clerk of this Court is hereby authorized to issue at any time or from time to time, injunction or injunctions in accordance with the terms hereof, on request of plaintiff.

(4) "That plaintiff shall pay Lillian M. Shuell weekly the sum of $300 as full and complete rental and compensation for the use of said theatre premises.

(5) "That the terms of said lease are contained in the original lease executed by Lillian M. Shuell to Israel J. London and Burton W. London, dated March 20, 1933, as extended and supplemented by agreement dated November 25, 1935.

(6) "That as a condition precedent to plaintiff's right to enjoy such extension of said lease, plaintiff shall perform agreement contained in such extension, and shall complete the installation of improvements therein enumerated, to-wit, a new front, including marquee, install new seats, install false ceiling for acoustical purposes, new carpets, decorating and concealed lighting, to the extent of $22,000, as rapidly as is reasonably possible, the plans for the same to be acceptable to defendant Frank W. Shuell; that on or before December 23, plaintiff shall, with notice to defendants' counsel, deposit with the Court $22,000 in cash or a bond or evidence that there has been deposited $22,000, to be available exclusively in payment of the aforesaid improvement.

(7) "That this Court further reserves the right to hear and determine any controversy between the parties hereto as to the execution of the various terms of this decree.

(8) "That plaintiff shall recover its cost to be taxed herein against the defendants."

Pennsylvania State Police Say Theatres Games Must Halt

PITTSBURGH—With a state-wide drive against lotteries under way in various counties, state police this week issued warning that theatre Bank Nights, automobile drawings, raffles, numbers and all forms of Bingo must stop. The campaign came out into the open here several days ago under direction of State Motor Police Commissioner Lynn G. Adams.

With the first warning a number of Bingo operators, including many churches, fraternal and service organizations, announced that their games would be discontinued.

Theatres were checked this week in Allegheny county and records of Bank Nights and other cash games were noted.

Police stopped at various theatres and "tipped off" the proprietors that "the jig is up." Some theatres already have discarded advertising on various cash games.

Catholic Churches Ban Bingo

Bingo and such games are under ban at Catholic churches by Bishop Hugh C. Boyle of the Pittsburgh diocese. Last winter Mayor Cornelius D. Scully issued orders stopping all games, but still they continued in operation and up to last week hundreds of Bingo parties were operating commercially, one such party attracting more than 1,200 persons.

Major Adams stated this week: "I'm giving all operators of lotteries an opportunity to close up without prosecution. We are notifying every lottery group we know about that we expect them to stop of their own accord. We are not anxious to make arrests. I realize that some lotteries are run on the proposition that they are doing a beneficient work in their community, but we can't walk by and see them operate. We can't be a witness to violation of the law."

Theatre owners and managers of Pittsburgh and Allegheny county and other counties in western Pennsylvania are contacting other exhibitors and making inquiry among themselves as to what they are going to do. No one seems to know just when an enforcement ban on Bank Nights will be carried out, if at all. Most exhibitors contacted this week stated that they have not been notified to discontinue their cash games.

Propaganda Probe Predicted

Pittsburgh—Congressman John McDowell, in his "Country Editor" column published in his Wilkinsburg Gazette, predicts a Congressional investigation of propaganda in motion picture films. He writes that "Thunder Afloat" is propaganda and that newsreels are loaded down with it.

Pittsburgh Ponders An Amusement Tax

PITTSBURGH—Although city officials deny that "it has got beyond the discussion stage," Mayor Cornelius D. Scully is studying the possibilities of levying an amusement tax as a means of getting the city out of its financial plight.

The plan is to impose a tax similar to the one levied by the state in 1936, which is one cent on each admission of 25 cents or fraction thereof. If Scully is successful in his undertaking, the tax will affect every form of amusement, including theatres, baseball, football, cabarets, etc.

State amusement tax, discontinued in 1937, after being in effect for a year, added upwards of $8,000,000 to the state's coffers.

Scully has City Solicitor William Alvah Stewart making a study of the law on amusement tax levy to ascertain whether the city could enact it without assent of the state legislature. The mayor will put the amusement tax up to the city council if his request to raise property taxes 4 mills on land and 2 on buildings is refused.

Budget hearings were started this week with storms of protests from various civic groups over the plan to raise property taxes from 20.6 to 24.6 on land and from 10.3 to 12.3 on buildings.

Jacob Schreiber Suit to Be Aired at Court Trial

DETROIT—The interested parties having failed in an attempt at an out-of-court settlement, the suit of Jacob Schreiber against Raymond Schreiber, contesting ownership of the Colonial and four affiliated houses of Midwest Theatres, will probably come up for trial next spring on the regular court calendar.

The suit of Raymond Schreiber against Co-operative Theatres of Michigan, charging the booking combine with conspiracy in violation of the anti-trust laws, will probably mark time until ownership of the Midwest Theatres is determined in the Schreiber vs. Schreiber action.

Team on Next "Kildare"

HOLLYWOOD—Next in the "Dr. Kildare" series for Metro will be written by Willis Goldbeck and Harry Ruskin.

Pittsburgh Milk Fund Drive Is Deferred

PITTSBURGH—John H. Harris, national chief barker of the Variety Clubs of America and chairman of the Press-KDKA-Variety Club Milk Fund, has notified the various workers and institutions that the seventh annual campaign for the latter fund has been postponed, but that it may be held during the Easter holidays. Uncertainty regarding Pennsylvania's new milk control laws, which makes it difficult for producers and diarymen to furnish milk below retail price, is the reason that the Milk Fund drive has been deferred. Those who wish to make contributions now may do so by mailing checks to the Milk Fund in care of the Pitt National Bank.

New Regulations on Film Deliveries

DETROIT—Warning of new regulations on film deliveries from exchanges to theatres and return to the exchanges, effective January 15, is issued to the Michigan industry through a statement to BOXOFFICE by Roger Kennedy, international vice-president of the IATSE. Kennedy defined the new position in which film carriers will concur:

"We have issued instructions that there will be no more 'will-calls.' Many theatres in Detroit and upstate have sent so many janitors, doormen, ushers, and managers down to pick up film, that it has taken a lot of business away from the regular trucking companies.

"After January 15, all films delivered must be handled through union drivers, who are members of IATSE Local B25. Of course, exhibitors using railroads for shipment will continue as before.

"If an owner of a theatre is in such a financial situation that he is forced to save the small fee for delivery by picking up the film himself, we are willing to sit down and discuss it, and we will not be unreasonable. But we don't want janitors or ushers or house managers doing it.

"As long as they are hiring someone to do the job, they might as well use union men."

Cleveland Exchange Union Names John Wein Head

CLEVELAND — Film Exchange Employes Union B-5 has elected the following officers to serve during 1940: President, John C. Wein, RKO shipper; vice-president, Jane Duble, Warner Bros., inspectress; recording secretary, Grace Rice, 20th-Fox; financial secretary, Irwin Sears, Warner shipper.

Personnel of the executive board is: Henry Fosbender, 20th-Fox; Jerry Krupka, Paramount; Pearl Geib, Warner; Gertrude Swee, Columbia; Harry Lyman, Universal; Anna O'Mara, Paramount, and J. K. Johnson, Columbia.

The board of trustees is composed of Charles Rice, 20th-Fox; Harry Lyman, Universal, and Joe Bernstein, Grand National. Steve Andrews, M-G-M, was named delegate to the central labor bureau, and J. K. Johnson, convention delegate.

Installation of officers will take place January 3, at which time the sergeant-at-arms and business manager will be elected.

Cinema Service Posters to All Carry Union Labels

DETROIT—All posters handled by Cinema Service will hereafter carry the union label, George E. LeVeque, general manager, says. This is the result of an agreement signed in New York with the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers by Associated Displays. Cinema Service handles Associated products locally.

CINCINNATI

SO POPULAR has the idea of the Cinema Club become, that similar organizations among film salesmen are reported forming in Cleveland, Washington, and Pittsburgh, according to Pete Niland of Columbia, treasurer of the local club. Strictly for the mutual benefit and social goodwill of film salesmen, the local club of 44 members approved new by-laws at their recent meeting. On December 16, five members will be elected to the board of governors. Rudy Knoepfle of Republic is prexy.

RKO's Stanley Jacques and Mrs. Jacques are leaving for a month's vacation on the coast where they will join their twin sons, in California for schooling . . . Steve Lang has opened his new Liberty at Whitesville, W. Va. It is one of the most modern houses in the state.

Roy Craddock is closing his First Aid Theatre at Alcott, W. Va. . . . Gene Hensley of the Black Diamond circuit, according to report, will not rebuild the theatre at Ward, W. Va., recently destroyed by fire . . . Allan Moritz of Columbia is planning his usual holiday vacation in Florida.

Ralph Kinsler of Warner's announces the personnel will receive their usual Xmas bonus. Warner Club will celebrate Xmas with a party at the Variety Club, December 27. Eleanor Inkrot is president. An exchange of gifts, dancing and cards will follow dinner.

Maurice Chase has disposed of his interests in Trailer-Made and joined Lee Goldberg as sales manager for Big Feature Rights . . . The Ohio censor board has passed "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" under the title, "Goose Step."

Miss Claudia Miller has sold her theatre at Falmouth, Ky., to W. H. Salyer, who also operates at Benham, Ky. . . . Bill Sharp, Warner ad sales supervisor, spent a week in Cincy . . . Warner's Sears' Drive on playdates is set for December 24 to April 13.

Visitors: Frank Mandros, Logan, Ohio; J. C. Patterson, Grand, Lebanon; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Letsinger, and Chester Mallon, former exhibitor from Amherstdale.

Lou Wiethe's new Westwood is expected to be ready for opening February 1 . . . Jerome Jackson's new Mt. Lookout house will open around February 15

Columbia will have a Xmas party in the exchange December 20 . . . M-G-M's Xmas celebration was set for December 15 . . . An orchid corsage from E. M. Booth and a bouquet of roses from the personnel were presented to Ann Rutherford, Metro star, when she visited the exchange here.

Bob Cumming has joined M-G-M as fourth booker . . . Republic's "South of the Border," with Gene Autry, is ready for release . . . Mrs. Elma Porter has taken over the Orpheum, Nelsonville, Ohio, from G. Smith, who is now operating the McArthur.

Bud Weigel and his M-G-M team took three straight from Paramount and now top the Filmrow Bowling League. The first game was won by one pin.

Queen City Variety Club's New Year Eve party will be limited to 200 persons. Barkers are urged to make early reservations. The price is $3.50 per person and each barker may have not more than two guests. Pete Niland is taking reservations.

Vaudeville Gaining In Detroit Sector

DETROIT—Prospects of increased use of vaudeville in this section as an alternative to dual bills are picking up, with the Betty Bryden Office reported booking regular shows for the Grand, St. Louis; Gaiety, Cincinnati; Roxy, Cleveland, and Gayety and Avenue, Detroit. Butterfield is spot booking vaudeville through the Bryden office for the Capitol at Jackson, Mich.

A series of six-act shows will be given in at least 11 key cities of the Butterfield circuit on New Year's Eve, including Bay City, Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Flint, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Port Huron.

Ray Schreiber's Colonial this week embarked on an augmented headliner stage show policy, using Faith Bacon, Toby Wing and Rita Rio as triple stars of the first show. Schreiber has used stage shov on a modest scale for some months and is making the move as a result of their popularity.

New Film Carrier Route For Southwest Michigan

DETROIT—A new film carrier route, to give better service to southwestern Michigan, is being placed into operation, Harold C. Robinson, manager of Film Truck Service, says. It will be in charge of Les Gordner.

The new route will run from Holland to Lansing and some minor changes will be made in other routes in that part of the state. An important result of the change is that exchanges will have one-day return on film from this section instead of two-day as hitherto.

Co-operative of Michigan Signs With RKO for 1940

DETROIT—Co-operative Theatres of Michigan has signed contracts for 1939-40 product with RKO, General Manager Carl Buermele disclosed. Co-op, representing most larger independent houses in the city, has now signed with Universal, United Artists, 20th Century-Fox and M-G-M.

Discussions are under way with Warner Bros. A deal with Paramount is uncertain because of increased price demands.

Sign for RCA Sound

PITTSBURGH—Contracts for new RCA sound systems have been signed by operating companies of the Lansdale, Lansdale, Pa., and the Rio, Harrisburg, Pa.

PITTSBURGH

JOHNNY HARRIS has added to his enterprises a new boxing club, which staged its first show Monday night in his Duquesne Garden. Brian McDonald, radio entertainer and active Variety Club barker, is the matchmaker . . . L. B. Beresin, vice-president of Berlo Vending Co., was here on business last week with N. H. Lazier, district manager for the theatre candy vending machine organization . . . Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman, who are soon to be Mr. and Mrs., visited at the local Vitagraph exchange last Wednesday afternoon . . . The Joseph Mercers have moved into their new home at Warwood, W. Va. . . . Harold Lund, Ross Federal Service district manager, and his boss, Harry Ross, have been vacationing in the south for the past fortnight . . . Polly Rowles, former film starlet, will play the lead in Noel Coward's "Private Lives," which opens at the Playhouse December 26.

George F. Callahan jr. of Exhibitors Service Co. has been suffering with a bad cold . . . Hilda Alvin, M-G-M's head inspectress, has been hospitalized for several weeks . . . Harry Fendrick's new car is a Pontiac . . . C. B. Hall, Parkersburg, W. Va., exhibitor, who has retired, will stop at the Ambassador Hotel in Memphis, Tenn., owned by one of his daughters, when en route to Florida where he will spend the winter. W. D. Ward, former film man, has assumed operation of "Dad" Hall's theatre . . . Exhibitors Werner Lund and Phil Brozier each bagged a buck on their hunting trip in Clearfield county. Carl Cretzinger, brother-in-law of the former and projectionist at the Bobtown, got a lot of shots but didn't hit his mark . . . Ernest Leiberman, manager of the WB Squirrel Hill Theatre, and Rita Williams will be married December 24.

Pittsburgh *Catholic* used front page displays announcing the Nixon Theatre attractions "Mamba's Daughter" and "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" are both "Class C, Wholly Objectionable," being condemned by the Catholic Theatre Movement of the Archdiocese of New York. Bishop Hugh C. Boyle's annual letter on the Legion of Decency directed against immoral motion pictures asked that efforts also be made to counteract the other "incitements to evil," especially those affecting young people, which are now so prevalent, mentioning: magazines, roadhouses of questionable character, places of recreation in which virtue is far from secure, laxity of family discipline. Renewal of the Legion of Decency pledge was made at every Mass in all churches of the diocese last Sunday.

Fernel A. Thomassy of the Dreamland, McDonald, Pa., is convalescing at Allegheny General Hospital after undergoing a double mastoid operation . . . Bert M. Stern, UA district manager, came in from Cleveland to attend the funeral of Ben Browarsky, Tuesday afternoon. Death of the well-liked showman was the cause of much sorrow in the local motion picture industry . . . Leo Pillot, RKO advance man, was here this week in the interest of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Abe Lincoln in Illinois.".

Dorothy Goldstein of the Paramount exchange is vacationing in Miami for two weeks . . . Ted Scheinberg of the Cleveland branch of 20th-Fox was here the other day to close contracts for Ohio theatres of the Alpine circuit, with Charlie Kosco representing the Alpine interests . . . Mrs. David Victor, wife of the New Castle showman, is visiting with her father-in-law and mother-in-law in California for the holiday season and to attend the 65th wedding anniversary of this couple, the H. A. Victors. The latter is one of the real pioneers in exhibition and has been retired for many years . . . Thomas Flynn is the new truck messenger for the Harris circuit, succeeding Bob McClure who died several weeks ago.

Jack Kohler, Columbia booker, has licked pneumonia at Shadyside Hospital but he is weak from the ordeal and will be unable to be out for some weeks . . . Milt Broudy, Columbia accessory manager, has been recovering nicely from his leg and wrist operations at Mercy Hospital and he can be expected back on the job within a few weeks . . . Carl Miller, New Universal accessory manager, is much improved after a series of treatments for a stomach disorder at Montefiore Hospital . . . Bill Grande, inde distributor, another Montefiore patient, is okay after an illness.

Art Morrone was out of the hospital and able to spend a few hours at his Superior Supply store this week . . . George Purcell's campaign for "Ninotchka" included a special edition of the Uniontown *Evening Genius*, with half of the front page imprinted in red ink "Extra! Garbo Laughs." The edition attracted much attention . . . Hymie Wheeler sings "South of the Border" with every booking of this Gene Autry feature, but he really doesn't have to. A number of local exhibs viewed it at a screening and they're sold without Hymie's rendition of the song hit . . . Sympathy to Mary Yahl, cashier at the Beacon Theatre, whose mother died last week.

Interior alterations at the New Universal exchange continued this week . . . Jules Lapidus, branch manager, noted that original plans for his new office would crowd him, so the space was enlarged . . . Many exhibitors and members of their families and all local WB theatre assistant managers viewed "Four Wives" at a special preview in the Schenley Theatre, Tuesday morning, the screening having been arranged by Harry Seed, Vitagraph manager.

The Mannie Goldens (he may be returning to exhibition soon), celebrated their 24th anniversary the other day . . . Gladys Butler, Kenyon Theatre cashier, called the cops last Sunday night after a young fellow had purchased a ticket and entered the theatre. He was arrested when he departed from the theatre on the cashier's charge that he was the man who tried to grab her purse near her home November 26.

Sol Goldberg, former Elkins, W. Va., exhibitor, was present Sunday evening as were a number of friends in the industry when his son, Marshall, famed former Pitt All-American football player, and Miss Florence Deutelbaum of the north side were married in Hotel Schenley . . . New theatre at New Cumberland, Pa., will cost Frank Freistack more than $25,000 . . . *Burton Holmes will open his annual season here at Carnegie Music Hall, January* 10 . . . *We visited the remodeled New Arcade the other night and it is certainly a bright spot. The Finkels spent more than* $100,000 *on the revamping of the* 1,400-*seat de luxe house.*

Motion picture industry leaders here noted with much interest the new line of strategy in the government's trust-busting crusade when the U. S. department of justice delivered its smashing blow at the heating and ventilating branch of the construction industry in Pittsburgh. The far-reaching suit was designed to break up the "unlawful combination and conspiracy" which has "restrained and burdened" construction in this area. Precedent-setting civil action ended illegal practices aimed

(Continued on page 62)

As Big Guns Boom On the Submarine-Infested High Seas . . !

"NORTH SEA PATROL"

(An Alliance Picture)

Gives you spectacular action:

Bombs and Blockades! The Navy's Answer to Enemy Threats!

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DETROIT

AL DEZEL, roadshow distributor, has returned from Chicago for the holidays . . . Eddie Peabody, banjo star of the screen, is in a personal appearance at the Club Royale.

Mary Lou Harrington, seven-year-old starlet from Highland Park, makes her screen debut in a new RKO picture just going into production . . . Jack Young, Paramount salesman, and his wife, made their first Variety appearance in about a year Saturday.

Cem Merritt, manager of the Capitol, Windsor, is going out goose hunting (and we mean wild) near Chatham . . . Frances Wadsworth and Billie Hammond entertained Variety Saturday . . . Tom McGuire of Co-op set an all-time record when he brought in a party of 36 to the Variety Frolic.

A. Milo DeHaven is perhaps the only local manager who hasn't been seen inside the Film Bldg. in 1939, *although he books shorts for the whole Brown circuit. P. S.—He uses the telephone.*

W. D. Ward, late Republic salesman, was around saying farewell prior to becoming exhibitor in Parkersburg, W. Va. . . . Eddie Heiber, Universal manager, is selling contracts by the carload over the phone—especially "First Love."

Clark Baker of Columbia and Hyman Levinson, RKO office manager, are the new fire marshals for the Film Exchange Bldg. . . . Louis Spann is installing new projection equipment in the Davison . . . Ralph Ruben has apparently completed remodeling of his offices at Amusement Supply.

Erskine F. Gilbert has joined the N. Y. production unit of Jam Handy to specialize in writing slide films to be used before women's groups . . . A. Buddy Fields (he's sporting that initial now) extended us the invitation for that Theatrical Post party . . . William B. Chatman of Columbia Premiums is concentrating on Christmas items now.

Eddie Robinson, circuit partner, threw down the gauntlet to Ralph Ruben; it still lies there . . . Bill Schuttenhelm of the Globe and Dawn is sporting a nice black benny . . . Edward Carlson, Bill's assistant, has a new multi-colored tweed overcoat . . . Carmen Morales eats supper down at Film Drug when she stays downtown.

Max Bluegrind, who used to be the Hooligan Chief, has moved over onto Woodward Ave. . . . Cliff Perry, M-G-M booker, has returned from a late vacation around Pittsburgh, watching football games.

M-G-M-ites are figuring out how to spend that new bonus . . . Warren Slee, their ace exploiteer, succumbed to neuralgia, kept up on the job though . . . Mrs. Hal Burriss, who lately underwent an operation at Grand Rapids, is commuting up there weekends for treatment . . . Marian Poupard, of Paramount's accounting department, is sporting a nice new diamond.

A. F. Martin, retiring UDT auditor, will leave for the coast. He plans either to go into a studio there or become an independent exhibitor . . . George McArthur uses butter on mince pie . . . Irving Belinsky of Film Drugs declines to state where he got that cut on his neck . . . Charles Perry, William Flemion and Art Robinson seen lunching together.

Mike J. Chargot, circuit owner, made a trip to Port Huron Saturday.

J. Ollie Brooks, Butterfield head booker, was missing—a victim of prevailing colds . . . Harry Kalajian, of the Detroit Projector Corp., is completing plans to go into active production about January 1.

George Wise, manager of Conditionaire, Inc., reports the company is specializing in smaller installations . . . William A. Rennie reports business going great up at Brenkert Projector plant.

Edward F. Knop of the Cosmopolitan Film Libraries has been working on a film program for Dodge Motors . . . George Davidson has sold a new Nash to Clive Waxman, Republic salesman . . . George Kapps of Decorative Metal Products is busy manufacturing frames and similar theatre front equipment . . . Henry Hosbach of Detroit Spring Seating says that new seat will be ready for production soon.

Carlton S. Smith, of Jam Handy's creative contact staff, is going back to his first love—he used to be a grocery store manager, and now he's assistant contact executive of the Food Merchandising Department.

Don Benedict of the Film Type Co. reports his company is concentrating on factory distribution . . . Anthony Rudzinski, owner of Golden State Film Co., has returned from the coast . . . Milo J. Hawley of General Movie Service, doing commercial films, is expanding plant capacity . . . John C. Sauer, of the Indian Village Sound Engineering Co., is planning to expand activity in the theatre service field.

Reaction to Single Bills Favorable

DETROIT—Reaction to single bills at the Wyandotte Theatre, in the suburb of Wyandotte, has been very favorable, Alex Schreiber of Associated Theatres says. Schreiber is one of the local leaders in the move for single bills, and Associated has adopted the policy experimentally for weekends at the Wyandotte.

Bookings are staggered so that stronger films are set for these dates. "The Women" and "Drums Along the Mohawk" are set as the next two films.

Grosses have taken a slight drop, Schreiber said, but this was anticipated before the policy was adopted. However, the decreased cost of operation, particularly on film rentals, more than makes up for the drop in gross.

Jack Haley, of Jam Handy, was in New York City last week . . . Frank Lorenzen reports unusual activity in theatrical decoration for the holidays . . . S. P. Farber, who was representative of Trailer-Made Service, has closed the office here and gone to Cleveland . . . Robert Weinstein now is sales manager of Radiant Lights Co.

J. Hall Smith, sound service man, has a new studio at Webb and Hamilton Aves. . . . Joseph J. Habib, of Superior Neon, has new headquarters at 11857 Promenade Ave. . . . T. J. Jagmin is busy on decoration work on several theatres . . . Toby Wing, screen star, is currently appearing in person at Ray Schreiber's Colonial.

Robert S. Potter, 63, *former manager of the B. C. Whitney Theatres and of Orchestra Hall, died suddenly December* 5. *He retired in* 1922.

Wesley Schram and Louis Goldberg changed their minds about the size of their marquee on the Echo and had to get a new okay from the city council . . . Mannie Gottlieb, former Universal manager here, and now at Chicago, is sending holiday greetings to friends here early.

Frank H. Mellon is remaining as manager of the Echo under the new Schram-Goldberg management. Mellon, we hear, built the Gladwin Park (now the Booth) nearly 30 *years ago, and later owned the Norwood . . . M. Robbins, late owner of the Echo, is in Los Angeles, expected back in the spring.*

Jack Broder, the expanding circuiteer, got a permit for a marquee addition to his Rainbo . . . Robert Hall has withdrawn from partnership in the Fluorescent Light Supply Co., leaving Franklyn K. Morgan as sole owner . . . Harry Klein and Joseph Kanterman are forming the Joy Amusement Co.

Israel J. London is listed as sole stockholder in articles of incorporation just filed for the Beacon Amusement Co., of 6541 *Grand Aver Ave., site of the Beacon Theatre. Company is listed as having* $10,000 *capital stock, at* $10 *per share, with assets of* $1,000. *Rhodes and Rhodes are the attorneys.*

Fred Johnson has been ill in Marine Hospital . . . Bill Marley, National Theatre Engineering Co., also confined at home, sick . . . Walter Rickens and Owen Blough promoted a screen for St. Francis Home, where Variety has regular shows for the boys.

Mike J. Chargot is remodeling the box-office at his newly acquired Oakland . . . Irving Reamer of the Michigan Mutual Liability is busy collecting data on theatres and seating capacities . . . John O. Heinze is displaying a large animated model of his new street transportation system in the lobby of the Fox.

Twentieth Century-Fox Notes: Al Champaign spends his noon hour catching up with the morning paper . . . Les Sturm's boys of the sales staff got away in a hurry from that Monday meet . . . Art Knapp

is working nights, to have a clean desk by New Year's.

Nancy Kaplan of Theatrical Advertising office—she's Phil's daughter—was married Friday to Charles Watrous . . . Phyllis Kaplan reveals there are three eligible girls left in the Kaplan family, and she's next.

Vinegar Bill wants to know why BOXOFFICE doesn't have boxing news . . . Alex Schreiber is getting so he takes the bread (we didn't say words) right out of your mouth . . . Edna Brown of Metro Premium is only 19 years younger than her dad . . . Saul Korman has completed reseating the Grant . . . Eddie Pascoe of the Campau was a visitor to Filmrow.

The service staffs of the Adams and Madison have organized fencing teams among themselves and the boys are really doing a bang-up job of the art of self-defense with the rapiers.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Harold Schuckert, who lost his Cass Theatre at Cass City recently, in a disastrous fire, will rebuild the house . . . E. P. Dalton, operator of houses at Flushing, Merrill and Saint Charles, has joined the aristocratic ranks of exhibitors flying their own airplanes.

Jim Olsen of Clare is the only other exhibitor we know of having his own plane right now . . . Andrew Bzovi of Ecorse is installing new sound equipment in the Ecorse.

S. A. Montgomery of the Sun Theatre, Williamston, is enlarging his house . . . Spike MacNeven of Grayling (and about half the showmen in Michigan know him well) drove down to the opening of the new Harper Theatre, and presented Frank Wetsman with a buck he had shot with his bow and arrow.

Ethel Hale, secretary to Ollie Brooks of Butterfield, is in Providence Hospital for a goiter operation . . . Ted Malepsy was registered as operator of the Oakland in Highland Park. The house was recently taken over by M. J. Chargot from Charles Stepanauckas.

Max Gruber, world-famed circus figure, who died recently at his home at Muskegon, was the father of Alfred Gruber, m. p. projectionist.

Associated Circuit put on a Food Show at the Trenton at Trenton. Admission, any kind of food, to be given to the poor for Christmas.

Broad Leases Two Houses To the Chakeres Chain

ST. MARYS, OHIO—Tom Broad, retiring from exhibition to devote his time to real estate holdings, has leased his Regent and Broad theatres here to the Chakeres circuit for 20 years.

Deal becomes effective January 1, with the circuit planning to spend $40,000 on remodeling the two properties.

Mrs. Laura Michael Opens The Rex, Former Strand

PITTSBURGH—The Rex, south side house, has been opened by Mrs. Laura Michael. This is the old Strand property, most of which was destroyed by fire about a year ago, and which has been entirely rebuilt and modernized. The house has been newly seated and carpeted. Decorations are the art of William Naidenoff and include two murals. Seating capacity is 488.

John J. Howley, formerly a Harris circuit manager and identified with the Harris Beechview Theatre for five years, has been named as manager. The policy is single feature with supporting short subjects.

Robinson Grand Lights Up At Clarksburg Dec. 23

CLARKSBURG, W. VA.—Robinson Grand, replacing the theatre of the same name which was destroyed by fire last summer, will open December 23. A special "opening" will be arranged after the first of the year for members of the trade.

East Liberty Triangle Closes Pending Ownership Transfer

PITTSBURGH—Triangle Theatre, East Liberty, closed after last Saturday's final show as A. J. and M. S. England withdrew as operators. Property was recently purchased by Abe and Irving Josephs, former city exhibitors, who will operate the house in the future. The Triangle is being modernized and new seats, sound system and other fixtures and equipments are being installed for reopening Christmas Day. William D. Davis remains as manager.

May Reopen California Grand With Hollywood Shuttered

CALIFORNIA, PA.—The Hollywood is dark on order of M. Goldman, owner. The 1,000-seat house closed Monday, a week ago. It is understood that James Retter, manager, is withdrawing from the enterprise.

Retter, long established in exhibition at California, holds the lease on the Grand, which has been closed since the de luxe Hollywood opened, and there are reports that he plans to reopen this smaller house.

Close Grove City Guthrie For Interior Remodeling

GROVE CITY, PA.—The Guthrie is closed for four days for extensive lobby remodeling and will reopen by December 23, according to J. Glenn Carruthers, owner. Lobby floor is being newly covered and the doors are being moved deeper into the foyer. New standee railing is being erected and new lighting fixtures are being installed.

Upped by Alexander

HUNTINGTON, W. VA.—June E. Baker of Alexander Film Co. of Colorado Springs has been named district manager for the state of West Virginia. Baker's district has included the northern area of the Mountain State and a part of western Pennsylvania. He headquarters at Huntington.

COLUMBUS

PHIL CHAKERES, head of the Chakeres circuit, operating out of Springfield, has taken over the Regent and Broad theatres in St. Marys. Tom Broad, the former owner, is retiring. Some $40,000 is to be spent on the two houses in remodeling, Chakeres has announced.

The Fayette, Washington C. H., is the latest house to encounter difficulties with Bank Night. Hoy O. Simons, manager, has been cited for operating. However, we understand the chief of police has merely "asked" Simons to discontinue the cash giveaway.

Rumors again are making the rounds that local showhouses will drop double bills soon after the first of the year . . . W. C. Smith's new Vinton Theatre, McArthur, is scheduled to open Xmas day. House will seat approximately 400.

John and Frances Robinson, operators of a small-town chain, bought the Bremen Theatre at a sheriff's sale. They are currently remodeling the 300-seat house, expecting to be open around the first.

Incorporation papers have been filed for the Empress Theatre (Chesbrough circuit house), $17,500 capital stock being approved. W. B. Ingram, manager of the Champion, is president; Walter Miles of the Ohio censor board, vice-president, and Ethel Chesbrough Miles, circuit boss, secretary-treasurer. The corporation has renewed the lease on the theatre for an additional five years, calling for $500 monthly.

Louis D. Straus, former theatrical advance man well known to the local mob, was in town last week. Believe it or not but he is now plugging razors! . . . Legit attractions at the Hartman are doing better than ever this year, reports Manager Bob Boda.

The annual Variety Club "Tom & Jerry" party was held Thursday afternoon and evening. Tomorrow (Sunday) the club plays host at the Christmas party for the kids. Max Stearn of the Southern is general chairman . . . Pete Wood spoke before the Youngstown Rotary Club, Wednesday.

It seems almost certain now that Governor Bricker will not call a special session of the legislature to deal with relief problems—despite terrific pressure from Clevelanders. The ITO, which was awaiting the governor's action before setting their convention dates, tentatively inked in March 4-5.

Campaign to combat the "Pot O' Gold" radio program, didn't get under way last Tuesday per expectations. Inasmuch as the major circuits are "not interested," and judging from independent exhibitor reactions, it looks like the idea will not click.

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CLEVELAND

SANTA CLAUS was a little ahead of schedule when he called on the Dave Halpers and presented them with a girl weighing six pounds. The young lady, born at Mount Sinai Hospital, has been named Harriette Jane. In addition to a father and a mother, the newest of the Halpers has a brother and a sister . . . The Warner Club has closed for two weeks of decorations. Luncheons will be resumed December 27 as a daily feature. In the meantime, club officials are busy arranging for the annual Christmas party which will take place the evening of December 21.

"Gone With the Wind" opens its Ohio engagement in Cincinnati at the Capitol on December 21. Present plans call for a schedule of three shows daily during the week at popular prices, with a reserved seat policy at advanced prices for two shows on Sunday. No GWTW date has been set for Cleveland at this writing.

Urban Anderson took time out from managing the Capitol for a few days in a local hospital where he was treated for a throat infection . . . The wife of Tom Whyte, manager of the Garden, is at Lutheran Hospital. She recently underwent an operation there and is reported on the convalescent list.

Jack Lykes, manager of Loew's Stillman, and Mrs. Lykes celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary last Thursday, for which congratulations! . . . Rumor has it that Loren Solether of the Falls Theatre, Chagrin Falls, will lease a new theatre to be erected in Hudson right after the first of the year.

"The Middletons at the New York World's Fair," a free feature offered through the courtesy of Westinghouse, is making a comprehensive tour of the territory, M. M. Jacobs of Lake Shore Sales Co., distributors of the film, reports. "Starting with nine prints, we now have 16 prints working solid in the territory," says Jacobs, "playing at all first run neighborhood houses."

Miss Jean Luke has joined the office personnel of Bob Bial's Art Guild Studios in the Film Bldg . . . Loew's State will exhibit Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels" the week of December 22 . . . Arthur Spaeth, motion picture editor of the News, *has started his own local contest for "Ten Best Pictures of the Year" . . . Winsor French, play and picture critic of the* Press, *is in New York appraising the new shows.*

Visitors spotted hither and yon along Filmrow included Jack Shea of the Shea circuit; C. Ortt of the Ritz, Newcomerstown; Wayne Kimball, Lewisville; B. Raful, Kenmore; Jack Cutilla, DeGraf; the J. A. Beidlers, senior and junior, of Toledo; Harry Reinhart, Canton; George Manos, Toronto.

Caldwell Brown, Zanesville circuit owner, and Mrs. Brown were in town for a few days doing their Christmas shopping . . . Jerry Steel is staging his annual Christmas Party at the Apollo, Oberlin, on December 20. Cans of food or food stuff is the price of admission and the show will consist of an hour and fifteen minutes of comedies and cartoons.

Abe Schwartz, with theatres in Cleveland and Painesville, and Sam Stocker of Associated Theatre circuit, soon head for the south . . . John W. Scully jr. has arrived from Philadelphia to step into Joe Swee's shoes as Universal short subject booker, Swee having resigned to take over as RKO office manager when Otto Braeunig left that post to become a salesman for RKO . . . Nat Lefton, Republic franchise owner, modestly admits all of our best theatres are booking "South of the Border," the newest Gene Autry opus.

Ed Huegle of Loew's advertising department will never have another toothache. Reason is he has had 'em all yanked out. He expects to grow a new crop about the first of the year . . . Milt Harris, publicity director for Loew's Theatres, had a busy week due to the personal appearance of Glenn Miller and his orchestra at Loew's State and the dance open to the public in the theatre foyer at the conclusion of the last show on Monday and Tuesday nights.

Kellenberg Testimonial Committees Are Named

PITTSBURGH—Committees were named this week for the C. C. Kellenberg 20th anniversary testimonial dinner which will be staged in the Urban Room of the William Penn Hotel, Monday evening, Jan. 29.

"Kel," who has been with 20th-Fox for 20 years is really a veteran of 30 years in the industry, having started as an usher at Fred J. Herrington's Fairyland Theatre.

Al Weiss is treasurer of the testimonial and David Victor is chairman of the ticket committee. C. J. Latta, new chief barker of the Variety Club, is chairman of the committee on arrangements and he will be assisted by Ira H. Cohn, John H. Harris, Edward R. Sterling, Karl Krug, Harold Cohen, Dr. L. G. Beinhauer, Kaspar Monahan, Michael Manos, A. N. Notopoulos and William J. Walker. Serving with Victor on the ticket committee are I. Elmer Ecker, William Finkel, D. C. Hartbauer, Richard D. Marks, Samuel Neaman, Frank Panoplos, Carl A. Poke, M. A. Rosenberg, George Sallows, Al Weiblinger, E. S. "Jim" Thorpe, George Moore, Austin Interrante and Charles Truran.

Harry M. Kalmine is general chairman and William Sussman is honorary chairman. Members of the advisory committee include Charles A. Anderson, Bennett Amdur, Edward Beedle, Jerry Deasy, Nick Dipson, Harry Feinstein, Mark Goldman, Fred J. Herrington, Joe Hiller, Larry Katz, Sam Mallison, Edgar Moss, Brian McDonald, John T. McGreevey, Andrew T. Park, George M. Purcell, Claude Robinson, M. N. Shapiro, John Walsh and William R. Wheat jr.

RCA Service Contract to 12 Notopoulos Units

PITTSBURGH—A contract has just been closed with A. N. Notopoulos, Altoona, Pa., circuit executive, whereby 12 of the Notopoulos theatres will be serviced by RCA. Charles Underhill, local RCA service manager, and William C. Jervis, Pittsburgh sales manager for the company, closed the deal with the Altoona showman.

RCA also recently closed a service contract with Andrew Gibson of Kittanning, Pa., which puts six of the seven Nikitas Dipson theatres of the local area on the service list of the company.

Recent sales of RCA sound equipments include: Harris' Manos, Jeannette, Pa.; Grand, Corry, Pa.; Lido, Philippi, W. Va.; Koppel, Koppel, Pa.; Liberty, Midland, Pa.; Lee, Fairmount, W. Va.; Roxian, McKees Rocks, Pa.; Alpine, Pittsburgh, Pa.

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from page 59)

at raising prices when contractors, individuals and corporations, and an AFL union agreed to a consent judgment. The federal court action will "energize" construction, government agents and the former "outside" contractors state.

Milton Lefton of Monarch Pictures states that hereafter "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" will be known as "The Goose Step." The picture is receiving numerous bookings in this territory, many of the early accounts playing the subject under its original title . . . Filmrow boys and girls are sending out a record number of Christmas cards and several holiday parties are being arranged . . . Dave Barnholtz, local New Universal sales representative, is leading in his company's sales, with just a "possibility" or so "unclosed." The local branch, under Jules Lapidus, is about 90 per cent sold, which gives the Pittsburgh office several honors.

Here's a special salute to Paramount's "The Great Victor Herbert." Walter Connolly enacts the role of the composer of America's great operettas, a fine gentleman who lived here for a number of years where he directed his Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and where he wrote some of his immortal music. Allan Jones has the best role of his career as Herbert's favorite tenor and Mary Martin scores a decided hit as Herbert's leading operetta star. Fourteen-year-old Susanna Foster reveals a glorious singing voice in her debut.

Leo Abrams, short subject sales manager for New Universal, was a visitor here the other day . . . The new theatre under construction at Watsontown, Pa., for the H. J. Thompson Clearfield Amusement Co., will be ready for opening late in February, according to Miss M. E. Shively, an executive of the Clearfield circuit.

Although Bill Benswanger, president of the Buccos, denies it, many baseball men here say that the Pirates will fall into line for night baseball at Forbes Field during 1940. The incandescents could be installed on short order. Theatre business suffered in other cities where night baseball games were played last season . . . Gabe Rubin will open the French production, "End of a Day," at his Art Cinema, Christmas day, and will follow it with another French hit, "Harvest," which encountered difficulties with the New York censors but which passed the Keystone State board without a cut. This week's Art Cinema offering was the Yiddish photoplay, "Mirele Efros."

Art Levy, Columbia manager, has issued catalogues on eight French productions, known as the Famous Foreign Features, which his company is distributing. Names include Danielle Darrieux, Anton Walbrook, Jean Gabin, Erich Von Stroheim, Conrad Veidt, Harry Baur, Francoise Rosay and other noted stars . . . Harry Willard of the Jam Handy film advertising firm was here on business with Mark Goldman, Monogram manager, who distributes those commercial films . . . The Fulton went dark after Sunday's performances for a pre-Christmas lay-off of two weeks. House will

reopen December 23 with 20th-Fox's "Day-Time Wife."

Ed Morton, NTS manager, has been snapping a number of photos of his display room to send to other NTS branch managers so that they may get some idea of what a model showroom really looks like . . . Little Ronald Thomas, son of Frank Thomas, Filmrow projectionist, thinks he likes Roy Rogers better than Gene Autry, because he "don't think that Roy paints his lips."

Printing for the Christmas Relief Fund of the Film Mutual Aid was donated by the Mayer Press, 235 Collins Ave. Many thanks to the Mayer Press . . . Young Tom Shanahan, son of the Donora theatreman, represented the Wilkinsburg Junior High School at the Pennsylvania School Press Ass'n convention which was staged at Reading, Pa. . . . Kenneth Lund, manager of the Strand, Aliquippa, and son of J. C. Lund, Aliquippa manager for the Notopoulos theatres, had been on his deer hunting trip only ten minutes when he bagged his buck . . . Another junior who did his stuff was Joseph A. Delisi jr., son of the Nanty Glo exhibitor, whose good aim brought down his deer. Included in the party with the Delisis was Bill Interrante, son of Austin Interrante, 20th-Fox sales representative . . . Victor A. Riguamont, theatre architect, sent invitations to friends to come over to his house and help eat a 14-point buck.

Max Terhune, the "Lullaby" of "The Three Mesquiteers," entertained many of the Filmrow crowd Monday afternoon when he stopped at the Republic exchange. He did a number of card tricks and other stunts and then introduced his famous dummy "Elmer." Max has been busy making a number of personal appearances in the local territory. "Elmer" made goo-goo eyes at Gertrude Ball, new telephone operator at the Republic office, and later he declared himself in no uncertain terms at the Filmrow Lunch Room. Terhune is the best entertainer we have had on Filmrow in a dozen years.

The drive for funds for the Film Mutual Aid, to be distributed before Christmas, will be closed within a few days. There are a number of "our friends in our own business" or formerly of the film industry who are in need of financial assistance. Only a dozen contributors were listed for the first two weeks of the campaign, which is far behind last year's drive. Please send your check to Jas. H. Alexander, treasurer, 1701 Blvd. of the Allies.

Get Sunday Receipts

NEWARK, OHIO—Burglars "jimmied" the office door, gained entrance to the upstairs office of the Grand, hammered off the combination of the safe door, and took the entire Sunday receipts, nearly $500, police report.

To Education Board

BOSWELL, PA.—Charles Szewczyk, owner of the Mary Lee, has been elected a member of the board of education of this borough for a six-year term. Formerly he was a Boswell councilman.

Labor Trouble Brews Over Williston Construction

LOUISVILLE, KY.—Construction of the Williston chain's new Palace here, an $80,000 project, has stirred up a bit of labor trouble over the chain's failure to hire union workmen for the entire job.

The local labor council has been picketing the new place for a couple of weeks, but a few nights ago sent pickets to the chain's Lyric and Grand as well. At the Lyric, however, the picket soon was being picketed himself by a theatre employe who carried a sign saying that the labor unions were unfair to colored workers.

A. E. Campbell, local manager for Williston, said his firm was giving work to as many colored men as possible, and that most of them were not members of any union.

"We feel that we owe it to these people to give them work since it's up to them to support the theatre," he said.

Clem Johnson of the building trades division said the labor movement "is trying to better the conditions of the Negro worker and to break down prejudice against him."

Kentucky Anti-Dual Bill Dropped for a While

LOUISVILLE, KY. — The Better Films Council of Louisville and Jefferson County pigeon-holed, at least temporarily, a proposal to submit an anti double-feature bill to the Kentucky general assembly, which convenes next month.

A belief that the "problem of double features" will cure itself "was expressed by Mrs. Emmett Horine, president of the council, following a report from Mrs. R. V. Love of the organization's legislative committee.

"War has closed the European market for many American film producers," Mrs. Horine said, "and the Neely bill is certain to curtail blind booking. This should in turn curtail double features."

Mrs. Love, however, reported that double feature opponents face a "long, hard battle."

Harris Family Is Second Pitt Newsreel House

PITTSBURGH—This city had two newsreel theatres when the Harris Amusement Companies adopted this policy for the Family, East Liberty. The circuit announced that due to the popular reception given the downtown Newsreel Palace, the East Liberty house was converted into an all-news theatre at 10, 15 and 25-cent admissions. A one-hour show has thus replaced the former double-feature policy. The Harris Palace was opened as a newsreel theatre several months ago.

Collaborate on "Bridge"

HOLLYWOOD — Richard Sherman and James Kevin McGuinness are collaborating on the script of "Waterloo Bridge," forthcoming Sidney Franklin production for Metro. Vivien Leigh will be starred.

LOUISVILLE

BILL MERRITT of Republic's Indianapolis division flew down the other day with a film for Alton McCoy at the Strand. . . . His parents and 20 relatives and friends made up a special party to see Victor Mature, Louisville contribution to the films, at Loew's the other night in "The Housekeeper's Daughter" . . . Another Thin Man" was held over for a second week . . . Ben Cohen, Warner Bros., New York, was in town last week.

The new theatre at Jackson, Ky., looks very much like a family affair. The owners are Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Childers and Mr. and Mrs. Ervine Turner. Mrs. Turner has been confined to a Lexington hospital due to illness . . . The old Cozy at Morehead will reopen as the Mills. L. H. Mills bought it and closed it for renovation . . . Settos is afraid construction delay may not permit opening of their new Vogue at St. Matthews before Christmas.

The Yosowitz brothers' new theatre at Raceland, Ky., named the Ken, opened with a bang. It is offering three changes of program weekly. Joe Goldberg of Big Feature Rights was on hand for the opening . . . Fred Dolle of Fourth Avenue Amusement is back from a New York trip . . . Floyd Brown, Monogram, Indianapolis branch, formerly connected with Universal there, was in town on business. So was Al Sunshine of the Hollywood Advertising Co. . . . The Dixie, colored theatre owned by the Star outfit, has closed. It comes on good authority that the Williston chain is dickering for it, and has been for some time. Williston, with headquarters in Indianapolis, owns three other colored theatres here.

Louisville exhibitors got their heads together last week to discuss what amounts to a monopoly on film transits out of Indiana . . . A. N. Miles, the pleasant, energetic and mechanical-minded theatre man of Eminence, Ky., was in to see the folks at Falls City Theatre Equipment Co., and told them all about his latest "Fun Town News" feature . . . Some of the good folk of Eminence traveled west last summer and filmed what they saw. Miles, who is no mean picture taker himself, spliced their work together and made half an hour's show of it. "Fun Town News" has been going on for some time. Miles usually makes the films himself, in and about Eminence . . . W. E. Carrell of Falls City Theatre Equipment has been working overtime installing drapes and screens over the state. It must be a Christmas epidemic. Anyway, the concern has been swamped with orders for these fixtures.

Two Additional Lines for Oliver Theatre Supply

CLEVELAND—L. P. Langford of Oliver Theatre Supply announces he has acquired the northern Ohio distribution and sales rights to chairs manufactured by the International Seat Corp.

In addition, Oliver Supply will handle the Cyclex System, prepared by C. S. Ashcraft Mfg. Co. and which is designed to perfect projection in small and medium-sized theatres.

Exhibitor Ben Browarsky Succumbs to Cancer

PITTSBURGH—Ben Browarsky, exhibitor here for 20 years, died here after being hospitalized for a short period. Death was attributed to cancer. He had suffered with asthma for some years and only recently was it known that he was doomed with the latter disease.

Ben and two brothers, Ike and Harry Browarsky, were associated in the theatre business on the north side and Bellevue. Acquainted with a wide circle of friends and affectionately known to many of them as "Uncle Ben," the late exhibitor was in his 51st year.

Besides his brothers, Ike and Harry, he leaves another brother, Mark Browar, owner of the Roosevelt, Center Avenue, and a sister, Mrs. Sadie Shapira, also of Pittsburgh.

Ben Browarsky, a native Pittsburgher, was a member of Beth Shalom Synagogue.

Funeral services were held from the Ralph Schugar Chapel and interment was in the Tree of Life Cemetery, Sharpsburg.

Legit Dark a Week

PITTSBURGH—This city's legit theatre, the Nixon, will be dark for the first time this season the week of December 18, following this week's successful engagement of "Kiss the Boys Goodbye." The Christmas week show will be "The Hot Mikado," with Bill Robinson.

Helm to Green

EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO—Sam M. Reichblum, owner of the Reichblum chain, has appointed Albert Green manager of the Columbia. Green was manager of the theatre for seven years until two years ago when he left to manage houses out of town.

Troupe Ends Stay

CANTON, OHIO—The Madge Kinsey Players, widely known Ohio repertoire troupe, end a ten weeks' engagement at the Grand Opera House Sunday night, December 17, making way for stock burlesque, which opens at the house December 22. Burlesque will run four days a week, with Warren B. Irons of Cleveland's Roxy in charge here.

"We subscribe to BOXOFFICE in all of our situations. The local edition and news idea makes the paper very interesting. As you are continually developing new departments in your fine trade paper I have a suggestion for the enlargement of your exploitation section."

—DAVE JONES,
Kerasotes Theatres,
Springfield, Ill.

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOWLING

PITTSBURGH—IATSE Local No. 171 Bowling League has entered the second half of its season, with various team members shifted after the first eleven weeks. The new series will cover a period of 22 weeks, ending with final games scheduled for May 7.

Among prize winners for the initial period were Ken McGuire, who averaged 146.8; B. "Dutch" Lauth, high score for three games, 523; Dick Caskey, high score for one game, 215; Eddie Mahoney, low score for three games, 158.

The teams now lineup as follows: *Bausch-Lomb*: Kenneth McGuire (C), J. Lydzinski, J. Phelan, J. Raspanti, W. Knestrick, W. Humphreys, R. Kerr; *Strong Lamps*: Richard Caskey (C), M. Lejune, J. Snyder, M. Capalbo, K. Graham, P. Murano; *National Carbons*: James Ventrone (C), G. Ross, W. Keil, A. Diodatti, W. Dorsch, N. Bennett; *Steady Power*: John Lengyel (C), J. Sipe, J. Kissie, C. Getz, R. Freeman, L. McConnell; *Hertner*: Whitey Freeman (C), E. Lohr, B. Evans, D. Stoyle, C. Bengele, H. Daminini; *Roth*: George Engstler (C), R. O'Donnell, P. Kalaba, M. Torreano, E. Shawhan, J. Weaver; *Hi-Ten*: Wilbert Hepp (C), J. Krenn, J. J. Miklouicich, E. Jones, A. Engstler, F. Thomas; *Peerless*: J. Wunderlick (C), I. Turner, W. McElhattan, T. Paris, L. Ferris, J. Kagrise; *Motiograph*: Lou Indo (C), C. Lang, J. Caskey, D. Ross, M. Ventrone, E. Mahoney; *Ashcraft*: Tom Leoffler (C), O. Reynolds, D. Thomas, C. Katz, J. Dean, M. Joyce; *Brenkerts*: Joe Antal (C), P. Ferry, D. Flask, J. Zucharo, W. Thompson, L. Dorman; *Simplex*: Ray Gaus (C), D. Martin, H. Stanley, J. Erdelack, N. McKelvey, I. Herman.

Officers of the IATSE league are George Engstler, president; John Lengyel, secretary, and William Thompson, treasurer.

Two Teams Drop Out in Pitt Bowling League

PITTSBURGH—Filmrow Bowling League has been reduced from eight to six teams, with the All Stars and RKO eliminated. Evans, Palmer, Valdenzer and Passarell of the All Stars and Steinfeld of RKO have been named to the 20th-Fox team. Schedule is being arranged, according to Joseph Pemberton, secretary.

Republic continues in the lead with New Universal and Columbia tied for second honors after last Friday's contests. Lou Hanna of Republic copped the weekly $1 award for high individual score for one game with a 248, which is the league's record to date.

Standing of the teams to December 15:

Team—	Won	Lost
Republic	25	8
New Universal	23	10
Columbia	23	10
Loew's	21	12
20th-Fox	13	20
Monarch	11	22

DETROIT—Standings in Film Bowling League:

Team—	Won	Lost
Republic	36	8
Film Drug	28	16
United Artists	26	18
Film Truck	22	22
20th Century-Fox	18	26
Cooperative	17	27
Monogram	16	28
Amusement Supply	12	32

Phenomenal play of the season was a new record high for recent years, of 633 set by Art Knapp, 20th-Fox salesman, who featured another season high of 255 for a single game, and another score of 211 to set that mark. Knapp's bowling helped the 20th-Fox team to set a new season high for a team total of 2,512.

DETROIT—New scores for the Nightingale Club:

Team—	Won	Lost
McArthur	27	17
Motiograph	26	18
Oliver Theatre Supply	25	19
National Theatre Supply	24	20
Lorenzen Flower Shop	20	24
Brenkert Projectors	19	25
Amusement Supply Co.	18	26
National Carbon Co.	17	27

High rollers were: S. J. Lambly, 572; Jack Lindenthal, 556; Jack M. Hall, 540; Gil Light, 533; Thomas T. Smale, 531; William Fouchey, 526; F. W. Wise, 521; Eddie Loye, 515, and Philip Majeska, 509.

Smiley Burnette Has Big Fan Following in Ohio

ALLIANCE, OHIO—Smiley Burnette, playing here at Ray Wallace's Columbia, continued to smash house records. On his tour through this territory, he has averaged four records a week. Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner, is negotiating with Burnette for a Cleveland engagement.

A Cleveland delegation from Republic came here to greet and cheer Burnette, including Nat L. Lefton, Jack Lefton, Frank Belles and Al Gregg. Harry Reinhart of Alliance was also on the unofficial reception committee.

"Borrowed Time" Contest Won by Paul O. Brake

DETROIT—Paul O. Brake, now special field representative for the Butterfield circuit, won first prize in the exploitation contest for "On Borrowed Time," in which all managers of the chain participated, according to Warren Slee, Metro exploiteer. Brake formerly managed the Post at Battle Creek. Another prize winner was Paul Tohill, manager of the Dawn at Hillsdale.

Circuit managers are now being tied in on a special exploitation contest for "Ninotchka."

Littler Promoted

DELAWARE, OHIO—C. G. Littler of Athens has been named assistant manager of Schine's Strand here. He succeeds John R. Scott, who has been promoted and transferred to the Opera House in Lexington, Ky.

Plays Alliance Film

PITTSBURGH—Alliance's "North Sea Patrol," distributed by Louis Krieger, was featured at the first-run Barry this week. Warner and Manos circuit houses have booked the film about espionage agents and submarine blocking.

New Dattola Opening Dec. 21

PITTSBURGH—The new Dattola at West Tarentum, Pa., will be opened Thursday evening, December 21. The theatre is the old Grand, last operated by the George C. Davis circuit.

Employment Is Up in New England

Boston—Employment is up in New England. The rise is credited, in a large part, to increased war business being experienced by a number of local industries. Unemployment compensation payments in Massachusetts is down $8,000,000 as compared to those in 1938.

Merchants Buy Five Poli Houses for Xmas Shows

NEW HAVEN—Five of the seven Poli towns have already sold their houses to various merchants for special Xmas season morning shows, admission to which is free, by toys, or trade coupon.

Peck & Miller tried the stunt in Waterbury; Majestic Laundry, New Haven; Mitchell Dairies, Bridgeport; Whelan Jewelry Shops, Elm Street, Worcester; Polar Ginger Ale, Plaza, Worcester; Kiwanis, Meriden. This new revenue-raiser for the circuit replaces the usual type of community-cooperation shows at this season of the year.

Maurice Master Prepared For Production Start

BOSTON—Maurice Master plans to open his new Piedmont Street laboratory for the production of 16mm colored talkies sometime this month. The latest Johns Manville sound proofing is being used to insulate Master's latest expansion which has absorbed the former offices of Harry Asher, now located at 12 Piedmont Street. The former exchange, now the district's newest sound studio, has a solid, windowless front. Master's laboratories already extend across the upstairs.

Picketing-Restraining Writ Holds; Await Decision

HARTFORD—A decision still is being awaited on the motion to dissolve the temporary injunction Proven Pictures Theatre holds, restraining the IATSE Local 486 from picketing the house.

The motion was argued some days ago before Superior Court Judge John Rufus. The original grievance was that the theatre did not employ any union stagehands, with the management contending it had no need of stagehands of any kind.

Film Division Completes Organization for Drive

BOSTON—Film division of the Boston Community Fund was the first segment of the annual charitable enterprise to be 100 per cent organized this season. The unit was the only one to be completely organized up to the end of last week. M. N. Wolf and John Dervin head the distribution committee, while Joseph Brennan and Edward Cuddy are chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the theatre group.

Defense Action in M & R Suit Awaits Recovery of Master

BOSTON—With the Morse and Rothenberg $2,100,000 anti-trust case in the hands of the defense barely a week, the suit had to be called Monday when Philip Hendrick, master, went home with the grippe. The hearings have been recessed indefinitely.

During the hearings last week, after the prosecution, directed by Attorney George Ryan, had piled up evidence since December a year ago, the majors and the two affiliated chains involved, the Shea circuit and Maine and New Hampshire Theatres Co., put on a string of witnesses which included Richard Dobbyn, auditor of M&H Theatres Co.; Philip Winnich, Universal salesman in N. J.; Robert S. Wolff, RKO branch manager in New York; Edward Grainger, former distributor and present circuit executive; Samuel Engelman of Warner, and Charles Morse, M&R partner.

Cross-Examine Morse

Bearing the brunt of the examination was Morse, who was cross-examined by Edward F. McClennen, head of the battery of defense lawyers.

In the questioning the issues of the fairness of specific forms of advertising; alleged closing of houses with contracts unfulfilled and the issue of lower admissions for first run showings came up for intensive oral exploration.

On the issue of advertising, copy which read "wait and see the season's biggest hits," used in a newspaper ad of the Arcadia Theatre, under Morse operation at Portsmouth, N. H., in 1931, was a keystone of McClennen's cross-examination and in one phase ended with a concession by Morse that he deemed such copy proper in the sense that it was customary at the time—(1930-31).

McClennen's question "and the only way of the higher priced first-run theatres not being subjected to having their patronage taken away by the public's knowing that the biggest hits were coming to the cheap theatre was to have the biggest hits not come to the cheap theatre?" was countered by Morse with the argument that the first-run and the subsequent run drew different patrons, conditioned by the prices charged.

McClennen's constant return to the topic as to why a theatre stressed "wait and see them at our low prices" hammered through a variety of reasons put forth by Morse, ending with the declaration by the plaintiff that under conditions whereby such advertising might attract certain classes of people that wouldn't ordinarily go to the higher priced houses, the advertising was "reasonable, ethical and fair."

On the question of houses closed with contracts unfulfilled, brought up by McClennen, Morse explained "when a house was given up or sold they (the distributors) always ask what is the story, and if somebody has taken it over and assumed the contracts you tell them, and if not you tell them." Morse denied recollection of taunts to distributors to "go ahead and sue—we have no assets" following hint of such action on their part. He gave substance to this denial by declaring "some of our companies have a very considerable amount of assets," a declaration which the attorney for the defense sought to refute by limiting the reference to the time actually under consideration—the summer of 1931. This endeavor was partially successful in pinning down a classification of the assets as being equipment and improvements made to the four houses then in the plaintiff's hands, but left the issue of the attachability of the assets debatable.

"Insisted on Contracts"

Morse insisted that the companies were aware of the element of chance involved in the operation of the houses, declaring "the companies insisted on contracts and told me that if the theatres didn't go over, that is all there is to it."

The questioning over what the plaintiff had presented as product denial in Nashua, was by the defense attorney, centered around the admissions that the respective theatres were charging—the Tremont and the State, circuit houses, 35 cents and the proposed 15 cent top for the Park.

McClennen's question carried the argument of the defendants when he asked: "In your experience in the theatre business, you can see that if you could get first-run pictures at those admissions it would have a very substantial effect on the 35 cent houses in Nashua."

To this thesis Morse took exception, but modified his denial by the admission that it would have a slight effect, estimated by him at about four per cent.

McClennen further stated the defense argument when he pointed out that the competitive houses might also reduce their admissions, with a resultant diminution in the revenue accruing to the distributors, a possibility recognized as such by Morse.



Co-Workers—

Paul Muni and Max Melincoff, district manager of Warner Theatres in Massachusetts, chat backstage in Boston where Muni is starring in "Key Largo."

Howard Reminds Allied Unit What Organization Offers

BOSTON—Outlining a 15-point service program, Arthur K. Howard told members of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., last week that "those who overlook these opportunities for service are not cashing in on their investments." Howard advised all New England members of Allied to consult the Boston unit "when faced with a dilemma concerning the operation of his theatre."

Howard listed some of the services which, he said, the ASA is prepared to render, as:

"1. Product information regarding every company.

"2. Emergency changes in bookings. One call here will save calling two or three exchanges.

"3. Assistance in settling contract disputes with the exchanges.

"4. Service aimed toward the elimination of overbuying or unreasonable clearance situations.

"5. Legal advice from capable attorneys connected with the business.

"6. Our general counsel, Abram F. Myers, is at your service on problems concerning federal law.

"7. Service to protect you against town, municipal, city or state rules, regulations and legislation.

"8. Advice on existing or new department rulings of federal, state and local agencies.

"9. Projectionist for emergencies.

"10. An electric cost control service which does not require you to spend one cent to find out how to save money on your electric current.

"11. A public liability insurance deal for members of Allied only will provide you with the cheapest rates obtainable.

"12. Our window card service will give you the best cards at the cheapest prices.

"13. Service on renovation, construction and supplies.

"14. Cheaper oil rates.

"15. Advise you of current premium and game deals which are meeting with success; or otherwise."

Conn. Allied Membership Drive a Big Success

NEW HAVEN—In a whirlwind membership campaign headed by E. Thornton Kelly of Boston and A. M. Schuman, president, Connecticut Allied announced it has signed every Bridgeport independent to its ranks. Hartford and Waterbury are next in line as centers of membership activity in the plan to "build up a strong, united independent exhibitor organization in Connecticut." Allied meets every Tuesday noon at Martin's Restaurant for the duration of the campaign, with Schuman presiding.

The newcomers to the unit include Phil Schwartz, Parkway, Bridgeport; Jack Schwartz, West End; Samuel Hadelman, Capitol; Joseph Corwel, Liberty; Joseph Anger, Colonial and Barnum, Bridgeport, and State, Torrington; Athan Prakas, Rivoli; John Dombe, Brooklawn; Harold Tabackman, Bostwick.

A. L. Schuman, Black Rock Theatre and Strand Amusement Co.'s American, Strand Palace, Park City, Hippodrome, Strand and Rialto, and the Fishman Theatres Community, Fairfield, have been members of the organization since its inception in 1935.

No Mislabeling At Least

Boston—Generals are okay without buttons in Massachusetts but it's no go on boys without pants. Eliminations on the Cameo release, "Generals Without Buttons," included all scenes showing nude boys. The feature was the only one in the latest list of films, totaling 32 releases, that was clipped last week by the censorial scissors.

"Drunk Driving" Short Has Gov. Baldwin's Boost

NEW HAVEN—"I recommend that you see "Drunk Driving," Governor Raymond Baldwin of this state writes on official stationery, and "welcomes the assistance of the producers who cooperated to make the film available to Connecticut." The letter was sent to Harry F. Shaw, Poli-New England division manager, whose houses in New Haven, Bridgeport and Hartford, played the picture December 15, for use in the press of the circuit towns.

The governor also remarked on the fact that Dick Purcell of this state plays the leading role adds interest to the film. The letter followed a special screening for the governor, various other state executives, and members of the state police in Hartford.

Several city court judges have promised to cooperate by sentencing drunk drivers to see the picture during its run.

Bridgeport Takes Lead In Supporting Vaude

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—The city is doing more than any other city in New England to keep vaudeville alive. A total of 23 acts are being used weekly in two theatres here. The Lyric plays 13 variety turns on Sunday in conjunction with a feature picture while the Globe adds five acts to its screen program on Monday and Saturday nights. Acts at the Lyric are built around one or two headliners while the Globe's ten turns are mostly standard acts of the family type.

Vaudeville at the Lyric commands a 40-cent admission price throughout the house while at the Globe the admission on vaudeville nights is a quarter top.

BOSTON

HARRY DECKER, film transportation tycoon, has been one of the film distrctees making retreats at Campion Hall in Andover.

Walter Stuart, manager of the Community in North Attleboro, and Mrs. Stuart are the parents of eight-pounder Walter Allen.

Martin Tuohy, Rhode Island exhibitor, is mourning the death of his mother.

William Purcell, recently independent operator in Lynn and Beverly, is now city manager for E. M. Loew in Worcester. Loew operates the Family and Royal there.

Ted Shaps, well known to the district, has lost his mother.

Louis Gordon has ordered four pair of Cyclex lamps for the Plaza and Windsor theatres in Windsor, Conn.

The Lisbon in Lisbon, N. H., is to be rebuilt following burning. It was operated by a corporation of local business men.

Phil Smith, circuit operator, has been attending to his drive-in theatres in the middle west. Smith was in Milwaukee, Tuesday of last week and in Detroit, Wednesday and Thursday.

George Kraska has held "Escape From Yesterday," starring Jean Gabin and Annabella, for a second week at the Fine Arts Theatre.

Mr. and Mrs. George Rabinowitz have been mourning the death of a baby boy. She's the former Selma Rifkin.

Edward F. DeConick has been appointed manager of the Orpheum in Somerville by Wilbur M. Peterson. He was formerly manager in Everett at the Rialto, an M&P house.

D. J. O'Connell of Tremont Street, Boston, is the latest prospect who may build in Lexington.

Sam Moscow, in town to confer with Ed Morey of Republic, has been at the River Bank Hospital on Bay State Road.

Sam Wernick, Chicopee Falls exhibitor, was in town Tuesday . . . Nathan Lampert, Connecticut exhibitor, was north briefly last week from Miami . . . Irving Zussman, Metro Premium Co. head, kept off of airplanes and continued in Boston last week.

A bit of film district excitement resulted the other Tuesday noon when a snatch thief, with a load of Paine Furniture Co. rugs under one arm, was chased up Church Street. He threw the articles in the back of a film delivery truck and got away.

Edward Kleine has booked "Ecstasy" into the Regent, E. M. Loew house in Worcester.

Al Borrelli of Specialty Pictures has been ill . . . Charles Brent, road show man, has

had a bad cold . . . Likewise for Sam Soroker, salesman for Harry Asher.

Frederick E. Lieberman, circuit operator, may go into Laconia, N. H.

William J. Doyle, manager of the Broadway in South Boston, had to call out police reserves when Kay Kyser appeared there in behalf of the annual Christmas Basket Fund that the Phil Smith house puts on yearly for the Carney Hospital.

Lila Izen, Wholesome Film Service executive, was ill at home last week with a severe cold.

Robert Cobe, formerly branch manager for Republic and Grand National and Louis Grodberg are looking over drive-in theatre possibilities in Florida following the seasonal darkening of the Salisbury open-air.

R. H. Mahan, new Warner Brothers manager in New Haven, was formerly in Boston with L. J. Hacking.

Sam Liftman, formerly with Joe Cifre, is now a partner in the Eliot Flower Co. on Massachusetts and Commonwealth avenues.

Hy Levine, formerly with Grand National, is now Connecticut representative for Imperial. He took over last week.

A. Viola Berlin, manager of the Exeter Street Theatre, spotted "Mill on the Floss" at the intimate Back Bay house.

Jack Goodwin, managing director of the Metropolitan, has concluded negotiations for the broadcasting of a series of Dr. I. Q. programs from the Metropolitan stage. The series, which gets under way January 8, will continue for seven Mondays.

Harry Segal, local Imperial head and national sales manager of Standard Pictures, has been heading east from Chicago on a tour of exchanges in behalf of the latter company.

Edward Kleine of Bay State Film Co. has a new aluminum deal. The giveaway has been broken down into three sections.

Agnes Wayland, secretary to Phillip Lavine in the Met building, has a new Frederic System permanent.

Clarence Pickard will put on a midnight show New Year's Eve at the Strand in Ipswich.

Kenneth Douglas of the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. has placed a pair of Cyclex lamps at the Park, Feiber & Shea house in Westfield.

Bette Davis had a Christmas tree shipped her last week from her new summer estate in New Hampshire.

Ed Finney, west coast producer well known here, and Betty Bourke have announced their Santa Barbara marriage.

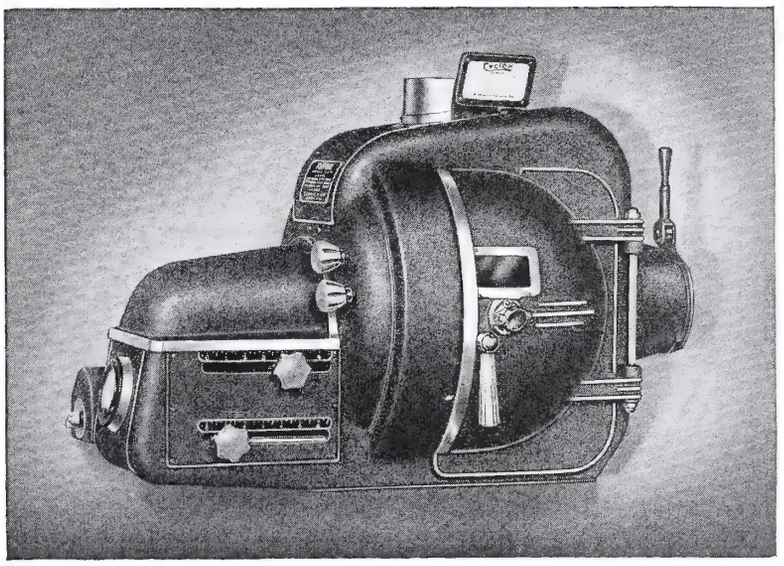
Charles Patterson, formerly assistant to Publicist Jack Granara at the local RKO Theatres, is now with an advertising agency in the Union Savings Bank Bldg. . . . Larry O'Toole, free lancing after a turn at M&P Theatres Corp. artistry, has opened an art school at T Wharf.

Marie Reed has been convalescing at the Forest Hill Hospital following an appendix

(Continued on next page)

Cyclex
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

A COMPLETE NEW PROJECTION SYSTEM



Honors for the
FIRST NEW ENGLAND INSTALLATION
GO TO THAT PROGRESSIVE SHOWMAN
E. M. LOEW
at the
REGENT THEATRE
ARLINGTON, MASS.
You, too, can save with
CYCLEX



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Exclusive New England Distributor



CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

A NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZATION FOR NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS

28-30 PIEDMONT STREET • BOSTON, MASS.

HARTFORD

IN TOWN recently with the wife was Martin Harris, who handles the New York end of vaude bookings for the State . . . Agnes Lichtenberg is the new addition to the usherette corps at the Loew-Poli, Bridgeport . . . Mrs. Arthur J. Healy, sister to Bob Portle, manager, Loew-Poli, Worcester, died recently . . . Ralph Thomas, former Poli circuit employe, is now assistant manager of the Devon, Bridgeport . . . Col. Maurice Druker, assistant manager of Loew-Poli, Worcester, has had his office remodeled.

G. E. Van Buskirk is the new manager of the Paramount, Newton . . . Manager Frank Morin of the Regal, a Warner unit, reports pretty good business of late . . . Bernard M. Levy, new manager of the local Proven Picture Theatre, hails from the Holyoke, Holyoke . . . Back on the job at the Loew-Poli Palace, Meriden, is Assistant Manager Sidney Kleper, after a brief illness . . . New carpets have been laid at the Suffolk, Holyoke, Mass.

Service staff head Don Adrenotta, Loew-Poli, is back from a two-week vacation in New York . . . E. M. Loew's and Loew-Poli have both started bowling teams. Theatres in Greater Hartford have been asked to call at the theatres to arrange for matches . . . "The Mystic Mirror," an interesting exhibit in the lobby of the Loew-Poli and invented by Manager Jack A. Simons, has been patented by him.

Local Loew-Poli is scheduled to hold a kiddie cartoon show December 23 . . . In a recent column, Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph, Hartford Courant's *motion picture columnist, commented on the "gentleness of Walter Lloyd (Allyn), the enthusiasm of Jack Simons (Loew-Poli), the kindness of George Landers (E. M. Loew's), the affability of Jim McCarthy (Strand) and Henry Needles (Warner district manager), and the unfailing good nature of Lou Cohen (Loew-Poli Palace)."*

Marking Manager Paul Binstock's 20th anniversary at the theatre, a vaudeville show was presented at the Lyric . . . Julian B. Tuthill, Hartford *Times,* goes down to New York once a week to cover Broadway plays . . . Salvation Army workers held their cups inside lobbies of several main stem houses, instead of outside in the cold. Management cooperation.

Jack Sanson, manager of the State, Manchester, was m. c. at the annual stag party of the Rogers Paper Co. . . . New manager of the Royal, Worcester, is Bill Purcell, who hails from Beverly . . . Myron Neiman is the new member of the Loew-Poli staff . . . Going in for photography in a big way is Student Assistant Russell G. Grant at the Loew-Poli. He has been taking the photos of the lobby displays at the theatre . . . Kirsten Flagstad sang at the Bushnell . . . Rumors that a new theatre will be built in West Hartford to compete with the Astor, a Warner unit and the only house in that town at present.

Members of the Loew-Poli ice skating team are Don Adrenotta, Wally J. Cooper, Jack Kelley, Gus May, Tommy Williams and Joe Powers. Subs are Gus Papas and Russell G. Grant, according to Coach Tommy Vaughan . . . Assistant Manager Wally Cooper, Loew-Poli, is just getting over a head cold.

More about teams: Ping-pong players for Loew-Poli include Tommy Vaughan, Eddie Downs, captain; Jimmy Papas, Louie Cohen, Jimmy Stagg and Jack Feschler . . . Basketballers at the same house are Oscar Cappuccio, captain; George Landers, Hellmer Robinson, Eddie Hadden and Bob Meade. Subs are Harold Rosenberg and Charlie Bradshaw.

Eddie Downs of the Loew-Poli service staff is scheduled to appear in a forthcoming play to be given by the Silas Deane Players, local amateur actors . . . A new camera fan is Louie Konoir . . . Martin Cherlin played his bass fiddle at the Policemen's and Firemen's Ball . . . Henry Stagg is back from his vacation in Texas.

Joe Powers, Loew-Poli night watchman, spoke before the Women's Federation of Hartford . . . Loew-Poli and Palace publicity meetings are being held weekly. Forms of ballyhoo are discussed . . . Peter Leonard, Loew-Poli, porter, is proud of his new radio . . . Bob Pasternack, Loew-Poli usher, is taking up wrestling.

Francis T. Schulze, years ago in the employ of the now defunct Parsons, and lately head usher at the Bushnell, is dead . . . Governor Baldwin and other public officials attended a special showing of "Drunk Driving," Metro short, at the Loew-Poli . . . Hartford theatres are planning holiday stunts.

A new daily newspaper is scheduled to hit town sometime in March, according to an announcement in the local press. News of the paper holds it will be a tabloid.

$ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $

Dollars in Your Pockets

See VINCENT BELLACQUA

RELIABLE Seating Co.
43-A Church St. Boston

Best Rebuilt Seats You Can Buy
All Spring Seats—Made to Order

$ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $

Thad Barrows Unopposed In Operators Election

BOSTON—Thad C. Barrows will be unopposed for re-election to the office of president of the Moving Picture Operators' Union, local 182, when the organization elects its officers on January 2.

Frank Sullivan has been nominated to oppose James Burke for the position of business manager.

Bernard McGaffigan has been nominated to succeed himself as vice-president. Ditto for Al Moulton, financial secretary. Joe Rosen and Joseph Nuzzello have been nominated for treasurer. James O'Brien and Joseph Richie are opposing each other for sergeant-at-arms.

Executive board nominees are John Diehl, Julius Mintz, James Gibbons, Louis Pirovano, Fred Hookailo, and Mike O'Brien.

"Vagabond King" to Metro

HOLLYWOOD — "Vagabond King," made twice by Paramount, has been purchased by Metro from that studio.

BOSTON

(Continued from preceding page)

removal. She is with Keith's Memorial . . . Gerald Partington of the same theatre has returned from an operation . . . Fred Lantoe of the downtown house has been discharged from the Deaconess Hospital.

E. M. Loew is progressing with the construction of his new theatre in Worcester to be managed by R. L. Daniels.

Lloyd Bridgham has had the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. install Ideal Seats at the State on Prest Isle, Me.

Jack Granara, RKO publicist, engineered a tieup whereby Mayor Maurice Tobin presented Kay Kyser, here on the RKO Boston stage, with a sterling silver baton. Only five of the type have ever been made. Sousa had one.

Ed Morey, Republic head in New England, reports that business during the current Date Drive is an encouraging indication that exhibitors are going for the studio's newer releases. Competition runs through to January 7.

Al Swett has been appointed manager of the Comique in Camden, Me., by Sam Kurson of the Graphic Theatre circuit. Swett, who prepped under Phil Bloomberg of Salem, replaces Scott Roberts.

Charles Wilson, manager of the Hamilton in Dorchester, has been mailing out his latest batch of monthly programs with tuberculosis seals attached.

Newell Kurson reports that the Graphic Theatre circuit plans to reopen the Orpheum Theatre in Danvers on Christmas. The house, formerly owned by Louis Boas, is being completely renovated. William Reisman and Alex Lercari are doing the decorating.

Phillip Lavine, New England general manager of the Phil Smith chain, may take to Florida, instead of to the West Indies, this winter. The Mrs. is allergic toward submarines.

Fred Sharby has closed the Lyric in Fitchburg for complete modernization by the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. The face lifting includes new booth equipment, lighting fixtures, marquee, and carpets.

Glen Woodbury, operator of the Bethel in Bethel, Vt., Mrs. Woodbury, and their youngster have their eyes on a record turkey for Christmas.

Sam and Frank Savasta, operators of the Orient Palace in South Boston, have a system for cutting down on the pass output. Father and son, respectively, take the phone when an unknown calls in. If the stranger proves to be a chisler, it's the Sabasta special. It's the wrong Sabasta talking.

Joe Ehrlick of the RKO Theatres publicity office has been wondering what happened to that girl who was supposed to meet him the other evening at the Mayfair bar . . . Paul Levi and Marty Glazer have been concentrating on publicity for

the December 21 opening of "Gulliver's Travels" at the Metropolitan.

William Marshall of the local Columbia exchange continued under the weather last week with pneumonia . . . Henry Greenberg, Columbia booker, reports that the Greenberg heir, Stuart, is now taking boxing lessons. The pugilist will be three in March.

Harry Browning, M&P advertising manager, escorted local film critics to New York last week to attend cocktail party and to meet Nino Martini, Walter Connolly and Allan Jones of the "Victor Herbert" cast. Making the trip were Charles Howard and Marjorie Adams of the *Globe;* Helen Eager, *Traveler;* Prunella Hall, *Post;* Leo Gaffney, *Advertiser,* and Joyce Dana, *Record.*

Leonard Kraska, house manager of the Fine Arts, is on the okay list again. Not until the condition cleared were doctors able to diagnose it as the result of a wisdom tooth pressing against the labyrinth of the ear.

Tex Fletcher of "Six Gun Rhythm;" Joan Barclay, his leading lady, and mandolin are in and around the Grand National Exchange for the next few weeks.

Redecoration activities around the M&P headquarters at 60 Scollay Square have culminated. Very impressive is a gold M&P seal at the top of the elevator entrance on the first floor. Somewhat whimsical is the barroom door effect on the fifth floor where the executive offices are.

Joseph DiPesa, Bert McKenzie, Joe and Al Longo had already planted up to the end of last week, five full pages on "Gone With the Wind" . . . Such organizations as the Vincent Club and the Junior League have been tied in with the dual reserve seat opening at the State and Orpheum.

Florence Ware, daughter of a former Ziegfeld star, was in the line which exited this week from the Flamingo.

Maurice Schwartz of the M&P publicity department has had a bad cold, with complications.

Leon J. Bamberger, RKO sales promotion manager, outdid even himself with the novel mailing piece he effected for "Hunchback of Notre Dame." Assimilated copy of the Victor Hugo classic opened box-like to reveal part of the comprehensive advertising campaign that the office has readied for the film.

Horace McNabb, formerly with RKO and now doing publicity for the Latin Quarter, and Mrs. McNabb have a newspaper contest on their hands for the naming of their expected.

Sam and Kenneth Kurson of the Graphic Theatre circuit left last week for a New Hampshire business trip.

Lou Epstein is expected at the RKO publicity offices ahead of "Folies Bergeres" . . . Joseph M. Timilty, Boston Police Commissioner, recently visited Charles M. Koerner, former local RKO division manager who holds a similar position on the west coast.

Mark Jeffrey last week signed the entire western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., for his new juvenile magazine premium deal.

Speed Reconstruction on Lisbon, N. H., House

LISBON, N. H.—Reconstruction work on the Lisbon, recently fire-damaged to the extent of $15,000, has been started, and it is expected that the renovated and improved house will be opened by February 1, at the latest.

Judge George W. Pike, spokesman for Lisbon Theatres, Inc., owner of the theatre, intimated the project might even be completed within six weeks under favorable conditions.

Sunday Shows in Portland

BOSTON—Portland, Maine, has gone for Sunday films by a referendum vote of approximately two to one.

Knight Errant

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—Manager Harry Rose of the Globe has found that no matter how old they are they come to his theatre to hiss the villain and cheer the hero in his serials. The manager's attention was brought to the fact the other afternoon when an elderly man appeared at Rose's office to complain that an usherette had "insulted" him.

Investigation revealed that the girl had merely asked the patron, who was hissing loudly, to be a little more quiet. The man explained that he came all the way from Port Chester, N. Y., each week just to hiss the villain at the Globe. The journey is better than 60 miles for the round trip.

The Proven Leaders of Theatre Card Games!

BONUS BINGO

SCREENO BANKO

In addition to Bank Night, these games are now being used by M&P and many leading theatres in the New England territory to satisfactory results.

It Is Important to Remember . . .

Ever since the beginning of Bank Night we have been the only people who have maintained an office and given every exhibitor legal protection and advice. No exhibitor using any of our games has ever paid a fine or a legal fee!

Remember, too . . .

that no other firm selling games in this territory maintains an office or the services of an attorney to protect exhibitors!

In buying your game from us, you not only get the best game—YOU GET PROTECTION WITH IT—and at the LOWEST COST.

GOOD WILL ADVERTISING COMPANY

14 Piedmont Street BOSTON Liberty 9305

OUR LEGAL STAFF FOR YOUR PROTECTION:

Massachusetts	Connecticut	New Hampshire	Maine
George S. Ryan	Pond, Morgan & Morse	Robert W. Upton	Judge W. R. Pattangall

NEW HAVEN

THANKS to good pictures, say the downtowns, for Thanksgiving business well in excess of last year. The Loew-Poli broke Thanksgiving Day records with "Another Thin Man" and "The Honeymoon's Over." Nabes say Thanksgiving was only fair . . . Christmas in the air now. Exhibitors are planning goodwill parties. Sam Hadelman will cooperate with the East Main Street Business Men's Ass'n in a Saturday morning show at the Capitol, Bridgeport, in which $300 worth of toys, peanuts and popcorn will be distributed to kiddies. A good time will be had by all but the clean-up men.

Fishman Theatres may have special Xmas matinees with candy for the future dish collectors . . . The Devon has tied up with Milford High for a three-day benefit show . . . Loew-Poli houses sold the National Accessories talking Santa idea to Wonder Bread as a tiein. The bread company will pay for the little Santas in the Poli lobbies . . . The College had its annual Journal-Courier *free show for the children who marched in the merchants' Xmas parade. Ice cream and cake for a special treat . . . Community, Oakville, will use pencils as giveaway at special Xmas matinee Saturday.*

Coming attractions: Glen Miller band and headline acts at the Arena, December 30 . . . "Geronimo" or "Victor Herbert" at the Paramount Xmas . . . "Gulliver's Travels" at the Paramount, December 29 . . . The Hardy picture likely Xmas booking for Poli . . . New Year's Eve shows at all Loew-Poli houses with probable preview of feature not scheduled for several weeks . . . Probable Xmas night midnight show with "Four Wives" at Roger Sherman, last year's show having been OK . . . New Year's Eve midnight show at the Branford featuring "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" . . . College may have "Amazing Mr. Williams" for Yule gift.

Columbia Christmas party at Seven Gables Inn with Tim O'Toole as m. c. was a real treat, say Ben Lourie, Sidney Swirsky, Sidney Lax, Al Parizer, Grace Prunelli, Anna Canelli, Elvira Tassanelli, Mary Barone, Freda Kogan and Evelyn Benavento . . . And they're also still raving about Ben Lourie's party. Was it ping-pong that lured the girls and boys to Ben's new cellar? No, no, no, no.

High praise from trade representatives who attended both Windsor openings. The Shulman Plaza follows modern lines. The Lockwood-Gordon Windsor has a Colonial atmosphere. Lou Gordon was in from Boston for the premiere . . . The D. C. Hess Groton opened on schedule without benefit of finishing touches. Both Lou Phillips of Modern and William Hutchins of National put in some last-minute rushing which left them limp. Hutchins installed sound and projection in the new Bridgeport auditorium of the General Electric merchandising and appliance department.

Mushroom theatre growth for 1939 *counts Cascioli's Forest and DeFrancesco's Cheshire next and probably final openings of the year . . . Irwin Wheeler's Ridgefield house may be ready in February . . . Bailey's Whitneyville theatre; Fred Van-Doren's West End, Waterbury; Shulman's Wethersfield house should be early spring openers . . . The enlargement and reconstruction of the Shelton scheduled to start about March. And probably A. M. Schuman's new Black Rock theatre.*

Loew-Poli has inaugurated Movie Party, a revised version of Hollywood Party, at the Poli, Waterbury, with money prizes . . . Amateur nights still a trade-puller in some spots. Plaza, Worcester, has them every Saturday . . . "Folies Bergere" stage show braved Xmas shopping competition at the State, Hartford, and did OK . . . "We Are Not Alone" had a second week at the Regal, Hartford. State also tried Italian films as innovation.

Ben Simon entertained relatives from Philadelphia . . . Earl Wright says goodbye to all this for two weeks beginning the 18th. One in the big town, and another fishing through ice way up north in Tilton, N. H. . . . Ben Lourie gets his vacation beginning Christmas and will spend it enjoying his new home . . . George Comden still holds the record as the district's raconteur. He prophesies the customers will be asking for a co-feature with the four-hour "Gone With the Wind" . . . Rocco Longo reveals the beautiful lady in his Community, Oakville, boxoffice is his daughter, Roselina.

Pete DeFazio is still in evidence at the Warner office, but may be transferred to another territory in a few weeks . . . Michael Tomasino says it's a jinx. Only a few months after the recovery of his son, Charles, from an emergency appendectomy, his nine-year-old daughter was rushed to St. Raphael's for a similar operation . . . Robert Johnson invites his pater, Adolph G., to witness the goings-on of the Ohio swimming team at Fort Lauderdale.

Poli Ushers Club invited the College and Bijou staffs to attend its annual shindig at Baybrook for the first time this year . . . Alexander Preview offering free Christmas trailers with every contract . . . Jules Livingston is doing all right on his football bets . . . Hymie Schwartz has redecorated the lobby and repaired the exterior of his 490*-seat Hillcrest, Taftville, and will now reseat . . . Among the Who's Who seen at the Windsor opening: Lou Gordon, Arthur Lockwood, Sam Rosen, Henry Germaine, I. Levine, Barney Pitkin, Leo Ricci, Lou Moscow, Lou Philips, Sam Seletsky . . . Harold Rubin, formerly with Metro Premiums, Boston, is new manager here, and reports he has placed several deals of sunburst and sharon-rose glass in the State.*

The Yale *News* now prints a time schedule of all features at the local theatres . . . Bob Russell is keeping his fingers crossed after six successive sensational weeks . . . Lou Schaefer presented Marion Stein and Gladys Keller of the Hillhouse Photoplay Club with an autographed script of "Union Pacific" and certificates of award in a recent Paramount contest on the picture . . . Lou also gave the youngsters an inkling of what it's like running a theatre . . . John Hesse used trolley ads once more for "That's Right, You're Wrong" . . . Orchids in the *Loew-Down,* house organ, to the Loew-Poli lads for their lobby tent on "At the Circus" and the prize offering to the first baby born on opening day of "Another Thin Man" in New Haven.

Latest exhibitor headache is Penny Bingo, operated nightly by various organizations in New Haven, with free admission, souvenirs and other opening inducements . . . Says Penetrix in a burst of enthusiasm, "If wars and strikes were to stop production of all new pictures, I'd be quite content to go and see 'Ninotchka' once a week for a long, long time" . . . "Philadelphia Story" closes a week so that Katharine Hepburn can spend the Christmas holidays in Hartford . . . Of the 47 *Warner houses in this zone,* 30 *to* 35 *will have New Year's Eve midnight shows with hard tickets.*

Warner's theatre department reports Merrick Lyons, assistant at the Empress, Danbury, promoted to the managership of the Rialto, South Norwalk. J. O'Sullivan goes to the Empress, Danbury. A. Montefalco, at South Norwalk for a short time, returns to assistant managership of the Commodore Hull, Derby.

BRIDGEPORT

SHAKEUP at the Lyric resulted in four eliminations and Moe Costello coming in as assistant manager . . . Matt Saunders hosted the winning Central High School squad and the losing Harding eleven to see the pictures of their annual game on the screen of the Loew-Poli.

The Majestic and Loew-Poli have returned to Friday openings . . . Morris Rosenthal is boosting up his total in the Dollar Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rose were among the guests at the New Haven Exchange Movie Ball . . . The installation of new seats has been completed at the Globe and other renovations are being rushed for the holidays.

Billy Finn, Loew Poli doorman, was first staff member to win a prize for an exploitation stunt.

Matt L. Saunders is going in for pipe-smoking in a big way. He's got everything from corncobs to expensive makes and can always spare a minute to talk tobacco blends.

Max Coleman, who used to own the West End, came into town as a comic with a show at the Lyric . . . Edgar Lynch, former Warner manager, was in town from Worcester to visit old friends.

Merrick Lyon, assistant manager of the Empress, Danbury, has been named manager of the Rialto at Norwalk. John O'Sullivan has been transferred from Norwich to manage the Empress at Danbury. O'Sullivan is the youngest Warner manager in the state.

PORTLAND

SUNDAY shows won an overwhelming victory in Portland and Bangor, December 4, when the public voted upon the matter, but won by a comparatively small margin in both South Portland and Rockland. Portland approved by a vote of 6,347 to 2,993; Bangor, by a 3 to 1 vote. South Portland passed the measure by only 405 votes, the count being 1,556 to 1,151, while Rockland favored it by barely 350 votes, with a final count of 1,787 to 1,436. Exhibitors explain this close contest in the smaller towns by the fact that up to now shows have not been held there on Sundays since July 20 as they have in the two larger cities. Many other towns are yet to vote on the question.

The Maine Civic which held a gala opening November 20 *with the governor and other high public officials present, is reportedly "closed for reorganization." Although Managing-Director Harry Smith could not be reached for verification, it was learned from a reliable source that the legitimate will be dark at least until Jan.* 1, 1940. *The premature closing was said to have been partially caused by the poor reception given the John Steinbeck play, "Of Mice and Men." The only other production staged during the short opening of the house was a three-day engagement of the San Carlos Opera Co. on November* 20, 21 *and* 22.

While exhibitors in the North Fryeburg area worry over an epidemic of measles which temporarily has closed schools and kept children away from their theatres, those in Lewiston are rejoicing over the announcement a new shoe company is soon to be transferred there from Lowell, Mass. According to Realtor Charles Levin, the Federal Shoe Co. will move immediately and will occupy some 45,000 square feet of space in the old Bates Street shirt factory. The factory will employ approximately 600 in the production of 150 cases of medium-priced shoes daily.

A 15*-minute transcription of "Dancing Co-ed," current attraction at the State, was aired at* 5:15 *Sunday afternoon, December* 10, *over WCSH. A similar transcription of "Gulliver's Travels" already has been planted for December* 29, *when the picture opens at the theatre. Exploitation broke this week with the appearance of advance banners in the lobby, advertisements in the Portland* Sunday Telegram *and* Press Herald *and announcements made during the juvenile program, "Recess Time," aired Saturday morning, December* 9, *over WCSH. The picture's theme song was featured on the* 30*-minute program.*

The Elks' Circus, held at the Exposition Building this week, cut heavily into box-office grosses, much to the chagrin of local exhibitors who are none too happy at best, what with the usual Christmas slump just ahead. To attempt to combat its effect the State for the first time in its history, brought in a double-horror bill, "The Cat and the Canary," (Para) and the "Return of Doctor X" (WB), December 15. Manager Harry Botwick admits it's something in the nature of an "experiment" . . . For its part, the Strand will fight it with "Allegheny Uprising," while the Empire will head its bill with "Barricade."

For the first time in our memory Portland first-run exhibitors have united forces to conduct a "Ten Best Pictures" contest, with a yearly pass being offered by each to the three contestants turning in the most accurate lists of the year's "ten best." The contest is being conducted jointly with the Portland Sunday Telegram *and* Press Herald. *Ten pairs of admission tickets also are being given runnersup.*

The John Divneys, Filmrow's newlyweds, returned this week from their honeymoon spent in New York City. Which left Arthur Allaire, relief manager, free to return to the Paramount in Barre, Vt.

Peggy Seyford, State cashier who has been ill for the past three weeks, was expected back on the job December 11 . . . *Mary Siteman, candy girl at the same house, who underwent an emergency appendectomy at the State Street Hospital more than a month ago, is still convalescing.*

"Recess Time" enthusiasts who attended the juvenile air show at the State, December 9, were made "charter" members of the newly-formed "Recess Time Club." All received membership cards. Credit for the idea of binding the group together by the formation of a "Club" belongs to Harry Botwick, theatre manager, who has due respect for the instinct that makes "joiners" of so many members of the human race.

Sam Berg Boston Cinema Club's Third President

BOSTON — Sam Berg, 20th-Fox head booker, has been elected the third president of the Boston Cinema Club. William Cuddy, RKO booker, was returned to his initial office of first vice-president. Cuddy last year succeeded Harry Martin as president, following the former Universal booker's resignation upon promotion to post of Universal city salesman.

Frank Wolf, National Screen Service office manager, was made second vice-president. Wolf is the only 1940 Cinema Club officer not to be a member of the executive board, governing body which annually names the fraternity's leaders. Harry Smith and Dave Grover, both RKO bookers, were returned to their respective positions of secretary and treasurer.

The new executive board of the Cinema Club includes the above, with the exception of Wolf, in addition to Charles Repec, M-G-M head booker and first Cinema Club president; Harry Schlar of Paramount, and Tom Fermoyle of M&P.

The organization plans to meet the first week in January. Plans will be furthered then for the annual dinner-dance to be held probably in March.

Fred Green Dead

BOSTON — Fred Green, father-in-law of Samuel Pinanski of the M&P circuit, is dead of a cerebral hemorrhage. Surviving him besides his daughter are his wife, and two sons, Maurice and Irving, both prominent in New England theatre circles.

Mrs. Eames Injured

CONCORD, N. H.—Mrs. John B. Eames, recent bride of the prominent Littleton film exhibitor, last week suffered severe bruises when struck by an automobile.

Reiners on RKO Publicity

BOSTON—Harry Reiners has been appointed New England publicity man for the RKO exchange. Joseph Dowden may be his assistant.

Sperling on "Fifth Avenue"

HOLLYWOOD—Milton Sperling will adapt "Fifth Avenue" for 20th-Fox from a novel by Polan Banks.

Scripts "Far Horizon"

HOLLYWOOD—Abem Finkel is scripting "Far Horizon" for Warner. Miriam Hopkins will star.



A Boston Get-Together—

Ginny Simms, lark with Kay Kyser's band; Garrett D. Byrnes, Providence Evening Bulletin's *film critic; the ol' professor Kay Kyser and George French, resident manager for RKO Albee in Providence, get acquainted during the Kyser troupe's personal appearance at Boston.*

PROVIDENCE

PAYROLLS of manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries in Rhode Island continued to mount last month, showing 8.6 per cent increase over the October figure and the largest total in ten years. Figure was $17,489,327, according to statistics compiled by Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. With exception of public utilities, general offices and miscellaneous industries, all other classifications showed pronounced increases over same month in 1938. Iron and steel products concerns were up 64.2 per cent; non-ferrous metal firms up 62.2; wool and worsted mills 31.3; connot mills 23.4; jewelry and silverware industries reported upturn of 20.2 per cent and rubber trades a gain of 17. Total payrolls for month were 14.3 per cent better than in November, 1938.

Eddie Reed, Strand manager, and entire staff received public word of appreciation from R. I. Better Films Council for co-operation in staging the Council's annual "Canned Goods Matinee" last Saturday, in a paid advertisement in the Sunday Journal. *Show drew some 2,200 youngsters and more than 2,700 items of canned goods were collected at the door, for distribution by Council members to various charitable organizations of the city.*

Following a year of negotiations, Loew's State has signed contracts with Local B-129, an IATSE affiliate, unionizing theatre's "front-of-house" staff. Contracts set a six-day week and grant pay increases, latter having been in effect for over a year, since negotiations were first started between union and H. M. Addison, New England division manager for the theatre circuit. Contract runs to Labor Day, 1941. With Loew's staff unionized, IATSE officers expect other first-run houses of city to follow suit shortly. Affected by new contract at Loew's are ushers, doormen, cashiers, porters and other front-of-house employes.

The Strand is planning its employes Christmas party early this year, probably December 18 or 19 . . . The Stadium, Woonsocket, will hold its annual canned milk and groceries matinee for Woonsocket Day Nursery Saturday morning, December 16. Lon Vail, manager of the Lyric, Warren, has set December 19 for his annual Christmas grocery matinee. Door take at that show will be handed to a special committee headed by Public Aid Director W. D. Baggs, who will pack groceries into baskets for distribution to needy families.

Excellent business done by "Port of Shadows," French film, in a first-run showing at the Avon prompted Manager Arthur Goldstein to hold the attraction for a full week.

Special Xmas Trailer

HOLLYWOOD—Under Eddie Selzer's supervision, Warner has completed a special Christmas trailer, titled "The Spirit of Christmas." May Robson and Priscilla, Rosemary and Lola Lane appear. Short will be made available to all exhibitors.

Has New Mouse Character

HOLLYWOOD—Leon Schlesinger has shipped "The Book Worm," a "Merrie Melodie" in Technicolor, to the Warner distribution office in New York. The short introduces "Sniffles," a new mouse character.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

AMONG Christmas gifts sent to Bette Davis was a box of butternuts from the White Mountains of New Hampshire where she recently purchased a summer home known as Butternut Lodge. It was said the film star would distribute the nuts in separate packages to friends in Hollywood as symbolic of her becoming a part-time Granite State resident.

The Somersworth in Somersworth aided the Girl Scouts of that city by presenting "Pack Up Your Troubles," starring Jane Withers and the Ritz Bros., as a benefit performance.

A delegation of the Motion Picture Operators' Union, Local 195, headed by President John H. Callahan, attended the funeral of Mrs. Emelie Mercure, 80, in Manchester.

Leonard Beecher McWhood, noted composer and head of the Dartmouth College music department, died in Hanover, December 4, a day before he would have reached his 69th birthday.

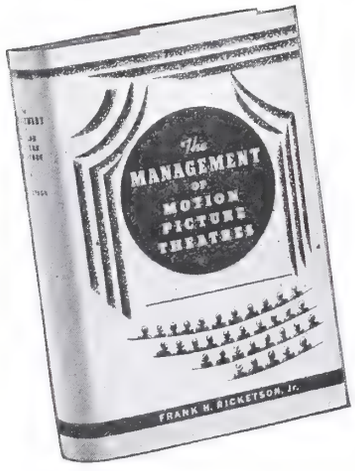
Columbia Party Dec. 18

BOSTON—The Columbia Club plans to hold its 1939 Xmas party on Monday, December 18. The celebration is to move to the Mayfair from the Columbia exchange following a screening and the distribution of gifts among members.

Yawitz to "U" for One

HOLLYWOOD—Paul Yawitz has joined Universal's writing staff on a one-picture deal.

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TEXAS THEATREMEN HEAR BRANDT CALL FOR "MILLION TELEGRAMS" TO HALT NEELY BILL

Opposition Rallies About Judge Roy Walker Of the T. O. P. A.

By V. W. CRISP

DALLAS—One million telegrams must be sent to House members of the Congress opposing the Neely Bill, or that bill will become a law, Harry Brandt, head of the ITOA in New York, told a group of 50 theatre men and distributors who met Tuesday in the Baker Hotel at the call of Judge Roy Walker, of the Theatre Owners Protective Ass'n.

Brandt referred to the bill as having passed the Senate by a big majority. He said 90 per cent of the members of Congress (evidently meaning the House), would vote for the bill unless a million telegrams demanded that it shall not pass.

From this and previous Walker meetings in Texas, Neely bill opponents say this state will soon muster stern opposition to the measure which has gained such admitted headway.

The Walker plan is to divide the state into 21 congressional districts and elect a director for each with responsibility to get these telegrams to congressmen. With four districts represented at the Dallas meet, F. L. Wolfe of Clarksville, was elected for district number one; C. H. Cox, Gilmer, district three; Harold B. Robb, district four, and R. J. O'Donnell, district five.

Three Directors Elected

At previous meetings, Henry Reeve of Menard; Tommy White of Burnet, and Roy Pringle of Fabens were elected directors.

Following the Dallas meet, Judge Walker held sessions with exhibitors at the Texas Hotel, Ft. Worth, on Wednesday and at the Roosevelt in Waco on Thursday. Judge Walker has called a meeting for the St. Anthony in San Antonio on December 19, at the Rice in Houston on December 21, and in Lubbock during Christmas week.

After an informal get together in his rooms during the morning and a luncheon at noon, Judge Walker called the Dallas meeting to order and contended for the need of another exhibitor organization for Texas. He said he first planned a general meeting early this month but decided later in favor of the district meetings.

Judge Walker then called on Karl Hoblitzelle, president of Interstate Circuit, who paid tribute to the memory of the late Jeff Strickland, a lobbyist at Austin for theatre interests. The business is fortunate, he said, in getting a man like Frank Strickland (Jeff's brother) to carry on where Jeff left off.

"We are lacking in intelligence," Hoblitzelle said, "when we don't get together at frequent periods to discuss common problems." All exhibitors should be big enough to waive petty competitive issues of the moment to solve the bigger issues."

Getting into the Neely Bill, and with a copy in his hand, he said there has never been a time "when a piece of legislation so drastic and disastrous as this bill has been before congress."

Referring to the men sponsoring the bill, he said: "I defy anyone to name any sentence which would enable the sponsors to accomplish any of their aims."

Referring to definite provisions of the bill, and relative to synopsis and screening, he said no picture has ever been made, unless it be a "quickie" which was finally produced as first laid out and mapped. No producer ever set out to make a rotten picture, he said.

The Neely Bill, Hoblitzelle thought, would hurt Interstate Circuit the least of all other Texas theatres. He thought that in the end the bill would destroy all theatres of the state, but Interstate houses would last.

Under the bill "all exhibitors would be bound, gagged and their theatres would be delivered to the distributors," he said. After buying the cream of the product at higher rentals, the exhibitor may then find himself in need of more product and go back to the distributor to pick up the mediocre film for as much money as he paid for the cream, Hoblitzelle argued.

At this point, Hoblitzelle poured it on distributors, saying that under the bill a distributor would be like "a hog on ice" and that exhibitors wouldn't have a chance.

As he waved a copy of the bill in his hand, Hoblitzelle said: "You don't need a lawyer to understand it" and asked all theatre men to read the measure for themselves. He said the bill would prevent him from having merchandise on his shelf to sell. He said the film buy is the biggest thing in theatre operation and after that the exhibitor usually takes a sigh of relief knowing he has something to sell for the coming year.

Speaking to the Variety Club on Monday, Brandt stopped over Tuesday to talk to the Texas showmen. His visit to Dallas was unannounced and a surprise to all those connected with the Dallas meeting, they said.

Brandt soon waded in on Allied, making a distinction between "the leaders of Allied and Allied itself." He said Allied leaders "do not represent the rank and file of exhibitors."

Brandt said he had recently been in 18 cities meeting with exhibitors who knew nothing about the Neely Bill, but was glad to know that in Texas there was some knowledge of the issue.

He said the bill will put circuits, independents and distributors out of business. "Read the bill," Brandt said, "and then do anything you want to do about it."

Brandt referred at length to Colonel Cole, Abram Myers and Al Steffes as Allied leaders. He said Steffes didn't know the bill. He said a commission would be appointed and that the Allied counsel (Myers) would be on it. He said he wished Cole were present to hear what was then being said.

At this point Judge Walker dismissed distributors present, trade press and others as he said the meeting would then get down to the business of organization, during which time the directors for congressional districts were chosen.

Hopes for Arbitration Plan

Dallas—Harry Brandt, who made one of the hottest trade talks heard here during recent years, told BOXOFFICE he hoped to work out a system of arbitration "in this business so that the independent exhibitor could solve his problems." He expressed opposition to stars on the air and told of a campaign to stop the practice with producers cooperating. He left Dallas for Philadelphia and from there returned to New York.

Directors of SETOA Decide on Campaign Against Neely

ATLANTA—The Neely bill will be actively fought in their territory by the Southeastern Theatre Owners Ass'n as "detrimental" to the best interests of the industry, it was decided here at a meeting of the board of directors, December 5.

A highlight of the session, in charge of President M. C. Moore, was a two-hour talk by Mitchell Wolfson on the meeting of the MPTOA board of directors which he attended at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

Others in attendance were: Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, who arrived after the meeting got under way, but who, nevertheless, got a big hand; Thomas E. Orr, R. B. Wilby, Oscar Lam, W. R. Griffin, Roy E. Martin, Hugh Manning, Abe Solomon, Tom Brandon, Fred O. Mullin, Lee Castleberry, Mrs. H. T. Woods, Luke Stein and A. E. Adams.

Undisposed Motions in Miami Suit Are Heard December 14

MIAMI—Continuance of the hearing on undisposed of motions for dismissal, to strike certain portions of pending complaint and on the objections to continuance of the taking of a deposition of a film salesman in Texas were docketed for hearing before Judge John W. Holland in the chamber of the district court this Thursday (December 14).

The hearing is a preliminary feature of the pending monopoly trial in which the two new beach theatres, the Cameo and Surf, will allege violation of the Sherman anti-trust law and the Clayton Act, and will ask for cumulative damages, resulting from the practice of the alleged monopolistic policies of the two local theatre organizations and the eight major film distributing companies.

Also to be disposed of at the Thursday hearing were the matters of agreeing upon a form for the order to be signed by Judge Holland covering a general policy to direct the eight film distributors in answering the interrogations propounded to them by counsel for the plaintiffs.

Agreement upon a master before whom a hearing to establish liability for the damages sought will be held as well as a date for such a hearing was also to be settled at the Thursday session.

States Bounds of Questioning

In the written ruling which he directed to attorneys for the principals in this suit, Judge Holland gave decisions about questions which may be asked about film rentals and contents of contracts of exhibition, about the extent to which the inquiry may be extended outside the Greater Miami area to include the entire state of Florida, and as to the time which may be covered in the course of the several inquiries.

Previously the judge had ruled against the disclosure of such information as was conclusively to be classified as "trade secrets." With reference to film rentals and terms of contracts, however, he supplemented his previous statement to add that while specified amounts could not be demanded, that inquiry into terms of contracts was wholly proper. An exception was also made in the case of particular film or films in reference to which it could be demonstrated that different requirements were made from the plaintiffs and the exhibitors who are defendants in this suit. Specific amounts paid for certain selected specimen films might properly be asked, Judge Holland ruled.

When factual matters relative to operations in the exhibition of pictures is concerned, inquiry may properly be made covering the entire state, a further ruling declares. Terms and details of contracts may be questioned, however, only within the confines of the area known as Greater Miami.

While in most instances, the period of time which the inquiry may cover has been limited to 1938 and that portion of 1939 before the filing of the pending suit, the judge decided that queries could be made back to 1935 when relevancy could be shown.

Relevancy may, Judge Holland has ruled, be established by proving that something done, as far back as 1935, constituted the formation of a policy prejudicial to the plaintiffs, particularly if a continuance of such a policy can be proved up to and including the months of the filing of this suit, (January, 1939).

He also ruled on the inquiry as to the existence of a contract or contracts with Y. Frank Freeman or S. A. Lynch or any corporation, owned, controlled or managed by them, giving them exclusive rights to sell films produced and released through Paramount Pictures, Inc. This interrogation should be answered with the furnishing of a copy or copies of such documents as may exist, he decided. If such contract or contracts refer only to the territory in the state, outside the Greater Miami area, it need not be answered, the judge supplemented.

Relative to the affiliation of the Sparks chain of theatres with Paramount Pictures, Inc., Judge Holland stated that it need not be answered unless the chain was exhibiting in the Greater Miami area at the time of the filing of the pending bill of complaint.

"This ruling does not mean that inquiry into any of the contracts with the Sparks interests would be irrelevant, that is, in the Greater Miami area, even as far back as 1935 if the plaintiffs can show that there is any relevancy between any of the activities of the defendants, even as far back as 1935, as showing a practice commenced at that time, continued, and now existing," stated the memorandum filed with counsel in the case, following the chamber hearing of December 2.

"Princess of Lilliput" Hunt Among Miami Youngsters

MIAMI—Newest of the many exploitation stunts being evolved for the significant world premiere of "Gulliver's Travels" at the Sheridan December 18 swings around the naming of a Miami youngster as "Princess of Lilliput." A contest to determine the lucky girl is to be held Saturday night on the stage of the big bandshell in Bayfront Park.

The little "princess" will be accompanied to the premiere performance by a court of six ladies-in-waiting. Entrants in the contest were required to be between five and eight years old and to have blonde hair. Entries were received by the Miami chamber of commerce which cooperated with Publicist Bradfield, in from Hollywood to give the final impetus to publicity and promotion for this first full length Technicolor cartoon to be released from the new Miami studios of the Max Fleischer company.

Assign Jacques Deval

HOLLYWOOD—Jacques Deval has been assigned to script "Strange Honeymoon" for Producer Milton Bren at Metro.

Seek Further Hearing In Dismissal Move

OKLAHOMA CITY—Attorneys for the Griffith Amusement Co. and other defendants in the $4,500,000 A. B. Momand anti-trust action now in federal district court here have filed an application in district court for a further hearing on their motion to dismiss the case. The original motion to dismiss was made by the defendants last March and was overruled by Federal Judge A. P. Murrah in June. The defense attorneys have challenged several points in the decision, overruling their motion.

The case is one of the oldest anti-trust actions in the nation, having once traveled to the U. S. court of appeals where it was ordered brought back for re-trial in federal district court here in order to straighten out certain points in the previous case.

Momand seeks damages based on the Clayton act and the Sherman anti-trust laws for an alleged conspiracy and creation of a monopoly on the part of the Griffith companies and distributors as well as producers. In his petition he sets forth that these acts began when he had a chain of 28 theatres over the state and did not cease until his holdings had been reduced to the one remaining house, the Odeon at Shawnee, which he now is operating.

Standard Moves Toward New Trial in Topeka

OKLAHOMA CITY—The defendant Standard Theatres Corp. has filed a motion for judgment "notwithstanding the verdict" or in the alternative, for a new trial in the case filed against it by Gerald C. Whistler of Topeka, Kas.

Whistler won a verdict in his $15,000 suit in federal district court here. He alleged that he had fallen in the Midwest, operated by Standard, after becoming faint due to the air conditioning equipment in the theatre allegedly having been out of order on the night in June when he attended the theatre.

Miami Beach Plaza Adopts Policy of Name Bands

MIAMI—Miami Beach's largest theatre steps out Christmas Eve with a big time schedule as managing director of the Biscayne Plaza, inaugurates a policy of name bands and stellar personalities to be played with first run features. The opening holiday bill will be headed by Happy Felton's bandmen. There will be two film changes in the four-day presentation, starting December 24 and 25.

Major innovations have been made throughout the house in preparation for this year's anticipated "biggest season." A new rollup screen and sound installation will make available for the stage presentations a playing area 60 by 18. An addition to the main theatre building will house a series of dressing rooms. The entire auditorium is being done over. The new sound equipment is the first of its kind to be installed in this area.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

J. C. SIMS has redecorated his Carolina at Orangeburg, S. C., and added new carpets. Sims also is the newspaper publisher for his town.

C. A. Drake, operating the Drake at Pearson, Ga., reports business is good and that he is temporarily a "widower." Mrs. Drake is visiting in Bainbridge, Ga., for a few weeks.

Called around to take a look at the new theatre Clair Hilgers is building at Albany, Ga., and found the walls going up. Clair, an old film peddler, hopes the house will be ready for opening about January 16. It will seat 412 downstairs and 155 in the balcony.

Visited my good friend Ward Riggins of Jessup, Ga., who is a Southern Gentleman, make no mistake about it. He showed me the utmost in hospitality and courtesy. He had the misfortune recently of having a fire at his Strand which did damage amounting to $3,500. Ward was once a petty officer in the Navy and is a golfer of no mean ability.

J. P. Cummings, operating the Rivola at Douglas, Ga., for the Martin circuit, tells your correspondent plans have been drawn for a new theatre to seat 1,200 to 1,600 patrons. Construction is due to begin in the near future.

Our good friend Herb Ram, who owns and operates the Patricia at Aiken, S. C., is building a theatre adjoining the present one which he will call the Little Patricia. It will seat 400.

They finally finished shooting "The Biscuit Eater" at Albany, Ga., and the Paramount crew has folded its tent and is wending its way back to the west coast. The film is built around the life of that section of the country where bird dogs are king and the quail the *piece de resistance* on every table during the season. A premiere showing will be held in Albany and will have a coast-to-coast hookup over the Mutual System.

C. A. VanDerBurgh recently opened a new theatre at Sallee, S. C., called the New Sallee. He also has another house in the same section.

C. E. Kenner, managing the Albany at Albany, Ga., was in the throes of a Christmas party when I called around to say hello. The admission cost was any old toy which will be distributed among the underprivileged children of his town.

This vagabond ran into an amusing thing recently and here it is: An exhibitor had been operating a nice, small theatre in a central Georgia town, but for some reason or other was forced to close his doors. Before leaving, he put a sign on the front reading, "This is a Democracy and we believe the majority should rule—and the majority elected to stay home." On the other side was this sign, " 'Gone With the Wind' where all good theatres go when they are not patronized." I think he has something there, don't you?

Had a visit with Mrs. Malcom Osman of the Strand at Covington, Ga. She is the widow of Malcom Osman, who will be remembered by many of the trade. She is doing a nice job at the theatre.

Seen here and there over the territory: Carl Cape of the Colonial at Buford, Ga.; Bill Boswell and J. M. Reynolds, operating the Greenland at Greenland, Ga. John Peck of Eatonton, visiting with his father at the Cherokee, Monroe, Ga.; Amos Walker of the Circle at Social Circle, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Rogers, operating at Conyers, Ga.; H. C. Hartz of the Coastal at Ridgeland, S. C.; C. E. Beech, operating the Silvertown at Silvertown, Ga.

Your correspondent has had a most pleasant time visiting here and there in Georgia and South Carolina and deeply appreciates the hospitality and many courtesies shown him. He now hies himself Memphis-way and down towards New Orleans, but with full hopes of returning before he is forgotten.

Dixie Troy Opened

TROY, N. C.—The new Dixie has opened here. The house was built by Dr. Reese Blair and Mrs. J. R. Blair. G. L. Faw, former owner of the Biscoe, directed the construction, equipped the theatre and now is manager.

Re-Sign "Gateway" Winner

HOLLYWOOD—Virginia Vale, one of the "Gateway to Hollywood" contest winners, has been held for another year by RKO.

Expect New Louisiana Chain Tax Measure

NEW ORLEANS—At the last session of the state legislature, Representative Paul Fink of Monroe, introduced a bill to tax chain motion picture houses which was lost in committee. It is understood that a similar measure will be introduced at the coming session in May, to make up a deficiency which in all probability will be needed, as it is possible that the sales tax will be repealed.

The bill introduced by Representative Fink on May 27, 1936, would assess chain houses at the following rates: $100 for each show up to four; $250 for each show from four to 20; $500 for each show if more than 20. It has been argued that inasmuch as the U. S. supreme court has upheld the chain store act which included mercantile establishments, that the court cannot turn down a bill to tax the motion picture entertainments.

Sack Distributes Alliance In Southern Branches

DALLAS—Sack Amusement Enterprises have signed a franchise with Budd Rogers, vice-president and general manager of Alliance Films Corp. to distribute the 12 Alliance feature pictures throughout the southern territory, taking in Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans, Dallas, Little Rock, and Oklahoma City.

Manages New Carolina

WILSON, N. C.—Ervine Stone, who formerly managed the Rialto here, is managing the New Carolina, recently opened here by the North Carolina Theatres circuit. Joe Overman jr., is assistant manager.

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"Wind" Blows In, and Atlanta Marches From Marthasville

(For Review see page 16)

ATLANTA—Scarlett and Rhett and Melanie came home this week and the populace took the town Sherman burned and tossed it into the streets.

The war between the states was fought again as thousands streamed in along the road from Dalton, whence the Yankee general and dysentery inched the march through Georgia.

There were parades and lights, the gala trappings of the world premiere of Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind" at Loew's Grand. There were Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh and Olivia de Havilland and numberless other players and film-company executives, and there were milling thousands and the "Gone With the Wind" ball.

Also:

The slow, still peace of a stately era; the sprawling lure of Tara and the blustering gentleness of Gerald O'Hara; the majesty of Twelve Oaks and the thin blade of Melanie's courage; the termagancy of Scarlett, fired in the crucible of hunger, and nocturnal races through a nameless and misty land; the insouciant grace and pathetic bravado of Rhett Butler; the Gotterdammerung for Ashley Wilkes and his bewildered honor; the burning of Atlanta and the slow retreat to the sea; the reconstruction, and a proud spirit that bent but never broke; the drops of crimson on the red-dust road from Peachtree Creek, and white-haired John Wilkes battle-bound aboard one of Beatrice Tarleton's darlings; the sweet voice of Ellen O'Hara as she called too softly through the years to Scarlett, and the faint fragrance of garden verbena sachet.

These things Atlanta saw, and she approved. Then to emphasize the distance she has come since Marthasville and the war between the states, she sat back and surveyed the current trappings and performance. She saw this, among other things:

An advance ticket sale at $1.10 top nearing $70,000; the greatest crowds ever to push into town for a local celebration; sections of the business district covered over to simulate the atmosphere of the story's setting; a spirited bidding for patronage and whole-hearted cooperation by competitive theatres; one of the longest lists of theatrical, civic and political guests the city has ever housed, and Junior League parties galore.

Not to overlook the fact that the Cyclorama in Grant Park played to SRO business.

Allman to Gurdon, Ark.

GURDON, ARK.—Carrollton Allman, Oklahoma City, has been named manager of the Wright Theatre here, owned by the K. Lee Williams Theatre Corp. He succeeds R. B. Hardy.

Clork Metro Writer

HOLLYWOOD—Harry Clork has joined the Metro writing staff. He will work with the Frederick Stephani production unit.



—Pictorial Press Service

Scarlett and Melanie—

Vivien Leigh (right) and Olivia de Havilland as they paused at the Kansas City airport en route to the Atlanta premiere of "Gone With the Wind."

Teatro El Nacional Opening Colorful

SAN ANTONIO—G. A. Lucchese and his brother, Sam, have opened their newly remodeled Teatro El Nacional. The house, reported to have cost around $75,000 for modernization, was packed the opening night to the second balcony with some 3,500 jammed outside the 1,800-seat house clamoring to gain entrance. City and county commissioners were present.

Feature picture for the reopening was "La Reina Del Rio" (Queen of the River), starring Rafael Falcon who appeared in person with Maurjia Gomez on the stage along with Gabriel Soria, actor-director; Ralph Calderon, El Paso; Rubin Calderon, Los Angeles; Senor Guerra, Mexico City; Juan Salas Porras, Mexico, D. F., and J. J. Jimenez sr., emcee.

Others present for the occasion were Jack H. Adams jr., Dallas; "Stout" Jackson, showman of Alice, Kingsville and Robstown; David Young and wife, El Tiro Theatre, Brownsville, Tex.; Eva Garza, Mexico City; Ralph Labutis, Texas-Valley Film Service; J. J. Jimenez jr., Ramirez Theatre, Cotulla, Tex.; Doug Largen jr., Quigley Publications, and Les J. B. Ketner, Associated Publications, among others.

Following the preview of the Azteca Film, a banquet was held at the Carta Blanca Cafe. About 75 special guests attended the Mexican supper which was served to the producers and stars, as well as the invited Latin-American social colony. Mexican Consul General Omar Josefe also spoke.

An innovation is the new RCA sound equipment system. Architect was N. Straus Nayfach and general contractor was Victor Prassel.

NEW ORLEANS

GUY ADAMS of the Grand at Vicksburg, Miss., made a business call on the Row the early part of this week. He says business in Vicksburg is tops . . . Atlantic Pictures has sold "Tumbleweeds" to the Saenger circuit.

Manager Moosley of the Ritz, Picayune, Miss., was more than a welcome caller on the Row the early part of this week . . . Manager Gagalino of the Community Club, (theatre) while in the city announced that he was preparing for a Christmas tree for the patrons of his house with a community sing December 23. A special program will be arranged for the children, to be divided between the white and colored in different sections during the day, the whites presumably in the morning and the colored for a short period in the afternoon. Toys will be distributed by a real live Santa Claus. Several parties are being made up along the Row to visit Reserve on that day . . . E. L. Drake will open a second house in Ponchatoula, La.

Oscar Doob, director of publicity and advertising for the Loew Theatre circuit, dropped in on his way to Atlanta for a visit with Rodney Toups, local manager of the State.

Marjorie Cooley is expected home from Hollywood to spend the holidays . . . Vic Meyers of the Orpheum and Liberty expected to show the films of the Jack Dempsey-Jess Willard fight pictures on December 14. The films have been gathering dust in a vault since 1919.

The association of commerce is tearing up heaven, earth and the other place to persuade RKO to give New Orleans the world premiere of "Pinocchio." It is said Walt Disney believes that Mardi Gras would be the proper time . . . A series of motion pictures' modern classics will be shown at both the Prytania and Carrolton theatres, United chain, at matinee showings beginning December 27 and 28, according to Mrs. Allen S. Hackett, chairman of the district committee of the Vassar College anniversary fund. Eight films have been chosen, "David Copperfield," "Becky Sharp," "Victoria the Great," "Treasure Island," "Little Minister," "Les Miserables," "Elephant Boy" and "Romeo and Juliet." The series will continue through April.

C. Bennette Moore, 60-year-old photographer, is dead. Moore was the official photographer for aspirants to the stage and screen . . . Charlie Smith, a home boy who appeared in "Babes in Arms," after a vacation with the folks has entrained for Hollywood where he has a part in "The Shop Around the Corner."

Miss Marion Bonomo, private secretary for Joseph Uhalt of WDSU, prefixes a Mrs. before her name—they married a few days ago.

ATLANTA

Atlanta Jolly Club to Disband; Party Soon

ATLANTA—The Jolly Club, composed of local exchange workers, which in the past has helped many needy members of the industry, is disbanding.

Money in the club treasury will be turned over to the local Christmas fund. Members have also decided to hold a final party. Date will be announced soon.

Files Corporation Papers

RALEIGH, N. C.—Towell City Theatres, Inc., has filed papers here with the secretary of state. Principal office is in Kannapolis. Purpose: To maintain and operate one or more moving picture theatres. Authorized capital stock, $10,000; subscribed stock, $300, by Dr. C. R. Bowman, Dr. A. E. Barnhardt and L. J. Correll, all of Kannapolis.

Plan Charlotte Studio

CHARLOTTE—T. J. Carroll of National Film Productions, Inc., of Akron, Ohio, has been in Charlotte to make plans for producing a picture of Charlotte and discuss with local business men his proposal to establish a laboratory and studio here.

L&J-Martin Deal?

COLUMBUS, GA.—The Lucas and Jenkins circuit is understood to be interested in the construction of a new theatre here following a conference with Roy E. Martin, head of Martin Theatres. Details have not been learned.

Ads A'la 1940

AUSTIN, TEX.—Through the columns of the *Daily Texan*, Louis Novy, City Interstate manager, extended his congratulations to Dr. Homer P. Rainey on his formal inauguration as president of the University of Texas.

Novy's statement was as follows:

"Fortunate indeed is the University of Texas to have such an outstanding educator as Dr. Homer Price Rainey selected as its twelfth president.

"Likewise, Dr. Rainey is equally blessed in being chosen to guide the development program of such a great university, where the possibilities are so many.

"It is our privilege to furnish amusement and education to the University students, faculty and community residents through the medium of motion pictures. We believe no finer group of folks exist anywhere. So, we too, consider it our good fortune to count them among our customers, and are happy to cooperate with the University on this and other occasions."

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HAROLD WILKES, district manager for Paramount, is ill.

Jack Lamont, formerly manager of Grand National, now is located in Charlotte with Monogram as branch manager.

John Jenkins, Million Dollar Productions, is now in Chicago and will go to St. Louis from there.

E. L. Gibson, who for many years has been connected with Strickland Industrial Film, has resigned and has gone to work for the state.

Charlie Kerr, booker for Martin Theatres, is planning to spend the Christmas holidays at his home in Longview, Tex. He will also visit Dallas.

J. H. Thompson, Hawkinsville, is in bed with the flu.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Pelegrin, of the Poster Exchange, whose marriage was solemnized December 9, were entertained at an open house on Sunday, December 10, by the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Dumas.

Jack Barrett, Accessory Consolidation Service, has returned from a short visit through south Georgia.

Earle M. Fain, owner of the Valerie, Iverness, Fla., reports he is showing temporarily in a school auditorium since the theatre burned on December 7.

Louise Wynn, Republic Pictures Corp., spent the weekend in Milledgeville.

A. C. Bromberg, or rather "The Chief," after reading the article in the personal column of December 2, makes the accusation that he got the "three bucks" back. As to the correctness of this, it has not been ascertained—but we believe he did get a portion of it back.

Chas. Fortsen, Harry M. Paul, and Roy Malmborg of the Atlanta Wil-Kin office, attended the convention last week of North and South Carolina exhibitors in Charlotte.

J. U. McCormick, Amity Pictures, is back from North Carolina where he attended the convention, and also visited his new grandson, Michael Ashton Matthews, in Gastonia, N. C.

J. H. Thompson, Martin-Thompson theatres, is giving his annual employes' Christmas banquet, December 21, at Hawkinsville.

Filmrow visitors: C. W. Maxey, Royal, Summerville, Ga.; W. R. Griffin, Strand, Cullman, Ala.; Warren Newman, Pastime, Sandersville, Ga.; Al Rocke, Princess, Ft. Valley; Mack Jackson, Strand, Alexander City, Ala.; S. C. Ware, Royce, Royston, Ga.; J. H. Hackel, Ritz, Jacksonville, Fla.

R. L. "Bob" Nowell jr., formerly of the Cherokee at Monroe, was in town for the first time in many months.

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MEMPHIS

R. B. GOOCH of the Ritz at Selmer, Tenn., was host Saturday night, December 9, to a number of film people at a stag dinner at the Chisca Hotel. Among the guests were Tom Young, Mark Sheridan, Ed Williamson and T. I. Baskin of the local Fox office, as well as Tom Young's guest, Charles Clark, Fox branch manager at Oklahoma City, who was spending a few days in Memphis; Joe Jones and Mike Carmichael from Monogram; Winfield Snelson and Loyd Miller from Republic; Buddy Mansfield and Leonard Andrews from Universal; Ollie Williamson, Tony Carruth, Al Moore, John Tomlinson and Earl Hartzog from Vitagraph; Herman Chrisman and Tommy Haynes from Columbia; Al Avery, Jimmy Scheibler and C. O. Niblack jr. from RKO; Pitt Hollis Holmes and Frank Heard from M-G-M, and Frank Neale, Bernie Rappaport, Charles Raunsville and Joe Young from the Paramount office.

Exhibitors seen along the Row: J. W. Crabtree jr., Paramount, Clarendon, Ark.; M. B. Hasty, Joy, Dardanelle, Ark.; W. F. Sonneman, Ozark, Fayetteville, Ark.; Orris Collins, Capitol, Paragould, Ark.; W. F. Ruffin, Ruffin Amusement Co., Covington, Tenn.; G. H. Goff, Rustic, Parsons, Tenn.; W. S. (Shine) Tyson, Grand, Water Valley, Miss.; C. H. Collier, Globe, Drew, Miss.; C. J. Collier, Globe, Shaw, Miss.; B. F. Jackson, Ruleville, Ruleville, Miss.; P. E. Morris, Regent, Indianola, Miss.; Jack Watson, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; Mrs. H. Bruster, Roxy, Dickson, Tenn.; J. D. Courtney, Shelby, Shelby, Miss.

W. J. "Bill" Bugie, Paramount's branch manager, is back at his desk after a week's vacation in Cincinnati where he visited his parents. His little daughter, Jo Anne, accompanied him on this trip. Bugie advises that Charles Raunsville has joined his booking department, replacing Jim Wheatley, who is now with RKO in Charlotte. This is Raunsville's first experience in the film business.

Frank J. A. McCarthy, Universal's eastern sales manager, spent a few hours in the local office this past week while en route from New Orleans to New York. Harry Graham, southern district manager, spent several days here before leaving for the Dallas office.

K. K. King, city manager for Commonwealth in Searcy, Ark., was along the Row advancing his bookings . . . M. A. Lightman of Malco Theatres has bought half interest in the Met in Jackson, Tenn. This theatre was built a year ago by Steve Stein, who is now manager of the house.

Strand Enterprises, Inc., has just moved into its new quarters at 409 S. Second St. . . . Frank Barry, auditor for Columbia, and his wife are visiting the Memphis office . . . W. F. Ruffin of the Ruffin Amusement Co. opened the New Benton at Benton, Ky., December 7. The theatre has been completely remodeled.

H. N. Haddad paid Filmrow his initial booking visit preparatory to the opening of his new Munford at Munford, Tenn., on Thursday, December 14 . . . Jimmy Prichard, Universal's branch manager, as well as Bob Conway, NTS branch manager, are driving new Oldsmobiles.

Ollie Williamson, Vitagraph's branch manager, held a trade showing of "Four Wives" at the Linden Circle . . . H. R. Mitchell of the Linden at Linden, Tenn., was busy on the Row booking. He informs his new manager, Miss Christine Hardy, is recuperating in the Protestant Hospital at Nashville, Tenn., following an appendectomy.

A. P. Brashear, general manager of the American Desk Mfg. Co. of Temple, Tex., spent several hours here with Floyd Schaffer, local representative . . . B. F. Diggs, who has just completed his 700-seat theatre in Paris, Tenn., was on the Row arranging bookings, prior to his opening on the 17th. While here, he subscribed to BOXOFFICE. His house will be known as the Princess.

Durham & Freedom, Okla. Theatres Are Closed

OKLAHOMA CITY—Two theatres outstate have been closed during the past week. F. P. Ward's Freedom at Freedom has been closed, leaving this town without a theatre and J. L. Porter's Longhorn at Durham. The latter is said to be set for reopening next spring.

Rex Into Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK—Rex Amusements, Inc. of New Orleans, La., qualified to do business in Arkansas when it filed a copy of its charter in the secretary of state's office here this week. The company's principal place of business will be at Texarkana. C. N. Houck of Magnolia is agent for the service. The firm lists the value of property to be owned in this state at $7,800.

Cherokee Leases Princess

MARSHALL, N. C.—A. J. Ramsey has leased the Princess here to the Cherokee Amusement Co. of Erwin, Tenn.



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Several New Installations By Dallas NTS Branch

DALLAS—The National Theatre Supply branch announces the latest purchases by the following theatres: R. Emmite's Hollywood, Dickinson, rubber matting; Robb & Rowley's Midway, Dallas, screen; Norman Frels' Norman, El Campo, carpet; Lamar Parish's Dorothy, Huntsville, rebuilt mechanisms and magazines; Simmons and Keasler's Strand, Jefferson, high intensity lamps and generator; Robb & Rowley's Grand, Mineral Wells, mechanisms, stands and magazines; T. M. Hasty's Hasty, Mt. Vernon, sound, projectors, bases, magazines and lamps; Frank Dyson's Texas Queen, Stanton, mechanisms, magazines, pedestals and sound.

Oklahoma Equipment Sales Hit Satisfactory Pace

OKLAHOMA CITY—Equipment purchases for theatres throughout the state have been setting a lively pace according to the reports of two local supply firms.

National Theatre Supply has furnished new booth, boxoffice, carpet and miscellaneous equipment for the remodeling of Southwestern's Plaza in Tulsa, recently damaged by fire. National also has placed projectors in the Lawton Theatre Corp.'s house at Lawton; sold Roy Eakin of Helena, Okla., 252 chairs; the Community Theatre at Aline, 96 chairs; generators and lamps to C. M. Funk for his American at Guymon; new projectors to J. C. Brown, Texas Theatre, Shamrock, Tex.; new screen to Harry Smith at Cement, Okla.; carpet to J. E. Holt, Wigwam, Coalgate, Okla.; projectors, 88 chairs and carpet to Cecil Davis, Ritz at Yukon and new lamps to Mrs. Harry Waldron, Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma Theatre Supply's list of recent sales includes new booth equipment and projectors to Ray Rector, Columbia, Anadarko, Okla.; booth equipment, projectors and sound to Fred Allred, Allred, Pryor, Okla.; booth equipment and projectors to Moody Abrea, Rex, Sentinel, Okla.; 3,000 chairs to the Little Rock municipal auditorium and complete equipment to Roy Eakin for his new Helena Theatre at Helena, Okla.

Woman Manages Franklin

LAVONIA, GA.—Miss A. E. Covington has assumed management of the Franklin Theatre.

AUSTIN

"THE DRAG," the familiar name given the business street that parallels the west side of the University of Texas campus, has been "dressed up" with colored lights (a la Christmas) this season for the first time. The Varsity and Texas theatres hope to benefit accordingly.

Felix McGivney, amusement editor of the Daily Texan, *is in a class by himself. At the beginning of the school term, he signed up for a course called Latin* 202. *He was surprised to find that he was the only one registered for the course. He says he rather likes the idea of individual attention from his prof.*

Theatre Gift Books are being pushed at all local Interstate houses. Priced at $1 and $2.50, the books are being hawked via trailers . . . The Queen doubled up "Call a Messenger" and "The Birth of a Champion" for nice weekend business.

Movietone newsreels caught Ralph Flanagan, star Longhorn free-style swimmer, in action at nearby Barton Springs this week . . . "Pygmalion" recently played its third time on The Drag . . . The Austin has changed its weekly opening time to 5:45 *p. m. Used to be* 6:15.

Two Paul Scott Suits Set

Dallas—Suit by Paul P. Scott, former Dallas theatre man, which has progressed into two cases against the Interstate circuit and Paramount, has been set in Judge Atwell's federal court, one on January 28 and the other on February 8.

Griffith Redistricting Adds Two Sectors

OKLAHOMA CITY—Redistricting of divisions and assignment of division managers as well as establishment of two new district headquarters by the Griffith circuit, has been announced by Company Executive B. J. McKenna.

C. B. "Brownie" Akers has been placed in charge of field operations directly under McKenna following his return to the Griffith organization after completion of the Tad-Alexander merger at Dallas. Brownie was general manager of Tad.

Claude Fulgham will have headquarters in the Oklahoma City general offices for his new district of northern and eastern Oklahoma, it has been announced, while Fred Jackson, city manager at Norman for Griffith, has been made division manager in charge of southern Oklahoma and north Texas properties covered by the local offices. Jackson will establish his division headquarters at Norman.

C. F. Motley will move to Lubbock, Tex., to establish new Griffith divisional headquarters there and will have charge of the territory in western Oklahoma and Texas.

Several Managerial Shifts In Okla. and Texas

OKLAHOMA CITY—Galy Varnell, former Griffith city manager at Drumright, Okla., has been made city manager at Cleburne, Tex., for Griffith, effective December 17, it has been announced by C. B. Akers, Griffith executive.

Other managerial shifts include that of Taylor Joyce, city manager at Hugo, Okla., to the city managership at Drumright, Okla., and Dwight Seymour, city manager at Kermit, Tex., to the city managership at Hugo, Okla.

J. E. Williams Will Open Linden, Ala. Theatre

LINDEN, ALA.—J. E. Williams will open the Diana here in three or four weeks.

B. P. Eposito is opening a new house in Pierre Parte, La., yet unnamed with a seating capacity of 200.

RCA Sound for Hearne

ALBEMARLE, N. C.—E. L. Hearne is installing a new RCA sound system in his Alameda here. He has operated the house for 22 years.

Variety Convention Committees Start Functioning in Dallas

DALLAS—Variety Club, Tent 17, to be host to the Barkers at their national convention in Dallas next April, has named chairmen and committees to marshal the event described this far in advance as "the convention to end all conventions."

While plans are still being worked out, it is known that there will be a big frontier celebration, a street parade with Indians, stage coaches, horses and pioneers of all descriptions. Chief Barker Bob O'Donnell, head over heels in mapping the big coming event, now is somewhat relieved with committees appointed and functioning. His right hand man is Paul Short, chairman of entertainment, and it was rumored that it was ballyhoo expert, Louis Charninsky who went up into Oklahoma last week to arrange for the Indians.

The following committees have been named for the annual national convention. The first-named in each case is chairman:

Executive Control—R. J. O'Donnell, executive chairman; Paul Short, executive vice-chairman; John Adams, executive vice-chairman; R. E. Griffith, Harold Robb, Karl Hoblitzelle, Sol Gordon, Johnnie Long, Jack Pickens, Henry Hall, Col. H. A. Cole, H. S. Leon, Ed Rowley, Rip Payne, Mike Rice, W. G. Underwood, Lee Threet, T. R. Clemmons, Mart Cole.

Executive Finance—E. J. Solon, Lloyd Rust, J. B. Underwood, Rip Payne, Ed Rowley, Ted deBoer.

General Arrangements—J. O. Cherry, Fred Morley, Van Hollomon, Ed Sullivan, I. Brody, Eugene Cilboe, P. K. Johnston, Isadore Charninsky, Charlie Meeker.

Entertainment—Paul Short, Dick Andrade III, Norman Steppe, Buddy Fogelson, Bill O'Donnell, C. V. Jones, Raymond Willie, Lynn Stocker, Frank Starz, Lawrence Oakley, J. O. Cherry, Ed Sullivan, Hyman Charninsky, Fred McFadden, Ben Ferguson, Julius Gordon.

Publicity and Advertising—Frank Starz, Ray Beall, Bill Elliot, John Rosenfield jr., Jimmie Lovell, Eddie Barr, Joe Linz, Fred McFadden, Francis Barr, Forest Thompson, Charlie Meeker.

Souvenir Program—Duke Evans, E. B. Coleman, Don Douglas, Lawrence Oakley, Lynn Stocker, Ray Beall, Jack Chalman, Fred McFadden, Fred Morley, Cliff Porter.

Historical Data—Herb Turpie, Pat Bacon, Al Wolfe.

Railroading "Gateway Special"—John Adams, R. C. Foster, Harry Sachs, Ainslie Wood.

Newsreels—Herman Beiersdorf, Sol Sachs, Dutch Olsmith, L. W. McClintock, Leroy Bickel.

Photographic High-Lights—Lafe Pfeifer, Benny Bickers, Clyde Houston, Walter Penn, Hiram Parks, Louie Novy.

Registration—B. C. Gibson, Ruford Evans, Jack Corrigan, D. A. Dickson, F. W. Allen; clerical work by Miss Bonny Long, Miss Nadine Sinclair, Miss Winifred Cutler.

Transportation—Hugh Owens, Louis Weber, Ainslie Wood, Paul Scott, L. W. Mangold, C. L. McCoy, Lou Baxley, Lou Bissinger, Jack Hyman.

Hotel Reservations—Joe Estes, Roland Taylor, W. S. Miller, C. W. Allen, Jack K. Adams, Cliff Adair, Albert Benbrook, Harry Drollinger, H. W. Leuthstrom, Dr. Robert Neiman, Sidney Denny Pugh, R. A. Crawford.

Greeters—Harry Sachs, Bob Jones, Charlie Rader, Charlie Meeker, W. G. Underwood, Wallace Walthall, I. Brody, Joe Luckett, George O'Rourke, Julius Schepps, John Moroney, Clarence Linz, Buddy Harris.

Courtesy Checking—Herb Turpie, Buck Weaver, Earl Lamb, Roy Thrash, J. I. Roberts, Al Wolf, Ed Blumenthal, Alfred Sack, Harry Harris, Walter King, Charles D. Lyne, C. W. McCormick, Justin A. McInaney, J. L. McKinney, Harold Schwarz.

Sight Seeing—Meyer Rachofsky, Sol Dreyfus, Marshall Brown, Jim Webb, Lester Sack, Harold H. Wineburgh, P. E. Wilson.

Street Parade—Dick Owen, Dr. J. W. Bass, Harold Schwarz, Henry Sorenson, Hap Morris, John Kettleson jr.

Golf Tournament—Burt King, Herman Craver, John Franconi, Ben Bedford, Neil Houston, Harold Schwarz, Elmer Zrenner.

Technical—Elmer Zrenner, C. J. Zern, C. E. Rupard, H. F. Pettigrew, George Houston, Fred Hoenscheidt.

"Frontier Frolic" Party—Louie Charninsky, Ainslie Wood, Fred Hoenscheidt, John Franconi, Isadore Segall, George O'Rourke, Lester Sack.

Photographers, Costume Contests—Walter Henshel, Pat Bacon, Dickie Foy, Jake Elder, Robert T. Hooks.

Food and Service—Lynn Stocker, Fred Jack, Doak Roberts, Don Douglas.

Visitors' Costumes—Raymond Willie, Speed Hoover, Hugh Braly, Wallace Walthall, Jake Lutzer, Lawrence Oakley, Sol Sachs, L. B. Gottschall.

Refreshments for "Frontier Frolic"—Ed Wilson, Ben Bedford, Jo Jack, Bob Jones, J. E. Gribble, L. C. Tidball.

Money Scrip for "Frolic"—Ted deBoer, Mercer Coleman.

Games and Equipment for "Frolic"—George Schepps, Benny Bickers, Oscar Ray, Dick Owen, Dave Lutzer.

Plans 750-Seater

DALLAS—P. G. Cameron, owner of the Peak, is branching out into the bigger time with announcement of a $50,000 theatre near Love Field in the west section of the city. The capacity will be 750 with the floor plan of the stadium or ramp type. Raymond Smith, Dallas architect, drew the plans.

Fire at Cotton Plant

COTTON PLANT, ARK.—Fire, which started in the projection room of the James Theatre here last Saturday night, damaged equipment and parts of the building to the extent of about $2,000, it is reported. John T. James is manager and owner.

Script Next for Wanger

HOLLYWOOD—Walter Wanger has assigned Joan Harrison and Charles Bennett to do the screenplay of his forthcoming film production suggested by Vincent Sheean's "Personal History." Alfred Hitchcock will direct.

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OKLA. CITY

MR. AND MRS. HORACE FALLS (the Griffith Amusement Co. Horace Falls) were hosts for a dinner and bridge which the Queensberry Club gave last week at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club.

Olin Nuckols, manager of the OK State Motor Express, film carriers, has been chosen high priest of Cyrus chapter, No. 7, Royal Arch Masons, here.

John B. Campbell, 59 years old, for the last ten years business agent for the local stagehands union, and stationed at the Midwest Theatre here, died last week of a heart ailment in Wesley Hospital. He was a former city street commissioner and had been connected with the Oklahoma City fire department.

Ben Hill, who used to push UA films, is back in town but choring for Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels" this time. Ben is working Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Dallas on the film which opens at the Criterion here December 29.

The first entry in the Christmas home lighting contest at Enid, Okla., was Mr. and Mrs. George Limerick. George is Griffith city manager at Enid.

C. B. Akers has moved his family back to Oklahoma City from Dallas as he will have his headquarters here while holding down his new Griffith executive post.

Max Brock of Lawton was in town for dedication of the Variety Club's new headquarters and stayed over for a few days. Fred Jackson was also up from Norman and George Limerick down from Enid. More than 200 were present.

And here's last week's Variety Club Bowling League happenings . . . Standard Theatres clipped Griffith Amusement twice while losing one; the Warner five took care of the RKO bunch 2-1; *20th Century-Fox took two from Paramount while losing one and National Theatre Supply won two and lost one in their tussle with Clark's Poster Service. The* 200 *club this week: Love of Griffith with even* 200; *Nuckols of National Theatre with* 204; *Watkins of National Theatre* 240, *and McKenna of Clark's,* 230.

Joe Brock, head usher at the Majestic for the last five years, has resigned to go to St. Louis, Mo., where he has a position with a construction company awaiting him. Bill Thompson succeeds him at the Majestic.

The new setup at the State reads as follows: T. B. Noble jr., managing director; Howard Wheeler, assistant manager; Joe Wallace, assistant manager, and Hugh Halsey, formerly at Dallas, now in charge of exploitation and publicity.

Note—If Andrew Higgins gets the kinks worked out, Christmas chimes are due to ring through the State lobby this season.

Leo Abrams, shorts production sales manager for Universal, was a recent visitor . . . Bill Moran of Southwestern Theatres executive family is back at his desk after a trip to New York City. Bill stopped over at South Bend, Ind., where his two boys are attending Notre Dame. While visiting at the college he saw the Notre Dame football games with Northwestern and Southern California and we understand he will be very happy to discuss them with anyone wishing to talk a little football.

Our rumor scouts have it that the plans for a new house on Southwest 29th St. have been put on the fire again and that a certain local theatre owner has been pricing chairs, carpet and stuff to put into said house.

The Plaza at Tulsa, owned by Southwestern, is being completely remodeled, with new fixtures, projectors overhauled, a new boxoffice and new carpets, all made necessary by a fire which made a mess of the house.

W. J. Kupper, western division sales manager for 20th Century-Fox, and Harvey Day, head of Terrytoons, Inc., visitors here, then off to Dallas.

Cecil Wills of the 20th-Fox office staff is now the proud father of a son . . . Charles Hudgens, our spies state, has set up a new theatre at Perkins, Okla., in the old Lyric Theatre Bldg.

Oklahoma Barkers Name Withington Manager

OKLAHOMA CITY—Don Withington has been selected as the new manager of the local Variety Club and has taken over the clubrooms in the penthouse of the Black Hotel here. The clubrooms, now dedicated, are the most modern of any club in this area, with guests coming in from all over the southwest to give them the once-over.

Seven Orphanages Will Have Christmas Parties

OKLAHOMA CITY—Seven Christmas parties at as many local orphanages will be staged by the Variety Club here the week before Christmas with Bill Moran of Southwestern Theatres, chairman; Sol Davis of Republic Pictures, Brownie Akers, Griffith executive, and Jake Watkins of National Theatre Supply Co. as Variety Club members directing the affairs.

Motion picture shows of late films, with prints provided by distributors, will be shown by the club at each of the Christmas parties. National Theatre Supply is providing the projectors and Griffith doing the transporting. In addition gifts, candy, etc., will be distributed by the club at each of the parties for the youngsters in the orphanages.

This is the first major charity effort of the new tent, recently organized.

Eight New Members Join Oklahoma City Variety

OKLAHOMA CITY—Eight new members have been taken into the Variety Club, according to Scribe B. J. McKenna who announces the new members as follows:

Frank McCabe, Griffith booker; Roy Abey, Griffith booker; Lester Gibbs; Sid Gibbs, Columbia salesman; Leonard Batman, Griffith poster; K. Lee Williams; L. W. Royalty, office manager, MGM, and Bruce Palmer, motion picture critic of the *Daily Oklahoman* and Oklahoma City *Times*.

SANTONE

RECENT visitors to the Azteca Film office were Jose Carabaza, Laredo, Tex.; Michael Benitez, National Theatre, Weslaco, Tex.; Ramon Ruenes, Juarez, San Benito, Tex., and Morris Calderon, El Paso, Tex.

Localisms: Jimmy Lederer, newsreel cameraman, sitting in on the Maury Maverick trial . . . Buddy Welker, Sylvan Barry, Tommy Caraway and Sercy Lacey taking advantage of the ideal golf weather . . . William Rau, Community, Comfort, making his regular Wednesday visit to Henry's place on N. Main.

The Texas is now changing programs thrice weekly . . . El Teatro Nacional new prices are 10 cents balcony and 20 cents downstairs . . . The Azteca exhibited the Dempsey-Willard fight film made 20 years ago.

Over at the State, we are informed Miss Beulah Greene, cashier, is about the oldest ticket seller in point of service who has been working in local theatre boxoffices for the past 18 *years or so. "Miss Blue" is also a member of the Elks Club as official pianist, and last but not least, she is the source of much of the news which you read in* BOXOFFICE *from time to time.*

Interstate is selling coupon booklets for $1 and $2.50 each . . . Special all-colored midnight show Saturday at the Harlem featured a "Jitterbug Jamboree" in conjunction with "Straight to Heaven," an all-Negro talking picture . . . Sollie Childs' "French Follies" played a three-day engagement at the Texas.

DALLAS

WALLACE WALTHALL will entertain with a Christmas party at National Screen Service, commencing Saturday noon, December 23. There will be plenty of eats and drinks for all.

Harold Pickett, former Paramount branch manager, who was all set, according to reports, to go to work for B. R. McLendon of Atlanta as general manager for that circuit, did not start operations in that capacity and the deal is off.

Robert Hooks, Mineola; C. H. Cox, Gilmer; J. C. Chatmas, Marlin; Roy DeVinney, Jacksboro, were among visitors for the week . . . Harold Robb made a special trip to California to see UCLA-Southern California tie up 0-0.

Forrest White, operator of the Ind-Ex Booking Service, accompanied A. H. Truitt to Amarillo last week to look over the situation in connection with opening of the new Star Theatre in the western city soon. White will do the booking for Truitt's new house.

Homer Mulkey and Mrs. Mulkey of Clarendon, were Dallas visitors this week. She did Christmas shopping and bought things for their "grandbaby" who is the son of Lee Bell, house manager of Homer's theatres, but no relation.

FOTO-NITE UNDER FIRE IN COURT AS LOTTERY; IF CROWN WINS, WAVE OF GIVEAWAYS MAY END

War Film Supporters Preponderantly Male

EDMONTON, ALTA.—War pictures appeal mainly to young soldiers and other men, while for women theatregoers they have virtually no appeal at all, in the opinion of Edmonton theatre managers, who discussed this question at a recent meeting.

In the experience of Arnold Entwistle, of the Entwistle Theatre chain, while showing "Real Glory" at the Strand, 70 per cent of those attending were men. Walter Wilson, manager of the Capitol, discovered that some women, upon being told that a certain picture being shown dealt with the subject of war, refused to enter the theatre at all.

William Long, manager of the Rialto, stated that in his opinion a well-directed picture, with actual scenes of battles between any of the belligerent countries, would attract large crowds. Wilson believed the average theatre patron was amply satisfied with the adequate war news reels which are now shown at all theatres.

The consensus is the public is turning more to comedy pictures than those of a more serious nature, "The Housekeeper's Daughter" and "Eternally Yours," both comedies, did exceptionally well at the Rialto, reported Long.

Prison stories and murder pictures are both outdated, the theatre managers declare. Theatregoers, having been fed an almost steady diet of these types of pictures, are steadily turning away to those of a lighter nature.

Business, after the first shock of the outbreak of war, when for about two weeks attendance showed a decided drop, has steadily increased, the managers stated. A desire to seek diversion from the worries of war has contributed in a great measure to this increase, they believe.

Modify Juvenile Ban for Run of "Wizard of Oz"

MONTREAL—If accompanied by parents or other adults, children under 16 were admitted to the Imperial for the showing of "The Wizard of Oz." Co-featured was "Pack Up Your Troubles," with Jane Withers and the Ritz Bros.

Since the destruction by fire of the Laurier Palace here over ten years ago when over 70 children lost their lives, children under 16 have not generally been admitted to theatres in Quebec province

Last year, the juvenile ban was lifted temporarily for "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Canada's Criminal Code Is Allegedly Violated By Two in Toronto

By MILTON GALBRAITH

TORONTO—The giveaway wave, which has reached its greatest proportions on record, may come to an abrupt halt if the decision in the Foto-Nite test case now before the courts is a victory for the Crown. The solution of the situation which features crockery, ovenware, toilet goods, electrical appliances, cash prizes, tokens and other premiums may come automatically for the exhibitors of the Dominion, both independents and chains, with the legal ruling that such inducements are against the law. Famous Players Canadian Corp. recently adopted one of these award stunts, whereas the company previously had restricted its gifts to fan photos, which it deemed film advertising.

Wide interest has been taken in the prosecution against Vito Simone and Carruth Bowen of the Radio City and Beverly theatres here on charges of conducting a lottery by operating a Foto-Nite, the claim being made that this is a violation of the clauses of the Criminal Code of Canada which prohibit a lottery. Previously the officers of the morality department of the Toronto police force had entered the premises of these and other local theatres and seized records, coupons, advertising displays and other equipment for use as evidence. Charges followed.

Enter Not Guilty Plea

Simone and Bowen entered a plea of not guilty when arraigned and elected trial by jury instead of summary hearing by the magistrate, the accused being granted bail until the case comes before the jury assizes of the criminal court in January. Appearing for the defense was A. G. Slaght, one of the most famous of contemporary Canadian lawyers and prominent in the political sphere.

At the preliminary hearing, reference was made by the prosecution to the Bank Night stunt which was alleged to be similar, attention being drawn to the judgment of the Alberta court of appeal against a Bank Night operator in the Canadian West. It is possible this decision will be utilized as a precedent in the Foto-Nite case in the Ontario courts.

The several Toronto theatres involved are units of Associated Theatres, Ltd., a chain operated by O. R. Hanson. An affiliated company, Sterling Film Distributors, Ltd., has been sponsoring the Foto-Nites in numerous Hanson and Famous Players houses across Ontario.

Gets "Red Cross Nurse"

HOLLYWOOD—Jack Andrews is scripting "Red Cross Nurse" for Producer Raymond Griffith at 20th-Fox.

Morning Matinees for Juveniles Succeed

EDMONTON, ALTA.—Early morning theatre openings, for pictures that are of special attraction to children, are being strongly advocated by theatre managers in Edmonton.

Opening at 8 o'clock, the Capitol was crowded by 10 a. m. when the "Wizard of Oz" was showing, reported Manager Walter Wilson, while Charles Straw, manager of the Empress, experienced a rush with "The Lone Ranger Rides Again."

Managers believe reduced prices are mainly responsible for this. They find, however, that attendance in Edmonton is better in this respect than in most western Canadian cities.

All previous records for attendance, save that of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" were broken when the Alexander Korda production, "The Lion Has Wings," showed at the Capitol Theatre, Manager Walter Wilson announces.

Although feeling among managers in Edmonton has been that war pictures and pictures dealing with various aspects of war would not prove attractive to the theatre-going public, attendance at this picture shows that, in moderation, pictures dealing with war do prove an attraction, stated Wilson.

Despite the many new demands which the war has made on charities through the theatre, underprivileged children will not be forgotten this year. At the Capitol on Saturday morning children were admitted who gave a broken or old toy to be presented to the Boy Scouts Christmas toy repair shop.

In addition to the collection of broken toys all members of the staff, including the projectionists, gave free services during the performance.

Famous Players Payments On Common Total $1.00

TORONTO—Famous Players Canadian Corp. will close the current fiscal year at the end of this month with a record of dividend payments totaling $1.00 on the outstanding common stock including the cash distribution of 25 cents per share to be made December 29. This total is equal to the largest annual dividend disbursement in the company's record in spite of the complexities of war.

The total of common dividends in a year has been as low as 35 cents but it has reached the dollar mark both in 1938 and this year because of financial economies effected and company expansion, as well as increased business revenue.

MONTREAL

MONKLAND AVENUE will be Filmrow for at least another five years. Distributors have signed leases for that period, definitely putting into the discard plans to erect a building downtown . . . Smiles on the faces of Manny Brown, manager, and Tom Dowbiggin, sales manager of Paramount, elicited questions and brought out the information they have already signed up 90 per cent of the business they had calculated on for 1940. Over 100 exhibitors have signed to date.

"The Great Victor Herbert" was screened by Paramount and created a fine impression amongst the exhibitors. "Rulers of the Sea," which stars Will Fyffe, is another Paramount magnum opus. It is being shown at Loew's. Both Brown and Dowbiggin are enthusiastic over Paramount's 1940 *production program, declaring the pictures in sight are the greatest yet produced by that organization.*

Filmrow is looking eagerly ahead to the Christmas dinner arranged by the Filmrow Board of Trade. It will be held in the Stanley Grill and every employe will be a guest. There will be gifts for all the girls employed in the various offices. The dinner is made possible through the generosity of John Ganetakos, managing director of United Amusement Corp., Associated Screen News, Dominion Sound Equipments, Ltd., and Arthur Hirsch of Consolidated Theatres. Entertainment will be entirely supplied by members of the exchanges.

S. Morgan-Powell, noted film critic of the Montreal Star *and for some time assistant editor, has been promoted to the post of editor-in-chief, in succession to the late Dr. Albert Carman.*

Ben Garson, who operates the Midway, Electra, Verdun Palace and Perron Hall, Cote St. Paul, expresses the opinion that working class districts are the best locations for independent theatre owners. "Workingmen and girls will visit a neighborhood theatre as often as three times a week if the program changes that often, whereas well-to-do people have so many other interests they go less often to 'the pictures,' and if they do want to see a film are likely to go on its first appearance at one of the larger uptown theatres."

Opening of the winter musical season has brought intensified competition for motion pictures. The opposition includes Charles Farrell, screen star, in person, playing the stage success, "Seventh Heaven," at His Majesty's; Mischa Elman and Yves Tinayre, Parisian singer, at the same theatre; "Pirates of Penzance" at the YMHA; Irene Bordoni at Chez Maurice; Saturday afternoon organ and choir recitals, and, at the Forum, "Ice Vanities," as well as the regular hockey and wrestling matches.

Dionne Quintuplets have donated, through their guardians, $1,000 to the war campaign fund of the Canadian Red Cross . . . Quebec as a winter sports paradise will be publicized in the United States through two shorts, "Winter Playground" and "Ice Cutters," the latter film on McGill grounds in Montreal, the former in the Laurentians.

Lionel Shapiro, local journalist, who is Broadway commentator for the Montreal Gazette, *suggested in his column rather jokingly that a civic holiday should be declared in Atlanta and a state holiday throughout Georgia to mark the inaugural showings of "Gone With the Wind." To his astonishment, both suggestions were officially adopted. December* 18 *is the holiday.*

Films are becoming more and more effective as commentaries on the news. People who knew little about Finland were brought up-to-date in a showing at Quebec of educational films on Finland, Sweden and Norway, displayed to Kiwanians by E. C. Woodley, special officer of the department of education.

In a gesture of appreciation the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, prime minister of Canada, autographed two photographs taken of him during his broadcast on October 27 *by Roy Tash of Associated Screen News . . . ASN reports outstanding success over Canada for its short, "The Democratic Way" . . . Allan Grayston, a member of ASN's still department who volunteered for overseas duty, has been transferred to the Active Service Front.*

Though children cannot attend theatres here, they see plenty of films at amateur entertainments which makes it all the harder that the theatre should be deprived of their patronage. A Universal picture, "Flying Hostess," was shown to youngsters at a club entertainment in Notre Dame de Grace.

Sir Phillip Gibbs, war correspondent and novelist, attended a two-hour film show in a barn on the Western Front where two men operated a movable outfit for the benefit of the troops, showing "Mickey Mouse" and other favorites from one end of the line to the other.

Opening night of the handicap bowling for Christmas turkeys in the Filmrow Bowling League resulted in four turkeys being awarded. Winners were Miss Lyda Campbell of Regal and Miss Gertrude Chorlton of United Artists, for ladies' high single and high three, respectively, and A. J. Jeffrey, United Artists, and William Murray, United Amusement, for men's high single and high three. There will be two more turkey contests.

Many improvements are being made on Filmrow, which, according to Tom Dowbiggin, is "having its face lifted." Paramount's screening room is being air conditioned, and Warner is fitting up a recreation room for their Pep Club.

Theatre managers and staffs are having things a little easier owing to the preholiday lull, but are active in preparations for the Christmas and New Year's midnight shows. A preliminary canter in this direction was the action of Morris H. Katz, manager of the Seville, in starting a late show at 10 p. m. with prices reduced to 25 cents after 9:30 p. m.

Dentelbeck Re-elected by Toronto Projectionists

TORONTO—Charles A. Dentelbeck, pioneer projectionist of Toronto and director of projection for Famous Players Canadian Corp., has been re-elected president of Toronto Motion Picture Operators' Local No. 173 of which he has been a member since 1914 and of which he has been president since 1917 with the exception of the years 1930-31-32.

Other officers elected for 1940 include: Vice-president, Arthur Kerrins, Uptown; secretary-treasurer, Arthur Milligan, Tivoli; recording secretary, Harry Jarmain, Runnymede; directors, G. H. Jones, Tivoli; C. Wells, Shea's; Jack Stringer, Christie; Walter Hulse, Casino; delegates to international convention, Arthur Milligan, Dentelbeck, and Dave Siegel, the latter of the Casino.

W. P. Covert continues as business agent on a three-year term and G. H. Jones is assistant business agent. Covert is second international vice-president of the IATSE of which he has been an executive representative since 1918.

Reports brought in at the annual meeting revealed that 98 per cent of the theatres in Toronto are organized, with the addition of two houses recorded recently. Actually, only three neighborhood houses do not employ members of Local 173.

Musical Composition Fees To Remain Same in 1940

OTTAWA—The fees charged to Canadian theatres by the Canadian Performing Right Society, Ltd., for the use of musical compositions will remain unchanged in 1940, according to the application to Copyright Appeal Board of the Dominion government for approval of the organization's schedules of royalties for the coming year. The Society will continue the graduated seat tax for cinemas which has been in effect in 1939, the dues to become payable immediately after the New Year.

The Society has again proposed to raise its fee for the broadcasting of musical compositions under its control, the increase to be from 8 to 14 cents per radio receiving set, the number of licensed radio instruments to be apportioned among the broadcasting stations. This move has been opposed before the board by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, the latter representing the independent studios.

"The Royal Visit" Bows To Brilliant Audience

TORONTO—A brilliant audience of military officers, Red Cross officials and leaders of society was present at the first formal performance of the Canadian government feature, "The Royal Visit," at the Eglinton here, a Famous Players' house, when Manager Robert Eves appeared on the stage to deliver an appropriate address. Ten per cent of the gross receipts from the whole engagement are being turned over to the Canadian Red Cross.

TORONTO

THE Canadian premiere of "Gulliver's Travels," Technicolor cartoon feature, has been booked into the Toronto Uptown for Christmas week under the direction of Manager Fred Trebilcock.

Charlie Dentelbeck, outstanding Canadian projection authority, observed his birthday December 12 and was duly feted at Famous Players' head office. James McDonough, manager of the Grant at Galt, Ont., and formerly of London, had his birth-date booking on December 16 while W. P. McGeachie, veteran manager of the Algonia at Sault Ste. Marie, is mixing two celebrations with his birthday on December 22 and Christmas three days later.

Finlay McRae, son-in-law of the late Harry Brouse, noted Canadian showman, lost out in his bid for the 1940 Mayoralty of Ottawa when the present incumbent, Mayor Stanley Lewis, was returned to office with a majority of 3,400. McRae, who is now a member of the civic board of control, will thus be out of municipal politics for the coming year.

For the showing of "The Royal Visit" as the attraction at the Tivoli, Manager Leon Bishop used the standards and banners along the streets leading to the theatre which had been used for civic decorations when the King and Queen visited Toronto last May. Using floodlights on the big banners, the night scene in the vicinity of the Tivoli was very colorful.

Cliff Yonsen of the audit department of Famous Players' head office, is down with appendicitis but is showing nice recovery.

"Ted" Doney, formerly manager of the Capitol, St. Thomas, who was one of the first to enlist for service with the Canadian Overseas Army, is already slated for promotion to the rank of major. On the outbreak of war last September he enlisted as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. His address was recently changed to "Care of Base Post Office, Canada."

Hector Charlesworth, critic of Toronto Saturday Night and former chairman of the Canadian Radio Commission which was succeeded by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., was heard as a guest speaker over the network which he helped to create in a 15-minute talk on amusement trends and features.

Jack W. Nelson, manager of the Capitol, North Bay, was down to Toronto and gave the latest news about the Dionne Quintuplets, who live a few miles from his town. They have not yet been permitted to attend a show at his theatre but he is living in hope that he will be the first to have the famous Quints as patrons.

Ben Whitham, eastern supervisor of maintenance for Famous Players, has been making a tour of inspection. Plans have been prepared for a new front for the Capitol at Hamilton to which Dan Krendel of Toronto has been transferred as manager.

Tom Daley of the Imperial secured a swell tie-up with the big T. Eaton Co. department store for the short, "Information Please," with several prominent windows, one of which showed a male dummy listening to a broadcast of this program with a couple of bottles beside him, one of which was Canada Dry ginger ale. Another window had dainty female figures with an appropriate display announcement.

Frank Justin and Bud Barker recently flew over Filmrow in an airplane when they were delivering a rush-order print. Both are in the film business and both are airmen.

Simon Meretsky, owner of three theatres in Windsor, Ont., declared during a business trip that he is happy once more, now that the Canadian Chrysler plant is operating once more at full capacity with 3,000 employes after its shutdown due to the recent strike in Detroit. Many other automobile industry workers were also affected.

James Larkin, manager of the O'Brien at Altmonte for the past 12 months, has been promoted to the management of the O'Brien at Pembroke, Ont. These houses are among those operated by the Ottawa Valley Amusement Co.

M. A. Milligan, general manager, and W. J. O'Neill of the Paramount Film Service head office at Toronto, have returned from a trip to the branch at St. John, N. B., of which P. J. Hogan is manager.

In cooperation with the University of Western Ontario, Manager W. K. Trudell of the Capitol, London, staged a Sadie Hawkins Night to which many co-eds brought their heart-waves as personal guests.



Visits a Set—

N. L. Nathanson, head of the Famous Players circuit, chats with George Brent on the set of "We Shall Meet Again" at the Warner studio.

Horace Lapp, prominent theatre conductor, headlined an entertainment with his orchestra at the Toronto Exhibition Camp for the soldiers in barracks there. During the past summer season Lapp was featured at the swanky mountain resort at Lake Louise in the Canadian Rockies.

Famous Players Canadian Corp. has announced several more manager changes with E. C. Lackey going to the Victoria, Vancouver, replacing A. L. Zetterman who has been transferred to the Broadway in that city. Phil Tucker has been made manager of the Capitol, Kamloops.

The Canadian government apparently does not need all of its big guns even with a war in progress because Manager James Lynch of the Runnymede was able to borrow one for a lobby display for "Our Fighting Navy," to a performance of which the naval unit in Toronto paraded complete with band.

Victor Wagner, theatre orchestra conductor who died at Rochester, N. Y., in his 64th year, was born in Toronto and spent a considerable number of his years here. In the years following the Great War he had been the director at the Rialto and Rivoli in New York City and recently had been with the Eastman in Rochester.

Manager J. Marshall of the Rideau, Ottawa, is presenting a weekly amateur musical revue in conjunction with a double screen bill. An amateur stage show is also being given at the Imperial in Ottawa by Manager I. Singerman.

Lloyd Mills of the Elgin, Ottawa, has been providing an extra service in the form of news bulletins for important local events. He gave the screen announcements for the civic elections and has also been flashing the scores of important football games.

Ross Trimble, formerly with the RKO Distributing Corp., Toronto, came within a few seconds of football fame in the Canadian gridiron championship final on December 9. The Ottawa Rough Riders, of which he has been the coach, were leading in the All-Canadian playoff against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers when the latter emerged victors with a score in practically the last play of the battle. Previous to this match, the Riders had cleaned up every team in eastern Canada and the film trade enthusiasts had cleaned up nicely too.

Fred Masters jr., now with the Royal Canadian Air Force, was given 36 hours' leave and spent the time with relatives and at Famous Players offices where he was employed before enlistment. He is in training for service in Europe.

Charles Henry Dawson, long with the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau, suddenly collapsed and died despite immediate medical attention while entering Trafalgar House to attend a war veterans' meeting. He was 52 years of age and served in the Great War.

WINNIPEG

BUSINESS in the city is reported as very good with all houses sharing the high returns. With the holiday season drawing near, record business is expected. With the war situation a permanent feature to which the public has become accustomed and with no important competitive attractions in sight, boxoffice draws should reach new heights.

The sing-song which Don Gauld has introduced as a Thursday night feature at the Metropolitan is turning out very well. In its second week the feature was an improvement on the opener and drew better crowds. There is every indication that its popularity will grow with the passage of time and bring worthwhile returns to the house. The second week's show featured the Winnipeg Grenadiers band and a group of soldiers from that body. Judging from the compliments that are being passed around about the show Don Gauld is to be complimented on a smart piece of work.

A Yiddish language film, "The Light Ahead," opened Friday to excellent houses and seems good for an extended run. The film is being exhibited by Jack Kurk, local lad who is well-known along Film-row . . . At the Garrick "Intermezzo" goes into a second week.

For some reason or other which showmen claim cannot be explained in any logical fashion, one house always seems to do better than any other with films of a certain type. This is certainly the case with horror films when they play the Lyceum. This week "The Cat and the Canary" has been packing the house.

With the Winnipeg Blue Bomber football victory over the Ottawa Rough Riders in the play-off for the Dominion championship, local houses are assured of a newsreel depicting the victory and which will have tremendous drawing power when it makes its appearance here.

Forward-looking showmen are expressing interest in the prospects of the junior hockey season this winter. It is understood that the junior league is expected to produce some of the best hockey seen here for many years. If this prediction should materialize, there is no doubt that junior hockey games will prove a potent counter-attraction to the film business. Managers are waiting to see what will happen.

Portrait of the week: Eddie Newman caught in the act of giving his Lyceum staff a pep talk on the Christmas gift ticket books which that house is pushing. Eddie was really going to town with a first-class oration.

The mildest winter in the memory of the oldest living inhabitant has altered the customary frost and snow aspect of the Christmas season. Business men are complaining that their ordinary season has been ruined. While this has not had any noticeable effect on the show business to the present, the upset may exert some influence in the future

Haskell Masters, general manager for UA, is in Winnipeg . . . J. Miles, president of Western Theatres, Ltd., has returned from Toronto.

Jack Arthur Works All the Time to Entertain Troops

TORONTO—When medals are being presented for service during the war, one man who should get one, although he is a civilian, is Jack Arthur, district manager of Famous Players Canadian Corp., who is working night and day for the entertainment of all ranks of the Canadian Active Service Force in various Ontario camps under the auspices of the Civilian Committee for Troops in Training.

In addition to his everyday duties as a theatre supervisor, Arthur has organized numerous picture, vaudeville and musical shows for the troops in barracks at the Exhibition Camp, Toronto, where the music pavilion has been converted into a theatre with equipment provided by Famous Players. He has also arranged for the sending of shows to Camp Borden, in the Georgian Bay district of Ontario, where many soldiers were not being looked after until the committee got busy. Further, Arthur is digging up talent for special radio programs on the Canadian network which have direct appeal to the soldiers, aviators and sailors.

Complete programs are being organized several times a week for the troops in the camp at Toronto and a wide variety has been provided by Jack Arthur thus far. Films are being sent by airplane to Camp Borden at frequent intervals. President N. L. Nathanson of Famous Players, who is also a governor of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., is chairman of the Radio Program Sub-Committee for the troops in training while Henry L. Nathanson, general manager of Regal Films, Ltd., is chairman of the Motion Picture Sub-Committee.—M. G.

Duff Adapts "Heights"

HOLLYWOOD—"January Heights," which Warner will make starring Miriam Hopkins, is being adapted by Warren Duff.

CALGARY

AL ISCOVE, manager of Grand National Films here, returning from a trip through southern Alberta reports continued improvements in business in that territory. The company's timely productions, "France Is Ready" and "Double Crime in the Maginot Line" are playing extended runs in Lethridge. "France Is Ready" opened for a week's engagement in Calgary's Strand where capacity business prevailed. A private screening was arranged for the mayor, city council, press, military authorities, and members of the clergy. Screening was played up in the news column and the editorial pages of the dailies.

Didsbury folk are taking some pride in their theatre which has been entirely remodeled. The Mayfair at Olds, in the thriving district of central Alberta, has been equipped with new seats.

Mild weather for the past four weeks in the Calgary district has retarded the usual Christmas shopping rush, to the plaint of the merchants, who are expecting a last minute rush, and the benefit of the picture houses. Weatherman promises more seasonable climate for the last ten days before Christmas.

VICTORIA

MANAGER Marc Prieswerck and assistant-manager Johnny Garrard of the Atlas went the limit in lobby displays when they placed a 1940 sports model Bantam Austin automobile in the lobby to advertise the showing of "Bachelor Mother." A cutout beside the car read "This Baby Austin Wants to be Adopted by a Bachelor Mother." Baby diapers on which were printed advertising matter about the picture were hung over the car.

Miss Florence Gillis has left the Capitol to be married to Loy Evans, British Columbia radio announcer.

The lobby of the Dominion Theatre has been redecorated with tapesty scenes depicting the days of Sir Walter Raleigh and Queen Elizabeth. An electric fireplace greets the patrons as they enter the theatre and it looks so real that some of the patrons have thrown cigarette butts into it. Sand trays decorated with tapestry depicting square riggers are also new additions to the lobby.

To advertise the showing of "Golden Boy" at the Dominion, tieups were arranged with clothing, jewelry, music stores and restaurants.

Work on the remodeling of the Columbia is nearing completion and it is expected to open around December 25 under the new name "Rio."

For the showing of "Jamaica Inn" at the Capitol a tieup was arranged with Terry's Drug Store which distributed copy on the picture with all purchases and featured a model of a Spanish galleon in the window. A local tailor tied up with clothes display of that period and today.

"Double Crime in the Maginot Line" proved a good drawing card at the Dominion. A special cutout was placed outside the theatre with realistic pictures of trenches.

Theatre Game 'Hollywood' Into Several F-P Houses

TORONTO—Famous Players Canadian Corp. is planning to use theatre games in several of its theatres.

Shortly after the first of the year, the circuit will begin using the game of "Hollywood" in several of its houses in Canada. Jack Arthur, district manager of the circuit, was visited here recently by O. K. Fischer, vice-president of Hollywood Amusement Co. of Chicago, when the deal was completed.

Already, the Empire, Windsor, a house in which the circuit is interested, has been using the game.

J. O. Scott Deputy Reeve Of Weston Town Council

TORONTO—J. O. Scott, who was prominent several months ago as the chairman of the Anti-Protection League of Canada, has been elected deputy reeve of the Town Council at Weston, Ont., where he is the proprietor of the Weston. The League was organized to seek reforms in the clearance and protection structure for Canadian independents.

M-G-M (16) 90 Minutes Rel. Dec. 22, '39

Reporting on the merits of a Hardy picture becomes routine procedure, like the stamping of 24 karat on ingots of pure gold. This latest development in the life of the irrepressible Andy is no exception and, following in the footsteps of its worthy and ultra-popular predecessors, is a nugget of unadulterated entertainment. Master Mickey Rooney and veteran Lewis Stone again dominate the cast, substantially the same as in others of their series, with a few additional players who contribute comparably excellent bits. In theme there is a slight variation inasmuch as a serious strain is introduced which, in the opinion of most Hardy fans, will prove an extra asset; particularly since sufficient of the original tone of comedy and homely philosophy is retained. Direction by George B. Seitz is characteristically deft and restrained.

Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Cecilia Parker, Fay Holden, Ann Rutherford, Henry Hull, Maria Ouspenskaya.

Judge Hardy and Son F Comedy Drama

RKO Radio (014) Rel. Jan. 19, '40

Sophisticated adult entertainment, splendidly enacted and demonstrating that the recently noticeable improvement in this company's program product is no flash in the pan. Story is the familiar one of the husband, married to the plain wife, who encounters his old college love and is forced to decide between the two women. In this case, however, the expository technique is so well handled and John Farrow's direction so competently develops the theme that it is sure to win the approval of audiences who are a bit tired of formula fare. Cast names will mean nothing on the marquee, but that does not prevent Alan Marshal, Barbara Read, Patric Knowles and Helen Vinson from establishing themselves as excellent Thespics who, given the right material, could be built into boxoffice draws.

Alan Marshal, Barbara Read, Patric Knowles, Helen Vinson, Hattie Noel, Frank Faylen, Carol Hughes.

Married and in Love A Drama

Republic (941) 70 Minutes Rel. Dec. 15, '39

Taking the title from the currently popular song, the producer of this Gene Autry western has built a varied and colorful story which will probably make it the number one Autry film of the year. There is plenty of change of scene. Comedy is frequently injected. But music and romance take the first place. All in all, it is decidedly not the usual western but a musical melange of thrills, fair drama and comic opera plot. Autry and Burnette invade Mexico in the guise of federal agents. Snooping around, singing and romancing, they stumble on a revolution. They set out to get to the bottom of things and when everything is set aright Autry finds his Spanish sweetheart in a convent atoning for her wayward brother. The story dovetails evenly at the conclusion. The music is good in its particular style. George Sherman directed.

Gene Autry, Lupita Tovar, Smiley Burnette, Mary Lee, June Storey, Rex Lease, Duncan Renaldo, William Farnum.

South of the Border F Western

RKO Radio (016) 67 Minutes Rel. Jan. 12, '40

Starting as a riotous farce and winding up in a blaze of slapstick, this runs the entire comedy gamut—with the exception of the subtle—and packs more laughs than there are beans in a bowl of chili, with fiery Lupe Velez furnishing the pepper and droll Leon Errol the salt. Few indeed will be the customers who do not declare it a bang-up hour of light entertainment. A gag-infested screenplay, a cast of players who knew just exactly what to do with their respective parts and excellent direction assure plenty of exercise for the abdominal laugh muscles. The plot, which matters very little, concerns the mixup which results when Errol impersonates a visiting English lord to help save a contract for Lupe's husband after it was jeopardized through her clowning. Errol is cast in a dual role. Directed by Leslie Goodwins.

Lupe Velez, Leon Errol, Donald Woods, Linda Hayes, Elisabeth Risdon, Cecil Kellaway, Charles Coleman.

Mexican Spitfire F Comedy

Warner Bros. (——) Rel. ————

Add another to the prison cycle. This yarn snuggles without variance to the routine approach for this type of story. Its situations are time worn and will register with a familiar ring to the average audience. John Garfield, who plays the arch gangster finally rubbed out via the electric chair method, does his role in the Cagney manner. Ann Sheridan, as the girl, continues to be good to look at, but in her dramatic scenes leaves much to be desired. Burgess Meredith is satisfactory, but the material fails to give him much of a chance. Pat O'Brien again gives his usual competent performance as the well-typed warden who believes in the honor system. Garfield, of course, does not let him down. Anatole Litvak directed and struck nary a new note.

John Garfield, Ann Sheridan, Burgess Meredith, Pat O'Brien, Leo Gorcey, Jerome Cowan.

Years Without Days F Melodrama

Universal (53) 64 Minutes Rel. Nov. 3, '39

For all the screen generalship of its cast, this air melodrama falls short of what it could have been had a more genuine effort been put behind story values. As it stands, it is one of those fairly exciting films that fails utterly in attaining credibility; being long on imagination and short on drama or suspense. Because of its loosely knit script there is little doubt as to the ultimate outcome of things. Hence, the obvious complications, including a poorly developed romantic interlude, seem but to get in the way of the aerial business—the film's main virtue. Richard Arlen comes back to the "foreign legion" of disreputable pilots, located in an Alaskan outpost, to clear himself of having left five passengers to die in a plane disaster. As expected, he finds the culprit and forces a confession. Directed by Christy Cabanne.

Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Anne Nagel, William Lundigan, Guinn Williams, Ona Munson.

Legion of Lost Flyers F Melodrama

M-G-M (2) 67 Minutes Rel. Dec. 8, '39

There's a lot of fun for the kiddies in this offering which has Virginia Weidler urging Frank Morgan on to bigger and better things for plenty of mild laughs. In figuring on the laughs, count on neighborhood patronage to accept the spirit of fun and forget the story. The yarn concerns itself with a has-been vaudeville performer inheriting a ranch in Arizona left by a murdered half brother. When Morgan arrives to claim the ranch things begin to pop and his life is ever in danger until he rounds up the villains, single-handed, to make his stay a more pleasant one. Although moppet Weidler overacts at times, her fans may not notice it, for upon her small shoulders rests the popularity of the picture. If the attraction is booked right, it should make for an entertaining part of the program. Edwin L. Marin directed.

Frank Morgan, George Murphy, Ann Morriss, Guy Kibbee, Virginia Weidler, Slim Summerville, Douglas Fowley.

Henry Goes Arizona F Western Comedy

Monogram (3924) 79 Minutes Rel. Dec. 25, '39

Anything having to do with war and foreign nations assumes the importance of a timely subject. This picture is one of those. Produced in England by Michael Balcon, former production head for GB, the story becomes confusing at times. However, there is no doubt a conspiracy is on foot to destroy the British government, but to link a member of Parliament with the system seeking to uproot the traditional power of Great Britain seems far-fetched. Yet, the Four Just Men, as they are known, always acting mysterious, finally put an end to the shenanagins and England is made safe for democracy. One of the Four Just Men, Frank Lawton, the only actor known to American audiences, unfortunately is the victim of the goings-on. The picture will make better program fare for the sensational-type house rather than for first runs. Walter Ford directed.

Hugh Sinclair, Griffith Jones, Francis L. Sullivan, Frank Lawton, Anna Lee.

Four Just Men A War Melodrama

Republic (——) 64 Minutes Rel. ————

Formulized story of a clergyman faced with the choice of violating the sanctity of the confessional or permitting an innocent man to be convicted of murder, this is saved from absolute mediocrity through the sincere performances of a competent cast, headed by Charles Bickford, careful production and able direction. Regardless, the film can be considered as only an unpretentious program feature and will probably get along in that category with average audiences. Bickford portrays a Protestant minister who, substituting for a Catholic priest, hears the confession of a murderer who mistakenly believes he is about to die. Bickford is confronted with a problem when Owen Davis jr., a youngster whom he is successfully regenerating, is hauled in on the murder rap. The real killer comes through and confesses at the last minute. John H. Auer directed.

Charles Bickford, Owen Davis jr., Doris Day, Paul Guilfoyle, Granville Bates, Charles Waldron, Sheila Bromley.

Thou Shalt Not Kill F Melodrama

SELLING ANGLES: **"South of the Border"**

Contact the nearest retailer of Vocalion Records and secure a tieup, complete with ready made accessories, for the Autry platter of the song. The "Hit Parade" radio program may be also pressed into service. Directional arrows imprinted with the film's title, in gag style, should be placed strategically. Mexican hats should help costume a parade. In the line of inexpensive giveaways there are cutout cardboard guitars, Gene Autry hats and picture buttons. Prior to showing, the recorded song might be played after the last performance and a light spiel delivered telling of the date and star.

CATCHLINES:

Gene Sings a Song of Romance Down Mexico Way as His Guns Tune Out the Bad Men South of the Rio Grande.

Come With Gene Down Mexico Way . . . Where He Romances and Fights Between Strumming His Guitar.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Legion of Lost Flyers"**

This is one for the action fans. However, showmen should not entirely overlook the popularity Devine is enjoying over radio, and perhaps capitalize on his comedy role here, which is substantial. Any newspaper headlines or photos in connection with lost airplane incidents should be reproduced for lobby purposes. You may be able to dig up a genuine parachute and let it hang across the marquee, with a "passenger" hanging from the end. A poster cutout of any one of the more spectacular air crashes should be prominently spotted in front of the house. Aviators' regalia usually makes a fascinating display, too.

CATCHLINES:

A Lone Pilot, Discredited by the World, Fights the Accusing Finger of Shame.

Men Without Fear . . . Soaring Valiantly Through Danger for Honor in the Sky.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Thou Shalt Not Kill"**

Charles Bickford rates the marquee and advertising credits in this one. Point out that he deviates from his usual tough-guy, gangster portrayals. Hold a special screening for Catholic priests and nuns, as well as Protestant ministers of all denominations. Stage an essay contest or debate as to whether the sanctity of the confessional should be respected to such a degree than an innocent man might be executed. This topic might also be used as the question in a "roving reporter" ballyhoo stunt.

CATCHLINES:

Two Men Knew He Was Innocent of Murder . . . One Was Pledged to Silence; The Other Was the Killer.

He Dared Not Violate His Oath of Secrecy . . . Even Though He Knew Full Well an Innocent Man Was to Be Condemned for Murder.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Married and in Love"**

Use the title as the basis of an exploitation stunt whereby newly-married couples are admitted at special rates. A group of them, who profess to be "in love though married," might be posed in front of the theatre for publicity photographs. The love triangle which forms the story structure might be used in a newspaper essay contest, with women the contestants. Deocrate an old flivver with white ribbons, tin cans, etc., and have it driven about town by a young couple, the car liberally placarded with picture and theatre billing.

CATCHLINES:

Love's Smouldering Flame . . . Which He Thought Had Vanished . . . Rises Anew to Upset This Professor's Calm Routine.

Married to One Woman . . . Madly in Love With Another . . . He Finally Finds Happiness With His Wife.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Years Without Days"**

Apply the exploitation formula usually associated with prison pictures. Make over theatre front and boxoffice to look like a stone-walled penitentiary. Dress ushers in striped convict uniforms. Have local judge or police chief view the picture and secure his recommendation for use in advertising. The title, implying endless time, can be utilized in tieups on watches, clocks and calendars; and can be worked into campaigns stressing the everlasting qualities of almost any type of merchandise.

CATCHLINES:

An Eternity of Waiting . . . Waiting for That Chance for Freedom . . . The Single Thought of Imprisoned Men.

Another Epic Drama of the Big House . . . And the Souls Enslaved There by Their Own Stupidity.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Four Just Men"**

Headlines of British activities on sea, air and battleground should be splashed all over the front of the lobby. The bigger the better, because the picture is as timely as the scareheads in your local newspapers. Frank Lawton's picture should be played up. Anna Lee may be known to some audiences. She has appeared in one or two pictures brought over to this country. She is a pretty heroine and her picture should decorate ad copy and other spots open. You can play around with the title for contests, essays and games for local interest.

CATCHLINES:

They Took the Bull by the Horns and Saved Britain for Itself . . . Four Men With the Same Idea, Battle Unseen Enemies . . . War Accounts Not Recorded in the Newspapers . . . When Espionage Fails and Four Just Men Win.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Judge Hardy and Son"**

As another in the "Hardy Family" series, this should be easily exploitable because of the fan following its predecessors have built up. If there are any "Hardy and Son" combinations around town, invite them to attend at special two-for-one rates. Prepare special mailing pieces for all local families named Hardy. Stress the family angle in exploitation by having the "Hardys" endorse such local products as food, furniture and clothing. Tie up with photographers on "family group" photographs.

CATCHLINES:

Andy Needs Money to Take Polly Dancing . . . But Forgets His Financial Troubles When a Crisis Hits the Hardy Family.

Judge Hardy . . . Filmdom's Favorite Father . . . Watches Son Andy Move a Step Toward Manhood in the Best of the Hardy Pictures.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Mexican Spitfire"**

Dress up the lobby in Mexican style, with brightly-painted gourds, shawls and pottery. Dress attendants in sombreros and serapes and play rhumba and tango music over the lobby p. a. system. Give the title credits to Lupe Velez and Leon Errol. Tie up with a local newspaper on a contest wherein housewives submit their favorite Mexican recipes, passes to the show going to the winners. Tie grocers into the exploitation by arranging for special displays of "hot" foods—chili, tamales, etc.

CATCHLINES:

Comedy Reigns Supreme . . . as Lupe (Jumping Bean) Velez Starts a One-Girl Mexican Revolution.

If You're Looking for Soul-Stirring Tragedy . . . That Will Tug at Your Heartstrings . . . Look Somewhere Else . . . Because This Is Designed for Laughs.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Henry Goes Arizona"**

Special kiddie matinees for this one is a natural. A cowboy wandering through town on a horse should help catch the eye. The rider should have a sign to the effect he is bound for Arizona. Distribute photographs of Virginia Weidler, who looks like a comer if she keeps up the good work, to the juveniles. Stage a riding contest on ponies for the children with prizes in the form of passes or gifts for which you can make a tieup locally. Morgan has a big radio following as a result of his appearance on "Good News." You should take advantage of this with local radio editors, both for pictures and stories. If you can do it reasonably, dress up your boxoffice as a cabin or store window.

CATCHLINES:

His Troubles Start When He Inherits a Ranch . . . Frank Morgan Goes to Town in Arizona . . . He Was a Ham on the Stage, But His Experience Came in Handy.

Short Subject Reviews

Unusual Occupations

Paramount (No. 2) 11 *Mins.*

Here is a subject which is worth-while program material. It is both interesting and amusing. Considerable portion of the reel is devoted to the hobby of Charles Ruggles who keeps an elaborate kennel for fancy canines. There is some amusing dialogue as Ruggles shows the place to an attractive visitor. Other subjects include a dentist who takes his office wherever he goes; a man and his wife who "paint" with sand; a dairy farm operated in the midst of London; and the Amish people of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, who have not changed their mode of living in over 250 years.

Nevada Unlimited

RKO Pathe (Reelism) 8 *Mins.*

Interesting camera coverage of sparsely-settled Nevada. The reel shows Boulder Dam, backing up the largest man-made lake in the world; Carson City, and the desolate hills of the sheep country. Ghost towns are contrasted with thriving mining centers of today. Highlight footage is devoted to Reno, a wide-open town, and the legalized gambling that amuses visitors.

Symphony in Swing

Vitaphone (Melody Master) 10 *Mins.*

Artie Shaw and his orchestra make for easy listening. In fact, Maestro Shaw displays considerable virtuosity with the clarinet. Swing fans will find the subject vastly entertaining. Some of the photography is interesting. One illustrative section during the rendition of "Deep Purple" is absolutely corny. "Jeepers Creepers" and "Lady Be Good" are the other numbers.

Winter Playground

RKO Pathe (Sportscope) 9 *Mins.*

An enjoyable reel dealing with winter sports in the Province of Quebec. Considerable and exciting footage is devoted to skiing in the imposing Laurentian mountains. Other activities such as skating, dog sledding and tobogganing are covered. It is a topical subject and well photographed.

Fagin's Freshmen

Vitaphone (Merrie Melody) 7 *Mins.*

Blackie is a little cat who does not like to sing nursery rhymes with sisters. After being punished, he dreams that he enters Fagin's school which is attacked by the police. Fagin is a Lionel Stander takeoff and delivers for laughs. The cartoon is frisky and diverting.

"William Tell"

Paramount (Symphonic Series) 11 *Mins.*

Rossini's popular "William Tell Overture" is stirringly performed by the National Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Frederick Feher.

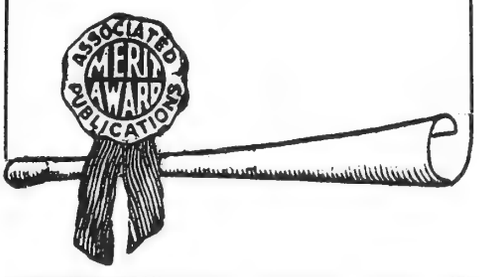
SHORT OF THE WEEK

The Valley of 10,000 Smokes

(Father Hubbard's Alaskan Adventure)

20th Century-Fox **10 Mins.**

Another grand subject from Father Hubbard, the "Glacier Priest," about his trip to a valley laid desolate some years ago by volcanic eruptions. The journey is a dangerous one. Miles of quicksand and a ghost forest, cremated by the deluge of sulphuric acid from Mt. Katmai, are some of the hazards that must be overcome. Steam pouring from thousands of vents in the ground is why the crater is called the "valley of 10,000 smokes." The photography is superb. It is easily worth extra billing.



Information Please

RKO (No. 4) 10 *Mins.*

With Deems Taylor, the music critic, as guest, the sparkling wits of the newspaper coterie, namely John Kieran, Franklin P. Adams, and Oscar Levant make plenty of fun with Clifton Fadiman as master of ceremonies. Not surprising at all are the number of misses, but the ad lib stuff is a treat. The subject is more for the better type audiences and not the last subsequent runs.

Homes of Today

FHA 11 *Mins.*

Technicolor filmed treatise on the fine houses to be owned by prospective FHA loanmakers. Plans, finished buildings and living in them are exceptionally well shown. Accompanying narrative should prove interesting. Available free and well worth playing time in view of its general appeal. May be had by application to local FHA offices.

Chile

Paramount (Color Cruise) 10 *Mins.*

Just an average travelogue dealing with the wonders of Chile. Santiago and Valparaiso are the cities visited. The best portion is a sequence showing the mountain regions with its snow-capped mountains, waterfalls and Indians.

Bits of Life

Paramount (Paragraphic) 11 *Mins.*

A good idea wasted by ineffective exposition. The aim here is to present adaptations of the short stories which appear in *Liberty* magazine. The first deals with the marital troubles of a young woman which are cleared up by the kindly philosophy of an old deaf woman. Incidentally, the part is played by Mary Carr. The other is a pointless bit about two prospectors who discover gold. It would seem that one story could be more wisely adapted for one reel instead of introducing two unrelated dramatizations.

Here's Hal

Paramount (Headliner) 10 *Mins.*

Hal Kemp's top-notch band furnishes the music in this one-reeler and it is the kind of music easy on the ears. Opening number is Hoagy Carmichael's "Vagabond Dreams" which Bob Allen sings. Next is a Raymond Scott novelty, "In An 18th Century Drawing Room." The Smoothies do "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree" and the band concludes with "Swampfire."

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Movietone News, No. 25: Sea rescue by blimp, Chicago livestock show, Mrs. Roosevelt attends Dies hearing, Senator King scores Russia, Dewey throws hat in ring, Finnish Minister thanks U. S., Lew Lehr, football thrills.

News of the Day, No. 223: Finland rallies against foe, blimps stage rescue at sea, Dewey's hat in ring, football thrills.

Paramount News, No. 28: Soviets withdraw from World's Fair, evacuation from Helsinki, Finnish Minister proclaims Russia aggressor, inspect U. S. air defenses, Mrs. Roosevelt at Dies hearing, Dewey's hat in ring, Chicago livestock show, airship rescues.

RKO Pathe News, No. 40: War scenes shift to Finland, test U. S. air defense, Mrs. Roosevelt appears at Dies hearing, navy blimps in rescue, football highlights.

Universal Newsreel, No. 829: Scenes of Finland, ship Xmas trees to China, Dewey throws hat in ring, blimps in sea rescue, livestock show, football thrills.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Movietone News, No. 26: British officials in war zone, Dutch open dikes, Poland's navy at sea, Edinburgh fire, North Sea scenes, 4-H Club winners, girls get flying instructions, Tulane beats SMU, ski exhibition, Australian horse race, Tennessee wins final.

News of the Day, No. 224: Mines take toll, French army in action, a Roosevelt goes to war, Czechs enlist for liberation, Holland opens the dikes, Kuhn convicted, college girls sprout wings, 4-H Club winners, Kennedy returns, ski season opens in east.

Paramount News, No. 29: Streamliners to Florida, Reno in reverse, inside warring Europe, Iowa's Nile Kinnick wins football trophy.

RKO Pathe News, No. 41: Allies alert on quiet western front, Finland fortifies natural defenses, Ambassador Kennedy returns, "Simon Bolivar" survivors in England, streamliners to Florida, Australian racing.

Universal Newsreel, No. 830: On the war front, Marines fete corps' birthday, Kennedy arrives, army heads discuss defenses, Albanian troops get new flag, 4-H Club winners, new hat styles, off N. Y. in Chinese junk, co-eds up in air, champ weight-lifters compete.

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia

Good Girls Go to Paris

Nice little comedy. Personally thought it was mixed up too much; hard to keep the characters straightened out. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Cold. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State, Lewellen, Neb.

Only Angels Have Wings

Very good picture to fair business. Give us more like this. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State, Lewellen, Neb.

Romance of the Redwoods

Was well received. Nothing outstanding, but enough action and suspense to please. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State, Lewellen, Neb.

First National

Dust Be My Destiny

The fellow that made this certainly didn't have "million dollaritis" but he made one of the best pictures of the year for my customers. Not a bad comment. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton, Stockton, Mo.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever

I thought this about the weakest Hardy picture, but it's a good picture at that and business was about the same as on the others. Seemed to please all. Tues., Wed., Thurs. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Small town patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 224.—F. M. Baker, Best, Handley, Tex.

At the Circus

Not up to former Marx Bros. pictures, but works into a finale that makes the kids and a few silly women scream. Even with the finale, no one raved, no one kicked, and the second day no one came. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 200.—Woody Newbury, Studio, Ingleside, Tex.

Babes in Arms

I thought it was a nice refreshing piece of entertainment. Audience went home happy. Above average by quite a margin. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Calling Dr. Kildare

Very good picture that barely made film rentals due to local mission. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Cold. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Maisie

Very entertaining picture which did not have the draw we expected. Those who saw it were exceptionally well pleased. Fri., Sat. Weather: Threatening. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn and Morgan, Inc., Star, Hay Springs, Neb.

Stronger Than Desire

Did some extra business and was good entertainment. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn and Morgan, Inc., Star, Hay Springs, Neb.

Wizard of Oz

This, no doubt, is a wonderful picture, but it failed to draw. The witches and flying monks or whatever they were scared most of the kids out of a year's growth. Comment divided. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Wet. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton, Stockton, Mo.

Women, The

A good show and it's really different. Comments were very divided, however. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton, Stockton, Mo.

Paramount

Disputed Passage

Gosh, Paramount sure came through all in one lump on this one. As far as I can see, this production was flawless. It may not go over the top at the boxoffice in all spots because of its serious subject matter, but I'll bet it will be impossible to find any adults who can find fault. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Disputed Passage

Didn't see this one myself, but plenty of splendid comments from the paying customers who did must prove something. But we played this on Saturday and I think our regular weekenders stayed away. Saturday. Weather: Drizzle, cold. Admission: 40-30. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Jamaica Inn

Charles Laughton seems to have acquired quite a following here, and a mid-week booking turned in a good gross. But if your patrons don't like Laughton—well—there's not much else in the picture. Thursday. Weather: Cloudy, cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

$1,000 a Touchdown

The boys in the overalls and their gals almost tore down the seats. It gave them what they wanted and have been looking for—laughs—and lots of them. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton, Stockton, Mo.

Rulers of the Sea

Fell flat with this one on a weekend. Fair picture, but nothing big. Paramount had a good idea, but they didn't work it out. Saturday. Weather: Rain and cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

RKO Radio

Arizona Legion

Very common western. Skip it. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State, Lewellen, Neb.

Bachelor Mother

You can't go wrong on this picture. It has everything good entertainment should have. I didn't hear a single bad comment. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton, Stockton, Mo.

Career

A real picture, especially for folks from Iowa. There was really something to this one. Gave you something to think about. Fri., Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Small town patronage. Population: 400. Capacity: 300.—Mrs. Carl Beard, State, Lewellen, Neb.

Fixer Dugan

The worst picture I have played from RKO, and that is something. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage.



Population: 700. Capacity: 230.—W. O. Woody, Stockton, Stockton, Mo.

Girl From Mexico

Exhib: A swell piece of entertainment for those who like to unbuckle their corset and enjoy a good laugh. Lupe fits the part she plays wonderfully. Audience rolled in the aisles. Boxoffice: Slightly above average for a Saturday single day change. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way, Wickenburg, Ariz.

In Name Only

An entirely new and enjoyable approach to the marital problem. Kay Francis makes a swell comeback. In fact she makes you want to strangle her with your bare hands and that is acting when an actress can put that much sincerity into a part. Audience liked it. Boxoffice didn't care so much for it. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way, Wickenburg, Ariz.

20th Century-Fox

Drums Along the Mohawk

A good show with better Technicolor than the trailer would have you think, and splendid direction from John Ford. But it just squeezed over with a two-day spot with us. History and Indian attacks don't go over here. But still a good picture, and worth plugging. Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair, cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Frontier Marshal

Don't expect this to follow history for it doesn't, but as pure entertainment it is tops. Maybe the silk underwear trade won't like it, but for the average fan I'll venture it will make a hit. Audience reaction: All favorable comments. Boxoffice: Decidedly above average. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Gorilla, The

In spite of what the critics say this one was a typical Ritz Bros. laugh session that I could find no fault with. I can understand some people disliking the Ritz Bros., but personally I don't. While I maybe don't love 'em, I appreciate getting a laugh out of them. Audience reaction: They seemed to like it. Boxoffice: Above average Saturday. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Here I Am a Stranger

Here I am a stranger, no fooling, and our cashier couldn't find very many interested in meeting the ole boy. Mr. Greene won't draw here. Don't expect a lot from this one. Saturday. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 200.—Woody Newbury, Studio, Ingleside, Tex.

Hollywood Cavalcade

This one fell down at the boxoffice for us. Those who came liked it, and the silent footage with the Keystone Cops and the slapstick pie-throwing received the most howling reaction I've heard in a long time. It deserved more "b. o." Thurs., Fri. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 200.—Woody Newbury, Studio, Ingleside, Tex.

Hotel for Women

Nice light entertainment. The new girl may have possibilities and also she may not. It all depends on how she is handled. Audience enjoyed it. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way, Wickenburg, Ariz.

News Is Made at Night

Title not much for boxoffice, but the picture is very good entertainment. All acting very good, as well as direction and story. This girl Bari will bear watching if they give her the right parts. Audience reaction: They all liked it. Boxoffice: Average Saturday. Admission: 40-10. Cosmopolitan patronage. Population: 700. Capacity: 263.—E. A. Stein, Out-Wickenburg-Way, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Pack Up Your Troubles

Good program picture. Jane Withers usually draws well here, but something happened this trip, may have been the weak trailer. At any rate the b. o. fell 50 per cent below average for the date. Still wondering what happened. Tues., Wed. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 200.—Woody Newbury, Studio, Ingleside, Tex.

20,000 Men a Year

Plenty of flying for the eyes that crave it. Our paying guests all have a yen to fly, or at least the urge to spend a quarter and see some one else fly. If it's airplanes give them this. Good programmer. Did well for us. Saturday. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 200. —Woody Newbury, Studio, Ingleside, Tex.

Tail Spin

Very good picture that failed to do business. Mon., Tues. Weather: Rain. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

United Artists

Housekeeper's Daughter

This began with such stiff direction and awkward acting that it looked like a burlesque rather than the riot of modern mirth such as we advertised. The audience laughed at the unprofessional beginning, but it picked up some later. Comment: Fair. Weather: Fair, cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

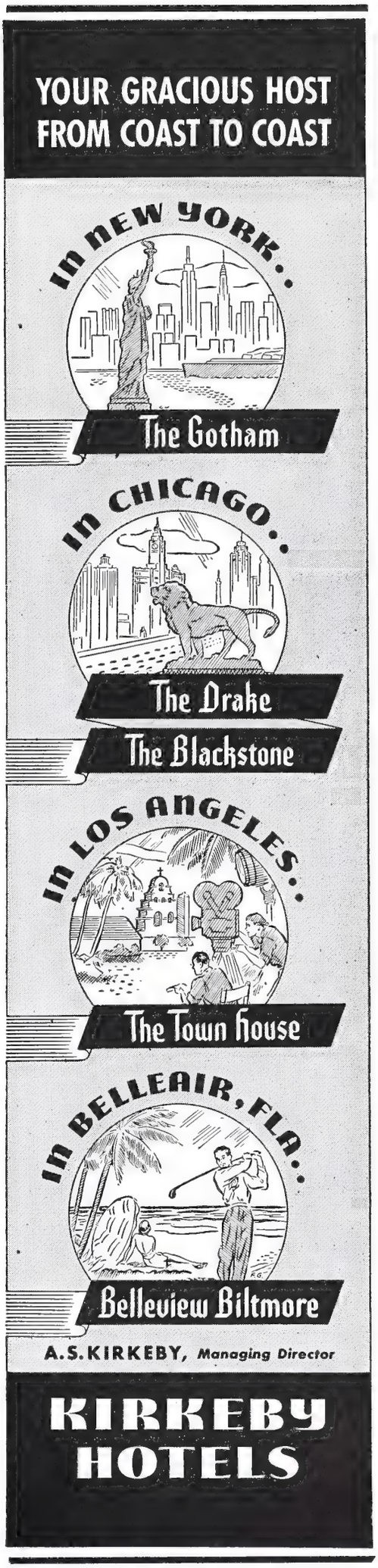
Stella Dallas

Picked this one up to get rid of a bad one. Found many a one who missed Stella all these years, some came for a second look. Still a great show in spite of the old print. Did a record Thursday for us. The radio skit revives the title. If you have room, it'll make $. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Rain. Admission: 25-10. General patronage. Population: 200.—Woody Newbury, Studio, Ingleside, Tex.

Universal

First Love

Swell picture, though I cannot say it's as good as the other Durbins. But it pleased the people. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Cloudy, cool. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.



Selling Seats

PRACTICAL IDEAS BY PRACTICAL SHOWMEN

Plays All the Angles for Anniversary Week

MIAMI—George Baldwin, manager of the Regent Theatre, celebrated his house's anniversary week with a series of stunts and treats that set him up as a most likely candidate for "most popular man" in the busy community his neighborhood house caters to.

The opening gun of his celebration which, incidentally, stood 'em in the aisles all week long, was free ice cream and cookies to all patrons on Monday evening, November 20.

Tying up with the football season, he dedicated one evening to his neighborhood's high school team and band. The 56 piece musical organization paraded in full uniform from school to the theatre where it gave a concert from the stage. Members of the football team and the coach, introduced by Manager Baldwin, sat in the spotlight on the stage during the band's concert.

From sport to beauty was the transition made the next evening when 22 local lassies competed for the Regent's anniversary cup. Radiant and young Bootsie Kite was judged the winner by a trio of judges including an attorney, a judge and a city commissioner.

Theatre Pays the Postage To Sell "The Old Maid"

LOUISVILLE, KY.—The Mary Anderson paid all the postage here in a novel mail promotion on "The Old Maid," which was held over for a second week's run.

An improvised mail box was put up in the lobby with signs inviting one and all to drop their neighbors a card telling them what they (the ones doing the mailing) thought of the picture.

All the customers had to do was to write out their comments and drop the cards in the box. Cliff Buechel and his Mary Ann staff did the rest.

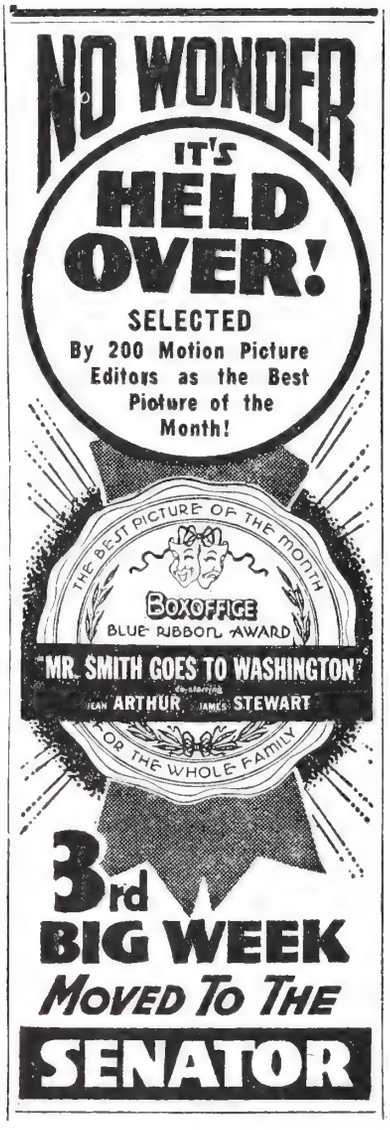
Warner-Needlework Tieup

NEW YORK—A Buick upholstered by the Needlework Guild in rose and burgundy needlepoint, will be displayed in prominent department stores of 20 key cities. Promotion copy will state the automobile will be used in a Warner production.

A New Medium Of Exchange

Harrison, Ark.—"Rat-tail Day," sponsored by the county health unit in cooperation with the Lyric here, was observed recently. For two rat-tails, children were admitted to the matinee.

Last year, a house fly matinee was conducted by the Lyric and the health unit. Over 250 children took part, bringing their admission in jars and other sealed containers.



A Campaign Aid—

The BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award to Columbia's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" played an important part in the advertising for that October winner at the Harris circuit's Senator in Pittsburgh, as witness the above exact-size reproduction of the newspaper displays.

The material was obtained from the November issue announcing the award, a line cut from the page itself stripped with larger display of the title and cast credit, a simple and effective procedure that can be followed by any other exhibitor.

The BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 200 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Local Boy in Kyser Film Gets Newspaper Break

BRIDGEPORT—Manny Kugell, new Warner manager, obtained his first newspaper publicity break when he dug up a Bridgeport native who appeared in the Kay Kyser picture, "That's Right, You're Wrong."

Story was a natural due to the fact there was no knowledge of the boy appearing in the picture and was given push by the fact the studio had to broadcast over eight western states to find the lad when it started the picture. He was first spotted by a Hollywood director when he appeared as a guest on a Kyser west coast broadcast. No one bothered to take his name and it was two weeks before the studio was able to locate him. California dailies gave the story a big play at the time and Kugell stumbled upon the yarn when an aunt here came to the theatre to see if the boy was in any of the publicity stills.

Contest for Oldest Married Couple Boosts UA Film

CHICAGO—Art Catlin, United Artists exploiteer, conducted a contest to find Chicago's oldest married couple in connection with the showing of "Eternally Yours," at the Roosevelt Theatre. He found one couple married 66 years and another married 63 years.

The two couples were checked into the bridal suite of a downtown hotel, feted at a night club, were interviewed on a national Vox-Pop program, and presented from the stage of the Roosevelt Theatre.

Fans in Bridgeport Keep Data on Award Winners

BRIDGEPORT—"I thought it might interest you to know that I get many requests from fans about the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Awards," says Fred H. Russell, film editor of the Bridgeport *Post*. "I make it a point each month to carry the current award in my daily column and about every four months reprint the previous winners. And at that time I usually go into a paragraph or two about the National Screen Council.

"I have been using the Award ever since I was named motion picture editor about three years ago. During the past two years hardly a month has passed without my receiving letters or postcards asking some question about the award."

Mr. Russell exhibited the following card recently received:

" 'Will you please tell us what were the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Awards for the months of May, June, September and October? We have kept a record every month, but are not sure of the four month mentioned. All of us will be watching your column closely all this week, so please do not disappoint us.' "

The card was signed by several who designated themselves as "Movie Fans."

Boxoffice Barometer

A Computation of What the Pictures Did in Their First Runs in Principal Centers as Compiled From the Weekly Reports in BOXOFFICE. Number of Runs Follows Initials of Distributors. Pictures With Less Than 5 Runs Not Listed. Average Theatre Gross Figured at 100%.

	RUNS	PER CENT
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox)	6	85
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ), reissue	9	105
Allegheny Uprising (RKO)	5	100
At the Circus (M-G-M)	16	105
Babes in Arms (M-G-M)	18	140
Cat and the Canary (Para)	8	110
Dancing Coed (M-G-M)	13	95
Disputed Passage (Para)	13	105
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox)	19	130
Dust Be My Destiny (FN)	6	95
Eternally Yours (UA)	8	105
Everything's on Ice (RKO)	5	95
Fast and Furious (M-G-M)	9	100
First Love (Univ)	9	120
Hawaiian Nights (Univ)	6	90
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox)	8	95
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox)	13	105
Intermezzo (UA)	6	105
Jamaica Inn (Para)	7	100
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col)	16	160
Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB)	6	95
No Place to Go (FN)	5	95
On Your Toes (FN)	8	90
Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox)	14	90
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB)	9	90
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB)	7	130
Real Glory, The (UA)	13	105
Rio (Univ)	6	100
Roaring Twenties (WB)	23	120
They Shall Have Music (UA)	6	95
Those High Grey Walls (Col)	5	95
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M)	7	110
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox)	9	105

CITIES FROM WHICH AVERAGES WERE COMPUTED: With comparative figures indicating the percentage of average business (100 per cent) achieved by individual cities as compiled from the first run records of each.

City	Pct.	City	Pct.	City	Pct.	City	Pct.
Boston	105	Denver	110	Minneapolis	100	Philadelphia	110
Charlotte	100	Detroit	110	New Haven	125	Pittsburgh	100
Chicago	100	Indianapolis	90	New Orleans	110	Portland, Ore.	110
Cincinnati	120	Kansas City	100	New York	105	Salt Lake City	105
Cleveland	115	Los Angeles	120	Oklahoma City	100	Seattle	100
Dallas	100	Milwaukee	125	Omaha	115		

"ANOTHER THIN MAN" 200% IN OKLAHOMA CITY

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

ANOTHER THIN MAN—Oklahoma City 200

GOOSE STEP—Detroit 180

THE REAL GLORY—Oklahoma City 180

CAT AND THE CANARY—Minneapolis 175

GERONIMO—Denver 175

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG—New York City 160

ANOTHER THIN MAN (dual)—Boston 150

MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—Oklahoma City (3rd wk.).....150

NINOTCHKA—Chicago 150

EXTENDED RUNS

Harvest, 11th wk., World, New York City.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 6th wk., Seattle; 5th wk., Chicago, Pittsburgh; 3rd wk., Philadelphia, Salt Lake City.

Mill on the Floss, 4th wk., Astor, New York City.

BOSTON

Fenway—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB); **Main Street Lawyer** (Rep)..... 60
Memorial—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox)..... 75
Metropolitan—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para); **Charlie Chan in City of Darkness** (20th-Fox).. 80
Orpheum—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Winter Carnival** (UA) 150
Paramount—Same as Fenway 65
State—Same as Orpheum 145

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), held 5th wk. 115
Chicago—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., plus stage show..... 90
Garrick—**Secret of Dr. Kildare** (M-G-M)..... 85
Oriental—**The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), repeat loop run, plus stage show 85
Palace—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Call a Messenger** (Univ), 2nd wk., less 2 days; **Tower of London** (Univ); **Three Sons** (RKO), last 2 days of week and continued...100
Roosevelt—**Disputed Passage** (Para), 2nd wk., less 2 days; **Eternally Yours** (UA), last 2 days of week and continued.....100
State-Lake—**Fast and Furious** (M-G-M), **Dead End Kids** on stage 165
United Artists—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), held 2nd wk. 150

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Reno** (RKO), plus stage show 120
Capitol—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....110
Keith's—**Cat and the Canary** (Para).....130
Lyric—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO), 2nd wk. 100
Palace—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), held....130
Shubert—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), held 130

CLEVELAND

Allen—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk. 85
Hippodrome—**First Love** (Univ) 110
Lake—**Full Confession** (RKO); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox) 90
Palace—**Barricade** (20th-Fox). Stage: Bert Wheeler, The Four Ink Spots and Vaudeville.. 85
State—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 125
Stillman—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..135

DALLAS

Capitol—**Charlie Chan in City of Darkness** (20th-Fox), 1st half 85
Capitol—**Rovin' Tumbleweeds** (Rep), 2nd half..100
Majestic—**Cat and the Canary** (Para), plus **Weaver Bros.** on stage 180
Palace—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 110
Tower—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk.....100
Rialto—**Blondie Brings Up Baby** (Col).....100
Village—**Mikado** (Univ) 140

DENVER

Aladdin—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox), after a week at the Denver.....130
Broadway—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), after a week at each the Denver and Aladdin. 125
Denham—**Geronimo** (Para) 175
Denver—**Eternally Yours** (UA).....145
Orpheum—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Sued for Libel** (RKO) 130
Paramount—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox); **The Escape** (20th-Fox).....120
Rialto—**First Love** (Univ), after a week at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Tropic Fury** (Univ). 115

DETROIT

Adams—**First Love** (Univ), after 1 wk. at the Fox; **Rio** (Univ) 125
Cinema—**Goose Step** (PDC) 180
Fox—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox).....100
Michigan—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **They Shall Have Music** (UA).....105
Palms-State—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB); **Espionage Agent** (FN).....115
United Artists—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 100

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Oklahoma Frontier** (Univ); **Danger Flight** (Mono) 80
Apollo—**Return of the Frog** (Foreign); **Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (Foreign)..... 80
Circle—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **Private Detective** (FN) 70
Indiana—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ); **Laugh It Off** (Univ) 85
Loew's—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President** (M-G-M).....130
Lyric—**Man From Montreal** (Univ), plus **Lum & Abner** in person and **Shep Fields Orchestra**.170

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ), held.....140
Midland—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President** (M-G-M).....100
Newman—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB); **Our Neighbors, the Carters** (Para)... 70
Orpheum—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Smashing the Money Ring** (FN), holdover... 80
Tower—**Jeepers Creepers** (Rep), plus stage show 90
Uptown—Same as Esquire 140

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA); **Honeymoon Is Over** (20th-Fox) 100
Downtown—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **Private Detective** (FN) 125
Four Star—**Intermezzo** (UA), 4th wk..... 70
Hillstreet—**First Love** (Univ); **One Hour to Live** (Univ), 2nd wk.....110
Hollywood—Same as Downtown.....125
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet.....100
Paramount—**Night of Nights** (Para); Ritz Bros. on stage 140
State—Same as Chinese 100

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Cat and the Canary** (Para); **Rulers of the Sea** (Para) 120
Riverside—**Call a Messenger** (Univ); **Dick Powell** on stage 250
Strand—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox)..... 80
Warner—**First Love** (Univ); **Little Accident** (Univ) 125
Wisconsin—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Blackmail** (M-G-M) 90

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Tropic Fury** (Univ); **Flying Deuces** (RKO). 90
Century—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 125
Esquire—**Ballerina** (French) 115
Gopher—**Cat and the Canary** (Para).....175
Minnesota—**Heroes in Blue** (Mono); **Marcus Show** on stage 150
Orpheum—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Clyde McCoy** on stage 150
State—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para)..... 70
World—**First Love** (Univ), 3rd wk..... 90

NEW HAVEN

College—**At the Circus** (M-G-M) **U-Boat 29** 2nd wk. 100
Loew-Poli—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox), moved to College for 2nd wk. 140
Paramount—**Tower of London** (Univ); **News Is Made at Night** (20th-Fox), (9 days).....125
Roger Sherman—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **Smashing the Money Ring** (FN).....105

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Missing Evidence** (Univ).....100
Globe—**Hollywood Cavalcade** (20th-Fox)..... 80
Liberty—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO), 2nd run 90
Lyceum—**Angels Wash Their Faces** (FN), 2nd run 80
Orpheum—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ).....125
Saenger—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox).150
State—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 125
Tudor—**Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (20th-Fox) 90

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Mill on the Floss** (Standard), 3rd wk... 90
Capitol—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.. 90
Criterion—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO).160
Globe—**Beast of Berlin** (PDC), 3rd wk.....100
Paramount—**Cat and the Canary** (Para), 2nd wk. 105
Rialto—**Flying Deuces** (RKO), 2nd wk.....115
Radio City Music Hall—**We are Not Alone** (FN), plus stage show.....105
Rivoli—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ).....175
Roxy—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA) 90
Strand—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), plus stage show.....120

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M).....200
Liberty—**Espionage Agent** (WB); **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (WB).....140
Midwest—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox) 165
Plaza—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para), 4 days on moveover 90
Plaza—**Disputed Passage** (Para), 4 days on moveover 130
State—**The Real Glory** (UA).....180
Tower—**The Secret of Dr. Kildare** (M-G-M)....130

OMAHA

Brandeis—**The Amazing Mr. Williams** (Col); **Three Sons** (RKO) 125
Omaha—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB).....115
Orpheum—**Remember** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 100
Paramount—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox), moveover from Omaha-Orpheum, 2nd wk..... 95

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**We Are Not Alone** (FN).....120
Boyd—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....120
Fox—**Disputed Passage** (Para) 95
Karlton—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA), 2nd run. 125
Keith's—**Jamaica Inn** (Para) 95
Stanley—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk. 110
Stanton—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO).....100

PITTSBURGH

Alv'n—**Tower of London** (Univ).....105
Barry—**Torture Ship** (SR); **The Warning** (SR).. 90
Fulton—**First Love** (Univ), 3rd wk..... 80
Penn—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M).....140
Senator—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 5th wk. 70
Stanley—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO); Shep Fields' stage show 110
Warner—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd d. t. wk. 100

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA); **On Your Toes** (FN) 110
United Artists—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 140
Mayfair—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Little Accident** (Univ), 3rd wk. 90
Paramount—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk.; **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (Col), 2nd wk. 100
Liberty—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox) 100
Orpheum—**Hidden Power** (Col); **Exile Express** (GN); Stroud Twins on stage..... 95

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**Little Accident** (Univ); **Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono).....105
Centre—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB). 105
Paramount—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..105
Rialto—**The Escape** (20th-Fox); **The Rains Came** (20th-Fox), 2nd run.....105
Studio—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 3rd wk. 150
Utah—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB); **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (20th-Fox).....105

SEATTLE

Blue Mouse—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Three Sons** (RKO), 2nd wk.....130
Fifth Avenue—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 100
Liberty—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 6th wk. 100
Music Box—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M), 3rd wk..... 90
Orpheum—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **Sued for Libel** (RKO) 90
Palomar—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB); **Smashing the Money Ring** (FN), plus vaudeville on stage 90
Paramount—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO) 120
Roosevelt—**We Are Not Alone** (FN), 2nd wk... 90

PRODUCTION INDEX

A CHECK-UP ON FEATURE RELEASES

Releases of 1938-39 for a seven-month period. Production number follows title. Running time in parenthesis. National release date at end of title line. Symbol ❂ indicates a BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography. This department makes no attempt at evaluation of picture quality, but merely presents a thumbnail synopsis.

Columbia

A Woman Is the Judge..9025..(60).....July 10
Drama. A woman judge finds the girl being tried for murder is her daughter who disappeared with her husband 17 years ago, and resigns her post to defend the girl. Frieda Inescort, Otto Kruger, Rochelle Hudson. Director: Nick Grinde.

Amazing Mr. Williams, The..7..(86).....Nov. 23
Mystery Comedy. Every time the mayor's secretary and her lawyer sweetheart head for the altar, a crime is committed, which postpones the ceremony. Melvyn Douglas, Joan Blondell. Director: Alexander Hall.

Awful Truth, The..1072..(92)..reissue.....June 15
Comedy. A gay succession of events begin rolling when hubby steps out on his wife, but objects when she retaliates in like manner. Irene Dunne, Cary Grant, Ralph Bellamy. Director: Leo McCarey.

Behind Prison Gates..9033..(62).....July 28
Melodrama. A detective, posing as a criminal, barely escapes with his life when he enters a prison in the endeavor to track down his bank robber quarry. Brian Donlevy, Jacqueline Wells, Joseph Crehan. Director: Charles Barton.

Beware, Spooks!..1011..(65) .....Oct. 24
Comedy. The experiences of Joe E. Brown as a demoted police officer who trails his man to a Spook House concession. Joe E. Brown, Mary Carlisle, Clarence Kolb. Director: Edward Sedgwick.

Blondie Brings Up Baby..1013..(69).....Nov. 9
Comedy. Blondie and Dagwood are involved in a kidnapping when Baby Dumpling gets lost and they trail him to the home of a wealthy man, whose little daughter, in the meantime, has also disappeared. Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms. Producer: Frank R. Strayer.

Blondie Takes a Vacation..9010..(68).....July 20
Comedy. The Bumsteads finds themselves up to their necks in complications when they set out to save a hotel they want to stay in, from bankruptcy. Arthur Lake, Penny Singleton. Director: Frank Strayer.

Cafe Hostess..1030..(63) .....Nov. 30
Drama. The ex-suitor of a night club hostess tries to kill her fiance, but is himself killed in the act by the girl's benefactress, whom she later learns is her mother. Preston Foster, Ann Dvorak, Douglas Fowley, Wynne Gibson. Director: Sidney Salkow.

Clouds Over Europe (formerly "Q" Planes) 9012..(79) .....June 20
Action Drama. Scotland Yard is called upon to solve the disappearance of secret planes, and uncovers an espionage system operating a powerful destructive ray. Laurence Olivier, Valerie Hobson, Ralph Richardson. Director: Tim Whelan.

Coast Guard..9008..(72) .....Aug. 4
Action Drama. Randolph Scott, appealed to by his wife, Frances Dee, saves Ralph Bellamy, who has been lost in a polar blizzard. The coast guard helps things along. Scott, Dee, Bellamy, Walter Connolly. Director: Edward Ludwig.

Five Little Peppers..9017..(60).....Aug. 22
Comedy Drama. The struggles of the five poverty-stricken Pepper children, until the grandfather of the town's rich boy takes a deep interest in their problems. Edith Fellowes, Ronald Sinclair, Dorothy Ann Seece, Clarence Kolb. Director: Charles Barton.

Fugitive at Large..1026..(66).....Dec. 17
Drama. A gangster, hiding from the law, takes advantage of his resemblance to a construction engineer by framing the latter in a payroll robbery, thereby sending the innocent man to prison. Jack Holt, Patricia Ellis. Director: Lewis D. Collins.

Golden Boy..9002..(100) .....Sept. 5
Drama. From the Broadway stage hit, of a brilliant boy constantly at war with himself, because of his dream to become a great musician, at the same time showing a flare for fighting. William Holden, Barbara Stanwyck, Adolphe Menjou. Director: Rouben Mamoulian.

Good Girls Go to Paris..9005..(73).....June 30
Comedy. A pretty waitress from Minnesota with a yen to go to Paris, solves her problem in hilarious fashion, lining up four boy friends to take her there. Melvyn Douglas, Joan Blondell, Walter Connolly. Director: Alexander Hall.

Hidden Power..1025..(60) .....Sept. 7
Mystery Drama. A scientist, in his research on a life-saving serum, discovers a new explosive valuable for military use, but sacrifices money and his personal happiness rather than market a chemical destructive to humanity. Jack Holt, Gertrude Michael, Dickie Moore. Director: Lewis D. Collins.

Konga, the Wild Stallion..9034..(65).....Aug. 30
Drama. A murder is committed over a horse, and the guilty man is sent to prison. A romance springs up between the murdered man's daughter and the other's son. Fred Stone, Rochelle Hudson, Robert Warwick, Richard Fiske. Director: Sam Nelson.

Lost Horizon..1071..(118)..reissue .....June 1
Drama. From the James Hilton novel, in which a group of travelers are kidnaped and brought to a strange, Tibetan civilization, where they find happiness and contentment. Ronald Colman, Jane Wyatt, Sam Jaffe, Margo. Director: Frank Capra.

Man From Sundown..9208..(59).....July 15
Western. The rangeland is over-run with a gang notorious for killing any eye-witnesses of its various atrocities, and Starrett, as a ranger, has a trick to turn. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith. Sam Nelson directed.

Man They Could Not Hang, The 9018..(64) .....Aug. 17
Horror Drama. A scientist is sentenced to hang for murder, when the medical student he had tried out his artificial heart invention on, dies. He swears vengeance, and after his death his laboratory assistant revives him, and he turns into a demon of hate, terrorizing those responsible for his hanging. Boris Karloff, Lorna Gray. Director: Nick Grinde.

❂Mr. Smith Goes to Washington..1101 (125) .....Oct. 19
Comedy Drama. A young politician is sent to replace a deceased senator in Washington, unaware that he is being made the puppet of a corrupt political gang. His secretary finally puts him wise, and then he takes things in his own hands. Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Claude Rains, Edward Arnold. Director: Frank Capra.

Outpost of the Mounties..1201..(63).....Sept. 14
Western. A Royal Mounted is forced to arrest his sweetheart's brother for murder, but later learns it is a frameup and rounds up the guilty parties. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Stanley Brown. Director: C. C. Coleman jr.

Parents on Trial..9032..(57).....June 29
Drama. A plea for patience and understanding by parents, especially in cases involving adolescent romances and elopements. Jean Parker, Johnny Downs, Noah Beery jr. Director: Sam Nelson.

Riders of Black River..9209..(59).....Aug. 23
Western. Starrett and his friends round up a gang of rustlers who had murdered his young brother. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith, Sons of the Pioneers. Director: Norman Deming.

Scandal Sheet..1031..(67) .....Oct. 16
Drama. The publisher of a tabloid which prints other people's scandals is in a tough spot when scandal faces him, and he goes to jail on a murder charge rather than print the truth which would clear him. Otto Kruger, Ona Munson. Director: Nick Grinde.

Spoilers of the Range..9206..(58).....Apr. 27
Western. Charles Starrett helps the ranchers recover the money stolen from them which was to pay for a new dam. Charles Starrett, Iris Meredith. Director: C. C. Coleman jr.

Stranger From Texas..1202..(55) .....Nov. 2
Western. Starrett settles a feud between two ranchmen who had formed a secret partnership; each was stealing cattle from the other and accusing one another of thieving. Charles Starrett, Lorna Gray. Director: Sam Nelson.

Taming of the West..1211..(54).....Dec. 7
Western. Law and order is finally restored to a prairie town overrun with criminals. Bill Elliott, Iris Meredith. Director: Norman Deming.

Those High Grey Walls..1015..(82).....Sept. 21
Drama. The story of what happens to the men in white who become prison doctors. Walter Connolly, Onslow Stevens. Director: Charles Vidor.

Trapped in the Sky..9024..(61) .....June 1
Action Drama. Portrays the efforts of a spy ring to destroy a new airplane development by the U. S. Army. Jack Holt, C. Henry Gordon, Katherine DeMille. Director: Lewis D. Collins.

U-Boat 29..1010..(77) .....Oct. 7
Action Drama. A German U-boat commander is tripped up in trying to secure secret information on British naval maneuvers. The underlying trend of the story is an indictment of mass murder, war or otherwise. Conrad Veidt, Valerie Hobson. Director: Michael Powell.

First National

Angels Wash Their Faces..367..(96).....Aug. 26
Drama. Racketeers start a series of neighborhood fires, and a lad with a reform school record is blamed. When "Sleepy" dies in a fire, the Dead End Kids step in and help the D.A. get their men. Ann Sheridan, Frankie Thomas, Dead End Kids. Director: Ray Enright.

Cowboy Quarterback..366..(56) .....July 29
Comedy. A Montana cowboy sets a professional football league on fire until he gets mixed up with a couple of city slickers. Bert Wheeler, Marie Wilson. Director: Noel Smith.

Daughters Courageous..360..(107) .....July 22
Drama. A deserted wife, about to re-marry, is confronted by her returned husband. She, however, goes ahead with her plans and also manages to save her daughter from erring as she did. John Garfield, Claude Rains, Jeffrey Lynn, Fay Bainter. Director: Michael Curtiz.

Dust Be My Destiny..461..(88).....Sept. 16
Drama. A poignant story of a boy and girl-wife who battle against almost insurmountable obstacles for their share of justice and a place in the world. John Garfield, Priscilla Lane, Alan Hale. Director: Lewis Seiler.

Each Dawn I Die..356..(92).....Aug. 19
Drama. A newspaper reporter is framed on a manslaughter charge for exposing a crooked district attorney who later becomes governor. James Cagney, George Raft, Jane Bryan. Director: William Keighley.

Espionage Agent..462..(80) .....Sept. 30
Melodrama. How America's counter-espionage system intends to keep spies out of the U. S. Joel McCrea, Brenda Marshall. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Hobby Family, The..376..(54) .....Aug. 26
Comedy Drama. A family turns its hobbies into useful service when a forest fire breaks out. Sonny uses his amateur broadcasting unit to summon help, and father gets a shot of the pyromaniac responsible for the fire. Irene Rich, Henry O'Neill, Jean Sharon, Jackie Moran. Director: William McGann.

Kid From Kokomo..363..(92) .....June 24
Action Drama. A country orphan boy becomes heavyweight champion through the efforts of a fight promoter and the motherly affection bestowed upon him by an aging erstwhile actress. Pat O'Brien, Wayne Morris, Joan Blondell, May Robson. Director: Lewis Seiler.

No Place to Go 469..(57) .....Sept. 23
Comedy Drama. The problem of children in taking care of an aged parent who can't get along with them. Gloria Dickson, Dennis Morgan, Fred Stone. Director: Terry Morse.

Old Maid, The..452..(95) .....Sept. 2
Drama. A dramatization of mother love and sacrifice in this story of an old maid whose child grows up unaware that the woman she calls "aunt" in her own mother. Bette Davis, Miriam Hopkins, George Brent. Director: Edmund Goulding.

On Your Toes..463..(94) .....Oct. 14
Musical. A ballet impresario gets a wealthy girl to back his ballet show, but she is unaware that the dance was stolen from its original author. Vera Zorina, Eddie Abert, Alan Hale, Gloria Dickson. Director: Ray Enright.

Private Detective..471..(55) .....Dec. 9
Comedy Melodrama. A pair of private sleuths, with the aid of an amateur, uncover a crooked lawyer and his skullduggery activities. Dick Foran, Jane Wyman, Maxie Rosenbloom. Director: Noel Smith.

Return of Dr. X, The..(62).....Dec. 2
Mystery Drama. Dr. X executed for murder, is brought back to life by another medico who

thinks he has perfected a formula for synthetic blood, but finds he has created a monster who must kill to remain alive himself. Humphrey Bogart, Rosemary Lane, Wayne Morris. Director: Vincent Sherman.

Smashing the Money Ring..470..(56).....Oct. 21
Melodrama. A G-man gets himself sent to prison to hunt clues to the identity of the man heading a counterfeit ring on a gambling ship. Ronald Reagan, Margot Stevenson, Eddie Foy jr. Director: Terry Morse.

We Are Not Alone..458..(111).....Nov. 25
Drama. From the novel by James Hilton, of a small-town British doctor who devotes his life to his work, and who is caused much grief by a misunderstanding wife. Paul Muni, Jane Bryan, Raymond Severn. Director: Edmund Goulding.

Gaumont British

Pagliacci..(78).....
Musical Drama. Based on the famous opera, "Il Pagliacci," in which a jealous husband kills his unfaithful wife and her lover. Richard Tauber, Steffi Duna. Director: Karl Grune.

Grand National

Frontier Scout..325..(62).....Oct. 21
Western. A western with a Civil War background, in which Wild Bill Hickok as a Kansas town marshal saves his friend's cattle-commission house from cattle rustlers. George Houston, Al St. John, Dave O'Brien. Director: Sam Newfield.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever..944..(87)..July 21
Comedy. Mickey, as the hero of the annual high school play, manages to fall in love with the dramatics instructor, an infatuation that lasts clear up until a "man to man" talk with the judge. Lewis Stone, Mickey Rooney, Cecilia Parker. Director: W. S. Van Dyke II.

Another Thin Man..13..(102).....Nov. 17
Mystery Comedy. Thin Man jr. has been added to this third of the "Thin Man" series. The husband-wife detective team find themselves involved in new mysteries when the wife's financial adviser is slain on his Long Island estate. William Powell, Myrna Loy. Director: W. S. Van Dyke, II.

At the Circus..8..(85).....Oct. 20
Comedy. The Marx Brothers put on a hilarious show to help a disinherited playboy raise the money in 24 hours to keep from losing his circus. Marx Bros., Florence Rice, Kenny Baker. Director: Eddie Buzzell.

Babes in Arms..9..(97).....Oct. 13
Musical Comedy. The children of old-time vaudevillians put on a show of their own to aid their parents' financial plight. Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland. Director: Busby Berkeley.

Bad Little Angel..10..(77).....Oct. 27
Comedy Drama. Period picture of the 1870's, in which a runaway orphan tries to overcome the "jinx" she believes she holds for anyone kind enough to adopt her. Virginia Weidler, Gene Reynolds, Ian Hunter. Director: William Thiele.

Blackmail..5..(79).....Sept. 8
Melodrama. An innocent fugitive from a chain gang, is blackmailed by the guilty party until he finally tricks the latter into a confession. Edward G. Robinson, Ruth Hussey, Gene Lockhart, Bobs Watson. Director: H. C. Potter.

Dancing Co-Ed..3..(81).....Sept. 29
Comedy Drama. The jitterbug craze breaks out when a professional dancer is planted as a co-ed in a college to insure her winning a national dance contest sponsored by a motion picture studio. Lana Turner, Richard Carlson, Artie Shaw and his band. Director: S. Sylvan Simon.

Fast and Furious..6..(73).....Oct. 6
Comedy. A young married couple vacationing at a seaside resort turn amateur sleuths when a promoter of a beauty pageant is murdered and their friend is falsely accused. They are almost killed themselves before the unusual solution to the mystery is cleared. Franchot Tone, Ann Sothern. Director: Busby Berkeley.

Goodbye, Mr. Chips..945..(114).....July 28
Drama. A schoolmaster becomes headmaster through the inspiration and love of his young wife which carries him to success even after her death. Robert Donat, Greer Garson. Director: Sam Wood.

Henry Goes Arizona..2..(..).....Dec. 8
Comedy. A man inherits his brother's ranch in Arizona and arrives there to find his brother had been murdered and an innocent man accused of the crime. He aids the latter in establishing the guilt of the local banker. Frank Morgan, George Murphy, Ann Morriss. Director: Edwin L. Marin.

Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President..14..(69).....Dec. 1
Comedy Drama. From Damon Runyon's story of the young couple who pays a visit to the President in behalf of a veteran mailman dismissed from service for destroying a letter. Ann Sothern, William Gargan, Lewis Stone, Walter Brennan. Director: Robert Sinclair.

Lady of the Tropics..947..(91).....Aug. 11
Drama. Torrid love story of the "never-the-twain-shall-meet" variety. Robert Taylor, Hedy Lamarr, Joseph Schildkraut. Director: Jack Conway.

Maisie..940..(74).....June 23
Comedy. A showgirl, stranded in Wyoming, gets a job on a cattle ranch, and shows the woman-hating foreman a few tricks of her own. Robert Young, Ann Sothern. Director: Edwin L. Marin.

Miracles for Sale..946..(70).....Aug. 4
Mystery-Drama. Called upon to expose a quack ghost-chaser, a young magician soon finds himself in the midst of a pair of baffling murders. Robert Young, Florence Rice, Henry Hull. Director: Tay Garnett.

Nick Carter, Master Detective..15..(60)....Dec. 15
Drama. Foreign agents steal airplane plans from a factory, and the super sleuth is called in to round up the suspect. Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Henry Hull, Donald Meek. Director: Jacques Tourner.

Ninotchka..7..(110).....Nov. 3
Comedy Drama. A French Count goes to Russia to represent an exiled Duchess at the sale of her jewels by the Soviet government, and there meets a woman commissar representing the Soviet, and the two fall madly in love. Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas, Ina Claire. Director: Ernst Lubitsch.

On Borrowed Time..942..(99) ◎.....July 7
Drama. The story of a beloved grandfather who fights death to keep the grandson he adores from the clutches of a scheming aunt. Lionel Barrymore, Bobs Watson, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Beulah Bondi. Director: Harold S. Bucquet.

Remember?..11..(81).....Nov. 10
Drama. Business recalls an eloping couple starting on their honeymoon. The bridegroom, engrossed in a million dollar account, forgets his bride and she sues for divorce. But a reconciliation is effected. Robert Taylor, Greer Garson, Lew Ayres. Director: Norman Z. McLeod.

Secret of Dr. Kildare..12..(85).....Nov. 24
Drama. The famous "screen doctor" engaged in research to stamp out pneumonia is forced to take a needed rest when his young assistant deliberately quits him and accepts an assignment to cure a neurotic society girl. Drama and romance are interwoven against a background of scientific revelations. Lew Ayres, Lionel Barrymore, Laraine Day. Director: Harold S. Bucquet.

6,000 Enemies..938..(61).....June 9
Melodrama. A hardboiled district attorney who sent scores of framed men to prison is himself framed and put behind the bars with 6,000 enemy inmates plotting against him. Walter Pidgeon, Rita Johnson, Paul Kelly, Harold Huber. Director: George B. Seitz.

Stronger Than Desire..941..(78).....June 30
Drama. Remake of "Evelyn Prentice" in which a brilliant criminal lawyer learns his wife is involved in a murder, through the reflection in the eye of a snapshot of the murdered man. Virginia Bruce, Walter Pidgeon. Director: Leslie Fenton.

Tarzan Finds a Son!..939..(81).....June 16
Action Drama. The King of the Jungle returns to share his glory with the crown prince of Tarzania. Johnny Weissmuller, Maureen O'Sullivan, John Sheffield. Director: Richard Thorpe.

These Glamour Girls..948..(79).....Aug. 18
Comedy Drama. A taxi dancer shows a few snobbish, socialite glamour girls how people behave on her side of the tracks. Lana Turner, Lew Ayres, Tom Brown. Director: S. Sylvan Simon.

They All Come Out..943..(70).....July 14
Drama. Authentic shots of the interiors and system of the Federal Bureau of Prisons form the background of this story of a hungry, ragged youth who aligned himself with a gang of criminals and is sent to a reformatory. Rita Johnson, Tom Neal. Director: Jacques Tourneur.

Thunder Afloat..4..(94).....Sept. 15
Drama. Enlisting for subchaser duty during the world war, the hero is reduced to an ordinary seaman for insubordination. He reinstates himself when an enemy boat sinks their ship and he saves the lives of those on board. Wallace Beery, Chester Morris, Virginia Grey. Director: George Seitz.

Wizard of Oz..949..(102) ◎.....Aug. 25
Musical Fantasy. From Frank L. Baum's famous fairy tale of a little Kansas girl swept to the Emerald City of Oz by a cyclone, and portrayed on the screen in Technicolor, with lavish scenes and lilting songs. Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Frank Morgan. Director: Victor Fleming.

Women, The..1..(134).....Sept. 1
Comedy Drama. A blend of satire, sentiment and comedy in this story of a wife who turned heartbreak into happiness, when she found her "friends" were trying to ruin her future. Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell. Director: George Cukor.

Monogram

Across the Plains (formerly Riders of the Rio Grande)..3855..(53).....June 1
Western. Two brothers are separated in childhood, one is reared by Indians, the other by renegades. The first swears vengeance on the renegades, not knowing that his brother is at the head when their paths cross years later. Jack Randall, Dennis Moore, Joyce Bryant. Director: Spencer Bennett.

Crashing Thru..3936..(56).....Oct. 1
Outdoor Drama. The story of gold, twice-stolen, and a chain of circumstances weaving themselves around a sister and brother seeking gold to pay off their dead father's indebtedness. James Newill, Warren Hull, Jean Carmen. Director: Elmer Clifton.

Danger Flight..3816..(61).....Nov. 1
Action Drama. A loyal air pilot saves the company payroll from gangsters in a thrilling sky battle. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone, Tommie Baker. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Fight for Peace..3831..(68).....Sept. 30
Documentary. Newsreel shots of international affairs dating from the World War to the present. Includes events such as the Russian revolution, the rise of Fascism and Nazism, the Spanish Civil War, and the Sino-Japanese outbreak. Narrated by David Ross. Produced by Warwick Pictures.

Fighting Mad..3937..(60).....Nov. 5
Action Drama. A girl, eye-witness to a robbery, is kidnaped by the bandits, but Renfrew rescues her, and together the two capture the crooks. James Newill, Sally Blane, Benny Rubin, Milburn Stone. Director: Sam Newfield.

Girl From Rio..3825..(62).....Aug. 15
Musical Comedy. A South American singer comes to New York to save her brother from a false arrest. A job in a night club leads her to the owner and his conviction as the man who framed her brother. Movita, Warren Hull. Director: Lambert Hillyer.

Heroes in Blue..3919..(61).....Nov. 7
Drama. A night watchman, with the aid of his policeman son, frames and captures the crook who had framed his youngest son. Dick Purcell, Charles Quigley, Bernadene Hayes. Director: William Watson.

Irish Luck..3826..(61).....Aug. 22
Melodrama. A bellhop with a yen to be a detective gets his chance when he solves a baffling murder committed in the hotel. Frankie Darro, Dick Purcell. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Man From Texas..3865..(60).....July 21
Western. A railroad trouble shooter protects New Mexico ranchers from the inroads of a land-gathering schemer. Tex Ritter, Charles B. Wood. Director: Al Herman.

Mr. Wong in Chinatown..3807..(70).....Aug. 1
Mystery. Wong captures the killer of a Chinese princess, who was a guest in his own house, while on a mission to purchase airplanes for her brother's province. Boris Karloff, Grant Withers, Marjorie Reynolds. Director: William Nigh.

Mutiny in the Big House..3803..(84).....Oct. 25
Drama. A protege of a prison chaplain is forced to participate in a prison break, but comes to the rescue of the chaplain and saves his life, thereby winning a pardon. Charles Bickford, Barton McLane, Dennis Moore. Director: William Nigh.

Oklahoma Terror..3856..(52).....Aug. 25
Western. A cowboy avenges the murder of his father, and with a vigilante group mops up a western town steeped in crime and graft. Jack Randall, Al St. John, Virginia Carroll. Director: Spencer Bennett.

Overland Mail..3857..(53).....Oct. 31
Western. Danger and hardship are portrayed in this story of the pony express, in which a crack rider of the mails is assigned by the Federal Government to uncover a counterfeit gang operating in the west. Jack Randall, Vince Barnett, Jean Joyce, Tristram Coffin. Director: Robert Hill.

Phantom Strikes, The..3923..(58).....Nov. 15
Mystery Drama. A shady criminal lawyer is warned he will die on a certain day. How Scotland Yard attempts to thwart the murder makes up the story. Wilfrid Lawson, Sonnie Hale, Alexander Knox, Louise Henry. Director:

Riders of Destiny..Reissue..(54).....Oct. 20

Western. A secret service man saves the ranchers from an unscrupulous gang seeking to wrest their land from them by withholding water rights. John Wayne, Cecilia Parker. Director: R. N. Bradbury.

Riders of the Frontier..3866..(58).....Aug. 16
Western. Tex saves the girl ranch owner from the schemes of her ranch boss. Tex Ritter. Director: Spencer Bennet.

Roll, Wagons, Roll..3951..(53).....Nov. 25
Western. An army officer leads his army against a gang smuggling rifles to the Indians. Tex Ritter, Nelson McDowell, Muriel Evans, Reed Howes. Director: Al Herman.

Should a Girl Marry? (formerly Girl From Nowhere)..3823..(57) .....June 10
Melodrama. Unaware that she was born in prison, a young bride is victim of a blackmail plot being aligned against her. But the blackmailer's wife prevents the plot from taking form. Anne Nagel, Warren Hull, Lester Mathews, Mayo Methot. Director: Lambert Hillyer.

Sky Patrol..3815..(61) .....Sept. 12
Action Drama. A "Tailspin Tommy" picture, in which a youth overcomes a phobia of firing guns, when he joins the U. S. Army pilots to aid in capturing smugglers and spies. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone, Jackie Coogan. Director: Howard Bretherton.

Starlight Over Texas..3859..(59).....Sept. 7
Western. The first in the series of eight prairie operas Monogram will make. Story concerns a Texas ranger in pursuit of cattle rustlers. Tex Ritter. Director: Al Herman.

Stunt Pilot..3814..(62) .....July 1
Action Drama. Second of the "Tailspin Tommy" series. A stunt pilot for a motion picture company, while making a war film, is involved in a murder mystery when real bullets are substituted for blanks and he innocently kills another pilot. John Trent, Marjorie Reynolds, Milburn Stone. Director: George Waggner.

Westbound Stage..3952..(56) .....Dec. 15
Outdoor Musical. Tex Ritter uses a clever ruse to capture the gang responsible for his brother's death. Tex Ritter, Muriel Evans, Reed Howes. Director: Spencer Bennett.

Yukon Flight..3938..(58) .....Dec. 5
Action Drama. Murder is suspected when a plane carrying gold shipments crashes, and an investigation reveals the owner of the trading company and the pilot have been stealing gold from each shipment. James Newill, Louise Stanley, Dave O'Brien, Karl Hackett.

Paramount

All Women Have Secrets..3914..(70).....Dec. 15
Drama. Presents the serious side of college life, and the problems that stem from student marriages. Virginia Dale, Joseph Allen jr., Jean Cagney, Peter Hayes. Director: Kurt Neumann.

Beau Geste..3902..(114) .....Sept. 15
Drama. Brotherly love and high adventure in the French Foreign Legion are vividly portrayed in this story adapted from Percival Wren's best seller and silent film of a decade ago. Gary Cooper, Ray Milland, Brian Donlevy. Director: William A. Wellman.

Bulldog Drummond's Bride..3844..(57)....June 30
Melodrama. Drummond finally marries his fiancee, despite interruptions by a bank robbery and a midnight murder. John Howard, Heather Angel. Director: James Hogan.

Cat and the Canary, The..3909..(71).....Nov. 10
Melodrama. Prospective heirs of an eccentric millionaire gather in a dilapidated mansion to hear the will read. But soon murder, mystery and terror are supplied by a prowling cat, who maneuvers in the form of an ape. Bob Hope, Paulette Goddard. Director: Elliott Nugent.

Death of a Champion..3901..(66) .....Sept. 1
Melodrama. A book salesman gets himself involved in three murders at a society dog show. Lynne Overman, Robert Paige, Virginia Dale. Director: Robert Florey.

Disputed Passage..3908..(87) .....Oct. 27
Drama. From the Lloyd C. Douglas novel of two doctors and a girl, in which one doctor sees his God as Science. Dorothy Lamour, Akim Tamiroff, John Howard. Director: Frank Borzage.

Gracie Allen Murder Case..3839..(75).....June 2
Comedy. Gracie sends the wrong man to jail, the police to an insane asylum and falls in love with the murderers, before she and Philo Vance solve a murder mystery. Gracie Allen, Warren William, Kent Taylor, Ellen Drew. Director: Alfred E. Green.

Grand Jury Secrets..3842..(68).....June 23
Melodrama. Two brothers, one a star reporter and the other, an assistant district attorney, fight against each other for honors and scoops. John Howard, Porter Hall, Gail Patrick. Director: James Hogan.

Heritage of the Desert..3843..(73) .....June 23
Western. A city-bred lad matches fists and wits with land thieves who try to deprive him of a ranch he inherits. Donald Woods, Evelyn Venable, Robert Barrat, Sidney Toler. Director: Lesley Selander.

Honeymoon in Bali..3904..(96).....Sept. 29
Comedy Drama. A fellow who knows what he wants meets a girl who doesn't know what she wants, but a tropic island decides them both. Fred MacMurray, Madeleine Carroll. Director: Edward H. Griffith.

Invitation to Happiness..3841..(99).....June 16
Drama. A low-brow prize fighter marries a high-brow girl. He loses the world's heavyweight championship and his wife, but wins the latter back again. Fred MacMurray, Irene Dunne, Charlie Ruggles. Director: Wesley Ruggles.

Island of Lost Men..3848..(64).....July 28
Drama. A crazed Eurasian, who has set up a kingdom of savages and outcast whites is foiled by the daughter of a Chinese general he had robbed and left to die. Anna May Wong, J. Carrol Naish. Kurt Neumann directed.

Jamaica Inn..3906..(106) .....Oct. 13
Costume Melodrama. A respected British country squire and local justice of the peace, turns out to be the power behind a blood-curdling crew of bandits. Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Hara, Elsa Lanchester, Leslie Banks. Director: Alfred Hitchcock.

Law of the Pampas..3955..(72).....Nov. 3
Western. Hopalong Cassidy goes to South America to deliver a herd of cattle for his employer and uncovers a murder plot against a wealthy native. William Boyd, Russell Hayden, Steffi Duna. Director: Nate Watt.

Llano Kid..3913..(69) .....Dec. 8
Western with Music. The Llano Kid impersonates the long-missing son and heir of a Mexican land-baron, and double-crosses his partner-in-crime. Tito Guizar, Alan Mowbray, Gale Sondergaard. Director: E. D. Venturini.

Magnificent Fraud..3847..(78) .....July 21
Action Drama. An actor masquerading as the president of a Latin American republic, at the behest of conspirators, gives his life for a democratic government. Akim Tamiroff, Lloyd Nolan, Patricia Morison. Director: Robert Florey.

Man About Town..3845..(85).....July 7
Musical. A shy producer, in love with his star who is unaware of the fact, creates some hilarious situations when he pretends to be a gay Casanova. Jack Benny, Dorothy Lamour, Edward Arnold. Director: Mark Sandrich.

Million Dollar Legs..3846..(63).....July 14
Comedy With Music. A bunch of college kids put their school on the athletic map in defiance of the wishes of the founder. Betty Grable, Jackie Coogan, John Hartley, Donald O'Connor. Director: Nick Grinde.

Night of Nights, The..3912..(87).....Dec. 1
Drama. A heartbroken clown and playwright, who had wrecked his career by drinking, meets his daughter after 20 years, and she appears with him in a revival of his old play. He scores a triumph, wins back the respect of his friends, and dies of a heart attack. Pat O'Brien, Olympe Bradna, Roland Young. Director: Lewis Milestone.

Night Work..3849..(61) .....Aug. 4
Comedy. A pair of foster parents prove their mettle when they save their adopted son from falling off a building, thereby having the adoption approved by the lad's steeplejack grandfather. Mary Boland, Charlie Ruggles, Donald O'Connor. Director: George Archainbaud.

$1,000 a Touchdown..3903..(71).....Sept. 22
Comedy. A frustrated Shakespearean actor reads a book on football and organizes the world's greatest eleven to save the mortgage on the college. Joe E. Brown, Martha Raye. Director: James Hogan.

Our Leading Citizen..3850..(90).....Aug. 11
Drama. A seat in Congress is the reward of a kindly lawyer who extricates his home town from a series of labor-capital-isms strifes. Bob Burns, Susan Hayward. Director: Alfred Santell.

Our Neighbors—the Carters..3911..(85)....Nov. 24
Comedy Drama. A new family series, depicting the joys and sorrows of a typical, small town American family, who struggle for survival against cut-throat competition that forces them out of business. Fay Bainter, Frank Craven, Mary Thomas. Director: Ralph Murphy.

Range War..3954..(66) .....Sept. 8
Western. Hopalong aids the ranchers who, while constructing a railroad trunk line for shipping their cattle, are victimized by an unscrupulous land-holder who raises the toll for use of his thoroughfare. William Boyd, Russell Hayden. Director: Lesley Selander.

Renegade Trail..3859..(58) .....Aug. 18
Western. Hopalong breaks up a gang of rustlers, at the same time aiding a woman rancher whose convict husband returns with threats to disclose his identity to his son who believes him dead. William Boyd, Russell Hayden, Russell Hopton, Charlotte Wynters. Director: Lesley Selander.

Rulers of the Sea..3910..(96) .....Nov. 17
Historical Drama. An historical narrative of the victory of steam over sail in the evolution of navigation. Douglas Fairbanks jr., Will Fyffe, Margaret Lockwood. Director: Frank Lloyd.

Some Like It Hot..3837..(65).....May 19
Musical. A jam session of swing music aided by laughs and romance. Bob Hope, Shirley Ross, Una Merkel, Gene Krupa and orchestra. Director: George Archainbaud.

Star Maker, The..3851..(94) .....Aug. 25
Musical Comedy. A musical dramatization of the stars of yesterday, in which Bing appears with a group of talented youngsters. Bing Crosby, Louise Campbell, Ned Sparks. Director: Roy Del Ruth.

Television Spy..3907..(58) .....Oct. 20
Drama. A romance via television blooms amid espionage and foreign intrigue. William Henry, Judith Barrett. Director: Edward Dmytryk.

This Man Is News..3865..(75) .....Aug. 18
Comedy Melodrama. A reporter who knew too much, scores a scoop when he makes up a murder story in advance of its happenings. Barry K. Barnes, Valerie Hobson. Director: Donald MacDonald.

Undercover Doctor..3840..(67) .....June 9
Action Drama. Based on the activities of J. Edgar Hoover in his expose of doctors who get rich by treating wounded criminals. Lloyd Nolan, J. Carrol Naish, Janice Logan. Director: Louis King.

What a Life..3905..(75) .....Oct. 6
Comedy. Without any effort Henry seems to incur the academic wrath of his teacher in high school. His troubles reach a climax when he wants to take his girl to the prom. Jackie Cooper, Betty Field. Director: Theodore Reed.

Republic

Arizona Kid, The..951..(61).....Sept. 29
Western. Friendship is in the balance when one friend is forced to capture a guerilla band to which his buddy belongs. The story is filmed against a Civil War background. Roy Rogers, Dave Kerwin, Sally March. Director: Joe Kane.

Calling All Marines..912..(65).....Sept. 21
Melodrama. Foreign agents try to steal a radio-controlled aerial bombing device from the U. S. Marines. Donald Barry, Helen Mack. Director: John H. Auer.

Colorado Sunset..846..(64) .....July 31
Western. A veterinarian's "protective association" is exposed, and with it the sheriff's protection. Autry wins the election, and the cattlemen's market again is open. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette. Director: George Sherman.

Covered Trailer..915..(66) .....Nov. 10
Comedy. Supposedly lost at sea on a ship they were to have taken to South America, but didn't, having taken a trailer trip instead, the Gleasons are arrested for forgery when they try to cash a check. James, Lucile and Russell Gleason, Harry Davenport. Director: Gus Meins.

Cowboys From Texas..962..(57).....Nov. 29
Western. The Three Mesquiteers aid homesteaders and cattlemen to outwit and clean up a gang of land office racketeers posing as government agents. Bob Livingston, Raymond Hatton, Duncan Renaldo, Betty Compson. Director: George Sherman.

Flight at Midnight..9111..(66).....Aug. 28
Drama. The sacrifice and courage behind the scenes of air transportation, by men who risk death for the progress of aviation. Phil Regan, Jean Parker, Col. Roscoe Turner Director: Sidney Salkow.

In Old Caliente..856..(57).....June 23
Western. Rogers, through the aid of friends, traps the real thief and clears himself of a theft charge brought against him by his employer. Roy Rogers, Mary Hart, Jack LaRue. Director: Joe Kane.

In Old Monterey..847..(70) .....Aug. 14
Western. A U. S. army sergeant poses as a cowboy to investigate the opposition of cattlemen to the government's purchase of ranch land for war maneuvers. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, June Storey, Hoosier Hot Shots, Ranch Boys. Director: Joe Kane.

Jeepers Creepers..(69) .....Oct. 27
Drama with Music. An unscrupulous coal baron whose crass materialism is circumvented by the religious simplicity and honesty of the natives. Roy Rogers, Weaver Bros. and Elviry. Director: Frank McDonald.

Kansas Terrors..961..(57) .....Oct. 6
Western. A couple of Kansas cowpunchers accompany a shipment of horses to the Caribbean Islands, where they find themselves in the midst of a conflict between the oppressed peons and a vicious island overlord. Robert Livingston, Raymond Hatton, Duncan Renaldo, Jacqueline Wells. Director: George Sherman.

Main Street Lawyer..905..(71).....Nov. 3
Drama. A district attorney is removed from office for throwing the case against a gangster, but things are finally adjusted when the real reason for his doing so is revealed. Edward Ellis, Anita Louise, Robert Baldwin, Harold Huber. Director: Dudley Murphy.

Features

THE COMPLETE CHECK-UP ON CURRENT RELEASES

Mickey, The Kid..814..(66) .....July 3
Drama. A gangster's boy, born into a life of crime, fights his way out, after the taste of a better environment, in his determination to become an honest citizen. Bruce Cabot, Tommy Ryan. Director: Arthur Lubin.

Mountain Rhythm..845..(59) .....June 9
Western. Gene Autry uncovers a plot to deprive the ranchers of their grazing lands. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Maude Eburne. Director: B. Reeves Eason.

New Frontier..868..(56) .....Aug. 10
Western. A fight for a water pipe line to their desert land motivates this Three Mesquiteers yarn. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan. Director: George Sherman.

Roving Tumbleweeds..848..(64) .....Nov. 16
Western. A rancher, elected Congressman, tries to put through a Flood Control bill, but the man opposing the bill puts up a fight until his own land is threatened. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Carlisle. Director: George Sherman.

Sabotage..913..(69) .....Oct. 13
Action Drama. On the eve of his marriage, a young mechanic in an airplane factory innocently is accused of a sabotage plot when an army plane crashes during a test. A group of aged veterans bring the saboteurs to justice in a stirring climax. Arleen Whelan, Gordon Oliver, Charley Grapewin, Lucien Littlefield. Director: Harold Young.

Saga of Death Valley..952..(58).....Nov. 22
Western with Music. Death Valley is in the hands of a villain, who uses terroristic methods against the ranchers to control the water supply. Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Donald Barry, Frank M. Thomas. Director: Joe Kane.

She Married a Cop..815..(65) .....July 15
Musical Comedy. A singing policeman is framed into "doubling for a pig" by an animated cartoon producer. Phil Regan, Jean Parker. Director: Sidney Salkow.

Should Husbands Work?..816..(62).....July 26
Comedy. A wife beats her husband to a job but after queering a big deal, all is straightened when it is found the family holds a key block of stock. James Gleason, Lucile Gleason. Director: Gus Meins.

Smuggled Cargo..825..(61) .....Aug. 21
Drama. The head of the orange growers' association is framed, and a near lynching is averted. Barry Mackay, Rochelle Hudson, Ralph Morgan. Director: John H. Auer.

S. O. S. Tidal Wave..813..(60).....June 2
Action Drama. A television news commentator combats gangsters using a rival television station to telecast a horror film. Ralph Byrd, George Barbier, Kay Sutton. Director: John Auer.

South of the Border..941..(70).....Dec. 15
Western. U. S. Federal agents track down revolutionists and quell an uprising in Mexico. Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Lee. Director: George Sherman.

Wall Street Cowboy..857..(66) .....Sept. 6
Western. New York's financial barons wage a battle of wits for control of a ranch suitable for mining. Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Raymond Hatton, Ann Baldwin. Director: Joseph Kane.

Wyoming Outlaw..867..(52) .....June 21
Western. The Three Mesquiteers smash a political relief racket after the gang forces an innocent boy to turn outlaw. John Wayne, Ray Corrigan, Raymond Hatton, Donald Barry. Director: George Sherman.

RKO Radio

Allegheny Uprising..006..(81) .....Nov. 10
Outdoor Drama. A chapter in American history following the war of 1759, when the government fought to suppress illegal trading in rum and the sale of weapons to the Indians. Claire Trevor, John Wayne, George Sanders, Brian Donlevy. Director: William A. Seiter.

Bachelor Mother..932..(81) .....Aug. 4
Romantic Comedy. A sales girl finds herself the "mother" of an abandoned baby on the day she is fired. The situation is brought to the attention of the owner's son, and he is jockeyed into a spot where he is the "father." Ginger Rogers, David Niven. Director: Garson Kanin.

Bad Lands..933..(65) .....Aug. 11
Western. A trapped posse of nine men, besieged by Apaches and a half-breed killer reveals the individual strength and weaknesses of its members' characters. Robert Barrat, Noah Berry jr. Director: Lew Landers.

Career..930..(78) .....July 7
Melodrama. A homespun yarn of the lives of two families in a small Iowa town, which film introduces the two winners of the "Gateway to Hollywood" contest, John Archer and Alice Eden. Anne Shirley, Edward Ellis, Samuel B. Hinds. Director: Leigh Jason.

Conspiracy..935..(59) .....Sept. 1
Melodrama. A wireless operator on an American boat is marked for death by a foreign rival faction. Allan Lane, Linda Hayes. Director: Lew Landers.

Day the Bookies Wept, The..002..(65)..Sept. 15
Comedy. A cab driver with a love for pigeons, is tricked into buying and entering in the big race a nag who dotes on alcoholics. Joe Penner, Betty Grable, Tom Kennedy. Director: Leslie Goodwins.

Everything's on Ice..946..(65) .....Oct. 6
Musical. A six-year-old skating star who executes everything on ice from the can-can to the hula. Irene Dare, Roscoe Karns, Edgar Kennedy. Director: Erle C. Kenton.

Fifth Avenue Girl..934..(80) .....Sept. 22
Comedy Drama. A satirical farce subtly deriding the rich and those who envy them, along with a smattering of current sociological theories. Ginger Rogers, Walter Connolly, James Ellison. Director: Gregory La Cava.

Fighting Gringo, The..986..(60) .....Sept. 8
Western. A band of volunteer vigilantes roam the west to aid the oppressed and to see that justice prevails. George O'Brien, Lupita Tovar. Director: David Howard.

Five Came Back..927..(75) .....June 23
Drama. A passenger plane crashes in a Brazilian jungle, and a drama of courage and cowardice is unfolded when four people have to be left behind before the plane can take off safely. Chester Morris, Kent Taylor, Lucille Ball. Director: John Farrow.

Flying Deuces..010..(65) .....Nov. 3
Comedy. Two American fish peddlers go to Paris where one of them falls in love with a married woman. They join the Foreign Legion to forget, and when they try to desert they inadvertently become heroes. Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Jean Parker. Director: A. Edward Sutherland.

Full Confession..003..(72) .....Sept. 8
Drama. A priest, bound by the sanctity of confessional, cannot reveal the confession made to him of a crime for which another man is to be electrocuted, but uses his influence to make the real murderer give himself up. Victor McLaglen, Sally Eilers, Joseph Calleia. Director: John Farrow.

Girl and the Gambler, The (formerly The Dove)**..926..(62) .....June 16**
Western Melodrama. A Latin-American Robin Hood with a dash of caballero wagers that he can woo and win a certain maiden's heart in 24 hours. Leo Carrillo, Tim Holt, Steffi Duni. Director: Lew Landers.

Girl From Mexico, The..928..(71) .....June 2
Comedy Melodrama. An advertising man flies down to Mexico to sign a radio personality for a new program and falls in love with his new fiery, Spanish star. Lupe Velez, Donald Woods, Leon Errol, Linda Hayes. Director: Leslie Goodwins.

In Name Only..936..(92) .....Aug. 18
Drama. The story of a heartless woman who married for wealth and social position, and kept her husband bound to a loveless marriage to prevent his marrying the woman he loved. Carole Lombard, Cary Grant, Kay Francis. Director: John Cromwell.

Marshal of Mesa City, The..081..(61).....Nov. 3
Western. A marshal restores law and order to a frontier town dominated by a crooked sheriff and his gang. George O'Brien, Virginia Vale. Director: David Howard.

Meet Dr. Christian..005..(63).....Nov. 17
Drama. A small town doctor wins a long-sought hospital for his community when his skill saves the mayor's daughter. Jean Hersholt, Dorothy Lovett, Paul Harvey. Director: Bernard Vorhaus.

Nurse Edith Cavell..001..(95).....Sept. 29
Historical Drama. The true story of the trial and execution that shocked the civilized world in 1915 of a World War nurse who put humanitarianism above patriotism. Anna Neagle, Edna May Oliver, George Sanders. Director: Herbert Wilcox.

Of Human Bondage..993..(83)..Reissue...July 14
Drama. A dramatization of W. Somerset Maugham's modern classic of the deep and tragic love of a medical student for a cheap waitress with a cold heart. Leslie Howard, Bette Davis. Director: John Cromwell.

Reno..008..(73) .....Dec. 1
Drama. How a young lawyer put Reno on the map and changed it from a mining town to a resort for divorce seekers. Richard Dix, Gail Patrick. Director: John Farrow.

Saint in London, The..929..(70).....June 30
Mystery Drama. The Saint picks up a wounded man on a country road, who leads him into a web of intrigue and super-crime, with death a constant companion. George Sanders, Sally Gray. Director: John Paddy Carstairs.

Spellbinder..931..(70) .....July 28
Melodrama. A lawyer kills the client, for whom he had obtained acquittal when the latter marries the lawyer's daughter as protection. He then obtains clemency for himself. Lee Tracy, Barbara Read, Patric Knowles. Director: Jack Hively.

Sued for Libel..012..(65) .....Oct. 27
Drama. A bum steer, broadcast as fact by a reporter, brings on a libel suit, until further research uncovers enough unpleasant facts to cause withdrawal of the suit. Kent Taylor, Linda Hayes, Lillian Bond. Director: Leslie Goodwins.

That's Right, You're Wrong..011..(90)....Nov. 24
Musical. The film capital is razzed a bit in this story of Kay Kyser and his band who go to Hollywood for a picture engagement. Kay Kyser, Adolphe Menjou, May Robson, Lucille Ball, Edward Everett Horton. Director: David Butler.

Three Sons..004..(72) .....Oct. 13
Drama. The owner of a large department store holds big dreams for his three sons, only two of which measure up to his expectations. Edward Ellis, J. Edward Bromberg, Virginia Vale, Robert Stanton. Director: Jack Hively.

Timber Stampede..985..(58) .....June 30
Western. A railroad man and a lumber baron, who together plot to strip government land of timber, are halted in their ruthless attempts. George O'Brien, Marjorie Reynolds. Director: David Howard.

Two Thoroughbreds..013..(..) .....Dec. 8
Melodrama. A touching, simple story of the love of a boy for a horse, and each a thoroughbred in his own way. Jimmy Lydon, Joan Brodel. Director: Jack Hively.

Way Down South..947..(62).....July 21
Musical. Bobby balks a scheming executor of his estate who would sell the plantation Negroes. Bobby Breen, Alan Mowbray. Director: Bernard Vorhaus.

State Rights

A Brivele Der Mamen (A Letter to Mother) (106) .....Sphinx
Drama. The gradual disintegration of a simple family of Jews and their friends who live in a provincial Polish town, how the family comes to America one by one and the events that transpire, all shown in their relationship to the mother. Lucy Gehrman, Alexander Stein, Max Bozyk. Producer: Greenfilm, Warsaw. 10-39

A People Eternal..(65).....Six Star
Drama. Mystical interpretation of the Messiah's plea for salvation. English subtitles. Conrad Veidt, Peggy Ashcroft, Basil Gill. Director: Maurice Elvey. 12-39

Affair Laffont, The..(90) .....Trans-Atlantic
Drama. A married woman shoots her sister, whose illegitimate child she has raised, when a blackmailing father arrives and the mother is about to tell all. Corinne Luchaire. Director: Leonid Moguy. 11-39

Alexander Nevsky..(92) .....Amkino
Epic Drama. The invasion of Russia by the Order of Teutonic Knights in the 13th Century. Nickolai Cherkassov, N. P. Okhlopkov. Director: Sergei Eisenstein.

Betrayal..(80) .....World
Historical Drama. A new approach is presented in this story of Catherine the Great of Russia and the love she bore for the treacherous Count Orloff. Annie Vernay, Pierre Richard-Willm. Director: Fedor Ozep. 10-39

Black Limelight..(63) .....Alliance
Melodrama. A man's mistress is murdered, but his wife helps clear him of the murder charge by trapping the family lawyer who is obsessed with a homicidal mania during a full moon. Raymond Massey, Joan Marion. Director: Walter C. Mycroft. 7-39

Bombs Over London..(78) .....Film Alliance
Melodrama. A mad diplomat from an unnamed country in Central Europe uses a peace conference as a front to stage an air raid on London by wireless-controlled airplanes. Charles Farrell, Fritz Kortner, Margaret Vyner. Directors: Roger Macdougal and Alexander MacKendrick. 10-39

Buried Alive..(..) .....Nov. 6 P-D-C
Melodrama. A lad is sentenced to the chair for complicity in a prison murder, but a "hoax" execution is performed to make the guilty man confess the boy's innocence. Beverly Roberts, Robert Wilcox, Peter Lynn. Director: Victor Halperin.

Challenge, The..(65).....Film Alliance
Outdoor Drama. A thrilling mountain-climbing race between an English and Italian party to reach the top of Matterhorn, tallest of the Alpine peaks. Robert Douglas, Luis Trenker, Joan Gardner. Director: Milton Rosmer. Trenker co-directed in the Alpine scenes. 10-39

Conquests of Peter the Great..(94).....Amkino
Historical Drama. A dramatization of the swashbuckling monarch who led Russia out of feudalism, but was forced to commit his son to execution for an attempted betrayal. Russian cast. Director: Vladimir Petrov. 9-39

Daughter of the Tong..(56) .....Metropolitan
Melodrama. G-Man Grant Withers trails a Chinese woman gangster who controls the alien smuggling racket in Chinatown. Evelyn Brent,

Grant Withers. Director: Raymond K. Johnson. 9-39

Dead Men Tell No Tales..(69).....Alliance
Mystery Thriller. The matron of a boys' school wins a Sweepstakes, and falls into the hands of a murderous fiend. Emlyn Williams, Hugh Williams, Sara Seegar. Director: David MacDonald. 9-39

Demon Barber of Fleet St...(66).....Select
Melodrama. A weird tale is unfolded as a waterfront barber tells a customer of his predecessor who lured wealthy passengers from English ships to his shop where he murdered them and looted their belongings. Tod Slaughter, Bruce Seton, Stella Rho. Director: George King. 10-39

End of a Day, The..(94).....Juno Films
Drama. The poignant story of actors at the twilight of their careers. Victor Francen, Louis Jouvet, Michel Simon. Director: Julien Duvivier. 10-39

Escape From Yesterday..(88).....Hoffberg
French Drama. A man-hunt that leads to adventure in North Africa with the Spanish Foreign Legion. Jean Gabin, Annabella. Director: Julien Duvivier. 7-39

Fighting Renegade..(54).....Victory-Principal
Western. Tim McCoy in a dual role, first as a Mexican guide and then as Bill Carson seeking a murderer, all in the interests of an Indian expedition. Tim McCoy, Joyce Bryant. 9-39

First Film Concert, The..(52)..World.....Nov. 1
Mixed Concert. A series of recitals on music of yesterday's masters played by prominent artists of today. Also includes a ballet. Alfred Cortot, Gregor Piatigorsky, et al. Director: 12-39

Flaming Lead..(57).....Colony
Western. A barroom entertainer gets dragged into settlement of a drunk's ranch holdings out west, which is co-owned by a girl who is trying to stall off inroads of rustlers long enough to fill her army horse contracts. Ken Maynard, Eleanor Stewart. Director: Sam Newfield. 12-39

Grand Illusion..(92).....World
Drama. The effects of war are presented in this drama depicting the hardships endured by French army officers in a German prison camp. (In French with superimposed English dialogue titles.) Eric von Stroheim, Jean Gabin, Pierre Fresnay Dita Parlo. Director: Jean Renoir.

Great Commandment, The..(85)..Cathedral Films
Religious Drama. Treating of Judea during the Roman oppression and the rise of Christ. John Beal, Maurice Moscovich, Albert Dekker. Director: Irving Pichel. 11-39

Harvest..(80).....French Film Center
Drama. A film poem of a woman who leaves an itinerant scissor-grinder to marry a peasant farmer, and through her love inspires him to harvest the land wasted by others. Fernandel, Gabriel Gabrio, Orane Demazis. Director: Marcel Pagnol. 9-39

Hatred..(..).....World
Drama. A story of the sea, from the novel by O. P. Gilbert. (In French with superimposed English dialogue titles). Starring Harry Baur.

Headleys at Home, The..(60).....Standard
Comedy Drama. Friend wife hires an actor to impersonate a big financier, who comes to town, and about whom she had concocted a phoney story of school-day friendship. Complications occur when the impersonator turns out to be a bank robber. Grant Mitchell, Evelyn Venable, Benny Rubin, Vince Barnett. Director: Chris Beute. 11-39

Heartbeat..(90)..French M. P. Corp.....Sept. 4
Drama. A human drama of the honest, simple lives of the Provence peasants, with the romance centered around a girl who runs off with a scoundrel, and returns a year later, only to be humiliated by her father's code of honor. French cast. Director: Marcel Pagnol. 9-39

Hitler—Beast of Berlin..(90).....Oct. 15..P-D-C
Drama. Depicts inside Nazi Germany in this story of a brave German anti-Nazi who organizes a group opposing Hitler and his brutalities. Roland Drew, Steffi Duna. Director: Sherman Scott. 11-39

I Met a Murderer..(80).....York
Drama. An English-made film sponsored by a group of talented youthful thespians. Story concerns a young farmer who murders his nagging wife in a fit of rage, and becomes a hunted man. James Mason, Pamela Kellino, Sylvia Coleridge. Director: Roy Kellino. 10-39

Indiscretions..(80).....Tri-National
French Comedy. A middle-aged woman has an affair with a young man and her husband cleverly makes her regret it. Sacha Guitry, Betty Dausmond, Jacqueline Delubac. Director: Sacha Guitry. 6-39

Ireland's Border Line..(65).....Regal
Comedy. An itinerant cough-mixer vendor stumbles into a man and woman crook somewhere between northern and southern Ireland. Jimmy O'Dea, Myrette Morven. Director: Harry O'Donovan. 11-39

Invisible Killer, The..(..)..P-D-C.....Nov. 14
Drama. A newspaper woman gets the evidence to convict the town's leading reformer on a murder charge. Grace Bradley, Roland Drew, Alex Callam, Frank Coletti. Director: Sherman Scott. 12-39

Lenin in 1918..(130).....Amkino
Historical Drama. Russian film with English titles. A biographical portrayal of Lenin, his early struggles to keep his party in power, and the events leading up to an attempt on his life. Russian cast. Director: Mikhail Romn. 7-39

Life of Tschaikowsky, The (Es War Eine Rauschende Ballnacht)..(93)..UFA-Carl Froelich.....Nov. 1939
Music Drama. The struggle of the famous composer for recognition, and a symphony concert rendition of his major works. English sub-titles. Zarah Leander, Aribert Wascher, Hans Stowe. Director: 12-39

Light Ahead, The..(108).....Carmel
Drama. From the S. J. Abramowitz classic, of the romance between a blind girl and a crippled bath attendant, who find conflicting forces in the smug complacency and superstitious attitude of the townspeople. Isidore Casher, Helen Beverly, David Opatashu. Director: Edgar Ulmer. 10-39

Lure of the Wasteland..(52).....
Western. Filmed in Telco-Color, and the story of a federal man assigned to recover the loot hidden by train robbers. Grant Withers, Karl Hackett. Director: Harry Fraser. 9-39

Mademoiselle Ma Mere..(78).....J. H. Hoffberg
Farce comedy. A young woman marries an elderly man to spite her father, but the marriage is never consummated. She runs off with her stepson and an annulment leaves them free to marry. Danielle Darrieux, Marcel Simon. Director: Henri Decoin. 10-39

Marseillaise..(79)..World.....Nov. 3
Historical Drama. The early days of the French Republic, during which period the French national anthem was born. Pierre Renoir, Lise Delamare, Louis Jouvet. Director: Jean Renoir. 12-39

Mesquite Buckaroo..(59).....Metropolitan
Western. Road agents kidnap a bronc-riding cowhand to insure their winning the high stakes. He escapes in time to enter and win the rodeo. Bob Steele, Carolyn Curtis, Frank LaRue. 11-39

Mill on the Floss, The..(80).....Standard
Drama. From George Eliot's immortal classic of the tragedy that follows the antagonism between two families, one that of an honest miller, the other a tricky lawyer. Geraldine Fitzgerald, Frank Lawton. Director: Tim Whelan. 12-39

Mirele Efros..(87).....Credo
Drama. A Yiddish play of daughter-in-law versus mother-in-law conflict that finally ends at the bar mitzvah of a grandson. Berta Gersten, Michael Rosenberg, Ruth Elbaum. Director: Josef Berne. 11-39

Murder Is News..(55).....Warwick
Action Drama. A columnist predicts the divorce of a wealthy businessman, who later is found murdered. John Gallaudet, Iris Meredith, John Hamilton. Director: Leon Barsha. 7-39

Mutiny of the Elsinore..(73).....Regal
Action Drama. From Jack London's forceful drama of adventure and mutiny on the high seas, and the hopes and desperations of these sea-faring men. Paul Lukas, Lyn Harding. Director: Roy Lockwood.

Mystic Circle Murder..(69).....Merit
Spiritualism Expose. A newspaperman saves the girl he loves from a phoney medium about to rob her. Betty Compson, Robert Fiske. 11-39

Neighbors..(90).....Best Films
Comedy. A Jewish comedy of errors in which a mixup in names brings confusion and romance into the life of a radio announcer. Helen Gross, Joseph Orwid. Director:

New Horizons..(92).....Amkino
Melodrama. The birth of the U.S.S.R. and Maxim's appointment as commissar of the government bank. M. Shtraukh, M. Gelovani, Boris Chirkov. Directors: Gregory Kozintsev, Leonid Trauberg. 7-39

On His Own..(96).....Amkino
Drama. A sort of continuation of the screen biography of Maxim Gorky, picking up the threads where the period of childhood had come to a close and where Gorky faces the future unafraid on the brink of manhood. Alexi Lyarsky. Director: Mark Donskoi. 10-39

Oppenheim Family, The..(97).....Amkino
Drama. Based on the novel by Leon Feuchtwanger. Portrays the life of the Oppenheims under the Nazi regime terror. Russian cast. Director: Gregory Roshal. 7-39

Port of Hate..(57).....Metropolitan
Melodrama. Two friends discover a pearl oysterbed in the South Seas, one of whom gets killed and the other is left to protect the secret from pearl raiders. Polly Ann Young, Kenneth Harlan. Director: Harry S. Webb. 9-39

Port of Shadows..(68).....Film Alliance
French Drama. An army deserter and implied murderer, and a girl escaping her foster-father, meet when they seek refuge in a harbor hut. The romance ends in tragedy when the former is killed by a gangster. Jean Gabin, Michele Morgan. Director: Michael Carne. 11-39

Prisoner of Corbal, The..(73).....Syndicate
Drama From Rafael Sabatini's novel of a revolutionary terrorist who, in pursuit of a woman of noble birth, uses all sorts of traps to snare her. Nils Asther, Noah Beery, Hazel Terry. Director: Karl Grune. 9-39

Rangle River..(72).....J. H. Hoffberg
Outdoor Drama. **The importance of the river to cattle raisers, in this story from the pen of Zane Grey. Victor Jory, Margaret Dare. Director: Clarence Badger. 6-39**

Rasputin..(93).....Concord
Drama. The influential monk's notorious activities first in Siberia and then among the cafe society of wartime St. Petersburg. Harry Baur. Director: Marcel L'Herbier. 11-39

Return of the Frog..(70).....Select
Melodrama. An Edgar Wallace thriller in which the Frog and his henchmen return to terrorize London. Gordon Harker, Hartley Power, Rene Ray. Director: Maurice Elvey. 10-39

Royal Divorce, A..(87).....Imperator
Historical Drama. Josephine holds no love for Napoleon at the time of their marriage, but his love for her sets him out to conquer the world. When he becomes famous, she shows her affection, but it is then too late Ruth Chatterton, Pierre Blanchard. Director: Jack Raymond 9-39

Scipione L'Africano..(155).....Esperia
Historical Drama. An all-Italian film (no English subtitles) showing the conquest of Carthage by the Romans during the reign of Scipio. Isa Miranda and Italian cast. Director: Carmine Gallone. 10-39

Scorched Earth, The..(50)....B. V. Mindenburg
Documentary. An indictment of Japanese aggression in China, the film composed entirely of newsreel clips. Narrator: Cliff Howell. 7-39

Smoky Trails..(56)..Metropolitan.....July 1
Western. One of the Bob Steele series, in which Bob meets face to face the villain who shot his father in the back. Bob Steele, Jean Carmen. Director: Bernard B. Ray. 9-39

Song of the Streets..(75)..Mayer-Burstyn..Sept. 1
Drama. French version of "Dead End" kids growing up in the slums of Paris, with neglect and poverty making them potential criminals. French cast. Director: Victor Trivas. 9-39

Special Inspector..(55).....Warwick
Melodrama. A government agent is assigned to get fur hijackers smuggling their loot across the Canadian border. Charles Quigley, Rita Hayworth. Director: Leon Barsha. 6-39

Spy of Napoleon..(77).....Unity
Historical Melodrama. English-made film portraying the intrigue and machinations surrounding the reign of Napoleon III, war with Prussia in 1870, and the downfall of the French ruler. Richard Barthelmess, Dolly Haas. Director: Maurice Elvey. 7-39

Taku..(48).....Norman Dawn
Nature Drama. The story of a grizzled prospector who had been panning gold for 30 years without a strike. Filmed against a background of authentic scenic shots and photographic studies of animals in the Taku country of Alaska. Amateur cast. Director: Norman Dawn. 10-39

Texas Wildcats..(58).....Victory
Western. Tim McCoy poses as the "Phantom" to avenge the death of his partner. Tim McCoy, Joan Barclay, Forrest Taylor. Director: Sam Newfield. 7-39

That They May Live (J'Accuse)..(78).....Mayer & Burstyn
French Drama. From the realm of fantasy comes this story of a war veteran who fights for peace. His dead comrades rise from their graves to confront the world with their message. Victor Francen, Line Noro, Marie Lou. Director: Abel Gance. 12-39

Three Waltzes..(80).....Vedis Films
French Operetta. Depicts the loves of the Grandpres and the de Chalencey of 1867 France, covers three generations and Strauss's music, and brings the story to a halt in a modern film studio. Yvonne Printemps, Pierre Fresnay. Director: Dr. Ludwig Berger. 6-39

Timberland Terror..(75).....Hoffberg
Melodrama. Produced in Australia, the story deals with the timberland country, and a life guard who saves the heroine and her father's timber business Shirley Ann Richards, Frank Leighton. Director: Ken G. Hall.

Torpedoed..(66).....Film Alliance
Melodrama. How the British navy diplomatically quells a revolution in an unidentified belligerent Latin country that had attacked one of their ships. H. B. Warner, Robert Douglas, Richard Cromwell. 10-39

Torture Ship..(57).....Oct. 22 P-D-C
Melodrama. Mutiny on the high seas when eight criminals, brought aboard a liner by a scientist

for a cure, become panicky at the thought of becoming scientific sacrifices. Irving Pichel, Jacqueline Wells, Lyle Talbot. Director: Victor Halperin. 11-39

Treachery on the High Seas..(68).....Times Melodrama. Jewel thieves are after a ruby necklace on a trans-Atlantic liner. Ben Lyon, Bebe Daniels. 10-39

Tumbleweeds..(82)..Reissue..Astor .....June 9 Western. The same picture produced by William S. Hart in 1925, with Hart speaking to the audience for the first time in an 8-minute prologue. William S. Hart, Barbara Bedford, Lucien Littlefield. Director: King Baggot. 7-39

Typhoon Treasure..(68) .....State Rights Outdoor Adventure. A pearler whose schooner is wrecked in a typhoon trails through a perilous jungle to save the treasure from thieves. Campbell Copelin, Joe Valli. Director: Noel Monkman. 7-39

When Germany Surrendered..(70).....A. L. Rule Documentary. An eloquent appeal for peace. Scenes of the battlefronts, wartime Italy, submarine warfare and hand-to-hand combat, of the World War. 11-39

Why This War..(70) .....Jewel Documentary indicting the war-makers. Battlefront scenes and the German U-Boat campaign. Compiled by Samuel Cummins. 11-39

Will of the People, The..(55).....States Right Documentary. A documentary compilation from the government's film archives and newsreel clips showing the Loyalist struggle against the combined Fascist forces of Franco, Germany and Italy. Commentary: By Producer Louis Frank.

Without a Home..(88).....Foreign Cinema Arts Drama. A man brings his family to America, but in his eagerness to make good in the land of opportunity, neglects his family for his job. (A Yiddish film with English sub-titles). Ida Kaminska, A. Marten, Warsaw Synagogue Choir. Director: A. Marten.

World Is Ours, The..(96).....Frank Kassler Comedy Satire. The only remaining print in existence not destroyed by Hitler, and made a few months before he took over Czechoslovakia. The story is of two unemployed sign painters who stumble on the cache of arms hidden by the "grey hats" and warn the workers in time to break up the plot. Voskevec and Werich. Director: Mac Fric.

20th Century-Fox

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes..005..(85) Sept. 1 Mystery. A murderous fiend runs amuck in the Tower of London, in his attempt to steal the crown jewels, to the complete bafflement of the great Sherlock Holmes. Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, George Zucco. Director: Alfred Werker.

Barricade..026..(71) .....Dec. 8 Melodrama. A newspaperman and a girl, each fleeing from something, are swept together during the invasion of China, and battle death together when the U. S. Consulate office is raided by bandits. Warner Baxter, Alice Faye, Charles Winninger. Director: Gregory Ratoff.

Boy Friend..943..(70) .....May 19 Comedy. When a murder occurs in the police training school which Jane's brother attends, she and her sweetheart turn sleuths and capture the crooks. Jane Withers, George Ernest, Arleen Whelan. Director: James Tinling.

Charlie Chan at Treasure Island..006..(73) Sept. 8 Melodrama. Treasure Island in San Francisco's World Fair is the background setting for a couple of well manipulated murders. Sidney Toler, Cesar Romero, Pauline Moore. Director: Norman Foster.

Charlie Chan in Reno..948..(71) .....June 16 Mystery Drama. Charlie Chan finds the solution of a murder by the elimination process difficult because of dislike for the victim by so many individuals. Sidney Toler, Ricardo Cortez, Phyllis Brooks. Director: Norman Foster.

Charlie Chan in the City of Darkness..021..(74) .....Dec. 1 Mystery Melodrama. Terror stalks Paris as Charlie Chan seeks the solution to a murder committed during a test blackout of the city. Sidney Toler, Lynn Bari, Harold Huber. Director: Herbert I. Leeds.

Chicken Wagon Family..002..(65).....Aug. 11 Comedy. Leo Carrillo takes his family, chicken wagon and all, to New York, where they regain a sound economic footing with the aid of Jane Withers. Carrillo, Withers, Spring Byington. Director: Herbert I. Leeds.

Day-Time Wife..020..(72) .....Nov. 24 Comedy Drama. Friend wife, who suspects a love affair between her husband and his secretary, turns the tables by taking a job as some other man's secretary. Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell, Warren William. Director: Gregory Ratoff.

Drums Along the Mohawk..015..(103) ..Nov. 10 Historical Drama. A pictorial record of the plight and hardships of the Mohawk Valley pioneers against Indian raids during the American Revolution. Claudette Colbert, Henry Fonda. Director: John Ford.

Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women..001..(82) Aug. 4 Comedy. A home town girl wins back her boy friend when, in addition to becoming New York's leading model, she also saves him from a shooting charge. Ann Sothern, Linda Darnell, James Ellison. Director: Gregory Ratoff.

Escape, The..010..(60) .....Oct. 6 Drama. A kindly, big city doctor unfolds this tale of a group of tenement kids he had brought into the world and relates the events leading up to their criminal careers. Edward Norris, June Gale, Frank Reicher, Amanda Duff, Henry Armetta, Kane Richmond. Director: Ricardo Cortez.

First World War..Reissue..062..(78).....Oct. 27 Documentary. A symposium of chronological events of the World War, divided into 11 chapters, showing the events leading up to the war, the personalities involved, and warfare on the high seas, in the air and in the trenches. Bonny Powell, Russell Shields, Lou Lehr, Louis de Rochemont. Dialogue: Pedro de Cordoba. Edited by: Laurence Stallings.

Frontier Marshal..951..(70) .....July 28 Outdoor Drama. How a sure-shot he-man proved the scourge of Arizona's early bad men and brought law enforcement upon wild Tombstone. Randolph Scott, Nancy Kelly, Cesar Romero. Director: Allan Dwan.

Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence..019 (62) .....Nov. 3 Drama. A young ranch owner, en route to Arizona, meets a girl refugee from Spain, and the two marry to escape arrest. Jean Rogers, Raymond Walburn, Glenn Ford. Director: Ricardo Cortez.

Here I Am a Stranger..009..(82).....Sept. 29 Drama. So that her infant son may have security and education, a woman divorces her irresponsible husband and marries a wealthy man. The lad grows to manhood only to find himself in a conflict between the world he was born into and the world his mother had created for him. Richard Greene, Richard Dix, Brenda Joyce. Director: Roy Del Ruth.

Hollywood Cavalcade..007..(96) .....Oct. 13 Musical. A history of motion pictures and their development from the days of custard pie tossing, Keystone Kops, and the first super-spectacles, through the birth of sound. Alice Faye, Don Ameche, J. Edward Bromberg, and others. Director: Irving Cummings.

Honeymoon's Over, The..024..(70).....Dec. 15 Comedy Drama. Depicts the dangers that befall newlyweds who do not choose friends wisely, and who over-indulge in luxuries. Stuart Erwin, Majorie Weaver. Director: Eugene Forde.

It Could Happen to You..950..(72).....June 30 Comedy Drama. A faithful wife didn't think it could happen, but a dead woman is found in the back of her husband's car when he returns from his boss's party. Stuart Erwin, Gloria Stuart, Douglas Fowley. Director: Alfred Werker.

Jones Family in Hollywood, The..946..(60) June 2 Comedy Drama. The family of Pa Jones tags along when he goes to Hollywood as a delegate to the American Legion convention, and are bitten by the motion picture bug. Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Shirley Deane. Director: Malcolm St. Clair.

Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation..952..(65).....July 7 Melodrama. By dint of brainwork and jui-jitsu Mr. Moto saves the crown of the Queen of Sheba, reposing in a museum, from the itchy fingers of an arch-criminal. Peter Lorre, Joseph Schildkraut, Virginia Field. Director: Norman Foster.

News Is Made at Night..953..(71).....July 21 Action Drama. An editor and his cub reporter unmask a "friend" who is responsible for a wave of murders designed to cover his own criminal record. Preston Foster, Lynn Bari. Alfred Werker directed.

Pack Up Your Troubles..014..(75).....Oct. 20 Comedy. The Ritz Bros. can't get vaudeville bookings and join the U. S. cavalry during the World War and wind up as mule guardians and heroes. Jane Withers, Ritz Brothers. Director: H. Bruce Humberstone.

Quick Millions..004..(61) .....Aug. 25 Comedy. The Jones Family inherit a gold mine in the west, but arrive to find the property being used as a hideout by bank bandits. Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Eddie Collins. Director: Mal St. Clair.

Rains Came, The..011..(103) .....Sept. 15 Drama. The film version of Louis Bromfield's best seller, of love, romance, and a breathtaking earthquake spectacle, in exotic India. Myrna Loy, Tyrone Power, George Brent. Director: Clarence Brown.

Road to Glory..061..(101)..Reissue.....Oct. 13 War Drama. A love triangle in which an embittered French captain loves a war nurse who loves a lieutenant in the captain's army. Fredric March, Warner Baxter, Lionel Barrymore, June Lang. Director: Howard Hawks.

Second Fiddle..949..(85) .....July 14 Musical Comedy. A school teacher wins a screen test contest, and a press agent tries to promote a publicity romance between her and a waning matinee idol, but falls in love with her himself. Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power, Rudy Vallee. Director: Sidney Lanfield.

Shipyard Sally..018..(80) .....Oct. 20 Comedy. Sally and her father give up the stage and buy a shipyard pub in the shipbuilding town of Clydebanks. She takes the problems of the impoverished commoners to her heart and soon becomes a fighting champion for the working class of England. Gracie Fields, Sydney Howard. Director: Monty Banks.

Stanley and Livingstone..003..(100) ..Aug. 18 Adventure Drama. A dramatization of the most daring assignment in journalistic history. Henry M. Stanley, New York Herald reporter, fights death and pestilence in the wilds of Africa, in his search for Dr. David Livingstone, missionary-explorer. Spencer Tracy, Nancy Kelly, Richard Greene. Director: Henry King.

Stop, Look and Love..008..(57) .....Sept. 22 Comedy. The story of a well-meaning but meddlesome mother who drives away her daughters suitors by talking too much. Jean Rogers, William Frawley, Robert Kelland. Director: Otto Brower.

Susannah of the Mounties..954..(78).....June 23 Outdoor Adventure. Shirley, as sole survivor of an Indian massacre, is taken under the wing of a Canadian Mountie. She averts another uprising and saves the latter's life when the Blackfeet tribe try to burn him at the stake. Shirley Temple, Randolph Scott, Margaret Lockwood. Director: William A. Seiter.

Too Busy to Work..016..(65).....Nov. 17 Comedy. Pa Jones neglects his drug store to carry out his official duties as Mayor. His wife counteracts by neglecting her housework for the local stage. Jed Prouty, Spring Byington, Joan Davis. Director: Otto Brower.

20,000 Men a Year..013..(84).....Oct. 27 Action Drama. A reckless, old-time pilot becomes head of an aviation training school for collegians, under government sponsorship. Randolph Scott, Preston Foster, Margaret Lindsay. Director: Alfred E. Green.

Ware Case, The..8014..(72) .....July 21 Mystery Drama. A mutual friend frees a bounder husband from a murder charge. When the husband learns the friend loves his wife, he admits the crime and kills himself. Clive Brook, Jane Baxter. Director: Robert Stevenson.

Young Mr. Lincoln..947..(101) .....June 9 Historical Drama. A portrait of Lincoln's earlier years as a rail-splitter, humorist, pie-eating contestant, and his experiences as a lawyer. Henry Fonda, Alice Brady, Arleen Whelan. Director: John Ford.

United Artists

Eternally Yours..(95) .....Oct. 12 Comedy. On the eve of her marriage to a man she does not love, the granddaughter of a bishop runs away to become the wife of a magician. Loretta Young, David Niven, C. Aubrey Smith. Director: Tay Garnett.

Four Feathers..(109) .....Aug. 4 Adventure Drama. A military spectacle of the British Sudan. A man wins redemption from the charge of cowardice over overwhelming odds. Ralph Richardson, C. Aubrey Smith, June Duprez. Director: Zoltan Korda.

Housekeeper's Daughter..(80) .....Oct. 26 Comedy. The daughter of a housekeeper in a wealthy home is involved in a murder when a rejected suitor seeks refuge in their home. The son of the household, who is a newspaper reporter, helps the girl out of her difficulty and a romance blossoms. Joan Bennett, Adolphe Menjou, John Hubbard, Peggy Wood. Director: Hal Roach.

Intermezzo..(65) .....Sept. 22 Romantic Drama. A poignant love story of a maestro who falls in love with his daughter's music teacher. Leslie Howard, Ingrid Bergman. Director: Gregory Ratoff.

Man in the Iron Mask (110).....Aug. 11 Melodrama. Semi-historical spectacle of the legendary twin of Louis XIV, condemned to life imprisonment as a masked mystery man. Louis Hayward, Joan Bennett, Warren William. Director: James Whale.

Real Glory, The..(95) .....Sept. 29 Melodrama. Based on the history of the building by America of a native army in the Philippines and the overthrow of the fanatical and rebellious Moros. Gary Cooper, Andrea Leeds, David Niven. Director: Henry Hathaway.

They Shall Have Music..(120).....Aug. 18 Drama with Music. Jascha Heifetz makes his

first screen appearance, as a conductor who saves a tenement district music school from financial collapse by conducting a concert with the children as musicians. Jascha Heifetz, Andrea Leeds, Joel McCrea, Walter Brennan. Director: Archie Mayo.

Winter Carnival..(90) .....July 28
Comedy. Dartmouth College's annual winter carnival is background for this campus romance of winter sport and tender love. Ann Sheridan, Richard Carlson. Director: Charles F. Riesner.

Universal

Big Guy, The..4016..(78).....Nov. 24
Melodrama. A boy, innocent aide in a prison break in which a policeman is murdered, is sentenced to hang. Only the warden has the evidence to prove the boy's innocence, but presenting it will incriminate himself. Victor McLaglen, Jackie Cooper. Director: Arthur Lubin.

Call a Messenger..20..(65).....Nov. 3
Comedy Drama. Faced with the choice of reform school or a job, the leader of a boys' gang chooses the latter and gets his friends to follow. Billy Halop, Mary Carlisle, "Little Tough Guys." Director: Arthur Lubin.

Chip of the Flying U..4060..(55).....Nov. 24
Western. Foreign agents conceal explosives on the Flying U Ranch, and trouble starts when their hiding place is discovered. John Mack Brown, Bob Baker, Fuzzy Knight, Doris Weston. Director: Ralph Staub.

Desperate Trails..4058..(58).....Sept. 8
Western. The hero discovers the sheriff and banker in cahoots with the outlaw gang who run the town. John Mack Brown, Bob Baker, Fuzzy Knight, Frances Robinson. Director: Albert Ray.

Destry Rides Again..(94).....Dec. 29
Action Drama. A saloon entertainer sacrifices her life to help the man sent to investigate the town's crooked mayor. Marlene Dietrich, James Stewart, Brian Donlevy. Director: George Marshall.

First Love..3002..(84) .....Nov. 10
Comedy with Music. A modern Cinderella who lives with relatives too busy to look after her, becomes friends with the servants who chip in and buy her a dress ensemble for a dance, where she meets a modern Prince Charming. Deanna Durbin, Helen Parrish, Robert Stack, Eugene Pallette. Director: Henry Koster.

Forgotten Woman, The..(3031)..(68).....July 7
Drama. A young woman becomes innocently involved in a crime mesh and is sent to prison, where her baby is born. She is almost the forgotten woman, until one of the gangsters makes a deathbed confession. Sigrid Gurie, William Lundigan, Eve Arden. Director: Harold Young.

Hawaiian Nights..24..(64) .....Sept. 8
Musical Comedy. A hotel magnate sends his swing-crazy son to Honolulu to work in a hotel there, but he meets a young woman managing a rival hostelry and with his orchestra helps put the place on its feet. Johnny Downs, Mary Carlisle, Eddie Quillan. Director: Albert Rogell.

Hero for a Day..4035..(66).....Oct. 6
Comedy. An old graduate of a small Texas college shows the Texas football team that the college spirit consists of more than just football, while his niece falls in love with the big star of the team. Anita Louise, Charley Grapewin, Dick Foran. Director: Harold Young.

House of Fear, The..3038..(66).....June 30
Mystery Drama. A producer restages a play to track the murderer of a Broadway stage star. William Gargan, Irene Hervey, Alan Dinehart. Director: Joe May.

I Stole a Million..3007..(78) .....July 21
Drama. A criminal, through no fault of his own, in fighting back to go straight, sacrifices his own life to ensure the happiness of his wife and child. George Raft, Claire Trevor, Dick Foran. Director: Frank Tuttle.

Inside Information..3040..(62).....June 2
Action Drama. A rookie cop uses scientific methods to capture jewel robbers. June Lang, Dick Foran, Harry Carey, Mary Carlisle. Director: Charles Lamont.

Laugh It Off..4026..(63) .....Dec. 1
Musical. A group of oldtime, down-and-out show girls head for Broadway, and get their chance when a gambling friend's night club is wrecked by a raid, and they put on a show to save the club. Constance Moore, Johnny Downs, Cecil Cunningham, Edgar Kennedy. Director: Albert S. Rogell.

Legion of Lost Flyers..53..(64).....Nov. 3
Melodrama. Innocently blamed for a fatal air crash, the hero turns up at an Alaskan airport where he meets the man responsible for the crash. A series of daring, exciting events ensue before the villain confesses his guilt. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Anne Nagel, William Lundigan. Director: Christy Cabanne.

Little Accident..4019..(65) .....Oct. 27
Comedy. Baby Sandy saves a newspaper columnist from being fired, wins a baby contest and "adopts" herself some new parents. Hugh Herbert, Baby Sandy, Florence Rice. Director: Charles Lamont.

Man From Montreal, The..4054..(60).....Dec. 8
Action Drama. Because of his love for the sister of a gangster, a fur trapper is unaware that he is being framed by hijackers, until he is caught with the stolen furs. The Northwest Mounted Police save the day. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Kay Sutton. Director: Christy Cabanne.

Mikado, The..4044..(92) .....Sept. 8
Musical Operetta. Gilbert & Sullivan's musical operetta, the story of Nanki-Poo, son of the Mikado, who marries Yum-Yum against his father's wishes. Kenny Baker, Jean Colin, D'Oyly Carte Troupe. Director: Victor Schertzinger.

Missing Evidence..4028..(64) .....Dec. 15
Melodrama. G-Men, with the help of a cigar counter girl, smash a counterfeit ring dealing in lottery tickets. Preston Foster, Irene Hervey, Chick Chandler. Director: Phil Rosen.

Mutiny on the Black Hawk..4051..(66)....Sept. 1
Outdoor Drama. A government agent is assigned to stop slave running in the South Seas, and leads a successful mutiny to accomplish his ends. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Constance Moore. Director: Christy Cabanne.

My Man Godfrey..(93)..Reissue.....June 2
Comedy. A "socialite hobo" lands a butler's job in a wealthy, madcap household with two wild daughters who cause no end of trouble when they both fall in love with him. William Powell, Carole Lombard. Director: Gregory La Cava.

Oklahoma Frontier..4059..(58).....Oct. 20
Western. A lad holding a map to a claim left by his father is murdered and the hero is falsely accused of the crime. He escapes and with the aid of his sweetheart finds the real murderer. Johnny Mack Brown, Bob Baker, Anne Gwynne. Director: Ford Beebe.

One Hour to Live..30..(59).....Nov. 10
Action Drama. In tracking down a big shot gangster, a hard-boiled inspector is stumped when he finds the police commissioner involved. Charles Bickford, Doris Nolan, John Litel. Director: Harold Schuster.

Rio..(75) .....Sept. 29
Drama. A ruthless French swindler is sent to a South American penal colony. His wife follows him and works as an entertainer in a cafe, where she meets and falls in love with a young American. Her husband is killed while trying to escape and she is left free to marry the American. Basil Rathbone, Sigrid Gurie, Robert Cummings, Victor McLaglen. Director: John Brahm.

Road Back, The..(79)..Reissue .....Nov. 3
Drama. Sequel to "All Quiet on the Western Front," and a further plea against the deplorable futility of war, and the difficult post-war adjustment that faces those who come back. John King, Richard Cromwell, Slim Summerville, Andy Devine. Director: James Whale.

Sun Never Sets, The..3009..(94).....June 9
Drama. Two brothers in the British civil service find themselves faced with an international crisis that might rock the entire world if their heroic efforts fail. Douglas Fairbanks jr., Basil Rathbone, Barbara O'Neil, Lionel Atwill. Director: Rowland Lee.

Tower of London..(94) .....Nov. 17
Melodrama. Imprisoned in the Tower for refusing to marry the King's choice, the hero is released after the King dies. To save the throne from the King's scheming brother, he helps an exiled King to regain the throne. Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff, John Sutton, Barbara O'Neill. Director: Rowland V. Lee.

Tropic Fury..4052..(63) .....Oct. 13
Drama. A dictator with a Napoleon complex rules the jungles, making slaves of the rubber plantation workers. But the yoke of his rule is broken when the natives revolt. Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, Beverly Roberts. Director: Christy Cabanne.

Two Bright Boys..4017..(70) .....Sept. 15
Drama. A gambler and his son, who are hired by an unscrupulous oil operator to obtain land from a widow and her son, become good friends with the latter and help them instead. Jackie Cooper, Freddie Bartholomew, Melville Cooper. Director: Joseph Santley.

Under-Pup..10..(88) .....Sept. 1
Drama with Music. The adventures of an east-side tomboy in a snobbish camp of socialite girls. Gloria Jean, C. Aubrey Smith, Virginia Weidler.

Unexpected Father (Formerly Sandy Takes a Bow)..3008..(89) .....July 14
Comedy. Baby Sandy, the child sensation in "East Side of Heaven," plays the starring role in her second film, as an orphan who is cared for by her mother's dancing partner. Measles and the authorities intervene, but the baby goes on a hunger strike until she is returned. Baby Sandy, Shirley Ross, Dennis O'Keefe, Mischa Auer. Director: Charles Lamont.

When Tomorrow Comes..3003..(90) .....Aug. 11
Drama. Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer fall in love, but she agrees to forget about him when Boyer introduces her to his wife, who is mentally ill. Boyer, Dunne, and Nydia Westman. Director: John Stahl.

Witness Vanishes, The..4027..(66) .....Sept. 22
Melodrama. The publisher of a London newspaper is railroaded to an insane asylum, from which he escapes, having vowed vengeance against the four men who had framed him. Edmund Lowe, Wendy Barrie, Barlowe Borland. Director: Otis Garrett.

Warner Bros.

A Child Is Born..415..(79) .....Sept. 30
Melodrama. Comedy and tragedy is enacted in the maternity ward of a hospital, in which is shown the joy with which some women usher life into the world, others resentfully, still others are denied fulfillment. Geraldine Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Lynn, Gale Page, Johnnie Davis. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Dead End Kids on Dress Parade..413..(62).Nov. 18
Comedy Drama. The Dead End Kids at military school. The academy head promised a dying friend to look after his son, but the boy proves a source of perpetual trouble. Billy Halop, Bobby Jordan, Leo Gorcey, John Litel. Director: William Clemens.

Hell's Kitchen..312..(81) .....July 8
Action Drama. A philanthropic gangster on probation takes charge of a wayward home for boys, but pandemonium breaks out when the gangster is framed and the institution threatened. Dead End Kids. Directors: Lewis Seiler and E. A. Dupont.

Indianapolis Speedway..315..(82) .....Aug. 5
Drama. A racer tries to keep his kid brother from the track and from the latter's girl. He fails in both, but reconcilation comes when both ride to victory in the big race. Pat O'Brien, Ann Sheridan. Director: Lloyd Bacon.

Juarez..301..(127) .....June 10
Historical Drama. An Indian boy becomes Mexico's liberator in its fight for Democracy in 1864. Paul Muni, Bette Davis, Brian Aherne. Director: William Dieterle.

Kid Nightingale..411..(58) .....Nov. 4
Comedy Drama. A prizefighter with operatic aspirations becomes a public hero, and after winning the championship match decides to launch his musical career. John Payne, Jane Wyman, Walter Catlett. Director: George Amy.

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase 419..(60) .....Sept. 9
Melodrama. Two sisters plan to donate their estate for a children's hospital, but someone else finds the property valuable for a purpose, and uses murder to thwart the original plans. Bonita Granville, Frankie Thomas. Director: William Clemens.

Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter..324..(69)..June 17
Drama. Nancy does some more detectifying in her own way to save an innocent man from the electric chair. Bonita Granville, Frankie Thomas, John Litel. Director: William Clemons.

Naughty But Nice..311..(90) .....July 1
Comedy With Music. A music professor, raised by maiden aunts, goes to New York to market his rhapsody, and meets a fourth aunt who shows him the swing side of music. Dick Powell, Ann Sheridan. Director: Ray Enright.

Pride of the Blue Grass..418..(65).....Oct. 7
Melodrama. The poignant story of a jockey's devotion to a blind horse. The lad is unaware of the horse's affliction until he loses several races, after which the youth, by love and diligence, trains him to jump by signals. Edith Fellows, James McCallion. Director William McGann.

Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex..402 (100) ◎ .....Nov. 11
Drama. A characterization of England's most famous queen, against a background of pomp, pageantry, intrigue and sweeping romance. Bette Davis, Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland. Director: Michael Curtiz.

Roaring Twenties..403..(104) .....Oct. 28
Drama. The hectic period between the end of the World War and the collapse of the financial bubble in 1929. James Cagney, Priscilla Lane. Director: Raoul Walsh.

Torchy Plays With Dynamite..326..(59)..Aug. 12
Comedy. Newspaperwoman Torchy goes to jail to get next to a gangster's girl. In a jailbreak she saves the girl's life and the gangster is apprehended. Jane Wyman, Allen Jenkins. Director: Noel Smith.

Waterfront..325..(59) .....July 15
Action Drama. The lives, loves and hates of the longshoremen and stevedores. Gloria Dickson, Dennis Morgan, Ward Bond. Director: Terry Morse.

Alphabetical Index of Feature Releases

Designed as a Time-Saving Guide for Exhibitors Who Know the Title of a Picture, but Do Not Recall the Producer or Distributor. All Pictures Listed Here Appear in the PRODUCTION INDEX in Alphabetical Order Under the Proper Company Headings. Date Following Title is Issue of Review.

A

A Brivele Der Mamen (SR) Oct. 7
A Child Is Born (WB) Aug. 5
A People Eternal (SR) Nov. 11
A Woman Is the Judge (Col) July 8
Across the Plains (Mono) June 3
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26
Affair Laffont, The (SR) Oct. 21
Alexander Nevsky (Amk) Apr. 15
All Women Have Secrets (Para) Dec. 9
Allegheny Uprising (RKO)
Amazing Mr. Williams (Col) Nov. 25
Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever (M-G-M) July 15
Angels Wash Faces (FN) Aug. 5
Another Thin Man (M-G-M) Nov. 18
Arizona Kid, The (Rep) Oct. 7
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col) reissue

B

Babes in Arms (M-G-M) Sept. 23
Bachelor Mother (RKO) July 1
Bad Lands (RKO) July 29
Bad Little Angel (M-G-M) Oct. 28
Barricade (20th-Fox) Dec. 2
Beachcomber, The (Para) Dec. 3
Beau Geste (Para) Aug. 29
Behind Prison Gates (Col) Aug. 5
Betrayal (SR) Sept. 23
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Blazing Sixes (WB)
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col) Nov. 11
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Bombs Over London (SR) Sept. 16
Boy Friend (20th-Fox) May 13
Bulldog Drummond's Bride (Para) June 24
Buried Alive (SR)

C

Cafe Hostess (Col)
Cafe Society (Para) Feb. 11
Call a Messenger (Univ) Sept. 9
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16
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Challenge, The (SR) Oct. 7
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 5
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3
Charlie Chan in the City of Darkness (20th-Fox) Nov. 25
Chicken Wagon Family (20th-Fox)
Chip of the Flying U (Univ)
Clouds Over Europe (Col) June 10
Coast Guard (Col) Aug. 19
Colorado Sunset (Rep) Aug. 5
Conquests of Peter (Amk) Sept. 2
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2
Covered Trailer (Rep) Nov. 18
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Cowboys From Texas (Rep) Dec. 9
Crashing Through (Mono) Nov. 4

D

Dancing Co-Ed (M-G-M) Oct. 14
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Daughter of the Tong (SR) Aug. 26
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Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (WB) Nov. 4
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Demon Barber of Fleet Street (SR) Oct. 7
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Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) Nov. 4
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

Each Dawn I Die (FN) Aug. 19
Easy Money (Inv)
Elsa Maxwell's Hotel for Women (20th-Fox) July 29
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Escape From Yesterday (SR)
Escape, The (20th-Fox)
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7
Everybody Dance (GB)
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14
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Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2
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First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34
Five Came Back (RKO) June 10
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Flaming Lead (SR) Nov. 18
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G

Gang's All Here (Asso-Brit.) Apr. 29
Girl and the Gambler, The (RKO), June 10
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Goodbye, Mr. Chips (M-G-M), May 20
Gracie Allen Murder Case (Para) May 13
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Grand Illusion (World)
Great Commandment (SR) Oct. 21

H

Harvest (SR) Aug. 5
Hatred (World)
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Heartbeat (SR) Sept. 9
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I

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It Could Happen to You (20th-Fox) June 3

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8
Jeepers Creepers (Rep) Nov. 4
Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President (M-G-M) Dec. 9
Jones Family in Hollywood (20th-Fox) May 27
Juarez (WB) Apr. 29

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21
Kid From Kokomo (FN) May 27
Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col)

L

Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M) Aug. 12
Laugh It Off (Univ) Nov. 11
Law of the Pampas (Para) Oct. 21
Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ)
Lenin in 1918 (SR) July 8
Life of Tschaikowsky (SR) Nov. 11
Light Ahead (SR) Oct. 7
Little Accident (Univ)
Llano Kid (Para) Nov. 11
Lost Horizon (Col) reissue
Lure of the Wasteland (SR) Aug. 26

M

Mademoiselle Ma Mere (SR) Sept. 30
Magnificent Fraud (Para) July 1
Main Street Lawyer (Rep) Nov. 11
Maisie (M-G-M) June 17
Man About Town (Para) June 17
Man From Montreal (Univ) Nov. 11
Man From Sundown (Col) Aug. 5
Man From Texas (Mono) Aug. 12
Man in the Iron Mask (UA) July 8
Man They Could Not Hang (Col) Aug. 19
Marseillaise (SR) Nov. 11
Marshal of Mesa City (RKO) Oct. 7
Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mesquite Buckaroo (SR) Oct. 28
Mickey the Kid (Rep) July 1
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7
Mill on the Floss (SR) Nov. 11
Million Dollar Legs (Para) July 15
Miracles for Sale (M-G-M) Aug. 5
Mirele Efros (SR) Oct. 28
Missing Evidence (Univ) Oct. 7
Mountain Rhythm (Rep) July 8
Mr. Moto Takes a Vacation (20th-Fox) Nov. 19
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14
Mr. Wong in Chinatown (Mono) July 22
Murder Is News (SR) July 8
Mutiny in Big House (Mono) Oct. 21
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24
Mutiny on Elsinore (Regal) Feb. 25
My Man Godfrey (Univ) reissue
Mystic Circle Murder (SR) Oct. 21

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB)
Naughty But Nice (WB) June 10
New Frontier (Rep)
New Horizons (SR) May 27
News Is Made at Night (20th-Fox) July 8
Nick Carter, Master Detective (M-G-M) Dec. 9
Night of Nights (Para) Dec. 2
Night Work (Para) Aug. 12
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14
No Place to Go (FN)
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26

O

Of Human Bondage (RKO) reissue
Oklahoma Frontier (Univ)
Oklahoma Terror (Mono) Oct. 7
Old Maid (FN) Aug. 5
On Borrowed Time (M-G-M) July 8
On His Own (SR) Sept. 23
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para)
Oppenheim Family, The (SR) June 3
Orphans of the Pecos (Vic)
Our Leading Citizen (Para) Aug. 5
Our Neighbors, the Carters (Para) Nov. 11
Outpost of the Mounties (Col)
Overland Mail (Mono)

P

Pacific Liner (RKO) Dec. 31
Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14
Pagliacci (GB)
Parents on Trial (Col) July 8
Phantom Strikes (Mono) Nov. 18
Port of Hate (SR) Aug. 19
Port of Shadows (SR) Nov. 11
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23
Prisoner of Corbal (SR) Sept. 9
Private Detective (FN) Nov. 25
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7

Q

Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5

R

Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16
Range War (Para) Aug. 12
Rangle River (SR) May 20
Rasputin (SR) Oct. 21
Real Glory (UA) Sept. 23
Red River Range (Rep) Apr. 29
Remember? (M-G-M) Nov. 11
Renegade Trail (Para) July 29
Reno (RKO) Nov. 18
Return of Dr. X (FN) Dec. 2
Return of the Frog (SR) Oct. 7
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30
Riders of Destiny (Mono)
Riders of the Frontier (Mono)
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30
Road Back (Univ) reissue
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21
Roll, Wagons, Roll (Mono)
Rough Riding Rhythm (Conn)
Royal Divorce, A (SR) Sept. 9
Roving Tumbleweeds (Rep)
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14
Saga of Death Valley (Rep) Dec. 2
Saint in London (RKO) July 1
Scipione L'Africano (SR) Oct. 14
Scandal Sheet (Col)
Scorched Earth (SR) May 27
Second Fiddle (20th-Fox) July 8
Secret of Dr. Kildare (M-G-M) Nov. 25
She Married a Cop (Rep) July 1
Shine On, Harvest Moon (Rep) May 27
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox)
Should a Girl Marry? (Mono) Aug. 5
Should Husbands Work? (Rep) July 22
6,000 Enemies (M-G-M) June 3
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 16
Smashing Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21
Smoky Trails (SR) Aug. 19
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26
Song of the Streets (SR) Aug. 12
S. O. S. Tidal Wave (Rep) June 3
South of the Border (Rep) Dec. 16
Special Inspector (SR) May 6
Spellbinder (RKO) July 15
Spy of Napoleon (SR) May 27
Stand Up and Fight (M-G-M) Jan. 7
Stand-In (UA) Oct. 9
Stanley & Livingstone (20th-Fox) Aug. 5
Star Maker, The (Para) Aug. 19
Starlight Over Texas (Mono)
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2
Stranger From Arizona (Col) Sept. 24
Stranger From Texas (Col)
Stronger Than Desire (M-G-M) July 1
Stunt Pilot (Mono) July 8
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21
Sun Never Sets (Univ) June 10
Susannah of the Mounties (20th-Fox) June 17

T

Taku (SR) Sept. 16
Taming of the West (Col) Oct. 21
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14
Texas Wildcats (SR) June 24
That They May Live (SR) Nov. 11
That's Right, You're Wrong (RKO) Nov. 18
These Glamour Girls (M-G-M) Aug. 26
They All Come Out (M-G-M) July 8
They Shall Have Music (UA) July 15
This Man Is News (Para) July 29
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30
Three of a Kind (Inv)
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30
Three Waltzes (SR) May 20
Timber Stampede (RKO) June 24
Timberland Afloat (M-G-M)
Timberland Terror (SR) Aug. 5
Torchy Plays With Dynamite (WB) Aug. 5
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox) Nov. 4
Torture Ship (SR)
Torpedoed (SR) Oct. 7
Tower of London (Univ)
Trapped by G-Men (Col) reviewed (River of Missing Men) Sept. 11
Trapped in the Sky (Col) Feb. 18
Treachery on the High Seas (SR) Sept. 30
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16
Tumbleweeds (SR) reissue May 27
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28
Two Thoroughbreds (RKO) Dec. 2
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23
Typhoon Treasure (SR) May 27

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23
Under Suspicion (Col) Nov. 27
Undercover Doctor (Para) May 27
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2
Unexpected Father (Univ) July 22

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9
Ware Case, The (20th-Fox) July 29
Waterfront (WB) July 1
Way Down South (RKO) July 15
We Are Not Alone (FN) Nov. 11
Westbound Stage (Mono)
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23
When Germany Surrendered (SR) Oct. 21
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ)
Why This War (SR) Oct. 21
Will of the People (SR) Mar. 4
Winter Carnival (UA) July 15
Without a Home (SR) Apr. 15
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19
Women in the Wind (WB) Feb. 4
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2
World Is Ours, The (SR) Aug. 19
Wyoming Outlaw (Rep) July 15

Y

Young Mr. Lincoln (20th-Fox) June 10
Youth Takes a Flag (Univ) Oct. 1
Yukon Flight (Mono)

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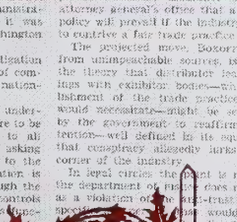
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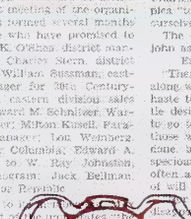
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

DECEMBER 23, 1939 25c Per Copy. Per Year $7.50 in U. S. and Canada. Foreign $10. NATIONAL EDITION



Merry Christmas





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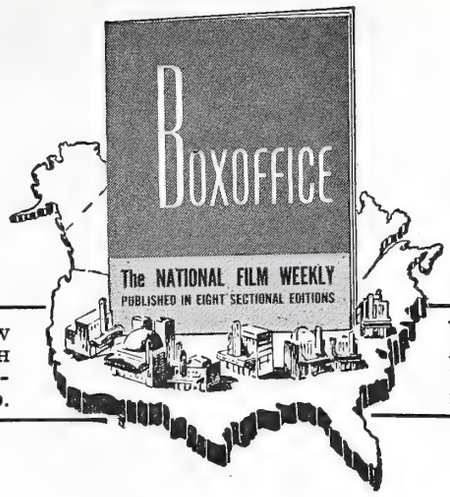
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PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY
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THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE

TWO weeks ago and in a news dispatch, this was reported from Hollywood:

"Responsible studio opinion envisions sweeping changes in exhibition trailing the substantial reduction in output which is being discussed in many directions here.

"Those topline executives who feel the time is at hand to cut production totals express themselves as confident that the theatre end of the industry will make the required changeover in the form of extended runs because, they point out, output governs the situation and because, further, there is nothing exhibitors can do about it once a swing toward fewer pictures converts itself into general Hollywood practice."

The declared objective, and about it precious little has been done, is not to trim for trimming's sake, but to concentrate on more important attractions, of course.

There is, however, a very apparent fallacy in such a line of reasoning. And unfortunately so. The fallacy rests, and solidly, on the assumption it would be the majors who would supply all of the film and this, in itself, presupposes all the majors look with favor on cutting down, which they do not.

Hollywood proponents of the revived fewer-and-better idea overlook an inescapable factor in the situation. They seem to have ignored the realization that the market is supposed to determine the needs which obviously means the consumer, in this case the exhibitor, largely deciding for the public, dictates the manufacturing requirement.

In today's operations when the double feature is stronger, not weaker, despite any wailings sent heavenward, thousands of theatres require all the product they can get hands on. This explains, simply and quickly, why several dominant circuits in the east, and no doubt elsewhere as well, are snapping up whatever film they can sink their teeth into on the basis of footage for the projection machines first and entertainment a bad second.

As long as they and untold others continue this policy, which presumably, but not conclusively, is a studied reflection of the public's desires, Hollywood will find itself making film to fill that need. If the majors do not, new companies inevitably will spring up to do so. These producers, what they will make and who will be in them line up as essentially unimportant alongside the miles of celluloid which they will grind out.

Yet this should have no bearing on the expressed desire of some of the majors to do their concentrating on fewer and more appealing attractions. Unless the overall picture undergoes an upheaval, the hope of the industry and of all those in it rests on the degree of successful endeavor achieved by the old-line companies.

Probably they can step up quality by slashing quantity to the tune of a dozen or more each per season. But they must be prepared to fit into any pattern of that nature a readiness on their part, as well as on the part of the sales departments, to forego some of the playdates on the second feature which then would accrue to new producers gunning for precisely that portion of the market. It sounds like a loss to the majors, but it would not be provided the quality of the fewer, which means longer dates and better terms, outdistances the current output level.

Giving all of this the onceover in terms of the industry as against one or more companies in it, your observer's guess is nothing will come of it. Distribution departments, for years, have been faithful to their creed which informs them block booking and their existing sales staffs can sell fifty-two as well and as easily as thirty-six.

They are well aware of the manner in which the aggregate rolled up by low-priced films averages out the losses sustained on many of the phony colossals.

They, likewise, know the playdate total around the nation is pretty much an unchanging figure. Someone, finally, gets that screen time.

Why give it to X when Y already has it?

Kann

ALL-INDUSTRY ACTION TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHERS, LAWYERS JOINTLY AGREE

Arnold Signs Stipulation And Other Suits Await Big One's Outcome

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—The all-industry suit, tentatively set for trial May 1 in federal court here, will take precedence over three other government-instigated suits against independent circuits in Oklahoma City, Nashville and Buffalo, following an agreement between distributor and government counsel. A stipulation to that effect has been signed by Thurman Arnold, trust buster, in Washington.

The agreement came about at meetings between major attorneys with Paul Williams, in charge of the actions, William P. Farnsworth and David Podell, assistants to the attorney general.

At various times the Griffith suit in Oklahoma City and the Schine action in Buffalo have been mentioned as the number one cases on the theory that as soon as one of these cases was disposed of in the local federal courts the all-industry action would be the deciding factor.

As matters stand now, the government will delay filing the proposed suits against Cooperative Booking circuit in Detroit, the Sparks circuit in Jacksonville and the Wometco circuit in Miami.

Distributor counsel figure that, if the all-industry suit is won by them, the three other pending actions will be disposed of in short order since the same issues are involved—theatre divorcement and buying power of the circuits. In the event the government gets a favorable nod on the big suit, an appeal will be taken and, during the interim, the smaller actions will be tried in their respective cities on their merits.

Counsel Is Pressed

Overwhelmed by numerous private litigation in the past months, major counsel has had little time to devote to the all-industry suit. In addition to the private actions, the three minor suits by the government have been demanding attention. Delays have been necessary in all instances.

However, distributor attorneys have come to the conclusion they want the all-industry action decided once and for all, and the sooner the better.

Although May 1 has been agreed upon by counsel for all sides and has the approval of Federal Judge John C. Knox, senior judge in the southern district court here, the indication in some quarters is that the trial will not begin on that date.

Principal reason for the anticipated delay is the question of interrogatories. Within the next few weeks pre-trial conferences are scheduled to get under way between government and film counsel on the elimination of extraneous issues. All of the companies have filed A to Z quizzes against the government seeking citations of specific violations and factual information on which distributors can base their defense. It is stated major counsel will not be content with "innuendoes" and "insinuations" but will insist on facts.

This being the case, it is held, the government cannot possibly answer all of the eight interrogatories in three months. This is the opinion of distributors. Counsel for the government claims it can. It is also pointed out, distributors are now working on the quizzes submitted by the government. Some major attorneys cannot see how the answers and information sought can be compiled in three months, despite the concessions granted on question 40 which deals with grosses on five pictures in four key cities for the 1936-37 season.

As the time for trial draws near, a suggestion may be made to postpone it until the fall term. This would mean the hearings would not begin until after Labor Day, or later dependent on the return from vacation of the judge assigned to the case. The delay hinges on the disposition of the interrogatories, both by distributors and the government.

In the event an agreement is reached on the issues involved, the government is to start its case on May 1 and continue until it rests with distributors presenting their arguments after a summer recess.

New Consent Decree May End Gov't Contempt Against FWC

LOS ANGELES—Government contempt proceedings against FWC and majors may be halted by a settlement which would result in another consent decree, it is reported here. Although nothing definite could be learned, it is held a plan has been discussed whereby the case would be removed from the federal court calendar and a special master be appointed to hear any and all complaints which may crop up against the circuit and distributors.

A committee of ITO of Southern California and Arizona men has been working amicably with FWC executives on member complaints for more than a year. Both sides have repeatedly stated the arrangement has worked out satisfactorily.

The appearance of David Podell, special assistant to the attorney general, here recently is said to have been to look into the FWC matter at the suggestion of Washington. Immediately upon his return to New York, Podell conferred with Paul Williams, in charge of the government's anti-trust suits and contempt cases pending here and in Chicago.

Spyros Skouras, operating head of National Theatres, parent company for the various Fox theatre companies, is understood to have made several trips to Washington in a desire to effect a settlement.

Some Exchange Help Get a Dollar Hike

NEW YORK—Following a hectic three-day session here with representatives of film exchanges throughout the country, distributors granted dollar increases to a limited number of employes in the back room of several branches, it is learned. The raises generally apply to film examiners in a few unimportant exchanges. It is understood in no instance will the total increases amount to $10 for any office.

Examiners receiving $17 a week have now been boosted to $18, which is reported as a new minimum for this type of work. In one local exchange, the total increase is said to be $1, while in other offices no raises have been granted. The back room scale for New York is reported to be the highest in any part of the country.

Distributors demanded 10 per cent cuts in scales throughout the country during the three days, claiming all offices are losing money. Representatives of the unions fought for increases on a dollar basis and not on a percentage scale.

Dick Walsh and John Gatelee, IA executives, sat in with the negotiators. A two-year pact, retroactive to November 30, has been signed.

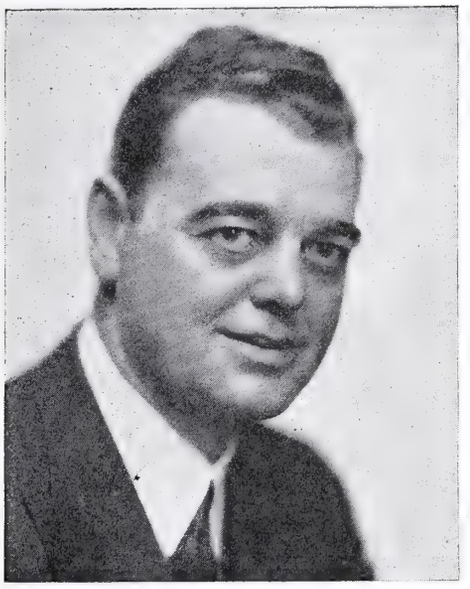
While the negotiations terminated in what is termed a basic agreement, increases are to be determined between exchange unions and distributor representatives locally, it is said. In the event there is a difference of opinion over a raise the matter will be arbitrated.

Van Praag Rejoins Nat'l Screen; District Head

NEW YORK—Morton Van Praag has rejoined National Screen as district manager with headquarters in Chicago, George Dembow announces. Van Praag was general sales manager for National several years ago. He has also been general sales manager of Universal and Trailer Made and recently organized Movie Cash, a box-office stimulant tieup.

For the past week, Van Praag has been conferring with Dembow on his new post and will remain in New York for another week or so before moving into the Windy City office.

COMMERCE'S MOVE TO SOLVE TRADE'S ILLS CAUGHT IN JUSTICE'S TRUST-BUSTING NET





Two Veterans Get Long-Term Pacts—

On the left, and probably unnecessary to describe, is Thomas J. Connors. He is eastern, southern and Canadian sales manager of M-G-M. On the right, and equally as unnecessary a procedure, is Edward M. Saunders, western sales manager. The news about them is both now are pursuing their usual duties under five-year contracts, their first.
Connors has been a Leo-man since 1916, *having joined up as a salesman. In* 1925, *he was given the south and eight years later, Canada. In August of that year, he also was named eastern sales manager. Saunders, who had been an independent exchange operator when Metro was organized, then affiliated with the company. He has been in charge of its western sales ever since.*

Mayer, Schenck Head Salaries At Loew's; Former Drew More

NEW YORK—Louis B. Mayer and Nicholas M. Schenck, in the order named, were the two largest paid Loew executives for the year ended Aug. 31, 1939. The third largest remuneration went to a male star on the lot. Schenck, according to a notice sent to stockholders, received a total of $275,673.13, after deducting $69,447.72 pursuant to a court decree. Mayer's salary, as well as the star, is not mentioned.

On Nov. 27, 1939, Schenck owned 2,817 Loew common stock, $170,000 face amount of Poli-New England Theatres five per cent bonds and $170,000 face amount Poli-New England general mortgage income bonds.

Holdings of other directors who, with Schenck, are scheduled to be re-elected January 16 at the annual stockholders' meeting here are:

George N. Armsby, holder of 100 shares of common; David Bernstein, 22,200 common; Leopold Friedman, 612 common, $47,750 face amount of Poli-New England Theatres five per cent bonds and $84,250 face amount Poli-New England Theatres general mortgage income bonds; John R. Hazel, 100 common; Al Lichtman, $20,000 face amount of Poli-New England Theatres five per cent bonds and $20,000 face amount of the same circuit's general income bonds; Charles C. Moskowitz, 600 common, $44,000 face amount Poli-New England five per cent bonds and $41,000 face amount Poli-New England general income bonds; William A. Parker, who represents Incorporated Investors of Boston which owns 28,000 common shares, holds 100 shares; J. Robert Rubin, 31,415 common, $15,000 face amount Poli-New England five per cent bonds and the same amount of the circuit's general income bonds; Joseph R. Vogel, 100 common and $5,000 each of Poli-New England five per cent and general income bonds; David Warfield, 7,000 common; Henry Rogers Winthrop, 100 common.

Bernstein, Parker and Warfield represent the proxy committee. Election of officers is scheduled the same day as the stockholders' meeting, or the following day in the event a quorum is lacking.

An amendment to the company's by-

(Continued on page 17)

Seen Heading Same Fate As Similar Efforts to Aid Other Industries

WASHINGTON — The well-intentioned efforts of Secretary of Commerce Harry L. Hopkins to find a solution for the probems of the industry are seen in Washington as in danger of heading to the same fate that has met similar efforts to straighten out the difficulties of the oil and fertilizer groups caught in the trust-busting net of the department of justice.

For several months, representatives of the department of commerce have met inquiries as to the progress of the effort with the explanation that they were analyzing the factual data submitted by the distributors and exhibitors and working on a program to be submitted to the former as a possible basis for reorganization of practices to eliminate the complaints which have involved the industry in its troubles.

Greatest stumbling blocks to progress are said to be the department of justice suit, the inability of the industry to work as a unit on the proposed code, and the new difficulties resulting from the European war. Commerce officials, however, say that none of these has had any effect on their efforts, but admit that the industry representatives may feel that they have changed the situation to such a degree as to slow down the discussions.

See D. of J. Attitude Snag

In informed circles, it is suggested that the distributors may feel that the department of commerce can do nothing for them so long as the department of justice is adamant in its attitude as to the practices it has assailed in its New York suit. The inability of Secretary Hopkins to offer any relief from similar litigation halted negotiations with the oil industry in their infancy and, while the department has been hopeful that they might be resumed, the oil men apparently had little faith in their efficacy and even the initiation of government prosecutions in California did not influence them to return to Washington.

While the department claims that it has had better success with the fertilizer industry, nothing was made public which would indicate that anything had been accomplished which would protect that industry from government prosecution.

So far as the film industry is concerned, it is said by observers, there is little chance of anything being accomplished by the department of commerce so long as the department of justice demands divorce of exhibition and abandonment of block booking as the price of a consent decree. The industry can concede much, it is said, but not the two things on which

(Continued on page 11)

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

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SEATTLE—2321 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Telephone MAin 7716.
WASHINGTON—1426 G. St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY, ALTA.—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
EDMONTON, ALTA.—The Bulletin, W. A. DeGraves.
HAMILTON, O.—20 Holton Ave., N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON, O.—Free Press, Chas. E. Carruthers.
MONTREAL, QUEBEC—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Telephone Walnut 5519.
REGINA, SASK.—The Star, Andy McDermott.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—161 Princess St., D. Fetherston.
TORONTO, ONTARIO—242 Millwood Road, Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER, B. C.—615 Hastings, C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA, B. C.—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

MORE fact and fancy, with a decided emphasis on the former, mined from the hills of Hollywood:

Undoubtedly untrue, but perhaps good for a laugh is the tale told about a banker who visited a studio for the first time. He noted the couches, the soft chairs and the pleasant lighting characteristic of most offices on most lots.

"The reason must be because no one in Hollywood can think standing on his feet," was his conclusion.

True, on the other hand, is the incident that befell the financial head of a company who was visiting for the first time since a number of improvements had been made.

In one office, he found a writer's secretary busily engaged in smoking and knitting. In the inner office, the writer was snoring, his feet on his desk.

"He must be thinking," apologized studio official to visiting banker.

•

This emphasizes the power of the screen.

At Metro recently, and maybe in the heat of a story conference or bidding over football tickets, an inkwell plopped off the desk. The carpet appeared to be ruined. On a hurry call, a janitor appeared, tried his own remedies and failed. Then suddenly,

"Pete Smith is working on cleaning and dyeing short. You know, homely tips to housewives. Why not call him? He certainly ought to know."

In went the call. Explained the situation, Pete wiggled out with:

"Haven't reached that part of the script yet."

•

One way of doing it:

New man enters studio, never mind how. Production experience, limited.

Comes the time to assign him.

"Now, let's see," ponders the production council. "Do you know anything about westerns?"

"Not a thing," was the rejoinder.

"That's fine. You're just the man we want."

P. S., if you like: He got the job.

•

Accept it or not. Nevertheless, the truth is in it.

A big-money male lead refused to play the script as written because he had to give up his girl to a male lead who had never been a hero in anything but "B" pictures.

Anti-climax: The script was revised.

•

A chance meeting at Chassen's with Dudley Murphy, Thornton Delehanty and others.

"What are you doing here?"

"I'm out for a vacation first and a whirl around the studios later."

"It's a good idea. Get your health back. Hollywood will break it down," observes Murphy.

•

Probably the colony's most unique sight or, certainly, one of them is the room in his house where Milt Gross shaves. Decorated with art work of his own making, he says it's a constant reminder that he should have given up cartooning years ago.

•

"Well, hello," calls an eastern visitor to a onetime easterner now resident in Hollywood. "What are you doing?"

"I was with So-and-So for seven months. But that drove me to liquor. I'm selling it now."

•

And there continues to be the producer who smiles when he says:

"This is really a great business. But the trouble with making pictures is it interferes with everyone's hobbies."

•

Street scene: Two extras in Charlie Chaplin's film crossing La Brea in Storm Trooper uniforms complete. A drunk driving by and yelling, "Heil, Hitler."

•

Smart extra girl, commenting on "Gone With the Wind":

"Not me. I'm not going to pay those prices. I'll wait until the imitations come out."

•

One-sentence description of the hallowed land:

Hollywood: Where they're at your feet or at your throat, but never by your side.

Believe it or not he's SANTA CLAUS!



He's Santa Claus in Phoenix!

"GERONIMO!" grosses more in *five* days than "Beau Geste" grossed in *six* days.

He's Santa Claus in Tucson!

"GERONIMO!" in *five* days ties record "Union Pacific" *six*-day gross.

and take it from "VARIETY"

He's Santa Claus in Denver!

"GERONIMO!" WHOOPS UP BIG $11,000 IN DENVER

Denham (Cockrill) (1,750: 25-35-40) —"Geronimo!" (Par.) Strong draw at $11,000 and holds!

In fact, anywhere in the U.S.A., he's...

AS BIG AS Y



Goin' to Town with MARK HELLINGER

. . . . . Random Notes About Pictures You're Seeing: "Wildest, woolliest Western since William S. Hart heard the broncs cheer, may be seen in 'GERONIMO!', a new Paramount offering. Here are the bad Injuns, the crooked white traders, the American soldiers with the hearts of gold, the ambushed stagecoach, the frail beauty they couldn't kill, the comedy Injun scout who smells danger ahead, and the Speech From the President at the Very End. Sounds hokey—and it is hokey. But Ralph Morgan turns in the best job of his career, and Andy Devine provides plenty of laughs, and the action never stops, and I'm a sucker for this type of stuff, anyhow. So, 'GERONIMO!' is hereby recommended to you—and if you fail to get a kick out of it, you jest ain't belonging to this man's army, pard."

"Sock hit! One of the most spectacular, actionful, big-scale outdoor dramas in many a day!"—*Hollywood Reporter*

"Powerful! Will grip adults and youth. Outstanding entertainment. Neat profit for exhibs!" —*Daily Variety*

"Thrilling! Super-Western . . . loaded with action and thrills. Fills the bill to perfection!"—*Showmen's Trade Review*

PARAMOUN

GERO

"GERONIMO!" with Preston Foster • Ellen Drew • Andy Devine and

OU MAKE HIM!



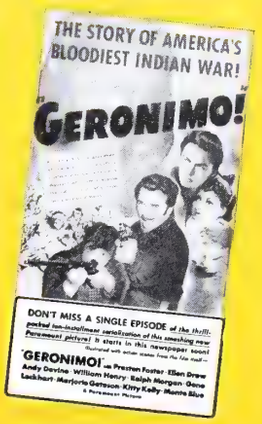
Three smash styles of teaser one-sheets . . . two styles of teaser 24-sheets with that eye-riveting display!



Big-time ads that boosted those grosses in Tucson, Phoenix, and Denver!



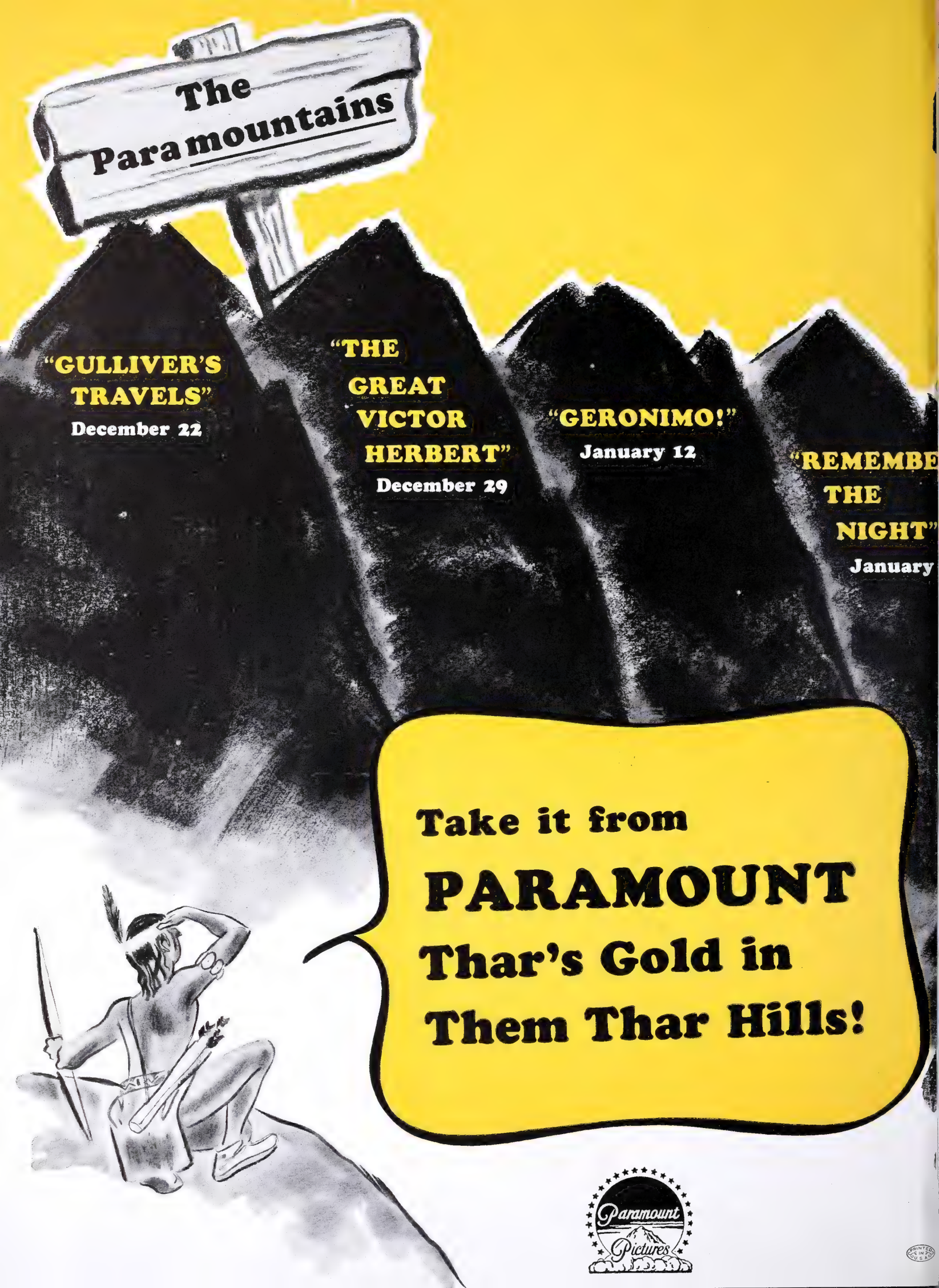
Two styles of teaser records each with from four to six brief, half-minute teaser announcements...perfect for breakdown time on local radio stations!



Newspaper serialization, styled to fit the editors' need for a really bang-up feature!

NIMO!

of thousands! • Directed by PAUL H. SLOANE • Screen Play by Paul H. Sloane • A Paramount Picture


The Paramountains
"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS"
December 22
"THE GREAT VICTOR HERBERT"
December 29
"GERONIMO!"
January 12
"REMEMBE
THE
NIGHT"
January
Take it from
PARAMOUNT
Thar's Gold in
Them Thar Hills!
Paramount Pictures

BUSY SELLING, MAJORS WON'T TOUCH CODE UNLESS SOMETHING "STARTLING" HAPPENS

Failure of Exhibitor Units To Support Reopening Call Dampens Ardor

NEW YORK—Although the code has not been entirely abandoned, distributors are not planning to do anything about it unless something "startling" happens to revive interest, both from the exhibitor as well as distributor standpoint.

This is the expression of a spokesman commenting on mixed reaction from various Allied leaders on Ray Branch's recent turnabout on Allied's national policy by seeking to reopen negotiations with distributors. Sales managers, so far, have ignored the incident although the fuse of interest was ignited briefly at the time. Failure of support from other exhibitor units dampened whatever new life had been given the trade practices.

Distributors are content to go along and make deals as they have these past few months, extending concessions in the regular barter-and-trade manner. Probably the greatest setback for the independent exhibitor, it is held, is the elimination of arbitration from the proceedings. Under the plan previously proposed all theatres in each locality, circuits included, would become a party to any decision. This had been agreed upon by the major houses. Now, if arbitration deals are made between the distributor and customer, it can only apply to the terms of the contract, and not generally for the area, particularly where clearances suggest revision.

Supports Branch

Bulwarking the Branch statement, Edgar E. Kirchner, treasurer of Allied of Michigan, asserts: "I am certainly in favor of resuming negotiations on the code, and setting up arbitration boards. I think the relations between distributors and exhibitors could be improved a whole lot by getting together around the table.

"But the producer-distributor must give in a little by giving some concessions sought by national Allied."

Arthur K. Howard, business manager for Allied in Boston, says he sees no need for further negotiations, the distributors know what exhibitors want and "it is up to the distributors to come around."

To quote Howard, he states: "Negotiations are not needed to provide a code for fair trade practices. What have exhibitors to give? They have been taking it on the chin right along from the big eight. It's up to the major distributors to come around now. I honestly cannot see where there is any need for negotiations."

Frank Lydon, president of the same unit, feels the same as Howard. "If there are negotiations," he adds, "exhibitors will wind up further behind the eight ball. Showmen haven't a thing to yield, as far as I can see."

W. A. Steffes, president of Northwest Allied, does not care to become involved in the discussions. He declared: "I will not be drawn into any controversy on this subject. Branch speaks for himself and is entitled to his own opinion. I see no reason for an expression on my part at this time."

Sidney Samuelson, head of the Allied Philadelphia unit, did not care to discuss Branch's remarks.

Henry Lazarus, practically the only remaining active member of Allied in New Orleans, declined to be quoted, but said offhand he believed Branch was on the right track. In the last year or so the organization has been virtually disbanded, but Lazarus hopes to revive it in the near future. There are 18 independent houses in New Orleans. Some time ago a film buyer was engaged to book the houses, but when exchanges refused to recognize the man, the houses reverted to individual booking arrangements. As a result, exhibitors find little time to devote to organization.

Favors Arbitration

In Cleveland, as previously reported, the Allied unit is in favor of a code which would provide for arbitration of all disputes without limiting them to the contract. Also, that all theatres involved, directly or otherwise, are subject to abide by decisions.

Other Allied chieftains would not recognize the question as sufficiently worthy of comment, pointing out Branch has spoken for his unit and himself and every organization is on its own insofar as the code is concerned.

For the time being the code has been locked away in a safe for whatever use it may have later on.

Wide Divergence Is Seen Among Allied Group Leaders on Subject

Commerce's Trade Move Caught in D of J Net

(Continued from page 5)

it has placed so much reliance for the distribution of pictures.

Failure of the department to get anywhere with the three industries which it has so far undertaken to aid has apparently not gone unnoticed by other industries which also have problems on which they would like government assistance. Although a special organization has been set up in the department to handle such problems, no other industries have asked for help, so far as could be learned this week.

No New Allied Unit for New York Is Planned

NEW YORK—Allied does not intend to form a new organization in New York, according to Arthur Howard, business manager for the Massachusetts unit, and E. Thornton Kelly, former secretary of Allied of New York and now field contact for New England.

After a year spent whipping the local organization into shape, both men are content to leave it in the hands of Max A. Cohen, president, re-elected Tuesday at Buffalo. Kelly has lined up all independent exhibitors in Hartford and Bridgeport for the Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut. He and Howard spent a few days in town the early part of the week.

Arnold the Man "Holding Gun"

New York—Likening Thurman Arnold as the man "holding a gun" and facing distributors with a threat if they make a move, Sidney R. Kent, president of 20th-Fox, states "distributors have done all they can to bring about a code." Each company is acting individually, he added, in view of the attitude taken by Washington.

Columbus Payroll Hikes Top Employment Rise

COLUMBUS—Preliminary estimate of October employment shows 300 firms reporting an increase of 5.4 per cent over September and 14.4 per cent over the same month last year, according to the local chamber of commerce. Payroll increases were much greater than employment advance. On the basis of federal reserve reports, the local retail merchants association anticipates a 15 to 20 per cent increase over 1938 for this year's Christmas buying.

Film Bumper Crop A Busy Sign

New York—In the event something unusual did happen to revive interest in the code, distributors are frank to admit they can give the subject little time now inasmuch as a bumper crop of big pictures is on the way and this would rate attention above everything else. See page 12 for one circuit operator's analysis of things to come.

HOLLYWOOD'S PLAN TO SLASH PRODUCTION FADES; MAJORS STAND BY USUAL TOTALS

Sales Department Weight Seen as Victorious For This Season

HOLLYWOOD — They were deliberating substantial slashes in production, but for once, at least, it appears as if New York has chalked up a complete victory against Hollywood. For production, insofar as the preponderance of the majors is concerned, is slated to remain at or about its traditional annual total.

Important studio figures, for some weeks now, have been giving serious consideration to cuts. Several have openly expressed their desire to trim in point of numbers in order to concentrate on bigger attractions, but apparent all along the line as the determining factor has been the direction in which the weight of the sales department would finally swing.

It appears now the swing has clearly asserted itself for a production status quo. Eastern executives, including Nicholas M. Schenck, Sidney R. Kent and Jack Cohn, to a man, declare the M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and Columbia programs will remain unchanged. As reported, Warner will stay at 48, but announce a solid "A" program. Stanton Griffis of Paramount adds his company will continue without change, a statement earlier made to BOXOFFICE by Neil F. Agnew when he was here from New York.

Schenck Indicates Metro Emphasis on Quality

NEW YORK—Although Al Lichtman's plan to produce 60 a year has been revived at the M-G-M studios in Culver City, "we will be happy if we can make 52 a year, and good ones," Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, stated on his return from a week's visit to the production plant.

Schenck flashed a broad smile when the 60-a-year question was brought up adding "We are working hard trying to make good pictures." Apparently the number, as a number, means very little to the Loew chief executive. The emphasis indicated by Schenck is a concentration on quality rather than quantity.

"Everything is lovely at the studios and every trip I make is better than the last one," Schenck added. He leaves in a few days for Miami Beach, where he has a home, for his annual winter vacation with his family. Mrs. Schenck accompanied her husband east.

Columbia Not Planning to Cut Lineup, Says Cohn

NEW YORK—Columbia has no intention of cutting production schedules, numerically, this or next season, according to Jack Cohn, vice-president, upon his return from a four-weeks' visit to the studios.

"Our big problem today, and I see it for some time to come, is labor," Cohn declared. "That's all we spoke about and that's what most studios are talking about," he went on.

Asked if continued difficulties with labor might impel a general shearing of production budgets to offset higher paychecks to unions, Cohn said: "We must keep all costs within the border that will, and must, permit us to maintain quality standards."

20th-Fox Remains At 48 to 52

New York—There will be no cut in production by 20th-Fox, Sidney R. Kent, president, said on his return from a brief visit to the studio where he conferred with Joseph M. Schenck and Darryl F. Zanuck. Sydney Towell, treassurer, accompanied Kent.

"We have been producing from 48 to 52 a year and it is going to stay that way," Kent stated.

Terms Paramount Lineup Cut Talk "The Bunk"

NEW YORK—Reports Paramount is planning to cut production for the 1940-41 season are denied by Stanton Griffis, chairman of the executive committee, who states they are "the bunk." Griffis adds the definite number of pictures for next season has not yet been determined.

U. K. Allocation Scheme in Work

NEW YORK—A plan providing for the allocation of $17,500,000 in remittances from England is circulating now among the seven major companies affected for approval. Universal is being handled separately because of its British franchise.

The scheme was authored by a committee which consisted of Joseph Hazen of Warner, chairman; David Bernstein of M-G-M and Barney Balaban of Paramount. Percentages to be remitted will be based on annual takes of each company.

Division of revenue has been a subject for much discussion at Hays office meetings which will continue until a plan is finally adopted.

American companies suffered a 50 per cent restriction on remittances when the British board of trade, in a war-time move on November 22, stated that during the period from November 1, 1939, to October 31, 1940, the majors could only remit in dollars an amount representing half of past remittances, based on averages for the last three years.

Freeman to Make 3 to 4 Eastern Trips Yearly

HOLLYWOOD—Y. Frank Freeman plans three or four regular visits to New York each year to discuss the status of Paramount production with home office executives.

Visit No. 1 is slated to get under way shortly after the holidays.

He's Bullish About January

New York—"I look to January grosses to run ahead of January of this year," Leon D. Netter, Paramount circuit executive declares in surveying product prospects immediately in the offing.

Although the perennial Christmas doldrums again are widely in evidence, the period just ahead augurs exceptional possibilities in light of the attractions which will be available, he declares. This is how he sees it and as he lists them:

"Gulliver's Travels"	Paramount
"Four Wives"	Warner
"The Hunchback of Notre Dame"	RKO
"The Great Victor Herbert"	Paramount
"Judge Hardy and Son"	M-G-M
"Balalaika"	M-G-M
"Raffles"	UA
"Destry Rides Again"	Universal
"Swanee River"	20th Century-Fox
"Geronimo"	Paramount
"The Fighting 69th"	Warner
"Brother Rat and a Baby"	Warner
"A Child Is Born"	Warner
"His Girl Friday"	Columbia
"Swiss Family Robinson"	RKO

None of these films are slated for general release beyond January which may or may not explain why "Gone With the Wind" is not included. Netter gives his own company three, Warner four, M-G-M and RKO two each and Columbia, 20th Century-Fox, UA and Universal one apiece.

A NEW RADIO SCOOP FOR 20TH CENTURY-FOX AND FOR YOU...

timed to tie with your New Year's openings!

SWANEE RIVER

featured on

KATE SMITH'S HOUR

Friday, DECEMBER 29th

8—9 P.M. Eastern Time; 9—10 P.M. Pacific Time

over

76 CBS STATIONS

•

On the air—

DON AMECHE

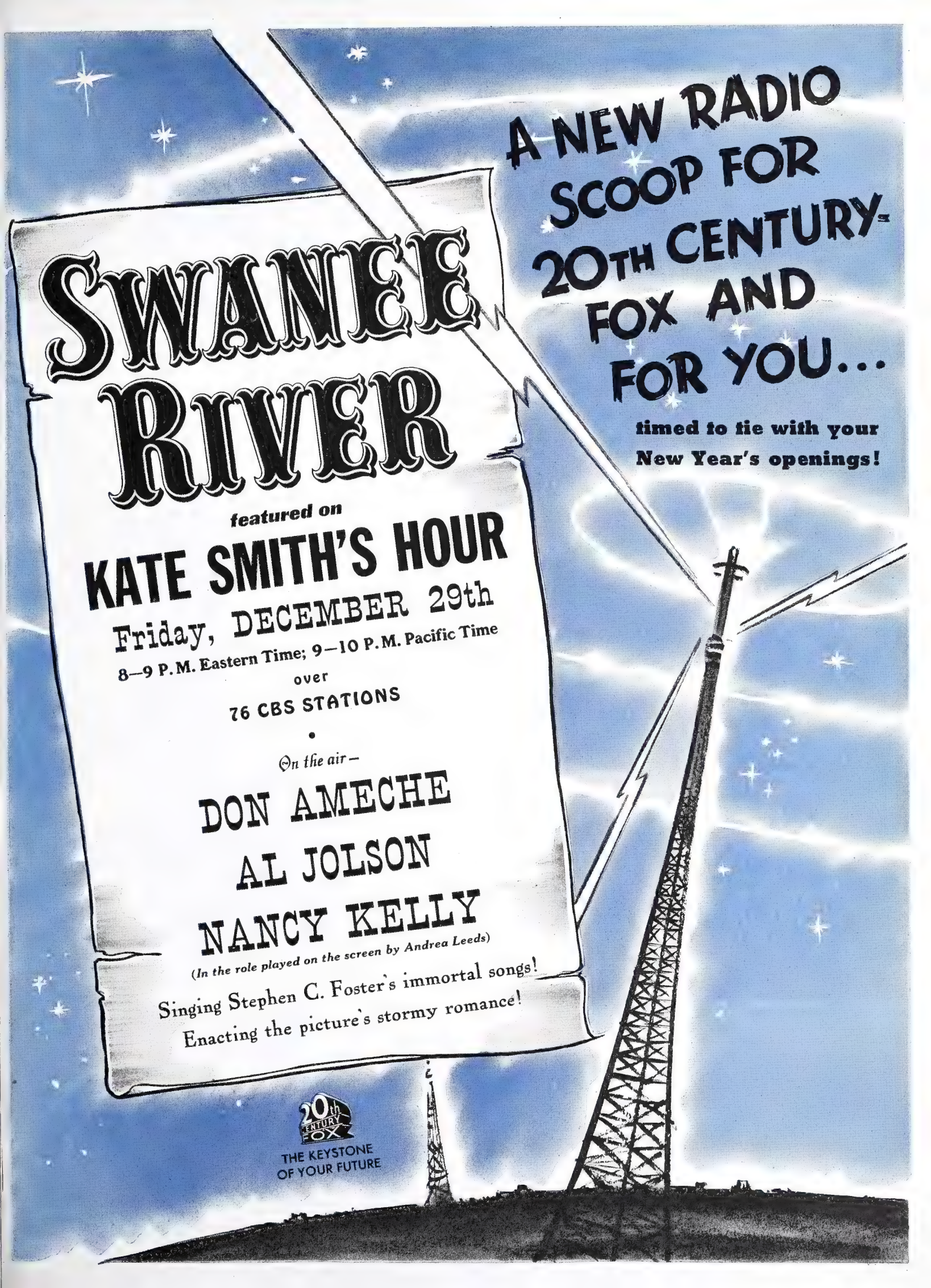
AL JOLSON

NANCY KELLY

(In the role played on the screen by Andrea Leeds)

Singing Stephen C. Foster's immortal songs!

Enacting the picture's stormy romance!



20th CENTURY FOX

THE KEYSTONE OF YOUR FUTURE

Query on Desire for Foreigns Brings Swelling "Nay" Vote

"Foreigns stay 'way from our doors" is one song, or rather, parody upon a song, on which exhibitors from all sections of the country are able to harmonize. Overwhelming majorities were rolled up by the "nays" on the question "Do you want foreign-made pictures?" that BOXOFFICE asked in a poll of exhibitor opinion upon various industry issues.

Section after section of the country declared itself categorically against the foreign product—individual exhibitors expressing their antipathy in phrases as colorful and emphatic as they are unprintable. The handful of "yes" votes that were garnered, were not, as might perhaps be surmised, preponderantly from the larger cities, but rather, in the greater number, came from the ".....burgs" and ".....villes" of the country. However in none of these instances was the approval unqualified, as was the case in the handful of large cities that welcomed the imports.

Foreign product is wanted least of all in the middle west, where the vote against it totaled 98 per cent of the returns. Tied seconds to this response are the south and mideast areas, where 97 per cent of the responding showmen have no use for the overseas reels.

East More Friendly

A friendlier clime for the importations exists in the eastern and New England states, and in Massachusetts they come into their glory—here, out of all the states in the union, the vote favoring foreign product was greater than that abjuring it—67 per cent voting yea.

Here and there were kind words for the imports, praise for the quality of some of the product. Some of the outstanding productions made abroad by independent producers or directors was given a clean bill of health, many exhibitors expressing a preference over this type of attraction as compared with domestic films of like calibre. The average run-of-the-mill foreigns, however, took a severe beating.

Another angle of interest concerned the occasional topical picture, the type of film that becomes blazing hot with exploitation possibilities because of world developments. War films, inspired by the first world war, are enjoying quick sale (although there is evidence their popularity is waning) in this country because of the European situation.

The Vote On Imports

Area	*Pct. "Yes"*	*Pct. "No"*
EASTERN	**30**	**70**
Delaware	0	0
Maryland	0	0
New Jersey	50	50
New York	33	67
Eastern Pennsylvania	10	90
Virginia	29	71
NEW ENGLAND	**14**	**86**
Connecticut	0	100
Maine	17	83
Massachusetts	67	33
New Hampshire	0	100
Rhode Island	0	100
Vermont	0	100
SOUTHERN	**3**	**97**
Alabama	0	100
Arkansas	0	100
Florida	0	100
Georgia	0	100
Louisiana	0	100
North Carolina	0	100
Mississippi	12	88
Oklahoma	0	100
South Carolina	0	100
Tennessee	0	100
Texas	13	87
MIDEAST	**3**	**97**
Ohio	5	95
Kentucky	0	100
Michigan	0	100
Western Pennsylvania	9	91
West Virginia	0	100
CENTRAL	**5**	**95**
Eastern Missouri	0	100
Illinois	9	91
Indiana	9	91
Wisconsin	0	100
MIDWEST	**2**	**98**
Iowa	4	96
Kansas	0	100
Minnesota	0	100
Missouri	0	100
Nebraska	0	100
North Dakota	0	100
South Dakota	10	90
WESTERN	**9**	**91**
Arizona	50	50
California	20	80
Colorado	0	100
Idaho	0	100
Montana	0	100
Nevada	0	100
New Mexico	0	0
Oregon	11	89
Utah	0	100
Washington	11	89
Wyoming	0	100

Basson Re-election as 306 Head Is Assured

NEW YORK—Re-election of Joseph D. Basson as president of Local 306 is assured at the annual voting which takes place December 27, according to numerous followers. He is being opposed by Mike Berkowitz. Considerable interest centers about the voting for Sam Kaplan who is among the candidates for one of the ten posts on the executive board.

Kaplan was removed from the presidency of the union in 1932 and had been barred from holding office for five years.

Goetz Is Seen Again In Metro's Family

NEW YORK—Indicating earlier reports were erroneous or a new understanding has been reached, Ben Goetz is expected to remain with M-G-M. According to Nicholas M. Schenck, Goetz, "has never left the company." The Loew president further states, "Those stories which circulated about his leaving were not true. He was sick and wanted a rest." Schenck expects the former British production head to leave for London in three or four weeks. Victor Saville, currently at the studio, probably will join him, but delaying their joint departure is a proposed reorganized setup. As soon as this is determined, however, M-G-M will be back in production in England.

Reports from time to time have indicated Goetz would resume his old post as soon as he completely recovered from his recent operation. In the meantime, reports have linked him with RKO.

Unique Du Pont Answer In Pathe Pact Suit

NEW YORK—A unique answer is interposed by Du Pont to a $210,000 breach of contract suit in federal court by Pathe Laboratories which claims it was not to be charged more than 30 per cent over cost for film. Du Pont has been charging one cent a foot which is well over the agreed rate, it is alleged.

In its answer, Du Pont points out that under the Robinson-Patman act, known as the price discrimination act, it would be subject to triple damage actions under the anti-trust laws if it continued to favor Pathe, over other customers. It also is alleged Pathe, by voluntary payment, waived any rights it might have and that the action is barred by the statue of limitations.

A dismissal is sought.

Horner Veto of Anti-Dual Bill Measure Is Upheld

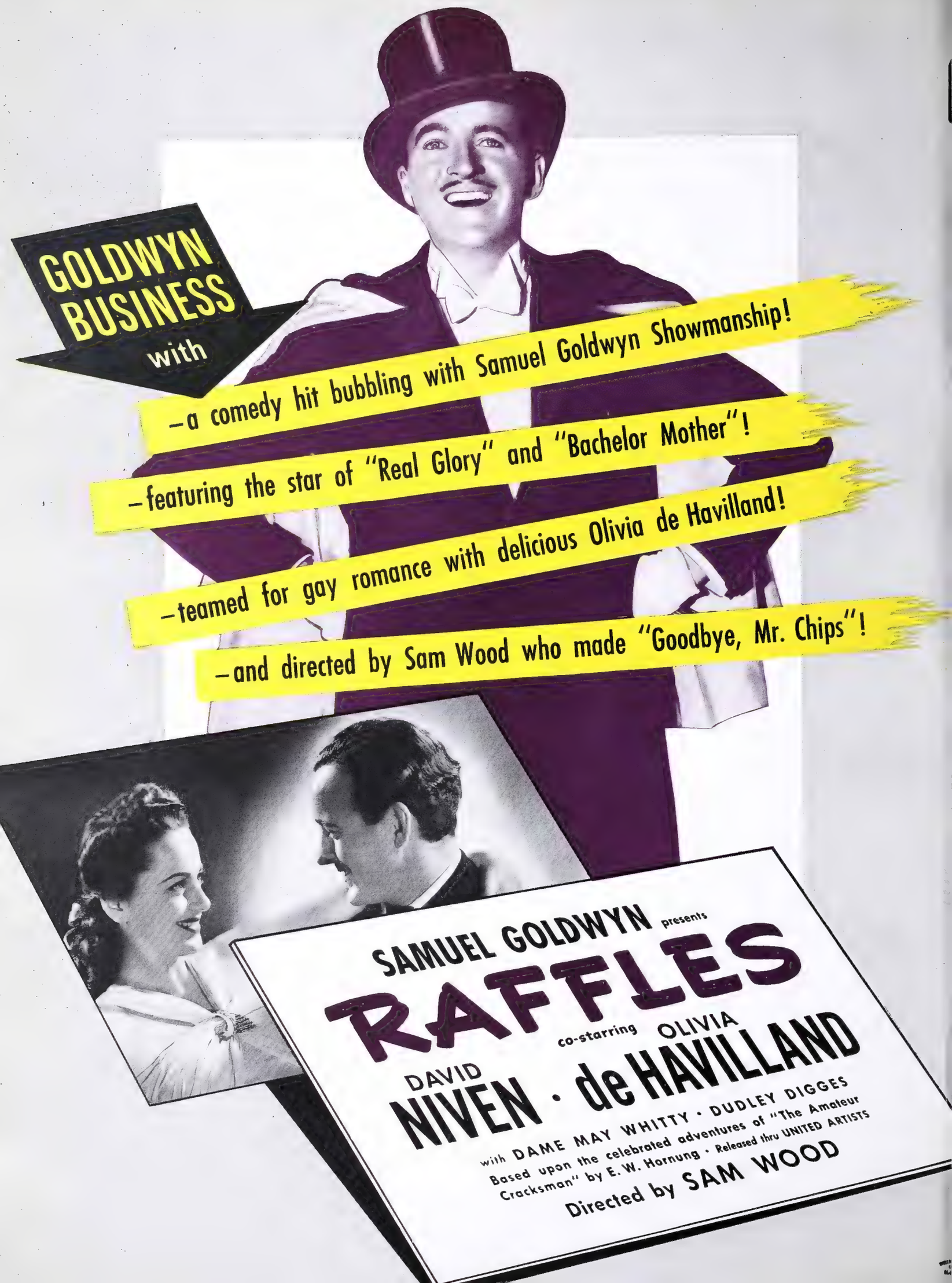
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—The state supreme court has upheld Governor Horner's veto of the bill that would have eliminated double features in Illinois.

While the test case that led to the decision was filed on another bill, backers of the proposal that would have limited film programs to two hours and 15 minutes watched the court's opinion. Governor Horner, according to statute, has 10 days in which either to sign or veto a bill.

Governor Orders Briefs in Bioff Extradition Case

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Gov. Henry Horner has given the state's attorney three weeks to file briefs in the extradition proceedings against William Bioff, Hollywood labor leader. He will then rule whether Bioff has to return to Illinois to serve time on a pandering charge conviction in 1922 in Chicago.


He stole my Pearls!
He stole my Watch!
He stole my HEART!
...and now he's going to lift the mortgage with hold-over crowds!


GOLDWYN BUSINESS with
–a comedy hit bubbling with Samuel Goldwyn Showmanship!
–featuring the star of "Real Glory" and "Bachelor Mother"!
–teamed for gay romance with delicious Olivia de Havilland!
–and directed by Sam Wood who made "Goodbye, Mr. Chips"!
SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents
RAFFLES
co-starring OLIVIA de HAVILLAND
DAVID NIVEN
with DAME MAY WHITTY • DUDLEY DIGGES
Based upon the celebrated adventures of "The Amateur Cracksman" by E. W. Hornung • Released thru UNITED ARTISTS
Directed by SAM WOOD

"Gone With Wind" First Week Expected to Gross $85,000

NEW YORK—On the basis of capacity business which is expected to continue since the film opened simultaneously Tuesday, the combined gross for "Gone With the Wind" at the Capitol and Astor is expected to wind up the first week with about $85,000. The 4,500-seat Capitol, running three shows a day, first-come-first-seated, is figured to hit $65,000, with the balance coming from the 1,258-seat Astor on a reserved seat policy.

The advanced sale at the six houses that will house the film on a two-a-day basis hit close to $285,000, a weekend tabulation shows. Five engagements opened Thursday; in Harrisburg, Reading, Cincinnati and two in Boston.

The advance sale for the Astor the day before the film opened had reached $70,000, and has been averaging about $8,000 a day since. A breakdown on the advance ticket sale at the reserved seat houses follows: Atlanta, $75,000; two houses in Boston, $65,000; Los Angeles, $12,000; New York, $115,000; Reading, $18,000. The Orpheum, Boston, is selling reserved seats for evening performances only. However, the opening day performance was entirely on a reserved seat basis. The State in the same city is reserved for all shows. The next reserved seat engagement opens at the Carthay Circle, Los Angeles, December 28.

Heralded by a substantial newspaper campaign and preceded by a press preview at the Astor, Monday evening, the film made its bow at that theatre and the Capitol the following evening accompanied by fanfare and excitement unusual even to a Broadway familiar with a great deal of it. The concentration of notables was centered at the latter theatre.

Among those at the Capitol premiere were representative figures in New York life. Among those directly and variously identified with the industry there, among many others, were present:

Jack Alicoate, Robert Benchley, Constance Bennett, Irving Berlin, Robert Brandt, Joan Bennett, William Brandt, Barney Balaban, Nate J. Blumberg, Michael Bartlett, Ina Claire, Claudette Colbert, Marc Connelly, Edward P. Curtis, Edward F. Churchill, Laura Hope Crews, Olivia De Havilland, Countess di Frasso, Howard Dietz, John Van Druten, Emil Ellis, Bryan Foy, Alice Faye, William Goetz, Stanton Griffis, Oliver H. P. Garrett, Moss Hart, John Hertz, Will H. Hays, Ben Hecht, Leland Hayward, Joseph Hazen, Katharine Hepburn, Jascha Heifetz, Herbert T. Kalmus, George S. Kaufman, Sidney R. Kent, Vivien Leigh, Frederick Lonsdale, Charles MacArthur, Fredric March, Elsa Maxwell, Gilbert Miller, Ona Munson, Burgess Meredith, Don Mersereau, Bertram Nayfack, Laurence Olivier, John Otterson, Cole Porter, William Phillips, Nelson Rockefeller, Richard Rodgers, J. Robert Rubin, Saul Rogers, Ann Rutherford, Nicholas M. Schenck, Charles Schwartz, Myron Selznick, Ben Shlyen, Herbert Bayard Swope, Robert E. Sherwood, Max D. Steuer, Lee Shubert, Leo Spitz, David Sarnoff, Gladys Swarthout, Sam Wood, Edwin C. Weisl and Sir William Wiseman.

But Schenck Proves More Cautious

New York—Al Lichtman is on record with a prediction "Gone With the Wind" which opened simultaneously at the Astor and the Capitol, Tuesday evening, will do a domestic gross of $13,000,000.

Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, Inc., is back from a periodic studio visit. Asked what he thought, his response turns out to be the most conservative of any Loew or M-G-M executive to date. This is it:

"How can I tell? The picture is out and it will tell its own story."

40 Key Centers Will Get "Wind" January 25-26

NEW YORK—"Gone With the Wind" will open at approximately 40 key city and exchange center first runs between January 25-26.

Most of the key situations where Loew's are first run will get the film on the 26th. Other spots, such as Buffalo and New Haven where Loew's does not operate, will open engagements on the 25th.

FWC Policy on "Wind" Will Come Later

NEW YORK—Decision on the policy for "Gone With the Wind" in National Theatres' first-run houses in San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, Milwaukee and a number of other spots will not be definitely made until the reactions to test engagements by Loew's in 12 situations are forthcoming, an executive of the circuit states.

The Carthay Circle, Hollywood, a FWC house, opens with the picture December 28, and on the following day at the United Artists. The former house will play the picture on a two-a-day policy while the latter will be three shows a day.

Still the Programs Got There Anyway

Hollywood—The usual program booklet to be sold at two bits at "Gone With the Wind" dates arrived here in the nick of time for distribution a few minutes ahead of the press preview of the film at the Four Star Theatre.

Prepared in New York, the batch was flown west. The airmail postage totaled exactly $250.

Irving Asher to Metro Studio as Producer

HOLLYWOOD—Irving Asher, who recently resigned as Columbia production head in England, has joined the M-G-M studios as a producer.

Mayer, Schenck Head Loew's Pay Load

(Continued from page 5)

laws provides that December 11 be set as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote.

Net earnings of the company for the year amounted to $9,841,530.61, or approximately $5.48 a share on the common. This compares with $9,924,934.46. It is stated earnings for the first quarter of the new fiscal year are off considerably in view of the foreign situation. The net income for the year just ended, before tax and other deductions, amounted to $12,338,751.83. The net is equivalent to $71.98 per share on outstanding preferred as compared with $72.59 the preceding year when the average per common share was $5.65. Cash on hand totals $13,781,161.11. Total working and current assets figure at $65,675,356.47, of which books and rights, after a reserve of $1,400,833.51, are estimated at $4,651,614.70.

However, total assets of the company are $157,333,208 as compared with $143,848,520 in the previous fiscal year. The company has $18,365,949 represented in pictures in work and $2,139,699 in pictures completed, but not yet released. In the fixed asset division, land is down for a valuation of $28,973,217 and investments in buildings and equipment at $66,101,676. Total current liabilities are $12,767,437.

Loew's, Inc. reports an operating revenue from theatres, rentals and accessories of $122,577,542. This compares with $118,941,768 for the year ending Aug. 31, 1938. Distribution cost for the current period ran to $12,860,741 as against $12,596,772 the previous year. Federal income taxes rose from $1,544,463 for the 1937-38 fiscal year to $1,958,851 in the 1938-39 fiscal period. As of Aug. 31, 1938, the company listed a balance of $47,787,157. As of Aug. 31, 1939, the balance is reported as $52,339,175.

Loew's London Theatres Call For Management Changes

TORONTO—Shareholders of Loew's London (Ont.) Theatres, Ltd., have adopted a resolution calling on the directors of the company to negotiate for a change in management within the next two months. The London house is operated from the Loew's headquarters in New York, with a local manager. Those interested in a change of policy and control of the house are said to favor a partnership arrangement with a Canadian theatre chain.

A Luncheon for Grainger Tendered by Sheffield

DENVER—James R. Grainger, Republic president, was tendered a luncheon by J. T. Sheffield, western franchise holder, and attended by 20 local exhibitors. Rick Ricketson, Fox Rocky Mountain Theatres division manager, was toastmaster. Those present included Charles Gilmour, Charles Yaeger, Dave Davis, Fred Zeckman, Harry Huffman, Tony Archer, Joe Dekker and Larry Starsmore.

Goldwyn Says He's Through With UA

NEW YORK—After resting quietly for a number of months, the Goldwyn-UA contract dispute breaks into the open again with a press release from Max D. Steuer, representing the producer, declaring "Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., has notified the United Artists Corporation of the termination of its contract of distribution."

Steuer declared the notice was effective as of December 19 and "applies to all future pictures that may be produced by Mr. Goldwyn or the company." The producer currently is making "The Westerner," starring Gary Cooper.

Last week, BOXOFFICE reported from Hollywood Goldwyn had declared he had other distributing plans for the Cooper film. Although he refused to divulge what company they involved, he made it clear it was not UA.

UA has no intention of being "terrorized" by Samuel Goldwyn.

Such was the attitude of Murray Silverstone, UA head of world operations, in response to Goldwyn's declaration that effective immediately he had terminated his distribution contract with the company. Silverstone asserted UA is "not going to let Goldwyn distribute with any other company, unless the courts decide otherwise."

A formal statement, prepared in the presence of Charles Schwartz of Schwartz & Frohlich, and Edward C. Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll and Raftery, both of UA counsel, goes as follows:

"We have received a letter from Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., in which it attempts to terminate its exclusive contract with us. We have not breached our contract, it is in full force and effect and we again reiterate that we shall resist in every legal way any attempt on the part of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., or Samuel Goldwyn to distribute pictures through any distributor other than UA or to terminate any of their other legal obligations to us, prior to September 2, 1945, the expiration date of our present exclusive contract. We will continue to carry out our obligations in the future, as we have in the past."

The letter was characterized by Schwartz as "abstruse." There will be no legal action on UA's part, he said, until a move is made by Goldwyn. Meanwhile, the letter is being "studied."

Yorke May Scout for La Guardia

Hollywood—It is reported Gabriel Yorke, most recently attached to the Producers' Association, is surveying the local terrain for Mayor La Guardia in connection with the latter's desire to return some production to New York. Yorke's activity is said to concern the possibility of lining up those who might be interested in the move.

Asked to comment, Yorke refuses to discuss the matter.

Roosevelt to Reveal Plans in January

HOLLYWOOD—All plans concerning the producing venture of James Roosevelt, president of the Goldwyn Studio Co., will be made public in January. So declares Roosevelt, who has returned from a brief weekend in New York, where he conferred with James Mulvey, Samuel Goldwyn's eastern representative.

While in New York, Roosevelt made it clear no releasing agreement had been reached. When asked directly who was doing the financing, he answered: "I'm doing it myself."

"U" Training Guns On Starring Power

NEW YORK—Universal howitzers are concentrated on star power for the balance of the season.

This was the big noise as district sales managers gathered at a session called by W. A. Scully, sales manager, over the weekend. Nate Blumberg, president, made a hurried return trip from the coast to tell the men about: "Charlie McCarthy, Detective," "Green Hell," "The Invisible Man Returns," "Oh, Johnny, How You Can Love," and "My Little Chickadee." All but the latter, which is in the late stages of production, are completed.

Blumberg made known the following films would be in the "top-bracket" category:

Two with Deanna Durbin, the first of which will be "It Happened in Kaloa," and the other the Straus operetta, "Spring Parade." Bing Crosby and Gloria Jean, new child star, in "If I Had My Way." Loretta Young will be the lead in "World Cruise," a Tay Garnett production. Irene Dunne is set for one film, the story of which is as yet undetermined.

The Ritz Brothers and Mischa Auer will be starred in "The Boys From Syracuse." Bob Burns is set for "Alias the Deacon." The next starrer for Baby Sandy is "Sandy Is a Lady."

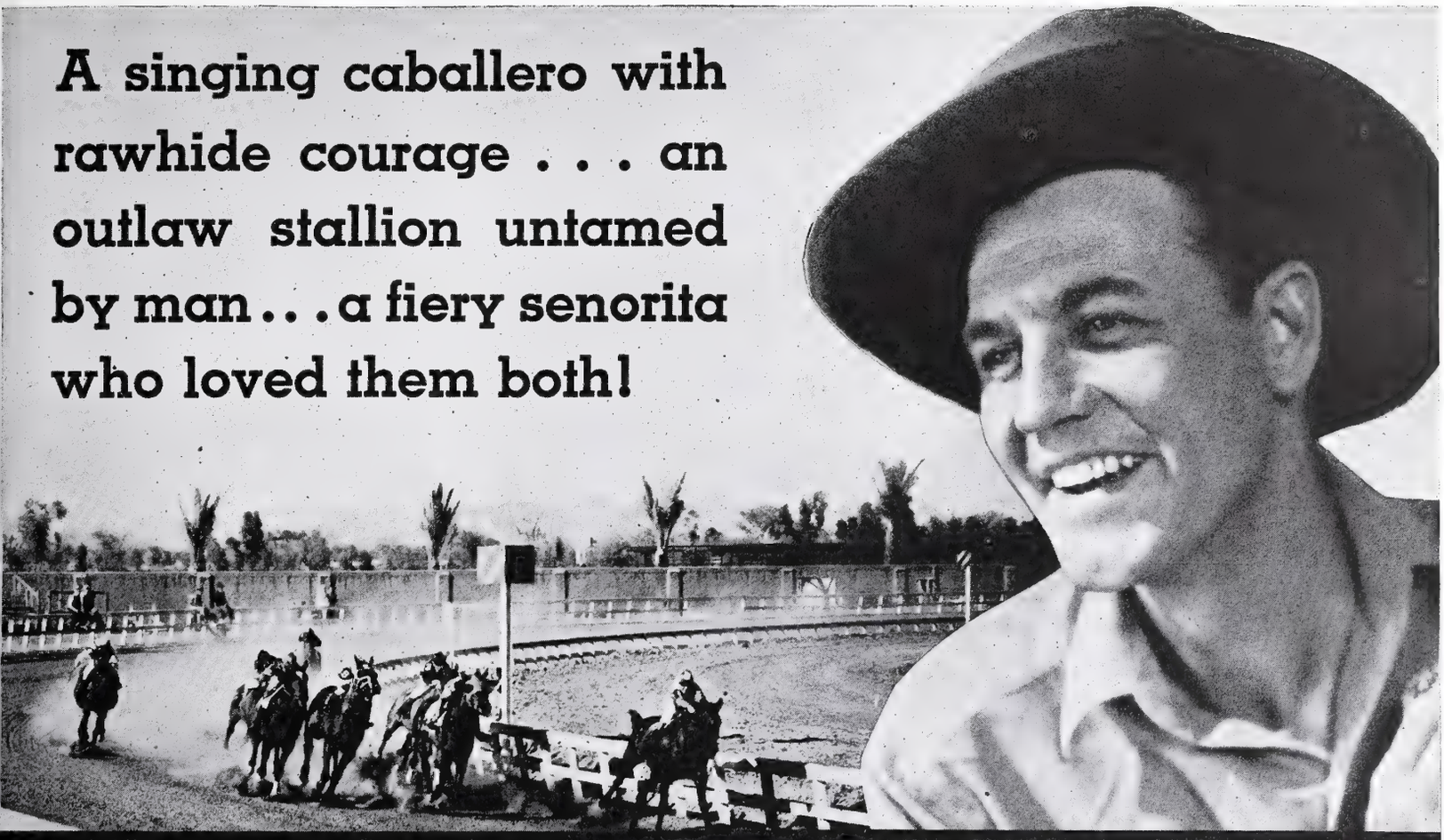


—Metropolitan Photos

After the Meetings Came the Inevitable Picture—

All of this has to do with RKO Theatres and the New York meeting of its various division managers. In the center is Malcolm Kingsberg, vice chairman of KAO. On his right are John J. O'Connor, vice-president and general manager of RKO Theatres, and Major Leslie E. Thompson, home office executive, and on his left, Fred Meyers, chief film buyer as well as assistant to O'Connor. They are in the act of congratulating the assembled theatremen for a job well done. The praised ones include Tom Gorman, Chicago; Louis Goldberg, Brooklyn; Nat Holt, Cleveland; Charles Koerner, Los Angeles; Max Fellerman, film booker; Bill Howard, vaudeville booker; Harry McDonald, New England division; Arthur Frudenfeld, Cincinnati; Charles McDonald, New York; James Brennan, New Jersey-Washington division; Russell Emde, Westchester; W. B. England, personnel director; Sol Schwartz, Bronx and East Side division; Harry Mandel, director of publicity and advertising; Joseph Becker and Matty Polon. The latter are assistant film bookers.

A singing caballero with rawhide courage . . . an outlaw stallion untamed by man . . . a fiery senorita who loved them both!



"THE GENTLEMAN FROM ARIZONA"

WITH

JOHN KING • J. FARRELL MacDONALD • JOAN BARCLAY

CRAIG REYNOLDS • RUTH REECE

Produced by **CHARLES E. GOETZ** • Associate Producer and Director **EARL HALEY**

PROCESSED BY CINECOLOR



"... a winner that should break every barrier for good grosses."
— Stokes, Jay Emanuel Publications

"... picture has some sterling entertainment values ... bang up horse race for a thrilling climax." *— Daily Variety*

"Gorgeous Arizona backgrounds brought out in all their splendor, with never a harsh tone in the vivid panorama."
— Hollywood Reporter

"Outstanding entertainment. Picture is beautifully filmed in natural color. Book it by all means." *— Hollywood M. P. Review*

"Picture's strong point throughout is the use of color on fascinating exteriors." *— Motion Picture Daily*

"Exceptionally fine color photography." *— Showmen's Trade Review*

A MONOGRAM PICTURE

No Early Disposition Of Fairbanks Stock

NEW YORK—It may take years before any disposition is made of the UA stock holdings of the late Douglas Fairbanks, Capt. Dennis F. O'Brien of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, UA counsel and close personal friend of the late UA partner, states. The one-fifth interest is held in the name of Elton Corp. and O'Brien will vote the stock.

Because of the complications surrounding the administration of the estate, state taxes and residuary, O'Brien holds it is difficult to make any concrete statements at this time.

Prior to his sailing on the *Rex,* Alexander Korda, another one-fifth UA owner and producer, said UA will probably make an effort to purchase the Fairbanks interest. He, personally, is not interested in acquiring the stock.

On his return from the coast, Murray Silverstone held UA's by-laws provide the company has first call on the stock of a member-owner upon his death. If the offer is not taken up, the shares can be disposed of to an individual.

Fairbanks' Will to Be Known December 26

LOS ANGELES—The Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, executor of the Douglas Fairbanks estate, will open the late star's will December 26. Lady Sylvia Ashley, the widow, and Douglas Fairbanks jr. are believed to be the principal beneficiaries. The *Times,* quoting a reputable source, stated the estate amounts "to several millions, but much less than friends and associates and most people believe."

Two Subs in Films for Government Study

NEW YORK—Objections by Warner on two pictures in the government's interrogatories have resulted in two substitutions. They are "The Green Light" for "Anthony Adverse" and "Three Men on a Horse" for "Charge of the Light Brigade." The contention made was that the original pictures scheduled played through two seasons starting with 1935-36.

Major Attorneys Confer On Baltimore Case

NEW YORK—With the windup of hearings in Baltimore on the Westway case, attorneys conferred several days at the Hays office preparing papers on findings of fact and conclusions of law. These are scheduled to be filed in the Baltimore court in a few days. John Caskey of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey and Edward C. Raftery of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery were among major counsel from New York attending the hearings. Raftery spent more than two weeks in Baltimore. A number of sales executives took the stand on behalf of the defense.

"Covenant Not to Sue" in Frank Ford Trust Suit

CHICAGO—An interesting turn of events in the Frank Ford case involving B&K, Sam Meyers and the major distributors reveals that a "covenant not to sue" has been entered into between B&K and Ford. The agreement, in a sense, is a release on B&K from Ford in his suit charging monopoly and restraint of trade. This still leaves Meyers a defendant.

However, attorneys on both sides are endeavoring to work out a settlement in the entire matter. It is said Ford this season has been able to secure more product for his Stadium than last year.



He'll Do It in 3's—

"Jane Addams and Hull House" and "Senate Page Boys" will be the first two of the three Charles R. Rogers will make each year under his Columbia deal. Three a year for three years—that's the ticket.

Patent Group Revamp May Trail Sirovich Death

WASHINGTON—Death of Chairman William I. Sirovich of New York, following the death last March of Representative J. Burrwood Daly of Pennsylvania, has deprived the House patents committee of two of its most earnest workers in the field of copyright legislation.

The probabilities are that Representative Fritz Lanham of Texas, who also has worked hard on the copyright legislation and is the ranking Democratic member of the committee, will be elevated to the chairmanship when Congress meets in January.

The death of the New York Congressman came as a shock to fellow members of the committee who, while they did not always agree with his views, were warm personal friends.

Serving his seventh term in the House, Representative Sirovich had been head of the important patents committee since the beginning of the Roosevelt administration.

His greatest interest was devoted to his plan to establish a bureau of fine arts in the government and to copyright legislation, but he expended much time and energy on the other matters which came before his group which is in charge of all patent and copyright legislation in the House.

National Production In Mexico Slumps

NEW YORK—The trend toward national production in Mexico and Argentina is on the decrease, as elsewhere in Latin America. Such is the opinion in authoritative home office circles, based on reports of the growing reluctance manifested by first-run exhibitors in South America in booking Spanish dialogue pictures.

Until recently, Spanish dialoguers were considered a competitive threat in the 20 Spanish-speaking countries of South America. Now they are relegated to the subsequent spots as program attractions.

In Mexico City alone, according to one qualified observer, there are over 30 Mexican-made pictures unable to get a release. Pictures made in Buenos Aires are finding it equally difficult in obtaining first run outlets. Consequently, a slackening interest in this type of production can be predicted for Columbia, Universal, United Artists, 20th-Fox, RKO and Paramount, which are handling Spanish dialoguers in one form or another.

Despite the fact production in Mexico City and Buenos Aires has advanced technically, the Spanish-speaking pictures, according to the observer, have failed to find the key which would make them universally popular throughout Latin America.

Hollywood product, which is made with an eye to universal appeal, finds itself easily having preference over films made in the native tongue. Distributors who are still intent on aiming their pictures especially at Latin America may be interested in the observations of a film man in Argentina who states South American republics are still a good market, but dislike bad pictures.

"If increasing of South American activities means the 'shooting' of the life of South American heroes," he says, "or the manufacturing of pictures which are believed to appeal to the 'South American taste' that would be just a waste of time and money unless production and sales promotion are born out of a true understanding of, and sympathy for, the needs of the markets."

Aylesworth Resigns Post With Paper for Law

NEW YORK—Merlin H. Aylesworth, publisher of the *World Telegram* since March 31, 1938, has resigned and has been admitted to the New York bar. He became president of NBC in the fall of 1926 and 10 years later left that post and was elected president and chairman of the RKO board. He held those titles for a year, then joining the Scripps Howard papers. He winds up his duties at the *World Telegram* the end of the year.

"Blue Bird" Roadshow

NEW YORK—The first roadshow engagement of "The Blue Bird" has been set for January 17 at the Hollywood, Broadway de luxer, which has not housed a film since "Juarez" last April.

Gov't Insists That Suit Won't Be Sloughed

WASHINGTON—The government has no intention of being diverted from its purpose of prosecuting the major companies for their alleged violations of the anti-trust laws.

This is made clear at the department of justice in a flat denial of reports that the New York suit would be dropped.

As the department issues a formal statement to that effect, officials are letting it be known that they are highly resentful of the industry's efforts to "sabotage" the prosecution.

They charge the companies with bad faith in the circulation of reports that the case would not go to trial in the face of a stipulation that it will proceed to trial on May 1.

While this is the first occasion that the department officially has recognized the efforts of the distributors to "whittle" the case down, officials have frequently privately condemned what they term the strategy of the industry in attempting to slow the proceedings to the stopping point.

Rumors Have No Effect

False rumors as to what the department is or is not going to do, officials say in informal discussions, have no effect on the policy of the attorney general and his subordinates other than to make them more determined to force a showdown. As the situation now stands it is intimated, the government will not consider a consent decree unless it gives the department everything it asks, so deep is the resentment.

"Information has reached the department of justice that reports are being circulated in the motion picture industry that the equity action of United States vs. Paramount Pictures, Inc., et al., pending in the district court for the southern district of New York, will not go to trial," it is declared in the department's official statement.

"These reports are being circulated notwithstanding the fact that it was stipulated by counsel for the government and the defendants that the case will proceed to trial on May 1, 1940.

"Any such reports as are being circulated to the above effect are utterly without foundation. The department fully expects that the case will go to trial on that date. All necessary steps for preparation are being taken.

"Through pre-trial conferences, to be held commencing March 1, 1940, it is hoped that the length of the trial may be materially shortened."

Columbia Objections Will Be Heard December 29

NEW YORK—Hearing on Columbia's objections to the government's interrogatories has been set for December 29 before Judge Vincent L. Leibell. Particular objection is made over question nine and those dealing with divulging company secrets.

Says Goldwyn Will Join Paramount

New York—Several times formally denied by Barney Balaban, Louella O. Parsons now reports this:

"Samuel Goldwyn, who always does the unexpected, will sign a deal very shortly to go with Paramount. Sam, through his attorney, Max Steuer, announced that he was leaving United Artists, which isn't surprising."

Jersey City Fracas On Clearance Ends

JERSEY CITY—M-G-M and RKO have settled the clearance dispute with Jack Fields, operator of the Cameo, by reducing the protection period previously held by Skouras' Fulton from 40-45 days to 21 days. Emil K. Ellis represented Fields in the negotiations, which have been under way for almost three months.

The development is seen by the attorney as possibly bringing into line other distributors for a reduction of clearance. In view of the settlement, Fields is holding in abeyance his contemplated monopoly suit as it might have borne on M-G-M and RKO.

Fields has closed a 1939-40 product deal with M-G-M on the new clearance setup and is expected to sign with RKO shortly.

Hearings and Holidays Delay Film Board Nominations

NEW YORK—Because of the anti-trust hearings in Boston on the Morse & Rothenberg case and the holidays, nominations for new officers of the New York Film Board, scheduled Wednesday, have been indefinitely postponed. Among local sales personnel traveling to Boston for the court hearings were William Sussman, Harry Buxbaum and Joe Lee of 20th-Fox, Harry Hummel, Warner; Edward Bell, Paramount; Dave Levy, Universal; Ben Abner, M-G-M.

Zanuck Will See "Grapes" Bow at New York Rivoli

NEW YORK — "The Grapes of Wrath" opens at the Rivoli on January 24 on a popular-priced extended run engagement. Darryl F. Zanuck and a group of 20th-Fox studio executives will attend.

N. Y. Allied Pokes "Loose" Publicity

NEW YORK—Allied of New York is on record as opposed "to the practice of some leaders and so-called leaders of this industry making extravagant and bombastic statements."

Particularly objectionable to the organization are those statements relating to prospective gross receipts, sales policies, playdates and playing time which come to the attention of the public press and which "tend to lead to legislation, organization, regulation and agitation which are injurious to the industry as a whole."

The effect of the alleged loose statements, Allied declares, "tends to subject the industry to adverse criticism of which it is not deserving."

Max A. Cohen, president, reveals that Sol Raives, formerly president of the TOCC of New York, has been retained as upstate exhibitor contact.

Warner Chain Buys Four Philadelphia Houses

PHILADELPHIA—Four theatres have been acquired from Northeastern Theatres, Inc., by the Warner circuit. The houses and their reported prices are: Lindy, 69th and Elmwood Ave., $204,219; Northeastern, 6131 Torresdale Ave., $112,636; Earle, 28th and Reed Sts., $70,939, and Plaza, Broad and Porter Sts., $25,882.

At the same time the Stanley Company sent out plans to building contractors asking bids for erection of a new theatre, the Astor, at Girard Ave. and Franklin St., after demolition of the present structure. The plans were designed by John Eberson, New York architect.

"Blue Bird" Opening the Hollywood January 19

NEW YORK—The Hollywood will be reopened January 19, instead of January 17, as previously announced, for the extended engagement of "The Blue Bird." John Goring will handle the roadshow engagement of the film.

West Again in January

NEW YORK—Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president who has just returned from the coast, returns there about the middle of January. A number of new talent deals will be whipped up by that time for his final approval.

Reviewer Goes for "Swanee River"

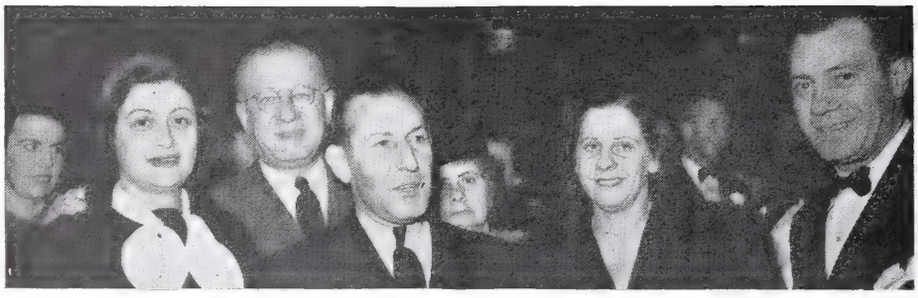
Hollywood—An unusual treat for the eyes and the ears will be found in "Swanee River," sumptuously produced, sincerely portrayed and excellently directed feature based on the life of Stephen Foster, one of America's favorite troubadour-composers, and his widely-sung music. From start to finish, it will have audiences of all ages and classes fluctuating between nostalgic tears and tapping feet as one after another of the well-known Foster songs are introduced while the story tells how each was conceived and written—all in logical and engrossing sequence. Don Ameche, Andrea Leeds and Al Jolson are splendid in their respective roles. Sidney Lanfield directed.—SPEAR.

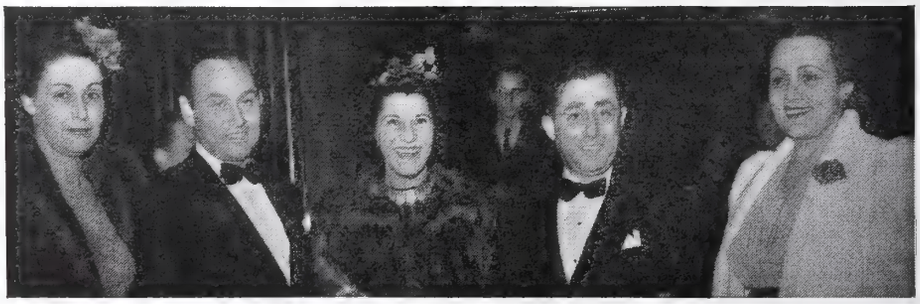










—Photos by Apeda Studios and Mercury Studios

It Was a Memorable Night

NEW YORK—The town's best bib and tucker, as well as boiled shirts and furs, went on parade for the joint premiere of "Gone With the Wind" at the Astor and Capitol Tuesday evening.

Both theatres were crowded with more celebrities than photographers could shake bulbs at, but some of the lens-snapping effort is recorded on the facing page, and below.

Facing, and starting at the upper left and then proceeding across in orderly manner, it goes something like this:

Mrs. Spyros Skouras and her daughter, Diana; Hermann G. Place, first vice-president of Chase National Bank, and H. Donald Campbell, president of that banking institution. All guests of Spyros.

George N. Armsby, banker and member of the Loew board of directors.

George J. Schaefer, president of RKO.

Nate J. Blumberg, president of Universal; Mrs. David Marx and Mrs. Blumberg.

Will H. Hays and William F. Rodgers, the latter general sales manager of Loew's Inc.

Joseph Bernhard, general manager of the Warner circuit.

Leo Spitz, former RKO president, and Mrs. Spitz.

Fred Meyers, chief film buyer of the RKO circuit; Mrs. J. J. O'Connor; her husband, who, of course, is vice-president of that chain; Max Fellerman, chief booker; Mrs. Meyers and Mrs. Fellerman.

Mrs. Leo Justin, her husband who is a partner in the Walter Reade Circuit; Morris Jacks, associated with Justin; Mrs. Jacks and Edward M. Schnitzer, eastern district manager for Warner.

Si Fabian, New York City and up-state theatre operator.

Capt. Dennis F. O'Brien of O'Brien, Driscoll and Raftery, counsel for UA.

Mrs. William White, her husband who is assistant to George P. Skouras; Murray Stahl, who operates several independent theatres in New Jersey; his wife, and Mrs. Skouras.

Below, in order, are Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, Inc.; Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, and Mrs. Balaban, and Spyros Skouras, operating head of National Theatres.

General Aniline and Agfa Will Consider Merger

DOVER, DEL.—A special meeting of stockholders of General Aniline & Film Corp. (formerly the American I. G. Chemical Corp.) and the Agfa Ansco Corp., both Delaware corporations, will be held in New York December 28 to consider action on a merger of the firms. The General Aniline firm will be the surviving corporation.

21 Films in Production In the Greater Reich

WASHINGTON—There are 21 German pictures in production, 15 in Berlin, two in Vienna, and one each in Munich and Prague, according to a department of commerce report.

Interboro Chain to Open Trylon in Forest Hills

NEW YORK—Interboro circuit will open its latest addition, the 599-seat Trylon, Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, L. I., December 26.

Max Suderov has leased the City Hall, Manhattan, and will reopen it shortly.

The Kent, Newark, closed about eight years, will be reopened by Stanley and Marcus Sobelson, Christmas Day.

Max J. Cohen, who operates two theatres in Monticello, has acquired the Liberty, Liberty, N. Y.

Loew Heads Resume Session

NEW YORK—Loew directors held a meeting Wednesday. It was a continuation of the last session on December 6.

Gain for Amusements In 1939 Indicated

WASHINGTON—Despite setbacks of the early months of the year, the amusement industries as a whole will find 1939 was a better year than 1938, it is indicated by statistics of the bureau of internal revenue.

With November collections of the federal admission tax reported as $2,117,644.42 against $1,985,127.78 in the corresponding month last year, total revenues for the first 11 months of the year were brought to $17,901,777.42 compared with $17,640,-960.10 for the corresponding period in 1938.

Increasing over the previous period for the fourth consecutive month, the November revenue was $389,713 above the October total of $1,727,931.46 and $132,516 above the November, 1938, collections of $1,985,-127.78, the bureau announced.

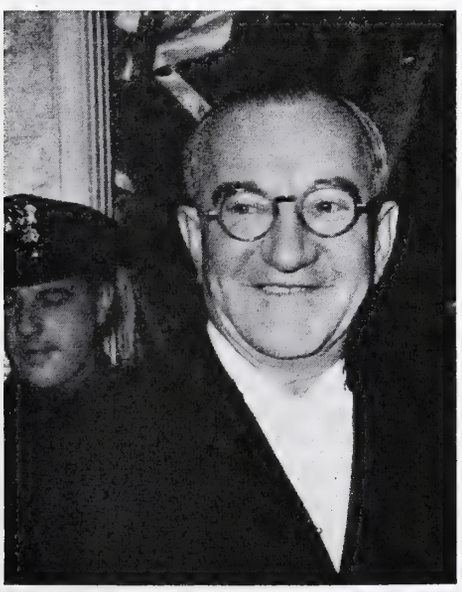
Brandt Interest Retained In Knoble, Katsch Units

NEW YORK—Harry Brandt retains his interest in nine Ben Knoble and Joe Katsch houses, according to Katsch. Commenting on the withdrawal of the nine units from the Brandt booking combine, Katsch states, "We have no argument with Brandt, but we felt we want to cater to our own problems."

Katsch holds that, because of the competitive situation today, more personal attention is required in the operation of small houses. He adds this could not be done under the Brandt setup.

Cinema Lodge Addressed By Col. Ralph Steinberg

NEW YORK—Cinema Lodge, the industry's chapter of B'nai B'rith, heard Col. Ralph Steinberg, member of the advisory council of the Anti-Defamation League, speak on "How We Can Help," Thursday night. Several representatives of the Beverly Hills chapter were present.







—Photos by Apeda Studios and Mercury Studios

BROADWAY

AS THE deadline menaced, a quick, but very incomplete tally, on Christmas cards scattered around the office included appreciated remembrances from the following:

Jack Alicoate, the Harold Autens, the Leon Bambergers, James G. Balmer, George A. Blair, Lee Blumberg, Mort Blumenstock, the William Brandts, the Colvin Browns, the Harry Buckleys, the Harry Buxbaums, Lowell V. Calvert, John A. Cassidy, the Duke Clarks, Len Cohen, the Jack Cohns, Tom Connors, Leon W. Conrow, J. Cheever Cowdin, the Clyde Eckhardts, G. W. Erdmann, Scott Faron, the Herb Feckes, Lou Fink, Sam Fox Publishing Co., Judge G. B. J. Frawley, French Cinema Center, the Arthur Frudenfelds, William J. German, the Edmund Graingers, the M. Grassgreens, the Nate Goldens, Julius Haber, Donovan Hall, the Oscar Hansons, "Hap" Hadley, Pete Harrison, the Vincent Harts, the Elmore Heins, Nat Holt, the Earl Hudsons, the Rube Jacksters, William B. Jaffe, the Arthur Jeffreys, the Charles Reed Joneses, the Harry Kalmines, Sidney R. Kent, Alexander Korda, Bernard Kreisler, W. J. Kupper, Harry Kosiner, Ed Kuykendall, the Arthur Lees, Chick Lewis and staff, Morris Loewenstein, the Paul Lazarus jrs., Helen Shaw Lesser, David Lowe, Dee Lowrance and Herb Drake, Harold C. Lund.

The Frank McCarthys, the Willard McKays, Maurice McKenzie, Edward McNamee, John J. Maloney, Lee Marcus, William Massce, Arthur Mayer, Ed Mayer, Charles Mersereau, Modern Film Corporation, Bert Moeller, Charles C. Moskowitz, the Leon Netters, the Jim Normanlys, Louis Nizer, the Barney Oldfields, the John J. O'Connors, the John Payettes, the Dave Palfreymans, P. A. Powers, the Louis Pollocks, the C. C. Pettijohns, Jack A. Pegler, R. H. Poole, Prof. and Mrs. Quiz, the H. M. Richeys, the Charles R. Rogers, the Saul Rogers, the Eph Rosens, Grace Rosenfield, Ross Federal Service, William F. Rodgers, Howard Reichenbach, Sack Amusement Enterprises, Bert Sanford jr., the Al Santells, Robert Savini, Cliff Schaufele, the I. J. Schmertzes, Abe Schneider, the Schwartz & Frohlich staff, the Al Shermans, the Jack Sichelmans, Edward Small, Charles J. Sonin, Herman J. Schleier, Arthur Stebbins, Ruth Schwerin, the Jimmy Sileos, the George Skourases, the Jerry Safrons, the Nicholas Schencks, Eddie Smith, Hortense Schorr, George Schaefer, Grad Sears, Sophie Tucker, William G. Van Schmus, Walter Wanger, Frank C. Walker, the Lou Weinbergs, Sid Weiss, World Pictures Corp. staff, Herbert Yates and Harmon Yaffa.

Milt Hossfeld has gone to the coast for the Rose Bowl game . . . Laurence Olivier flew back to Hollywood after a brief vacation in the east . . . Florence Abramson is now taking it easy at Miami, stopping at the Blackstone . . . Louis Nizer and the missus sailed on the Nieuw Amsterdam *for a holiday cruise, returning after the first of the year . . . Paramount home office employes earning* $40 *a week and under received surprise bonus checks Thursday. A Christmas party was held the following day at the home office . . . Monogram home office and exchange employes got into the Xmas spirit Friday afternoon as the guests of W. Ray Johnston . . . At the Warner exchange, the staff made merry and played host to visiting exhibitors . . . Russell Hardy, prosecutor in the St. Louis anti-trust case against several major companies three years back, was in town from Washington the latter part of the week. He has not been with the department of justice for the last year and a half, having entered private practice.*

Homer Harman's mother and father-in-law are in from St. Louis to spend the holidays here . . . Ira Cohn, 20th-Fox Pittsburgh branch manager, has gone to Miami and Austin Interrante, salesman in the same office, is vacationing here with his wife . . . Abe Blumstein of the local 20th-Fox sales force and a few other men are now basking in the Miami sun, too . . . Bill Goetz has gone back to Hollywood after a brief vacation here . . . David O. Selznick flew back to Hollywood after the "Gone With the Wind" preview at the Capitol, which he attended with John Hay Whitney . . . George Skouras threw a Christmas party at the St. Moritz, Friday, for his employes as well as those working for Brother Spyros at National Theatres. Last year it was Spyros who did the honors . . . Fred Ullman jr., RKO Pathe vice-president, arranged the Friday party at the Mon Paris for the Pathe News crew. But it was hard to match the Loew-M-G-M affair at the Astor which drew more than 1,000 from the home office, exchange, warehouse and other departments.

Charles Stern, UA branch manager, was in Philadelphia to attend the funeral of Joseph Singer, a salesman, who died of a heart attack at 57 *. . . Jack Bowen of the M-G-M exchange says that Jack Bowen, the NBC announcer who broadcast the demise of the* Graf Spee *from Uruguay, is no relation . . . Joe Lee and Harry Buxbaum were in Boston to testify at the Morse and Rothenberg trial . . . Harold Greenberg, Poughkeepsie exhibitor, was a visitor at Dave Levy's office the other day . . . Out-of-town guests of E. K. (Ted) O'Shea at the "Wind" opening included: John Maloney of Pittsburgh, Rudy Berger of Washington, Ralph Pielow of Albany, Louis and Myer Schine, Frank C. Walker and John Nolan of the Comerford circuit and Vincent McFaul of Buffalo . . . Eddie Golden and Bill Fitelson walking in the rain unprotected because they like it.*

Howard Benedict is in Baltimore for the holidays with his family. He then returns to the coast for his first assignment as RKO producer of "Curtain Call" . . . John O. Ojerholm, Paramount's laboratory representative in England, flew in



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Just Before the Whistle Tooted—

Alexander Korda, aboard the Rex, *holds a last minute conference with his American representatives, Emanual Silverstone, in charge of sales, and Morris Helprin, in charge of publicity.*



—Metropolitan Photos

He's New At It—

Elevated from the editing ranks, Jack Hively is now a director for RKO and on his first eastern visit. His initial directorial enterprises are "Two Thoroughbreds" and "The Saint's Double Trouble."

on the Clipper to spend Christmas in New York . . . Walter Gould bagged his first pair of rabbits with his new gun over the weekend down in Maryland . . . Lora Hays Lenauer is keeping busy on another "Datelines" short . . . Albert Deane, assistant to John W. Hicks jr., has been elected vice-president of the Australian Society of New York . . . David Gould, M-G-M manager in Puerto Rico, is en route to his post aboard the *Boriquen* and in good health following a siege at a local hospital . . . Joseph McConville handed out a flock of Sulka ties for Christmas, as usual . . . Allan Jones has returned to the coast to be with his family for the holidays . . . The Leopold Friedmans left Thursday for Miami and will not return until after the new year has turned the corner.

Harry Goetz was due back over the weekend after a quick trip to the coast . . . Joseph Bernhard and Harry Goldberg, general manager and publicity and advertising director, respectively, for the Warner circuit have returned from zone manager meetings in Cleveland and New Haven . . . Frank Donovan, RKO Pathe production manager, was in Bermuda with a technical crew for a vacation cruise short . . . George Raft has returned to the Warner studios after a vacation in the east . . . New Year's Eve will be celebrated by TAC with a party to be held at Manhattan Center . . . Roy Sherkey, manager of Fabian's Stadium on Staten Island, will be toastmaster for the circuit's first annual dinner-dance on January 6.

Considerable eye interest was focused on Thelma Purcell when she appeared at the M-G-M exchange in the company of Thomas Alfieri, operator of the Millbrook, Millbrook, N. Y. . . . Matty Kutinsky suffered bruises and cuts when he was driving in from Mt. Vernon the other day and got mixed up in a head-on collision . . . Rian James, Hollywood scenarist, is around town preparatory to a West Indies cruise . . . Thomas Di Lorenzo, operator in New Paltz, took a gander around the furniture stripped approach to the M-G-M exchange and observed: "What happened here, did the sheriff take over?" . . . Phil Eisenberg, operator of the Lyceum in Red Hook, is back from a Florida vacation . . . Joe Katsch, who says Heywood Broun was a personal friend, feels rather low over the columnist's death.

Prinz Metal, M-G-M studio attorney, is here vacationing and doing the town properly in the company of Benn Jacobson . . . Jack Shea and E. C. Grainger, both Feiber & Shea men, returned early in the week from Boston and other towns in Ohio and Pennsylvania . . . Tom Connors returned from Atlanta with a sore throat which kept him from the office Monday . . . Nicholas M. Schenck plans to spend at least ten weeks in Miami with his family . . . Tyree Dillard has gone on his annual pilgrimage to Greensboro, N. C., his home town, and returns after the first of the year . . . John Caskey and Ed Raftery have shaken the dust of Baltimore after spending some time in the city on the Westway case . . . C. C. Moskowitz doesn't expect arbitration hearings on the Local 306 *wage increases to begin until after the first of the year.*

Mort Singer, on his visit here, revealed he has dropped 20 pounds within the last few months and feels better than ever . . . Edmund Lee II of the M-G-M home office legal department on December 30 becomes a benedict with Sylvia Sanford as the lucky gal . . . Terry Turner has joined Barret McCormick's staff at RKO as exploitation head . . . Boris Morros is back on the coast after a few weeks in New York looking over the market for his next story . . . Lou Irwin flew back to Hollywood after a month checking into his local office operations . . . A. Montague has been looking over the new Columbia lineup preparatory to holding four regional midwinter meetings . . . The Walter Reades announce the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne, to Edwin Gage, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gage.

Arthur Loew came through with his annual Christmas gift to employes in his department. In addition to those who come within the company classification for bonuses, Loew has given his co-workers a week's salary, plus $25 . . . *Marvin Schenck is planning a vacation at Hot Springs, Ark., the middle of February. When he returns C. C. Moskowitz will head for Miami Beach . . . Ezra Stone is in town from Hollywood after finishing a role in "What a Life" . . . Grad Sears has returned from the south where he spent several weeks with his family . . . Charles Laughton and his wife, Elsa Lanchester, paid the Rivoli a visit Tuesday night while all the excitement was focused on the Capitol and Astor. The following afternoon Laughton was tendered a holiday libation by W. G. Van Schmus at the Music Hall studio apartment.*



—Metropolitan Photos

Check the Old, Plan the New—

Or a get-together involving Captain Herb MacIntyre and Ex-Captain Walter Branson of those RKO sales pushes. Here they go over past efforts and plot the Ned E. Depinet drive for '40.

DiLorenzo Hosts Orphans

NEW PALTZ, N. Y.—Thomas DiLorenzo, operator of the New Paltz, played host to 280 orphan girls from the Sacred Hearts Orphanage at West Park. M-G-M furnished a print of "The Wizard of Oz" gratis. The arrangement was made through the film board of trade in New York.

MPPDA Discusses Foreign Situation; Meet Jan. 3

NEW YORK—The year-end MPPDA board meeting was concerned with a lengthy discussion of the foreign situation, following which it was decided to hold an adjourned session January 3.

Those attending were Will Hays, Major F. L. Herron, Murray Silverstone, Nicholas M. Schenck, W. C. Michael, Jack Cohn, Nate Blumberg, Barney Balaban, George J. Schaefer and Joseph Hazen, and the following foreign heads; Arthur Loew, Phil Reisman, J. A. McConville, Arthur Kelly, John W. Hicks jr., Joseph Seidelman, Walter J. Hutchinson, Karl McDonald in place of Joseph Hummel for Warner, and David Bernstein.

National Theatres Parley January in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—National Theatres divisional heads will hold their quarterly get-together here the middle of January. Aubrey Schenck, in charge of vaudeville bookings at the circuit's headquarters in New York, is already here on a vacation and will stay over until the meeting.

Among those scheduled to attend are Spyros Skouras, Edward Zabel, Milton Hossfeld and John Healy, from New York; Rick Ricketson, Denver; Harold J. Fitzgerald and Edward L. Alperson, Milwaukee; Frank Newman sr., Seattle; E. C. Rhoden, Kansas City; Al Rosenberg, Portland; Arch Bowles, San Francisco.

General policies and new booking schedules will be on the agenda.

Rites for Louis Frappier

NEW YORK—Funeral services were held here for Louis Frappier, vice-president of International Projector, who died suddenly early in the week. He had been superintendent of the factory at the time of his death.

Kennedy Exempt From Stockholder's Query

NEW YORK—Supreme Court Justice Samuel Hofstadter has denied an application by Rae Nasoff, suing minority Paramount stockholder, to examine Joseph P. Kennedy, U. S. ambassador to England before trial. The judge declared Kennedy's affidavit showing his knowledge of facts to be secured from corporate records, and any testimony that might be given would be opinions.

The plaintiff claimed Kennedy, as a result of the investigation made in 1936 of Paramount's affairs at the request of its directors, could prove her contention of waste and mismanagement. Losses of $20,000,000 to stockholders are claimed.

Creditors of Grand National have extended to January 5, the efforts of Earle W. Hammons to raise cash to carry on. Reason for the extention is that Erpi has agreed to put up $100,000 and the RFC in New York has approved the balance of the loan and sent its recommendations to Washington where it is still pending. Leo Bergere also is ready with $1,000,000 for production, and Producers Laboratories have offered several films for distribution. Company launched a sales drive last week in an effort to raise gross from $8,000-$13,000 weekly.

Suit of Samson Raphaelson against Robert T. Kane, head of Fox's New World Films., Ltd., claiming $25,000 for breach of a 10-week writing contract at $2,500 weekly, was settled out of court the day of trial, with an unnamed sum going to the author.

A temporary injunction pending trial has been issued by Federal Judge Alfred C. Coxe against Harry Jacobs, doing business as the Garden Camera Exchange, for the dubbing and re-sale on 16mm film of Charles Chaplin's "Shoulder Arms." The actor seeks an accounting and damages.

Robert E. Sherwood and the Playwrights Producing Co.'s suit against Fox for an injunction and accounting of profits of "Young Mr. Lincoln" has been set for January 2 trial before Justice Peter Schmuck in supreme court.

Selecting Trial Judge for Industry Suit a Problem

NEW YORK—Senior Federal Judge John C. Knox will have a problem on his hands selecting a trial judge for the all-industry suit. Outside of himself, the only jurist acceptable to both sides now in the federal court would be either John M. Woolsey, who has disqualified himself because his wife holds 100 shares of Loew stock, and Francis G. Caffey. The latter now is finishing a two-year Aluminum anti-trust trial.

No Decision Yet on Gov't Stay Plea in Schine Case

BUFFALO—No decision on the government's motion for a preliminary injunction in the Schine case has been handed down, although Federal Judge Knight has been studying the arguments several weeks. The judge has been active of late in a number of other cases which are understood taking precedence over Schine.

Newly-Organized U Club Partied by Dave Levy

NEW YORK—Branch Manager Dave Levy played host Friday night at a dinner party for the newly-organized U Club, composed of Big U exchange employes. Levy is the honorary treasurer of the organization.

Leo Simon is the president of the group; Eva Backer, vice-president; Julia Gaffney, secretary; Harold Tisso, treasurer; Harold Saltz, sergeant-at-arms; and publicity, Harry Fellerman. Directors are Max Cohen, Sam Phillips, and Rose Gonzales. Max Cohen and Max Goldberg are trustees.

Hicks to Panama

NEW YORK—John W. Hicks jr., Paramount's vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, who sails on the *Santa Elena* for South America, January 12, plans to meet Adolph Zukor in Panama for a joint tour of the territory.

Lou Brandt Opens Pix on Broadway

NEW YORK—Lou Brandt, brother of Harry and William, on Saturday night opened the Pix, newest house in the Broadway sector since the Criterion made its debut in September, 1936. The 830-seat house is located just west of Sixth Ave. on the site of the former Drake's restaurant.

The policy will be single features of both domestic and foreign product. Admission scale is 25-35-55 cents. Opening attraction is "The Citadel of Silence," French production featuring Pierre Renoir.

Heart Fails Joseph Singer

PHILADELPHIA—Joseph Singer, local UA salesman for more than four years, is dead as a result of a heart attack.





They Discuss "U's" Immediate Future—

Above Nate J. Blumberg, president, and William A. Scully, general sales manager, who hurried Universal's district managers into New York for a Saturday-Sunday meeting at which the rest of the season's big releases were discussed. Below, the men who made the journey. Front row: E. T. (Peck) Gomersall, Chicago; Al O'Keefe, west coast; A. J. Herman, New York; Dave Miller, Pittsburgh; Pete Dana, Kansas City; Dave Levy, New York City. Back row: Harry Graham, Atlanta; Frank J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager; James Jordon, Andy Sharick and Morris Alin, home office, and William J. Heineman, western sales manager.

(*Story on page* 18)

RKO Reorganization Given "Go" Sign

NEW YORK—Federal Judge William O. Bondy has approved the RKO underwriting agreement, as submitted by Atlas, and ordered the company and Irving Trust, RKO's trustee, to proceed with consummation of the plan of reorganization.

The original agreement has been changed slightly in that Atlas which represents 15 per cent of the unsecured creditors, had reserved the right to take the new stock to the extent of its holdings, which would have given it a 25-cent reduction per share, or $2.75 for each share purchased. This portion of the agreement is now eliminated and Atlas will take only those shares not subscribed to by Rockefeller Center and other unsecured creditors. These the company will get at $2.75.

Judge Bondy also reserved decision on application of Irving Trust to settle five claims against the company, totaling $2,775,142 for $107,284.

Some of these claims will be reduced in amount, others expunged completely, and others have interest added. Most of them are either rent claims or defaulted bond issues.

Schaefer Bankruptcy Exit Plea Is Revealed

NEW YORK—Filing of the minutes of the RKO board meeting December 12 in the federal court revealed that George J. Schaefer made a plea before the officers to expedite the bankruptcy. The continuance of the company in bankruptcy, declared Schaefer, is embarrassing to the management and distinctly harmful in the operation of a highly competitive business.

Consummation of the plan of reorganization would be beneficial, he concluded. In this statement Schaefer was backed by Ned E. Depinet.

The RKO board almost rejected the Atlas underwriting agreement, the minutes revealed, as the board split four to four, and it was not until Richard C. Patterson, chairman, voted for the agreement, that it was passed. Schaefer, Depinet, and L. Lawrence Green did not vote. Those opposing the agreement were James G. Harbord, John E. Parsons, W. G. Van Schmus, and L. P. Yandell. In favor of the agreement besides Patterson were Raymond Bill, Thomas P. Durell, Frederick L. Ehrman, and N. Peter Rathvon. The last named, often termed Floyd Odlum's right hand man and representative of Atlas's interests on the board, could thus be termed the man who swung the deal, for had he voted negatively, or refrained from voting the agreement would have been rejected.

Judge Bondy has also allowed Irving Trust, RKO's trustee an ad-interim allowance of $32,500 and William J. Donovan, Irving Trust attorney, $50,000 for services from October, 1938 to October, 1939. Amounts of $65,000 and $75,000, respectively, had been requested. To date they have received $585,000 since 1934 for their combined services.

Paramount News Has Pertinent Subject

New York—"Year of Dark Contrasts" is Paramount News' contribution to the annual film reviews. It is editorial in text, sharply pertinent and worthwhile. The narration draws freely upon the views of George Washington, applying the current state of world affairs as a prophetic parallel. It cites as a threat to our liberties the dictatorships and its offshoots like the German-American Bund. The subject effectively sounds the tocsin for the need to safeguard our freedom as stipulated in the Bill of Rights. Running time is 15 minutes. It will be released as a regular issue of Paramount News, December 30.—GOLDING.

Sees GN Sales Rise

NEW YORK—Stimulated sales activity for GN product in five cities he visited is viewed by Sol Edwards, sales manager, to be indicative of the support of independent exhibitors towards his company. Edwards on his trip visited Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Buffalo.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

ENTENTE CORDIALE (Concord) — Victor Francen as Edward VII sparks this French version dealing with events leading to the momentous Anglo-French alliance. It is mainly a series of tableaux peopled with historic figures. In light of present conditions, the film has added significance. Marcel L'Herbier directed.

GOLDEN KEY (Amkino)—A neat bit of fantasy that cleverly mixes puppeteering and flesh and blood acting. This is a Russian interpretation of the Pinocchio yarn. A puppet, fashioned by a poor musician, comes to life and becomes involved in a series of fairy tale complications.

MONEY TO BURN (Rep)—Clean, wholesome comedy having to do with the further ups and downs of the Higgins Family. Picture is replete with hearty laughs and truly mirthful situations and compares favorably with the better of the home and fireside series films. The Higgins are, as usual, portrayed by the Gleasons—James, Lucile and Russell. Gus Meins produced and directed.

MUSIC IN MY HEART (Col)—Columbia here fails to dodge the mistakes familiar in musicals, chief flaw being the incomplete utilization of playing talent. The story lets the boy get the girl as she is about to be deported. Tony Martin, Rita Hayworth, Alan Mowbray, Eric Blore. Joseph Santley directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

"Bicycling" of Prints Gains Third Year

NEW YORK—"Bicycling" of film prints outnumbered almost two to one "holdover" types of violations, according to the annual report released by the Copyright Protection Bureau for 1939.

From 1930 to 1937 the "holdover" type of violation predominated, the report states, but in the last three years the illegal practice of "bicycling" has moved ahead.

Violations were found in 28.08 per cent of the theatres investigated in 1939 as compared with 16.75 per cent last year, according to Jack H. Levin, bureau director.

Intensifying its campaign against illegal operators in the trade, the bureau during the year set up a new department to handle investigations of duped, bootlegged and lost or stolen prints.

Brandt Wants Walker to Head a National Unit

NEW YORK — James J. Walker, former New York City mayor, as head of one national exhibitor organization is the ambition of Harry Brandt, the ITOA president declared at the Astor Hotel where some 700 industry figures and friends gathered to pay him tribute on the occasion of his 25th year as an exhibitor.

The desire was voiced after Walker, making one of his infrequent public appearances since his retirement from the political arena, had recited known and little-known incidents in MPTOA history during the days of Sidney S. Cohen and had suggested that exhibitor strength could best be mustered in one association.

Brandt heard himself lauded as a vigorous force in the interests of independent exhibition.

ITOA Clarifies Stand on Dietrich and Garbo

NEW YORK—No place in the "boxoffice poison" statement issued by the ITOA in May, 1938, was it said that Marlene Dietrich or Greta Garbo "were through, that they could not make a comeback, that exhibitors would not be glad to play their pictures if the public wanted to see them."

This is the position taken by the ITOA in the current issue of its publication, *The Independent*, in which it is observed that producers "evidently slaved over stories" which would bring the two stars "back to public favor and the producers succeeded —at least insofar as first runs are concerned—and we hope in subsequent runs, too."

Under the industry's present setup, the article concludes, "stars are as important to our business as practically any one other factor. But the star system definitely should not control the distribution end of the business nor hog-tie production. Stars should be sought out, nurtured, developed, protected, but should never be allowed to dominate."

WASHINGTON

JOE FIELDS, popular Baltimore exhibitor, donned the false whiskers and played Santa along the Row. Bookers, assistant bookers and accessory managers received the much welcomed haberdashery, while the girls received a supply of two thread chiffons . . . Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Berger attended the New York showing of "Gone" . . . The 20th-Fox exchange was nosed out of first place in the S. R. Kent drive by a fraction . . . Xmas parties were held by the T. C. F. Dynamos and the R. K. Olians in their respective exchanges . . . Frank Ponton of Martinsburg, W. Va., was a visitor.

Harry Bachman, veteran along the Row for many years and Monogram branch manager for the past three years, has resigned, with Harry Brown, former Grand National branch manager, replacing him . . . C. R. Long, Metro home office checking supervisor, is visiting the local exchange . . . J. L. McCoy of Moorefield, W. Va., is home ill . . . Ridley Green of Chase City is recognized as the champ bridge player in his community . . . Al Miller, 20th-Fox accessory manager, copped first place and the booty of $150 in the recent drive . . . Jack Share, former Columbia booker here and now a salesman at the Cleveland exchange, visited the Row . . . Local marquee oddity: "The Rains Came" and "The Bookies Wept."

Visitors to the Variety Club Saturday night were given a big surprise when Olivia DeHavilland and a group of film notables paid a short visit when their Atlanta-to-New York train was sidetracked for a brief spell . . . Ask Bernie Kreisler to explain his new title of "Senator" . . . Filmrow is mourning the passing of Morris Davis, former exchange owner and exhibitor . . . Mrs. H. Covington of Ashland, Va., is home ill . . . E. J. Reass of the Grand Norfolk, has recovered from his recent illness . . . Harry Livingstone has been appointed salesman at the Trio-Preferred exchange . . . RKO's Al Folliard has been confined to his home with grippe.

News of the week at Warner theatres: Dan Terrell, assistant to Publicity Director Frank LaFalce for the past five years, is leaving the organization January 1 to accept the position of director of promotion at American University, of which he is an alumnus . . . John J. Payette, general zone manager, assisted by his divisional managers, presided at the semi-annual managers' meeting held December 19. Out-of-town managers included: Jack Forney and Ted Crowther, Frederick; George Payette and Joe Cumiskey, Hagerstown; Lou Kusner and Waldo Chandler, Martinsburg, W. Va.; Henry Clark, Waynesboro; Rodney Collier, Baltimore; Lamar Keen, Winchester; Charles McKinney, Clifton Forge; Don Nichols Harrisonburg; Frank Shaffer, Staunton; Ralph Daves, Staunton.

The general exodus at Yuletide found 20th-Fox's Glenn Norris vacationing at his home in Statesville, N. C.; RKO's Steady Knox off to his home in Atlanta, Ga.; Columbia's Joe Walsh enjoying the Florida clime; 20th-Fox's Jerry Murphy taking in the big city; Universal's Walter Davis on an extended auto trip; RKO's Pat Burns visiting with relatives; Columbia's Lillian Levy Florida-bound; 20th-Fox's Lillian Blumenthal to New York to attend a national sorority convention; "Syd" and Danny Rosenthal, Ira Sichelman and family to New York to visit with relatives.

Capital's Salesmen Form Group; Elect Daugherty

WASHINGTON—At a meeting at the Annapolis Hotel, local film salesmen organized a fraternal, benevolent and social group to be known as the Motion Picture Salesmen's Club of Washington.

"Vince" Daugherty, a member of Paramount's 100% Club and for the past 11 years engaged in film distribution and exhibition in Washington and New England, was elected president for the coming year, with Joe Walsh, Columbia, first vice-president; Jack Goldberg, Metro, second vice-president; Phil Bobys, Metro, secretary and treasurer, and Frank Scully, assistant treasurer.

At a luncheon January 8, activities will be planned for the coming year.

Horace W. Twyman Dead At 57; Had been Retired

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.—Horace W. Twyman, 57, brother of the late Fred Twyman, twice local mayor, is dead. Twyman was general manager of the Jefferson and Lafayette theatres a number of years, retiring in 1934 because of bad health.

Dave Thompson Dead

NEW YORK—Dave Thompson, RKO head cashier, died unexpectedly at his home early Friday after being ill for some time. Death was due to a heart attack.

WASHINGTON

It's a UNIVERSAL Custom
At This Time

To Extend Our Heartiest Wishes for a
Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

BERNIE KREISLER, Branch Manager

JOE YOUNG
WALTER DAVIS
OSCAR BLUMENTHAL
SAM TABOR
BARNEY FRANK
ALBERT LANDGRAF

COLUMBIA
WISHES YOU A "GEM" OF A CHRISTMAS
and a
SPARKLING 1940
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JOE KUSHNER
JOE WALSH
BEN CAPLON
DANNY ROSENTHAL
"NICK" WEEMS
"CHICK" WINGFIELD

AMOCO SERVICE STATION
New Jersey Ave. at K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
JIM HARTLEY, Prop.

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes
for a
Prosperous New Year
TRIO-PREFERRED PICTURES
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SCHNEIDER'S DRUG STORE
Combined With the
"CINEMA CLUB"
87 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.



WASHINGTON



XMAS GREETINGS

AND A

PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Paramount Pictures

EDDIE FONTAINE

WASHINGTON



Wishing You and Yours a Season of Happiness, Health and Prosperity

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

PICTURES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

RUDOLPH BERGER, Branch Manager

PHIL BOBYS — JACK GOLDBERG

FRANK J. SCULLY — HARRY COHEN

We wish to take this occasion to extend to our many friends our sincere appreciation for their kind cooperation during the 7th annual S. R. Kent Drive, and to wish one and all a

MERRY XMAS and a PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

20th Century-Fox Films

932 New Jersey Ave. N. W.

SAM WHEELER, Branch Manager

Sara Young — Joe Cohan

Jerry Murphy — Fred Klein

Glenn Norris — Sam Diamond

Ira Sichelman

CHRISTMAS CHEER

AND JOY DURING THE YEAR

R. K. O. PICTURES

203 EYE STREET, N. W.

BOB FOLLIARD, Branch Manager

RUSSELL HILDEBRAND, Office Manager

Al Folliard — El Grover

"Steady" Knox — Harry Kahn

SEASON'S GREETINGS



FROM

SAM and JAKE FLAX

REPUBLIC PICTURES

HERE IS WISHING — ONE AND ALL

The Happiest Christmas

and the

Most Prosperous New Year of Your Career

MONOGRAM PICTURES

922 NEW JERSEY AVE., N. W.

HARRY BACHMAN, Branch Manager

GENE DYER, Office Manager

Harry Crull — Ben Oletsky

Mrs. "Pat" Smith — "Buddy" Hansen

BALTIMORE

LATEST theatre in Baltimore to be burglarized is Moe Cohen's Lexway, where burglars forced open a metal filing cabinet and stole $300 . . . Rome Theatres annual Christmas party will be held December 27 . . . Ted Routson, publicity chief at the Hippodrome who directed the local "Baltimore Follies," really has a swell show —something all Baltimore should be proud of.

On Christmas morn, Lawrence Schanberger, Keith's, will have a party for some 500 crippled children. They will also see "Gulliver's Travels" . . . For good and bad stories, ask Lou Appel of Bill Hicks' circuit . . . Al Vogelstein, National Film Co., is supplying exhibitors with free films for Christmas parties . . . John Lange has gone to the mountains in the east for his health.

Bill Hicks has been confined with a bad cold . . . Fixer "Dugan" Cohen, Essex, is sporting a new car with the trunk all smashed in . . . Sam Tabor, Universal salesman, can't understand why he had to pay a $25 fine for only doing 70 miles per. Ask the judge, Sam.

Leroy Miller, manager of the Grand, is having a big Christmas party for children in cooperation with the Exchange Club . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hoffheimer of the Bird, Norfolk, Va., were in town . . . Leon Back has been suffering with ear trouble . . . William K. Saxon of Loew's held a Xmas party for some 6,000 kids at Loew's Century, Valencia and Parkway theatres. Toys and candies were distributed.

December 20 was Ted Routson and Bernie Seaman Night at Variety. Lou Rome, chief barker, announces regular luncheons will be discontinued until after the first of the year . . . Mrs. Sam Diamond is on the sick list. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Lawrence Schanberger, Keith's, ran an ad in papers for "Our Neighbors, the Carters" which read: "Money Back If You Don't Like It" . . . Elmer Nolty has his hands full these days working on the dinner-dance program for Variety.

An Altec-Lichtman Deal

NEW YORK—Altec has signed an agreement with Lichtman Theatres for 22 houses in Washington, D. C., Virginia and North Carolina.

Season's Greetings

And S. R. O. for '40

Robert T. Marhenke

Baltimore Correspondent

BOXOFFICE

Detroit Vaude Waits on Peace in Labor Ranks

NEW YORK—David Idzal, managing director of the Fox, Detroit, for National Theatres, returned to the automobile city Thursday after home office conferences. He stated, while here, that until the local unions get together neither the Fox nor the Michigan will reinstate vaudeville policies. Both houses have been considering reviving vaudeville, but not as a continuous plan, he said.

Idzal feels that, as long as the various unions in Detroit are at loggerheads with each other, it would be "dangerous" to book vaudeville at this time.

BALTIMORE

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Globe Poster Co.

Sidney Goldstein — Norman Goldstein
Al Zalis — Dan Fedder

THE BEST WINDOW CARD VALUE IN THE COUNTRY

113 S. Hanover St. — Baltimore, Md.

XMAS GREETINGS
Ed A. Wheeler, Manager
REALART PRESS — CAL. 0883
Window Cards — Programs
Herald Imprinting
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Season's Greetings
MANNIE GOLDSTONE
U. S. Antiseptic Laboratories
Baltimore, Md.

XMAS GREETINGS
Ernie Wood
ALPHA FILM STUDIO
Baltimore, Md.

LOU YOCKELLE
Representing
Capitol Program & Printing Co.
Extends Season's Greetings
To the Exhibitors of Baltimore

SEASON'S GREETINGS

A. Jacobs & Sons

Est. 1891

Uniform Manufacturers

209 W. Fayette St. — Baltimore, Md.

GREETINGS FROM
MARYLAND DISPLAY SERVICE
Theatrical Displays and Signs
DAVE KAISER, Prop.
416 W. Baltimore St. — Baltimore

LOUIS B. BERGER
Representing
LEON LEVI
Jewelers and Opticians
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Baltimore, Maryland

GREETINGS
—from—
YELLOW FRONT HARDWARE CO.
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610 S. Broadway — Baltimore, Md.

SEASON'S GREETINGS . . .
BERLO VENDING CO.
The Theatre Candy Machine Man
HARRY GOLDBERG, Baltimore, Md.

ALBANY

LOU LICHTENSTEIN, a 20th Century-Fox auditor, and Messrs. Olsen and Roth, home office representatives, were at the local exchange . . . Salesman Benny Dare, Mrs. Dare and baby daughter left Albany and its snow behind to vacation on the sunny shores of Miami. Dare was first Filmrower to start the Miami trek. Others will follow later . . . Manager Moe Grassgreen's boys and girls were watching for final tabulation in Kent Drive. Local exchange ranked seventh as the campaign swung into final week. Money splits will be distributed to the six top offices, on the basis of percentage over quota for revenue collected . . . Bert Kulick of Producers Distributors Corp. recently arrived in Albany territory to work on "The Beast of Berlin." Initial showing was at Fabian's Grand.

Abraham Schreiber, who sells Bingo cards to theatres, visited Albany area. For a man of his years, Schreiber is very chipper. And charitable, the boys say . . . Bernard Kranze, RKO manager, visited Gloversville, Utica, Oneida and Elmira. Elmira is home grounds for the Bernstein Brothers, who operate the Colonial, Albany, among other theatres. The Bernsteins are former Albanians . . . An exploitation man was expected at RKO exchange to work on "That's Right, You're Wrong," the Kay Kyser picture scheduled to open at Fabian's Palace, December 28, and on "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," booked for same theatre January 5. Exploiteer also will make Troy and Schenectady. Kyser is well known in this section, not only through his popular "Musical Kollege" radio program, but through a long engagement at Kenmore Hotel, Albany, and broadcasts over WGY, about six years ago.

Steve Tarbell spent two days on Filmrow booking pictures for Smalley circuit. His boss, William E. Smalley, also was reported in town. The sharp-eyed lads immediately spot Smalley's presence in Albany by his Lincoln car . . . New faces on Film Alley: Booker Kaufman, setting dates for Pearlman's Greene, Greene. Morris Slotnik, Oriskany Falls and Waterville exhibitor; Chris Marks, operator of two Utica theatres; Dayton La Pointe, Crandall, Chatham; Frank Wieting, Cobleskill; Rossi Bros., Schroon Lake; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Rosenbaum, Ausable Forks, and Lou Fisher, Bradley Opera House, Fort Edward . . . Miss Eleanor Paradies, owner of Pam-o Pictures exchange, Buffalo, scheduled for a trip to various circuit headquarters with Salesman Ben Smith . . . Phil Fox, former Columbia manager here and now top man in Buffalo branch, returned for a brief business visit.

Bob Rosenthal, manager of Warner's Ritz, Albany, did the candle-blowing act—a birthday. Alton Hoffman, his assistant, will follow example recently set by the boss—marry. Dawn Mitchell will be the bride and New Year's Eve the date, 'tis said . . . Metro's Christmas party at a Rensselaer hotel was preceded by an appetizer—screening of "Judge Hardy and Son" in 20th Century-Fox's projection room. Following festivities, Manager Ralph Pielow and Mrs. Pielow were to head for New York and metropolitan premiere of "Gone With the Wind." A local paper recently reported the David Selznick production was slated for Palace, Albany, next month. The 3,700-seat Fabian house will run two shows daily (regular schedule is four, sometimes stretched to five), story stated. Seats to be sold at a special window but unreserved . . . Universal's "Destry Rides Again" is reported to have done big business at the Strand, Albany. Advertised as "held over" two days. Warner exchange employes made merry at a Christmas party in Ten Eyck Hotel, December 21. Warner Theatres organization was to toss a big one Saturday afternoon, December 23. All branch offices invited by Moe Silver, upstate zone manager and a lavish host.

Bill Kraemer, who was transferred to Washington four months ago to open a Schine circuit office there, has returned to Gloversville and the Albany territory. Kraemer bears a new title, but will continue to book, it is said, on Filmrow. Seth Field, his successor, reverts to former position—short subject placer in this area. Gus Lynch, nephew of George Lynch, Schines' chief buyer, has been given another assignment at Gloversville headquarters, according to word here. He set the shorts after Field took over feature booking. Lou Goldstein remains, of course, as chief Schine booker.

Richard D. Hayes, veteran Paramount salesman, addressed the Rotary Club of Alexandria Bay on "Motion Picture Distribution." Mrs. Antoinette McNamara, operator of the Bay, Alexandria Bay, arranged his appearance. Local business and professional men heard him.

FCC to Hear Tums Program Plaint

Detroit—Thomas McGuire, public relations director of Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, a booking and buying combine, Thursday filed a formal complaint with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, charging that the Tums "Pot O' Gold" radio program violates Section 316 of the Communications Act. The FCC will hear the complaint after the Christmas holidays.

In announcing his move, McGuire said he would "not recommend any exhibitor buying insurance to forestall the bad effects of this program, as I believe the commission will take the program off the air as a lottery."

RICHMOND

THE Operators Local 370 has re-elected its officers for another year. George Crozier, financial secretary and treasurer, is going into his 10th consecutive year—some sort of record. Harry Jarvis is president; John Doherty, vice-president; Addie Stewart, recording secretary, and John P. Leary, business agent . . . Henry Reid, service staff at the Byrd, is recuperating nicely from an operation.

Eugene Whitaker, doorman at the State, and his father went hunting and brought back several rabbits and birds . . . Harry Nordin, accounting department, Neighborhood Theatres home office, showed us the first sports article he contributed to the weekly paper printed by John Marshall Night School. It was very good . . . Floyd Stawls, manager of the Carillon, visited his home in Norfolk . . . Keith Caudle has added Harry Bell and Naumann Dowdy to the service staff at the Colonial . . . Employes of the Patrick Henry and East End received a week's pay as a Christmas gift from their boss, Ben Pitts . . . Charlie Yerby told us Loew's is giving all employes with the company a year or longer and receiving less than $40 a week, two weeks' pay. Those with the company less than a year get one week.

Carter Barron, Loew's district manager, was in town, and Allen Sparrow, local manager, returned the visit this week, attending a party for Loew managers in Washington . . . Trip Caldwell and Sam Moore went hunting and shot a few birds . . . .WRTD sent out a plea for toys for poor children from a booth in the lobby of the Colonial with good results . . . Bob Coulter and Claude Wilson really decorated the Byrd lobby, setting it off with an unusual tree.

Bob Eagan, manager of the Park, is back on the job. He has been sick . . . Charlie Somma has returned from conventioning in Chicago . . . First runs are planning on midnight shows New Year's Eve . . . Victor Friedman, doorman at the Lee, was unable to bowl last Monday on account of illness . . . Dickens' "Christmas Carol" was shown at the Williamsburg twice last Sunday to aid in filling the Christmas baskets of the needy. Admission was obtained by bringing cans or parcels of foodstuffs.

A. O. Budina, architect for Neighborhood Theatres, is helping to work out a statewide building code to be presented to the legislature when it meets next month.

CAUTION TO EXHIBITORS

It has come to our attention that electrically operated slides, in imitation of our electrically operated projector slides, are being offered to theatres. These slides, in our opinion, are infringements of the Patent rights held by us and we will enforce the same to the full extent of the law. Exhibitors are warned against such infringing acts.

Hollywood electrical projector slides are protected by U. S. Letters Patents No. 2042604 and No. 2069304. Before using any electrically operated projector slides, we urge your careful investigation.

HOLLYWOOD AMUSEMENT CO., Inc., 831 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill

PHILADELPHIA

AL B. BLOFSON, National Penn Printing, is the new star of the Showmen's Club, elected by acclamation. Other officers, all elected unanimously (that's the way Showmen do these things) are: Charles Goldfine, Aldan, stand-in (first vice-president); Meyer Adelman, New Jersey Messenger, yes-man (second vice-president); William Z. Porter, Monogram, script man (secretary); A. Larry Mackay, Arcadia, banker (treasurer); Jack Litto, Eureka, financial secretary; David W. Yaffe, counselor, and Charles Stiefel, Harry Biben, Harry Blumberg, Ray O'Rourke and Allen Lewis, board of producers (directors).

Film men are mourning the death of Joe Singer, UA salesman, one of the pioneers in the Vine Street section of the industry . . . Frank Leonard, once associated with First National here, died in Buffalo . . . Martin Ellis' Tower, Camden, opened with fanfare and bunting, and the presence of many in the trade . . . Stanley-Warner's Earle opened Saturday without musicians, as predicted . . . Al Zimbalist whisked himself off to Harrisburg to see "Gone With the Wind."

Charles Dutkin, Girard, is still confined to his Naval Hospital bed, says he'd like to hear from the boys on Vine Street . . . Janet Hallard, Republic assistant booker, is recovering from a serious illness at Price Memorial Hospital, and hopes to be back on the job early next year . . . Mildred Bolen, pretty secretary of Sam Gross, 20th-Fox, became the bride of Samuel Popper, an attorney. Honeymoon is in Florida . . . Bill Rovner, Berlin, Laurel Springs, attached himself to a Mrs. at Atlantic City last week.

Phil Berg was planning to open the Lincoln with colored vaudeville and films but the plan fizzled when he couldn't reach an agreement with the musicians . . . John Golder, Hollywood, is giving "Burning Question," his marihuana film, a debut at the Erlanger . . . Ralph Binns, Horlacher's Washington representative, made one of his infrequent visits . . . Lester Wuertle, Columbia, hopped out of town on business . . . The Variety Club's women's auxiliary stacked almost 500 Christmas baskets at 1226 Vine St. for distribution to the needy. Sam Gross and Oscar Neufeld made the arrangements.

Christmas cheer bubbled and flowed through all the exchanges last week. Warnerites welcomed the holiday at the Broadwood, in a scintillating party arranged by Dorothy Burd, Leo Hannan and Charles Beilan . . . Paramounters honored Santa at the Penn A. C. . . . The Horlacher family paid their respects at the same place. Tom Lark takes the credit for arranging the affair . . . The boys and girls of Quality Premiums did their dining and wining at the Walton Roof . . . Stanley-Warnerites celebrated in the Warner Club.

James P. Clark celebrated the holiday season by slipping off the Horlacher delivery platform and spraining his ankle . . . This is a real Christmas for Bill Porter, Monogram. In one week he was elected president of the film exchange employes union and secretary of the Showmen's Club. Ahead of him is a solid year of good hard work . . . Michael H. Egnal, Bridgeport, is putting out a bulletin for the Lincoln Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, to which many filmites belong. Lewen Pizor, UMPTO, has just retired as president of the lodge . . . Belle Frank, Clark Films, is mourning the loss of a sister.

Albert Garfield, former manager of the Keith's, is the new man in charge at William Goldman's News. He takes the place of Bill Matteson jr., who resigned to enter the commercial field . . . Maurice Gable, Boyd, was quick on his feet to get a plug for his theatre when he heard the Lux Radio Show was going to broadcast an abbreviated version of "Four Daughters." He's showing the sequel, "Four Wives" . . . Charlie Moyer, State, Hanover, has been elected director of the Hanover Kiwanis Club, as reward for his kiddie charity matinee.

Harry Fried's Anthony Wayne, which is dropping Bank Night, had $200 in prizes left over and with the consent of the patrons, divided it into $50 portions, donated to the Bryn Mawr Hospital, Chester County Hospital, Main Line Federation of Churches and the Neighborhood League . . . The Wayne, Suburban and Seville, held their annual canned goods matinee. The stuff collected for admissions was distributed among the needy of the Main Line . . . Burglars who broke into the Mayfair left empty-handed after trying to open the safe and a candy-vending machine.

Paul Harvey, Capitol, York, for the showing of "Four Wives," arranged a tie-up with department stores, which will provide layettes to the first four babies born during the film's run and home furnishings to the first four women married in the same period. Stores are taking plenty of ad space for the stunt . . . Johnny McGee, Lion, Red Lion, reports he has 800 members already in his kiddie club . . . Max Kuperstein, Felton, has arranged a free bus service for kids in outlying parts of his community, which picks them up and delivers them home, none the worse for a western or mystery thriller.

Iz Wiernik, Strand, is luring the youngsters with a contest for a projection machine . . . Edgar Wolf, Wynne, celebrated his house's birthday the other day with a big cake cutting . . . Marty Goldenberg, State, arranged a tie-up with the local Business Men's Ass'n, involving a giveaway of an automobile . . . Joe Bergin, Stanley, Chester, brought the town's football fans to the theatre with the stage presentation of awards to footballers named outstanding by the local paper.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS . . .

METRO PREMIUM COMPANY

HENRY MULSTEIN
308 W. 44th St., New York

MURRAY DIAMOND
303 N. 13th St., Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Censor Board Wins Praise

PHILADELPHIA — Pennsylvania's censor board, appointed during the past year amid universal forebodings it would adopt a Puritanic attitude, now is getting almost universal praise for liberality.

Of 271 pictures offered for review in the last six months, only four were banned, and only 52 others had any deletions. Most recent example that attracted attention was the approval of the French film, "Harvest," which was turned down by the New York censors, who were later overruled by their board of regents.

Under the previous censor board, objectionable propaganda was considered cause for disapproving a picture. But new Chief Censor Edna R. Carroll says:

"Propaganda is none of our business. Our duty is to interpret the act, which reads: 'The board . . . shall approve such films which are moral and proper; and shall disapprove such as are sacrilegious, obscene, indecent or immoral or such as tend, in the judgment of the board, to debase or corrupt morals.'

"This rule gives official censorship a definite scope—and also limitations."

Bookers in Metropolitan Area Form Organization

NEW YORK—Film and circuit bookers in the metropolitan area have organized the Motion Picture Bookers' Club of New York. The newly-formed group will meet Thursday at the Hotel Lincoln to discuss plans for the coming year.

Temporary officers are Myron Starr of the Island circuit, president; Eddie Susse of the M-G-M exchange, treasurer; and Jack Meltzer of Associated Theatres of New Jersey, secretary.

Central at Goshen Closed

GOSHEN, N. Y.—The Central, operated by Bob Hathaway for about two years, is closed. The 230-seat house is located in a former church property.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER

(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Holiday Hurry Is No Production Retarder

Despite the pre-Christmas social and personal rush, there was but little letdown in production activity, the average number of features in the works being pegged at 44 as compared to 46 during the preceding week.

Columbia dropped to four with only one new starter recorded, "Blondie on a Budget;" Monogram, after a spell of idleness, saw renewed activity with a pair getting the gun, "Pioneer Days," a Jack Randall starrer, and "Chasing Trouble" with Frankie Darro in the top line.

A pair started at Paramount, "Down Went McGinty" and Producer Harry Sherman's "Hold Your Horses," bringing the total in action to seven; while 20th Century-Fox has three shooting after giving the go signal to "I Was an Adventuress" and an untitled Wurtzel production. Warner started "Three Cheers for the Irish" to bring the total in works to four. One, "Rigadoon," brought the call sheets at Universal to three in all.

Metro with six before the cameras, RKO Radio with seven, Republic with two, and the various United Artists producers with four, recorded no new starts.

Foresee Top Production Pace Continuing Into New Year

By IVAN SPEAR

With the approaching end of 1939, undoubtedly one of the most trying years in the industry's history—what with the European war, a precedental volume of labor trouble and falling grosses—every sign indicates that the fast production pace which marked the closing months of the old year will maintain for some time, at least through January, 1940.

Nearly every major studio has a number of important features in preparation.

At 20th Century-Fox, for example, Sol Wurtzel's unit will complete its 1939-40 production program in February, having nine pictures on schedule. Of these, two started this month, four will start in January and the balance in February.

At Monogram six features are slated for January cameras. Among them will be the top-budget "Rip Van Winkle"; a Tex Ritter western; a Jack Randall sagebrusher and a "Renfrew of the Royal Mounted" outdoor vehicle starring James Newill.

Warner has announced that, beginning with 1940-41 season, there will be no more "B" pictures on its schedule. Coincident with this announcement Jack Warner has promoted Bryan L. Foy to the post of assistant to Hal B. Wallis, executive producer. Foy has been in charge of the studio's "B" production. Foy takes over his new job immediately, having completed his final program of "B" pictures several weeks ago and shut down that Warner unit.

The Warner plant will begin shooting on five importantly-budgeted offerings around January 15. Pictures include "The Sea-Hawk," "The Prime Minister," "All This and Heaven Too," "City for Conquest," and "The Patent Leather Kid."

Planning to resume film production in London, David Rose, managing director of Paramount's English plant, is in the film capital recruiting actors from Hollywood's British colony. Rose declares the British government is anxious to revive England's film industry. The Paramount executive asserted his company "is prepared to make every effort to cooperate with the government." Rose has plans for five large-scale pictures to be made abroad, including "The Admirable Crichton" and a screen biography of Barney Barnato, South African diamond king.

To Move Food Depots

Rose said studios commandeered by the government as food depots when war broke out will be released for film production as rapidly as they are needed.

Metro will maintain a steady production pace well into February. Currently filming seven, it will start at least five films during the next four weeks. These will include such vehicles as "Susan and God," and Eddie Cantor in "Forty Little Mothers."

Production activity at Universal will increase to record proportions immediately after the holidays when President Nate Blumberg returns to the coast to complete plans for the company's future output. Blumberg will continue discussions with studio executives and producers on balance of product to be delivered on the 1939-40 program.

Meanwhile, six Universal productions, already in preparation, will be launched. Scheduled to start during and immediately after the holidays are "It Happened in Kaloha," "Black Friday," "House of Seven Gables," "Alias the Deacon," and "If I Had My Way."



Have to Win Twice—

Trem Carr, the man in the middle of this argument, is having a tough struggle trying to persuade Bing Crosby that the loving-cup belongs to Bob Hope (second from right). Bob and his partner, Paulette Goddard, whipped Bing and Ruby Keeler on the 15th hole of a recent challenge golf match. The lineup here (left to right): Harry Crocker, film columnist; Miss Goddard, Crosby, Carr, Hope and Miss Keeler.

Finnish Relief Fund Needs Bid for Colony's Help

In addition to the almost countless charity demands which normally confront filmdom's opulent at this time of the year has been added another, the Finnish Relief Fund, which promises to take a sizeable bite out of the more swollen Hollywood bankrolls.

Joseph Mankiewicz has been named chairman of the motion picture division of the drive which is headed by ex-President Herbert Hoover. It got away to a flying start among film folks with an announced $5,000 contribution from Greta Garbo.

Those who have been asked to serve on Mankiewicz's committee, many of whom already have accepted, are: Lou Anger, Fred Beetson, Pandro Berman, Sam Bischoff, Henry Blanke, Harry Brand, Joe Breen, Sam Briskin, Jack Bryson, Harry Joe Brown, Frank Capra, Pat Casey, Charles Chaplin, Harry Cohn, John Considine, Cecil B. DeMille, Walt Disney, Scott R. Dunlap, Howard Estabrook, Y. Frank Freeman, Cedric Gibbons, Henry Ginsberg, William Goetz, Samuel Goldwyn, Sid Grauman, Will Hays, Henry Herzbrun, Arthur Hornblow, Lucien Hubbard, Howard Hughes, Bernard Hyman, W. Ray Johnston, B. B. Kahane, Sam Katz, William Koenig, Ida Koverman, Jesse Lasky, William Le Baron, Rufus Le Maire, Robert Z. Leonard, Mervyn Le Roy, Sol Lesser, M. C. Levee, David Lewis, Harold Lloyd, Edwin Loeb, Joseph Loeb, David Loew, Ernst Lubitsch, E. J. Mannix, L. B. Mayer, J. G. Mayer, Nicholas Nayfack, J. J. Nolan, Harry Rapf, Gottfried Reinhardt, Robert Riskin, Hal Roach, Sid Rogell, Charles R. Rogers, James Roosevelt, J. Walter Ruben, William Saal, George Schaefer, Joseph Schenck, David Selznick, Myron Selznick, Douglas Shearer, Winfield Sheehan, M. J. Siegel, Mendle Silverberg, Edward Small, Pete Smith, Arthur Stebbins, Hunt Stromberg, Hal Wallis, Walter Wanger, Harry Warner, Jack Warner, Larry Weingarten, Frank Whitbeck, Carey Wilson, Cliff Work, Sol Wurtzel, Darryl Zanuck, Adolph Zukor.

But, while the relief for the beleaguered Finns was being given such commendable support, the celluloid citadel's response to the annual appeal for funds for the local community chest was faring poorly by comparison. Harry M. Warner, campaign chairman of the motion picture division in the chest drive, reported at a "Motion Picture Day" rally of workers that only 31.6 per cent of the quota had been raised. This was attributable, Warner said, to the slow start which resulted from the production slack and general uncertainty which followed the beginning of the European war. Warner declared:

"We have had no difficulty in collecting from those in the lower pay brackets. But it seems the more we get, the less we believe in giving.

"The motion picture people get their money from the public—and I think the public should know if they don't help to take care of those in need.

"Of course, I realize that I am running a risk by saying these things and I must be careful. But I believe that many have done nothing because they haven't had the matter brought to their attention.

"We are going to get that $500,000 needed for the Community Chest," he added, "if I have to pay for publishing the names (of those in the film colony who do not contribute) in an advertisement."

Xmas Shares Spotlight With Work for Humanity

Efforts to protect civil liberties, peace movements, and the old-fashioned Christmas spirit shared the spotlight among Hollywood's liberal factions.

To broadcast the findings of the La Follette Committee on Civil Liberties, a number of film folk have organized the Hollywood Committee to Protect Civil Liberties. Backed by the Motion Picture Democratic Committee, it includes Lucile and James Gleason, Cyril Hume, Dalton Trumbo, Louis Bromfield, Dorothy Parker, Alan Campbell, Garson Kanin, J. Walter Ruben, Frank Tuttle, John Cromwell, John Wexley and others.

In a move to insure American neutrality in face of the international situation, still another organization came into being. Titled the Los Angeles Council to Keep America at Peace, it brings together 64 community groups, its founders including writers, educators and veterans of the peace movement.

In the holiday vein, Dorothy Parker and Alan Campbell, just returned after several months in the east, will be honored guests at a Christmas party to be held at the Hollywood Theatre Alliance headquarters under the auspices of the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League on December 23. Arranging the party are Mrs. J. Edward Bromberg, Marian Spitzer, Lynn Root, Beatrice Buchman, Gertrude Purcell, and Maxwell Shane.

Judell Studios Grind On Several Series

Keeping the wheels of action turning at his Prescott, Ariz., studios, Ben Judell has signalled a start on the second in the series of 24 westerns which his Producers Pictures Corp. will produce there. Starring Tim McCoy, it is titled "Texas Renegades" and is being directed by Peter Stewart from a story by Robert Emmett.

Judell already has completed "The Sagebrush Family Trails West," first in an eight-picture group starring 13-year-old Bobby Clark. Intent upon keeping production moving at a fast pace, he has Betty Beecher working on "The Man From Oklahoma" as a "Billy the Kid" western; Joseph O'Donnell doing the second Tim McCoy, and William Lively writing another for Bobby Clark.

Labor Front Quieter; Two Angles Vital

Perhaps overwhelmed by the "peace on earth, goodwill toward men" spirit of Christmas week, Hollywood's labor battalions fought with less bitterness as the year drew near its close. Two important developments were, however, recorded:

1. Motion picture painters received official producer confirmation that their request for a 15 per cent wage increase had been granted, the new scale to be retroactive to August 25. The new contract runs for one year.

2. The Screen Actors Guild withdrew from the Los Angeles Central Labor Council, local mainstay of the American Federation of Labor, thus entangling still further the muddled picture presented by the complexities of inter-union relationships in the film colony. Reason advanced for the SAG withdrawal was the connection with the CLC and IATSE of William Bioff. The Guild's action precipitated a reply from J. W. Buzzell, secretary of the council, who charged the guild refused to support other AFL unions in a drive for more wages but "was willing to receive the support of William Bioff when it was in trouble." Both President Ralph Morgan and Kenneth Thomson, executive secretary of the Guild, are apparently satisfied to let the matter rest there, however, as they have planed to New York on 4-A business.

The 15 per cent wage boost given the painters includes a five per cent increase to which they claim they were entitled and never received in 1937, the remainder paralleling the ten per cent raise given teamsters, carpenters and electricians. Negotiations were handled for the craft by Herbert Sorrell.

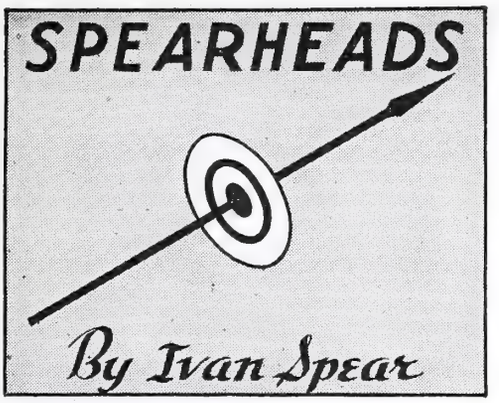
Meantime, the SAG has postponed its negotiations with producers concerning a new code for extra players, including a 15 per cent wage increase, until after the Christmas holidays. The delay was requested by Y. Frank Freeman, of the producers' negotiating committee. In addition to the wage boost, the SAG is requesting a reclassification of working brackets.

Confronting producers are demands of the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors for a ten per cent wage hike. Edmund Hannan, SMPFE president, is negotiating for the cutters.

The executive committee of the Screen Office Employes Guild has voted to undertake an extensive membership drive by which it hopes to build its roster up past the 3,000 mark.

The committee appointed to survey the situation and report on tentative plans for the formation of a Hollywood Guild Council, comprising several unaffiliated unions, was scheduled to make its initial report at a meeting of representatives of the unions involved. Those interested in the movement include the Screen Writers Guild, film editors, readers, publicists, set designers, interior decorators and office workers. A union, it is hoped, will help to preserve harmony and autonomy.

The boards of the Screen Writers and Screen Directors Guilds in their regular sessions discussed the Neely anti-block booking bill.



In their study of the Neely bill and the possible effects it might have on their craft, members of the Screen Writers Guild have each agreed to read the measure.

Retributive, to say the least. Now they will have some idea how producers and directors suffer when they wade through some of the scriveners' scripts.

➞

Republic announces a forthcoming feature under the title "The Oomph Girl and the Cowboy." One seems to remember that Samuel Goldwyn produced a super-sagebrusher that fared pretty well as "The Lady and the Cowboy," which, most certainly, couldn't have anything to do with decision of the Studio City sages. It proves, however, that while screen ladies may acquire "oomph," cowhands will always be just cowhands.

➞

Now that the gridiron season is over, barring, of course, the sundry "Bowl" clashes, it comes to mind that this is the first season within memory's reach in which no football pictures were produced. For many years, and last was no exception, every major company apparently considered it a holy duty to regale the public with at least one pigskin classic. Maybe RKO Radio's ambitious "Hunchback of Notre Dame" discouraged the others.

➞

Mystery Note:

Why hasn't Warner cast Santa Claus Lane in the sequel to the sequel to "Four Daughters?" Drury Lane might also be added to make the Lanes a quintette. Then shorts could be made in competition to those featuring the Dionnes.

➞

Paramount has signed Frank Van, veteran Los Angeles fight referee, to act in that capacity in "Golden Gloves," currently in production.

When the picture is completed they should pick up his option and have him function permanently in the front office.

➞

Elsa Maxwell will star for Warner in a series of featurettes to be known as "How to Get Fun Out of Life." Miss Maxwell will also write the stories, first of which will be "Fun Without Money," to be followed by "Fun Without Society," "Funny Side of Society" and "Fun at Your Own Party."

Seems as though Elsa is going to have some fun.

An Opulent Octette

Continuing the pace established when the press showing of David O. Selznick's "Gone With the Wind" launched the most opulent and extensive Hollywood preview spree of many months, eight features were unfurled to keep the film capital critics from getting into pre-Yuletide mischief. Of this octette, no less than six rated important attention because of their respective costs and during-production buildup. Some of the six, however, failed to live up to the standards established by their preconceived niches.

For pure unadulterated entertainment ingredients, this vote for best of the lot classification goes to 20th Century-Fox's "Swanee River," indeed a rare treat for the eyes and the ears. Sumptuously produced, sincerely portrayed and masterfully directed, the feature is based on the life of Stephen Foster America's favorite troubadour-composer and his widely-sung music. From start to finish it will have audiences of all ages and classes fluctuating between nostalgic tears and tapping feet, as one after another of the beloved Foster songs are introduced. While every member of the cast is splendid in his or her respective role, it is the music and the inspiring manner in which it is presented and recorded that proves the star of the picture. Technicolor photography adds much to the film's excellence, particularly in the minstrel scenes which play an important part in the excellent story by John Taintor Foote and Philip Dunne. Kenneth Macgowan may take well-earned bows for production, as may Director Sidney Lanfield.

Whimsy and fantasy again come to the screen in Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels," the industry's second feature-length animated cartoon, which possesses limitless appeal for youngster and offers almost as much for the adult entertainment taste. The feature is carefully done as concerns its technical details. In imaginative creation, animation and color—above all—it compares favorably with anything ever produced through the pen-and-ink technique. Characters are lovable and acceptable with "Gabby" and "Twinkletoes" strong candidates for the public adoration accorded favorite cartoon creations. Dave Fleischer directed.

In considering RKO Radio's biggest midseason undertaking, the widely-heralded "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," of first importance is the fact that the remake of Victor Hugo's medieval horror melodrama can be definitely declared a money picture. It possesses those ingredients which make for almost universal appeal. On the entertainment side of the ledger will be found mostly assets and one possible liability. The latter is its unavoidable overtone of somberness, which at times becomes gruesome and, to the squeamish, almost repellent. Far overshadowing, however, are its magnificent performances, of which the portrayal of Quasimodo, the misshapen bell ringer, by Charles Laughton is outstandingly fine-grained; the elegance of its production values, abounding in sweep and spectacle; the sensitive direction of William Dieterle who found in the masterfully etched screenplay by Sonya Levien a vehicle handwrought for his talents.

Samuel Goldwyn's latest and last—he says—for United Artists release, "Raffles," proves to be an elegantly mounted and thoroughly modern version of the old stage and screen hit. The picture rates a place among the better current releases in both popularity and profits. The screen story is intelligently written by John Van Druten and the late Sidney Howard and abounds in brittle dialogue, particularly in its early chapters. Sam Wood directed with distinction.

* * *

Comes now two entries in the "A" sextette which proved disappointing. First is Paramount's "The Light That Failed" in which indeterminable stretches of uninspired dialogue and a lack of pace merge forces to bog down the remake of Rudyard Kipling's novel to such a degree that the entertainment values of the original are completely lost in the resultant maze. The production is ponderous and direction is heavy-handed. The cast seems helpless in coping with the material furnished and apparently had little heart for its work. Feature was produced and directed by William A. Wellman.

Metro's entry from the Borsht league was the impressively produced operetta "Balalaika" which has only moments of greatness and those attributable to Nelson Eddy and some stirring musical interludes. Nevertheless, it remains one of those enigmatic offerings which will probably fail in attaining comparable degrees of greatness at the turnstiles; one which the rank and file of customers will be able to take or leave alone according to their individual tastes. Ilona Massey in the femme topline has plenty of voice and even more pulchritude. Lawrence Weingarten produced, Reinhold Schunzel directed and the screenplay came from the collaborating typewriters of Leon Gordon, Charles Burnett, and Jacques Deval.

* * *

Heading the division of more conservatively-budgeted films was Universal's "Charlie McCarthy, Detective," in which a full measure of comedy furnished by McCarthy, his contemporary, Mortimer Snerd, and their master, Edgar Bergen, so overshadows the weaknesses of the feature that it should prove a highly satisfactory investment for most ticket buyers. A meandering, pointless screenplay and a woefully weak supporting cast restrict it to serving as mere background—and a none too satisfactory one—for the delightful clowning of Bergen and his pair of impish dummies. Produced and directed by Frank Tuttle, from a screenplay by Edward Eliscu, Harold Shumate and Richard Mack.

And to prove that it is apparently impossible to show eight features without at least one of the inevitable boots and saddles melodramas there was Monogram's "Roll, Wagons, Roll" in which all the standard accoutrements of a rip-roaring western—even to the Indians and cavalry—were thrown into the formulized story. Headman Tex Ritter tosses notes, fists and lead with impartial abandon. However, the picture will serve satisfactorily in the market for which it was produced.

Hollywood Personnelities

Barnstormers

—Metro

ILONA MASSEY back at the studio after a trip to New York for the eastern premiere of "Balalaika."

ALLAN JONES back after two weeks at the New York Paramount Theatre. After the Yuletide interlude, Jones will leave for Chicago where he begins a week at the Chicago Theatre.

—Monogram

FRANKIE DARRO goes on a five-month personal appearance tour as soon as his current studio assignment is in the can.

—Republic

GENE AUTRY checks out for Minneapolis for week of personal appearances, following completion of his loan-out assignment to 20th Century-Fox for "Shootin' High."

Cleffers

—Metro

WERNER HEYMANN working on the score of "Shop Around the Corner."

HERBERT STOTHART has rearranged two SIGMUND ROMBERG originals from the first screen version of "The New Moon" for use in the current remake.

HERBERT STOTHART recording the musical score of "Northwest Passage" using an orchestra of 90 pieces.

—Paramount

SIGMUND KRUMGOLD scoring "Opened by Mistake" from an orchestration by JOHN LEIPOLD.

ANDREA SETARO scoring "The Farmer's Daughter," with IRVIN TALBOT directing the studio recording orchestra. FREDERICK HOLLANDER wrote the background music and FRANK LOESSER the song, "Jungle Jingle."

JIMMY MCHUGH, completing his songwriting assignment on "Buck Benny Rides Again," planes to New York to begin work on a forthcoming Schubert musical.

VICTOR YOUNG and recording orchestra wax eight songs from "Gulliver's Travels" for Decca Records.

VICTOR YOUNG writing a tone poem for Jascha Heifetz, to be used as a concert piece for violin and orchestra.

VICTOR YOUNG scoring Harry Sherman's production, "Light of Western Stars," using studio recording orchestra.

—The Play's the Thing Productions

ANTHONY COLLINS scoring "Swiss Family Robinson." RKO Radio will release.

—Republic

EDDIE CHERKOSE sells two original songs, "Howdy Neighbor" and "Hail to Lyndale," for use in "Village Barn Dance."

—20th Century-Fox

ALFRED NEWMAN to score "Grapes of Wrath."

—Universal

"Rhythm of the Islands," song by EDDIE CHERKOSE, JACQUES PRESS and LEON BELASCO bought for "It Happened in Kaloha," next Deanna Durbin starrer.

LOUIS CHICO and orchestra set for "Oh, Johnny, How You Can Love."

FRANK SKINNER, arranger, has option for next year picked up.

—Warner Bros.

HOWARD JACKSON, studio composer, will be guest conductor at a series of modern symphonic concerts at the World Festival of Music at the Philharmonic Auditorium early next year.

ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD begins preparing musical background for "The Sea Hawk" under a new plan whereby he will work ahead of the picture. Film is not scheduled to start until January.

HEINZ ROEMHELD and RAY HEINDORF collaborating on the score for "Brother Rat and a Baby."

MAX STEINER back from a vacation in Palm Springs and preparing the score for "Magic Bullets."

Meggers

—Metro

WILLIAM THIELE will meg "Hooray I'm Alive," which will star Frank Morgan. The story was written by HARRY RUSKIN and ALBERT LEVOY will produce.

—Monogram

HOWARD BRETHERTON to "Cupid O'Brien," a Frankie Darro starrer which Grant Withers will produce.

—Paramount

TIM WHELAN recalled from England to pilot "Destiny," Basil Rathbone's first under terms of his recently-signed contract. GEORGE ARTHUR will produce.

JAMES HOGAN to "Women From Hell," film edition of G-Man J. Edgar Hoover's yarn. EDWARD T. LOWE will produce.

—RKO Radio

FRANK WOODRUFF assigned to pilot "Curtain Call" as first job under recently-signed contract. HOWARD BENEDICT produces with a start set for January 15.

—Republic

FRANK MACDONALD assigned to "Village Barn Dance," his first since being named a director-writer.

—Hal Roach

GORDON DOUGLAS to pilot next Laurel and Hardy comedy.

—20th Century-Fox

WALTER LANG to pilot "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," to star Linda Darnell.

NORMAN FOSTER replaces H. BRUCE HUMBERSTONE on the second of the new Cisco Kid features.

IRVING PICHEL to pilot "Earthbound," in which Virginia Bruce and Warner Baxter will be co-starred. Sol M. Wurtzel will produce.

—Universal

LARRY CEBALLOS to a musical short, "Bullets and Ballads."

ARTHUR LUBIN to "Black Friday," co-starring Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff.

—Warner Bros.

GEORGE AMY to direct "Cinderella's Feller," a short subject which will have a cast including the Meglin Kiddies.

WILLIAM KEIGHLEY draws "Torrid Zone."

VINCENT SHERMAN to "Married, Pretty and Poor," his first "A" assignment. John Garfield and Olivia deHavilland head the cast.

Options

—Metro

FRANK BORZAGE, director, currently on "Strange Cargo," gets new long-termer.

KURT GOETZ of the scenario staff given option lift.

—Paramount

PAULETTE GODDARD signed to a five-year pact calling for three pictures a year, the first of which is to be "The Ghost Breakers," to be followed by "The New Yorker" and "Lady Eve."

SUSAN HAYWARD renewed for another year.

DIRECTOR JOSEPH SANTLEY signed to a termer under which his first assignment will be "Not So Long Ago," a musical to star Olympe Bradna.

—20th Century-Fox

ANN BAXTER, Broadway actress, on termer.

Technically

—Sol Lesser Productions

WILLIAM CAMERON MENZIES to design backgrounds for "Our Town."

—Metro

JACKSON ROSE is cameraman on the miniature, "The Old South." HERMAN HOFFMAN prepared the screenplay and FRANK WHITBECK is commentator.

—Paramount

CHARLES WOOLSTENHULME named business manager on "The Woman From Hell."

HARRY LINDGREN set to handle sound on "Woman From Hell."

—Harry Sherman

RUSSELL HARLAN, cameraman, given new long-term contract.

—20th Century-Fox

LEON SHAMROY draws lensing chore on "I Was an Adventuress."

—Warner Bros.

WALTER MACEWEN, who has acted as assistant to Hal Wallis for the past five years, has been given a new contract.

REVIEW FLASHES

SWANEE RIVER (20th-Fox)—An unusual treat for the eyes and ears of all ages is this sumptuously produced, sincerely portrayed and masterfully directed feature in Technicolor based on the life of Stephen Foster, America's favorite troubadour-composer and his widely-sung music. Don Ameche, Andrea Leeds, Al Jolson. Directed by Sidney Lanfield.

COMPLETE REVIEW on the above picture will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Percenteers

DAVE BADER has joined the Artists' Agency, Inc., to work out of the story department.

HAL COOLEY checks in from three-week trip to New York, looking over plays and talent and conferring with eastern associates.

Scripters

—Metro

HARRY CLORK signed to develop story for PRODUCER FREDERICK STEPHANI.

JACQUES DEVAL to screenplay of "Strange Honeymoon," a MILTON BREN production.

KURT GOETZ to work on "The Road to Rome," under PRODUCER JOSEPH MANKIEWICZ.

JAMES EDWARD GRANT assigned by PRODUCER EDGAR SELWYN to script of "Night Operator."

AL MANNHEIMER working on "The Golden Fleecing," which EDGAR SELWYN produces.

ALICE D. G. MILLER assigned to screenplay of "Smilin' Thru." Remake will star Jeanette MacDonald and be produced by ROBERT Z. LEONARD.

MARION PARSONNET teamed with LYNN ROOT and FRANK FENTON on "Golden Fleecing," forthcoming James Stewart starrer which EDGAR SELWYN will produce.

—Paramount

HOWARD J. GREEN, recently returned to the studio writing department, assigned to "The Monster." GEORGE ARTHUR produces.

FRANZ SHULZ set to write the screenplay for "The Purple Cloud." DALE VAN EVERY will produce.

MARTHA MERRILL completes "Every Day Is Sunday," a JACK MOSS production.

EDDIE MORAN completes "A Night at Earl Carroll's." KURT NEUMANN will direct.

LEONARD LEE to screenplay of "The Purple Cloud," a forthcoming DALE VAN EVERY production.

—Republic

MICHEAL BLANKFORT signed to write screenplay of "Forgotten Women."

BETTY BURBRIDGE set to write an original under the title "The Oomph Girl and the Cowboy," to be produced by WILLIAM BERKE.

BROWN HOLMES is writing screenplay for "Doctors Don't Tell," to be produced and directed by JOHN H. AUER.

BERNARD MCCONVILLE to do original screenplay on the Texas Rangers and to be titled "Colonel Colt."

PETER MILNE to "Rancho Grande," Gene Autry's next which GEORGE SHERMAN will direct.

JACK NATTEFORD to "Pioneers of the West," which HARRY GREY will produce as a vehicle for the Three Mesquiteers.

CHARLES FRANCIS ROYAL to "Oklahoma Outlaws," a Three Mesquiteers western.

—Hal Roach

HARRY LANGDON to untited story for Laurel and Hardy.

—20th Century-Fox

ETHEL HILL assigned to screenplay of "Small Town God," the Edwin Blum original which KENNETH MACGOWAN will produce.

—Warner Bros.

ABEM FINKEL turned in the finish screenplay for "Stuff of Heroes," which goes before the cameras this winter.

JAMES HILTON completes screenplay of "House on the Hill," and departs on an extended leave of absence to write his next novel.

NORMAN REILLY RAINE has completed his assignment on the screenplay of Warner's "Footsteps in the Dark."

CASEY ROBINSON busy on screenplay of "The Woman Brown," Bette Davis starrer, under production guidance of DAVID LEWIS.

CHARLES TEDFORD is writing screenplay of "The Wilderness Scout," Warner historical featurette. Picture will be filmed in Technicolor.

CHARLES TEDFORD has completed screenplay for "The Discovery of America," historical feature to be filmed in Technicolor.

MICHAEL FESSIER joins FRED NIBLO JR. on the screenplay of "The Patent Leather Kid."

Story Buys

—Metro

"The Life of Chopin" acquired from Columbia for production in London with Robert Donat slated for the title role.

—20th Century-Fox

Screen rights to "The Hunted Woman," by James Oliver Curwood, which will be produced by the Sol Wurtzel unit.

Vallee's First

Signed to a producer's contract at Republic, Rudy Vallee will have charge of "The Hit Parade of 1940" as the first on a two-picture deal.

Cinémarks

Arthur Freed, Metro producer, is back after gandering the new plays on Broadway.

*

Metro Talent Scout William Grady is back from a trip in the east . . . John Brahm returns from Gotham pleasure trip.

*

Leon Schlesinger tossed his annual Christmas holiday luncheon for 200 employes of his cartoon plant at the Wilshire Bowl on Saturday. A ten-piece orchestra provided dance music between helpings of turkey.

*

Jimmy Stewart giving the natives in his home town, Indiana, Pa., a treat over the holidays . . . Annual dinner-dance of the Warner Club set for February 17 at the Biltmore. Mike McCreal, general arrangements; Blayney Matthews, tickets; Robert S. Taplinger, programs; Harvey Briggs, advertising, and Steve Trilling, entertainment, are the committee chairmen.

*

Sol Lesser named a member of the board of directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce . . . Richard Thorpe, Horace Hough and Mal Brown looking over locations in Death Valley for Thorpe's next directorial chore.

*

Paulette Goddard flies in from Gotham vacation . . . Joe Youngerman, assistant to Producer-Director William A. Wellman, back from a short vacation . . . Robert Osborne of the Paramount operations department recovering from an operation at Alhambra Hospital.

*

Bill Pine, man Friday to Cecil B. De Mille, off for Canada to get final okay on screenplay of DeMille's forthcoming picture from official of the Northwest Mounted Police . . . George L. Bagnall, Paramount studio manager, also off to the dominion for a holiday visit to relatives . . . William (Hopalong Cassidy) Boyd and frau (Grace Bradley) mapping a New York visit.

*

Producer Arthur Hornblow and Myrna Loy holidaying in Mexico City . . . C. W. Smith, Hollywood vice-president of Erpi, to Gotham for business huddles . . . Reeves Espy bedded with a cold.

*

Paramount Exploiteer Leon Benson to Salt Lake City, Portland, and Seattle on space grabbing jaunt.

War Smacks Bonuses; One Studio Pops

Those small-salaried workers who, by dint of the paring knife, had been informed there is a war going on abroad, had it brought still more forcefully and convincingly to their attention when a careful scrutiny of the pay envelopes in the major film studios revealed that in all but one plant those in charge of preparing the checks had not seen fit to hand out the customary Christmas bonuses.

Only at the Walter Wanger plant were employes given the traditional Yuletide handouts. At this unit, workers earning less than $100 weekly found an extra week's pay in their envelopes.

In past seasons nearly every major studio and a majority of the independents have done their part toward making the Christmas season a merry one by padding workers' regular paychecks with a Yuletide bonus of varying amounts. Usually the award was limited to workers in the lower-salaried brackets, somewhere between $50 and $100 weekly.

New Warner Historical

"The American Cavalcade" will be produced by Warner as a historical short. The picture will embrace scenes from various preceding historical films. Gordon Hollingshead will supervise.

Several Changes in Awards Procedure

Method of procedure governing the 12th annual Awards Banquet of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will differ in several important respects from that ever employed before in what has come to be looked upon as one of the industry's most important and significant yearly undertakings.

Setting February 29 as the date for the affair, the rules committee headed by Melvyn Douglas has thrown open all the major awards—for the first time—to foreign films, and has decided to present an award for the best color photography, but turned down a request by short subjects producers that separate awards be established for short comedies and travelogues.

The rules committee has also voted to allow extra players to participate in the final balloting to determine best performances by actor and actress, and best supporting performances by actor and actress.

A short time earlier, 15 directors for the 1940 term were selected in a vote by mail. Included were seven new directors: Ronald Colman, Robert Riskin, Douglas Shearer, James Stewart, Norman Taurog, Walter Wanger and Sam Wood. Re-elected were Frank Capra, Cecil B. DeMille, Howard Estabrook, Clark Gable, Mervyn LeRoy, Frank Lloyd, David O. Selznick and Darryl Zanuck. Because several board members were out of the city, however, a meeting to elect new officers for the coming term was postponed.

Rules committee comprises, in addition to Douglas, Dore Schary, King Vidor, Mervyn LeRoy, John Aalberg, Dwight Taylor, Edwin Stanley, George Marshall, Darryl Zanuck, John Arnold, Charles Trowbridge, Sheridan Gibney, Lewis Milestone, David O. Selznick, Water Kingsford, David Hertz, Bernard Brown, Jack Warner, Irving Pichel, Alan Scott, Walt Disney, Farciot Edouart, Milton Sperling, Beulah Bondi, Fred Gage, Hans Peters, Walter Wanger and four Academy representatives, who will be added after new officers have been elected.

Academy Group Studies New Test Reel Types

The theatre standardization committee of the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences met at the Academy headquarters under the direction of John Hilliard, M-G-M studio, chairman, to consider the possibilities for preparing several additional types of test reels which have been requested by the theatre field.

Warner Changes Schedule For Bette Davis' Next

Warner has shuttled schedules to place "All This and Heaven Too," from the novel by Rachel Field, on the slate as Bette Davis' next starring vehicle. "House on the Hill," which was being prepared for her, has been set back on the program.

Next DeMille Story Has Riel Rebellion Theme

Cecil B. DeMille discloses the theme of his next Paramount production, "Northwest Mounted Police," will be based on Canada's so-called "Civil War"—the Riel Rebellion of 1885—and will introduce a Texas Ranger into the northwest territory. His associate producer, Bill Pine, will be sent to Ottawa to submit the script to Mounted Police headquarters, that organization having promised production cooperation.

One of the principal sequences will depict the massacre of an entire police regiment by a Metis army—part Indians—led by Louis Riel, which DeMille considers a particularly delicate subject in view of the present war involving the British empire.

Welles' First for RKO Is "Smiler With the Knife"

Switching schedules, Orson Welles begins immediate production preparations on "The Smiler With the Knife" as his first picture for RKO Radio. This supersedes "Heart of Darkness" on which another ten to 12 weeks of preparation is necessary.

A story by Nicholas Blake, "The Smiler With the Knife" is an adventure yarn which Welles will produce, direct, write and in which he will play the leading male role. A January 15 camera start is planned.

Paul Jones Assigned Reins On "Half Moon Street"

Paul Jones has been assigned the production reins on "The Man in Half Moon Street," Barre Lyndon play scheduled for filming at Paramount after the first of the year. The picture will present the story of the adventures of a scientist who has kept himself young by gland operations, and who commits a murder to get money for further experiments. Jones is currently producing "Down Went McGinty."

Hammons Delays Action Against GN Again

Reports from New York were that President E. W. Hammons of Grand National had succeeded in postponing again—this time until January 5—the action of a creditors' committee to liquidate the company. Hammons, it was said, established satisfactorily that the RFC had approved his requested loan and that he would have the money by that time.

Color Interlude Will Be Featured in "Irene"

Plans calling for a new use of color in "Irene" have been revealed by Producer-Director Herbert Wilcox, who will utilize several Technicolor scenes in RKO Radio's musical "Alice Blue Gown" number with Anna Neagle, which will be filmed in Technicolor — but only Miss Neagle and her costume will appear in full color. Everything else in the scene, including other players and the entire setting, will be in black, white and shades of grey.

Foy Made Assistant To Wallis at WB

With Jack L. Warner, production chief, declaring "B" product had been eliminated in favor of a program of 48 "A" features, Bryan Foy, heretofore in charge of the Warner "B" unit, has been made assistant to Hal Wallis, executive producer. Warner declares it will henceforth be the studio's aim to "produce pictures deserving only preferred playing time in the best theatres of the world."

Columbia has signed Charles R. Rogers to a three-year production contract, to make three top-budget pictures yearly. Continuing as his assistant will be William A. Pierce. Two properties to be made under the deal are "Jane Addams and Hull House" and "Senate Page Boys."

Lew Smith, new publicity advertising director at Columbia, has brought over Lance Heath from Paramount as his assistant. Also brought from Paramount to join Smith's staff was Bob Fender. Meantime George Brown, former studio publicity-advertising director at Columbia, has officially gone on the Warner publicity payroll as a unit man.

William Holman, until recently Columbia's studio manager, has been named general manager of Frank Capra Productions.

Pandro Berman's resignation as vice-president and production chief of RKO Radio has become effective and he has left the lot. He had been with the company since its inception. No future plans have been announced.

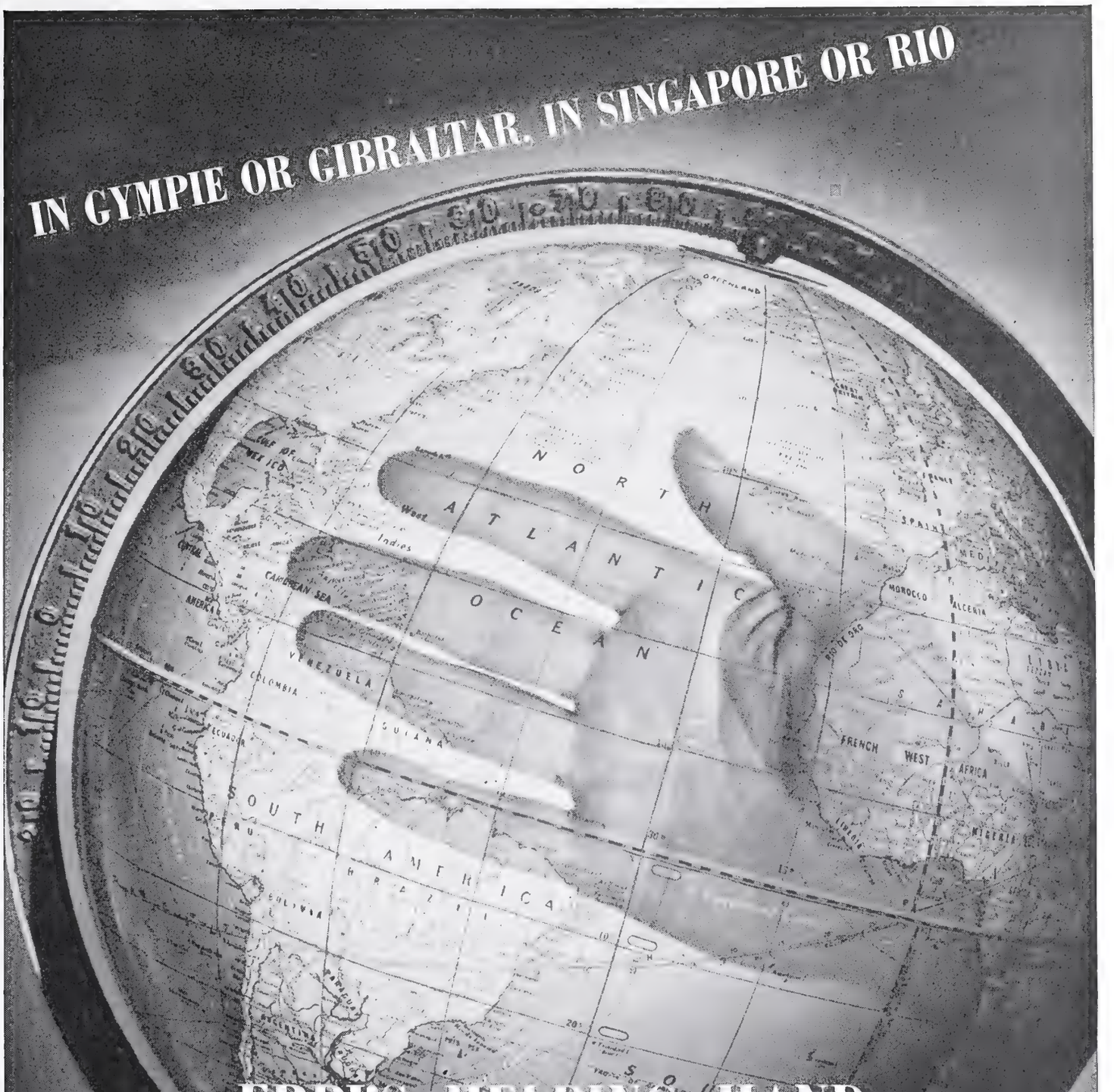
Universal has written a new, two-year deal for Dan Kelley that advances him to an associate executive post and enlarges his activities. Henceforth Kelley will handle all negotiations for matters pertaining not only to talent but also to directors and writers. Reginald Allen moves over from the Famous Productions unit to Kelley's staff, in charge of writer assignments. Another new assignment at Universal is that of A. H. McCausland, who becomes labor councillor. McCausland has been supervising the financial affairs of Famous Productions, but with that unit's production lull until the March start of "La Chienne," both McCausland and Allen are assuming their Universal duties.

"Passport to Alcatraz" Is Next Jack Holt Starrer

Next Jack Holt starrer to be produced for Columbia by Larry Darmour has been titled "Passport to Alcatraz." Albert DeMond is scripting the story dealing with illegal entry into this country by immigrants. Lewis Collins will direct, production to start December 26.

Readying Their First

Frank Capra and Robert Riskin are spending the week in Palm Springs shaping up the script for their first independent production, as yet untitled.



ERPI'S HELPING HAND

is welcomed 'round the world!

ERPI's foreign service is truly world-wide . . . over 1200 employees, working out of 25 main and 75 service offices . . . taking expert care of Western Electric equipment abroad in 4600 theatres and 20 studios.

And all this in addition to the job at home.

ERPI, backed by Bell Telephone Laboratories, will continue to pioneer in *scientific research*... improving apparatus for recording and reproducing sound pictures . . . helping to assure the continued growth and prosperity of the industry!

Electrical Research Products Inc.

SUBSIDIARY OF

Western Electric Company

Poole Foresees 1940 as a Test Of Industry's Staying Power

LOS ANGELES—Robert H. Poole, executive secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Southern California and Arizona and occupying a similar position with the newly organized Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, sees 1940 as one of the most crucial years in the history of motion picture exhibition.

"History repeats itself," Poole said, "and it has been quite evident since 1912 that a new cycle manifests itself in the methods of exhibiting films about every seven years. Since the advent of sound in 1929, nothing new has been introduced to intrigue the public's interest in films.

"The time has come for the industry to provide a new cycle which will create a true and sincere method of presenting motion pictures to the public so that it will renew its interest and forcefully demonstrate the progress that has been made in production."

Poole stated further a correction of the double feature evil and the return to showing one unquestionably meritorious film should be the first step.

Jim Hone, executive secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Washington, Northern Idaho and Alaska, was expected here shortly after the Christmas holiday to confer with Poole as to what part the northern organization would play in the future activities of the PCCITO. It was also expected a representative of the Oregon ITO would come to confer with Poole on the same question as soon as such a representative is selected.



Warner Seattle Branch Into Grad Sears Drive

SEATTLE—The local Warner branch got away to a flying start on the new Sears drive. Bill Shartin has divided his office force into two groups in the manner of a football team, calling them east and west. Cash prizes are being offered the teams. On the east team are Cy Young, Guy Maxey, Aldeen Hawk, and Mary Schmidt. The west group comprises Art Gollofon, Jim Parry, Margaret Crowe and Freda Deitch.

Shartin sent out a special letter to exhibitors on stationary that had been burnt around the edges, and headed the letter, "We're Hot."

New WB-LA Deal

LOS ANGELES—Warner has sold its new season program, features, shorts and trailers, to the Whitson-Lewis circuit operating five houses in suburban L. A. Theatres figuring in the deal are: Vista, Hollyway, Ramona, Los Feliz and Hunleys.



Out to Hear Brandt Rap Neely—

When Harry Brandt, president of the ITOA of New York, addressed independent exhibitors in Los Angeles recently, the cameraman stalked about with the above results. At the speakers table at the top are Marty Schwartz (left), editor of The Independent, *ITOA publication; Harry Brandt, and Al Galston, one of the directors of the ITO of California. Below, left to right, are Al Bowman, manager of the Oriental; Harold Glass, operator of the Gordon; Max Sinker; Nate Boasberg, Ritz, Inglewood; Irving Carlin, Sinker's partner in an independent circuit. In the foreground is "Pop" Schwartz, father of Marty, now retired.*

Fox Executives East; Others Checking In

HOLLYWOOD—Having completed preliminary discussion of current product and early releases, and having appraised them for forthcoming advertising campaigns, Sidney R. Kent, president; Sydney Towell, treasurer; Herman Wobber, sales manager, and Charles McCarthy, advertising-publicity director for 20th Century-Fox, have returned east after a short stay here. Kent, Wobber and McCarthy will come west again late in January to discuss plans for next year's world-wide convention, which Kent says will probably be combined into one U. S. gathering if the European War continues, dropping sectional meetings throughout the world.

Coming in from San Francisco, where he stopped en route from New York, James Grainger, Republic's sales manager, plans to stay at the North Hollywood plant until after New Year's discussing the sales organization. This despite the fact Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the board, returned to New York, December 19, after nearly a month at the studio setting production schedules and budgets for the next quarter.

George Schaefer, president of RKO Radio, will check in from New York about January 15, intent chiefly upon selecting a successor to Pandro Berman as chief of production at the studio. Berman checked out this week.

Out from New York, Ben Goetz has been spending a week in conference at Metro. He has been named production head of the company's English plant and will fly to London, December 27, to take charge. Also going east was Nicholas M. Schenck, after a series of parleys at the Culver City Metro plant.

To confer with United Artists sales executives on campaigns for "The House Across the Bay" and "Slightly Honorable," Clarence Ericksen, Walter Wanger's business manager, left for New York.

Others east-bound:

Harry Buckley, UA treasurer, who attended Douglas Fairbanks' funeral; Murray Silverstone, UA operations chieftain; Jack Cohn, vice-president of Columbia; Hal Horne, Walt Disney's eastern representative.

Coming west:

Mr. and Mrs. Boris Morros, after an extended stay in New York.

Has New Game

SEATTLE—Bookings are now being handled in this territory for "Keen-O-Quizz," new screen game, by J. M. Burke. Physical distribution is being done by Premier Pictures.

First Chore for Woodruff

HOLLYWOOD—As his first chore under a recently-signed pact, Frank Woodruff will direct "Curtain Call" for RKO. Howard Benedict will produce.

"Rancho Grande" for Autry

HOLLYWOOD—"Rancho Grande," Gene Autry's next for Republic, is being scripted by Peter Milne. George Sherman will direct.

Season's Greetings

PREMIER PICTURES Inc.

Distributors of Motion Pictures of Major Sport Events

PRESENTS

Jack Dempsey Jess Willard

— in —

"THE BIRTH OF A CHAMPION"

For the first time the official motion pictures showing the rise of the most colorful champion of all times.

Not just a fight picture but a screen epic of ring history.

The frenzied fight that millions never saw and are now clamoring to see.

Playing RKO Circuit, Interstate Theatres of Texas, Fox West Coast Circuit, Golden State Theatre Circuit, and other major circuits.

Now Booking at

PREMIER PICTURES, INC.
2147 Broadway, Denver, Colo.
Phone TABOR 7128

PREMIER PICTURES, INC.
258 East 1st South, Salt Lake City, Utah
Phone WASATCH 1495

PREMIER PICTURES, INC.
1910 South Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
Phone PARKWAY 1034

PREMIER PICTURES, INC.
2417 Second Ave., Seattle, Wash.
Phone MAIN 6647

ALL STAR FEATURES DISTR.
247 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Phone UNDERHILL 1525

Write, wire or phone for immediate bookings!

Yuletide Cheer in Bottles In the Main; FWC Bonus

LOS ANGELES—The only Christmas cheer in evidence in local distribution and exhibition circles this year came in bottles, since the annual bonus checks which, during more prosperous times, were distributed to gladden the Yuletide hearts of toilers in exchanges and theatres, failed to be forthcoming except in one organization, Fox West Coast.

The theatre circuit distributed $60,000 among its employes, the bulk of which sum was in the form of Christmas bonuses, while the remainder came from dividends earned by the company's group insurance plan.

More than $25,000 went to so-called field workers, the employes of the theatres throughout the territory; $18,000 was the size of the melon split by the theatre managers; division managers found an aggregate $5,000 in their Christmas stockings and the remainder went to office workers. More than 500 employes shared in the holiday bonanza.

Two Chico Theatremen Are Killed in Car Accident

SACRAMENTO—When their sedan collided with a truck near Vallejo, Adeeb M. Araman, 50, manager of the American, Chico, and Fred C. Atton, 24, assistant manager of the Senator in Chico, were both killed.

SALT LAKE

THE legality of "Ten-O-Win" was to be tested here in city court on December 22 . . . Warner previewed "Four Wives" for the trade at the Studio here . . . "Gulliver's Travels," feature-length cartoon distributed by Paramount, opens here December 23 at the Paramount.

James R. Grainger, president of Republic, attended a sales meeting here at the Sheffield-Republic exchange . . . The new exchange building being built here for Paramount by Intermountain Theatre Supply Co., will not be ready for occupancy before next summer.

A local visitor was Pat Pace of the Crest at Delta, Utah . . . The United Artists exchange closed Friday afternoon in tribute to the late Douglas Fairbanks . . . Christmas vacation time is in full swing . . . Stage version of "Golden Boy" was presented at the Paramount here.

Spelling bees on the stage of the Capitol here are still going great. A local radio station is tied in on the program, with $100 *given away as prizes . . . Eric Linden was due to open a personal appearance at the Paramount here.*

Jack Natteford Assigned

HOLLYWOOD—Jack Natteford, Republic scripter, has been assigned to "Pioneers of the West," which Harry Grey will produce as a vehicle for the Three Mesquiteers.

Would Oust Two Directors Of Kaybe Theatres, Inc.

LOS ANGELES—Charging the defendants with abusing their authority and violating the corporation's by-laws, Ethel Lipson, a stockholder, has filed suit in superior court asking that Martin G. Kaplan and Margaret Adamson be ousted as directors of the Kaybe Theatres, Inc. Plaintiff also requests a receiver be appointed for the company.

Specifically, it is charged, Kaplan was paid $40 weekly without the unanimous consent of the directors, and alleged that money has been withdrawn from the company's account without all the necessary signatures. The plaintiff, it is claimed, owns 33 per cent of the stock.

Complete Plans for New L. A. Warner Exchange

LOS ANGELES—Plans have been perfected for the construction of a building at the corner of 21st Street and Vermont Ave., which will serve as new quarters for the local Warner exchange. Building operations will get under way in February.

The new plant will be modern in every respect and is designed to give the exchange approximately 14,000 square feet of floor space.

LOS ANGELES

Greetings to All Our Friends

EWEN W. MacLEAN

&

GUY GUNDERSON

United Artists Exchange

1966 South Vermont — Los Angeles

SEASON'S GREETINGS

LON HOSS

SAM MILNER

FOSTER BLAKE

The New Universal

1960 South Vermont

LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES

CHRISTMAS parties, with their usual accompaniment of good cheer and flowing bowls, overshadowed the more prosaic business of selling and booking films along the Row . . . National Theatre Supply held a house warming on Friday to welcome Santa Claus and celebrate the recent remodeling of its quarters . . . Fox West Coast offices closed at noon to permit employes to attend the organization's annual Christmas party which was staged at the Ambassador Hotel. Charles P. Skouras was in charge of arrangements. Offices remained closed until Tuesday morning.

Sir Stork is expected any day now at the W. E. Calloways, he of the local Warner sales organization . . . "Hitler's Reign of Terror," had its initial showing in this territory at the Tracy, Long Beach, and was screened for local showmen at the Regina, Los Angeles, on Wednesday . . . Charles P. Skouras back from his jaunt to Fresno in time for the Yuletide festivities . . . Friday was fire inspection day along the Row and a pleasant time was had by all.

Henry Sonnenshine, Premier Pictures, in Seattle in the interests of the reissue of the Jack Dempsey-Jess Willard fight pictures, being distributed under the title, "The Birth of a Champion" . . . The Oriental is undergoing a face lift in the form of a new front.

The Fox Dome in Ocean Park was the scene of the annual Xmas party given by the Santa Monica Elks . . . After running one show, the Pico Drive-In was forced to close on Sunday night because the heavy fog made it impossible for customers to see the screen.

From Wednesday evening on, the Row began to take on an appearance that would have qualified it for background in a ghost town picture. Despite the fact every salesman was in from the road few of them were to be seen around the exchanges. Possibly the absence of the pin ball games, which were recently voted illegal in L. A. and which found one of their most profitable territories on the Row, was a contributing factor . . . How the denizens will lose their money next year remains one of distribution circles' unsolved mysteries.

A major attraction at the Xmas party was a children's band in which the oldest musician was aged six and which was led by the five-year-old son of Bert Lenz, Arizona salesman. Another point of interest was the handsome radio-phonograph-recording machine which the boys of Columbia's western division gave to Jerry Safron, local exchange manager with Mike Newman, exploiteer, making the presentation speech . . . Frank Valuskis of the Valuskis

(Continued on next page)

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
1964 So. Vermont RO. 1145
LOS ANGELES

SAM NATHANSON

AND HIS ASSOCIATES IN THE LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO OFFICES OF

COAST PICTURES CORP.

EXTEND TO YOU AND YOURS ALL GOOD WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON . . . AND MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU A FULL MEASURE OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

MURRAY FISCHER DAVE NATHANSON
IRWIN E. MEYER

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL
Now Distributing Throughout the United States
"STELLA DEL MARE"
An Italian Motion Picture Musical With English Superimposed Titles
Starring **GALLIANO MASINI**
World's Greatest Tenor — The Caruso of Today
JEWEL PRODUCTIONS CO.
WM. G. SMITH
Phone Parkway 5660 Los Angeles 1908 S. Vermont

GREETINGS TO ALL OUR EXHIBITOR FRIENDS

From

UNIVERSAL'S WESTERNERS

A. J. O'KEEFE
BARNEY ROSE
JACK LANGAN
L. J. McGINLEY
R. O. WILSON
CHAS. FELDMAN
BUCK WADE
EDWARD COOKE

LOS ANGELES

GREETINGS FROM
HARRY STERN, D.S.B.
(Doctor of Sick Box Offices)
1912 So. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles

Season's Greetings
and
Grateful Appreciation
GEORGE and ALEX
BROMLEY

Season's Greetings
From
Exhibitor's Service, Inc.
1914 S. Vermont Street
Los Angeles

F. A. MILLS CO.
Distributors
IDEAL SEATING CO.
Extends
Xmas Greetings
To All of Their Exhibitor Friends
2202 South Vermont
RE. 4061
Los Angeles

Jones Gets Two Units; Holt an Associate

PORTLAND, ORE.—Jesse Jones, local exhibitor, has taken over from W. E. Tebetts his Granada and Roseway, buying the property of the Roseway and leasing the Granada.

Archie Holt, formerly GB manager in Seattle and associated with Jones in the operation of the Rivoli here until it was acquired by Fox West Coast, is identified with Jones in the Granada and Roseway venture.

LOS ANGELES

GREETINGS
To My
115 Exhibitor Clients
I appreciate Your Business
CHAS. W. BRAGG
Theatre Insurance
1957 S. Vermont Los Angeles

BEST WISHES FOR 1940
From
NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY
1961 S. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles

Season's Greetings
To All Our Exhibitor Friends
From
Lou Goldstein
Bill Kohler
Morris Barsky
ASTOR FILM CO.
1912 S. Vermont Ave. PA. 9131
Los Angeles

Greetings of the Season
MAJESTIC DISTRIBUTING CORP.
MAJOR INDEPENDENT PICTURES
LOS ANGELES SAN FRANCISCO

LOS ANGELES

(Continued from preceding page)

Theatre licked ol' man 'flu in time to get down to the Row to wish his friends a merry Christmas.

Herbert Rose, trainer, and "Boots, the Wonder Dog," making one of their periodical visits on the Row . . . Abe Montague, Columbia's general sales manager, visiting his local exchange between product huddles at the studio . . . Majestic Exchange is distributing the reissue of "The Eagle," last picture in which the late Rudolph Valentino was starred . . . Harry Denny of Majestic is entertaining his brother-in-law, Milton Goldman, Chicago attorney. Both are getting the sun at Palm Springs for a week . . . Murray Fischer of Coast Pictures back at his desk for the first time since he surrendered his appendix to the surgeon.

LOS ANGELES

XMAS GREETINGS
From
MORRIS BORGOS
L. A. Times Theatre Guide

Xmas Greetings
From
AL GALSTON — Marcal Theatre — Hollywood
JAY SUTTON — Center Theatre — Los Angeles

S. KLEIN
Licensed Broker
EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS
THEATRES
Bought — Sold — Built
1928 S. Vermont Ave.
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
Phone: Rochester 3271

SAN FRANCISCO

AFTER moving along in a most dull manner, the legit theatre here really swings into high next week, with Eva Le Galienne coming into the Curran for a week of Ibsen, presenting "Hedda Gabler" and "The Master Builder." In rapid succession the following will brighten up Geary St.: "Earl Carroll Vanities," "No Time for Comedy," and "I Married an Angel."

E. Bruce Johnson, long a familiar figure on the Row, has left for New York with the well wishes of all his friends accompanying him. Johnson was recently promoted to president of General Register Co. The San Francisco office has been closed and all business in this area will be handled out of Los Angeles.

San Franciscana: "Wajan" is having its first Market St. showing at the Egyptian . . . Phil Phillips, advertising manager of Fox West Coast, carried off honors this year with his novel Xmas greetings. Paul spread his season's wishes in the form of $100, ten nice crisp $10 bills—of Phillips confederate counterfeit money, each containing facsimiles of Phil, his wife and youngster . . . Tom Broxholm, manager of the Harvey circuit Star in Sonora, is the proud papa of a nine and three-quarter pound boy, named Donald Thomas.

Paramount has certainly spread the promotion on "Gulliver" over the Bay area. The merchandise campaign in the department stores both here and in Oakland has youngsters from five to 25 interested. Banks, dresses, play suits, handkerchiefs, and shirts are all being used to sell seats for the full-feature cartoon opening here next week. And for the first time, promotion for a film got window space in the leading stores at Xmas time. The picture was previewed for all circuit heads this week.

They are laughing along the Row at the companion feature to "Tower of London," the horror show running a second week at the Warfield. The second picture was "Laugh It Off" . . . National has installed projection equipment in Folsom. The prison resumed the showing of films recently after a five-year layoff . . . George Mann has broken ground for the new house of the Redwood Theatres chain in Willats . . . T. Winkel sold his Star in Oakland to George Shey, a newcomer to this area. Winkel is going to Utah for a visit and expects to return after the first of the year.

Xmas parties on the Row this week. All exchanges entertained employes . . . The Clay, foreign film house, is bringing "End of the Day" to its screen December 24 . . . The famous Abbott dancers opened a return engagement at the Bal Tabarin . . . To swell the Finnish Relief Fund, a city-wide benefit ball will be held December 29 in the Civic Auditorium. "Name" bands and several Hollywood stars, in addition to many local celebrities, will make appearances.

Universal previewed "Destry Rides Again" for the Harvey circuit managers who were in town for conferences . . . Sid Weisbaum returned to the Row and his office at Republic after a journey to Hollywood to get a line on his company's plans for '40 . . . Bill Duggan has left for Portland and a family Xmas reunion . . . Barney Rose made the jaunt to Gilroy, but no one seems to know why . . . Mrs. Bower of the Desert, Hawthorne, Nev., brought her young son to the city for a throat operation. We are happy to report the youngster is doing nicely.

Seen on the Row: George Page and the missus, Ritz-Geyser, Calistoga; Eddie Stokes, on one of his infrequent visits from his house, the Eastmont in Oakland; Dan Nunan, New Turlock, Turlock; W. C. Allen, Grand, Tracey; Bill Hoastler and his tremendous Great Dane, American, Winneamucka; Larry Killingsworth, Plaza, Healdsburg.

Bayfield "Pop's" Opens

BAYFIELD, COLO.—C. W. "Pop" Hermes has opened his new "Pop's" Theatre here with considerable civic fanfare, shared by the Durango *Herald-Democrat* with editorial breaks and merchant ads.

Hope for Record Sum in Paralysis Fund Drive

LOS ANGELES—Expectancy that more funds will be raised in theatres throughout the area in the coming infantile paralysis drive than ever before highlighted a luncheon meeting given by Charles Skouras, president of Fox West Coast, and Joseph Schenck of 20th Century-Fox, and attended by independent theatre men, Warner and RKO circuit representatives and others.

For the first time independent operators will be eligible to compete for a prize to be awarded the house manager garnering the greatest returns in the drive, which will be held during the week of December 26. Heretofore only FWC managers have participated in the prize contest.

Skouras set the campaign goal at $100,000, a considerable increase over the $60,000 collected last year. Independents, led by Robert H. Poole, executive director of the ITO of So. Calif., pledged 100 per cent support.

Schenck is national vice-president of the Infantile Paralysis Foundation and chairman of the drive for California.

SAN FRANCISCO

HOLIDAY GREETINGS . . .

METRO PREMIUM COMPANY

SID BERNSTEIN

146 Leavenworth St., San Francisco

An Invitation ! ! !

WHEN IN SAN FRANCISCO VISIT
THE LARGEST EXCLUSIVE
PREMIUM HEADQUARTERS IN THE
UNITED STATES

Distributors and Manufacturers

FRENCH SAXON CHINAWARE — MOVI-POPS CANDY CONFECTION
NATIONAL SILVERWARE — HAZEL-ATLAS GLASSWARE
CORONADO POTTERY

Pacific Premium Company

Los Angeles	Main Offices	Seattle
JIM BENNER	128-130-132 Hyde St.	AL BLOOM
366 Westbourne	SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.	2404 First Ave.

PORTLAND

PLAYING its 1939th consecutive performance, the Christmas epic proves the peace and goodwill theme still is tops, anyhow in America. Kris Kringle continues to pack them in, and hasn't even hinted at a farewell tour. Locally the draw is greater than last year, says Postmaster E. T. Hedland, with Portlanders sending and receiving more and larger packages and making Jim Farley's boys earn their Christmas bonuses, if any. Jupe Pluvius bombed the city with rain he had been saving up since last spring, but the native and naturalized Webfoots were as nonchalant as Londoners in a blackout. At that, thousands of umbrellas, with women drivers racing the shopping deadline, chased a lot of us to the bombproofs.

I wonder: Is it true what they say about Hollywood? If so, a subversive Christmas influence crept into its outposts here and numerous holiday gatherings marked the pre-Christmas week on Filmrow. B. F. Shearer threw a party Friday night for the children of Filmrow, with door prizes and presents for each of the 30-odd who attended. Sixteen years was the age limit, and parents were barred. Guests voted motion pictures their best entertainment, after viewing a program of selected shorts.

Universal employes staged a Christmas dinner dance at the Twin Cedars Saturday night, December 16. Manager A. R. Anderson entertained the Paramount crew at his home Wednesday night, and the Warner Bros. staff celebrated with a tree party Saturday afternoon . . . Beatrice Burger, assistant cashier at M-G-M, flew to Chicago for the holidays, while Dorothy Hax took Ruth Hawkins home with her to Eugene . . . The Portland Universal branch finished third in the Western division charges contest.

Nate Rhodes of the Woodland, Woodland, is completely remodeling the house at Battleground, Wash., which he recently purchased from John Place. Western Theatre Equipment Co., is supplying the equipment. Rhodes jr. will manage the Battleground, the Row reports . . . The Portland Press *reports William Beatty, an employe, was injured and a pedestrian narrowly escaped when the marquee of an unnamed theatre at Bend collapsed and fell. Beatty was installing Christmas decorations on the marquee when the accident occurred, the story said . . . Universal staged a special screening for exhibitors of "Destry Rides Again" at the State Thursday p. m.*

J. J. Parker's Broadway double featured "Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President" with the currently showing "Tower of London" for its annual pre-Christmas food show. Official figures were not available at this writing, but the mounting pile of cans, sacks, boxes and bundles looked like a threat to last year's record of five tons of groceries raised for the Sunshine Division and distributed among needy families. The musicians' union donated a fine orchestra and a special stage show aided the draw.

Some 200 orphans attended the special Christmas showing of "Rulers of the Sea" Tuesday morning at the Paramount, sponsored by the Portland Breakfast Club. "Gulliver's Travels" was borrowed from the Liberty Friday to be viewed by shut-ins and crippled children and a Hopalong Cassidy western was screened at another benefit Saturday ayem . . . The prettiest bit of winter scenery in Oregon probably is the Paramount foyer with its huge tree, tons of "snow" and effective lighting. And recorded Christmas carols are played continuously through a loud speaker at the tree's base.

Ted Gamble hurried his moving last week to spend Christmas in his recently purchased home on Portland Heights . . . Ray Hopfe of Warner is reported recovering nicely at Coffey Memorial Hospital after his recent operation.

DENVER

WILBERFORCE J. WHITEMAN, 82, father of Paul Whiteman, died in a Denver hospital following several weeks' illness . . . The Federal Theatre has been closed for remodeling, including new booth equipment and carpet.

Nathan Salmon, Santa Fe, N. M., theatre owner, has gone to Rochester, Minn., where he is going through with a series of treatments.

James R. Grainger, president of Republic, spent a day here conferring with Gene Gerbase, exchange manager, and numerous theatre men. He was the guest of honor at a luncheon attended by theatre and film men.

F. A. Polich, assistant manager of the Orpheum, has resigned and is succeeded by Phil Douglass, chief of service. Leland Stewart takes over Douglass' post.

Bernie Hynes, manager of the Denver, is the proud daddy of an eight-pound son. The mother was formerly Miss Edna Dodd, organist at the Denver. Son has been named Bernard John Hynes II.

DENVER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
TO ALL
GRAHAM BROS. THEATRE EQUIPMENT
546 Lincoln Denver

NAT WOLFE
COMMERCIAL FILM EXCHANGE
Book Night Distributors
2044 Broadway Denver

PREMIER FILM EXCHANGES
George and Harry Kerer
Denver and Salt Lake City

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
REPUBLIC EXCHANGES
DENVER, COLO.

DENVER

SAM REED
RCA
Photophone

COPPEL AMUSEMENT CO.,
828 21st Street
Distributor
AZTECA FILMS
Best of Mexican Made Films

CHRISTMAS CHEER
THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR
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PORTLAND

SEASON'S GREETINGS
To You
AND AN INVITATION
To
OUR OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1 P. M.
and Long into the Night
STAR FILM EXCHANGE
Portland, Ore. H. G. MAPES

Holiday Greetings
and
Best Wishes for 1940
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SEATTLE

WITH the stores doing a whale of a business and the downtown crowded to capacity Xmas looks very prosperous this year, but as usual, the show-shops are taking it on the chin. Business is off in every spot. Even the night clubs are complaining, and one of the largest, is just opening on weekends. However, many big pictures are due for the actual holiday season which should draw them in, and the night spots have great plans for the Christmas and New Year's eve celebrations . . . Pretty Jeanne Turley, cashier at the Palomar, has decided that life will begin for her in '40, for next June 11 she is going to accept a role of leading lady in real life opposite Roy Rogers' personal representative, Ben Roscoe. Jeanne will leave here in time to reach the Republic studios on January 1 to undergo a screen test, which if okay, will land her the heart-throb lead opposite the cowboy star, Roy Rogers. Roscoe and his bride-to-be met last October when Rogers was making personal appearances in this territory.

With the Xmas spirit prevailing, various theatres are doing their share. The Green Lake, one of the Ben Shearer group and managed by L. O. Lukan, staged a canned goods matinee sponsored by the community club which garnered a great many baskets for the needy. John Hamrick's Orpheum, aided by the Seattle Times, *offered a Midnight Follies to raise money for needy families. Tiny Burnett, former leader of the Orpheum orchestra, waved the baton, while the feature act was the radio program, "It Happened in Hollywood." The stars of this program arrived by plane from the south and included Wayne Griffin, producer, and John Conte, Martha Mears, and Helen Troy. Tommy Thomas, program manager of Seattle's KIRO, who also has special feature programs of his own, also appeared as did Captain Dobbsie of local air fame. The Music Hall, one of the Hamrick-Evergreen group, entertained* 1,000 *"shut-ins" who were guests of the American Legion. Vaudeville was provided by Joe Daniels, local theatrical agent, and the George Barclay studios. Basil Gray, business agent for the theatrical federation, was general chairman for this grand party.*



Gilbert "Gil" Brown, for the past few years the popular dramatic editor of the Seattle *Star,* has been moved from that post to the news desk with Charles H. Comfort taking over the drama job. Comfort will write under the name of Leighton Early . . . Patrons attending the Palomar were very much surprised when the bashful doorman, Jimmy Kendall, suddenly muttered to them, "Pardon, I gotta take a bow" then bolted for the stage. However, he was back in a moment with applause ringing in his ears. It was discovered that Jimmy had a fine baritone voice so he was given a chance to take over the number two spot on the vaudeville bill. Result, he stopped every show, and had to beg off to resume his duties on the door . . . Frank Jenkins advises he will reopen the Montlake on Christmas eve with a new policy of first-run pictures. Former policy was foreign films . . . The first meeting of the trustees of the newly-formed organization of Independent Theatre Own-

(Continued on next page)



At a Monogram Arizona Premiere—

Wherein Phoenix, Ariz., gets the world premiere of "The Gentleman From Arizona." Top view: Personal appearances by Marjorie Reynolds, John Trent, Wynne Gibson and M. Jack Copeland (master of ceremonies). Second scene: A parade before the premiere. Below: Broadcast of the ceremonies. Present are W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president (extreme left), Governor R. T. Jones (in front of the microphone), and the following players, left to right: John Trent, Frankie Darro, Marjorie Reynolds, Vince Barnett, J. Farrell MacDonald, Joan Barclay (feminine lead in the picture), John King (star of the film), Wynne Gibson, Tex Ritter, Jack Copeland, Marcia Mae Jones and Jackie Moran.

'AN ORDINARY TWO BY FOUR'

area in your projection booth, under certain conditions, compares favorably in value with any two by four area in the lobby or foyer, but a

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placed in that value-less two by four area in the lobby or foyer, might easily pay the rent for you, just as it is for thousands of other Exhibitors.

"POPCORN SMITH"

Box 284, Seattle

SEATTLE

(Continued from preceding page)

ers will be held this week with Jim Hone presiding. Following the meeting, Hone will leave for Los Angeles to spend the Xmas holidays with his sons and also attend meetings with Bob Poole and other officers of the Pacific Coast Conference of ITO.

Jack Sidney, former vaude headliner, is in town and gone into partnership with Joe Daniels, the booking agent. Sidney also will open the Oasis, a nite spot. He intends to feature name acts only and will do the greeting himself. Jack is a brother of George Sidney and also Louis K. of theatre fame . . . The Northwest Film Club is now featuring a special open house every Wednesday featuring community sing, and surprise "voluntary" entertainment. Murray Peck, manager of the Colonial, is acting as pianist and M. C. Club members, with known talents, are invited to do a turn and the crowd responded long and loud. After the holidays, a special ping-pong tournament will be held, also other activities to provide a load of fun for the members and their wives and guests.

The Bert Levy booking office has been given the contract to handle the attractions at the Mike Lyons Show Box . . . Cecil Gwinn, genial head of the theatres in Centralia and Chehalis, is out of the hospital and getting around. Cecil is still weak but looks great. He expects to be able to go home this week. He underwent a serious operation . . . Mrs. Trammel, wife of "Dutch" of United Artists, is flat on her back suffering from inflammatory rheumatism. Doctors figure two or three weeks before she will be able to get up and about . . . Bill Shartin and Al Thompson were the male winners in the weekly bridge tournament held in the quarters of the Northwest Film Club. Mrs. Dorothy Mercy and Mrs. Addie Young were tops in ladies' division . . . The local branch of United Artists remained closed on the day of the Doug Fairbanks funeral . . . Henry Sonenshine, president of Premier Pictures, here from Los Angeles to confer with his local branch manager, Wayne Christy, and associate, Jules Levy . . . Morrie Abrams, publicity man for Metro at Minneapolis, arriving in Spokane to attend the wedding of his daughter to Harold Goldberg.

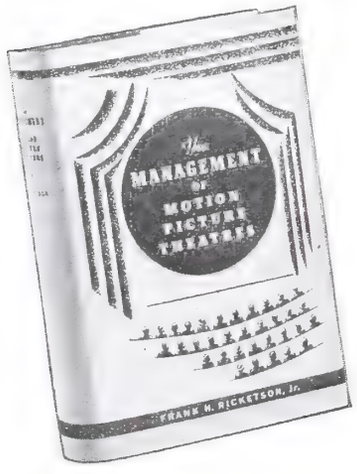
Jules Reisner, who managed a theatre in Bremerton in 1929, *has been appointed manager of the State in Spokane. He is a brother of Phil Reisner, foreign sales manager and vice-president of RKO Radio . . . Mrs. W. Simons of the Simons circuit in Montana off for home after a visit in Seattle. During her stay here she enjoyed a conversation about various vaudeville acts with Dick Hays, the drama editor of the* Times. *Mrs. Simons makes her home in Missoula, Mont. . . . Vic Gauntlett, head of the Evergreen Theatres' publicity department, hosted a birthday dinner for Leone at the Lockhart Inn with W. B. and Mrs. Severyns as guests. Bill Severyns is the top sheriff here . . . Sandra Shearer celebrating her 13th birthday with a dinner at Broadmoor and a look at the Ice Carnival later.*

Sid Dean over from Tacoma and introducing Fred Gamble, his new manager of the Lakewood . . . J. T. Sheffield back from Denver along with Jimmy Grainger, top man of Republic Pictures. Grainger will be here for a few days conferring with the local sales crew . . . Word from San Francisco tells that Al and Evelyn Oxtoby plan to spend the holidays with Mrs. Oxtoby's parents in Portland . . . Al Rosenberg celebrated his birthday with cake and candles provided by the Hamrick-Evergreen office force . . . The Bob Laings weekending with the Willard Coghlans in Portland . . . John L. McCurdy, Pacific Coast exploiteer for RKO Radio, here to handle the campaign for "Hunchback of Notre Dame."

Al Bloom off to San Francisco to sign the deal for the handling of Travelmade Trailers for the Northwest . . . L. E. Davis, formerly with First National in Portland, spending some time here saying "hello" on the Row . . . Seen on the Row this week were Harold Zerfluh from Centralia, along with Mrs. Zerfluh; Ned and Mrs. Edris from Tacoma; E. W. Groesbeck from Enumclaw; Ben Fish, division head for United Artists; A. R. Trimble, Roxy, Toppenish; Mickey DeLeo from Port Townsend; Morrie Nimmer from Wenatchee; Louie Goldsmith back from eastern Washington, likewise L. J. McGinley; Frank and Mrs. Weskil of Sand Point and Colfax; Charlie White from Concrete; Rex Thompson from Port Orchard; Jimmy O'Neal back from his business trip to San Francisco.

Guy Maxey, head booker and office manager for the Warner exchange, celebrated his 29th anniversary with a special party at his apartment. Later the group visited the Film Club.

How to operate motion picture theatres *profitably*



Here is a new book full of HOW TO DO IT information, written by a man who believes that the first objective of theatre management is to make money. In this book he covers motion picture theatre management from A to Z, giving the best results of years of experience as a guide in establishing successful policies, building profitable business, and efficiently operating any size theatre.

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ITPA Holds Regionals To Strengthen Forces

MILWAUKEE—The ITPA of Wisconsin held its first and second regional meetings at Marshfield and Ripon, respectively, for the purpose of strengthening its membership. Zone Captains J. P. Adler, Marshfield, and Ben Marcus, Ripon, were in charge of arrangements for the meetings.

Officers of the organization attending the gatherings were Bert Nathan, chairman of the membership committee; Charles W. Trampe, Harry Perlewitz, business manager; Harold Mirisch, all of Milwaukee; President William L. Ainsworth, Fond du Lac, and A. C. Berkholtz, West Bend.

A third meeting for the zone headed by Henry Ringling, Baraboo, is scheduled for January 4 at Madison. The organization reports a steadily increasing membership.

Non-Theatrical Film Ass'n Champions 16mm Films

NEW YORK—A new counter to the frequently voiced demands of exhibitors that the release of films for 16mm distribution be curbed, has arisen with the formation of the Allied Non-Theatrical Film Association.

Stating its position on the issue of 16mm exhibition, the association points out that the use of films for education, instruction, and advertising are equally as legitimate as their use to provide entertainment.

The association further contends it has a value to the industry in serving as a safety valve against the appearance of sponsored films and reminds of the force it represents in the person of school teachers, social workers, professionals and various civic groups who use the narrow gauge film for purposes of their own.

Telenews Debut to Feature Reel of Chicago Critics

CHICAGO—Film critics and other newspaper folk posed for a special newsreel that was to be used at the formal preopening of Chicago's Telenews Friday night in the loop. Those who appeared were Dorothy Deere of the *Herald-American,* Doris Arden of the *Times,* Ann Marsters of the *Herald-American,* and John Carmichael of the *Daily News.*

Feature appearance in the reel was that of Mayor Edward J. Kelly. Sylvan Goldfinger is house manager and Fred Bartow publicist.

Orderly Exit by Patrons as Fire Razes Chenoa Theatre

CHENOA, ILL.—More than 100 persons made an orderly exit when fire broke out in the Ritz, virtually razing the building.

Patrons were informed by an old-fashioned film slide that the theatre was on fire, cautioning them to leave in orderly fashion. Four other buildings were damaged by smoke.

Trend Toward Settlement in Headway in Chicago Suits

High Illinois Court Upholds Governor

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Gov. Henry Horner's veto of the bill that would have eliminated double features in Illinois has been upheld in a general opinion by the supreme court of Illinois.

While the actual test case was filed on another measure, backers of the bill that would have limited film programs in this state to two hours and 15 minutes watched the court's decision. Governor Horner, according to statute, has ten days in which to either sign or veto a bill.

The supreme court verdict upheld his contention that he has ten days from the time when the bill is presented to him and not from the time that it is passed by both houses.

The court said in part: . . . "that the constitution imposes the duty upon the legislative department to create and enact legislation, and the presentment of bills to the governor for his approval is one of the necessary steps in the exercise of the legislative function. The duty of the governor does not begin until the bill has been presented to him by the general assembly."

Harry Turrell's District Wins in WB Zone Drive

CHICAGO—Harry Turrell was named the winning district manager in the Chicago zone for the quarterly drive among Warner Theatres just ended. The winning ten managers in Turrell's district: Marlowe Conner, Avalon; Ted Turrell, Beverly; R. Barry, Capitol; R. Kenney, Cosmo; J. Maloney, Grove; Bill O'Connell, Highland; Ray Dunn, Orpheum; Al Blasko, Paramount, Hammond; Marcel Brazee, Parthenon; and E. Erickson, Rhodes. They will divide $250.

Al Blasko of the Paramount, Hammond, was the individual theatre manager showing the best results. He received $125. Second award went to Steve Fitzgerald, Stratford, $75, with Marcel Brazee of the Parthenon getting third money, $50.

Exempt Projectionists

OSHKOSH, WIS.—An amendment to the ordinance relating to the electrical inspector and the licensing of electricians adopted by the common council, exempting motion picture projectionists from its provisions, has been approved by that body.

Grimes Opens in Brazil

BRAZIL, IND.—The new Cine, 375-seat house here, has been opened by Samuel M. Grimes.

By GENE RICH

CHICAGO—It may be the season of Christmas spirit, of good-will toward men, or what have you, but for some reason there has appeared on the Chicago exhibitor scene all at once the dove of peace.

As reported already exclusively in BOXOFFICE two of three independent suits—all based on alleged restraint of trade and monopolistic practices—are in the process of being amicably settled. These are the principal independent suit, that of the 100 or so independent exhibitors against B&K and the majors; and the one of Frank Ford of the Stadium Theatre in Evanston against B&K, Sam Meyers and the major film companies.

While both of these cases are a long way from actually being written off the court dockets, the fact that attempts are being made to settle out of court is of prime interest.

Most of the prime provisions of the Adelphi case "basis for settlement" have already been pointed out in these columns. The Frank Ford case involving B&K, Sam Meyers and the major film companies, has taken an interesting turn. As mentioned in these columns last week a "covenant not to sue" has been entered into between B&K and Ford. This agreement is, in a sense, a release on B&K from Ford in his suit charging monopoly and restraint of trade. This still leaves Meyers a defendant in the suit.

However, attorneys for all concerned are attempting to work out satisfactory arrangements to settle the entire suit. It is understood that Ford this season has been able to get more product for his Stadium than last year.

Meanwhile, the attorneys for the department of justice in Washington are expected to have their final answer in the federal contempt case by about January 15. Defense attorneys feel that Edgar Eldredge, special master in the case, will probably not hand down his recommendations to Federal Judge Charles Woodward until about April 1.

The one other legal case pending here, that of the Gary Theatre Company (C. V. Young), against B&K, Warner Theatres and the majors, has had no disposition, aside from having been docketed on the court calendar pad for future hearing. Attorneys are evidently marking time in this suit until concrete action takes place in some of the other cases.

Milwaukee Local No. 410 Elects Ed Wiese Head

MANITOWOC, WIS.—Ed Wiese has been elected president of the IATSE Local No. 410. Other officers named are John Shemchak, vice-president; Clifford Johnson, secretary; Frank Swokoske, business agent, and Lester Borst, delegate to the Central Labor Council.

Hope "Smith" Won't Influence Solons

MILWAUKEE—An NEA editorial, urging congressmen not to be influenced in their voting on the Neely bill because of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," is being run in a number of Wisconsin dailies. Complete text of the editorial follows:

DECIDING BLOCK-BOOKING

"When Congress meets in January, it will be asked to consider a bill introduced by Representative Matthew D. Neely, West Virginia Democrat, who would ban block-booking of movies by Hollywood distributors. Advocates of the bill protest that present methods of booking films makes it impossible for theatre managers to separate the wheat from the chaff.

"Word is now getting around Washington and Hollywood that a certain movie, which panned the legislators, may have a lot to do with the final vote on the Neely bill. It is said that a lot of congressmen, who were invited to see the film at a National Press Club showing, were so burned up over the depiction of congressional life that they have been won over to the Neely bill.

"Without regard for the merits or disadvantages of the bill to bar block-booking, it is to be hoped that the congressmen won't take a stand one way or the other, on an issue of this kind simply because they happen to be sore. After all, it isn't the first time they've taken a public ribbing. That's one of the things they get $10,000 a year for."

Windy City Film Bowling League Led by Republic

CHICAGO—Republic is now leading the Film Bowling League by two games, and Abe Fisher of 20th Century-Fox last week set a new individual high game record by rolling 251.

A real sportsman is Christ (Shorty) Otto, captain of the Film Carriers, so say the members of his team. Shorty has stepped aside in favor of Eddie Olds, in order to strengthen his team's chances in the current hot fight for the league lead.

In the Warner League, Ted Turrell still heads the individual bowlers with a 178 average. Following him are: Jones, 175; Corbett and Graf, 169, and Busch, 167.

The leaders at the end of the 15th week in the Warner League, are as follows:

	Won	Lost
Avalon	33	12
Capitol	26	19
Yannigans	25	20
Avalon Cubs	24	21
Ogden	24	21
Beverly	23	22
Cosmo	21	24
Highland	21	24
Stratford	20	25
Hammond	19	26
Dead Ender	19	26
Jeffery	15	30

Kerasotes Improve Senate

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Kerasotes Brothers have started on a $26,000 improvement program for their Senate in this city.

Parking Lot Fate Prophesied

Chicago—There are so many rumors floating about that one expects to hear almost anything. For instance:

That the Garrick Theatre Bldg., housing the B&K house on Randolph St., in the heart of the Chicago loop district, would be razed shortly and the ground used as a parking lot.

Mighty expensive parking lot.

Heineman Has Enthusiasm For Coming "U" Product

CHICAGO—"Johnny on the spot" Universal is due to hit the jackpot for exhibitors again, if Bill Heineman, genial western division sales manager of Nate Blumberg's outfit is right. Just back from the west coast where he spent some time at the studio, and stopping off here en route to New York, Heineman waxed eloquent on coming product from "U."

Heineman feels that "Tower of London" and "Destry Rides Again," will both click heavily for exhibitors.

Heineman also saw rushes of "My Little Chickadee," the W. C. Fields-Mae West "opry," and "Charlie McCarthy, Detective," both of which had him enthusiastic.

Incidentally, Mannie Gottlieb, Chicago branch manager, greeted Heineman with 494 deals for 1939-40 product in the Chicago territory. This, according to E. T. (Peck) Gomersall, district manager, who adds: "We'll be the first exchange in Chicago to hit and pass the 500-mark this season."

Meanwhile, all the other exchanges are going along at a fast clip, and are cleaning up all odds and ends. Warner which lagged behind for several weeks, now is up among the top ones, with M-G-M, Paramount and 20th Century-Fox. As a matter of fact, all the companies are beginning to get their share of the business and there should be no houses closing because of lack of deals.

Sonja Henie and Troupe to Chicago Christmas Eve

CHICAGO—The $150,000 ice show of Sonja Henie and her troupe of 100 skaters was to open here for an eight-night engagement on Christmas Eve at the Chicago Stadium. The revue is produced by Arthur Wirtz of the Chicago Stadium and staged and directed by Harry Losee of 20th Century-Fox.

Promotion for Hammitt

TERRE HAUTE, IND.—Guy Hammitt, manager of the Strand and Vanity in Crawfordsville, Ind., has been named traveling manager for the Scherer Theatrical Enterprises of Terre Haute.

Two Install RCA Sound

CHICAGO—The Oriental, a 2,200-seater in Milwaukee, and the Elwood, Elwood, Ind., managed by Joe Finneran, are installing new RCA sound systems.

Chicago Sets Topline Films for Holidays

CHICAGO—Windy City entertainment seekers will have plenty of expensive celluloid to keep them satisfied during the Christmas-New Year week in the loop.

Opening Christmas Day at the Roosevelt will be Max Fleischer's cartoon feature released by Paramount, "Gulliver's Travels." Currently at the United Artists is M-G-M's "Another Thin Man." Paramount's "The Great Victor Herbert," with Allan Jones and Mary Martin of the cast in person on the stage, opens at the Chicago, December 29. This week at the Chicago is Warner's "Four Wives." "Intermezzo" and "The Housekeeper's Daughter," both UA films, are due to open in the loop during the holidays.

Louella Parsons extends her current stage tour with her Hollywood troupe and comes into the Chicago sometime in January.

Muni's Criticism of Film Output Upheld by Paper

GREEN BAY, WIS.—The Green Bay *Press-Gazette,* in an editorial captioned, "Tripe From Hollywood," seconds Paul Muni's statement that too many bad films are being produced. The complete text of the editorial reads as follows:

"Few would dispute the qualifications of Mr. Paul Muni to pass judgment on motion picture productions. As the leading actor in several of the best pictures turned out by Hollywood, such as 'The Good Earth,' 'The Life of Emile Zola' and 'Louis Pasteur,' Mr. Muni should be able to tell the good from the bad.

"And Mr. Muni thinks too many movies are bad. The exact word he used in his recent indictment was 'tripe.' Coming from Mr. Muni, this criticism carries much more sting for Hollywood producers than if it had come from someone lacking in intimate knowledge of the workings of Hollywood.

"Mr. Muni has given voice to a view shared by thousands of intelligent moviegoers. Although it must be said in fairness—and appreciation—that Hollywood is producing a larger number of good movies and a few excellent ones, the amount of junk that is paraded across the screen is still appalling.

"The explanation lies partly in the fact that there are certain plots and certain types of movies which have been proved to have boxoffice appeal. Producers know they can turn these out, without too much effort or expenditure, with the reasonable expectation of making money. The better themes, such as the historical or biographical story, are more of a gamble. Some click and some don't. And some call for tremendous expenditures.

"Producers say the public is not too appreciative of quality films. If not, that is largely Hollywood's fault. It has educated the public to undiscriminating tastes and then pandered to those tastes.

"Mr. Muni believes that 'if the press would gang up,' it could force producers to follow higher standards. That would help, no doubt, and the process of educating the public to better movies would be started. But an effort by movie patrons to be more critical also would help."

Build in Villa Grove

VILLA GROVE, ILL.—Work has been started on the new Gem here, being constructed for George Barber. There will be single shop rooms on each side of the front entrance and lobby of the house.

Dismantle Princeton Savoy

PRINCETON, KY.—The Savoy Theatre, one of the Crescent Amusement Co. houses, is being dismantled. It has 366 seats.

What They Want

CHICAGO — What some of Filmrow's "youngsters" hope will be in those stockings by the fire place after Santa Claus stops next Monday:

Jack Kirsch—Single features.

John Balaban—A few more from Paramount like "Gulliver's Travels" and "The Great Victor Herbert."

Johnny Mednikow—More and better testimonial dinners.

Henri Elman—Two stockings filled with anything, except "doctor's orders."

Peck Gomersall and *Mannie Gottlieb*—Another Paster(nak)ized Marlene Dietrich.

Allied Theatres Members—The Neely bill passed.

Jack (Gone With the Wind) Flynn—Another one just like it, even if they have to get 80 per cent for it.

Jack Osserman—Felix Mendelssohn to take those testimonial toastmaster jobs back again.

Eddie Silverman—Less lawsuits and more boxoffice business and a few more loop theatres.

Ludwig Sussman—A suitable policy for the Adelphi.

Amusement Club of Chicago (Nee CAPA)—A smooth road to success.

Bill Bishop—More stopover time for his passing-through M-G-M stars to satisfy all the film critics.

Joe Vicedomini—Charles Boyer pictures every other week.

Johnny Smith—More operators and more pay raises.

Jimmy Coston—Three hundred and sixty-five hunting days a year.

Exhibitors—Bank Night.

Walter Immerman—More protection.

Henry Herbel—Oh, we'd say about 12 percentage pictures.

Abe Kaufman—His own Chinese food restaurant.

Clyde Eckhardt—Another "Jesse James."

Harry Balaban—More and bigger baby daughters.

Nick Dean—A couple more Colony Clubs.

Completes Script of "Hill"

HOLLYWOOD — Having completed the screenplay of "House on the Hill" for Warner, James Hilton has checked out of the Burbank studio to begin work on his next novel.

Kirsch's Wish Is for Trade Harmony

Chicago—Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, in his annual message to BOXOFFICE, said:

"Let us hope that we will find peace and harmony throughout the industry in 1940. We all look forward to a better year and trust that we will be able to sit down at conference tables to iron out any difficulties—however large or small—that may arise during the coming year."

Attempts at Bribery Net New Trial Date

ST. LOUIS—It was the possibility that other venire men on the prospective jury for the third attempt at trial of John P. Nick, vice-president of the IATSE on a charge that he had conspired to extort $10,000 from motion picture theatre owners in October, 1936, might have been approached on a proposition "to go easy on Nick," that caused Circuit Judge Robert L. Aronson to dismiss the entire venire and to reset the case for trial on January 8.

Judge Aronson acted after information had been conveyed to him that a stranger had approached George H. Weber, one of the veniremen, at his home a day before the case was due and had told him that it would be "worth $50 to $100 if I went easy on Nick" if placed on the jury. Weber, who wasn't selected for the jury but who was among the panel of 40 selected as prospective jurors, volunteered the information to Circuit Attorney Franklin Miller who in turn had Weber repeat the tale to the judge in his chambers at the noon recess on December 11.

Although there was no evidence that any other veniremen had been approached, Judge Aronson explained that any jury chosen from this week's panel would have been under suspicion.

Two Previous Mistrials

"No case should have been tried in such an atmosphere," Judge Aronson said. "The fact that there had been mistrials for different causes on two previous occasions did not justify proceeding under the circumstances."

Although Weber was reluctant to discuss the details of the proposed bribe with reporters, Judge Aronson gave the essential details. An unidentified man called twice at the Weber home earlier and both times Weber was away. He called the third time, and the prospective juror was home. The visitor reported to have said to Weber:

"I guess you know you are going to be on the Nick jury?"

Weber told Judge Aronson and Circuit Attorney Miller, he asked the caller: "How do you know that?"

The stranger is alleged to have replied: "I know you are; it will be worth a half a hundred to you to hold out for acquittal."

Weber told the judge: "Although I need $50 bad enough I turned him down."

Judge Aronson told reporters that Weber was unable to identify the caller, explaining their conversation took place in the dark on a porch. Judge Aronson said that because of the lack of identification and the probability that the publicity given the incident had placed the persons involved on their guard, an investigation of the bribe offer would prove futile.

SPR'GFIELD

INSTALLATION of new seats at the Tivoli has been completed. They have a color scheme of red and black . . . Allan Jones, film star, has been booked for a concert February 13 at the Orpheum, M. E. Berman, manager, announces. In fact, three star programs are planned in as many months. The Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, with a troupe of 150, will perform at the Orpheum, January 9. A concert by Jeanette MacDonald is on the program for March 12.

Theodore Zwerman, manager of the Arcadia at Olney, visited his son, Robert, who is manager of the Tivoli here . . . Frisina's talking Santa is making the rounds of the chain's local theatres. After spending a week at the Roxy and another at the State, the little mechanical man is now entertaining patrons at the Esquire.

The Orpheum's Christmas gift to Springfield will be "Gulliver's Travels" . . . "The Mikado" did so well at the Roxy as a result of a tieup with the local Lions Club for a benefit, that it was necessary to hold it over two extra days, Max Tschauder, manager, announces.

The first series of theatre parties for children, conducted by the Springfield Post of the American Legion for their annual Christmas basket fund for needy veterans, attracted 1,550 children to the Strand, Southtown and Esquire and resulted in the collection of 45 baskets of food. A second series was scheduled for December 23.

Gus Kerasotes, president of the Kerasotes Brothers Theatres, Inc., has left St. John's Hospital relieved of his appendix . . . "Everything New But the Name," will be the slogan of the Senate when it reopens December 23 after being closed several weeks for remodeling.

Plug Newsreels

CHICAGO — With world events lending more importance to newsreels, B&K is featuring them in all ad copy for its loop theatres.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS . . .

METRO PREMIUM COMPANY

H. W. ZUSSMAN

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1939



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for

CHRISTMAS and the NEW YEAR

REPUBLIC REPUBLIC PICTURES **PICTURES**

Chicago — Milwaukee — Indianapolis

IRVING W. MANDEL HARRY LORCH
BILL MARRIOTT JACK FRACKMAN
and staffs

A MERRY CHRISTMAS . . .

. . . A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE ENTIRE ORGANIZATION OF

B. N. JUDELL, Inc.

CHICAGO
B. N. JUDELL
ABE FISCHER
STELLA JACOBS
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MILWAUKEE
CHAS. KOEHLER

ST. LOUIS
OLIVER LESSING

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

And May 1940 Be Your Biggest

NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE

PERCY BARR, Mgr.

EDDIE HAFERKAMP
CLARENCE FUGLSANG
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HENRY KOHN
MIKE GODSHAW
LOU PATZ

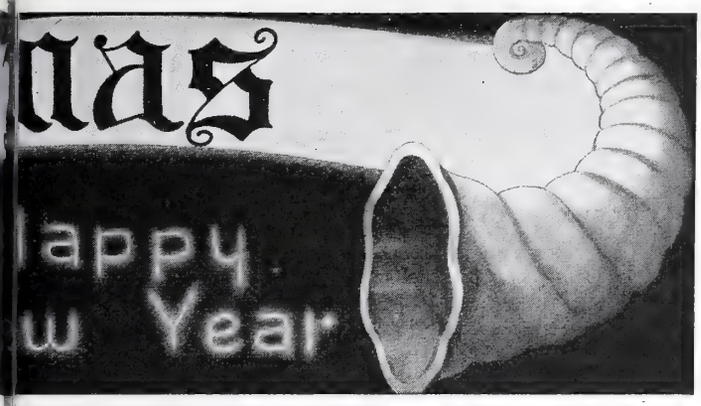
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

R. W. DASSOW, Manager

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CHAS. J. WILLIAMS
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1940



CHICAGO

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

HENRY HERBEL
BILL BRUMBERG
GEORGE WEINBERG
BILL KAHL
ART PATZLAFF
TOM GILLIAM
ROSS HERMAN
JOHN SOKELY
BOB ALLEN
SI LAX

SAM CLARK

BOOKERS:
TED LEVY, BOB STINSON, GEORGE BENSON,
HARRY MANDEL
The Chicago Gang

VITAGRAPH, INC.

DISTRIBUTORS
Warner Brothers — First National — Vitaphone Pictures

CHICAGO

WISHING YOU THE SEASON'S BEST

the Gang at

UNIVERSAL

E. T. (PECK) GOMERSALL
MANNIE GOTTLIEB

BILL WEINSHENKER
TED MYERS
AL KENT
MAX BRODSKY
BOB FUNK
JACK CHATKIN
WALTER HYLAND
LOU BERMAN

GREETINGS

TO OUR EXHIBITOR FRIENDS

SUPERIOR PICTURES, INC.

CHICAGO
1300 South Wabash Ave.
Jim Jovaney, Charlie Miller
Bill Drake

MILWAUKEE
717 West Wells
Bill Stern, Mgr.

ST. LOUIS
3317 Olive Street
Andy Dietz, Mgr.

INDIANAPOLIS
406 North Illinois
Charle Tyler, Mgr.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

United Artists Corp.

IRVING SCHLANK
BILL BAKER
FRANK YOUNG
OSCAR BERNSTEIN
JACK GOLDHAR
NAT NATHANSON
BENNIE EISENBERG
HARRY JAMES

JACK ARMGARDT

Greetings of the Season

From

JOHNNY MEDNIKOW

and staff

THOR LONDON—DUKE HICKEY

Now booking—A. L. Rule's
"WHEN GERMANY SURRENDERED"

1300 South Wabash — CHICAGO — CALumet 5900

A Great Big Christmas

And a Bigger - - - 1940

WHITEWAY

Electric Sign & Maintenance Co.

TOM FLANNERY, President

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from
MAGIC VOICE RCA SOUND OF THE SCREEN
RCA MANUFACTURING CO., Inc.
A. E. KLEIN, Chicago J. F. O'BRIEN, St. Louis
WM. H. TRUNICK, Indianapolis
G. R. BECK, Service Mgr.
Service Engineers—Charles Burns, M. F. Fritz, Joe Hovorka, R. H. Hecht, D. W. McMillin, Charles Herbst jr., F. L. Brown.

Wishing You and Yours
A Merry
Christmas
And a Great Big
1940
A-B-C PRINTERS, Inc.
Chicago
PHYL SMETANA
JOHNNY SMETANA

Season's Greetings
to all Film Row
CHICAGO POSTER EXCHANGE
and
MOVIE POSTER SERVICE
1255-57 So. Wabash—CAL. 4259
M. J. LIPP
and Entire Organization

AD-ART DISPLAY STUDIOS
Bea and Harry
BLUMENTHAL

Wishing You
A MERRY XMAS
and
A HAPPY 1940
FILM TRUCK SERVICE
Our New Address
2017-19 SOUTH WABASH
Same Phone Number—CAL. 6510
G. W. KOERNER

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON
Manny Goodman — Dave Katz
Dorothy Yormark
HOLLYWOOD ADVERTISING CO.
Flags - Valances - Banners
1243 So. Wabash Chicago

—And the same to you
BURT OFSTIE
NEW MIDWEST TRAILERS
(Everything for Your Screen)
724 S. Wabash Ave. Chicago, Ill.

CHICAGO

THANKS to Jimmy Savage of B&K for that correction about Oscar Serlin. The former B&Kite did have something to do with one of Broadway's newest hits, "Life With Father," it's true. But he didn't author it; rather, he staged it.

Bill Bishop did a nice job of getting a few plugs for M-G-M stars and pictures in that radio interview he had the other night over WEDC . . . John Jenkins, representative of Million-Dollar Productions, visited here with Saul Goldman of Sack Amusement Enterprises, distributors of Million-Dollar films.

Lester Simansky has a new idea for attracting children to kid matinees. It is a set of comic cartoon blocks based on well-known comic characters. About 20 houses are now using them here.

Ad Sales Manager Johnny Scott at Paramount appears to be in the department store business, what with the many toys and accessories licensed by the Max Fleischer Studios to aid in the selling of "Gulliver's Travels."

Phyl Smetana has found another way to publicize her pet cat, Bummy. The cat adorns the front of the new ABC Printers' calendar just sent out.

Frank Smith had almost 50 acts, and most of them top billers, too, for the annual Christmas party of Mayor Edward J. Kelly, Wednesday night, at the Stadium.

Archie Trebo of B&K is vacationing in Mexico . . . The annual B&K Employes Christmas party was held Tuesday night at the Stevens Hotel.

We bow in shame to Freres Balaban—Dave and Harry. 'Tis Harry, and not Dave, who is the proud papa of the new daughter, Barbara. Remarked Harry to us this week: "I do all the work and Dave gets all the glory."

Elmer Balaban says if anyone at M-G-M

(Continued on page 57)

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

SIGNS - MARQUEES AND MAINTENANCE

White Way Electric Sign & Maintenance Co.
Tom Flannery, President
315-17 W. Walton Street
Phone DELaware 9111

THEATRICAL PRINTING

A. B. C. PRINTERS, INC.
WE PRINT EVERYTHING THEATRICAL
1225 South Wabash — Chicago
For lowest prices Call—VIC 3456

National Program & Printing Co.

729 S. WABASH AVE. CHICAGO, ILL.

SEASON'S . . . .
. . . GREETINGS

Coming Road Show
Special for 1940
"FOOLS OF DESIRE"
AL DEZEL ROADSHOWS
831 So. Wabash Chicago

SEASON'S
GREETINGS
from
SAUL GOLDMAN

Sack Amusement Enterprises
3rd Floor — Exhibitors' Bldg.
1325 So. Wabash

Merry Krismus!
Happy Noo Year!
R. LEVINE & CO.
Theatre Architects
Brokers and Contractors

Stanley Theatre Supply Company
1235 South Wabash
CAL. 5066
Chicago, Illinois

20th Century-Fox
Wishes Everyone
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Clyde Eckhardt, Branch Manager
Arthur Van Dyke, Office Manager

Salesmen	Bookers
Ernest Grohe	Jack Eckhardt
Harold Goodamote	
Harold Loeb	Howard DeTamble
Milton Simon	Bill Hallwachs

Arnold Monnette, Head Booker
CHICAGO

SEASON'S GREETINGS

GENE
RICH

BOXOFFICE

Central Editor, Chicago

Wishing You
A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year

PHOTOPLAY
ADVERTISING CO.
1243 South Wabash, Chicago
CAL. 7660
3311-a Olive Street, St. Louis
G. C. PACKARD
HENRY PORTER
JACK BLUM
JOHN LANE

Crippled Children Enjoy Xmas Party

CHICAGO—Crippled children of the Martha Washington Home here were treated to a pre-Christmas party by the Women's Film Industry Club. Shown to the kiddies during the day was the M-G-M feature, "The Wizard of Oz."

Gus Gilard, popularly known as Ginger the Clown, led the children in songs and games after the showing of the film. Gifts were distributed, including a personal gift for each child, and in addition, a book, two games, and a box containing fruit, candy and favors. A collection of children's records was also presented to the home.

This, the first activity of this type by the club, is expected to be the first of a series of such affairs planned by the organization. Through BOXOFFICE, the girls want to thank everyone in the industry who assisted in supporting the club in this activity.

CHICAGO

GREETINGS
For a Joyous
CHRISTMAS SEASON
and a
NEW YEAR TO COME
BOB HARTMAN
1940 MEMO
Don't Neglect Your Box-Office--Remember These "Biz" Stimulators.
SPEED-O-KINGS
New 1940 Streamlined Bykes
SPEED-O-RACER
The Auto for 1940
ROLL KINGS
New Styled Roller Skates
SPEED-O-BYKES
A Proven Success
International MOTOR BYKES
Hollywood Cowboy GUNS
WM. A. ROGERS SILVERWARE
An Exclusive Deal
INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES
724 S. Wabash Ave. Chicago, Ill.

GREETINGS TO THE INDUSTRY
SAM'S BARBER SHOP
Courteous Service
2nd Floor, Exhibitors' Bldg.
1325 South Wabash — VICtory 7980

SI GREIVER
SEASON'S GREETINGS

Tells Managers Business Must Be Gotten by Work

CHICAGO—In a recent bulletin to Warner theatre managers in the Chicago zone, Charles Ryan, assistant zone manager, wrote: "There is only one way that your boxoffice will return profit and help the bank balance, and that is labeled with a sign-post, the legend of which reads, WORK.

" . . . every manager interested in good theatre operation must be a fighter. Business has stopped drifting to your doors; it now rushes by. You must build dams to direct the flow to your boxoffice and you must keep those dams in good repair through the intelligent use of business promotion activity on your screen, in your lobby, in your programs, in your community, and in your local newspapers."

Distribute Xmas Cards Good for Admissions

CHICAGO—A goodwill method of wishing regular patrons season's greetings was used this year by the H. and E. Balaban circuit. Managers of the circuit's theatres gave regular patrons Christmas cards good for two free admissions to the particular theatre visited regularly by the customer.

Shows by Merchants

CHICAGO—Numerous local theatres were used during mornings this week by merchants to sponsor Christmas shows for the neighborhood youngsters.

CHICAGO

SEASON'S
GREETINGS
Make 1940 a Prosperous Year—
Play Unusual Pictures
from—
A. TEITEL
831 South Wabash—Chicago
Phone: WEBster 7237

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON
GENERAL FILM COMPANY
and Staff
Phone CAL. 6378
1229 South State St. Chicago

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
from
W. VAN GELDER
Filmrow's Insurance Man
CALumet 7930 WABash 0173

INDIANAPOLIS

HARRY NAGLE, operator of the Dream, is taking a few weeks' vacation while recuperating from nervous strain . . . Dick Frank, United Artists exchange manager, was host to Leo Abrams of the New York office's short subjects department, when he was in town for a few days last week.

Harold Schlagenhauf has sold his Star at Geneva, Ind., to Irving Cooper of Chicago, who will reopen the theatre New Year's Eve . . . Mrs. Estelle Nelson, secretary to Roy Churchill, RKO manager, is on a belated honeymoon. The Nelsons will spend the holidays in Chicago with Mr. Nelson's relatives.

Employes of the local United Artists exchange were dismissed from work Friday afternoon in tribute to the late Douglas Fairbanks . . . In full view of dozens of theatregoers, a lone bandit held up the cashier of Loew's here, escaping with $10 in quarters. Police said they believed the bandit was the same one who recently staged holdups at two neighborhood houses.

Maurice Rubin, operator of the Tivoli, Lake, Uptown and Ritz theatres, Michigan City, was here on business . . . Theo Charles of Vincennes received many congratulatory messages from his many friends on the opening of his New Moon and a large delegation from Filmrow attended the party given by him on the occasion.

Mrs. Verne Gorrell, wife of the operator of the Isis at Winamac, has been released from a hospital at LaPorte, Ind., where she was confined for several weeks following an automobile accident . . . Funeral services were held here for Phillip E. Lewis, 70. At the time of his death, Lewis was manager of the Howard in Boston.

Harold Marshall, exploiteer for M-G-M, was involved in an automobile accident near Bicknell, Ind., on his way to Vincennes to attend the opening of the New Moon. Marshall sustained severe head and facial cuts and bruises necessitating five stitches in one of the head wounds. His car was badly damaged.

Mrs. Nova Vonderschmitt, wife of Harry, operator of theatres in Bloomington, Bedford, Seymour, Crawfordsville, Greencastle and Noblesville; their daughter, Thelma, 25, and Miss Marjorie Burris, a Bloomington school teacher, were confined to the Methodist Hospital here following an automobile accident 12 miles southwest of Indianapolis. Attendants said none of the women were in a serious condition but had suffered cuts and bruises.

Seen along Filmrow: Harry Van Noy, Anderson; Hobart Hart, Auburn; Art Clark and H. P. Vonderschmitt, Bloomington; L. T. Moore, Mitchell; Jack Van Borssum, Terre Haute; Joe Schilling, Connersville; Anthony Bokas, Argos; Nick Paikos, Tipton; Roy Harrold, Rushville; Maurie Rubin, Michigan City; Theo Charles, Vincennes; Mrs. Edith Luckett, Scottsburg; Dick Vlastos, Fowler; "Red" Massey, Worthington; James Heliotes, Fort Wayne; Harold Neese, Dana; Harry Douglass, Dugger; E. R. Crouch, Fairmount; J. B. Sconce, Edinburg; Walter Easley, Greensburg; Harold Reckley, Greencastle.

Build December Grosses With Two Giveaways

HAMMOND, IND.—Al Blasko and Marcel Brazee, Warner theatre managers here, had two December giveaways that helped bring in patrons during a month notoriously low in boxoffice returns.

Blasko promoted $200 in cash, sponsored by the local gas service station, that was given away early in the month at the Paramount Theatre. Brazee gave away a new car on Friday night of this week at the Parthenon, sponsored by a local jewelry company. In both instances, tickets for the giveaways were available both at the theatre and at the sponsoring stores.

CHICAGO

(Continued from page 54)

thinks they are going to screen "Gone With the Wind" at his Esquire, well, then "I am going to get 70 per cent of something for it."

There were many Christmas cheer parties scheduled for this weekend on the Row. Allied and all the exchanges were planning to entertain. Similarly, John Balaban was to host his filmfolk friends, as usual, atop the State-Lake Theatre Bldg.

Adolph Kiefer, Chicago swimming star, has been optioned by the Hollywood talent scout, Vic Orsatti, and local agent Norman Alexandroff, for possible film work.

We liked Charlie Ryan's advice to all theatre managers in the Warner circuit here this week anent Christmas Day: "Have every employe greet patrons with 'Merry Christmas' . . . Although there may be no peace on earth, there should always be goodwill toward men."

Arnold Monnette, ad sales manager at 20th Century-Fox, has been upped to head booker, succeeding the late Fred Wagner. John Horkey, assistant cashier, takes Monnette's place, while Max Bonior becomes assistant cashier.

Don Widlund has been transferred to the Chicago office of Jam Handy from the home office in Detroit . . . The annual 20th Century-Fox employes Christmas party was held Thursday at the Congress Hotel.

A huge Christmas tree adorned the office of M-G-M's exchange here this week . . . At Warner there was a smaller tree, but with novel adornments, including large Christmas tree balls containing the names of Warner stars and forthcoming films.

Si Greiver is now booking for the Cozy in South Bend, Ind. . . . B&K's two Eddies —Seguin and Solomon—did a right smart job of cracking publicity in the daily papers on the annual movie Christmas basket parties. Ditto for Ted Morris of Essaness, in the community newspapers.

Tanner Names Pana House

PANA, ILL.—The new theatre which Harry Tanner is erecting here has been named the Roseland.

MILWAUKEE

THE national pro football championship playoff here between the Green Bay Packers and the New York Giants attracted numerous film notables including George Raft, James Coston, Warner midwestern manager, and Corrine Griffith, former film star. The crowd numbered 32,279 and the gate, $83,510.35. With the Packers copping the championship, local theatres as well as those in Green Bay and other state spots, played the newsreels of the game the same week and plugged them heavily.

After playing "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" for two weeks last month, Fox's Palace brings the flicker back for a third week "encore" showing . . . Hollywood here has announced a new dish night premium Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Francis Miller has been promoted from chief of service to house manager at E. J. Weisfeldt's Riverside, succeeding Charles Clark, resigned . . . Charles Wuerz has been named manager of Fox's Palace, succeeding Jack Richards, who has become manager of a ballroom in Minneapolis.

H. J. Mirisch's Tower and Oriental staged a fur fashion revue on their stage in cooperation with a local furrier . . . Dorothy Powell, La Crosse aviatrix, has signed a contract with United Artists and M-G-M, to make personal appearance on the stages of theatres throughout the country.

Victor Starke, projectionist at the Franklin here, sustained severe burns to his face and hands when fire broke out in the projection booth. The blaze was confined to the booth with damage estimated at $700.

Elmer R. Brennan, manager of the Kenosha, Kenosha, was host to the Kiwanis Club at a luncheon meeting on the stage of the theatre. The program included a back stage view of theatre technique.

Providing WPA funds can be secured, the park commission at Madison has approved the proposal to erect a $25,000 outdoor theatre in Vilas Park with a seating capacity of 3,500.

The Music Box, dance hall at Johnson Creek, is now showing flickers on Thursday nights at a dime admission . . . The Appleton, in cooperation with the Salvation Army, sponsored a canned goods show, December 16.

Old rules of the Fond du Lac police department, recently revised by the council, continue to contain a clause advising policemen not to seek free admission to theatres.

The Bay, Green Bay, presented the sixth grade pupils of the Elmore school in that city in a world peace program on the stage on a Monday night.

Harry M. MacDonald, manager of the Warner here, had a good word for Mayor LaGuardia's proposed drive to make New Yorkers stop throwing gum on sidewalks. He said gum wads on floor and theatre seats were a problem for the house and that kids are the worst offenders.

Warner-Saxe is offering for sale at its Garfield, Egyptian, Lake, Uptown, National, Granada, Princess, Modjeska, Milwaukee, Juneau, Mirth theatres Thrift Books in two sizes for Christmas gifts. One book contains $1.25 *in tickets for* $1 *and the other* $3 *in tickets for* $2.25.

Barboo Elks are giving their annual Christmas party for kids December 23 at the Al Ringling.

More than 1,700 *orphans and underprivileged school children were entertained at free Christmas parties December* 16 *at Fox's Riviera and Varsity here by arrangement of the Milwaukee county auxiliaries of the United Spanish War Veterans.*



and a Happy New Year

F & Y BUILDING SERVICE
328 E. Town Street
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Board of Directors of

MOTION PICTURE THEATRE OWNERS

of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois

Extend

Best Wishes for a Most Merry Christmas

and

A Year of Success and Happiness for 1940

FRED WEHRENBERG, President

LOUIS C. HEHL, Sec.-Treas.



1939



INDIANAPOLIS

THE BOYS
of
"THE NEW UNIVERSAL"
wish you
EVERYTHING YOU WISH YOURSELF FOR
THE NEW YEAR and
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

BILL SHERMAN — MILT ETTINGER
CARL MOCK — WILBUR GRANT
GORDON CRADDOCK

INDIANAPOLIS

May Your Christmas Be Merry
And Your New Year Happy

TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX FILM CORP.

Geo. T. Landis
J. R. Neger — G. J. Black
H. L. Hancock — T. O. McCleaster
J. M. Ricketts — K. L. Dotterer

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
from

COLUMBIA PICTURES CORP.

W. Guy Craig, Mgr. — Abe Gelman
Herb Kaufman — Larry Shubnell
Curt Butler — Abe Baker
And Our Entire Organization

GREETINGS AND
COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON
from

J. H. Stevens, Mgr. — Carl Kemp
Billy Esch — Red Fromuth
Duff Newman — Tom Goodman
Fritz Wagoner — John Gentile

Paramount Pictures, Inc.

HOLIDAY
GREETINGS
from

INDIANA FILM TRANSIT

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
W. C. SMITH

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Ger-Bar, Inc.

INDIANAPOLIS
B. HOPKINS
E. BUDD
C. RUSSO
L. WAISS

GREETINGS—
and COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

A. "SHORTY" PHILLIPS

INDIANAPOLIS

NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE

Wishing You
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

BURCH MFG. CO.

C. R. Jackson — Shelbyville, Ind.



1940



INDIANAPOLIS

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

United Artists Corp.

INDIANAPOLIS

Dick Frank — Harry Hayes
Elmer Donnelly — Milton Krueger
Ed Golden

INDIANAPOLIS

RKO RADIO PICTURES

SEASON'S GREETINGS
from
Roy E. Churchill, Manager

Guy Hancock — Pete Fortune
G. L. Heinrich — R. L. Brentlinger
Donald Cox — Horace Spencer
Dorothy Wright

BEST WISHES FOR A
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
from

ASSOCIATED THEATRE OWNERS OF INDIANA INC.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Fred Greenberg — F. J. Reimer
R. S. Shrader — Wm. Wallace
C. W. McKean — Jack Dowd

WARNER BROS. PICTURES
VITAGRAPH, Inc.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

National Theatre Supply Co.

INDIANAPOLIS

Don K. Smith — Paul G. Brown
A. M. Truc — Charles Rushing
Bill Feighner

BEST OF SEASON'S GREETINGS
from

BRADFORD FILM TRANSIT

Lowell Heath — C. M. Ryan
Harry Stafford — Jack Jenkins
John Bibbs

24 Hour a Day SERVICE to Exhibitors and Exchanges

EARL W. PENROD

1 W. 28th St., Apt. 102
Indianapolis, Ind.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

INDIANA BANK NIGHT
Distributor
DAN PENROD, Southern Indiana Representative

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON
from

COON'S DRUG STORE

"Where Indiana Theatremen Meet"

"DAD" — "BILL"

Says Amateur Theatricals Merit Studio Support

CHICAGO—Little theatres and other similar amateur theatrical groups must be encouraged by the studios if they are to continue the supply of new faces for the screen, Bill Grady, Metro's director of personnel, said here as he paused coastbound in his 20,000-mile talent jaunt.

The studios, Grady said, are doing everything possible to encourage the amateur groups, realizing, he said, that plenty of new faces still are needed. He asserted that it is especially necessary that new male stars be developed.

Will Hays Agent Cautions Young Screen Hopefuls

INDIANAPOLIS—Harold Rose of the Hays office in Hollywood spent a couple of days here recently exposing methods employed by fake talent scouts and urging young hopefuls with screen ambitions to stay at home.

A half hour after he arrived, someone stole a glass side-wing from Rose's car, the body of which is covered with autographs of film stars. The wind-breaker had four particularly "tough" autographs of Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Hal Roach and Adolphe Menjou.

Rose offered $50 for the return of the glass and guaranteed those responsible autographed photographs of the four stars.

Change at Kiel

KIEL, WIS.—The Pastime, owned and operated for 25 years by Edwin Burth, is now the Kiel. The new managers are Harry Melcher and Mark Morgan.

Pleasant Surprise

ANDERSON, IND.—When Harry Van Noy and his wife recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, they were pleasantly surprised when presented with a huge "silver" tree, its branches formed of silver paper and with 100 silver quarters hanging from them. Each quarter had attached to it the name of a personal friend or relative. Around the base were over 400 more quarters, also with names of friends.

The tree was presented to Harry on the stage of the Paramount here by Dave Apollon, orchestra leader who was playing there at the time. Apollon's quarter was at the very top.

The "silver tree" idea was hatched by I. R. Holycross, partner with Van Noy in the operation of the Paramount and Starland theatres here.

Republic Assigns Holmes

HOLLYWOOD—Brown Holmes is scripting Republic's "Doctors Don't Tell." John H. Auer will produce and direct.

His Approach Is Scientific

Chicago—Ludwig Sussman, operator of the Adelphi Theatre on the north side, believes in trying all policies out and one after the other.

Therefore, recently he offered his patrons programs thusly: Three features on Sunday, two features on Monday, and a single feature on Tuesday.

Elman Has Distribution Rights on Fight Reels

CHICAGO—Henri Elman's Special Attractions have the Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin distribution rights for the Dempsey-Willard fight pictures, currently playing first-run in the RKO Palace, Chicago.

In the St. Louis territory, Sports Enterprises, in the Monogram exchange, have the distribution rights.

The pictures have created considerable comment among sports enthusiasts, and Chicago and other daily newspapers have used lengthy stories on the films. The *Daily News* here this week ran an eight-column spread showing scenes from the films. The pictures have been booked nationally for the entire RKO circuit.

Hollywood Procedures Are Rapped by Elissa Landi

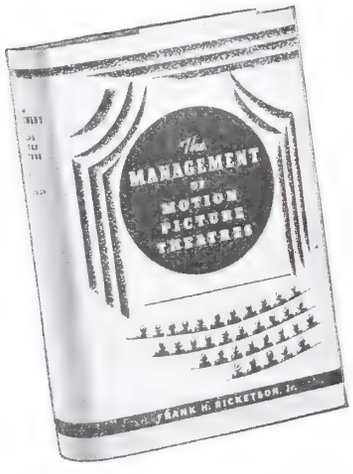
CHICAGO—Elissa Landi wasn't kind to Hollywood in two addresses she gave while in Chicago. She spoke before the Friends of American Writers and before the Sinai Temple Forum.

"I would not call screen writers dramatists," she commented. "A photoplay is written by four to 12 writers, and in some cases, even 15. Authors are told to be good children, and in Hollywood we all obey. Actors have nothing to say as to how their roles are played and directors very little."

P. A. Tour by Darro

HOLLYWOOD — Monogram is sending Frankie Darro on a five-month cross-country personal appearance tour.

How to operate motion picture theatres *profitably*



Here is a new book full of HOW TO DO IT information, written by a man who believes that the first objective of theatre management is to make money. In this book he covers motion picture theatre management from A to Z, giving the best results of years of experience as a guide in establishing successful policies, building profitable business, and efficiently operating any size theatre.

The Management of Motion Picture Theatres

By FRANK H. RICKETSON, Jr.

President, Fox Inter-Mountain Theatres, Inc.

375 pages, 6x9, illustrated, $3.50

Get This Great Aid to Theatre Management! GET IT TODAY!!

Send check or money order to

ASSOCIATED PUBLICATIONS, 4804 East Ninth Street, Kansas City, Missouri

Premiums Obviously Getting Better

Omaha—This story is taken from Omaha police files.

A girl had been to a neighborhood show and was returning home with a dinner plate she received at the theatre. A purse-snatcher tried to get at her purse, but she put up a fight.

Finally, he grabbed the dinner plate and ran, most likely out of his self-preserving instinct.

They're Eating Their Minny Premiums

MINNEAPOLIS—Local exhibitors seem to be going in for eat giveaways more and more. Latest is the 20-cent Franklin, neighborhood house, which gives hamburgers and coffee to the first 500 patrons on Friday nights. The Hollywood, also an independenet neighborhood house, gave away coupons redeemable for free kosher cornbeef sandwiches at a delicatessen shop across the street. Free coffee was served to patrons during cold nights in the lobby of the St. Louis Park Theatre, also a de luxe neighborhood situation independently operated.

See Better Xmas Eve Break This Season

MINNEAPOLIS—With Christmas eve falling on Sunday and Christmas itself Monday, theatres here believe they'll get a better break than usual on Christmas day, which usually is off, particularly in the afternoon. Sunday night, however, will be a partial loss, although not so much as the usual Christmas eve, in the trade's opinion.

Night clubs here will hold two New Year's celebrations—one to speed the old year Saturday night and the other to greet 1940 on Sunday evening. Liquor sales are prohibited by law on Sundays here and the leading clubs will forego them. At the Minnesota Terrace, the town's swankiest spot, patrons will be permitted to bring their own liquor and the club will serve set-ups, charging pre-prohibition prices for them and for champagne corkage. The charge of $5 per person for the Terrace is $2.50 less than on previous New Year's eves, but the $5 on Sunday will cover only a dinner, favors and entertainment.

Collects $800 From Theatre For Alleged Damages

OMAHA—The suit of a Lincoln woman against R. D. Goldberg's Arbor was settled for $800 in district court.

The woman sued for $2,000, alleging her back was injured. A seat was missing from the chair in which she undertook to seat herself in the darkened theatre, she said.

"Coercion" and "Monopoly" Are Charged by Ralph Goldberg

OMAHA—Charges of "monopoly," "conspiracy" and "coercion" were made in federal court here as Ralph D. Goldberg, veteran exhibitor and circuit owner, fought a request by Tri-States Theatres that the court order Goldberg to close his recently opened State in downtown Omaha.

Basis of the suit is a lease made by the World Realty Co. (a Goldberg corporation) allegedly agreeing to keep the State dark from 1934 to 1944 while leasing the Omaha to Tri-States during the ten-year period. Tri-States now owns the Omaha.

Goldberg, his own star witness, recalled two conversations with G. Ralph Branton, Tri-States general manager, prior to November, 1934 (when the lease was signed). Once, Goldberg said, Branton remarked that if there was no lease at lower rental, the World Theatre (now Omaha) would be "an empty shell," but that Goldberg "would be unable to get any pictures."

On another occasion, Goldberg related, Branton told him "if we (Goldberg) elected to take possession of the theatre, it would be a long, long time before we could get possession of pictures."

Federal Judge Donohoe overruled an argument by Tri-States attorneys that the validity of any lease "is in no way affected by any monopolistic intentions of the lessee." Judge Donohoe said he would pass over any testimony which he thought did not apply in this case.

Goldberg contends that as a result of "undue pressure and coercion" upon him, the agreement to keep the State dark is invalid. As Tri-States' only witness, Branton denied that Goldberg was in any way "coerced" and said there was no scheme to monopolize first-run product in Omaha.

"No Product Available"

Goldberg told how in 1933, before the lease agreement with Tri-States was signed, he called upon local branch managers of the larger distributors in an effort to buy first-run product and was told their pictures were already under contract to Tri-States or the Brandeis Theatre, a Mort H. Singer house. Goldberg went to New York, he said, and got the same answer there that there "was no first-run product available."

Branton said the lease included an agreement Tri-States would spend $15,000 in fixing up the World in 1934 and that actually $58,000 was expended for new seats, booth equipment, interior and exterior decorating. He said the yearly gross of the World (now Omaha) was "in excess of $150,000 per year."

Branton pointed out that the two houses are very close, less than two blocks apart. He said that when Tri-States had operation of the State the house averaged a weekly gross of $901 between January and May, 1934, and that after Tri-States closed the State the grosses at the Omaha increased $700 per week.

The Tri-States general manager said there are "just so many entertainment dollars in Omaha" and that more seats does not mean more business. He said the purpose of the suit was to "have Mr. Goldberg live up to the contract and to protect the Omaha Theatre from loss of business."

Also present in the courtroom were A. H. Blank, Tri-States president; L. M. McKechneay, treasurer; Joe Deitch, head booker, and Evert R. Cummings, district manager.

Tri-States District Heads Map Drive in Des Moines

DES MOINES—Tri-States District Managers Evert Cummings of Omaha, Joe Kinsky of Davenport and A. G. Stolte of Des Moines huddled here last week to map plans for a new drive.

A guest at the meeting was Henry Stickelmaier of Publix-Great States in Chicago. After the session, Stickelmaier accompanied Kinsky on a tour of Joe's district to get a load of the Tri-States method of operation.

Lincoln Reopening Is Likely in January

LINCOLN—Although it's a little early to tell, it is expected that the Lincoln, the 1,600-seat J. H. Cooper house, will reopen after extensive redecoration and interior fixing, about January 9. The policy is still undetermined, but it is believed slated for the same dual feature-split week arrangement it used prior to the early December closing.



To "Wind" Debut—

David O. Selznick, who produced Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind" for M-G-M release, aboard a chartered plane in Kansas City en route to the premiere last week in Atlanta. At the right is Vivien Leigh, the "Wind's" Scarlett O'Hara.



1939



KANSAS CITY

THE BEST OF CHRISTMAS WISHES

From

COLUMBIA PICTURES

BEN C. MARCUS, Branch Manager

WILLIAM BRADFIELD — HERB STULZ
C. E. REYNOLDS — ZACK BEISER
TOM BALDWIN — GENE SNITZ

KANSAS CITY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

MONOGRAM FILM DISTRIBUTORS, Inc.

DOUGLAS DESCH

M. G. SHACKELFORD — STANLEY GOLDBERG

PARAMOUNT FILM
Distributing Corporation

R. C. LiBEAU, District Manager
JOE MANFRE, Branch Manager

GEORGE HINTON, Sales Manager

J. H. States
Earl Ogan
M. E. (Andy) Anderson
Harry Wheeler
A. H. Chaffee
J. Roy Young
Bob Carnie
Joe Stark
Paul Hannon
Nelson Burrus

FOX MIDWEST THEATRES
Greetings

E. C. RHODEN, Division Manager

LON COX, Film Buyer
L. O. HONIG, Real Estate
CHARLES E. SHAFER, Chief Accountant
SENN LAWLER, Publicity

District Managers:

H. A. McCLURE, Kansas City
H. E. JAMEYSON, Wichita
EDD HAAS, Kansas City
FRED SOUTTAR, St. Louis

YULETIDE GREETINGS

20th Century-Fox

WARD SCOTT, District Manager
GEORGE FULLER, Branch Manager

W. J. Kubitzi
Howard B. Kinser
Joe Woodward
Charles Knickerbocker
M. A. Tanner
Charles Decker
Robert L. Conn
Charles Crawford

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPIER NEW YEAR

To All Our Exhibitor Friends

RUD LOHRENZ, District Manager
JIM WINN, Branch Manager

Russ Borg
Ernie Block
Don Woods
Benny Adams
Harry Gaffney
Chet Borg
Frank Norris
Roy Russell

Warner Bros. - First National



1940



KANSAS CITY

Heartiest Greetings of the Season



Republic Pictures

Midwest Film Distributors, Inc.

R. F. (Bob) Withers — Johnny Scott

Collins (Bud) Riley — James Weakley

C. M. (Parky) Parkhurst

KANSAS CITY

YULETIDE GREETINGS

UNIVERSAL FILM EXCHANGE

PETER DANA, District Manager

L. J. MILLER, Branch Manager

WILLIAM WARNER — TOMMY THOMPSON

RALPH A. MORROW — IS BEISER

ED SOLIG — LES DURLAND

The Best

Now — And The Year Around



FINTON H. JONES

Travelers Insurance Company

Title & Trust Bldg.

HArrison 5461 — Kansas City, Mo.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

HARRIS P. WOLFBERG, District Manager
FRANK HENSLER, Branch Manager
EARL HERNDON, Office Manager

—Salesmen—	—Bookers—
EDDIE GREEN	AL ADLER
JOE MAGUIRE	WALT LAMBADER
HAROLD COHEN	W. W. SHERRILL
TRULY WILDMAN	WOODY WALKER

IRVING WATERSTREET, Exploiteer
BOB GARRETT, HARLAN EVERETT,
Advertising Accessories

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

GRIFFITH-DICKINSON THEATRES, Inc.

H. J. GRIFFITH — GLEN W. DICKINSON

L. A. CHATHAM — HAROLD HARRIS

AL LOHMAN — RALPH KIEFFER

LINIPLE DEVILBIES

W. G. McKINNEY and ALL OUR MANAGERS

Now Located Third Floor Congress Building



UNITED ARTISTS CORP.

W. E. TRUOG, Branch Manager

"MAC" ROBERTSON — JOHN GRAHAM

JOHN KNIGHT — O. O. FLAKE

GUY BRADFORD — W. P. BERNFIELD, Exploiteer

Greetings

f
r
o
m

MISTER ASHCRAFT
With His New Cyclex Lamp

★

MOTIOGRAPH, Inc.
With the New
Motiograph Deluxe K Projector

★

WESTERN ELECTRIC
Mirrophonic Sound

★

Engineered Fluorescent Illumination to Brighten Up the New Year

★

A MERRY XMAS

and

PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

"THE GANG"
ERNIE LEEVES
MARTHA DOZIER
BEN GLOVER

CENTRAL THEATRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY
115 W. 18th St. VIctor 9398
Kansas City, Mo.

McEwan Now Handling Keen-O-Quizz for Area

KANSAS CITY—R. W. McEwan has taken over distribution in western Missouri and Kansas and for parts of Nebraska, Iowa, Arkansas and Oklahoma for Keen-O-Quizz, screen game that combines the appeal of quiz programs and adds the fun of competing for cash.

Keen-O-Quizz is a series of individual reels, each one a complete game in itself. Each reel consists of a group of questions relating to a variety of common knowledge subjects, intelligently presented and fairly easy to answer. Developed by showmen, it is sold exclusively to the theatrical trade. Winners are selected on the basis of merit, and by use of this method no lottery laws are violated. It is not considered in the same category as a gambling game since winners are not determined by lucky numbers, turn of wheel or any element of chance. Members of the audience answer questions by card.

McEwan has the first 13 reels available.

Film Critic Visits With Wails for Drama Dearth

MINNEAPOLIS — Claude La Belle, San Francisco *News'* film critic, in the Mayo clinic at Rochester, Minn., to learn how to knock off 100 pounds in three months, came up to visit with Katharine Cornell during the latter's engagement at the Lyceum here.

La Belle claims San Francisco has even more first-run picture theatres than New York City. He deplored the ailing state of the legitimate stage in his home town.

Variety of Des Moines Hosts 1,600 Shut-ins

DES MOINES—Entertained by the Variety Club here for two hours last Saturday morning were 1,600 Des Moines shut-ins at the Variety group's annual party for them.

Art Stolte was chairman of the general committee with Chick Friedman, Lou Levy and Nate Sandler directing the transportation, entertainment and distribution of tickets.

Guests came in groups from the county farm, from homes for the blind, for juveniles and for crippled children. Variety Club members helped to lead and carry the shut-ins from special buses, taxicabs and private cars into the Paramount Theatre.

There, a film and flesh program provided two hours of entertainment. "Lincoln in the White House" and Walt Disney's "Mother Goose" provided the screen program. On the stage were the Northwesterners, Tommy Thompson and Uncle Twid from Radio Station KSO; Jerry the Yodeling Cowboy, Zelda Scott, the Cheyenne cowgirl, and Bud Webster's Borderland Buckaroos from WHO.

Lang and Lee offered a comedy juggling act; Don and Pauline the comic skating sailors thrilled the shut-ins and made them laugh.

Finally, there were Christmas presents for all.

Garfield and De Havilland

HOLLYWOOD—John Garfield and Olivia De Havilland head the cast for Warner's "Married, Pretty and Poor." This is Director Vincent Sherman's first "A" assignment.

KANSAS CITY

KANSAS CITY SOUND SERVICE CO.
PAUL HUMSTON ELEANOR BELL
Wishes You a Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year
126 W. 18th Street — Kansas City, Mo. — HA. 4783

No Exhibitor screens advertising films because he likes them but because they bring him good net profit revenue. Naturally he wants the best of screen advertising films from a reliable company.

More than 3,500 theatres, including such outstanding Exhibitors as Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Inc., Tri-States Theatre Corporation (Paramount Theatres of Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska), and Central States Theatre Corporation, handle their screen advertising business exclusively with UNITED of Kansas City.

For your best screen advertising deal, see

UNITED FILM AD SERVICE, INC.
2449 Charlotte Street - Kansas City, Mo.

KAYCEE

MR. and Mrs. George A. Peterson of Peterson Freezem Co. are really busy these days. Precinct captains both, they've been working on the Charter amendment drive —night and day.

Charles Olajos, treasurer of Erpi, and H. M. Bessey, secretary-treasurer of Altec, were in town last Friday and Saturday.

National Theatre Supply Co. is handling Advance Popcorn machines and supplies. J. Walter Shreve, National manager, has placed machines in W. D. Fulton's Southtown here, and George Baker's Crystal, Ellis, Kas.

L. J. Kimbriel of Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co. has sold 150 new seats to Joe Lucas for his State, Central City, Neb.

John Kelly, National Theatre Supply, has gone home from St. Luke's Hospital and is reported recuperating from a stomach ailment.

Bev Miller of Book Treasures has a new Oldsmobile, very fancy looking, and the horn—you should hear it. Just before he runs you down, he'll toot the opening bars of "In My Merry Oldsmobile."

Julius Ehrlich, for many years treasurer of the IATSE stagehands local here, died last Thursday. He was 70 years old.

Orchids to the Fox Plaza, Waldo, Linwood and Vista, and contributing film companies, etc., for their canned goods matinee December 16 for the benefit of Mercy Hospital.

Stan Goldberg of Monogram has ("with the consent of the copyright owner," Mrs. G.) named the first offspring Ronald Irvin G. . . . The Orpheum, C. B. McAleer's house at Parsons, Kas., burned early Wednesday morning with a loss to theatre and building of $50,000.

The Variety Club Bowling League has changed its name to the Cinema Club league, and M. S. Anderson of Paramount and Charley Siebenthaler of Independent Poster Exchange are handling.

The Cinema Club is having its annual Xmas party at Variety Club, Saturday p. m., the benefits to go to the support of the family the club has adopted. Chet Borg is in charge of the affair.

Paramount's Pep Club held its Xmas

(Continued on next page)

Now He Doubles Xmas Cards

Lincoln—Even at Christmas time, Bob Livingston, Capitol exhibitor, keeps one eye on an argument for film rental reduction. He'll send Christmas greeting cards as usual to the film exchanges, he says, but he'll enclose a note.

It will say in each case to kindly return the card after looking at it, so he can save them and send them out again next year, in an endeavor to keep down the overhead.

Peter Christman Renamed By Omaha Local No. 70

OMAHA—Peter Christman has been reelected president of Local No. 70, American Federation of Musicians. Ernest Nordin sr. is vice-president; Harold Pace, secretary, and Mike Chaloupka, treasurer. Directors are Art Randall, Marvin George, Harold Black, Dan Wheeler and Frank Elias.

Norris Making Comeback In Kansas City Area

KANSAS CITY—W. L. Norris, who has been on Filmrow here eight years, distributing pictures and sound, is getting back into picture distribution with his exchange at 1820 Wyandotte St. Starting off with "In Old Santa Fe" and "Hell Bound," Norris will have two feature pictures a month for distribution in western Missouri and Kansas, in addition to the product of Sack Amusement Enterprises, who produce colored cast features.

Norris, who opened the first exchange here for the new Monogram, and who operated the State and Strand theatres here for a while (all with Paul Humston), has just returned from Chicago, where he spent five months.

In New Quarters

MINNEAPOLIS—The local branch of the Ross Federal Service is established in new quarters on the 17th floor of the Rand Tower here under the management of C. C. Charles.

KANSAS CITY

Wishing You All a Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Prosperous New Year
from "the bunch" at
NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY
223 West 18th St. — Kansas City, Mo.
Walter Shreve, Branch Manager HArrison 3256

ROSS FEDERAL SERVICE, Inc.
H. A. ROSS, President
WISHES YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

W. O. REDDEN, Kansas City, Mo.
HAROLD F. HENDERSON, Omaha, Neb.
S. B. ROSE, Des Moines, Ia.
C. C. CHARLES, Minneapolis, Minn.

KANSAS CITY

SEASON'S GREETINGS
from
BEVERLY MILLER
BOOK NIGHT
Trailer Made Service
130 W. 18th St. HA. 3344
Kansas City

Extra Playing Time Is Provided in Lincoln

LINCOLN—With the holding over of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," this town has provided its 14th week of extra playing time since September, when N. M. Schenck made his plea for lengthened stands on all pictures worthy.

Eleven of these weeks were provided by Howard Federer, general manager of Nebraska Theatres, Inc., who moved every A picture from its Varsity week to an extra one at the Liberty for more than two months. Only about three of these merited the hold.

In the J. H. Cooper-Lincoln Theatres Corp. spots, films, all deserving, picked up more than three weeks of extra days.

Heeds "Rasputin" Protest; Asks League View Film

MINNEAPOLIS—Heeding a protest from the League of Decency, Irving Gillman, Esquire owner, called off the scheduled showing of "Rasputin" this week and, in its place, substituted a reissue, "My Man Godfrey."

Gillman says he will invite a committee of the league to view "Rasputin" privately and determine if possible changes can be made to fit it to league standards.

After its New York showing, the picture was placed on the national League of Decency's prohibited list. It purports to depict the career of the now almost-legendary monk having extraordinary power behind the throne of pre-war Russia.

Newspaper ads described the picture as "Rasputin, the Sex-Mad Monk." The star is Harry Bauer, one of the foremost of European actors.

KAYCEE

(Continued from preceding page)

party December 20 at Variety Club.

Roy Sager, manager at the Crystal, Ellis, Kas., has been transferred to the Ritz, McPherson, Kas., relieving J. S. Thomason, who has gone to Mission, Tex. Herbert Ingram, projectionist at the Crystal, succeeds Sager.

O. F. Sullivan of the Civic, Wichita, was on the Row, Tuesday. He had just returned from Texas, where he was deer hunting—and got one, too.

The local Grand National exchange is proudly exhibiting a letter from the Griffith-Dickinson offices here on a recent picture: "We played your picture in Macon, Macon, Mo., and it did 25 per cent better than average business."

On the Row: C. B. McAleer, Parsons, Kas.; F. S. Riegel, Wilsey, Kas.; Joe and Mrs. Ghosen, Sedalia, Mo.; Charles Thomas, Sweet Springs, Mo.; R. E. Griffith, in from Oklahoma City; M. A. Otto, Pleasanton, Kas., and Mrs. Otto; Warren Weber, St. John, Kas.; A. J. Simmons, Lamar, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wilhoit, Plattsburg, Mo.; Leon Robertson, Springfield, Mo.

KANSAS CITY

Season's Greetings and the Best of Everything for You and Yours From

AL HAUETTER

MODERN THEATRE DECORATORS

1818 Wyandotte
Kansas City, Mo.

KANSAS CITY

Thanks for Everything in 1939
A Happy and Prosperous 1940

Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.

316 Southwest Blvd. HA. 1389
Kansas City, Mo.

GREETINGS from

FRANK BOWEN

Happy Xmas and a Prosperous New Year

E. L. HARRIS

District Manager

Alexander Film Company

KANSAS CITY

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

E. ROLSKY

National **St. John**

Kansas City, Mo.

Clyde Badger Bill Porter

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.

1804 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, Mo.
GRand 0134

"COMMONWEALTH"

Wishes You All

MUCH HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Greetings
NAT HECHTMAN

HOLLYWOOD ADVERTISING CO.

118 Southwest Blvd. VIctor 8798
Kansas City

HOLIDAY GREETINGS . . .

METRO PREMIUM COMPANY

CHARLES ABRAMS
113 W. 18th St., Kansas City, Mo.

JACK O'NEIL
3234 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo.

XMAS GREETINGS
And More Fun in 1940
at
The Home of
Variety Club Bowling League

PLA-MOR

FRANK LAMBADER, Manager
VAlentine 7846

Loop Aces Are Engaged In Stage Show Fight

MINNEAPOLIS—The Orpheum and Minnesota are engaged in a fierce stage show fight.

For the first time in many years, the Singer-Minnesota Amusement company house has four successive stage shows booked, each headed by a big name band. In order they're Johnny "Scat" Davis, Buddy Rogers, Tommy Dorsey and Lawrence Welk. Other early booking include Orrin Tucker's orchestra and Martha Raye.

The independently operated Minnesota Theatre has Charlie Butterworth in person the ensuing week against Johnny Davis at the Orpheum. The week of January 5 will see Gene Autry in person at the Minnesota pitted against Tommy Dorsey, the Orpheum headliner.

No Depression Noted At Gridiron Gates

MINNEAPOLIS—There may be a depression for the theatres, but University of Minnesota football didn't suffer at the boxoffice, despite a losing season. Although winning only two conference games, the Gophers drew 200,000 paid admissions for five home games and 140,000 for three contests away from home—a grand total of 340,000. Games were scaled at $2.75.

Circuit Clearance Again Target Of Twin City Independents

Action Personified

DES MOINES—"Stadium seats in the balcony."

"Whaddaya mean, stadium seats?"

"Boards just like you sit on at a football game. You can try 'em in the balcony."

And that's the way the Orpheum's Emil Franke handled business last Sunday. RKO's Freddie Meyers from New York and Tom Gorman from Chicago were in a dither when the Orpheum promoted "The Old Maid" heavily despite inability of workmen to get the new balcony seats in on time. But not Franke.

The Orpheum manager stacked 900 in a balcony that only seats 683 when the seats are in. He let the patrons sit on hard oak through a three hour and 12 minute show and there wasn't a complaint.

Manager Franke kicked tradition in the pants in another direction, too. While his opposition pulled out its advertising in view of the "pre-holiday lull," Franke refused to take a beating, ballyhooed his program with his full ad schedule—and had 'em standing in line upstairs and down, Sunday.

MINNEAPOLIS—Local independent exhibitors again are threatening to revolt against what they charge is unfair clearance and protection alleged to be dictated and enjoyed by the Minnesota Amusement circuit.

Among their causes of complaint are the clearance given to the Gopher and Aster, Minnesota Amusement loop houses, and the 40 cent admission charged by the Orpheum, in place of the former 55 cents for big stage shows plus major upper bracket pictures.

The Gopher, a 25-cent house playing many important pictures, has 42 days' clearance over 25-cent neighborhood houses and 56 days over the 20-cent uptown situations. The same protection is given the Aster which charges a 15-cent admission to 5 p. m. and 25 cents thereafter for double features.

The independents contend that the Gopher and Aster are not entitled to protection and that the Orpheum should charge a 55-cent top.

Lubin to "Black Friday"

HOLLYWOOD—Arthur Lubin has been assigned to direct Universal's "Black Friday," co-starring Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ **SPECIALS** ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

"IN OLD SANTA FE"
(Reissue)
Starring
GENE AUTRY
GEO. HAYES & SMILEY BURNETTE
Ken Maynard and "Tarzan," Wonder Horse
Most Unusual Western Ever Produced
MUSIC WITH BEAUTIFUL BACKGROUND

"HELL BOUND"
(Reissue)
Starring
LEO CARRILLO
LOLA LANE
A Gang Story That Just Fits the Star. Leo Carrillo Gives a Stellar Performance.

FULL LINE OF ACCESSORIES ON BOTH FEATURES
including NATIONAL SCREEN TRAILERS
Sole Representatives of
SACK AMUSEMENT ENTERPRISES
Colored Cast Pictures for Kansas and Missouri
W. LEE NORRIS
Distributor
PHONE VICTOR 1647 KANSAS CITY, MO. 1820 WYANDOTTE ST.

DES MOINES

MERRY day-after Christmas! At least that's when you'll be reading this. Mitzi wanted a typewriter, a desk, a printing press and a pouch pocket book to wear over her shoulder like those Mrs. Emil Franke always carries. She got the printing press from Ken Clayton, and Newsman Ken couldn't work it himself. Because BOXOFFICE was too busy to go, Mitzi at age 4¾ covered the Variety Club shut-in party at the Paramount. Here's the copy she turned in verbatim: "There was little Bo-Peep draggin' their tails behind 'em, and people throwin' pies, and a show that didn't make me cry. They gave everybody candy and peanuts . . . Renee, how do blind people get downtown?"

Since it's the holiday season, this might be the spot in which to mention a few of the Row's itsy-bitsies. There's Al Schuyler's little Carole with a Christmas name and golden curls lovelier than those on any of Santa's 15-buck dolls . . . Virginia, better known as "Wimpy" and "Ginger," is the fiery little red-head who rules the roost at the Roy Chansky residence and even does a little dictating to Messrs. Carter and Chansky when she visits at Service Theatre . . . Then there's the Sokolof bambinos, Florence who likes to dance and Phyllis who keeps the Carl Sokolof residence quiet like a boiler factory . . . Bert Thomas of Republic has a little Phyllis too, and also a Bert jr. who was born on Bert sr.'s birthday . . . Chick Friedman (no, he hasn't been and isn't going to be married), always a kibitzer, brags about his niece, Janice Ann, whom he calls "Punk." No. 2 kibitzer is Lou Levy, whose sister has the most wonderful child in the world so far as Lou's concerned.

That key chain that spells Paramount Plugger Bill Lansburg's name is going to be the most apropos p. a. gadget in existence when Bill gets it wired with Neon as he has sworn he would . . . Monroe Rubinger, the "Baby Contest" promoter, won't be bachelor long when the gals find out he not only is an expert with the diaper, but knows what temperature baby's milk oughta be.

It all depends on how fast Gulliver can travel . . . if he moved fast enough, youngsters of R&T *employes were witnessing a free showing of "Gulliver's Travels" Saturday morning . . . As this was written, the print wasn't in town yet. The idea came from Bob Gillham via Bill Lansburg.*

That Thursday night party staged by Bill Scholl and Nicky Goldhammer turned out to be a treasure hunt, looking for a place where they could get some Golden Wedding on the hoof. They finally spent a quiet evening trying to avoid disrupting the sedate atmosphere at the Franklin and turned in at 11:30. A headache the night before prevents one the next day, boys.

Newest screen-tested individual from Des Moines turns out to be Gardner Cowles, dignified publisher of the R&T. *At least the senior Cowles was posing for "moom pitchers" all last Saturday a. m. His employes are scheduled to see him in action at a hooraw dinner January 7.*

"Gulliver's" getting all the current play around here, but don't count "Pinocchio" out. Over at the galleries of the Des Moines Ass'n of Fine Arts there's a swell exhibit of 50 original drawings of Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." If that doesn't help promote the new Disney number, S. Barret McCormick had better set a one-man Gestapo to work.

Impresario Cuthbert Smith is relating the comment of Tribune *Reporter Russ Schroch on Cuthbert's next picture venture here. Smith told Russ about the pictures, upcoming at the Beaver, January 16. Said Schoch:*

"That's a good title for ANYTHING YOU promote."

The picture is "Grand Illusion," which needs no added praise.

Incidentally, Smith cut his price for

(Continued on page 72-B)

KANSAS CITY

Season's Greetings

FROM

RUBE MELCHER, Popcorn Distributor

HANDLING THE BEST POPCORN AND FLAV-O-NUT SEASONING

GRand 0672 — 1717 Wyandotte St.

POPPERS' SUPPLY CO. . . . . Kansas City, Mo.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.
Blowers, washers, spray nozzels, office and home units.
Special Offer—Priced to Sell.
Why Pay More?
G. A. Peterson
VIctor 4075 — 316 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, Mo.

A. A. Electric Machinery Co.
Ernest Amoneno, Mgr.
1117 Cherry St. — Phone: Victor 8796

Holmes Projector Theatre Supply
Projectors and Sound for the Largest and Smallest Theatre—Also Portable 16 mm and 35 mm equipment.
1820 Wyandotte St. Kansas City, Mo. HA. 7472

Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co.
Distributors for
RCA, Brenkert, U. S. Air, Heywood-Wakefield
126 West 18th St. — GR. 2864 — Kansas City, Mo.
708 West Grand Ave. — Oklahoma City, Okla.

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.
1804 Wyandotte St.
C. H. Badger, Mgr. — Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't
Wichita, Kas.
C. D. Peck, Mgr. — Phone 2-2153

EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

Independent Theatre Owners Association
1214 Brush Creek Road — VAlentine 2770
E. E. Webber jr., Pres. — John Wolfberg, Sec.

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
Frank Cassil, Pres. — Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

AIR CONDITIONING

National Air Conditioning and Engineering Corp.
VI. 3535
213 West 19th St.—Kansas City, Mo.
Manufacturing—Engineering—Installation

SOUND SERVICE

K. C. SOUND SERVICE
Syncrofilm Sound Equipment and Service
1818 Wyandotte St.
W. P. Humston — HA 4783

SCREEN PUBLICITY

Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: HIland 2694

Five RCA Sound Jobs Are Reported in the Midwest

KANSAS CITY—New RCA sound has been installed by Art Pugh in his new State, 450-seat house at Columbus, Kas.; by Dick Fryer in his new house (yet unnamed) at Venita, Okla.; by J. E. Pennington in the Cozy, Topeka, Kas.; by Ray Minor in the Ralston, Moran, Kas., and by Forrest Judd in the new Lake, Storm Lake, Ia.



DES MOINES

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

GOOD WISHES

UNIVERSAL FILM EXCHANGE

Jere Spandau

Joe Smith — Ralff Olson

DES MOINES

The Season's Greetings

From

DES MOINES FILM CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

Film Transportation — **Inland Film Express**

Iowa Film Delivery

Morris Smith — C. F. Baldwin
Chas. F. Iles — H. E. McKinney

Members of the National Film Carriers Association Incorp.

Season's Greetings

From

SERVICE THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

514-12th Street — Des Moines, Iowa

J. W. CARTER — ROY CHANSKY

Merry Xmas — Happy New Year — Merry Xmas
Happy New Year — Merry Xmas — Happy New Year
in other words

WE WISH YOU ALL

A Very Merry Christmas
A Most Happy New Year

Des Moines Theatre Supply Co.

1121 High Street — DES MOINES, IOWA

THE MONOGRAM DES MOINES GANG

Wishes You and Yours

Everything Good for the New Year

MERRY XMAS!

F. E. JUDD — WALT LOHMAN
BILL KUBITZKI — OPAL JUDD
MARGUERITE LEWIS — CLEO CURRENT
FRANK KAPPLER — GLEN FOLSOM

Columbia Picture Corp.

Extends

HEARTIEST GREETINGS

MEL EVIDON, Branch Manager

ARTHUR B. LEAK — MILT GOODMAN
MARVIN GODWIN — O. W. "BING" MILLER

SEASON'S GREETINGS

NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE CORP.

Pre-Vues — Accessories

L. C. "CHICK" FRIEDMAN

BEN LASS

MIKE ROTH

WE ALL WISH YOU

CHRISTMAS CHEER

And Joy During the Year

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

1115 High Street, Des Moines, Iowa

AL SCHUYLER — JOHN STENOISH
HERB LOEFFLER — GERTRUDE HARTMAN

FROM OMAHA'S FILMROW



Greetings With Best Wishes
For Christmas and the New Year

COLUMBIA PICTURES

JOE H. JACOBS, Branch Manager

FRED HORN — JACK ZIDE
ELMER DUNAS — ROBERT ADLER

MONOGRAM PICTURES

DISTRIBUTORS OF NEBRASKA

and

American Distributing Corp.

Send Holiday Greetings

Sol Francis — Joe Rosenberg

A Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year

Western Theatre Supply Co.

F. A. VAN HUSAN, President

HOWARD HARVEY — HAROLD NEWMANN
HARRY COYNE

Compliments of the Season

Warner Bros.-First National

SID ROSE, Branch Manager

FRANK HANNON — LEON DIZON
LEON MENDELSON — ALICE NEAL
S. A. MADSEN — BILL WINK

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

20th Century-Fox

JOE E. SCOTT, Branch Manager

HARRY LEVY — GORDON HALLORAN
H. P. IRONFIELD — RUBE WAGLE
FRED C. MILLER — T. HILTON FONDA jr.

Gayest Wishes for the Year

REPUBLIC PICTURES

Midwest, Inc.

CARL REESE — JOHNNY McBRIDE
HARRY LEFHOLTZ — VIVIAN SCHERTZ
BETTY O'BRIEN — L. VON DOLLEN

THE PERSONNEL OF

QUALITY THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

1511 Davenport Street

SENDS YOU AND YOURS
A Very Merry Xmas
and a Happy New Year

Christmas Cheer
and Joy During the Year

United Artists

D. V. McLUCAS, Branch Manager

LEO J. DOTY — W. E. BARKER
HARRY R. BARKER — JAY SCHLANK
ED ROSTERMUNDT



FROM OMAHA'S FILMROW

The Season's Best Wishes

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

HARRY J. SHUMOW, Branch Manager

V. B. TRENT — FRED THORTSEN
CARL NEDLEY — CHARLES LIEB
H. W. LAMBERT — BILL RUTHHART
HAZEL ANDERSEN

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

MIKE ROTH

NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE

1514 Davenport Street

WALTER M. GREEN

and

FEPCO THEATRE ADVERTISERS

221-223 North 16th Street

Send You and Yours the Season's Greetings

Best Wishes for the New Year

RKO Radio Pictures

RUSSELL EGNER, Branch Manager

J. P. SMITH — DANNY MARTIN
ED STENGEL — NORMAN NIELSEN
REGINA MOLSEED

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from

CAPITOL PICTURES

and

BANK NIGHT

MEYER L. STERN — SAMUEL H. STERN
MAX ROSENBLATT

SCOTT-BALLANTYNE CO.

WISHES YOU AND YOURS
A VERY MERRY XMAS
and a
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

A Merry Christmas

and

S. R. O. for 1940

Monte Davis

BOXOFFICE

OMAHA

Paramount Pictures

DISTRIBUTING CO.

Extends Heartiest Greetings

A. MENDENHALL, Branch Manager

B. A. TOMTE — BILL HAARMANN
C. W. WEEKES — TOM KENYON
E. I. RUBIN — WENDELL OVERTURF
WAYNE STEPHENSON

MINNEAPOLIS

"KELLY" EVIDON, ad sales department head, was in charge of the Warner Club Christmas party, and it was a very nice party, too . . . Don Guttman resigning from the Universal sales staff to embark on a career as an exhibitor in Wisconsin . . . Mannie Sgutt of Columbia is one salesman who isn't so happy about Christmas. It means a vacation and that keeps him away from his very good South Dakota friends . . . Bill Grant, Warner city salesman, sent out a nifty Christmas card. It was a picture of him and "his" "Four Wives"—the Lane Sisters. Very clever idea.

Danny Madden of the RKO Omaha sales staff here to spend Christmas with his friend, Tommy Charack, Warner live-wire salesman. You may see them together at the Minnesota Terrace, the town's swankiest night spot, almost any night with two of Tommy's many glamorous girl friends . . . The Rev. James K. Friedrich, 33-year-old Episcopal minister of Red Wing, Minn., who went to Hollywood to produce a Biblical picture, "The Great Commandment," has sold the film to 20th-Fox for distribution.

Before stepping out as Chief Barker of the Twin City Variety Club this week, after two terms of real substantial achievement during which the organization reached a new high of philanthropic and other activity and increased greatly in size, W. A. Steffes paid well-deserved compliments to George Granstrom, Abe A. Kaplan and Harry Dryer, fellow members, for their valuable assistance. They have worked hard, faithfully and efficiently and merit the thanks of the club, Steffes said.

Free turkey will be served to members at the Twin City Variety Club the Saturday before Christmas. There'll be a New Year's eve celebration at the club Sunday, December 31. The first meeting of the new year will be held the last Monday night in January, the 29th . . . Harold Lyons, 20th-Fox salesman, summoned to his home at Hamilton, Ont., by his father's serious illness . . . Charlie Jackson presented Tommy Characks, fellow Warner salesman, with a Mexican wine bucket and now he's partaking freely of Tommy's hospitality. The bubbling water flows freely at Tommy's cozy apartment and Charlie is a frequent and welcome visitor.

Moe A. Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, and the family to California for the holidays . . . Ben Blotcky and the wife celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary and the holidays at Miami, Fla. . . . RKO launching a playdate drive January 27 . . . Ben Spewak, theatre magnate, presented Billy Elson of the Seventh Street with a lavish desk set for a Christmas gift . . . Jack Cohen, 20th-Fox salesman, in Florida for his annual mid-winter vacation. His brother, Lou, also of the 20th-Fox sales staff, will spend Christmas and New Year's in New York, accompanied by the missus.

Harry Hirsch and Harry Katz reopening their Gayety with stock burlesque, December 29. House has been dark several weeks. Katz spent the week in Chicago recruiting his new company . . . Snow and cold finally has hit the town and it looks as though the golf season—longest on record—finally is over for Bill Elson, Ben Friedman, Bennie Berger and the rest of the boys . . . Reno Wilk handling "Birth of a Nation," "Ecstasy," "War Is a Racket," "Why This War?" and "It Can Happen Again" in this territory. Has new "Birth of a Nation" prints and accessories and held a screening for 35 exhibitors last week. The exhibitors were loud in its praise, declaring "The Birth" is still a great show.

Charlie M. Weiner, the Monogram man, and his family will spend the Christmas holidays at Grand Forks, S. D. The missus and children will remain there until after the New Year, but Charlie will commute back and forth to Minneapolis and surrounding territory . . . Sam Sherman has been appointed manager of the new White Bear, Minn., theatre. The owner is Sam Ratner of Minneapolis . . . Morrie Abrams, M-G-M exploiteer, back from Seattle where he attended the wedding of his daughter, Lois . . . Morgan Ames, Mort H. Singer's general manager, a visitor, conferring with Bill Sears, Orpheum manager.

Wife of Paul Brunnell, Solon Springs, N. D., exhibitor, recovering from an appendectomy . . . Father of Glyde Snyder, Minnesota Theatre master of ceremonies, passed away . . . A. P. Bill, genial and popular RCA Photophone representative, and the wife in Kansas City to spend Christmas with relatives. Bill, a wireless operator in the British navy in the last World War, but now a naturalized American, is considered an authority on present war developments and his opinions have been eagerly sought around the Twin City Variety Club.

Ted Bolnick, Eddie Ruben's man in La Crosse, Wis., a visitor . . . The numerous friends of Edward Auger, RCA Photophone assistant sales manager, will regret to learn that his wife recently passed away in Montreal . . . Paramount Pep Club held its Christmas party at the Twin City Variety Club . . . Paramount held an invitation screening of "The Great Victor Herbert" and the comment was highly favorable . . . The wife of F. Rieger, Universal home office auditor, flew here from New York to join her husband, who is completing his duties at the local exchange.

Western Theatre Supply Handles Cyclex Lamps

OMAHA—Western Theatre Supply Co. of Omaha has been named exclusive distributor in this area of Cyclex lamps, according to F. A. Van Husan, president. Mrs. Mary Ashcraft, president of Ashcraft Manufacturing Co. of New York, was here to close the deal.

Van Husan said the Winn and Arbor theatres here already have been equipped with the lamps. Other installations reported by Van Husan:

Gay Hower, State, Worthington, Minn., projectors; Morris Cohn, Strand, Council Bluffs, Ia., drapes; C. E. Bradshaw, Inland, Martin, S. D., sound equipment; Bill Donahue, New, Avon, S. D., and R. L. Andress, Ponca, Ponca, Neb., amplifiers; DuWayne Hartzell, Rivoli, Charter Oak, Ia., screen.

OMAHA

HERE's a good chance to wish every exhibitor and filmite in the Omaha trade territory a Merry Christmas from the Omaha scribe for BOXOFFICE—M. D.

Harry Watts, former manager of the Omaha Theatre, is recovering at the home of his mother in Omaha from a serious operation. Harry weighed 227 pounds when he was an Omaha exhibitor and now tips the scales at 130 pounds. He manages a string of five theatres in Wheeling, W. Va.

Reports from elsewhere . . . Charlie Schlaifer, former Omaha theatre man, is now manager of the United Artists Theatre in Frisco . . . Charlie Uphoff, who once wore an usher's uniform at local Tri-States houses, is now in the army aviation division in Manilla . . . John Quinlan, former Brandeis assistant manager, is in New Orleans.

R. E. Falkinburg, owner of the Majestic and Ralf theatres at Lexington, Neb., and one of our better-known exhibitors, staged his annual Christmas party and parade for the kids there. It was a big affair with all the treats on Falkinburg. Among the kids attending the party were the following film peddlers from Omaha: Joe Rosenberg, Monogram; Leon Mendelson, Warner; Danny Martin, RKO; Elmer Dunas, Columbia, and Harry Lefholtz, Republic.

Most unusual Christmas card in the mail is from Walt Green and Mrs. Green. It's two feet by four feet in size and features a dandy picture of the Greens . . . Also a nice card from Sid McArdle and frau. He's the United Artists shipper and alleged golfer.

Tri-States home office at Des Moines practically moved to Omaha for the legal battle with Ralph Goldberg. Although Ralph Branton, general manager, was the only one to take the stand, also present were A. H. Blank, L. McKechneay and Joe Deitch. E. R. Cummings, district manager with headquarters in Omaha, also an interested spectator.

Lou Egart, Brandeis treasurer, due back from New Orleans after a vacation trip . . . Eddie Forester, former Omaha Theatre manager, had a story printed in a national magazine this month. Eddie is now in California . . . Defendants' answer in the local anti-trust suit is due soon.

An exhibitor in the Omaha area has asked the local scribs of BOXOFFICE *if any other exhibitors in this territory have copies of* BOXOFFICE *back to* 1935 *or* 1936. *If you do, write or tell any booker at any of the exchanges on Davenport street . . . Local exchanges have started their annual Xmas parties.*

Leon Dizon would make a good newspaper reporter if he's ever fired as film peddler. (We're only kidding, Mr. Rose!) . . . It's a secret but Tri-States employes will get a bonus this year, as usual . . . A bunch of orchids for the Omaha exhibitors who had a charity matinee for the Salvation Army.



MINNEAPOLIS

Best of Yule-Tide and New Year's Greetings

COLUMBIA PICTURES

H. J. CHAPMAN, Branch Manager

AL AVED — MAX MAZUR

DON CONLEY — IRVING MARKS

MANNIE SGUTT

MINNEAPOLIS

THE SEASON'S BEST TO EVERYBODY



Monogram Pictures

Ben L. Nathanson — Charlie M. Wiener

BEST WISHES FOR THE YEAR



Warner Brothers-First National

TOMMY CHARACK — MYRON ADCOCK

EARL PERKINS — CHARLIE JACKSON

ERNIE HILL — BILL GRANT

HENRY HERBEL, District Manager

C. K. OLSON, Minneapolis Branch Manager

SEASON'S GREETINGS



20TH CENTURY-FOX

HAROLD LYONS — LOU COHEN

NORWOOD HALL — EARL LORENTZ

JACK COHEN — BILL MUSSMAN

PAUL LUNDQUIST — HAROLD LUNDQUIST

J. M. PODOLOFF, Minneapolis Branch Manager

M. A. LEVY, District Manager

Xmas Greetings and All Good Wishes for the New Year



RCA Photophone

(Magic Voice of the Screen)

A. P. BILL, Northwest Sales Representative

E. D. VAN DUYNE, Service Engineer.

E. M. KARCHER, Service Engineer.

Heartiest Greetings of the Season



MAJESTIC PICTURES

J. L. STERN

DES MOINES

(Continued from page 28)

"Three Waltzes," but plans to whoop it again for the "Illusion."

Never again will Stan Mayer be able to complain about insufficient publicity. The story of his 20th Century-Fox film party at the Fort Des Moines popped up in two places in the *Trib*—once on Page 3 and again on Page 10. Stan insists it isn't because he called up about it twice, and we believe him. But how many others will? . . . It was really a great whingding with Barney Brotman of Moline's Paradise getting a new slant on Des Moines' night life and Harry Gottlieb putting his bulk to superb use—as Santa Claus.

Central States bought another ticket on that merry-go-round: Lloyd Taylor says of last BOXOFFICE, *"T'aint funny, McGee" . . . but there, there, Lloyd, the gang was only trying to have a good time at your expense. They had no idea your sense of humor couldn't afford it, and they knew all the time that the house that Lloyd built was built on Lloyd's vacation time . . . Ralph Newmann, the alleged lady-killer, is still in the dating line . . . Frank Snowden ought to get a patent on that laugh of his . . . Thelma Crittenden has a new hair-do and looks ten years younger (which puts you in rompers, doesn't it, Thelma?)*

We would be looking at "Four Wives" tonight instead of writing BOXOFFICE, but Art Anderson gave us a bum steer. We hope he's better informed on the date for his party which we expect to attend. We did a little curbstone reporting in front of Michaels' the other noon. We met the renowned Nicky Goldhammer, RKO Prairie district manager who is filling the gap while Lou Elman is in the hospital (hope you feel better now, Lou), Nate Sandler, Chick Friedman and Mel Evidon with toothpick akimbo.

Paul Walsh says Joe Ancher has backed clear down to next spring now on that two-can - live - as - expensive - as - one venture. Paul's also complaining about those sticky special deliveries flying in and out of Vitagraph just dripping with honey . . . Add Gladys Sellner of Chick Friedman's bevy of beauties to the distinctive dimple group. It's a singleton in her left cheek and very deep . . . Grace Simons, who specializes in advice to the lovelorn and even writes their letters d'amour for them, can't practice what she preaches. That political (that is, G. O. P.) friend of hers has her on the run.

Memos to managers:

Kennedy: Beanie Zwart wants to know who designed those "awful" French creations for Garbo.

Mayer: When you see the Joad family, it'll give you an idea of how we felt when you didn't buy that ad.

Copeland: Why don't you tell us when you're gonna be gone a month on a winter vacation?

Elman: Ted Metzgar over at the Associated Press is turning cartwheels since seeing that March of Time release on news service activities.

Evidon: We found an exhibitor who says there are only two film production experts in Hollywood. Capra is one of them.

Spandau: W. C. Fields got a job with Universal without getting HIS nose remodeled, didn't he?

Anderson: Why won't anyone tell us the nickname they pinned on you up at Leech lake?

Judd: Oh, so you did read it.

You'd never guess it from Chick Friedman's sweet disposition, but he's got a boil on his neck! Frank Greenland claims that strange-looking rock he uses for a paper weight is the head off a pre-historic golf club . . . Those two new theatre chairs in at National Screen are reputed to have come out of the best theatre in Omaha, but how? That gorgeous new gal at Central States switchboard is Charlotte Gloe (not Glow, but she does) . . . See here, Bob Ringler, do you remember when Joe Smith introduced you as Frank Capra at the Hill Top in East Dubuque?

Wonder if the plan to revoke school kids' street car passes because they're so ill-behaved on the trolleys will cut down on theatre attendance? . . . "What a Life" will be worn to shreds in DM by time the flicker gets here. It's been done by Jackie Coogan on the stage and is next up at the Kendall Playhouse . . . We saw Madge Ward and Madrine, the gal with the chicken-licken surname, doing their Christmas shopping.

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

THAT getting-arounder exploiteer who found the liquor gone out of his car and a thank-you note written with lip stick in its place, probably doesn't know 'til now that the sweet, pious little note really dripped with venom.

Bert Thacker, younger brother of George Thacker who runs the Bend at West Bend, is operating a house at Fenton, Ia., now.

We'd like to know what Henry Plude, manager of the Rocket in Rock Island, ever did to deserve that nickname of his, "The Old Hen?" S'pose he laid an egg?

One Filmrow female is gunning for kittenish Lou Kahn of the Grand in DM because of his telephone tricks.

The following were among those who enjoyed beer and skittles with Art Anderson and "Four Wives" last week: The Gibbs from the Strand at Marengo, the Davises of the Monte in Montezuma, Nate Rosenthal from the New Iowa in Waterloo, N. C. Rice of the New Call and Iowa in Algona, R. C. Fern from the Churdanat Churdan, Bruce Powell of the Fox in Nora Springs, and Don Bloxham of the Palace in Exira.

It's time to exploit in Iowa. Farmers' income for the first ten months totaled $487,112,000. That's an increase of 13.5 per cent over the same period in 1938, the agricultural economics bureau reported.

One guy who's all wound up in the change of management at Grinnell college ("Iowa college at Grinnell," the diplomas say) is Charles City's Dick Phillips. Dick used to be a prize orator there and that's where he started watching boxoffice figures.

There's always a winner who never fails in those eastern Iowa theatres sponsoring Bingo games. That's the state tax collector. No matter who wins the prize, the state is supposed to win its two per cent when the promotor buys the trinkets. The entire matter came to light when the state tax commission investigated reports that theatre operators were evading the tax—and found that they weren't.

Ray Lumsden was in from the Pastime at Iowa City doing a little getting around, but he had nothing to do with the fact that Gilley Wells broke the record that night. Appropriately enough, it was Gilley's very best recording of "Sweet Adeline."

In a wire to Art Anderson, Doc Twedt of the Lida at Manly waxed poetic over the success of "Dust Be My Destiny." To quote Doc: "Do tears in their eyes mean smiles for the exhib?"

We heard that S. L. Bush of Hubbard had a fire, but we've never been able to get the details.

Louis Clemmons, formerly operator for D. C. Schlemmer of Mt. Vernon and Cedar Rapids, now has a circuit of his own which includes Lacona, Milo, and Storm. Louis Lives in Knoxville.

Everybody snickers when we repeat that somebody told us Ed Recknagel of the Amuzu in Fonda has been riding around on the wagon.

Leo Wolcott of the Grand in Eldora, Jack Bouma of the Rialto in Pocahontas and Carroll Lane of the Lane circuit from Carroll were on the Row last week.

Adolph and Mrs. Hatton of Truro ran their last show Sunday, December 17.

Talent Scout Returns

HOLLYWOOD—Agent Hal Cooley returns from a three-week trip to New York after looking over plays and talent and conferring with eastern associates.

Says "Wind" Not Yet Set For "Twin City" Datings

MINNEAPOLIS—"Gone With the Wind" hasn't been set in the Twin Cities yet, according to John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Company general manager. "We're still negotiating," he says, "and don't know yet what the deal will be."

Unconfirmed reports in local film circles had been to the effect that the M-G-M super-picture already had been contracted for to play two weeks at both the State and Century in the loop here day and date at $1.10 and $1.65 and then would move to the Uptown at the same admission scale, following which it would be available for all other neighborhood houses desiring to play it, with the $1.65 top still prevailing.

12 Omaha Theatres Hold Annual "Food Matinee"

OMAHA—Twelve suburban Omaha theatres held their annual "food matinee" for the local Salvation Army with canned goods the admission price for children attending. All of the food goes to charity.

Operators and theatre employes contributed their time for the event. Local exchanges furnished film, with arrangements handled by Omaha Variety Club through Eddie Shafton, secretary, and Regina Molseed, RKO booker.

The following theatres participated: Avenue, Dundee, Military of R. D. Goldberg circuit; Benson, Circle, Corby, Lothrop and Roseland of Sam Epstein circuit; Minne Lusa, Carl Olsen; Muller, Lawrence Grobeck; Muse, Irving Gossick; North Star, J. Erle Kirk.

Federer Has Two-for-One Varsity Opening Days

LINCOLN—The first two-for-one in local film history was put in practice here by Howard Federer, general manager of Nebraska Theatres, Inc., when he installed it for the Varsity for the first two days' opening of each picture.

Town was flooded with coupons, presentation of which, with a paid adult admission, carried a second admission privilege. He is using it for a pre-Christmas business getter, rather than resort to bundle-wrapping, etc.

"Blondie" Story by Lake

HOLLYWOOD—"Blondie Gets a Job," an original by Arthur Lake who plays "Dagwood" in the Blondie series, has been purchased by Columbia.

Tell 'Em, Mike

LINCOLN—Mike Roth may have courted his bride of a month for nine years, before he changed her name from Sally Silverman (New York) to Mrs. Mike, but he's allowing no grass to grow under his feet. He was on Theatrerow this week sporting a picture of his baby.

It's one of National Screen's one-sheets, and Mike, being ribbed by the boys, was asked if the 1940 bannered across the front of the punk was the price—or when!

LINCOLN

ELMER TILTON, note: That company of yours (Republic) is now making a move which will be very popular in Nebraska, negotiating to interest Paul Christman, the Missouri football team's passer, in becoming a Republic cowboy actor. Anything—to get him out of that Missouri backfield next year.

Howard Federer went to Texas to visit his mother, prior to Christmas . . . Incidentally, nobody around here ever hears from Alvin Hendricks, who used to be Federer's sidekick, but who left town and the show business better than four months ago . . . The foot-loose Booth of Booth Bros. enterprises, formerly Nebraska City and Auburn, was in town saying goodbye to the boys, prior to leaving for California. Makes the second exec in a little more than a year to sell and go west, Ralph Blank being the first.

Maybe Orville Rennie would like to know the Sunday *Journal* and *Star* is getting a fistful of entries from Hastings, in the ten best poll of films . . . What's Harry Shumow going to do now for a breathless adjective, what with "Gone With the Wind" upon him, and already taxing the critics' last colossals, . . . Buddy Rogers, one time screen star, now an orchestra leader, will play here January 7 at the Turnpike Casino . . . Mance Lofgren has a tough time keeping his mind on his work these nights, what with the Mrs. wheeling the very new junior down to the Stuart, and pappy wanting to show him off to the boys.

Now that Bob Livingston started all this ruckus against the Tums Pot O' Gold radio show, a New York insurance company has written to protect him against personal loss, or personal injury from certain radio advertising execs . . . First Christmas card landing on motion picture editors' desks this year was from the Warner publicity department, who believes in first impressions and followups . . . Second one here was from Harry Chipman, circus press agent, currently without a circus, but still in hopes they'll live again.

Harvey Traylor, after two weeks in the Lincoln listening to remodelers' hammers, says he has to pinch himself not to think Noah's building the ark right outside his office . . . Vincent DiFiore has had a stiff neck ever since he cased it in one of those boiled collars for the ball, and if it doesn't straighten out soon, he's going to give a vertebrae popper some business.

Hank Keller, the Altec man, threw a couple cylinders, a few bolts, and some old razor blades through the side of his automobile engine on one of those 80-mile-an-hour pony express rides to an exhib emergency . . . Report is that George "Hodge" Wright is going to get married out in Kearney, or already has. He's at the Empress there, George O. Monroe's action emporium.

Mowrey Helms Macon House

MACON, MO.—Doyle Mowrey is now managing the Macon Theatre here. He came here from Marceline, Mo.

Dairy Matches Twin City $20,000 Free Milk Fund

MINNEAPOLIS—Through a "deal" made by W. A. Steffes, retiring chief barker, a local milk company will match the $20,000 of free milk which the club will provide for needy families as its 1940 philanthropic activity.

Announcement to this effect was made at a dinner meeting this week to induct new officers as follows: Chief Barker, Ben Blotcky; first assistant chief barker, "Hy" Chapman; second assistant chief barker, Bill Donnelly; dough man, Joe Podoloff, and secretary, W. H. Workman.

In a brief talk, Theodore L. Hays, veteran theatre man and now a Minnesota Amusement company executive, paid a compliment to Steffes as "a wonderful leader who has done a fine job."

Variety Club "Adopts" Two Boys at Boys Town

MINNEAPOLIS — When it was suggested that the Twin City Variety club sent $180 to Father Flanagan to take care of one boy for a year at Boys Town, the directors voted to go that even one better. So they directed Chief Barker W. A. Steffes to send $360 to defray the expenses of keeping two lads there.

Lincoln "Best Ten" Poll Shows Three Favorites

LINCOLN—In the Sunday *Journal* and *Star's* balloting for the 10 best poll of motion pictures among its readers, three films come in on almost every list—"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Union Pacific," and "The Women."

New Safety Campaign

MINNEAPOLIS—Fred Ableson and A. L. (Archie) Zacherl, RKO and Universal salesmen, respectively, broke into the Duluth *News-Tribune* while they were in the head-of-the-lakes' city on business. Said the *News-Tribune*:

"The United Deer Protective and Safety herd, composed entirely of safety-minded deer, held a night session at a watering spot somewhere in the woods back of Duluth last night.

" 'I suppose a Make November the Safest Month campaign,' recommended Mrs. Mary Doe.

" 'Why the suddent interest in safety?' asked John Buck, grand antler of the herd.

" 'The day before yesterday, one of our lady members went walking along road No. 61 near Esko and she was struck by a car driven by Fred Ableson of Minneapolis,' answered Mrs. Doe. 'Just as she was hit, another car, driven by A. L. Zacherl, also of Minneapolis, came along and hit her again.'

" 'Deer me,' said John, 'there are either too many cars or too many members in our club.'

" 'I make a motion,' proposed little June Fawn, 'that we write a letter to Joe Brickner, the district game warden, asking him to warn motorists to be a little careful. And as for ourselves, I suggest we keep to our deer paths from now on.' "

"Enclosed find my check for renewal.

Among the many features of The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry BOXOFFICE that are very helpful to me are the *Booking Chart* and the *Reviews* and I wish to commend you on your policy of calling a spade a spade and a lemon a lemon in your reviews."

Sincerely yours,

---W. O. Woody

STOCKTON THEATRE,

STOCKTON, MO.

Family in Detroit To Change Hands

DETROIT—One of Detroit's oldest and best known downtown theatres, the Family, is changing hands, but will remain under the same management. John H. Harris, head of Harris Amusement Co. and national president of Variety Clubs of America, whose father founded the Family here about 1908, is dissolving the owning company and withdrawing from his theatre interests in Michigan.

A new Family Theatre Co. is being formed by Edgar E. Kirchner, who has managed the house since 1910, and the Kanter Estate, which owns the building. Kirchner has been a stockholder and director of the old company for years, so that no important changes in management or policy are likely.

Lawrence Katz to Gotham Exchange Union Parley

PITTSBURGH—Lawrence J. Katz, IATSE executive, departed for New York Monday as official representative for the film exchange employes union of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Washington. He had no announcement for publication regarding demands of the unions, but stated he would meet with six district representatives of the film exchange employes on Tuesday, and on Thursday this committee would meet with representatives of the various distributing companies.

In Pittsburgh it was said wage increases of between 15 and 25 per cent would be asked for film shippers, inspectors and other "back room" employes.

Obtain a 20-Year Lease On Empress, Columbus

COLUMBUS—A 20-year lease has been given to the Empress Amusement Co., a newly incorporated concern, on the Empress Theatre here calling for payment of $550 a month rental, starting December 10.

The company was formed recently by Rodney B. Baldwin, James A. Nolan and Elinore Strong. Subsequently, stockholders elected Wallace B. Ingram of Reynoldsburg, manager of the Champion Theatre, president; Walter P. Miles, operator at the state division of film censorship, vice-president, and Mrs. Ethel Miles, manager of the Garden Theatre, secretary-treasurer.

Prize Pictures of Past Are Displayed by DeHaven

DETROIT—A vacant store window near the Belmont is being used for display of stills from prize pictures of the past five years by Manager A. Milo DeHaven.

Trademarks of the producers, a huge replica of the Academy Award, and big blowups of the trade papers giving special awards, including BOXOFFICE, are used by DeHaven to lend interest to his display.

Meet in Three Cities to Plan Way to Fight "Pot O' Gold"

COLUMBUS—Meetings were held this week in Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati as the ITO of Ohio swung into its campaign to nullify the adverse boxoffice effect of the Tums "Pot O' Gold" Tuesday night radio broadcast.

Called by P. J. Wood, ITO of Ohio secretary, the meetings were to consider the following details of the plan as outlined by Wood:

"(1) Each participating theatre will deposit with this association an amount equal to three cents per seat. These deposits shall be kept in a special fund and be used only for the purpose of paying any winner who may be in a participating theatre when the Tums 'Pot O' Gold' award is made on Tuesday nights.

"(2) In the event that an award is paid out of this fund, the participating theatres shall then be assessed their pro rata share of the award. For example: If the award is $2,000, and theatres having a total of 200,000 seats are participating, the assessment will be one cent per seat; if the award is $4,000, the assessment will be two cents per seat.

"(3) When the campaign is ended, the remaining deposit shall be returned pro rata to each participating theatre."

The program, Wood said, has become so popular that it is now officially ranked among the first five in number of listeners.

Obtain Support for Drive Against "Pot O' Gold"

COLUMBUS—After a slow start, P. J. Wood, secretary of the ITO of Ohio, announces sufficient theatres are interested in the "Pot O' Gold" campaign to put it in operation. Wood states every effort will be made to assure its success.

Industry's Heart Is Big on Christmas

By ELSIE LOEB

CLEVELAND—Probably nowhere in the world is the Christmas season so universally celebrated as in the motion picture industry. Starting with the exchanges, where they gather in relatively small groups, the celebrations extend to theatres, many of which hold special kid benefit shows. The Variety Club always does things up in a big way and this year entertained almost 400 underprivileged children.

Several unusual theatre benefits have been reported. In Uhrichsville, A. K. Veach held a "broken toy" matinee at his State. A broken toy was the price of a ticket. These "wrecks" were then turned over to the local fire department where they were put into shape.

Ray Allison, manager of the Shaker in Cleveland, held his fourth annual Christmas party, the big event of which was the giving out of six door prizes—three for boys and three for girls.

Julius Lamm at Warner's Uptown and Lou Milder at Warner's Variety tied up with local merchants and put on a big stage show with gifts for the children. Admission was food stuffs, which was distributed to the neighborhood needy.

121 Shows to Shut-ins by Detroit Variety in 1939

DETROIT—The Detroit Variety Club gave 121 free shows to shut-ins during 1939, Welfare Chairman Arthur Robinson, informs BOXOFFICE. These shows, originated by this tent, were given at hospitals, schools, camps for underprivileged children, nunneries, etc. This number represents an increase of one-third over 1938, Robinson said.

Detroit Film Council Would Set Up Information Bureau

DETROIT—The Greater Detroit Motion Picture Council sponsored a bridge party Tuesday at the Variety Club. An immediate objective of the party, according to Mrs. Jackylyne C. Mercer, press chairman, was the establishment of an information bureau on pictures in the public libraries of Detroit and suburbs.

This information bureau would cover legislation and pending legislation on pictures as well. A list of recommended films, prepared by Mrs. S. S. Sutherland, would be issued for the use of the general public.

Stern Books "Shut-In" Shows

PITTSBURGH—Variety Club's "shut-in" shows will be booked during 1940 by Tony Stern of the Warner Bros. circuit office.

J. O. Guthrie Improving Karolyn in New London

NEW LONDON, OHIO—J. O. Guthrie is completely renovating his Karolyn as a Christmas present to the people of New London. In addition to interior decorations, new chairs are being installed by National Theatre Supply. Guthrie closed for two days during the week, making it possible to stage a grand opening for Christmas with "Another Thin Man."

400 Underprivileged Kids Entertained by Variety

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Variety Club entertained some 400 underprivileged children at its annual Christmas Party in the clubrooms at the Allerton Hotel. There was entertainment, candy and toys for all.

A Party for Employes

CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO—A New Year's party for employes will be held by the management of the Grand here.

Squawks Against "Dark" Film Are Circulating in Detroit

DETROIT—Complaints of "dark" films have been current along Filmrow for the past couple of weeks.

A basic complaint was voiced by Al Rupert, owner of the Rupert, that certain types of scenes are so filmed as to be too dark in the print.

"Night scenes are made far too dark," Rupert said. "In cowboy pictures, which we often play at our house, for instance, the scenes are much darker than it is necessary to make them.

"The result is that the manager of a house tends to blame the operator for not getting the light through, and the operators then proceed to 'burn it up.' We have to buy new equipment often to try to improve the light quality of the product we show.

"This condition is true even in brand new prints. Older prints are notably worse, and, of course, have become brittle.

"The audience has to strain their eyes to see the pictures, and they get disgusted at the result."

Dark pictures on the screen were also criticized by Arthur Robinson, head of the Robinson Circuit, who ascribed the principal cause, however, to inadequate or too infrequent film cleaning.

"If exhibitors would wake up and complain about dirty prints," Robinson said, "the miserable evil of dark film would be eliminated. The trouble is chiefly in oil on dirty prints. Ninety per cent of the exchanges, both majors and independents, commonly send out dirty prints which have not been cleaned."

Picture Drawing Contest To Ballyhoo "Gulliver"

CLEVELAND—Milt Harris, publicity director for Loew's Theatres, effected a tieup with *The Press* in connection with "Gulliver's Travels," Christmas attraction at Loew's State, whereby six Stewart Warner radios were given as prizes for the best series of five hand-colored pictures submitted by children of Greater Cleveland under 12 years of age. In addition, 25 pairs of tickets for the show were awarded.

Early Thanksgiving No Boon to Trade

CLEVELAND — Advancing Thanksgiving one week might be a boon to merchants, but it does not make a hit with exhibitors in this territory. They say the additional week for Christmas shopping results in adding seven days to their annual pre-holiday slump. Evening shows have held to normal attendance, they report, but the matinees are definitely off.

Cites Indiana's Praise Of "Beast of Berlin"

CINCINNATI—Lee L. Goldberg, president of Big Feature Rights Exchanges, is distributing the comment of the *Bulletin-News*, official publication of the Indiana Indorsers of Photoplays on "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" ("Goose Step"). The article, in part:

"This outstanding picture is a vigorous human document, depicting the fearless, patriotic, unyielding conflict waged by a small group of zealous men and women who love their Fatherland better than life itself and who die willingly, even cheerfully, rather than surrender the liberties guaranteed them by the laws of God and the concepts of present-day humanity."

Friend to Helm

AKRON—DeWitt Friend has assumed the management of the Allen here. He is well known among local theatremen, having been a member of the Palace staff for six years.

Readied for Holidays

MCARTHUR, OHIO—The new Vinton here is being readied for a holiday opening. W. C. Smith is owner of the new 400-seat house.

COLUMBUS

SEASON'S GREETINGS from the Capital City! . . . Al Trott is the new IATSE president. He has been with Keith and RKO and currently is at the Grand. Reelected as business manager, was Herb Schell, of the scenic designing family.

Charity shows were staged by the Victor, Grandview and Drexel . . . Pete Wood was in Cincinnati Wednesday and Cleveland Thursday conducting meetings on the "Pot O' Gold" campaign . . . Milt Jacobs, Metro salesman, is vacationing.

The Variety Club entertained 300 youngsters from needy families last Sunday. C. Harry Schreiber opened up the Grand for a special show. Club's New Year's Eve party is scheduled to start at 11 and run "indefinitely." Reservations are limited to 200 at $3 per.

Clint Wander, Loew's Broad manager, was in Cleveland for the fights . . . Ed Churchill was in town on "Gulliver's Travels" for Paramount. Show is currently at the Ohio . . . Mike Cullen, Loew's division manager, says that GWTW has not been set in any of his theatres as yet, but should play here by the middle of January.

RKO employes held their Xmas party Friday midnight at the Palace. Larry Caplane was in charge . . . Bill Blum is working with Johnny Barcroft on "Hunchback of Notre Dame." He's out of RKO's New York office.

CINCINNATI

CARL ROHS, Cynthiana, Ky., here on a booking jaunt, announced the arrival of a new girl at the Rohs' home . . . Holland & France, owners of the Rockford, Rockford, Ohio, are said to be negotiating a deal for the erection of a new 300-seater at St. Mary's . . . Following the fire that razed the theatre at Warsaw, Ky., O. W. Plues has reopened the old theatre in Warsaw, naming it the Gem. Plues' home is at Simpsonville, Ky.

Twentieth-Fox night at Queen City Variety Club was a gala affair. J. J. Grady provided an excellent show and Lemuel Q. Bugie was master of ceremonies . . . Warner's screening of "Four Wives" drew many out-of-town exhibitors, including Mrs. Rose Thomas, Palace, Parkersburg, W. Va., and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Letsinger, Amherstdale, Ohio, who stayed over to Xmas shop and to spend several days with Charles Palmer, Columbia, and his wife at their country home in Withansville.

Many film salesmen have departed for Florida vacations, including E. A. Burkhard, 20th-Fox, and his bride; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Needham, also of 20th-Fox, and Mr. and Mrs. Max Margolis of Republic . . . Hugh Goding, office manager for National Theatre Supply for the past five years, has taken over the territory of Howard Hummel, resigned. Goding will make his home at Columbus, Ohio, where National has opened a new warehouse to facilitate shipments and to handle emergency stock for that immediate territory.

Lester Rosenfeld, building a new house in Dunbar, will forego his yearly Florida vacation, anticipating a longer stay later on in the Canadian mountains . . . Warner's William Carr is vacationing in New York . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ray Miller, Columbus, and Paul McRay, Avalon, Montgomery, Ohio, were in town . . . Schine will open their new theatre at Paris, Ky., December 29 . . . John Robertson's new Park, Bremen, Ohio, completely remodeled and equipped by Midwest Theatre Supply, is set for opening January 1.

Midwest Theatre Supply has reseated the L. B. Wilson, Liberty, Covington, Ky. . . . "Gone With the Wind" is experiencing an excellent advance sale here . . . M-G-M's Christmas party was voted the best ever held, with a special surprise show presented by the office personnel, a tree, an exchange of gifts and a handsome buffet supper. E. M. Booth was the recipient of a beautiful cellarette, and William Devanney, office manager, received a traveling kit and slippers. All present received gifts.

Earl Hewitt has taken over the theatre at Bethel, Ohio . . . National Theatre Supply disposed of seven jobs in their recent Simplex Sound campaign, ending December 15, according to announcement of Herman Hunt, manager. Business for the last quarter showed a healthy increase over last year, Hunt added. National has completely equipped H. T. Allen's two new theatres.

Miss Marianna Haley has joined the United Artists personnel . . . Maury White, president of United Theatres, entertained bookers with a beeksteak dinner.

Season's Greetings

TO ALL OF YOU
FROM ALL OF US



NAT L. LEFTON

MAX MARGOLIS

George Kirby
Rudy Knoepfle
Sam Haber
Curt Littman
Neal Knoepfle



SAM P. GORREL

Frank E. Belles
Leonard Mishkind
Rudy Norton
Jack Lefton
Al Gregg

And may 1940 bring you increasing good health, wealth and happiness

REPUBLIC PICTURES CORP.

CINCINNATI **OF OHIO** CLEVELAND

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FRANK BOYD

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
From
REAL ART PICTURES
Now Releasing
"TORPEDOED" and "HORROR SHOW"
N. H. GERSON
2300 Payne Ave. Cleveland

Season's Greetings
SHARP'S SERVICE STATION
Mobilgas — Mobiloil
Tires — Batteries
2103 Payne Ave. Cleveland, Ohio

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
OLIVER THEATRE SUPPLY, INC.
Only Independent Theatre Supply Dealer in the Cleveland Territory
L. P. LANGFORD
Secretary-Treasurer
Payne Ave. at East 23rd St. Cleveland

Holiday Greetings

FROM

LOCAL 160
I. A. T. S. E. & M. P. M. O.
CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND

ED FISHER, UA publicity man, temporarily weary of playing gentleman farmer, has sold his farm, disposed of all his livestock except his favorite dog, and has moved into town for the winter. But he still has his heart set on farming, so in the spring he will start farm shopping again.

On the other hand, Norman Levin, United Artists salesman, has offered his home on the market so that he and the missus can establish a home in the country . . . Tom Whyte, manager of the Capitol, was called to Montreal on account of the serious illness of his mother, because of which his wife postponed her anticipated operation until after the first of the year.

Harry Siegel of Standard Pictures, distributors of "The Mill on the Floss," is expected in town to assist Harry Lande of Independent Film Service, local distributor, close a first run showing of the picture, now in its fifth week at the Astor, New York City.

Nat Barach, pilot of the local National Screen Service office, sold 25 of those talking Santas in this territory . . . Schine circuit is reported getting ready to build a new theatre in Norwalk right after the first of the year to take the place of the Forum, which will either be converted into a "B" house or closed altogether.

Herbert Ochs, Vitagraph branch manager, hosted about 300 women at a special screening of "Four Wives" at the Colony. Opinion was generally expressed that this is the best of the series.

The Joseph Kauffmans of Universal plan to Christmas in Pittsburgh . . . Joe Minsky, Vitagraph city salesman, will spend Christmas with his folks in the good old home town of Philadelphia.

M-G-M-ers of the sales department will vacation the last two weeks of the year. The Buck Stoners and the Eddie Brauers will do their vacationing in Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank (M-G-M) Drew are spending their first Christmas in years at home. As a rule, they eat their Christmas turkey with Mrs. Drew's mother in Toledo. This year, Mrs. Drew's mother will come to Cleveland for the holidays.

None of the local Sherlock Holmes have been able to trace the origin of the orchids that Sylvia Amster of RKO sports weekly. All clues gratefully received by the committee of the curious.

M-G-M's Pep Club held its Christmas party last Friday. It started with dinner and distribution of gifts and ended with a screening of the newest M-G-M pictures . . . Joe Kauffman, Universal branch manager, says "First Love" is outgrossing

(Continued on page 78)

THE EXHIBITORS POSTER SERVICE CO.
Wishes its Many Friends a Joyous Holiday Season
PHILIP KENDIS LeROY KENDIS

1939-1940



LEO - of the Friendly Company

TO OUR MANY FRIENDS

We Take This Opportunity to Extend to You the Compliments of the Season — and to Wish You Happiness and Prosperity in the New Year

Metro - *Goldwyn* - Mayer

CLEVELAND PEP CLUB

Season's Greetings

FROM

MONOGRAM FILM DISTRIBUTORS, Inc.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

NATE SCHULTZ
President

SAM SCHULTZ

LEE CHAPMAN

JACK WITHERS

CHARLES KATES

Our Best Wishes
for
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
from
L. C. GROSS E. S. JOHNSON
MRS. ELMA ALBRECHT

Holiday Greetings
From
HARRY A. LANDE
of
INDEPENDENT FILM SERVICE
308 Film Building Cleveland

MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR
CARL SCHEUCH
and
BERNARD RUBIN
of
BIG FEATURE RIGHTS EXCHANGES, Inc.
and
PRODUCERS DISTRIBUTING CORP.
505 Film Building Cleveland

Season's Greetings with
Best Wishes for
A Prosperous NEW YEAR
from
JAMES E. SCOVILLE P. E. ESSICK
DAN STEARNS HOWARD REIF
H. A. FLINN

RUSS E. WILSON
Manager
BEST DEVICES COMPANY
Builders of
Projection Apparatus
EXTENDS GREETINGS of the SEASON

Merry Christmas
To All of Our Friends
And May Success Be Yours
Through the
NEW YEAR
Associated Theatres Circuit

Best Wishes for
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
ARGUS, INC.
Arguslite Fixtures for Fluorescent Lamps
Sound and Projector Service
206 Film Bldg. Cleveland

CLEVELAND

(Continued from page 76)

any previous Deanna Durbin picture in this territory.

Harry Reinhart, Canton circuit owner, says he won't be able to get started for California, Hawaii and points west until the end of January, instead of the first of the month as originally planned. Too much to do before leaving . . . The Christmas spirit was celebrated by the Columbia exchange last Saturday with a party.

The Caldwell Browns of Zanesville were in town doing their holiday shopping—both picture and otherwise . . . E. D. Stutz last week formally threw open the doors of his new 500-seat Dixie in Toledo.

Martin Smith, ITO president, played Santa Claus on the 20th when he staged his annual Christmas children's party at the East Auditorium in Toledo . . . Art Simon of Lake Shore Sales Co. is on a business trip in the south in the interest of "The Middletons at the New York World's Fair," which is available to exhibitors free.

Milt Harris, Loew publicity director, is mourning the loss of the diamond in a ring given him by Al Jolson in appreciation of publicity work he did for him . . . Charles Perry of the Paramount exploitation staff was in town working on "Gulliver's Travels," the Christmas week attraction at Loew's State.

Pete Wood, ITO secretary, was guest speaker before the Youngstown Rotary Club. His subject was "Motion Pictures" . . . Out-of-town visitors of the week, more numerous than usual, included Nat Charnas, Toledo; Leon Velas, Bellaire; R. A. Momm, Loudenville; Jack Flemm, Akron; Willard Hart, Akron; George Shenker, Lorain; Mrs. Nazera Zegiob and Maurice Brown, Lorain; Ray Wallace, Alliance; Harry Reinhart and his city manager, Ben Schwartz, Canton.

Rudy Norton's six-year-old daughter, Lois, just recovered from scarlet fever, is once more a patient—this time it's a broken leg . . . The local United Artists exchange was closed Friday afternoon in respect to the late Douglas Fairbanks.

Best Wishes for a
MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
from
George C. Kendis — John Himmelein
Distributors of
UNUSUAL PICTURES
218 Film Bldg. CLEVELAND

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!
Henry Barden — Meyer Kaplan
Operating the Superior and Crown Theatres
in Cleveland

Compliments of the Season
MOVIE SWEEPSTAKES, INC.
304 Film Bldg. PR. 1610
CLEVELAND

MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR
M. M. JACOBS F. ARTHUR SIMON
LAKE SHORE SALES CO.
404 Film Bldg. PR. 4583

NAT BARACH
and Associates of
NATIONAL SCREEN SERVICE CO.
WISH YOU ALL
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FRANK MASEK and TOM BAIRD
of
NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.
in CLEVELAND
Extend Best Wishes for a
MERRY CHRISTMAS and a
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

We Wish You
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
PROSPERITY THROUGH THE NEW YEAR
ART GUILD STUDIOS
Designers of Theatrical Posters, Signs,
Display Cases, Frames and
Theatre Fronts.
ROBERT BIAL
General Manager
Film Bldg. Cleveland

National Theatre Supply Company
L. H. WALTERS
Manager
Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

MAX LEFKOWICH
HENRY GREENBERGER
and
ASSOCIATES
of
COMMUNITY THEATRE CIRCUIT
of Cleveland
Extend Best Wishes
for
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Best Wishes

for

A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

From

UNITED ARTISTS

EXCHANGE IN CLEVELAND

BERT STEARN
DISTRICT MANAGER

A. M. GOODMAN
BRANCH MANAGER

NORMAN LEVIN

LOU GEIGER

RICHARD MILLER

LESLIE DOWDELL

You Too Will Have a
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
If You Play

WAHOO!

The Glorified Screen Game

There is money in giving the public what it wants. And today, the public is looking for something new. WAHOO is a box-office natural that's guaranteed to bring back the old crowds. It's a screen game that is definitely big time. WAHOO is now being used by over 3500 theatres throughout the country. What more need be said?

JACK GREENBAUM—Cleveland Representative—614 Film Bldg., Cleveland

HOLLYWOOD AMUSEMENT CO., Inc.

831 South Wabash Ave. CHICAGO



CLEVELAND

RKO DISTRIBUTING CORP.

GEORGE LEFKO, Branch Manager
And Associates

ARTHUR GOLDSMITH — JOHN SABOT
OTTO BRAEUNIG — BOB RICHARDSON
JACK LAWRENCE — DAN COWHIG
JOE SWEE

EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

CLEVELAND

UNIVERSAL

DAVE MILLER, District Manager
J. R. KAUFFMAN, Branch Manager
And Associates
Joe Krenitz — George Rosenbaum — Jimmy Frew
Art Young

Wish You A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
with

THE NEW UNIVERSAL

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON
with
SINCERE WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
from

COLUMBIA

LESTER ZUCKER, Branch Manager

O. J. Bloom — Jack Share — M. J. Glick
Gregory S. Vojae, Booker

PARAMOUNT, Inc.

HARRY H. GOLDSTEIN, District Manager
"DUKE" CLARK, Branch Manager
LESTER IRWIN — HOWARD ROTH
MAX GREENWALD — BILL BROOKS
MELVIN BARRETT, Ad Sales Manager — LOUIS VAN BAALEN

EXTEND TO THE EXHIBITORS
in the Territory
BEST WISHES for
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

VITAGRAPH, Inc.

Distributing
WARNER PICTURES
FIRST NATIONAL PICTURES
and
VITAGRAPH SHORTS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

HERBERT J. OCHS
Branch Manager
and Associates

JOE MINSKY — STANLEY KOSITSKY
WALTER J. BRANDT — LARRY KREUSSER
EDDIE CATLIN — HAROLD BEIN
ART ENGELBERT — MARTY FRIEDMAN
TOMMY FELICE

Season's Greetings

ELSIE LOEB

BOXOFFICE Cleveland Representative

Merry Christmas Happy New Year

STRAND HOTEL BARBER SHOP

Max Eifer, Proprietor

Season's Greetings

P. L. TANNER

THE FILM TRANSIT COMPANY

Cleveland, Ohio

We Extend Our Best Wishes
for
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

GUSTAV HIRSCH ORGANIZATION

Milton Staub, Commercial Manager — Columbus, Ohio

Compliments of the Season

SMITH & SETRON — **POSTERS WINDOW CARDS**

Displays for Every Purpose

2000 Superior Ave. — Cleveland

Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Co-Operative Theatres of Ohio

MILTON A. MOONEY
and
Associates

Glenn Miller a Big Draw At State in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—Col. Harry E. Long, Loew district manager, states that Glenn Miller played to almost as many people at his Sunday performance at Loew's State as did Jack Benny, who holds the one-day attendance record. Thirteen thousand jammed into the 3,500-seat State to hear their favorite dance band, while Benny played to 14,000 on a Sunday with one show more than Miller played.

Big feature of the Glenn Miller engagement was dancing in the theatre foyer following the last show on Monday and Tuesday nights to Miller's recorded music. There were 400 dancers on Monday night and about 600 on Tuesday, Manager Everett Steinbuck reports. Miller attended both parties and autographed cards.

Mooney Closes New Film Deals for Ohio Houses

CLEVELAND—Practically all national distributing companies have closed contracts with Milton A. Mooney, head of Co-operative Theatres of Ohio, to serve his clients with product during the current year.

Specifically, Mooney has closed with M-G-M, 20th-Fox, United Artists, Columbia and Universal in the southern Ohio territory, while for northern Ohio he has closed with M-G-M, 20th-Fox, Warner, Universal and Columbia.

Adapts Next for Marxes

HOLLYWOOD—Everett Freeman is adapting "Go West," next Marx. Bros. feature for Metro.

Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for Prosperity and Happiness All Through the New Year

PAUL GUSDANOVIC

and Associates

Operating the
Avalon - Corlett - LaSalle - Regent Theatres
in Cleveland

RALPH ROSE

Proprietor of

THE FILM BUILDING CIGAR STORE

Extends Best Wishes
for
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON
from
JOE LEAVITT
Operating the
INDEPENDENT SCREEN ROOM

Film Bldg. — Cleveland

To All
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
from
The Film Building Barber Shop
and
The Film Building Tailor Shop

Greetings of the Season

From

JOS. WOLF'S RESTAURANT

1609 East 21st Street — Cleveland

Greetings of the Season

20th CENTURY FOX

CLEVELAND EXCHANGE

EDWIN R. BERGMAN
SAM LICHTER
TED SCHEINBERG

E. A. GRAVES
NATE SCOTT
RAY SCHMERTZ
HENRY FOSBENDER

FRANK J. HUNT
THOMAS ALLEY
JOE H. COSLEY

GEORGE ROBERTS
District Manager

I. J. SCHMERTZ
Branch Manager

And All Of Our Cleveland Exchange Employes

Worth Telling About

DETROIT—This happened months ago.

The Screen Craft Club, an organization of Jewish motion picture operators, called off its annual banquet last year. Instead of devoting the money to a big entertainment for themselves, the Crafters voted practically their entire treasury to bring six child refugees to this country. The matter was arranged through the nationally known American Pilgrims, at a cost of $60 per child.

The children brought over included Protestant and Roman Catholic youngsters.

The finest thing about it all is that the club members kept their generous deed a secret, and it was only by accident that BOXOFFICE discovered it.—H. F. R.

Circleville Students Sell Tickets in Theatre Tieup

CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO—In a fund-raising effort for the local high school band, Richard Williamson, manager of the Cliftonia here, had students sell tickets on a percentage basis for a Wednesday performance at the theatre. What is usually a dull show night here was turned into a profitable one, and the stunt also created considerable goodwill.

Equipment for Prison Farm

LONDON, OHIO—Talking picture equipment has been installed in the auditorium of the London Prison Farm.



and a Happy New Year

F & Y BUILDING SERVICE

328 E. Town Street

COLUMBUS, OHIO

Detroit Trade Takes Part In Series of Crime Talks

DETROIT—A series of talks against crime will be presented before youths in Detroit, with theatres holding an important part in the plans. Retired Police Inspector John McRobbie is making arrangements for the series.

First was held Tuesday at Bill Schulte's Carlton, through the cooperation of John Picha, house manager.

Revival "Horror" Bills Go Over at Detroit Belmont

DETROIT—Double feature "horror" bills of revivals are working out at the Belmont, run by the Brown circuit in Highland Park. The house, leading revival theatre in the Detroit area, opened this week with "The Werewolf of London" and "The Raven," a pair of ancient Universal features.

"Hunchback" Set for Key Dates Around Cleveland

CLEVELAND—RKO's "Hunchback of Notre Dame" is well set to play in key theatres in this territory. George Lefko, RKO branch manager, reports Warner's Hippodrome, Cleveland; Paramount, Steubenville; Colonial, Akron, will play the picture as their New Year attraction.

Wedding on Xmas

CINCINNATI—Miss Davira Libson, daughter of Isaac Libson, vice-president and general manager of RKO Midwest Corp., will be married to Junius Fisher, president of General Display Co., on Christmas day at the Netherland Plaza Hotel. A reception for the immediate families will follow the ceremony.

Operates in South Fork

SOUTH FORK, PA.—Mrs. Marjorie Crissey now is operating the Palace here, with her brother, J. E. Williams, withdrawing as manager.

T. B. KLAIBAN

Motion Picture Screen Resurfacing Co.

White and Silver Screens

Guaranteed Workmanship—Reasonable Prices

Satisfied Customers for Twelve Years

604 WARD AVE., GIRARD, OHIO

Phone: Girard, Ohio, 361-J

Song for Metro

CINCINNATI—Ann Warnell Doyle and Edna Ossege of M-G-M composed the following lyric which was sung at the local exchange's annual Xmas party:

Dear old Metro, here we come
Right back where we started from;
Ninotchka, Remember, Babes in Arms,
Judge Hardy and Judy, and Mickey
Rooney with his charms.
Open up those golden gates,
Dear old Metro, here we come.

Leroy Repp Is Elected by Musicians in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—Leroy (Lee) Repp, assistant to Milton W. Krasny, retiring head of the Musicians Union, has been elected president. Secretary-Treasurer Elmer H. Wahl was not opposed.

Krasny, president for the past three years, resigned to go to California because of his wife's poor health.

Pair of Dish Deals Are Set by Greenbaum

CLEVELAND—Jack Greenbaum, local sales representative for Coulter Premiums of Detroit, closed two dish deals last week, one was with Thomas Scott for the Grove at Columbus Grove, the other with Ralph Rose for the Ridge, Cleveland.

G. A. Chesbrough

COLUMBUS—Guy Albert Chesbrough, 49, brother of William C. Chesbrough, president of the Garden Amusement Co., theatre operators, died here in St. Francis Hospital on December 13 after a year's illness. He is also survived by a daughter, Lillie May Chesbrough, and his mother. Services were held from the Glen L. Myers chapel here and burial was in Greenlawn Cemetery.

Louis Bauman

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO—Louis Bauman, 63, for many years identified with the operating staff of the old Liberty, died here recently at his home from a stroke. A native of Pittsburgh, he had been a resident of Youngstown for more than 30 years. A daughter and son survive. Funeral services and burial were locally.

Unexpected Gift

CLEVELAND—Because he turned in a billfold containing $92, Owen Stein, porter at the University Theatre of the Community circuit, has $10 as a Christmas present. Stein found the billfold when he swept the theatre.

Robinsons Remodel Bremen

COLUMBUS—John and Frances Robinson, having purchased the Bremen here at a sheriff's sale, are remodeling the 300-seat theatre for a holiday opening. The Robinsons operate a chain of small houses in central Ohio.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS . . .

METRO PREMIUM COMPANY

JERRY MORRISON
Film Exchange Bldg., Cleveland

NAT HAASE
2310 Cass Ave., Detroit



DETROIT

JACK GOLDHAR
SYD BOWMAN
MAX STAHL
BEN ZIMNER

MOE DUDELSON
ED WEINGARDEN
HARRY LOTZ

and entire staff

UNITED ARTISTS

Wish You SEASON'S GREETINGS

DETROIT

MERRY XMAS and

HAPPY NEW YEAR

To the

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

FILM TRUCK SERVICE

HAROLD C. ROBINSON

Season's Greetings

EXCELLENT PICTURES CORP.

Distributors for

PRODUCERS DISTRIBUTING CORP.

Wm. Flemion
Burt Foster

Anne V. O'Donnell
Carl Zipper

SEASON'S GREETINGS



McARTHUR

THEATRE EQUIPMENT CO.

Season's Greetings

from

COULTER PREMIUMS, INC.

Represented by
B. L. BURRISS

2333 Cass Ave.

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CA. 2251 CA. 2280

Wishing You a ★ ★
★ ★ Four Star Christmas

W. J. Turnbull, Manager
Clarence Williamson
S. C. Waldron
Don Atkinson
Cliff Gano
G. M. Studebaker
Louis Burmeister

National Theatre Supply Co.

2312 Cass Ave. Detroit



1939



DETROIT

WE EXTEND TO YOU THE
Compliments of the Season
AND WISH YOU HAPPINESS
AND PROSPERITY in the
New Year
ALLIED THEATRES
of MICHIGAN, INC.

DETROIT

ARTHUR, CHARLIE, and ED

ROBINSON

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
from
AMERICAN REFRIGERATION COMPANY
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Holiday Greetings

Wesolych Swiat

POLISH VARIETY BUREAU

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1988 East Grand Blvd. DETROIT
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Season's Greetings

Cosmopolitan Film Libraries

EDWARD F. KNOP, President
DETROIT, MICH.

GREETINGS FROM

BERT THOMAS

Detroit Sound Engineering Co.

24-Hour Public Address Service
16645 Washburn Ave. DETROIT
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GREETINGS
From
WALTER STEBBINS
Film Exchange Bldg.

SEASON'S COMPLIMENTS
From
BENNETT and STRAIGHT
Registered Architects
201 Schaefer Bldg. Dearborn, Mich.



1940



DETROIT

COMPLIMENTS OF

KRIM

THEATRICAL

ENTERPRISES

DETROIT

BEST WISHES

from

MIDWEST THEATRES, INC.

RAY SCHREIBER

and Employes

Season's Greetings

FILM EXCHANGE DRUGS

Lily and Irving Belinsky

Leon Arozian

and Fountain Staff

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

BETTY BRYDEN

Fox Theatre Building

SEASON'S GREETINGS

I. J. LONDON

BURTON W. LONDON

LLOYD A. TUREL

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

FRANK LORENZEN

THE THEATRICAL FLORIST

16457 Woodward Ave.

Phone: Townsend 8-6232

GREETINGS

SOL BERNS

BOOKING STAGE ATTRACTIONS

Fox Theatre Building

Merry Christmas and Happy

New Year

From

T. JAGMIN, INC.

3998 Beniteau Ave. Detroit



1939



DETROIT

Season's Greetings From

PAUL E. FIELD

and

THE GREATEST LINE OF BEAUTIES
IN THE BUSINESS

Buick

General Motors Bldg. Madison 9712

DETROIT

SEASON'S GREETINGS

GUS SUN

Vaudeville Agency

J. W. TODD

Fox Theatre Bldg. Randolph 4343

Season's Greetings

LELAND G. HILLIER, M. D.

and

BARNEY KILBRIDE

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Fox Detroit Theatre

DAVID M. IDZAL

Managing Director

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

King Theatre **Home Theatre**

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FROM

Oakman **Dix** **Coliseum**

THEATRES

JACK KRASS

Season's Greetings

Russell Johnson Theatrical Post No. 371

MAX KOLIN, Commander
ARTHUR (Buddy) FIELDS, Junior Vice-Commander
SAMUEL J. COMELLA, Chaplain
EDWARD LEON CROWELL, Historian
WILLIAM J. STOLZ, Senior Vice-Commander
H. O. BLOUGH, Finance Officer
WILLIAM E. MARLEY, Sergeant-at-Arms
HARRY R. BERNS, Post Adjutant

Past Commanders

Gilbert E. Light Leslie P. Cusick Jack Ferentz

Greetings to
Our Friends

CARLSON STUDIOS

"Bill" Carlson



1940



DETROIT

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Theatrical Advertising Co.

PHIL and DAVE KAPLAN

DETROIT

SEASON'S GREETINGS

WISPER AND WETSMAN

Theatres

BEST WISHES

From

UNIVERSAL'S

ENTIRE STAFF

Greetings of the Season

MORT-GREEN STUDIOS

243 W. Congress St. Detroit

Merry Xmas

Happy New Year

to all from

Exhibitors Service

HOWARD CRAVEN
Manager

Greetings of the Season

CIRCLE — MIDWAY — ALDEN
Theatres

JOE MISKINIS and JOE STOIA

Season's Greetings

OLIVER THEATRE SUPPLY, Inc.

ERNEST H. FORBES

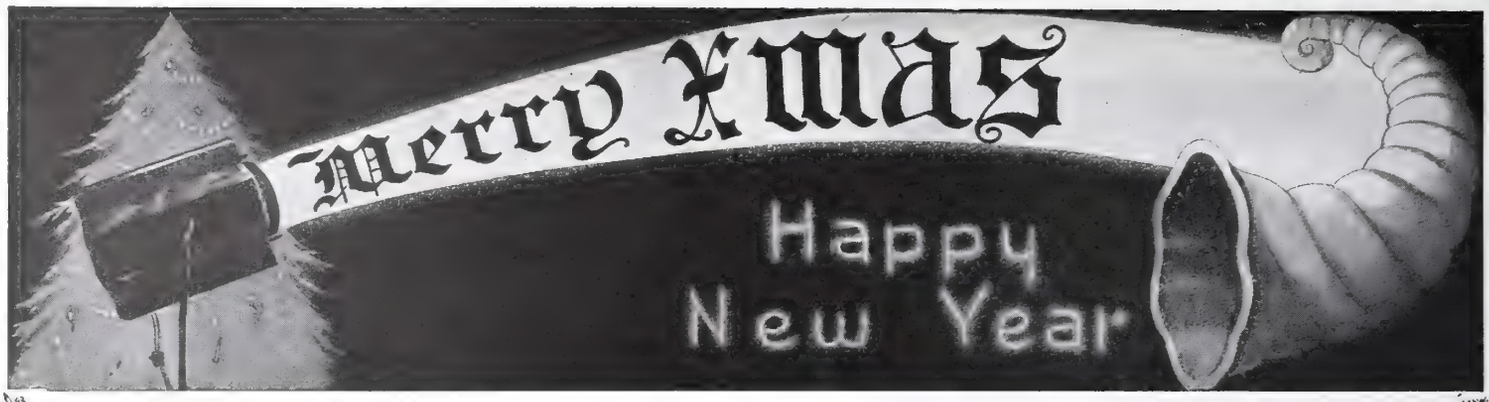
Film Bldg. Detroit

Greetings From

ACME THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

JOE RENICK TOM NAPOLETANO

131 West Vernor Detroit



DETROIT

Season's Greetings

W. S. BUTTERFIELD
THEATRES

DETROIT - - - MICHIGAN

DETROIT

YULETIDE GREETINGS

DETROIT MOTION PICTURE OPERATORS UNION

I. A. T. S. E. LOCAL 199

Frank Kinsora, President
Roger Kennedy, Business Manager

COOPERATIVE
THEATRES OF MICHIGAN

wishes you all
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Season's Greetings

LONG SIGN CO.

853 Howard St. Cherry 6777

Detroit

Sincere Good Wishes
FOR A
Merry Christmas and
A Prosperous New Year

KOMER and GOLDBERG

GREETINGS
from
BEN AND LOU
COHEN
and Staff

DETROIT

LELAND SANSHIE, 20th-Fox booker, has named his new daughter Mary Suzanne . . . Tom McGuire of Co-op says he thinks mice like potato chips . . . Art Robinson of the Madison is practicing a new style of dancing . . . Lloyd Hammond and John W. Hurley of Film Fumbles have returned from a business trip to New York City.

Max Heine, roadshowman, is back from Dallas, Tex., to spend the holidays with his family here; will return there about January 15 . . . *Al Dezel stayed in Detroit two days, then winged back to Chicago.*

Jay Conover, Grand National booker, has Coca Cola at tea time . . . Ralph Peckham, GN manager, who was out on the road, came back with a heap of booking dates, he says.

Jacob Boodman of Film Cleaning Service really has a complicated mechanical setup—watch him work . . . Joe Walters, former M-G-M exploiteer, is handling ballyhoo for "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" for Excellent.

Edna Brown of Metro Premiums says she has the world's worst memory . . . Joe La Rose, manager of the Roosevelt, looks like Roxy with that generous head of white hair, his friends say.

Barbara Lenossi is in charge of the new two-way candy counter at Wisper & Wetsman's new Harper . . . Paul E. Field has sold a new Buick to F. A. Schneider of the Stratford . . . Helen R. Moore of Exhibitors' Truck Service is an active leader in the Women's Legion of the Blue Cross.

Pete Simon jr. spends his school holidays helping out his dad in the film studio . . . Lou Mitchell, managing Barney Kilbride's Beverly, had a Canned Goods Show. Admission was one or more cans of food which were donated to poor families for Xmas.

M-G-M's Xmas party is one big event of the holiday week. Maybell Brock, Frank Downey's secretary, is in charge . . . Herb Brown, Metro booker, is flying back home to Boston and beans for a Xmas vacation with his wife and baby . . . John Dembeck cogitates while he eats . . . Cliff Perry is back from a late vacation.

John F. Morgan, Metro salesman, is going to Florida . . . Floyd Chrysler is figuring out how to turn his yacht into an icebreaker . . . Warren Slee's middle name is Joy-Road, we hear . . . William A. Simonds, curator of Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, is about to make his second trip to Hollywood as technical advisor on M-G-M's new "Edison."

Frank Gene, WB office manager, was official inviter for the preview of "Four Wives" . . . Claire Townsend, Columbia salesman, played a late game of golf Sunday with Tiger Pitcher Tommy Bridges. They didn't keep score.

Fred Bonner was busy sitting in that vacant office up front at RKO Monday . . . Carmen Morales, Jim Sharkey's (RKO) secretary, has to handle the boss' business when he's not around . . . Lloyd Hammond and John W. Hurley are going to Hollywood in January to arrange for production of "Film Fumbles."

Ernest Forbes, Oliver Theatre Supply, is a victim of a cold again . . . Joe Renick and Tom Napoletano are busy getting the new Acme Theatre Supply name known among the trade . . . Joe Renick is going on a Christmas vacation to his home town —Chicago.

Bill Potts, former M-G-M-er here, was back from Chicago renewing acquaintances . . . The Max Blumenthals held a pre-Christmas party at Variety Club . . . Greater Detroit Motion Picture Council is holding a party there, too.

Waneta Stout is displaying a magnificent new diamond from M-G-M Salesman Floyd Chrysler. Congrats! (She confides he made a three-point landing over the piano bench when he gave it to her!)

Art Knapp, the high-rolling salesman of 20th-Fox, turned in a 633 series, with a single high of 255—both records for the Film League. Jack Susami, Universal, promises to beat both marks.

Wade Allen of the Arcade and Fine Arts was host to film bowlers at his home . . . Bill Carlson, the old trouper, was "end man" in a 200*-man minstrel show put on to an audience of* 5,000 *by Moslem Temple.*

Taps for American Legion Posts, but it was reveille for the Theatrical Post at midnight last Monday—Past Commander's Night . . . Carl Smith, operator at Douglas Brosey's Amsterdam, forgot to have the venison he caught at Gould City cooked, he says . . . Ed Burk, operator at Al Westaway's Willis, was one of the first to arrive.

Owen Blough had the big Post colors en route somewhere . . . Commander Max Kolin had to commandeer some table-size flags for the event . . . The Post has two citations just received for Americanism activities, and for exceptional increase in membership.

Guests of honor included: Lieut. Anthony Cocoran, traffic bureau; District Commander Rollin Becker and Vice-Commanders Milt Christa, Floyd Jamison and Bob Mathison; Jack R. Cann, genial editor of the *Legion News;* Jim Wilson, past commander of Larned Post, and Leo Fitzgerald, chef de guerre of the 40 & 8.

Dedication of the projection screen, donated through Manager W. J. Turnbull by National Theatre Supply Co. and arranged by Owen Blough, Walter Rickens and Bill Fouchey, is set at St. Francis Home for Boys for Monday . . . The Post has almost adopted the home.

Sam Harris was host to the Post at the Stage Door Bar Thursday. Entire pro-

(Continued on next page)

DETROIT

Greetings
PETE SIMON
The Trailer Man

Holiday Greetings
from
CHARLEY COLLINS
and his
Hollywood Kiddies

DETROIT

GREETINGS from
LOBDELL MOVIE SIGN SERVICE
Hand-Painted Banners for Theatrical Trade
Phone: Arlington 1770

Season's Greetings
VICTOR PETRIKS

Season's Greetings
JULIUS D. LONDON

DETROIT

Season's Greetings
from
GENERAL MOVIE SERVICE
MILO J. HAWLEY

Season's Greetings
EXHIBITORS' TRUCK SERVICE COMPANY
JOSEPH A. SMITH HELEN R. MOORE

Season's Greetings
ASSOCIATED THEATRES
Alex Schreiber
Harold H. Smilay
William A. London

DETROIT

(Continued from preceding page)

ceeds went to the Goodfellows . . . Herb Straub, impressive appearing regional director of WPA Music Project and former orchestra director at Madison and other theatres, was in a reminiscent mood. His Detroit bands go back to 1904.

Mary Holyad, Roger Kennedy's secretary, won't give the boys her new phone number . . . Buddy Fields, doubling as m. c., forgot the diamond pin to be presented, drove back to the other end of town for it . . . Jack Ferentz nonchalantly smoked Detroit's biggest cigar.

Hoyt Morris, now in radio, found a lot of friends . . . Gil Light of the Michigan, first commander, just sat back and watched this time.

Ralph Jewell, brother of James Jewell, the original "Lone Ranger," was suffering from a broken tooth filling . . . George Pommerville of Julius London's Arcadia discoursed eloquently on health and exercise.

Faye Erskine of the Eastown presented the only known photo of Russell Johnson, for whom the Post was named . . . George V. Clancy, secretary of the Musicians' Union, was on hand.

Bud Cusick, past commander, and Roger Kennedy and James Murtagh of the IATSE, were the last arrivals . . . Al Fitzgerald, stage technician, arranged the presentation of a backdrop by the Post to the Legion Home Auditorium.

Nick Salata, formerly of Verdi's, was present in his new navy uniform—he'll be a sailor for six years . . . Jack Cann gave Jack Ferentz a popgun, plus some cockeyed poetry, while Pop Stolz donated a toy buck—the only kind, he says, Jack'll ever get.

Jacob Schreiber, former circuit owner, in Miami Beach, writes both he and Mrs. Schreiber are improving in health . . . Joe Lenahan seen dining at Stouffer's . . . Milton Strauss, theatrical financier, is working on a new deal.

John W. Todd, manager of the Sun office, is on the road a lot lately . . . Sol Bern's daughter, injured several months ago in an auto accident, was operated on Saturday at Ann Arbor.

Harry Bessey, Altec treasurer, was in town for several days on his annual trek westward . . . Fred C. Dickely, Altec manager, is proud of those seats for the hard-of-hearing at the Harper.

John O'Dell jr., owner of the Frontenac, was out of town most of the week. Frank Papuga manages the house in his absence . . . Jack Broder's new Time won't open till about January 15 . . . Fred DeLodder jr., son of the circuit owner, is to be married in January.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Childs Kaufman, who runs the Strand at Bellevue, is a weekly visitor to Detroit. His dad runs a store in Dearborn . . . D. Bernstein's Woodside in Bay City had a booth fire, but was able to reopen the next day.

Vercil Seaman re-equipped the Beaver of Beaverton, to reopen after being closed about a year. Booth fire, which seriously damaged the house, caused closing after two hours of operation. Plans for future uncertain.

George Olsen, Grayling exhibitor, and your scribe had to straighten out that mixup of fur coats on his visit to Variety here. The checkroom girl "done it."

Bill Sturgess is busy running the Gem at Saginaw, giving up active work at Michigan Odono in Detroit . . . Somebody at Universal is following the Port Huron papers pretty closely.

E. S. Kinney, formerly assistant manager of Allied of Michigan, is now handling air conditioning and real estate, specializing in the Birmingham area.

Bill Schulte, the big circuiteer, says "The sun's just coming out." No kidding.

Richard (Dick) Lynch, 45, of Wyandotte, who was a director of the DeLuxe in Detroit, died December 13 after a lengthy illness. His two daughters survive.

Frank Lorenzen, from out Highland Park way, sends a nifty desk calendar by

DETROIT

SEASON'S GREETINGS from
JEFFERSON PASADENA
PRISCILLA SHERIDAN
THEATRES
Thomas D. Moule David Newman

SEASON'S GREETINGS
JACK BRODER

Greetings to You
DOUGLAS SMITH
Auction Night

We Wish Our Team Sponsors
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
NIGHTINGALE CLUB
Bowling Committee

Season's Greetings
ALBERT DEZEL ROADSHOWS
2310 Cass Ave. Detroit

GREETINGS FROM
MORT GRASS

DETROIT

BEST WISHES
from
GEORGE DAVIDSON
Your Favorite Car Salesman

Season's Greetings
MAX BLUMENTHAL

Season's Greetings
LLOYD HAMMOND

DETROIT

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
SENATE — KRAMER — CRYSTAL
Theatres
BEN J. COHN

GREETINGS
VARIETY ENTERPRISES, INC.
Granada Theatre Arc Theatre

SEASON'S GREETINGS
National Theatre Engineering Co.
Sound Service Engineers
7639 Mack Ave. PLaza 4707

Season's Greetings
PRICE THEATRE PREMIUMS

Greetings
HARRY W. MASON
SOUND ENGINEER
VErmont 5-1856

way of a Xmas card.

LOBBY TALK (At WB Preview):

The kibitzers tried to rig up a prize for the filmite who'd turn up with four actual wives (his own didn't count). The Goldbergs had to send their regrets—an early appointment the next day.

Most of the filmites seemed to like that late hour though . . . Made a week of late dates, with Theatrical Post's party at midnight (or morning) before.

Ray Schreiber brought his whole stage show from the Colonial down to see the picture . . . Favorite lobby comment: "That's a swell pic for mothers."

Frank Gene, WB office manager, and Bob Corbin, UDT's manager of the house, divided honors in the reception line . . . Cem Merritt came over to represent the British Empire.

"The Film Fan," Looney Tune preceding the event, was warmly appreciated . . . Attendance was estimated about 1,500, giving a wide representation of the film industry.

Among those we met: Frank Wetsman, circuit owner; Saul Korman of the Grant; Nat Haase, Metro Premiums; Harold C. Robinson, Film Truck Service, and Ted Rogvoy, theatrical architect.

A Flesh-Film Policy for Senator in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—The Harris Senator will inaugurate a combined stage and screen policy on Christmas Day. Stage shows were introduced when the Harris circuit opened this house but they were withdrawn after a short experience.

Barry Wood, the "Hit Parade" singer, will top the Christmas week stage bill. Harris officials state that if the plan, at popular prices, proves acceptable after a trial period, the policy will be made permanent.

The Harris circuit has been doing much experimenting of late, converting the downtown grind Palace into a newsreel theatre. Last week it inaugurated a similar policy at the Family in East Liberty.

The Renovated Triangle Reopening Xmas Day

PITTSBURGH—Christmas Day reopening of the Triangle, East Liberty, will find the house practically new after several weeks of remodeling and installation of new equipment and fixtures. The property was recently purchased by Abe and Irving Josephs, who are returning to exhibition after an absence of eight years, and their brother-in-law, Jack Goldstein, a newcomer. William D. Davis will continue as manager.

Guests of Dattolas

NEW KENSINGTON, PA.—Friends in the industry who attended the opening of the new Dattola, West Tarentum, December 21, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bart Dattola, owners, at a reception in the Kenmar here following the premiere.



A Pittsburgh "Lullaby"—

Max Terhune, the "Lullaby" of "The Three Mesquiteers," put on a real show when he visited Pittsburgh's Filmrow the other day. He staged an entertainment program at the Republic office with "Elmer," of course, and greeted many exhibitors. Pictured here are Jim Alexander, manager of Republic Pictures of Pittsburgh; C. E. Kuhn, Cameron, W. Va., exhibitor; "Elmer" and "Lullaby."

Winslow Will Build New Theatre in Meadville

PITTSBURGH—A new theatre will be erected at Meadville, Pa., for Dr. H. C. Winslow. It will seat 500. Excavation is under way and construction will follow as soon as possible.

Dr. Winslow heads the Meadville Park Theatre Corp., which seven months ago acquired the Victor in Meadville and has been operating this house as the Penn.

Meadville's other theatre, the Academy, is operated by R. H. Shadley and E. C. Claffey.

More From Trade in Pitt Give to Christmas Fund

PITTSBURGH—Additional contributors to the Christmas Relief Fund of the Film Mutual Aid include:

Carl B. Pritchard, Ernest Overholtz, W. P. Gorman, Joe Misrach, Dinty Moore, Tony Stern, Sid Jacobs, Mike Gallagher, I. Elmer Ecker, Larry Katz, Buck Gelder, Maurice Spitalny, Al Weiblinger, Harry Reiff, James O'Keefe, F. Malco, A. J. and M. S. England, Louise M. Muir, B. J. Redfoot.

Mervis Bros. Will Build Second Aspinwall House

PITTSBURGH—Aspinwall's second theatre will be built by the Mervis Brothers of Pittsburgh. Plans are being prepared for the new theatre which will seat more than 600.

Two Films to Lefko

PITTSBURGH—Joseph P. Lefko, until recently a sales representative for RKO, has acquired two of Europe's horror shows, "The Return of the Frog" and "Demon Barber of Fleet Street," which he is handling in the tri-state area.

Legion Friends Help Plan "Kel" Dinner

PITTSBURGH—American Legion friends of C. C. Kellenberg this week joined with a large committee of industry representatives in plans for the 20th anniversary testimonial dinner to be given January 29, in honor of the film man.

"Kel," sales manager for 20th-Fox here under Ira H. Cohn, branch head, has been with this company here for 20 years, although he has been connected with the local industry for 30 years, having started as a youngster in the capacity of a theatre usher.

Among Legion friends assisting in the testimonial dinner, which will be held in the William Penn Hotel, are J. Guy Griffith, D. C. Hartbauer, T. A. McDonough and E. R. Sterling, all officers of the organization.

Kellenberg was recently named publicity chairman for the American Legion of Allegheny county by Commander Thomas A. McDonough, and Harry M. Kalmine, commander of the Variety Post American Legion, who is general chairman of the testimonial, was named as entertainment chairman.

Early ticket reservations indicate the "Kel" dinner will be one of the largest attended industry social functions in years, according to Al Weiss, treasurer, and David Victor, chairman of the ticket committee.

In addition to his duties as first assistant chief barker of the local Variety Club and adjutant of the Variety Post American Legion, Kellenberg, a native Pittsburgher, is a member of the Masons, Knights Templar, Shriners, Chartiers Heights Country Club, Southern County Club of Brentwood and other organizations. In the West Virginia film territory, where he spent many years, he has long been accepted as a true West Virginian.

Termer to Broadway Actress

HOLLYWOOD—Twentieth-Fox has signed Ann Baxter, Broadway actress.

PITTSBURGH

LEON REICHBLUM has greatly improved the front of the State, Wilkinsburg, by the addition of a large circular attraction board which has been constructed over the boxoffice, the ceiling of the semi-marquee being brilliantly lighted. Front and inner lobby have been newly decorated . . . Alan Handley and other members of the cast of "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" were busy during off-stage hours selling Christmas Seals in the Nixon lobby . . . Harry (Patsy) Levin of the Casino reports the stork has delivered a new baby daughter who has been named Lois . . . Irving Dietz, local distributor of fight pictures, returned to New York for the holidays, but he'll be around again after the first of the year to handle "The Birth of a Champion," which pictures the historic ring battle 20 years ago between Jess Willard and Jack Dempsey. George "B" Josack, Dietz's associate, is on the job here in the interest of this spectacular film subject.

James Work, the Pine Grove, W. Va., exhibitor, who operates a hardware store at Lumberport, is dickering for another theatre . . . Republic exchange, in addition to all the Christmas decorations, has installed a front window electric neon clock. This is a real service and one which Filmrow has needed for years . . . Many local film and theatre men will support the annual St. Vincent de Paul Shoe Fund hockey classic which will be staged in Duquesne Garden on Tuesday, February 6, according to Dan M. Hamill, chairman . . . We're told that Norm Huhn is walking on air these days . . . William Grande, who suffered a stomach disorder, is around again after being hospitalized . . . Don D'Carlo reports he has been kept very busy booking holiday stage and floor shows.

Dave Trimble, veteran newspaperman and manager of the Liberty, Masontown, Pa., dishes out romance on the side. After theatre hours, he writes love stories for the syndicates . . . Freda Brog of Atlantic Screen Service and Wilbert Domb, city pharmacist, will merge on January 21 . . . L. Hayes Garbarino, former Clarion exhibitor, underwent a slight facial operation, having chin moles removed. His court action against his former partners, James Aquilina, T. A. Aquilina and J. T. Birocco will be heard in Clarion county court at an early date . . . Dave Barnholtz departed over the weekend for Denver to spend the holidays with members of his family after having closed all his accounts for New Universal contracts. He is the first 100 per cent salesman for this company under the new regime.

Clothing and toys received at the Christmas Party in the Variety Club is being distributed to children at the Roselia Foundling Institute . . . A number of local

(Continued on page 96)

Ritz in Pitt Stays Open While It Is Remodeled

PITTSBURGH—WB's Ritz downtown remained open this week as the house underwent extensive remodeling and decorating, including a new modern front. New type lighting fixtures and larger rest rooms were among the interior alterations. In addition to a new glass front, a triangular modernistic marquee has been installed. Max Silverman is manager of the Ritz.

The WB Brookline, managed by Charles Shannon and operating on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, has a novel policy, showing pictures selected by vote of the Brookline patrons.

Three Films by Standard Acquired by Monarch

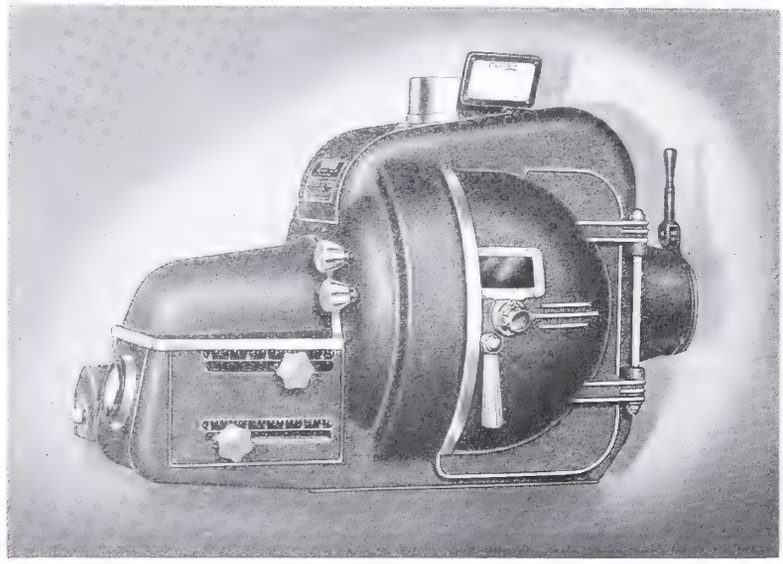
PITTSBURGH—In addition to Standard's "Spy of Napoleon," starring Richard Barthelmess, Monarch Pictures has acquired "The Mill on the Floss," "Prisoner of Corbal" and "Forbidden Music," also Standard productions.

Among the new P-D-C productions now booking are "Buried Alive," "Torture Ship," "Invisible Killer" and "The Goose Step," the latter being the new title of "Hitler—Beast of Berlin."

Cohen Out of Monogram

PITTSBURGH—Jack Cohen of Monogram withdrew this week as a sales representative for that company.

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR



Start the New Year Right by Using CYCLEX Lamps and Save on Carbons And Current

SUPERIOR MOTION PICTURE SUPPLY CO.

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PITTSBURGH

Distributors of the new Cyclex lamphouse by Ashcraft

GENE AUTRY **ROY ROGERS**

THE THREE MESQUITEERS

And All Other Republic Stars

Join Us In

Wishing You And Yours

A Merry Christmas

and

A Happy New Year



JAS. H. ALEXANDER **S. A. FINEBERG** **GEO. W. COLLINS**

HYMEN M. WHEELER **LOUIS E. HANNA**

CATHERINE FLANAGAN **ELIZABETH CUNNINGHAM** **IRENE FISHER**

JOSEPH DAUGHERTY **WM. HOLLENBAUGH**

AUGUST GONLIN **GERTRUDE BALL** **JOHN SCHULTZ**

WALTER THOMAS **COLETTA SHOWERS**

IDA HENN **MARY MAHONEY**

REPUBLIC PICTURES CORP. OF PITTSBURGH



PITTSBURGH

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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Jim Cocke
Jack Daily
Hugh Frisbie
Frank Hamre
Bill Jervis
Tom McCleary
Ray Sear
Jud Smull
John Steely
Russ Stier
Charlie Underhill
Jim Ware
Bill Wright

PITTSBURGH

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Saal Gottlieb
Eddie Moriarty
Milt Brauman
Max Shabason
Jack Mundstuk
John Zomnir
Harry Fendrick
Irving Jacobs

BURTUS BISHOP jr.
JOHN J. MALONEY

"The Friendly Company"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

Pittsburgh

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

From



I. A. T. S. E. & M. P. M. O.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Greetings of the Season

WILLIAM NAIDENOFF

THEATRE DECORATOR

Filmrow Studio, 425 Van Braam St., Pittsburgh

Residence, 173 Woodhaven Drive,
Beverly Heights, Mt. Lebanon, Pa.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

From

COLUMBIA

Pittsburgh

ART LEVY
SID SUGARMAN
JOE GINS
GEORGE TICE
JACK KOHLER
BOB KIMELMAN
SIDNEY GOLDBERG

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

HERBERT H. GREENBLATT
JACK GRAHAM
ED LEBBY
RICHARD LANGE
MORRIS LEFKO
DAVID C. SILVERMAN
PAUL REITH
MELVIN MANN

RKO-Radio Pictures

PITTSBURGH



PITTSBURGH

Sincere Best Wishes for the Holiday Season

HARRY SEED
BOB DUNBAR
CHAS. L. DORTIC
F. D. MOORE
BOB LYNCH

— The Pittsburgh Boys —

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

PITTSBURGH

SEASON'S GREETINGS

MARK GOLDMAN
SAUL I. PERILMAN
BILL LIEBLER
DORA L. STEINBERG
CECILIA GUEHL
THELMA WURDOCK

Monogram Pictures

PITTSBURGH

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

From the Boys of

United Artists

PITTSBURGH

ABE WEINER — HARRY REES
WILLIAM SCOTT — JAMES H. NASH
DAVID BROWN

Happy Holiday Greetings

JULES LAPIDUS
DAVE BARNHOLTZ
LOU HESS
WILLIAM SATORI
SI FELD
FRANCIS GUEHL
PETER QUITER
MAURICE SILVERBERG
AL LOSTETTER

New Universal

PITTSBURGH

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

PITTSBURGH

EXTENDS

BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

D. KIMELMAN — R. E. CASKEY
E. M. STUVE — GEORGE ELMO
Guy H. PETERSON

"If It's a Paramount Picture It's the Best Show in Town"

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

PITTSBURGH

IRA H. COHN — C. C. KELLENBERG
E. S. THORPE — GEORGE MOORE
AUSTIN INTERRANTE

PITTSBURGH

SEASON'S GREETINGS
SIMBOLI DECORATING CO.
PITTSBURGH
1701 Blvd. of the Allies COurt 9723

GREETINGS
of the Season
MORT & ART ENGLAND
425 Van Braam St. Pittsburgh, Pa
ATlantic 1760

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON
American Theatrical Valance Co.
Manufacturers of Valances, Drapes and Seat Covers
900 Fifth Ave. - COurt 9723 - Pittsburgh
Filmrow Display Room at
1701 Blvd. of the Allies

GREETINGS
ARCUS TICKET CO.
Chicago
PETER J. ALDERMAN
COurt 8741
1701 Blvd. of the Allies Pittsburgh, Pa.

EXTENDING HOLIDAY GREETINGS
DAVE ROSENFELD
INDEPENDENT DISPLAY CO.
1627 Blvd. of the Allies
Pittsburgh

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON
LeVIANT PRINTING COMPANY
PROGRAMS POSTERS
Pittsburgh
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GEORGE "B" JOSACK
with
Quality Premium Distributors
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Pittsburgh

Enjoy a More Prosperous 1940 with a
BURCH POPCORN MACHINE
R. J. JEFFRIES
Box 91,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from page 92)

trade leaders have been supporting the Finland relief fund which is headed by former President Herbert Hoover. All local newspapers are cooperating in this worthy undertaking . . . Harry M. Kalmine and Harry Feinstein were in New York booking new stage shows for the Stanley . . . The Ed Stuves are vacationing in Florida . . . Mrs. Milton Lefton is home after undergoing an operation at a local hospital . . . New date for the John Barrymore show, "My Dear Children," at the Nixon is the week of January 8.

First Christmas greeting received here was from Ray "Tucson" Corrigan, who is now resting at his ranch in California . . . M. A. Rosenberg, AMPTO president, who was on the sick list for several weeks, is up and around again . . . Mrs. Mark Goldman and Mrs. I. Elmer Ecker were co-hostesses at last week's meeting of the Ladies' Theatrical Club at which 40 members and friends were in attendance . . . The Variety Club is throwing a big New Year's eve party . . . The Alton Reas have cradled a son. Papa is the assistant manager at the Stanley.

Joseph Pemberton of New Universal's shipping department has been in charge of the accessory department since the illness of Carl Miller who is expected back on the job next week . . . The Fulton, closed for a fortnight, reopened December 23 with 20th-Fox's "Daytime Wife."

The Austin Interrantes and daughter, Vivian, are vacationing in New York . . . The United Artists exchange closed at noon last Friday in respect to Douglas Fairbanks sr., one of the founders of the company, for whom funeral services were held that day . . . John H. Harris' annual stag dinner for members of his Hornet hockey team was held December 21 and on Christmas Eve he is hosting the performers of "The Ice Follies of 1940," who are appearing at his Duquesne Garden.

It's not only a Merry Christmas for Jack Judd, National Screen Service manager, but also a Happy Birthday on December 25 . . . Three of the local M-G-M sales representatives are vacationing, as follows: the Saal Gottliebs are in Atlantic City; the Milton Braumans are at Akron, and Harry Fendrick is in New York . . . Lou Hess of New Universal is

(Continued on next page)

PITTSBURGH

Holiday Greetings
E. B. MORTON
W. E. DYCK
"NEWT" WILLIAMS
NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PITTSBURGH

FRED SOLOMON
AMERICAN POSTER SUPPLY CO.
415 Van Braam St.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SINCERE WISHES FOR A
MOST PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
JACK JUDD
National Screen Service
1701 Blvd. of the Allies Pittsburgh, Pa.

Greetings to Our Many Friends
MAX SHULGOLD
LAWRENCE CARETTIE
Grand National Pictures Corp.
Pittsburgh

Holiday Greetings
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Candy Machines of Distinction

Greetings to All Theatres
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Season's Greetings
N. A. N. AUTOMATIC
LIGHT CONTROL CO.

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NATIONAL EMERGENCY LIGHT CO.
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— Distributors —
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Willard Battery Systems

HAPPY GREETINGS OF THE SEASON
IRVING DIETZ
JACK DEMPSEY
JESS WILLARD

Season's Greetings to My
Exhibitor Friends
DON D'CARLO
All Types of Stage Acts
Never Too Late to Book You a Good Stage Show
1723 Blvd. of the Allies ATlantic 7877
PITTSBURGH

LOUIS KRIEGER
Distributor of Alliance Films
1022 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh
Sincere Good Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Republic's Bowling Lead Reduced to One Game

PITTSBURGH—Republic's lead was cut to one game at last Friday's meetings in the Filmrow Bowling League when Columbia defeated Jim Alexander's boys two out of three contests. New Universal, with but three bowlers on the job, lost three games to Monarch. Loew's took 20th-Fox's measure, too, by winning three games. John Mayer of Loew's, with a 189 game, copped the weekly $1 award for high individual score of the evening.

Standings of the teams:

	Won	Lost
Republic	26	10
Columbia	25	11
Loew's	24	12
New Universal	23	13
Monarch	14	22
20th-Fox	13	23

No games are scheduled for December 22 and 29.

Oliver Theatre Supply Leads In Nightingale Club League

DETROIT—New scores in the Nightingale Club League:

	Won	Lost
Oliver Theatre Supply	28	20
National Theatre Supply	27	21
Motiograph	27	21
McArthur Theatre Equipment	27	21
Amusement Supply Co.	22	26
Brenkert Projectors	22	26
Lorenzen Flower Shop	21	27
National Carbon Co.	18	30

Cleveland Refuses Unit Amendment

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n on Tuesday voted down a proposed amendment to the by-laws to change the system of voting which has prevailed since the association was formed more than 25 years ago.

The amendment, which had previously been unanimously approved by the board of directors, provided that the votes shall be cast by persons financially interested and actively engaged in the operation of member theatres. The old method of voting, which, by reason of Tuesday's vote will be retained, provides that voting be done by theatres.

New Grand in Clarksburg To Reopen December 23

CLARKSBURG, W. VA.—This city receives a real Christmas gift December 23 when the new Robinson Grand is opened. Reconstruction of the theatre was under the supervision of Owner-Manager Claude Robinson.

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from preceding page)

spending the holidays in New York, and William Satori of the same company will check in at a New York hospital for observations after the first of the year . . . R. J. Jeffries, the Burch popcorn representative, will attend his company's annual sales convention in Kansas City, Mo., the second week in January.

Steve Rodnenck jr., son of the Oakmont exhibitor, had his appendix removed in Presbyterian Hospital Monday morning. He is a Pitt student and assistant manager at the Oaks and Lehigh theatres . . . Variety Post of the American Legion presented a Christmas entertainment at the Veterans' Hospital, Aspinwall. Next show for the veterans will be January 3 . . . Charles Baron, M-G-M exploitation director here, reports very good results on "Another Thin Man" by use of a man-on-stilts for outdoor ballyhoo as presented by Bob Hornick of the Grand, Huntingdon, and Pat Nataro of the Columbia, Sharon.

Following Bill Robinson's "Hot Mikado" Christmas Week in the Nixon, the legitimate house gets "A Vagabond Hero," with

(Continued on next page)

PITTSBURGH

Season's Greetings

ROBERT F. KLINGENSMITH

PITTSBURGH BOXOFFICE

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

SCATENA STUDIO

ARTISTIC THEATRE DECORATORS

4913 Sciota Street

PITTSBURGH, PA.

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Very Best Wishes for

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

To Our Many Friends

from

MONARCH PICTURES COMPANY

and

PRODUCERS DISTRIBUTING CORP.

1623 Blvd. of the Allies — LEW LEFTON, Manager — Pittsburgh, Pa.

MILTON LEFTON — J. T. SWEENEY — EDDIE MOREELS — DAVE LEFTON

STELLA NEVINS — GODFREY LEFTON — STANLEY LIEBERFARB — MARY HEMPEL

JEANETTE SIMPSON — LITA JOSSEY — WILLIAM NESBITT — ALBERT NESBITT

LOUISVILLE

ONE OF the oldest theatre buildings in Louisville will be only a memory within a few weeks. It now houses the Ohio, belonging to the Settos outfit of Indianapolis. The Ohio will shut down after the last show December 31, and most of its personnel, including Edward Donahue, manager, will be absorbed elsewhere in the Settos chain. The building will be torn down to make way for an F. W. Woolworth expansion. It first housed the old Avenue and later the old Alamo, which preceded the Ohio.

Mack Whiting, publicity man for RKO, was in town the other day paving the way for "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." From here he went to Lexington . . . Some 3,500 colored children were guests of the management of the Lyric, Grand and Palace theatres at an annual Christmas party. They got candy and fruit and a free show.

Miss Bertha Wolf, who operates the Pastime at Owenton, shut down her restaurant there to devote full time to the theatre . . . John L. Denton and Kermit Sumner are building a new theatre, the Joy, at Taylorsville, and expect to open it about January 1. Denton is a cousin of George L. Denton, who has several theatres at Knoxville, Tenn.

It's a girl for the Karl Rohs of Cynthiana, born in a Cincinnati hospital. Karl is building a new theatre at Cynthiana—the Rohs—situated on the site of the old Opera House.

N. H. Salyer, who formerly operated the Wisconsin Steel Co.'s theatre at Benham, Ky., has taken over a house at Falmouth.

And speaking of Falmouth, we can't overlook this young fellow Max Goldberg, a home town boy who has made good. Max, in his middle twenties, has three theatres to his credit and is preparing to open another one at Falmouth. Max was barnstorming the country as a midget car driver in a motordome outfit before settling down back home at the ripe old age of 18. He acquired the Pastime, a little second-floor place at Falmouth. Later he acquired theatres at Irvine and Belcher. Now Max is working on a new theatre in his home town, and is planning and directing the work, like he did on his others . . . Settos new Grand at Linton, Ind., was scheduled for opening last weekend.

Autry in Mishap

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO—Gene Autry, singing screen cowboy, was injured near here December 16, but not seriously, when his auto sideswiped another. Autry has been making personal appearances in the district for several weeks.

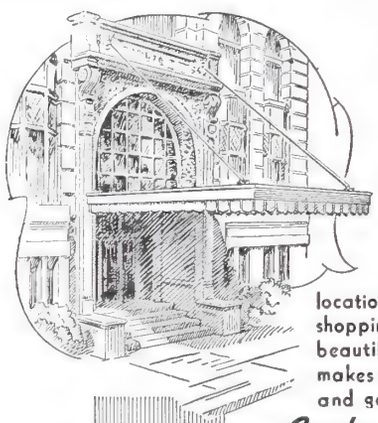
New Year's Opening

CAMERON, W. VA.—The new 500-seat theatre under construction here for the Reese Theatre Co. will be ready for opening by January 1.

PITTSBURGH

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON
EXHIBITORS' SERVICE CO.
West Gen. Robinson, Scotland & Shore Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Steinberg Bros. Wish You and Yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year
A. & S. STEINBERG
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WEEKLY AND MONTHLY RATES

OFFICIAL AAA HOTEL

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VERNON W. McCOY, Gen. Mgr.
MADISON AVE. AT GRAND CIRCUS PARK
BEST HOTEL LOCATION

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from preceding page)

George Huston, formerly known as "The White Plume," opening January 1 . . . Stanley's New Year's show will be M-G-M's "Remember?" and Bob Crosby's band; Alvin's attraction will be 20th-Fox's "Swanee River," which pictures Pittsburgh's own Stephen Foster and his immortal music . . . Filmrow's busiest person these past few weeks has been Bill Naidenoff who has been decorating five or six theatres for opening this week and right after the first of the year . . . Casino will offer a New Year's Eve midnight show and its regular "Milkman's Matinee" beginning at 3 a. m., Monday morning, January 1.

Ten Years Ago

In Pittsburgh

OUR advertisers a decade ago extending Christmas greetings, were Fred J. Herrington, exhibitor organization secretary; A. & S. Steinberg, supply dealers; Roy H. Haines, Benjamin Kalmenson, R. M. Lynch and Pete DeFazio of First National; Jim Sharkey, Sam Jacobson, Dick Dickinson, John Gribble, Lou Engel, Tommy Skelton of Columbia; Art Morrone, Superior Supply; Art Goldsmith, George W. Collins, Nat Ehrlich, Harry Price, Aaron Wayne and Mannie Steinberg, Pathe, and the following members of Jim Alexander's exchange: Jim Alexander, Sam Fineberg, Hymie Wheeler, Andy Cherry, Catherine Bohn, Elizabeth Cunningham, Irene Fisher, Harry Fry, Milton Miller, William Hollenbaugh, Minnie Huber, Teresa Krobat, Florence McKenzie and Carlotta Showers.

Dick Brown was appointed manager of the Enright . . . Allan S. Moritz was receiving a flock of Tiffany franchise contracts . . . Loew's Penn staged a midnight benefit show for an orphan fund, gaining $4,521, and with these stars participating: Dick Powell, Nat Nazarro jr., Jay Mills, Dick Leibert, Elias Breeskin, David Broudy, Helen Menken, Margaret Anglin, Dudley Digges, Brian McDonald, Ralph Harrison, Victor Graff, Gracie Barrie, Mlle. Lucienne Defrenne, Babe Falvo and Benny "Wop" Moore . . . Morris Theatre, Preble Ave., managed by Leonard Goldstein, was stench bombed . . . Film exchanges were busy installing sound equipments in their projection booths.

Holiday releases included Ronald Colman and Ann Harding in "Condemned," "The Battle of Paris" with Gertrude Lawrence and Charles Ruggles, "Street Girl" with Betty Compson and Jack Oakie, "Untamed" with Joan Crawford, "Vagabond Lover" with Rudy Vallee and Marie Dressler, "Pointed Heels" with William Powell, "Glorifying the American Girl" with Eddie Cantor, "Show of Shows" which listed 77 stars, Bebe Daniels and John Boles in "Rio Rita," Jeanne Eagles and Fredric March in "Jealousy," Ramon Novarro in "Devil May Care," Will Rogers in "They Had to See Paris," and Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford in Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."


"I have been a regular reader of BOXOFFICE for a long time and could not do without it."
—G. W. Summers
ROYAL THEATRE
UNIONVILLE, MO.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

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MT481 Main signs and marquees
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MT484 Signs, travel word
MT485 Attraction boards
MT486 Letters, attraction board
MT487 Letters, changeable silhouette
MT488 Price signs, boxoffice
MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
MT498 Transformers, Neon
MT499 Ladders, safety
MT500 Moving words projector

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MT523 Theatre chairs
MT524 Chair covers
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MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

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MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
MT584 Fireproofing compounds
MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

PROJECTION

MT591 Projectors, complete with sound
MT592 Projectors, standard
MT593 Projectors, semi-portable
MT594 Projector pedestals
MT595 Projector parts
MT596 Lamps, suprex type
MT597 Lamps, reflector arc
MT598 Lamps, high intensity
MT599 Lamps, incandescent projection
MT600 Arc regulators
MT601 Arc controls
MT602 Control panels
MT603 Rectifiers, copper-oxide
MT604 Rectifiers, tube type
MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

MT641 Cleaning compounds
MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber link matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

SOUND

MT661 Sound systems, complete
MT662 Sound heads
MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT685 Screens, moving picture
MT686 Lighting, stage
MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, vitreous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

MISCELLANEOUS

MT715 Accounting systems
MT716 Change makers
MT717 Safes, boxoffice
MT718 Tickets
MT719 Ticket choppers
MT720 Ticket issuing machines
MT721 Ticket registers
MT722 Ticket holders
MT723 Pop corn machines
MT724 Uniforms, staff

USE THIS COUPON

IF WHAT YOU WANT ISN'T LISTED, ASK FOR IT BY NAME UNDER "REMARKS"

The MODERN THEATRE
Room 334 — 332 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 12-23-39

Please obtain for me free descriptive literature on the following items. (List Key Numbers Below).

....
....
....
....

Remarks: .....

.....

Name .....

Theatre .....

City ..... **State**.....

George H. Wilkinson Dies in Wallingford

WALLINGFORD, CONN.—Connecticut's pioneer exhibitor, George H. Wilkinson, operator of the Wilkinson, Wallingford, died at his theatre last Friday as a result of a heart attack, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret C. Wilkinson, who has been his active partner in the theatre operation for many years, and his son, George H. Wilkinson jr., secretary-treasurer of the Wallingford Bank & Trust Co.

Last July, 200 representatives of the film district here and other friends gathered at Racebrook Country Club to honor Wilkinson to express the high regard in which he had always been held and to celebrate his long and successful experience in the field. Wilkinson was the first independent exhibitor to be so honored. The showman was born in Birmingham, England, and came to the United States when he was two years old. He lived in Wallingford for 63 years, starting to work as a farm hand, and later serving in the National Guard with the rank of sergeant. His first business venture was in the soda and beer bottling business. Later he tried a bill-posting venture, which he sold out to the United Advertising Corp. of New Haven.

In 1890 he leased the old Wallingford Opera House, three flights up, in the center of Wallingford. He played all the outstanding legit shows of the old times in one-night stands, minstrels, and other varieties. By 1910 he was a motion picture operator, on a one-a-week program, with films furnished by William DeVry. This was before the establishment of the New Haven film district. Before long, the program was increased to daily exhibition, with admission at 5 and 10 cents. The Wilkinsons soon outgrew the Opera House and by September, 1923, had constructed and opened the present 1,408-seat Wilkinson Theatre, which they recently renovated completely.

Described as "the grand old man of the New Haven territory" by film people, townsfolk and all who knew him, Wilkinson's passing was keenly felt. Funeral services were at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Wallingford, on Sunday.

Back to Fridays

HARTFORD—The Loew-Poli here has gone back to the Friday opening date for new films, after having sponsored Thursdays for some time.

The Stage Remains in A New Function

Hartford—Although Roberts' Opera House, one of this city's earliest theatres, has long since been torn down, its stage, it seems, remains intact.

It has been learned that the stage now serves for a warehouse adjacent to the rear of a downtown department store, but the footlight trough is still visible to any who is in a position to look at the building from above.

Wolff's Testimony Provides Role For BOXOFFICE in M&R Suit



Dies in Wallingford—

George H. Wilkinson, veteran exhibitor at Wallingford, who succumbed in his theatre December 15 to a heart attack.

Negligence Case Against Poli Theatres Pondered

NEW HAVEN—The superior court has reserved decision in three damage suits totaling $100,000 against Poli-New England Theatres, Inc., brought in behalf of children allegedly indecently assaulted by a patron while watching a performance last May. The suits were tried by Judge Robert L. Munger.

Although the children entered the theatre with an adult, it is alleged they were subsequently left unattended while they sat through two performances of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

The plaintiffs based their claims of negligence largely on Section 6282 of the general statutes of Connecticut, revision of 1930, which makes it a criminal offense for certain places of amusement to admit or permit to remain children under 14, unattended by parent or guardian, at any time.

Independent Exhibitors to Hold Election January 9

BOSTON—Independent Exhibitors, Inc., will hold its annual election of officers January 9. Nathan Yamins, president, has appointed a nominating committee consisting of Wilbur Peterson, Thomas McNulty, Richard Rubin, William H. McLaughlin and Frank Perry.

$50,000 for "Wind"

BOSTON—Approximately $50,000 in advance sales for "Gone With the Wind" had been banked by Loew's State and Orpheum theatres up to the end of last week, it was stated by an executive source.

By BRAD ANGIER

BOSTON—BOXOFFICE entered into testimony in the Morse and Rothenberg anti-trust case when Robert S. Wolff, New York exchange manager for RKO, told George S. Ryan, plaintiffs' attorney, that he had not seen a letter, signed with his name, and reporting the course of negotiations which ultimately denied the Cameo Theatre in Newburgh RKO feature product, until he read about it in this publication. The letter, which was written to E. L. McEvoy at the RKO home office, subsequently became Exhibit 173-D and follows:

R. K. O. DISTRIBUTING CORPORATION
NEW YORK EXCHANGE
630 NINTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

April 29, 1936.

"Mr. E. L. McEvoy
Home Office

Dear Ed:

"Because of our percentage deal in Newburgh with Publix, George Walsh requested us not to sell the Cameo Theatre a subsequent-run, who is charging 10 cents and 15 cents admission.

"None of the other major companies have sold the Cameo. However, we finally induced the exhibitor at the Cameo to raise his admission prices to 20 cents, to enable him to play our pictures. He signed a contract, played a few pictures and then disregarded our agreement with regard to admission prices and reverted to his old policy of selling pictures at 10 cents and 15 cents. We stopped serving him. Incidentally, this same exhibitor controls the Rialto Theatre in Poughkeepsie.

"In order to make up the revenue we were losing in the Cameo, because of our agreement with Publix not to sell this theatre at less than the minimum of 20 cents admission, we made a deal at the Rialto Theatre, Poughkeepsie, which more than offsets the Cameo Theatre contracts.

"We are not cancelling the short subjects at the Cameo and will continue to serve both the shorts and news reels at an increased price.

"We are cancelling the features as per the attached changes of contract. Please approve.

Cordially yours,
R. S. WOLFF
New York Branch Manager."

Persistent questioning by Ryan resulted in confirmation of one act reported in the letter—the cancellation of the contract with the Cameo—by Wolff who testified: "I gave my secretary instructions to have the Cameo contract cancelled because it was breached insofar as the exhibitor did not live up to the minimum admission prices." Wolff insisted he did not dictate the letter but gave the cancellation order as an instruction.

Wolff confirmed as fact that he cautioned Simon, following the latter's declaration that he could not continue charging 20 cents, that any retreat from that admission policy would breach the contract and accordingly result in its cancellation by the distributor. Simon nonetheless reduced admissions to the Cameo and the contract cancellation followed, testified Wolff.

Following the cancellation of the Cameo contract, Simon negotiated a deal on the Rialto at Poughkeepsie, a situation Wolff admitted he was aware Simon controlled, to take care of the unfulfilled portion of the Cameo contract. This deal, though verified by Exhibit 173 (a contract dated April 30, 1936, between RKO and Elite for the Rialto) Wolff could not himself verify, contending that Mr. Westebbe of New York handled all the negotiations.

The Proven Leaders of Theatre Card Games!

HONEY
BONUS BINGO
SCREENO BANKO

In addition to Bank Night, these games are now being used by M&P and many leading theatres in the New England territory to satisfactory results.

It Is Important to Remember . . .

Ever since the beginning of Bank Night we have been the only people who have maintained an office and given every exhibitor legal protection and advice. No exhibitor using any of our games has ever paid a fine or a legal fee!

Remember, too . . .

that no other firm selling games in this territory maintains an office or the services of an attorney to protect exhibitors!

In buying your game from us, you not only get the best game—YOU GET PROTECTION WITH IT—and at the LOWEST COST.

GOOD WILL ADVERTISING COMPANY

14 Piedmont Street BOSTON Liberty 9305

OUR LEGAL STAFF FOR YOUR PROTECTION:

Massachusetts	Connecticut	New Hampshire	Maine
George S. Ryan	Pond, Morgan & Morse	Robert W. Upton	Judge W. R. Pattangall

Curwood Story to 20th-Fox

HOLLYWOOD — "The Hunted Woman," James Oliver Curwood story, has been purchased by 20th-Fox.

Sherman Signs Cameraman

HOLLYWOOD—Russell Harlan, cameraman for Harry Sherman, has been given a long term contract.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS . . .

METRO PREMIUM COMPANY

ARTHUR GEROME
47 Church St., Boston

HAROLD RUBIN
237 So. Orange St., New Haven

BOSTON

GINA COHEN, sister-in-law of E. M. Loew at whose office she is employed, became the mother of a baby girl last week.

Henry Sperling, former local independent distributor now operating the Central in Manville, was in from Rhode Island last week with his wife. He won an overcoat on the Harvard-Yale game.

Martha Heffner, daughter of Roy E. Heffner of Bank Night, left last week to visit her grandparents. She will be located at the Hotel Ste. Genevive, St. Genevive, Missouri . . . Heffner, who is hunting in Texas at present, plans to spend the holidays in Oklahoma.

Sam Davidson spotted the Boston premiere of "Prison Train" at the Keith Boston. The Malcolm Browne production, featuring Fred Keating and Linda Winters, closed at the de luxe house Wednesday.

Charles Repec, head of the M-G-M booking department, has engaged an orchestra for the Friday evening Xmas party of the local Metro exchange. Dancing will follow dinner.

Vincent Freedly was in town last week to attend the opening of "Too Late to Laugh," play written by his son and produced by the Harvard Dramatic Club and presented at the Sanders Theatre in Cambridge.

The Flamingo has folded . . . Edward Fitzpatrick, manager of Loew's Poli in Waterbury, exploited "Another Thin Man" by offering a free admission to the skinniest gent showing up at the house between 8:00 and 8:30 o'clock on the opening night.

Dr. and Mrs. I. H. Schwartz, en route from Palestine, are expected to land Christmas morning at Commonwealth Pier in Boston. She is the former Carolyn Mekelburg, daughter of Joseph Mekelburg of the Drive-In Theatres Corp. The couple, who are accompanied by their 15-month-old daughter Miriam, plan to remain in this country.

Sandy Macdonald, owner of Windsor Lodge, and outfitter for recent New Brunswick hunting trips of local film men as Charles Brent, Roy E. Heffner, and Frank Borrelli, was in town this week.

H. M. Addison, Loew's divisional manager, plans to be in the Hub until New Year's . . . Ed Reed, Providence theatre owner, was in town last week . . . Ray Smith, Amherst theatre man, was removed to City Hospital here last week after being struck by an automobile.

Steve Broidy, local Monogram sales manager, has a brand new bicycle on his hands that he will dispose of at a below-wholesale price. It was a giveaway sample.

John Dervin, UA branch manager, closed the exchange at noon last Friday in memory of the late Douglas Fairbanks . . . William H. McLaughlin, Commander of the Theatrical Post of American Legion, has set the organization's next regular meeting for the Copley-Plaza on January 8.

Jack Hill of Monogram was ill last week

(Continued on page 102)

CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

28 - 30 Piedmont Street

BOSTON

BIDS THE TRADE

"CAPITOL" CHRISTMAS

AND AN INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS

NEW YEAR

BIDS THE TRADE

"CAPITOL" CHRISTMAS

AND AN INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS

NEW YEAR

K. R. DOUGLASS

L. L. FOSTER

FRANK GRAY

DON PICKERING

CHARIE FISH

FRANK SULLIVAN

GEORGE WELLS

AL NASIF

MAYNARD SICKLES

BILL HAWKINS

BILL SPEAR

OTTO HALQUIST

HAPPY DUSTIN

ROY KILNER



1939



BOSTON

SEASON'S GREETINGS

United Artists Corp.

JOHN DERVIN, Branch Manager

JOSEPH CARROLL, Office Manager

GEORGE HAGER — HERB SCHAEFER

NATHAN ROSS — JOSEPH CRONIN

BOSTON

YULETIDE GREETINGS

From

20th Century-Fox

TOM BAILEY — E. X. CALLAHAN

SAM BERG — H. S. ALEXANDER

AND ALL THE GANG

SEASON'S GREETINGS

MONOGRAM PICTURES, Inc.

STEVE BROIDY — NATE FURST

DOC BRITTON — GENE GROSS

JERRY CALLAHAN — MORRIS WEBER

TOM O'BRIEN — JACK HILL

Republic Pictures Corp.

SENDS GREETINGS

M. E. MOREY

JACK DAVIS — GEORGE SOMMA

SAM SELETSKY — HELEN CHANSKY

AL FECKE — JANE BERLINER

JACK JENNINGS — ROSE RUBIN

JACK MARTIN — GLADYS MARTIN

LOUIS ZACCARDO — ALICE HALL

CHARLIE WILSON — LYN COPELAND

IMPERIAL PICTURES, Inc.

WISHES YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Melrose Street — LIBerty 3803

BOSTON

HARRY ASHER

WISHES A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL

GREETINGS

AL SWERDLOVE

YULETIDE GREETINGS

INDEPENDENT THEATRE SUPPLY CO., Inc.

Complete Theatre Equipment

International Seats

EDWIN K. HOSMER

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1940



BOSTON

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

EXTENDS HOLIDAY GREETINGS

M. N. WOLF, District Manager
J. P. BYRNE, Branch Manager
HENRY WOLPER, Office Manager
J. M. CUMMINGS, Asst. Office Manager

Salesmen

R. J. CURRAN
M. R. GOLDSTEIN
EDWARD RENICK
HARRY ROSENBLATT
HARRY WORDEN
BEN BEBCHICK

Bookers

CHARLES REPEC
NATE OBERMAN
TOM FARRELL
MATT DONAHUE
AL WHEELER

BOSTON

Season's Greetings

Warner Bros.-First National

NORMAN AYERS, Branch Manager

ELI LEAVITT
HARRY SPINGLER
BILL HORAN
RAY SMITH
CARL GOE
BEN ABRAMS
ZIPPY GOLDMAN
WARREN GATES
BILL KUMINS
LEO GRIFFIN
MYER FELTMAN
BOB LEVINE

COLUMBIA

PICTURES CORPORATION

Extends Season's Greetings

HARRY ROGOVIN

S. SIMONS
H. OLSHAN
E. COHEN
H. GREENBERG
A. BARRY
J. WOLF
W. SILVERMAN
B. LEVIN
M. FOX
C. MYSHERALL

Universal

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WILLIAM KELLY
ERNIE WARREN
HERMAN KONNIS
A. J. HERMAN
FRANCIS DERVIN
IRVING SHIFFMAN
HARRY MARTIN

Christmas Greetings

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

H. J. McKINNEY

RUDY WETTER
ERNIE COMI
R. V. HAMMELL
JOHN SAVINA
E. A. FRAZI
DAN FLEETHAM

SEASON'S GREETINGS

And May We Extend Our Wishes to You All
For a Happy and Healthy New Year

SAM DAVIDSON **WALTER GILLIS**

CAMEO SCREEN ATTRACTIONS, Inc.

Greetings

GRAND NATIONAL PICTURES, INC.

MARCEL MEKELBURG, District Manager
SAM LEVINE, Branch Manager

ELEANOR GLAZIER
JENNIE FELDMAN
GRACE SULLIVAN
CONNIE DENEHY

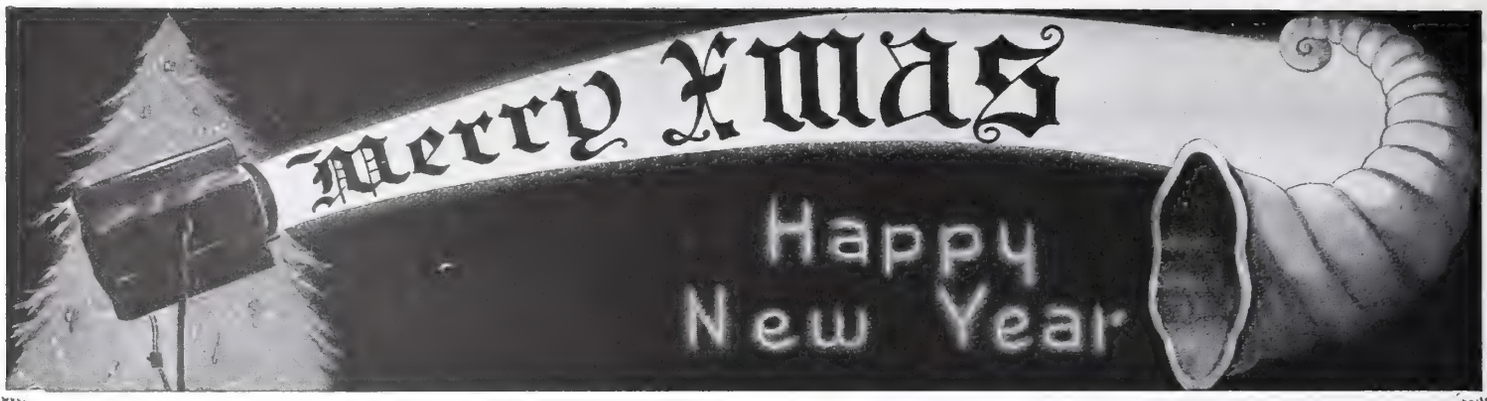
Merry Christmas and a

Happy New Year

RCA PHOTOPHONE

HERB ELWES, Supervisor Photophone Sales

JOHN MAURAN, Supervisor Photophone Service



BOSTON

Season's Greetings

MASTER MOTION PICTURE COMPANY

48 Piedmont Street

— SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TRAILERS —

MAURICE MASTER

New Sound Studio Now Operating

BOSTON

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

BOSTON MOVING PICTURE OPERATORS UNION

Local 182

Good Health

and Hearty Appetites

NESTI'S

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Mario's

"A Nook of Old Rome"

THE ARISTOCRATIC ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Catacomb Canteen — Monastery Bar

M. A. Maselli, Manager

69 Church Street, Boston, Mass.

LIBerty 3776—DEVonshire 8046

BOSTON

(Continued from page 98)

with a cold . . . Helen Sahl of Specialty Pictures is on the injured list as a result of catching the middle finger of her left hand in a door that she refuses to identify.

The Universal Exchange was painted last week . . . William S. Koster has been supervising the renovation job being done on the Majestic Theatre by Shubert . . . Dorris Andrews, formerly of the Metropolitan and later with the Nipmuc Park Theatre, is now with the local John Shepard radio interests.

John Scully jr., former local Grand National booker, is now short subjects booker for Universal in Cleveland. Transferred from Philadelphia, Scully replaced John Swee who had resigned to become RKO office manager there.

J. D. Kendis, roadshow man, was in from the west coast last week . . . Harry Segal, who has an interest in Imperial here, will be in from New York for the holidays . . . Joseph Flynn, Laurence theatre man was booking in the district last week.

Elizabeth Dervin, M-G-M cashier, returned to the exchange last week after being out with the flu . . . Solly Levin of M-G-M has been looking over new apartments . . . M. N. Wolf, M-G-M district manager, was in New York last week.

Leon Gorman has signed for RCA sound in his new Lewiston, Me. theatre . . . Tex Fletcher, Grand National western star now making personal appearances locally, and Christine Antignoni of Grand National have discovered that their forefathers came from different parts of Italy.

Fred and Arthur Sharby, New England circuit operators, were in the district last week . . . Kenneth Cone, assistant manager for Christopher Buckley in Bennington, Vt., plans an early marriage.

Joseph Brennan of the MPTO was on the committee in charge of the Volunteers of America charity show at the Majestic, Sunday. Other Boston theatremen aided the annual enterprise which provides for a Xmas party for aged and needy at the City Club.

Francis Faille, manager of the Paramount in North Adams, cashed in on the Boy Scout credo of "One good turn daily" when three scouts, garbed as Pilgrims and Indians, picketed his theatre in return for Faille's promise to let several cashless youngsters in to see the show. The B. S. A. trio paid their own way in.

Edith Alper, formerly with Bank Night, has resigned from the E. M. Loew office and has joined her parents in Florida . . . Dorothy Ellner and Muriel Schiff are now at the local inde office on Tremont Street . . . Ben Rogers, local independent distributor, screened the short, "Birth of the Movies," at RKO last Friday.

Ben Levy, judge advocate, presided at a meeting of the Theatrical Post of American Legion last Thursday. Attending the confab, which was devised for consideration of a proposed new constitution and by-laws, were Kenneth Forkey, Sam Levine, P. F. Healey, Marcel Mekelburg, William H. McLaughlin, James Sherran, and William Basch.

E. M. Loew plans to open the Casco in Portland on Christmas . . . M&P Theatres

(Continued on page 104)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



FROM THE

FACTORY METHOD REPAIR SHOP

MARY COMI
JERRY TABB
WALTER BERGANTI
EDDIE COMI

THEATRE SERVICE & SUPPLY COMPANY

112 Arlington Street
LIBerty 0356
BOSTON

BANK NIGHT

We Wish
all exhibitors
a very
Merry Christmas
and a very
Happy New Year!

Good Will Advertising Co.
Specialty Pictures Inc.
ROY E. HEFFNER
14 Piedmont Street - - - - - - - - - BOSTON

BRAD ANGIER
Boxoffice

Season's Greetings

WM. S. KOSTER
— SEAT RENOVATION —
457 Stuart Street
BOSTON

Plan Distribution of Goods on Christmas

BOSTON—Kenneth Forkey, circuit operator and chairman of the Christmas Basket committee of the Theatrical Post of American Legion, held a legionnaire meeting Monday to conclude plans for the annual distribution of food, toys, and clothing to needy Boston families. Distribution headquarters this year will be at the Motor Mart in the film district.

Serving with Forkey are Cyril McGerigle, RKO office manager; Harry Aaronson, manager of the Rialto in Scollay Square; Marcel Mekelburg, Grand National branch manager, and Maj. Patrick F. Healey and James Sherran of the department of public safety.

Many Show Christmas Seal Trailer

HARTFORD—Seventeen theatres in the Greater Hartford area are showing the Christmas Seal trailer. Indications are that more houses will play the trailer in the immediate future.

New Year's Midnight Show Policy Finds Adherents

NEW HAVEN—In addition to the 35 Warner houses and 13 Loew-Poli, as well as several M&P houses set for New Year's Eve, many of the independents in this territory also have reported they will run midnight shows New Year's Eve.

Among these are the Pequot, New Haven; Empire, New London; Palace, New Britain; Strand, Thompsonville, and State, Torrington.

New House Will Replace Park Theatre in Lee

BOSTON—Elizabeth Fermento, operator of the Park in Lee, is building a new 620-seat house there. The new theatre, the Lee, is expected to replace the Park. The Capitol Theatre Supply Co. is equipping the Colonial-style location with seats, stage draperies, carpets, and marquee. The Lee is expected to open in January.

GREETINGS . . .

BEN ROGERS

POPULAR PICTURES

48 Melrose Street

BOSTON

HANcock 0156

Massachusetts Censors Cut Into 'Destry Rides Again'

BOSTON — The Marlene Dietrich-Una Merkel fight in "Destry Rides Again" was cut to a short flash in the new Universal release. Also cut was the second-reel scene showing Marlene "disrobing." The feature was the only film censored by Massachusetts in a group of 43 which included 20th-Fox's "The Cisco Kid and the Lady," M-G-M's "Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President," and Cameo's "Two's Company."

Seven out of 18 vaudeville acts were refused Sunday permits. Four others were ordered to "modify" their routines, deleting "all dancing" and "all objectionable and suggestive parodies."

BOSTON

(Continued from page 102)

Corp. plans to dispense with its heretofore annual Xmas party . . . M&P houses have been going in for turkey and radio give-aways these past few weeks.

George Kraska of the Fine Arts Theatre was in New York last week . . . Rose Palmer, former stage dancer, charged the RKO Boston Theatre with negligence in Suffolk superior court last week. She seeks $100,000 damages from averred injures allegedly caused when she tripped over a heat register in the theatre on March 26, 1937. She asserted she is suffering from multiple sclerosis which makes it impossible for her to talk or to move her limbs.

Jack Goodwin, Metropolitan managing director, has held "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" and "Private Detective" for a second week at the de luxer . . . "Dr. I. Q." radio quiz programs will be broadcast directly from the Met stage for seven consecutive Monday nights, beginning January 8.

James Michael Lydon is not to be outquipped by his exhibitor father. Recently encountering Santa Claus, young Lydon who's barely old enough to talk greeted him: "Hi, Kringle."

Charles Koerner, RKO western divisional manager, who was in Boston for the past several years, has bought a home in Beverly Hills . . . Richard Mahn, secretary who accompanied Koerner west from Boston, has a new automobile.

William Doyle has been overseeing the renovation job at the Broadway in South Boston. Phil Smith has bought new uniforms to complete the rejuvenation.

Duffy Lewis, Provincetown exhibitor, was the guest of honor at an impromptu birthday party tendered M. N. Wolf of M-G-M the other Friday.

NEW HAVEN

MERRY CHRISTMAS! . . . Dear Santa, please quit taking us for a sleigh ride . . . and bring cans and cans of the right kind of fillum . . . and a merry tinkle at the boxoffice . . . and stacks of okayed contracts . . . do something about Bingo . . . and radio . . . pay up those repair bills . . . keep us well . . . but how about a trip to Florida for that midwinter tired feeling? . . . and, oh yes, don't forget a BOXOFFICE subscription in every sock . . . if you could oblige, Santa, we'd say you were colossal.

Metro Pep Club was the first Meadow Street Xmas party to get under way with a catered groaning board spread out in the office, music (via airwaves), and general good fellowship. George Weber, president, was in charge. Charlie Aaron and Student Ben Wolfe, out-of-town auditors, were in time to be invited as special guests . . . Warner theatre department had a Xmas party scheduled for Tuesday at Baybrook, with dinner and dancing for all theatre and exchange managers and bookers . . . Columbia had a Christmas tree and rumors of an office party . . . Same kind of rumors for 20th-Fox and Universal . . . Harry Shaw will have his annual staff party, but where, oh where would he hang any more testimonial parchments . . . N. C. Wrisley had the first fully-bedecked Xmas tree on the Street, surrounded by dishes.

Warner's are changing the Roger Sherman opening to Sunday for Christmas and New Year's. The theatre offers John Q. Public "Four Wives" for Christmas. Trade screening of the picture at 70 College recently received good comment . . . Loew-Poli goes serious midnight New Year's Eve with "Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Meet Dr. Christian" . . . Poli houses play "Hunchback" in some spots, and "Judge Hardy and Son" in others. "Balalaika" is the New Year's week attraction here . . . "Gulliver's Travels" opens December 22 at the Paramount and Allyn, Hartford . . . New Year's Eve will find the Paramount with the only vaude in town, seven acts at $1.10, picture not yet decided . . . The Arena will have no Eve program, but Glen Miller and acts on December 30 . . . Poli, Waterbury, will have a variety show New Year's Eve in addition to the Wednesday regular . . . Five-act show has been inaugurated for the Palace, Meriden, to run every Friday.

Judge Munger is studying the general statutes regarding admission of children under 14 to theatres without parent or authorized adult attendant in connection with Poli-New England "masher cases," and the decision, due soon, should be of great interest to all exhibitors. Watch for the report in BOXOFFICE . . . *Personal appearance of Tex Fletcher with "Six-Gun Rhythm" broke house record at the Rialto,*

(Continued on page 106)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

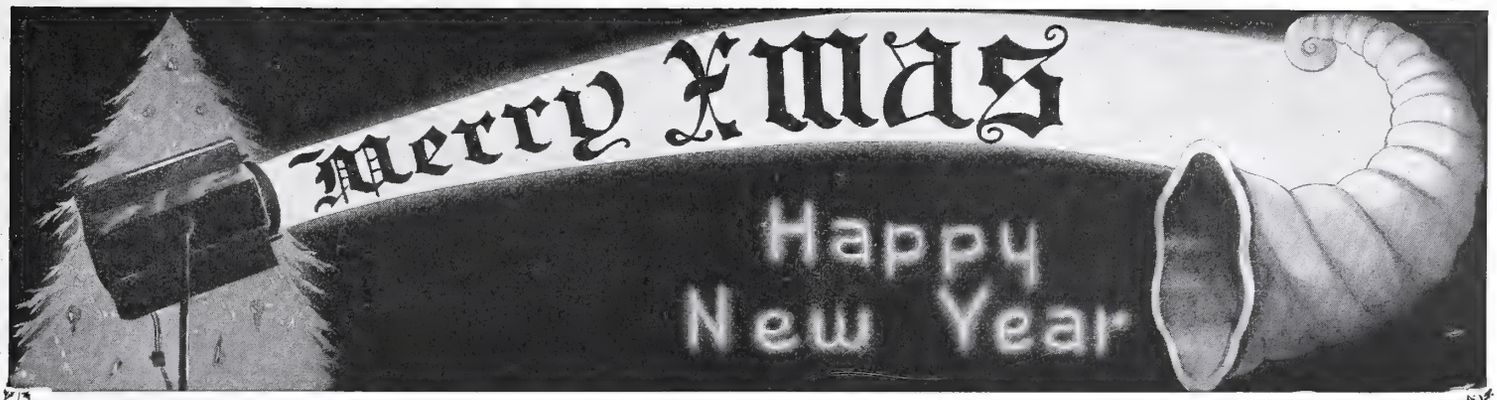
RISEMAN & LERCARI

37 WINCHESTER STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

THEATRE INTERIORS

HAPPY NEW YEAR



NEW HAVEN

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

NEW HAVEN

Best Holiday Wishes

Thomas J. Donaldson, Branch Manager

Milton Hyams, Salesman
Morton Katz, Salesman
George Weber, Checking Supervisor
Charles Lazarus, Booker
Philip Gravitz, Booker
Frank E. Mullen, Office Manager

NEW HAVEN

20th Century Holiday Greetings

From the

20th Century-Foxites

BEN SIMON
EARL WRIGHT
SAM GERMAINE

COLUMBIA PICTURES
of NEW HAVEN

Extends Season's Greetings

T. F. O'TOOLE
BEN LOURIE
SIDNEY SWIRSKY
SIDNEY LAX
AL PARIZER

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO THE TRADE
from

VITAGRAPH, INC.

J. R. MAHAN
JOHN PAVONE
PETER DeFAZIO
ANGELO LOMBARDI
VICTOR CUSANELLI

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.

New Haven

EXTENDS TO YOU ALL
SEASON'S GREETINGS

BARNEY PITKIN
Branch Manager
HUGH MAGUIRE
Office Manager
BILL CANELLI
Salesman
STANLEY LEVIN
Assistant Booker

Season's Greetings

GERTRUDE PEARSON

BOXOFFICE

NEW HAVEN

(Continued from page 104)

Windsor Locks, and Colonial, Southington, says Joseph Walsh. Tex became a popular hero in both towns. He visited the orphan's home, also a tavern or two, where he treated the crowd. Both houses will have Xmas matinees December 23, with free bags of candy and pencils for the children and "Hopalong Cassidy" and "20,000 Men a Year" on the screen . . . Matt Saunders collected an editorial of appreciation in the press . . . Devon has arranged a Vine St. School three-day benefit show of "Fifth Avenue Girl" and "They Shall Have Music" . . . State, Springdale, has a free show Saturday.

B. E. Hoffman is contemplating a winter vacation . . . Herbert MacIntyre, RKO district manager, dropped in for a visit . . . Fred W. Franke, Universal traveling auditor, left the sunny south to come to the frosty Elm City for three weeks . . . Hugh Maguire, back from a weekend on Long Island, says the girls are just as pretty in New Haven . . . Irving Beck, student booker at Metro for the past few months, was recalled to the New York office . . . Arthur L. Smith, versatile mayor of Newtown, has booked a Jewish wedding for Edmond Town Hall, which now has part-time films . . . Sincere sympathy to Katherine Fitzgerald on the passing of her mother, Mrs. Thomas Brennan. Katherine is business agent of exchange employes union . . . Dave Magliora of the Rialto, Windsor Locks, reported to be the hardest working manager in the business . . . Alice Faye whose "Barricade" is appearing here, wired she would cooperate with the Bridgeport *Times* Xmas toy "adoption" plan to the extent of ten children . . . Ben Simon is planning a vacation in California two weeks before convention.

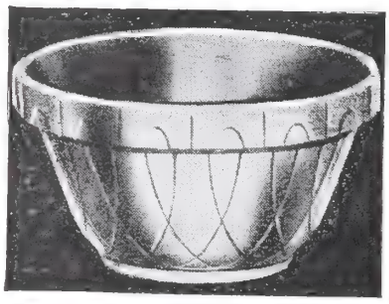
Mutual Advertising Service will be the New England outlet of National Poster Ass'n, which has just consummated a contract with Warner Bros. to handle its advertising after January 1 . . . You'll be able to call on Harry Wenzel and Joe Berliner in the present Republic offices soon while Republic moves next door to the recently-vacated Grand National space . . . Harold Tabackman of the Bostwick, Bridgeport, has just acquired the Connecticut franchise for complete theatre candy vending machine installation and service . . . The drives are on us again, and all the boys and girls in the exchanges are asking exhibitor cooperation to help them win money prizes . . . At RKO, it's the Ned Depinet Drive, January 26. The Warner Sears Drive comes as a Yuletide greeting, December 24 to April 13 . . . Republic finishes up its drive January 27.

United Artists exchange closed a half day in memory of Douglas Fairbanks . . . Strand Amusement, Bridgeport, bowlers defeated the Columbia Pioneers. Scores for the three strings: Sid Lax, 216; Ben Lourie, 304; Tim O'Toole, 281; Sid Swirsky, 310; Al Parizer, 290; Strand: M. Jacobson, 233; M. Kaufman, 342; Sonny Greenberg, 282; D. DellaRocco, 338; John Berardi, 323. Totals, 1,401, Columbia; 1,518, Strand Amusement. Stratfordites licked Strand Amusement in turn. Eddie Ruff and Henry Germaine challenge Ben Lourie's whole team to a match . . . Dr. J. B. Fishman was chairman of the committee which brought Prof. Edouard Lindeman to the Jewish Community Center to speak on "Democracy" . . . Modern Theatre Equipment has installed all new booth equipment, including lamps and rectifiers, in Levine & Jacobson's Strand, Bridgeport . . . Lou Phillips will also install 400 chairs in the new DeFrancesco Cheshire, due to open around January 15. William Hutchins of National Theatre Supply will install projection in the Cheshire.

Interior work in the Hippodrome, Bridgeport, is nearing completion. Theatre will close when new floor is being laid . . . If you want amusement in Canaan, chances are Tony Boscardine benefits. He runs the Colonial, roller skating rink, bowling alleys, and has now flooded a large lot in the rear of his theatre for ice skating, hot dogs and soda pop . . . State, Waterbury, has Silver Dollar Quiz, while the Loew-Poli runs Movie Party with cash prizes . . . N. C. Wrisley has sold his swirl 'n circle oven-

MR. EXHIBITOR
GIVE YOURSELF A CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Every Week by Using
PRISCILLA MATCHED OVENWARE

NO DISAPPOINTED LADY PATRONS



WE GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF EVERY PIECE IN THE CONTINUITY

MERRY CHRISTMAS — HAPPY NEW YEAR
NORMAN C. WRISLEY
FILM CENTER BLDG. NEW HAVEN

The Season's Greetings to You
May Prosperity and Good Cheer
Follow You Through the Year
MODERN THEATRE EQUIPMENT CORP.
133 Meadow St. New Haven

REPUBLIC PICTURES
EXTENDS SEASON'S GREETINGS
Samuel Seletsky, Manager
Jeanette Berliner George Somma

ADOLPH G. JOHNSON
PREMIUMS
241 South Orange St.
SINCERE HOLIDAY GREETINGS

MUTUAL ADVERTISING SERVICE
wishes you
GOOD CHEER FOR THE NEW YEAR
135 Meadow Street
New Haven

Sincere Holiday Greetings
MORRIS JOSEPH
New Haven

SEASON'S GREETINGS
To the Trade from
NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.
and
WM. J. HUTCHINS
122 Meadow St. New Haven

SEASON'S GREETINGS . . .
BOXOFFICE

ware to the Alhambra and Cameo, Waterbury, to start early in January . . . Motion picture operators met Monday . . . Wethersfield foundation is finished and work is progressing . . . Seats being installed in the Forest, Allingtown.

H. Bobinski and L. Marzulo and partners won $5 prizes for "jitterbug" antics at the Loew-Poli ushers party at Baybrook. Presented by Harry Shaw with Shavian wit. Marshall Blevins won $2 for his outstanding solo . . . Mrs. Jack Crawford has resigned as manager of the Lincoln and Wallace Rosenthal is now manager, assisted by Shirley Johnson. "Ecstasy" did good business at the house on its third revival and was expected to have an 11-day run, in spite of the absence of many students from town . . . Theatre doings: Lobbies had their usual inviting holiday atmosphere. A talking Santa in the Poli corner —a bread company tieup—was a tremendous attraction, with Jack Brassil calling all the regular patrons by name and carrying on the conversation from the other side of the lobby. Bread tieup was closed in Hartford and Bridgeport as well . . . Lou Brown so interested the Southern New England Telephone in "Drunk Driving," that employes were urged at meetings and on bulletin boards to go and see.

Jack Simon borrowed an Aetna Insurance Co. drunkometer and other apparatus to test alertness of drivers for a Poli, Hartford, lobby display and got the chamber of commerce to mail 5,000 *letters tying driving safety in with the picture . . . State highway patrol sneaked in radio announcements and local police cooperated . . . Lou Schaefer arranged windows in Grant's, Kresge's, book tieups at the Yale Co-op, Judd's and Liggett's, flowers at Myers, had Brock-Hall glasses of cottage cheese on "Gulliver's Travels" . . . Billy Elder had Artie Shaw recordings on WBRY and three music store windows on "Dancing Co-ed" . . . Used* 3,000 Sunday News *rotogravure photos of Rooney and Garland for house-to-house distribution on "Babes in Arms."*

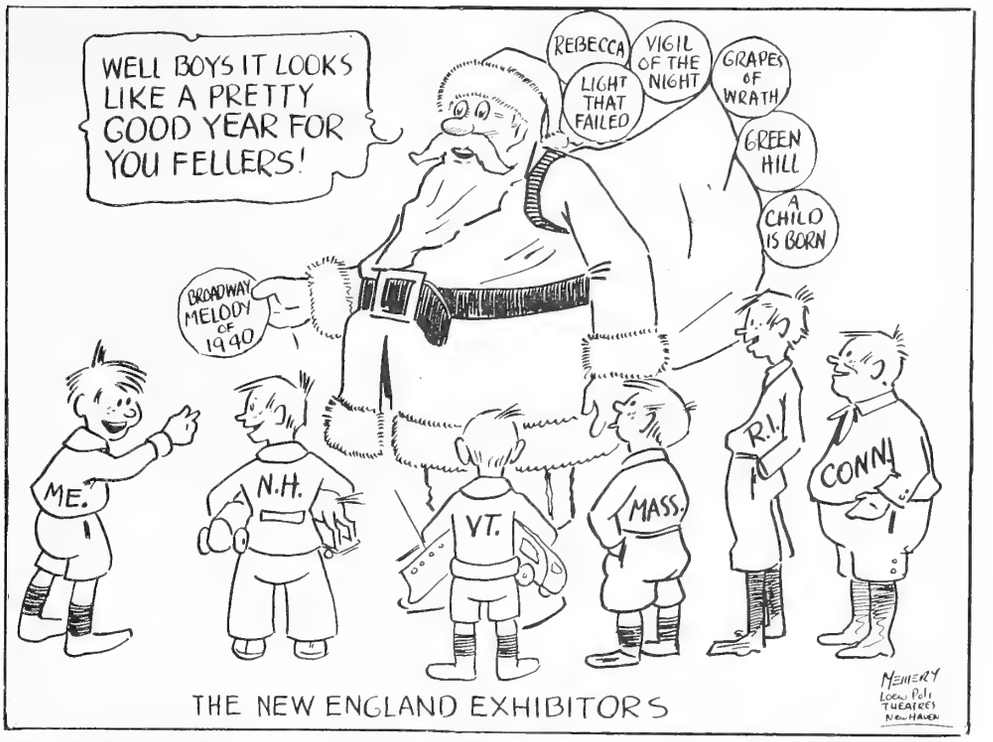
Christmas, 1938: Quittner & Perakos making plans for new Jewett City theatre after hurricane had ruined old Finn's . . . John Faith's house in Collinsville ready for opening and Unionville in construction . . . Joe Walsh and out-of-town interests had acquired the Colonial, Southington, and were negotiating for Rialto, Windsor Locks . . . Garden, Waterbury, ready to open under Mascoli management New Year's . . . Warner innovation was a Christmas midnight show with "Dawn Patrol" . . . Morris Joseph spent Xmas and New Year's in Florida . . . Barney Pitkin readying for a drive south . . . Nat Fursts celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Sidney Carl.

Royal to Bernhardt

BOSTON—Leonard Bernhardt has been appointed manager of the Royal in Lowell by E. M. Loew. Bernhardt has been replaced in Arlington by Ray Canavan who was with Julius Joelson before the latter's circuit was absorbed by M&P.

Stothart Scores "Passage"

HOLLYWOOD—Musical score for Metro's "Northwest Passage" is being scored by Herbert Stothart.



And May Your Stocking Bulge—

How Bill Memery of the Loew Poli Theatre in New Haven views the festive season.

HARTFORD

PAUL BINSTOCK, Lyric manager, will play a special kiddies' show on the 23rd as a Christmas season stunt . . . New cashier at the Lenox is Elaine Belair . . . Jimmy Lunceford and band did okay at the State . . . New additions to the service staff at Loew-Poli, Waterbury, are Stanley Buell, Jack Kenny and Adolph Teta . . . Amateur nights have returned to the Lyric . . . Ditto Plaza, Worcester.

"Beast of Berlin" opened last Friday at E. M. Loew's . . . Main stem Loew-Poli has switched openings from Thursdays to Fridays . . . Congratulations are in order to Bernie Satz, manager of the Casino, Ware, who is reportedly rounding out 20 *years in his present post . . . Julian Tuthill, Hartford* Times *theatre columnist, and the Mrs. held a housewarming at their new penthouse on Hicks St. Entertained were Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Simons, Loew-Poli; Mr. and Mrs. Wally Cooper, Loew-Poli; Dave Pirot, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cohen, Loew-Poli Palace; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Feschler, Loew-Poli Palace; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lloyd, M&P Allyn; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Harris, State; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Harris, State; Frank Morin, Regal; George Landers, E. M. Loew's; Tom Conroy, Little Theatre of Hartford; Rudy Frank, State; Harold Conroy and Frank Wells.*

Shirley Stickles, Loew-Poli, Waterbury, is resting at home after a recent operation . . . It's a boy for the Tom Grogan's in Manchester. Tom is assistant manager of the State there . . . Ben Katz, New London, has been appointed assistant to Manager Manny Kugell of the Warner, Bridgeport . . . Greater Hartford houses are planning Christmas season stunts . . . Harry Whitney and Fred Keish are new ushers at the State, Manchester, replacing Harry Reinhorn and John Valuzzi, resigned.

Work is going ahead rapidly on the West End, Waterbury . . . Myron Neiman is a new addition to the service staff of the Loew-Poli here . . . New carpeting for the Plymouth, Worcester . . . Jack Simons, Loew-Poli manager, was in New York with his daughter, Eleanor . . . Many downtown houses planning New Year's shows with slightly advanced prices . . . "Gulliver's Travels" opened at the M&P Allyn.

Louis Konoir, Loew-Poli usher, is the "voice" behind the Santa Claus lobby display . . . Jack Feschler, assistant manager of the Loew-Poli Palace, has resigned . . . The lobby at the Allyn has been painted . . . New additions to the service staff of E. M. Loew's are Jimmy Tuttle and Douglas McLeod . . . Flavina Sloat, Allyn cashier, is recovering from a cold.

Tex Fletcher Is Making a New England P. A. Tour

BOSTON—Tex Fletcher, star of Grand National's "Six-Gun Rhythm," is making a series of personal appearances here before returning to the west coast where he has contracted to star in eight westerns. Fletcher, who is being booked by the local Grand National exchange, will appear consecutively from December 30 to January 15 at the Orpheum, Danvers; Park, Richford, Vt.; Alley, Groveton, N. H.; Roxy, Island Pond, Vt.; Burns, Newport, Vt.; Brandon, Brandon, Vt.; Regal, Franklin, N. H.; Grand, Ellsworth, Me.; Opera House, Millinocket, Me.; Comique, Camden, Me., and the Colonial, Belfast, Me.

Moran Finishes "Carroll's"

HOLLYWOOD—Eddie Moran has completed scripting "A Night at Earl Carroll's" for Paramount. Kurt Neumann will direct.

BRIDGEPORT

REPORTS of a new theatre being planned for the Paradise Green section of Stratford have the residents ready to call a protest meeting. Several operators are seeking the site in the center of the little community.

The Mitchell Dairy took over the Loew-Poli for a morning show for their customers; the East Side Business Men's Ass'n staged a children's matinee at the Capitol and the Jewish Community Center sponsored a children's show at the Strand.

Manager Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic operated a Bridgeport Football night in connection with the *Times-Starr.*

Manny Kugell of the Warner promoted a 17-day 24-sheet on "Gulliver's Travels" in a downtown department store.

Joe Tassinari, Loew-Poli stage hand, was seriously injured when he fell from a ladder while changing the marquee sign. He will be absent from the theatre two months or longer.

The annual Loew-Poli Kiddie Party was held December 23 with a capacity house . . . A change in ownership for one of the neighborhood houses is rumored for the first of the year.

The West End is using Race Matinees on Saturdays for the youngsters and giving away 15 prizes.

Assistant Manager Robert Carney of the Majestic used his head when fire broke out in an advertising display in the lobby and smoke started to fill the house. He mounted the stage and asked the audience to leave quietly through the side exits. By the time the audience was out of theatre the fire was extinguished by other members of the staff without calling the fire department. Another fire scorched the outside walls of the Lyric while a matinee audience watched a show unaware of the fact that firemen were outside.

The Warner played "Allegheny Uprising" only four days in order to get a Christmas opening for "Four Wives" . . . The New Year's Eve vaudeville show switches from the Majestic to the Globe this year. New seats, carpets, drapes and other equipment have been installed in the latter house. Two reserve seat shows are planned.

Joseph Staneoko, doorman at the American, was seriously injured when his automobile collided with another car while en route to Boston.

Season's

Greetings

EDWARD KLEINE

Special Shows Grace Christmas Season

PROVIDENCE—If there was any youngster in southern New England last weekend who didn't get to go to a show, it was through no fault of theatre managements in this part of the U. S. Not only was joy brought to the kids through special pre-Christmas shows, but foodstuffs were collected for various charitable organizations for distribution to needy families.

Here are a few notes on special matinees run by different theatres, and if we've failed to mention them all the oversight was not intentional.

In Pawtucket, M&P's Strand opened Saturday a. m. at 8 and an hour later had to close its doors with quite a few youngsters still clamoring to get in to see "Hopalong Cassidy" and other specially booked films. Salvation Army carried off more than three tons of foodstuffs brought by the kids to the show. Strand management, employes and the Pawtucket *Times* sponsored the annual affair.

In Woonsocket, the management of the Stadium found a hundred youngsters waiting outside the door Saturday morning for admission to a canned goods show not scheduled to take place until the following Saturday. Finally convinced they were mixed in their dates, the kids went home, but were back again the next week with another 900 and more to bring in the largest assortment of milk and other foods ever collected at the theatre's annual "Canned Goods Matinee" for the Woonsocket Day Nursery.

"Vegetable" Matinee

The Newport Lodge of Elks and Manager Harry Horgan of Newport's Opera House cooperated in a "vegetable and canned goods" matinee at that house which also packed 'em in.

In Attleboro, Manager Albert I. McEvoy opened both the Bates and Union theatres Saturday morning to accommodate the more than 2,200 children that turned out for the theatre's eighth annual Xmas with "No Admission" signs hung up on the boxoffices. Again this year Interstate Transit Corp. gave free transportation to children from suburban districts around the city, and Joseph Fineberg, Attleboro businessman, furnished candy for the youngsters while juvenile dancers from the Smith School of Dancing put on a vaudeville show which shared interest with Santa Claus as added stage attractions.

Ted Rosenblatt, manager of the Community in North Providence, will play host at a free children's show the morning of December 26, with the North Providence Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsors, furnishing a box of candy for each child attending.

Another and one of the biggest of the children's special shows was to take place Saturday at Pawtucket when E. M. Loew's Capitol and the city administration were to share sponsorship of the second annual free show at that theatre. Six thousand tickets had been printed and distributed to all schools in the city inviting recipients to attend shows at 8, 10 or 12 o'clock. The city was to have special police officers, nurses, etc., on hand to handle the crowd of youngsters, and Manager Hy Rodman and his staff arranged a special bill of films and stage fare, with Santa and Mayor McCoy scheduled to make personal appearances at each performance.

PROVIDENCE

ARCHIBALD SILVERMAN, owner of the Strand, was host to all employes of that theatre at his annual Christmas dinner party, at Narragansett Hotel on Tuesday. Managers of four houses of Associated Theatres chain, with corporation officers, entertained employes of the Bijou, Empire, Palace and Park at the Narragansett at a dinner and party . . . E. M. Loew's Capitol staff held a supper party on the stage of the theatre after the last show Monday night, and Manager Henry Tobin and staff of the same circuit's Olympia, enjoyed a similar affair at that house.

Midnight shows at practically all theatres in the state are lined up for New Year's eve. First runs and neighborhoods alike will go out for the holiday eve business stronger this year than ever.

Lovell L. Cumming, ticket seller at the Bijou, died suddenly December 14. Funeral services were held Monday.

Edward McBride, manager of Loew's State, and Garret Byrnes, film critic of the Providence Bulletin, *traveled to Boston for an exchange preview screening of "Gone With the Wind."*

The RKO-Albee inside lobby is gleaming with new panel displays of coming attractions designed and executed by Ward Jukes, house artist.

Manager Edward L. Reed of the Strand copped the honors this year for the most novel Christmas lobby arrangement. By a gay, decorated tree surrounded by scores of prettily wrapped presents for every member of the family stood a four-foot-high Santa Claus figure with head devised like a ventriloquist's dummy. A two-way communication system between the dummy and the theatre check room was rigged up so that patrons and children stopping and talking to the diminutive Santa received responses to their questions; with the figure's mouth moving in realistic manner. Secreted in the check room and serving as the "Voice of Santa" was Tom Mulgrew, well-known Providence actor, doing a grand job as the spirit of Christmas.

E. M. Loew's Capitol, Pawtucket, following a recent trial with added stage attraction which drew splendid grosses during a three-day run, is making stage fare a permanent part of the policy for the winter season. The first attraction is due in December 31, opening with a midnight show New Year's eve and continuing through Wednesday. Monday through Wednesday will be the booking thereafter. Eddie F. Lynch will book in units, while song acts will be obtained through the Ross Frisco and Arthur Fisher offices in New York, says House Manager Rodman. Heavy billboard, press and radio advertising will be used to plug the stage shows.

Jurist's Death Delays Miami Trust Case

MIAMI—Death of a senior jurist, the honorable Henry Fulton Atkinson of the Dade county circuit court, occasioned a half day recess and made impossible the completion of the scheduled hearing on the several questions to be decided before the pending Miami anti-monopoly case can come to trial.

Memorial services, held by the county bar association in the court room over which Judge Atkinson has presided for the past 17 years, were attended by all of the attorneys for the plaintiffs and defendants in the suit, filed by the two companies operating the Cameo and the Surf theatres, against the eight major film distributing companies, the Paramount Enterprises, Inc., and Wometco Theatres, Inc., (the latter two being Miami theatrical organizations).

Business accomplished during the half day hearing included the issuance of an order relative to the continuance of the deposition of Hiram D. Parks at Lubbock, Texas. Judge John W. Holland ruled that the motion, filed by the defendants asking that the scope of the examination of Parks be limited, was denied with the appended proviso that the "extent of the examination of witness shall be limited to matters relevant to or affecting the leasing and exhibition of films in the state of Florida."

An additional proviso in this ruling specified that the affidavit identified by said witness at the interrupted questioning at Lubbock, Texas on September 16 (relative to the Broadway case in Atlanta of last year) was and is not admissible in evidence in this case and shall not be offered in evidence or identified.

To Rule on Testimony

Parks may, however, be shown the affidavit to refresh his memory in the course of the questioning.

"Admissibility of all testimony given by Parks is to be ruled upon when the case is finally heard, on the questions of existence of a conspiracy, continuation thereof and effect upon the plaintiffs in the Greater Miami area" the judge further specified for the guidance of a master, should one be appointed to hear the taking of Parks' testimony.

Additional rulings on the technicalities to be observed in the answering of the long interrogatories propounded to Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., United Artists Corp., Columbia Pictures Corp., and Universal Film Exchanges, Inc. Rulings on the answering of questions asked Paramount Pictures, Inc., were made following the hearing of December 9.

With the clearing away of these details the way is clear for the setting of a date for the actual court hearing on the injunction and damages asked. It is now possible that a separate hearing before a master on the matter of establishing liability for damages may not be held separately but may be handled at the trial proper.

Trial date may be fixed during the current week, attorneys active in the case believe.

Meetings to Resume in Texas In Anti-Neely Campaign

DALLAS—Exhibitor meetings over Texas will resume in January to intensify opposition to the Neely bill scheduled for the attention of the House this next session following a victorious trip through the Senate during the last session, according to Don Douglas, former film board of trade secretary and now identified with the Robb & Rowley-United circuit. Douglas substituted for Judge Roy L. Walker at the Waco meeting after Judge Walker had been stricken with acute indigestion at the Ft. Worth gathering.

Following the Waco meeting, Douglas issued the following statement of aims and plans:

"I attended Judge Walker's meeting at Ft. Worth at which about 40 people were present. A particular exhibitor present insisted upon repeatedly interrupting Judge Walker's announcement. This party's interpretation of the Neely bill was so violently different from what most of us understand it to be he could not restrain himself while the matter was being discussed by anyone else. Finally order was resumed and the party in question was given the floor in time to outline his views on the bill. I may not be a very good reporter but about all that I could gather from his 10-minute discussion of the subject was his observation that so few independent exhibitors were present and a further observation that because affiliated and circuit theatres were too bitterly opposed to the bill that as an independent he felt that passage of the act would create some sort of Utopia for him. Altho every exhibitor, independent, affiliated or circuit had been invited to attend this regional meeting, the fact that so few independents attended the Ft. Worth meeting is something I lament even more than he because I say to the independent exhibitors of Texas, and I believe I have many friends among them, that if you do not acquaint yourself with what the Neely bill means to this business and assert yourself now, this iniquitous piece of legislation may become law and instead of attending meetings now to organize defenses against this measure you will be meeting a year from now trying to get it repealed or modified.

"There may be a lot of things about this business that are not to our individual liking, but the Neely bill is not the answer. In some isolated situations there are those who feel that the Neey bill will remove the thorns from their own path—and incidentally put them in the other fellow's path. To accomplish this selfish end they would upset a great industry and hazard the business of the vast majority of people who do not fare so badly under the present methods. The average exhibitor compares favorably in standing and financial ability with other merchants in his town and any exhibitor who thinks that merchants in other lines of business have a bed of roses should become acquainted with their troubles.

"All in the Same Boat"

"It never occurred to me that there could be any distinction between circuit and independent opposition to the Neely bill. There is nothing in the Neely bill that says this restriction applies to circuits and this restriction to independents. We are all regulated alike and, as a matter of fact while I believe the bill in its present form will ultimately cripple our industry or make it a government agency, circuit operations probably can survive under its terms longer than the independent. Production and distribution restrictions are so rigid that advance sales would be impossible and illegal. Pictures will be sold after they are produced—in other words selling will start where releasing now starts. As an example of how horrible 'block booking' is I asked the exhibitor who objected at Ft. Worth, the title of the next big picture he was playing. It happened to be 'Hollywood Cavalcade' which he said he had bought for $20. 'Hollywood Cavalcade' is 11,000 feet in length and printed in Technicolor at a cost of eight cents per foot. These prints average about 30 bookings, so the print this exhibitor got cost

(Continued on page 112)

Tums Program Taken Lightly in N. O.

NEW ORLEANS—The Tums "Pot O' Gold" radio program, being actively opposed in various parts of the country by organized exhibitor groups as detrimental to their boxoffice, is looked upon lightly by the local trade, a survey reveals.

Almost without exception, the 250 persons picked at random and queried as to whether they stayed at home Tuesday night in the hope of being the one called via telephone for the $1,000 weekly prize, answered negatively, observing they believed their chances were so slim that it wasn't worth bothering with.

More significant perhaps as to how the radio program has affected the local trade, is the fact that managers of both first and second run houses say their Tuesday night business has been stable.

Okla. City Vaude Plans Dropped by Standard

OKLAHOMA CITY — Previous plans for vaudeville here have been dropped by Standard Theatres, Walter B. Shuttee, Standard general manager, has announced. It had been announced from Standard's New York office previously that a test run of vaudeville would be tried in the firm's local theatres.

Shuttee commented that the change in plans was brought about by discovery that the vaudeville units under consideration did not measure up to what Oklahoma City audiences would demand.

Standard Theatres Line Up Specials for New Year's

OKLAHOMA CITY — A special lineup of shows and extended exploitation for New Year's eve is being planned by Standard Theatres advertising manager, E. A. Patchen, for the forthcoming week's schedule.

The Criterion will play a Katherine Duffy stage show and open RKO's "That's Right, You're Wrong" at a reserved seat schedule of $1 top admission.

The Midwest will open at 6 p. m. New Year's eve and present three shows of "Four Wives" at regular prices while the Liberty will present a special regular price midnight show of "The Flying Deuces" and "Charlie Chan in the City of Darkness."

The Warner will present the same stage show running at the Criterion and an as yet unbooked film while the Tower will have "Judge Hardy and Son" in special showings at regular prices. The Victoria and Circle will present previews and the Plaza will feature a probable second week on "Gulliver's Travels," now set to open at the Criterion Christmas week.

Metropolitan in Design

SHELBYVILLE, TENN. — Metropolitan in design and furnishings is the new Bedford which opened here recently. Walls of the main auditorium are in ivory with ultra-modern lighting fixtures adorning hand-designed panels.

DALLAS

JAKE LUTZER, Universal representative, surprised friends by his marriage to Miss Dorothy Davis. The couple now are on their honeymoon to Hollywood and Palm Springs. They will make their home in Dallas. Jake has served Universal for the past 17 years. Some years back he earned a promotion to branch manager and was transferred to Indianapolis, but returned to Dallas after a season or two.

Employes of the local 20th Century-Fox exchange held their annual Christmas blowout in the Baker Hotel. Arrangements were in charge of Herman Biersdorf, branch manager, who said that 35 of his organization attended the festivities. There was food, music and dancing.

Cliff Adair and his associates, Joe Jack and Rex McCulloh, were booked to treat Filmrow with a Christmas party in their Young Street general offices on Friday afternoon. Cliff ramrods Liberty Film Lines, Joe handles Film Forwarding Agency and Rex the Film Exchange Transfer. The triumvirate has made a valuable industry service for years.

W. A. "Andy" Mauldin, friends say, is forsaking show business for his first love, the furniture business, and is re-establishing in Lubbock.

Doak Roberts, the Warner manager, shot 50 out of 50 at a skeet shoot in Dallas a

(Continued on page 112)

Okla. Names Highway 66 Will Rogers Memorial

OKLAHOMA CITY—The state highway commission has agreed to erect special markers designating U. S. Highway 66 through the state as "Will Rogers Memorial Highway."

The markers, to be furnished by the Will Rogers Memorial commission, will be square metal with black letters on a white background and will be standardized with other state highway markers. Highway 66 has been designated as the Will Rogers highway over its entire length.

Standard Theatres Allowed Time to Appeal Judgment

OKLAHOMA CITY—Judge A. P. Murrah has set a $1,500 appeal bond and given Standard Theatres Corp. 20 days in which to file its appeal from the court's judgment in the Gerald Whistler case. Last month Whistler was awarded damages for alleged injuries received in the Midwest Theatre as the result of alleged failure of the house's air-conditioning equipment last summer. The case is being tried in the U. S. federal district court here.

Acquire Royal in Ramseur

RAMSEUR, N. C.—T. Cecil Frazier and Mrs. Runa Curtis are now operating the Royal here, having acquired a lease on the house which is the only one in town.

AGAIN

(Since 1916)

(23 Years)

We Wish You

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS



HERBER BROTHERS

"Fair Treatment and Adequate Service Always"

210 SOUTH HARWOOD DALLAS, TEXAS



Wishing Every Theatre Owner
And All Of Our Friends

A Merry Christmas

and

A Happy Prosperous New Year

We are grateful for the fine patronage and definite goodwill which we have enjoyed in the theatre industry the past year. During this Christmastime we are happy to express that appreciation to Exhibitors everywhere.

Sales Offices in

DALLAS
Forrest Dunlap

NEW ORLEANS
W. A. Pruitt

MEMPHIS
Floyd Shaffer

KANSAS CITY
F. H. Bowen

AMERICAN DESK MFG. CO.

(THEATRE SEATING)

Factory . . . TEMPLE, TEXAS

VISIT ANY OF OUR SALES ROOMS

To see Most Modern Designs in Durable Theatre Chairs.

Exhibitors will find Savings in buying their Seating Requirements from us.

Let Us Explain That to You.

If you plan to re-seat soon, or if you contemplate a new theatre, send NOW for latest illustrated catalogue.



No. 1504—A full spring back and crush spring seat of exceptional quality and appearance.

AMERICAN DESK MFG. CO.

TEMPLE, TEXAS

Dallas **New Orleans** **Memphis** **Kansas City**

Anti-Neely Meetings Resume in January

(Continued from page 109)

$880 and the wear and tear on the print alone to serve his booking was $29.33.

"Under the Neely bill this picture would be sold individually at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the sale, cost of servicing the account, wear and tear on the print and probably some profit. Oddly enough, this bill will place pictures out of reach for many small towns.

"At Judge Walker's request I attended the Waco meeting since the time was too short to call it off. Twenty-two exhibitors were present. George Chatmus of Hearne was elected a director to the Theatre Owners Protective Ass'n from District six and his brother, J. C. Chatmus of Marlin was elected from District 11.

Meetings Resume in January

"Judge Walker will resume his meetings in January. They are to be held at San Antonio, Houston and Lubbock and cover every Congressional district in Texas. In closing I want to say while I haven't talked to every independent exhibitor in Texas, I have talked to a great many and I have found only three who are in favor of the Neely bill becoming law. You do not need a lawyer to tell you what's in the Neely bill —it's language is as plain as a death sentence and if you do not have a copy of the bill I shall be glad to send you an official copy if you will send your request to me at 314 South Harwood St., Dallas. As a person who is intensely interested in the welfare of the motion picture industry I beseech you to attend any future meetings, find out for yourself what's in this revolutionary bill and assert yourself one way or the other. If you are in favor of the bill I am sure Allied would be glad to speak for you, although all Allied members are not favorable to the bill. But don't remain silent on this vital issue and don't permit any organization to assume that they speak for you just because you do not speak for yourself."

Judge Walker Is Recovering

Lampasas, Tex.—Judge Roy L. Walker, president of the state Theatre Owners Protective Ass'n, is recuperating here from the effects of an attack of acute indigestion suffered during the recent meeting of exhibitors in Ft. Worth.

Don Douglas, former film board of trade secretary now identified with the Robb & Rowley-United circuit, conducted the exhibitor meeting on the Neely bill at Waco for Judge Walker.

Sooner Stag Show Yields To Protests at Norman

NORMAN, OKLA.—The stag show scheduled for last week at the Sooner here failed to materialize when word that there would be beer and lively girl show for the University of Oklahoma males here got around. Norman ministers and WCTU leaders raised a howl of protest and succeeded in having the show cancelled.

NTSCo. Sales

DALLAS—Equipment sales to theatres in several Texas towns are reported by National Theatre Supply here. They include lamps, transverter, pedestals and screen to D. C. Caraway, Cliftex, Clifton; carpet, Normana, El Campo; sound, Crystal, Gonzales; sound, projectors, bases and lamphouses, T. M. Hasty, Mt. Vernon; mechanisms, sound, pedestals and reflectors, Texas Queen, Stanton; screen to T. G. Teeter, Joy, Houston, and sound, projectors, lamphouses and screen to the Juarez, Edinburg.

W. E. Jack Indicted

HOUSTON—William E. Jack, formerly assistant manager of the Joy here, has been indicted on four charges of embezzlement from the Joy Amusement Co., Inc., according to information from a local law firm whose spokesman said that Jack's whereabouts is unknown.

DALLAS

(Continued from page 110)

few days ago. He usually gets 49 out of that number.

W. R. Holcomb, a former east Texas exhibitor, bought a small farm at Garland which he lived on for two crops. He sold it and in the transfer lost his old standby, a Tom alley cat. In Sunday's paper, a lost and found ad was run with reward for a Persian cat returnable to the Holcomb farm at Garland. The Persian belonged to the new owners. Holcomb didn't insert the ad, neither has he found old Tom to this date.

P. V. Williams of Munday; Hooser of Seymour; H. S. Leon of Haskell and "Toad" Leon of Graham were on the Row, Monday and Tuesday. With the group was Glenn Fannin who said he had a very pleasant connection with the H. S. Leon shows in five or six west Texas spots.

With all the Christmas doings which go on year after year in the Robb and Rowley office, it was different this year. Both Harold Robb and Ed Rowley called in their first lieutenant, C. V. Jones, and told Jones they didn't want employes giving them (R&R) any Christmas presents. Jones agreed. But Jones got hold of a good radio and sold 800 chances at 25 cents each. The profit amounted to over $150. That money went to buy remembrances for R&R. Jones' alibi was "we didn't spend our money," meaning employes' money.

B. R. McLendon, it is reported on Filmrow, is tearing down two 25-foot buildings which will house his new theatre at Honey Grove, which town he said he was entering a few days ago. McLendon's headquarters are in Atlanta, Texas, from which he operates about ten theatres in northeast Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

E. L. Black, former exhibitor in Texas and Oklahoma, who has quit the operating game to rent theatre properties to tenants, is moving up to Sulphur, Okla., where he will engage in the furniture hospital business, he told friends. The move there was made primarily for Mrs. Black's health, it was said.

C. V. Griggs, the assistant manager of American Desk Manufacturing Co. at Temple, spent only a brief few hours in Dallas.

(Continued on page 122)

DALLAS

Season's Greetings

MARK OF MERIT SACK ATTRACTIONS

DALLAS
NEW YORK — CHICAGO — ATLANTA

DALLAS

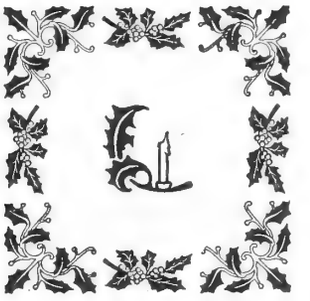
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR
from
(H. S. "Shoe")
SHOEMAKER'S
BARBECUE
— Where Showmen Meet —
ON FILM ROW

DALLAS

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
SMOKE
TRAVIS CLUB
CIGARS
— From —
"FLORINE"
HOTEL ADOLPHUS
Cigar Stand

Season's Greetings
BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
315 S. HARWOOD BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC. DALLAS, TEXAS

Most Cordial
Christmas Greetings



From

GENE AUTRY
ROY ROGERS

REPUBLIC PICTURES INC.

BILL UNDERWOOD CLAUDE EZELL

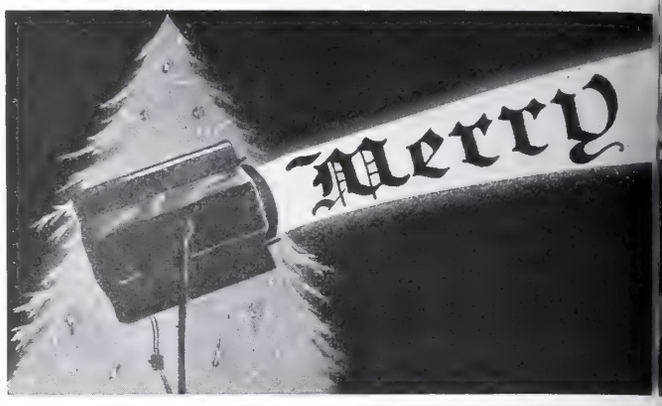
LLOYD RUST

— and —

Your Happy New Year
will be prosperous
with 1940 showings
of REPUBLIC steady-profit
Westerns, Serials and Features



1939



DALLAS

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS

MONOGRAM PICTURES, Inc.

304 S. Harwood — Dallas, Texas

ED BLUMENTHAL JOHN FRANCONI

DALLAS

—AND ANOTHER YEAR WE EXTEND . . . .
SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO OUR MANY FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

TEXAS - VALLEY FILM SERVICE

DALLAS
412 S. St. Paul
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Season's Greetings
— to —
All My Friends

B. C. GIBSON
Representing
United Artists Corporation

TEXAS FILM COMPANY
W. P. (Pat) Garyn
302½ S. Harwood Dallas

A Very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
—To All Exhibitors of the Great Southwest—

SEASON'S GREETINGS

BURT KING

RCA Magic Voice of the Screen

302½ S. Harwood DALLAS

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

HUGH OWEN

United Artists Corp.

Wishing All Exhibitors A Merry Christmas

—and assuring them the fastest and most dependable film transportation in 1940

LIBERTY FILM LINES, INC.
CLIFF ADAIR

FILM EXCHANGE TRANSFER
REX McCULLOH

FILM FORWARDING AGENCY
JO JACK



1940



DALLAS

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

ALLIED
THEATRE OWNERS
OF TEXAS

DALLAS

A MERRY, MERRY XMAS
from J. J. Roberts "and Gang"

National Theatre Supply Company

Who Thank You For Your Wonderful
Patronage During the Year

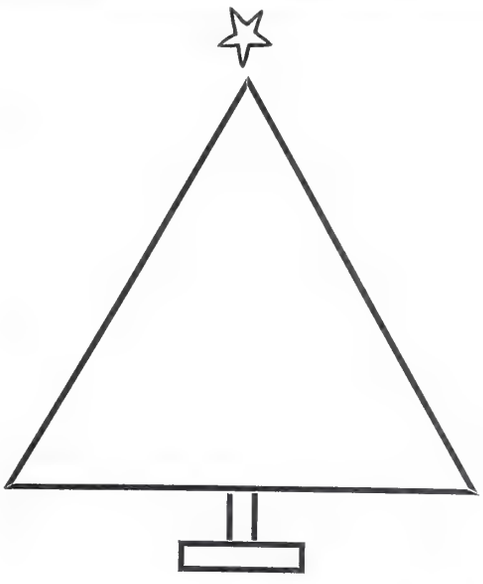
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

HENRY SORENSON

Modern Theatre Equipment Co.

Phone 7-5009

2009½ Jackson St. Dallas, Texas



MERRIE CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

PAUL SHORT — WALLACE WALTHALL
JOE ESTES — J. O. McCLANAHAN
F. A. "DOC" ALLEN — LEO SMITH
JOE BRYANT — MAC TRITCH
VICTOR MAXWELL — TOM HARRIS
WALLY NASS — "MARIE"

National Screen Service

WISHING ALL
A Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

ADAMS FILM EXCHANGES

"The House of Westerns"

308½ S. Harwood — Dallas — Phone 7-1393

Season's Greetings

Texas Poster Exchange

302 S. HARWOOD—DALLAS

Complete Poster Service

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

E B. BREWER, who owns and operates the Wayne at Waynesboro, Tenn., is also the town banker.

Stopped by to see Mr. Wink of Manning & Wink at Dalton, Ga., but found him out of town. Enjoyed a few minutes' conversation with his assistant, C. C. Combee, who has been with Wink about 20 years.

Had an interesting visit with E. K. Churchwell of Savannah, Tenn., who owns the Churchwell and who claims the best sound between Memphis and Chattanooga. Churchwell also operates a large hardware and supply business. Met the son, Burke Churchwell, who is his father's projectionist.

R. B. Gooch of Selmer, Tenn., owner of the Ritz there, is a man of many talents. In addition to operating the theatre he has the agency for the Gulf Oil Co. and is the town's undertaker and embalmer.

H. A. Griswold, who manages the Sewanee Union Theatre on the campus of the college, is also a professor of Greek and the English Bible there.

Arch Bishop, who has two "jig" houses at Columbus, Ga., and who recently took over the Palace at Ensley, Ala., tells your correspondent he will open a new one for colored patrons at Montgomery, Ala., around January 1 to be called the State. It will seat about 400. Best wishes in the new venture, Arch.

Visited the new theatre being built by E. P. Clay at Woodbury, Ga., which will seat 200 white patrons and 50 colored in the balcony. He expects to have the house open by January 1. It will be known as the Woodbury.

Spent half a day with the Martin Theatres people at Columbus, Ga., and learned G. N. Goldwire is being transferred from Manchester, Ga., to Lake City, Fla. T. A. McDougald of Lake City will be assigned to another house. Bob Lam, son of Oscar, has been transferred from the sound truck to the management of the President at Manchester, Ga. Hugh Martin advises they are remodeling the Ritz at Valdosta, Ga. My good friend M. H. Crest is still traveling the circuit, keeping the boys pepped up and in line. Charlie Carr, booker for the circuit at Atlanta, is going to Dallas for a belated vacation and to spend Xmas. Johnny Harrell will look after things at Atlanta while Charlie is away. Met the nice ladies of the office, Mildred Williams, the bookkeeper, and Hyacinth Hawkins, information girl.

The Martin-Thompson Theatres' annual Christmas banquet was held at Hawkinsville, Ga., on December 21.

We understand the Crescent Princess at Decatur, Ala., is being remodeled with a new front and other changes.

Mrs. Josephine Keith, general factotum of the Aldun Theatres at West Point, Ga., tells us the Riverview, which burned this summer, is being rebuilt; also that they are building a new theatre at Franklin, N. C., to be called the New Macon to replace the present theatre known as the Macon.

The Season's Greetings from US to YOU!

1940

Will be especially bright and prosperous for exhibitors who install SIMPLEX 4 STAR SOUND and PROJECTORS!

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

ATLANTA

CLAIRE HILGERS, former southern division sales manager for Republic Pictures, has moved his residence to Albany, Ga., where he is supervising the erection of a new theatre in that city which will bear his name.

We are glad to see "Ted" Edwards, technician for Visugraphic Film Corp., back to work and looking fine after a recent serious operation.

Pearl Osborne, former booker for Monogram in Charlotte, and a familiar face on Walton Street, was in town for a few days.

Carl Floyd, Republic Pictures, has just returned from an extended trip through south Georgia.

G. N. Goldwire, formerly of Manchester, Ga., has replaced T. A. MacDougald at the Grand and DeSoto, Lake City, Fla., as manager.

Janie Ledbetter, Theatrical Printing Co., is spending the Christmas holidays with her parents at Lavonia, Ga.

The marriage of Patricia Alice Savini, daughter of N. E. Savini, Savini Films, to H. Medford Connely, was solemnized December 24, at the Peachtree Christian Church.

De luxe stage show units featuring 35 *to* 50 *people will be presented at the Capitol Theatre throughout the winter season, when they are available in the territory, it was announced by the management.*

John Evins announces the opening of the New Plaza, Saturday, December 23.

We are indeed sorry to hear that Chas. Kessnich, division manager of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, met with a slight accident at the GWTW ball and had to be taken to a hospital.

Seen on the Row for the first time in many months was W. E. Griffin of the Vienna, Vienna, Ga.

F. L. Alig jr., president of Beach Amusements, Inc., spent several days here. He operates the Vogue of New Port Richey, Fla., and is now building a new theatre at St. Petersburg beach.

T. K. Jones, Ritz, Dadeville, Ala., spent several hours booking and took time out to exhibit his ability as magician, and we must admit he is very skillful.

It's good to see J. E. Waters of the Fairburn, Fairburn, Ga., out again after his recent illness.

Filmrow visitors: John A. Cunningham, Edison, Miami, Fla.; John Gaither, Heflin, Heflin, Ala.; Nat Hancock, Roosevelt, Jefferson, Ga.; Moze Lebovitz, Chattanoo-

(Continued on page 118)

FOR RENT

All or part upper floor 148 Walton Street, Atlanta, Ga.; now divided into offices, studios and supply rooms; terms reasonable.

VISUGRAPHIC FILM CORP.

P. O. Box 385 Atlanta, Ga.



ATLANTA

Wishing
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Poster Exchange

R. H. ROBINSON
Atlanta

ATLANTA

SEASON'S GREETINGS

To Our Many Friends

Theatrical Printing Co.

SID REAMS RILEY DAVIS

Season's Greetings

HELEN HARDY

BOXOFFICE Correspondent

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from
J. U. McCORMICK
MRS. J. V. ELWELL

AMITY EXCHANGE
Distributors
SPECIAL ROAD SHOW ATTRACTIONS
Westerns, Features, Serials and Shorts

AND - - - AGAIN THIS YEAR WE WISH OUR
MANY EXHIBITOR FRIENDS THE
HAPPIEST OF CHRISTMASES
and
MOST PROSPEROUS OF NEW YEARS

MONOGRAM
Southern Exchanges, Inc.

JOHN W. MANGHAM, President

ATLANTA, GA.
P. H. SAVIN M. E. WIMAN FRED W. MATHIS

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
J. O. LAMONT O. S. BARNETT
J. E. McELROY M. L. STEVENS

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
J. HARRY SPANN BILL LAKE BUFORD STYLES

MEMPHIS, TENN.
W. E. OSBORNE BILL LEWIS JOE JONES

Serving 11 Southern States
The Friendly Exchange
Giving You More for Your Film Dollar

Season's Greetings

Republic Pictures Corp.

OF THE SOUTHEAST

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, President

ATLANTA
CARL FLOYD SAM WILSON
GEORGE JONES AL ROOK

CHARLOTTE
J. H. DILLON MARSH FUNDERBURK
H. P. RHODES ROY BRADLEY
JACK LONDON

MEMPHIS
WILLIAM SNELSON LLOYD MILLER

TAMPA
HENRY GLOVER JOE E. THRIFT

NEW ORLEANS
LEO SEICSHNAYDRE G. C. NUNGESSER
GEORGE Y. HARRELL JACK DUFFY

Atlanta — Charlotte — Memphis — Tampa
New Orleans

Lottery Charges Are Filed Against W. S. Taylor

LAUREL, MISS.—Charges of operating a lottery as Bank Nights at local theatres have been filed against W. S. Taylor, president of the Strand Amusement Co., by E. O. Lawrence, operator of another picture house.

The Strand Amusement Co. operates the Arabian, Strand and Jean theatres, the Bank Nights allegedly being conducted at the latter two.

Taylor in a statement said "the drawings conducted at the Strand and Jean twice weekly are without cost to the patrons and thus do not constitute a lottery. The only cost to the patron is the price of admission to the theatre."

Improves the Roxy

ATLANTA—James H. McKoy, manager of the Roxy, announces installation of York air-conditioning equipment and Mirrophonic sound.

ATLANTA

(Continued from page 116)

ga, Tenn.; Joe Maddox, McDonough, McDonough, Ga.; Kermit C. Stengel, Crescent Amusement Co., Nashville, Tenn.; Ed Beach, Silvertown, Thomaston, Ga.; Abe Borisky, Independent Theatres, Inc., Chattanooga; Roth Hook, Aliceville, Ala.; Nat Williams, Rose, Thomasville, Ga.; John Maddox, Woodbury, Woodbury, Ga.; and Louis Rosenbaum and his son Stanley, from Florence, Ala., Bryant Williams, Roxy, Cochran, Ga.

Ted Toddy, Dixie Film Exchange, is on a short trip through Florida.

Oscar Morgan, Paramount Pictures Corp., in Memphis for a few days.

The "Chief" at Republic Pictures requests that nothing be said about his golf game this week.

O. C. Lam Plans to Rebuild Damaged Piedmont Fox

PIEDMONT, ALA.—The Fox Theatre, which was gutted by fire recently, leaving nothing but the walls standing, will be rebuilt, according to O. C. Lam, owner. The loss was decidedly heavy with practically no insurance. In addition to the loss of the building, equipment and everything else, about 30,000 feet of film was destroyed.

New Sound and Projection

WILSON, N. C.—The Wilson here recently installed new projection and sound, according to Manager A. S. Grist.

Build on Park Square

MARIETTA, GA.—A new theatre, named the Cobb, has been built here on north Park Square.

ATLANTA

HAPPY NEW YEAR
DIXIE FILM EXCHANGE
145 Walton Street
Atlanta
S. HICKMAN, Manager

ATLANTA

Season's Greetings
from
K & B SODA CO.
Abe Brown, Prop.
Filmrow's Meeting Place
Atlanta

ATLANTA

Wishing All Exhibitors
A Merry Christmas and
Prosperous New Year
OSCAR J. HOWELL P. A. "Gus" KING
CAPITOL CITY SUPPLY CO.
Complete Theatre Equipment and Supplies
161 Walton St., N. W. Atlanta, Ga.

The Entire Family Wishes You
A
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
HARRY M. PAUL

Milton Mueller	Roy Malmborg	Eddie Carroll
Henry Thurmond	Tom Eubanks	Charles Fortson
Charles Rushing	Fred Bearden	Fred Nash
George Tarrant	Charles Moore	Frank Hilsman

WIL-KIN THEATRE SUPPLY, INC.
150 Walton St., ATLANTA
Phone WALnut 4613
321 S. Church, CHARLOTTE
Phone 8620
"Everything for the Theatre Except Film"

Season's Greetings
JACK BARRETT
Accessory Consolidation Service Co.
189 Walton St. Atlanta

A Very
MERRY CHRISTMAS
To All
Our Friends
BACH THEATRES
ATLANTA

NEW ORLEANS

A BEAUTIFUL Christmas tree greeted pre-holiday visitors to the local M-G-M exchange . . . As is his custom, E. V. Richards of the Saenger circuit gave a party for managers and their wives or lady friends in the parlors above the Tudor Theatre. At another party employes of the United circuit were guests of Richards.

The Roxy at Mobile, Ala., owned and operated by Alex Gounares, has been re-equipped by the local branch of National Theatre Supply . . . Our sincerest sympathy to J. A. Barcelona of Baton Rouge, on the recent death of his wife . . . Mrs. J. J. Rehetack of Golden Meadows, La., who is recovering from a major operation, will get her best Christmas present. She'll spend the Yuletide with her husband.

The week before Christmas established a new low in attendance at the neighborhood houses despite excellent film attractions . . . The Famous and Garden theatres both boasted tinsel-covered trees and made the holiday real by giving toys to the kiddies on Christmas Eve . . . On December 23, Vic Meyers of the Orpheum hosted about 1,000 kids at a special morning show.

Flash Film Delivery, managed by Gene Fisher, has redecorated.

Visitors: O. J. Gaude, G. C. Ogden, Max Courett, Hy Carollo, Mrs. A. E. Foster, F. J. Gaude, H. A. Everett and J. Pasque.

A new daughter has arrived at the home of the W. A. Prewitts jr. Papa is with the American Desk Mfg. Co.

Word from Milton, Fla., that Dozzier Roberts, manager of the Imogene, has forsaken single blessedness.

Cecilia Kern, Affiliated Exchange stenographer, had a narrow escape when the automobile in which she was riding collided with another.

Al Castleberry, manager of the Affiliated Exchange, now in the Veterans' Hospital at Biloxi, is recovering rapidly, according to Assistant Manager Crockett who now is in charge of the local exchange.

E. V. Landaiche, manager of the local 20th-Fox branch, shot a couple of decoys when he went duck hunting recently. There is a good story in this if you can get it out of him . . . And while on the subject, get L. Boyer of National Screen Service to tell you about his duck hunting expedition at Lake Charles.

Freddie Houck is up and about again after a tussle with a local hospital.

And may all that is good be yours, is our holiday wish to you.

Meredith Honored

CHARLESTON, S. C.—Charles H. Meredith, managing director of the Dock Street here, was elected vice-president of the executive committee of the national theatre council at its recent meeting in New York.

New Mimosa Makes Debut

MORGANTON, N. C.—The new Mimosa, seating 780, opened here a fortnight ago. C. V., F. W. and W. I. Davis own and operate the house.

Sims Treasurer of Fox

ATLANTA — Elrod Sims, formerly of Barnesville, Ga., is new treasurer of the Fox here.

Theatre Activity Heavy In New Orleans Zone

NEW ORLEANS—Considerable theatre activity in these parts, including these items:

L. J. Anglois has purchased the Given at Maringouin, La., from Ernest Delehaye and will operate the house. Anglois also is operator of a house in Port Allen, La.

Fire in the booth of the Bienvenu at St. Martinsville, La, destroyed one projection machine. Repairs were completed overnight.

R. Williams of Linder, Ala., is erecting a new theatre there for opening during the holidays.

M. F. Green has opened his Palace at Milton, Fla., and writes that business is fair.

A new theatre will be opened at Gibsland, La., soon with Jack Manning as manager.

Cole and Grant are opening a second house in Pascagoula, Miss. It is to be an Affiliated circuit house.

The Louisiana at Baton Rouge, closed for the past five months, has been reopened and will be operated as the Dixie under the Southern Amusement Co. (Lake Charles) banner.

Ralph H. Preston, who once operated small roadshows out of Kansas City, plans to open the Hill at Raymond, Miss., and manage six small shows out of that town.

Go for Popeye Club

JASPER, ALA.—One of the most successful Popeye Clubs in the south is the one sponsored here by the Jasper Theatre management. Boys and girls under 15 are eligible for membership and free shows are held each Saturday morning.

Pin-Ball Machines Out

CHARLESTON, S. C.—The city council has ruled against licensing of pin-ball games.

NEW ORLEANS

A HAPPY YULETIDE AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
SHAFFER FILM SERVICE
1303 Cleveland New Orleans, La.

Wishing You All a
Very Merry Christmas
and
A Happy and Prosperous New Year
ATLANTIC PICTURES
218 South Liberty St.
P. A. SLIMAN F. F. GOODROW

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes
For Success to Our Friends for
the Coming Year
Rex Poster Exchange
221 So. Liberty St. New Orleans, La.

NEW ORLEANS

A Merry Christmas
To All Our Friends
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Castay
Albert H. Crook
Eunice Keppler
Linton J. Major
Chas. J. Trepagnier
W. A. Prewitt, Jr.
LOUISIANA MOTION PICTURE EQUIPMENT COMPANY
1414-16 CLEVELAND AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

MEMPHIS

EXHIBITORS along the Row: W. O. Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; Jack Wilbanks, Heinz, Walnut, Miss.; Joe Applebaum, Roosevelt, Hollandale, Miss.; Burris and Henley Smith, Imperial, Pocahontas, Ark.; Lyle Richmond, Missouri, Senath, Mo.; G. E. Sibley, New, Adamsville, Tenn.; Don Landers, Radio, Harrisburg, Ark.; R. X. Williams, Lyric, Oxford, Miss.; Nathan Flexer, Waverly, Waverly, Tenn.; John Mohrstadt, Missouri, Hayti, Mo.; R. B. Cox, Batesville, Batesville, Miss.; F. G. "Bob" Roberts, Ritz, Bald Knob, Ark.; W. E. Jepson, Ritz, Crenshaw, Miss., and W. H. Caver jr., and his mother, Mrs. W. H. Caver sr. of the Von at Booneville, Miss.

W. H. Mangham, president of Monogram Southern Exchanges, spent several days here and made the following changes in his local office: W. E. Osborne becomes branch manager, replacing Mike Carmichael, resigned, and W. A. "Bill" Lewis becomes office manager and booker, replacing Mrs. Cookie Ely, resigned. Lillian Nolly is the new inspectress. Osborne was transferred here from Charlotte where he was on the sales force, and Lewis is from Atlanta.

F. S. York, who operated the Gem at Grenada, Miss., was burned out by a fire that started in the booth . . . G. W. Haynes of Strand Enterprises, Inc., has taken over the Dixie at Dyer, Tenn., from Ed Sneed. Andy Jonas will manage this house as well as the Strand in Trenton, Tenn.

M. J. Pruniski, vice-president of Malco Theatres in North Little Rock, paid the local office a visit . . . The reason for all the branch managers' smiles this week is that Col. Tony Sudekum of Crescent Amusement Co. has just wished them all a very merry Christmas with one of those famous Tennessee country hams . . . C. H. Collins has resumed the helm of the Country Show at Maben, Miss. Theatre, for the past several months, has been managed by J. D. Courtney.

John Shannon of the Maxon at Portageville, Mo., was along the Row with a very badly bloodshot eye—due to the bursting of a blood vessel . . . Hiram M. Meeks, Malco's city manager in Fulton, is the proud father of a 7-pound girl, christened Mary Linda. This is their first . . . Robert Mochrie, RKO's southern district manager, spent several days with his local manager, Al Avery.

Mark Sheridan, 20th-Fox booker, is confined to his home with flu . . . K. H. Kinney of the Hays at Hughes, Ark., was on the Row booking . . . H. N. Haddad was in booking for his new Munford house . . . G. H. Goff of Parsons and Bruceton was busy booking this past week while Mrs. Goff was downtown Christmas shopping.

Two unusual visitors were Mr. and Mrs. M. M. West of the Rex, Centerville, Tenn. This was their first visit here in six months . . . The most successful benefit show ever staged here was the one on December 17 at Loew's State when 1,100 persons did their part to help the needy children in Memphis . . . Jess Norman of the Best at England, Ark., was a Film-row visitor. His brother, who is visiting from Los Angeles, drove him over.

Malco Theatres, effective January 1, takes over the Ritz and New theatres at McGehee, Ark., from Mrs. B. Baradel . . . R. V. McGinnis of the New at Hope, Ark., another visitor . . . Oscar Morgan, Paramount's division manager, and Ed F. Jones called on Bill Bugie, local branch manager.

The first of the Christmas parties on the Row was held Friday night, December 15, when Jimmy Rogers of Columbia entertained his office force at his home. Just before his guests departed, they said Merry Christmas with a portable radio.

Sunday, December 17, was Bookers Day with Bill Ruffin of Ruffin Amusement Co. Each year for the past ten on the Sunday before Christmas Ruffin has all the bookers up for a turkey dinner at his home. Among those who attended were John Tomlinson and Earl Hartzog, Warner; Jimmy Scheibler and C. O. Niblack jr., RKO; Lloyd Miller, Republic; Leonard Andrews, Universal; Barney Rappaport, Paramount; Bill Lewis, Monogram, and Frank Heard, Pitt Hollis Holmes and Tom Kirk, Metro.

Saturday night Variety held its Christmas party. David Flam, advance publicity man for Dave Apollon's show, which opens in Memphis December 24, arranged the program, and Gene Balis was master of ceremonies. About 200 were present.

ARKANSAS

WORK of installing new projection and sound at the Paramount and Pastime, Helena, has started, according to Manager John Oxford . . . A benefit show was given at the Majestic, Stuttgart. Admittance fee was a toy or some kind of wearing apparel. The Majestic cooperated with firemen, the *Daily Leader*, and the Boy Scouts. The Welfare League will supply baskets to be delivered Christmas eve.

Announcement is made that a theatre will open at Delight. Approximately $4,000 *is being spent on remodeling and equipment . . . A "food matinee" for the benefit of the Johnson county Christmas basket fund was held at the Strand, Clarksville.*

According to W. E. Ringer, manager of the Gem at Leachville, he plans to open another house at Lake City. New sound will be installed at the Gem at Leachville soon.

MEMPHIS

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TENNESSEE

SUNDAY shows were defeated in Jackson by a vote of 1,240 to 952. The Protestant Ministers Ass'n is credited with the successful opposition . . . Dayton enjoyed its first Sunday films on December 17. Dayton is the town made famous by the "monkey" trial.

Clark Gable and the missus, Carole Lombard, spent 30 minutes in Nashville en route to the premiere of "Gone With the Wind." Three thousand fans crowded the Nashville Airport to get a look at Clark and Carole. Don Ameche and wife, at the airport at the same hour, also came in for a share of interest.

Gene Russell, advertising manager of the Princess, turned in a neat bit of promotion by presenting to Gable a letter plaque reading: "15,000 fans demand return of 'San Francisco.'" The picture was returned to Nashville and played at the Princess December 21 . . . William Parker, formerly head usher at the Paramount, has been transferred to the Princess as assistant manager.

A 300-pound cake was served to patrons of the Princess, Murfreesboro, in celebration of the third birthday of the theatre, a link in the Crescent Amusement chain. A series of special "anniversary" programs were scheduled during the week. Oscar Altman is manager.

Miami Premiere of "Gulliver" Is Brilliant Social Event

Gulliver Glimpses

MIAMI BEACH—Executives on from Hollywood admitted that the spectacle created by the orchid and ermined audience which thronged the Colony and the Sheridan theatres for the double world premiere of Miami's first full-length feature movie, Max Fleischer's "Gulliver's Travels," equaled and, in some respects, surpassed the brilliance of Hollywood premieres.

Celebrities themselves were amazed by the size of Monday night's premiere audience, not to mention its even more impressive character. That audience was the best evidence yet offered of the sensationally early season that Miami Beach, Miami and Palm Beach are enjoying. Never before has there been an affair of such social significance and brilliance before mid-January.

When an unknown rifleman took a telling shot at the 25-foot silver balloon, riding high in the air above the Colony Theatre, it was immediately repaired and few, except earlier spectators knew of the oc-

(Continued on page 124)

MIAMI BEACH—Everything along the southeast Atlantic coast was "Lilliput," as the South's first double premiere played before what is believed to have been the largest audience ever to witness a premiere showing south of Washington when the Miami-made "Gulliver's Travels" unreeled its feature-length Technicolor sequences before an audience which surpassed in size that of the record crowd attending the "Gone With the Wind" premiere at Atlanta last week. The relative importance of the celebrities attending the two would be difficult to determine. The sheer social significance of the "Gulliver" premiere was heightened by the tie up made with the Miami Milk fund to stage a supergala ball in the Palm Gardens of the Roney Plaza Hotel following the showing at the Colony Theatre.

A substantial portion of the tickets sold for the Colony's showing was to socialites who had arranged for parties of eight to attend both "Gulliver" and the ball. Such parties were made up for $100 a table with the entire proceeds going to the fund to provide milk for undernourished children.

At the Sheridan Theatre, where a

(Continued on page 123)

MEMPHIS

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NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

MEMPHIS

SANTONE

INTERSTATE employes again will get their bonuses this year and managers will rejoice since the amount is expected to run slightly more than the amount that was passed out last year. Interstate promotes its skippers from within its own ranks.

The stork left twins at the Santa Rosa Hospital for Mrs. Ralph Labutis, Tuesday morning, December 12. From Room 526 comes this info: Boy, Ralph jr., weighing three pounds, seven ounces; girl, Renee, weighing three pounds, nine ounces at birth. Proud pappy is manager of the Texas Film Service here.

"Slim" Travis of the State staff took in the Sun Bowl game at El Paso on the rest of his belated vacation . . . We were informed that "I Married an Angel," legit stage show at the Texas Theatre recently for three performances, lost money which ran into the four-figure mark. The show was one of the best seen here in many a moon, and should have netted a neat profit.

"Green Pastures," the Yiddish picture written by Peretz Hirshbein, noted playwright, was exhibited here Sunday evening at the San Pedro Playhouse by the Poale-Zion organization. Proceeds from the film, which has Jewish dialogue with English titles, went to the Jewis Palestine relief project.

A reissue of 20th-Fox's "Road to Glory" played a return engagement at the Empire last week to satisfactory business . . . "Gulliver's Travels" is the Christmas offering at the Majestic . . . Texas' own Mary Martin appears in person at the Aztec Theatre, December 23, in conjunction with the showing of "The Great Victor Herbert," of which she is the star.

The poor and needy children of Alamo Heights will be remembered on Saturday morning when Manager Maurice Gleaves of the Broadway puts on a special short subjects show, charging a can of food, used or new clothing, broken toys, and anything of value will be taken as admission and distributed by the Heights firemen on Xmas morn.

Last Saturday morning, the Palace put on a similar show as the Broadway. Joske-Elks Club children's second annual theatre party was held and each child brought food in lieu of tickets. Club distributes 500 baskets to indigent families each year . . . Both the Empire and the State theatres held gift nights last week, giving away many valuable articles, which were on display in their lobbies, in tieups with local merchants . . . Leo Seltzer's "Roller Derby" moves into the Municipal Auditorium again Christmas night for an engagement which runs until the middle of January.

Maybe It Was The Picture

Paducah, Ky.—A jury, trying a damage suit in which a patron claimed permanent injury as the result of a fall in a local theatre, decided to look over the scene of the accident. They entered the theatre in a body—and remained for the full show as guests of the management. But they awarded the patron $5,000 damages anyway.

Pichel Megs "Earthbound"

HOLLYWOOD — Irving Pichel will direct 20th-Fox's "Earthbound" for Producer Sol Wurtzel. Virginia Bruce and Warner Baxter will be co-starred.

Tourists Must Fill It

PASS-A-GRILLE, FLA.—A 528-seat theatre will be built in this town of 263 population in anticipation of a busy winter tourist season.

DALLAS

(Continued from page 112)

Hollis Boren of Memphis who has been branching out into circuit proportions lately, made a flying trip into Dallas this week on his new theatre project going on in Jacksboro. He bought the old Opera House there recently from C. A. Worthington, and since has started excavation on a new building.

The omission of one small word makes a whale of a difference in a sentence, as witness the following that we correct without suggestion In last week's issue we said that in his address before an exhibitor meeting in Dallas, Karl Hoblitzelle, head of the Interstate circuit, thought the Neely bill would hurt Interstate the least of all other Texas theatres. "He thought," we reported, "that in the end the bill would destroy all theatres of the state, but Interstate houses would last." The last sentence should have read "He thought that in the end the bill would destroy all theatres of the state, but Interstate houses would *be* last."

J. W. Curley and son, Steve, of the National and Queen at Bridgeport were on the Row for their almost weekly visit and report the crappie biting normally, and better if you know how to snag them.

Jack Lilly of Greenville hasn't been in Dallas in two weeks, which is news. Reason is his house manager at the Rialto, "Tipie" Ferguson, has been on the sick list.

Jim Golding, independent exhibitor at Amarillo, caught a five o'clock plane back to the home town after a shopping tour of Dallas exchanges. He arrived the same morning by plane. Amarillo must be 500 *miles from Dallas, but what's* 1,000 *miles a day these days.*

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OKLA. CITY

T B. NOBLE JR., managing director of the State, off to Colorado on a business trip . . . The boys at the State are working on a promotion stunt in connection with their forthcoming playdate on "The Amazing Mr. Williams" that should set the femme fans on their ears. Stunt is to give away a man . . . yep, a man! Idea is the gent is a mysterious, handsome young fellow with a pocketfull of dough . . . every girl who attends the show gets a ticket number . . . the lucky draw gets the gent . . . and she comes up on the stage to claim him. It is then he removes his mask and takes the young lady out for a round of fun and frolic at the State Theatre's expense.

The E. A. Patchens held a big chili supper and screening for the Standard gang last week. The guest list included W. B. Shuttee and wife, James Burge and Wife, Forrest Swigart and wife, Robert Busch and wife, Spence Pierce, Paul Townsend, Marvin Krisch and Auditor Smith and wife.

Grover Edward Guthrie, Warner usher, got a fair idea of how he looks to other people one night last week when he saw his overcoat, suit, shirt and tie going down the street on another man. He pounced upon the 25-year-old man inside his clothes and set up such a fuss people rushed to the scene. At the station the man admitted the theft.

The annual fruit and vegetable matinee for the American Legion needy was held last week at the Yale in Claremore . . . And a free kiddies show was given by C. R. McCullough at the Ritz in Hominy last week, also as a Christmas treat.

New Variety Club house rule change: Every day except Saturday, the hours of the manager of the club are to be from 12 o'clock noon, to 11:00 p. m., and on Saturday, from noon until 2:00 a. m. Sunday. However, if any members should call or should be present at the club before 11:00 p. m. on week days, the manager shall remain on duty until members leave, and on Saturday, the same rule shall apply except the time extends to 2:00 a. m.

B. J. McKenna, property man for the Variety Club, has notified club members of the directors' appointment of a committee to perfect ways and means of obtaining eligible new members for the Variety Club. C. B. "Brownie" Akers is chairman with Tom B. Reed, Walter Wortham, C. A. Gibbs and Ernest Fair as committee members.

"Gulliver" Premiere Gala Social Event

(Continued from page 121)

simultaneous showing was held, with opening ceremonies held a half an hour earlier, an entire center block was occupied by employes of the Max Fleischer studios.

Monday noon a luncheon at the Columbus hotel celebrated the completion of this $1,500,000 animated cartoon with 100 film executives, theatre managers and local dignitaries honoring Max Fleischer and Dave Fleischer whose phenomenal careers are topped with this current production, their first full-length feature.

On from Hollywood were Barney Balaban, Adolph Zukor, Stanton Griffis, Neil Agnew, Oscar Morgan, R. M. Gillham, Lou Diamond, Al Wilkie, W. E. Bradfield, (who has been in Miami working on exploitation and publicity of the feature for the past several months and who flew back to Hollywood, Monday evening), Leonard Goldenson, Leon Netter, John Kirby, and Louis B. Mayer.

Among the other theatre personages attending the luncheon were Col. Eddie J. Sparks, president of the Florida-Sparks chain; S. A. Lynch, W. R. Lynch, Sam Buchwald, Sidney Meyer, Mitchell Wolfson, Austin Moon and George Hoover.

Originally planned for a single theatre showing, the premiere was converted into a two-house affair a week prior to the scheduled date when the Miami Beach society editor of the Miami *Herald*, Helen Rich, had the inspiration which developed into the ultra social premiere at the Colony, with the Lilliput benefit ball.

Besides Jessica Dragonette and Lanny Ross, whose singing voices are heard as the romantic leads, Princess Glory and Prince David, assisting celebrities included Ted Husing as master of ceremonies; Mayor E. G. Sewell, Ben Bernie and the young giant, David Ballard, whose eight feet height made him an impressive double for that doughty sailor of legend, "Gulliver."

New House in Rock Hill For Bryant Is Begun

ROCK HILL, S. C.—Work has begun on a new $75,000 theatre here for R. E. Bryant. He hopes to have the 700-seater ready for operation by April 1. Bryant now operates the Capitol here.

AUSTIN

THE LOCAL Interstate mob tossed their annual Christmas party at the Avalon Night Club, and everyone is saying that this brawl was the best one to date. Bill Hellums, E. P. Ischy, Mose Macow, and Dick Waite comprised the committee in charge of arrangements.

K. S. Mallory of the Interstate insurance department, Dallas, spent Sunday in "the Friendly City" . . . Leon Hearn of the Queen service staff took off a week from work to do a little deer hunting near Laredo. Anything goes when this lad is a-hunting, because his father is the game warden there.

Business seems to be a bit off at the local Interstate houses, but it can't last forever. State workers, with a week of holiday on their hands starting Christmas day, are juggling the question, how to finish their Christmas shopping in the brief time between getting their December salary warrants Friday, and the end of preholiday shopping Saturday night. Following a custom of years, Comptroller Sheppard will have more than $1,000,000 of full-month December pay warrants ready for delivery Friday.

Motion pictures of NYA projects at the University of Texas were shot in color by Captain Frederick B. Hyde, photographer for the government agency . . . Raymond Wood of the Varsity staff was given front-page mention in The Daily Texan, *U. of T. newspaper, for having donated "one of the best collections of stamp-collectors' magazines in Texas" to the university library.*

Through the cooperation of Louis Novy, city Interstate manager, all seven of his houses held toy matinees Monday from 3 until 5 o'clock, admission being a toy, which will be distributed by the Austin Junior Chamber of Commerce.

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Jacksonville's First Drive-In Opened

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.—Jacksonville's first Drive-In open air theatre was formally opened, and to a capacity audience. The new theatre is located on the main highway leading to Jacksonville's ocean beaches about one mile outside the city limits.

The investment in the property and theatre equipment was said to be in excess of $35,000. Accommodations are provided for 350 cars. As the cars drive in they are stopped for the admission charge and while this is being done a boy wipes off the windshield and turns off the lights of the car. Twelve ushers attired in dark trousers and white sweaters direct the cars by flashlight signals to a parking place.

The arrangement of cars provides for an elevation for each row which makes it easy for all to see the screen. Speakers are provided for each car and the picture may be enjoyed in all kinds of weather with the windows closed.

Subsequent-run pictures and reissues of outstanding films of other years are run with a change of pictures three times a week. The program starts each night at 7 p. m. and three complete shows are presented during the evening.

The owners and operators are George Wilby and associates, who also operate two similar ventures in Atlanta, and one in Savannah. It is understood that the opening of several more theatres have been planned.

George T. Wilby is president, with Frank Harris, general manager for the new group. Horace Denning is manager of the new Jacksonville house.

Three Scripting "Fleecing"

HOLLYWOOD—Marion Parsonnet is teamed with Lynn Root and Frank Fenton as scripter on "Golden Fleecing." Edgar Selwyn will produce for Metro with James Stewart starring.

Gulliver Glimpses

(Continued from page 121)

currence. Below the big balloon on which was painted the theatre's name, floated two streamers: One, "world premiere," and the other "Gulliver's Travels." Hundreds milled outside both theatres, eager to see the attending socialites and celebrities.

"Eighteen months ago when the decision was made to produce 'Gulliver's Travels' as a feature, we faced some very real problems. For example, more than two years is required to produce an animated cartoon feature in color and sound, provided one has the space, an organization large enough, sufficiently experienced, and coordinated to do the work," Max Fleischer told the 200 theatremen, Miami business men and city executives, at the Monday noon luncheon at which Miami pledged its continued support of movies "Made in Miami."

"When we started this picture, we lacked space, manpower and the machinery for feature work," the president of the Miami studio which now employs more than 700 artists and staff workers told luncheon guests. "We had only one and a half instead of two years in which to build, move, equip and complete the picture for distribution by Christmas, 1939." (Work on the feature was begun in New York with the transfer to the new Miami studio, specially designed and built for the Fleischer organization, being made a year ago this spring).

Various obstacles which had been declared would prove insurmountable were referred to by Fleischer with the observation that he preferred to have the last laugh, and he added, as a dramatic conclusion to his luncheon talk, "It is my pleasure to state that two weeks before the day promised, the feature 'Gulliver's Travels' was signed, sealed and delivered, complete."

Declaring that the completed "Gulliver" was much better than even he had anticipated, Stanton Griffis, chairman of the Paramount board of directors, paid glowing tribute to the Fleischer organization.

Official credits for "Gulliver's Travels," all of which were greeted with prolonged applause at the Sheridan where Fleischer studio employes occupied a block of seats in the center of the theatre, were: Story adaptation, Edmond Seward; screenplay, Dan Gordon, Cal Howard, Ted Pierce, I. Sparber and Edmond Seward; music and lyrics by Ralph Rainger and Leo Robin. Atmosphere music created and conducted by Victor Young; scenics, Erich Schenk, Robert Little, Louis Jambor and Shane Miller; photography, Charles Shettler; Technicolor advisor, Johnny Burks; directors of animation, Seymour Kneitel, William Bowsky, Tom Palmer, Grim Natwick, William Henning, Roland Crandall, Johnson, Robert Leffingwell, Frank Kelling, Winfield Hoskins, Orestes Caplini; animators, Graham Place, Arnold Gillespie, Nicholas Tafuri, Alfred Eugster, James Culhane, David Tendlar, George Germanetti, Joseph D'Igalo, Nelson Demartest, Reuben Grossman, Abner Kneitel, Frank Endres, Otto Feuer, Joseph Oriolo, Harold Walker, Lod Rossner, Joe Miller, Frank Smith, Edwin Rehberg, Ben Clopton, James Davis, Stephen Muffati, Irging Spector, Sam Stimson, George Moreno, Ted Dubois, William Sturm, Lou Zukor, Bill Nolan, Stan Quackenbush, Robert Bentley, Edward Smith, Thurston Harper and Tony Pabian; directed by Dave Fleischer.

Continue French Films

AUSTIN, TEX.—The second in the series of French films sponsored by the Alliance Francaise, a University of Texas club, was shown at the Varsity, the house having been taken over entirely by the organization. Program consisted of the feature, "The Puritan," and two shorts.





The New Drive-In Theatre at Jacksonville—

A view of the new automobile "Drive-In" Theatre at Jacksonville from the highway. Erected by the George Wilby interests, the theatre carries a Neon-lighted display board at the left that lists the screen attractions. At the right is a night view, showing the screen, arrangement of cars and the speaker plan for each car.

End to Pre-Holiday Slump Is Foreseen

MONTREAL—Pre-holiday theatre business in Montreal has been off, but the outlook for the immediate future is that there will be a decided improvement.

Pre-Christmas business has been dulled by the necessity of many saving for presents, and the time taken up in the evening by shopping has drained theatres of many regular customers.

With midnight shows on New Year's Eve and theatres open in the province of Quebec on the Sunday before Christmas, many parties should be on hand at theatres.

A notable contribution to business activity in the theatre district is expected with the arrival of many sports-loving Americans bound for the skiing slopes of the Laurentians. Bookings in Montreal hotels show a large number of these will spend at least two or three days here.

St. Catherine St. stores are delightfully decorated and illuminated with myriad colored electric signs. Theatres and cabarets have entered into the spirit of things and are ready to play their part as genial hosts.

The English-speaking section of Montreal's population makes Christmas its leading holiday, and the French-Canadians are giving the occasion more attention every year. The holiday season is extended for the latter because, not only is New Year's Day the great French-Canadian holiday (following the example of their kinsmen in France), but it continues through to January 6, Epiphany or "Little Christmas."

Storekeepers to Have More Time for Film Diversion

TORONTO—Theatre men of Toronto have shown keen interest in the decision of the city council to order the early closing of all jewelry shops, butcher stores and shoe repairing establishments, these places being permitted to remain open to a late hour on Saturdays or before a holiday. Dry cleaners have already been ordered to close at supper time and a move is under way to enforce early closing of many other stores. This means that many storekeepers and clerks will have their evenings free for entertainment. Previously a considerable number could only attend a midnight show because of working hours.

Move Vaudeville Units to Hamilton From Toronto

TORONTO — Bigtime vaudeville playing Shea's here, operated by Famous Players, now is being booked into the Palace, Hamilton, Ont., the following week, the whole stage program being transferred to the latter city 40 miles from Toronto. The Palace is a chain unit managed by George Stroud. If this test is successful, vaudeville may be booked into key theatres of other Ontario cities.

Hint Thrown Out That Ontario Will Restore Amusement Tax

TORONTO—A distinct feeler has been thrown out by the Ontario government in the intimation that the war situation compels a restoration of the amusement tax for theatregoers throughout the province because of the necessity of additional revenue, the hint being made that the Ontario Legislature, at its session to open January 11, will provide for the re-enactment of the levy to secure a further $2,000,000 per year in revenue. Premier M. F. Hepburn himself has declined to discuss the proposal, either one way or the other, and his attitude is taken as a confirmation of the report that the government will re-establish the tax.

The announcement that the tax act will be designed to secure $2,000,000 indicates that the schedule to be imposed will duplicate the imposts which were in effect prior to June 1, 1937, when the tax act was abolished. During the fiscal year 1936-37 the revenue from the amusement tax was $1,918,597, which is close to the suggested figure. Government statistics show that the Ontario tax revenue during the previous year was $2,178,512, the peak mark, but the levy was amended in the face of protests so that the subsequent collections were somewhat lower. At the high level, the tax on a 25-cent ticket was 5 cents, although admissions up to 25 cents had been exempt during a previous period.

Ontario holds the distinction of having had the first ticket tax when it was instituted by the Provincial Legislature as a popular war levy back in 1916 with a charge of only one cent on every admission ticket regardless of face value. In a short time a graduated scale was adopted in recognition of the fact that those who were able to buy a high-priced ticket for a show could afford to pay a larger levy. The promise was made that the tax was only a war measure but it was even increased in post-war years and continued to be levied until 1937 when it was dropped entirely just before an election campaign. On that occasion, the theatres made a bargain that the saving in the tax would be passed on to the public and that admission prices would not be raised in Ontario. The theatre companies have undoubtedly lived up to this promise but there is the thought that, if the tax is again imposed, the theatres will be free to increase their prices to meet rising war costs in this new conflict.

All other provinces of the Dominion impose an amusement tax, with the exception of Saskatchewan where five municipalities make use of the privilege locally.

Parliament to Meet In War Session

Toronto—The second war session of the Canadian Parliament is scheduled to open at Ottawa on January 25 when further wartime measures will be dealt with. Increased expenditures, including the Empire air training scheme, are expected to bring enactments providing heavier business taxes and customs duties which will affect the film industry.

Flow of British Film Continues Unabated

TORONTO—The war has apparently made little difference in the number of British features available to Canadian theatres, judging by the formal announcement of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., Toronto, in connection with the holding of an eastern sales meeting at the company's head office a few days ago. This showed that 12 British films were being released, four of them having a timely war flavor. The latter included "Topedo Raider," which was formerly titled "Born for Glory," "I Was a Spy" "Our Fighting Navy," and "Secret Agent."

On the general list issued by Empire-Universal are: "Girls Must Live," "Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday," "The Ware Case," "Shipyard Sally," "On the Night of the Fire," "So This Is London," "A Window in London," and "Arsenal Stadium Mystery."

Churches Are Accused of Breaking Lord's Day Act

TORONTO—Somewhat of a sensation was caused in Toronto circles when the accusation was made that the churches themselves were breaking the Lord's Day Act by the presentation of secular motion pictures at Sunday evening services. Particular reference was made to the showing of pictures of the visit of the British Monarchs which, it was pointed out, had nothing to do with religious teaching. The charge which was brought up at a meeting of the Toronto West Presbytery aroused a tumult of discussion occurred at a time when the Lord's Day Alliance had warned theatre owners against overstepping the mark in connection with Sunday midnight shows.

Rev. John Coburn declared the churches were not playing fair in showing pictures that could not be classed as religious. One cleric, in defense, complained that religious films were difficult to obtain and pointed out that he went to a screening of one recommended film only to come to the conclusion that it was a propaganda film for the liquor interests because it showed young people how to mix drinks.

Leap Year Specialty

HOLLYWOOD — Johnny Hines, comedy star in the days of silent pictures, will direct "Woman Proposes," a Leap Year story which he wrote and sold to Pete Smith as a Specialty.

Theatre Building in Ontario Going Ahead Despite War

TORONTO—Theatre construction in the Ontario zone continues active in spite of war conditions.

Ground has been broken for a third theatre at Oshawa, 30 miles east of Toronto, the new house, to be known as the Biltmore, being scheduled for completion by April 1. It will have 700 seats and will include a smoking balcony. The Biltmore is a project of Toronto interests which include B. E. Laxer and Henry Falk, the contractors being the Demelis Bros. of Toronto.

L. G. Farrow, proprietor of the Vogue, Port Credit, has purchased a site 55x120 feet in the new Kingsway suburban district west of Toronto on which a start has been made in the erection of a 600-seat theatre to open next spring. The lot itself was purchased for $6,875.

Another independent theatre is projected for Toronto in the purchase of a 120x180 foot site at 1955 Yonge St. in the north end by A. Merker for the erection of a theatre to be called "World of Tomorrow," the architectural plans for which have been drawn by Benjamin Brown. Four stores are included in the structure.

Frank Fera, owner of the Rio at Levack in the northern Ontario mining area, has completed the Rio at Sudbury, making the fourth house for the latter city.

The Colony, at Eglinton Ave. and Dufferin St. in northwest Toronto, has been completed by H. Weiss and is being opened. All of the above are independent theatres.

Prepare "Bedtime Story"

HOLLYWOOD—"Bedtime Story," which Columbia will make co-starring Cary Grant and Irene Dunne, is being adapted by Rowland Leigh and Robert Pirosch for Producer William Perlberg.

Prolonged Illness Fatal To Donald A. Burpee

MONTREAL—Filmrow and the theatre district in Montreal, as well as exhibitors throughout the province are mourning the death of Donald A. Burpee, who, until his retirement this year was secretary of the Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries, Inc. Mr. Burpee, who had been ill for a long time, died at his residence in Montreal last Friday at the age of 50. Native of Woodstock, N. B., he came to Montreal 20 years ago and associated himself with Maurice West in the firm of Burpee and West Enterprises, which operates motion picture theatres in Quebec province and New York state.

His wife, formerly Dorothy Smith, and a daughter, Helen, survive.

Educator Considers Films Unique Teaching Adjunct

MONTREAL—Education by visual means imparts to school pupils much that would be difficult and perhaps impossible to learn otherwise, Dr. W. P. Percival, director of Protestant education, told the Kiwanis Club of Quebec. He was speaking on "The Film Library of the Department of Education."

The department's library contains over 1,000 film strips totaling 50,000 or more pictures, he said. Descriptive catalogues accompany many of the films, and the pupils see and learn.

Anthony Collins Scoring

HOLLYWOOD—Graham Baker and Gene Towne's "Swiss Family Robinson" is being scored by Anthony Collins. RKO Radio will release.

A Longer Xmas

TORONTO—For many persons Christmas was one sweet long holiday from the Friday night before the recognized date until the following Wednesday morning because of the observance of Boxing Day on December 26, even though the statutory holiday fell on a Monday. Among those in the Dominion who did not have a complete day to themselves were the employes of theatres, but fellow workers in the film exchanges were more fortunate in that they started to celebrate on December 22, mere skeleton staffs being on duty in the distribution offices on the Saturday and also on Boxing Day.

The usual parties took place Friday afternoon at the head office of Famous Players Canadian Corp. and at the film exchanges after which the staffs scattered for the extra long weekend. Some went to other cities and towns to be with relatives for the festive occasion and the strange war was almost forgotten in the merry-making.

Comparatively few theatres conducted Sunday midnight shows on Christmas Eve. Instead, many exhibitors made an early start with their advance advertising for New Year's Eve Frolics which, in the case of Ontario, could not be scheduled to start until after the stroke of midnight on December 31 because of strict enforcement of the Lord's Day Act. In Quebec, however, the shows can operate right through the evening and then into the midnight programs.

"Ghost Breakers" to Marshall

HOLLYWOOD—George Marshall will direct Paramount's "The Ghost Breakers," forthcoming Bob Hope-Paulette Goddard comedy.

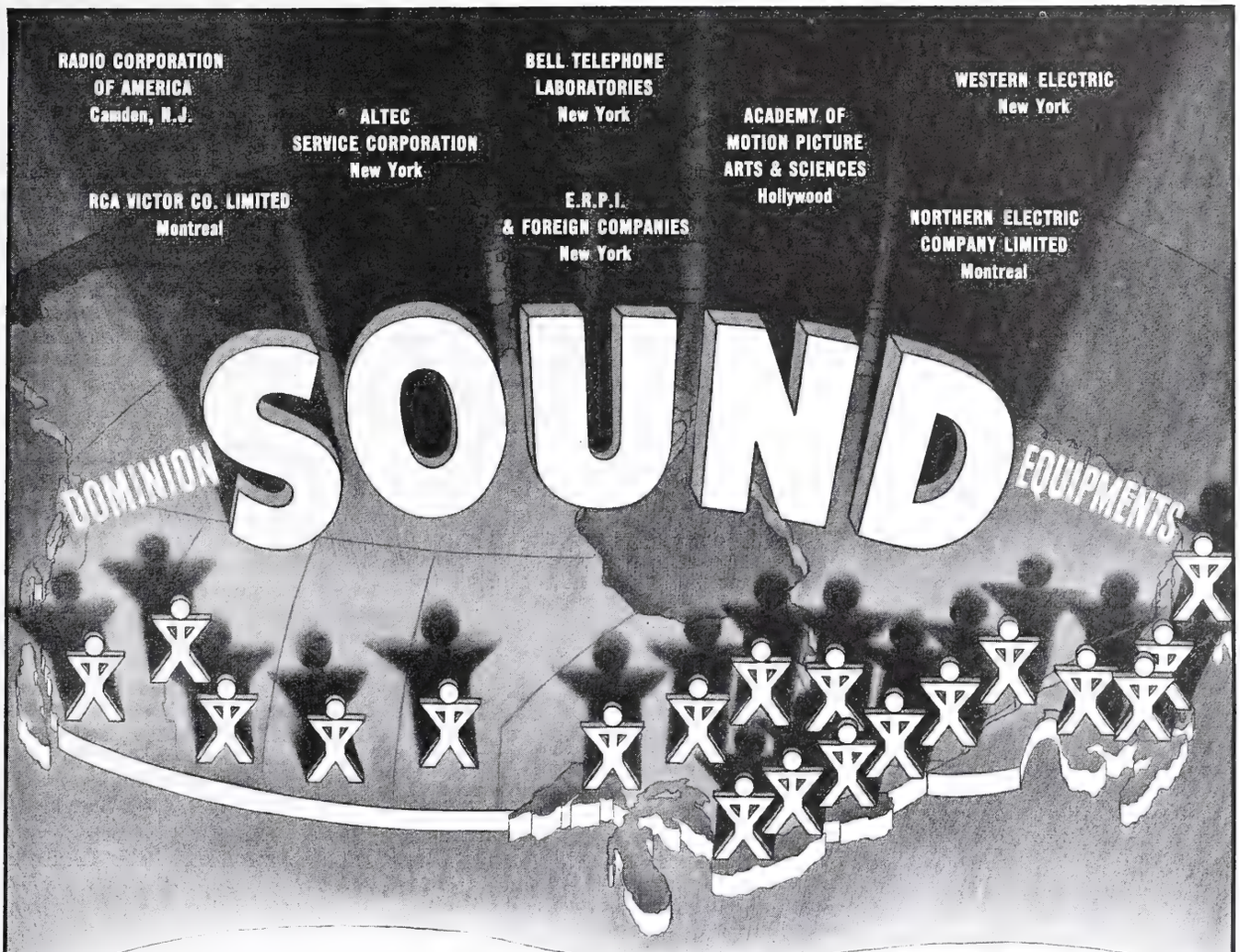
Adapt Considine Production

HOLLYWOOD—"Wings on His Back," John Considine jr. production for Metro, is being adapted by William Ludwig and David Hertz jr.



At the Hanson Circuit Convention—

Managers and other executives of the Hanson Theatres in recent convention are (starting with those seated, left of picture and clockwise around the table): Tom Mascaro, Lorne Moore, Keith Wilson, Charlie Ingram, Lionel Hansher, V. Simone, Lloyd Taylor, H. E. Marlow, Jim Boyd, H. T. Long (general manager), O. R. Hanson (president), Dick Main (supervisor of theatres), Tony Saso, Harry Neun, W. C. Tyers, Don Doberer, E. V. Armstrong (supervisor of projection and maintenance), Gordon Miller, and Tom McKnight. Standing are, left to right: Grant Garrette, Gordon Beavis, A. E. Sanderson (company accountant), Henry Marshall, Bert Wainwright, Leo Coyle, and Frank Miley.



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MONTREAL

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all friends on Filmrow and in the theatres . . . Approach of the holidays is very noticeable both in the pickup in theatre attendance in the past few days, and in the activities on Filmrow where mysterious parcels and packages are already beginning to accumulate, and a festive air permeates the offices.

One happy gathering on the eve of Christmas lured most of Filmrow downtown to enjoy a real Christmas dinner followed by a program of entertainment provided by the staffs of Filmrow offices, particularly thoughtful feature of which was the provision of gifts for all the young ladies present.

Officers and men of the Three Rivers regiment were guests of H. Kauffman, manager of the Herbert Wilcox film, "Our Fighting Navy," at the final representation at His Majesty's Theatre. Kauffman was, until recently, province of Quebec manager for Grand National.

B. E. Norrish, managing director of Associated Screen News, was one of the judges of the successful photographic contest conducted by the Canadian Pacific Railway, of which the first prize, $500, *was won by a Calgary contestant.*

On his visit to Montreal, Charles Farrell took the opportunity of visiting a number of theatres. "I'm still as much of a film fan as I was when I gained my first acquaintance with pictures in one of the chain of theatres my father managed in Cape Cod," he said.

Irene Bordoni and the cast of her revue at Chez Maurice entertained the officers and men of the French-Canadian regiment, Les Fusiliers de Montreal, at a special afternoon show in the regimental armory. The regimental band cooperated, and later, Miss Bordoni was the guest of the regiment at a reception in the officers' mess.

W. Forgie of the YMCA has been appointed chairman of a special recreation committee formed to coordinate amusements for the troops. He named a subcommittee to consider the offer of various theatres to place blocks of seats at the disposal of uniformed troops at specified times.

A film photographed in Eire, "Kathleen," based on the legend of Kathleen Mavourneen, was shown at the YMHA Cinema Arts Club. Stars from the Abbey Theatre appear in the film . . . "College Daze" is the title of a revue at the Mayfair presented by Freddy Lewis and his company of funmakers as a supplement to the screen show.

Children, who to their sorrow are excluded even at Christmas time from theatres in the province of Quebec, found some consolation in a free film starring "Santa Claus," presented by a local pharmacy . . . Gordon Dahn of the York offered children a treat Saturday morning by arranging a special performance of "The Wizard of Oz," to which youngsters accompanied by their parents were admitted.

Montreal's Better Business Bureau warns parents to be careful in answering advertisements regarding motion picture schools. It comments: "Dishonest promoters of motion picture schools cull their victims from among gullible and doting parents, on representation that their children will be put in the movies. Various advance fees for worthless services have been obtained through fake references, flattery and deceit."

"The Hunchback of Notre Dame" which will be released the first week of the New Year, will have one of the first showings on the continent in Montreal . . . British newsreelers select Sir John Simon as their favorite film star. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is the least camera-conscious of public men. "His facial expression remains completely natural and he talks with unfailing clarity and exact emphasis," says the London *Daily Mail.*

The elaborate stage setting of "Chin Up," the wartime revue which holds the boards at His Majesty's Christmas week, are by Vincent De Vita, stage presentation

(Continued on page 132)

Season's Greetings

FROM

CANADA'S LARGEST AND

FINEST FILM LABORATORIES

ASSOCIATED SCREEN NEWS

LIMITED

MONTREAL, CANADA

B. E. NORRISH,

Managing Director

TORONTO

N L. NATHANSON, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has been in Hollywood on a combined holiday and business trip . . . Jack Arthur, western Ontario district manager of Famous Players, again displayed his artistic touch by being the producer of the Christmas Box Symphony at Massey Music Hall, December 19, in conjunction with Sir Ernest McMillan, noted Canadian musician and conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra which played the musical portion of the colorful program. This elaborate entertainment has replaced the time-honored Christmas pantomime in Toronto and seats were at a premium for the one performance.

Roly Young, film critic of the Toronto Globe and Mail, *enjoyed the thrill of having his first production, "Chin Up," a wartime musical revue, held over for a second week at the Royal Alexandra. The cast is made up entirely of Canadian talent.*

For Christmas week, Manager Jules Bernstein of Loew's adopted the unusual policy of playing a double bill following the close on December 21 of "Ninotchka" which played two weeks. The holiday attractions are "At the Circus" and "Fast and Furious." The Christmas attraction presented by Manager Fred Trebilcock at the Uptown was "Gulliver's Travels."

Harry Paynter, eastern division manager, and Larry Druxerman were in town from Montreal for an eastern Canadian sales meeting of Empire-Universal Films at which discussions were led by General Manager W. A. Perry, Paul Nathanson and O. Hanson. Paynter encountered many of his friends in Toronto where he spent many years until quite recently.

Harold Kay, manager of the Fox, Toronto, and a director of the Independent Theatres Ass'n of Ontario, recovered from a severe illness in time to enjoy Christmas. The primary cause of his sickness was an infection of the teeth.

Film trade executives of Toronto were shocked to learn of the death of D. A. Burpee, prominent until recently as secretary of the Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries, in his 51st year. Burpee, who had been an active worker in behalf of exhibitors, was co-proprietor of the Corona at St. Hyacinthe and of the Eden, Sorel.

Manager Bob Eves of the smart Eglinton, Toronto, organized a very special canned goods matinee on December 16 under the auspices of the Eglinton Business Men's Ass'n with a program of stage acts, five comedy shorts and a Santa Claus, the proceeds being turned over to various north end churches. Clowns, magicians and Punch and Judy entertained a houseful of enthusiastic kids.

Bert Wheeler, film star headlining the show at Shea's for a week, had a busy time with extra appearances at the Exhibition Camp theatre for the soldiers, on the air for the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund and at various functions.

Al Hartshorn, formerly with Famous Players in Toronto and for some time assistant manager at the Palace, Hamilton, has been promoted to be manager of the Orpheum which is being reopened at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., by the big chain. W. P. McGeachie, veteran manager, continues in charge at the Algoma in the northern city.

B. W. Silver, head of Colonial Pictures, Ltd., Toronto, has been in Ottawa to arrange for the release of the Canadian version of the British feature, "The Warning," the National Film Board of Canada having added a sequence showing Hon. N. McL. Rogers, minister of national defense, in a talk on Canada's war effort.

Manager Tom Daley of the Imperial in downtown Toronto had an added attraction in the lobby consisting of a miniature Santa Claus in mechanical form which talked with customers on seasonal topics.

"Destry Rides Again" was privately screened for the managers attending the annual sales meeting of the Associated Theatres circuit and also for those at the eastern conference of Empire-Universal Films.

While Louis Rousson, partner in the LaSalle, Kirkland Lake, was busy with his election campaign for a seat in the local council, Manager Ted Soucie of that theatre journeyed to Toronto to line up more bookings. R. T. Stevens, proprietor of the Regent in Sudbury and his other theatres at Sturgeon Falls and Creighton Mine, made the Toronto rounds. Tony Allevato, who recently opened his second theatre, the Alexander, at Wallaceburg, was after films for this house and also for the Allevato at Rouyn way up north.

Trade visitors from western Ontario included Bruce S. McLeod of the King, Strathroy, and his partner, George Lennon, of the new Glencoe at Glencoe. George is a brother of the late Bud Lennon, one of the real pioneers of the film exchange business in Canada.

Abe Rappaport, owner of the Hollywood at Campbellford, brought news of plans to organize his town as a winter sports centre now that the fishing has closed down for the year. L. W. Payne, proprietor of the Capitol at Listowell, was enthusiastic about business with his town now in use as a military camp. Larry Nolan of the Ottawa Nolans made a recent trip to the Toronto film offices as well and talked football.

With the appointment of Lloyd Taylor as manager of the Granada at Hamilton, succeeding Tom Mascaro who has gone to the Capitol at Belleville, Donald Doberer has become manager of the Granada at Dunnville, Ont. W. C. Tyers is manager of the Granada at St. Thomas in succession to Fred Thompson, who returned to London some weeks ago.

H. M. Masters, general manager of United Artists Corp., Toronto, has covered practically the whole Dominion with a trip to the Western Prairies following

(Continued on page 132)

TORONTO

HAPPINESS
and
PROSPERITY
To All
CANADIAN
EXHIBITORS



ARCHIE LAURIE
Toronto

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Grand National Films Ltd.
INDEPENDENT
AGGRESSIVE

Christmas and New Year's Greetings from



HANSON THEATRES CORP.
LIMITED
TORONTO

MARITIMES

THE first concerted effort of its kind to be staged by the Saint John military, the diversified 20-act amateur program, was played before a capacity audience at the Capitol as a midnight show, Friday, December 15. Proceeds of the concert, which included solo and instrumental music, dancing and novelty entertainment, will be used to provide a Christmas treat for the troops of Saint John Fortress and also to equip an army hockey team.

The Local Council of Women of Halifax sponsored a Children's Matinee, Saturday morning, December 16, *at the Capitol. Price of admission was a can of food which the Council will distribute among the needy this winter . . . The Boy Scouts' Christmas toy shops have benefited considerably by Saturday morning matinees when the admission price has been toys which can be repaired by the Scouts for Christmas gifts to poor children. Various exchanges have cooperated by supplying the film gratis and among theatres having these shows are the Strand, Saint John; Capitol, Amherst; Capitol, Campbellton; Capitol, Dalhousie; and the Capitol, Saint John.*

During the showing of "The Royal Visit" at the Capitol, Saint John, members of the Red Cross Society acted as ushers and donations were received in the lobby of the theatre for this society . . . Alice L. Fairweather, executive secretary of the Maritime Film Board of Trade and active in many local organizations, recently addressed an I. O. D. E. meeting in Moncton, N. B., on behalf of the Navy League and received substantial subscriptions from several chapters of the order for the Seamen's Mission in Saint John.

Peter J. Leger of the Opera House, Bathhurst, N. B., accompanied by Mrs. Leger, were registered at the Admiral Beatty Hotel, Saint John, recently . . . Wolfe Cohen, Canadian general manager of Vitagraph, Ltd., spent a short time at the Saint John exchange . . . David Copeland, Canadian general manager of Columbia, was also here at the office of the Maritime Film Co., franchise holders of Columbia product in the Maritimes.

At the December meeting of the Film Girls' Patriotic Club of Saint John, held at the office of Regal Films, plans were made to give donations to the Christmas gifts to be given to the soldiers stationed here and arrangements for sponsoring an entertainment at the Seamen's Mission early next year were discussed. Knitted scarves, mittens and socks which had been completed by the members were to be given to the boys of the Navy.

Patrons at the Capitol, Saint John, were pleasantly surprised one evening when they were treated to a Coca Cola on their way into the theatre. A new drug store, soda fountain, etc., was opening the next day and this was just one of their publicity stunts . . . The theatre business seems to be falling off to some extent in certain sections of the country. Three theatres in the Maritimes have been closed recently, the Strand, Chester, N. S.; Hayden's, Lockeport, N. S.; and Goudey's, Barrington Passage, N. S.

Recent visitors to Filmrow included T. J. O'Rourke of the Gaiety, Minto, N. B., Colin Danson of the Strand, Sussex, N. B., as well as C. C. Curran of Dominion Sound Equipment Co. of Halifax, N. S.

March of Time Depicts Canadian War Efforts

MONTREAL—Canada's war effort is to be pictured for millions of theatregoers. Camera crews already are on the job preparing a 30-minute March of Time feature which will be shown in theatres throughout the United States, Canada, the British Empire and South America.

One of the directors now is in Ottawa conferring with the Canadian film board and cameramen are at work photographing men in action in the military, naval and air forces and securing pictorial records of what is being done in the many plants engaged in war production.

The film will cut right across Canada's war effort. It will picture the Dominion's economic weapons, the resources, which, as Premier Mackenzie King recently stated, will be a big factor in the successful conclusion of this struggle for the democratic countries.

Aside from other considerations, the film is expected to be helpful in developing tourist business in the coming year. Increased tourist business is one way in which the government hopes to provide more foreign exchange, so necessary in war operations.

New Pact to Westmore

HOLLYWOOD—Perc Westmore, head of Warner's makeup department, has been given a new five-year contract.

Finishes "Heroes" Script

HOLLYWOOD — The screenplay of Warner's "Stuff of Heroes" has been completed by Abem Finkel.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS . . .

METRO PREMIUM COMPANY

276 West 43rd Street

New York City

VANCOUVER

THE National Film Society screened a variety of subjects at their fifth showing at the Stanley Theatre last Sunday afternoon. This organization, and its work, is rapidly growing in popularity and Miss Scriven is to be congratulated on the manner in which she welcomes and attracts such cultural groups to her house.

Leon Shelly, Screenadz, was host to a number of representatives of women's organizations at a private showing of "The Royal Visit," in the projection theatre on Filmrow.

"Drunk Driving," an M-G-M short, was the occasion for a special screening at the Capitol, to which Maynard Joiner, the manager, invited the mayor, chief of police, chairman of the traffic and safety council, and others. The verdict was: "Every driver should be compelled to see it."

The annual supper-dance of the staffs of Filmrow was a huge success, the best ever. Starting at 10:00 *p. m., it gathered momentum and numbers until dawn was in the offing and the untiring ones ceased to beg for just one more dance, and reluctantly called it a day, another day.*

After a period of delay, Harold Warren has let a contract for the construction of his new theatre at Alberni, B. C., and expects to open by March 1 with an up-to-date 400-seat house.

The Lux is soon to add to the illumination of Hastings Street, and Exhibitors Bill Brown and F. G. E. Stevens announce the opening for the 23*rd. Part of the delay is due to the vessel bringing over the seats being forced to await an armed convoy.*

Ralph Calladine plans to reopen his Columbia in Victoria, on Christmas Eve.

This holiday season is not all holly and plum pudding for Sam Lechtzier, for what with the installation of the chairs for the Lux in Vancouver, the Columbia in Victoria, and following the fortunes of those for Harold Warren's house in Alberni, he has little time for festivities.

When the Seaforth Highlanders entrained for the first stage of their journey to the firing line in France, Harold Pethic stepped bravely along with the rest. Harold was a familiar figure on Filmrow where he represented Colonial Films, and filmdom's heartfelt wishes accompanied him.

Out of respect for Douglas Fairbanks, whose funeral was on December 15, *UA's Vancouver office was closed on that day.*

The annual lunch of the motion picture industry was set for Thursday, Dec. 21.

Autry P. A. in Minneapolis

HOLLYWOOD—Gene Autry, Republic western star, checked out for Minneapolis for a week of personal appearances, following completion of his loan-out assignment to 20th Century-Fox for "Shooting High."

Lift Kurt Goetz Option

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has lifted the option of Writer Kurt Goetz.

N. A. Taylor Again to Helm M. P. Section

TORONTO—N. A. Taylor has been returned as chairman of the Motion Picture Section of the Toronto Board of Trade after an absence of one year, succeeding Thomas J. Bragg, secretary-treasurer of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

Nat Taylor is general manager of the Exhibitors Booking Ass'n and of 20th Century Theatres and vice-president of the Independent Theatres Ass'n of Ontario. He has been prominently identified with the organized independents of the Dominion for many years.

Would Change Operation Of Loew London House

TORONTO—A move was made at the annual meeting in Toronto of Loew's London Theatres, Ltd., to arrange a change in the policy and control of the company's theatre in London, Ont., which is operated from head office of the Loew chain in New York City, with a local manager. The shareholders adopted a resolution calling on the directors of the company to negotiate for a change in management within the next two months after which a special general meeting will be called to consider any proposals.

Reports presented at the meeting showed a net profit of $22,464 for the fiscal year ending last August, this being approximately the same profit as recorded for the previous period. There are considerable arrears in preferred dividends, however, and the only payment during the past year on the seven per cent preferred was 1¾ per cent which was declared last June. Gross receipts at the London house totaled $148,266 for the past fiscal year. It is understood a number of the shareholders would like to see a partnership arrangement with a Canadian theatre chain.

Sees Loew's Arrears on 7% Stock Cleared in Two Years

MONTREAL—Marcus Loew's Theatres will be able to pay off the balance of the arrears on the company's seven per cent preferred stock within two years, F. M. Kimbark, vice-president, told shareholders at the company's annual meeting. Arrears at present total $14 per share and have been paid at the rate of $7 per share annually with the regular dividends. Earnings since the end of the fiscal year, August 30, have been running at the same level as in the previous fiscal year. Directors were re-elected and reports adopted.

Five-Year Pact to Goddard

HOLLYWOOD—A new five-year pact, calling for three films yearly, has been signed by Paulette Goddard at Paramount. She is currently appearing in "The Ghost Breakers," with "The New Yorker" and "Lady Eve" set to follow.

"Torrid Zone" to Keighley

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has assigned William Keighley to direct "Torrid Zone."

WINNIPEG

A SPECIAL screening, to which the press, military heads and civic and provincial dignitaries have been invited, has been arranged by the French consul in Winnipeg. The film to be previewed is "France Is Ready," the picture which illustrates graphically the preparations France has taken in wartime. The timely nature of the film indicates it will do as well here as it has at Port Arthur, Fort William, and other points where it has broken house records.

The Playhouse has scored a scoop this week by cornering the full length official record of the Winnipeg-Ottawa football finals in which the Winnipeg Blue Bombers emerged victorious last week. The film was specially taken for the Winnipeg club. Intense excitement here over the victory should spell good business at the Playhouse.

The military nights which Don Gauld has introduced at the Metropolitan are steadily growing in popularity with this week's show the best so far in audience reaction and boxoffice take . . . Al Rosenblatt at the Oak is refurnishing his house.

"The Lion Has Wings," picturization of the activities of the Royal Air Force, did very well at the Capitol with numerous parties of soldiers in attendance and a large number of parades helping to publicize the feature. This week Harold Bishop has arranged tieups with the school board, which will insure mass attendance of school children to view his current film "The Royal Visit." Through a tieup with a local printing firm, which is selling souvenir booklets of the visit, Bishop obtained 10,000 *heralds free of charge.*

Through a smart bit of work Don Gauld has arranged for a serialization of James Hilton's "We Are Not Alone," to run in the *Free Press*, the story coming to an end just three days before Gauld's opening date of the film at his house.

An interesting fact disclosed by the audience reaction to the newsreels is the continued popularity of the Duke of Windsor. Next to the appearances of the King and Queen, Windsor draws the loudest applause when his features flash across the screens of local houses.

"Maria Chapdelaine," French language film, has opened a three-day run at the newly opened Paris. Located in St. Boniface, the heart of the French speaking community here, the film should do well.

The popularity of the Sunny Boys, radio team featured on the Metropolitan Theatre's Sunday radio spot over radio station CJRC, was disclosed when this organization, featured on a concert program at the theatre last Sunday, proved to be headliners. Appearing on a program, which included the pick of local talent, the Sunny Boys ran away with the show.

Due probably to the unusually warm weather at this time of the year the pre-Christmas business slump has not materialized and all houses are doing well. With good sledding over the usually tough period the holiday season will take care of itself.

Salesmen of the various exchanges are in the city remaining here over the holiday season . . . "Crime on the Maginot Line," Grand National's French release, is doing good business . . . Offices of UA in Winnipeg were closed Friday as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Douglas Fairbanks whose funeral was held that day.

Jack Kurk has been doing good business at the Times with his showing of the Yiddish film "The Light Ahead." Business has been good enough to warrant holding the film over . . . E. Zorn and George Dowbiggin of the FP office, who were both on the sick list, have now recovered and are back on the job.

D. A. Joyal, for many years with Warner, has been appointed office manager for Grand National in Winnipeg . . . M. Heppner of the Colonial has returned to the city from a trip to Toronto.

Frank Vaughan is in the city managing the Winnipeg office of Empire Universal . . . Lyone Heppner, formerly of Winnipeg, is now on the road out of Toronto.

CALGARY

MERRY CHRISTMAS and
HAPPY NEW YEAR
I. W. BLANKSTEIN, Manager
Empire-Universal Films, Ltd.

CALGARY

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
To Our Friends
HARVEY HARNICK, Manager,
AND STAFF
COLUMBIA PICTURES

SEASON'S GREETINGS
To All Alberta Exhibitors
and Distributors
S. PEARLMAN AND STAFF
VITAGRAPH, LTD. — Calgary

To All Our Good Friends
GREETINGS
H. F. TAYLOR, Manager
J. McPHERSON, Salesman
RKO Dist. Corp. of Canada

SEASON'S GREETINGS
To Our Friends
AL ISCOVE, Manager
GRAND NATIONAL FILMS

Everybody's Happy

SAINT JOHN, N. B.—One has often heard of cheques that "bounce" but seldom of a perfectly good cheque, supposed to be lost forever, coming back to its owner to be cashed.

Such was the experience when a remittance was sent to the Maritime Film Exchange. A cheque from Prince Howard Island, after joy-riding about town in a garbage truck, finally brought up in an East End dump. Two little girls residing nearby were attracted by some discarded advertising pictures and scribbling paper at the place where refuse of that kind is ordered by law to be dumped.

Attracted by a piece of blue paper, they picked it up and read the name "Capitol Theatre" as part of the signature. The kiddies knew of only one theatre of that name and brought the mysterious piece of paper to the boxoffice of the Capitol in Saint John. It was found to be a cheque for more than $40.

A telephone message and then the children were rewarded and sent on their way rejoicing.

TORONTO

(Continued from page 129)

an inspection of Quebec and Maritime offices.

Max Starkman, manager of the Allenby, Toronto neighborhood house, has made it known that he is not included among the local exhibitors who are being prosecuted for alleged violation of the Criminal Code by the organizing of Foto-Nite stunts.

James Cameron, Toronto publicity man, has been touring the Canadian west in advance of the war picture, "The Lion Has Wings."

Harland Rankin, proprietor of the Plaza, Tilbury, featured a pleasing local stunt when he had Arthur Saunders, first local man to enlist for overseas service, on the stage to receive an appropriate gift.

Charles A. Bochner, Toronto theatre supply man, was enthusiastic about business conditions in the Canadian Middle West, which he has visited, the improvement being due to the big grain harvest.

Al Sedgwick, manager of the Belsize, Mt. Pleasant Road, has become a newspaper columnist for the district publication, the News. *He is supplying a column of comment in which the theatre gets the odd subtle mention.*

The Rex at London, Ont., is offering dinnerware every night in the week, according to the announcement of Manager Stewart.



Mayor at a Show—

Mayor A. Davison of Calgary (center) as he attended the opening performance at the Palace of "The Lion Has Wings." He is being greeted by Pete Egan, Palace manager. Abe Feinstein, Calgary UA exchange manager, is at the right.

MONTREAL

(Continued from page 128)

designer for Famous Players Corp. and the Paramount-Publix chain. Roly Young, Toronto film critic, wrote the revue and produced it. Colorfully costumed dance routines are by Hal Marquette; the musical director is Jack Ayre, original director of the "Dumbells" in France during the Great War.

A new Zionist film, "A Homeland in the Making," is being shown to Jewish audiences in Canada . . . The Dionne Quints may make another film. That is not certain, but depends on 20th-Fox, declared Dr. Dafoe during a visit to Montreal.

Pleading guilty to admitting juveniles under 16 to the Fifth Avenue Theatre, Verdun, Fernand Proulx, manager, was fined $50 and costs by Judge Fred T. Enright.

Need for Showmanship Stressed by Hanson

TORONTO—The second annual convention of Hanson Theatres Corp. held here Monday and Tuesday at the Royal York Hotel was an unqualified success.

The welcoming address was made by O. R. Hanson, president, at the Monday luncheon. In his remarks, he expressed the belief there was nothing wrong with the industry that a little showmanship could not cure, and urged this duty upon the circuit's managers in attendance. He congratulated the Hanson personnel for its fine work during the outgoing year, and said he saw even greater accomplishments by the organization in 1940.

Other speakers were Paul Nathanson, Miss Ray Lewis of the Canadian *Moving Picture Digest;* Pete Barnes, representing Foto-Nite Corp., and Tom McKnight, manager of the Patricia, London, Ont.

Business sessions were conducted by H. T. Long, Hanson general manager; A. E. Sanderson, company accountant; E. V. Armstrong, projection and maintenance supervisor, and H. C. D. Main, supervisor of theatres, who also was convention chairman.

The convention closed Tuesday night with a banquet.

Besides those already mentioned, the following were in attendance: G. Beeston, auditor, and these theatre managers: Tony Saso, Roxy, Barrie; T. A. Mascaro, Capitol, Belleville; H. B. Neun, Granada, Chatham; D. Doberer, Granada, Dunnville; L. Taylor, Granada, Hamilton; F. Miley, Granada, Napanee; G. D. Beavis, Royal, North Bay; G. Garrette, Geneva, Orillia; K. Wilson, Marks, Oshawa; H. G. Marshall, Rideau, Ottawa; G. C. Miller, Regent, Peterboro; H. E. Marlow, Lincoln, St. Catharines; L. Coyle, Granada, St. Catharines; W. C. Tyers, Granada, St. Thomas; E. L. Moore, Grand, Sudbury; C. Ingram, Bayview, Toronto; J. Boyd, Granada, Toronto, and B. Wainwright, Oxford, Toronto.

And the following special guests: A. Perry, A. Laurie, F. Fisher, Claire Hague, J. I. Foy, Walter Kennedy, G. D. Fairley, Louis Davidson, K. V. Stratton, H. Ginsler, Mr. Strashin, A. Bailie, M. Starkman, Mr. and Mrs. S. Hamer, Rex Watkins, V. Simone, L. Hansher, Miss R. Ziff, C. Mavety, T. H. Moorehead, N. Allin, G. Snider, J. Thompson, W. Mitchell and E. R. Hume.

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M-G-M (——) 225 Minutes Rel. ——

Margaret Mitchell's widely known story of the Civil War South, it is assumed, requires no telling. After all this time, "Gone With the Wind," long anticipated and, no doubt, eagerly awaited, is ready. The film is a monumental job in every department. It is faithful to the voluminous, and overwritten, novel. It represents dramatic color photography at its apex. It creates in Vivien Leigh, relatively unknown, a star of the very first magnitude who earns that right by the distinguished merit of her many faceted performance as Scarlett O'Hara. The film is constantly magnificent to look upon. In two parts, its first is by far the more arresting and, as such, outdistances the second considerably and definitely tends to heavily emphasize the overlength of the final portion. As it stands, however, this is a significant and magnificent enterprise. Victor Fleming directed.

Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Olivia de Havilland, Leslie Howard, Thomas Mitchell, Hattie McDaniel.

Gone With the Wind F Historical Drama

RKO Radio (015) 114 Minutes Rel. Dec. 29, '39

Of first importance is the fact that the remake of Victor Hugo's medieval horror melodrama can be definitely pegged as a high grosser. It possesses those ingredients which make for almost universal appeal. On the entertainment side of the ledger will be found mostly assets and one possible liability. The latter is its unavoidable overtone of somberness, which at times becomes gruesome and, to the squeamish, almost repellent. Far overshadowing, however, are its magnificent performances, of which the portrayal of Quasimodo, the misshapen bell ringer, by Charles Laughton is as fine-grained a bit of mummery as the screen has offered in many seasons; the elegance of its production values, abounding in sweep and spectacle; the sensitive direction of William Dieterle, who found in the masterfully etched screenplay a vehicle handwrought for his talents.

Charles Laughton, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Thomas Mitchell, Maureen O'Hara, Edmond O'Brien, Alan Marshal.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame F Melodrama

Universal (——) 79 Minutes Rel. Dec. 22, '39

A bumper crop of comedy furnished by Charles McCarthy, his contemporary, Mortimer Snerd, and their master, Edgar Bergen, so overshadows the weaknesses of this feature that it should prove a satisfactory investment for most ticket buyers. The picture is, in essence, a comedy murder mystery, but a meandering, pointless screenplay and a woefully weak supporting cast restrict it to serving as mere background—and a none too satisfactory one—for the delightful clowning of Bergen and his pair of impish dummies. McCarthy—voice by Bergen, of course—has his first try at singing and does admirably. The ventriloquist is a nightspot entertainer. Invited for the weekend to the home of a millionaire publisher to contribute to the gayety, he is precipitated into a murder mystery which he helps police to solve. Produced and directed by Frank Tuttle.

Edgar Bergen, et al, Robert Cummings, Constance Moore, John Sutton, Louis Calhern, Edgar Kennedy.

Charlie McCarthy, Detective F Comedy Murder Mystery

Paramount (3915) 74 Minutes Rel. Dec. 22, '39

Whimsy and fantasy in their most fascinating form again come to the screen in this, the industry's second feature-length animated cartoon. Possessing limitless appeal for youngster and offering almost as much for the adult entertainment taste, there is no reason why the Max Fleischer venture should not enjoy extraordinary patronage; certainly in sufficient volume to establish, once and for all, that this type of successful film fare was not a one-time shot. The feature is well nigh flawless in its technical details. In imaginative creation, animation and color—above all—it compares favorably with anything ever produced through the pen-and-ink technique. Its characters are lovable and acceptable with "Gabby" and "Twinkletoes" strong candidates for the public adoration accorded favorite cartoon creations. Dave Fleischer directed.

Singing Voices: For Princess Glory, Jessica Dragonette: for Prince David, Lanny Ross.

Gulliver's Travels F Animated Cartoon

M-G-M (17) 102 Minutes Rel. Dec. 29, '39

Nelson Eddy and some stirring musical interludes give this impressively produced and cast operetta its moments of greatness, despite which it remains one of those enigmatic offerings which will probably fail in attaining comparable greatness at the turnstiles; one which the rank and file of customers will be able to take or leave alone according to their individual tastes. Ilona Massey in the femme topline has plenty of voice and even more pulchritude. She contributes substantially to the film's worth. Story takes place during the last days of the Czarist regime in Russia and carries through the Red revolution and the establishment of the Bolshevist regime. Eddy portrays a Cossack officer who falls in love with Miss Massey, a cafe singer, who, unknown to him, is on the side of the revolutionists. Directed by Reinhold Schunzel.

Nelson Eddy, Ilona Massey, Charlie Ruggles, Frank Morgan, Lionel Atwill, C. Aubrey Smith, Joyce Compton.

Balalaika F Musical

Republic (——) 63 Minutes Rel. Dec. 20, '39

A thoroughly entertaining western has been made from the further adventures of Jesse James in this offering. The outlaw's activities have been rehashed in good style to extract a story that captures the period, injects song and humor and concludes in keeping with the history of the famous bandit. Basically the yarn concerns Roy Rogers. Cast as a peace officer, he is assigned to aid a railroad detective. There are an abundance of colorful action sequences depicting crooked bankers, chases, pitched gun battles and the usual trivia that accompanies outdoor features. It is all in keeping with the story. The portrayals of the frontier town folk are convincing. Barry Wood's characterization stands out. Rogers is good in a fitting role. Pauline Moore supplies the romantic twist. Joseph Kane directed.

Roy Rogers, George Hayes, Donald Barry, Pauline Moore, Harry Woods, Glenn Strange, Arthur Loft, Fred Burns.

Days of Jesse James F Western

United Artists (——) Rel. Dec. 29, '39

An elegantly mounted and thoroughly modern version of the old stage and screen hit, which should burn its niche among the better current releases in both popularity and profits with a bonus of plaudits from those who like a dash of subtlety in their screen entertainment. The story is intelligently written and abounds in brittle dialogue, particularly in its early sequences which set a faster pace than those following. David Niven in the title role carries the brunt in white tie and tails who glories in the job of outwitting the police for the financial benefit of his friends. Outstanding in support are Dudley Digges and Lionel Pape, while Olivia deHavilland is her usual comely self in furnishing the romantic interest. Sam Wood directed.

David Niven, Olivia deHavilland, Dame May Whitty, Dudley Digges, Douglas Walton, Lionel Pape, E. E. Clive.

Raffles F Mystery Drama

20th-Fox (029) 77 Minutes Rel. Dec. 22, '39

Sonja Henie's latest has her doing a little more acting than in her previous pictures and her skating is still something to thrill the fans, particularly her solo with "The Merry Widow" waltz music. The star's lines show she is gradually mastering the English language and there are not so many sibilant sounds as in her former films. Supported by Ray Milland and Robert Cummings with Irving Cummings handling the megaphone, Miss Henie is the daughter of a political refugee. Milland and Cummings are reporters sent to Switzerland to find her father, previously reported dead. As soon as the news of his whereabouts breaks, foreign agents hunt their prey. It is not until the resources of both Americans are put to full use that all escape without harm. Cummings gets the girl, Milland the refugee's memoirs, and both are satisfied.

Sonja Henie, Ray Milland, Robert Cummings, Maurice Moscovitch, Alan Dinehart, Fritz Feld, Leonid Kinsky.

Everything Happens at Night F Melodrama

Monogram (3951) 54 Minutes Rel. Dec. 25, '39

All of the standard accoutrements of a rip-roaring western—even to the Indians and cavalry—were thrown into this formulized sagebrusher. Headman Tex Ritter tosses notes, fists and lead with impartial abandon. The picture will serve very satisfactorily in the market for which it was produced by Edward Finney and is equipped to furnish their money's worth to the action addicts. Ritter, an ex-army scout, volunteers to escort a wagon train bound for Oregon. He suspects that the wagon boss is in league with interests trying to stop all settlers so that the territory will be their exclusive property. After several brushes with the villains and two spirited attacks by hostile Indians, the cavalcade rolls westward, with Ritter having won the gal and the heavies having bit the dust along with their redskin warriors. Directed by Al Herman.

Tex Ritter, Nelson McDowell, Muriel Evans, Nolan Willis, Steve Clark, Tom London, Reed Howes.

Roll, Wagons, Roll F Western

SELLING ANGLES: "Charlie McCarthy, Detective"

Arrange for window displays for grocers on a tieup with the product Bergen and McCarthy advertise on the radio. Run a teaser synopsis of the mystery in local newspaper awarding Charlie McCarthy dolls as prizes to those who offer the best solution. Construct a large replica of the dummy in the lobby. Put someone inside who can imitate his voice and have him operate the mechanism and talk to passers-by.

CATCHLINES:

You Wooden Believe It But Charley McCarthy Was Never So Funny as in His Latest Picture . . . A Laugh Riot From Shingles to Shavings.

That Imp of the Nonchalant Monacle and Wagging Jaw Will Completely Fascinate You as He Turns Detective and Exposes the Murderer.

SELLING ANGLES: "Days of Jesse James"

There is a complete line of cardboard and button novelties available. In addition the songs should be plugged with local music shops and radio stations. The Jesse James angle might be pressed into service for costumes and lobby displays. A poster with the "Wanted" gag, displayed in proper localities, should draw attention to the playing date. A display of old pistols and other arms could be put on in a glass case, properly labeled. Give away pictures of Roy Rogers.

CATCHLINES:

Jesse James Still Rides . . . See Him Handle a Square Deal by Roy Rogers.

Against Overwhelming Odds Roy Rogers Plays a Difficult Hand as He Aids Justice and the James Boys.

SELLING ANGLES: "Roll, Wagons, Roll"

Any of the standard exploitation stunts used in connection with westerns will be applicable. Do not overlook the fact that Ritter is a singing plains hero which gives a chance for musical tieups—radios, sheet music, etc. Have a covered wagon constructed and drawn through the streets with billing, Indians on horseback to accompany. Circularize your local Ritter fan club.

CATCHLINES:

"Westward Ho" and Fighting Tex Keeps the Wagons Rolling Through Hostile Indians and High Water—With a Song on His Lips and a Six Gun in Each Hand.

Your Favorite Singing Cow Hand . . . Back Again In an Action-Crammed Story of the Early West . . . With Injuns and Everything.

SELLING ANGLES: "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"

Sell this as a super spectacle and emphasize the horror angle. Make over your theatre front to resemble facade of the famous Notre Dame cathedral. Have your local library display Hugo's books directing particular attention to the "Hunchback." Secure stills from the silent version for comparative display in the lobby and invite comments, perhaps through a newspaper contest, as to whose make-up is the more terror-inspiring in appearance—that of the late Lon Chaney or Laughton's.

CATCHLINES:

If You Have Chills to Feel, Prepare to Feel Them Now . . . As the Horror Drama of the Ages Returns as the Season's Most Spectacular Film.

Big Beyond Words, Thrilling Beyond Belief, Magnificent Beyond Comparison . . . With Charles Laughton in His Greatest Screen Portrayal.

SELLING ANGLES: "Balalaika"

Nelson Eddy is the name to exploit here, with a newcomer, Ilona Massey, also to be given a build-up. Ballyhoo the picture as a musical treat in which Eddy sings such popular selections as "The Volga Boatman" and tunes from "Carmen." Conduct a word-building contest around the word "Balalaika." Tie up with music stores on special displays of Eddy's phonograph recordings. If you deem it suitable in view of current conditions, decorate the lobby in Russian style.

CATCHLINES:

Filmdom's Prince of Singers . . . Nelson Eddy . . . Teamed With a New and Glorious Princess of Song in a Musical Delight.

Golden Voices . . . Romance and Intrigue . . . And Melody as Only Nelson Eddy Can Bring to You.

SELLING ANGLES: "Everything Happens at Night"

With the ice carnivals now in full swing, this picture should be a natural for tieups. Posters, window cards and throwaways in the rinks are your best bet. Open air skating ponds should find a ballyhoo truck advertising the picture. Make an effort to hold contests locally for the skating champ who should receive season passes or a gift which a local sport shop should donate. Have displays in your lobby of winter sport accessories. If there is snow, a sled bally should create the interest desired.

CATCHLINES:

Intrigue, Romance and Love on Skis . . . Two Men After the Same Girl With a Single Purpose in Mind . . . See Sonja Henie Skate to the "Merry Widow" Waltz.

The Story of a Political Refugee Hounded by Reporters Who Make Love to His Daughter . . . Sonja Henie Does Her Best Acting and Skating in Her Career.

SELLING ANGLES: "Gone With the Wind"

Immediately it becomes clear that the chief selling approach on "Gone With the Wind" is to announce its date. So much has been written and so much said about this nationally known historical novel that the usual announcement advertising, but always in dignity and with restraint, should be sufficient. If ever an audience might be said to be waiting for a film, this is it. Civil war types of gowns, of course, suggest themselves for usherettes and the same period male garb for ushers. Attention properly could be directed to the enormous sales of the book and much could be done in advance heralding of Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara. But the mere fact the attraction is booked into your theatre is the keynote. It ought to be more than enough.

CATCHLINES:

At Last! "Gone With the Wind." The Mighty Novel Comes to Life.

SELLING ANGLES: "Gulliver's Travels"

The Jonathan Swift classic has abundant opportunities for gadgets and tieups. In libraries, book stores, and schools, post signs about the film attraction coming to your theatre. Plug the tuneful voices of Lany Ross and Jessica Dragonette. Secure the cooperation of music stores to feature the hit song numbers: "Faithful Forever," "Hap, Hap, Happy Day" and "Bluebirds in the Moonlight." Emphasize the technical treatment of the fanciful tale in Technicolor. Place dummies of the grotesque characters in the windows of neighborhood stores.

CATCHLINES:

You've All Read the Book—Now See the Whimsical and Fantastic Story Come to Life on the Screen.

A New Cinematographic Experience Awaits You in Animated Cartoons.

SELLING ANGLES: "Raffles"

Niven and Miss deHavilland for your marquee and a buildup as a new pair of screen sweethearts. The story, an old screen and stage favorite, is well known and lends itself to many tieups and window displays, notably with jewelers, insurance agents and book stores. Have a special showing for members of your local police force. Install a safe with a simple combination in the foyer with suitable prizes to ticket buyers who can open it in a specified time.

CATCHLINES:

His Heart Yearned for the Girl . . . But His Fingers Couldn't Stay Away From Jewels . . . Other People's Jewels.

She Stole His Love and He Stole . . . Anything . . . Your Favorite Crook Who Returns to the Screen in a Streamlined Mystery Drama.

Columbia (1202) **54 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 2, '39**

Charles Starrett changes girls, but little else in his latest assignment carrying the law into the west and settling a range war. New femme trimming is Lorna Gray, who has subbed out Iris Meredith as the romantic foil. This Sam Nelson-directed Ford Beebe story, and Paul Franklin screenplay tells of a range-war menaced community into which Starrett goes to find his father killed and an organized mob playing the ranchers, one against the other and stealing them blind while they bicker. Highlight, of course, is the Bob Nolan-Tim Spencer music sold in swell style by the vet Sons of the Pioneers tunesmiths. It's a complete western, one with all the action, scraps, gunplay and chase necessary to satisfy.

Charles Starrett, Lorna Gray, Bob Nolan, Richard Fiske, Dick Curtis, Ed Cobb, Al Bridge, Jack Rockwell.

Stranger From Texas F Western

Victory (SR) **55 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

Another of the Lightning Bill Carson series, an action picture clouded by an extremely poor print, this opus is for the quickie stands and careless audiences. Tim McCoy labors as a G-Man rustler chaser, doing the majority of his part in dialect, a mixture of pidgin Hispano-Italian. It's one of many slowing factors in the film. Very trim femme highlight is Joyce Bryant, who has the face and other assets for better assignments, although she's only in for quick looks and short conversational jabs here. Carleton Young's well organized band of rustlers snakes around the sheriff's office, playing close in, attempting to duck interest of federal agents. One slip puts McCoy on their tail, and, masking as a gypsy horse trader, with Joyce Bryant and Ben Corbett as assistants, he mops up. Best audience bet will be the kids.

Tim McCoy, Ben Corbett, Jill Martin, Joyce Bryant, Carleton Young, Ted Adams, John Elliott, Bud McTaggart.

Trigger Fingers F Western

Alexander (SR) **67 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

Mighty meagre western program fare that just about shapes up as midweek filler. Taking budgetary limitations into consideration, the yarn drags consistently. There is little of the outdoor action stuff prevalent in most sagebrush dramas. The film is heavy on the dialogue side; attempts at humor are of an elementary nature. The picture does, however, boast of the presence of Gene Austin, known for his vocalizing via the record and air route. Austin fills the bill adequately enough considering the presentation. The story has to do with the underhand efforts of the local banker to obtain the ranch of Austin's friend and benefactor. The gang believes they have killed the ranch owner, but he is only kept under cover until Austin exposes their villainy. Arthur and Max Alexander produced; Harry Fraser directed.

Gene Austin, Lynne Berkley, Henry Roquemere, Walter Willes.

Songs and Saddles F Western

Columbia (——) **73 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 1, '39**

Handicapped by static continuity, this French film nevertheless has an uncanny twist to its story that has fair potentialities for garnering the attention of audiences. It is a story of imperial intrigue, royal morals and rebellion. A parable of today's European upheavals could be drawn. This story is set in the reign of Catherine II and the rebellion of Poland. It is also the story of Baron Kempelen, played by Conrad Veidt, and his affection for the children of a former love. Veidt is an Austrian who creates mechanical, lifesize dolls which, in that day, were marvels. It is this twist in the story that creates a curious air, quite unreal. There is a scarcity of good foreign films and, considering, this one should do well.

Francoise Rosay, Conrad Veidt, Micheline Francey, Edmonde Guy, Gaston Modot, Paul Cambo.

The Devil Is an Empress A Historical Drama

Producers Pictures Corp. (SR) **57 Minutes** **Rel. Nov. 1, '39**

A story by Jack London is the basis upon which this film is laid. Perhaps the original idea was good, but in this treatment there is little to recommend it to the average audience. After the first few hundred feet have unreeled the plot shapes up obviously. The performances are "hammy" in the extreme; the effort at villainy does not crystallize. The yarn concerns a doctor with an experiment for curing criminals of their evil ways. He rounds up a particularly notorious collection and takes them to sea where he tries out his theory. At first it misfires and not until he is mortally wounded does he see the light of success. Rarely does the dialogue or action sound or appear convincing. Victor Halperin directed.

Lyle Talbot, Irving Pichel, Jacqueline Wells, Sheila Bromley, Wheeler Oakman, Russell Hopton.

Torture Ship F Melodrama

Gateway Productions (SR) **66 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

There is not much to recommend in this shopworn production of the small town boy who leaves his mother behind to go to the big town and make good. Johnny Downs is the small timer who becomes a big shot racketeer when he strays from the straight and narrow. He meets the fate of all racketeers and disgraces his mother. The dialogue is trite, the acting hammy and the sets skimpy. It goes without saying that for the subject matter the picture is too lengthy. There are some name values which may be worth while advertising on the marquee, such as Holmes Herbert and Helen MacKellar. The direction by Herbert Meyer is on a par with the acting and general tenor of the production. It will probably make a good filler for the burlesque houses which use films between shows. Other than that it is a waste of time, money and effort.

Johnny Downs, Rosalind Keith, Helen MacKellar, Holmes Herbert, Bobby Clark jr.

Bad Boy A Melodrama

Criterion (SR) **54 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

For weekend bookings, with the kids the main target, this is another in the Renfrew Mountie series, and technically below average in all departments. Film has nowhere near the amount of action implied in the title. James Newill, the singing stripe-wearer of the Northwest police, befriends Sally Blane, who appears to be mixed up with a group of safe-looters from the U. S. She's afraid of being incriminated because of gangster association, but hides the loot, which makes her the number one object of hunt by both cops and robbers. Benny Rubin gives out aid and comedy. Dave O'Brien is the constable aide to Newill, and Milburn Stone is the kingpin of the mob. Story comes from Laurie Yorke Erskine's tale, "Renfrew Rides Again," and direction is by Sam Newfield.

James Newill, Sally Blane, Benny Rubin, Dave O'Brien, Milburn Stone, Walter Long, Ted Adams, Warner Richmond.

Fighting Mad F Action Drama

Scandinavian Talking Pictures (SR) **89 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

The story of a young couple's early years of married life is pleasantly told in this Swedish film. A young architect and his wife, played by Sture Lagerwall and Signe Hasso, become involved in a triangle which follows familiar patterns. The husband becomes involved in a flirtation with his friend's wife and is troubled by his conscience. But with the aid of a kindly old teacher he is set free of his troubled thoughts and, when his wife has a baby, the aura of happiness wipes clean the slate. It is told pleasantly but is long-winded. The photography and direction are fine. Characters are drawn with understanding and there is a constant, human warmth pervading the action. Miss Hasso is very personable and delivers her role with honors. It is highly recommended to the exhibitor who specializes in foreign product, particularly one with a Swedish following.

Sture Lagerwall, Signe Hasso, Srig Jarrell, Ilse-Nore Tromm, Gosta Cedarlund, Carl Barcklind.

We Two A Drama

Sack Amusement (——) **81 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

Negro audiences will obviously welcome this latest Harry M. Popkin production which contains a little of everything in an entertainment way. The film stars Manton Moreland and it is a good guess that this gifted comic will find the greatest favor. He carries the burden in a skilled manner. When he has lines that are funny, Moreland puts them over for hearty laughs. Situations are elementary and underlined heavily to convey the point. As head of the Brown family, Moreland is an easy-going gentleman not ashamed to admit he does not like work. When his daughter slaps him, Moreland leaves and goes west. He strikes a valuable radium deposit and with the money buys a night club, thereby eliminating the proprietor who is the film's menace. There are a number of tuneful musical interludes. Leo C. Popkin directed.

Manton Moreland, Betty Treadville, Josephine Pearson, Bob Simmons, Lawrence Criner, Ruby Logan.

One Dark Night F Comedy with Music

SELLING ANGLES: **"Songs and Saddles"**

The film can be boosted by selling Gene Austin without any dent in the exploitation budget. A tieup can be arranged with music stores to place its latest combination radio-phonograph model on display in the lobby. Austin recordings can be played well in advance of the picture. Posters and handbills should be distributed widely. Stills of Austin should be planted wherever possible, especially in stores which sell his recordings.

CATCHLINES:

Songs and Adventure the Gene Austin Way.

The Singing, Shooting Buckaroo Out to Please and Thrill You.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Bad Boy"**

About the best bet on trying to plug this lemon is to search your local newspapers for stories which may deal with a good boy going wrong when he falls in love with a singer in a cheap night club. That's the theme of this threadbare yarn. It will take a lot of courage to run this picture unless your theatre caters to morons and the patronage burlesque bent. News yarns on racketeers in general may make display copy. Throwaways with sensational type of matter may create interest. The essence of the whole thing may serve as a sermon if you are in the market of using your screen for lecture purposes. The tieups, in that case, depend on you.

CATCHLINES:

Good Boy Turns Bad . . . He Wanted to Go Straight for His Mother's Sake But a Singer's Voice Lured Him From the Straight and Narrow . . . He Failed to Fulfill His Mother's Dream.

SELLING ANGLES: **"One Dark Night"**

The top name to feature here is that of Manton Moreland who is a favorite among Negro audiences. Recordings of some of the music heard in the picture might be played in the lobby as an advance buildup. Posters and heralds should be well distributed in popular Negro gathering spots. A wagon covered with advertising placards and copy can be driven through the Negro quarter to ballyhoo the film. Ruby Logan, the blues singer, should be singled out.

CATCHLINES:

There Are Always More Laughs With Moreland.

From Rags to Riches . . . "One Dark Night" Will Put You in Stitches.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Trigger Fingers"**

Best handle to grab for selling this flicker is Tim McCoy, whose name means more than any other thing in its merchandising. In places regularly playing his stuff, the Lightning Bill Carson-mounted G-man series, is worth a reminder, most of the previous tries having been an edge better than this one.

CATCHLINES:

Tim McCoy, the Mounted G-man, Trails a Stolen Army Horse to a Rustlers' nest.

Range Raiders Thought Him a Card Sharp, But He Was Sharper Than They Figured.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Torture Ship"**

It seems advisable to get out all the hullaballoo to attract audiences to this picture. Not by any stretch of the imagination can it be called a film that in a slight degree will sell itself. The pseudo medical angles and the criminal element might make good street stunts or store window displays. There also is the possibility of a tieup with the local police and the old, reliable "Wanted" trick, wherein handbills picturing the players as escaped criminals are distributed.

CATCHLINES:

Far Out at Sea With a Batch of Dangerous Criminals Loose on Deck.

Every Passenger on This Ship Was Wanted by the Police . . . And by a Crazed Doctor.

SELLING ANGLES: **"We Two"**

Attractive blowups of Miss Hasso should panel the lobby. There are English subtitles in profusion. Since the film deals with architects and housing, you might set up a model display of such developments in the lobby. Swedish communities with stores and restaurants catering to resident nationals should be thoroughly covered with posters and announcements of the showing of the film. Advertise extensively in papers of the tongue.

CATCHLINES:

A Pleasant Story of Young Married Love—With All Its Poignancy and Delight.

You'll Warm to This Tale of a Young Couple Who Weather the First Hectic Years of Married Life.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Stranger From Texas"**

Solidest thing about the Charles Starrett series with most theatregoers is the swell brand of sagebrush music delivered by the Sons of the Pioneers, so this angle and its music tieups with radio stations and music stands shouldn't be overlooked. A noon-day crew of strolling mountain-musickers to hit the luncheon spots, to do a number and put in a plug, will be all right. Since it's the first film for Starrett with a new sweet thing, Lorna Gray will bear stressing.

CATCHLINES:

Charles Starrett Brings Law to the Range Too Late to Save His Own Father's Life.

Rustlers Play Ranchers Against Each Other, Trimming Stolen Profits While Inciting Range Warfare.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Devil Is an Empress"**

For the exhibitor who plays foreign product exclusively the prime point in selling this one will be that Francoise Rosay is featured. Then there is Conrad Veidt, another first rate artist. The story devotes much footage to chess playing and a number of exhibition games might be staged. The strange mechanical creations could be duplicated and set up in the lobby to draw interest. A little research on the subject will uncover a number of interesting facts on an actual mechanical chess player that toured various European cities some years ago.

CATCHLINES:

He Was a Doomed Pawn in a Game of High Imperial Intrigue.

An Old But Still Timely Parable on the Game of Political Machination in Europe.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Fighting Mad"**

Sales approach is best directed to the kids, because the juvenile trade will be most apt to take the picture. It's only fair entertainment for adults who like actioners. Offer tie-up gestures to the groceries, drugstores and candy shops, most frequently made by the kids. Newsstands, which deal in the action mags, if promoted for a display among the pulps, would garner eyes of prospects most apt to be attracted by the Renfrew story type. Initiate a contest, allowing the best ten drawings of a mounted policeman, if presented at the door with a ticket to Renfrew's latest adventure, to be good for a pass to some coming attraction.

CATCHLINES:

She Was the Lady With the Loot, Chased on One Side by the Law, and on the Other by a Murderous Gang.

Renfrew, the Mountie, Chases a Face in a Trailer and Uncovers an Adventurous Romance.

... Your Thorough Inspection of this Project is Cordially Invited

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PUBLIC SEATING

is the featured theme for the New Year's first issue. This most vital phase of a theatre's personality will be presented in a manner befitting its importance.

Come along with us on a point-by-point inspection tour of this new modern-to-the-minute small-town cinema in our next (January 6) issue. We'll take you inside and show you many things that create House Appeal—a habit-forming stimulus to steady patronage. In this and several other examples of proficiency in theatre planning, we propose to show you what—besides good pictures and despite poor ones—gives every theatre a better chance to do business more profitably . . . The Modern Theatre section of BOXOFFICE is a showman's first choice as a source of inspiration, information and guidance on every phase of theatre planning and provisioning . . . Another exposition of architectural merit and modern materials is being prepared for you in the

issue of JANUARY 6, 1940

The MODERN THEATRE

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION OF BOXOFFICE

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia

Coast Guard

Very melodramatic with scene after scene in miniature so easily distinguished. And such impossible situations! Almost as bad as some of these star westerns. Fri., Sat. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Star, Hay Springs, Neb.

Lady and the Mob, The

The only thing that carried this one over for me was the fact that I played it in connection with a very good stage play. Fay Bainter is a very good actress, but due to her high-pitched voice and fast talking, she is hard to understand. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

Law Comes to Texas

As good as the usual run of western which we played on a double bill with "Orphans of the Street," making the boxoffice a real Santa Claus. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—H. Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

First National

Adventures of Robin Hood

Picked up this oldee at request of producer and played it with gloves on to come through with flying colors. The kids brought the old folks and both seemed to enjoy it equally well. The Technicolor is really beautiful and a real supporting cast makes it a stellar production. Tues., Wed. Weather: OK. Population: 400.—Leo A. Smith, Liberty, Liberty, Neb.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever

A small town natural. I don't know if this series goes over in the cities, but they are tops here and this is the best yet. I say, keep up the good work M-G-M. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

Fast and Furious

Picked this up rather old for the Thanksgiving date and they liked it very much. It's very seldom we get a Metro picture that isn't good entertainment. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Kid From Texas

Very good western. Too many Kenos to get boxoffice results right now. Tues., Wed. Weather: Rain. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—H. Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Lady of the Tropics

Well, we hardly know! Certainly you'll all have to admit she's (Hedy Lamarr) beautiful. Her voice is so odd. Some liked it, some didn't. We still believe she should be given a strong picture if she doesn't get too temperamental. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Star, Hay Springs, Neb.

Maisie

Enjoyed outstanding business with this picture. Mon., Tues. Weather: Rain. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—H. Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Sergeant Madden

Opened up to fair midweek business first night. Very poor second night. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—H. Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Tell No Tales

Not a big name picture but good entertainment. Played double with "Blackwell's Island." Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way, Sheridan, Ore.

Thunder Afloat

Swell action story with Beery in the type of role he has made famous. The story is very timely. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Star, Hay Springs, Neb.

Wizard of Oz, The

Exceptionally well liked and did an exceptional business, best in several weeks. The coloring is beautiful and the unexpected happened when our adults liked it as well as the children. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Star, Hay Springs, Neb.

Monogram

Across the Plains

Just the regular run-of-the-mill—not good, not bad. Saturday. Weather: Rain. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

Stunt Pilot

This, of course, is not an outstanding picture, but it is very convincing and could be considered a good program picture, if you run the series. Played on CASH NITE to a regular crowd and had several good comments. Tuesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

West of Santa Fe

A little above the average run of westerns. The Sons of the Pioneers help to make this a very good picture. However, due to unusually bad weather, I played this to the lowest Saturday gross since I've been in the business. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

Paramount

Beau Geste

Good action picture, but a little too brutal for the women. Business a little above average Sunday, but below Monday. Paramount is certainly coming out of last year's rut fast and should land near the top. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Cat and the Canary, The

Customers seemed to enjoy this feature very much. Had a lot of chills and enough cute comedy to balance it nicely. They talked about the picture before we showed it, so we had better than average business and it deserved it. Wednesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Man About Town

Fine entertainment with "Rochester" nearly stealing the show. Glad we dropped back for this one as we believe it will make extra business for the next one. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Star, Hay Springs, Neb.

$1,000 a Touchdown

Good comedy, lots of laughs, audience well pleased, and we were certainly not ashamed to meet them on the way out. They ought to make more pictures with this team (Martha Raye and Joe E. Brown). Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 152.—Rodney & Anderson, San Andreas, San Andreas, Cal.

Our Leading Citizen

This is one of Bob Burns' most outstanding pictures. This time, instead of the usual comedy, he played a more serious role and, personally, I think it fits him perfectly. This is one picture that I believe pleased all who saw it here. Played on CASH NITE to a little better than an average crowd. Tuesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

What a Life

Down-to-earth drama that could very easily take place in your own town. It furnishes more than the expected quantity of entertainment and customers will go out well pleased. Plug the radio angle and you will find it worth while as the "Aldrich Family" is popular. Business average. Wednesday. Weather: Clear, cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

RKO Radio

Love Affair

A very good picture. This is one of the best I have had from RKO this season. Because of extremely bad weather, I didn't get film rental. Thurs., Fri. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

Story of Vernon and Irene Castle

Picked this old one up and was pleasantly surprised. Drew well. Sun., Mon. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—M. H. Robertson, Joyo, Coleridge, Neb.

Republic

Home on the Prairie

Fair, nothing spectacular, but a fair western. Autry only sings two songs. Played to about average Saturday crowd. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

Man of Conquest

We were so disgusted with the condition of the print and sound, that we did not look at the picture or question our customers. It rained for the first time since heck knows when and it looked like it was all running down the print. Average business. Fri., Sat. Weather: Rain. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Orphans of the Street

We found this picture to be of outstanding merits and was a real tonic for boxoffice. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—H. Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

20th Century-Fox

Boy Friend

Jane gets them out for us. Did not see this but reports were all very good. Did nice business. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—W. H. Hibbert, Hi-Way, Sheridan, Ore.

Charlie Chan in Honolulu

Very good, everybody liked it. Would recommend it for any situation. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—H. Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Hollywood Cavalcade

A very disappointing show that sends 'em away grumbling and feeling cheated—especially if you have given it the tops in ballyhoo, as we did. An audience not expecting too much of it might be entirely satisfied, even if the color was bad. Business swell for the first matinee, but lousy afterwards. Mon., Tues. Weather: Clear, cool. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Hollywood Cavalcade

Sequence poor in this alleged portrait of Hollywood. Goes along well half of the way then becomes moody so as to spoil the fun which has gone before. Briefly, the thing is backward since there must be tragedy in it. Had to kill the hero by an announced accident in order to make it come out right. Assumption again is that all intelligence is west of Hollywood (directors, please note). Picture did fair business because of rain and associate film. Business down hill the five days after the weekend it started. Imagine the actor groups would not own it as a chronology of the industry. If directors do not understand things, why don't they ask questions? And to think they could have saved the Technicolor for some deserving vehicle!!! Population: 415,000. Capacity: 1,000.—Richard C. Carton, Mayfair, Newark, N. J.

Rains Came, The

One of the few good pictures Fox has released this season. Kent is making a lot of talk about the good pictures he may make next year and he certainly will find a lot of room for improvement over this year. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Second Fiddle

This production has everything, from Edna May Oliver's wit, Mary Healy's singing, surpassed only by Sonja's rhythm skating. The "hick" town impressed me most with Lyle Talbot doing his very best. In our advertising we omitted Vallee and built up Power. Business way over average and everyone gave us roses for this one. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Weather: Perfect. Population: 400.—Leo A. Smith, Liberty, Liberty, Neb.

Stop, Look and Love

Not worth writing about. Used it on a double bill with an Autry and the Autry pulled it through to average business. The kind of picture that disgusts the audience and exhibitor. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Thanks for Everything

This picture failed to make film rental. Instead of Thanks for Everything, it was Thanks for Nothing with us. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—H. Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Universal

Hero for a Day

Fair picture, but absolutely no B. O. Had our two poorest days this year in conjunction with Bank Nite. Tues., Wed. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 152.—Rodney & Anderson, San Andreas, San Andreas, Cal.

Three Smart Girls Grow Up

Very good picture, business only fair. Deanna Durbin no sell-out with us. Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—H. Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Warner Bros.

Code of the Secret Service

So far this series is okay. Patrons like this fellow Reagan. Fri., Sat. Weather: Rainy. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—M. H. Robertson, Joyo, Coleridge, Neb.

Dodge City

Played this one late to a capacity house on both nights. If you haven't played it, don't pass it up. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 152.—Rodney & Anderson, San Andreas, San Andreas, Cal.

GREETINGS FROM
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"TOWER OF LONDON," "NINOTCHKA" STAND OUT

AVERAGE IS 100%

Top Hits of the Week

TOWER OF LONDON—New York City 180

NINOTCHKA (dual)—Los Angeles....175

GREAT VICTOR HERBERT—New York City 160

NINOTCHKA—Cleveland (2nd wk.)..160

THE REAL GLORY—New Orleans....150

TOWER OF LONDON—New Orleans..150

ANOTHER THIN MAN—Oklahoma City (moveover) 145

A CHILD IS BORN—Kansas City.....140

HITLER—BEAST OF BERLIN (Goose Step)—Detroit 140

EXTENDED RUNS

Harvest, 12th wk., World, New York City.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 7th wk., Indianapolis; 6th wk., Chicago; 4th wk., Portland, Ore.

Intermezzo, 6th wk., Los Angeles.

Another Thin Man, 4th wk., Indianapolis.

First Love, 4th wk., Minneapolis.

Mill on the Floss, 4th wk., New York City.

Drums Along the Mohawk, 3rd loop wk., Chicago.

Ninotchka, 3rd wk., Chicago, Seattle.

BOSTON

Fenway—**At the Circus** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 70
Memorial—**Tower of London** (Univ); **Amazing Mr. Williams** (Col) 80
Metropolitan—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB); **Private Detective** (FN).....110
Orpheum—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.; **Winter Carnival** (UA) 80
Paramount—Same as Fenway 70
State—Same as Orpheum 55

CHARLOTTE

Broadway—**The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO), 1st half 90
Broadway—**Torpedoed** (FA), 2nd half..... 90
Carolina—**We Are Not Alone** (FN)..... 90
Imperial—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 100
State—**Calling All Marines** (Rep), 1st half....100
State—**The Arizona Kid** (Rep), 2nd half.....100

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), held 6th wk. 95
Chicago—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), plus stage show. Picture moved to Garrick for 2nd loop wk. 95
Garrick—**Drums Along the Mohawk** (20th-Fox), 3rd loop wk. 90
Oriental—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox), 2nd loop run, plus stage show..... 85
Palace—**Tower of London** (Univ); **Three Sons** (RKO) 90
Roosevelt—**Eternally Yours** (UA) 85
State-Lake—**Espionage Agent** (FN), plus stage show 85
United Artists—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), held 3rd wk. 95

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para).....100
Capitol—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., held 130
Keith's—**Amazing Mr. Williams** (Col).....100
Lyric—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO).....120
Palace—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox) 110
Shubert—**Jamaica Inn** (Para), 2nd wk.....120

CLEVELAND

Allen—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk.....110
Hippodrome—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO) 100
Lake—**City of Darkness** (20th-Fox); **Reno** (RKO) 90
Palace—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox). Stage: Martha Raye and Vaudeville 105
State—**The Secret of Dr. Kildare** (M-G-M). Stage; **Glenn Miller** and his Orchestra.....160
Stillman—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....160

DALLAS

Capitol—**Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (Foreign); **Return of the Frog** (Foreign).....110
Majestic—**Roaring Twenties** (WB) 125
Palace—**Four Feathers** (UA) 100
Tower—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk. 100
Rialto—**Flying Deuces** (RKO), 1st half.....110
Rialto—**Secret of Dr. Kildare** (M-G-M), 2nd half 125

DENVER

Aladdin—**Eternally Yours** (UA), after a wk. at the Denver 75
Broadway—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Sued for Libel** (RKO), after a wk. at the Orpheum... 80
Denham—**Geronimo** (Para), 2nd wk..... 85
Denver—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 100
Orpheum—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO) 135
Paramount—**Intermezzo** (UA); **Kid Nightingale** (WB) 100
Rialto—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Beware, Spooks!** (Col) 110

DETROIT

Adams—**First Love** (Univ), 2nd wk., after 1 wk. at the Fox; **Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox), after 1 wk. at the Fox 110
Cinema—**Hitler, Beast of Berlin** (PDC), 2nd wk. 140
Fox—**Barricade** (20th-Fox); **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (Col) 100
Michigan—**The Real Glory** (UA); **Night of Nights** (Para) 90
Palms-State—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono) 90
United Artists—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 2nd wk... 90

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Thunder Afloat** (M-G-M); **Two-Gun Troubadour** (Mono) 60
Apollo—**Big Guy** (Univ); **Hitler—Beast of Berlin** (PDC) 70
Circle—**Eternally Yours** (UA); **Reno** (RKO)... 90
Indiana—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **City in Darkness** (20th-Fox) 80
Loew's—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA); **Henry Goes Arizona** (M-G-M) 90
Lyric—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox); plus **Ted Weems Band** on stage 150

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ), holdover. 75
Midland—**The Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA); **Henry Goes Arizona** (M-G-M) 95
Newman—**A Child Is Born** (WB), held 140
Orpheum—**The Amazing Mr. Williams** (Col); **Meet Doctor Christian** (RKO) 80
Tower—**The Honeymoon's Over** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 85
Uptown—Same as Esquire 80

LOS ANGELES

Chinese—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 150
Downtown—**We Are Not Alone** (FN).....125
Four Star—**Intermezzo** (UA), 6th wk..... 70
Hillstreet—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO).....115
Hollywood—Same as Downtown.....125
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet.....125
Paramount—**Tower of London** (Univ); **Glen Gray's Orchestra** on stage 150
State—Same as Chinese.....175

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para); **Rulers of the Sea** (Para), 2nd wk.....100
Riverside—**Scandal Sheet** (Col), plus stage show 110
Strand—**Barricade** (20th-Fox); **20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox) 115
Warner—**Tower of London** (Univ); **Intermezzo** (UA) 95
Wisconsin—**Remember?** (M-G-M); **Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox) 120

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Television Spy** (Para); **Too Busy to Work** (20th-Fox) 90
Century—**Barricade** (20th-Fox) 80
Esquire—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO), 2nd run.. 70
Gopher—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox)..... 80
Minnesota—**Girl From Rio** (Mono), stage show, Wally Vernon 85
Orpheum—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO).. 90
State—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 100
World—**First Love** (Univ), 4th wk..... 95

NEW HAVEN

College—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **The Honeymoon's Over** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.....100
Loew-Poli—**The Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA); **Full Confession** (RKO), moved to the College for 2nd wk. 95
Paramount—**The Night of Nights** (Para); **One Hour to Live** (Univ) 80
Roger Sherman—**Eternally Yours** (UA); **The Return of Dr. X** (WB).....120

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**Call a Messenger** (Univ) 75
Globe—**Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (20th-Fox) 80
Liberty—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ), 2nd run.. 95
Orpheum—**Tower of London** (Univ).....150
Saenger—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox) 125
State—**The Real Glory** (UA) 150
Tudor—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox).....100

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Mill on the Floss** (Standard), 4th wk... 65
Capitol—**Secret of Dr. Kildare** (M-G-M)..... 60
Criterion—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO), 2nd wk. 120
Globe—**Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono)..... 95
Paramount—**Great Victor Herbert** (Para), plus stage show 160
Radio City Music Hall—**We Are Not Alone** (FN), 2nd wk., plus stage show..... 85
Rialto—**Tower of London** (Univ).....180
Roxy—**Barricade** (20th-Fox), plus stage show.. 75
Strand—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd wk., plus stage show..... 90

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB) 120
Liberty—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox); **The Honeymoon's Over** (20th-Fox) 135
Midwest—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para).....135
Plaza—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox), moveover from Midwest 115
State—**The Real Glory** (UA), 2nd wk..... 60
Tower—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), moveover from Criterion 145

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Return of Dr. X** (FN); **Cafe Hostess** (Col) 85
Omaha—**Tower of London** (Univ); **Laugh It Off** (Univ) 115
Orpheum—**Barricade** (20th-Fox); **Little Accident** (Univ) 85
Paramount—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **City of Darkness** (20th-Fox) 80
State—**South of the Border** (Rep); **Main Street Lawyer** (RKO) 100

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ) 135
Fulton—**The Flying Deuces** (RKO); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO) 80
Loew's Penn—**The Real Glory** (UA) 80
Senator—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox)... 50
Stanley—**Intermezzo** (UA) 125
Warner—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M) 125

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Tower of London** (Univ); **Henry Goes Arizona** (M-G-M) 90
Paramount—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para); **Sued for Libel** (RKO) 95
United Artists—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 130
Mayfair—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 4th wk. 95
Liberty—**Barricade** (20th-Fox); **Honeymoon's Over** (20th-Fox) 95
Orpheum—**Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono); **Danger Flight** (Mono) 90

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**Rio** (Univ); **City of Darkness** (20th-Fox) 105
Centre—**Remember?** (M-G-M) 115
Paramount—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 130
Rialto—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO) 110
Studio—**Babes in Arms** (M-G-M) 105
Utah—**Blackmail** (M-G-M); **The Honeymoon's Over** (20th-Fox) 105

SEATTLE

Blue Mouse—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Dancing Co-ed** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 100
Fifth Avenue—**Remember?** (M-G-M); **What a Life** (Para) 90
Liberty—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), 7th wk. 90
Music Box—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M), 4th wk. 90
Orpheum—**Barricade** (20th-Fox); **Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox) 90
Palomar—**Return of Dr. X** (FN); **The Covered Trailer** (Rep), plus Stroud Twins on stage... 90
Paramount—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO), 2nd wk. 90

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

A

A Child Is Born (WB) Aug. 5.. 415
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M) Feb. 18 923
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26 005
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue Sept 30.
All Women Have Secrets (Para) Dec. 9 3914
Allegheny Uprising (RKO) Oct. 28 006
Amazing Mr. Williams (Col) Nov. 25 7
Angels Wash Their Faces (FN) Aug. 5 367
Another Thin Man (M-G-M) Nov. 18 13
Arizona Kid (Rep) Oct. 7..... 951
Asking for Trouble (GB).....8012
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col), reissue.....1072

B

Babes in Arms (M-G-M) Sept. 23 9
Bad Little Angel (M-G-M) Oct. 28 10
Balalaika (M-G-M) Dec. 23.... 17
Barricade (20th-Fox) Dec. 2..... 026
Beau Geste (Para) July 29....3902
Beware, Spooks! (Col) Oct. 28..1011
Big Guy (Univ) Dec. 2.....4016
Blackmail (M-G-M) Sept. 16... 3
Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col) Nov. 11 1013
British Intelligence (WB-FN)...
Broadway Melody of 1940 (M-G-M) 21
Brother Rat and a Baby (WB-FN) .....

C

Cafe Hostess (Col) 1030
Call a Messenger (Univ) Sept. 9. 20
Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16 912
Cat and the Canary (Para) Oct. 7 3909
Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 12 006
Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (20th-Fox) Nov. 25 021
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3 948
Charlie McCarthy, Detective (Univ) Dec. 23 .....
Chasing Trouble (Mono).....
Chip of the Flying U (Univ)...
Cisco Kid and the Lady (20th-Fox) Dec. 2 012
City of Chance (20th-Fox).....
Congo Maisie (M-G-M)..... 19
Conspiracy (RKO) Sept. 2..... 935
Covered Trailer (Rep) Nov. 18.. 915
Cowboys From Texas (Rep) Dec. 9 962
Crashing Through (Mono) Nov. 4 3936

D

Dancing Co-ed (M-G-M) Sept. 30 3
Danger Ahead (Mono).....3939
Danger Flight (Mono) Nov. 4...3816
Daughters of Today (Col).....
Days of Jesse James (Rep) Dec. 23 953
Day the Bookies Wept (RKO) Sept. 9 003
Day Time Wife (20th-Fox) Nov. 18 020
Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (WB) Nov. 4 413
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2 3901
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21.405
Destry Rides Again (Univ) Dec. 9
Devil Is an Empress (Col) Dec. 23
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21 3908
Distant Fields (RKO) .....
Dr. Cyclops (Para) .....
Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) Nov. 4..... 015
Dust Be My Destiny (FN) Aug. 19

E

Earl of Chicago (M-G-M)..... 18
Emergency Squad (Para).....
Escape, The (20th-Fox) Nov. 11. 010
Escape to Paradise (RKO)....Dec. 9
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30.. 462
Eternally Yours (UA) Oct. 7...
Everything Happens at Night (20th-Fox) Dec. 23 029
Everything Is Rhythm (Astor).
Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 940

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14 6
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
Fight for Peace (Mono) Apr. 23, '38 3831
Fighting Gringo (RKO) Sept. 2. 986
Fighting Mad (Mono) 3937
Fighting 69th (WB-FN).....
First Kiss (20th-Fox) 020
First Love (Univ) Nov. 11.....3002
First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34..... 062
Five Little Peppers (Col).....9017
Flight at Midnight (Rep) Sept. 2 911
Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14.... 030
Four Wives (FN) Dec. 2..... 453
Front Page Lady (Mono).....
Fugitive at Large (Col) Aug. 5..1026
Full Confession (RKO) Aug. 26. 003

G

Gentleman From Arizona (Mono)
Geronimo! (Para) Nov. 25.....
Girl and the Gambler (RKO)...
Golden Boy (Col) Aug. 19.....9002
Goose Step (P-D-C) Nov. 11.....
Great Victor Herbert, The (Para) Dec. 9 3916
Green Hell (Univ) June 10.... 926
Gulliver's Travels (Para) Dec. 23 3915

H

Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26 24
He Married His Wife (20th-Fox) 023
Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence (20th-Fox) Oct. 7..... 019
Henry Goes Arizona (M-G-M) Dec. 16 2
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30..... 009
Hero for a Day (Univ).....4035
Heroes in Blue (Mono) Nov. 18..3919
Hidden Power (Col) May 27....1025
High School (20th-Fox).....
His Girl Friday (Col).....
Hobby Family (FN) Aug. 26... 376
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox) Oct. 7 007
Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16 .....
Honeymoon's Over (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 024
Housekeeper's Daughter (UA) Sept. 16 .....
Hunchback of Notre Dame (RKO) Dec. 23..... 015

I

I Married Adventure (Col).....
Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday (20th-Fox) 022
Intermezzo, A Love Story (UA) Oct. 7 .....
Invisible Killer (P-D-C) .....
Invisible Man Returns (Univ)...
Invisible Stripes (WB-FN).....
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20 3841
Irish Luck (Mono) Aug. 26....3826
Isle of Destiny (RKO).....

J

Jamaica Inn (Para) July 8.....3906
Jeepers Creepers (Rep) Nov. 4..
Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President (M-G-M) Dec. 9. 14
Judge Hardy & Son (M-G-M) Dec. 16 16

K

Kansas Terrors (Rep) Oct. 21... 961
Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16. 411
Konga, the Wild Stallion (Col) Nov. 11 9034

L

Laugh It Off (Univ) Nov. 11...4026
Law of the Pampas (Para) Oct. 21 3955
Legion of Lost Flyers (Univ) Dec. 16 53
Legion of the Lawless (RKO) Nov. 25 082
Light That Failed (Para).....
Little Accident (Univ) Nov. 4..4019
Llano Kid (Para) Nov. 11.....
Lone Wolf Strikes (Col).....
Lucky Texan (Mono) .....

M

Mad Empress (FN) 481
Main Street Lawyer (Rep) Nov. 11 905
Man From Montreal (Univ) Nov. 11 4054
Marines Fly High (RKO).....
Married and in Love (RKO) Dec. 16 014
Marshal of Mesa City (RKO) Oct. 7 081
Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mexican Spitfire (RKO) Dec. 16.. 016
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7....4044
Miracle of Main Street (Col)...1032
Missing Evidence (Univ) Oct. 7.4028
Money to Burn (Rep)..... ....
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14 1101
Mr. Wong at Headquarters (Mono) .....
Music in My Heart (Col).....
Mutiny in the Big House (Mono) Oct. 21 3803
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24 4051
My Love for Yours (Para).....
My Son Is Guilty (Col).....

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26..... 419
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB) July 15 324
Nick Carter, Master Detective (M-G-M) Dec. 9 15
Night of Nights (Para) Dec. 2..3912
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14..... 7
No Place to Go (FN) Sept. 23... 469
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26 001

O

Oh, Johnny, Oh (Univ).....
Oklahoma Frontier (Univ) Dec. 9 4059
Oklahoma Terror (Mono) Oct. 7.3856
Old Maid, The (FN) Aug. 5..... 452
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14.... 463
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para) Sept. 30 3903
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16 30
Our Neighbors—the Carters (Para) Nov. 11 3911
Outpost of the Mounties (Col) Dec. 2.....1201
Overland Mail (Mono) Nov. 18.3857

P

Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14..... 014
Parole Fixer (Para).....
Phantom Strikes (Mono) Nov. 18 3923
Pioneer Days (Mono).....3961
Pinocchio (RKO) .....
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23 418
Private Detective (FN) Nov. 25. 471
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7..... 402

Q

Queen of Destiny (RKO) Nov. 26, '38 061
Quick Millions (20th-Fox) Aug. 5 004

R

Raffles (UA) Dec. 23.....
Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16 011
Range War (Para) Aug. 12.....3954
Real Glory, The (UA) Sept. 23..
Rebecca (UA) .....
Remember? (M-G-M) Nov. 11... 11
Remember the Night (Para)....
Reno (RKO) Nov. 18..... 008
Return of Dr. X (FN) Dec. 2.... 464
Riders of Black River (Col) Sept. 30 9209
Riders of Destiny (Mono) reissue
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30 .....
Road Back (Univ) reissue.....
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36..... 061
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21 403
Roll, Wagons, Roll (Mono) Dec. 23 3951
Rovin' Tumbleweeds (Rep) Nov. 25 848
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23 3910

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14..... 913
Saga of Death Valley (Rep) Dec. 2 952
Sagebrush Trail (Mono) reissue
Santa Fe Marshal (Para).....3956
Scandal Sheet (Col) Oct. 28....1031
Secret Four (Mono) Dec. 16.....3924
Secret of Dr. Kildare (M-G-M) Nov. 25 12
Send Another Coffin (UA).....
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox) Dec. 9 018
Shop Around the Corner (M-G-M) 20
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 23....3815
Smashing the Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21 470
Smuggled Cargo (Rep) Aug. 26. 825
South of the Border (Rep) Dec. 16 941
St. Martin's Lane (Para).....
Star Maker (Para) Aug. 19....3851
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2 008
Stranger From Texas (Col) Dec. 23 1202
Submarine Patrol (20th-Fox) Nov. 5 909
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21.. 012
Swanee River (20th-Fox).....
Swiss Family Robinson (20th-Fox) 019

T

Taming of the West (Col).....1211
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3 939
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14....3907
That's Right, You're Wrong (RKO) Nov. 18 011
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30 1015
Thou Shalt Not Kill (Rep) Dec. 16 .....
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30..... 004
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M) Sept. 23 4
To the Rescue (GN) 328
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 016
Torture Ship (P-D-C) Dec. 23...
Tower of London (Univ) Nov. 25
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16.....4052
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23 4017
Two-Fisted Rangers (Col).....
Two Thoroughbreds (RKO) Dec. 2 013
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28 013
Typhoon (Para) .....

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2..... 10

V

Vigil in the Night (RKO).....

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
We Are Not Alone (FN) Nov. 11.. 458
West of Carson City (Univ)....4061
West of the Divide (Mono).....
Westbound Stage (Mono) 3952
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M) Aug. 19. 949
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2..... 1

Y

Yukon Flight (Mono) 3938

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939-40, Unless Otherwise Specified.

◎Indicates short of the week.

◎Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

Andy Clyde Gets Spring Chicken (..) .....Dec. 15
Glove Slingers (..) .....Nov. 24
Now It Can Be Sold (17) ..June 2
Pest From the West (..) ...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17) .....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½) ...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19) .....Sept. 22
Teacher's Pest (16½) .....Nov. 3
The Awful Goof (..) .....Dec. 22
The Chump Takes a Bump (18) .....May 5
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18) .....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..) .....Aug. 11

CINESCOPES

World of 1960 (Futurama) (..) .....Nov. 24

COLOR RHAPSODIES

A Boy, a Gun and Birds (..) .....Jan. 12, '40
Crop Chasers (8) .....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (6½) .....
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8) ..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7) .....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7) .....May 26
Mother Goose in Swingtime (..) .....Dec. 8
Mountain Ears (7½) .....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7) .....June 30
The House That Jack Built (7) .....Apr. 14

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (..) .Nov. 17
Historic Cities of India (10) .....
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions) ..(9½) .....Sept. 15
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10) .....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..) ...Oct. 27
Morocco (10) .....Aug. 11
New Hampshire (..) .....Dec. 22
Sojourn in India (..) .....July 7

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9) ....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½) ...Sept. 8
No. 3 (College Songs) (10) .....
No. 4 (Stephen Foster Songs) (..) .....Nov. 17
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11) ...Apr. 21
No. 9 Songs of the West (10) .....May 19
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16

FABLES CARTOON

Little Lost Sheep..(7) .....Oct. 6
Park Your Baby (..) .....Dec. 22

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

Elias Howe (11) .....
No. 1 Charles Goodyear (10½) .Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..) .....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10) .....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (11) .....Oct. 12
No. 3 (11) .....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7) .....Apr. 6
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6) .....May 12

MUSIC HALL VANITIES
(New series)

Montmarte Madness (10½) ...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10) ...May 19

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Millionaire Hobo (..) .....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½) ....Sept. 1
The Mouse Exterminator (..) .....Jan. 26, '40

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7) .....Apr. 28
Scrappy's Rodeo (6) .....June 2

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 18)

No. 1 (..) .....Sept. 15
No. 2 (10) .....Oct. 20
No. 7 (10) .....Mar. 17
No. 8 (9½) .....Apr. 8
No. 9 (10) .....May 12
No. 10 (10) .....May 26
No. 11 (10) .....June 29
No. 12 (10) .....July 28

(Series 19)

No. 1 Art of Make-Up (9½) ....
No. 2 Training Animal Stars (..) .....Nov. 10
No. 3 .....Dec. 1
No. 4 .....Jan. 5, '40

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10) .....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (9½) .....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10) .....May 5
Jai Alai (..) .....Nov. 17
Jockeys Up (10½) .....June 2
Technique of Tennis (8½) ...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½) ....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½) .....Apr. 7
Calling All Curs (17½) .....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½) .....Oct. 6
Saved by the Belle (17) ...June 30
Three Sappy People (18½) .....
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16) .....May 19

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (10½) Smithsonian Institute .....Oct. 20
No. 2 Inside the White House (11) .....Feb. 21
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10) .....May 26
No. 4 Library of Congress (10) .....Aug. 4
Smithsonian Institute .....Nov. 10

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (21) .....Oct. 28
Help Wanted (21) .....June 10
Think First (21) .....Sept. 9
While America Sleeps (21) .....Apr. 15

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11) .....Sept. 2
Colorful Curacao (9) .....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9) ....Apr. 15
Picturesque Udaipur (8) .....May 13
Rural Hungary (9) .....Apr. 29

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10) .....May 13
Ice Antics (9) .....Feb. 11
Prophets Without Honor (11) .....May 20
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11) .....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11) .....May 27

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20) .....Apr. 15
Somewhat Secret (21) .....Mar. 25

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)

◎Art Gallery (9) .....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11) .....July 15
◎Little Gold Fish (8) .....Apr. 15
◎One Mother's Family (9) ...Sept. 30
◎The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9) .....June 10
◎The Blue Danube (7) .....Dec. 16
◎The Bookworm (9) .....Aug. 26

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY
Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Auto Antics (10) .....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11) .....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10) .....Apr. 15
Cousin Wilbur (10) .....Apr. 29
Dog Daze (11) .....July 1
Duel Personalities (10) .....Mar. 11
Joy Scouts (10) .....June 24

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10) .....May 20
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia..June 24
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11) .....July 22
The Story of Dr. Jenner (10) .Mar. 18
Unseen Guardians (11) .....Aug. 26
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia .....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9) .....July 1
Football Thrills of 1938 (..) .Sept. 16
Marine Circus (9) .....Mar. 11
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10) .....May 20
Set 'Em Up (..) .....Sept. 30
Take a Cue (Sepia) (9) .....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9) .....Apr. 8

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9) .....Mar. 18
Dark Magic (10) .....May 13
Home Early (9) .....May 27
How to Eat (10) .....June 10
The Day of Rest (..) .....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7) ....May 12
Rhythm on the Reservation (7) .....July 7
So Does an Automobile (7) .Mar. 31
The Scared Crows (7) .....June 9
Yip Yip Yippy (7) .....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Small Fry (7) .....Apr. 21
The Barnyard Brat (7) .....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8) .....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES
(New Series in Cinecolor)

Chile (10) .....Nov. 10
Ecuador (10) .....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10) .....May 26
Peru (9) .....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9) ....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10) .....Sept. 8
Here's Hal (10) .....Nov. 24
Hal Kemp and orchestra.
Moments of Charm of 1940 (Cinecolor) (11) .....Oct. 27
Phil Spitalny and Girl Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10) .....May 5
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11) .....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10) .....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10) .....June 2
Richard Himber and his orchestra
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10) .....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra
Three Kings and a Queen (11) .....Apr. 7
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Bits of Life (11) .....Nov. 17
Breaking the News (19) .....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10) .....Oct. 20
Farewell Vienna (10) .....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10) .....Apr. 14
Public Hobby Number One (11) .....Sept. 22
Swans (10) .....May 19

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 9 (10) .....Apr. 7
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11) .....May 5
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and sons of the year.
No. 11 (10) .....June 2
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10) .....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

◎Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22) .....Apr. 7
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7) .....June 16
Hello, How Am I? (7) .....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7) .....July 28
Leave Well Enough Alone (7) .....Apr. 28
Never Sock a Baby (6) .....Nov. 3
Wotta Nitemare (7) .....May 19

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

No. 5 (11) .....May 12
No. 6 (11) .....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-1 (11) .....Sept. 15
No. J9-2 (10) .....Nov. 3

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

Aqua-Rhythm (10) .....Nov. 24
A Desert Adventure (10) ....Sept. 29
A Dog Is Born (10) .....Nov. 3
Catching Whoppers (10) .....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10) ....June 9
Diamond Dust (10) .....May 12
Good Skates (10) .....Apr. 14
Ice skating with champions.
Hydro-Maniacs (10) .....Sept. 1
The Sporting Irish (10) .....Mar. 17
Sports in Ireland.
Watch Your Step (10) .....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES
Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.

The Blue Danube Waltz (10) .Sept. 29
Merry Wives of Windsor (9) .Oct. 27
William Tell (11) .....Nov. 24

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

No. 1 (11) .....Oct. 13
No. 2 (11) .....Nov. 17
No. 5 (10) .....Apr. 14

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

◎Autograph Hound, The (8) ..Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8) .....June 9
Donald's Cousin Gus (7) .....May 19
Donald's Penguin (8) .....Aug. 11
Goofy and Wilbur (8) .....Mar. 17
Officer Duck (8) .....Sept. 22
Sea Scouts (8) .....June 30
The Pointer (8) .....July 21
◎The Hockey Champ (7) ....Apr. 7
The Ugly Duckling (9) .....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Paby Daze (15) .....May 19
Feathered Pests (16) .....July 28
Kennedy the Great (19) .....Dec. 1
Slightly at Sea (16) .....Feb. 9

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Sales Slips (17) .....July 21

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Moving Vanities (17) .....May 5
Ring Madness (19) .....June 30
Scrappily Married (20) .....Jan. 12
Truth Aches (19) .....Nov. 3

MARCH OF TIME

No. 9 (19) ..... **Apr. 14**
Japan, Master of the Orient
No. 10 (20) ..... **May 12**
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19) ..... **June 9**
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22) ..... **July 7**
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18) ..... **Aug. 4**
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19) ..... **Sept. 1**
Soldiers with wings.
No. 2 (19) ..... **Sept. 29**
The Battle Fleets of England.
No. 3 (18) ..... **Oct. 27**
Uncle Sam—The Farmer.
No. 4 (19) ..... **Nov. 24**
Newsfronts of War—1940.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11) ..... **May 12**
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11) ..... **Apr. 14**
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11) ..... **Sept. 8**
No. 2 (11) ..... **Oct. 6**
No. 3 (10) ..... **Nov. 3**

PATHE NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16) .... **Oct. 20**
Chicken Feed (18) ..... **Dec. 29**
Coat Tales (18) ..... **Nov. 17**
Dog-Gone (16) ..... **Apr. 21**
Marriage-Go-Round (18) ..... **July 28**

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Devil Drivers (9) ..... **June 16**
Hunting Hounds (9) ..... **Sept. 29**
Ice Cutters (9) ..... **Oct. 27**
Kennel Kings (9) ..... **Aug. 11**
Riding the Crest (9) ..... **July 14**
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach
Smooth Approach (9) ..... **May 19**
The golfers show how it's done.
Winter Playground (9) ..... **Nov. 24**

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Bandits and Ballads (17) .... **Dec. 15**
Ranch House Romeo (17) ..... **Apr. 7**
Sagebrush Serenade (19) ..... **June 16**

REELISMS (New Series)

Acres of Plenty (9) ..... **Oct. 13**
Air Waves (10) ..... **Mar. 10**
American Royal (9) ..... **Nov. 10**
Nevada Unlimited (8) ..... **Sept. 15**
Pack Trip (9) ..... **Aug. 18**
Soldiers of the Sea (9) ..... **Apr. 7**
Swinguet (8) ..... **May 26**
Television (9) ..... **May 5**
World of Tomorrow (9) ..... **June 23**
Zoo (9) ..... **July 21**

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19) ..... **July 21**
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) **Aug. 18**
Filming the Fleet (11) ..... **Oct. 27**
Sand Hogs (10) ..... **May 12**

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10) ..... **Sept. 1**
Clocking the Jockeys (11) .... **Nov. 24**
Inside Baseball (11) ..... **Apr. 14**
Sports Immortals (11) ..... **June 23**

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11) .. **Aug. 4**
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11) .. **Nov. 10**

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..) .. **July 7**
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10) .. **Sept. 15**
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..) .. **Dec. 22**

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS

Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10) ..... **Sept. 29**
Muscle Maulers (11) ..... **Apr. 14**
The Silly Season (..) ..... **Dec. 8**

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..) ..... **May 26**
Mystic Siam (10) ..... **Mar. 17**
Tempest Over Tunis (11) .... **June 9**
The Evergreen Empire (..) .. **Oct. 13**

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..) ..... **June 16**
A Mouse and a Million (..) ... **Nov. 3**
Africa Squawks (7) ..... **June 30**
Barnyard Baseball (7) ..... **July 14**
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) **May 5**
Hook, Line and Sinker (7) .. **Sept. 8**
Nick's Coffee Pot (7) ..... **May 19**
Sheep in the Meadow (7) .... **Sept. 22**
The Cuckoo Bird (7) ..... **April 7**
The First Robin (..) ..... **Dec. 29**
The Golden West (7) ..... **Aug. 25**
The Hitch-Hiker (..) ..... **Dec. 1**
The Old Fire Horse (..) .... **July 28**
The Orphan Duck (7) ..... **Oct. 6**
The Prize Guest (7) ..... **June 2**
The Watchdog (..) ..... **Oct. 20**
Their Last Bean (7) ..... **April 21**
Two Headed Giant (7) .... **Aug. 11**
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) **Nov. 17**

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7) .. **Sept. 4**
Bird on Nellie's Hat ..... **June 19**
Bola Mola Land (7) ..... **May 29**
Charlie Cuckoo (7) ..... **Apr. 30**
Crack Pot Cruise (7) ..... **Apr. 10**
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8) ..... **Oct. 9**
Nellie of the Circus (7) ..... **May 8**
Scrambled Eggs (9) ..... **Nov. 20**
Silly Superstition (7) ..... **Aug. 28**
Slap Happy Valley (7) ..... **Aug. 21**
Sleeping Princess (9) .....
Snuffy's Party (7) ..... **Aug. 7**
Stubborn Mule (7) ..... **July 31**
The Sleeping Princess (9) .. **Nov. 20**

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 62 (9) ..... **Apr. 10**
No. 63 (9) ..... **May 15**
No. 64 (9) ..... **June 26**
No. 65 (9) ..... **July 17**
No. 66 (9) ..... **Sept. 25**
No. 67 (9) ..... **Oct. 16**
No. 68 (9) ..... **Nov. 13**
No. 69 (8) ..... **Dec. 11**
No. 70 (8) ..... **Dec. 25**
No. 71 (..) ..... **Jan. 15**

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Bank Notes (19) ..... **Mar. 15**
Gus Van, Minor & Root, Three Wiles, Barton Quintet, Ruth Daye.
Cafe Boheme (17) ..... **Apr. 12**
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18) ..... **July 12**
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Pharmacy Follies (18) ..... **May 17**
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18) ..... **June 14**
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17) ..... **Aug. 9**
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7) ..... **Aug. 15**

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 61 (9) ..... **Apr. 3**
No. 62 (9) ..... **May 1**
No. 63 (9) ..... **June 5**
No. 64 (..) ..... **July 3**
No. 65 (9) ..... **Aug. 7**
No. 66 (8½) ..... **Sept. 18**
No. 67 (9) ..... **Oct. 9**
No. 68 (9) ..... **Nov. 6**
No. 69 (9) ..... **Dec. 4**
No. 70 (9) ..... **Dec. 18**
No. 71 (9) ..... **Jan. 8**

TWO REEL MUSICALS

Rhumba Land (18½) ..... **Nov. 15**
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17) ..... **Sept. 6**
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Session in Rhythm ..... **Jan. 17**
Judy Starr, Ada Broadbent Dancers, Johnny O'Brien and His Harmonica Hats, Billy Burt, Arkin & Colby, the Brown Sisters, the Pickerts.
Snow Follies (18) ..... **Dec. 13**
Lillian Roth, King Sisters, Bruce Holden, Consolo and Melba, Morell Sisters and Billy, Ann Triolo, Lola Jensen and Fonchonettes.
Swing Hotel (18) ..... **Oct. 18**
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21) ..... **Sept. 6**

UNIVERSAL NEWS

Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Fat Chance (20) ..... **Mar. 25**
A Swing Opera (20) ..... **July 22**
Broadway Buckaroo (20) ..... **June 3**
Home Cheap Home (20) ..... **Mar. 18**
Projection Room (20) ..... **Mar. 4**
Rollin' in Rhythm (20) ..... **Apr. 15**
Seeing Red (20) ..... **Aug. 26**
Seeing Spots (20) ..... **Apr. 29**
Slapsie Maxie (17) ..... **Sept. 10**
You're Next to Closing (20) ..... **May 13**
Wardrobe Girl (20) ..... **June 17**

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

American Saddle Horses (..) **Nov. 11**
For Your Convenience (10) ..... **May 20**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10) ..... **Sept. 30**
Mechanix Illustrated, No. 3 (10) ..... **Feb. 25**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4 .. **Apr. 22**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (9) ..... **June 10**
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10) ..... **Aug. 5**
Modern Methods (9) ..... **July 15**
The Roving Camera (10) ... **Mar. 25**

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7) ..... **Apr. 1**
Jeepers Creepers (7) ..... **Sept. 23**
Naughty Neighbors (7) ..... **Oct. 7**
Pied Piper Porky (..) ..... **Nov. 4**
Polar Pals (7) ..... **June 3**
Porky and Teabiscuit (7) ..... **Apr. 22**
Porky, the Giant Killer (..) .. **Nov. 18**
Porky's Hotel (7) ..... **Sept. 2**
Porky's Movie Mystery (7) .. **Mar. 11**
Porky's Picnic (7) ..... **July 15**
Christopher Columbus jr. (7) ..... **May 13**
Scalp Trouble (7) ..... **June 24**
Wise Quack (7) ..... **Aug. 5**

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10) ..... **Apr. 29**
Clyde McCoy & Orchestra (10) ..... **Mar. 18**
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (10) ..... **Apr. 8**
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10) ..... **Aug. 12**
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10) ..... **May 20**
Leith Stevens & Orch. (10) ..... **June 10**
Rita Rio & Orch. (10) ..... **July 1**
Rubinoff and His Orchestra (10) ..... **Nov. 11**
Swing Styles (10) ..... **Sept. 2**
Vincent Lopez and Orch. (10) ..... **Sept. 30**
Will Osborne & Orch. (..) ..... **July 22**

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

Bars and Stripes Forever (7) **Apr. 8**
Believe It or Else (7) ..... **June 3**
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7) ..... **Apr. 22**
Dangerous Dan McFoo (7) ..... **July 15**
Detouring America (7) ..... **Aug. 26**
Fagin's Freshmen (..) ..... **Nov. 18**
Fresh Fish (7) ..... **Nov. 4**
Goldrush Daze (7) ..... **Feb. 25**
Good Egg, The (7) ..... **Oct. 21**
Hare-um Scare-um (7) ..... **Aug. 12**
Land of the Midnight Sun (7) ..... **Oct. 7**
Little Brother Rat (7) ..... **Sept. 2**
Little Lion Hunter (7) ..... **Oct. 7**
Naughty But Mice (7) ..... **May 20**
Old Glory (10) ..... **July 1**
Prest-O Change-O (7) ..... **Mar. 25**
Robinhood Makes Good (7) .. **Feb. 11**
Sioux Me (7) ..... **Sept. 9**
Snow Man's Land (7) ..... **July 29**
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7) ... **May 6**

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (20) ..... **Aug. 12**
Quiet Please (18) ..... **July 1**
Royal Rodeo (..) ..... **Nov. 25**
Sons of the Plains (19) ..... **July 30**
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20) ..... **May 20**
The Monroe Doctrine (16) .. **Oct. 14**

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10) .... **Feb. 18**

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (10) ..... **Apr. 15**
Dean of the Pasteboards (10) ..... **May 27**
One Day Stand (10) ..... **Aug. 19**
Sword Fishing (10) ..... **Oct. 21**
Tax Trouble (10) ..... **Mar. 18**
Vote Trouble (10) ..... **Sept. 9**
Witness Trouble (10) ..... **July 29**

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

A Minute From Death (11) .. **Mar. 4**
Chained (11) ..... **Apr. 1**
Haunted House (11) ..... **June 3**
Lives in Peril (11) ..... **July 7**
Three-Minute Fuse (11) ..... **July 29**
Verge of Disaster (10) ..... **Aug. 26**
Voodoo Fires (11) ..... **May 6**

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician ..... **May 6**
12 chapters.
Secret of Treasure Island ... **Mar. 17**
(15 episodes). Story of buried pirate's treasure on an adventurer's island.
The Shadow ..... **Jan. 5, '40**
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters ..... **June 10**
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.
Dick Tracy's G-Men ..... **Sept. 2**
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.
Zorro's Fighting Legion ..... **Dec. 16**
12 Chapters. Reed Hadley.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers (..) ..... **Apr. 11**
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.
Green Hornet ..... **Jan. 9**
13 Chapters. Gordon Jones, Wade Boteler, Anne Nagel.
Oregon Trail (15 chapters) ... **July 4**
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.
The Phantom Creeps ..... **Oct. 17**
12 Chapters. Bela Lugosi, Robert Kent, Dorothy Arnold.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol ❶ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

	AUGUST 26	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30
COLUMBIA	[22] Comedy Drama **9017** **Five Little Peppers** (60) Edith Fellows [23] Western **9209** **Riders of Black River** (59) C. Starrett-I. Meredith R—Sept. 30	[30] Wild Horse **9034** **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (65) R—Nov. 11	[5] Drama **9002** **Golden Boy** (100) Stanwyck-Holden R—Aug. 19 [7] Mystery Drama **1025** **Hidden Power** (60) Jack Holt-Gert. Michael R—May 29	[14] Outdoor Action **1201** **Outpost of the Mounties** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredith (63) R—Dec. 2	[21] Drama **1015** **Those High Grey Walls** (82) Walter Connolly Iris Meredith R—Sept. 30	
GRAND NAT'L						
M-G-M	[25] Comedy Fantasy **949** ⊙❶**Wizard of Oz** (102) Judy Garland Frank Morgan R—Aug. 19	[1] Comedy Drama **1** **The Women (134)** Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 2	[8] Melodrama **5** **Blackmail** (79) Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16	[15] Drama **4** **Thunder Afloat** (94) Wallace Beery Chester Morris Virginia Grey R—Sept. 23		[29] Comedy Drama **Dancing Co-ed** (81) **Lana Turner** **Richard Carlson** R—Sept. 30
MONOGRAM	[25] Western **3856** **Oklahoma Terror** (52) Jack Randall R—Oct. 7 [22] Melodrama **3826** **Irish Luck (61)** **F. Darro-D. Purcell** R—Aug. 26			[12] Action Drama **3815** **Sky Patrol** (61) **John Trent** **Marjorie Reynolds** R—Sept. 23		[30] Documentary **38** **Fight for Peace** (68) R—Apr. 23, '38
PARAMOUNT	[25] Musical Comedy **3851** **Star Maker** (94) Bing Crosby Louise Campbell R—Aug. 19	[1] Melodrama **3901** **Death of a Champion** (66) Lynne Overman Virginia Dale **R—Sept. 2**	[8] Western **3954** **Range War** (66) Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden **R—Aug. 12**	[15] Drama **3902** **Beau Geste (114)** Gary Cooper Ray Milland **R—July 29**	[22] Comedy **3903** **$1,000 a Touchdown** (71) **Joe E. Brown** **Martha Raye** R—Sept. 30	[29] Comedy Drama **39** **Honeymoon in Bali** (9 **(For. My Love for Your** Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16
REPUBLIC	[21] Action Drama **825** **Smuggled Cargo** (61) Rochelle Hudson Barry MacKay R—Aug. 26	[28] Drama **911** **Flight at Midnight** (66) Paul Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner **R—Sept. 2**	[6] Western **857** **Wall Street Cowboy** (66) Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9		[21] Melodrama **912** **Calling All Marines** (65) Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16	[29] Western **9** **Arizona Kid** (61) **Roy Rogers** **Sally March** R—Oct. 7
RKO RADIO		[1] Melodrama **935** **Conspiracy** (59) Allan Lane-Linda Hayes R—Sept. 2	[8] Western **986** **Fighting Gringo** (60) Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2 [8] Drama **003** **Full Confession (72)** **V. McLaglen-S. Ellers** R—Aug. 26	[15] Comedy **002** **Day the Bookies Wept** (65) Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9	[22] Comedy Drama **931** **Fifth Avenue Girl (80)** **Ginger Rogers** **James Ellison** R—Aug. 26	[29] Drama **0** **Nurse Edith Cavell (95** Anna Neagle George Sanders **R—Aug. 26**
20TH-FOX	[25] Comedy **004** **Quick Millions** (61) (The Jones Family) Jed Prouty Spring Byington R—Aug. 5	[1] Detective Drama **005** **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (85) Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26	[8] Melodrama **006** **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (73) Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore **R—Aug. 12**	[15] Drama **011** **The Rains Came** (103) Myrna Loy-Tyrone Power George Brent R—Sept. 16	[22] Comedy **008** **Stop, Look and Love (57)** Jean Rogers William Frawley **R—Sept. 2**	[29] Drama **0** **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30
UNITED ARTS.					[22] Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story** (70) Leslie Howard Ingrid Bergman John Halliday R—Oct. 7	[29] Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) **Gary Cooper** **Andrea Leeds** R—Sept. 23
UNIVERSAL		[1] Comedy Drama **10** **Under-Pup** (88) **Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey** R—Sept. 2 [1] Outdoor Drama **4051** **Mutiny on the Black Hawk** (66) R—June 24 R. Arlen-A. Devine	[8] Musical Comedy **24** **Hawaiian Nights** (65) Downs-Carlisle; R-Aug. 26 [8] Western **4058** **Desperate Trails** (58) John Mack Brown Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight R—Oct. 21	[15] Drama **4017** **Two Bright Boys** (70) **Jackie Cooper** **Freddie Bartholomew** R—Sept. 23 [8] Musical **4044** **Mikado** (91) Kenny Baker; R-Jan. 7	[22] Melodrama **4027** **The Witness Vanishes** (66) E. Lowe-W. Barrie	[29] Drama **Rio** (77) **Sigrid Gurie** **Basil Rathbone** R—Sept. 30
WARNER-F.N.	[26] Comedy **FN376** **Hobby Family, The** (54) Irene Rich-H. O'Neill R—Aug. 26 [26] Drama **FN367** **Angels Wash Their Faces** (96) Ann Sheridan; R-Aug. 5	[2] Drama **FN452** **The Old Maid** (95) Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins R—Aug. 5	[9] Com. Melo. **WB419** **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (60) Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas R—Aug. 26	[16] Drama **FN461** **Dust Be My Destiny** (88) **John Garfield** **Priscilla Lane** **R—Aug. 19**	[23] Comedy **FN469** **No Place to Go** (57) **Fred Stone** **Gloria Dickson** **Denis Morgan** R—Sept. 2	[30] Melodrama **FN4** **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30
MISCELLANEOUS						

FEBRUARY, 1940						
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MARCH, 1940						
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31						

APRIL, 1940						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

OCTOBER 7	OCTOBER 14	OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11
COLUMBIA					
Action Drama **1010** **Boat 29** (77) Cirad Veidt Verie Hobson R-Sept. 23		[19] Comedy Drama **1101** **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (125) **Jean Arthur** James Stewart; R-Oct. 14 [16] Drama **1031** **Scandal Sheet** (67) **Otto Kruger R—Oct. 28**	[24] Comedy **1011** **Beware Spooks!** (65) **Joe E. Brown** Mary Carlisle R—Oct. 28 [29] Drama **1032** **Miracle of Main Street (78)** Walter Abel-Margo	[2] Western **1202** **Stranger From Texas** (55) Charles Starrett R—Dec. 23	[9] Comedy **1013** **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (69) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 11
GRAND NAT'L					
MGM					
Comedy **6** **Fit and Furious** (73) Jan Sothern Pinchot Tone R-Oct. 14	[13] Musical Comedy **9** **Babes in Arms** (97) Mickey Rooney Judy Garland R—Sept. 23	[20] Comedy **8** **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14	[27] Comedy Drama **10** **Bad Little Angel** (77) Virginia Weidler Henry Hull R—Oct. 28	[3] Comedy Drama **7** **Ninotchka** (110) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas R—Oct. 14	[10] Drama **11** **Remember?** (81) Robert Taylor Greer Garson R—Nov. 11
MONOGRAM					
Outdoor Drama **3936** **Fishing Thru** (56) **James Newell** **Jan Carmen** R-Nov. 4		[20] Western **Riders of Destiny** (54) (Reissue) John Wayne [20] Western **Sagebrush Trail** (55) (Reissue) John Wayne	[1] Action Drama **3816** **Danger Flight** (61) John Trent R—Nov. 4 [25] Drama **3803** **Mutiny in the Big House** (84) C. Bickford-B. MacLane R—Oct. 21	[31] Western **3857** **Overland Mail** (53) **Jack Randall** R—Nov. 18	[5] Action Drama **3937** **Fighting Mad** (60) James Newell [7] Melodrama **3919** **Heroes in Blue** (61) D. Purcell-B. Hayes R—Nov. 18
PARAMOUNT					
Comedy **3905** **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R-Sept. 23	[13] Drama **3906** **Jamaica Inn (106)** Charles Laughton Maureen O'Hara **R—July 8**	[20] Drama **3907** **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14	[27] Drama **3908** **Disputed Passage** (87) Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff John Howard R—Oct. 21	[3] Western **3955** **Law of the Pampas** (72) **Wm. Boyd** R—Oct. 21	[10] Melodrama **3909** **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7
REPUBLIC					
Western **961** **Kansas Terrors** (57) **Three Mesquiteers** R-Oct. 21	[13] Action Drama **913** **Sabotage** (69) **Arleen Whelan** **Gordon Oliver** R—Oct. 14		[27] Drama with Music **Jeepers Creepers** (69) Weaver Bros. & Elviry Roy Rogers R—Nov. 4	[3] Drama **905** **Main Street Lawyer** (71) Edw. Ellis Anita Louise R—Nov. 11	[10] Comedy **915** **Covered Trailer** (66) Gleason Family R-Nov. 18
RKO RADIO					
Musical **946** **Everything's on Ice** (65) Dane Dare Eric Linden R-Sept. 9	[13] Drama **004** **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis Virginia Vale R—Sept. 30		[27] Drama **012** **Sued for Libel** (65) K. Taylor-L. Hayes R—Oct. 21	[3] Comedy **010** **Flying Deuces** (65) **Laurel & Hardy** R—Oct. 14 [3] Western **081** **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7	[10] Outdoor Drama **006** **Allegheny Uprising** (81) **John Wayne** **Claire Trevor** R—Oct. 28
20TH-FOX					
Melodrama **010** **Escape** (62) Jane Richmond Dan Duff R-Nov. 11	[13] Musical **007** **Hollywood Cavalcade**(96) Alice Faye-Don Ameche R—Oct. 7 [13] Drama **061** **Road to Glory** (101) (Reissue) F. March-W. Baxter	[20] Comedy **018** **Shipyard Sally (80)** Gracie Fields S. Howard R—Dec. 9 [20] Comedy **014** **Pack Up Your Troubles** (75) Jane Withers R—Oct. 14	[27] Action Drama **013** **20,000 Men a Year** (84) R. Scott-M. Healy R—Oct. 28 [27] Documentary **062** **First World War** (78) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34	[3] Drama **019** **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford R—Oct. 7	[10] Drama **015** **Drums Along the Mohawk (103)** Claudette Colbert **Henry Fonda** R—Nov. 4
UNITED ARTS.					
	[12] Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) **Loretta Young** **David Niven** R—Oct. 7		[26] Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughter** (80) **Joan Bennett-Wm. Gargan** **Adolphe Menjou** R—Sept. 16		
UNIVERSAL					
Comedy **4035** **Two for a Day** (66) Anita Louise-Dick Foran Drama Reissue **All Quiet on the Western Front** (93) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 30	[13] Drama **4052** **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16	[20] Western **4059** **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) **Johnny Mack Brown** R—Dec. 9	[27] Comedy **4019** **Little Accident** (65) Sandy Henville Florence Rice R—Nov. 4	[3] Melodrama **20** **Call a Messenger** (65) R. Armstrong-R. Kelly Little Tough Guys R—Sept. 9 [3] Drama Reissue **Road Back** (79) Richard Cromwell	[10] Action Drama **30** **One Hour to Live** (59) Charles Bickford R—Sept. 16 [3] Melodrama **53** **Legion of Lost Flyers** (64) R—Dec. 16 R. Arlen-A. Devine
WARNER-F.N.					
Melodrama **WB418** **Code of the Blue Grass** (65) R—Sept. 23 Fellows-J. McCallion	[14] Musical **FN463** **On Your Toes** (94) Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14	[21] Melodrama **FN470** **Smashing the Money Ring** (56) **Ronald Reagan** **Margot Stevenson** **R—Oct. 21**	[28] Drama **WB403** **Roaring Twenties** (104) James Cagney Priscilla Lane R—Oct. 21	[4] Com. Drama **WB411** **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman R—Sept. 16	[11] Drama **WB402** **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7
MISCELLANEOUS					
			[22] Melodrama **P-D-C** **Torture Ship** (57) **Lyle Talbot** **Irving Pichel** **Jacqueline Wells** R—Dec. 23	[29] Drama **P-D-C** **Goose Step** (90) (form. "Hitler—Beast of Berlin") **Roland Drew** **Steffi Duna** **Greta Grandstedt** R—Nov. 11	[6] Melodrama **P-D-C** **Buried Alive** (..) Beverly Roberts Robert Wilcox

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

MAY, 1940						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE, 1940						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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JULY, 1940						
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	NOVEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23
COLUMBIA		23 Mystery Comedy 7 **The Amazing Mr. Williams** (86) Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas R—Nov. 25	30 Drama 1030 **Cafe Hostess** (63) P. Foster-A. Dvorak 1 Drama **(French)** **Devil Is an Empress** (73) F. Rosay-C. Veidt R—Dec. 23	7 Drama 1026 **Fugitive at Large** (66) J. Holt-P. Ellis R-Aug. 5 7 Western 1211 **Taming of the West** (54) B. Elliott-I. Meredith R—Oct. 21		
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	17 Comedy Drama 13 **Another Thin Man** (102) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Nov. 18	24 Drama 12 **Secret of Dr. Kildare** (85) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Nov. 25	1 Comedy Drama 14 **Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President** (69) Ann Sothern Walter Brennan R—Dec. 9	8 Comedy 2 **Henry Goes Arizona** (67) Frank Morgan Virginia Weidler R—Dec. 16	15 Drama 15 **Nick Carter, Master Detective** (60) Walter Pidgeon Rita Johnson R—Dec. 9	22 Comedy **Judge Hardy & Son** (9 Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone R—Dec. 16
MONOGRAM	15 Mystery Drama 3923 **Phantom Strikes** (58) Sonnie Hale Wilfred Lawson R—Nov. 18	25 Western 3951 **Roll, Wagons, Roll** (53) Tex Ritter R—Dec. 23	5 Action Drama 3938 **Yukon Flight** (58) **James Newill**	10 Western **Reissue** **West of the Divide** (55) John Wayne 10 Western **Reissue** **Lucky Texan** (56) John Wayne	15 Outdoor Musical 3952 **Westbound Stage** (56) Tex Ritter 15 Drama **Gentleman From Arizona** (..) C. Reynolds-J. King	
PARAMOUNT	17 Drama 3910 **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	24 Comedy 3911 **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (85) Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter R—Nov. 11	1 Drama 3912 **Night of Nights** (87) Pat O'Brien Olympe Bradna R—Dec. 2	8 Western 3913 **Llano Kid** (69) **Tito Guizar** **Gale Sondergaard** R—Nov. 11	15 Drama 3914 **All Women Have Secrets** (70) Joseph Allen jr. Jean Cagney R—Dec. 9	22 Technicolor Cart. 39 **Gulliver's Travels** (74) R—Dec. 23
REPUBLIC	16 Western 848 **Rovin' Tumbleweeds** (64) R—Nov. 25 Gene Autry-S. Burnette	22 Western 952 **Saga of Death Valley** (58) Roy Rogers-Geo. Hayes R—Dec. 2	29 Western 962 **Cowboys From Texas** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 9		15 Western 941 **South of the Border** (70) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—Dec. 16	20 Western 9 **Days of Jesse James** (61) Roy Rogers-Geo. Haye R—Dec. 23
RKO RADIO	17 Drama 005 **Meet Dr. Christian** (63) J. Hersholt-D. Lovett R—Oct. 21	24 Musical 011 **That's Right, You're Wrong** (90) Kay Kyser and Orch. Adolphe Menjou Lucille Ball R—Nov. 18	1 Drama 008 **Reno** (73) Richard Dix Gail Patrick R—Nov. 18	8 Melodrama 013 **Two Thoroughbreds** (62) Jimmy Lydon Joan Brodel R—Dec. 2		22 Drama with Music 9 **Escape to Paradise** (6 Bob Breen-Kent Taylo R—Dec. 9
20TH-FOX	17 Comedy 016 **Too Busy to Work** (65) Jones Family R—Nov. 4	24 Comedy Drama 020 **Day Time Wife** (72) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 18	1 Melodrama 021 **Chan in City of Darkness** (74) R—Nov. 25 Sidney Toler-L. Barr 1 Melodrama 022 **Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday** (..) G. Harker-A. Sims	8 Melodrama 026 **Barricade** (71) Alice Faye Warner Baxter R—Dec. 2	15 Comedy Drama 024 **Honeymoon's Over** (70) Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver R—Nov. 4	22 Comedy Drama **Everything Happens at Night** (77) Sonja Henie Ray Milland R—Dec. 23
UNITED ARTS.						22 Melodrama **Slightly Dishonorable** (..) (Form. Send Another Coffin) Pat O'Brien-Ruth Ter
UNIVERSAL	10 Romantic Com. 3002 **First Love** (84) Deanna Durbin R-Nov. 11 17 Melodrama **Tower of London** (94) B. Rathbone-B. Karloff R—Nov. 25	24 Western 4060 **Chip of the Flying U** (55) Johnny Mack Brown 24 Melodrama 4016 **Big Guy** (78) R—Dec. 2 V. McLaglen-J. Cooper	1 Musical 4026 **Laugh It Off** (63) C. Moore-J. Downs R—Nov. 11	8 Action Drama 4054 **Man From Montreal** (60) Richard Arlen Andy Devine R—Nov. 11	15 Melodrama 4028 **Missing Evidence** (64) P. Foster R—Oct. 7	22 Comedy **Charlie McCarthy, Detective** (79) Edgar Bergen-C. Moor "Charlie" & "Mortime R—Dec. 23
WARNER-F.N.	18 Com. Drama WB413 **Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (62) Billy Halop **Bobby Jordan** R—Nov. 4	25 Drama FN458 **We Are Not Alone** (111) Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson R—Nov. 11	2 Mys. Drama FN464 **Return of Dr. X** (62) Wayne Morris Priscilla Lane Humphrey Bogart R—Dec. 2	9 Com. M'drama FN471 **Private Detective** (55) Jane Wyman Dick Foran R—Nov. 25	16 Drama FN481 **Mad Empress** (72) Medea Novara Lionel Atwill	
MISCELLANEOUS	14 Drama P-D-C **Invisible Killer** (..) Grace Bradley Roland Drew					

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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

DECEMBER 30	JANUARY 6	JANUARY 13	JANUARY 20	JANUARY 27	FEBRUARY 3
Drama **Son Is Guilty** (..) Jaqueline Wells Bruce Cabot	4 Western **Two Fisted Rangers** (..) Chas. Starrett Iris Meredith	10 Musical **Music in My Heart** (..) Tony Martin Rita Hayworth Andre Kostelanetz	18 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday** (..) Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy Gene Lockhart	26 Mystery Drama **Lone Wolf Strikes** (..) W. William-J. Perry 22 Adventure **I Married Adventure** (..) Mrs. Osa Johnson	31 Drama **Daughters of Today** (..) Rochelle Hudson Frieda Inescort
21 Drama with Music 17 **Balalaika** (102) Nelson Eddy Ilona Massey R—Dec. 23	5 Com. Melodrama 18 **Earl of Chicago** (..) Robert Montgomery Edward Arnold	12 Comedy Drama 19 **Congo Maisie** (..) Ann Sothern John Carroll	19 Drama 20 **Shop Around the Corner** (..) James Stewart Margaret Sullavan	26 Musical 21 **Broadway Melody of 1940** (..) Eleanor Powell Fred Astaire	
21 Melodrama 3924 **Fleet Four** (79) (Frm. Four Just Men) Hugh Sinclair-Anna Lee R—Dec. 16		10 Action Drama 3939 **Danger Ahead** (..) James Newell	15 Melodrama **Mr. Wong at Headquarters** (..) Boris Karloff 20 Melodrama **Chasing Trouble** (..) Frankie Darro	25 Western 3961 **Pioneer Days** (..) Jack Randall	30 Melodrama **Front Page Lady** (..) Warren Hull Kay Linaker
21 Drama 3916 **The Great Victor Herbert** (92) Allan Jones Mary Martin Walter Connolly R—Dec. 9	5 Action Drama **Emergency Squad** (..) William Henry Louise Campbell	12 Outdoor Drama **Geronimo!** (90) P. Foster-E. Drew R—Nov. 25	19 Drama **Remember the Night** (..) Barbara Stanwyck Fred MacMurray	26 Western 3956 **Santa Fe Marshal** (..) William Boyd	2 Drama **Light That Failed** (..) Ronald Colman Ida Lupino
Drama **Thou Shalt Not Kill** (64) Mary Bickford-D. Day R—Dec. 16	4 Comedy **Money to Burn** (..) Gleason Family	10 Western 963 **Heroes of the Saddle** (..) Three Mesquiteers			
21 Drama 015 **The Hunchback of Notre Dame** (114) Chas. Laughton Maureen O'Hara R—Dec. 23	5 Western 082 **Legion of the Lawless** (59) Geo. O'Brien R—Nov. 25	12 Comedy 016 **Mexican Spitfire** (67) Lupe Velez R—Dec. 16	19 Drama 014 **Married and in Love** (..) B. Read-A. Marshal R—Dec. 16		2 Melodrama **Marines Fly High** (..) Richard Dix C. Morris-L. Ball 2 Drama **Vigil in the Night** (..) Carole Lombard Brian Aherne
21 Outdoor Drama 012 **The Kid and the Lady** (74) Cesar Romero Marjorie Weaver R—Dec. 2	5 Drama 017 **Swanee River** (..) Don Ameche Andrea Leeds Al Jolson	12 Drama 027 **City of Chance** (..) Lynn Bari-Don Woods C. Aubrey Smith	19 Drama 023 **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly	26 Comedy 028 **High School** (74) Jane Withers Joe Brown jr.	
21 Comedy Melodrama **Raffles** (..) David Niven Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 23			19 Drama **Rebecca** (..) Laurence Olivier Judith Anderson		
21 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again** (94) Marlene Dietrich-J. Stewart R—Dec. 9	5 Drama **Oh, Johnny, Oh** (..) Tom Brown Peggy Moran	12 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns** (..) Nan Grey-Vincent Price	19 Western 4061 **West of Carson City** (55) Johnny Mack Brown Bob Baker	26 Drama **Green Hell** (..) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett	
21 Drama FN453 **Four Wives** (110) Three Sisters Claude Rains R—Dec. 2 3 Melodrama **Invisible Stripes** (..) G. Raft-Jane Bryan	6 Melodrama WB415 **A Child Is Born** (79) Geraldine Fitzgerald Jeffrey Lynn R—Aug. 5	13 Comedy **Brother Rat and a Baby** (..) Priscilla Lane Wayne Morris	20 Melodrama **British Intelligence** (..) Boris Karloff Margaret Lindsay	27 Drama **Fighting 69th** (..) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	
					BOOKING CHART Concluded on Following Page

In The Making

	FEBRUARY 10	FEBRUARY 17	FEBRUARY 24	STARTING	COMPLETED
COLUMBIA				**Blondie on a Budget**—Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms. Director: Frank R. Strayer. Producer: Robert Sparks. Screenplay: Richard Flournoy. **Passport to Alcatraz**—Jack Holt, Noah Beery jr. Director: Lewis Collins. Producer: Larry Darmour. Screenplay: Albert DeMond.	**The Lone Wolf Strikes**—Warren Willi Joan Perry, Alan Baxter, Eric Bl Director: Sidney Salkow. Produc Fred Kohlmar.
GRAND NAT'L					
MGM				**Forty Little Mothers**—Eddie Cantor, Bonita Granville, Diana Lewis. Director: Busby Berkeley. Producer: Harry Rapf.	
MONOGRAM				**Cupid O'Brien**—Frankie Darro, Manton Moreland. Director: Howard Bretherton. Producer: Grant Withers. **Pioneer Days**—Jack Randall. Director: Harry Webb. Producer: Harry Webb.	**Mr. Wong at Headquarters**—Boris K loff, Grant Withers, Marjorie Reyno Jason Robards. Director: Willi Nigh. Producer: W. T. Lackey. Or nal: Hugh Wiley. Screenplay: Sc Darling.
PARAMOUNT	9 Drama **Typhoon** (..) Dorothy Lamour Robert Preston	16 Drama **Parole Fixer** (..) William Henry Virginia Dale		**Down Went McGinty**—Brian Donlevy, Steffi Duna, Akim Tamiroff. Director: Preston Sturges. Producer: Paul Jones. Screenplay: Preston Sturges.	**The Biscuit Eater**—Billy Lee, Rich Lane, Helene Millard, Snowflake. rector: Stuart Heisler. Producer: Ja Moss.
REPUBLIC					**Wolf of New York**—Edmund Lowe, R Hobart, James Stephenson, Jero Cowan. Director: William McGa Producer: Robert North.
RKO RADIO	9 Drama **Isle of Destiny** (..) W. Ford-Wm. Gargan		23 Animated Feature **Pinocchio** (..)		**Bullet Code**—George O'Brien, Virgi Vale, Howard Hickman, Robert St ton. Director: David Howard. P ducer: Bert Gilroy. Original: Benn Cohen. Screenplay: Doris Schroeder
20TH-FOX					**Shooting High**—Jane Withers, G Autry, Marjorie Weaver, Jack Cars Director: Alfred Green. Producer: Wurtzel.
UNITED ARTS					**1,000,000 B. C.** — Carol Landis, Vic Mature, John Hubbard, Lon Chan jr. Director: Hal Roach. Producer: W. Griffith.
UNIVERSAL				**Black Friday**—Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi. Director: Arthur Lubin. Producer: Burt Kelly.	
WARNER-F.N.				**Married, Pretty and Poor**—John Garfield, Claude Rains, Una Merkel, Frank McHugh. Director: William Keighley. Screenplay: Julius and Philip Epstein. **Three Cheers for the Irish**—Priscilla Lane, Rosemary Lane, Thomas Mitchell, Dennis Morgan, Alan Hale. Director: Lloyd Bacon.	
MISCELLANEOUS					

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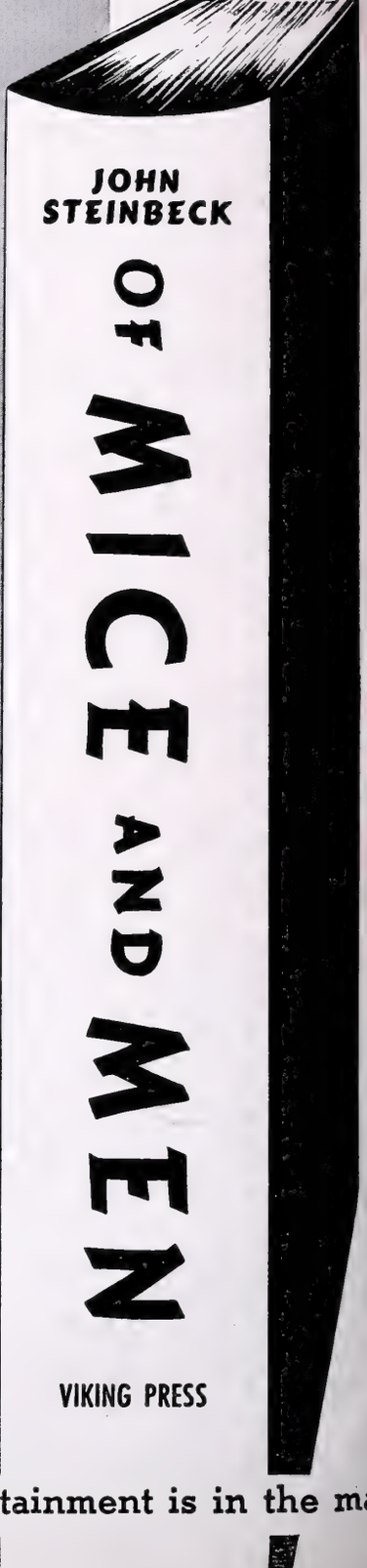
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1940---WHAT ABOUT IT ?

See Page Three

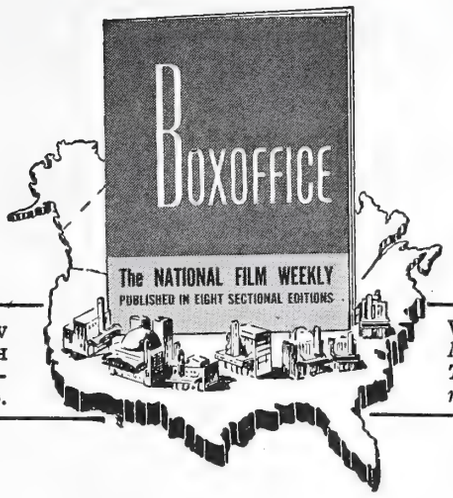


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1940--WHAT ABOUT IT?

IT IS the traditional procedure to launch each new year on high hopes, flowing ambitions and new resolutions.

But with Europe at war and this country wallowing in the backwash, the situation outside the borders is far from encouraging. In terms of the industry, there is the problem of interrupted remittances from the United Kingdom, the most influential market aside from the home market, to ponder and worry over because of the effect which ultimately may assert itself on working capital here. With this, of course, goes the companion problem of drying and dried revenue from other countries until a few years ago usually good for comfortable margins of profits.

On the domestic scene, the most hurriedly prepared analysis at once reveals strife to a point perhaps never before as sharp; at least, there are many in responsible posts who so view the situation.

In terms of federal legislation, the Neely bill.

Statewide, the usual assortment of levies aimed not only at this industry but at others in the general and sustained push toward fund-raising to counter the apparent need for increased budgets.

The all-industry suit. The government's separate actions against certain of the circuits. The accumulations of individual anti-trust litigation. These combine into a situation which, regardless of who may be right or who may be wrong, is biting vast inroads into time and money. This single circumstance is troubling those in Hollywood who have enough of a task on their hands in making the product. It is devouring considerable of the working and brain time of those in New York whose accepted function is to run their businesses as best they are capable without the shadow of the bailiff darkening their desks. What millions the defense will run to becomes a gambler's guess. It is no guess, however, to bear in mind the cost must come out of someone from somewhere.

In California, labor is more aggressively asserting itself. There, too, the competition for names continues. The result is a rising curve in production costs when depletions in the international revenue clearly indicate in what direction this business should be heading.

These are all of them knotty problems. Sooner or later and in one form or another they must be resolved. To indulge them circumspectly and to seek to dispose of them by hoping against hope the balance will right itself through some unforeseen and fortuitous circumstance suddenly looming up on a horizon not now visible is hardly the way.

Probably, the ways are several. No doubt, the methods will be found. With a desire to be persistent only because it believes the plan makes sense, this page begs leave once more to emphasize its argument for self-sufficiency in the home market. This will mean an adjustment along the line, stemming from the generally accepted base that pictures, big ones and plenty of them, can be made as expensively as one million dollars, and sometimes carefully beyond, with a warranty that their investment and a reasonable profit will be returned from the domestic gross.

Any such program must encompass a complete understanding on Hollywood's part that variances will bring about deeper difficulties and additionally burden the whole situation. But on the west coast and on the east coast, this might well be the time to reflect if present conditions, perhaps temporary and perhaps not, do not focus the need to strike for a permanent and basic formula by which this industry can function without further falling apart.

It is good business and it is entirely the normal approach to think of film commerce in terms of the world market. But it becomes something less to continue to funnel a whole, gigantic enterprise through a camel's eye that visibly shrivels under the impact of war and nationalism. This industry has done that, but it is time now to stop.

The concentration belongs here—at home—and ought not to be thinly dissipated over fields far removed. Those distant places deserve cultivation for the profit that may be in them, but they should never again assume an importance which dominates the entire structure and dictates in which direction the future is to go.

Kann

INDUSTRY'S NO. 1 LEGISLATIVE STRUGGLE IS NEELY BILL; BITTER CONTEST FORESEEN

Already Past Senate, the Bill Must Get House Approval or Die

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—Failure of the industry to make any headway toward the solution of its problems may have repercussions during the session of Congress which convenes next week in pressure for the enactment of a ban on block booking.

Passed by the Senate last session, the Neely block booking bill needs only House approval and Presidential signature to become law.

With the coming session the last one of the 76th Congress—and, incidentally, of the eight-year Roosevelt administration—supporters of the bill are expected to fight vigorously for House consideration. Failing to secure passage by the House this year, all the advantage of Senate approval will be wiped out, for with the adjournment of the session all pending legislation will go into the scrap basket and, if it is to be revived, must start over from scratch.

The block booking bill is, of course, the outstanding piece of film legislation foreseen for the coming session, and those interested have exhaustively canvassed its possibilities of success.

In Favorable Position

Never before in their fight against the majors have the Neely bill proponents enjoyed such a favorable position. The bill already has been put through the Senate sufficiently early to give time for House consideration; the majors are doggedly fighting anti-trust suits in every section of the country, and a large number of House members have been interested in the plea for legislation which proponents claim would enable an exhibitor to select the pictures he shows one at a time instead of having to take them in quantity, "sight unseen and contents unknown."

Representatives of the distributors appear to have abandoned all hope of an amicable solution of the problem through department of commerce mediation. So far as can be learned, they have not been in contact with department officials for many weeks, and it is said they consider Secretary Hopkins' efforts at appeasement to be practically washed up.

The only other bill conceded to have much chance of enactment is that sponsored by Senator Barbour of New Jersey to repeal the 1912 prohibition upon the interstate transportation of fight pictures. The measure was passed by the Senate and now is before the House interstate and foreign commerce committee.

Other bills resting quietly in committee files and unlikely to be considered seriously are those of Representative Culkin of New York, to create a federal film com-

(Continued on page 14)

Not Before 1943, "Antis" Declare

New York—The Neely bill, if enacted in 1940, could not under normal circumstances become effective until 1943, major counsel maintains.

Here's why, they say: "The bill provides it is not to become effective until one year after enactment. This would mean 1941. There can be no question but that distributors will challenge its constitutionality. Which means a test case. And any test case would ultimately go before the U. S. supreme court, which ordinarily consumes the better part of two years before a decision is reached."

BOXOFFICE Urges Theatremen To Study Bill, Then Decide

By far the most significant piece of legislation confronting the industry when Congress goes into session is the Neely bill. Already passed by the senate, a favorable house vote and presidential signature remain as the two required steps between proposal and law.

A great deal has been written and uttered about the bill—its effect or its non-effect on production and rentals—but it is also rather generally acknowledged that many exhibitors either do not understand what this law would provide or have been dependent upon the interpretation of others.

BOXOFFICE, *therefore, publishes this proposal as passed by the senate and as it will go before the house. It also urges theatremen to read its text, to study it and from the reading and study to draw their own analyses. This suggestion is advanced in the belief that, since it is their future which is involved, exhibitors ought not be reliant upon any opinions but their own.*

AN ACT

To prohibit and to prevent the trade practices known as "compulsory block booking" and "blind selling" in the leasing of motion picture films in interstate and foreign commerce.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the methods of distribution of motion picture films in commerce whereby (a) exhibitors are required to lease all or a specified number of an offered group of films in order to obtain any individual desired film or films in the group, a trade practice sometimes known as "compulsory block-booking," and (b) films are leased before they are produced and without opportunity for the exhibitor to ascertain the content of such films, a trade practice sometimes known as "blind selling," are hereby declared to be contrary to public policy in that such practices interfere with the free and informed selection of films on the part of exhibitors and prevent the people of the several states and the local communities thereof from influencing such selection in the best interests of the public, and tend to create a monopoly in the production, distribution, and exhibition of films. The Congress finds and declares that such methods and practices adversely affect and constitute a burden upon commerce, and it is the purpose of this Act to prohibit and to prevent such methods and practices in commerce.

Section 2—For the purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

(1) The term "motion picture film" or "film" means all motion picture films (whether copyrighted or uncopyrighted), including positive and negative prints, and copies or reproductions of such prints, which films contain photoplays or other subjects and are produced for public exhibition: Provided, that the term shall not include films commonly known as "news reels" or other films containing picturizations of news events, or short subjects of two thousand feet or less in length.

(2) The term "to lease" includes the making of a license agreement, contract, or any type of agreement whereby a film, the distribution of which is controlled by one of the parties, is to be supplied to and exhibited in a theatre owned, controlled, or operated by the other party.

(3) The term "person" includes an individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, or corporation.

(4) The term "distributor" includes any person who engages or contracts to engage in the distribution of motion picture films.

(5) The term "exhibitor" includes any person who engages or contracts to engage in the exhibition of motion picture films.

(Continued on page 14)

MAJORS READY TO ABANDON HOPE HOPKINS WILL SOLVE INDUSTRY ILLS SANS COURTS

Four-Man Arbitration Board Provided in FWC Peace Plan

LOS ANGELES—An alternate plan for settlement of the government's contempt proceedings against FWC and majors is reliably reported to have been proposed and now being given serious consideration by National Theatres executives here and in New York.

While the original suggestion called for the appointment by the federal court of a special master to hear all future complaints by independents against FWC, the alternate plan, as it now stands, is understood to provide for a four-man arbitration board to hear and dispose of disputes which may arise. The board would comprise an FWC executive, a distributor representative, and an independent exhibitor delegate. The fourth may be a local judge or a member of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

It is understood that, while the plan is being favored by all sides, no decision has been reached on whom the fourth man should be, the general impression here being that a chamber of commerce member will be the most likely candidate.

Would Draw Out Matters

Some sources hold that the one-man board limiting a special master to dispose of intricate exhibition problems would draw out matters and call for extensive hearings in order to familiarize a court representative with the film industry pattern.

Spyros Skouras, operating head of National Theatres, is understood to have held several important meetings in the east recently in connection with the alternate plan. Local sources are tight-lipped and sidetrack all questions pertaining to the settlement, but there is an impression prevailing Russell Hardy, formerly with the department of justice, has been playing a part in the negotiations under way for a settlement.

Hardy, it will be remembered, prosecuted Warner, Paramount and RKO in the St. Louis anti-trust hearings about four years ago. He is believed to have conferred with National Theatres executives in New York. For the past year and a half he has been in private practice with offices in Washington.

The criminal proceedings in the St. Louis case resulted in a 37-minute acquittal by a jury and the civil action was settled several months later in New York. Fanchon & Marco were the complainants and subsequently took over Warner theatres in the Mound City.

It is believed Hardy is friendly with Skouras and the department of justice and has been acting as intermediary in bringing about some sort of settlement.

Whether the cooperative setup FWC has with the ITO of Southern California and Arizona will continue on the same basis as now constituted if the proposed four-man arbitration board is adopted cannot be stated at this time. However, it is known both FWC and members of the independent exhibitor organization are satisfied over the arrangement which has worked out favorably the past two years. A considerable amount of litigation has been eliminated by the conciliation committee, both sides admit.

Further developments are expected to take place next month when Skouras comes on from the east for a quarterly get-together with National Theatres' division presidents and their assistants. Aubrey Schenck and Milt Hossfeld are already here and will stay on until the other executives arrive from various sections of the country. Ostensibly, both men arrived here for vacations and the Rose Bowl game.

David Podell, special assistant to the attorney general, recently spent a few weeks here on assignment from Paul Williams, in charge of the anti-trust and contempt cases for the government. He is believed to have discussed various settlement proposals with Charles Skouras and Charles Buckley, FWC attorney, in addition to paying several studio executives a business visit. Richard E. Dwight and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel and Caskey and John Howley of Donovan, Leisure, Lumbard and Newton have returned east after preliminary discussions on the FWC case.

Edington Is RKO Studio Head

New York — Harry Edington on Thursday was named executive producer of the RKO Radio studios by George J. Schaefer, president. This terminates the producing deal between Edington and Universal under which one film, "Green Hell," was made.

Miami Anti-Trust Action Settled Out of Court

MIAMI — The Miami anti-trust suit brought by Washington Operating Co. against major distributors, Wometco circuit and a group of smaller independent operators has been settled out of court with the outright purchase by Wometco of the Surf Theatre and acquisition of a long-term lease on the Cameo.

Another Meeting Appears Remote; Clashing of Departments Cited

NEW YORK—With several months having elapsed since their last meeting with Harry L. Hopkins, secretary of commerce, distributors are of the opinion nothing will come out of the department's efforts to bring about a solution to the problems of the industry.

Hopkins' staff in Washington has been studying data submitted by distributors at the secretary's request and, although it has been the belief another meeting would be held in Washington, this now appears remote.

Distributor counsel feel that the reported internal dissension among the various governmental departments in Washington is having a direct effect on the industry which had hoped that Hopkins would propose a solution by which a new harmony would spread over the component parts of the trade.

The department of justice, according to the understanding generally prevailing in Washington, has frowned on Hopkins' efforts to bring about such new understandings on the ground its prerogatives are being impinged. On the other hand, the commerce department's desire is to cooperate with industry at large in an effort to eliminate illegal practices by agreement and thereby allow further expansion in the domestic field. In view of the manner in which foreign markets have shriveled or stand in danger of shriveling, the need and the desirability of additional growth in the home market are held to be especially important.

It is now felt in distributor quarters that the effort spent with Hopkins has been in vain. The only way that the industry can redeem itself with its belligerents is to battle it out in the courts, an alternative which some had hoped would not be necessary.

Order of Licensing Film "Right" of Each Major

BALTIMORE — The majors believe "that each distributor has the right to determine the order in which it will license the exhibition of its pictures," states a post-trial brief filed for distributor defendants in the Westway anti-trust action dealing with the legality of the clearance provision of the license agreements.

"But if in so determining the order it cannot contract with the exhibitor to which it grants a run," the brief adds, "fixing the amount of priority of that run, the evidence in the case clearly demonstrates that the rentals which the distributor may expect to receive will be less.

"The reasonableness of the clearance

(Continued on page 9)

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

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WINNIPEG, MAN.—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Notes to You from Red Kann

VALUES, actual and fictitious, thrive in Hollywood as in no other community. Stars and directors ordinarily draw for each succeeding picture what they were paid for the last, if the price isn't hiked by the agent playing one studio against the other and not always in accordance with the truth.

The occasion, of course, is there when the tariff tumbles. This may come about, and ordinarily does, through inactivity and not bad performances. This is an incident, then, along the latter line.

A certain well-known leading man was up for a particular role at a specific studio. He was the guy for the part as all hands agreed. As the executive council met, the producer remarked:

"I can get him for $30,000."

"You can't do that," warned the council. "He's always been paid $70,000. What do you want to do, insult the man?"

The deal was made at $30,000, proving the producer was thinking of his costs and the studio board about possible "insults."

The producer's explanation: "It was simple. Very simple. Nobody in Hollywood ever thought about asking this actor if he'd work for thirty grand."

Mental Flash

Impressed by the national ballyhoo which accrued to "Dodge City," "Union Pacific," "Young Mr. Lincon" et. al., an independent producer has been doping out ways and means within his own budget. His writer popped with this:

"I'll write a story and you can call it 'Pasadena.' For the preview, we can take the press to Pasadena by bus."

Geographical explanatory note: Pasadena is fourteen miles from Hollywood.

Page From Garbo

One Hollywood restaurant engaged in a competitive war with another launched a Blintzkrieg the other day. Its advertisement keynote was:

"Don't pronounce it. Taste it."

Making It Clear

"There goes your agent," yelled someone at John Ford.

"He's not my agent. He's my interpreter," answered the director.

PROBABLY old, but completely authenticated:

Buzzers on the boss' desk buzz furiously. In troop all of his aides.

"Gentlemen," solemnized the producer, "I have just read the most magnificent script that has come my way in the 25 years I've been in this business. I want all of you to read it. But read it tonight because I'm going to have it rewritten in the morning."

Illustrious Dust

Surveying the cartoons of personalities that decorate the walls of the Hollywood Brown Derby persuades Joe Shea to suggest:

"The management ought to hang an 'At Liberty' sign under most of them."

With Gabe Yorke adding this embellishment: "Plus their telephone numbers."

Just Oscillating

Usually, everyone asks what everyone else is doing. That's more or less part of the Hollywood scene.

To Lothar Mendes, the director: "What goes on with you?"

From Mendes: "Not a thing. I'm not even between promises."

Yes and No

The production code stipulates the flow of wine on the screen must be discreetly handled. Public morals, etc.

The Marquis Theatre, a Fox West Coast house in Beverly Hills, hands out wine to its lucky patrons. It's not colored water, either.

One Man Approach

"How do you like the picture?" asked a producer of his leading man.

"It's swell, but I think all of the scenes in which I don't appear ought to be out," was the reply.

This is an on-the-square story.

Eggs—With Ham

"That studio!" scorned a wisecracker. "It's the only one here that gives its producers four grand a week and board."

Unconfirmed

As a counter irritant to the opening of the racing season at Santa Anita, producers are thinking about observing a Go-to-the-Office Week.

"THE GREAT VICTOR HERBERT"

"GERONIMO!"

"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS"

"RULERS OF THE SEA"

"THE CAT AND THE CANARY"

"DISPUTED PASSAGE"

"THE STAR MAKER"

"JAMAICA INN"



"BEAU GESTE"

"WHAT A LIFE!"

"MIDNIGHT"

"UNION PACIFIC"

"HONEYMOON IN BALI"

"INVITATION TO HAPPINESS"

"MAN ABOUT TOWN"

"THE BEACHCOMBER"

We looked mighty fine in '39

But watch our stuff in '40!

"PARIS HONEYMOON"

VIEW ARNOLD'S 'SABOTAGE' STATEMENT AS ANOTHER GOV'T STAB AT CONSENT DECREE

Also Seen as "Defensive" Move; Chances Slim Trade Will Concede

NEW YORK—Thurman Arnold's surprise statement charging the industry with efforts to "sabotage" prosecution of the all-industry suit via propaganda is regarded in legal circles as another and final attempt by the government to secure a consent decree before the trial gets under way.

This opinion is held in view of intimations by the department of justice it would not consider such a decree unless all demands are met by the industry. And in this connection, it is pointed out, the industry has long perished the idea of conceding the government's persistent demands for a decree.

The official department statement reads, "Information has reached the department of justice that reports are being circulated in the motion picture industry that the equity action pending in the district court of New York will not go to trial. These reports are being circulated notwithstanding the fact that it was stipulated by counsel for the government and defendants the case will proceed to trial on May 1, 1940.

"Any such reports being circulated are utterly without foundation. The department fully expects that the case will go to trial on that date. All necessary steps for preparation are being taken.

"Through pre-trial conferences, to be held commencing March 1, it is hoped the length of the trial may be materially shortened."

Others Take Back Seats

Last week BOXOFFICE exclusively reported three other government-instigated anti-trust actions against independent circuits —the Griffiths in Oklahoma City, the Crescent chain in Nashville, and Schine in Buffalo—will take a back seat while the all-industry suit moves up front.

In view of this agreement, another source, formerly with the department of justice for 24 years, informs BOXOFFICE that Arnold's statement on "sabotage" is to forestall any wrong impressions which might prevail with a number of independent exhibitors seeking relief through other pending actions.

This same source adds it is a practice of the department on all important cases to make statements about stipulations entered into with defendants before the agreements become known to the trade.

It is also held by the ex-department of justice man that Abram F. Myers, Allied general counsel, may have inspired the Arnold statement. He does not put the "sabotage" declaration beyond Myers on the theory the latter may have prompted it as a "self-defense" move. This same impression prevails in distributor quarters.

If the experience he has had in the department is any criterion, the ex-G man believes the government will not be ready by May 1. He does not expect the industry to be fully prepared by that time and hints a September date is more likely. There may be several postponements in the interim, the source holds, but in no event is the department expected to break up the continuity of the trial by starting in June, calling for a halt in the summer and then resuming after Labor Day.

Senior Judge John C. Knox, according to the source, may himself try the case in face of the difficulty he is experiencing in efforts to find a judge to devote at least six months to the case. The industry is hoping it will not be Judge Knox and that an out-of-town jurist will be called in. This happened in the St. Louis equity trial when a Minneapolis judge was brought in after the presiding justice on the criminal proceedings disqualified himself on prejudicial grounds.

In the general line of conjecture by the ex-G man, it is not entirely beyond the realm of possibility that a settlement of the all-industry suit may be effected after the suit gets under way. His comment in this connection is that it has been done before and he insists it is possible despite the "sabotage" statement.

Meanwhile, distributor attorneys are bending every effort to reply to the government's interrogatories before February 1. The government has indicated it will have answers to all of the distributors' questions by that time. Some distributors have already intimated the job before them may necessitate a slight delay in producing answers for the government.

Pre-trial conferences before a judge are slated to get under way March 1 to eliminate extraneous issues and limit the case to factual material and not hypothetical "meanderings" by the government.

The industry is anxious to get the trial started, over with and then settle down to normal business.

Hays Reaffirms Obligation of Trade's "Public Trusteeship"

By WILL H. HAYS

NEW YORK—We live by faith.

Faith not only guides our personal lives. It is the keystone of representative government and of the business structure. We cannot operate on the principle of self-interest.

The motion picture art-industry administers in the public interest a trusteeship over the entertainment of 85,000,000 Americans every week. It is no light responsibility.

We are trying each year to acquit ourselves more creditably of that trust. The results show in the steady improvement of product. The best each year is better than the best of the preceding years.

The results show, too, in the extension of the industry's principles of self-government. Self-discipline is an integral part of the American democratic tradition.

At the beginning of a new year we reaffirm the obligations and responsibilities of our public trusteeship.



60 Trust Suits Confront RKO

New York—RKO has some 60-odd anti-trust cases on its books, George J. Schaefer, president, said at the Harry Brandt testimonial dinner. He added this was a high for all-time as he reflected on the days when exhibitors and distributors fought their battles without running to Washington or "calling a cop."

With these pending cases in the various courts, the RKO president added, "We cannot tell when we will be booked for Oklahoma City, Buffalo or some other cities." He was referring to the possibility of executive and sales staff being called as witnesses.

"God knows who will make and sell the pictures," he concluded.

OVERSEAS OUTLOOK FOR '40 IS OPTIMISTIC IN FACE OF WAR BLOWS, FOREIGN MANAGERS SAY

"Could Be Worse" Seems Consensus; Contrasts With Studio Cries

NEW YORK—Foreign managers of five major companies still have their respective chins despite the avalanche of blows since the outbreak of the Second World War, BOXOFFICE finds, and surprisingly enough, take a roseate view of the situation abroad for 1940.

The optimistic note sounded in the statements of Walter J. Hutchinson of 20th-Fox, Joseph A. McConville of Columbia, Phil Reisman of RKO, J. H. Seidelman of Universal and Arthur W. Kelly of UA, contrasts sharply with published opinions of company heads and studio executives who have been calling for a curtailment in expenses as a result of the marked shrinkage in foreign revenues.

Restrictions on remittances and exchange fluctuations downward are cited as the major obstacles in the path of continued prosperity for the industry. Also noticed is a feeling of relief that the state of foreign markets is not as bad as it could be.

"Our only problem is to get the money back to the United States," is the way Hutchinson sees it. "I am quite optimistic about the future. Motion pictures face no loss of interest throughout the world and are not troubled from a competitive standpoint."

Sees Italy Out, Spain Eased

Hutchinson does not believe Italy will open up again as a market in 1940, but believes there is some hope for Spain. Exchange restrictions, in his opinion, are the greatest impediment toward a normal, foreign business.

"It's a hazardous job for foreign managers to predict what the future has in store for the industry in the foreign field during 1940," thinks Kelly. "Personally, I'm an optimist. I believe we will continue to carry on the battle of business even in the midst of the business of battle.

"I recall that the general feeling, following the outbreak of the war, was that the British market would 'go to the dogs.' Nothing of the sort happened and, after a brief adjustment to war-time conditions, business there is now 85 per cent normal. To be sure, the possibility of severe bombing of open cities still exists, and if that should happen, business would suffer tremendously."

The UA executive expects business to keep its level in 1940. "If wages keep step with the cost of living in foreign territories, the film industry can reasonably expect that business in each country during 1940 will be as good as it has been in 1939."

It is McConville's belief a more optimistic feeling prevails today than when war was declared.

"During the past several weeks," he states, "business conditions in both France and England have been gradually moving toward normal. As long as the war continues, we cannot hope for the complete resumption of normal business in the countries directly affected. We do feel much more optimistic and believe if these improved conditions in England and France continue to prevail that the revenues salvaged from those countries, added to those resulting from special concentrating on the remaining world markets, 1940 foreign revenues while perhaps not equaling those of previous years—will not be so seriously affected as was first expected when European hostilities commenced in September, 1939."

Definitely on the cheerful side is Seidelman's comment:

"Prospects for foreign business in 1940 appear brighter than ever before in the history of Universal. Theatre attendance in England has come back to normal and shows every indication of going above the average weekly attendance of 1939. Our foreign business has prospects of showing an increase over 1939 which was the biggest year in Universal's history."

Here is how the situation looks to Reisman who briefly sums up the markets abroad:

England: "The loss due to government restrictions on theatres is calculated to amount to 25 per cent of normal grosses."

France: "Has dropped considerably, but I expect a gradual pickup in 1940 as we continue dubbing into French our 'A' pictures."

Spain: "Our Spanish organization has continued intact since prior to the Civil War and business is improving."

Australia: "Continues normal and 1940 is expected to show improvement."

Poland: "Our office has been eliminated."

Finland: "Business suspended."

Sweden, Denmark, Norway, South Africa and South America: "Bright spots."

One discordant voice comes from a Paramount executive who refuses to be quoted. It is his contention grosses from abroad are off anywhere from 40 to 50 per cent. He sees no reason to be cheerful, pointing to the condition of the English market, the virtual elimination of Central Europe as a market, the state of Japan, and the "hopelessness" of conducting a profitable business in Italy and Spain.

More Accessory Deals Pending

NEW YORK—With its Paramount deal in the bag, the long worked-over plan of National Screen to manufacture and sell accessories of the majority of major companies is about to move into its next stage. Deals with two other companies are understood to be ready for signature.

Coordination of overlapping services, urged chiefly by independent exhibitors, is revealed by Neil F. Agnew, Paramount's general sales manager, as the prime factor in the signing of its five-year deal with Advertising Accessories, subsidiary created by National Screen for this purpose. Don Velde, ad sales manager for Paramount; Vincent Trotta, head of the art department, and several of Trotta's staff, move over to the new setup in executive capacities about January 10. Charles Casanave is vice-president and general manager.

Paramount will produce its own trailers, utilizing the company's coast studios, and distribute them through National Screen. This phase of the deal with Advertising Accessories renews the distributing agreement that was to have terminated with National Screen on January 1.

The new agreement goes into effect February 1. It provides for most of the personnel which formerly handled this work for Paramount in its exchanges to be continued in the ad sales force.

Einfeld East Again

HOLLYWOOD—S. Charles Einfeld, director of advertising and publicity for Warner, is on his way east, this time in connection with launching of "The Fighting 69th."

Sears Drive Starts

NEW YORK—The fourth annual Sears Drive, now under way, runs through April 13. Cash awards totaling $25,000 will go to the three winning districts and their branches.

Cash Curbs and Exchange Fluctuations Major Obstacles, View

Order of Licensing Film "Right" of Each Major

(Continued from page 5)

must be determined in the light of the conditions in the industy itself."

The brief observes the evidence in the Westway case "conclusively establishes that the clearance involved was voluntarily imposed by the distributors and that its purpose and effect are to permit the distributors to realize the greatest benefit and profit from their copyright property."

Reprinted from Motion Picture Herald of Dec. 9

The Most Vital News Story—and Why!

WHEN exhibitors tell each other which stars pay off best at their boxoffices, this is the most vital industry news that can be printed.

That is why the Motion Picture Herald's annual Money Making Star Poll is so important to all theatre owners.

Watch for the results of this year's poll, because

it is recognized that the company having the most stars among the First Ten has the product with the most power at the boxoffice.



20th Century-Fox has more stars in the First Ten than any other company!

TYRONE POWER
(2nd year in the First Ten)



Next in "DANCE WITH THE DEVIL"

SHIRLEY TEMPLE
(6th year in the First Ten)



Next in Maurice Maeterlinck's "THE BLUEBIRD"

ALICE FAYE
(2nd year in the First Ten)



Next in "LITTLE OLD NEW YORK"

SONJA HENIE
(3rd year in the First Ten)



Now in "EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT NIGHT"

Fairbanks Estate May Keep UA Holdings

NEW YORK—The UA stock holdings of the late Douglas Fairbanks are expected to be retained by the estate, but transferred to a separate company so as not to conflict with the other interests, particularly real estate on the coast, it is learned.

After complying with the necessary legal papers, the Fairbanks safe deposit box in the Guaranty Trust Co. has been opened, but the will is not to be opened until next week when Basil Bleck, brother-in-law of the late star, arrives from the coast. Clarence Ericksen, business manager for Fairbanks, and Robert Fairbanks, brother of the deceased, arrived from the coast recently and are remaining until the will is read.

There is some question whether the by-laws of UA, which provides a producer-partner must first offer his stock to the company before he can dispose of it elsewhere, is applicable in this case. There is no provision of what action is to take place in the event of death, it is held. From all indications, the estate will retain the stock.

Dennis F. O'Brien of O'Brien, Driscoll & Raftery, UA counsel, drew up the Fairbanks will. He will vote the stock held in the Elton Corp. name. Tax matters relating to the estate will be the first order of business following the reading of the will. It is understood the late star had extensive realty on the coast.

Heffernan Sees Trouble If Code Doesn't Stay Elastic

DETROIT—"If the code does not retain its elastic quality now and hereafter, the filmmakers are going to haunt the Hays office with the pitiful cry, 'Well, you let Selznick do it—why not us?,'" writes Harold Heffernan in the Detroit *News* for the North American Newspaper Alliance.

"Producers are already moaning, 'If Selznick can get away with it, we can too' —this in reference to an obvious softening of code restrictions on certain words and situations heretofore (dating back to the Legion of Decency drive) considered strictly taboo," he continues. "Gable's last remark to Scarlett, 'Frankly, I don't give a damn,' causes that baby oath to vibrate talkie speakers for the first time. Also, audiences hear a few other spoken passages and witness some pointed drama of the kind producers in the past have been barred from presenting."

Blumberg Heads Staff For Coast Huddles

NEW YORK—Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, is expected to head a contingent of home office executives to the coast over the January 5 weekend for a product conference scheduled January 8. Whether the entire party leaves together, or some choose planes instead of trains, is undecided, but this is the roster: J. Cheever Cowdin, William A. Scully, Charles Prutzman, Joseph H. Seidelman, F. J. A. McCarthy and William J. Heineman.

The Universal board meets here January 4.

UA in Warning on Goldwyn Pact

NEW YORK—UA has put Paramount "on notice" that it has a valid, binding, enforceable contract with Samuel Goldwyn and will take necessary legal steps to enjoin the company from distributing contemplated Goldwyn product.

Letters to this effect are said to have gone to Barney Balaban and all Paramount directors. The move is seen as an attempted stopper in the reported deal Goldwyn is said to have concluded for Paramount to distribute "The Westerner." This is the first Goldwyn film to be released since the producer, through his attorney, voluntarily cancelled his contract with UA.

Should Paramount finally go through with a Goldwyn deal, the company would lay itself open to a damage suit, it is pointed out. Balaban recently told BOXOFFICE he had no intention of making a deal with Goldwyn as long as the latter has a contract with UA, the validity of which Goldwyn is contesting in the courts. The pact runs to September, 1945.

Kusell and Agnew Testify In M&R Anti-Trust Suit

BOSTON—Hearings on the Morse & Rothenberg anti-trust suit against the majors continue despite the Christmas - New Year's spirit with Neil F. Agnew, general sales manager for Paramount, and Milt Kusell, eastern district manager, among the latest witnesses to take the stand on behalf of the defendants. Some New York sales heads have been here two and three times before entering a final appearance on the record.

Up to $21,000,000

DOVER—Through a certificate filed by Prentice-Hall, the capital stock of RKO has been increased to $21,000,000.

$106,000 'Wind' Second Duo Week Is Seen

NEW YORK—An aggregate estimated gross of $106,000 for "Gone With the Wind" at the Capitol and Astor is figured for the second week of the simultaneous showing. An exceedingly brisk business early in the week due to the holiday trade, coupled with holiday scales for three days is responsible for the anticipated capacity business.

A final tabulation shows the film grossed $76,000 in its first week at the Capitol. The Astor business is said to fluctuate but a few dollars each day, running virtually capacity each performance for weekly tallies of $26,000.

The five out-of-town engagements that wound up their first week Thursday night, as well as the second week in Atlanta report capacity business, according to the home office.

Not regarded as official, but estimated, are the grosses that follow for the six engagements:

Atlanta, winding up its second week Friday, is just under $25,000, the identical figure hit opening week.

The Orpheum, Boston, with two regular performances daily and one reserved in the evening, and the State in Boston, on a two-a-day reserved seat policy grossed a combined total of $72,000.

Reading, with two performances reserved, is in the neighborhood of $16,000.

Harrisburg, without Sunday shows, tallied $14,000. The policy is three shows daily, no seats reserved.

Cincinnati, with reserved seats at night only, and two shows during the day, hit $24,000.

Interboro Adds One

NEW YORK—Interboro has added another link to its circuit, having acquired the Classic, a 600-seater in Brooklyn.

BOXOFFICE FLASHES

New Yorkers Pick "Heights"

NEW YORK—"Wuthering Heights" is best film of year and "Harvest" best foreign in opinion of New York Film Critics. Best actor: James Stewart for "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington;" best actress, Vivien Leigh for "Gone With the Wind;" best director, John Ford for "Stagecoach."

Committee on Exceptional Photoplays of National Board of Review selects "Confessions of Nazi Spy" on merit basis and "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" on popularity basis.

"U" Plans New Exchanges

NEW YORK—With Universal now in its new Kansas City quarters, new exchanges will be built for the company in three other key cities. In the following centers complete alterations have been made and air conditioning added: Omaha, Des Moines.

George Schenck on Leave

HOLLYWOOD—George Schenck, theatre circuit divisional manager and brother of the Loew president, is here on an indefinite vacation.

Reports Louis B. Mayer had gone to Miami prove erroneous, as the M-G-M production head continues studio duties without interruption.

Baltimore Case Up Jan. 29

BALTIMORE—Trial of the Linden Theatre anti-trust and clearance suit against Louis Rome, Frank Durkee and the majors is set for January 29.



This Award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 200 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.



"Gulliver's Travels" Is Winner Of December Blue Ribbon Award

"Gulliver's Travels," Paramount's feature-length, animated cartoon, has been selected by the National Screen Council, in an overwhelming majority vote, as the outstanding picture released in December, and winner of the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for that month.

"Gulliver's Travels" is a Technicolor fantasy adapted from the Jonathan Swift classic. Max Fleischer brings to the screen the lovable, animated characters of "Gabby" and "Twinkletoes." Dave Fleischer directed.

The "singing voices" are those of Jessica Dragonette, for Princess Glory, and Lanny Ross, for Prince David.

Paramount Pictures won a previous Award this year, having been awarded the Blue Ribbon badge of merit in May for its production of "Union Pacific."

Production Staff

Producer .....MAX FLEISCHER
Director.....DAVE FLEISCHER
Original Story....JONATHAN SWIFT
Story Adaptation..EDMOND SEWARD
Screenplay
DAN GORDON, CAL HOWARD, TED PIERCE, I. SPARBER
Music and Lyrics
.....RALPH RAINGER, LEO ROBIN
Atmospheric Music created and conducted by
.....VICTOR YOUNG
Singing Voice of Princess Glory
.....JESSICA DRAGONETTE
Singing Voice of Prince David.....LANNY ROSS
Scenics
.....ERICH SCHENK, ROBERT LITTLE, LOUIS JAMBOR, SHANE MILLER
Photography....CHARLES SCHETTLER
Technical Advisor
.....JOHNNY BURKS
Directors of Animation
SEYMOUR KNEITEL, WILLIAM BOWSKY, TOM PALMER, GRIM NATWICK, WILLIAM HENNING, ROLAND CRANDALL, TOM JOHNSON, ROBERT LEFFINGWELL, FRANK KELLING, WINFIELD HOSKINS, ORESTES CALPINI.
Animators
GRAHAM PLACE, ARNOLD GILLESPIE, NICHOLAS TAFURI, ALFRED EUGSTER, JAMES CULHANE, DAVID TENDLAR, JOSEPH D'IGALO, GEORGE GERMANETTI, NELSON DEMOREST, REUBEN GROSSMAN, ABNER KNEITEL, FRANK ENDRES, OTTO FEUER, JOSEPH ORIOLO, HAROLD WALKER, LOD ROSSNER, JOE MILLER, FRANK SMITH, EDWIN REHBERG, BEN CLOPTON, JAMES DAVIS, STEPHEN MUFFATI, IRVING SPECTOR, SAM STIMSON, GEORGE MORENE, TED DUBOIS, WILLIAM STURM, LOU ZUKOR, BILL NOLAN, STAN QUACKENBUSH, ROBERT BENTLEY, EDWARD SMITH, THURSTON HARPER, TONY PABIAN.
Song, "It's A Hap-Hap-Happy Day" by
SAMMY TINBERG, AL NEIBERG, WINSTON SHARPLES

BOXOFFICE Urges Theatremen To Study Bill, Then Decide

(Continued from page 4)

(6) The term "commerce" means commerce between any state, territory, or the District of Columbia, and any place outside thereof; or between points within the same state, territory, or the District of Columbia, but through any place outside thereof; or within any territory, or the District of Columbia.

For the purposes of this Act (but in no wise limiting the definition of commerce) a transaction in respect of any film shall be considered to be in commerce if the film is part of that current of commerce usual in the motion picture industry whereby films are produced in one state, leased for exhibition in other states, and distributed to them through local exchanges in the several states, the films circulating from the exchanges and between the various exhibitors. Films normally in such current of commerce shall not be considered out of such commerce through resort being had to any means or device intended to remove transactions in respect thereto from the provisions of this Act. For the purpose of this paragraph, the word "state" includes territory, the District of Columbia, and foreign country.

(7) The terms "aggregate price" and "price" as used in section 3 (1) shall mean the aggregate of all flat rentals, and of all rentals based upon a percentage of prospective receipts together with any other consideration named in the lease or offer to lease.

Section 3—(1) It shall be unlawful for any distributor of motion picture films in commerce to lease or offer to lease for public exhibition films in a block or group of two or more films and to require the exhibitor to lease all such films or permit him to lease none; or to lease or offer to lease for public exhibition films in a block or group of two or more at an aggregate price for the entire block or group and at separate and several prices for separate and several films, or for a number or numbers thereof less than the total number, which aggregate price and separate and several prices shall bear to each other such relation (a) as to operate as an unreasonable restraint upon the freedom of an exhibitor to select and lease for use and exhibition only such film or films of such block or group as he may desire and prefer to procure for exhibition, or (b) as tends to require an exhibitor to lease such entire block or group or forego the lease of any number or numbers thereof, or (c) that the effect of the lease or offer to lease of such films may be substantially to lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly in the production, distribution and exhibition of films; or to lease or offer to lease for public exhibition films in any other manner or by any other means the effect of which would be to defeat the purpose of this Act.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to transport or cause to be transported in commerce any motion picture film which is leased, or intended to be leased in violation of subdivision (1) of this section.

Section 4—It shall be unlawful for any distributor of motion picture films in commerce to lease or offer to lease for public exhibition any motion picture film or films over two thousand feet in length unless such distributor shall furnish the exhibitor at or before the time of making such lease or offer to lease an accurate synopsis of the contents of such film. Such synopsis shall be made a part of the lease and shall include (a) a general outline of the story and descriptions of the principal characters and (b) a statement describing the manner of treatment of dialogs concerning and scenes depicting vice, crime, or suggestive of sexual passion. It is the purpose of this section to make available to the exhibitor sufficient information concerning the type and contents of the film and the manner of treatment of questionable subject matter to enable him to determine whether he wishes to select the film for exhibition and later to determine whether the film is fairly described by the synopsis.

Section 5—(1) Every person who violates section 3, or who fails to furnish the synopsis required by section 4, or knowingly makes any false statement in such synopsis, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding $5,000 or by imprisonment for not exceeding one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

(2) The several district courts of the United States are hereby invested with jurisdiction to prevent and restrain violations of this Act, and it shall be the duty of the several district attorneys of the United States, in their respective districts, under the direction of the Attorney General, to institute proceedings in equity to prevent and restrain such violations. Such proceedings may be by way of petition setting forth the case and praying that such violation shall be enjoined or otherwise prohibited. When the parties complained of shall have been duly notified of such petition, the court shall proceed, as soon as may be, to the hearing and determination of the case; and pending such petition, and before final decree, the court may at any time make such temporary restraining order or prohibition as shall be deemed just in the premises. Whenever it shall appear to the court before which any such proceeding may be pending that the ends of justice require that other parties should be brought before the court, the court may cause them to be summoned whether they reside in the district in which the court is held or not, and subpoenas to that end may be served in any district by the marshal thereof.

Section 6—If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act and the applicability of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 7—This Act shall become effective twelve months after its enactment.

Passed the Senate July 17 (legislative day, July 10), 1939.

No. One Legislation Fight Is on Neely

(Continued from page 4)

mission; Representative Dickstein of New York, to forbid the entry into this country of alien actors; Representative Hobbs of Alabama, for the use of motion pictures in court trials, and several bills, including one by the late Representative Sirovich of New York, for establishment of a fine arts bureau.

During the coming session, it is expected new copyright legislation will be introduced, based on conferences which have been going on in New York over an extended period, and an effort will be made to put it through Congress.

Aside from general legislation which will affect the film industry equally with others, such as taxes, there are no present indications of any new measures of major importance, due in part to the plan of the administration to adjourn Congress before summer, if possible. With a presidential campaign just around the corner, much of the time of the session will be taken up with political strategies and it is likely that little legislation, aside from the President's "must" program, will be considered.

Ampa Committee Working On Plan Against Neely

NEW YORK—Ampa's committee of five, comprising Leon Bamberger, Lou Pollock, Herb Berg, Martin Starr and Eli Sugarman, are working on a plan to appeal to the public at a mass meeting at Madison Square Garden for petitions against the Neely bill.

It is planned to hold the mass gathering in about two months, the general impression with Ampa prevailing the bill will not come up in the house for another four months. Talks by prominent personalities of screen, stage and radio will bring home to the public the effects of the bill on the entertainment world if passed and according to the Ampa view.

The committee has met twice at the Hays office where the groundwork for the rally has been discussed. It is held that at least two months' work will be required before a plan is finalized.

In directing the campaign to the public, the Ampa committee feels that political and economic significance should be sidetracked and in their stead the fact brought home that all amusements will be affected to the disadvantage of the public if the bill becomes a law.

A Drive for Scully; Third Year 'U' Sales Manager

NEW YORK—William A. Scully will begin his third year as general sales manager of Universal with a sales drive in his honor. The starting date is December 31 and the windup May 4. F. J. A. McCarthy, eastern division sales manager, and William J. Heineman, western sales manager, will captain the campaign for their respective territories.

FOLLOW HIS TRACKS!

HE'S INVISIBLE ON THE SCREEN—BUT PLENTY VISIBLE AT THE BOX-OFFICE

COME ON-THIS WAY!

HERE HE IS! THE STRANGEST

If You Believe What You See—
Then Watch Your Mind When You Think You See

THE INVISIBLE MAN RE



You Can Feel Your Skin Creep!



MORE STRANGE THRILLS . . .
MORE EERIE CHILLS . . .
MORE AWESOME SUSPENSE

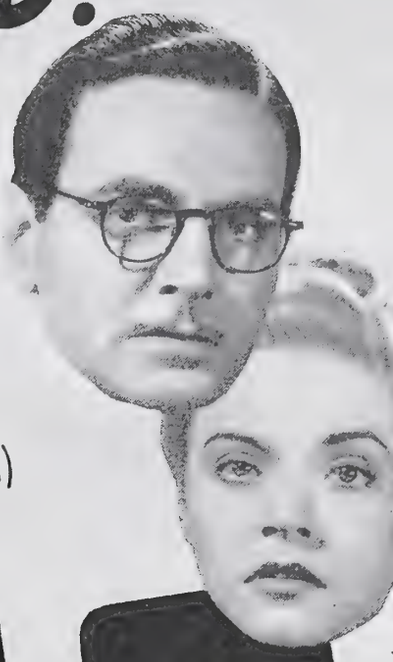
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

NATIONAL RELEASE—JANUARY 12th

IUMAN IN THE WORLD!

BLE TURNS

CALL OUT THE RESERVES!
(The reserve floor staff, the guard rails, the tapes!)

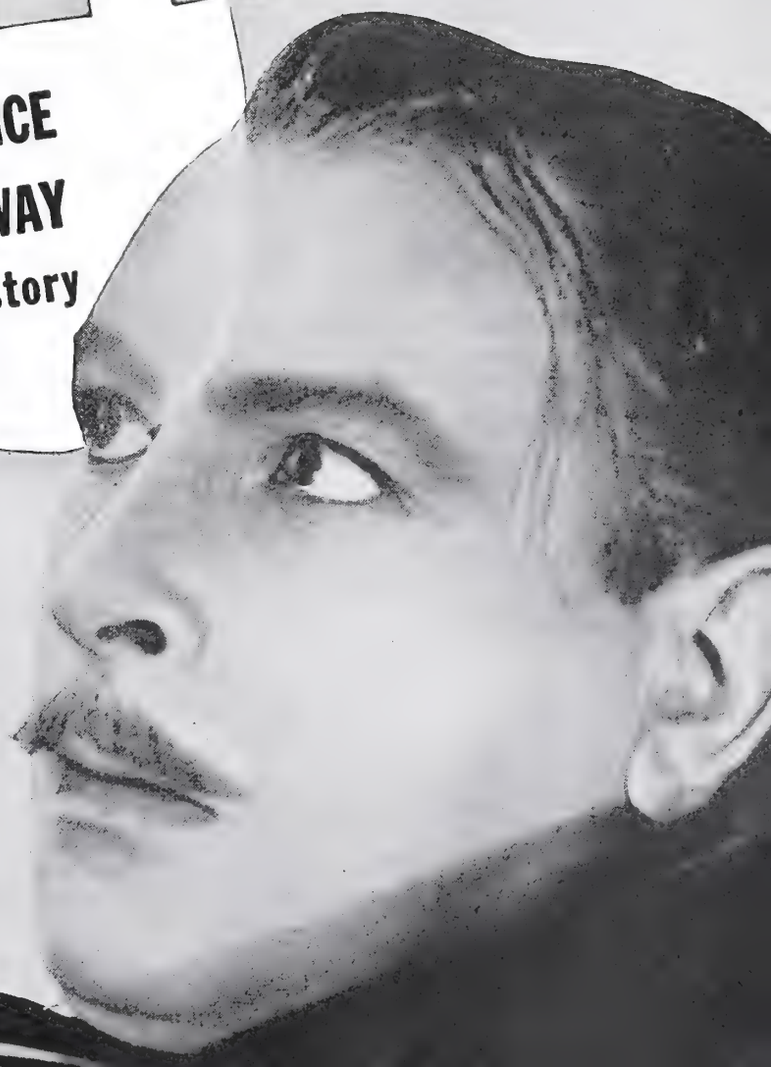


with SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE • VINCENT PRICE
NAN GREY • JOHN SUTTON • CECIL KELLAWAY

Suggested by the sensational H. G. Well's story
"The Invisible Man"

Screenplay by Lester Cole and Kurt Siodmak
DIRECTED BY JOE MAY
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, KEN GOLDSMITH





"GONE WITH THE WIND" PULLS LEADING GROSSES

AVERAGE IS 100%

CHICAGO

Apollo—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col), held 7th wk. 90
Chicago—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 80
Garrick—**Eternally Yours** (UA), 2nd loop wk... 80
Oriental—**The Roaring Twenties** (WB), continued loop run, plus stage show..... 85
Palace—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO), held 2nd wk.....100
Roosevelt—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 2nd loop wk..... 80
State-Lake—**Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M), plus stage show 80
United Artists—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 3rd wk... 85

CINCINNATI

Albee—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA).....120
Capitol—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 120
Keith's—**Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President** (M-G-M) 100
Lyric—**Tower of London** (Univ) 130
Palace—**Remember?** (M-G-M) 100
Shubert—**We Are Not Alone** (FN), held.....130

CLEVELAND

Allen—**The Big Guy** (Univ) 75
Hippodrome—**We Are Not Alone** (FN) 90
Lake—**Bombs Over London** (SR); **Everything's on Ice** (RKO) 60
Palace—**The Return of Dr. X** (WB). Stage: Billy Halop, Bobby Jordan, Jackie Searle of the Dead End Kids, and stage show..... 85
State—**Eternally Yours** (UA) 80
Stillman—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.....110

DENVER

Aladdin—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), after a wk. at the Denver.....100
Broadway—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **Sued for Libel** (RKO), 2nd wk., after a week at the Orpheum 90
Denham—**Our Neighbors, the Carters** (Para).. 60
Denver—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA)..... 95
Orpheum—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.; **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO) 95
Paramount—**Dead End Kids on Dress Parade** (WB); **Beware, Spooks!** (Col), latter film after a week at the Rialto..... 90
Rialto—**U-Boat 29** (Col); **The Honeymoon Is Over** (20th-Fox) 100

DETROIT

Adams—**The Cisco Kid and the Lady** (20th-Fox); **Those High Grey Walls** (Col)..... 80
Fox—**The Tower of London** (Univ); **The Amazing Mr. Williams** (Col) 90
Michigan—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para); **Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO) 90
Palms-State—**The Real Glory** (UA), after 1 wk. at the Michigan; **Television Spy** (Para)..... 85
United Artists—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 3rd wk... 80

INDIANAPOLIS

Alamo—**Law of the Pampas** (Para); **$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para) 80
Apollo—**When Germany Surrendered** (SR); **Beware, Spooks!** (Col) 65
Circle—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **The Flying Deuces** (RKO) 80
Indiana—**Tower of London** (Univ); **The Night of Nights** (Para) 40
Loew's—**Intermezzo** (UA); **Remember?** (M-G-M) 75
Lyric—**Cafe Hostess** (Col); **Orrin Tucker** and orchestra stage show 185

KANSAS CITY

Esquire—**Tower of London** (Univ), 5 days..... 70
Esquire—**Barricade** (20th-Fox), 4 days 60
Midland—**Intermezzo** (UA); **Remember?** (M-G-M) 65
Newman—**A Child Is Born** (WB), 2nd wk..... 60
Orpheum—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **Pride of the Blue Grass** (WB) 70
Tower—**Way Down South** (RKO); Donald Novis stage show 100
Uptown—Same as Esquire 70

MILWAUKEE

Palace—**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (Col); **Bulldog Drummond's Bride** (Para) 100

Top Hits of the Week

GONE WITH THE WIND—New York City 200
FOUR WIVES (dual)—Omaha.....150
NINOTCHKA—Oklahoma City 135
HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER—New Orleans 130
NINOTCHKA—Pittsburgh 130
TOWER OF LONDON—Cincinnati....130
WE ARE NOT ALONE—Cincinnati....130
BARRICADE—New Orleans 125
BEWARE, SPOOKS! (dual)—Oklahoma City 125
MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON—Philadelphia 125
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS—Minneapolis 125

EXTENDED RUNS

Harvest, 13th wk., World, New York City.

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, 7th wk., Chicago.

Destry Rides Again, 4th wk., New York City.

Another Thin Man, 3rd wk., Cincinnati, Oklahoma City.

Ninotchka, 3rd wk., Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia.

Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex, 3rd wk., New York City.

Riverside—**The Covered Trailer** (Rep), plus stage show .....10[illegible]
Strand—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **Remember?** (M-G-M) 90
Warner—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO) 125
Wisconsin—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 120

MINNEAPOLIS

Aster—**Law of the Pampas** (Para); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M) 90
Century—**Remember?** (M-G-M) 90
Gopher—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO) 85
Minnesota—**Money to Burn** (Rep), plus stage show with Charlie Butterworth 85
Orpheum—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox), plus stage show with **Johnny "Scat" Davis**.....150
State—**Gulliver's Travels** (Para) 125
World—**Our Neighbors, the Carters** (Para) 2nd wk. 90

MINNEAPOLIS

(Previous Week)

Aster—**Rio** (Univ); **Private Detective** (FN).... 85
Century—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..... 90
Gopher—**Blondie Brings Up Baby** (Col)..... 95
Minnesota—**Calling All Marines** (Rep), plus stage show 70
Orpheum—**Roaring Twenties** (WB), 9 days.... 95
State—**Real Glory** (UA) 70
World—**Our Neighbors, the Carters** (Para).... 90

NEW HAVEN

College—**The Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA); **Full Confession** (RKO), 2nd wk..... 95
Loew-Poli—**Day-Time Wife** (20th-Fox); **Barricade** (20th-Fox) 90
Paramount—**Our Neighbors—the Carters** (Para); **The Llano Kid** (Para) 60
Roger Sherman—**Allegheny Uprising** (RKO); **The Day the Bookies Wept** (RKO)..... 50

NEW ORLEANS

Center—**$1,000 a Touchdown** (Para).....100
Globe—**Here I Am a Stranger** (20th-Fox)..... 85
Liberty—**Wajan** (Mutual) 100
Lyceum—**Golden Boy** (Col), 3rd run..... 65
Orpheum—**We Are Not Alone** (FN).....100
Saenger—**Barricade** (20th-Fox) 125
State—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA) 130
Tudor—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox), 2nd run.. 95

NEW YORK CITY

Astor—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....200
Capitol—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....200
Criterion—**Nick Carter, Master Detective** (M-G-M). 90
Globe—**City of Darkness** (20th-Fox)..... 65
Paramount—**Great Victor Herbert** (Para), 2nd wk., plus stage show.....120
Radio City Music Hall—**Balalaika** (M-G-M), plus stage show 100
Rialto—**Tower of London** (Univ), 2nd wk.....115
Rivoli—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ), 4th wk.....100
Roxy—**Everything Happens at Night** (20th-Fox, plus stage show..... 95
Strand—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 3rd wk., plus stage show 85

OKLAHOMA CITY

Criterion—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M), 8 days.....135
Liberty—**Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (20th-Fox); **The Cisco Kid and the Lady** (20th-Fox) 100
Midwest—**Nurse Edith Cavell** (RKO), 4 days... 55
Midwest—**Remember?** (M-G-M), 3 days.....110
Plaza—**The Cat and the Canary** (Para), 4 days.. 70
Plaza—**Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (WB), 3 days 75
State—**Beware, Spooks!** (Col); **South of the Border** (Rep), 10 days.....125
Tower—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 3rd wk... 80

OMAHA

Brandeis—**Four Wives** (FN); **Smashing the Money Ring** (FN).....150
Omaha—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M); **City of Darkness** (20th-Fox) moveover from Paramount.. 80
Orpheum—**Everything Happens at Night** (20th-Fox); **All Women Have Secrets** (Para)..... 85
Paramount—**Gulliver's Travels** (Para); **What a Life** (Para) 115

PHILADELPHIA

Aldine—**Tower of London** (Univ)..... 80
Boyd—**Remember?** (M-G-M) 80
Fox—**Barricade** (20th-Fox) 70
Karlton—**We Are Not Alone** (FN).....115
Keith's—**That's Right, You're Wrong** (RKO), 2nd run 95
Stanley—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.. 85
Stanton—**The Cisco Kid and the Lady** (20th-Fox). 115

PITTSBURGH

Alvin—**Destry Rides Again** (Univ), 2nd wk....100
Barry—**Tropic Fury** (Univ); **The Witness Vanishes** (Univ) 100
Penn—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 130
Senator—**Pack Up Your Troubles** (20th-Fox), 4 days 75
Senator—**Barricade** (20th-Fox) 55
Stanley—**Disputed Passage** (Para); Jimmy Dorsey stage show 110
Warner—**What a Life** (Para); **Kid Nightingale** (WB) 110

PORTLAND, ORE.

Broadway—**Tower of London** (Univ); **Henry Goes Arizona** (M-G-M) 75
Paramount—**Rulers of the Sea** (Para); **Sued for Libel** (RKO) 80
United Artists—**We Are Not Alone** (FN); **Laugh It Off** (Univ) 75
Mayfair—**Another Thin Man** (M-G-M); **Bad Little Angel** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....120
Liberty—**Barricade** (20th-Fox); **Honeymoon's Over** (20th-Fox) 75
Orpheum—**Mutiny in the Big House** (Mono); **Danger Flight** (Mono) 75

SALT LAKE CITY

Capitol—**20,000 Men a Year** (20th-Fox); **The Cisco Kid and the Lady** (20th-Fox).....105
Centre—**Judge Hardy and Son** (M-G-M).....110
Paramount—**Gulliver's Travels** (Para).....115
State—**The Man Who Worked Miracles** (UA)..115
Studio—**Ninotchka** (M-G-M) 115
Utah—**Dancing Co-Ed** (M-G-M); **At the Circus** (M-G-M) and stage show.....115

Liberal Hollywood Untouched By Dies' Communist Charges

HOLLYWOOD—Liberal Hollywood circles apparently are unperturbed over Washington reports the Dies committee will list actors and writers reputedly identified with alleged Communistic activities at the studios.

The threatened expose was prominently flashed in the Los Angeles *Examiner*, but liberal Hollywood personalities maintain this is exactly what might be expected from the Hearst press.

While there is considerable conjecture over who might be included, guesses as to personalities allegedly involved are naturally being withheld for obvious reasons. One school of thought here maintains Dies' forthcoming divulgement may be a smoke screen to detract attention from the La Follette committee which is investigating the Associated Farmers in this state.

In another direction, surprise is in evidence. It is predicated on the impression brought west a few weeks ago from those who either saw Congressman Martin Dies or who professed to know something of his plans that the chairman of the House committee investigating un-American activities had determined not to "smear" Hollywood with red paint. There is at least one important producer here, who recently made the flat statement the Dies committee, or its chairman, had decided not to drag Hollywood or any of its personalities into the sphere of its current investigating activities.

Writer Alleges Gifts Totaled $3,000 Monthly

NEW YORK—Jack Beal, member of the Washington staff of the New York *Herald-Tribune*, on Monday reported members of the Dies committee are about to get a 20-page report on Communist penetration in Hollywood, the report to list names of "a score or more of well-known actors and writers as having been Communists, attended party meetings and contributed heavily to party funds."

Beal writes the report was compiled after eight months' work by three special investigators and adds that, since the Dies committee officially expires January 3, it will have no time to hold hearings based on its Hollywood probings.

"It is understood," the article continues, "that one of the underlying motivations for release of the report is that it would set at rest a whispering campaign making the rounds to the effect that the committee . . . had 'laid off' James Roosevelt, son of the President . . . Representative Dies, now in Texas, is exceedingly anxious to clear his committee of such innuendoes, it is learned.

"The information furnished by the Hollywood investigation of the Dies committee tends to show that, whereas there are several hundred persons in the film colony of Leftists tendencies, at least 20 of them will be found to have gone the whole way.

"The drive to enlist the aid of film stars and writers in the Communist cause is said to have been begun intensively in 1935, at which time a special organizer was sent out from New York to take charge of the work. The success of the drive is to be gauged from the report that contributions from Hollywood increased almost immediately fivefold—from $600 a month to $3,000.

"A twofold purpose was said to have been accomplished: to gain prominent 'names' for propaganda purposes in the party and its 'innocents' front' organizations and to obtain funds from the high-salaried members of the colony."

Beal further reports the 20-page report "is supposed to come from the majority of the committee, although Representative H. Jerry Voorhis, Democrat, of California, is filing a minority report."

Moe Silver in Appeal For Extended Time

ALBANY—The necessity of extending playing time of "deserving" pictures due to a possible shortage of product was stressed by Moe Silver, Warner zone manager, at circuit regional meetings held here and in Buffalo. He urged theatre managers to exercise greater showmanship in "promoting public interest in holdover attractions to combat a decline in grosses."

At the meeting here were managers Andy Roy, Strand; Bob Rosenthal, Ritz; Al LaFlamme, Madison; Eddie Selette, Albany, from Albany; Leo Rosen, Troy; Sidney Sommer, Lincoln and Jack Swartout, American, from Troy; Bill Haynes, Stanley, Arnold Stoltz, Avon and Jack Breslin, from Utica. From the local office were department heads Max Friedman, C. A. Smakwitz, Jim Faughnan, Joe Weinstein and Jules Curley.

At the Buffalo session were Al Newhall, Palace, Jamestown; Ed Yarbrough, Keeney; Mel Conhaim, Regent; Ray Fahrenholz, Strand, and Ralph Booth, New Family, from Elmira; Dalton Burgett, Capitol, Batavia; Jim Macris, Majestic, Dunkirk; Bill Leggiero, Steuben and Strand, Hornell; Cliff Schaufele, Diana, Medina; Murray Lafayette, Haven, Olean; and C. L. Hollister, Babcock, Wellsville. Also Ralph Crabill, district manager of Jamestown and Max Friedman, booker.

Williams in Thursday For Major Huddles

NEW YORK—Paul Williams, in charge of the all-industry suit for the government, arrives from Washington, Thursday, for conferences with major counsel on the department's interrogatories on distributors.

The time for the majors to object to the government's questions has been extended to January 15. All of the government's answers must be in by March 1 and the majors' answers by February 15. Columbia has answered all but nine and a hearing on these has been put over until January 19.

Music Hall Abandons A Precedent

New York—In the third such instance in its history, the Music Hall broke its traditional Thursday opening by waiting two extra days to install "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" on Saturday.

The two extra days went to "Balalaika" at the end of a two-week run. The film hit an estimated $105,000 the second week after an opening seven days of $85,000. The two extra days averaged $15,000 each.

The booking realignment was actuated by a desire to "cash in on the holiday trade twice, once over the Christmas weekend and again over the New Year's weekend," according to a theatre spokesman. In other words, patrons who saw "Balalaika" over Christmas will have another opportunity to see an entirely new show in "Hunchback" over New Year's.

Peskay Deal Up to Loew, Gov't Holds

NEW YORK—Loew's can still take over the operation of the Pickwick, Greenwich, Conn., under the one-year trial operation proposal made to Edward J. Peskay, according to local department of justice spokesmen.

Explaining the government's attitude in the matter, the local department of justice states that under an agreement with major circuits theatres can be acquired as soon as the department is notified. The department, it is stated, keeps a record of the acquisitions in connection with the all-industry suit and never passes on the validity of a deal.

When Loew's assumed operation of the Criterion from B. S. Moss, a notice of the transfer was sent to Washington. In the case of the Pickwick, the department was asked to approve the deal with the result Williams is said to have informed Loew counsel the government does not approve or reject deals.

Hence, it is pointed out, Loew's can still take the Greenwich house and so notify the department.

F. J. Whelan, special assistant to the attorney general with headquarters in the federal building downtown, is literally "on the spot" in the Pickwick situation. He lives in Greenwich and is understood to have "pressure" brought to bear in the matter.

Whelan called in sales and legal representatives Thursday morning at his office for a conference as to why distributors will not serve the Greenwich theatre ahead of Stamford. Distributors and counsel are understood to have outlined their reasons.

RKO operated the Pickwick for several seasons and was unable to make the house pay. But since then, the department holds, the rent and other factors have been considerably reduced to a point where a fair break in product would make its operation profitable.

All of Them Played the Rialto

NEW YORK—While critics far and wide are announcing their ten, or more, best pictures of the year, Arthur L. Mayer of the Rialto rests on what he terms his own record of having played the worst.

With no desire, as he put it, to anticipate the annual awards of the New York Film Critics who, during the week, selected "Wuthering Heights" as their choice, it was Sir Cedric Hardwicke who announced the Rialto's own selections at the usual Christmas party which that theatre's staff tenders to Mayer each year.

First prize for the worst went to "Hidden Power." The picture played the Rialto.

First prize for the worst male performance went to Leo Carrillo in "The Girl and the Gambler." The picture played the Rialto.

First prize for the worst female performance went to Anna Sten in "Exile Express." The picture played the Rialto.

First prize for the worst directed picture went to "Street of Missing Men." The picture played the Rialto.

They're Busy Picking Year's Best; Here Are Some Choices

NEW YORK—"Confessions of a Nazi Spy" is viewed as the best film of the year from any country by the Committee on Exceptional Photoplays of National Board of Review. This is on a basis of "artistic merit and importance." By popular approach, the group gives first place to "Goodbye, Mr. Chips." Best foreign language film is "Port of Shadows."

The committee's list of the ten best English-language films follows: "Confessions of a Nazi Spy," "Wuthering Heights," "Stagecoach," "Ninotchka," "Young Mr. Lincoln," "Crisis," "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "The Roaring Twenties" and "U-Boat 29."

Its ten on the basis of popular appeal are: "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Ninotchka," "Pygmalion," "The Old Maid," "Wuthering Heights," "Dark Victory," "Juarez," "The Wizard of Oz" and "Love Affair."

The committee's five best foreign language films are these: "Port of Shadows," "Harvest," "Alexander Nevsky," "The End of a Day" and "Robert Koch."

One performance "worthy of special praise," selections in alphabetical alignment follow:

James Cagney in "The Roaring Twenties."

Bette Davis in "Dark Victory" and "The Old Maid."

Geraldine Fitzgerald in "Wuthering Heights" and "Dark Victory."

Henry Fonda in "Young Mr. Lincoln."

Jean Gabin in "Port of Shadows."

Greta Garbo in "Ninotchka."

Francis Lederer in "Confessions of a Nazi Spy."

Paul Lukas in "Confessions of a Nazi Spy."

Thomas Mitchell in "Stagecoach."

Laurence Olivier in "Wuthering Heights."

Flora Robson in "We Are Not Alone."

Michel Simon in "Port of Shadows" and "The End of a Day."

Now With Maymon

NEW YORK — Sidney Singerman, for years with Universal, is now special representative with Maymon Films, producer of "Tevya," Yiddish talker starring Maurice Schwartz.

NEW YORK—Nosing out both "Gone With the Wind" and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," but only after a battle of the ballots, the New York Film Critics, with a membership of 17 working newspapermen and women on the local dailies, voted "Wuthering Heights" the best picture of the year. The decision was reached after 14 votes had been cast.

James Stewart for his work in "Mr. Smith" is the critics' choice as the best actor; Vivien Leigh for "Gone With the Wind," the best actress; John Ford, the best director, for "Stagecoach," while "Harvest" was regarded the best foreign film of the year.

Runners-up for the best film included "Ninotchka," "Stagecoach" and "Juarez," the selection having been finally reached when a two-thirds majority was decided for "Wuthering Heights." A tussle also developed over the best foreign film, "The End of a Day" having offered "Harvest" severe competition. That decision, however, was reached after 12 ballots had been cast.

As per their usual custom, the critics will celebrate their own selections with a cocktail party to be held in the Rainbow Room atop the RCA Building on the afternoon of January 7. Mayor Fiorello La Guardia will be the master of ceremonies and, once again, the proceedings will be broadcast over a coastwide NBC hookup.

Conciliation Personnel Awaits New Confab

NEW YORK—Personnel setup of three conciliation boards for New York, one for each exchange center, awaits a final get-together between Max Cohen, president of Allied of New York, and major distributors. This is expected shortly after the first of the year.

Members of the local Allied unit will hold a session with Cohen on problems for the metropolitan area on January 5. Ed Souhami, executive secretary of the organization, has a conclave set with upstate exhibitors in Buffalo, January 8.

'Overwhelm' Congress To Beat Back Neely

NEW YORK—If the nation's congressmen in Washington receive an overwhelming sentiment against the Neely bill from their constituents the bill "will never become law," was the opinion voiced by Harry Brandt, ITOA president, as principal speaker at an Ampa luncheon meeting.

Brandt mixed his talk between the highlights of meetings with exhibitor leaders during his recent cross-country tour and personal observations on the aspects of the bill as they might ultimately affect the industry, both from the standpoint of exhibitors and producers.

He painted a very dark picture. "For want of product theatres would have to close down part of each week," was one view. "The flow of financing to independent producers, who are responsible for a large portion of major programs, would dry up," went another. "By our inaction in fighting this bill the opportunities of the young people in this industry who hope to go forward will be eradicated," was a prophesy.

The ITOA head stressed importance of arousing public opinion against the measure, not alone because he thought it would be disastrous to the industry but because it will not accomplish the high aims claimed for it by "pressure" groups. The latter, Brandt said, "know nothing of our industry." Those within the industry who are supporting the measure "have little or no stake in the industry," he added.

Brandt offered some "don'ts" in seeking defeat of the bill where exhibitors ask the aid of patrons. These include: Don't attack the bill in newspaper advertising; don't ask newspapers to attack the proposal editorially; don't attack it in theatre trailers; don't attack it in theatre programs.

Effective pressure on congressmen, he declared, can best be accomplished by getting theatre landlords, local banks, chambers of commerce and all local vendors doing business with theatres to write letters to their representatives in Washington, pointing up the inherent dangers to the continuation of business relationships should the bill become law, on the theory that many theatres would be forced to close their doors.

Charges "Wind" Review Is Affront to Negroes

NEW YORK—In a "Notice to Our Readers," the *Daily Worker,* official organ of the Communist party, declares Howard Rushmore was "eliminated" as a contributor on films because his review of "Gone With the Wind" was a "shameless glorification of white chauvinism and an affront to the Negro people."

The newspaper accuses the ex-critic of having revealed "anti-Negro sentiments, but also marked anti-Semitic views which he sought to conceal with spurious phrases about 'Americanism' of the KKK-Dies variety." These culminated, it is charged, in his "shameful review of 'Gone With the Wind'."

In a signed article published by the New

(Continued on page 22)

RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

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Claims Against RKO Are Cut to $107,284

NEW YORK—The affairs of RKO headed court developments of the week, with Federal Judge William O. Bondy granting an application of Irving Trust, RKO trustee, and cutting $2,775,142 in claims against the company to $107,284. Most of the claims were over defaulted or breached leaseholds. Judge Bondy also extended from January to April 1, the time for RKO to pay the balance of $50,000 due on its secured gold notes to allow the company sufficient capital after consummation of the plan of reorganization. Irving Trust was also given an additional six months to July 1, 1940 to affirm or disaffirm leases, contracts, or agreements.

Application will be made to the supreme court January 9 to dismiss a $5,000,000 stockholder suit by two Loew minority stockholders.

Those seeking the dismissal are Loew's, A. T. and T., Western Electric, Erpi, Chase National Bank, Halsey, Stuart and Dillon, Read. The suit charges excessive recording license fees were paid to Erpi through mismanagement and coercion.

Suit of three officers of Reade Hudson Amusements against the company and against Walter Reade and several other subsidiary companies has been dismissed by Supreme Court Justice Philip J. McCook. The action charged Reade purchased a 50 per cent interest in the plaintiff's five Hudson, N. Y. theatres in 1937, ousted them from the management, breached contracts, and filed improper income taxes. Removal of Reade, appointment of a receiver, and an accounting had been sought.

Application has been made to the supreme court to force David Stoneman, Boston attorney, to serve a bill of particulars on Stephen A. Lynch, former Paramount director whom he is suing for $250,000 for legal services in connection with Paramount's reorganization.

Goldwyn Recovery Suit Replies in 30 Days

NEW YORK—Answers in the Samuel Goldwyn suit to recover $54,000 from UA under the Murray Silverstone bonus plan are not due for another 30 days, according to Max Steuer's office, "and it will be some time before the case goes to trial."

The action, filed in supreme court, has been moved to federal court. Steuer is counsel for Goldwyn. This suit has nothing to do with the Wilmington action filed by Steuer for termination of the producer's contract.

Federal Judge John P. Nields of Wilmington has dismissed the Goldwyn suit there upholding the defense motion that Alexander Korda, London Films and Elton Corp. had not been named as co-defendants.

HANL Name Change

HOLLYWOOD—The Hollywood Anti-Nazi League has changed its name to the Hollywood League for Democratic Action.

Move by Brandt for New Unit "Hanging in Air"

NEW YORK—All action on the proposal of Harry Brandt, ITOA president, that James J. Walker, former mayor of New York, head a single national unit of independent exhibitors is temporarily "hanging in air," the former informs BOXOFFICE.

Meanwhile, Brandt is mulling what he terms "certain fundamental organization ideas." If and when these are formulated he would "like to see Walker a part of them for he is a constructive and influential force."

Asked if his "organization ideas" envisioned a national scheme or one purely local, Brandt observed that any plan would necessarily have to begin in New York to test its soundness, and, if found practicable for adoption in other independent centers, would be offered for the asking.

Reserved Seat Plan Set For "Wind" Playdates

NEW YORK—With the setting of 31 bookings at Loew's out-of-town theatres for "Gone With the Wind," a policy of reserved seats at night only where there are three shows daily and both shows reserved where there are but two daily performances will obtain. The scale will follow the pattern of current engagements; 75 cents, including tax, for matinees and $1 plus tax at night.

Bookings and opening dates for the extended run engagements broken down in three periods follow:

January 26—Century, Baltimore; Palace, Washington; Loew's, Wilmington; Warner, Pittsburgh; State, Providence; State, Syracuse; Loew's, Rochester; Loew's, Indianapolis; Midland, Kansas City; State, St. Louis; Stillman, Cleveland; State, Louisville; State, New Orleans; Vendome, Nashville; State, Memphis, and Yonge Street, Toronto.

February 2—State, Norfolk; Loew's, Richmond; Loew's, Akron; Loew's, Canton; Loew's, Dayton; Valentine, Toledo; Broad, Columbus; Majestic, Bridgeport; College, New Haven; Palace, Hartford; Elm Street, Worcester; Poli, Springfield, and Victory, Evansville.

February 3—Poli, Waterbury, and Poli, Meriden.

Charges "Wind" Review Affront to Negroes

(Continued from page 20)

York *Journal-American*, Rushmore charges the *Daily Worker* with having published editorials blistering the film "although none of the editorial board had seen the picture." He says he was prepared to "smash" the film, but was surprised to find the late Sidney Howard "had done an admirable job in translating the book into film material and the 'anti-Negro' angle was very much in absence." He adds he was instructed by Ben Davis jr., Negro member of the paper's editorial board, to rewrite the review and to ask for a boycott of the film. Alleging this represented distortion at its limit, Rushmore says he put his review in his pocket and walked out.

A Fearful Chain Eye On Kaplan Regime

NEW YORK—While local independent circuit leaders tacitly admit they are pleased with the outcome of the Local 306 elections, there are large patches of gloom in major chain quarters over the feared increases that may follow for projectionists now that the Sam Kaplan regime is back in the saddle.

While Joseph D. Basson was re-elected president, and only by a margin of 257 votes, the Kaplan ticket swept every significant office before it in the voting, including the majority of executive board seats.

Independent circuit heads are not silencing their displeasure over the power that has apparently slipped from Basson, who before the elections, was generally conceded to gain a victory for his administration. The independents are "sore" because, they say, Basson "licked us before the arbitration hearings" that resulted in a decision calling for a 10 per cent wage increase to union members.

As for the majors, they are in the midst of an arbitration proceeding with 306 over the latter's demand for a 25 per cent wage increase. With Bert Popkin, a Kaplan man, elected to New York business agent and an automatic participant in the arbitration, there appears to be at least a moral "strike" against the majors. This attitude stems from the victory for 306 in its controversy with the independents, coupled with the presence of Popkin in the wage talks. The first of these meetings, with Professor Milton J. Handler of Columbia University and an expert in labor matters as arbitrator, is expected to get under way immediately after the first of the year.

Those elected, in addition to Basson, follow: Morris Kravitz, vice-president; Herman Gelber, recording secretary; Charles Beckman, financial secretary; James Ambrosio, treasurer; Joseph Bender, sergeant-at-arms; Popkin, New York business agent; Jack Teitler, Brooklyn business agent. Herman Boritz, Dave Garden and George Magariango to the board of trustees. Kaplan led the executive board poll in votes. The other members are Dick Cancellare, Arthur Costigan, William De Sena, Steve D'Inzillo, Charles Eichhorn, Eddie Stewart and Harry Storin.

Rites for Sam Pollak

NEWARK — Funeral services have been held for Sam Pollak, 59, who died at Beth Israel Hospital after a short illness. Pollak was for years a partner in the Bratter & Pollak independent circuit which sold out to a major circuit nine years ago.

Paul Swift

NEW YORK—Private services were held over the weekend for Paul Swift, 56, who died suddenly at his home Thursday. He was a veteran in the business, having been with several film companies. At one time he was in charge of all Vitaphone shorts and during the past few years had been a short subject salesman at the local Warner exchange.

BROADWAY

JACK COHN is in Florida. Ditto on George J. Schaefer who returns shortly and then proceeds to the RKO studios where he may remain for some time . . . Grad Sears is back from Florida where he spent the holidays with his family . . . Joe Vogel, Charlie Moskowitz and Bill Rodgers are smothered in figures dealing with the potential gross of "Gone With the Wind" . . . Maurice Bergman spent the New Year's quietly—and at home . . . Charlie Moskowitz, by the way, anticipates Miami won't get him much before February. Brother Joe expects to go west finally when Darryl F. Zanuck heads that way following the Broadway premieres of "The Bluebird" and "The Grapes of Wrath" . . . Leo Lindy, whose restaurants bear his name, is enjoying a field day what with crowds milling around the Capitol for GWTW and having to eat somewhere along the line.

Leon Rosenblatt, after four weeks in bed, is recuperating nicely from an attack of pneumonia. In his absence Bernie Brooks has been handling all operating details for the Rosenblatt-Welt circuit . . . Ed Raftery returns Tuesday from a five-day holiday. He spent several weeks on the Westway case in Baltimore and needed the respite . . . Moe J. Siegel, president of Republic Productions, is in from the coast on his regular visit to the home office. He is reported to be well again and on the job in fine fettle . . . Leon Schlesinger, Warner short subject producer, is visiting the big town and checking up on friends he hasn't seen for quite some time.

It looks as if the local film gang is going to Hollywood, Fla., this year and ditching Miami because of the crowded hotels due to vacation-goers canceling European and cruise siestas. The Gene Pickers leave by car for the in-between spot from Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. Two days later, the Lou Weinbergs will be heading for the resort. That's about the time Bill Rodgers plans getting away for his annual visit to the Hollywood Beach Hotel. Bob Rubin intends to leave after the annual Loew stockholders' and directors' meetings, January 16, for a destination not yet set. Jack Ellis is due to return any day from Miami with numerous other local salesmen from other exchanges. "Lep" Friedman gets back about the same time with the missus. They have been staying with friends on Collins Avenue. Nick Schenck, the missus and their two daughters already are ensconced at the Miami Beach home, the Loew president figuring on at least 10 weeks' rest.

Walter Reade is planning to return for some more of Miami Beach on January 27 . . . Word has it Vincent G. Hart, attorney, with offices in Radio City and a former member of the production code staff, has been admitted to practice before the federal communications commission . . . Edward Ellis, RKO player, was among those at the Music Hall premiere of "Hunchback" . . . Sidney C. Davidson has been named press representative for Film Alliance . . . Mike Simons, editor of M-G-M's The Distributor, *is playing nurse to a litter of five jet black cocker spaniels . . . Lee Newbury, president of Allied of New Jersey, heads for a Florida vacation around January 15 . . . Frankie Darro starts a personal appearance tour at the Colonial, Detroit, January 7, following with a week's engagement at the Oriental, Chicago, January 12.*

Nate Spingold is back from a Florida vacation. He was flown in by Dick Merrill . . . Pete Mayer returned from the war zone in the nick of time to celebrate the holidays with Arthur and Lillie, his parents, at their Mount Ivy farm. It was exactly as the Mayers wished it might have happened . . . With the vacation period in force at most M-G-M exchanges, the salesmen are dropping into the home office to renew acquaintances. Among those who were in to see William F. Rodgers, E. W. Aaron, Tom Connors and Edward Saunders were M. Waranob and Abe Harris of Buffalo; Gerald Hirsch, New Orleans; Frank McGuire, Kansas City; Milton Jacobs, Cincinnati, and Bob Lynch, district manager in Philadelphia . . . Mrs. Jack Cohn, wife of the Columbia vice-president, and their son, Joseph, have gone to Hollywood for a vacation . . . Don Ameche, his wife, George Frank, his manager, and Bill Bacher were to have returned to the coast over the weekend after the broadcast of "Swanee River" over the Kate Smith hour Friday evening . . . Olivia de Havilland is back at the Warner studios . . . The Charles Sterns—he's UA's eastern district manager—celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Wednesday.

Lou Golding, upstate division manager for the Fabian circuit, paid his regular visit to the home office Wednesday . . . Moe Streimer and Dave Burkan of the local UA exchange were among the sales personnel called to Boston during the week for the Morse & Rothenberg anti-trust hearings . . . Harry Goetz is back from a quick trip to the coast . . . Ben Goetz and Bob Montgomery were delayed on their trip east due to bad flying conditions in the midwest . . . Ed Hatrick has gone to Miami for a spot of sun before making his contemplated coast trek . . . John Howley has not returned from the coast. It is understood the hearings on a demand for a bill of particulars in the government contempt proceedings against FWC have been put over until the first week in January and Howley, representing counsel for UA, will stay on for the session.

Aubrey Schenck and Milt Hossfeld are due back from the coast shortly. Both went out for the Rose Bowl game and were to remain until the National Theatres divisional managers' meeting. Since the meeting has been delayed beyond the middle of January, Schenck and Hossfeld will return here in a few days and go back to the coast later . . . Louis Nizer is back from a cruise on the *Nieuw Amsterdam* . . . Si Fabian has "Gone With the Wind" set for his de luxe 4,000-seat house in Albany. He hasn't decided on the policy, but it will not be surprising to see the theatre opening with "pop" admissions and at 6:00 p. m. go to a reserved seat policy. Such a plan has been suggested to Fabian and he is seriously considering it.

Arthur W. Kelly, UA's vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, has followed in the footsteps of his two assistants, T. P. Mulrooney and Walter Gould, and has

(Continued on next page)

Mox Gets the Holiday Spirit

Hollywood

Dear Editor From BOXOFFICE:

Why should I lower my dignity and get myself into a long distance argument with Ali Gaga—who hides himself behind a tree of an alias?

I refuse to be undignified—however with his writing being so unrational, he deserves to be put in his stall. If you remember Chic Sale once wrote a pamphlet called "The Specialist." So Ali be praised.

Even at the risk of being undignified, let me answer the Ga-Ga point by item. First, he says Erif, my first born, and myself remind him of the Daily Double. So the pot calls the kettle black? He leads a double life, by using a name-de-plume—and he calls Daily Doubles? I leave it to the Board of Arbitration.

As for La Guardia, that little flower, trying to get the movies to move East, he can perish his pet ideas. Listen.

Why should the moguls give a tinker's think to move the studios to be near the New York race tracks—even if they have pari-mutuel systems?

Some moguls of Hollywood own pieces of Santa Anita, Inglewood, and Del Mar and Clover not forgetting Tanforan—but don't quote me—I only heard—I didn't see the books—or get it from the bookies.

So what's the Eskimo in the igloo?? Even a Gaga could understand. The producers pay the boys and girls in the studios, their salaries on a Friday . . . and so on Saturdays and Sundays and holidays, the moguls take back the checks, cash and mortgages.

So Ali wants the movies should move back East? They should give up such a sure thing for a straw in the wind? Who? What? Why!

And if Ali thinks any exhibitor in his right mind can afford to play around with the "ferdles," he should try running a theatre on the fringe of Hollywood.

Instead of giving tips from the stables—direct like he says—let him give me a tip on a good picture.

I refuse to tzopple about ponies.

Ever your pal, but never Ali's

MOX SHOBBUS.

ALBANY

BILL KRAEMER, who returned to Albany territory from Washington as Schine booker, was on Filmrow. And passing out presents, according to custom, 'tis said. Others on the Row: Vivian Sweet, Salem and Greenwich exhibitor; Clarence Dopp of Johnstown and other points west; Mrs. Ferguson Copake; Mr. and Mrs. Phil Straus, Pine Plains; George Thornton, Saugerties; Sid Dwore, Schenectady . . . Mrs. Helen Johnson, secretary to William E. Smalley, Smalley circuit, visited Albany . . . Among those making holiday treks to the old home town were: Clayton Eastman, Paramount manager, and family, to North Conway, N. H.; Jack Walsh, Metro exploiteer, to Cleveland; Emma Decker, secretary in Ross Federal Service office, to Hudson; Bill Gaddoni, Metro chief booker, to Yonkers.

Dick Hayes, Paramount salesman, up to Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa, for a week of winter sports; Marge Doran, in Paramount accounting department, weekended in New York . . . Ruth A. Bobar, Metro inspectress, reported wearing a diamond ring, the gift of Steve Wilski, youthful pitcher for the Albany Eastern League baseball club. Wilski lives at New York Mills, near Saratoga. Branch managers and exchangemen know Wilski, having seen him pitch many times at Hawkins Stadium. Incidentally, that ball plant was built by and bears in memoriam the name of Michael J. Hawkins, uncle of Mary Hawkins of Republic. Hawkins was owner of the Albany Club for many years and was instrumental in making Albany one of the best minor league cities in the country.

Joe Miller, Columbia manager, Mrs. Miller, and sons, Sanford, a student at Cornell University, and Teddy, pupil in an Albany high school, are at Miami Beach, Fla. Harry Hellman, Hellman circuit, and Mrs. Hellman are reported among the winter vacationists at Miami. It is the ambition or plan of many Filmrow people to visit that winter sunshine spot . . . Twentieth Century-Fox employes, at a holiday party in the exchange, presented Manager Moe Grassgreen with a clock and a box of cigars. Booker Dan Houlihan received fog lights for his car. Feature of the festive occasion was a screening of "Swanee River" . . . Clocks, incidentally, were a favorite Christmas present. M. A. Silver, Warner Theatres zone manager, was the recipient of an onyx clock and a house robe from his charges. Charley Smakwitz, Warner Theatres district manager, is said to have received no less than three timekeepers . . . Branch managers and bookers were reported out in full force for the Warner Theatres party at downtown headquarters. Warner managers from Albany and Troy, office employes, etc., also there.

Metro and Columbia put their employes in high humor by distributing bonuses. In the case of some Metroites, the "dividends" are said to have been the equivalent of two weeks' salary. Filmrow comment showed the bonus policy is a morale builder. No mistake about it . . . The Family, Watervliet, cooperated with the police department in giving a matinee holiday show for children of the city. The Troy Record *ran a picture of youngsters lined up at the theatre doors. Manager Jimmy La Belle's assistance was credited. The same edition of Troy* Record *had a photo of Manager Irving L. Liner and of Robert L. Fox, assistant manager of Proctor's Troy, with a Santa Claus and a group of kiddies at the annual Camp Fire Girls party in the theatre. About 2,000 boys and girls, including delegations from various orphanages, attended the morning festivities, as always held at Proctor's.*

Paul Krumenacker, Warner manager, let it be known he wanted no present from employes at the holiday party in Ten Eyck Hotel. Dick Struwe, genial Warner salesman, entertained exchange associates and friends at a get-together in his home.

REVIEW FLASHES

CALLING PHILO VANCE (WB)—Unimpressively produced but certain to be liked by audiences who will react favorably to the concise manner in which the intrigue is handled and the mystery of the stolen airplane plans solved. James Stephenson, Margot Stevenson. William Clemens directed.

CITADEL OF SILENCE (SR)—This is a strong drama that starts slowly, but hits an emotional peak. The story has a patriotic Polish woman add her bit toward liberation of her country from Russia when, as the wife of a prison commandant, she makes possible a mutiny and eventual liberation of the political prisoners incarcerated. Annabella, Pierre Renoir. Marcel L'Herbier directed.

EARL OF CHICAGO (M-G-M)—A bizarre undertaking that merits praise for its deviation from the beaten track in film fare. Robert Montgomery again demonstrates versatility as a Chicago liquor dealer, who inherits an English estate, a windfall climaxed by his being convicted of murder and hanged in the Tower of London. Edward Arnold, Reginald Owen. Richard Thorpe directed.

INVISIBLE STRIPES (WB)—Has nothing in story, cast or motivation to distinguish it from the many other prison-gangster pictures which have come from the same studio, and, therefore, will serve best in entertaining those patrons who never tire of that type of film. George Raft is more than ordinarily inept as the ex-convict who finds it impossible to go straight and makes the supreme sacrifice to save a kid brother from a similar fate. Lloyd Bacon directed; Louis F. Edelman produced.

TWO'S COMPANY (SR) — Audiences will laugh at, not with, this film. Its chief virtue is Ned Sparks, whose concern is to get romantically together with Mary Brian. Tim Whelan directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

BROADWAY

(Continued from preceding page)

acquired a farm in Connecticut . . . Les Whelan, foreign publicity director of 20th-Fox, is back at his desk wearing colored glasses. He narrowly escaped losing his eyesight when a gas cartridge from a tear gas gun exploded in his face . . . Bill Sussman left over the weekend for a Florida vacation . . . Joseph E. McConville, son of Columbia's foreign manager, is in town for the holidays. McConville, fils, is stationed in Mexico City where he is in charge of the company's Mexican production . . . Louis Frisch is basking under a Florida sun.

Howard Dietz is again on the local scene after a coast-to-coast flight for the twin premiere of "Wind" at the Carthay Circle and United Artists in Hollywood and Los Angeles . . . A. Julian Brylawski of Warner's Washington real estate department was poking around, full of nostalgia, and looking for the producing companies of 30 years ago, when he started . . . The H. M. Richeys and their family drove to Detroit for the New Year's holidays . . . E. W. Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers, had a birthday Saturday. He received from his close friends a flock of useful and novel gifts . . . Nate J. Blumberg and William A. Scully were "at home" to a large slice of the better local names at the Hotel Astor, Friday . . . F&M Stageshows in a couple of days will be located in new offices in the Roxy Theatre building . . . Wolfe Cohen, Canadian district manager for Warner, and Bill Mansell, Philadelphia branch manager, were around for sales sessions with Roy Haines.

Eddie Carroll, Jersey salesman for RKO, is celebrating 25 years of wedded bliss . . . Milton Kronacher, former old-time Pathe salesman, managed to visit Filmrow during the holidays to renew old acquaintances . . . Eddie Sullivan, who has been with Paramount 13 years, has succeeded the late Lew Nathan as official photographer . . . Ted O'Shea had his son, Ted jr., in tow for the holidays, the latter being quite an athlete and as tall as his father . . . Ted Aber, former Minneapolis Paramount salesman and now connected with the local sales force, returns Tuesday from Miami where he has been vacationing . . . Abe Blumstein of the local 20th-Fox sales force is another returning Miami vacationist . . . Edward Ellis is taking in the sights here on a leave from Hollywood studios . . . Eddie McEvoy, RKO mideast district manager with headquarters in Cleveland, spent the holidays with his family in Westchester.

Two Houses Shift

NEW YORK—A. G. Locks, brother-in-law of Harold Friedman of Yonkers, and Alfred and Florence Rosenthal have acquired the Model, Brooklyn. The Ritz, Bronx, also has changed hands and will be reopened shortly. Harry Brandt formerly had the house.

"Gulliver" Going Over

NEW YORK—Paramount reports "Gulliver's Travels" has been held over in most and carried over in the remaining few of its first 37 key city runs.

Pennsylvania "Lotteries" Local Responsibility

HARRISBURG—Reports that the state was going to make a drive beginning January 1 against Bank Nights in theatres and Bingo games of all kinds, whether used for charitable or commercial purposes, are denied by Russell Shockley, chief deputy attorney general.

It's up to local authorities to decide what to do about such games, he declares. There is no specific law outlawing the games, he points out, and "the question hinges on whether local authorities think such enterprises violate the state's general gambling laws."

It is up to local district attorneys to decide that, he says. State motor police will be called in for enforcement of gambling laws only where suspected violations seem to be too broad for local authorities to cope with.

UA Has Closed Deals With All Circuits in the East

NEW YORK—Following a meeting of eastern division sales heads, Harry L. Gold, vice-president and eastern sales manager, declared UA had closed its deals with every circuit in the territory.

He presided at the meeting which was attended by Charles Stern, eastern district manager; Bert M. Stearn, central district; David Prince, southern; Haskell M. Masters, Canadian sales manager; Arthur Silverstone, assistant eastern sales manager, and Phil Dow. Various districts launch sales drives of their own January 2, each on behalf of the district manager. The individual drives then culminate in one eastern division drive.

Robert Montgomery to Leave for England

BALTIMORE — Robert Montgomery will leave here January 2 by Clipper for England to resume work on "Busman's Honeymoon," the M-G-M picture which was stopped at the outbreak of the war. Ben Goetz will be on the same transatlantic plane. Victor Saville, producer of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," will leave later. He recently completed "The Earl of Chicago" at the Hollywood studios.

Production on "Busman's Honeymoon" will get under way the end of January and will be followed by "I Had a Comrade."

Mills and Berkson Form Screencraft Pictures

ALBANY—Bernard H. Mills of Albany and Jacob Berkson of Buffalo, who operated the Republic franchise in these two territories until last July, have formed Screencraft Pictures, Inc., to carry on a film business in New York.

This is the second company which they have incorporated since severing connections with Republic. "Ten Nights in a Barroom" is reported to be one of the films Mills and Berkson are distributing.

PHILADELPHIA

A NEW fund is being established to provide means of helping indigent members of the industry here. Sam Hyman, Cameo, is in charge of the money-raising, Oscar Neufeld, Horlacher, in charge of administration. Money already has been disbursed in several needy cases . . . Mel Koff's contemplated new house in Darby has been canceled, and Mel instead will continue operation of the Darby. His Spielmont, Marcus Hook, is scheduled to open January 1 . . . Mayor George E. Brunner of Camden proclaimed "Towers Week" to celebrate the opening of A. M. and Martin B. Ellis' new theatre.

Add Christmas parties: The Republic boys and girls at the Shriner's Club; RKO-ers at their office; Metro-ites at the Arcadia . . . Funny Christmas story at Metro. The staff honored Boss Bob Lynch the Saturday before Christmas with three statuettes consisting of a bronzed baby shoe of each of his three grandchildren.

Philadelphia Musicians Await "Sympathy" Cue

PHILADELPHIA—A. Rex Riccardi, secretary of the musicians' union local 77, revealed he is waiting for an answer from IATSE officials in New York in his request for a sympathy strike by operators and stagehands in seven local Stanley-Warner houses.

The seven houses—Earle, Fox and five neighborhoods—were involved in a contract dispute between the union and the management. All houses employed musicians last year, and the union requested all be included in a new contract; the management wanted to renew the contract only for the Earle. Musicians are picketing the houses.

A similar stalemate continues at George Graves's Carman, where the dispute centered over the union's request for a 52-week contract and Grave's counter offer of a 40-week contract. Riccardi says the Carman is included in his strike request.

He adds that the union will attempt to put pressure on both managements by going into court for an injunction to prevent playing of canned music for overtures and trailers.

Henry Holms Takes Over Cashier Post at RKO

NEW YORK—Henry Holms of the RKO auditing department moves into the post of cashier, the position left vacant through the death of David Thompson. He has been with RKO since 1920, when the company became associated with Robertson-Cole.

New Publication

NEW YORK—*Films*, which describes itself as "a quarterly of discussion and analysis" has made its bow. The magazine is published by Kamin Publishers with Lincoln Kerstein, Jay Leyda, Mary Losey, Robert Stebbins and Lee Strassberg listed as editors.

And two days later Bob was presented with a fourth grandchild, by his daughter Bertha . . . The Metro girls all got boxes of candy, the boys Stetson hat orders . . . Allen Lewis, Dante, and Ben Biben, RCA, announce a rip-roaring New Year's Eve party at the Showmen's Club.

Memo booklets entitled "For Men Only" and "For Women Only" were the giveaways of Percy Friedman, Yeadon, to call attention to "The Women" . . . Landis Theatre vs. Warner and the majors will be the headliner before the U. S. circuit court starting January 2 . . . Jessica Dragonette, the "voice" of the Princess in "Gulliver," dropped in town to exercise her larynx at Wanamaker's . . . Jules K. Chapman, assistant to Harry H. Thomas, Monogram regional manager, spent several days in the local exchange.

Janet Hallard, Republic, is out of the hospital and will spend several weeks at home catching up with herself . . . New officers of the Film Exchange Employes Union will take over the reins at a meeting in the Broadwood, January 12 . . . Herman Ellis, lawyer-son of A. M. Ellis, has announced his engagement to Jane Bacharach. He's an assistant city solicitor . . . Oscar Neufeld had better stay sober New Year's eve. He's scheduled to be one of the judges at the New Year's day parade . . . Dot Burrison, Metro, weekended in New York.

Bill Lafferty, Liberty, Tacony, is in the enviable position of having a Plymouth car for a giveaway. It's being done through a tieup with nearby merchants . . . Bill Wolf, Allegheny, benefited needy families of the neighborhood with distribution of food collected at a "canned goods matinee" . . . Harry Orlow, Millville, did the same through a "toy matinee" . . . Stan Benford, Palace, played good samaritan to a 12-year-old girl who lost her fare home after attending a show. He put up the cash—and the next day the mother showed her gratitude by coming around and promising to be a steady patron.

Among notables who celebrate birthdays the next two weeks are: Mrs. Samuel Palan, wife of the Monogram salesman, on January 2; Ely J. Epstein, RKO, on the 3rd; Harry Bodkin, UA, 6th; Maurice Rosen, Monogram, 6th; Goldie Boson, secretary to Harry Fried, 11th, and Martin B. Ellis, Towers and other houses, 15th . . . Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hite chalk up their 26th wedding anniversary on the 7th . . . A novel stunt—a tieup with a stove company to sell "The Housekeeper's Daughter"—was figured out by Roy Robbins, Karlton.

But listen to this for tieups: When Jack Lexey, Broadway, ran "Heart of the North" last January, he had a heavy snowfall. When he showed "They All Come Out," there was a prison break at Moyamensing Prison. And with "The Rains Came," he had a whole week of heavy rain. A miracle man! . . . Mort Magill, UA, is sporting an impressive sunburn—in fact, his face is even peeling. But it's not Florida sun; only the ultra-violet lamp at the gym . . . Milt Young, Warner, had a crowd of American Legion and traffic officials to a screening of the "Drunk Driving" short.

RICHMOND

LICENSE taxes and fees from amusement concerns brought Virginia $39,870 in 1939, according to compilations of the state department of taxation. The report showed 745 motion picture houses were in operation in the state during the year, as compared to 749 for the preceding. Of the total amount of revenue, $30,166.71 came from the motion pictures.

Billy Wilkinson now is general contact man at Tantilla Garden, after being out on the road booking bands. Billy started in the show business at the Brookland . . . Bob Brooks, who runs the pictures for Ben Somma down at the Henrico, is expecting a blessed event in his family next month.

Frank Cowardin was re-elected president of the Richmond Musicians Ass'n, at annual business meeting. Other officers chosen were Marshall Rotella, vice-president; Carl Wallnaun, secretary, and Bert Asbury, treasurer. Directors are Nathan Oppleman, Jack Kaufman, Gordon Smith, Claude Elam, J. R. Boykin, William Henry and Randolph Robinson. The annual banquet and dance will be held the middle of January . . . Employes of Neighborhood Theatres all received a Christmas bonus.

Carter Barron, Loew's district manager, paid Richmond a short visit . . . Also Herman Rubin from Petersburg . . . Walter Thompson, formerly at the Park, has been made doorman of the National, replacing Buck Johnson, resigned . . . Elmer Wilschke was down from Philadelphia on one of his periodical visits . . . Dr. Kendig, Kenbridge exhibitor, has been named chairman of the Lunenberg County Democratic committee.

Exhibitors who attended the recent legislative committee meeting which was called by Chairman Charles A. Somma in Richmond were: Sam Bendheim jr., Morton G. Thalhimer, Ben Pitts, Herman Rubin, Harold Wood, Ellison Loth, Allen Sparrow, A. Frank O'Brien and Colonel Bob Barton, counsel.

George Ingham, who got his start here at the Brookland, but has been on the west coast for the past nine years, was home for a few days on vacation . . . Allen Sparrow took another day off from managing Loew's to visit his home town, Norfolk . . . Downtown first runs are saving on lights and fuel by waiting until 11:00 a. m. to open their doors. They formerly opened at 10:30 . . . Pete Southward, Bellevue doorman visited Washington . . . Ober Boyd, Brookland doorman and his wife also visited the capital city . . . Bob Overcash, engineer of the Capitol, is back on the job after being in the Johnson-Willis Hospital for about ten days.

Bob McCombs, organist at the Byrd, is now broadcasting over WRNL every morning . . . Frank Mathews, the big fish and game man from the Capitol Theatre, got himself some rabbits the other day, saying that it was too cold to sit on the river bank and fish . . . Ralph Binns, Horlacher Washington manager, was a recent visitor . . . Henry Reid, Byrd usher who fractured his skull and was operated on at the Memorial Hospital the other week, is now at home recuperating.

Wanted: Quintet of House Haunters

Chester, Pa.—Poss Jones, manager of the Washington, put these two classified ads in the paper:

"Wanted: The five ugliest men in Chester to haunt an Old Dark House."

"To all realtors: Specialize in haunting houses; see me at my worst in the Old Dark House. Reasonable rates. Karloff."

It was a come-on, of course, for the showing of "The Old Dark House."

BALTIMORE

MORRIS MECHANIC, New, is now vacationing in Florida . . . Main revises admission prices and puts back stage shows . . . I. M. Rappaport, Hippodrome; John Anderson, Center; Meyer Leventhal, Lord Baltimore, also held Christmas parties for underprivileged kids . . . It was a Hippodrome night at the Variety Club last week says Cliff Jarrett, assistant manager of the Hippodrome, when he hit the jack pot there.

Sympathy goes to F. Clarence Grote, operator of the New, whose mother died recently . . . Local 181's new officers are Samuel Issacson, president; William George, vice-president, and Morris Rushworth, secretary . . . Governor O'Conor treated 4,000 children to a free show last Tuesday at the Circle, Republic, and Star theatres in Annapolis, Md. . . . The famed Dead End Kids, who are appearing on the stage at the Hippodrome, were given a party by the Balto Press Club last Tuesday, December 26.

Walter Cohen, Leader manager, is now back on the job after honeymooning in New York, and has moved into a new apartment on Eutaw Place . . . Ed Wyatt, Preston manager, now wears a pin on his lapel with the letters W3GWA on it, call letters of his amateur radio station . . . Pin ball champ, Harold Grott, Met manager, and Max (spice of life) Weinberg, manager of the Little, did some fancy Christmas trimming at the Variety Club . . . Ask Leon Back to tell you the one about the farmer's daughter . . . Ask Eddie Kimpel jr. for a light from that different box of matches he has.

J. A. Burns, who represents the film exchanges here, held a Christmas party, December 21, in his offices. Party was started way back in the days of the early silent flickers by Ed Fowler. Loretta Thornton was hostess and John Dunne was master of ceremonies. Among those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Young, Universal salesman, Harry Silver, Overlea, nearly the entire staff of the Maryland censor board, Messrs. Harry and Al Vogelstein, Ed "16mm" Wyatt of Preferred Cinema Service, Bill Henderson, booker of Durkee circuit.

Gus Lowenberg and Jack Dauses had to look for new homes when the Hotel Rennert closed . . . Mayor Howard Jackson greeted children at parties at Loew's Century and Broadway.

WASHINGTON

PLANS are under way to break ground for the new Paramount exchange to be located on the corner of Second and Eye Sts. Branch Manager Eddie Fontaine is looking forward to moving day with great enthusiasm as same will mark Paramount's debut on Filmrow . . . It was good to see UA's Dick Harrity along the Row, having recovered from his injuries in a recent auto accident . . . A special screening of "Gone" was held at the White House for President Roosevelt and his family.

According to custom, many exchanges held Xmas parties following the close of business for the holidays . . . At Paramount, the staff presented Branch Manager Eddie Fontaine with a radio, following which a luncheon was served with Bertha Boyd, treasurer of the Pep Club, doing the honors . . . Joe Oulahan, Paramount's Cincinnati branch manager, and the newsboys were invited guests . . . At the Schine circuit offices, Frank Boucher was the host to many visitors from the Row . . . At RKO, Branch Manager Bob Folliard was presented with a portable motion picture screen from his staff; in addition, a sum was donated by the group to procure toys, fruit, and nuts to present to Gordon Hittenmark at the Glendale Sanitarium doll house . . . At the Metro exchange, the party was held in the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Berger, together with the salesmen and their wives, joined in welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Ray Irvin in true newlywed style. Ray's bride is the former Ann Carolyn Ison of Macon, Ga. A collation was served followed by dancing.

Universal's Bernie Kreisler planed to Akron to spend the holidays with his family . . . Metro's Carlton Duffus returned from Reading, Pa., to spend Xmas with his family . . . Joe Cohan, 20th-Fox's office manager, was out for a few days ill . . . Jerry Adams of Metro's Indianapolis exchange dropped in en route to New York for the holidays . . . It takes Loew's Ray Bell to be individual with his unique Xmas card . . . Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt attended the Kiwanis Xmas party for crippled children held at the Wilson Theatre in Arlington, Va. . . . "Slim" Hollaway, manager, presented her with orchids.

Death Strikes Twice at Paramount Home Office

NEW YORK—Death struck twice at the Paramount home office within a few days. Lew F. Nathan, 46, official photographer for the company for 19 years, died at Yonkers General Hospital three-quarters of an hour after suffering a stroke at his home in the same city. Burial was at Mt. Hope cemetery, Yonkers. He is survived by his widow and three daughters, three sisters and a brother.

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Julia Cahill Frawley, wife of G. B. J. Frawley, manager of home office exchange accounting department, with interment at Woodlawn cemetery. In addition to the Paramount executive, Mrs. Eleanor Grace March, a daughter, survives.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER

(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Labor Like a Lamb As 1939 Bows Out

The year 1939 passed out like the proverbial lamb insofar as Hollywood's stormy labor front was concerned, with most warring factions apparently content to accept a truce until the new year gathers momentum. Producers have asserted they will shortly begin a study of the demands for a 10 per cent wage increase requested by the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors and for a new working agreement by the Society of Motion Picture Art Directors. Preliminary conferences have already been held with representatives of both crafts. The SMPFE asserts certain clauses in its present contract are being violated and that its members are being improperly classified in several studios. The requested increase would be retroactive to Aug. 25, 1939.

With Screen Publicists Guild representatives reporting that all details of their producer contract have finally been ironed out, the agreement is shortly to be signed by the studios. Senior members are to receive a minimum of $100 for a 42-hour week.

The Screen Cartoonists Guild, which recently affiliated with the studio painters, has begun drafting a set of bargaining demands for submission to producers. The Guild is waiving jurisdiction over cameramen in studio cartoon departments in favor of the IATSE photographers' local 659. Also planning to draft a bargaining agreement is the newly-formed Screen Office Employes Guild, which has called a general membership meeting for January 9 to discuss the matter further, and to elect permanent officers. White-collar workers from five major studios are represented in the organization.

The Screen Set Designers have also requested a producer conference to readjust wage scales and working conditions.

Independent producers have been notified by the studio painters that the new minimum wage scale, calling for a 15 per cent increase, will be enforced throughout the industry, not only in the major plants.

Negotiations between the producers and the Screen Actors Guild regarding reclassification for extras have again been delayed after one earlier postponement. The SAG is requesting a 15 per cent increase for its "B" players and elimination of the $5.50 minimum paycheck. Kenneth Thomson, Guild secretary, checked in from a business trip to New York to handle the negotiations.

The SAG has filed an answer to the superior court suit brought by Ed Heim, a "B" player, to gain full voting privileges for extras. The Guild denies the majority of "B" players favor the move and asserts the suit is against the best interests of the extras. It alleges the board of directors operates in a fair and impartial manner, serving both "A" and "B" brackets without discrimination.

Hollywood Takes Dies Calmly

Liberal Hollywood circles are apparently unperturbed by the announcement that the Dies Committee will, within a few days, make public a list of actors and writers in the film colony who are reputedly identified with the alleged Communistic movement in motion pictures. While there has, naturally, been considerable conjecture as to the identity of those who might be included in the list of 20 or more names to be broadcast, comment is being withheld, for obvious reasons, until the names are published.

One school of thought, spokesman for which preferred to remain in the background, holds that the impending announcement may be a smokescreen to detract attention from the LaFollette senatorial committee which is currently in California investigating the actions and policies of the Associated Farmers, in pursuit of its probe into charges that civil liberties have been violated. Activities of the LaFollette group are being publicized by the newly formed committee to Protect Civil Liberties.

A New Rash of Roadshows May Break Out Following "Wind"

By IVAN SPEAR

That perennial plaything of the industry's distribution moguls—the roadshow—appears due for a revival during the early months of 1940 that may, if this glorified exhibition practice results in healthy revenue returns, be transformed into a landslide. Two-a-day bookings at increased prices have already been set for two features and executives have several other top-budgeted vehicles in mind for similar treatment if public reaction is favorable enough.

The ice-breaker was Metro's release of Selznick International's "Gone With the Wind," already playing on a two-a-day basis in New York City, Harrisburg, Reading, Cincinnati and Boston. Local roadshowing got underway at the Carthay Circle on December 28, with two screenings daily, while it was booked into the United Artists in downtown Los Angeles to open the following day on a three-show schedule daily.

Next picture definitely set for roadshowing, as announced several weeks ago, is 20th Century-Fox's "The Bluebird," starring Shirley Temple. The Technicolor fantasy opens in New York City January 17 and, on January 26, will be given simultaneous two-a-day openings in Pittsburgh, Detroit and San Francisco. For the latter affair the child star herself will be on hand.

May Roadshow "Grapes"

The studio admits further that there is a strong possibility "The Grapes of Wrath" will be roadshowed throughout the country. However, local spokesmen say 20th-Fox President Sidney R. Kent is keeping a close watch on the grosses being piled up by "Gone With the Wind" before definite plans are made, and say an official announcement will be made shortly. The film version of John Steinbeck's novel runs, in its present form, two hours and 20 minutes, much longer than the average for regular screenings.

Opinion among local dopesters is that executives of other plants will follow Kent's example before deciding what exhibition treatment to give some of their more elaborate offerings. Metro, for example, has "Northwest Passage;" Warner has a pair of possible roadshows in "Virginia City" and "Magic Bullets." It is considered probable that Walt Disney's second feature-length cartoon, "Pinocchio," will be roadshowed, as was his first, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Paramount has, in completed form, "Dr. Cyclops" and, now being prepared for early production, Cecil B. DeMille's saga of the Canadian Northwest mounted police.

Cinémarks

Chairman of the Southern California Democratic Jefferson Day dinner to be held January 8 will be Director W. S. Van Dyke. Oliver Qualey jr., treasurer of the Democratic national committee, made the appointment.

*

Rufus LeMaire headed for New York to spend a few days on business matters . . . Charles J. Hunt, unit manager at Metro, is vacationing in New York for two weeks.

*

Roy Del Ruth is at Sun Valley for a short vacation . . . Leon and Mrs. Schlesinger to New York for a month's visit . . . Darryl F. Zanuck is in Sun Valley for short rest . . . Louis Hyman spent the holidays in San Francisco.

*

Billy Wilder, Paramount writer, is handing out the proverbial cigars in pairs. Yes, it's twins—a boy and girl born to Mrs. Wilder in Cedar of Lebanon Hospital . . . The Paramount family grew still larger on the same day when Cliff Freedle of the publicity department became a papa—a son . . . Russell Birdwell is back from New York and the premiere of "GWTW."

*

Abe Meyer holidaying in Gotham with his wife, Lois January . . . Among the celluloid biggies who are cooperating to make a success of benefit dinner dance for Franco-British war relief are: Claudette Colbert, Madeleine Carroll, Pat Paterson, Douglas Fairbanks jr., Edgar Bergen, Adolphe Menjou, Basil Rathbone, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Mary Pickford, Norma Shearer, C. Aubrey Smith, Robert Montgomery, Brian Aherne, Nigel Bruce, Jeanette MacDonald. Alan Mowbray and Ronald Colman are in charge of arrangements.

Rouben Mamoulian back from extended visit in New York.

*

Mitchell Leisen, Paramount director, planed to San Francisco to aid in staging dance routines for his two proteges, Mary "Punkins" Parker and Billy Daniels, at a hotel there . . . Kay Stewart, Paramount player, is spending the Christmas-New Year holidays with her family in Shenandoah, Ia.

*

Honoring Raymond Kelly, national commander of the American Legion, Joseph M. Schenck was host at a luncheon at 20th Century-Fox . . . Producer-Director Edward H. Griffith has planed to Richmond, Va., scouting locations for his next Paramount picture.

*

Jack Warner was host to more than 150 of the nation's leading football coaches at a luncheon at the Warner plant. The grid mentors, here for the annual rules conference, were entertained by a coterie of stars including Errol Flynn, Pat O'Brien, Ann Sheridan, George Brent, John Garfield, Priscilla and Rosemary Lane, Humphrey Bogart, Miriam Hopkins, Frank McHugh, Claude Rains, Jeffrey Lynn and Dennis Morgan . . . William H. Pine, aide to Cecil B. DeMille, has returned from Ontario, Can., where he submitted the script of DeMille's "North West Mounted Police" to heads of the Canadian police force for official approval.

*

Adloph Zukor is back at Paramount after a month visit in Havana . . . Patricia Morison is in from a five-week vacation jaunt in Mexico.

New Academy Ballot Change Is Effected

With ballots scheduled to go into the mail January 19, another important change in the method of procedure governing the 12th annual Awards banquet of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has been made by the rules committee.

At the suggestion of Lewis Milestone, a member of the committee, pictures released locally through January 12 will be eligible for voting. In the past, eligible films have been limited to those nationally released during the period from January 1 to December 31. However, this limitation was amended because, on many occasions, important vehicles are booked earlier in other parts of the country but are held over here until after the Christmas season.

Election of new Academy officers for the coming term has been scheduled for January 16. They will be chosen by the new board of directors, comprising 15 members, which was selected recently in a mail vote. Four Academy representatives will be added to the rules committee after the new officers have been elected.

Hollywood League for Democratic Action

It's the Hollywood League for Democratic Action now.

That is the name by which, henceforth, the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League is to be known, the change having been approved by a majority vote of the membership after a two-week vote. Members agreed that the turn of events abroad and the grave domestic problems today rendered the old cognomen unsuitable. Thus, meeting the New Year with a new name, the film capital's leading organization for the advancement of liberal activity has reaffirmed its aims, during 1940, to keep the United States out of the European conflict and to do everything in its power to protect our nation's bill of rights.

The newly-formed Hollywood Committee to Protect Civil Liberties, designed to publicize the findings of the LaFollette Committee, has appointed Louis Bromfield temporary chairman. Members include James and Lucile Gleason, Cyril Hume, Dalton Trumbo, Dorothy Parker and Alan Campbell, Henry Koster, Garson Kanin, John Cromwell and other notables.

Roosevelt Silent on Details of Company

Although withholding any announcement as to the number of vehicles his new company will produce, their titles or through what corporation he will release, James Roosevelt has moved a substantial step closer toward actual production by filing articles of incorporation for Globe Productions, Inc., with a capitalization of $1,000,000 in preferred stock and 10,000 shares of no-par value, common. Directors of the company include Roosevelt, J. F. T. O'Connor and Miss F. M. Hole, an employe in O'Connor's office.

Roosevelt told BOXOFFICE he will have no announcement to make for several days other than the fact he definitely "does not intend to take time off and go campaigning." The son of the President admitted he has been talking a release with United Artists, but said negotiations were not yet near the signature stage. The new corporation will, according to the articles filed, be enabled to "own, lease or otherwise acquire theatres and broadcasting stations" and to "manufacture, buy and hire all kinds of still and motion pictures." Roosevelt declared, however, he will confine himself to picture-making, at least for the present. The Globe company will headquarter on the Samuel Goldwyn lot, with Roosevelt continuing to function as president of the Samuel Goldwyn Studio Corp.

Other Developments

Venturing into the independent field, Frank Lloyd has pulled out of his producer-director contract at Columbia, taking with him the screen rights to the Elizabeth Page novel, "Tree of Liberty," which he will produce on his own for Columbia release. The film was to have been Lloyd's initialer under his Columbia contract. Lloyd also acquired a script of the novel by Sidney Buchman, which has been completed, and will engage headquarters at General Service studios, planning to swing into action early in February. Negotiations are underway whereby Lloyd may add Jack Skirball, head of Arcadia Productions, to his staff as an associate. Skirball, presently in Hollywood, has encountered several delays, due chiefly to casting difficulties, in getting underway with "Angela Is 22," which he and John Wildberg, Broadway stage impresario, are planning to produce, also for Columbia release.

Definitely abandoning plans to produce its own serials, Columbia has signed Larry Darmour to make three chapter plays for the company's 1940-41 schedule in addition to his regular quota of Jack Holt starrers. The deal was set upon completion of "The Shadow," a serial which Darmour produced for Columbia with Victor Jory starring. First of the three, starting in February, will be "Terry and the Pirates," based on the comic strip by Milton Cariff.

Gene Towne and Graham Baker have announced "Little Men," by Louisa May Alcott, as their third independently produced vehicle for RKO Radio. Starring Moppet Jimmy Lydon, it will follow "Tom Brown's School Days" on the Towne-Baker schedule, rolling early in March.

RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

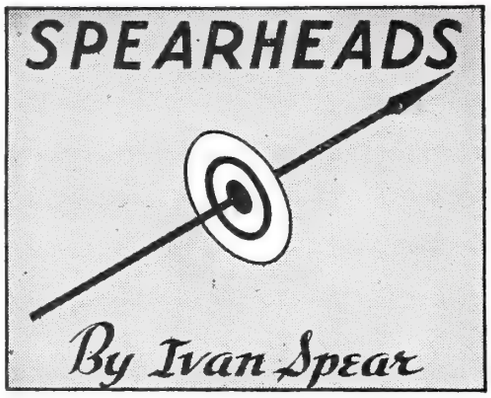
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WHILE history may or may not repeat itself, Metro is gambling a million dollars that the old adage will hold good as concerns Winfield Sheehan's ability to pick unproven actors and actresses and catapult them to the popularity of stardom with one picture. And, even for mighty and opulent Leo, a million dollars isn't tin these days.

It will be recalled that this is the same Sheehan who, at a time when distribution and exhibition circles were clamoring for established names, selected unknown Janet Gaynor for the femme topline in "Seventh Heaven," one of the first pictures he personally produced. What that picture did for the old Fox company and, more importantly, in approaching the topic of star-making, for Janet Gaynor, now is history. Then there was a cute moppet yclept Shirley Temple, she who has definitely gone places, who was given her first big chance —the picture was "Baby Take a Bow"— because the keen Sheehan eye discerned something in her personality and talents which spelled boxoffice.

Again, it was Sheehan who spotted an actor playing an old man in a New York theatre. Deciding he was a "good character actor," the Fox executive decided on giving him his chance in pictures. The result is nobody but filmdom's Paul Muni. Spotting a "tough looking mug" in the play, "The Last Mile," Sheehan brought him to Hollywood—Spencer Tracy. Countless others, including Dolores Del Rio, Warner Baxter, Alice Faye and Robert Taylor, owe their cinematic debuts to Sheehan's recognition of their talents.

Sheehan's return to production, the making of "Florian" for Metro, is in many ways comparably—or even more—experimental. He starts with a story which is certainly off the beaten track. With the exception of Robert Young, those who head the cast are as little known to the fans as were Gaynor, Muni, Temple, Tracy, et al., at the time the producer visioned them as potential stars. Dividing the feminine acting load in "Florian" are Helen Gilbert and Irina Baronova. The former was a cellist in the M-G-M recording orchestra. Her acting experience had been limited to unimportant bits in a "Hardy" and a "Kildare" picture. From all of the available actresses, many of whom boasted established names, Sheehan picked her as best suited for the part. He had seen Baronova dance in Europe, where critics were acclaiming her as a sensational ballerina, perhaps the greatest since Pavlowa. But her name meant little, if anything, to American motion picture audiences. Yet Sheehan selected her for the third most important role in his first productional effort under the Metro banner.

He thinks "Florian" will skyrocket Miss Gilbert and possibly Baronova to immediate stardom, establishing them with one picture as boxoffice names. Metro is betting a cold million he is right.

The industry, which seems agreed that one of its most urgent needs is the discovery of new stars, should be unanimous in hoping that Leo has made a good bet— which he probably has.

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It might be suspected that the number of "sleepers" which came from RKO Radio during the past year is an influencing factor in the rush to make pictures about Rip Van Winkle, with both 20th Century-Fox and Monogram preparing epics about the somnolent life of Washington Irving's snoring Dutchman.

→

Almost too obvious is the opinion that "The Story of Dr. Ehrlich" was retitled "Magic Bullets" by Warner because of Edward G. Robinson's long association with machine guns. Regardless, early reports indicate the picture will be a shot in the arm at the boxoffice.

→

Fox seems to be specializing in "city" pictures, what with "City of Darkness" and "City of Chance" listed among recent releases. Come more prosperous times with the return of production on the grand scale and the studio may graduate from municipalities to commonwealths, in which case "State of Chaos" and "State of Collapse" might prove interesting subjects.

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Whether it relishes the distinction or not, Republic is apparently becoming the Film City's whipping post for recalcitrant Thespics feuding with their home studios. It will be recalled that the threat of a loanout to the Studio City factory was used by 20th Century-Fox to bring the Ritz Brothers back into line when that trio became unjustifiably choosey regarding the vehicle for the last picture on its contract. Now, although the deal is not yet definite, Warner admits that it is "discussing" the advisability of shipping Olivia (Melanie) deHavilland to Republic to supply the "omph," in "The Oomph Girl and the Cowboy." Miss deHavilland, following her triumph in "GWTW," had previously declined the femme lead in "Married, Pretty and Poor," as not being up to her established acting standards.

Bizarre, Brisk and Bungling

King Preview, after reigning supreme on the Hollywood scene for more than two weeks, was forced to relinquish the limelight to Santa Claus as the number of features offered for the blurbs and the barbs of critics dropped to a mere five; affording that ever-hungry aggregation a breathing spell in which to enjoy their fruit cakes, raspberry preserves and other delicacies which this year (probably another "c'est la guerre" repercussion) substituted for the scotch and brandy which featured the studios' Yuletide bounteousness in more prosperous days.

So, between spells of heartburn, the reviewers were almost agreed that Hal Roach's "Of Mice and Men," for United Artists release, was the best of the quintette. Those who transformed John Steinbeck's powerful, realistic novel of the same name to the screen emerged triumphant in every respect, whipping the problems which confronted them because of the psychological and sociological ramifications of the book. An enormous share of the credit for an intensely dramatic feature must go to Lewis Milestone, who produced and directed with sensitivity and intelligence. Further, Eugene Solow, upon whom devolved the responsibility of adapting Steinbeck's strong drama into screenplay form, came through with flying colors. Tops in the flawless cast are Burgess Meredith and Lon Chaney jr., the latter portraying the dim-witted "Lennie."

Of next importance was Metro's "The Earl of Chicago." This, too, departed from the usual "boy meets girl" formula and, because of its unusually bizarre subject, is deserving of whole-hearted praise. However, its fate in the American market, because of its tendency toward glorifying the tradition of the British peerage, is somewhat dubious; albeit the empire and its possessions will undoubtedly find it to their liking. Produced painstakingly by Victor Saville, it was penetratingly directed by Richard Thorpe from an ably-written screenplay by Lester Samuels. The script was based on a story by Charles de Grandcourt and Gene Fowler and a novel by Brock Williams. Robert Montgomery, portraying a tough Chicago mug who inherits an English estate, once again demonstrates the versatility which he exhibited earlier in the somewhat comparable "Night Must Fall."

* * *

Exceptionally acceptable programmers came from Republic in "Money to Burn" and from Warner, which offered "Calling Philo Vance." The former is a clean, wholesome comedy having to do with the further adventures of the "Higgins Family," replete with hearty laughs and mirthful situations and comparable with any of the less pretentious home-and-fireside series films from other studios.

"Calling Philo Vance" is a well-plotted mystery, reviving the screen career of one of fiction's most popular detectives and certain to be well-liked by audiences as a concisely-handled action yarn.

And to make the aforementioned fruit cake even more indigestible, there was 20th Century-Fox's "City of Chance." It barely qualifies as a supporting programmer.

Changes at Republic Plant Trail Yates' Departure

Just prior to his departure for New York after an extended stay at the North Hollywood studio, Herbert J. Yates, chairman of Republic's board, made a number of changes in the production and executive setup at the plant. Maurice Hanline has been named assistant to Albert Cohen, studio-story editor, replacing Henri Verstappen, who turned in his resignation. Hanline moves over from the writing staff. Two new readers have been added to Cohen's department—Stephen Auer, who has been in the production office, and Lorraine Holliday. George Sherman, for several years a director on the lot, has been made a producer-director and will be placed in charge of a new western unit, which will supplement the present Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and Three Mesquiteers series. Further, Edward Gross, who joined the production staff some time ago, has been given a term contract as an associate producer.

Other Changes

Sol M. Wurtzel has named Clay Adams to take charge of the story idea department for his production unit at 20th Century-Fox.

Warner has expanded its writing staff by adding three scenarists—Tom Reed, Lee Katz and Robert Kent. At the same time, however, Ulrich Steindorf completed a scripting assignment and checked off the lot.

Fred Kohlmar, associate producer at Columbia, will leave the studio January 5 upon expiration of his contract. He has just completed "Double in Diamonds," featuring Warren William.

Preliminary reports from Central Casting indicate that, insofar as extras are concerned, 1939 has been a fairly prosperous year, with earnings increasing some $400,000 over 1938 and placements jumping about 40,000 over the previous period.

Sol Lesser Gives Workers Week's Salary for Xmas

A Christmas bonus of one week's salary, regardless of wage brackets, was Sol Lesser's Yuletide gift to employes of his production organization. In order to assure Christmas money for the staff, he also moved the regular payday up five days.

Jean Parker to Monogram For "Son of the Navy"

Monogram has ticketed Jean Parker for the feminine lead in "Son of the Navy," rolling early this month from a story by Grover Jones and True Boardman. The story was first produced over the air on the Lux radio program.

Starts Holt Starrer

Larry Darmour started shooting on the Jack Holt starrer for Columbia, "Passport to Alcatraz." Lewis D. Collins is directing. A story of immigration problems during wartime, the screenplay was written by Albert DeMond from his own original.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

CALLING PHILO VANCE (WB)—Unimpressively produced but certain to be liked by audiences who will react favorably to the concise manner in which the intrigue is handled and the mystery of the stolen airplane plans solved. James Stephenson, Margot Stevenson. William Clemens directed.

CITADEL OF SILENCE (SR)—Slow-moving, strong drama that starts slowly, but hits an emotional peak. The story has a patriotic Polish woman add her bit toward liberation of her country from Russia when, as the wife of a prison commandant, she makes possible a mutiny and eventual liberation by the political prisoners incarcerated. Annabella, Pierre Renoir. Marcel L'Herbier directed.

EARL OF CHICAGO (M-G-M)—A bizarre undertaking that merits praise for its deviation from the beaten track in film fare. Robert Montgomery again demonstrates versatility as a Chicago liquor dealer, who inherits an English estate, a windfall climaxed by his being convicted of murder and hanged in the Tower of London. Edward Arnold, Reginald Owen. Richard Thorpe directed.

INVISIBLE STRIPES (WB)—Has nothing in story, cast or motivation to distinguish it from the many other prison-gangster pictures which have come from the same studio, and, therefore, will serve best in entertaining those patrons who never tire of that type of film. George Raft is more than ordinarily inept as the ex-convict who finds it impossible to go straight and makes the supreme sacrifice to save a kid brother from a similar fate. Lloyd Bacon directed; Louis F. Edelman produced.

TWO'S COMPANY (SR)—Audiences will laugh at, not with, this film. Its chief virtue is Ned Sparks, whose concern is to get romantically together with Mary Brian. Tim Whelan directed.

COMPLETE REVIEWS on the above pictures will appear in an early issue of BOXOFFICE.

Fairbanks Starrer Not For Reissue, Says UA

Los Angeles—Although considerable interest has been displayed by local exhibitors concerning the question of whether there will be a general reissue of films starring the late Douglas Fairbanks, who died recently, officials of the United Artists exchange have declared officially that the majority of pictures in which the star appeared are the company's property and will not be released.

To date the only Fairbanks vehicle being re-issued is "Reaching for the Moon," one of the star's late screen appearances, to which distribution rights in this territory have been acquired by the Majestic Distributing Corp.

Grainger In From Gotham For Product Conferences

Discussing current and future product with M. J. Siegel, Republic production head, James R. Grainger, sales manager for the company, has checked in from New York for a short stay. During his visit Grainger also will huddle with San Francisco and Los Angeles exchange heads. He arrived only shortly after Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the Republic board of directors, left for the east after a stay of more than a month at the studio.

Planning to enter the feature-length cartoon field, Walter Lantz, who has been producing short animated comics for Universal release, headed for New York to set a release for his new enterprise. Film will be made in Technicolor and will supplement his regular quota of short subjects for Universal during the 1940-41 season. Lantz owns rights to "Pandora's Box," "The Old Woman in the Shoe" and "Jack the Giant Killer," from one of which properties the full-length cartoon will be made.

W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, left for New York after a short studio visit, during which he attended the premiere of "The Gentleman From Arizona," first in a series of westerns, in Phoenix. He will return some time this month for a lengthy stay.

A visitor at Columbia is Abe Montague, sales manager. He has been conferring with President Harry Cohn concerning product and sales policies for the new season.

With RKO Radio planning to revive its English production unit, William Sistrom will be dispatched to London shortly to resume charge of the company's picture-making activities there. Two stories are being readied, both dealing with phases of Britain's part in the European War.

Walt Disney Beginning to Move Into Burbank Plant

Although considerable work remains to be done before the enterprise is completed, employes of the Walt Disney cartoon studio have begun moving into the new Burbank plant. Finished to date are the main animation building, camera department and four stages. In process of construction are a theatre, restaurant, administration building and the inking and painting unit.

The unit which has been in rented quarters on Seward Street, working on "Bambi," was the first to move into the new Burbank studio. They are being followed by various departments currently being housed at the Hyperion Avenue plant.

Mary Martin Cast for Benny-Allen Comedy

Paramount has assigned Mary Martin to the top feminine role in the forthcoming Jack Benny-Fred Allen comedy. As yet untitled, the film is scheduled to go before the cameras next July with Mark Sandrich as producer-director.

Hempstead's RKO Starter

As his initial assignment under his new RKO Radio contract, Producer David Hempstead will guide "Kitty Foyle."

Hollywood Personnelities

Barnstormers

—Metro

ILONA MASSEY back from her appearance at the New York premiere of "Balalaika."

—Paramount

BOB HOPE to San Francisco for one-night charity appearance at the *Call-Bulletin's* annual Christmas Fund party.

—Republic

ROY ROGERS, singing cowboy, opens short personal appearance tour in Seattle.

—20th Century-Fox

SHIRLEY TEMPLE will make her first theatre personal appearance in support of a picture when "The Blue Bird" has its roadshow opening in San Francisco. Studio will send DON AMECHE, HENRY FONDA, ALICE FAYE, BRENDA JOYCE, and other members of the cast for similar chores in eastern cities.

Cleffers

—Metro

ARTHUR ROSENSTEIN, M-G-M vocal coach, who conducted for ROSE PAULY when she was an opera star conducted the orchestra when she sang for the Finnish Relief Society of Los Angeles.

—Paramount

TROY SANDERS assigned as musical advisor on the night club sequences of "Golden Gloves."

VICTOR YOUNG draws the chore of writing the score for "Road to Singapore." SIGMUND KRUMGOLD is the scorer.

—RKO Radio

JOE MCCARTHY writing lyrics for new songs in "Irene."

—20th Century-Fox

Three songs purchased to be sung by Dorothy Lamour in "Dance With the Devil." They include "Your Kiss," by ALFRED NEWMAN, studio musical director, with lyrics by FRANK LOESSER; "Dancing for Nickels and Dimes," by LOESSER and LIONEL NEWMAN, and "This Is the Beginning of the End," by MACK GORDON.

Meggers

—Universal

ARTHUR LUBIN assigned piloting job on "Black Friday."

JOE MAY to "The House of Seven Gables."

Options

—Metro

LEON GORDON and GEORGE FROESCHEL, writers, given new term contracts.

JOHN GOULDER given writing contract.

JAMES EDWARD GRANT added to writing staff.

—Paramount

ELEANOR GRIFFIN joins writing staff.

—20th Century-Fox

WILLIAM ANTHONY MCGUIRE given new long-term writing contract. He has just completed "Lillian Russell."

JOAN DAVIS, now working in the sequel to "Hotel for Women," lifted.

—Warner Bros.

MILTON KRIMS, writer, given a new term contract, which becomes effective January 5.

TOM REED, LEE KATZ and ROBERT KENT have been re-signed to the writing staff.

Scripters

—Metro

JOHN MCCLAIN teamed with ALICE DUER MILLER on "One Came Home." AL LEVOY will produce.

NIKKI JUSTON working on "Never Say Love," JACK CUMMINGS producing, EDDIE BUZZELL directing.

—Paramount

JACQUES THERY draws screenplay of "Ghost Music."

—20th Century-Fox

FRANCES HYLAND and LESTER ZIFFREN to script of "Charlie Chan's Oriental Cruise."

FREDERICK HAZLITT BRENNAN on screenplay of "Sweetheart of Turret One," SOL WURTZEL production.

SAM HELLMAN writing screenplay for "The Return of Frank James," sequel to "Jesse James," in which Henry Fonda will be starred.

LEE LOEB to an untitled original for the new "Cisco Kid" series. SOL WURTZEL will produce.

ERNEST PASCAL to "Rip Van Winkle."

LAMARR TROTTI doing polishing job on script of "Hudson Bay."

—Universal

PAUL YAWITZ, having done the original, is assigned to the screenplay of "They're All Crazy," in which Mischa Auer will be toplined.

—Walter Wanger

JAMES HILTON reports for scripting chore on "Personal History," ALFRED HITCHCOCK directing.

—Warner Bros.

EARL BALDWIN is assigned to script of "Brother Orchid" which is being readied for a start early in 1940 under production guidance of MARK HELLINGER.

WARNER DUFF and JOHN WEXLEY have completed the screenplay of "City for Conquest."

TOM MCKNIGHT, radio writer, engaged to work with Elsa Maxwell on the script of her first featurette, "How Not to Give a Party."

CHARLES TEDFORD has turned in his screenplay for "The Wilderness Scout," historical featurette.

Story Buys

—Metro

"Whitechapel" by Leo Birinski and Kurt Siodmac. It is a story of London's slums.

"Osborne of Sing Sing," by Jonathan Finn and Harold Friedman, dealing with the life of Thomas Mott Osborne, former prison warden.

"Never Say Love," by Stanley Rauh and Adele Comandini.

"To Own the World," by Dalton Trumbo. Trumbo has been signed to script.

—Paramount

"Skylark," by Samson Raphaelson, tentatively as a starring vehicle for Claudette Colbert.

"Shepherd of the Hills," by Harold Bell Wright, purchased from Warner.

—RKO Radio

Christopher Morley's "Kitty Foyle."

Technically

—Sol Lesser Productions

ED GOODNOW signed as technical advisor on "Our Town." He was associated with the production of the stage play.

NED LAMBERT to supervise costuming on "Our Town."

—Metro

JERRY BRESLER named unit manager and SANDY ROTH assistant director on "Wings Over the Desert," LUCIAN HUBBARD production which EDWIN L. MARIN will direct.

BILL CANNON named unit manager on "Waterloo Bridge," a Sidney Franklin production.

JOHN DETLIE set as unit art director on "Edison, the Man."

HORACE HOUGH made assistant director under RICHARD THORPE on "Twenty Mule Team."

HAL ROSSON heads camera crew on "Edison, the Man."

AL SHENBERG set as assistant director on "Waterloo Bridge."

—Paramount

ANTHONY BRIGANTI, WHITNEY SMITH and FRANK GRUYS join the staff of W. L. PEREIRA, architect who is designing the company's new 200-acre studio in West Los Angeles.

ERNEST FEGTE assigned as set designer on "Woman From Hell," which DIRECTOR JAMES HOGAN will start next week.

HARRY MILLS, sound mixer, takes over duties of his chief, WILLIAM L. THAYER, currently vacationing in Ensenada.

THEODOR SPARKUHL to photograph "Woman From Hell." JAMES HOGAN directs.

A miniature scene-marking slate which will be instrumental in saving more than $5,000 annually at Paramount Studio, has been perfected by LOREN L. RYDER, sound chief.

—RKO Radio

GENE YARBOROUGH directing Ray Whitley musical short, third in the series LOU BROCK is producing.

—Warner Bros.

FREDERIC LINDSLEY completes narration for "Teddy, the Rough Rider," a Technicolor historical featurette.

WARREN LOWE completes editing of "Magic Bullets," forthcoming Edward G. Robinson starrer.

Zion Myers to Benny's Next

Zion Myers, who wrote "Buck Benny Rides Again," assigned to the next comedy starring Jack Benny to be produced and directed by Mark Sandrich. A title has not yet been selected.

Andy Devine to P. A. 8 Weeks

Andy Devine opens in Indianapolis early in January. To be on road for eight weeks.

PORTLAND

SOMEONE remarked that regardless of what you think of Christmas, it occurs. That's a one-sentence summary of the week's news in the Portland theatre world. Most exchanges and a number of theatres staged parties for employes and, generally speaking, the three-day festival was observed quietly. Burden of the New Year celebration fell on the willing shoulders of Howard Mapes of the Star Film exchange. He prepared for unprecedented demands on the output of what he puts out at his annual party, which began Saturday afternoon, December 30. Howard plays host to anyone with theatre or motion picture connections, and the only limitations are those imposed by transportation facilities. In other words, there are no geographical boundaries. All one has to do is to get there.

Class A theatres scheduled no special stage shows for New Year's Eve. J. J. Parker and Hamrick-Evergreen theatres jumped the admissions to 75 cents at 7 p. m. and ran their regular shows through, with a complete show after midnight.

Directors of the newly-formed organization of independent theatre owners of Oregon, at an interim meeting, called a general meeting for Tuesday, January 23, in Portland. They want a full attendance of exhibitors for needed action on organizational matters. By-laws and the selection of an executive secretary are now under consideration by special committees. Bob White of Portland presided at the directors' meeting as temporary chairman and Don Meyers of La Grande, previously elected to the board in his absence, attended.

Trailer shots: Mr. and Mrs. Dick Fisk toasting Christmas and preparing for an early start back to Bandon and business . . . Johnny Harvey fortifying himself with coffee before tackling the over-Christmas accumulation of mail at Universal . . . W. M. Morlock, up from Cottage Grove and almost a stranger . . . Hamrick-Evergreen employes getting Christmas checks for sales of scrip books . . . Mary Greely enjoying her first holiday season in the new home at Vancouver.

Thanks to 20th-Fox for the apple, souvenir of the Christmas party . . . Ted Hackley of Universal and George De Waid of Paramount spent Christmas in Seattle . . . Ina Mays of 20th-Fox and Margaret North of Hamrick-Evergreen went home to Astoria, and Kirk McGowan of the B. F. Shearer Co., to Walla Walla . . . Employes of all Hamrick-Evergreen houses partook of turkey dinners at parties of their own during Christmas week.

Orville Reynolds, former manager of the Hollywood and more recently assistant manager of the Liberty, has left the theatre business flat to operate a couple of restaurants in Newport. Lee Adcock is the new assistant manager at the Liberty . . . Captain Jesse A. Tiffany, a Portland resident and retired member of the Philippine constabulary, made a personal appearance at the Capitol in Vancouver in connection with the showing of "The Real Glory." Later appearances at the Oriental and Hollywood here were scheduled.

"Gulliver" Setting Record Pace

Los Angeles—The showing of "Gulliver's Travels" gave the Paramount Theatre here its strongest opening day of the past 12 months, reports Manager Harry Wallen. The cartoon feature is expected to do a $25,000 business by the end of the week.

New Policy Follows Suburban Revamp

WEST LOS ANGELES—Completely remodeled at a cost of some $12,000, the Nuart in the Santa Monica bay district also has revived its exhibition policies whereby the Wednesday-Saturday program will be a single feature, with short subjects, and the Sunday-Tuesday change will, as in the past, include a double feature. The theatre's new dress was called to the attention of residents of the community during "Nuart Anniversary Week," during which a special supplement, publicizing the theatre, its staff and forthcoming programs, was prepared for the West Los Angeles *Independent*, a neighborhood newspaper.

Remodeling included a new five-color marquee, new lounge rooms with modern chrome furnishings, harmonizing carpets and drapes, and new electrical fixtures. Russell Hoss manages the house for its owners, Scott Bayliss and George Bourke, who also operate the Tivoli Theatre in this area.

Hulls Will Start Building 700-Seater at Ely, Nev.

SALT LAKE CITY—P. W. and S. W. Hull will start construction of a new theatre at Ely, Nev., within a few days.

The theatre, to be called the Hull, will have a seating capacity of 700, all on the ground floor, and a parking lot with a capacity of 200 cars. The Hulls at present operate houses at Ruth, Austin, Ely, Fallon and Virginia City, Nev.

Two Remodeled FWC Houses Are Opened

LOS ANGELES—FOX West Coast has reopened two theatres after extensive alterations and remodeling. Approximately $35,000 was expended on the Valley, in North Hollywood, while the circuit spent some $18,000 modernizing the Maywood, in Maywood, recently purchased from Gene O'Keefe.

Aero Theatre Opens in Santa Monica, Cal.

SANTA MONICA, CAL.—Built by the Aero Theatre Corp., headed by Roy Cummings and backed by Donald Douglas of the Douglas Aircraft Corp., the new Aero opened December 30. A 655-seat house, it is located near the giant Douglas airplane factory.

LOS ANGELES

CARROLL PEACOCK, Paramount branch manager, and family spent the Christmas weekend at Laguna Beach . . . Seriously ill in Palm Springs is Willard Patterson, aide to Joseph Bernhard, head of Warner circuit operations in this area. Patterson has been on leave for the past two months endeavoring to regain his health.

Making it a dual celebration, two local exhibitors chose the Christmas holidays to take unto themselves a wife. Al Olander, operator of the Vogue in Montebello, was married to Helen Smith, an Omaha, Neb., girl, while Jack Fader of the Roxy, Long Beach, and Ruth Cherkin, of the same city, also tied the knot . . . Al Bowman, who has been managing the Oriental for the Carlin-Sinker circuit, joins Universal after January 1 as a traveling salesman. He will work with the sales staffs of various U exchanges throughout the country.

Rube Wolf again takes up his baton at the Paramount after several months' absence. The house reopened after a week's shutdown for repairs . . . Roy D. Drachman, manager of the Fox at Tucson, Ariz., returns after brief visit here . . . The new Aero, Santa Monica, opens December 30.

Warner salesmen are girding their loins for the annual Grad Sears sales drive which got under way on December 24 and runs through April 13 . . . Al O'Keefe, Universal district sales manager, is back from New York in time for the holidays . . . The Maynard's contribution to the Yuletide spirit was another triple-feature horror bill including "Dracula," "The Man They Couldn't Hang" and "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."

John Ludwig has reduced admission prices at his newly-opened Melvan from 25 to 15 cents . . . A visitor at the ITO offices was Frederick Feher, conductor of the national philharmonic symphony orchestra.

Kenneth Elliott, accessories booker at National Screen Service, has been promoted to the special sales department, replacing George Mitchell. Latter will be transferred to Seattle January 10 as a territorial salesman for NSS . . . Exhibitors along the Row are squawking long and loud about the after-Christmas slump at the boxoffice.

Filmrow was jarred out of its lethargy for a few seconds when one of Southern California's highly-touted earthquakes shook things up a bit. No damage reported, however . . . Exchanges are all waiting until after New Year's before sending their salesmen out on trips through the territory.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
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LOS ANGELES

SEATTLE

XMAS arrived in this northwest spot with a beautiful sunshiny day. Looked more like spring than winter. Stores reported the biggest buying since 1929, but the theatres did nothing to rave about . . . Bill Stober had a very busy Christmas day with the opening of the Lake Burien Theatre. This is about the most unique house in the northwest and was built by Mel Sohns. All branches of the show business were represented at the opening and the public response was gratifying . . . J. T. Sheffield, president of the Northwest Film Club, has called a meeting for next week. This is the first official meeting since Sheff took office . . . Ben Shearer made Xmas happy for the youngsters of film employes. Ben held a special party and preview for the children in his Jewel Box and a large group was on hand.

Ben Roscoe jr., manager of Roy Rogers, is in town making arrangements for the personal appearance of the singing cowboy. Ben tells of his boss giving up his Christmas holidays in order to fullfill appearance contracts made some time ago . . . George Blair has bought out his partners in the Rendezvous and is now sole owner. This means George will be on the job 24 hours a day . . . Joe Worley, for many years stagehand at the Orpheum, is going around introducing his daughter Sylvia, who is visiting from Honolulu. Sylvia is a trouper and works under the name of Varden and is getting ready to open with a new production in Honolulu on January 1 . . . Allen Burden, representing Chief Thunder Cloud, is in town arranging for personal appearances for the Indian actor with the opening of the picture "Geronimo."

James R. Grainger in by plane from Salt Lake, then, after a special meeting with the Republic gang, off to San Francisco . . . Bill Parker back from Portland but a mighty sick boy. Bill is still laid up with sinus . . . John and Mrs. Hamrick off to New York to be there by New Year's. From there they will visit Miami, Fla., New Orleans, and then to Palm Springs where they purchased a home last year . . . Leroy and Alys Johnson celebrating their 23rd wedding anniversary . . . The Bjarne Moes in a new home for the holidays. They have moved to Magnolia Bluff . . . Myke Lewis, former district manager for Paramount, and now personal representative for Harry Sherman, in from Los Angeles.

Art and Mrs. Bisholl celebrating their 34th wedding anniversary, which is some kind of a record, we think . . . Howard McBride of Spokane, Bill Ripley of Longview and E. Groesbeck of Enumclaw among those in town to attend the meeting of the trustees of the newly organized Independent Theatre Owners . . . Cecil Gwinn well enough to go home to Centralia and stay for a couple of days . . . Rollin Burfield, who for many years operated a theatre in Shelton, passed away at Olalla . . . Neal and Ethel Walton and Ray and Dorothy Ackles off to Los Angeles for the holidays and the Rose Bowl game . . . Dwight Spracher and Glenn Haviland getting away immediately after the Paramount party for California where they will meet Mrs. Spracher, who preceded them . . . Henry Sonnenshine and his son, accompanied by Marty Powell, in for a visit with Wayne Christy of Premiere Pictures.

Addie and Cy Young and Opal and Al Ferdon away to Spokane for the Christmas dinner . . . Word from Denver that Olaf Wog, salesman for Universal there, is confined to the Soldiers' Hospital in Colorado . . . Happy New Year!

"Will Be Seeing You"

●

POPCORN SMITH

BOX 284 — SEATTLE

PCCITO Board Meet Set Early January

LOS ANGELES—After a series of conferences lasting more than a week, Robert H. Poole, executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, has announced a meeting of the board of trustees will be scheduled early in January. Poole has been huddling with James Hone, executive secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Washington, Northern Idaho and Alaska, who checked in December 22 and headed home a week later. The northern ITO group is a member of the PCCITO.

At the meeting of the trustees, Poole said, activities of the conference for the coming year will be mapped out in detail, as well as the part the various independent theatre organizations within its fold will play in its development in the future. Poole is also executive director of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz.

Funeral Arrangements Are Made for Emmett Hoss

LOS ANGELES—Funeral arrangements are being made for Emmett Hoss, 21, formerly connected with the local editorial staff of BOXOFFICE as Filmrow correspondent, who died at Hollywood Hospital December 26 as the result of an automobile accident Christmas Eve. A coroner's inquest was ordered, death having come as a result of severe head injuries incurred in the crash.

He was the son of Lon Hoss, local Universal film salesman, and had been attending the University of Southern California. Surviving are his parents and a brother, Russell, manager of the Nuart Theatre in Sawtelle.

S' FRANCISCO

THE "tiny loophole" that remained when the San Francisco Golden Gate Exposition was "definitely" abandoned for 1940 proved a regular keyhole for the Fair for '40 committee and this week Treasure Island was assured a second year's run. The dates for the return engagement have been set for May 25 to September 29, approximately four and one-half months. The creditors, who have been holding up the Fair for '40 have been given their choice —accept about 20 cents on the dollar now or string along with the Exposition and take the chance of realizing 100 per cent on their investment.

Ed Beck, M-G-M exploiteer for the Bay area, is in Hollywood for the preview of "Gone With the Wind." Ed will pick up some loose ends that have been hanging fire regarding the picture's opening locally. It seems there is no roadshow house with the required capacity and so it will play in a Market St. theatre on a roadshow basis. However, there will be three showings daily, morning, afternoon and evening. It will bow in sometime in February.

Some of choicest screen offerings to appear simultaneously here brightened up the Xmas week at the downtown theatres. Second only to the Xmas turkey were the following: "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at the Golden Gate; "Swanee River" at the Fox; "Destry Rides Again" at the Orpheum; and "Balalaika" at the Warfield. Also drawing capacity crowds of holiday movie-goers were "First Love" in its third week, and "Tower of London," also in its third week.

The Row was exceedingly quiet with everyone resting up from numerous Xmas parties. All were conserving their strength and thirst for the anticipated celebrations planned for greeting the New Year. Exhibitors were sticking close to their own fireside and visitors to the Row were few and far between. What was being said, we pass along to you, just as we heard it— HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Chain Buys Warner

LOS ANGELES—The Carlin-Sinker circuit has closed a deal for the Warner-First National product lineup for its chain of three houses here, the Alvarado, Empire and Oriental.

Building, Remodeling Set Fast Pace

Los Angeles—A building and remodeling spree is keynoting exhibition circles here as 1939 fades into 1940.

Al Minor is remodeling his Loma Theatre in Burbank and Mrs. Max Schott has announced plans to rebuild a storage plant on Santa Monica Blvd., in Hollywood, into a 700-seat theatre. Cost will be around $24,000. Ben Mohi has started construction of the Picfare, a 750-seater, in West Los Angeles, planning to open late in February. Julius Stern will build a new 700-seat theatre on Hollywood Blvd.

Wisconsin Showmen Play Santa Claus

MILWAUKEE — Wisconsin exhibitors relieved tired mothers of their youngsters December 23 with special shows which included free gifts which, in many instances, were dispensed by Santa Claus.

Biggest co-operative affair was at Racine where 12,000 school children were treated to free show and goodies at the city's nine theatres. Tickets for the theatres were distributed to the youngsters up to 14 years of age in 22 public and 11 parochial schools. The ducats were of different color, each one being good for a different theatre to avoid overcrowding. The affair was staged through the cooperation of a Christmas Goodwill committee which raised several thousand dollars for expenses through a "Night of Stars" party and entertainment.

Santa Claus was on hand with gifts for youngsters attending Warner-Saxe's Garfield, Modjeska, Egyptian, Lake, Savoy, Juneau, Uptown, National and Milwaukee theatres on Saturday afternoon and at the circuit's Parkway, Tivoli, Mirth and Granada on Sunday afternoon.

H. J. Mirisch's Tower and Oriental theatres also were hosts to the kids at a Saturday matinee Christmas party.

State theatres staging parties either independently or in cooperation with business houses, civic groups, newspapers, etc., included the Capitol at Madison; the Bay, Orpheum and Strand in Green Bay; the Times and Strand in Oshkosh; the Kenosha and Orpheum in Kenosha; the Myers and Jeffris, Janesville; the Superior and Palace, Superior; the Majestic, Rex and Van Der Vaart, Sheboygan; the Appleton in Appleton; the State and Badger, Eau Claire; the Fox, Marinette.

In addition to these special parties, canned goods shows were held at the Badger Theatre in Merrill; the Capitol and Strand, Manitowoc; the Plaza, Burlington; the Hollywood, La Crosse, and the Sheboygan and Rex, Sheboygan.

The Brin at Menasha and the Embassy at Neenah, offered a special concession on Wednesday and Thursday in the form of a 15-cent admission to adults presenting the theatre's newspaper advertisement. On the same days, the Kenosha Theatre in Kenosha offered $500 in merchandise gifts as the theatre's Christmas present to its patrons. Dr. W. H. Finney presented a free matinee for children and adults December 23 at his Grand in Clintonville.

32,000 Baskets of Food Taken In by Theatres

CHICAGO—More than 32,000 baskets were filled for poor families from the canned goods and other foods brought to the 300 some Chicago theatres who participated in the fifth annual Movie Christmas Basket Parties.

Best gag of all reported was that of the Adelphi patron, who after having seen the show, which contained one feature only, remarked to Owner Ludwig Sussman: "I brought two cans of food; give me one back, I thought it was a double feature."

Writes "Cisco" Original

HOLLYWOOD—Lee Loeb has been assigned to write an untitled original as the basis for the next in the "Cisco Kid" series for 20th-Fox. Sol Wurtzel will produce.

Start Villa Grove Gem

VILLA GROVE, ILL.—Work has been started on the construction of the new Gem.



Critics' Juniors Attend Screening—

The children of Chicago's film critics and newspaper men and women are the special guests of the Cinema Theatre at a screening of Paramount's "Gulliver's Travels," which opened Christmas Day at the Roosevelt.

More Auxiliary Entertainment Bolsters Wisconsin Films

MILWAUKEE—An increasing number of local and out-state theatres are using specialties in the form of amateur and quiz shows to augment the regular film fare on certain nights in the week.

Locally for example, Fox's State has been offering stage shows on Sundays; the Juneau, Parkway and Colonial have been presenting amateur shows on Fridays; the National and Granada on Saturdays; the Savoy on Wednesdays; the Riviera and Regal on Mondays and the Mirth on Sundays.

The Venetian, Paradise and Varsity have given Saturday midnight shows featuring eight acts of vaudeville a whirl, while organ music has been revived at the Colonial and Liberty. The Capitol is offering WRJN talent night on Fridays, while the Plaza at Burlington airs a Saturday matniee show over the same station from the theatre stage.

The Astor here puts on a talent revue on Thursdays while the Rialto at Kaukauna stages talent nights on Fridays and Saturdays.

The Fox at Marinette is airing an amateur show from its stage each Sunday afternoon over WMAM, while the Fond du Lac at Fond du Lac is presenting "Know Miss Fond du Lac" from the theatre each Wednesday afternoon over KFIZ.

In addition, theatres are presenting in various spots quiz programs. Locally, the Riverside stages "What's the Answer" each Thursday with cash prizes and airing over WEMP. Warner-Saxe's Garfield offers the Atlas Quiz Quest each Friday aired over WISN, while the Plaza stages "Ten-O-Quiz" on Monday nights without radio hookup.

The Sheboygan at Sheboygan is airing "Answer This" each Wednesday over station WHBL. A crew of station announcers work the aisles of the theatre with the mikes. The Bay at Green Bay is now offering "Brain Busters" each Wednesday night over WTAQ, while the Palace at Antigo is featuring "Question Mat" each Sunday afternoon. Programs in many instances are commercially sponsored.

Another form of auxiliary entertainment is crazy auction which is getting a play on the stage of the Rialto in Racine each Wednesday night.

Indianapolis May Get the Premiere of "Seventeen"

INDIANAPOLIS—J. H. Stevens, Paramount branch head, says his company is considering the idea of a world premiere in Indianapolis for Booth Tarkington's "Seventeen," which is not to be released until after the first of the year.

Tarkington will be in the city after January 1 and presumably would cooperate in any kind of a celebration which might attend the event. Then, too, the idea has been broached of turning the premiere into a statewide testimonial to Tarkington, one of Indiana's most noted authors.

Receivership Hearing Resumed by Oakley

ST. LOUIS—Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley has resumed hearings to determine whether he will make permanent the temporary receivership for IATSE Local No. 143.

The hearing was delayed at the request of Munro Roberts, attorney for 103 defense intervenors, who are opposed to the ouster of John P. Nick, IATSE vice-president, and Clyde A. Weston, business agent of the union, who were deposed from control over the assets and affairs of the local under the temporary receivership order issued by Judge Oakley last April.

Roberts said he desired more time to study the law in connection with the court's ruling that the evidence presented by the intervenors must be confined to the issue as to whether the plaintiffs, 66 anti-Nick faction union members, had exhausted all of their remedies within the union before taking their grievances into court.

Hampton Albright, an intervenor, testified Nick "was doing a bang-up job of running the union before the temporary receivers were named last spring."

He asserted Local 143 was full of hatred and strife before Nick took charge in July, 1935, and that Nick had straightened out the organization's affairs.

Asked if he wanted the local autonomy restored, which the plaintiffs seek, Albright said he would welcome it "under proper circumstances." Such circumstances would be that the local was in the good graces of organized labor and the international union of the projectionists.

An early defense witness was Thomas J. Canavan. Another was Edward O. Brandstetter, who testified: "It seemed as if the arguments stopped and everything was more orderly after Nick stepped in." Canavan said that in April, 1938, a resolution requesting Nick to remain in charge of the union was signed by 155 members, a majority. Canavan was secretary of the union in 1937 and 1938.

Judge Oakley barred evidence intended to show that operators were required to turn over 15 per cent of their pay to an officer of the union back in 1930 in order to keep their jobs. Questions as to his salary and checks issued by Brandstetter in 1930 were barred by the court.

UA Publicity Men to Work With Great States Chain

CHICAGO — The first mass exploitation campaign for a UA picture on the Great States circuit has been worked out by UA's Monroe Greenthal and Great States' J. J. Rubens.

Placed in charge of Art Catlin, midwest exploiteer, the plan calls for coverage of 18 Great States towns in about two and a half weeks, with openings correspondingly close. A 950-line ad is being used in every town, 100,000 heralds, 160 24-sheets, and two-week-in advance-teaser-ads are being used by Catlin.



Mrs. Phil Fischer—

Miss Kay Brodell, Chicago dancer, who was to be married Saturday to Phil Fischer, president of Hollywood Amusement Co. of Chicago. Following their marriage, they will motor to Florida where they will spend several weeks on their honeymoon.

All of B&K Houses Are GWTW Possibilities

CHICAGO—While according to John Balaban of B&K there has been no discussion of where "Gone With the Wind" will play in the Chicago loop when it opens here January 25, every one of the circuit's loop houses have been mentioned as possibilities.

One thing is certain, and that is the film will open at two houses simultaneously. And of the two houses constantly mentioned the Apollo is always one of them. It is here the film will continue what is expected to be a record loop run, after it leaves the second house, where it probably will be a reserved seat sale affair, at two-a-day.

Most suggested of the other houses are the United Artists and the State-Lake. The latter is being suggested for its capacity, but vaudeville would have to be suspended there for a few weeks if the State-Lake were used.

Art Baker Brings Show To Shut-in Children

INDIANAPOLIS—Through the cooperation of Art Baker, manager of the Circle, patients at James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children were given a "preview" of the movie, "Gulliver's Travels." It was the first time a sound film ever has been shown in the hospital.

L. D. Kolhmeyer, head of the Kolograph Equipment Co., and the Cambridge Transfer Co., provided special equipment which was installed in the occupational therapy shop of the hospital.

The Circle projectionists, E. Daugherty, John Kentnick, Earl Slater and Pherris King donated their services in installing equipment and Harold Braun, Filmrow operator, showed the film.

Directs "Black Friday"

HOLLYWOOD—Arthur Lubin will direct "Black Friday" for Universal.

Telenews Debuts With Fanfare in the Loop

CHICAGO — The Windy City's newsreel house, the Telenews, opened with typical fanfare in the loop.

The initial showing was for the benefit of the Newsboys Ass'n. A second showing on the opening night was for the trade, with a buffet supper served later at the Sherman Hotel for the guests.

The theatre, in its initial week's operation, was doing well. The house is modernistic in appointments, with a color scheme of blue and buff in the auditorium. Indirect lighting comes from behind wall fixtures shaped like a globe, with locations of the various countries and continents among the various globe-like fixtures. Indirect lighting also is used in the ceiling.

Here for the opening were William Githens, Edward Sheftel, Robert Wood, and A. G. Burger. Sylvan Goldfinger is house manager, Fred Singleton assistant, and Fred Bartow, press agent.

The initial showings also included shots of Illinois news and feature subjects entitled, "The Illinois News." Produced by G. F. Kamerer, they were shot by Orlando Lippert, local newsreel cameraman. Present plans of Kamerer call for inaugurating the Illinois News as a state-wide reel about March 1.

Tom C. Baker Feted With Two Farewell Parties

INDIANAPOLIS—Tom C. Baker, who recently resigned as general manager of Affiliated Theatres, Inc., a booking and buying combine for approximately 40 theatres in Indiana and Kentucky, was honored with a testimonial luncheon at the Variety Club and with a farewell dinner by the bookers and the Affiliated office staff on a later evening at the Severin Hotel.

Among those attending the functions were Dallas Cannon, Kentland; Stanley Cooper, Brazil; Walter Easley, Greensburg; Roy Harrold, Rushville; Don Hammer, Grand National; Joe Smith, Herman Morgan jr., Sam Eibeck, all of Affiliated Theatres office; Jim Ricketts, George Landis of Fox Films; Wade Willman, Whitey Wagner, Harold Marshall, Jerry Adams, all of Metro; Fred Greenberg, Jack Dowd, Claude McKean of Warner Bros.; Milton Ettinger, Jerry Slutzky of Universal; Kurt Butler, Larry Shubnell, Abe Gelman of Columbia; Joe Bohn of Big Feature Rights; John Servaas of Exhibitors Exchange; J. H. Stevens, Duff Newman of Paramount; G. L. Henrich of RKO; Dick Frank, Harry Hayes and Elmer Donnelly of United Artists; Earl Penrod, Chick Calloway, Harry Markun, Oscar Kuschner, Marc Wolf, all of Indianapolis; Mel Grundy, Muncie; Al Blocher, Claude Allison, Roy Perry, Jim Kennedy, Sol Greenberg, Carl Niesse, Shorty Phillips, Wm. Rosenthal, Don Rossiter, Grey Kilbourne, Al Heeding, Forrest Quinn, Ted Leibtag, Abe Madison, all of Indianapolis, and Sam Switow and Sam Weinberg of Louisville, Ky.

Tom and his wife left for Florida in their trailer. They expect to spend the winter there, returning in the spring to their farm in northern Indiana.

"Ninotchka" for Maturity, Is Council's "Must See"

CHICAGO—Though listed for mature audiences, M-G-M's "Ninotchka" is listed as a "must see" picture by the Better Films Council of Chicago in its first half of December report. Other mature pictures listed:

"Black Limelight," Alliance; "Dead Men Tell No Tales," Alliance; "Disputed Passage," Para.; "Eternally Yours," UA; "Secret of Dr. Kildare," M-G-M; "Shors," Amkino; and "Those High Grey Walls," Col.

Family listing includes: "Call a Messenger," Univ.; "Fast and Furious," M-G-M; "Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase," WB; "The Phantom Strikes," Mono.; and "Spendthrift," Para.

Short subjects receiving special mention were M-G-M's "Drunk Driving," Paramount's National Philharmonic Orchestra playing "The William Tell Overture," and "Moments of Charm of 1940," featuring Phil Spitalny's all-girl orchestra.

New Gregory House

LOGANSPORT, IND.—The third Gregory circuit house to be erected here is now being constructed and is expected to be ready in about three months. The other two Gregory houses here are the Roxy and Paramount.

CHICAGO

BILL SPARR is the new manager of the Essex, succeeding Fred Mindlin, who resigned.

ADVERTISEMENT: Ted Mendelssohn's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of Warner office gang offering season's greetings through BOXOFFICE *last week. And so now Teddie gets special mention.*

A novel set of cutout displays on "Gulliver's Travels" is being shown now at Photoplay Advertising.

Sol Ehrenberg, well-known on Filmrow, returns here after six years spent on the west coast, to become associated immediately with Harry Blumenthal at Ad-Art Displays.

A. L. Rule, producer of "When Germany Surrendered," was in Toledo this week working on a campaign for the picture, which opens at the B&K Paramount there. Rule made the trip himself because he enlisted in the army in Toledo during the war. Johnny Mednikow is distributing the picture.

Dorothy Banford is a new addition to the office staff here at the RKO exchange.

The father of Nate and Abe Platt died over the weekend. He is also survived by a sister and brother.

Nate Gumbiner made an excellent bartender at the Allied party.

INDIANAPOLIS

TED NICHOLAS, manager of the Lyric, reports Orrin Tucker and his orchestra, featuring Bonnie Baker, songstress, turned in the third best week in the 27 years' operation of the theatre. They also broke Horace Heidt's all-time record for Sunday business. Ted has the "Dead End Kids" booked in for January, as well as Joe Cook, hometown boy from Evansville, and Charles Butterworth, formerly of South Bend.

Emerson Hackley of the Sheridan has eight new beautiful display frames in his lobby that are causing a lot of comment . . . Joe Cantor, head of the Cantor Theatre circuit, held a huge Christmas party for the employes of his five theatres at the local Variety Club with all the trimmings.

Miss Dorothy Robbins of the Warner office was the victim of a purse snatcher last week when her purse was stolen from her desk as she was leaving in the evening.

H. H. Hull, manager of Grand National exchange, spent a few days last week in Chicago conferring with the sales manager, Sol Edwards, and other branch managers in the midwestern states.

Two youths were arrested in the Douglas, a colored neighborhood house, when a police squad found the door open. Police said the youths had been attempting to batter the combination from the safe.

Gordon Craddock, manager at Universal Film exchange, is confined to his home with arthritis. His physician reports he will have to rest at home for ten days or two weeks . . . Guy Craig, manager at Columbia, and Mrs. Craig are vacationing in Florida. They expect to be gone for about two weeks.

Jerry Adams, salesman at Metro, is taking a short vacation during the holidays and will visit in Washington and New York.

Lillian Gorelick, formerly of Indianapolis but recently transferred to the United Artists office in Chicago, was in town visiting her friends during the Christmas holidays.

Fred Greenberg, manager at Warner Bros., spent the Christmas holidays in Kansas City, Mo. Dorothy Robbins, bookkeeper in the same office went to Terre Haute, Ind.

Don Rossiter, executive secretary at ATOI and Mrs. Rossiter spent the Christmas holidays in Chicago visiting his parents.

Graham Place, who served as No. 1 animator during the production of the feature-length cartoon, "Gulliver's Travels," is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Place, of this city.

The managers of the Olson Theatre Enterprises presented Carl Niesse, general manager, with a desk radio for Christmas.

Art Truc and wife spent the holidays in Chicago. Truc is salesman at National Theatre Supply. Harriett Wade of the same office visited Salem, Ind., while Virginia Parsons also of National went to Chicago, too. Bill Feighner returned to his home in Marion, Ind.

Laddy Hancock, 20th Century-Fox salesman, will have plenty of comedy to give his friends when he returned from New York after spending the holidays with Lew Lehr, comedy film commentator.

Charles Tamler, operator of the Garfield, announces that everything is all set for the South Side's first baby contest which opens there this week.

Eddie Lambert of the Tuxedo has a 11-foot Christmas tree in the lobby, which is a "whopper."

Miss Martha Wells, attractive cashier of the New Vernon, Mount Vernon, Ind., which is operated by Louis Davis, was recently married to Fred Daniels. Congratulations and the best of luck.

Orvin Moore of the Settos Theatre announces that the Irving will change programs three times a week with one-night stands on Wednesdays.

J. H. Stevens, manager at Paramount, was host to Allen Usher, district manager for Paramount, and Mrs. Usher, last week when they were in the city on business.

A. C. Zaring and Eddie Zeyen and staff of the Zaring Theatre worked overtime preparing for the huge Christmas for 1,200 *orphans held annually. They sacked* 150 *pounds of candy for the party.*

Jerry Weiss, student booker at RKO, and Carl Russo of the Ger-Bar office spent the Christmas holidays in Chicago with their families.

Royal on "Oklahoma Outlaws"

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Francis Royal is scripting a Three Mesquiteers western for Republic titled "Oklahoma Outlaws."

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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ST. LOUIS

CHRISTMAS business in the St. Louis territory was from 10 to 15 per cent ahead of last year. But prior to Christmas, receipts were off . . . Santa Claus and Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann played second fiddle December 25 to Frank (Bring 'Em Back Alive) Buck in the mayor's seventh annual Christmas pilgrimage to various local hospitals where he distributed toys and candy to the children. Buck, here on a visit, consented to make the tour and the children got a real treat when he told them stories of how he traps wild animals. Chief of Police John H. Glassco and Fire Chief Lawrence Cornoyer were also in the party.

Denver M. Wright, Maplewood, Mo., big game hunter, is planning a three-month trip, beginning January 16, into the jungles of Central America and possibly along the Amazon river in Brazil. He plans to take pictures while on the trip. Several years ago Wright attracted nation-wide attention when he purchased some lions and released them in southeastern Missouri for a lion hunt.

Fanchon & Marco Service Corp. was granted a permit for alterations to the projection room of the Ambassador. The contract was awarded to Sol Abrahams & Son. Estimated cost is $500.

Indoor coon hunting will be an unusual feature of the first annual Southwest Sportsman's Show to be staged in the St. Louis Muncipial Auditorium, January 27 to February 4.

Charles Munch, French conductor, made his American debut as guest conductor with the St. Louis Symphony orchestra on December 29. In his homeland, he swings the baton for the Societe des Concerts du Conservatorie at Paris.

The annual Christmas show of the Lindell School of the Theatre was presented December 28 at Tune Town Ballroom. There was a large cast of juvenile singers and dancers in charge of Robert Dugger, dance director, and Roy Busch, vocal instructor.

Sophie Tucker, will take time out from her American Theatre schedule to head a huge New Year's Eve Festival at the Chase Hotel.

Lawyers Lillian Rose Koplar and Morris S. Shenker have consolidated. The firm is known now as "Mr. and Mrs. Shenker." They were married December 23 in the apartment of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Koplar.

Molly Picon, often referred to as "The First Lady of the Jewish Stage," is the star of a Yiddish musical film, "Mamele," which was shown December 24 and 25 at the Municipal Auditorium. The film was screened in Poland before the invasion of the German and Russian armies.

Family Night Is Introduced

MICKLEYVILLE, IND.—Al Wingate, manager of the Old Trails, will feature a family night every Thursday.

Indianapolis Drive-In Construction Is Near

INDIANAPOLIS—Construction of an open air theatre to accommodate 500 automobiles, and occupying 15 acres on Highway 67 near 42nd Street and Massachusetts Avenue, will get under way within two weeks, announces William G. Sobel, representing Phillip Smith, president of the Midwest Drive-In Theatre Corp.

The drive-in, expected to be ready for opening in April, will cost $75,000 and will include 11 sloped ramps and will provide individual speakers for each car.

The corporation, which has been operating drive-ins in Hollywood, Detroit, Boston and Miami, plans new theatres for Cincinnati, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Cleveland next spring.

Kerasotes Bros. Reopen Senate in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—The remodeled Senate Theatre was reopened here December 23 by the Kerasotes Bros., following completion of a $26,000 remodeling job.

The modernized theatre has a larger auditorium which also includes a special section of ten seats equipped with hearing devices for the hard of hearing.

An elaborate air conditioning system, a ladies' powder room, conversion of the lobby into a tastefully appointed reception room, and new seats are included in the improvements made to the house.

Apprehend Exhibitor for Cash Game Operation

INDIANAPOLIS—The manager of the Ohio, Orvin Moore, and an employe, James Kenny, were arrested by local police on charges of operating a lottery and gift enterprise. The attraction was a cash giveaway, but was not under the "Bank Night" name.

Chief of Police Morrisey said cash drawings had been held in the theatre for some time despite warnings by the police department.

Three Theatres Cooperate On Xmas Benefit Shows

TERRE HAUTE, IND.—A canned goods matinee, held for the children before the holidays, by A. H. Kaufman of the Fountain Theatre, J. B. Stine of the Garfield and Maurice Reinking of the Idaho realized 2,500 pieces of canned goods for distribution to the city's needy.

The canned food matinees, tying in with the *Tribune-Star* Christmas Basket Fund, came in for a wealth of publicity in the paper.

New Chain Unit

HAGERSTOWN, IND.—Theatrical Managers, Inc., of Indianapolis are operating the Hagerstown, which has just been opened. The building was erected by Charles Wood and leased to the Indianapolis firm. It has a 400-seating capacity.

MILWAUKEE

E J. WEISFELDT is fitting his Riverside with new stage drapes at a cost of about $3,000 . . . "The Great Victor Herbert" is slated for a single New Year's eve showing at Fox's Palace.

Gov. Julius P. Heil purchased the first box for the New Year's day boxing show at the Milwaukee Auditorium being sponsored by Variety Club.

Vitagraph, Inc., has been granted a permit for the erection of a new $40,000 exchange building here.

L. F. Thurwachter will name his new theatre now under construction at Waukesha, the Pix.

The Zenith, Venetian, Astor and Riviera theatres here were chartered by the A. O. Smith Steel Workers' Federal union to handle 4,500 children and adults taking part in the union's Christmas party December 23.

Work is expected to be completed by mid-January on the new house being erected at East Troy by August Geyer.

Republic Leads in Tight Chicago Bowling Race

CHICAGO—The film bowling league continues a tight race with Republic now in front by only a game. Jack Kirsch still leads the individual bowlers with 182.33, while Herman Busch of Paramount won the Christmas turkey with a 621 series. Wilbur Boehm of National Screen won the goose with a 604 series.

Tied for second in the league race this week were National Screen, Photoplay and Film Carriers. Only two games back is Paramount.

Switow Circuit Acquires Settos New Albany Unit

INDIANAPOLIS—Sam J. Switow said here last week that Switow Theatrical Enterprises, with headquarters in Louisville, had acquired the Elks in New Albany, Ind., from the Settos circuit.

The Switows also have the Indiana and Grand in New Albany and other theatres in Salem, Washington, Anderson, Jeffersonville, Seymour, and Shelbyville, Ind., and Louisville, Ky.

Heads Film Council

FOND DU LAC, WIS.—Mrs. Edward Runkel has been elected president of the Fond du Lac Better Films Council. Other officers named are Mrs. Gerald Breitenbach, vice-president; Mrs. R. O. Rush, secretary, and Mrs. Dana Lamb, treasurer. Installation of the new officers will be held at the next meeting on January 15.

To Test Screen Quiz

CHICAGO—Herb Chatkin's new theatre stimulant game, Screen Quiz, was scheduled to open a Chicago test engagement on Wednesday night at the Essex, with $25 advertised to be given away for correct answers.

T. B. Noble Westland Circuit Gen. Mgr.

By B. O. TELLER

LINCOLN—With T. B. Noble jr. leaving Oklahoma City to return to his old post as general manager of the L. L. Dent-Westland Theatres, Inc., a number of staff changes will take place. Noble originally was Dent's general manager after the vet showman sold out to Paramount in Texas, until about four years ago when he went on his own to establish holdings here and in Oklahoma City.

Both the Oklahoma and Nebraska corporations, although operating as separate from the Dent corporation, are closely affiliated and will keep the same status, regardless of Noble's move. He will operate them from the Denver office of the company.

Howard Federer, made president of the Noble (Nebraska Theatres, Inc.) outfit here, came on after stepping into the general manager shoes for Dent, vacated by Noble. He will stay in command in Lincoln.

Meantime, Larry Starsmore, acting general manager, since Federer came here two years ago, moves back to city manager in Pueblo, Colo., and Bob Pfotenhauer, now at Pueblo, goes into top spot in Oklahoma City, replacing Noble.

All switches are being made as of January 1.

What this means to the old struggle for supremacy on the three-state fronts of the J. H. Cooper and L. L. Dent operations is unknown, although it is freely predicted that with T. B. Noble back at the helm, more of the old razzle dazzle operation is about to be indulged in. Noble carried the attack to Cooper, it being his idea to drive the wedge here by opening houses, and the same in Oklahoma City.

It was the Dent interests who became the first serious threat to Cooper domination, although he still has a major hold on pictures. However, during the scrap here, Republic, Monogram, half of United Artists, half of Warners, some of RKO and some of Universal pictures have been won away from Cooper to the Noble side.

At present, a campaign is being waged here to establish the Liberty, a 1,000-seat house, which faces the biggest Cooper house, the Stuart (1,900), because it is felt the Varsity may be taken out of the exhibition picture here sometime soon.

It is known that the Noble interests are making determined bids for the entire product of RKO and Universal, which would set them up in pretty good shape, and this dealing will come to a head in the next buying season.

Host to Youngsters

MINNEAPOLIS—In a tieup with the *Times-Tribune,* the Orpheum here was host at a Christmas film party for Minneapolis youngsters eight years of age and younger. A full-length program of children's features was shown.

He Had the Scot Xmas Card

Minneapolis—Bob LaPiner, Minnesota Amusement executive, had the Scot Christmas card this year, it was reported by Cedric Adams in his column in the "Star-Journal." He mailed out this simple message: "Come out to the house and get your Christmas greeting. It's on the chimney." Sure enough, it was. On the chimney was a huge Neon-lighted sign, with "Merry Christmas" on it and a Neon-lighted Santa Claus.

Cochran Unshaken From Senate Aim

LINCOLN—Gov. R. L. Cochran, Nebraska's show-minded executive, is being petitioned by some members of the Democratic party to withdraw his announced candidacy for the senatorial nomination.

Democrats are pleading in the interests of party harmony, hoping he'll allow Ed Burke, the present senator, clear sailing.

Cochran, who has always been supported by the bulk of Nebraska's showmen, has indicated he has no intention of resigning, and will continue to push for primary favor.

The show business looks to Cochran as its friend at court, he always taking the position that films are not luxuries, therefore are not available to luxury taxes. He has maintained they are the poor man's entertainment, and any tax on them deprives the poor, not the rich.

Iowa Business Conditions Reported at High Level

DES MOINES—Despite the failure of winter to whiten the state until this week, Iowans apparently have been spending their money.

Merchants here report increased grosses from Christmas shoppers. Mail reports at the Des Moines postoffice were running ahead of 1938, though Christmas mail totals are not yet available.

Particularly indicative of the Iowa business situation probably is the latest United States Chamber of Commerce map prepared for *Nation's Business* magazine. It shows Iowa conditions above normal, attributed to increased income from farm marketing.

$10 Xmas Bonus to Each Cooper Circuit Employe

LINCOLN—The J. H. Cooper-Paramount, Lincoln Theatres Corp., handed each employe $10 as a Christmas present at the annual theatre party.

Bob Livingston of the Capitol carried out his usual policy and handed each worker $5.

The Minnesota Takes Problem to Public

MINNEAPOLIS—In a trailer now appearing on the screen, the Minnesota, independently operated, claims major distributors are refusing to service it with pictures because it is an individually home-operated institution. Pointing out the importance of "good pictures" in its scheme of operation, the theatre pleads for patronage.

The trailer admits the theatre's business has suffered because of the inability to obtain major company releases and asserts that unless continued patronage is forthcoming and "without the major pictures," the house will be forced to close.

In the trailer it is emphasized that the theatre employs a large number of people who spend their earnings here and that all income, except that paid out for stage acts and films, remains in Minneapolis. The amount paid in taxes and for electricity also is specified.

"Because of the fact that the Minnesota Theatre is the only theatre operated by its owners," the trailer states, "we have been experiencing difficulty in obtaining good pictures in competition with other Minneapolis theatres that are parts of theatre chains.

"It always has been our honest endeavor and desire to give you the best possible stage shows and talent and motion pictures, and we urge those who would like to see this theatre continue in operation to attend regularly. Without your support and with lack of screen product, the operators of this theatre will have to close it."

Only independent releases are available for the Minnesota, the Minnesota Amusement circuit having all the major product sewed up. There have been threats that the Minnesota operators will call upon the federal authorities to investigate the situation. It is known that photographs have been taken of the Aster marquee showing first-run major pictures advertised as dual features at 15 cents admission to 5 p. m. and 25 cents thereafter. The Aster seats less than 1,000 compared to the Minnesota's 4,000.

Minny Can See "Rasputin" Over Legion's Protest

MINNEAPOLIS—In the face of a Catholic Legion of Decency protest, the Esquire, loop independent sure-seater, is showing the foreign film, "Rasputin."

The Legion had succeeded in having the picture barred in New York and when it first protested here Irving Gillman, Esquire owner, called off a scheduled engagement for the time being.

Then Gillman invited Robert Murphy, *Star-Journal* movie critic, and the newspaper's business manager, to see the film at a private showing. Gillman says that after both men declared that the picture was not indecent, he decided to go ahead with the showing.

The *Star-Journal* previously had refused to carry the Esquire's advertising for "Rasputin." Following the preview, however, the ads were accepted.

Prospects for Flesh Dim in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS — Stage show prospects here, which started so brightly this season, now appear to have gone far into reverse. There isn't a single legitimate road attraction definitely in prospect, although a long list of tentative bookings had been announced.

It is expected the remaining two of the Legitimate Theatre Corp. attractions, which were scheduled for the Alvin after the first of the year, will be canceled because of the poor business done by the first two.

There have been six shows here thus far and only three of them—Lunt & Fontanne, "Tobacco Road" and Katharine Cornell—have played to profitable business. The other three—"I Married an Angel," "What a Life" and "On Borrowed Time"—were losers.

The Minnesota, 4,000-seat independently-operated house which plays stage shows every week, is believed to be on the verge of closing permanently. It, too, has been a losing venture, the stage shows, minus strong feature pictures, being insufficient to pull paying patronage except in a few instances.

With its admission reduced from 55 to 40 cents top, the Orpheum, playing big stage shows in opposition to the Minnesota, also has been having tough sledding. The Gayety (Harry Hirsch's burlesque) had its worst half-season in its history, but they're giving it another whirl, starting this week. However, unless there's immediate public response Hirsch intends to shutter the house for the rest of the winter.

All in all, it's a bleak outlook now. If the Minnesota quits, it's expected the Orpheum will revert to its former policy of infrequent stage shows. Now it has four booked in a row, with a couple more underlined for February and March.

Christmas Eve Business in Minneapolis Surprises

MINNEAPOLIS—With Christmas eve falling on Sunday this year, business was surprisingly good at local theatres for that night, usually the worst of the year. Two loop houses, the Orpheum and State, in particular, were crowded. The former had Johnny "Scat" Davis and his band on the stage and "Day-Time Wife" on the screen, while "Gulliver's Travels" held forth at the State.

Christmas Bonuses Handed Out to Pioneer Workers

DES MOINES—The Pioneer Theatre Corp., which operates 18 theatres in Iowa, gave a Christmas bonus to all of its theatre managers and employes, Frank Rubel, vice-president announces.

Employes with the firm for a year or more were given an extra week's salary, while managers received a sum proportionate to their year's income.

OMAHA

TEN best pictures of 1939 from the Omaha Filmrow . . . Mike Roth, National Screen salesman, "Honeymoon's Over" . . . Norm Nielsen, RKO booker, "Another Thin Man" . . . Charlie Williams, prexy of MPTO of Nebraska and western Iowa, "Amazing Mr. Williams" . . . John Winn, former Grand National booker, "The Awful Truth" . . . Ike Rubin, Paramount salesman, "Cowboy Quarterback" . . . Alice Neal, Hazel Andersen and Regina Molseed, bookers at Warner, Metro and RKO, "The Women" . . . Carl Reese, Republic boss, "Autry Rides Again" . . . Don McLucas, United Artists chief, "Dress Parade" . . . Joe Scott, 20th-Fox boss, and Joe Jacobs, Columbia chief, "Two Bright Boys" . . . Mary Francis, Monogram steno, "Boy Friend" . . . Special mention: . . . John McBride, Republic booker, "Ireland's Border Line" . . . Joe Smith, RKO salesman, "Man About Town."

Thank you department: . . . Attractive Christmas cards from Orville Rennie and missus, Rivoli, Hastings, Neb.; Alice Neal, Warner booker; Lew Kozal, Tri-States ad artist; Jesse Shlyen, BOXOFFICE *midwest editor; Maurice Kann,* BOXOFFICE *editor-in-chief . . . Thanks to Tri-States Theatres for a gift of bottled goods!*

Marie Richards Andrews, Warner steno, celebrates a second wedding anniversary this week . . . Also wedding anniversaries during the past week for Joe Scott, 20th-Fox boss; Harry Shumow, Metro manager; Leon Mendelson, Warner peddler, and Swain A. Madsen, Warner booker . . . Corinne Riley celebrates her fifth anniversary as Brandeis cashier.

Henry Peterson, Grand, Genoa, Neb., has a wedding anniversary January 1 . . . *Oscar Johnson, Rivoli, Falls City, Neb., celebrates his 37th birthday next week . . . Ray Brown, Harlan, Ia., celebrates his 32nd wedding anniversary January* 1 . . . *Also a birthday for Rubel Hutchings, Allen, Neb., last week.*

Jake Rachman, *World-Herald* columnist, had a dandy article about Mrs. Georgia Rasley, first woman exhibitor in Nebraska, who is opening her new $20,000 Royal at O'Neill. It was handled completely by Scott-Ballantyne Co. of Omaha. Mrs. Rasley started with the Lyric at Norfolk in 1918. Her son, Warren Hall, has the Rodeo at Burwell, Neb.

A salute to L. E. Walbridge, manager of the Vinton, Omaha, for a special charity show for needy children . . . Another salute to many exhibitors in Nebraska and Iowa who had special Christmas shows for the benefit of needy families in their own town. Omaha neighborhood exhibitors helped the local Salvation Army.

Repay Ameches

DUBUQUE, IA.—Don Ameche and his wife visited Mrs. Ameche's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Prendergast, here on Thanksgiving and they left a memento—a new car. Mr. and Mrs. Prendergast turned the tables on Christmas. They drove the car to Hollywood to visit the Ameches.

Lincoln Kiva May Be A Radio Auditorium

LINCOLN—Prospect that the 440-seat Kiva may be forever taken out of exhibition here looms in negotiations now being made by the KFAB-KFOR radio stations with Howard Federer, general manager of Nebraska Theatres, Inc.

The stations, cramped for auditorium facilities at the Lincoln Hotel, have been searching for some time for seats enough to accommodate their audience shows, which run heavy from 12:30 to 4 p. m. daily. Present room allows for only about 150 people to be crowded into the shows, and officials say the Kiva would represent just enough seats to comfortably house the spectators.

Showmen generally do not read into the move any fear that the presence of a giveaway show on theatre row will be any serious hindrance to the other business. The drawing is mostly rural, and the audience is made up of those who made the trip in from the hinterlands for a studio visit.

Federer listened to a radio spokesman this week, and told him to submit his best proposition within a week. Kiva has been operating as a second run, but was closed early in December during the slump.

Minneapolis Trade Faces The New Year Hopefully

MINNEAPOLIS—At the outset of a new year, the local film trade is hopeful over business prospects. In a territory mainly dependent upon agriculture's welfare for its prosperity, much will depend on next summer's crops.

The trade is especially encouraged by the high level of wheat prices. If a bountiful crop is forthcoming in Minnesota and the Dakotas and can be cashed in at somewhere near the present peak prices it undoubtedly will mean brisk trade for the showhouses.

One fly in the ointment thus far has been the lack of moisture in recent months. Moisture, in fact, has been far below normal. The soil, accordingly, will be comparatively dry when it is frozen. However, it's pointed out, heavy rains next spring and summer can overcome the present deficiency.

Clearance and % Pictures Thorns to Independents

MINNEAPOLIS—The chief 1940 problems for local independent exhibitors, according to their leaders, are those of clearance and percentage pictures.

Independents say they hope the new year will witness "the straightening out" of the clearance differences and the entire elimination of percentages as far as their neighborhood houses are concerned.

The independents feel that the Minnesota Amusement Co. 15 and 25-cent Aster and Gopher should not enjoy their present lengthy protection over their neighborhood theatres and they are agitating to get the clearance changed.

K A Y C E E

WHEN George Owens was laid up recently as the result of an accidental gunshot wound, Flea Trice, operator for Tom Wilhoit's house at Plattsburg, Mo., nearby Lathrop, commuted between the two towns, operating Owens' equipment and keeping the house open, and overseeing his assistant at Wilhoit's. Which prompted Wilhoit to comment that he had heard of "bicycling film but never of peripatetic operators."

SANS BUNK. Bookers at Metro hereby thank the following exhibitors for pencils, cigarettes, refreshments, etc., etc., which, contrary to the general antagonism supposed to exist between film and theatre men, they received Xmas: Commonwealth, Fox Midwest, Griffith-Dickinson, Sam Sosna, Manhattan, Kas.; H. C. Musgrave, Minneapolis and Wamego, Kas.; Warren Weber, Stafford, Kas.; A. F. "Peck" Baker, Bob Robison of Grant City, Mo.; George Harttmann of North Kansas City. They—Al Adler, Walt Lambader, W. W. Sherrill and Woody Walker—also feel "that way" about the Xmas cards and greetings from their many accounts.

A. H. Dula of Holyrood, Kas., and Mrs. Dula, visited Filmrow last week on their return from South Carolina.

On the Row: H. C. Musgrave, Wamego, Kas.; Sam Sosna, Manhattan, Kas.; Bob Robison, Grant City.

W. P. Huston, who operates the Crawford and Kansas at Wichita, Kas., and who is secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners Ass'n of Wichita, has been in bed with the flu. He is up and around now.

Wes Bolen is opening a new house at Quinter, Kas.

At the 20th-Fox party, held in the exchange December 23, Cholly Knickerbocker played S. Claus, and presented George Fuller with a ping pong set from the exchange personnel. Ward Scott was given a carving set, and Gus Kubitzki a set of military brushes. A three-piece Mexican band furnished music for the approximately 70 who attended. There were eats, too—turkey, ham, fish, etc.

Why did Monroe Rubinger (WB exploiteer) lift those sugar cubes at the Hotel Muehlebach the other p. m., and with what girl at what time did he feed the cubes to a horse? The amazing part of the story is that Rubinger found a horse.

Raymond McKittrick of Harrisonville, Mo., was in town this week — with the same "stub," same war, same McKittrick.

Madison K. Tanner, son of Booker Al Tanner of 20th-Fox, is off to Hawaii with the army air corps on a three-year enlistment. He will be stationed at Honolulu.

"Never Say Love" to Nikki

HOLLYWOOD—Nikki Juston is scripting Metro's "Never Say Love," with Eddie Buzzell directing for Producer Jack Cummings.

Republic Would Sign Bob Feller for Six Westerns

VAN METER, IA.—"I know I can't act," says Bob Feller, Iowa's big league pitching ace, who's a little puzzled over Republic Pictures' efforts to sign him for a series of six western films.

George Goodale, agent for Donald Novis, was here last week trying to line up immediate voice and screen tests for the famous Cleveland hurler, but Feller doesn't want to go to the coast until later in the winter, if at all.

Feller recently appeared as a sports writer in a skit at the Elks minstrel show here, and apparently isn't too enthusiastic about the acting business.

Scripts "Ghost Music"

HOLLYWOOD — Jacques Thery is writing the screenplay for "Ghost Music" for Paramount.

John J. Friedl Declares "Wind" Is Not Set Yet

MINNEAPOLIS—While the *Times-Tribune* here announced that "Gone With the Wind" will open at Minnesota Amusement's two leading loop houses, the State and Century, day and date, February 2, at 75-cent matinee and $1 night admission, John J. Friedl, manager of the circuit, insists nothing definitely is set yet.

"We're still negotiating," asserted Friedl. "We haven't reached an agreement yet."

However, explained Friedl, the February 2 date and 75 cents and $1 scale have been "discussed." An official announcement will be forthcoming shortly, he says.

Film Comedy Helps

AMES, IA.—A film comedy helped make a success of the inter-fraternity Christmas party for 25 Ames youngsters at Iowa State College.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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LINCOLN

CHANGING scene: Last year, the primary after hours interest on theatre Row, was snooker, but a new game has taken over on the cold winter nights Staff at the Lincoln Theatres Corp. has installed a ping-pong table under the Stuart stage, and the white-ball-batting is currently riding high in popularity.

BOXOFFICE *was among those present, on invitation of City Manager Bob Huffman, at the annual Lincoln Theatres Corp. Christmas Party at the Capitol Hotel . . . Santa Claus was given one of those sans makeup performances by Charlie Shire, who hinted to every gal that one of them should kiss the giver-outer and one finally did—his own wife . . . Ed Vaughan made an entrance, having all the marks of one leg being shorter than the other, or something.*

Mrs. M. E. Lofgren, first time out socially since M. E. Lofgren jr. arrived, was in on part of the gags . . . Harvey Traylor forced his girl to listen to Bonnie Baker (on record) sing "Oh Johnny" 11 times, then tried to get her to sing it the same way, substituting "Harvey" for "Johnny."

Something to look forward to in 1940: *There'll be another pappy on theatre Row, about July. Your cigars should be spoken for now, and Harold Hellerich is the guy.*

Among the Christmas cards this year were some from Alvin Hendricks, now in Amarillo, Tex.; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Patchen, in Oklahoma City; Grace and Charlie Mack, who quit vaude to open a tourist camp at Alexandria, Va.; Carl Rose, in York; a subtle reminder from Jane and Orville Rennie, Hastings, to keep the nose clean—a handkerchief; from the M. E. McClains, Fremont; Bill Youngclaus Grand Island; Darryl Zanuck's right hand (Joe Scott, Omaha); Sol Francis, who swears he doesn't sell pictures sight unseen; from the Warner tribe, Sid Rose, Omaha; Monroe Rubinger, Kansas City; and Bob Taplinger, Hollywood; George and Irma Monroe, Greeley, Colo.; Wilbur Cushman, the former $150-a-day unit booker, now a real estate man in North Hollywood; but it remained for Paramount to loop the BOXOFFICE Christmas tree with their three goodwillers of "Gulliver's Travels," the figures Gabby, King Little and Smitch, which puts the "for rent" sign on any husband's doghouse.

Bob Huffman, Harvey Traylor, Ed Vaughan and Mance Lofgren, with Barney Oldfield emceeing, did a forword of Christmas greetings on KFOR just prior to the running of the Judge Hardy transcription, which was aired last Sunday last at 8:15 (*EST*). *Was the first time the theatres ever made an effort to reach out on Christmas eve in that manner, feeling being that many were home, and probably listening, hence a good chance to plant motion pictures in their minds.*

George F. Monroe and the Mrs. went to Greeley, Colo., for Christmas with George jr. and his wife, and will then go to California for a month or so . . . Barbara Livingston, who puts up with Bob year in and year out, was handed a $550 fur coat by the guy . . . Ruth Johnson, secretary to Howard Federer, general manager Nebraska Theatres, Inc., says she has been Mrs. Hub Boswell since last July 8. Boswell once was a stellar halfback on the Nebraska football team and now is in the insurance business here.



Advance Man—

LINCOLN—"You ain't seen nothin' yet," says "Gabby," Lilliputian doll, one of a series of three sent to all motion picture editors by Paramount, as he confronts Barney Oldfield, of the Sunday *Journal and Star*, Lincoln, Neb., who for the last five years has been said to be the world's busiest film reviewer.

Goodwill ambassador Gabby landed on Barney's desk the morning after he had reviewed his 501st film, making the third successive year to catch more than 500 of Hollywood's output.

"Gabby," if anyone in the industry needs reminding, after Paramount's publicity barrages, is the principal character in a film called "Gulliver's Travels." He was followed by a procession of two lamps, with other characters, "King Little" and "Snitch," as bases.

More than one film editor in the country has been expecting to see a couple of expressmen come tugging Gulliver to the door at any moment.

Let "Wind" Blow

DES MOINES—The Des Moines *Register* will have no part of "Gone With the Wind"—it will take the whole thing.

On talk of cutting this Enoch Arden of the film industry, the *Register* says editorially:

"Whether a story is short, like 'The Story of Ferdinand' or as long as Miss Mitchell's stirring tale . . . there is likely to be a quick response to it if it has merit . . .

"Let them show the whole business—four hours of it.

"If the people will take time to read the novel of 1,037 pages, surely they'll not begrudge one brief evening of picture version.

"And anyhow, what's four hours in this age of double features?"

DES MOINES

THIS headache hopes all you other headaches have fewer biz headaches and more fizz headaches in the very Happy New Year coming up . . . We went to one Christmas party on the Row and it was such a honey, we couldn't take another . . . sorry . . . Vitagraph's affair it was, and Art Anderson is some host . . . the office gang must think's Art's a good boss, too, judging from that fawncy truck they gave him for Christmas . . . Highlight of the party? Well, probably that variation of the hot-foot which nearly floored BOXOFFICE when it was administered . . . ouch! (We've a score to settle with Billy Watkins and Hal Robinson). Or maybe that whispered bit of information from Paul Walsh that the popularity of BOXOFFICE is a sure thing because four or five issues are always present in room number so-and-so (for reading purposes, we trust).

Gilly Wells could double for Happy (if Happy worked for Warner's instead of RKO) . . . We've already identified Bebianne of Warner's as the Filmrow Girl, and now we know that Universal's Kennie is the Filmrow Boy . . . We passed Norman Holt on the street the morning after the night before, and he was certainly a changed man! . . . That talk (more'n that!) about operations may do Ruby Wells some good, because it brought to light a number of concrete examples to exploit her biz—selling hospitalization insurance.

Art Anderson has acquired some interesting nicknames during an interesting lifetime, and now we suggest "Ninotchka," but you'll have to ask somebody else why . . . Paramount can guess at the hit their little Gabby doll made when we say that with seven quarts of Christmas glee on his deck, Clayton still picked Gabby (the Mitzi influence?) . . . We met Madrine (Chicken-licken) of the Tri-States switchboard and got to see the handsome young man who goes with the new Pontiac . . . Frank Rubel must be a little tin angel (gold, not tin, his friends will hasten to assure us), the way everybody sings his praises.

When Chicago Cub Trainer Andy Lotshaw spoke to Arlington Hall boys here at the Variety Club's annual dinner for the youngsters, he was so sold on the outfit that he said he'd entertain two of them at his Chicago home for 12 *days next summer. Now Variety has agreed to foot the bill to and from the big city, so the two boys with the best grades and deportment between now and June will get a chance to see the real inside on big league baseball.*

Exploiteer Speed Lambert was talking about a four-week vacation until he started getting orders on "Gone With the Wind." He's east squeezing in two weeks now and figures that'll have to be his quota until he gets GWTW all taken care of. Incidentally, there'll be a color roto spread on the film in the January 7 Sunday *Register*, labeling it the No. 1 production of the year.

The town wasn't without a holiday stage show after all. Abe Frankle filled the need by booking Uncle Ezra and his barn

dance outfit at the Casino . . John Leroy Johnston gets some of the blame for Clayton's Christmas headache with that wire: "Fourth and final release title for 'Send Another Coffin' is 'Slightly Honorable.'" Already made up and syndicated to papers from Worcester, Mass., to Manila, P. I., was Clayton's December 31 Hollywood gossip page featuring Ruth Terry in—of course—"Send Another Coffin."

Des Moines public schools will be showing a motion picture history of the lumber industry in the northwest between January 8 and 19. The film will be made available by Gerald A. Jewett and will be used in schools making arrangements with C. F. Schropp, director of junior high schools.

While we were doing some Sunday shopping at Katz Drug store, Harry Holdsberg and Art Stolte strolled past . . . Dora Middlesworth's little boy Phil got some smoke and water at his steak house when the adjoining building burned . . . R&T *officials are looking over that March of Time on press service operations with an eye to showing it January 7-8 at the circulation meetings . . . With no heat or hot water in the building Thursday, Strand Manager W. B. Beckley was probably prevented from tearing his hair over the situation by those mittens he had to wear to keep warm.*

That fellow we saw changing the Orpheum sign Saturday night was Clyde Fairless, one of RKO's oldest employes in this territory . . . Clyde and "Four Wives" were certainly in the spotlight . . . Don West can take his partying or leave it alone . . . At least he took time out from Vitagraph's shindig to take care of his bowling duties . . . That fellow with the long black curly hair, sitting between Gene Malone and Gus Beatty, was Cannonball Lee who knows enough to go home early . . . M-G-M did their Yule "Fast and Furious" (just to please Jack Kennedy) Thursday.

Who was that branch manager who was taken into the G.M.C. over the Casino a short time ago? . . . When Madge Ward addressed A. H. Blank's Christmas cards, she telephoned Florine Wieland over at Central States to inquire if she should add a "Mrs." to the "Mr." on that card going to Rock Island . . . but Florine wouldn't talk . . . Eight hundred attended that special showing of "Gulliver's Travels" given for the R&T *kiddies . . . Opal Judd drew the most unusual Christmas gift. It was a bootjack from Kaycee!*

House Is Winner

BOONE, IA.—Republican State Senator Lant H. Doran competed with Census Supervisor J. E. Irwin in a milking contest on the stage of the Rialto here New Year's Eve.

Irwin, a Democrat, is a former Boone mayor and recently resigned his seat in the Iowa house of representatives.

Both contestants grew up on farms.

The winnah? The Rialto manager, who packed 'em in.

....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By RENE McCLUSKEY

JACK KUECH wants you all to know that the tragic ending that Colwell, Iowa couple wrote to "Drums Along the Mohawk" wasn't the fault of either his Gem in Charles City where they saw the film or the picture. Jack says his doorman told him the young folks were having words as they entered the theatre and that their argument became rather loud in the lounge while they were waiting for the second show. Evidently the thing was well on the way before the show. Jack promises to get C. C. into print more pleasantly next time. And, Jack, we DO like that stationery of yours. We'll find our piece so handy when we want to know who manages what theatre where.

C. L. Spencer, Waterloo, Iowa, has purchased the Allison from H. L. Germer and will start remodeling January 1 . . . so gather around, boys!

Things we'd like to do here'n there: Buy a sack of popcorn at Hirschsteiner's Family Theatre in DM sometime and then settle down for an evening of real entertainment . . . Get Abe Frankle of DM to get rid of those drainpipes on the corners of the Casino marquee, which pour rain down the necks of innocent passersby . . . Make a Tri-States usher lose his insufferable poise just once . . . Munch some of the candy from Tracy's confectionary in Storm Lake while attending his Tracy Theatre beyond.

Mary, Ann, Sylvia, Jean and Elizabeth (five sisters of Lou Lepowitz the Iowa mogul in DM) call their perfectly swell maw "Queen Victoria," but they don't call Papa Roy of the Madrid, Iowa, theatre "King."

Who was the Iowa exhibitor who handed out a $200 Bank Night prize, then couldn't cash the check and had to lend the winner a dime for carfare home?

E. L. Hahn sold his theatre at Morning Sun to C. J. Zear of Delta.

When Manager Green booked "Chips" and "Pygmalion" at the Dodge, he didn't intend to cause all that trouble. But Exploiteer Lambert was 500 miles away in North Platte. If he looked a little sleepy when he arrived in Fort Dodge, it was because he had some night traveling.

Big news in the Pioneer circuit these days is the new State which opened at Rock Rapids in time to grab some of the Christmas trade. Art Farrell, who doesn't mind working hard, is handling the new house as well as the Rapids.

One of the Christmas presents from George March to the Le Mars residents was that new theatre. Pix, he calls it.

Iowa exhibitors are winding up 1939 in the right way—with a lucky break. New Year's eve falling on Sunday night, state laws close the taverns and roadhouses with the film emporiums getting additional nickels and dimes at the midnight box-office as a result.

Bill Eddy of Indianola should have taken over the Garden at Sigourney from Art Meredith . . . Art plans to go to Idaho and take a shot at the same biz in the glad-hand country. we hear. Bill is bringing his son, Warren W. Eddy, from Minneapolis to manage his new project.

Harry Pace of Audubon, Iowa, bought the show at Hartley from Mr. Warden.

Kay Stewart's been home from Hollywood for the holidays, reminiscing with Pappy Toby Stewart at his Mayfair in Shenandoah about the good old days when he was taking care of her in a backstage trunk.

We've heard so much about those Garner theatre decorations that we're set to think its an echo. Warner's Gus Beatty is the latest to rave about the cutout murals and the lighting effects done in black neon with luminous paint. When they start telling how much it costs, strive to stop listenin'. Rumor says $300 a gallon.

There 'tis. We hit that deadline even if we do have to work all day, sit through a "Hunchback" screening, phite the Dempsey-Willard match all over again and wind up skidding to a neat stop at the postoffice entrance at 12, midnight. We should be proud—but actually, we're sleepy.

Harry Holdsberg played Santa Claus for Manbeck Motors by giving away a new Plymouth from the stage of the Des Moines. And we hear they're playing games at the Ingersoll on Monday nights now.

Burlington didn't offer a single complaint when Central States closed the Iowa there a while back. The town figured the new Zephyr'd fill the bill all right. It opened the same day.

Henderson Convalescing

CLAY CENTER, KAS. — Eddie Henderson, owner of the Star here, is convalescing after an appendectomy. The house, during his illness, is in the care of Mrs. Henderson and Keith Payne, projectionist.

Gets "Small Town God"

HOLLYWOOD—Ethel Hill has been assigned to script 20th-Fox's "Small Town God" for Producer Kenneth Macgowan, from an original by Edwin Blum.

Adapts "Brother Orchid"

HOLLYWOOD—Earl Baldwin is scripting "Brother Orchid" for Producer Mark Hellinger at Warner.

MINNEAPOLIS

WALT SIMMONS, film reviewer for the Sioux Falls, S. D., *Argus-Leader*, vacationing in Hollywood and being royally entertained by the studios . . . The Pantages Christmas party, attended by the entire staff, declared a rousing success. Ray Barber won the prize for kissing the most girls . . . Dorothy Crane, the Lamour of the Welworth circuit offices, ill for a day or two, but now smilingly back on the job again . . . Mannie Sgutt, Columbia's ace South Dakota salesman, reports his territory virtually all sold.

Who is that really gorgeous young woman that Sidney Volk, independent circuit operator, is escorting to the symphony concerts? . . . Gordie Greene, Minnesota Theatre managing director, flew to Omaha to visit with his screen star buddy, John Boles, making a personal appearance there . . . Are you jealous, Bill Volk? Bill, a partner and brother of Sid, became quite pally himself with Boles when the latter appeared in person at the Minnesota.

Jackie Cohen, the 20th-Fox salesman now vacationing in Florida, says he just didn't get around to buying Christmas cards and wants to borrow this column to wish his many friends the season's greetings . . . Talking about Christmas cards, that was a nifty that Ben Spewak sent out. Consisted of a small bottle of fine champagne packed in an antique music box. This column was privileged to receive one . . . Al Avid, Columbia salesman, and the wife spent the Yuletide at her parent's home in Blue Earth, Minn.

John Cliplef, manager of the Hollywood, Montevideo, Minn., brought his wife and baby, Jeninne, to the folks in Minneapolis for the holidays . . . Joe Floyd, hustling manager of the Sioux Falls, S. D., Hollywood, had his parents from Pittsburgh, Pa., as holiday visitors . . . No, that isn't a free beanery out on Franklin Ave. It's a theatre where free hamburgers and coffee are a come-on . . . Bud McInerney, Pantages press agent, always turns up with the cutest girls in town. But, after all, Bud, there's such a thing as an age limit. That last little lass told us she still has two years left at high school.

New Year's resolutions overheard on Currie Ave. and 11th St. (Filmrow): "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, will not wear out his lungs bragging about Capra hits any more. They speak for themselves, he says . . . Tommy Charack, live-wire Warner salesman, will not attend any theatre unless there is a line of pretty girls on the stage . . . Helen Johnson of the Welworth circuit staff will not do her Christmas shopping until late in September . . . Bill Grant, Warner city salesman, will not take candid camera pictures of unsuspecting subjects. Says they must be photogenic . . . Ted Bolnick, Eddie Ruben's ace at LaCrosse, Wis., will not smoke cigars unless the fellow who hands them out has good taste . . . Harold (Big "U") B. Johnson will not preside as toastmaster at dinners where champagne isn't served . . . "Kelly" Evidon, Warner advertising head, will not give out his telephone number to every Tom, Dick and Carrie.

The Welworth circuit office presented its chief, Eddie Ruben, and Mrs. Ruben with a choice Christmas gift at a luncheon in their honor at Charlie's. The luncheon was as big an event as the gift itself . . . Sam Zuckman, St. Paul independent exhibitor, reports the worst slump in a long time and asserts he even beat his famous record low gross reported in this column a year ago . . . 'Tis said that the new bowling alley being opened by Paul Manns, independent exhibitor, and associates in Minneapolis is already booked up solid for three weeks after opening.

Eddie Swanson, manager of the Metro, Red Wing, Minn., telegraphs that the Paul Muni opus, "We Are Not Alone," was mis-named as far as his theatre was concerned. He says that he was very much alone, without benefit of audience, when the film played his house—just before Christmas . . . The Christmas card sent out by Frank Woskie, local independent exhibitor, has 'em all screaming. It was a regal affair dealing with Frank sitting on the world's most celebrated throne . . . Wallace Yutzi, Pantages popular projectionist, still keeping up his tradition of three in a coup . . . The Twin City Variety Club was the scene of the gala Paramount exchange party.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Lyle Farrow, Parkers Prairie, Minn.; Fred Schnee, Litchfield, Minn.; Bill Keinholz, Buffalo, Minn.; Walter Lower, Moose Lake, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Bill Smith, Menominee, Wis.; Guy Troyer, Rugby, N. D.; Joe Corniea, Lake Crystal, Minn.; Moench & George, Zieland, N. D.; Bernie Larkin, Madelia, Minn.; George Blakeslee, Medford, Wis.; Paul Perrizo, Blue Earth and Winnebago, Minn.; Paul Hilquist, Proctor, Minn.; Harry Knowlton, Ellsworth, Wis.; Earl Ward, Sacred Heart, Minn.; Leon Bach, Sauk Rapids, Minn.; Wesley Faulkner, Plum City, Wis.; James Anderson, Tracy and West Concord, Minn.; Don Anderson, Pine Island, Minn.; Leo Molitor, Norwood, Minn.; L. W. Roth, Estelline, S. D.; Kenneth Johnson, Bricelyn, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schindel, Granite Falls, Minn.; Charlie Connought, Olivia, Minn.; Leo Backer, Browns Valley, Minn.; E. P. Nelson, Waseca, Minn.; L. Lano, Long Prairie, Minn.; Pete De Fae, Milbank, S. D.; Don Anderson, Plankington, S. D.; George S. Gunderson, Grand Meadow, Minn.; Klug & Klug, Zumbrota and Kenyon, Minn.

Wedding bells are scheduled to ring in the near future for Leon Bach, Sauk Rapids, Minn., exhibitor . . . Joe Prill, Paramount assistant booker, is another who'll march to the altar. He'll wed a Fergus Falls, Minn., girl, Corinne Jaren, a one-time Paramount employe, January 30 . . . The Minneapolis Universal office finished first in its district in the exhibitor-sponsored Nate Blumberg drive . . . Duane Becker, Paramount first assistant booker, spent Christmas at his home in Watertown, S. D. . . . Josephine Renner, Paramount secretary, spending the holidays in Omaha.

The Warner office is adorned with Sears' drive banners. The campaign starts December 24 and it's a cinch bet that Clarence K. Olson and his boys will be up among the winners . . . That was a neat decorating job at Columbia for the holidays . . . RKO held its Christmas party right in its own office, with A. F. Stern, office manager, running the show and doing it well. Incidentally, Stern is without an auto right now. The car was cracked up by another auto while his wife was driving it. She escaped injury.

Geneva Kimball, secretary to A. Selby Carr at Paramount, spent Christmas at Madison, Wis., her parent's home . . . Tommy Charack will spend New Year's Eve in Chicago. That glamorous actress is the magnet . . . Charlie Jackson was master of ceremonies at the Warner party and handled the assignment in his usual skillful fashion . . . Instead of taking his usual Christmas vacation, "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, is working harder than ever, closing deals, etc. He says he'll do his "playing" later—when all the "Mr. Smith" contracts are signed . . . Helen Morgan is headlining the current Minnesota Theatre show and Ted Lewis comes next week, in place of Gene Autry, to oppose Tommy Dorsey at the Orpheum.

Rental Made Public

DAVENPORT, IA.—A 13-year lease with an annual rental of approximately $6,800, has been made public by Tri-States on the Esquire. An agreement was filed between the company and Mrs. Gabrielle Walsh, owner of the property.

Building at Cherokee

CHEROKEE, IA.—Construction work has started on a modern picture house to replace the old Grand Opera House. F. W. Naulteus is manager.

A Casanova Writes

MINNEAPOLIS—Trade here is getting a laugh out of a letter received in reply to one of the postal cards sent out by Bennie Berger's Chief Theatre, Bemidji, Minn., to plug "On Your Toes," starring Zorina.

The post card said: "Dear So and So—I'll be at the Chief Theatre next week and I'd like to see you again. I have never forgotten our last meeting. (Signed) Zorina."

A resident of Crookston, Minn., apparently thinking the communication was genuine, wrote back as follows: "Dear Zorina—Received your card today. Say, where did I meet you? Surprised you kept me in mind. Tell me a little about it and it probably will bring the whole thing back. Sorry I'm not living in Bemidji any more. I had to move to Crookston. Write to me soon. I'm anxious to connect with you. You know I have so many lady friends and I can't keep track of all of them. Well, it's late and I must roll in. But DO write me now. Regards."

"Pot O' Gold" Counter Campaign Progresses

COLUMBUS—As result of three mass meetings conducted last week by P. J. Wood, Ohio ITO secretary, 104,300 seats were pledged to the campaign against the "Pot O' Gold" radio show on Tuesday nights. However, a total of 200,000 seats will be necessary before the campaign can be launched. Wood announced that he hopes to start the ball rolling by Jan. 9.

Each participating theatre will be assessed three cents per seat, a total of $6,000, to guarantee payment of double the Tum's award.

Cleveland Trade Enthusiastic Over ITO Campaign Plan

CLEVELAND—Theatre owners in the Greater Cleveland area have enthusiastically adopted the ITO plan to inaugurate a "back to the movies" campaign by doubling the Tums Pot O' Gold award to any winner who fails to answer his telephone because he is in one of the participating theatres at the time of the Tums telephone call on Tuesday evening.

P. J. Wood, ITO secretary, told the assembled Cleveland exhibitors that 100,000 seats of the required 200,000 seats needed to establish a starting fund, have already been signed at three cents a seat. Among the houses pledged are I. Libson's houses in Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus.

To date, Wood told the members of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors' Ass'n, only independent theatres have joined the plan, but he has discussed it with the affiliated theatres, some of whom are greatly interested, and are giving it serious consideration.

Exhibitors expressed the opinion that the offer to double the Tums award, will not only boost business on Tuesday nights, but will accomplish what they allege the Greater Movie Season failed to do, namely to re-establish the film attending habit.

At the most, Wood pointed out, the campaign will cost the exhibitor very little, because the chances of hitting a winner are so slight as to be negligible. In the event that there is no winner the initial fund collected will be returned.

The mechanics of announcing the winner to the audience and the presentation of the award, are being worked out by a committee under the direction of Wood, and as soon as completed, exhibitors will be notified how, in the opinion of the committee, it can be most simply operated.

Clamp Down on Car Prize At Bowling Green, Ohio

BOWLING GREEN, OHIO—Clark M. Young, operator of two local theatres, was fined $400 and costs when he pleaded guilty to selling tickets on a lottery. A new car was the prize offered by Young.

Mayor Bachman informed the theatre owner that "the war is on here against bank night drawings," advising him that the police have been ordered to close the theatres if drawings are held in the future.

Cleveland Accorded Extended Runs to 64 Features in '39

CLEVELAND—A survey of the picture scene in Cleveland during the year just ended shows that 64 features won extended runs ranging from two to four weeks, in their first run situations.

RKO's "Bachelor Mother" was the only one of the 64 pictures to establish a four-week run.

Of the 18 which held over for three weeks, M-G-M had six; Warner had five; 20th Century-Fox had three; Columbia, one; Universal, one; RKO, one; foreign, one. The Metro pictures were "Idiot's Delight," "Pygmalion," "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," "The Women," "Babes in Arms" and "Ninotchka." The five Warner pictures were "The Old Maid," "Daughters Courageous," "Juarez," "Dark Victory" and "Dodge City." Twentieth-Fox's pictures held over three weeks were "The Rains Came," "Drums Along the Mohawk" and "Jesse James." Columbia contributed "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington;" Universal, "Three Smart Girls Grow Up;" RKO, "Gunga Din," while "Professor Mamlock" took honors among the foreign releases.

Forty-five pictures were held over for two weeks, namely:

The Son of Frankenstein (Univ)
They Made Me a Criminal (WB)
Two Hearts in Waltz Time (Foreign)
The Beachcomber (Para)
Stagecoach (UA)
Oklahoma Kid (WB)
Kentucky (20th-Fox)
Sweethearts (M-G-M)
Stand Up and Fight (M-G-M)
Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M)
The Little Princess (20th-Fox)
Ballerina (Foreign)
Story of Vernon and Irene Castle (RKO)
Wuthering Heights (UA)
Union Pacific (Para)
Rose of Washington Square (20th-Fox)
Hardys Ride High (M-G-M)
Confessions of a Nazi Spy (FN)
It's a Wonderful World (M-G-M)
Only Angels Have Wings (Col)
Captain Fury (UA)
Good Girls Go to Paris (Col)
Tarzan Finds a Son (M-G-M)
Man About Town (Para)
Maisie (M-G-M)
Second Fiddle (20th-Fox)
On Borrowed Time (M-G-M)
Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever (M-G-M)
Each Dawn I Die (FN)
Man in the Iron Mask (UA)
Stanley & Livingstone (20th-Fox)
Wizard of Oz (M-G-M)
When Tomorrow Comes (Univ)
The Star Maker (Para)
In Name Only (RKO)
Lady of the Tropics (M-G-M)
Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO)
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox)
Roaring Twenties (WB)
Jamaica Inn (Para)
Disputed Passage (Para)
Elizabeth and Essex (WB)
Another Thin Man (M-G-M)
First Love (Univ)
Love Affair (RKO)

Specifically, in this group, M-G-M contributed 12 pictures. Paramount followed with 7; Warner and 20th-Fox tied for third place with 6 pictures each; RKO had 4; UA and Universal each had 3; Columbia had 2 and there were two foreign pictures.

Pa. Special Session Veered by Upturn

HARRISBURG—Discussion of a special session of the Pennsylvania legislature to finance unemployment relief has been postponed for an indefinite number of months due to the state's industrial upturn which has bettered the commonwealth's financial condition. Available relief funds are believed sufficient to stretch until June.

Practically all political observers are of the opinion that the expected special session of the general assembly will be deferred until early or mid-spring.

No Action Yet on New Pitt Admission Tax

PITTSBURGH—The city plan to impose a theatre tax similar to the one levied by the state, in 1936 which was one cent on each admission of 25 cents or fraction thereof, had been given no further consideration up to press time as the council's finance committee voted to raise taxes in 1940, the first increase in 10 years.

The new rate is 23 mills on land and 11.5 mills on buildings, the increase amounting to nearly 12 per cent. At the same time council agreed to borrow more than two million dollars to carry the city through the new year. Council pared more than a million dollars from Mayor Scully's estimates.

Several weeks ago City Solicitor William Alvah Stewart was ordered to make a study of the law on amusement tax levies to ascertain whether the city could enact such measure without assent of the state legislature.

Council was considering the welfare and health departments' budget at mid-week. The new tax rate was adopted by council's eight Democrats with the opposition of Robert Garland, lone Republican who was defeated in November by a Democrat, John T. Duff.

Plan Reopening

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO—Plans are going forward for the opening of the Hazelton-Dome Theatre, closed many years, by Milton Hansberg, owner of the building. Tom Birmingham was the last operator of the house.

Gala Tarentum Day As Dattola Opens

TARENTUM, PA.—December 21 was Mr. and Mrs. Bart Dattola's day. Celebrating the opening of the new Dattola Theatre on West Seventh Ave., Tarentum, the popular couple entertained upwards of 175 guests at a dinner-reception following the inaugural ceremonies.

The new house, seating 500, is modern in design and decoration. It replaces the old Grand which formerly occupied most of this site. Opening attraction was "Hollywood Cavalcade." Dedication program was handled by Alfred "Al" Rich, manager of the house who has been associated with the Dattola enterprises for about 15 years. Tarentum councilmen and third ward leaders were among the speakers along with Burtus Bishop jr., M-G-M branch manager, who represent the motion picture industry. Mr. and Mrs. Dattola, in exhibition for 23 years, responded.

Dinner-reception at the Kenmar Hotel, New Kensington, where the Dattolas own and operate two theatres, was the finest of such occasions in the mideast area in many years. Bishop again represented the industry as toastmaster with M. A. Rosenberg and Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO officers, as speakers of the evening. Bart Dattola, in his response, recalled his first theatre which he opened in 1916 at Belle Vernon, Pa., equipped with a cinder floor and wooden benches for seats. Two years later he entered exhibition at New Kensington and has remained there ever since.

Among those of the industry who took a bow were Jules Lapidus, New Universal manager; Mark Goldman, Monogram manager; A. I. Weiner, United Artists manager; Max Shulgold, Grand National manager; Godfrey Lefton, Monarch; Harry Rees and James Sippey, UA; Saul Perilman, Monogram; David Silverman, RKO; Mrs. Arthur F. Morrone, Superior Supply; Walter E. Dyck, National Theatre Supply; Mr. and Mrs. Frank France, Superior Supply; Ed Seigle, Theatre Games; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Alderman, Theatre Supply; Eli Kauffman, Jack and Dave Rosenfeld, Independent Display Co.; Martin Terner, American Theatrical Valance Co.; exhibitors included: Mr. and Mrs. Guy V. Ida, McDonald; Matthew, Ida, Springdale; I. Roth, Carl Poke, Harry Fleishman, Norman Fleishman of Pittsburgh; Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hasley, East Pittsburgh; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Neaman, Natrona; Jerry Castelli, Hills Station; Guy Oglietti, Leechburg; Raymond Mervis, Aspinwall; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dattola, Springdale; Steve Rodnenok, Oakmont; Harry Rachiele, Sharpsburg; William and Harry Walker, Crafton; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fleishman, McKees Rocks; Frank Panoplos, Clairton; Rudy Navari, Verona; Sam Navari, Universal; and among others: Harry Dunn, general contractor; Bob Klingensmith, BOXOFFICE; Emerson Hill, marquees.

Mrs. S. Gorris Operating The Star at Glassport, Pa.

GLASSPORT, PA.—Mrs. S. Gorris, widow of the veteran exhibitor, Peter Gorris, has assumed operation of the Star here. Her husband died six weeks ago. John Gorris, brother of the deceased and a former local theatreman, has returned to his home in the east to resume his activities in his restaurant business after managing the local theatre for some weeks.

Clarksburg Orpheum To Be Modernized

CLARKSBURG, W. VA.—Marks' Orpheum one of the surviving "gingerbread" front houses, will be modernized, with work scheduled to be started within a few days. In addition to a modern front, a new "V" type marquee will be installed by Flexlume. Auditorium will be newly seated, there will be a new ceiling and modern base walls will be installed. House will be completely redecorated and there will be new lighting fixtures, equipments and carpets, according to Joseph Feeney, manager. The house is owned by Jack Marks, one of West Virginia's pioneer exhibitors.

California, Pa., House Open in Pooling Deal

CALIFORNIA, PA.—The Hollywood, de luxe house, has been reopened under a management-pooling arrangement with the Capitol.

M. Goldman, owner of the Hollywood, has purchased the interests of his former manager, James Retter, for a reported $23,000.

The new deal was arranged by Goldman and Frank H. King and Jean Angeli, the latter two of the Capitol.

Plans of several weeks ago under which Retter would reopen the Grand have been discarded.

Thompson Enterprises Push New Watsontown Theatre

CLEARFIELD, PA.—Modernization work on the Capitol, Madera, Pa., recently acquired by H. J. Thompson Enterprises, has been stopped for the present, with all efforts concentrated on the new house under construction at Watsontown.

Expects Approval for New Homestead Park Theatre

PITTSBURGH—John Stahl, Homestead theatre owner, expects approval of his plans for a new 700-seater at Homestead Park within the next few days, he stated this week. Site of the Homestead Park Theatre, unnamed at present, is on Main St.

Cash Game Actions Held Local Matter

HARRISBURG—Enforcement action on Bank Night, Bingo and other games and inducements for attendance at commercial, charitable or other functions is in the hands of local authorities, according to an announcement by the justice department.

There is no specific legislation on Pennsylvania statute books covering such subjects and no new state legislation was enacted by the last assembly, Russell Shockley, chief deputy attorney general, declared here. He stated that such action is now and in the future will be up to local authorities.

State motor police, under Commissioner Lynn G. Adams, recently announced a state-wide drive against lotteries, taking sweeping action "county by county." He had particularly named Bank Night and Bingo games as objects of his "clean-up" and had notified all concerned that he was giving such operators an opportunity to close up without prosecution.

Exhibitors here and in various counties of western Pennsylvania state that they do not expect "ban" orders from local authorities, but for the most part they are speculating as to the future.

Local police "tipped off" some theatre owners several weeks ago to discontinue Bank Night or they would be prosecuted for operating a lottery. Such "tip offs" were understood to be friendly warnings and did not constitute an order for discontinuance of theatre cash games.

Charges Chains Hold Cleveland Power

CLEVELAND—The four circuits in Cleveland, "together with their relatives, can cast more votes" in the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors' Ass'n "than the entire balance of membership, and therefore outvote them on anything that is advantageous to themselves," M. B. Horwitz, treasurer of the organization, charges following defeat of an amendment to the bylaws that would have curbed circuit voting power.

Set forth in a letter to BOXOFFICE, Horwitz's views follow in more detail:

More than 25 years ago when the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors' Ass'n was founded and when every theatre was owned by a single individual the method of voting at exhibitors meetings was that the theatre votes. This, of course, was necessary at that time because in many instances more than one man owned a theatre and in order not to give him any advantages a method of theatre voting was adopted.

As time went on and the individual exhibitor acquired more theatres there naturally became many more theatres owned by fewer men until at the present time in the city of Cleveland four circuits, together with their relatives, control more theatres than the balance of the exhibitors do in the remaining theatres in greater Cleveland.

On several occasions matters came up in the Association meetings when a vote was taken and did not satisfy the four circuits then a vote by theatres was demanded, and of course with them controlling the greater number of theatres, the vote was reversed.

After I became treasurer of this organization I discovered many instances where great advantages were taken by some of these circuits unbeknown to myself. After I learned of these things I began to press for a change in the method of voting, whereby no small group could have the majority vote. This has been dragging on for more than a year, and the matter finally came to a vote, and a motion to amend the bylaws, whereby the men financially interested and actively engaged be permitted to vote, was defeated, making the situation today the same as it has been in the past. Of all the persons voting against the amendment only one individual voted against this amendment—the balance of all the negative votes was by the circuits mentioned above and their relatives.

While I am trying to condense a pile of work into a short letter, I cannot get in all the details, but I do want to give you this highlight—that at a Board of Directors' meeting the plan was discussed and a committee of six members of the Board was appointed to look into the plan and report back to the Board of Directors. This committee met and I outlined my plan in writing to them and the committee unanimously voted to recommend my plan to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors met for the purpose of receiving this report and after a discussion, a motion was made to unanimously accept the plan, but inasmuch as no change of amendment can be voted upon by the Board of Directors, but must be voted upon by the members at a regular meeting, a meeting was called,—And the same circuits with their relatives, including the ONE theatre owner, owning one theatre, VOTED AGAINST THE AMENDMENT, and the balance of the theatre owners voted for the amendment.

Summing up, the above in substance means the following: That the four circuits, together with their relatives, can cast more votes than the entire balance of membership, and therefore outvote them on anything that is advantageous to themselves.

Story of London's Slums

HOLLYWOOD—"Whitechapel," a story of London's slums by Leo Birinski and Kurt Siodmac, has been purchased by Metro.

ITO of W. Va. Calls Open Meet Jan. 9

CLARKSBURG, W. VA.—First meeting of the Independent Theatre Owners of West Virginia for 1940 has been set for Tuesday, January 9, at the Waldo Hotel here.

Initial session, at 3:00 p. m., will be open for all members of the industry, and film exchange managers and sales representatives will be invited to be present for general discussions regarding policies and prospects for 1940.

Later at an exhibitor meeting, an outline of the ITO's work for the period will be made by Richard D. Marks, president, and he will appoint committees to serve during the year. ITO of W. Va., is an Allied unit.

There will be a revision of the by-laws for the purpose of electing three additional members for the board of directors. A new secretary will be elected to replace Danny Davis, resigned, who has withdrawn from exhibition.

Film distributing friends will rejoin the West Virginia exhibitors at a social session and informal dinner at 7 p. m.

Form New Promotional Firm for Giveaways

CLEVELAND—Ben Elkins and J. Gertz have formed Theatre Merchandise Advertisers Co. with office in the Film Bldg., to sell business boosting plans to theatres. They have closed a contract with Larry Jacobs of Manufacturers Outlet of Pittsburgh to handle fur coat giveaways in theatres in Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois.

Another theatre plan includes giveaways of Crosley electric refrigerators, washing machines, radios, mangles and also a Crosley sedan of the convertible type.

Victor Saudek Heads Musicians

PITTSBURGH—Victor Saudek has been elected president of the Musicians' Club of Pittsburgh. Other officers include Burton Mustin, vice-president; Steven G. Ambritz, secretary, and Alfred Demmler, treasurer.

Too Much Action?

FRANKFORT, KY.—Returning a decision in a case in which the defendant introduced filmed evidence for the first time in the Kentucky court of appeals, the court upheld a lower court in finding for the plaintiff, Terry McDonald, Louisville, who filed suit against an insurance company to collect for disability.

"The unusual speed with which the characters moved in the picture left the impression the demonstration was not a fair representation of normal and actual movement," the court declared. The film pictured McDonald working about a filling station. The defendant, in presenting the film, claimed that the plaintiff was not entitled to disability since he was shown to be gainfully employed.

McDonald set out that he had contracted tuberculosis and hence was disabled.

PITTSBURGH

DAVE KIMELMAN'S annual Christmas party for children at the Paramount exchange last Saturday afternoon was a great event, the feature of the party being a screening of "Gulliver's Travels." Candy was distributed before and after the special screen program; it was a fine occasion and everybody was talking about "Gabby," a new pen and ink character very much in contrast to the beloved "Dopey" of "Snow White" fame. All in the trade are happy that Dave is well again and on the job.

Those who contributed to the Filmrow Christmas Fund would have been more happy if they could have had the experience of your correspondent in visiting only one home where their good wishes were so thankfully received. The fund was not sufficient to carry on full distribution as planned but the money contributed was well allocated. Contributors may examine the books at any time . . . Checking up on the cold Christmas morning we found a number of film jams, due to delayed returns of prints, inspectors and shippers were busy as were a few bookers. John J. Maloney and James H. Alexander stood by and saw to it that service was rendered.

Ladies' Theatrical Club of Pittsburgh, auxiliary of the Variety Club, came to the aid of a needy widow and her six children for Christmas and the group has announced it will play year 'round Santa to this family . . . Bob Leiber, manager of the Paramount, Braddock, provided the best laugh of the week for his patrons when he fell from the stage platform while conducting a theatre game. He was uninjured . . . Publication on these pages last week that the Harris circuit was withdrawing from its old established Family Theatre, Detroit, came as a surprise to members of the local industry.

Among holiday vacationists are the M. N. Shapiros, who are at Miami; the Jim (20th-Fox) Thorpes, in Virginia; Sid (Columbia) Gins, Washington, D. C. . . . Sympathy to Sam Fineberg of Republic Pictures whose grandmother, Mrs. Mollie Fineberg, 92, died last Saturday . . . Sidney Pink, former local exhibitor, and his wife were here this week to attend funeral services conducted for his father who passed away last week. Pink manages the California, Pomona, Cal., for FWC . . . Ted Lewis will feature the Stanley's stage show for the week of January 5 . . . Christmas morning show at Western Penitentiary, presented by members of the Variety Club, starred Bill Robinson and his cast of "The Hot Mikado" with a number of other acts.

University of Pittsburgh plans to build a skating rink to cost $350,000, according to Pitt's board of trustees . . . New York columnists are clamoring for the erection of a Stephen Foster statue "somewhere in Tin Pan Alley," just as the story of the life and music of Pittsburgh's immortal musician as pictured in "Swanee River," opens at the Alvin at a midnight showing New Year's Eve . . . John J. Maloney, M-G-M's district manager, had no definite announcement for a local GWTW opening date upon his return from New York. He hinted it might be January 26, at Loew's Penn.

Mike Thomas, Clairton exhibitor, has been on the sick list . . . E. B. Morton, NTS manager, was reported much better at mid-week after being threatened with pneumonia . . . A number of local film men and exhibitors will attend the Clarksburg shindig Tuesday, January 9 . . . Harris Family in East Liberty discontinued its newsreel policy after only a few days of experimentation . . . W. L. Zedaker, new owner, has reopened the Clay, Claysville, which has been remodeled and re-equipped.

Mr. and Mrs. William Richman and daughter, Pearl, of the Century-Family Theatre, north side, departed December 22 for Los Angeles. They plan a six-week vacation and will visit at the various studios. William's partner-brother Samuel is in charge of the theatre . . . Harry Segal of Standard Pictures was here on business at the Monarch exchange . . . RKO had a visitor in the person of Nat Levy, district manager . . . George D. Tyson of the Harris circuit office has been named as director of the Atlantic City beauty pageant for the fourth consecutive year . . . A nine-pound son was born last week to the Charles Flinns. Papa is the screen resurfacer.

Gene DeFallo, former Claysville exhibitor, is visiting the Hollywood studios . . . John Walsh, Fulton manager, visited in Rhode Island while the house was closed prior to its reopening for Christmas . . . During 1940 please address the old veteran Harry Williams by that name. He's tired of the old nickname . . . Winners of turkeys in the Ed Kelley contest were F. E. Hasley, Joe Mercer, Mathilda Kiel and George Ball . . . It was a merrier Christmas for Jack Kohler, Milt Broudy and Carl Miller, all of Filmrow, who were discharged from local hospitals before that day . . . Art Levy and his Columbia salesmen are packing their bags to attend a regional meeting in Washington, D. C.

Alexas Gets Ligonier Wilt, and Closes It

LIGONIER, PA.—The Wilt, operated here for many years by H. G. Wilt, has been acquired and closed by Alex Alexas, who recently opened the new Ligonier. The old house will be dismantled. The deal was not unexpected, Alexas acquiring additional product through the purchase.

Works With Elsa Maxwell

HOLLYWOOD—Tom McKnight, radio writer, has been engaged by Warner Bros. to work with Elsa Maxwell on the script of her first featurette for the company, "How Not to Give a Party."

FOR SALE

300 Eight-Inch Silhouette Marquee Letters and 62-Foot Frosted Background Unbreakable Glass. All for $100 cash.

Inquire

MAJESTIC THEATRE, Ellwood City, Pa.

CINCINNATI

THE old Clifton Theatre, 320 Ludlow Ave., taken over by Manny Marcus of Indianapolis, October 15, opened December 17, following extensive redecoration and re-equipping. Renamed the Esquire, this de luxe neighborhood house provides free "indoors" parking to its patrons. H. Coffel is manager.

Twenty-eight bookers and four members of the Libson-White organizations, attended the banquet, guests of Maury White at the Hotel Alms. The affair was voted one of the most enjoyable and sumptuous of the many Xmas festivities on the Row.

Warner's had two parties, a special affair for the inspection department, and an extra office party . . . RKO's Joe Goetz received much comment on his unique Christmas card. Messrs. Stalin and Hitler were shown polishing Mr. Goetz's boots . . . Phil Chakeres and his bunch were in this week, and also Chris Pfister of Troy.

Universal's "Destry Rides Again," received high commendations from Cincy's newspaper critics, and is settling in for a good run. "Gone With the Wind" is sold out a week in advance on evening performances. Incidentally the morning shows, too, are packing them in against the afternoon performances, which run third in attendance.

Owing to phobias and superstitions connected with the gruesome object, Lee Goldberg had some difficulty getting his huge electric chair, ballyhoo for "Buried Alive," unpacked on its arrival in Cincinnati. No one wanted to touch the electric chair, a rumor spreading that the sinister object brought disaster.

Maury White, president of United Theatres, is moving into a new suburban home, near Clinton Springs . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bohn came on from Indianapolis to join their family for the New Year observance.

Col. Arthur Frudenfeld, RKO Theatres general manager, spent the week in New York City . . . RKO theatre tickets, sold in attractive Xmas booklets for gifts, at $3.30 and $6.60 the book, did a most gratifying business.

Harold Hornbeck, Nate Quillen and Don Widlund, producing and distributing facility of Jam Handy products, were here on new product to be released in the New Year.

Howard Hummel is now connected with the Midwest Theatre Supply Co., in Filmrow, as sales representative . . . Columbia passed out bonuses of $10.

RKO served a hot turkey dinner, with Office Manager Gus Boudot as master of ceremonies, December 23. The office was the recipient of a 17-pound bird . . . M-G-M collected $15 and a goodly supply of food, clothing and toys for one poor family, name provided by the Salvation Army.

William Devaney spent several days at Columbus for a Metro regional meeting . . .

Sarah Goldberg departed for Louisville to spend the holiday season.

To bring the milestone of the Cinema to Cincy, a group of society women are sponsoring imports at the Mayfair, which has opened under the managership of J. Ebersole Crawford. The first presentation, "Ballerina," opened December 25 at matinee. Other imports to be shown include "Stolen Life" and "Queen of Destiny."

Northern Ohio Gains 7,000 Seats in 1939

CLEVELAND—Eight new motion picture theatres have been built in northern Ohio during the past 12 months, adding approximately 7,000 seats to those of the previous year.

The new houses, opened since Jan. 1, 1939, are the Shore, 1,500 seats in Euclid; Pearl, 1,000 seats in Lorain; Lake, 1,500 seats, in Painesville; Mount Union, Alliance, 1,200 seats in Alliance; Park, 600 seats in North Canton; Grove, 350 seats in Columbus Grove; Dixon, 350 seats in Toledo, and the Limelight, 350 seats in Woodsville.

No new theatres were built in Cleveland during 1939 and there are no new ones contemplated at this time.

Associated and Community Managers Get Bonuses

CLEVELAND—At a banquet at the Statler Hotel officials of the Associated and Community theatres, for the fourth consecutive year, distributed bonuses to some 50 theatre managers. The two circuits control more than half of the theatres in the greater Cleveland area. Meyer Fine, Abe Kramer, John Kalafat, John Urbansky and Sam Stecker operate the Associated circuit, while the Community circuit is headed by Max Lefkowich and Henry Greenberger.

Jerry Friedlander, attorney for Associated, acted as master of ceremonies at the banquet. Guest speakers were Judge Samuel Silbert and Ed Bang, sports editor of *The News*.

North Canton Gets Its First Film Theatre

CANTON, OHIO—The New Park at nearby North Canton opened to the public last Friday night, giving the community, one of the largest in the country without a theatre, its first motion picture house. The theatre is housed in a building erected by M. M. and John B. Mohler, costing $60,000, which has been leased to the Stark Theatrical Enterprises, Inc. It seats 734. An innovation is "love seats," a double seat arrangement for cuddling patrons.

The theatre is owned by George Ellis, formerly with the A. G. Constant Inter-State circuit, and for many years manager of the State and American in East Liverpool.

COLUMBUS

WE'D like to venture a prediction that 1940 will truly be a Happy New Year for those in the Central Ohio theatre field. A casual glance at the "reasons why" leads to the observations that the gang expects a great year because—

Clint Wander: He's now married; C. Harry Schreiber: Tent Two of the Variety Club; Freddie Oestreicher: More elaborate press books; Louie Martin: Fire insurance; Johnny Hardgrove: No longer backstage; Pete Wood: Rodgers & Lichtman; Mike Cullen: Improved biz at Broad; Floyd Price: Gene Custers; J. Real Neth: Schine circuit; Al Trott: The IATSE.

Johnny Barcroft: More stage shows; Bill Pullin: Bill Pullin III; Phil Chakeres: Wellston biz; Ted Gardner: Carbons burning out; Woody Wiler; Assistant manager spot; Ted Lindenberg: Duo-projection; Johnny Frye: A junior edition; Clarence MacDonald: Fewer snake eyes; Watty Watson: Metro all the way; Leo Yassenoff: Big business; Cliff Bozman: Mauri White.

Milt Jacobs: "Gone With the Wind;" Larry Caplane: RKO baseball; Bob Pullin: No more jitterbugs; Erway Briner: High Santa; Roger Garret: Ohio Theatre; Bill Pancake: Unions; Max Stearn: Good poker hands; Harry Young: Cincinnati Reds; Roy Reichelderfer: Censorship; Charlie Gann: V. C. bar; Ethel Miles: Walter Miles; Johnny Jones: O.S.U. football.

Ted Pekras: A comeback, maybe; Curt Littman: Double billing; Bill Cunningham: The trade press; Milt Staub: Electricity; Buddy Winthrop: Extended playing time; Russ Bovim: S.R.O.; Jack Needham: 20th Century-Fox; Fred Rowlands: New High Street house; Caldwell Brown: Cambridge Sundays; Lou Holleb: Entertaining the kiddies; Rappold Bros.: Innis Theatre.

Bernie Gardner: Duke Clark; Bert Williams: Franklin County courts; Jim Hendel: More UA contests; Ken Rader: Two brothers; Link Davis: The breaks again; Leo Kessel: Lancaster prosperity; Virgil Jackson: Uptown Theatre; Bob Boda: Legitimate attractions; Bobby Burns: Athletic Club; Hoy Simons: Bank night; Frank Greisinger: Verified rumors.

Here's wishing you and yours the best for a Happy New Year!

Frank Boyd Heads Field Service Committee

CLEVELAND—Frank H. Boyd, sales representative for American Seating Co., will head the Cleveland committee of the American Field Service, which operated during the first World War, carrying Allied wounded in American ambulances in both France and the Balkans. The local organization, Boyd states, will perfect similar plans for the wounded of this World War and will work through the same groups and individuals that sent 20 cars to France for ambulance work in the previous war.

CLEVELAND

Cleveland Barkers Host 360 School Children

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Variety Club and the Variety Post held a Christmas party for 360 underprivileged children in the Variety Club rooms.

Starting with a turkey dinner, the children were entertained by Manny Landers orchestra, three of the "Dead End Kids" currently headlined at the RKO Palace, five acts of specialties performed by children and six Technicolor cartoons.

In addition to food and entertainment, each child received a bag containing books, games, fruit, candy and a brushed wool sweater with matching mittens.

The children, ranging from six to 11 years, are selected from the schools in the poorer neighborhoods. They were brought from and delivered back to their schools by special busses. The ladies of the Variety Club served the dinner and assisted in the entertainment and care of the children during the party.

Nat Wolf, chief barker until after the first of the year, when Nat Lefton takes over, reports that 360 girls and boys were entertained this year as against 225 last year.

First Prize in Republic Drive to Rudy Norton

CLEVELAND—Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner, has announced the winners of the date drive just concluded. Rudy Norton, Cleveland salesman, won the first prize of $100. Second prize of $50 goes to Jack Lefton, another Cleveland salesman, while the booker's prize of $50 goes to George Kirby of the Cincinnati office.

With the date drive successfully finished, Lefton inaugurates a 16-week collection drive starting January 1 and continuing through April. And to make the drive more interesting Lefton announces that $500 will be distributed as prizes among the winning salesmen, managers and bookers of the Cleveland and Cincinnati offices. Scores will be computed on the basis of the number of dates over and above their quotas obtained by the members of the organization.

In addition to sharing in the grand prize of $500, there will also be awarded monthly prizes of $25 to those who exceed their quotas. Winning of the monthly prize does not prevent the recipient from participating in the grand prize.

Musicians Re-elect Streng

COLUMBUS—Arthur E. Streng has again been re-elected president of AFM Local 103. Other officers are: Alphonse Cincione, Carroll McGhee, John Clark, John Collins, E. C. Kershaw, Lysle Kirk and Frank Todhunter, executive board members; Ryan Davidson, financial secretary, and Mr. Kershaw, recording secretary.

Variety Dinner January 8

PITTSBURGH—Variety Club's Monday night dinners, discontinued through the holidays, will be resumed January 8 with Harry M. Kalmine and his Legionnaires as Kings for the Day.

THE Meyer Fine family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Fine and their two sons, Marshall and Errol, left last Monday for Miami Beach. Mr. Fine will return in three weeks with Marshall, Mrs. Fine and the younger son remaining south for a longer stay . . . Mrs. Lena Stillwell of the Bedford, Bedford, recovered from her recent attack of pneumonia sufficiently to spend Christmas at home.

You who were on the George Erdmann Christmas card list will no doubt agree that the secretary of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n might have had successful film aspirations in his youth.

Col. Harry E. Long, Loew division manager, spent Christmas with his home folks in Washington while Mrs. Long celebrated the occasion with her home folks in London, Ont. . . . Everett Steinbuck, manager of Loew's State, visited friends in Washington, D. C., last week and reports that the governing class is plenty burned up over "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

John Newkirk, manager of Loew's Granada and the members of his organization passed up their annual Christmas party this year in order to spend the party money for toys for underprivileged children.

Ask M-G-M Branch Manager Frank Drew to show you the old-time picture of himself that his salesmen dug up and presented to him for Christmas . . . Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner, was presented with a combination radio-Victrola from his staff for Christmas.

Jim Scoville of the Scoville, Essick and Reif circuit, was conspicuously absent from all Film Bldg. holiday activities because flu laid him low. He is getting along all right now, however, and will probably be able to participate in the New Year celebrations.

Jim Mullins of RCA reports he has completed installing all new sound equipment in the Palace Theatre, Marion, for Tracy Barnham . . . The Mullinses, by the way, ate their Christmas turkey in Steubenville with relatives of Mrs. Mullins.

Leonard Mishkind, Republic booker, was forcibly reminded the other day that two things cannot occupy the same space at the same time with the result that he is wearing a limp—result of a falling packing case.

"Goose Step," under which title Big Feature Rights' picture, "Hitler — Beast of Berlin" is released in this state by order of the Ohio censor board, will be premiered in this territory at the Circle, Cleveland, right after the first of the year . . . The Amboyd Theatre, Wellington, which has been dark some time, reopened Saturday by Manager Jewel with a free show to one and all from 2 to 11 p. m.

Miss Pearl Sprott, secretary of Detroit's Allied Ass'n, was a silent visitor at Thursday's Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n meeting when Pete Wood explained to the boys just how the theatres of Ohio will work the double Pot O' Gold plan on Tuesday nights, so as to carry the plan back to the exhibitors in her territory.

Harry Lande, operating Independent Film Service, states that he has closed a deal with Ralph Rose to play "The Mill on the Floss" at the Penn Square for an indefinite run starting soon after the first of the year . . . Grand National Sales Manager Sol Edwards stopped off in Cleveland for a one-day conference with Mae Vincent Rosian, office manager, on his tour of all GN exchanges.

Miss Rickey Labowich, secretary to the secretary of the CMPEA, vacationed in Buffalo over the holidays . . . With the first sign of snow, Frank Poroszinski, who double features as an exhibitor and a grapefruit farm owner, is casting his eyes on Florida.

Warner Bros. confirm the rumor that the Lake Theatre, which opened late in October, is closing on January 4 . . . Charlie Deardourff, M-G-M exploiteer, was moved out of his official corner of the M-G-M exchange last week, to make way for the Christmas tree . . . The regular quarterly meeting of Warner theatre managers in Nat Wolf's zone was held in Cleveland the first two days of last week with Joseph Bernhard, general manager of theatres, and Harry Goldberg, national head of the theatre advertising department in charge . . . Following the meetings, the managers were entertained at dinner at the Variety Club.

Mrs. Georgia Moffett, Variety Club secretary, spent Christmas in Pittsburgh.

Checking over the records, we find that the pre-Christmas theatre business this year was just about on a par with last year. This means that the grosses were below average during the shopping weeks before the holidays . . . Ben Elkins and J. Gertz of Theatre Merchandise Advertisers, distributors of the Crosley appliance deal and of fur coats, drove over to Chicago for the Christmas week.

Via the Christmas card route, we have just learned of the death of Van Wyck Benner last May. Benner, as many will remember, was RCA local sales representative in Cleveland several years ago. He resigned that position to do some scientific farming on his own place out in Oklahoma. Mrs. Benner, who made a note of his death on her Christmas card, failed to give any details.

Bill Tallman Redecorating

EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO—Bill Tallman's Ceramic Theatre is undergoing a complete redecorating job from boxoffice right through to the rear exit.

T. B. KLAIBAN
Motion Picture Screen Resurfacing Co.
White and Silver Screens
Guaranteed Workmanship—Reasonable Prices
Satisfied Customers for Twelve Years
604 WARD AVE., GIRARD, OHIO
Phone: Girard, Ohio, 361-J

DETROIT

WADE ALLEN of the Arcadia and Fine Arts was host to Film Bowling League —about 100 per cent—at a pre-Xmas party. A special film show of comedies and a bowling reel were shown.

Jerry Schneider, late Stratford manager, was remembered by playing of "My Buddy" over WJR by request on the occasion, while the gang observed a silence . . . Collection was taken up for the Goodfellows.

Alex Schreiber, of Associated Theatres, for the second year sold newspapers Tuesday at the Film Bldg. for the Detroit's famed Goodfellows Fund. The band from Theatre Legion Post gave him moral support. The Theatrical Post and the Screen Craft Club both gave him big checks. Dow Thompson, manager of the Broadway Capitol, and Wayne Brenkert, maker of Brenkert projectors, were selling on other locations. Mrs. Alice Gorham of United Detroit handled all publicity for the big event.

Billposters Local 94 has new officers: John Carrano, president; Roy Van Gieson jr., vice-president; William F. Hines, secretary-treasurer; Mike Noch, business manager; Turner Perry, chairman of the board, and Elman Solomon and Joseph Stevens, directors.

William F. Hines is starting his 30th year in this office—a national record, we claim . . . United Artists Exchange was closed Friday afternoon, in memory of the late Douglas Fairbanks.

Joe Reich is down at Miami Beach for a few weeks with his brother, while Mrs. Reich runs the store here . . . Milton London of the Arcadia and Irving Belinsky have one thing in common; details soon.

Ed Long is putting a new marquee on the Oakland Theatre . . . Art Robinson, of the Madison, was busy playing Santa Claus for the Variety Club.

Helen Denton of the Film Bldg. is fond of spaghetti . . . Carl Shalit, Columbia chief, busy lunching with the staff—those in town—Thursday . . . Ralph Ruben and Mike Victor, of the Astor, another lunching pair.

Lloyd Hammond was unsuccessful in making that date—(or was it?) with Phil Kaplan's daughter . . . Al Rupert is mighty enthusiastic about better lighting in pictures.

Wedding bells were to ring Saturday at St. Cecilia's Church for Bill Brown, 20th-Fox booker, and son of Chester Brown, former owner of the Latin Theatre. The bride is Mary Schonhofen.

Bill was trying to get the transmission on his car repaired so he could take a honeymoon . . . 20th-Fox salesmen all disappeared on vacations, didn't say where to.

Charley Collins, booker, received minor body injuries in an auto accident east of Chatham, Ont. . . . Polly Pollard, bowling league prexy, is a victim of stomach disorder.

Ralph Peckham's girls at Grand National stay in the office for their lunch . . . *House Cleaning Note:* Don't throw out those trade yearbooks. Call BOXOFFICE and we'll find a use for them.

Fifi D'Orsay, a screen star, in town for a personal appearance at The Bowery . . . Harold C. Robinson reports about $200 net profit for Variety on the big Feather Party—more coming this winter.

Mike J. Chargot is busy remodeling and reseating the newly-acquired Oakland in Highland Park—slated to reopen Sunday . . . D. A. Timson, president of Parquet Floor Co., is in Florida.

Max Blumenthal netted about $100 for Variety Sunday, when he entertained a party of 60 at the club rooms . . . Tunis (Eddie) Stinson was named a member of the Detroit Board of Health by Mayor Richard W. Reading.

Jackie Moran, appearing in person with the Little Tough Guys at Ray Schreiber's Colonial, was elated over his press notices in the premiere of "Gone With the Wind" . . . Mary Lou Harrington, Detroit's latest film star—aged seven—started work on "His Favorite Wife." Irene Dunne and Cary Grant are also in it.

Fifi D'Orsay, making a personal appearance at the Bowery, tells us she and Alex Schreiber of Associated are old friends—he knows where to find the food she likes. Fifi is being held over a second week, co-starring with Jackie Coogan.

Festivities: All filmites had a chance to exchange holiday cheer at some of the several swell parties put on by various offices . . . Saturday afternoon was open house at the Film Bldg. . . . Co-Operative Theatres held a fine open house Friday afternoon. Cully Buermele was the genial host, assisted by Dan Lewis, booker. Bill Carlson was on hand as impromptu majordomo. Sam Barrett and Henry Zapp were among the other hosts, and Evelyn of the Contract Department, for the girls. Tom McGuire just got back from Washington for the occasion. Bob Thompson jr., M-G-M, was highly concerned over where the ladies were . . . John Dembeck tried to give him pointers. Frank Wetsman and Lew Wisper were on deck . . . Harold Sandelman, another Metro-man, mixes business and pleasure . . . Asher Shaw, UDT, up to wish everybody season's greetings. Bill Hendricks, UDT exploiteer, off to bowl for Annis Furs at the Harmonie . . . Herb Brown departing for vacation at Boston, after his wife got a permanent. Mrs. Jim West, still convalescing, will soon return to Texas, where she has about eight brothers and sisters . . . Bill Schulte, circuiteer, seen over at the lunch counter. Mrs. Hal Burriss gave all the boys of the staff a camel's hair jacket—and they fit!

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

W. R. Sturgess, of the Gem, Flint, has a new cabin cruiser, keeps it right in the Saginaw River beside his home . . . Stambaugh, Mich., has about the best name for a theatre—the Perfect.

George Bohm has taken over the Bohm at Albion, where he runs the house, from Bruce Godshaw of Chicago . . . W. D. (Pop) Ward's new theatre is the Virginian at Parkersburg—he was Republic salesman here till lately.

George (Col.) McCoy is at his mother's home at Parkersburg (W. Va.) for the holidays . . . He's got a splendiferous new LaSalle to cover the territory.

William Cassidy, circuiteer of Midland, etc., is recovering from the flu . . . Doc Eiseman and Associated are watching the brickwork and marquee go up on their new Nortown at Flint.

Ray Cloud, Columbus salesman, is spending Xmas holidays in California.

Ray Conlin, head of the Michigan Vaudeville Ass'n, now has his office in Royal Oak.

New Operators Contract Calls for Pay Boost

LOUISVILLE, KY.—John P. Flaherty, head of the operators' union here, said the new contract for operators in neighborhood and suburban Louisville theatres will call for an increase in pay, but declined to say just how much it will amount to until the contract is signed.

Local operators have been getting $41 weekly for a 37-hour week. The old contract expired at midnight December 31.

Switow Chain Acquires Fourth at New Albany

LOUISVILLE, KY.—The recent acquisition by the Switow interests of Settos' house at New Albany, the Elks, now gives this southern Indiana chain four theatres in the town. F. Shirley Wilcox is city manager for Switow at New Albany.

The erstwhile manager of the Elks, Ford Tracy, will be transferred to another Settos theatre.

Denies Ban Stay

HARRISBURG—Dauphin county court has refused to grant an injunction restraining enforcement of the state liquor control board regulation banning entertainments after legal drink-serving hours in communities lacking ordinances on the subject.

Bill Lindsay Moves Operations

AUBURN, KY. — Bill Lindsay, operating the Brown at Brownsville, Ky., has moved his equipment to this town where he will operate the Starlight.

Adapts Own Original

HOLLYWOOD—His own original, "They're All Crazy," is been adapted by Paul Yawitz for Universal. Mischa Auer will be toplined.

Many Charity Shows For Upstate Territory

DETROIT—Upstate theatres were not behind the Detroit houses this year in charity shows and special Christmas celebrations. At Flint, for instance, Associated Theatre's Rialto gave a three-day series of free shows for inmates of several city and county institutions. These included: Hurley Hospital, County Infirmary, Hazelton Orthopedic School, Juvenile Home and Whaley Home.

Candy was given to all the children, and tobacco for the men.

The shows were jointly sponsored by the Rialto and Local 472 of the IATSE, under joint management of House Manager Maxie Gealer and Ray Fields, union business agent. Bills were programmed to consist mostly of cartoons and comedies.

Smoke From Nearby Fire Vacates Detroit Annex

DETROIT—Fire from a nearby shoe store, resulting in smoke in the theatre auditorium, drove some 500 people out of United Detroit's Annex on a recent evening.

No damage to the theatre itself was reported, and the decision to close down was made calmly, around 10 p. m., half an hour after the fire started, when the smoke became evident in the theatre. No panic resulted.

Gr. Rapids Independents Elect H. T. Reynolds

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.—H. T. Reynolds was elected president of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., at a recent meeting here. Other officers named include: Frank Kleaver and Glen Fleser, vice-presidents; Carl Orwant, secretary, and Nathan McCarthy, treasurer.

Reseating Is Completed For Alliance Columbia

ALLIANCE, OHIO—Columbia, one of the Tri Theatres group here, managed by Ray S. Wallace, has reopened after being dark several days for installation of new seats on the lower floor. Reseating is the first for the house since it was built 35 years ago, according to Manager Wallace.

Finish Remodeling

GROVE CITY, PA.—The Guthrie Theatre here has been reopened after being dark a week for extensive interior remodeling. Book-Davis Co. of this city assigned a large force of men working in double shifts to complete the work in a minimum of time.

Monarch Has Barthelmess Starrer

PITTSBURGH—Monarch Pictures will distribute "Spy of Napoleon," a Richard Barthelmess starrer, Lew Lefton, manager, announces. The film, a Standard Production, is now available for booking.

Sole Detroit House For 3rd St. Planned

DETROIT—Construction of the only theatre on Third St. was announced by Julius D. and Milton London, father and son, who operate the Booth and Arcadia now. This move is of considerable civic importance, incidentally, as it may create an entirely new business trend for Third St., which has not had a theatre on its entire eight-mile length, since the old Merrick was closed about ten years ago.

Establishment of a new traffic system for Detroit in the one-way street regulations, a few months ago, is the reason for selecting this site, Milton London said. The house will be erected on the southeast corner, facing all downtown-bound traffic, on one of the heaviest-traveled streets in the city. The new regulations have diverted many thousands of automobiles daily to Third, and are being counted upon to make this a new business thoroughfare.

The Londons are the genuine pioneers of the new business street, inasmuch as they are the first to plan a new business structure along its entire length since the new traffic system came into effect.

The house will probably be of around 1,000-seat capacity, and will utilize the walls of an existing garage structure in part. Bennett and Straight are architects. Bids are now being taken on the construction of the house. Opening is planned for late March.

Jack White Marries

PITTSBURGH—Announcement has been made of the marriage of Jack White, manager of the Novelty, north side, and Mildred Breakstone, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Myers. The young bridegroom is related to Jacob Richman, operator of the Novelty.

Scripts One for Wurtzel

HOLLYWOOD—Frederick Hazlitt Brennan is scripting "Sweetheart of Turret One" for Producer Sol Wurtzel at 20th-Fox.

BOWLING

DETROIT—New bowling scores for the Film Bowling League:

Team	Won	Lost
Republic	39	9
Film Drug	29	19
United Artists	27	21
Film Truck	25	23
Co-operative	20	28
20th Century-Fox	19	29
Amusement Supply	16	32
Monogram	16	32

High-rollers of the week were: Stanley Malinowski, 211; Jack Susami, 208, and Eddie Regina, 200.

LOUISVILLE, KY.—Captained by Ed Klapheke, operator at the new Vogue at St. Matthews, suburban Louisville, the Hill Top Theatre team is leading the Movie Operators' Bowling League by a margin of one game over the Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. outfit.

Sees No Current Dearth Of Foreign Product

DETROIT—No shortage of foreign films is likely for the present booking season, according to Mac Zipperman, manager of the Cinema. In fact, two bookings set for 1939 had to be put in beginning this past week, forcing out "Hitler — Beast of Berlin," which was setting house records, after only two weeks. Arrangements have been made to shift the film to the Robinson Circuit's Madison, 1,000-seat house, making the first time the Madison has played a first-run film under its present management.

"The Girl Refugee," a Greek film booked in on a percentage contract, has just closed, and "Rasputin" is in currently, both films having been booked several months ago, and the Cinema management was unable to shift dates to 1940 when the success of the Hitler film became apparent.

French films are going to be an important part of Cinema bookings for the next few months, Zipperman said, with a number of important French films scheduled, including "Harvest," "Katia" with Danielle Darrieux, and a new Grace Moore film made in Paris.

Co-op Christmas Present For Member Theatres

DETROIT — Co-operative Theatres of Michigan wound up the year with a Christmas present that amounted to about $21,000 to member theatres, Carl Buermele, general manager, revealed. This was in the form of free booking fees for nearly 100 member theatres—so that each house shared to the tune of around $200.

The free booking fees were scheduled to fit the lows of the booking year—some being allowed during the summer months, and the rest in December, when boxoffice business was at its lowest, so that the total result was 13 weeks of free booking during the year's business, Buermele said. This was possible, he pointed out, because of the cooperative nature of the organization.

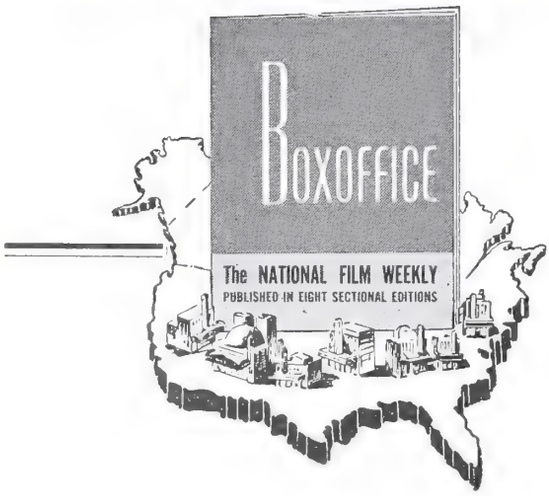
Rothenstein to Wed

PITTSBURGH—Louis Rothenstein, Cambridge Springs, Pa., exhibitor, and Miss Celia Wein will marry Sunday, January 7, at 5 o'clock in Congregation Poale Zedeck. Bride-to-be is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Wein of Clarion, and the bridegroom is a son of Sam Rothenstein, Evans City exhibitor, and a brother of Abraham Rothenstein, West Aliquippa exhibitor.

Present Old-Timers

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO—Presentation of old time silent pictures in the lobby of Hotel Reeves is an innovation hereabouts.

Hotel management has arranged to screen old time film for the entertainment of its guests once a week. First films presented were "The Great Train Robbery" and Charles Chaplin in "The Trysting Place."



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Allied Unit Names Officers Jan. 9

Boston—The 1940 slate of officers of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., will be voted upon when the Allied affiliate meets January 9. The nominating committee will report its nominees at that time.

Film Division Leads Hub Fund Action

BOSTON—The motion picture division of the Greater Boston's 1940 Community Fund Campaign was the first segment of the charity to be fully organized. Theatremen and distributors have given the enterprise robust support ever since it has been inaugurated. Many film workers contribute, week by week, a definite percentage of their salaries to the charity.

Complete committees of the film division of which Martin J. Mullin of the M&P Theatres Corp., is vice-chairman, follows:

Group 109a:

Chairman, Joseph Brennan, Allied Theatres of Mass.; vice-chairman, Edward A. Cuddy, M&P Theatres; committeemen, Harry McDonald, Memorial Theatre; A. G. Munro, Shubert; H. M. Addison, Loew's State; Louis W. Richmond, E. M. Loew's; Al Somerby, Howard Athaenum; F. W. McManus, Allston; Maurice Corkery, Central Square; H. I. Wasserman, Oriental; Hy Fine, M&P Theatres; Sam Soule; Frank Lydon, Hamilton; Edward S. Canter, M&P Theatres.

Company chairmen, Edward Lovett, Bowdoin Square; George Kraska, Fine Arts; Frank C. Lydon, Hamilton; Lew Talbot, Howard Athaenum; Louis W. Richmond, E. M. Loew's; Mr. Claman, Lancaster; Louis Krasnow, National; Walter McGee, New Gayety; Howard Burkhardt, Loew's Orpheum; Frederick R. Greenway, Loew's State; Edward S. Canter, M&P Theatres; M. Streletsky, Allston; George F. Friary, Bellevue; Thomas F. Wall, Capitol; Maurice Corkery, Central Square; Ralph L. Ripley, Codman Square; George V. Sweeney, Criterion; Nathan Levin, Dudley; George Heeley, Egleston; Joseph Marquis, Egyptian; Marvin F. Huban, Fairmount; Ben Rosenberg, Fenway; Harold Friary, Fields Corner; Frank D. Solomont, Franklin Park; Joseph P. Callahan, Harvard; Clarence Lofgren, Hyde Park; Philip D. DePetro, Jamaica; Bernard D. Phillips, Liberty; Jack C. Goodwin, Metropolitan; Abner Pinanski, Modern; Harry Goldstein, Morton; Albert B. Lourie, Oriental; John B. Carroll, Paramount; Joseph Sullivan, Rialto; Lewis Newman, Rivoli; Arthur R. Morton, Scollay Square; Samuel Feinstein, Shawmut; Joseph Lourie, Strand; John Buckley, Warren; Max L. Nayor, Olympia; Abner Eilenberg, Middlesex Amusement; E. O. Ramsdell, Granada; George Hackett, Medford; Ben Domingo, Boston Memorial; A. G. Munro, Shubert; Kenneth Russell, South Station; Alfred W. Lauder, Trans-Lux; Chester F. Ellis, Uptown; Stanley Sumner, University.

Group 109b and c:

Chairman, Maurice N. Wolf, Loew's, Inc.; vice-chairman, John Dervin, UA.

Company chairmen, J. H. Rogovin, Columbia; Harry Decker, Film Exchange Transfer; J. P. Byrne, Loew's, Inc.; Maurice Master, Master Motion Picture Bureau, Inc.; Steve Broidy, Monogram; Frank J. Wolf, National Screen Service; Albert M. Kane, Paramount; Cyril J. McGerigle, RKO; Edward Morey, Republic; E. X. Callahan, 20th-Fox; Joseph Carroll, UA; James H. Murphy, Universal; Norman J. Ayers, Vitagraph; Laurence J. Hacking, Altec; Kenneth R. Douglass, Capitol Theatre Supply; H. J. McKinney, National Theatre Supply; John T. Loftus, Standard Theatre Supply.

New Haven Area Construction Quadruples Number in 1938

NEW HAVEN—Completed theatre construction in the territory during 1939 quadrupled that of 1938 in number of houses and more than doubled the amount of money spent. Whereas the Dixwell Playhouse and the Arch Street Theatre, New Britain, were the only houses completed last year, at an approximate cost of $250,000, eight new houses were opened this year, at an approximate cost of $500,000, and an additional four new houses are in the process of construction, and will be ready for business by spring, adding another $265,000 to cost.

The new 1939 houses started with the opening on the New Year of Joseph Faith's 450-seat Unionville, and continued with the Weiss Amusement 750-seat Avon, Stamford, the 550-car Milford Drive-In, Connecticut's first venture of this kind, the 750-seat State, Jewett City, built by Quittner and Perakos to replace the old hurricane-damaged Finn's, the 700-seat Park, Thomaston, built by Robert Schwertz, the Shulman 600-seat Plaza Playhouse, Windsor, and the D. C. Hess 658-seat Groton. Michael Cascioli's 973-seat Forest, Allingtown, was scheduled as the last opening of the old year. Taking into account the closing of Finn's and the Park, Allingtown, about 4,100 seats will have been added in new construction alone, with the Drive-In accommodating another 2,000, and spring adding another 2,650.

In addition, approximately $147,000 has been spent in theatre improvement and enlargement to 19 houses, ranging from $2,000 renovation jobs to $20,000 contracts for complete reconstruction and equipment. Although the amount spent last year was almost double this sum, it was substantially represented by Loew and Warner circuit installation of new sound systems The 1939 figure compares more with 1937, when a large number of independent renovations and installation of air-conditioning systems were reported. Loew's Palace, Hartford, and Globe, Bridgeport, reseating jobs were the largest circuit improvements this year, together with M&P's renovation of the 1,000-seat Regent, Norwalk. The Rivoli, Bridgeport and Brooklawn, Fairfield, were air-conditioned.

The old Pratt's, Deep River, was completely reconstructed into a modern 468-seat Deep River Theatre, at a cost of approximately $20,000. The 600-seat Windsor, formerly operated by Nathan Lampert, was acquired by Lockwood-Gordon interests and completely renovated and re-equipped to a like tune of $20,000. Strand Amusement's 1,000-seat Hippodrome, Bridgeport, is being partially rebuilt and re-equipped and will represent an approximate $15,000 investment in improvement. The 600-seat Rialto, Windsor Locks, now under Joseph Walsh management, was also renovated at a cost of about $15,000. The 900-seat Bailey theatre, the Whalley, was completely reseated, equipped with new sound and otherwise repaired, with an approximate $10,000 outlay. A $20,000 Fine Arts, Westport, enlargement and remodeling job is expected to be completed by February.

The 1940 newcomer list will lead off with the 499-seat DeFrancesco Cheshire, set for a January 15 opening. Others in construction now are the Bailey 950-seat Whitneyville, Shulmans' 600-seat Wethersfield and Fred Van Doren's 600-seat west end Waterbury. The early new year will also see construction of Fairchester Theatres' 700-seat Ridgefield, A. M. Schuman's new Black Rock and Morris Hadelman's reconstructed Shelton.

Considerable litigation early last fall stressing the public nuisance angle of the Milford Drive-In, leaves the future of this venture in doubt for the 1940 season.

Hub Film Fraternities Help St. Nick Along

BOSTON—The Hub film district dispensed holiday cheer in big chunks. The Theatrical Post of American Legion handed out 150 baskets, loaded with oranges, grapefruit, turnips, potatoes, parsnips, beans, canned corn, apples, and topped with respective turkeys.

The Cinema Club distributed other substantials and goodies. The Salesmen's Club mailed checks. The Boston Friars Club and other organizations did their silent bit.

Bridgeport and Hartford To Allied Membership

NEW HAVEN—Allied Theatres of Connecticut met Tuesday at Martin's Restaurant to receive reports of E. Thornton Kelly on its membership campaign which has added Bridgeport and Hartford independent exhibitors 100 per cent to its roster in the last few weeks. A. M. Schuman presided.

Merrill Completes Chore

HOLLYWOOD—Martha Merrill has finished scripting "Every Day Is Sunday," a Jack Moss production to be released through Paramount.

HARTFORD

"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS" opened at the M&P Allyn here and at the Paramount, New Haven, after a great publicity campaign by Paramount's Clinton Bolton of the New York office . . . Strand, Norwich, is giving away cut glass to lady patrons . . . Billy Halop and Bobby Jordan, "Dead End Kids," both hit town and appeared at the State . . . Charlie Barnet and his band have been signed for the New Year's Eve show.

Broadway, Norwich, featured an all-cartoon show for kids . . . Joseph Shulman's new Wethersfield house is rapidly taking shape with opening expected in the spring . . . Rivoli, Bridgeport, held a ladies' matinee . . . Colonial, in the Park City, is giving away cookware coupons to lady patrons.

Loew Poli, Hartford, and Loew-Poli, Waterbury, had talking Santa Claus displays in their lobbies . . . "Ecstasy" is still around in Connecticut . . . For a jitterbug contest at the Loew-Poli, Worcester, managed by Harold Maloney, Harry F. Shaw was m. c. . . . Dishes and encyclopedias are being given away at Maurice Shulman's new Plaza, Windsor . . . Local houses planned New Year's Eve shows.

John O'Sullivan is now managing the Empress, Danbury . . . Rocco Massaro, doorman at the Alhambra, Waterbury, visited in Maine.

It's new carpets for Allyn here . . . Bob Repass, Universal, was in town . . . Henry Needles, WB division manager, held a party for Warner theatre managers in this area at his home in West Hartford . . . Stanley Redmond, assistant manager of the Allyn, visited his mother in New Haven over the Christmas holidays . . . Gabriel Lareau is the new usher at E. M. Loew's . . . Wally Cooper is apparently recovered from his recent head cold . . . Constantino Dadiskos is a new part-time usher at the Allyn.

Fight a Curfew

HARTFORD—The Hartford division of the Actors' Protective League is up in arms against the proposal to ban appearance of female performers after 10:00 p. m. The first move is a petition for an injunction to stay execution of the township provision.

Tobin Denounces Gum-Parkers

Boston—Greater Boston theatre managers wondered this week how much weight Mayor Maurice Tobin's denunciation of careless gum-parkers would carry. Thoughtless chicle disposal costs local theatres hundreds of dollars annually.

Asserting that he was sure that Bostonians in general are more considerate than New Yorkers in disposing of their gum, Mayor Tobin added, "However, there is plenty of room for improvement."

M&R Suit Through Second Xmas

Boston—Philip Hendrick, master sitting on the Morse and Rothenberg $2,100,000-anti trust case, has wished counsel a "Merry Christmas" for the second consecutive year. The litigation is setting up a long-distance trial record for film monopoly sessions.

Industry's Prominent M&R Suit Witnesses

BOSTON—Hearings in the Morse and Rothenberg long distance anti-truster were resumed Tuesday after a Christmas furlough. The defense continued to press toward a decision after a week of rapid-fire production of such witnesses as: Edward Bell, Paramount branch manager in New Jersey; Irving Rothenberg, Warner salesman in New York; Joseph Vergesslich, former Warner branch manager in Atlanta.

Roy H. Haines, Warner sales manager in New York; Morris Kurtz, 20th-Fox New Jersey salesman; Joseph J. Lee, 20th-Fox sales manager in New York and New Jersey; Harry Buxbaum, 20th-Fox branch manager in the same territory; William Sussman, 20th-Fox eastern sales manager.

W. F. Rodgers, M-G-M sales manager; Myron Sattler, Paramount branch manager in New York; Samuel Engleman, Warner operator in Rahway, N. J.; George J. Schaefer, RKO president; Ned Depinet, RKO vice-president; Benjamin Abner, M-G-M New York branch manager; David Levy, former M-G-M branch manager now holding a similar position with Universal; Andrew W. Smith, former eastern sales manager for WB and UA and now with RKO in a corresponding capacity.

Boston Exchanges Are Pushing Sales Drives

BOSTON—Distributors are in the "driver's" seat in the Hub. RKO is readying for a Ned Depinet Drive, to run from January 27 to May 10. Herb MacIntyre, district manager for the northeast, is national chairman.

Ed Morey, local Republic sales chief, is continuing that firm's better business date drive through January 27.

The "Bill Kelly Drive" in honor of the veteran Universal branch manager closed just in time to allow the launching of the William A. Scully anniversary sales campaign which seeks record billings and sales for the first four months of the new year.

Salesmen's Club Meets

BOSTON—The Boston Salesmen's Club held a board meeting at Mario's in the film district. Attendants included Tom Duane, Jack Gibbons, Harry Rosenblatt, Harry Worden, Sam Soroker, Maynard Sickels, and Edward Renick.

BRIDGEP'T

JACK SIDNEY jr., assistant manager at the Loew-Poli, will have to go to Seattle to see his father in the future. Jack sr. has just taken a job handling special acts and bookings for the Joe Daniels agency there.

Manager Al Smith of the Lyric took time off to catch "Hellzapoppin" in New York.

The bowling team of the Strand Amusement Co. is sweeping all opposition aside.

Edward Renton, general manager here for the late Sylvester Z. Poli, has been named district manager for the Comerford circuit and will make his headquarters in Waverly, N. Y.

Harry Rose of the Globe has booked in Gene Autry for a personal appearance.

Manny Kugell of the Warner handed out numbered cards in advance of "Four Wives," and then gave opening day passes to persons holding numbers listed on lobby bulletin board.

Molly Rosenthal is committee chairman for the bazaar to be given by the Park Avenue Temple.

Pierce Parkhurst, manager of the State, Torrington, arranged a dinner for the Hollywood Doubles vaudeville act when the turn played his theatre.

Hippodrome is expected to go dark early in January to complete alterations.

Talk Builds

HARTFORD—Rumors still flit about town in regard to the proposed building of a new theatre in East Hartford, and another one in West Hartford. As yet, however, nothing definite can be learned in regard to the building.

Ambuter on Location

BOSTON—David Ambuter, head of the largest film lab in New England and a veteran in the newsreel field, was on location in Norfolk, Va., last week, turning out a special motion picture.

Quartet Serenades Maurice Wolf

Boston—A new film district quartet serenaded Maurice N. Wolf at a birthday party honoring the local M-G-M district manager. The foursome declared it sang over the telephone merely to give the happy birthday a novel touch and not because of any fear of personal injuries. The warblers were M-G-M Bookers Matt Donahue, Tom Farrell, Al Wheeler and Nate Oberman.

Last year it was Western Union that crooned "Happy Birthday, Dear Mr. Wolf."

Television Institute Plans Second Try

BOSTON—Porter Evans, head of the Massachusetts Television Institute which sponsored the first television theatre ever licensed in this territory, told BOXOFFICE that he is "marking time" before going ahead with a similar proposed project.

The organization discontinued the house and had the license cancelled. Evans blames the "poor location" of the undertaking as being responsible to a large degree for its failure. He is now considering a move to put in film projectors.

The Massachusetts Television Institute runs a school in which, according to Evans, more than 250 students now are enrolled.

Motion Picture Program Over Two Stations

BOSTON—Jeanne Martinez, formerly at the Ambuter Film Laboratory and now with the Dowd advertising agency, is conducting a one-hour motion picture program over WBZ and WBZA every Thursday. The sponsor is Jordan March Co., local department store which is on the stations from 8:00 to 9:00 a. m., six days a week.

Miss Martinez is cooperating exclusively with local and New York film press agents in the preparation of her material. More is wanted. Two of her numerous angles are personal interviews and fashion tieups.

Long-Termer to Borzage

HOLLYWOOD—Frank Borzage, currently directing Metro's "Strange Cargo," has been signed to a new long-term pact by the studio.

BOSTON

NED E. DEPINET, George J. Schaefer, Andrew W. Smith, W. F. Rodgers, Edward Bell, Joseph Vergesslich, Roy H. Haines, Morris Kurtz, Joseph Lee, Harry Buxbaum, Myron Sattler, Benjamin Abner, David Levy, and William Sussman were among the majors' executives in town last week.

Zippy Goldman, president of the Motion Picture Salesmen's Club, announces that the annual dance of the local organization will be held April 7, per present plans. No committee has been named yet, however, nor site selected. The Warner salesman and Mrs. Goldman have been at Puerto Rico.

Fred and George Sharby, circuit operators, were down from northern New England. . . Joe Mathieu also was south to Boston . . . Mr. and Mrs. Al Couture, Fitchburg exhibitors, hit the Hub.

Judge George W. Pike, president of the corporation operating the Lisbon in the New Hampshire community of the same name, was in Boston. Clark Stimpson, manager of the house, accompanied him. The trip concerned rebuilding activity at the spot which was heavily damaged by fire recently.

Maynard Sickels, secretary of the Salesmen's Club, is the district's newest 16mm film taker. Michael J. Hurney of Bank Night is another amateur flicker fan.

Manny Cohen, Columbia salesman, touched at Puerto Rico during the course of a Caribbean cruise . . . Harry Rogovin, local Columbia manager, plans to be on vacation next week . . . The Columbia Club had its holiday party at Lou Walters' Latin Quarter this year.

M-G-M and Grand National hung out the mistletoe Friday . . . Every film concern and organization recognized Kringle this annum . . . The M. and P. Theatre Corp., doing without home office and district festivities this year, celebrated informally.

Sam Berg, president of the Boston Cinema Club, supervised the distribution of Christmas bundles to the needy . . . The majority of Boston theatres hold midnight shows New Year's Eve.

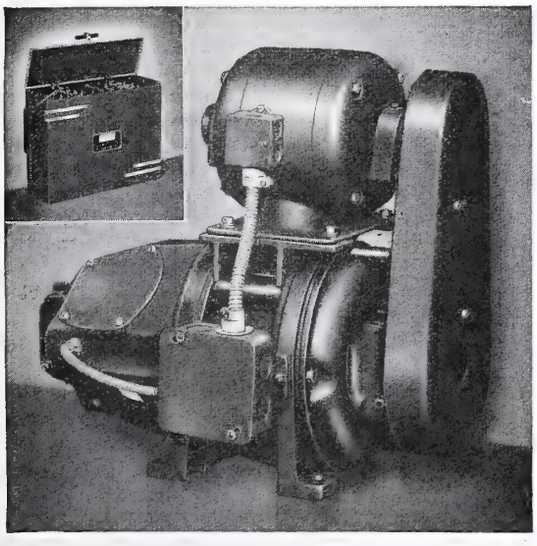
George Kraska has signed with the French Cinema Center for the local first run of the much discussed celluloid import, "Harvest." Kraska caught the kiddie trade with a show of nothing but Disney. He followed Christmas with Maurice Chevalier in "With a Smile," another foreign-language.

Charles Howard, Boston Globe *staff writer and dean of Boston motion picture critics, chose a lounging robe when M. and P. representatives queried him this year as to his preference for the circuit's annual holiday gift. Other men involved were similarly queried. Helen Eager, Prunella Hall, Joyce Dana, Marjorie Adams, Elinor Hughes, etc. of the feminine cohort did not cause so much conjecture. They all got jewelry.*

Dave Ballard, 372-pound "Mr. Gulliver," was in town hypoing the film which moved from the Metropolitan to the Fenway and Paramount . . . Jack Saef and Paul Levi had Ballard autographing the Swift volume at Jordan Marsh's . . . Marty Glazer, assistant Met. p. a., took Ballard to the Children's Hospital.

Phillip Lavine, general manager of the Philip Smith theatre interests in New England, and Mrs. Lavine, celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary on December 30. She was the legitimate stage actress, Etta

(Continued on page 63)



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Harvard Daily Deplores A Division of Labor

BOSTON—Editorializing about what it whimsically termed "Labor Pains," the *Harvard Crimson,* undergraduate daily, complained that the IATSE prevented this year's Harvard Dramatic Club's play from hitting the stage of some Boston legitimate house. It was put on in Sanders Theatre in Cambridge.

"As an instance," said the editorial, "sets being shifted from the Colonial to the Plymouth, separated by a 15-foot alley, have to be brought to the door by one set of stage men and put into trucks by special loaders. A second group of loaders then takes the scenery out of the trucks and gives it to a second set of stage men."

"Creative drama is seriously threatened," the piece added later. "Driven from Europe by the war, it can be preserved only by aiding rather than sabotaging such experimental theatrical organizations as the dramatic club represents—a fact which short-sighted union officials have failed to grasp."

Capitol Theatre Supply's Plane Saves Bookings

BOSTON—The emergency airplane service of the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. went into effect the other day when a print of "Thunder Afloat" missed the last train that could get it to Williamstown in time for a scheduled showing at the Walden, Cal King house.

Tex Safrene took off, despite a fog, and flew the film to Pittsfield where an automobile was waiting.

The same service is available for emergency repair jobs, say Capitol Executives Kenneth R. Douglass and Leon Foster.

Five New Film Stories Bought by Companies

HOLLYWOOD—Five new story buys are announced for film production. Paramount has purchased "Shepherd of the Hills," by Harold Bell Wright, from Warner. Metro has bought "Osborne of Sing Sing," by Jonathan Finn and Harold Friedman; "Never Say Love," by Stanley Rauh and Adele Comandini, and "To Own the World," by Dalton Trumbo.

Paramount is readying "Skylark," by Samson Raphaelson, tentatively as a starring vehicle for Claudette Colbert.

Two Cameo Attractions In Davidson's Vault

BOSTON—Sam Davidson has contracted for New England distribution of "Two's Company" and "Prison Train" by Cameo Screen Attractions, Inc. The former, put out by Malmar Production Corp., stars Mary Brian and Ned Sparks.

Also new in the 16 Piedmont Street vaults is "Adventures of the Masked Phantom," produced by B. F. Zeidman who also made "Prison Train."

Double Order

BOSTON—An officer of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., walked into the 20 Shawmut St. offices one morning this week with a diamond stickpin pinned inside his coat lapel. Arthur K. Howard, business manager, spotted it.

"Put that stickpin in your tie, and put a ring on your finger," quipped Howard. "Go around to the exchanges and say, 'Boys, I don't want any reductions. Business is swell.' Then I'll send an ambulance around to catch the guys that pass out."

"First, you'd better head off the cuckoo wagon that'll be coming for me," the other added.

Monitor Editorial Sees Hollywood Mature

BOSTON — "The sugar coating which cocoons so many Hollywood movies seems to dissolve completely, now and then, in a solution of honest realism, as producers discover that the socialogical pill inside was less bitter than they thought," the *Christian Science Monitor* opined in an editorial on what it termed "Hollywood's Social Conscience."

"Perhaps only two or three out of every 50 films shown signs of this discovery. But even these two or three are encouraging markers pointing the way to a greater freedom and responsibility on the screen," the daily continued.

"Such signs flash across the dark horizon with Neon brilliance for those awaiting the day when Hollywood will be less occupied with fudge and frou-frou, awaken to its potentialities, and develop pictures as 'Fury,' 'Black Legion,' and 'They Won't Forget.'

" 'Fury' was one of the earliest and most important American-made films to demonstrate that the intelligent treatment of a human problem—in other words, a social theme—could win its way at the boxoffice. Hollywood continued its concern with such problems in 'Black Legion,' 'They Won't Forget,' 'Make Way for Tomorrow,' 'Dead End,' 'You Only Live Once,' 'Mr. Deeds Goes to Town,' and 'The Life of Emile Zola.' The public forgot about its cinematic sweet tooth and enjoyed these films though there weren't two lumps of sugar in the lot.

"A current international situation became the background of a fictional American movie for the first time with Walter Wanger's 'Blockade,' which turned a furrow in the controversial soil of the Spanish struggle for democracy.

"Without sugar coating of any kind, 'The Confessions of a Nazi Spy' turned out to be an effective piece of propaganda entertainment. Its climax had the majority of spines tingling properly. Its combination of 'news comment,' dramatic incident, imaginary scenes in Berlin, and scenes which actually had taken place in the United States, and its powerful performances provided strong and exciting meat for audiences more used to a diet of Shirley Temple, or even the Dead End Kids.

"In relating 'The Confessions of a Nazi Spy' to a possible new trend, one may ask whether it arouses a genuine love for one's own country or merely hatred for another's, whether it leads to international understanding or to international war hysteria, whether it appeals to reason or to prejudice. Would the cumulative impact of a series of films like the 'Confessions of a Nazi Spy' be sufficient, in time of crisis, to send the average John Moviegoer running for his Winchester without protest?

"Liberalism, like chartiy, may well begin at home. It need not be geographical or racial. Twentieth Century-Fox, for instance, has just bought John Steinbeck's 'The Grapes of Wrath' with the agreement that the novel's theme—a protest against dispossession of western farm families and an indictment of conditions among California agricultural workers—shall not be distorted. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer could well reclaim Sinclair Lewis' 'It Can't Happen Here' from the outer darkness where, it is hinted, the story was relegated on account of foreign dictator-inspired pressure.

"In pleading for a freer screen which uses its freedom, I realize that there will also be opportunities for abuse. Reactionaries, conservatives, liberals, progressives may all, at one time or another, speak their cinematic piece. Paramount, for instance, has just released a film called, 'Our Leading Citizen,' which is definitely anti-labor in tone and which implies that that solution of capital vs. labor problems lies in the spreading of sufficient cliches and phoney Americanisms over the troubled waters.

"With the growth of discrimination among filmgoers, however, one hopes that such socially unconscious, not to say anti-social offerings, will be detected immediately and receive the support they deserve. Hollywood has proved that it can free itself from complete preoccupation with sticky sentimentality, with sugar-sweet romance, with cream puff fantasy about a world in which only boy-meets-girl shadows could exist.

"Hollywood has begun to find its freedom," said the *Monitor.* "With freedom comes power—but with freedom and power comes also responsibility."

Minor "Goose Step" Cut Sole Slash in Forty

BOSTON—A scene showing a "Storm Trooper stepping on (a) cross" was eliminated from the "Goose Step" before the Harry Asher release, formerly "Hitler—Beast of Berlin," was passed by Massachusetts censors. It was the only cut in a list of 40 motion pictures.

A revised edict on "Destry Rides Again" saw cuts on the Universal grosser, which was held a second week by Ben Domingo at Keith's Memorial, reduced to flash treatment of the Dietrich-Merkle squabble. What had been termed a bit of Dietrich disrobing had been banned originally.

Among the films passed without recourse to scissors were Monogram's "Bad Boy;" 20th-Fox's "Everything Happens at Night," and the same distributor's "High School."

BOSTON

(Continued from page 61)

Branson. Lavine was the company manager.

Hal Danson, Paramount advance man, was in last week . . . Plans are being set for the M. and P. local first run of "A Child Is Born."

Roy E. Heffner of Specialty Pictures, Inc., left Texas last week for a bit of Oklahoma holiday cheer . . . C. F. Ahern of RKO here birthdayed last Saturday.

Don Messier, operator at the Alley in Groveton, N. H., and Miss Verna Smith have joined hands . . . William Findley, formerly assistant to local RKO theatre artist, Carlo Vannicola, now is with the art department of the Boston *Herald Traveler.*

E. M. Loew has darkened the Royal in Lowell, recent acquisition from George Husson, for remodeling. The independent chain owner reopened the Casco in Portland to catch the Christmas crowds.

Frank Whitbeck's work on the "Gone With the Wind" trailers hypoed the $8,500 Boston newspaper outlay on the feature which opened day-and-date last week at Loew's State and Orpheum, according to local publicists Bert McKenzie and Joseph A. DiPesa.

Meyer Marcus, M. and P. advertising department, was in New York Xmas.



Decorated—

How a bit of publicity was garnered for "Allegheny Uprising" when it approached the Albee in Providence. The sign decorating one of the Civil War mortars at the soldiers and sailors monument on the Mall reads: "Listen for the Opening Gun of Allegheny Uprising." Police dubbed it a college prank, but kept a suspicious eye on Bill Morton, Albee publicist.

Assists at Webster

HARTFORD—Chester John Polanski, long associated with the Loew-Poli Palace and E. M. Loew's theatres, was recently named assistant manager of the Webster here.

Boston Film Guild Names Rev. McGrory Advisor

BOSTON—The Catholic Motion Picture Guild, newly formed film district fraternity, has a spiritual advisor with an industry connection. He is the Rev. John T. McGrory, S. J., brother of the late Arthur McGrory who operated the Apollo at Nantasket.

Father McGrory is the Superior at Campion Hall in Andover where the guild is sponsoring a retreat for March 8, 9, and 10.

Boston Allied Withdraws Ascap "Local Warfare"

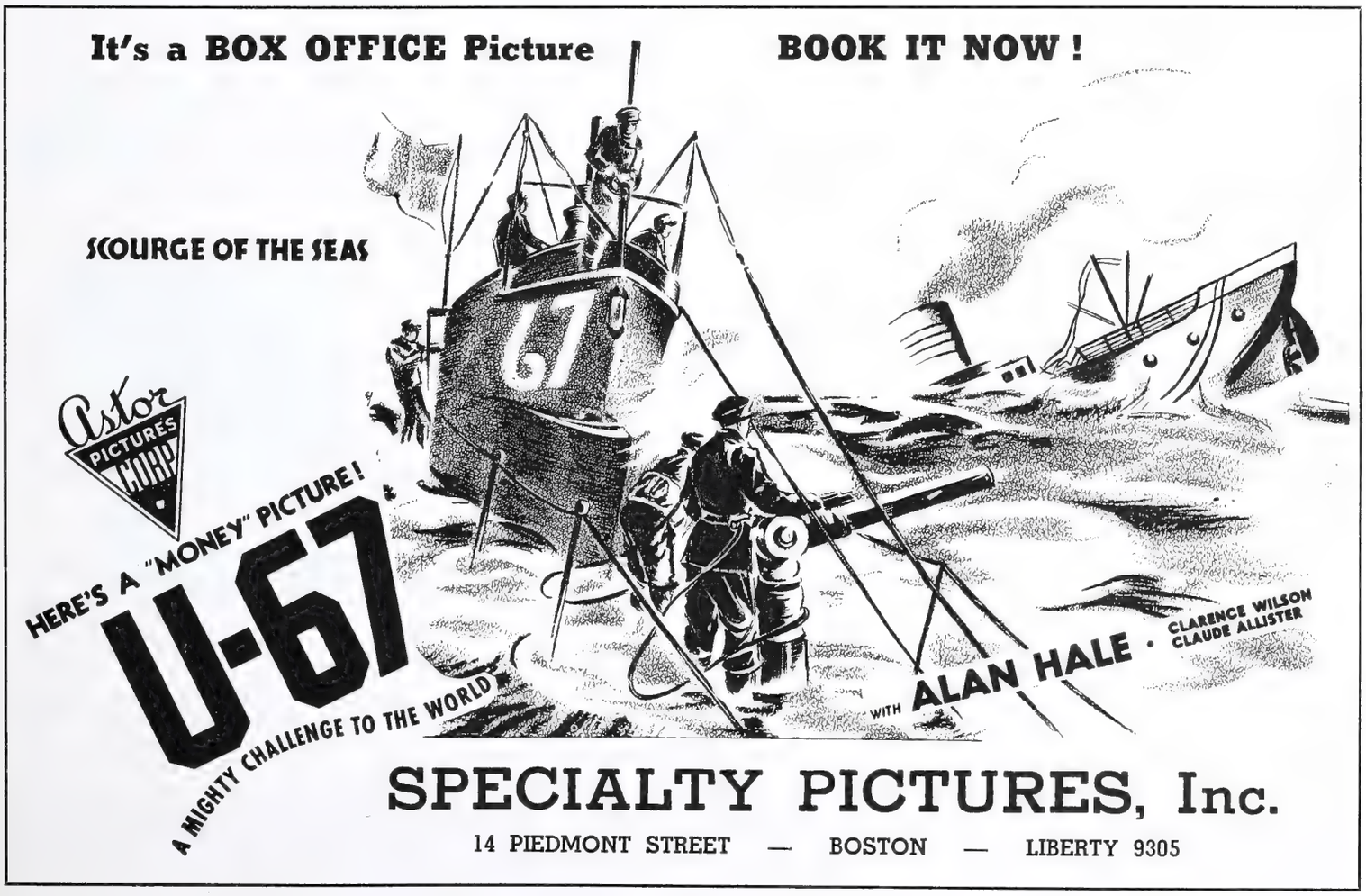
BOSTON—The Independent Exhibitors, Inc., has decided to eschew further local moves against Ascap and to concentrate with Allied nationally against the Gene Buck enterprise. Further campaign plans are expected to be set at the near-future Allied confab in Washington.

Legion Affair Likely

BOSTON—Past commanders of the Theatrical Post of American Legion will be honored early next year if present plans go through. A special evening, with possible dining and dancing, is being tentatively arranged for February 5.

Lang to Pilot Darnell

HOLLYWOOD—"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," in which Linda Darnell will star for 20th-Fox, will be directed by Walter Lang.



NEW HAVEN

I J. HOFFMAN's dinner party for 200 at the Baybrook Inn and the Universal office party wound up 1939 in a burst of Yule cheer. Both were considered the best yet, in their own ways. Steak or corned beef, it's the spirit that counts. Morris Joseph says his parties are the most successful because his staff has that proper spirit. Among the guests were Max Hoffman, Larry Germaine, Bob Elliano, Marian Chase, Fred Franke and Abe Kroll of New York. Morris slipped an exploitation record on "Destry Rides Again" in between the Glenn Miller swingsations every once in a while. Eva was the charming hostess. Gertrude, Rose, Fay, Lucy, and Francis supplied the hotcha.

Metro had a very exclusive party after office hours—way after. The usual exhibitors brought around their usual bundles of cheer for the bookers and such . . . Universal divided $500 *in prize money for fourth place in the Exhibitor-Sponsored Testimonial drive . . . Metro and Columbia employes, salaried under* $50, *were on the bonus receiving line . . . Twentieth-Foxites were in receipt of money prizes too for second place in ad sales department, and sixth place for the office in the seventh annual Kent Drive.*

Holiday doings: The Community, Fairfield, cooperated with the Rotary Club in a special kiddie show . . . Aaron Fishman tied in with the DuPont Co. for transportation and local merchants for giveaways . . . Gem, Naugatuck, has inaugurated a Koin Kettle Quiz, with Jack Pot and cumulative angles, and merchant tieup on merchandise prizes, while the theatre gives cash. Jack Henry, manager of WBRY, Waterbury, conducts the quiz . . . The Gem is among the midnight New Year's Eve show planners . . . State, Hartford, and Paramount, New Haven, will have vaude at $1 plus tax . . . State will have Charlie Barnet and the Mad Russian . . . Poli, Waterbury and Bridgeport, will also have stage shows . . . Warner, Torrington; West End, Bridgeport; Capitol, Meriden, among the midnight revellers. Torrington will have Tex Fletcher in person, not to be confused with "Fugitive at Large" and some local acts . . . Park, Thomaston, had free pre-Christmas turkeys . . . Palace, Stamford, defied pre-holiday slump with three-day booking of "World's Fair Crazy Show" on the stage and Billy Rose's Aquabelles . . . Fred VanDoren cooperated with the East End Community Club, Waterbury, for a Saturday morning show, with merchants making up baskets.

Joseph Calechman and Sally Eskin are honeymooning in Florida. Calechman is assistant at the Howard . . . Florence Fishman, freshman at the University of Connecticut, is spending the holidays with her parents, the Aaron Fishmans in Fairfield . . . Groton is rumored to be having clearance disagreement with possible suit in the offing . . . Warner's are trying 20 *cent midweek bargain days at the Rialto, South Norwalk, and Capitol, Danbury . . . Groton will meet the convenience of three shifts of local industrial workers with continuous shows on Wednesdays and Thursdays . . . Stuart, Lakeville; Strand, Winsted, and Windsor have contracted for trailers with National Screen . . . Fred Van Doren's new* 600*-seat west end Waterbury house will have a colored porcelain enamel front. Look for an opening in March.*

Comparing last year's with this year's estimated grosses for the downtown pre-Christmas business, shows a substantially better figure for 1939 at the Poli and College. "Day-Time Wife" and "Barricade" took $1,200 more than last year's "Dramatic School" and "Down on the Farm." The Sherman did slightly better than average business on "Girls' School" and "Hard to Get" last year, but dipped under the line on this year's "Allegheny Uprising" and "The Day the Bookies Wept." Retail sales were five to ten per cent over last year in New Haven.

The film district expresses sincere sympathy to Mrs. Margaret Wilkinson and George H. Wilkinson jr. on the passing of "the grand old man" and "pioneer exhibitor" of the New Haven territory. Exchange managers acted as honorary pall bearers at the interment services. Mr. Wilkinson's friendly, considerate dealings with all whom he employed or came in contact earned him lasting friends and well-wishers, who keenly feel his loss . . . Sympathy to Michael Tomasino, White Way and Victory exhibitor, and his family on the passing of his wife, who had been seriously ill for some time.

Whitney Theatre Corp. has contracted with American Seating for 950 chairs for the new Whitneyville house . . . National Theatre Supply has the lamp houses and carpet job for Strand Amusement's Hippodrome, Bridgeport, undergoing large-scale remodeling. American has the seating . . . John Goshorn, representing Irwin Seating, was in town at the National offices to demonstrate the new Crusader now being placed on the market . . . The Howard is installing new lighting fixtures and rubber mats.

Harry F. Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, announces several promotions which added plenty of Xmas joy. Bill Scanlon, former student assistant at the Loew-Poli, New Haven, has been appointed assistant of the Palace, Meriden . . . Sid Kleper, formerly in the Meriden job, has been transferred to the assistantship at the Palace, Hartford, succeeding Jack Feschler, resigned . . . Charles Gaudino, student assistant at the College, New Haven, becomes student at the Poli, New Haven, and Harold Alpert, chief of service at the College, moves up to student assistant. Congrats!

Exhibitors' Acrostic

N is for names our marquees to embellish,
I is for ink, so often red it's hellish;
N is for news—1940, make it glad!
E is for extra cash for a trip, by gad.

T is for time on which we buy improvements,
E is for exhibitors, organized in movements;
E is for extended runs the majors want to sell,
N is for new product, the story it will tell.

F is for film, punk or colossal,
O is for overhead, no cause for wassail—
T is for toast to the movies, withal
Y ear 'round there's nothing quiet like 'em at all.

Pete DeFazio, Warner salesman, is sporting a new fawn-colored Buick . . . Loew-Poli publicity chief, entertained all the in-laws for the Xmas holiday . . . Morris Joseph, Universal manager, will spend three week in Hollywood, Fla., with his wife and daughter late in January.

After several changes, the Poli New Year's Eve booking emerged as "Swanee River," prices 50-75 *cents . . . For the first time in eight weeks, the College had a booking all its own instead of a holdover Xmas week. "Amazing Mr. Williams" was the feature. "All Women Have Secrets" plays with the vaude at the Paramount New Year's . . . Madison vaude continues and Bonoff is trying one night a week in Saybrook as well . . . Oldtime* 16*mm films rumored returning to the Arena in March . . . Harry Shaw and Lou Brown will do the circuit to celebrate New Year's Eve. Shaw is sporting a new gold motor vehicle inspector badge.*

In the theatres: Nat Rubin saw the Walter Winchell mention of the lady in Short Hills who collects eye glass frames for distribution to the poor . . . Flash! The Rubin brain visualized the unclaimed glasses in the lost and found department of the theatre and sent them on, winning Winchell's printed gratitude and acknowledgment from the New Jersey lady . . . Robert Russell's old Ford ballyhoo on "Hardy and Son" was an attention-getter in the pre-Christmas crowds . . . Roger Sherman's Xmas center-piece is a knockout . . . Lou Schaefer's white Xmas tree is very decorative . . . Billy Elder and crew is once more prepared to catch the overflow (if any) from the Poli midnight show . . . John Hesse had a Xmas Eve midnight show on "Four Wives," running continuous all night to 2:30 a. m.; also other Warner houses over the circuit. Elder tied up with Postal on "Call a Messenger," at the Bijou, the telegraph company making up 3,000 co-op heralds distributed all week with holiday greetings . . . Morris Drucker of the Poli, Worcester, arranged two Sonja Henie tieups on Xmas merchandise advertising.

Max Wilke, son of Jake Wilke of the Warner scenario department, is a junior at Yale in the department of drama. Albert Manheimer, Metro scripter, who worked on "Dancing Co-ed," visited Wilke at Yale last week . . . Hart of Rodgers and Hart was a Yale visitor too.

Girlie entertainers who work in night spots have not been permitted to work after 10 p. m. for Christmas and New Year's parties . . . "It's Only Human Nature," says the Lincoln ad on "Ecstasy" . . . Happy 1940 to the trade. May fate have booked only class "A" features like health, happiness, and prosperity for you . . . But no duals, like twins!

PORTLAND

IN addition to being city supervisor of both the Strand and Empire theatres, and master of his own house, Leo Young this week took on another title—that of Santa Claus. Officiating at a Christmas party held jointly for the staffs of the two theatres, Young, in his new disguise, handed out gifts and good cheer to his employes in the Hunting Room connecting the two houses, Thursday evening, December 21. He was assisted by Mrs. Young and William Field, manager of the Empire. To make the season merrier, Young, the following day, announced that a Christmas bonus would be given all employes of both houses on Christmas Eve.

By hiring night and day shifts, the Capitol Theatre succeeded in keeping its opening date with the public Christmas Eve. The new subsequent, which is the old Casco remodeled, has a seating capacity of 560.

A doll-size image of "Gabby," the Town Crier of Lilliput, arrived at the desk of Dick Woodbury, film columnist of the Portland *Sunday Telegram,* in time to be stuffed into the stocking of Dick's small daughter, Jean, on Christmas Eve. The winsome little figure heralds the approach of "Gulliver's Travels" to Portland and the State.

Clinton Bolton of New York, a special representative for Paramount, was in Portland this week, helping Harry Botwick of the State, work out a campaign for "Gulliver's Travels." . . . Carl Divizia, RKO salesman, was also a Filmrow visitor.

The idea of binding the little folk together by the formation of a Recess Time Club at the State Theatre has already proved its worth, Manager Harry Botwick reports. Membership has more than doubled since the club was formed only two weeks ago. One of the conditions which a member promises to fulfill when he signs the membership card is that he will attend "each and every" Recess Time broadcast. To win the approval of parents to this form of attendance promotion, the card also carries these provisions: The member pledges and promises to "always remember and obey the rules of his parents and teachers; to endeavor to attain good marks in school; to do one good deed each day and to endeavor always to be a gentleman or a lady." In return the State Theatre declares that signers of the membership cards are entitled to enter all contests conducted by the club; to compete for all prizes and awards given by the club, and to attend all shows held by and for club members.

Postpone Joint Exhibitor Meeting to January 16

NEW HAVEN—A special joint meeting of Allied Theatres of Connecticut and Independent Exhibitors, Inc. was postponed Tuesday because of the illness of A. M. Schuman, president. The new luncheon meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, at Martin's Restaurant, New Haven.

E. Thornton Kelly will report on the membership campaign, which has been in progress in this state and has already substantially increased the ranks of Allied by adding all of Bridgeport and Hartford to its membership. The campaign will continue in New Haven and Waterbury after the first of the year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MRS. SAM COSLOW, wife of the Hollywood tunesmith, was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Wright at their home in Suncook . . . The Palace in Manchester tied up with Firestone Service Stores, Inc., in awarding a bicycle in a contest that aroused much interest among boys and girls.

Albert C. Shepard, 74, *janitor at the Latchis and Scenic theatres in Keene for the past ten years, died at his home following a brief illness.*

The State in Manchester drew a large crowd to its New Year's Eve show, which included a stage program as well as the regular films. All seats were reserved.

There are unconfirmed reports that a theatre may be included in a new building to be erected on the site of the old City Hall in Nashua.

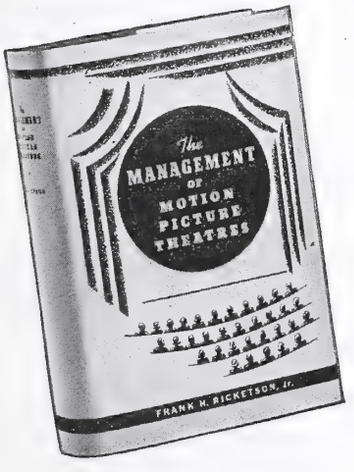
Stanley James, a former theatre man, has been elected as third vice-president of the Nashua Lions Club.

Furthering the holiday festivities with special shows for the juveniles were, among others, the Premier at Littleton (operated by John B. Eames), the Latchis and Scenic at Keene, Lloyd Brigham's Broadway at Dover, the Capitol in Concord and the Colonial at Laconia.

Kleper Succeeds Feschler

HARTFORD—Sidney H. Kleper has been appointed assistant manager of the Loew-Poli Palace which is managed by Louis Cohen. He replaces Jack Feschler, resigned.

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MT486 Letters, attraction board
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MT489 Display frames
MT490 Poster lights
MT491 Poster projectors
MT492 Cut-out machines
MT493 Time schedule clocks, electric
MT494 Monogrammed mats, rubber
MT495 Slides, advertising
MT496 Slides, announcement
MT497 Sound truck P. A. systems
MT498 Transformers, Neon
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MT500 Moving words projector

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MT520 Architectural service
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MT522 Seating service
MT523 Theatre chairs
MT524 Chair covers
MT525 Theatre carpets
MT526 Carpet padding
MT527 Rubber matting
MT528 Furniture, lounge
MT529 Wall tiles, interior
MT530 Fabrics, decorating
MT531 Brass railings
MT532 Rope railings
MT533 Metal, ornamental
MT534 Mirrors
MT535 Luminous colors
MT536 Ticket booths
MT537 Directional signs
MT538 Exit boxes
MT539 Curtain controls
MT540 Curtain tracks
MT541 Curtains, fireproof
MT542 Fountains, drinking
MT543 Fountains, ornamental
MT544 Rubber seat upholstery
MT545 Rubber floor & wall coverings

LIGHTING

MT550 Fixtures, lighting
MT551 Colored lamps
MT552 Lumiline lamps
MT553 Candle flame lamps
MT554 Floodlight lamps
MT555 Spotlight lamps
MT556 Sign lamps
MT557 Dimmers
MT558 Ultra violet lighting
MT559 Silhouette letter mounting units
MT560 Flashed opal glass
MT561 Pot metal opal glass
MT562 Fuses, indicator type
MT563 Fuses, cartridge
MT564 Lighting plants, individual

MAINTENANCE

MT569 Expansion Bolts
MT570 Chair fastening cement
MT571 Chair refinishing materials
MT572 Upholstering materials
MT573 Seat patching kits
MT574 Seat decking materials
MT575 Floor surfacing materials
MT576 Carpet cleaning systems
MT577 Floor waxes
MT578 Matting, rubber
MT579 Paint, screen
MT580 Paint, plastic
MT581 Paint, aluminum
MT582 Polish, metal
MT583 Polish, furniture
MT584 Fireproofing compounds
MT585 Fire extinguishers
MT586 Ladders, safety
MT587 Uniforms, staff
MT588 Screen cleaning tools
MT589 Venetian blind cleaners

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MT605 Bulbs, rectifier
MT606 Rheostats, projection
MT607 Motor-generators
MT608 Lenses, projection
MT609 Lenses, condenser
MT610 Current changers
MT611 Mirror reflectors
MT612 Carbons, projector
MT613 Carbon savers
MT614 Reels
MT615 Reel alarms
MT616 Rewinders, automatic
MT617 Change-over devices
MT618 Slide projection
MT619 Lamps, spot and flood
MT620 Take-ups, film
MT621 Film safety controls
MT622 Fire prevention devices
MT623 Fire shutters, porthole
MT624 Film scales
MT625 Film scrapers
MT626 Film splicers
MT627 Film cleaners
MT628 Air gun (cleaner)
MT629 Tool kits
MT630 Film cabinets
MT631 Film cabinet stands
MT632 Effect projectors
MT633 Rectifiers, magnesium-copper sulphide

SANITATION

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MT642 Cleaners, vacuum
MT643 Disinfectants
MT644 Deodorant blocks
MT645 Insecticides
MT646 Disseminators
MT647 Air purifiers, ozone
MT648 Air perfumes
MT649 Air sprays
MT650 Soap dispensers
MT651 Soaps, liquid
MT652 Hand driers, electric
MT653 Chewing gum solvents
MT654 Rubber link matting
MT655 Exhaust fans
MT656 Plumbing fixtures
MT657 Toilet seats

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MT663 Amplifiers
MT664 Pre-amplifiers
MT665 Speakers
MT666 Rectifiers
MT667 Condensers
MT668 Photo-electric cells
MT669 Tubes, amplifier
MT670 Tubes, rectifier
MT671 Exciter lamps
MT672 Baffles, horn
MT673 Lens assemblies, sound
MT674 Public address systems
MT675 Microphones
MT676 Microphone stands
MT677 Hearing aid systems
MT678 Acoustical materials

STAGE EQUIPMENT

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MT686 Lighting, stage
MT687 Curtain controls
MT688 Curtain tracks
MT689 Stage draperies
MT690 Stage rigging
MT691 Scenery, stage
MT692 Footlights
MT693 Switchboards

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS

MT700 Structural glasses
MT701 Insulation materials
MT702 Acoustical materials
MT703 Fibre boards
MT704 Fronts, glass
MT705 Fronts, vitreous enamel
MT706 Fronts, porcelain enamel
MT707 Fronts, stainless steel
MT708 Toilet partitions, metal
MT709 Flooring, asphalt tile

MISCELLANEOUS

MT715 Accounting systems
MT716 Change makers
MT717 Safes, boxoffice
MT718 Tickets
MT719 Ticket choppers
MT720 Ticket issuing machines
MT721 Ticket registers
MT722 Ticket holders
MT723 Pop corn machines
MT724 Uniforms, staff

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Decision to Crescent In Award Dispute

NASHVILLE—The state court of appeals has upheld a Davidson county circuit court decision in favor of Crescent Amusement Co. growing out of refusal to pay a Bank Night award at the Woodland. The manager refused to pay because of alleged unfairness in drawing the number, which was worth $250. He stated that the number was not drawn from the barrel although read out by the judges. For the benefit of the audience, a check was presented but payment was stopped before it could be cashed.

Launch Okla. City Club Sometime in Spring

OKLAHOMA CITY—The formal opening of the Variety Club headquarters here will be held sometime in the early spring, as soon as the board of directors, under L. C. Griffith's direction, have completed plans the date will be announced. It is understood that the club headquarters in the Black Hotel will be dedicated shortly before the National Variety Club convention in Dallas.

At that time, it is understood John Harris of Pittsburgh, National chief barker, will present Tent 22's charter and officiate at the ceremonies. Arrangements are all ready under way to secure a name band for the dedication and celebration to follow. The latter will probably be held in one of the city's larger ballrooms, or at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club.

Variety Club to Select Charity to Sponsor

OKLAHOMA CITY—The board of the local Variety Club is scheduled to meet January 6 to consider selection of a definite charity for sponsorship by the group, according to L. C. Griffith, chief barker.

No official announcement of the nature of the charity under consideration has been released but it is understood that it will be in the nature of a boys club for underprivileged youngsters. This is known to have been considered at length by the board and indications are that something of this nature may be adopted.

Club Into Finnish Relief Fund-Raising Activity

OKLAHOMA CITY—Members of the local Variety Club stepped forward as soon as the campaign to raise funds for Finnish relief was announced. A special committee headed by Horace Falls and Ralph Williams was appointed to contact all members of the Variety Club, inform them of a desirable quota and where possible collect the funds which are to be given the established Finnish relief agency as soon as the committee has completed its work.

Sunday Shows at Martin, Tenn.

MARTIN, TENN.—After a favorable vote by the city commission, this town enjoyed its first Sunday show on December 24.

Oklahoma Unit Is Planning Heavy Anti-Neely Drive

OKLAHOMA CITY—An extensive personal compact campaign to defeat the Neely bill is understood to be under way by the Theatre Owners of Oklahoma organization with chief efforts being devoted toward personal contact by directors of the association in combating the bill.

Procedure is for the board member in each district to handle contacts with members of congress from his own district and supply them with information with respect to the bill.

No public campaign or open district meetings will be sponsored by the association, Morris Loewenstein, TOA president states, stating the organization has always found the method being followed in this instance promoting most fruitful results.

January 12 Hearing In Momand Case

OKLAHOMA CITY—Judge A. P. Murrah has named January 12, 1940 as the date when the next hearing on the $4,500,000 A. B. Momand anti-trust damage action against major producers, distributors and the Griffith companies will be heard in federal district court here.

On that day, at 9:30 a. m., Judge Murrah will hear the separate motions of the defendants asking dismissal of the case which has been in federal courts here for over a year, but now seems ready for trial.

A previous motion to dismiss by defendants, filed early in the history of the case, was overruled by Judge Murrah.

Texas Theatre Almanac to Be Issued Later in Year

DALLAS—The 1940 edition of the Texas Theatre Almanac will not be issued until later in the year, according to Miss Bonnie Long, who has compiled the volume for the past several seasons. Miss Long is executive secretary of the Dallas Variety Club and heavy duties there in connection with the annual convention in April has made the postponement necessary.

"Lincoln in Illinois" to Be Premiered at University

HARRIGATE, TENN.—This site of Lincoln Memorial University, is getting ready for the southern premiere of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," which has been scheduled for January 27. The world premiere will be held at Washington, D. C. The premiere will be considered a part of the observance of the 50th anniversary of the University.

RKO Buys "Kitty Foyle"

HOLLYWOOD—Christopher Morley's "Kitty Foyle" has been purchased by RKO.

Started Needy Aid 25 Years Ago

Nashville—This Christmas season it was recalled that 25 years ago Tony Sudekum, president, inaugurated the plan of special Christmas matinees for children in all theatres of the Crescent Amusement chain at which the entrance fee is a toy suitable for distribution to less fortunate children of the community. These annual matinees now receive a lot of publicity in every city or town and are a definite means of supplying Christmas to the poor.

Mary Martin Ups Grosses In Three Texas Key Runs

DALLAS—Mary Martin, star of Broadway and now of pictures, upped business in three Texas key runs with her personal appearances along with her new Paramount picture, "The Great Victor Herbert." She appeared at the Aztec in San Antonio on December 23, at the Hollywood, Ft. Worth, on December 24 and at the Palace here for four performances on December 26. The Dallas engagement was to capacity and reports from the other two cities were practically the same. The star spent Christmas here at the Baker Hotel with her family.

With Mary Martin's home being at Weatherford, Willard Sadler, operating the Palace and Princess there, jumped the gun and staged a southern premiere of the picture at both theatres simultaneously on December 22. Miss Martin appeared at both theatres. The event was a sell-out long in advance.

Holiday Season Returns Vaude to Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—Vaudeville returned to Birmingham on Christmas eve, when the Pantage opened with "Karston's Follies Unusual," one complete company including a 10-piece band. A picture, "Laugh It Off," also was presented on the same program. The general rule at the Pantage during the new year will be to operate only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a Saturday midnight ramble each week, but this schedule is to be altered slightly for the opening two weeks because of the holiday interest.

Bonus by Standard

OKLAHOMA CITY—A Christmas bonus of $10 for every employe was distributed by Standard Theatres Corp., operators of eight local theatres, according to A. L. Smith, secretary-treasurer.



In Person—

Dave Ballard, eight-foot "Gulliver" ballyhoo, with Leslie Harris at the world premiere in Miami.

Noble to Take Over As Westland G. M.

OKLAHOMA CITY—T. B. Noble jr., managing director of the State, has announced that January 2 he will assume active duties as general manager of the Westland circuit and will make his headquarters in Colorado Springs. He will direct his own State here and his partnership interests with Howard Federer at Lincoln, Neb., at the same time from Colorado Springs.

B. H. "Bob" Pfotenhauer, now manager of the Chief at Pueblo, Colo., returns to Oklahoma City this week as manager of the State to take over Noble's post here. Bob served as manager under Noble from the opening of the State up until a few months ago when he was transferred to managership of the new Chief at Pueblo.

Noble indicated that there would be no other changes in the State personnel set-up unless developments warranted them. Pfotenhauer will have complete charge of local operations. Noble has the downtown State and the subsequent run Pix, now closed, here in Oklahoma City.

Bonuses Awarded at Party

ENID, OKLA.—Employes of the Royal were surprised with Christmas gifts in the form of week's bonuses at their Christmas party held at the home of Roy Gritz, chief operator. Roy Shields, theatre owner, was present and gifts were exchanged.

Bonus for Employes

OKLAHOMA CITY—A substantial Christmas bonus for all employes of the State organization here was distributed Christmas by T. B. Noble jr., managing director.

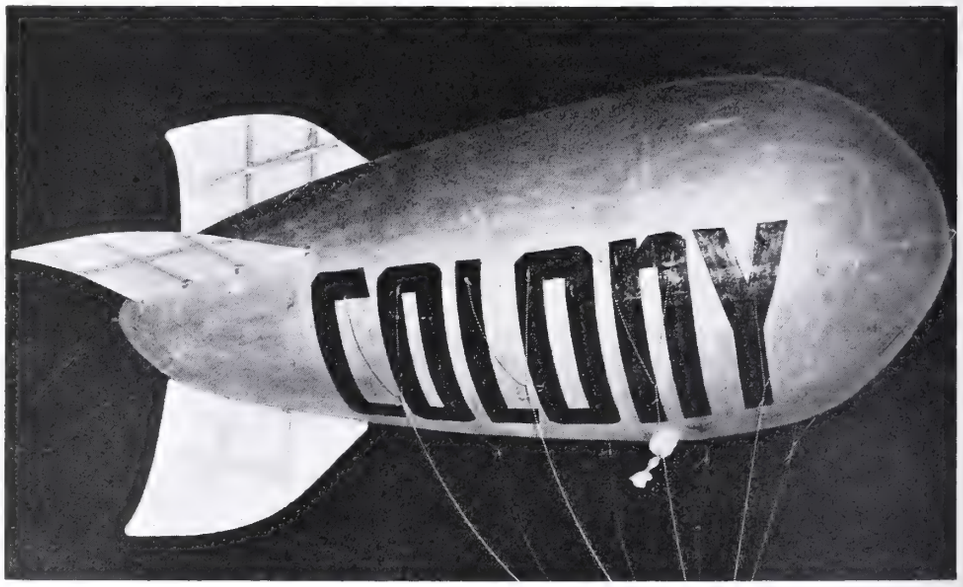
Collaborate on "Chan"

HOLLYWOOD—Frances Hyland and Lester Ziffren are collaborating on the script of "Charlie Chan's Oriental Cruise" for 20th-Fox.









As "Gulliver" Made Dual World Bow—

The dual world premiere of "Gulliver's Travels" at the Sheridan and Colony in Miami was a gala event. Top: A portion of the crowd. Center left, in the foreground: Mr. and Mrs. Max Fleischer as they entered the Sheridan. He produced the animated cartoon for Paramount release. Center right: Jessica Dragonette and Lanny Ross, the "voices" of the Prince and Princess. Below: A 25-foot silver blimp that floated above the Colony.

Dixie Doin's

By "AL" HENDERSON

HAD a pleasant visit recently with M. S. McCord, general manager of the Malco setup, at his office in North Little Rock, Ark. He talked of plans regarding the new Malco Music Hall. The first unit on Central Ave. is now under construction and will house four stores on the first floor, a radio broadcasting studio on the second, and music and dance studios on the third. The second unit is scheduled to get under way late in the spring of 1940 and will have the seating section for 1,500 patrons. The third unit will get under way early in 1940 and will have space for five shops and will be the entrance to the theatre proper. He also told me Hiram Meeks, formerly assistant manager at Hot Springs, Ark., and now manager of the Strand at Fulton, Ky., is the father of a daughter born December 14, who has been named Mary Linda. Malco paid its annual bonus to employes the week before Xmas.

Bob Swanson, formerly manager of the Paramount at Texarkana, Ark., for Saenger, has been assigned to the Strand at Shreveport, La., after spending four weeks at the general offices in New Orleans. Bob was replaced at Texarkana by Holland Smith, formerly with the Jefferson Amusement Co. at Beaumont, Tex.

Chatted a few minutes with the Lou Havens of Forrest City, Ark., at their office in the Imperial Theatre and found them all well. Lou jr. ordered BOXOFFICE for all five of their theatres.

M. S. McCord will combine business with pleasure in going to New Orleans to see the Sugar Bowl game as he has business with the Saenger interests. Mrs. McCord will accompany him.

R. C. Herron, formerly assistant manager at Columbus for Malco, has been promoted to the managerial spot at the Ritz at West Point, Miss.

J. R. MacEacheron, manager of the State at Jackson, Tenn., for Malco, tells us Ernest Drake is still confined to his bed. Mac is taking care of the Malco interests in Jackson while Drake is out. Thanks for the courtesies shown me, Mac.

Met Al Schwartz of Hollywood Advertising Co. and enjoyed several minutes of conversation regarding mutual friends and acquaintances.

Had lunch with friends in the business at Shreveport's Washington-Youree Hotel and, feeling prosperous, dined in style at the Fountain Room.

George Foster, who handles subscriptions for Malco Theatres, was most courteous during my recent visit and gave me some additional business which makes Malco 100 per cent BOXOFFICE. Thanks, George.

R. V. McGinnis, who operates the New at Hope, Ark., must like this roving correspondent as he made him the recipient of the first annual pass issued by him for 1940. The courtesy was much appreciated, Mac.

Had a pleasant visit with Carolyne Miller, BOXOFFICE lady at Memphis, and met many friends along the Row while there.

As this will wind up "Dixie Doin's" for 1940, we wish to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of our friends for the courtesies and business tendered us during this year of 1939 and to wish everyone a most happy and successful New Year.





—Harold Eichenbaum Photos

At the Interstate Austin Party—

Above: Louis Novy, Interstate city manager for Austin, Tex., with the gaming table presented to him by his employes at the annual Christmas party in the Avalon night club in the Texas capital. Below, a group picture showing many of the 100 *Interstaters who attended the party.*

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NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

This Week We Meet . . . .

JOHN T. EZELL



ATLANTA—A soft-spoken Texan, John Ezell began his career in the industry at Dallas with the General Film Co. He is one of two film pioneering Ezells, his brother, Claude, well known nationally for his association with Warner and more recently with Bank Night.

John, now branch manager here for Universal, headed General in Dallas, New Orleans, Houston and Oklahoma City. His next association was with George Kleine Film Co. in Atlanta, in 1916. After about a year with Kleine he opened an independent film exchange with Paul E. Engler as a partner. This independent exchange was sold in 1921. He then became manager of Selznick Distributing Organization, known as Select Pictures, and was with them until 1926, at which time he accepted a position with Vitagraph, as branch manager and served in this capacity until 1931.

After Ezell severed his connections with Warner he moved to California where he was connected with an investment company, and was a resident for several months; but the call of Georgia and the many friends he had made here in the trade proved too much—even for the California climate as it has been sold to the public. So, he returned and accepted a position of branch manager with Universal, which position he now holds.

By a great many people he is known as the most popular man on Filmrow. Among the filmites and the film industry, he is known as one of its most benevolent members.

He has three children. Clint Ezell, former lineman on the Georgia Tech football team, who now is manager of the Sparks theatre interest at Vero Beach, Fla. J. T. Ezell jr. who is owner and manager of the Film Forwarding Depot of Atlanta; Clyde Ezell, now Mrs. Warren Walker, a graduate of Shorter College.

His hobbies, other than having his many friends drop by his office for a chat, are his two grandchildren, John Frank Ezell, son of Clint, and granddaughter, Rollin Walker, daughter of Clyde.

Ezell is an ardent supporter of the Isaac Waltons and he makes trips each year in pursuit of the finny tribe in Florida waters.

He is a blue lodge Mason, a charter member and director of the Variety Club, Tent No. 21, Atlanta.

Your correspondent had heard so much of Ezell, referred to as "Uncle John," etc., that upon interviewing him we found him surprisingly retiring. Had it not been for the fact that his wife, whom he affectionately referred to as "Mama," it is very doubtful if this information could have been obtained. So, we wish to extend to her our thanks and we believe to a large extent she is responsible for his successful career.—H. H.

Standard Plans to Open Oklahoma City Ritz

OKLAHOMA CITY—The Ritz will be reopened about January 15, Walter Shuttee, general manager of the Standard chain has announced. It has been closed since last February.

The house is at present being remodeled. New seats, new carpets and draperies, and a new exterior marquee are going into the Ritz. A complete new heating system also will be installed.

The theatre will be operated as are other neighborhood houses of the Standard chain, showing major feature pictures on a double-bill policy after their appearance in Standard's downtown theatres.

Polishes "Hudson Bay"

HOLLYWOOD—Lamar Trotti is polishing the script of 20th-Fox's "Hudson Bay."

Build Profits—Patronage with

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BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT

315 S. HARWOOD **BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC.** DALLAS, TEXAS

DALLAS

MS. WHITE said pouring of concrete on his new theatre on Hemphill St. in south Ft. Worth is practically completed and opening is scheduled in about 30 days. It is named "The White."

Among novel Christmas cards was one from Sack Amusement Enterprises, which sent out its usual three-sheet in miniature, but this time presenting "the world's greatest double bill—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year." Harold Werner of the Queen at Trinity had his picture taken inside the doghouse and, waving his hand through the opening, said: "Every dog has his day and I hope you have yours." B. E. Garner, manager of the Arcadia at Ranger, got out a special issue of the "Arcadia Theatre News," blank on three pages except for title and dateline. On front page center was a one-column cut of his infant daughter with the underline reading: "The Garners, Gail, Burla Jane and Brann E., wish you the biggest Christmas you have ever had."

Hugh Braly, Paramount district manager, has been on the west coast for the holidays. He owns a ranch at Selma where he spends each Christmas. He is expected back in Dallas, January 3 or 4 . . . Paramount's branch manager, L. W. McClintock, and Mrs. McClintock spent Christmas in San Antonio, their former home.

Sebe Goodlett, former Texas showman, drove in from Denver in a new car to spend the holidays. He is selling National Screen Service and accessories in that territory and is doing a good job. Sebe formerly worked for the company out of Dallas and years ago operated a theatre in Georgetown.

Exhibitors generally are crying about pre-Christmas and holiday week business. Usually the slump is before Christmas Day with the following week turning in good receipts. It happens more or less in the same manner every year, as a general rule, with slight variations in some localities.

There was scarcely an out-of-town exhibitor on the Row as this week opened. However, C. W. Matson of Rockdale appeared bright and early Tuesday to set in bookings.

The W. W. McNatts of Naples opened their new Inez on December 20. The high school band played out in front and during the opening program.

The Warner Club, made up of employes of the Dallas exchange, held one of their bigger parties a few nights before Christmas. There were food, refreshments, prizes and many entertainment features. Funds were raised for the Salvation Army.

Gene Burris, who opened his new Ross at Sabinal on December 15, has a sort of Grauman "atmosphere" about the place. Just before the concrete was dry, his young son, Ross (Scooter) Burris, embedded his hand and foot prints out in front of the theatre. Scooter is about four years old and he and his father are inseparable pals.

Walter Stoeppleman waxes enthusiastically after opening of his Boxoffice Insur-

(Continued on page 74)

ATLANTA

LUCAS & JENKINS THEATRES entertained all of their employes with a Christmas party and luncheon.

Joe Abercrombie and the Mrs. are spending a few days in Miami and will also attend the Tech-Missouri football game at the Orange Bowl.

T. C. Cox, former RKO booker, and now salesman in New Orleans, was back in town for the holidays.

Dave Prince, United Artists district manager, and Mrs. Prince are in New York for a short visit. While there he also will attend the district manager's sales meeting.

Bill Shiell, Florida salesman for United Artists, is spending the holidays in New Orleans.

Sam Wilson, Republic Pictures, is visiting in Ocala, Fla.

C. E. Peppiatt, United Artists branch manager in New Orleans, was in town for the holidays.

Al Rook, Republic salesman, and his family are spending the holidays in Panama City, Fla.

H. P. "Dusty" Rhodes, Republic Pictures, Charlotte, enjoyed the holidays in Atlanta, and his cheery smile was enjoyed by all.

Warner, Fox, Metro, RKO, Republic Pictures, and others entertained their employes with Christmas parties.

G. Y. Harrell of Republic Pictures, New Orleans, was in town for the Christmas holidays.

Walter Brackin, in town booking and just as happy as ever.

NEW ORLEANS

MISSING from the Xmas festivities here was Harold Wilkes, who was ill at his home in Atlanta. Nevertheless, Wilkes sent a message of regret for not being able to be present for all the doings.

R. L. Johnson, mechanic for the Joys Theatres, is the father of a new boy. And for that reason almost every man one met on the Row was smoking a big cigar.

Thomas A. Branon of the Affiliated exchange in Atlanta was here Xmas week visiting the local branch. He had many callers from among friends along the Row.

The lobby of the Strand, Joy Houck house, has been rebuilt, while the Lafayette, farther up on Baronne St., has also been considerably remodeled.

FOR RENT

All or part upper floor 148 Walton Street, Atlanta, Ga.; now divided into offices, studios and supply rooms; terms reasonable.

VISUGRAPHIC FILM CORP.

P. O. Box 385 Atlanta, Ga.



Stroke for Shows—

The signature will bring a flock of name bands and personalities to the Biscayne Plaza, and accordingly engrosses Edgar Pearce, managing director of the theatre.

Samses Buy the Dixie

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.—A. F. Sams jr., and Willie B. Sams have bought the Dixie here.

ARKANSAS

MR. AND MRS. J. BYE COVERSTON, owners and managers of the Cozy at Gravette, have reopened the remodeled house. It has a seating capacity of 300 and a crying room for children . . . The annual toy matinee was held at the Strand, Newport. Toys collected were turned over to the Goodfellows and distributed to underprivileged girls and boys on Christmas eve. It was the 19th toy matinee conducted by Manager Guy B. Snow at the theatre.

A benefit food show for needy families of Russellville was held at the Ritz by Manager Henry A. Brownlee.

A special toy show was held at the Crittenden, West Memphis, with the proceeds going to the Recreation Council for its Christmas Goodfellow work.

Fire damaged the L. & L. Theatre at Cave City, near Batesville, to the extent of about $1,100. House is owned by Walter Lee and Lawrence Landers, both of Batesville. The fire reportedly started in the projection booth. All booth equipment and more than 9,000 feet of film were destroyed. The front of the building was also damaged.

It is announced the Ritz at McGehee, erected by Dr. Clark of Pine Bluff and managed by Mrs. B. Baradel for the last ten years, has been sold to Malco Theatres, Inc.

The New Year

Is the time for you to resolve to get more from your supply dollars.

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"Everything for the Theatre Except Film"

SANTONE

CHILDREN of the Protestant Orphans' Home were feted at the Texas where Brackenridge Senior School, in cooperation with Interstate Theatres, presented "Heidi," starring Shirley Temple. Children from St. Peter's-St. Joseph's Home were also invited.

Spanish talking pictures are growing in popularity in Texas. Azteca Film Distributing Co. here is now serving 85 *houses with Mexican films.*

Recent visitors to the Latin-American Film Exchange were Johnny Stahl, Carrizo Springs; Jackie Adams, Harlem, Austin, and Raymond Jennings, Colonial, Hondo . . . Gabriel Soria, Mexican actor-director who was injured in an auto wreck here the first part of the month, is reported doing nicely in a local hospital. Gabe suffered several fractured ribs.

Your BOXOFFICE *columnist herewith expresses his appreciation for the nice greeting cards from the following: Jean Wildenstein, Auditorium, Santone; Beulah Greene, State; J. J. Jimenez, R. W. Barron, Doug and Kay Largen, Sack Amusement Enterprises, Radio Station KTSA, Interstate, and many others not connected with the trade.*

The Majestic's Yule midnight show featured "The Secret of Dr. Kildare." Gifts were given to 150 patrons . . . Interstate is again sponsoring the Second Annual Roller Derby which opened with a bang at the Municipal Auditorium Christmas night.

Among the holiday visitors in Santone are Pinkie Tomlin, Hollywood player, and Jose Bohr, Mexico City film star who is here with the missus . . . The Pickard Family, radio favorites, are in town for an airing over WOAI.

Juan Orol, Mexican star, appeared on the National stage Xmas week . . . Plunkett's All-White Minstrel Show is playing an engagement here under canvas out on Mission Road . . . Eddie Laird, UA, Dallas, and Gene Finlay, Mary Martin's representative, were recent visitors in the Alamo City.

Lake Charles Paramount Is Destroyed by Fire

LAKE CHARLES, LA.—The Paramount, a Saenger-affiliated house, and the city's second largest theatre, was destroyed by fire at an estimated loss of $65,000. A small matinee audience left the theatre quietly after the fire was discovered near the street entrance. The cause is not yet determined.

The house was operated by the Southern Amusement Co. George Batillio was manager.

It is said the theatre will be rebuilt after insurance claims are adjusted.

Florida Flashes

By C. O. JEFFERY

HOWDY, FOLKS! Your correspondent, by popular request we blushingly admit, is back to conduct a Florida personal column with the assistance of his lads, Eddie Nye and Al White. We boys are going to do our utmost to give you news and happenings of interest to the exhibitors of Florida, from week to week. Here's for a sample:

C. K. Hollander, manager of the Edison, Modern and Liberty in Miami, reports the Liberty dark for remodeling and a new roof. Opening is due about the time you read this . . . Clyde Pierce of the Central in Tampa has organized a colored stage show which is going over big. The troupe is open for engagements . . . Carmen Thompson, operator for Earle Fain at Leesburg, has recovered from an operation and soon will be back on the job . . . Only a temporary shutdown is expected of the Valerie at Inverness, recently damaged by fire.

Mary Hayes Davis, owner of theatres in the Glades section, opens her Gulf at Venice in January, a seasonal procedure . . . Marion Lee, formerly of Ft. Meade, has accepted the managerial post at the Lincoln in Clewiston . . . Louie Desquin has about completed the remodeling of his "New" at Punta Gorda . . . The Fox at Ft. Meade, destroyed by fire recently, has been rebuilt and now is in operation . . . Butler Gore of the Broadway in Tampa has opened the old Rialto there.



Zukor a Guest in Havana—

Seated at a luncheon given in his honor at the Hotel Nacional de Cuba in Havana is Adolph Zukor, flanked on the left by Jack Rappaport, president of Paramount Pictures in Cuba, and on the right, by Senorita Milagros Quiepo. Over 100 *guests and representatives of the trade in Cuba attended the event.*

MIAMI

AFTER having no legitimate theatre productions of any kind, except the Federal Theatre shows (prior to that institution's discontinuance) and school and university dramatics, Miami now literally teems with little theatres. The pioneer organization is, of course, the group directed by Cloyd Head, former manager of the Goodman Theatre at the Chicago Art Institute. It is now known as the Miami Players. On its board of directors are Mitchell Wolfson, co-owner of Wometco Theatres, Inc.; Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, and Eunice Tietjens. Albert Bernstein, the Wometco Theatres attorney, is the Miami Players' treasurer.

Over on Miami Beach a group of young professionals are building a little playhouse on North Alton road where a series of subscription performances are scheduled to begin in January. The movement extends into other communities with the Grove Players of Coconut Grove planning an elaborate production of Moliere's "Imaginary Invalid" and the "Theatre of the Fifteen," a group of young thespians from California, introducing a much-liked intimate theatre series in a remodeled tearoom, with seats for 50, *in Coral Gables.*

Leads for the beach players' first production the week of January 8, "Susan and God" are to be Nancy Cushman and Edward Barry. Others in this first week's play are Shiela Trent, Mary McNamee, Patricia Guile, Brent Sargent, and Robert Weldon, who is under contract to RKO, but has secured permission to defer his arrival on the west coast until April. Albert Whitley comes down the following week to be featured in "Night Must Fall."

Ruth Terry, popular with local club goers during her several seasons as a featured vocalist at Jack Dempsey's, appeared in person this week when the world's first showing of her first picture, the many times retitled "Slightly Honorable," was shown at the Lincoln.

Revived for Christmas at the Cameo were Chaplin's classic "Modern Times" and Grace Moore's "I'll Take Romance" . . . Holiday showings at the Colony and the Paramount were "Gulliver's Travels."

Newest to book stage shows in connection with feature film presentations is the Flagler, where Max King jr. is rehearsing tryout acts every Sunday morning.

Among the important new names recently added to the membership list of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club is that of S. A. Lynch, president of Paramount Enterprises, Inc.

Two local dramatic editors, Eddie Cohen and Edgar Hay, are among the judges for the playwriting contest being conducted by the Miami Players.

Writes "Jesse James" Sequel

HOLLYWOOD—Sam Hellman is writing the screenplay for "The Return of Frank James," a sequel to "Jesse James," in which Henry Fonda will be starred by 20th-Fox.

Death Claims C. R. Zears, Oklahoma Trade Figure

OKLAHOMA CITY—Death last week took Charles R. Zears, 43, in an Oklahoma City hospital following a three-year illness from a heart ailment. Zears was assistant secretary of the Theatre Owners of Oklahoma and former secretary of the Oklahoma City Film Board of Trade.

His home was at Hunter, Okla., where he had business interests as well as Enid.

The body was sent to Sandoval, Ill., for burial.

Zears, an overseas World War veteran, was a graduate of Central high school of this city and attended Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater, where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi social fraternity.

Survivors, besides his mother, include two brothers, Oscar, living in Illinois, and Guy, in Washington, D. C., and a sister, Mrs. J. B. Sullaway, of this city.

New Nat'l Screen Space Will Be Ready Soon

OKLAHOMA CITY—Remodeling of the downstairs floor space in the Paramount exchange building here is nearing completion and shortly after January 1 the long-expected National Screen Service branch will be moved in. National will take over Paramount's accessories under the arrangement.

K. Lee Williams Revising "Ten Nights in Barroom"

OKLAHOMA CITY—K. Lee Williams will revise and release the Willis Kent production of "Ten Nights in a Barroom," starring William Farnum. A new and elaborate assortment of roadshow accessories is being prepared.

Karl Hoblitzelle Sells His Newspaper Interest

DALLAS — Karl Hoblitzelle, Interstate president, and leading figure in publishing the Dallas *Dispatch-Journal*, has sold his interest in that paper and is interested now in no local newspaper enterprise, according to an official statement.

To Control Committee

DALLAS—Hugh Braly, Paramount district manager, and Fred Jack, Warner division manager, were named to the executive control committee for the national Variety convention to be held here in April, at a special meeting of the board of directors of Tent No. 17.

Samuel Sulzbacher

MONTGOMERY, ALA.—Samuel Sulzbacher, 66, Montgomery theatre operator and business man for the last 40 years, died at his residence here. For a number of years Sulzbacher operated the Grand.

Lift Joan Davis

HOLLYWOOD—Twentieth-Fox has lifted the option of Joan Davis, who is now working in a sequel to "Hotel for Women."

MEMPHIS

EFFECTIVE January 6, Albert Cohen of the Ritz here is retiring from the show business. On January 7, Dave Flexer takes over the helm. Flexer operates several theatres in Mississippi and is establishing his central booking office in the Ritz Theatre Bldg. Cohen expects to travel for about a year and then make his home in Chicago.

Exhibitors along the Row: H. G. "Slim" Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale, Miss.; C. H. Collier, Globe, Drew, Miss.; C. J. Collier, Globe, Shaw, Miss.; B. F. Jackson, Delta, Ruleville, Miss.; Otis Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; C. M. Mounger, Star, Calhoun City, Miss.; J. W. Wofford, Union, Union, Miss.; J. F. Wofford, Eupora, Eupora, Miss.; C. N. Eudy, Ackerman, Ackerman, Miss.; W. F. Ruffin, Ruffin, Covington, Tenn.; Jack Marshall, Frances, Dyersburg, Tenn.; Bernard Haberfeld, Varsity, Amory, Miss.; Claude Gentry, Lyric, Baldwyn, Miss.; Al Wilson, Bay, Red Bay, Ala.; H. N. Haddad, Munford, Munford, Tenn.; Grady Cook and Rufus Hardy of Joy, Pontotoc, Miss.; John Shannon of Maxon at Portageville, Mo.

Walter Parham of the Royal Memphis, and Holly at Holly Springs, Miss., is off for Tennessee and the Rose Bowl game.

A most unusual visitor along the Row was Clyde McCroskey, who operates theatres in Dermott, Eudora, and Lake Village, Ark. This was his first trip in about four months. It will be spring before he makes another trip.

Norman Colquohoun, RKO salesman out of Atlanta, and his wife, Kate, were in Memphis for the holidays. Mrs. Colquohoun spent Sunday with her parents in Tiptonville, Tenn. Their visit was cut short due to "Cal" being called back to the office for a sales meeting.

Norman Fair of the Fair at Somerville, Tenn., was in town and all enthused over the "Beauty Contest" he is sponsoring. The winner will be announced early in January.

Steve Stein of the Met at Jackson, Tenn., was through here en route to his home in Dermott, Ark., to spend the holidays. He was driving a new Mercury. He advised Mrs. Stein fell about ten days ago and broke her leg, but added she is recuperating nicely.

Columbia salesmen are vacationing. Herb Kohn postcards holiday greetings from New York, while Tommy Haynes and his wife send their greetings from Washington, D. C.

Floyd Shaffer of American Desk Mfg. Co. spent the holidays in Dallas with Mrs. Shaffer.

Ben Diggs, who opened his New Princess at Paris, Tenn., on December 29, entertained a number of people from the Row with a dinner party prior to the occasion.

The Prichard boys, Bailey and Ralph, of Peerless Advertising Co. are both driving new Fords.

M. M. "Buck" Buchanan of Monarch Theatre Supply Co. has just closed a deal for complete equipment for the new theatre which is being built by the Elkin Bros. in Aberdeen, Miss.

Guy Brandon of the Mellophone sound and Mrs. Brandon are vacationing in Florida and will not return until about January 10.

E. L. Drake, manager of the Paramount and Pastime at Jackson, Tenn., spent the holidays in bed fighting the "flu." The latest report, however, is that he won the first round.

Jimmy Prichard, Universal's branch manager, has just returned from a managers' meeting in Atlanta.

Dave Prince, publicity man for RKO, and Terry Turner, special representative for Charles Laughton, were in town making arrangements for the opening of "Hunchback of Notre Dame" on January 5, at which time Laughton will make a personal appearance.

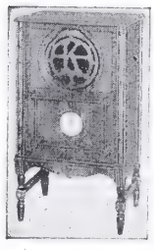
S. T. "Doc" Lyles of the Ritz at Oxford, Miss., and Mrs. Lyle came up to Memphis to see the Dave Apollon show . . . Louis Weber, salesman for Metro in Dallas, and Mrs. Weber are vacationing here.

George Simpson, traffic manager for Film Transit, had his nine-year-old daughter fly down from Washington to spend the holiday with him . . . Homer Williams, who now operates the Grenada at Grenada, Miss., has started construction of a second house in that town. This will be a "B" operation and the opening is scheduled for February 1.

National Screen was rather deserted over the holidays, with Bob Conway, branch manager, and Celia Wells, booker, off to Atlanta, and Milton Linder, star salesman, on vacation in New York. Jimmy Lee Pitts, who spent the holidays in Hardy, Ark., with her family, missed the train and had to walk five miles—but she said it was worth it.

Elsie Wagner of Film Transit spent the holidays in Little Rock with the Joe Wheelers . . . Al Moore, salesman for Warner, and Mrs. Moore are vacationing in Atlanta, while Tony Carruth, Warner's other salesman, is vacationing in his home town, Little Rock.

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OKLA. CITY

T. B. NOBLE jr., managing director of the State, is back in town after a business trip to Colorado, but, as related in the news columns of this issue, he won't be here long.

The Palace at Duncan gave its annual free Christmas show for local kiddies last week with the Rotary Club furnishing free candy. R. F. Wilbern is manager.

Peggy Wood, L. C. Griffith's very capable secretary, has resigned her post here to become a married woman. We understand she heads for Dallas after her marriage. And his new secretary, we understand, is Miss Margaret Brackeen, who moves up in the ranks as is the custom throughout the Griffith organization.

Sol Davis is off for Memphis to spend the holidays with his sister. Memphis is one of the local Republic franchise holder's favorite spots so we know Sol will have a very, very good time there over the holidays.

Morris Loewenstein is out shopping for some red suspenders. It seems he has been named state fire marshal or commissioner or something in connection with the Southern States fire prevention drive with which Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA prexy, has much to do. Anyway Morris is shopping in preparation for the commissioners meeting at the Tutwiler Hotel, Birmingham, February 23 and 24 . . . Business note: Miss Ona Johnson has completed work on two very snazzy rugs . . . Among Christmas presents distributed in the film business was a very attractive comb and case put out by the Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co., handed to his friends by T. B. Noble jr.

Everybody in the Standard organization is happy following a very nice Christmas party for employes only from the stage of the Warner here where Miss Pauline Johnson, secretary to W. B. Shuttee, acted as hostess, Forrest Swigart took care of the food and refreshment problem and Paul Townsend made all arrangements. Dutch lunch was provided and presents were exchanged. The musical portion of the program was taken care of by Mack McKay's Marvelous Musical organization. Before the party the managers and office force presented Shuttee with a $100 *Philco radio for his office. Has television and all. About* 100 *boys and girls were present at the party.*

Dan Denman of RKO is in the state pushing three RKO films, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Pinocchio' and "That's Right, You're Wrong."

Spence Pierce, manager of the Midwest, has gone native following presentation as a Christmas gift by his employes of a pair of the very best cowboy boots.

Paul Townsend, manager of the Liberty, received a swell ring from his folks while Dee Fuller now has one of those effortless cigarette lighters as a result of the good-feeling toward him among his own staff.

The theatre Christmas party at Enid was given by the Aztec, of which George Limerick is boss, in cooperation with the local Lions Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

And There's a Reason

OKLAHOMA CITY—A record of not a single damaged seat in 13 small town houses since April of this year is something for which the K. Lee Williams circuit is rightfully proud.

One phase of Williams' plan is to work closely with the schools and school children in each community. Each month special shows are held with the school receiving a percentage of the gross. Teachers select the picture, collect the 10-cent admissions at the theatre, talk to the youngsters about what the Williams organization is doing for them and secure the youngsters' cooperation.

In addition, Williams' theatres also give the youngsters free shows occasionally and managers tell them that when the courtesy of the house is violated, these treat shows will be discontinued.

This, and putting the youngsters on their honor, has set what appears to be a certain record for the Williams houses. Not a single seat damaged in nine months of operation with 13 houses now going strong.

DALLAS

(Continued from page 70)

ance plan last Tuesday in Dorbandt's Dixie at Athens. Continued rain dampened outlook for the first night. However, he says attendance turned out to be three times normal business for Tuesday.

Raymond Thompson, new owner of the Mecca at Jacksboro, was on the Row, Tuesday, for visits to exchanges. He is also in the undertaking business.

H. J. Harper, formerly in the roadshow game on the west coast, has opened a Dallas office, and with J. F. Harper, will operate in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The company is styled Selected Road Show Attractions. Several fronts for future engagements have been made up in Dallas.

Variety Club's New Year's Eve Jubilee was the big entertainment talk all week among film and theatre circles. Tickets were down this year to $5 per person and reservations were limited to 300. The food was to be a 'Smorgasbord" supper.

To the names of committeemen for the national Variety convention to be held in April and published in BOXOFFICE, *December* 16, *add the following names for future reference: Entertainment committee, Al Wolf, F. W. "Doc" Allen, and Joe Bryant.*

Friday's Bingo party at Variety had as hosts, R. E. Griffith and Mrs. Griffith. This session of family reconnoitering and fellowship about Variety headquarters was different on one score. R. E. furnished 300 of Shoemaker's barbecued sandwiches for his guests . . . Regular Monday noon Variety luncheons will be resumed on January 8, according to plans.

AUSTIN

NEARLY 100 Austin Interstate employes and guests attended the annual theatre party Thursday night at Avalon Night Club. Highlight of the occasion was when Bill Hellums, manager of the Capitol, in behalf of the local Interstaters, presented Louis Novy, Interstate city manager, with a gaming table. Harold Eichenbaum, head of the theatres' art department, was the official photographer of the evening.

George Waller, advance man for the Lunt-Fontanne show, was through here recently with Frank Starz, Interstate space-grabber . . . Interstate bonus checks were handed out to all concerned Wednesday . . . Charles Laughton's "Henry VIII" played the Texas again for the 'steenth time to full houses.

Annual Christmas party for needy children of Austin and Travis county, sponsored by Louis Novy and Travis Post, American Legion, was held at the Paramount, Saturday. Candy, fruit, nuts, and a program of short subjects were on tap.

French-language films got in on a free, state-wide publicity ride when the public relations bureau of the University of Texas sent out a release building up the flicker program of the Alliance Francaise. Pictures blurbed were "Generals Without Buttons," "The Puritan," "The Story of a Cheat," and "The End of the Day."

A recent issue of the Tyler Courier-Times-Telegraph *devoted nearly its entire editorial column to praising "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and "The Roaring Twenties" . . . Eddie Cope,* BOXOFFICE *correspondent, had one of his original plays produced over Radio Station KNOW, Austin.*

Pete Smith Voted Their Favorite Shorts Star

BRECKENRIDGE, TEX.—Patrons of the Palace here have voted Pete Smith their favorite shorts subject star because "he has never failed to amuse and enlighten them with his perennially popular subjects." In another recent poll, Smith was voted the screen's most popular commentator.

Open Sparks' State

PLANT CITY, FLA.—Sparks' new State, seating 700, has opened here. The house is equipped with Western Electric sound. The house is managed by Joe Sparrow, city manager for the circuit.

Louisiana Upstate Business Good

New Orleans—Film salesmen spending Christmas at their exchanges report that business upstate has been above average for some time, especially in the oil section around Shreveport.

Western Theatres Is Testing Single Bills

WINNIPEG—A return to single bills has been started by Western Theatres which has resumed that policy in its Uptown and the newly decorated Tivoli here.

The change in policy was accompanied by a reshuffle of managers, Leno Turaldo, formerly at the Uptown, going to the helm of the Tivoli and E. A. Retalick, manager of the Tivoli, taking the same post at the Uptown.

The resumption of singles is admittedly experimental, declares Frank H. Kershaw, general manager of the chain, who will also supervise the Tivoli.

Earl Davies Promoted; Others Are Boosted

TORONTO—Earl Davies, the doorman of the Imperial in the downtown section, has been promoted to assistant manager of the theatre under the direction of Manager Tom Daley. The Imperial is an ace house of the Famous Players circuit.

J. Rollins of the Tivoli has been promoted to be assistant manager to Bob Eves at the Eglinton, Toronto, it is announced by the company.

William Williams has been appointed manager of the Crescent, Winnipeg, while the Tower, Palace, College, Roxy, Rose and Wonderland in that city have been placed under the supervision of Sam Rosenblatt. William Russell has resigned as manager of the Tivoli because of ill-health and Al Simmons has been promoted from assistant manager to manager as his successor. John Cielen has become manager of the Tower in succession to Sam Rosenblatt. Leno Turoldo has been transferred from the management of the Uptown to that of the Tivoli.

In Toronto, Al Easson of the Village has been appointed manager of the Oakwood by Famous Players.

Television Development Seen Retarded by War

OTTAWA—Little has been heard in Canada since the outbreak of war regarding developments in connection with the establishment of television facilities which have been reserved as a government monopoly under the supervision of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

The subject has been revived, however, with the announcement that a television demonstration has been arranged for January 8 in Ottawa but actual details have not been released.

Cyril Smith Sells Star At Armstrong to Samol

VANCOUVER—Cyril H. Smith sold his theatre at Armstrong, the Star, to K. Samol who will assume immediate possession. The Star has been under Smith's direction for a number of years.

Anything to Win The War

Ottawa—Regarding the Ontario government's move to restore the amusement tax, the Ottawa "Journal" says editorially: "Now it is hinted that the amusement tax may be restored in Ontario. Well, if we can't win the war without nuisance taxes, then let us have 'em and bear 'em with as much cheerfulness as may be."

Amusement Tax Talk Getting Cognizance

LONDON—Reports that the Ontario government has under consideration the restoration of the amusement tax on theatres and other entertainment have come to the ears of theatre managers in the province. The restoration would be a direct result of the war.

Roy Buckley, who at one time supervised tax collections, is reported to have been summoned by provincial authorities for discussions on the matter, but government announcement still has not been made.

A tax which for years has been assessed on theatre admissions as well as admissions to some other forms of entertainment, was withdrawn in 1937. The schedules then in effect would bring in approximately $2,000,000 revenue annually.

If the government does plan reintroduction of an amusement tax act, the most logical time would be at the 1940 legislature sitting, which commences early in January.

Move in Ottawa to Ban Handbill Distribution

OTTAWA—An agitation has developed in Ottawa for the total banning of the house-to-house distribution of handbills or heralds for any purpose with the exception of advertising matter to be delivered by the regular postal service. One of the leaders in the move is the Ottawa *Journal,* a daily newspaper which does not have a job printing department, while the local Rotary Club has placed itself on record against the use of handbills. Complaints have been made on occasions that the distributors have cluttered up the lawns and door steps in residential sections instead of placing the printed matter in letter receptacles.

Some months ago a similar agitation led the civic government to adopt a by-law providing for the licensing of handbill distributors and there have been prosecutions of men and boys who were caught delivering the material without licenses. Theatres have had to take care that heralds are handled only by registered services. It is now proposed to abolish even the licensing system in order to stop door deliveries.

New Pact to Krims

HOLLYWOOD — Milton Krims, Warner scripter, has been handed a new pact.

Duals at Orpheum in Sault Ste. Marie

TORONTO— Christmas Day saw the opening of the remodeled Orpheum at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., as a unit of the Famous Players circuit with Al Hartshorn, former assistant manager at the Palace, Hamilton, as manager. The Orpheum, which had been dark for years, reopened with a double-bill policy, the first program comprising "Blackmail" and "What a Life." The Orpheum is opposition to another Famous Players' house, the Algoma, managed for many years by W. P. McGeachie, and an independent theatre, the New Princess, which was recently enlarged and streamlined by Charles dePaul.

In the Toronto district the new Colony was opened Christmas Day by W. Weiss with a double bill, "Love Affair" and "Five Came Back." The Colony is located in the Fairbank section at Eglinton Avenue and Dufferin Street Northwest of Toronto.

The FP Capitol at Hamilton, Ont., seating 2,233, reopened after being closed one week for extensive renovations under the management of Dan Krendel.

Plans have been prepared by B. Applebaum for the construction of a new theatre at New Toronto, a suburban municipality of 7,000, which will open June 1. It will be known as the Palace. The Allen circuit has the Capitol in New Toronto which has a seating capacity of 1,090.

Theatres in Hull, Quebec, Hold New Year's Shows

OTTAWA—The theatres in Hull, Que., directly across the river from Ottawa, Ont., enjoyed a distinct edge in the holding of New Year's Eve performances. On the Quebec side the theatres are permitted to operate on Sundays despite the Lord's Day Act which is applicable to all Canada, but exhibitors in Ontario must observe Sunday closing laws.

The situation meant that the Cartier and Laurier in Hull and the Pic in nearby Aylmer were able to start their special frolics long before midnight and thus have the advantage of staging a rousing demonstration at the turn of the year. In Ottawa the theatres were not allowed to open their boxoffices until after 12 o'clock which meant that the big moment was lost for the programs.

Vancouver Little Revamp Provides New Theatre

VANCOUVER—Another theatre is to be added to the list of those in this city. It is a reconstruction job, the remodeling of the Little Theatre, which for many years has been the home of the association of that name, who, with its own members, put on special and classical performances.

M. Chechik of the Bay Theatre is the new owner, and announces elaborate changes, including a new front, to fit the building for a 449-seat house, with the opening set for early in February.

Sincere Recognition For Service Ideal

By ROY CARMICHAEL

MONTREAL—The ideal of service stressed so strenuously in modern business is making great headway in the motion picture field, where the public response to efforts to promote the comfort of the patrons can be easily estimated.

Something revolutionary in this connection is to be witnessed in the transformation of one of the leading neighborhood houses—the Westmount Theatre of the United Amusement chain. There, remodeling of the theatre has resulted in a reduction of the seating capacity from 1,304 to 1,141 which means 163 fewer seats.

Such a reversal of the customary practice which is to seek to increase the seating struck this correspondent as worth investigation and discussion, so an interview with the management was sought.

Phil Godel, manager of the Westmount, is a veteran showman. Besides being one of the most popular, he is one of the most experienced managers. In over 30 years he has learned and put into practice many points of showmanship which are overlooked by newcomers in the entertainment field

Above all, Godel has remarked that the theatre public—particularly in a neighborhood theatre—responds favorably to considerate and friendly treatment. So, in remodeling the Westmount the comfort of the audience was placed first.

The average show in that theatre, which runs double bills, lasts three hours—sometimes longer. So the first thing thought of when the improvements just completed were undertaken was the seating. Aisles were broadened, the leg space between rows was increased from 28 to 32 inches, and comfortable leather-covered chairs were installed. This meant the sacrifice of nearly fourteen per cent of the seating capacity, but it also meant a tremendous increase in the enjoyment experienced by the patron, enabling them to sit through a three-and-a-half-hour show without wriggling and fidgeting.

It is true that the lessened accommodations may result in a few people having to stand for a while, when the theatre is crowded, but Godel is of opinion that 1,100 seats provide ample room for the average audience and he finds even a slight advantage in having a few people standing. "It gives a good impression of the drawing power of the show," he remarked.

Asked whether people finding the "SRO" sign out might not get discouraged and take their patronage elsewhere, he commented: "No, it is good advertising. People like to go where there's a crowd. If they can't get in, they'll come back another time and come earlier."

Outlining the improvements in the Westmount, Godel showed this correspondent that the stage had been set further back, so as to improve the view of the screen given to those seated in the front rows. The space in front of the stage formerly occupied by the orchestra has always been difficult to disguise artistically. In the remodeled Westmount the difficulty has been overcome by terraced steps.

Soft lighting is diffused from lamps on the newly decorated walls. Illuminated clocks at both sides of the stage keep record of the flight of time; deep pile carpets deaden the footfalls, and instead of jostling each other in walking down the aisles in single file "like Chinamen," as Mr. Godel expressed it, patrons can now "wander down the broad aisles arm-in-arm."

New high frequency sound has been installed, new lamps provided by Dominion Sound Equipments, and special devices for deaf patrons give perfect sound reception to those whose hearing is defective.

An air of luxurious ease pervades the theatre, filling it with a charm which unconsciously influences members of the audience, increasing attentiveness to the show, because no one is subject to the distraction of noisy, scrambling exits and entrances.

Creation of such conditions in Godel's opinion is well worth while. It is calculated to convert a casual customer into a regular one, and to make him a warm supporter of the theatre.

VANCOUVER

H QUAGLIOTTI-ROMANO is steadily recovering from injuries sustained when he fell at his home, and is expected to be back at the Colonial within the next month.

J. R. Cameron, manager of the Ashcroft, Ashcroft, B. C., passed through here on his return from a trip to Mexico. He brought back a trunk full of souvenirs. He witnessed one bull-fight but said, "one is enough."

Having eluded floating mines and torpedoes on their long, long ocean trip from England, the chairs for the Lux have been installed.

Major Castle, Oak Bay Theatre, Victoria, is establishing a reputation as a raconteur of Habitant stories and verse, with inimitable gestures and accent.

H. H. Steves, Orpheum Theatre, Dawson City, Yukon Territory, is making an extended stay here, having come down about a month ago and planning a return trip in February.

Babe Coval and his staff are all smiles these days, for which, perhaps, the distribution of Warner's 1939 bonuses may be responsible.

The annual Xmas party of the managers of Famous Players' suburban houses was held in the Devonshire Hotel, with L. I. Bearg, western manager, Frank Gow, manager of suburban theatres, and Cecil Neville, booker, as guests. Starting at 11:00 p. m., supper was eaten, followed by a lot of good-natured kidding, some serious speeches, and the presentation of a smoker's set to Neville.

R. E. Berry was a visitor to Vancouver where he is well known from the days when he operated a little chain of houses in the interior prior to their being taken under the management of Famous Players. They were: The Empress at Kelowna, the Capitol at Kamloops, and the Empress at Vernon.

F. G. E. Stevens, co-exhibitor with W. Brown, plans a leisurely trip to California when the Lux is well under way with its programs all lined up.

G. G. Baiss, Capitol, Duncan; Ray Castle, Oak Bay, Victoria; and Joe Gibson, Langley, Langley Prairie, came in to attend an annual meeting of the industry here. Stan Kennedy of the Cadet, Esquimalt, intended to join them, but was very much under the weather when the time came so did not turn up.

Warren Cooper, Avolie, Revelstoke, was recently elected to the city council of that city, his administrative capacity in the Revelstoke board of trade having received favorable recognition by the voters.

Happiness Reigns at Party by F-P Chain

TORONTO—The annual holiday party of the headoffice staff of Famous Players Canadian Corp. and invited guests, at which the host was President N. L. Nathanson, proved to be happy demonstration of goodwill and fellowship. Following a general get-together, the executive officials, department heads, headquarters' employes, officers of various film exchanges and guests sat down to a bountiful repast and completed the evening with a dance program. The event was held in the Roof Garden of the Royal York Hotel.

Among the visitors were:

Hon. W. D. Ross, former Lieut.-Governor of Ontario; Hon. Earl Lawson, member of the Dominion Parliament; Col. John A. Cooper, president of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada; Arthur Lee of New York City; Henry L. Nathanson, general manager, Regal Films, Ltd.; Claire Hague, Canadian representative, Universal Pictures; H. M. Masters, general manager, United Artists Corp., Ltd.; M. A. Milligan, general manager, Paramount Film Service, Ltd.; Leo M. Devaney, general manager, RKO Distributing Corp. of Canada, Ltd.,; O. R. Hanson, president, Empire-Universal Films, Ltd.; Alfred Perry, general manager of the same company; Frank O'Bryne, Toronto manager, Associated Screen News, Ltd.; O. J. Silverthorne, chairman, Ontario Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch; W. D. McPhee, Chief Inspector of Theatres in Ontario; Jules Allen, head of the Allen theatre chain; Sam Fine of B&F Theatres; Paul Nathanson, vice-president, Empire-Universal Films, Ltd.; H. T. Long, general manager, Associated Theatres, Ltd.; Raymond Allen, general manager, Allen Theatres; Roly Young, film critic, Toronto *Globe* and *Mail*; Ted Gould, Charles Mavety, E. V. Armstrong, Frank Fisher, John Dixon, Dewey Bloom, Syd Taube, and James Foy.

Turns in Script

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Tedford has turned in his screenplay for "The Wilderness Scout," Warner historical featurette.

TORONTO

AS a gesture of esteem, practically the whole head office staff of Famous Players Canadian Corp. on the 11th and 12th floors of the Royal Bank Bldg. suddenly appeared outside of the private office of President N. L. Nathanson for a surprise visit when he was presented with a handsome traveling bag. "N. L." recently returned from a trip to Hollywood.

All employes of the Canadian and Toronto branch offices of RKO Distributing Corp. of Canada Ltd., Toronto, took advantage of the holiday spirit to turn the premises into a banquet hall for a turkey spread with General Manager L. M. Devaney as chairman. Blackout methods were employed to cover the window in the corridor as a friendly raid precaution.

Everybody on the staff of Empire-Universal Films Ltd. and Associated Theatres Ltd. traveled to the Embassy Hotel, Toronto, for a holiday diversion that was much enjoyed by everybody down to the newest stenographer and office boy.

The only executive of Famous Players' head office to miss the holiday celebrations was Charles Dentelbeck, supervisor of projection, who had to be in northern Ontario for the opening of the Orpheum at Sault Ste. Marie where the real wintry winds do blow.

Something for the book was the holding of an extra morning show on the last business day before Christmas by Manager Tom Daley of the Imperial in downtown Toronto for the opening of the holiday week run of "Destry Rides Again." With big crowds out shopping and plenty of kids footloose because of the closing of schools, Daley got his share of business.

The Toronto premiere of "Gone With the Wind" has been held off at Loew's until later in January or early February, according to an intimation from the theatre.

Members of the Toronto Newsboys Ass'n, to the number of 1,200, attended a private Sunday performance at the College which was donated for the purpose. Warner Bros. provided the feature without charge, this being "Dust Be My Destiny," and others contributed their services, with Manager M. Margolius formally accepting the thanks of the boys.

Capt. M. W. Plunkett of Toronto, known to scores of Canadian exhibitors because of the stage units he has produced over a period of 20 years, has already gone to England to organize concert parties for Canadian troops under the auspices of the Canadian Legion War Services.

Lloyd Mills, manager of the Elgin, Ottawa, staged a turkey draw for 50 birds at the theatre in aid of the Ottawa Boys band. Previously he had conducted a Saturday morning canned goods matinee for the local Kiwanis Club charity fund.

Foto-Nite contests ran to big money in recent weeks at Ottawa. The Avalon and Imperial were offering $300 as the grand take while Manager H. Marshall of the Rideau hung up $170. Manager Vern Hudson also had Santa Claus in a personal appearance at the Avalon.

Charles P. Cashman, well known around Toronto film exchanges for his engraving and mat services, has been busy in his campaigning as a candidate for reeve in the 1940 York township council in which he has already served eight years as councillor and deputy reeve. His public service has also included membership in the York township housing commission.

"Double Crime in the Maginot Line" was a holdover at the Eglinton, Toronto, for its first Toronto playdate.

Charlie Querrie, manager of the Palace for almost 20 years, has been taking an active part in Toronto municipal electioneering but not as a candidate himself. He nominated Dr. G. J. Millen as alderman in Ward One and A. A. Stewart for the board of education. W. A. Sommerville, former member of the Toronto Board of Control and a member of the Ontario legislature, also came out in support of Millen. Sommerville is the owner of the Prince of Wales and Eastwood theatres.

A move has been made to organize a Canadian Pioneer Film Club with headquarters in Toronto for all film men who have been associated with the industry 25 years or longer.

Commissioner S. T. Wood of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police took time off from his wartime duties to confer with William H. Pine, representing Cecil B. De Mille, regarding production plans for the feature dealing with the force which is scheduled to go before the cameras in February. Pine agreed to submit the script to the commissioner for approval.

Anna Neagle, elected honorary colonel of the Toronto Black Watch Ass'n when she was in Toronto for the premiere of "Victoria the Great" three years ago, sponsored the annual party for the children of association members at the local clubrooms on December 29.

EDMONTON

THE sum of $25 was donated by Edmonton theatres recently towards the purchase of band instruments for the Edmonton Regiment band which left for England the middle of December with an entirely new set of instruments with which to "play the boys up the line."

Long distance record for the purchase of Christmas script tickets to an Edmonton theatre has been reported by Manager Walter Wilson of the Capitol who recently received an order from Exeter, Devonshire, England, for some tickets to be delivered to an Edmonton resident.

William Long, manager of the Rialto, recently returned from a brief business trip to Vancouver where he conferred with several theatre executives.

Playing a return engagement, Maurice Colborne and Barry Jones will appear at the Empire January 8 and 9. When playing in Edmonton they will present "Charles the King," and "Tobias and the Angel."

Frank Devaney, son of General Manager L. M. Devaney of Canadian RKO, is home for the Christmas holidays from Ridley College, St. Catharines. Another son, Murray, now with the Toronto RKO branch, followed in his father's footsteps by attending St. Michael's College.

Eleven theatres in the Capitol group of Toronto had a kiddies candy matinee when treats were handed out to all juvenile patrons. These were the Alhambra, Bloor, Beach, Belsize, College, Oakwood, Parkdale, Runnymede, St. Clair, Capitol and Village.

The Toronto Carriers Boys Club, sponsored by the Toronto *Star*, had two morning shows at the Tivoli, December 27 and 28, when Manager Leonard Bishop presented some stage stunts along with the film program of "Disputed Passage" and "First Love." About 3,500 attended.

Jimmy Nairn of Famous Players' Toronto office made his radio debut by appearing on the Canadian network when he was interviewed by Al Grosart, film commentator.

Ottawa had a run of appropriate French films when "Sommes-Nous Defendus?" "France Is Ready" played a week at the Elgin and "La Marseillaise" and "La Carte Forcee" were double-billed at the Rideau. "Entente Cordiale" is also coming up. The perennial, "A Christmas Carol," was brought out again and played a number of Ontario dates.

A situation approaching an epidemic has been the cause of concern in London, Ont., with attendance at theatres affected. Pneumonitis, a type of severe cold affecting the lungs, is the malady and many juveniles have been sick.

The wedding is recorded of Ken Wells, stockkeeper at the General Theatre Supply Co., Toronto, to Miss Mary Wesley of Windsor, Ont., the ceremony taking place at St. Aidan's, Toronto.

Robert Maynard, manager of the Cartier, FP house in Hull, observed his birthday on December 27. Coming between Christmas and New Year's, the occasion passed almost unnoticed.

Ald. George McComber of Port Arthur, Ont., otherwise known as the manager of the Lyceum, was pressed by friends and supporters to run for mayor for 1940.

John Whitfield, an usher at the Capitol, Brantford, Ont., has become Sergt. J. Whitfield of the 69th Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, of the Canadian Overseas Force.

Cliff Yonson of the Famous Players' accounting department, Toronto, recovered sufficiently from his appendicitis operation to do fair justice to a Christmas dinner.

Manager Ernie Moule of the Capitol, Brantford, Ont., caused a stir when he had an airplane bomb the city with "confetti" a la guerre, the flying bulletins being heralds for "The Lion Has Wings." Ten thousand leaflets were scattered over the business section.

MONTREAL

WARTIME horrors, if not forgotten, are being offset in the minds of the Montreal public this holiday season by the alleviating effect of a varied selection of first class films and attractive amusement programs.

Owing to rural roads being deep in snow, exhibitors from a distance have been unable in many instances to use their automobiles to come to town. As a consequence there have been fewer visitors on Filmrow.

A film of topical wartime interest, "Double Crime in the Maginot Line," produced by Grand National is booked to open at the System January 6 . . . F. S. Fountain, inspector of exchanges for Paramount has been visiting the local Paramount office . . . M. Wilkes, exploitation representative of United Artists, Toronto, was a Filmrow visitor, and attended the Film Board of Trade banquet.

Captain C. J. Decle, manager of the Empress, Confederation theatre in Notre Dame de Grace, has a special interest in the war apart from the fact that he fought for three and a half years in the last one, and is on the reserve waiting for a call. His son, Russell, volunteered for service immediately when war was declared, and is now a member of a local battery ready to proceed overseas.

Eugene Maynard, who is one of the busiest managers in town, alternating nightly between the Outremont and the Savoy, both of which he directs, has arranged a New Year's Eve celebration with balloons and noisemakers for all.

The Orpheum presented a world premiere with the Christmas offering of "Of Mice and Men," which will also be the New Year's feature . . . Claire Majette, a graduate of the Folies Bergere in Paris, is replacing at Chez Maurice Irene Bordoni who was recalled to New York for rehearsal.

There is talk of the Park, Verdun, reopening. Closed for the past few weeks, it has, according to S. J. Dunning, manager, suffered from a difficulty in obtaining suitable films.

Bath towels for the troops were provided by a matinee at the Pylon, Toronto, at which admission charge was one bath towel. The idea seems good enough to be extended to Montreal, where the soldiers are just as fond of a bath and a good rubdown as they are in Toronto.

Stratton Demetre, manager of United Amusement's Regent, is recuperating in the south. Ben Quelch, assistant manager, is holding the fort till he returns.

Sympathy of the film community is extended to the widow and family of A. J. B. Robert, proprietor of the Rialto and Capitol, Three Rivers, who died December 18 following a heart attack, in his 69th year.

No direct dominion government censorship has been imposed on films in Canada in connection with the war. The various provinces all have censor boards, and, although these are mainly concerned with morality, they are counted upon to let nothing pass that would be helpful to the enemy.

Christmas did not go unnoticed in the independent theatres. First the System and then the Laval screened "A Christmas Carol" . . . At the System George Panos, manager, brought back a couple of real favorites in "The Great Waltz" and "The Return of the Scarlet Pimpernel."

Dinnerware is in vogue again. It is the giveaway at the Granada, the Laval, and the Palace, Verdun . . . James A. Blane, manager of the Rosemount, scored with a first class variety show . . . Children had their Christmas made merrier by being admitted to "The Wizard of Oz" at the Strand and Granada. "The Bombing of Helsingfors" was a special news feature at the Strand.

New Year's Eve at the Corona will be productive of one of the most original and spectacular effects seen at any local theatre. Some years ago, Leo Vardec, closed a carbaret performance at the Amherst with a special curtain formed of streamers which descended from the roof just before the regular curtain. It will be repeated at the Corona where he is now manager, and will be an effective finish to an evening of merriment.

Morris Davis, manager of the Belmont, found Ginger Rogers in "Fifth Avenue Girl" a big draw. It was supported by "King of the Underworld," shorts and news . . . Imperial is giving souvenirs along with its New Year's Eve vaudeville and film show at midnight. The film, which will bring in the New Year, is "Babes in Arms."

A special preview of Marx Brothers "At the Circus" is on the New Year's Eve program at the Princess . . . Cinema de Paris completed its third week of "Entente Cordiale" with Gaby Morlay. This was one of the hits of Paris.

Monkland will run a New Year's Eve show. "On Your Toes" will be the feature film. The Monkland did well with a Santa Claus show put on by "The Little Players of the Air," which drew 700 children Saturday morning, despite the opposition of a Santa Claus parade out-of-doors.

George Ganetakos, managing director of United Amusement Corp., received a highly appropriate Christmas gift from the managers—a motion picture camera, which it is hoped he will find useful on his forthcoming holiday in Florida. D. A. Murray, vice-president, and W. Lester, assistant general manager, also received gifts. The presentation was organized by Frank H. Warnicker, veteran manager of the Strand.

Saturday before Christmas witnessed a number of social gatherings on Filmrow, at which everyone was as happy as the occasion suggests . . . "Gulliver's Travels" opens at Loew's January 19.

WINNIPEG

PREVIEWED at a special showing for newsmen, army officials and civic dignitaries, arranged by the French consul, "France Is Ready" opened at the Rio. Helmer Jernberg put on a smash campaign.

H. A. Morton's decorated and renovated Rialto blossomed into a fine cut in the Winnipeg Free Press *in a reciprocal ad layout celebrating completion of the alterations which have taken place in the house lately.*

Harold Grey, assistant manager at the Metropolitan, is celebrating his birthday. Since that happy event fell on December 22, Grey did not know whether gifts which he received were birthday or Xmas presents.

Congratulations to Jack and Mrs. Reid, UA, on the birth of a six-pound baby . . . Charles Taylor and A. E. Mellon, both of Portage la Prairie, are visitors to the city . . . Grand National is enlarging its quarters in Cinema Center.

The Manager, house organ of FP in Canada, has taken official recognition of the exploitation work carried out here by Harold Bishop at the Capitol, Don Gauld at the Metropolitan and Eddie Newman at the Lyceum.

Harry Bercovich of Regina is in the city over the holidays . . . Winnipeg exhibitors and distributors wish the trade a Very Happy New Year.

CALGARY

ALL the boys along Filmrow stayed in town a week prior to Christmas, preparing for the festive season. A number of exhibitors have been visiting them, getting ready for the holiday rush. Among these were Matt Park from Westaskiwin; Leo Maher, Medicine Hat; Jean Dazeau, Drumheller; J. Garfin, Rosedale; Brewerton Brothers, Raymond and Cardston.

The Maurice Colbourne Co., from London, England, presented Shaw's play "Geneva" at the Grand for three days and one matinee. Played to a little over half capacity at $2.50 top. This company plays here on return from the coast with "Charles the King."

Pete Egan of the Palace here staged a highly successful "Vegetable Matinee." Secured cooperation of morning daily and ran front page boxes. Juveniles of Calgary brought vegetables of all kinds and quantities from one spud to a sack. Filmrow donated the film program. Over three tons of garden truck was shipped to the local board of public welfare.

Downtown theatres have completed bookings for the New Year's Eve previews, which are locally popular. Admission prices go up to one dollar for these annual shows with substantial prizes of furniture and plenishings drawn for on the stage. Prospects for capacity business are excellent this year. With good crop, large weekly garrison payroll and industrial conditions improved, local theatres report box-office increases for this season.

United Artists (——) 104 Minutes Rel. ——

Hal Roach's screen version of John Steinbeck's book of the same name is a triumphant production in every department. Here was a story which, because of its psychological and sociological ramifications, presented a picture-making problem considerably more difficult than most, a problem which was gloriously solved through flawless casting and the masterful direction of a delicately wrought screenplay. The result is an intensely dramatic feature which must win unstinting acclaim from all who see it. Every member of the cast was selected with such erudite care that it is difficult to single out individual performances for laurels. Burgess Meredith as George, the "bindle stiff," whose love for the dim-witted man mountain, Lennie, furnishes the story, is entitled to top honors. Much credit is due Lewis Milestone who produced and directed.

Burgess Meredith, Betty Field, Lon Chaney jr., Charles Bickford, Roman Bohnen, Bob Steele, Granville Bates.

Of Mice and Men F Drama

Republic (——) 68 Minutes Rel. Jan. 4, '40

Clean, wholesome comedy having to do with the further ups and downs of the Higgins family. The picture is replete with hearty laughs and truly mirthful situations and compares favorably with its predecessors; in fact, with the better of any of the less-pretentiously-budgeted, home-and-fireside series films. The Higginses are, of course, portrayed by the Gleasons—James, Lucile and Russell, with Gleason pere carrying most of the Thespic load. This time Joe Higgins, an advertising agency employe, finds himself in plenty of trouble because his wife develops a mania for contests and connives with other members of the family to have Joe lose his job so that she will be eligible to enter one being promoted by his agency. He gets a better job. Produced and directed by Gus Meins.

James Gleason, Lucile Gleason, Russell Gleason, Harry Davenport, Lois Ranson, Tommy Ryan, Thurston Hall.

Money to Burn F Comedy

Columbia (9017) 60 Minutes Rel. Aug. 22, '39

Margaret Sidney's book is familiar to nearly everyone who passed through the kid stage in a sentimental family circle, and its coming to the screen is so dressed as to entertain and attract family audiences. Big league dates will elevate nose at its sticky sentimentality, but the neighborhoods and country dates will find it enjoyable. Edith Fellows is the eldest of the five young Peppers and runs the family, while her mother gains them a living in an overall factory. Edith owns half a mine, in which her father was killed, and Clarence Kolb, big money splash, wants to get it. In process of an attempt to do a skin game, he goes for the Peppers instead. Dorothy Peterson and Ronald Sinclair are other familiar faces, but it is Dorothy Ann Seese who pirates the picture, a 3½-year-old kid with loads of charm.

Edith Fellows, Clarence Kolb, Dorothy Peterson, Ronald Sinclair, Charles Peck, Dorothy Ann Seese, Tommy Bond.

Five Little Peppers F Melodrama

20th Century-Fox (017) 84 Minutes Rel. Jan. 5, '40

An unusual treat for the eyes and the ears will be found in this sumptuously produced, sincerely portrayed and excellently directed feature based on the life of Stephen Foster, one of America's favorite troubadour-composers, and his widely sung music. From start to finish it will have audiences of all ages and classes fluctuating between nostalgic tears and tapping feet, as one after another of the well-known Foster songs are introduced, while the story tells how each was conceived and written —all in logical and engrossing sequence. Ameche, Miss Leeds and Jolson are splendid in their respective roles, but it is the music and the inspiring manner in which it is presented and recorded that proves the star of the picture. Technicolor photography adds much to the film's excellence. Directed by Sidney Lanfield.

Don Ameche, Andrea Leeds, Al Jolson, Felix Bressart, Chick Chandler, Russell Hicks, George Reed.

Swanee River F Musical Drama

Columbia (——) 70 Minutes Rel. Jan. 10, '40

Certainly by now all the mistakes committed in making musicals should be obvious to a studio. The trail has been well blazed by inept efforts. But undeterred by the past, Columbia here fails to dodge the pitfalls. The major mark against this film is the manner in which it dissipates the playing talent. An excellent comedian like Alan Mowbray does not get the opportunity to be funny. Neither does Eric Blore. Rita Hayworth's physical beauty scintillates, but not enough. There are five songs all sung by Tony Martin, who is the key figure in the plot. About to be deported, Martin comes into the life of Miss Hayworth just as she is about to marry Mowbray, a wealthy publisher. As expected, boy gets girl and all is well. Andre Kostelanetz and his music are in for a number. Joseph Santley directed.

Tony Martin, Rita Hayworth, Alan Mowbray, Eric Blore, George Tobias, Edith Fellows, Andre Kostelanetz.

Music in My Heart F Musical

Concord (——) 90 Minutes Rel. ——

The alliance between England and France shortly after the turn of the century forms the basis for this stately and dignified French film. Source of the story is Andre Maurois' life of Edward VII. But the emphasis on the character is diverted by a parade of historical personages of the time. Instead of a well-knit film, it is mostly a series of studied tableaux depicting the events which led to a binding treaty by two traditional enemies. Victor Francen, as Edward, sparks the effort. He plays his role in a calm, grave manner but with the subdued, merry twinkle of a man who loves life. Francen, however, does not dominate the attraction sufficiently. In the light of present condition, the film has added significance. Max Glass produced, Marcel L'Herbier directed.

Victor Francen, Gaby Morlay, Arlette Marchal, Jean Perier, Dorville, Jean D'Yd, Jacques Baumer, Andre Lefaur.

Entente Cordiale F Drama

20th Century-Fox (027) 56 Minutes Rel. Jan. 12, '40

Mildly diverting drama which has little chance of serving except as a supporting programmer—and in that classification it barely qualifies. All of the action takes place in a de luxe, modern gambling house but the story is so purposeless that audiences will sit through the entire picture wondering when the plot will start revealing itself. Further handicaps lie in a cast devoid of names, and in loose direction. Lynn Bari, a gal from Texas, is the star reporter on a metropolitan newspaper. Assigned to expose the gambling establishment, she gains entry through subterfuge only to find that its operator is her girlhood sweetheart, whom she still loves. After several adventures, during which she inadvertently saves his life, breaks the bank, influences him to give up his life of sin, and what not, comes the inevitable declaration of love. Ricardo Cortez directed.

Lynn Bari, C. Aubrey Smith, Donald Woods, Amanda Duff, June Gale, Richard Lane, Robert Lowery.

City of Chance F Drama

Paramount (——) 97 Minutes Rel. Feb. 2, '40

This turns out to be a film of uneven merit. Many of its scenes carry undeniable dramatic power. In sweep and handling, its desert battle sequences are thrillingly done and beautifully photographed. Probably, however, it is its leisurely pace, undoubtedly deliberately sought out by its producer-director, William A. Wellman, which appears to set "The Light That Failed" apart from the fast-moving, modern scene in which it is expected to make its impression. Performances by Ronald Colman, Walter Huston, Dudley Digges, Muriel Angelus and Ida Lupino are generally good, but essentially in a technical sense. The story concerns an artist who, returned from the Egyptian wars, struggles for fame and love and achieves the former as he goes blind.

Ronald Colman, Walter Huston, Muriel Angelus, Ida Lupino, Dudley Digges, Ernest Cossart, Colin Tapley.

The Light That Failed F Drama

Metropolitan (SR) 53 Minutes Rel. ——

Old school western, with absolutely none of the present day polish that has been creeping slowly into the sagebrushers, film is pathetically semi-comic, even drawing laughs from the kids. Bob Steele has been much better, this series having been definitely on the light side so far. Steele comes into a range war, where the sheepmen, led by Gordon Roberts, are trying to rout the cattlemen, at whose head stands Frank Larue. Ted Adams figures as a range Robin Hood, who comes out of the hills to do justice its turn. Story, credited to Forrest Sheldon, and Carl Krusada's screenplay, evidence work from day to day, generally loose and tedious to the western and action watcher. It may get loose for fair business on weekends, but not often. Only satisfaction for the action palate is an occasional fist-fight.

Bob Steele, Claire Rochelle, Ralph Hoopes, James Whitehead, Gordon Roberts, Earl Dougers, Ted Adams.

Riders of the Sage F Western

SELLING ANGLES: **"Five Little Peppers"**

Any medium which reaches into the family circle is the vehicle on which the selling of this picture should be loaded. It offers opportunity for grocery, bakery, general store, furniture houses, and all such family traders to join in tieups. Since the arrival of a new stove for the Peppers is one of the highlights, it should be simple to get stove and gas range houses to get on and ride with displays. Bookstores are a cinch, the Pepper story still having plenty of sale. School kids can be reached with combination blotter-ruler heralds, and the film is sure to curry favor with all the purity organizations who should be called in for endorsement.

CATCHLINES:

They Haven't Much Money, But They Have An Awful Lot of Fun.

In Mere Print, They Thrilled Generations . . . Imagine What the Peppers Do When They Actually Live on Film.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Entente Cordiale"**

Schools, historical societies and patriotic organizations should be contacted. One way to send the picture off to a good start is have some group foster a benefit show with proceeds going to the Allies. Gaby Morlay portrays Queen Victoria. Other famous characters included are Lord Salisbury, Joseph Chamberlain, Declasse, Clemenceau. The lobby should be decorated with the flags of Great Britain and France. Essay contests can be held in conjunction with schools on the importance of Anglo-French alliance.

CATCHLINES:

History Making Events That Shaped the Course of the World.

The Story Behind the Entente Cordiale.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Riders of the Sage"**

Only marquee potency is Bob Steele, whose name still means something to western addicts. Curio exhibits in the lobby of western trappings—guns, saddles, fancy bridles, and any other accessories which may be promoted from a local leather goods house, should help magnetize the boxoffice. Newspaper might go for a cut-out puzzle head of Bob Steele, offering prizes of tickets to see the film for the first ten correctly assembled and presented at the theatre boxoffice.

CATCHLINES:

His Was a Steady Arm . . . Be It Guiding a Pistol Bullet, or Throwing a Fist.

Bob Steele Pulls the Wool Over the Eyes of the Sheepmen.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Money to Burn"**

Sell this one on the reputation previous entries in the "Higgins Family" series have established, giving title credits to the three Gleasons—James, Lucile and Russell. Stills in which Grandpa Higgins engages in a wild chase astride a gasoline scooter can be tied into a special display of these vehicles by a local dealer. There also are exploitation possibilities in the fact that Mrs. Higgins enters a dog-biscuit radio contest. Otherwise ballyhoo it along accustomed lines.

CATCHLINES:

Ma Higgins Dreamed of Millions in Prize Contests . . . While Pa Was Out of a Job.

It's a Scream From Start to Finish . . . As Ma Gets Puzzle-Conscious and Drives Pa Nearly Unconscious.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Music in My Heart"**

Musical features in the picture should be the chief selling angle. Tony Martin has made recordings with his own orchestra. They can be played in the lobby in advance of picture and plugged over local broadcasting station. The numbers are "No Other Love," "Punchinello," "Oh What a Lovely Dream," "Music in My Heart" and "It's a Blue World." Tieups naturally suggest themselves with music stores. Another attraction is Andre Kostelanetz and his music. The beauty of Rita Hayworth should not be overlooked in displays.

CATCHLINES:

A Captivating Musical About a Couple of Nice People.

Tony Martin Sings to Rita Hayworth . . . Don't Miss It for Romance.

SELLING ANGLES: **"The Light That Failed"**

Ronald Colman's popularity and the fact that this is from a Rudyard Kipling novel are the two best approaches. Bookstore and library tieups, in which stills from the picture are used, to start a revival of interest in Kipling's works. Stress the action scenes in the picture, which take place in India, and lend themselves to colorful lobby displays and decorations. For street and foyer ballyhoo put a man in the uniform of the British Tommy of Kipling's time.

CATCHLINES:

Kipling's Immortal Tale of Thundering War, Consuming Love and Seared Souls Returns to the Screen With a Star-Studded Cast.

A Stirring Story of a Burning Ambition and a Strange Love Twisted in the Hands of Relentless Fate.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Of Mice and Men"**

John Steinbeck has, of course, become one of America's most powerful literary figures since the sensational success of his "Grapes of Wrath." Do not neglect his name in connection with the exploitation and advertising of this, one of his earlier successes. Nearly everyone has read it. Have local literary groups see the picture and compare it with the book. Make special tieups with libraries and bookstores. Mount a large compo-board facsimile of the book-cover over the marquee.

CATCHLINES:

The Drama of Lennie . . . Who Didn't Mean to Do No Wrong . . . And George . . . Who Had Dreams and Hopes That Never Came True.

They Didn't Want Much . . . Just a Little Land . . . A Little Happiness . . . And a Little Less Fear of Hunger.

SELLING ANGLES: **"Swanee River"**

This deals with the life of Stephen Foster, from whose pen came many of America's favorite oldtime songs. Tie-ups from this fact, alone, are countless and obvious. Have a community sing in your foyer or on the stage featuring Foster songs. A minstrel show with colored performers on a truck for street ballyhoo. Dress ushers in blackface. Essay contest on the life of Foster in connection with local schools. Print throw-aways in form of old-fashioned sheet music.

CATCHLINES:

The Inspired Life of the Great American Troubadour Becomes a Screen Saga of Unforgettable Songs!!!

A Picture That Will Endure as Long as the Immortal Melodies of the Great Stephen Foster.

SELLING ANGLES: **"City of Chance"**

As the cast names will not mean much on the marquee, play up the adventure and action angles in advertising and exploitation. For lobby display, stack up hundreds of poker chips in a glass case and invite the public to guess at the correct number, winners to receive free tickets. If permissible, hold a charity bazaar for some worthy local cause, each merchant contributing a prize. Place a pair of giant compo-board dice on the marquee, with billing interspersed between the spots.

CATCHLINES:

Eight Meet Fate in Eight Exciting Hours . . . As Destiny Reaches Out for Its Victims.

Fate Turns the Wheel As Two Gamble for Romance . . . During One Exciting Night.

Short Subject Reviews

Sky Game

RKO 9 *Mins.*

There is some grand stuff in this reel for the seasoned nimrod and sportsman or woman who like to look at good, clean sport. It is devoted entirely to ducks; how they migrate each year to the beautiful estate of E. A. McIlhenny in Louisiana, how they are marked to graph their migrations and other pertinent movements. There is also a portion given over to duck shooting, and this is a splendid bit of photography and gun-handling. Especially interesting are the "blinds" used to shoot from and the work of two Labrador retrievers. The mass flights of the webfeet make for most unusual scenic views.

Snow Follies

Universal (Two-Reel Musical) 19 *Mins.*

The good thing about this is it could be worse. Audiences are spared the sappy introductions of a master of ceremonies or a meaningless story found in such presentations. Highlight of the musical is Lillian Roth who sings in a torrid manner. There is an exciting roller skating specialty by Morrell Sisters and Billy. The King sisters are a good singing quartette but show poor judgment in choice of songs and gowns. Bruce Holden sings "My Own" and three other assorted acts round out the subject.

Stranger Than Fiction

Universal (No. 69) 9 *Mins.*

Apparently there is no dearth of unusual items. This subject deals with the following: A cadet student seven feet, three inches tall; the bizarre mountain recluse of a hermit; the new material "koroseal;" a barnyard rooster who hops for his lunch, and a farmer who grows pumpkins in the shape of human faces.

Stranger Than Fiction

Universal (No. 70) 9 *Mins.*

This issue maintains same level of interesting sidelights for entertainment purposes. Among the odds and ends are: A pants presser who has built an amazing model of the Delaware River Bridge; a wild horse roundup; a visit to an alligator farm; a view of the world's largest oak; a novel tomato picking machine, and a man who has developed a special pipe for blowing bubbles.

Scrambled Eggs

Universal (Walter Lantz Cartune) 8 *Mins.*

Peterkin is a mischievous little elf who causes all sorts of confusion when he changes eggs from one nest to another. When the hatching occurs the male birds are nonplussed. But after taking care of the offsprings, Peterkin straightens matters out. The cartoon is in Technicolor which is the only bright thing about it.

SHORT OF THE WEEK

West Wall

RKO **10 Mins.**

This is the best short of this and every week since the Second World War began. The countless hundreds of thousands of patrons who have had to depend upon word and line drawing pictures of newspapers for a conception of the much publicized Maginot and Siegfried lines, probably will be awe-stricken as this reel unwinds. Its subject matter is not unlike a Wellsian fantasy. Because there is no bias whatsoever in the presentation of facts, as handled by the military authority, Major George Fielding Elliott, the subject immediately becomes an important adjunct to every type of operation. A cold analysis of what the armies of Germany and France face in the way of defense mechanisms, should there be a mass attack on the 200-mile western front, is synchronized with actual scenes, off-screen voice and animated diagrams. Aerial and ground closeups of fortresses, anti-tank defenses, gun emplacements and armored mobile units provide some amazing views. The shots taken inside a sunken fortress, probably during a drill, are among the most unusual viewed since war films have been making the rounds.



Going Places

Universal (No. 69) 9 *Mins.*

All about a camera trip to the Virgin Islands. It is a well photographed short dealing with one of the country's possessions bought in 1917 for $25,000,000. There is a visit to Charlotte Amalie, capital of St. Thomas, and "Cha Cha Town" populated by descendants of Normandy seamen.

A Boy, A Gun, and Birds

Columbia (Color Rhapsody) 7 *Mins.*

Color, pen and ink and very little imagination have gone into this cartoon. The small boy shoots a bird. The other birds fly to its rescue. The boy sees this, becomes remorseful and vows never to shoot at birds again.

World of 1960

Columbia 10 *Mins.*

If an exhibitor is satisfied that he is not unwittingly a dupe in paying for this film, which, only by faint inference is a plug for General Motors, he can be assured of offering one of the outstanding attractions of the World's Fair of 1939. The reel is a camera tour of the automobile concern's exhibition, known as the Futurama. Done in miniature and covering a vast area, the exhibit envisions the world of 1960. It is intensely interesting, informative and often inspiring, with its replicas of future super highways, communities, cities, air terminals, lakes, mountains, etc. It was designed by Norman Bel Geddes, covers 36,000 square feet and is characterized as a transcontinental flight across tomorrow's America.

Glove Slingers

Columbia 18 *Mins.*

This is a well-balanced mixture of comedy and boxing, with a little romance and drama to fill it out. The cast does a workmanlike job and is above par for the usual run of two reelers. The story has few loose ends. It concerns Shemp Howard, embryonic fight manager who, with Trainer Paul Hurst, trips Howard's nephew, Noah Beery jr., into taking up boxing as a career. This is done without the knowledge of Beery's mother. In his first ring encounter he is matched with his future brother-in-law. The complications are amusing and manage to create a smooth effort.

Going Places

Universal (No. 70) 9 *Mins.*

Gourmets will be interested to know the diamond-back terrapin, which at one time sold for $96 a dozen, is being cultivated again by the government. Diamond-back terrapins at one time were virtually extinct but under government supervision coastal waters of the south are being restocked and it will not be long before they will be available for the epicure. The other half of the reel is a beautifully photographed sequence of the Island of St. John, one of the Virgin Islands. It looks like the ideal vacation spot.

Crisis in the Far East

RKO (March of Time) 16 *Mins.*

Latest of the March of Time reels spotlights a new dilemma for the United States. The problem concerns Japanese imperialism and its alleged goal of driving the white man out of Asia. America, in the meantime, has been strengthening her naval defenses, just in case. The tiny island of Guam in the South Pacific is the key link in the chain of fortifications. According to the March of Time editors and navel experts, Guam's fortifications are inadequate. Congress at the next session will decide whether appropriations

(Continued on page 86)

The Exhibitor Has His Say

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia

Coast Guard

Not worth the money it cost. "Konga, the Wild Stallion" did as much in one night and cost less. Has a cast that should draw better. Pass it. Tues., Wed. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—Logan Hedrick, Homer, Homer, Ill.

Clouds Over Europe

Very timely and well received. Business not as anticipated. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Golden Boy

Better than average. Holden very good and Barbara Stanwyck is always good. Give it all you have; it's worth it. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—Logan Hedrick, Homer, Homer, Ill.

Lady and the Mob

It failed to do business the week before Xmas. Would recommend it for dual bill on a weekend. Thurs., Fri. Weather: Cold. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

First National

Angels Wash Their Faces

This picture seemed to please and attracted a fair business, the week preceding Christmas always a slow week in show business. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Damp, drizzle. General patronage. Population: 3,050. Capacity: 486.—A. E. Andrews, Emporium, Emporium, Pa.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Another Thin Man

A very swell picture. The kind that makes managers stand, tettering on toes, grinning at the customers as they come out. William Powell in fine form—and we wish they'd make another "Thin Man" story. Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair, cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Blackmail

Very good action picture. Have never been able to do any good with Robinson, and this was no exception. Nevertheless, a less than average attendance was well pleased. Fri., Sat. Weather: Stormy. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Ninotchka

Garbo's comedy coming here with favorable publicity drew better than usual Garbo crowd and pleased everybody who came except one—but he didn't know from nothin'! A swell comedy. Some of the funniest lines I've heard in a long time. Whole cast perfect. Mon., Tues. Weather: Cloudy, cool. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Lady of the Tropics

Too much on the heavy love angle. This gal Lamarr has certainly got the looks. I can't help but think that Mr. and Mrs. Public are just a bit tired of Taylor. Maybe I'm wrong. Fri., Sat. Weather: Rain. Admission: 26-10. Rural patronage. Population: 900.—R. A. Moore, State, Milton, Ia.

On Borrowed Time

One of the finest pictures to come out of Hollywood. The role of "Gramps" as portrayed by Lionel Barrymore is perfect. I heartily agree with Jimmie Fidler on Bobs Watson. The kid has it. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Clear. Admission: 26-10. Rural patronage. Population: 900.—R. A. Moore, State, Milton, Ia.

Rose Marie

This reissue was a complete flop, giving us the lowest Sunday, Monday receipts we have had in this town in five years, and they can get low here. We took quite an actual loss on the showing. Receipts less than half of original showing. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Secret of Dr. Kildare

One of the best of the Kildare pictures with Lionel Barrymore unbeatable in his snarling, lovable role. Plenty of comedy too. Should go anywhere. Friday. Weather: Fair, cool. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Stronger Than Desire

Picked this up a little old to start a cash night with and comments were good. Of course some seemed to think they had seen it before. Anyway it was satisfactory entertainment. Wednesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Tell No Tales

A good story that was different. Melvyn Douglas is always good. Fri., Sat. Weather: Cold. Admission: 25-10. Rural patronage. Population: 600. Capacity: 200.—M. H. Robertson, Joyo, Coleridge, Neb.

Women, The

We can't agree with some of the boys on this one, as we found it a little slow and much too long. Pleased the women and the men were non-committal. Can hardly class it as a small-town picture. Business below average, but rental above. Sun., Mon. Weather: Good. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,650. Capacity: 300.—S. L. George, Mountain Home, Mountain Home, Ida.

Paramount

Honeymoon in Bali

Dandy little picture. Did average Sunday-Monday business. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000 Capacity: 152.—Rodney & Anderson, San Andreas, San Andreas, Cal.

Invitation to Happiness

This picture lives up to its title. This way above the average programmer. Plenty of action and comedy, and the whole thing is very convincing. Should hold its own anywhere. Tuesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

Jamaica Inn

How can anyone make money on "turkeys" like this one. Laughton may be one of the top actors, but he certainly doesn't bring in the nickels. Was perfectly satisfied with a one-night stand. Thursday. Weather: Good. Admission: 26-10. Rural patronage. Population: 900.—R. A. Moore, State, Milton, Ia.

Lady's From Kentucky, The

Went back to pick up this program picture and found it very enjoyable. Gave good satisfaction and drew a little extra business. Race track stories are always good for some extra tickets. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Small town patronage. Population: 853. Capacity: 300.—Horn & Morgan, Star, Hay Springs, Neb.

Magnificent Fraud, The

This is a pretty fair program picture. If you can get them in, most of them will enjoy it. Of course, you can't expect to please everybody. I would say this is slightly above average program stuff. Tuesday. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 800. Capacity: 384.—L. B. Rockett, Wahoo, Dubach, La.

RKO Radio

Allegheny Uprising

This is not another "Stagecoach" and we did very poor business with it on a Saturday. However, if your people like "westerns" then play it for it is a "western" with Pennsylvania for a backdrop. Full of war whoops and bad Britishers. Saturday. Weather: Fair and cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Five Came Back

Good cast, fine story. Will do business. Fri., Sat. Admission: 20-10. Population: 175,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Republic

In Old Monterey

A nice little western. Hotshots are good. I hope Republic gives us some more as good. Played on Sunday and did okay. Weather: Good. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—Logan Hedrick, Homer, Homer, Ill.

In Old Monterey

Well received here. Everybody likes Gene Autry. No mistakes in playing his pictures. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Mild. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

Southward, Ho!

Only fair, not much talk either way. The horse opera fans all seem to like Rogers. George Hayes a nice addition to these Rogers pictures. Fri., Sat. Weather: Clear. Population: 900.—R. A. Moore, State, Milton, Ia.

State Rights

Tarzan and the Green Goddess

Very well received. Played a week before Xmas to good business. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-15. Rural patronage. Population: 1,800. Capacity: 500.—Harland Rankin, Plaza, Tilbury, Ont.

20th Century-Fox

City of Darkness

We play to college students, average-town folks and rural patrons. This picture did not appeal to any of them. Business terrible. Wednesday. Weather: Cloudy, cold. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Universal

Dark Rapture

Very entertaining; something a bit different; good variation. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Population: 175,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Tough Guys in Society

Very good. A sure way to build your younger trade. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-10. Population: 175,000. Capacity: 400.—Alyce Cornell, Galewood, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Witness Vanishes

And so does even the regular patrons—vanish I mean. A flop or stinker, whichever you want to call it. Thursday. Weather: Moderate. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—Logan Hedrick, Homer, Homer, Ill.

Warner Bros.

Hell's Kitchen

The Dead End Kids are always entertaining, and toll up a nice biz. A very good picture for any day of the week. Fri., Sat. Weather: Good. Admission: 26-10. Rural patronage. Population: 900.—R. A. Moore, State, Milton, Ia.

Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex

This suffered from heaviness of history and tragedy which discourages people around here from buying too many tickets. Most who saw it were impressed by the elegant costumes and lovely tones of Technicolor than the grief of Essex and the Queen. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair, cool. Admission: 40-30. General patronage. Population: 3,500. Capacity: 562.—Tom McCaskey, Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va.

Roaring Twenties

This was a fair Cagney show. Did OK the first day, but no one came the second. So it did not draw from word of mouth advertising. Sun., Mon. Weather: OK. Admission: 20-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,000. Capacity: 300.—Logan Hedrick, Homer, Homer, Ill.

How Did It Do at Your Boxoffice?--Mail This Coupon Today

Date.....1939

To:

The Exhibitor Has His Say

BOXOFFICE, 4804 East 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Title .....

Company .....

Comment .....

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Date Played..... *Weather*.....

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Title .....

Company .....

Comment .....

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Date Played..... *Weather*.....

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Title .....

Company .....

Comment .....

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Date Played..... *Weather*.....

Exhibitor .....

Theatre .....**Seating Capacity**.....

Type Patronage.....**Admission Scale**.....

Town .....**State**.....

Population.....

Selling Seats

PRACTICAL IDEAS BY PRACTICAL SHOWMEN



'Br'er Fox' Casting Eye On National Scene

KANSAS CITY—An idea that is the outgrowth of the successful "kid shows" two Kansas Citians developed in local theatres during the past five or six years will expand from the middlewest into the national theatre field in 1940. Heading Br'er Fox Clubs of America, Inc., corporate name of the idea, is L. B. Sponsler, formerly manager of the Fox Waldo, here; Jerry Baker, formerly manager of the Fox Granada, Kansas City, Kas., who is vice-president, and Lewis B. Hoffman, secretary-treasurer. The two theatremen are on leave of absence from the Fox Midwest circuit.

They develop special shows for theatres to run in conjunction with Saturday afternoon juvenile matinees, get them functioning, and then turn the job over to the theatres. Local merchants and national advertisers sponsor. Children sign membership cards. "Br'er Fox" copies these and makes a list for the theatre. The company buys candy bars, premiums, etc., and the merchant or national advertiser pays only the sponsorship fee. The promotion costs the theatre nothing, builds its Saturday matinees, has boosted the admission for such shows for most of the theatres using it from five to ten cents. A copyrighted idea, the show goes to one theatre only in a neighborhood or (in smaller cities and towns) town.

Activities of the Br'er Fox Clubs, moving slowly at first, include more than ten towns and cities in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa, and the organization now is ready to expand operations into other sections of the country. Bids have come from as far east as the New England states.

Every child attending the matinee gets a free nationally known five-cent treat—Hershey bar, ice cream, bottle of pop or bottle of chocolate milk. In addition (just started at the Isis and being adopted in other spots) there is a wide variety of nationally known merchandise—riding devices, games, toys, etc.—from which ten prizes are given each Saturday. Slips ("proofs of purchase") are issued to youngsters who get merchant sponsors to stamp the amount bought; or children bring in other evidence of buying, such as milk bottle caps, ticket stubs, candy wrappers, etc. The youngster bringing in the greatest number of slips from the largest number of sponsors gets his choice in the group of "first" prizes; the one placing second gets his choice of "second" prizes, and so on.

Youngsters really turn out for the shows, and almost every one constitutes a salesman for the sponsors' products, a salesman who has entree into the homes of a city or neighborhood. At the same time they "sell" the theatre and acquire the film habit, which will make adult customers for the future.

In one spot on a Saturday the theatre had 1,004 proofs of purchase; attendance was 1,133, paid. In one city of 30,000 the attendance started off at 250, now averages close to 795 each Saturday—this in ten weeks. In some towns theatres get five cents admission; in most, ten cents.

The organization has two types of shows, one for the large theatre and one for the smaller, or small-town house. The large theatre setup is exemplified in the show at the Isis, Kansas City, which has a line of 25 children fully costumed and from three to five specialty acts, all selected from neighborhood talent. An Americanization part of the program includes pledging of allegiance to the flag, singing of the national anthem—in both of which the audience participates—and paying special tribute to some outstanding figure in American history each week. The grand finale finds all the youngsters on the stage in ensemble, a featured singer, the flag, and everyone, including the audience, singing "God Bless America."

Where theatres do not have stage facilities, and in smaller cities of 12,000 and under, there is the emcee, but no line corps of trumpeters and buglers perform. The Americanization part is worked out through slides on the screen. Occasionally there are specialty acts. The whole show runs 3 to 3½ hours, the Br'er Fox part 45 minutes to one hour.

Jerry Baker and Johnny O'Connor (Kansas City emcee) develop talent for the first show (which is free to the children). They work through the theatre manager, dancing schools, and the American Legion, which is cooperating aggressively, etc. After the first show or two, the theatre manager or someone on his staff carries on.



—Photos by Cresswell

Here's "Br'er Fox"—

At the top is a typical layout of premiums in the "Br'er Fox" plan, as displayed at the Isis, a Fox Midwest house in Kansas City. Below, left to right, the sponsors: Jerry Baker, Louis Sponsler, Johnny O'Connor and Lewis Hoffman.

Screening Room Report Is "Ninotchka" Ad Basis

OKLAHOMA CITY — Standard Theatres used an eight-inch two-column teaser on "Ninotchka" which was a reproduction of one of the firm's confidential screening room reports. Actual handwriting of General Manager W. B. Shuttee, Advertising Manager E. A. Patchen, Jimmy Burge, Criterion manager; Robert Busch, Tower manager; Paul Townsend, Liberty manager, and Spence Pierce, Midwest manager, and their comments after seeing the film screened were used in the layout. Caption said: "LOOK! We have stolen the Reports . . . This page was taken from our confidential files . . . these theatre men know! We can say no more."

"Child Is Born" Ballyhoo Extended to Key Spots

NEW YORK—Because of the success of the exploitation campaign on "A Child Is Born" at the Newman in Kansas City, Warner's publicity department has decided to set up similar campaigns in 30 key city situations.

Meetings were held in branch offices in Cleveland, Chicago, Louisville, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Albany, with local field exploitation men, branch personnel and exhibitors in attendance. Special folders outlining the Kansas City campaign were discussed, with plans made for similar ballyhoos in these situations.

"Kiddie Checks" Sell Advance Tickets

PHILADELPHIA—A new device for selling admission tickets in advance—thus practically guaranteeing future patronage—is making a big hit in the Philadelphia zone of the Stanley-Warner circuit.

The stunt is called "Kiddie Checks." The checks, printed to look genuine, are in denominations of ten cents each, and bound in books of ten. They're sold at the boxoffice at face value—no discounts—and the only cost to the company is the printing. Ten cents is the price of a matinee admission for kiddies.

Parents buy them to have around the house as an incentive for good behavior. It's like having a box of candy around the house, a S-W official explains. Parents have something tangible to show the kiddies, as a reward for being little angels.

Department stores, coal companies, groceries and other businesses have bought batches of the check books to award to customers as prizes or premiums. They, too, buy the books at face value.

Checks are sold singly as well as in books. Warner men estimate a total of 10,000 checks were sold during November.

Teaser Cards Plug Film

HARTFORD, CONN.—Four thousand cards, printed with "Charlie McCarthy—Detective . . . Are You in Trouble? Is Anything Bothering You? If It Is, See Charlie," were distributed in connection with "Charlie McCarthy, Detective," at Warner's Regal, managed by Frank Morin.



For "Gulliver"—

"Popeye" and "Gulliver," traveling over the country via TWA in connection with Paramount's exploitation of the feature cartoon, are entertained in their Kansas City stopover by the Hosking's Popeye band. The entertainment was arranged by Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newman.

NUGGETS

STARTING January 1, Ward *Weekly*, house organ of Ward Baking Co. in Boston, will publicize Warner features on the front cover of the bulletin as a result of a tieup between the two companies. The bulletins will be distributed by house-to-house canvassers.

•

Thirty-one thousand copies of a letter devoted to "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and bearing the signature of Ned E. Depinet have gone forward to schools and clubs. Key people in every public high school, presidents of colleges and universities, teachers and heads of better film councils have received the descriptive literature.

•

Art Cohn of the Roosevelt in Philadelphia worked up striking lobby displays for "Eternally Yours" by putting up six-foot-high cutouts of two telephones, with bits of conversation shown to indicate the business involves a fellow dating a girl.

•

A dummy placed on an operating table highlighted the eerie effects used by Manager Eddie Selette in his campaign on the dual horror attraction, "Bride of Frankenstein" and "Dracula's Daughter" at the Albany in Albany, N. Y.

•

Approximately 500,000 retail stores in the country will sell merchandise put out by the "Pinocchio" licensees, of which there are now more than 70. The retail outlets include all types of chain stores, drygoods and department stores, music, grocery and drug stores.

•

Paramount has completed arrangements with Chesterfield cigarettes for a national advertising tieup which will publicize "The Great Victor Herbert" and "Remember the Night" in more than 200 newspapers throughout the United States and in many foreign countries.

•

Manager Lou Cohen of the Loew-Poli in Hartford, Conn., placed posters in schools and libraries of Greater Hartford for "Allegheny Uprising." Cohen also announced a drawing contest via high school newspapers.

•

For M-G-M's short, "Drunk Driving," Robert Guiterman, manager of the Capitol in Manitowoc, Wis., promoted a newspaper tieup. The theatre awarded 25 free theatre tickets to persons answering correctly 12 questions in a safety quiz contest. The local dailies carried the contest in the form of a true or false test.

•

A four-day contest was promoted by the Rivoli in La Crosse, Wis., for "Four Wives." The local daily asked for best proverb to accompany printed stills from the film. Winners were awarded ducats to see the picture.

Gets Sizable Saving By Watching Lights

BOSTON—A suburban theatre manager, who asks that his name be deleted, recently had several remarks to make on lowering electric bills.

"My last electric bill was $116, as against $143 for the previous month," the exhibitor stated. "This is a very large saving, considering the fact that this house has been way below what it used to be in the way of electric juice consumption.

"This new saving has been brought about by the constant watching and checking of each and every light in this theatre. The marquee has been given special attention so that not one bit of light is wasted on it.

"The operators have been instructed to strike their arc as late as possible in making a changeover. This, too, is a big saving over a period of time. The usual custom is to strike the arc at the change-over warning bell, which is quite a while before the change-over. If they wait to strike the arc just as they start their motor for the change-over, much electricity and some carbon is saved in the course of a week."

Marx Bros. Ballyhoo

TOLEDO, OHIO—A trio dressed like the Marx Bros. ballyhooed "At the Circus" at the Loew's Valentine here by parading through downtown traffic and department stores and handing out over 500 balloons tied on sticks.



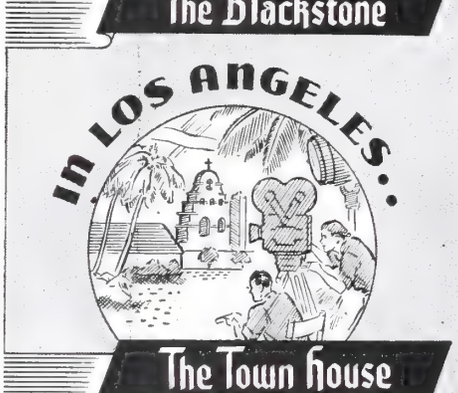
Tieup Sewed Up—

Grace Rosenfield, eastern publicity representative for Hal Roach, effected a tieup in New York with the Singer Sewing Machine Co. for "The Housekeeper's Daughter." This display is in the machine company's Fifth Ave. and 37th St. store, and features the original dress worn by Joan Bennett in the picture.

YOUR GRACIOUS HOST
FROM COAST TO COAST









A.S. KIRKEBY, *Managing Director*

KIRKEBY HOTELS

SHORT SUBJECTS

Crisis in the Far East

(Continued from page 81)

are necessary. It also poses a delicate question for the exhibitor: where does entertainment leave off and propaganda begin? The line of demarcation here, however, is much stronger than in most cases. As a pictorial survey of events in the Far East, the subject is not up to usual March of Time standards.

Andy Clyde Gets Spring Chicken

Columbia 18 *Mins.*

Considerable waste motion has gone into this comedy of lightweight story proportions. Since most of what happens is just what is expected to happen, the desirable spontaneity that makes for better comedy is conspicuous by its absence. It seems Andy has spring fever. He loses no time getting mixed up with a bevy of beautiful girls. The usual slapstick ensues; Andy proposes to each of the girls and to his consternation, after each had turned him down, they suddenly accept, en masse. Andy is very embarrassed and disappears.

Beautiful Switzerland

Columbia (Columbia Tour) 10 *Mins.*

This is one of the best travel subjects of Switzerland. Not alone does the country offer views virtually incomparable with others, but the photography by Andre De La Varre leaves nothing to be desired in composition, design and choice of material. The Alpine Lakes, Lucerne, the Bernese Highlands, Lauterbrunnen Valley, the ascent to the Gornergrat with breath-taking views of the Matterhorn, and visits in the quaint mountain villages combine to offer a subject that should make an impression on any program.

Jai Alai

Columbia (New World of Sports) 9 *Mins.*

Often called the fastest game in the sports world, Jai Alai gets a complete workout by the camera and offers an exciting reel. In addition to the actual game scenes, with the usual slow motion shots, the subject devotes some footage to the manufacture, by natives, of the implements that go into the playing of the game. The action is often furious, combining the slugging of baseball, the speed of hockey, the spills of football and the excitement of boxing.

NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Movietone News, No. 29: King George at front, the Graf Spee German prisoners, Holland mines frontier, freighter burns at sea, Finns pay debt, test army plane, Lew Lehr, basketball, golf, boxing.

News of the Day, No. 227: Mines seek merchant ships, the Graf Spee, King George at front, Finland pays debt, Dixie hails "Wind" premiere, basketball, golf.

Paramount News, No. 32: Finns pay debt, Finn war scenes, Garner in race, Ambassador Davies in Washington, King George at front, mines washed ashore, Pope Pius in peace plea, golf, basketball.

RKO Pathe News, No. 44: Finns pay debt, Broun's death shocks nation, French mountain troops, the mine menace, prison camp conditions, "Wind" premiere, golf, basketball.

Universal Newsreel, No. 833: King George at front, two Polish submarines, the mine menace, rites for Nazi sailor, Pope in peace plea, speedy army plane tested, Finland pays debt, skating princess on new rink, basketball, golf.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Movietone News, No. 30: Graf Spee and crew in Montevideo, survivors of the Columbus, embassy children extend greeting, Roxy girls in Christmas show, diving, boxing.

News of the Day, No. 228: Columbus survivors in New York, first Canadian troops cross Atlantic, society preems for Beaux Art ball, mountain climbing, boxing.

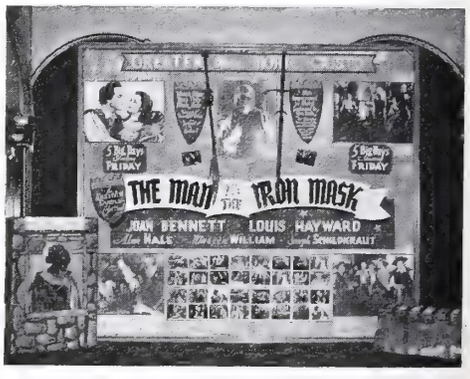
Paramount News, No. 33: Canadian troops cross Atlantic, embassy children extend greeting, picture of the Graf Spee, Columbus and Arauca.

RKO Pathe News, No. 45: Sweden mans frontier, the navy's new bomber, gala premiere for 'Hunchback," the Arauca, Miami's ready, diving.

Universal Newsreel, No. 834: The Graf Spee, Columbus survivors, Canadian troops cross Atlantic, army in maneuvers, test new bomber, diving, embassy children extend greeting.

Multiple Stunts Bally Kay Kyser Picture

PHILADELPHIA—A raft of tieups for Kay Kyser's "That's Right, You're Wrong" were arranged by Hal Seidenberg, manager of the Fox. Four radio stations put song hits from the show on their programs. The RCA Victor radio program agreed to feature the same. Two thousand newsstands carried *Screen Guide* tack cards showing Kyser. United News trucks were postered. Ten drug stores carried displays tying in with Calox Tooth Powder. The Max Factor counter at Kimbel's was devoted to the film. And it was all topped off with distribution of 1,000 "jitterbug" hats at music shops and "hepcat" hangouts. The hats, of course, plugged the film.



Iron Masking—

Here is the way Jack Lexey of the Broadway in Philadelphia played up "The Man in the Iron Mask." The lobby display includes antique weapons and a "treasure chest."

Ad Writing Contest

DETROIT—An ad writing contest tieup with 18 local high schools was achieved by United Detroit Theatres for opening of "Gulliver's Travels" at the Michigan. There were 80 entrants.

Alphabetical Index TO THE Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

This Index is designed as a time saving guide for exhibitors who know the title of a feature, but do not recall the producer or distributor. All features listed here appear in the BOOKING CHART in release week squares alongside the proper company headings. The date following title is issue of review. Number at end of line is production number.

A

A Child Is Born (WB) Aug. 5.. 415
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (M-G-M) Feb. 18 923
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (20th-Fox) Aug. 26 005
All Quiet on the Western Front (Univ) reissue Sept 30.
All Women Have Secrets (Para) Dec. 9 3914
Allegheny Uprising (RKO) Oct. 28 006
Amazing Mr. Williams (Col) Nov. 25 7
Another Thin Man (M-G-M) Nov. 18 13
Arizona Kid (Rep) Oct. 7..... 951
Asking for Trouble (GB).....8012
At the Circus (M-G-M) Oct. 14
Awful Truth (Col), reissue.....1072

B

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Beware, Spooks! (Col) Oct. 28..1011
Big Guy (Univ) Dec. 2.....4016
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Blondie Brings Up Baby (Col) Nov. 11 1013
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C

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Calling All Marines (Rep) Sept. 16 912
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Charlie Chan at Treasure Island (20th-Fox) Aug. 12 006
Charlie Chan in City of Darkness (20th-Fox) Nov. 25 021
Charlie Chan in Reno (20th-Fox) June 3 948
Charlie McCarthy, Detective (Univ) Dec. 23 .....
Chasing Trouble (Mono).....
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Cowboys From Texas (Rep) Dec. 9 962
Crashing Through (Mono) Nov. 4 3936

D

Dancing Co-ed (M-G-M) Sept. 30 3
Danger Ahead (Mono).....3939
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Daughters of Today (Col).....
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Day Time Wife (20th-Fox) Nov. 18 020
Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (WB) Nov. 4 413
Death of a Champion (Para) Sept. 2 3901
Desperate Trails (Univ) Oct. 21.4052
Destry Rides Again (Univ) Dec. 9
Devil Is an Empress (Col) Dec. 23
Disputed Passage (Para) Oct. 21 3908
Distant Fields (RKO) .....
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Drums Along the Mohawk (20th-Fox) Nov. 4..... 015
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E

Earl of Chicago (M-G-M)..... 18
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Escape to Paradise (RKO)....Dec. 9
Espionage Agent (FN) Sept. 30.. 462
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Everything's on Ice (RKO) Sept. 9 946

F

Fast and Furious (M-G-M) Oct. 14 6
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Fifth Avenue Girl (RKO) Aug. 26 934
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Fighting Mad (Mono) 3937
Fighting 69th (FN)..... 451
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First World War (20th-Fox) Nov. 17, '34..... 062
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Flying Deuces (RKO) Oct. 14.... 010
Four Wives (FN) Dec. 2..... 453
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Fugitive at Large (Col) Aug. 5..1026
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G

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Great Victor Herbert, The (Para) Dec. 9 3916
Green Hell (Univ) June 10.... 926
Gulliver's Travels (Para) Dec. 23 3915

H

Hawaiian Nights (Univ) Aug. 26 24
He Married His Wife (20th-Fox) 023
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Henry Goes Arizona (M-G-M) Dec. 16 2
Here I Am a Stranger (20th-Fox) Sept. 30..... 009
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Heroes in Blue (Mono) Nov. 18..3919
Hidden Power (Col) May 27....1025
High School (20th-Fox).....
His Girl Friday (Col).....
Hollywood Cavalcade (20th-Fox) Oct. 7 007
Honeymoon in Bali (Para) Sept. 16 .....
Honeymoon's Over (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 024
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I

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Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday (20th-Fox) 022
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Invisible Killer (P-D-C) .....
Invisible Man Returns (Univ)...
Invisible Stripes (WB-FN).....
Invitation to Happiness (Para) May 20 3841
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J

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K

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Kid Nightingale (WB) Sept. 16. 411
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L

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Legion of the Lawless (RKO) Nov. 25 082
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Lone Wolf Strikes (Col).....
Lucky Texan (Mono) .....

M

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Man From Montreal (Univ) Nov. 11 4054
Marines Fly High (RKO).....
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Meet Dr. Christian (RKO) Oct. 21
Mexican Spitfire (RKO) Dec. 16.. 016
Mikado, The (Univ) Jan. 7....4044
Miracle of Main Street (Col)...1032
Missing Evidence (Univ) Oct. 7.4028
Money to Burn (Rep) Dec. 30... 917
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Col) Oct. 14 1101
Mr. Wong at Headquarters (Mono) .....
Music in My Heart (Col) Dec. 30
Mutiny in the Big House (Mono) Oct. 21 3803
Mutiny on the Black Hawk (Univ) June 24 4051
My Love for Yours (Para).....
My Son Is Guilty (Col).....

N

Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase (WB) Aug. 26..... 419
Nancy Drew, Trouble Shooter (WB) July 15 324
Nick Carter, Master Detective (M-G-M) Dec. 9 15
Night of Nights (Para) Dec. 2..3912
Ninotchka (M-G-M) Oct. 14..... 7
No Place to Go (FN) Sept. 23... 469
Nurse Edith Cavell (RKO) Aug. 26 001

O

Of Mice and Men (20th-Fox) Dec. 30 .....
Oh, Johnny, Oh (Univ).....
Oklahoma Frontier (Univ) Dec. 9 4059
Old Maid, The (FN) Aug. 5..... 452
On Your Toes (FN) Oct. 14.... 463
$1,000 a Touchdown (Para) Sept. 30 3903
One Hour to Live (Univ) Sept. 16 30
Our Neighbors—the Carters (Para) Nov. 11 3911
Outpost of the Mounties (Col) Dec. 2.....1201
Overland Mail (Mono) Nov. 18.3857

P

Pack Up Your Troubles (20th-Fox) Oct. 14..... 014
Parole Fixer (Para).....
Phantom Strikes (Mono) Nov. 18 3923
Pioneer Days (Mono).....3961
Pinocchio (RKO) .....
Pride of the Blue Grass (WB) Sept. 23 418
Private Detective (FN) Nov. 25. 471
Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (WB) Oct. 7..... 402

Q

Queen of Destiny (RKO) Nov. 26, '38 061

R

Raffles (UA) Dec. 23.....
Rains Came, The (20th-Fox) Sept. 16 011
Range War (Para) Aug. 12.....3954
Real Glory, The (UA) Sept. 23..
Rebecca (UA) .....
Remember? (M-G-M) Nov. 11... 11
Remember the Night (Para)...3919
Reno (RKO) Nov. 18..... 008
Return of Dr. X (FN) Dec. 2.... 464
Riders of Destiny (Mono) reissue
Rio (Univ) Sept. 30 .....
Road Back (Univ) reissue.....
Road to Glory (20th-Fox) June 13, '36..... 061
Roaring Twenties (WB) Oct. 21. 403
Roll, Wagons, Roll (Mono) Dec. 23 3951
Rovin' Tumbleweeds (Rep) Nov. 25 848
Rulers of the Sea (Para) Sept. 23 3910

S

Sabotage (Rep) Oct. 14..... 913
Saga of Death Valley (Rep) Dec. 2 952
Sagebrush Trail (Mono) reissue
Santa Fe Marshal (Para).....3956
Scandal Sheet (Col) Oct. 28....1031
Secret Four (Mono) Dec. 16.....3924
Secret of Dr. Kildare (M-G-M) Nov. 25 12
Shipyard Sally (20th-Fox) Dec. 9 018
Shop Around the Corner (M-G-M) 20
Sidewalks of London (Para)....
Sky Patrol (Mono) Sept. 23.....3815
Slightly Dishonorable (UA).....
Smashing the Money Ring (FN) Oct. 21 470
South of the Border (Rep) Dec. 16 941
St. Martin's Lane (Para).....
Stop, Look and Love (20th-Fox) Sept. 2 008
Stranger From Texas (Col) Dec. 23 1202
Submarine Patrol (20th-Fox) Nov. 5 909
Sued for Libel (RKO) Oct. 21.. 012
Swanee River (20th-Fox) Dec. 30
Swiss Family Robinson (RKO).. 019

T

Taming of the West (Col).....1211
Tarzan Finds a Son! (M-G-M) June 3 939
Television Spy (Para) Oct. 14....3907
That's Right, You're Wrong (RKO) Nov. 18 011
Those High Grey Walls (Col) Sept. 30 1015
Thou Shalt Not Kill (Rep) Dec. 16 916
Three Sons (RKO) Sept. 30.... 004
Thunder Afloat (M-G-M) Sept. 23 4
To the Rescue (GN)..... 328
Too Busy to Work (20th-Fox) Nov. 4 016
Torture Ship (P-D-C) Dec. 23...
Tower of London (Univ) Nov. 25
Tropic Fury (Univ) Sept. 16.....4052
Two Bright Boys (Univ) Sept. 23 4017
Two-Fisted Rangers (Col).....
Two Thoroughbreds (RKO) Dec. 2 013
20,000 Men a Year (20th-Fox) Oct. 28 013
Typhoon (Para) .....

U

U-Boat 29 (Col) Sept. 23.....1010
Under-Pup (Univ) Sept. 2..... 10

V

Vigil in the Night (RKO).....

W

Wall Street Cowboy (Rep) Sept. 9 857
We Are Not Alone (FN) Nov. 11.. 458
West of Carson City (Univ)....4061
West of the Divide (Mono).....
Westbound Stage (Mono) 3952
Western Caravans (Col) July 1.9207
What a Life (Para) Sept. 23....3905
Witness Vanishes, The (Univ)...4027
Women, The (M-G-M) Sept. 2.. 1

Y

Yukon Flight (Mono) 3938

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Numerals Following Titles are Running Time. Date is National Release, 1939-40, Unless Otherwise Specified.

◎Indicates short of the week.

◎Indicates color.

SHORTS

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

All-American Blondes (17)...Oct. 20
Andy Clyde Gets Spring Chicken (19) .....Dec. 15
Glove Slingers (18) .....Nov. 24
Nothing But Pleasure (..) Jan. 19, '40
Now It Can Be Sold (17)...June 2
Pest From the West (..)...June 16
Rattling Romeo (17) .....July 14
Skinny the Moocher (16½)...Sept. 8
Static in the Attic (19).....Sept. 22
Teacher's Pest (16½).....Nov. 3
The Awful Goof (..) .....Dec. 22
The Chump Takes a Bump (18) .....May 5
Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18) .....July 28
Mooching Through Georgia (..) .....Aug. 11

CINESCOPES

World of 1960 (Futurama) (..) .....Dec. 22

COLOR RHAPSODIES

A Boy, a Gun and Birds (..) .....Jan. 12, '40
Crop Chasers (8) .....Sept. 22
Dreams on Ice (6½) .....Oct. 20
Hollywood Sweepstakes (8)..July 28
Jitterbug Knights (7) .....Aug. 11
Lucky Pigs (7) .....May 26
Mother Goose in Swingtime (7) .....Dec. 8
Mountain Ears (7½) .....Nov. 3
Nell's Yells (7) .....June 30
The House That Jack Built (7) .....Apr. 14

COLUMBIA TOUR

Beautiful Switzerland (Andre de la Varre Productions) (10).Nov. 17
Historic Cities of India (10)...Oct. 27
Holland and the Zuyder Zee (Andre de la Varre Productions) ..(9½) .....Sept. 15
Life in Paris (..) .....Jan. 26, '40
Man Made Island (Frisco Fair) (10) .....May 26
Modern Cities of India (..)...Oct. 27
Morocco (10) .....Aug. 11
New Hampshire (..).....Dec. 22
Sojourn in India (..) .....July 7

COMMUNITY SING

No. 1 Crosby Hit Songs (9)....Aug. 4
No. 2 Old Time Songs (9½)...Sept. 8
No. 3 (College Songs) (10)....Oct. 13
No. 4 (Stephen Foster Songs) (11) .....Nov. 17
No. 5 (Gypsy Songs) (..)....Dec. 29
No. 6 (..) .....Feb. 2, '40
No. 8 Strauss Waltzes (11)...Apr. 21
No. 9 Songs of the West (10) .....May 19
No. 10 Songs of Romance (..) June 16

FABLES CARTOON

Little Lost Sheep..(7).....Oct. 6
Park Your Baby (..).....Dec. 22

FOOLS WHO MADE HISTORY

Elias Howe (11) .....
No. 1 Charles Goodyear (10½).Oct. 6
No. 2 Elias Howe (..).....Sept. 1

HAPPY HOUR

Book of Books (10).....Oct. 6
Building of Boys (11) .....Oct. 12
No. 3 (11) .....Apr. 21

KRAZY KAT

Golf Chumps (7).....Apr. 6
Krazy's Shoe Shop (6).....May 12

MUSIC HALL VANITIES (New series)

Montmarte Madness (10½)...June 30
Yankee Doodle Home (10)...May 19

PHANTASIES CARTOON

Man of Tin (..).....Feb. 23, '40
Millionaire Hobo (7) .....Nov. 24
The Charm Bracelet (6½)....Sept. 1
The Mouse Exterminator (6½) .....Jan. 26, '40

SCRAPPY CARTOONS

A Worm's Eye View (7).....Apr. 28
Scrappy's Rodeo (6) .....June 2

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS (Series 18)

No. 7 (10) .....Mar. 17
No. 8 (9½) .....Apr. 8
No. 9 (10) .....May 12
No. 10 (10) .....May 26
No. 11 (10) .....June 29
No. 12 (10) .....July 28

(Series 19)

No. 1 (9½) .....Sept. 22
Art of makeup.
No. 2 (10) .....Oct. 20
Training animal stars.
No. 3 .....Dec. 1
No. 4 .....Jan. 5, '40
No. 5 (..) .....Feb. 9, '40

SPORT REELS

Big Fish (10) .....Aug. 18
Bows and Arrows (9½).....Oct. 6
Diving Rhythm (10).....May 5
Flying Targets (..) .....Dec. 29
Jai Alai (8½) .....Nov. 30
Jockeys Up (10½) .....June 2
Technique of Tennis (8½)...June 30
There Goes Rusty (10½)....July 15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

A Ducking They Did Go (16½) .....Apr. 7
Calling All Curs (17½).....Aug. 25
Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise (18½) .....Oct. 6
Rockin' Thru the Rockies (..) .....Jan. 5, '40
Saved by the Belle (17) ....June 30
Three Sappy People (18½)....Dec. 1
Yes, We Have No Bonzana (16) .....May 19

WASHINGTON PARADE

No. 1 (10½) Smithsonian Institute .....Nov. 10
No. 2 (U. S. Treasury) (..)..Dec. 29
No. 3 Inside the Capitol (10) .....May 26
No. 4 Library of Congress (10) .....Aug. 4

M-G-M

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Drunk Driving (21).....Oct. 28
Help Wanted (21).....June 10
Think First (21).....Sept. 9
While America Sleeps (21) .....Apr. 15

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS In Technicolor

A Day on Treasure Island (11) .....Sept. 2
Colorful Curacao (9) .....May 27
Glimpses of Australia (9)....Apr. 15
Picturesque Udaipur (8).....May 13
Rural Hungary (9).....Apr. 29

MINIATURES

A Failure at Fifty (10) Sepia..Oct. 7
Hollywood Hobbies (10).....May 13
Ice Antics (9) .....Feb. 11
Prophets Without Honor (11) .....May 20
Rhumba Rhythm (10) Sepia..Sept. 2
The Ash Can Fleet (11).....Sept. 9
The Greener Hills (11).....May 27

MUSICAL COMEDIES

Happily Buried (20).....Apr. 15
Somewhat Secret (21).....Mar. 25

M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series)

◎Art Gallery (9) .....May 13
Goldilocks and the Three Bears (11) .....July 15
◎Little Gold Fish (8).....Apr. 15
◎One Mother's Family (9)...Sept. 30
◎The Bear That Couldn't Sleep (9) .....June 10
◎The Blue Danube (7).....Dec. 16
◎The Bookworm (9).....Aug. 26

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY

Released twice weekly.

OUR GANG COMEDIES

Auto Antics (10) .....July 22
Captain Spanky's Showboat (11) .....Sept. 9
Clown Princess (10).....Apr. 15
Cousin Wilbur (10).....Apr. 29
Dog Daze (11) .....July 1
Joy Scouts (10) .....June 24

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

Angel of Mercy (10).....May 20
Giant of Norway (11) Sepia...June 24
Story That Couldn't Be Printed (11) .....July 22
Unseen Guardians (11).....Aug. 26
Yankee Doodle Goes to Town (11) Sepia .....June 17

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

Culinary Carving (9) .....July 1
Football Thrills of 1938 (..).Sept. 16
Marine Circus (9).....Mar. 11
Poetry of Nature (8) Sepia..June 17
Radio Hams (10).....May 20
Set 'Em Up (..).....Sept. 30
Take a Cue (Sepia) (9).....Aug. 12
Weather Wizards (9).. .....Apr. 8

ROBERT BENCHLEY

An Hour for Lunch (9).....Mar. 18
Dark Magic (10) .....May 13
Home Early (9) .....May 27
How to Eat (10) .....June 10
The Day of Rest (..).....Sept. 16

Paramount

BETTY BOOP CARTOONS

Musical Mountaineers (7)....May 12
Rhythm on the Reservation (7) .....July 7
The Scared Crows (7).....June 9
Yip Yip Yippy (7).....Aug. 11

COLOR CLASSICS

Small Fry (7).....Apr. 21
The Barnyard Brat (7).....June 30
The Fresh Vegetable Mystery (8) .....Sept. 22

COLOR CRUISES (New Series in Cinecolor)

Chile (10) .....Nov. 10
Ecuador (10) .....Sept. 1
Jamaica (10) .....May 26
Peru (9) .....Oct. 6
Republic of Panama (9)....Mar. 24

HEADLINER

Artie Shaw's Class in Swing (10) .....Sept. 8
Here's Hal (10) .....Nov. 24
Hal Kemp and orchestra.
Moments of Charm of 1940 (Cinecolor) (11) .....Oct. 27
Phil Spitalny and Girl Orchestra.
Paramount Presents Hoagy Carmichael (10) .....May 5
With Jack Teagarden and his orchestra.
Sweet Moments (11).....Aug. 18
Russ Morgan and Orchestra.
Ted Fio Rito and His Orchestra (10) .....Oct. 6
Tempo of Tomorrow (10).....June 2
Richard Himber and his orchestra.
The Champagne Music of Lawrence Welk (10) .....Sept. 8
Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra.
Three Kings and a Queen (11) .....Apr. 7
Vincent Lopez and Orchestra, Betty Hutton, Barry Wood, Del Casino, Dick Todd.

PARAMOUNT NEWS

Released twice weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

Bits of Life (11).....Nov. 17
Breaking the News (19).....Aug. 25
Busy Little Bears (10).....Oct. 20
Farewell Vienna (10) .....June 23
Fisherman's Pluck (10).....Apr. 14
Public Hobby Number One (11) .....Sept. 22
Swans (10) .....May 19

PARAMOUNT PICTORIAL

No. 9 (10) .....Apr. 7
Sea police, animals after dark, fashions.
No. 10 (11) .....May 5
Gentlemen at work, Oriental craftsmanship and sons of the year.
No. 11 (10) .....June 2
Three stories about water.
No. 12 (10) .....July 14

POPEYE CARTOONS

◎Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp (22) .....Apr. 7
Ghosks Is the Bunk (7).....June 16
Hello, How Am I? (7).....July 14
It's the Natural Thing to Do (7) .....July 28
Leave Well Enough Alone (7) .....Apr. 28
Never Sock a Baby (6).....Nov. 3
Wotta Nitemare (7).....May 19

POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)

No. 5 (11) .....May 12
No. 6 (11) .....Aug. 4
Popular Sciences No. J9-I (11) .....Sept. 15
No. J9-2 (10) .....Nov. 3

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

Aqua-Rhythm (10) .....Nov. 24
A Desert Adventure (10)....Sept. 29
A Dog Is Born (10).....Nov. 3
Catching Whoppers (10).....Oct. 13
Death Valley Thrills (10)....June 9
Diamond Dust (10).....May 12
Good Skates (10) .....Apr. 14
Ice skating with champions.
Hydro-Maniacs (10) .....Sept. 1
Watch Your Step (10).....July 7

SYMPHONIC SERIES

Philharmonic Orchestra of U.S.A.

The Blue Danube Waltz (10).Sept. 29
Merry Wives of Windsor (9)..Oct. 27
William Tell (11) .....Nov. 24

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)

No. 1 (11) .....Oct. 13
No. 2 (11) .....Nov. 17
No. 5 (10) .....Apr. 14

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS

◎Autograph Hound, The (8)..Sept. 1
Beach Picnic (8).....June 9
Donald's Cousin Gus (7).....May 19
Donald's Penguin (8).....Aug. 11
Officer Duck (8).....Sept. 22
Sea Scouts (8).....June 30
The Pointer (8) .....July 21
◎The Hockey Champ (7)....Apr. 7
The Ugly Duckling (9).....Apr. 7

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

Baby Daze (15) .....May 19
Feathered Pests (16).....July 28
Kennedy the Great (19).....Dec. 1
Slightly at Sea (16).....Feb. 9

HEADLINER COMEDIES

Sales Slips (17) .....July 21

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

Moving Vanities (17).....May 5
Ring Madness (19).....June 30
Scrappily Married (20).....Jan. 12
Truth Aches (19).....Nov. 3

MARCH OF TIME

No. 9 (19).....Apr. 14
Japan, Master of the Orient.
No. 10 (20).....May 12
Dixie—The nation's number one problem.
No. 11 (19).....June 9
War, Peace and Propaganda.
No. 12 (22).....July 7
The Movies March On.
No. 13 (18).....Aug. 4
Metropolis—1939.
No. 1 (19).....Sept. 1
Soldiers with wings.
No. 2 (19).....Sept. 29
The Battle Fleets of England.
No. 3 (18).....Oct. 27
Uncle Sam—The Farmer.
No. 4 (19).....Nov. 24
Newsfronts of War—1940.

NU-ATLAS MUSICALS

Arcade Varieties (11).....May 12
East & Dumke, Lillian Roth, Frazee Sisters, Gilrone & Starr.
Hello Mama (11).....Apr. 14
George Jessel, Four Eton Boys, Frieda Sullivan.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

No. 1 (11).....Sept. 8
No. 2 (11).....Oct. 6
No. 3 (10).....Nov. 3
No. 4 (11).....Dec. 1

PATHE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

PATHE PARADE ('36-'37 releases)

RADIO FLASH COMEDIES

Blamed for a Blonde (16)....Oct. 20
Chicken Feed (18).....Dec. 29
Coat Tales (18).....Nov. 17
Dog-Gone (16).....Apr. 21
Marriage-Go-Round (18).....July 28
Twincuplets (20).....Jan. 26, '40

PATHE SPORTSCOPE

Devil Drivers (9).....June 16
Hunting Hounds (9).....Sept. 29
Ice Cutters (9).....Oct. 27
Kennel Kings (9).....Aug. 11
Riding the Crest (9).....July 14
Surfboard riding at Waikiki beach.
Smooth Approach (9).....May 19
The golfers show how it's done.
Winter Playground (9).....Nov. 24

RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)

Bandits and Ballads (17)....Dec. 15
Ranch House Romeo (17).....Apr. 7
Sagebrush Serenade (19).....June 16

REELISMS (New Series)

Acres of Plenty (9).....Oct. 13
American Royal (9).....Nov. 10
Nevada Unlimited (8).....Sept. 15
Pack Trip (9).....Aug. 18
Soldiers of the Sea (9).....Apr. 7
Swinguet (8).....May 26
Television (9).....May 5
West Wall (10).....Dec. 8
World of Tomorrow (9).....June 23
Zoo (9).....July 21

TWO-REEL SPECIAL

Five Times Five (19).....July 21
The Dionne Quintuplets celebrating their fifth birthday with Alexander Woollcott.

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

Conquering the Colorado (11) Aug. 18
Filming the Fleet (11).....Oct. 27
Sand Hogs (10).....May 12

ED THORGERSEN-SPORTS

Big Game Fishing (10).....Sept. 1
Clocking the Jockeys (11)....Nov. 24
Inside Baseball (11).....Apr. 14
Sports Immortals (11).....June 23

FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES

Birthplace of Icebergs (11).Aug. 4
The Aghileen Pinnacles (11)..Nov. 10

FASHIONS

Fashion Forecasts No. 4 (..)..July 7
Fashion Forecasts No. 5 (10).Sept. 15
Fashion Forecasts No. 6 (..)..Dec. 22

FOX MOVIETONE NEWS
Released twice weekly.

LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE

Monkeys Is the Cwaziest People (10).....Sept. 29
Muscle Maulers (11).....Apr. 14
The Silly Season (..).....Dec. 8

LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET

Good Neighbors (..).....May 26
Tempest Over Tunis (11)....June 9
The Evergreen Empire (..)..Oct. 13

TERRY-TOONS

A Bully Romance (..).....June 16
A Mouse and a Million (..)...Nov. 3
Africa Squawks (7).....June 30
Barnyard Baseball (7).....July 14
Barnyard Egg-Citement (11) May 5
Hook, Line and Sinker (7)..Sept. 8
Nick's Coffee Pot (7).....May 19
Sheep in the Meadow (7)....Sept. 22
The Cuckoo Bird (7).....April 7
The First Robin (..).....Dec. 29
The Golden West (7).....Aug. 25
The Hitch-Hiker (..).....Dec. 1
The Old Fire Horse (..)....July 28
The Orphan Duck (7).....Oct. 6
The Prize Guest (7).....June 2
The Watchdog (..).....Oct. 20
Their Last Bean (7).....April 21
Two Headed Giant (7)....Aug. 11
Wicky-Wacky Romance (..) Nov. 17

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES

A Haunting We Will Go (7)..Sept. 4
Bird on Nellie's Hat.....June 19
Bola Mola Land (7).....May 29
Charlie Cuckoo (7).....Apr. 30
Crack Pot Cruise (7).....Apr. 10
Life Begins for Andy Panda (8).....Oct. 9
Nellie of the Circus (7).....May 8
Scrambled Eggs (9).....Nov. 20
Silly Superstition (7).....Aug. 28
Slap Happy Valley (7).....Aug. 21
Sleeping Princess (9).....
Snuffy's Party (7).....Aug. 7
Stubborn Mule (7).....July 31
The Sleeping Princess (9)..Nov. 20

GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE

No. 62 (9).....Apr. 10
No. 63 (9).....May 15
No. 64 (9).....June 26
No. 65 (9).....July 17
No. 66 (9).....Sept. 25
No. 67 (9).....Oct. 16
No. 68 (9).....Nov. 13
No. 69 (8).....Dec. 11
No. 70 (8).....Dec. 25
No. 71 (..).....Jan. 15

MENTONE PRODUCTIONS

Cafe Boheme (17).....Apr. 12
Saul Grauman & Co., Rosita Ortega, Pied Pipers, Luba Malina, Roy Smeck & His Aloha Islanders.
Gals and Gallons (18).....July 12
East and Dumke, Rita Rio, Jan Peerce, Deneet & Dee, Pansy the Horse.
Pharmacy Follies (18).....May 17
Three Playboys, Frazee Sisters, Emerson's Mountaineers, Gilrone & Starr.
Swing Sanatorium (18).....June 14
Dorothy Stone-Charles Collins.
With Best Dishes (17).....Aug. 9
Charles Kemper, Billy Reyes, Geo. Roche, Toy & Wing, Lillian Roth, Pied Pipers, The Philharmonicas.

OSWALD CARTOONS

The Big Cat and the Little Mousie (7).....Aug. 15

STRANGER THAN FICTION

No. 61 (9).....Apr. 3
No. 62 (9).....May 1
No. 63 (9).....June 5
No. 64 (..).....July 3
No. 65 (9).....Aug. 7
No. 66 (8½).....Sept. 18
No. 67 (9).....Oct. 9
No. 68 (9).....Nov. 6
No. 69 (9).....Dec. 4
No. 70 (9).....Dec. 18
No. 71 (9).....Jan. 8

TWO REEL MUSICALS

Rhumba Land (18½).....Nov. 15
Wini Shaw, The Theodores, Vivien Fay, Jimmy Clemens, Alfredo Seveille, Tana, and Daryll Harpa and His Rhumba Band.
Boy Meets Joy (17).....Sept. 6
Pinky Tomlin, Joy Hodges, Lucille Page, Mary Ruth, The Elderblooms and Pinky Tomlin's Orchestra.
Rhythm Jamoree.....Jan. 17
Judy Starr, Ada Broadbent Dancers, Johnny O'Brien and His Harmonica Hats, Billy Burt, Arkin & Colby, the Brown Sisters, the Pickerts.
Snow Follies (18).....Dec. 13
Lillian Roth, King Sisters, Bruce Holden, Consolo and Melba, Morell Sisters and Billy, Ann Triolo, Lola Jensen and Fonchonettes.
Swing Hotel (18).....Oct. 18
Duke Daly and his band, John & Edna Torrence, Jerry Lester, Martha Mears, The Three Rockets, Milton Charleston and the Screwballs.

TWO REEL SPECIAL

March of Freedom (21).....Sept. 6

UNIVERSAL NEWS
Released twice weekly.

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

A Swing Opera (20).....July 22
Broadway Buckaroo (20).....June 3
Rollin' in Rhythm (20).....Apr. 15
Seeing Red (20).....Aug. 26
Seeing Spots (20).....Apr. 29
Slapsie Maxie (17).....Sept. 10
You're Next to Closing (20).....May 13
Wardrobe Girl (20).....June 17

THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)

American Saddle Horses (..).Nov. 11
For Your Convenience (10).....May 20
Mechanix Illustrated No. 1 (10).....Sept. 30
Mechanix Illustrated No. 4..Apr. 22
Mechanix Illustrated No. 5 (9).....June 10
Mechanix Illustrated No. 6 (10).....Aug. 5
Modern Methods (9).....July 15

LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS

Chicken Jitters (7).....Apr. 1
Jeepers Creepers (7).....Sept. 23
Naughty Neighbors (7).....Oct. 7
Pied Piper Porky (..).....Nov. 4
Polar Pals (7).....June 3
Porky and Teabiscuit (7).....Apr. 22
Porky, the Giant Killer (..)..Nov. 18
Porky's Hotel (7).....Sept. 2
Porky's Picnic (7).....July 15
Christopher Columbus jr. (7).....May 13
Scalp Trouble (7).....June 24
Wise Quack (7).....Aug. 5

MELODY MASTERS

Artie Shaw and Orchestra (10).....Apr. 29
Dave Apollon and Orchestra (10).....Apr. 8
Eddie DeLange and Orchestra (10).....Aug. 12
Larry Clinton & Orchestra (10).....May 20
Leith Stevens & Orch. (10).....June 10
Rita Rio & Orch. (10).....July 1
Rubinoff and His Orchestra (10).....Nov. 11
Swing Styles (10).....Sept. 2
Vincent Lopez and Orch. (10).....Sept. 30
Will Osborne & Orch. (..).....July 22

MERRIE MELODIES (In Color)

Bars and Stripes Forever (7).Apr. 8
Believe It or Else (7).....June 3
Daffy Duck and the Dinosaur (7).....Apr. 22
Dangerous Dan McFoo (7).....July 15
Detouring America (7).....Aug. 26
Fagin's Freshmen (..).....Nov. 18
Fresh Fish (7).....Nov. 4
Good Egg, The (7).....Oct. 21
Hare-um Scare-um (7).....Aug. 12
Land of the Midnight Sun (7).....Oct. 7
Little Brother Rat (7).....Sept. 2
Little Lion Hunter (7).....Oct. 7
Naughty But Mice (7).....May 20
Old Glory (10).....July 1
Sioux Me (7).....Sept. 9
Snow Man's Land (7).....July 29
Thugs With Dirty Mugs (7)...May 6

TECHNICOLOR

Bill of Rights (20).....Aug. 12
Quiet Please (18).....July 1
Royal Rodeo (..).....Nov. 25
Sons of the Plains (19).....July 30
Mauch Twins, Rosella Towne.
Sons of Liberty (20).....May 20
The Monroe Doctrine (16)..Oct. 14

SPECIALS (New Series) Tech.

The Master's Touch (10)....Feb. 18

VITAPHONE VARIETIES

Crawfords at Home (10).....Apr. 15
Dean of the Pasteboards (10).....May 27
One Day Stand (10).....Aug. 19
Sword Fishing (10).....Oct. 21
Vote Trouble (10).....Sept. 9
Witness Trouble (10).....July 29

TRUE ADVENTURES (By Floyd Gibbons)

Chained (11).....Apr. 1
Haunted House (11).....June 3
Lives in Peril (11).....July 7
Three-Minute Fuse (11).....July 29
Verge of Disaster (10).....Aug. 26
Voodoo Fires (11).....May 6

SERIALS

COLUMBIA

Mandrake the Magician.....May 6
12 chapters.

The Shadow.....Jan. 5, '40
15 chapters.

REPUBLIC

Daredevils of the Red Circle 12 Chapters.....June 10
Charles Quigley, Herman Brix, David Sharps, Carole Landis, Miles Mander, Charles Middleton.

Dick Tracy's G-Men.....Sept. 2
15 Chapters. Ralph Byrd, Irving Pichel, Ted Pearson, Phyllis Isley, Walter Miller.

Zorro's Fighting Legion.....Dec. 16
12 Chapters. Reed Hadley.

UNIVERSAL

Buck Rogers (..).....Apr. 11
12 Chapters. Larry Crabbe, Jackie Moran, Constance Moore, Jack Mulhall.

Green Hornet.....Jan. 9, '40
13 Chapters. Gordon Jones, Wade Boteler, Anne Nagel.

Oregon Trail (15 chapters)....July 4
John Mack Brown, Louise Stanley, Bill Cody jr., Fuzzy Knight, Ed LeSaint, James Blaine, Jack C. Smith, Roy Barcroft.

The Phantom Creeps.....Oct. 17
12 Chapters. Bela Lugosi, Robert Kent, Dorothy Arnold.

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

Date at top of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date, 1938-39. Production number is at right. Running time (company estimate) follows title. Letter "A" indicates Adult classification, otherwise Family suitability. R—is review date. Symbol ❶ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 7
COLUMBIA	[30] Wild Horse 9034 **Konga, the Wild Stallion** (65) R—Nov. 11	[5] Drama 9002 **Golden Boy** (100) Stanwyck-Holden R—Aug. 19 [7] Mystery Drama 1025 **Hidden Power** (60) Jack Holt-Gert. Michael R—May 29	[14] Outdoor Action 1201 **Outpost of the Mounties** Chas. Starrett-I. Meredith (63) R—Dec. 2	[21] Drama 1015 **Those High Grey Walls** (82) Walter Connolly Iris Meredith R—Sept. 30		[7] Action Drama 1 **U-Boat 29** (77) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Sept. 23
GRAND NAT'L						
MGM	[1] Comedy Drama 1 **The Women** (134) Norma Shearer Joan Crawford Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 2	[8] Melodrama 5 **Blackmail** (79) Edw. G. Robinson Ruth Hussey Gene Lockhart R—Sept. 16	[15] Drama 4 **Thunder Afloat** (94) Wallace Beery Chester Morris Virginia Grey R—Sept. 23		[29] Comedy Drama 3 **Dancing Co-ed** (81) Lana Turner Richard Carlson R—Sept. 30	[6] Comedy **Fast and Furious** (73 Ann Sothern Franchot Tone R—Oct. 14
MONOGRAM			[12] Action Drama 3815 **Sky Patrol** (61) John Trent Marjorie Reynolds R—Sept. 23		[30] Documentary 3831 **Fight for Peace** (68) R—Apr. 23, '38	[1] Outdoor Drama 3 **Crashing Thru** (56) James Newell Jean Carmen R—Nov. 4
PARAMOUNT	[1] Melodrama 3901 **Death of a Champion** (66) Lynne Overman Virginia Dale R—Sept. 2	[8] Western 3954 **Range War** (66) Wm. Boyd Russell Hayden R—Aug. 12	[15] Drama 3902 **Beau Geste** (114) Gary Cooper Ray Milland R—July 29	[22] Comedy 3903 **$1,000 a Touchdown** (71) Joe E. Brown Martha Raye R—Sept. 30	[29] Comedy Drama 3904 **Honeymoon in Bali** (96) (For. My Love for Yours) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Sept. 16	[6] Comedy 3 **What a Life** (75) Betty Field Jackie Cooper R—Sept. 23
REPUBLIC	[28] Drama 911 **Flight at Midnight** (66) Phil Regan-Jean Parker Col. Roscoe Turner R—Sept. 2	[6] Western 857 **Wall Street Cowboy** (66) Roy Rogers Gabby Hayes R—Sept. 9		[21] Melodrama 912 **Calling All Marines** (65) Donald Barry Helen Mack R—Sept. 16	[29] Western 951 **Arizona Kid** (61) Roy Rogers Sally March R—Oct. 7	[6] Western **Kansas Terrors** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Oct. 21
RKO RADIO	[1] Melodrama 935 **Conspiracy** (59) Allan Lane-Linda Hayes R—Sept. 2	[8] Western 986 **Fighting Gringo** (60) Geo. O'Brien; R-Sept. 2 [8] Drama 003 **Full Confession** (72) V. McLaglen-S. Eilers R—Aug. 26	[15] Comedy 002 **Day the Bookies Wept** (65) Joe Penner Betty Grable R—Sept. 9	[22] Comedy Drama 934 **Fifth Avenue Girl** (80) Ginger Rogers James Ellison R—Aug. 26	[29] Drama 001 **Nurse Edith Cavell** (95) Anna Neagle George Sanders R—Aug. 26	[6] Musical **Everything's on Ice** Irene Dare Eric Linden R—Sept. 9
20TH-FOX	[1] Detective Drama 005 **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** (85) Basil Rathbone Ida Lupino R—Aug. 26	[8] Melodrama 006 **Charlie Chan at Treasure Island** (73) Sidney Toler Cesar Romero Pauline Moore R—Aug. 12	[15] Drama 011 **The Rains Came** (103) Myrna Loy-Tyrone Power George Brent R—Sept. 16	[22] Comedy 008 **Stop, Look and Love** (57) Jean Rogers William Frawley R—Sept. 2	[29] Drama 009 **Here I Am a Stranger** (82) Richard Greene Brenda Joyce R—Sept. 30	[6] Melodrama 0 **The Escape** (62) Kane Richmond Allan Duff R—Nov. 11
UNITED ARTS.				[22] Drama **Intermezzo, A Love Story** (70) Leslie Howard Ingrid Bergman John Halliday R—Oct. 7	[29] Melodrama **The Real Glory** (95) Gary Cooper Andrea Leeds R—Sept. 23	
UNIVERSAL	[1] Comedy Drama 10 **Under-Pup** (88) Gloria Jean-Truex-Grey R—Sept. 2 [1] Outdoor Drama 4051 **Mutiny on the Black Hawk** (66) R—June 24 R. Arlen-A. Devine	[8] Musical Comedy 24 **Hawaiian Nights** (65) Downs-Carlisle; R-Aug. 26 [8] Western 4058 **Desperate Trails** (58) John Mack Brown Bob Baker-Fuzzy Knight R—Oct. 21	[15] Drama 4017 **Two Bright Boys** (70) Jackie Cooper Freddie Bartholomew R—Sept. 23 [8] Musical 4044 **Mikado** (91) Kenny Baker; R-Jan. 7	[22] Melodrama 4027 **The Witness Vanishes** (66) E. Lowe-W. Barrie	[29] Drama **Rio** (77) Sigrid Gurie Basil Rathbone R—Sept. 30	[6] Comedy 40 **Hero for a Day** (66) Anita Louise-Dick Fo [29] Drama Reiss **All Quiet on the Weste Front** (93) Lew Ayres R—Sept.
WARNER-F.N.	[2] Drama FN452 **The Old Maid** (95) Bette Davis Miriam Hopkins R—Aug. 5	[9] Com. Melo. WB419 **Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase** (60) Bonita Granville Frankie Thomas R—Aug. 26	[16] Drama FN461 **Dust Be My Destiny** (88) John Garfield Priscilla Lane R—Aug. 19	[23] Comedy FN469 **No Place to Go** (57) Fred Stone Gloria Dickson Denis Morgan R—Sept. 23	[30] Melodrama FN462 **Espionage Agent** (80) J. McCrea-B. Marshall R—Sept. 30	[7] Melodrama WB4 **Pride of the Blue Gra** (65) R—Sept. E. Fellows-J. McCallio
MISCELLANEOUS						

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MAY, 1940						
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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

OCTOBER 14	OCTOBER 21	OCTOBER 28	NOVEMBER 4	NOVEMBER 11	NOVEMBER 18	
	19 Comedy Drama **1101** **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (125) **Jean Arthur** James Stewart; R-Oct. 14 16 Drama **1031** **Scandal Sheet** (67) Otto Kruger R—**Oct. 28**	24 Comedy **1011** **Beware Spooks!** (65) **Joe E. Brown** Mary Carlisle R—Oct. 28 29 Drama **1032** **Miracle of Main Street (78)** Walter Abel-Margo	2 Western **1202** **Stranger From Texas** (55) Charles Starrett R—Dec. 23	9 Comedy **1013** **Blondie Brings Up Baby** (69) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 11		COLUMBIA
						GRAND NAT'L
6 Musical Comedy **9** **abes in Arms** (97) ickey Rooney idy Garland —Sept. 23	20 Comedy **8** **At the Circus** (85) Marx Bros. Florence Rice R—Oct. 14	27 Comedy Drama **10** **Bad Little Angel** (77) Virginia Weidler Henry Hull R—Oct. 28	3 Comedy Drama **7** **Ninotchka** (110) Greta Garbo Melvyn Douglas R—Oct. 14	10 Drama **11** **Remember? (81)** Robert Taylor Greer Garson R—**Nov. 11**	17 Comedy Drama **13** **Another Thin Man** (102) William Powell Myrna Loy R—**Nov. 18**	MGM
	20 Western **Riders of Destiny** (54) (Reissue) John Wayne 20 Western **Sagebrush Trail** (55) (Reissue) John Wayne	1 Action Drama **3816** **Danger Flight (61)** John Trent R—Nov. 4 25 Drama **3803** **Mutiny in the Big House** (84) C. Bickford-B. MacLane R—Oct. 21	31 Western **3857** **Overland Mail** (53) **Jack Randall** R—Nov. 18	5 Action Drama **3937** **Fighting Mad** (60) James Newell 7 Melodrama **3919** **Heroes in Blue** (61) D. Purcell-B. Hayes R—Nov. 18	15 Mystery Drama **3923** **Phantom Strikes** (58) Sonnie Hale Wilfred Lawson R—Nov. 18	MONOGRAM
3 Drama **3906** **amaica Inn** (106) harles Laughton Maureen O'Hara —**July 8**	20 Drama **3907** **Television Spy** (58) William Henry R—Oct. 14	27 Drama **3908** **Disputed Passage** (87) Dorothy Lamour Akim Tamiroff **John Howard** R—Oct. 21	3 Western **3955** **Law of the Pampas** (72) **Wm. Boyd** R—Oct. 21	10 Melodrama **3909** **Cat and the Canary** (71) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—Oct. 7	17 Drama **3910** **Rulers of the Sea** (96) **Doug. Fairbanks jr.** Margaret Lockwood Will Fyffe R—Sept. 23	PARAMOUNT
3 Action Drama **913** **abotage** (69) Arleen Whelan Gordon Oliver —Oct. 14		27 Drama with Music **Jeepers Creepers** (69) Weaver Bros. & Elviry Roy Rogers R—Nov. 4	3 Drama **905** **Main Street Lawyer** (71) Edw. Ellis Anita Louise R—**Nov. 11**	10 Comedy **915** **Covered Trailer** (66) Gleason Family R-Nov. 18	16 Western **848** **Rovin' Tumbleweeds** (64) R—Nov. 25 Gene Autry-S. Burnette	REPUBLIC
13 Drama **004** **Three Sons** (72) Edward Ellis Virginia Vale —Sept. 30		27 Drama **012** **Sued for Libel** (65) K. Taylor-L. Hayes R—Oct. 21	3 Comedy **010** **Flying Deuces** (65) **Laurel & Hardy** R—Oct. 14 3 Western **081** **Marshal of Mesa City** (61) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 7	10 Outdoor Drama **006** **Allegheny Uprising** (81) **John Wayne** **Claire Trevor** R—Oct. 28	17 Drama **005** **Meet Dr. Christian** (63) J. Hersholt-D. Lovett R—Oct. 21	RKO RADIO
3 Musical **007** **Hollywood Cavalcade**(96) lice Faye-Don Ameche —Oct. 7 3 Drama **061** **oad to Glory** (101) (Reissue) . March-W. Baxter	20 Comedy **018** **Shipyard Sally (80)** Gracie Fields S. Howard R—Dec. 9 20 Comedy **014** **Pack Up Your Troubles** (75) Jane Withers R—Oct. 14	27 Action Drama **013** **20,000 Men a Year** (84) R. Scott-M. Healy R—Oct. 28 27 Documentary **062** **First World War** (78) (Reissue) R—Nov. 17, '34	3 Drama **019** **Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence** (62) Jean Rogers-Glen Ford —Oct. 7	10 Drama **015** **Drums Along the Mohawk (103)** **Claudette Colbert** **Henry Fonda** R—Nov. 4	17 Comedy **016** **Too Busy to Work** (65) Jones Family R—Nov. 4	20TH-FOX
12 Comedy **Eternally Yours** (95) **Loretta Young** **David Niven** R—Oct. 7		26 Comedy **Housekeeper's Daughter** (80) **Joan Bennett-Wm. Gargan** **Adolphe Menjou** R—Sept. 16				UNITED ARTS
13 Drama **4052** **Tropic Fury** (63) R. Arlen-A. Devine R—Sept. 16	20 Western **4059** **Oklahoma Frontier** (58) **Johnny Mack Brown** R—Dec. 9	27 Comedy **4019** **Little Accident** (65) Sandy Henville Florence Rice R—Nov. 4	3 Melodrama **20** **Call a Messenger** (65) R. Armstrong-R. Kelly Little Tough Guys R—**Sept. 9** 3 Drama Reissue **Road Back** (79) Richard Cromwell	10 Action Drama **30** **One Hour to Live** (59) Charles Bickford R—Sept. 16 3 Melodrama **53** **Legion of Lost Flyers** (64) R—Dec. 16 R. Arlen-A. Devine	10 Romantic Com. **3002** **First Love** (84) Deanna Durbin R-Nov. 11 17 Melodrama **Tower of London** (94) B. Rathbone-B. Karloff R—Nov. 25	UNIVERSAL
14 Musical **FN463** **On Your Toes** (94) Zorina-Eddie Albert R—Oct. 14	21 Melodrama **FN470** **Smashing the Money Ring** (56) **Ronald Reagan** **Margot Stevenson** R—**Oct. 21**	28 Drama **WB403** **Roaring Twenties** (104) James Cagney Priscilla Lane R—Oct. 21	4 Com. Drama **WB411** **Kid Nightingale** (58) John Payne-Jane Wyman R—Sept. 16	11 Drama **WB402** **Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (100) Bette Davis-Errol Flynn R—Oct. 7	18 Com. Drama **WB413** **Dead End Kids on Dress Parade (62)** Billy Halop **Bobby Jordan** R—Nov. 4	WARNER-F.N.
		22 Melodrama **P-D-C** **Torture Ship** (57) **Lyle Talbot** **Irving Pichel** **Jacqueline Wells** R—Dec. 23	29 Drama **P-D-C** **Goose Step** (90) (form. "Hitler—Beast of Berlin") **Roland Drew** **Steffi Duna** **Greta Grandstedt** R—**Nov. 11**	6 Melodrama **P-D-C** **Buried Alive** (..) Beverly Roberts Robert Wilcox	14 Drama **P-D-C** **Invisible Killer** (..) Grace Bradley Roland Drew	MISCELLANEOUS

Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

JUNE, 1940						
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JULY, 1940						
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AUGUST, 1940						
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	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER
COLUMBIA	23 Mystery Comedy 7 **The Amazing Mr. Williams** (86) Joan Bondell Melvyn Douglas R—Nov. 25	30 Drama 1030 **Cafe Hostess** (63) P. Foster-A. Dvorak 1 Drama **(French)** **Devil Is an Empress** (73) F. Rosay-C. Veidt R—Dec. 23	7 Drama 1026 **Fugitive at Large** (66) J. Holt-P. Ellis R-Aug. 5 7 Western 1211 **Taming of the West** (54) B. Elliott-I. Meredith R—Oct. 21			28 Drama **My Son Is Guilty** (.. Jacqueline Wells Bruce Cabot
GRAND NAT'L						
M-G-M	24 Drama 12 **Secret of Dr. Kildare** (85) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Nov. 25	1 Comedy Drama 14 **Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President** (69) Ann Sothern Walter Brennan R—Dec. 9	8 Comedy 2 **Henry Goes Arizona** (67) Frank Morgan Virginia Weidler R—Dec. 16	15 Drama 15 **Nick Carter, Master Detective** (60) Walter Pidgeon Rita Johnson R—Dec. 9	22 Comedy 16 **Judge Hardy & Son** (90) Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone R—Dec. 16	29 Drama with Musi **Balalaika** (102) Nelson Eddy Ilona Massey R—Dec. 23
MONOGRAM	25 Western 3951 **Roll, Wagons, Roll** (53) Tex Ritter R—Dec. 23	5 Action Drama 3938 **Yukon Flight** (58) **James Newill**	10 Western **Reissue** **West of the Divide** (55) John Wayne 10 Western **Reissue** **Lucky Texan** (56) John Wayne	15 Outdoor Musical 3952 **Westbound Stage** (56) Tex Ritter		25 Drama **Gentleman From Ariz** (..) C. Reynolds-J. King
PARAMOUNT	24 Comedy 3911 **Our Neighbors—the Carters** (85) Edmund Lowe Frank Craven Fay Bainter R—Nov. 11	1 Drama 3912 **Night of Nights** (87) Pat O'Brien Olympe Bradna R—Dec. 2	8 Western 3913 **Llano Kid** (69) **Tito Guizar** **Gale Sondergaard** R—Nov. 11	15 Drama 3914 **All Women Have Secrets** (70) Joseph Allen jr. Jean Cagney R—Dec. 9	22 Technicolor Cart. 3915 **Gulliver's Travels** (74) R—Dec. 23	29 Drama **The Great Victor Herbert** (92) Allan Jones Mary Martin Walter Connolly R—Dec. 9
REPUBLIC	22 Western 952 **Saga of Death Valley** (58) Roy Rogers-Geo. Hayes R—Dec. 2	29 Western 962 **Cowboys From Texas** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 9		15 Western 941 **South of the Border** (70) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—Dec. 16	20 Western 953 **Days of Jesse James** (61) Roy Rogers-Geo. Hayes R—Dec. 23	27 Drama **Thou Shalt Not Kill** C. Bickford-D. Day R—Dec. 16
RKO RADIO	24 Musical 011 **That's Right, You're Wrong** (90) Kay Kyser and Orch. Adolphe Menjou Lucille Ball R—Nov. 18	1 Drama 008 **Reno** (73) Richard Dix Gail Patrick R—Nov. 18	8 Melodrama 013 **Two Thoroughbreds** (62) Jimmy Lydon Joan Brodel R—Dec. 2		22 Drama with Music 945 **Escape to Paradise** (60) Bob Breen-Kent Taylor R—Dec. 9	29 Drama **Hunchback of Notre Dame** (114) Chas. Laughton Maureen O'Hara R—Dec. 23
20TH-FOX	24 Comedy Drama 020 **Day Time Wife** (72) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 18	1 Melodrama 021 **Chan in City of Darkness** (74) R—Nov. 25 Sidney Toler-L. Bari 1 Melodrama 022 **Inspector Hornleigh on Holiday** (..) G. Harker-A. Sims	8 Melodrama 026 **Barricade** (71) Alice Faye Warner Baxter R—Dec. 2	15 Comedy Drama 024 **Honeymoon's Over** (70) Stuart Erwin Marjorie Weaver R—Nov. 4	22 Comedy Drama 029 **Everything Happens at Night** (77) Sonja Henie Ray Milland R—Dec. 23	29 Outdoor Drama **Cisco Kid and the La** (74) Cesar Romero Marjorie Weaver R—Dec. 2
UNITED ARTS.					22 Melodrama **Slightly Dishonorable** (..) (Form. Send Another Coffin) Pat O'Brien-Ruth Terry	29 Comedy Melodrama **Raffles** (..) David Niven Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 23
UNIVERSAL	24 Western 4060 **Chip of the Flying U** (55) Johnny Mack Brown 24 Melodrama 4016 **Big Guy** (78) R—Dec. 2 V. McLaglen-J. Cooper	1 Musical 4026 **Laugh It Off** (63) C. Moore-J. Downs R—Nov. 11	8 Action Drama 4054 **Man From Montreal** (60) Richard Arlen Andy Devine R—Nov. 11	15 Melodrama 4028 **Missing Evidence** (64) P. Foster R—Oct. 7	22 Comedy **Charlie McCarthy, Detective** (79) Edgar Bergen-C. Moore "Charlie" & "Mortimer" R—Dec. 23	29 Action Drama **Destry Rides Again** (9 M. Dietrich-J. Stewart R—Dec. 9
WARNER-F.N.	25 Drama FN458 **We Are Not Alone** (111) Paul Muni-Jane Bryan Flora Robson R—Nov. 11	2 Mys. Drama FN464 **Return of Dr. X** (62) Wayne Morris Priscilla Lane Humphrey Bogart R—Dec. 2	9 Com. M'drama FN471 **Private Detective** (55) Jane Wyman Dick Foran R—Nov. 25	16 Drama FN481 **Mad Empress** (72) Medea Novara Lionel Atwill		25 Drama FN4 **Four Wives** (110) Lane Sisters Claude Rains R—Dec. 2 30 Melodrama **Invisible Stripes** (..) Geo. Raft-Jane Bryan
MISCELLANEOUS						

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OCTOBER, 1940						
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Booking Chart

A GUIDE TO CURRENT RELEASES

JANUARY 6	JANUARY 13	JANUARY 20	JANUARY 27	FEBRUARY 3	FEBRUARY 10
Western **o Fisted Rangers** (..) as. Starrett s Meredith	10 Musical **Music in My Heart** (70) Tony Martin Rita Hayworth Andre Kostelanetz R—Dec. 30	18 Comedy Drama **His Girl Friday** (..) Cary Grant Rosalind Russell Ralph Bellamy Gene Lockhart	26 Mystery Drama **Lone Wolf Strikes** (..) W. William-J. Perry 22 Adventure **I Married Adventure** (..) Mrs. Osa Johnson	31 Drama **Daughters of Today** (..) Rochelle Hudson Frieda Inescort	
] Com. Melodrama **18** **rl of Chicago** (..) obert Montgomery tward Arnold	12 Comedy Drama **19** **Congo Maisie** (..) Ann Sothern John Carroll	19 Drama **20** **Shop Around the Corner** (..) James Stewart Margaret Sullavan	26 Musical **21** **Broadway Melody of 1940** (..) Eleanor Powell Fred Astaire		
	10 Action Drama **3939** **Danger Ahead** (..) James Newell 15 Melodrama **3924** **Secret Four** (79) (Form. Four Just Men) Hugh Sinclair-Anna Lee R—Dec. 16	15 Melodrama **Fatal Hour** (..) (Form. Mr. Wong at Headquarters) Boris Karloff 20 Melodrama **Front Page Lady** (..) Warren Hull	25 Western **3961** **Pioneer Days** (..) Jack Randall	30 Melodrama **Chasing Trouble** (..) Frankie Darro	
] Action Drama **3917** **mergency Squad** (..) William Henry ouise Campbell	12 Outdoor Drama **3918** **Geronimo!** (90) P. Foster-E. Drew R—Nov. 25	19 Drama **3919** **Remember the Night** (..) Barbara Stanwyck Fred MacMurray	26 Western **3956** **Santa Fe Marshal** (..) William Boyd	2 Drama **3920** **Light That Failed** (97) Ronald Colman Ida Lupino R—Dec. 30	9 Drama **Typhoon** (..) Dorothy Lamour Robert Preston
4 Comedy **917** **oney to Burn** (66) leason Family —Dec. 30	10 Western **963** **Heroes of the Saddle** (..) Three Mesquiteers				
5 Western **082** **egion of the Lawless** (59) eo. O'Brien R—Nov. 25	12 Comedy **016** **Mexican Spitfire** (67) Lupe Velez R—Dec. 16	19 Drama **014** **Married and in Love** (60) B. Read-A. Marshal R—Dec. 16	26 Drama **019** **Swiss Family Robinson** (..) Freddie Bartholomew Edna Best Thomas Mitchell	2 Melodrama **Marines Fly High** (..) Richard Dix C. Morris-L. Ball	9 Drama **Isle of Destiny** (..) W. Ford-Wm. Gargan
5 Musical Drama **017** **Swanee River** (84) on Ameche ndrea Leeds l Jolson —Dec. 30	12 Drama **027** **City of Chance** (56) Lynn Bari-Don Woods C. Aubrey Smith R—Dec. 30	19 Drama **023** **He Married His Wife** (..) Joel McCrea-Nancy Kelly	26 Comedy **028** **High School** (74) Jane Withers Joe Brown jr.		
		19 Drama **Rebecca** (..) Laurence Olivier Judith Anderson			
5 Drama **Oh, Johnny, Oh** (..) Tom Brown Peggy Moran	12 Mystery Melodrama **Invisible Man Returns** (..) Nan Grey-Vincent Price	19 Western **4061** **West of Carson City** (55) Johnny Mack Brown Bob Baker	26 Drama **Green Hell** (..) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Joan Bennett		
6 Melodrama **WB415** **A Child Is Born** (79) Geraldine Fitzgerald Jeffrey Lynn R—Aug. 5	13 Comedy **Brother Rat and a Baby** (..) Priscilla Lane Wayne Morris	20 Melodrama **WB416** **British Intelligence** (62) Boris Karloff Margaret Lindsay	27 Drama **FN451** **Fighting 69th** (..) James Cagney Pat O'Brien		
					BOOKING CHART Concluded on Following Page

COLUMBIA | GRAND NAT'L | MGM | MONOGRAM | PARAMOUNT | REPUBLIC | RKO RADIO | 20TH-FOX | UNITED ARTS. | UNIVERSAL | WARNER-F.N. | MISCELLANEOUS

In The Makin

FEBRUARY 17	FEBRUARY 24	MARCH 2	STARTING	COMPLETED
				Texas Express—Charles Starrett, Meredith, Dick Curtis, Sons of Pioneers. Director: Joe Lewis. ducer: Leon Barsha.
			Hooray, I'm Alive—Frank Morgan. Director: William Thiele. Producer: Edgar Selwyn. Original: Harry Ruskin. Screenplay: Richard Maibaum. **Edison, the Man**—Spencer Tracy. Director: Clarence Brown. Producer: Hunt Stromberg. Screenplay: Dore Schary.	**Young Tom Edison**—Mickey Roo Virginia Weidler, Fay Bainter, Ge Bancroft, Eugene Pallette. Direc Norman Taurog. Producer: John Considine jr.
				Pioneer Days—Jack Randall. Produ Director: Harry Webb.
16 Drama **Parole Fixer** (..) William Henry Virginia Dale	23 Musical Comedy **Sidewalks of London** (..) Chas. Laughton Vivien Leigh		**The Woman From Hell**—Producer: Edward T. Lowe. Original: J. Edgar Hoover. Screenplay: Horace McCoy, William R. Lipman.	**Safari**—Madeleine Carroll, Douglas F banks jr., Tullio Carminati, Ly Overman. Director: Edward H. G fith. Producer: Edward H. Griffit **Buck Benny Rides Again**—Jack Ben Ellen Drew, Andy Devine, Ec (Rochester) Anderson, Phil Ha Director: Mark Sandrich. Produc Mark Sandrich.
			Pioneers of the West—Three Mesquiteers. Producer: Harry Grey. Screenplay: Jack Natteford.	**Village Barn Dance**—Lulubelle and Sc ty, Robert Baldwin, Richard Cro well, Doris Day, Don Wilson, V Vague. Director: Frank MacDona Producer: Armand Schaefer.
16 Drama **Vigil in the Night** (..) Carole Lombard Brian Aherne	23 Animated Feature **Pinocchio** (..)			
				The Devil Is Yellow—Wayne Morr Margaret Lindsay, William Garg Roscoe Karns. Director: Phil Ros Producer: Ben Pivar.
			The Man From Oklahoma—Tim McCoy. Director: Peter Stewart. Producer: Ben Judell (Producers Pictures Corp.).	

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